

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Aurora Inn
10 Nome, Alaska
11 October 2, 2008
12 8:30 o'clock a.m.

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Thomas Gray, Chair
18 Myron Savetilik
19 Leonard Kobuk
20 Anthony Keyes
21 Peter Buck
22 Elmer Seetot, Jr.
23 Michael Quinn
24 Peter Martin, Sr.
25
26 Regional Council Coordinator - Barbara Armstrong

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 10/2/2008)

(On record)

VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK:is not here right now, but I'll go ahead and get the meeting started. I'll call the meeting to order at 8:38. I'll have the secretary do a roll call, please.

MR. KOBUK: Peter Martin, Sr.

MR. MARTIN: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Mike Quinn.

MR. QUINN: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, that's me. Here. Peter Buck. Myron Savetilik.

VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Thomas Gray. Anthony Keyes.

MR. KEYES: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Is that it? Okay.

VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: I'd like to welcome each and -- before we get further, I think I'll have everyone introduce themselves over on the floor, starting from in back.

(NOBODY AT MICROPHONE)

MR. THOMPSON: My name is Mike Thompson. I'm with the National Park Service in Nome, Alaska.

MS. FOSDICK: Rose Fosdick.

MR. KRON: Tom Kron from OSM.

1 MR. HELFRICH: Good morning. George
2 Helfrich from National Park Service in Kotzebue.
3
4 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson, biologist
5 for the National Park Service in Kotzebue.
6
7 MS. HYER: Karen Hyer, Office of
8 Subsistence Management.
9
10 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
11 Park Service, subsistence program manager for Western
12 Arctic National parklands based here in Nome.
13
14 MS. SWANTON: Nancy Swanton, I'm the
15 interim superintendent for Bering Land Bridge National
16 Preserve. And I'm going back to my job in Anchorage in
17 the regional office, this is the InterAgency Staff
18 Committee member for the Federal Subsistence Board,
19 focusing on issues.
20
21 MR. KENT: My name is Scott Kent. I'm
22 the assistant area management biologist for Division of
23 Commercial Fisheries here in Norton Sound, Port
24 Clarence area.
25
26 MR. SCANLON: I'm Brendan Scanlon. I'm
27 the sports fish area biologist for Fish and Game,
28 Northwest and North Slope.
29
30 MS. HENDRICKSON: Hi. I'm Nancy
31 Hendrickson. I'm the chair of the Federal Subsistence
32 Liaison Team for Fish and Game.
33
34 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp, subsistence
35 coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management.
36
37 MR. NELSON: Dave Nelson. I'm a
38 fisheries biologist with the National Park Service
39 based out of Anchorage.
40
41 MR. SLOAN: Michael Sloan, fisheries
42 biologist for Kawerak, based here in Nome.
43
44 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: There are a
45 couple other people.
46
47 MR. TOCKTOO: My name's Fred Tocktoo.
48
49 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: Thank you,
50 and welcome to this meeting this morning.

1 We'll go down the line. Review and
2 adoption of agenda. And there's a new item under 12 I
3 think, I have to look at.....
4
5 I'll have the board introduce
6 themselves. My name is Myron, I'm the Vice Chair. Go
7 ahead.
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Peter, introduce
10 yourself.
11
12 MR. MARTIN: Pete Martin, Sr. of
13 Stebbins.
14
15 MR. QUINN: Mike Quinn, Nome.
16
17 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr. of
18 Brevig Mission.
19
20 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, St. Michael,
21 Alaska.
22
23 MR. KEYES: Anthony Keyes, Cape Prince
24 of Wales.
25
26 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: Just for your
27 information, when you're speaking, make sure your mic's
28 on, and make sure you turn it off when you get done.
29 Thank you.
30
31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm Barb Armstrong,
32 I'm the coordinator for Seward Pen, Northwest Arctic
33 and North Slope. Good morning.
34
35 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: I'm just
36 going over the review and adoption of the agenda right
37 now.
38
39 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk. I'm just
40 going to read the adoption of the minutes here that we
41 have.....
42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me, can we go
44 through the agenda first, please? The review of the
45 agenda, adoption of agenda.
46
47 VICE CHAIR SAVETILIK: Okay. That's
48 what I meant, that's what I was going to read.
49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, okay.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: We already
2 did No. 5, which was review and adoption -- oh, this is
3 the one we're going through.

4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No. 4.

6
7 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: We're on No.
8 4?

9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

11
12 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: Okay. I got
13 ahead of.....

14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Because I have some
16 new items that I would like to add onto the agenda that
17 I need.....

18
19 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: I have the
20 old. Sure, go ahead.

21
22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Yeah.
23 In your yellow book.

24
25 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: Okay. Sorry.

26
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's okay. We
28 have one proposal that we need to deal with this
29 morning and the proponent was not able to come in and
30 attend your morning. So we're asking that we will
31 teleconference him in at 10:00 o'clock this morning and
32 he will wait for us to call him at Unalakleet, Native
33 Village of Unalakleet. So if we would move that, and
34 wherever we are at 10:00 o'clock and call Weaver
35 Ivanoff and deal with that proposal then, Proposal 14.
36 That's a proposal submitted by the Native Village of
37 Unalakleet.

38
39 Then I have an email from a Mr. Cannon
40 asking that he be included into this agenda, but he is
41 not here at the moment. I guess maybe when he does
42 come in, he will let me in and I'll tell the chair at
43 the time that he comes in.

44
45 But that's all I have for now. Thank
46 you.

47
48 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. I have a
49 question on the cross over in the Yukon from our area.
50 I notice -- is that continued from last year, or do we

1 have to submit another one for that?

2

3 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: Our Chair is
4 here, Tom Gray. Peter, what was your question now?

5

6 MR. MARTIN: I had a question about the
7 cross over with moose hunting in the lower Yukon from
8 our area. I have looked at the -- looked here, moose
9 season. I just want to find out is the cross over in
10 here, Yukon is still open in our area for the Yukon for
11 moose.

12

13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think we will ask
14 Tom if he would answer that, or do you want to.....

15

16 MR. KRON: Yeah. I'll check the reg
17 book, and maybe during the break we can talk about it.
18 It's related to the C&T determinations for your area.
19 So we'll check that and get an answer for you.

20

21 VICE CHAIRMAN SAVETILIK: We're at No.
22 4.

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Tom, for your
25 information, on the review and adoption of the agenda,
26 it's in your meeting book, and I had added that we call
27 Weaver Ivanoff at 10:00 a.m. to teleconference him in
28 as you're discussing that proposal on fish. And I
29 already set it up with Weaver that he would be waiting
30 for us to call him at 10:00 a.m. and he promised me he
31 would stop everything by 10:00 o'clock when it was time
32 to call him and then discuss that proposal at that
33 time.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Are you done with the
38 agenda?

39

40 MR. SAVETILIK: We're still on No. 4.
41 We're still hanging on 4.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: What else do we need to
44 do there?

45

46 MR. SAVETILIK: We need to move on No.
47 4.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Is there
50 anything else we want to do with the agenda? If not,

1 we need a motion to adopt the agenda.
2
3 MR. SAVETILIK: So move.
4
5 MR. QUINN: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. There's a motion
8 and second. All in favor say aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Motion's carried.
17 Okay.
18
19 Review and adoption of meeting minutes.
20 Hopefully everybody's had a chance to review the
21 meeting minutes. Is there any questions on the meeting
22 minutes.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there anybody that
27 hasn't reviewed the meeting minutes.
28
29 MR. KEYES: I didn't. This is Anthony
30 Keyes.
31
32 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. A typo might
33 possibly be on Page 8, the muskox special action. He
34 offered to craft a letter or is that offered to draft a
35 letter?
36
37 MR. SAVETILIK: It looks like it's --
38 it's on the muskox special action on the first
39 sentence. Mr. Adkisson of the National Park Service
40 offered to craft. Typo?
41
42 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Is there
43 anything else. Ken.
44
45 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
46 Members. Ken Adkisson. I'm not sure you really need
47 to do anything more with that paragraph. I think
48 you'll find an informational copy before you of the
49 request for an .804 special action to cover that issue
50 as we had committed to do.

1 While I'm speaking on that topic, you
2 might just quickly take a look at the dates for the --
3 that were quoted for the reg book that the original reg
4 was pulled from, and you'll find a typo there. It
5 should read 2008 not 2087. But it's what you get late
6 at night working from a template. But, yeah,
7 everything else should be good.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Anybody have any more
10 on the meeting minutes.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I move to
15 adopt the minutes as corrected.

16

17 MR. KEYES: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GRAY: There's a motion and a
20 second. All in favor say aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.

25

26 (No opposing votes)

27

28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Motion's carried.

29 Okay.

30

31 At this time we're going to have the
32 Board enlighten us on village concerns. And I guess I
33 could start.

34

35 Beluga hunting has been great. Moose
36 in the Fish River drainage, last year I saw lots of
37 moose while I was guiding. This year I didn't see one
38 bull while I was guiding. So it was a real about face
39 this year for some reason. Had a great run of fish.
40 Too many wolves. Too many bears. What else can I say.
41 So anyway that's from my world.

42

43 Who's down on the end. They could
44 start down there. Pete, do you have any concerns from
45 your village?

46

47 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, we have concerns
48 about bears. Not as much as it was last year, but we
49 still have some bears that's in our area that we're
50 always concerned about. We have our young people going

1 out hunting within about a five-mile radius and, you
2 know, walk and it's one of the concerns that I will
3 bring up today. Thank you.

4

5 MR. QUINN: Mike Quinn from Nome. I
6 haven't really heard too many concerns. Had a lot of
7 good weather this late summer/fall, and everybody's
8 been out doing what they want to do, and have been
9 fairly successful at it. So I haven't heard much
10 complaining yet.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Teller/Brevig
13 area. We really did not harvest anything on muskox on
14 Federal lands during the past couple years. I'm not
15 sure what the problem or issue might be concerning our
16 muskox. One, it is a new game animal, something new
17 like, it takes quite a while for some of the residents
18 of the community to kind of get used to. Other than
19 that, fishing was great. The seasons were late. The
20 last of the cranes kind of passed through Brevig just
21 last week. We usually see them all gone by the second
22 week of September. Snow geese were also the same.
23 They're still hanging around up towards the Imuruk
24 Basin, so everything's been kind of held back. The
25 only snow that we see is on the Sawtooth Range's
26 creeks, the fresh water drainages are starting to
27 freeze up. So I think fall is finally coming. Other
28 than that, life goes on, but we're still trying to
29 adjust to the changes, you know, which are sometimes
30 chaotic as to some of the subsistence hunters. They
31 have a set time, the time change, and then, you know,
32 everything goes haywire. Weather, other circumstances
33 that we can't control, so sometime it's hard to adjust
34 to.

35

36 That's all I have.

37

38 MR. SAVETILIK: Just like any other
39 fall, I think during our subsistence time that we go
40 out and do the thing that needs to get done, the
41 hunting that -- and the bear taking was good for us
42 this fall. And like Elmer was saying, everything was a
43 little late this year again. And it's been a rainy
44 summer for I think the majority of Alaska, too, for
45 looking at getting all the other subsistence done.
46 Other than that, it was a good summer.

47

48 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, St. Michael.
49 The concerns at home are -- it seemed like our herring
50 season, not very much herring came in this year,

1 because there was hardly any spawning in the St.
2 Michael Bay. I guess most of it was done towards
3 Stebbins at Stuart Island.

4
5 And this summer when my daughter and
6 some people from the village were removing those little
7 tug raft poles that are run on the dog team trail
8 across the bay they ran into four polar bears in
9 Píkmíktalik -- I mean, not Píkmíktalik. What's that
10 place? Klinkaterik (ph). Sorry. Klinkaterik. Don't
11 really know what happened to those polar bears that
12 were there. They didn't go up to that direction to
13 take the poles. I don't know if they're still around.
14 Haven't heard anything much about them. It was pretty
15 strange to have polar bears in that area, I guess
16 because of what's happening up north with the ice
17 or.....

18
19 I stayed around longer than usual.
20 We're getting a lot of birds. There's still birds
21 hanging around, a few cranes and moose season was
22 hardly -- it seemed like May our bull moose always
23 disappear. Few people got a bull. One got a yearling
24 bull and they said they were running into a lot of
25 females, and I'm kind of wondering maybe we're killing
26 off too many of the bulls, that's why there's starting
27 to be more females than bulls.

28
29 And my still concern is I hope the
30 caribou come around. They haven't for about 10, 12
31 years. Like I said last year when I came back on, I
32 was told by some people around up north that came from
33 Koyuk or Shaktoolik area that they were seeing some
34 Piper Cubs that were turning around the caribou, and
35 does the State Fish and Game or the Federal Fish and
36 Game ever check on these caribou, if they're being -- I
37 mean, if they're being harassed or turned around with
38 these Piper Cubs. And that's the only concern I have
39 in our area.

40
41 MR. KEYES: My name is Anthony Keyes.
42 I'd like to apologize, I didn't make it in last year
43 due to the weather that we always have up there up
44 north at Cape Prince Wales, known at Wales, Alaska.
45 It's a very small community.

46
47 The big impact on us up there is too
48 many muskox, too many cow moose, And polar bears, we
49 have no problem with the polar bears. I'd like to
50 start out first now is that the muskox is over-abundant

1 up there at Cape Prince of Wales. We're always having
2 complaints every year. Eating up our greens that the
3 elderly ladies -- you know, the elderly ladies that do
4 pick it year after year, year after year. I mean, it's
5 gotten down to where that the muskox are being a
6 nuisance up there at Cape Prince of Wales, and I'm
7 pretty sure it's all over up in that northern region
8 where most of the elderly ladies and younger women that
9 do pick the greens are not very happy with the
10 population growing up there, because the Fish and Game
11 want us just to get mostly bulls, and I think that's
12 got to be cut down to half and half. Half bulls and
13 half cows. Maybe if we were to do that for each
14 household, maybe it would kind of bring down the count
15 on muskox, because if you do really look closely year
16 to year, if a person were to knock one muskox down,
17 there would be about 10 to 15 more growing up within
18 that time span.

19
20 And right now with moose, we've been
21 having problems with our moose season year after year,
22 year after year. Like I say, our weather condition up
23 there can change within a heartbeat. Every time it's
24 time to go out moose hunting season, when the season
25 opens, our season opens at August, and it closed last
26 year in December, and nobody was lucky enough to get a
27 moose. Not even one person. So I decided to sit down
28 and write it out in black and white, asking them for an
29 extension on our moose hunting season. Moose hunting
30 season was too short. To us it was too short. Before
31 that, we used to be open yearly, kind of like August to
32 March. I'm still having complaints up there about
33 moose hunting. I don't know if we are back into the
34 old regulation that we used to have from August to
35 March or April, one of the two. This year if it's only
36 up to August to December, I would like to have it
37 extended yearly, because the majority of the people up
38 there that, you know, with the prices that -- price of
39 fuel, and the cost to fly an individual to go shopping
40 here in Nome, it's just way too much. To give an
41 individual a tank of gas and a box of shells, that
42 individual could get more off the land than having to
43 spend so much time and wasting to wait for the plane,
44 wait for the weather to clear up, and by the time the
45 plane gets up there, it's too late. I would like to
46 have my village extended on moose hunting season. I've
47 lived up there going on 11 years now and I know what
48 it's like. It's not an easy role to play cat and mouse
49 up in that country. We've been hit hard how many times
50 during the moose season.

1 Right now, too, we'd like to see our
2 community try and get some caribou, but caribou doesn't
3 reach our land towards our village. They go as far as
4 Shishmaref and Nuluk. Nuluk is closer to Shishmaref
5 and it takes a lot of gas to get up to that area just
6 to find caribou, and when you're -- by the time you get
7 there, there's nothing. I'd like to see Wales people
8 get introduced more into caribou because right now the
9 reindeer's overabundant and they are migrating with the
10 caribou.

11
12 This year very abundant on humpies. We
13 never did see any fish in those little creeks up there
14 before. This was a very shocking sight this year to
15 see fish in our creek right there in the village. And
16 where I go riding to go hunting. It is a surprise to
17 see humpies where we've never seen them before. The
18 abundancy of humpies is going to be twice as much more
19 next year than this year.

20
21 Silver salmon and king salmons up there
22 in my region are very -- they don't come up there very
23 much. I don't know why. Maybe because it's Wales,
24 Alaska.

25
26 But anyway the only kind of game
27 management targets that I would like is, you know, to
28 see changes for our community is that take more muskox.
29 Right now they've got us at bull season, but I would
30 like to see it open to female also. If we don't
31 introduce more of this meat to the local communities up
32 in that northern region, our next future line of
33 generations, they're not going to care who you are or
34 where you're from and what you do. They will go out
35 there and target that muskox if no one is to put their
36 foot down right now and say, hey, it would be nice to
37 see the communities up in that region get cow and moose
38 at the same time, not just a bull moose by itself,
39 because the over-abundancy of muskox, the majority is
40 coming out from females. So I'd like to kind of see
41 that change in these books here, because too many
42 complaints from elderly people is not very good to
43 listen to year to year to year.

44
45 I listened to this old lady, elderly
46 lady in Wales complain every spring, every summer.
47 Hey, we used to have greens and they used to be very
48 abundant to pick. Now we can't pick them because too
49 many muskox are coming into our region and eating up
50 our native vegetables. They call it native vegetables

1 and greens. So I'd like to see this one changed if it
2 could be at all possible.

3
4 That's pretty much what I've got to
5 say. Thank you.

6
7 MR. KOBUK: Leonard, St. Michael. I'm
8 glad Mr. Keyes brought up about gas, because it's
9 pretty much really very expensive in all the villages
10 now. At home a gallon of gas is almost \$8, and just
11 from before the new fuel came in this summer we were
12 paying for stove oil 200 and something dollars. Now
13 it's four, almost 500 bucks from a drum of stove oil.
14 And that's one of the issues is the gas. They're
15 paying a lot and stuff in the stores are really going
16 up because of the high price of flying stuff into the
17 villages with gas prices going up and whatnot. The
18 stuff in the stores are really shooting up.

19
20 And with moose, a lot of the hunters
21 say they seem to be running more into females. I tell
22 them, well, with the way prices are with gas and oil,
23 because you have to buy motor oil, everything's gone up
24 in the store, I said, well, if you've got a family to
25 feed, my dad used to say, whatever you run into is what
26 you get. You may never run into it again. But this
27 summer they were able to catch about I think eight
28 belugas. I'm surprised they caught them, too, in the
29 deep water. I used to get them in the bay. They also
30 got a young right whale.

31
32 Other than that, it's our gas prices
33 and oil prices that are going up and a lot of people
34 because of lack of jobs, they've got a limited amount
35 that they can charge in the store, and I think these
36 are one of the things that the State and the Federal
37 Government are going to start looking into, because the
38 people are going to get whatever they run into now
39 because of the high prices of the stuff.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yeah. And just to get
44 a little bearing here, I just flew some berries in from
45 one of the villages yesterday, and it cost me \$6.60
46 cents a gallon to get them here. That's a little
47 ridiculous.

48
49 Tony, did you want to address something
50 real quick?

1 MR. GORN: Good morning everybody. I'm
2 Tony Gorn from Fish and Game here in Nome. I'll
3 address some of the questions that I've heard already
4 during my report later on this afternoon.

5
6 But I did want to just take a quick
7 moment and talk to Anthony about your comments about
8 muskox hunting out at 22E and the opportunity to
9 harvest cows out of the population. Right now the
10 harvest quota out of your area is 62 muskox a year.
11 Out of those 62 muskox, 31 can be cows. So we have a
12 50 percent harvest opportunity there for cow muskox, so
13 by all means, if you have the opportunity, whether you
14 think they taste better or your community wants to
15 harvest cows to potentially slow population growth in
16 your area, the opportunity is there. So I just wanted
17 to bring that to your attention.

18
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And don't forget
20 the season date though (AWAY FROM MICROPHONE)

21
22 MR. GORN: January 1.

23
24 MR. KEYES: Okay. Anthony Keyes from
25 Wales. Now, we're in the right track here. About the
26 musk ox deal, if you were to look into our booklet
27 here, it says to a certain month that we can hunt only
28 bulls, and then later on towards the spring season is
29 when we can start hunting females, so right now it's
30 kind of unbalanced for our community up there. I think
31 I would like to see that proposal changed to bull and
32 cow, not just cow at a certain set date, because we
33 have to wait certain time span to get a female. So I
34 don't think it's right for us just to get bull moose by
35 itself, but certain length of a month.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Are they in 22E? Is
38 that right?

39
40 MR. GORN: Yeah, I guess I'm -- Tom, I'm
41 not sure I understand the current question. Are we
42 talking about moose? I heard Anthony mention moose.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I thought we were on
45 muskox.

46
47 MR. KEYES: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GRAY: But, you know, I think
50 this is a thing to go back to the muskox board also.

1 And it would be good to see not only a letter from his
2 community go to the Board recommending different dates
3 for females, but for all of us, even our -- we should
4 be looking at a proposal to clean this up. You should
5 be looking at a proposal to clean your system up to
6 accommodate their community.

7
8 MR. GORN: Mr. Gray. And fellow
9 committee members. I guess -- I don't want to speak
10 for the Federal Staff here. I'm not completely up on
11 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting cycle, but the
12 State Board of Game for our area is going to meet next
13 November. So -- no, I'm sorry, November of '09. So
14 we're going to go through this winter here and then
15 next spring we'll have our advisory committee meetings.
16 And there will be a period then, I suspect it will
17 start sometime in June or July where we can take
18 proposals to the Board of Game and have the opportunity
19 to amend seasons and then bag limits. So, you know,
20 right now is the time to begin staging for that. So if
21 we want to take a look at -- I'm not sure how we could
22 lengthen that season up there any longer than it
23 already is, but if we want to look at any muskox bag
24 limit or change the season dates for the cow hunt, you
25 know, we're at the time where we can start thinking
26 about that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Well, I would encourage
29 the agencies, whoever they are, to work with Anthony in
30 trying to educate him on the process, how to change the
31 dates, so on and so forth. Anyway, work with him,
32 explain to him how the proposals work, how to change
33 the dates, if there's any emergency process that you
34 can use, how to use that, so on and so forth.

35
36 Okay. I think we're kind of at the
37 end. Is there any other village concerns before we get
38 away from that.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Myron, you've
43 got some kind of a something. Yes. Our boss wants a
44 time out. So we'll take -- let's take a 10-minute
45 break here, you guys.

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I just noticed a sign-
4 up sheet somewhere. If you guys haven't signed in,
5 there's a sign-up sheet. Find it and we'd be honored
6 if you signed in.

7

8 Okay. We're at Myron's .805 letter.
9 And I was told it's self-explanatory. Did you want to
10 talk about it?

11

12 MR. SAVETILIK: Briefly on that. I was
13 able to attend the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in
14 May, since Tom couldn't make it. And on the agenda was
15 our .805, and the letter on Page 11 is self-
16 explanatory. Everybody can take a look at it, and that
17 was the report that was on the floor.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So if anybody
22 has any questions or issues on that, they can come and
23 talk to me or Barb or somebody.

24

25 The next thing is the annual report,
26 and I'm going to throw this in Barb's lap.

27

28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, we have your
29 annual report reply is on Page 24. And usually I have
30 it at this time of the year that to start gathering
31 annual report issues from you. And we're trying to
32 change the process right now to bring that up at your
33 winter meeting, starting your winter meetings from now
34 on. So it will be within the year that you put your
35 annual report in and also get your responses back then
36 from this in the fall meeting. So that's why we didn't
37 have it on the agenda at this time.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 (Off record comments re placement of
42 microphones)

43

44 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Are we at our
45 proposals now?

46

47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes. I'll need
48 another break to call.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: It sounds like we're at

1 a break again. We've got to get somebody on the phone,
2 so whoever knows how to run this thing needs to run it
3 I guess.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Tom Kron with
10 OSM. There was a proposal, a statewide proposal that
11 was in the proposal book that is not before you today.
12 The State of Alaska has withdrawn Proposal FP09-01.
13 None of the Councils statewide will be taking action on
14 this proposal. Consistent with Federal Subsistence
15 Management Program procedures, a proponent, any
16 proponent, may withdraw a proposal before a Council
17 takes action on it. So we just wanted to let you know
18 that.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And so there was a Fish
23 and Game Proposal addressing our Federal program, and
24 they've withdrawn that proposal?

25

26 MR. KRON: Yes, that's correct.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Where are we at
29 on getting Weaver?

30

31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: They're working on
32 it. Take a break.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Break time
35 again.

36

37 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Somebody's.....

40

41 MR. MARTIN: I have a question from
42 Stebbins. I know it was maybe a proposal, but who to
43 address this to, but, you know, Stebbins and them never
44 had no commercial fishing at all, but our surrounding
45 area, both Yukon and Unalakleet on up this way, all had
46 commercial fishing seasons, but Stebbins and Michael
47 never did have one of those. I want to find out why
48 Stebbins and St. Michael is always closed to commercial
49 fishing. That problem come up when the meeting opens
50 up. Thank you.

1 MR. KOBUK: Peter. Leonard, St.
2 Michael. I can answer a little bit of that, because I
3 was involved in that for a little while. The only
4 reason they don't allow us to fish commercially for
5 kings, silvers, chum or cohos is because Yukon River
6 drainage and Unalakleet and Shaktoolik River drainage
7 say we'll intercept their fish stocks, even though we
8 have our own fish going into the rivers around our
9 area. That was one of the reasons why it's never been
10 opened. And one thing I need to also mention, that no
11 one -- I was the last one that had an interim permit.
12 I lost my interim permit, because I wanted to turn it
13 over to my sons, because they'd been fishing with me
14 since -- and that's for herring -- since they were 16
15 years old, but the State refused and they just
16 terminated my interim permit because I wanted to do
17 that, and so I've kind of lost interest in the State
18 Fish and Game, because the whole village used to be
19 participating in herring fishing before they went to
20 the point system, and a lot of them -- and our whole
21 village lost it, because in one season we couldn't
22 because of ice. We couldn't get our boats out, and
23 some had motor problems, and that was the reason. And
24 now there's just one guy who bought a permit from NSEDC
25 that -- and there's another guy, Jerry Austin who still
26 has his.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Scott, maybe you
29 can answer a little bit on this.

30
31 MR. KENT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
32 Martin. As far as Mr. Kobuk's comments about St.
33 Michael's and Stebbins being intercept fisheries,
34 Unalakleet and Shaktoolik are also intercept fisheries,
35 and we allow commercial fishing to occur there. I
36 think the biggest hurdle, the reason why there isn't
37 commercial fishing in your areas, I don't think there's
38 -- I don't know if there's much of a fleet left there,
39 and I don't know if the buyers any interest to buy fish
40 from fishermen in your area. I don't think there's
41 anything that would not permit us to allow a commercial
42 opening in your area. Like in Norton Bay this season,
43 for example, they hadn't fished there since 1997, and
44 we allowed some periods there this year even though we
45 don't have escapement projects in that area to monitor
46 escapements. We use escapements from neighboring
47 subdistricts as an index of escapement. And so we --
48 you know, I don't know all the details about fishing in
49 St. Michaels and Stebbins, because we've never done it
50 as far as salmon. But I don't think there's anything

1 on the books that says we wouldn't allow it because
2 it's an intercept fishery. A lot of the fisheries
3 around here are intercept fisheries.

4

5 MR. MARTIN: Now, all this here that --
6 I've been looking at this, our communities being left
7 out, and we've seen price of things, food and gas,
8 everything is going up, and lack of jobs in our
9 communities. It's something I'd like to -- I'm going
10 to be pursuing this, because our communities need to
11 get some form of income. Looking around at our
12 surrounding neighbors, being able to fish, you know, we
13 are not able to do that. I know that one person at
14 Stebbins has tried that in the past, and I guess that
15 what you have said, was given that reason. That's why
16 I brought this up.

17

18 MR. QUINN: Mr. Chair. Can I speak?

19

20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

21

22 MR. QUINN: Peter, I would recommend
23 that you speak to the people at NSEDC. Both Stebbins
24 and St. Michael are NSEDC member communities. NSEDC
25 has done a lot to develop fisheries in places where
26 fisheries didn't exist before. The commercial fishing
27 at Teller for Red Salmon is one of those. And Scott
28 just said that you have the season in Norton Bay, and I
29 suspect that NSEDC had something to do with that. So
30 really the place to go with your concerns and to
31 develop the economic things that you want to see in the
32 future with fishing is NSEDC, and they have very
33 capable people there to work with you.

34

35 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chair. Like I said,
36 there was about three people from Stebbins, Morris
37 Coffey, Freddie Pete and I couldn't remember -- I think
38 the other one was -- what's his name. Mr. Foxy. And I
39 myself was one and Pius Washington was another. This
40 was years ago, about -- I don't know. We tried to open
41 that fishery and we really got attacked by the Yukon
42 fisheries, not only Yukon, but also the Kuskokwim area
43 jumped in, too. And they -- and then they also had a
44 letter, too, from Unalakleet and Shaktoolik areas
45 saying that we were going to intercept their fish, and
46 they went along and decided they weren't going to open
47 up our fisheries like we wanted. And we wanted to do
48 the -- it wasn't for kings and cohos, it was for the
49 pink salmon, but they say because of the by-catch we'll
50 be catching king salmon and silver salmon and chum that

1 they wouldn't allow us to open that fisheries. That
2 was -- it's in the records. The State should have it.
3 Because we went to Emmonak at that time to try to open
4 the fisheries.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. KENT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
9 Kobuk, yeah, I don't doubt you. I just had never heard
10 of fishermen in another subdistrict or another areas
11 saying, you know, because you may intercept a few of
12 our fish, you can't go commercial fishing. But it's
13 worth bringing up again if there's interest in
14 commercial fishing, and I would start, as Mr. Quinn
15 suggests, with the buyer. And if the buyer wants to
16 buy your fish, then he comes and talks to us and then
17 we work from there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. MARTIN: I'm sure the Norton Sound
22 fisheries would be willing to buy some fish in my area.
23 Is there -- with the studies that have been done these
24 past years at Pikmiktalik River, I guess we're going to
25 be getting into that report sometime later on during
26 the day. It's certainly something that I would like to
27 continue to pursue, our area opening, for being equal
28 -- being treated equal commercial fishing-wise.
29 Stebbins and Michael have been left out. Yukon is
30 open, Unalakleet on up to where, here? And commercial
31 fisheries open. And Stebbins and Michael closed. And
32 that's something that I'd like to -- I will be
33 continuing to pursue that no matter what I have to --
34 what others that I have to face.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Let me jump in
39 here. You know, I think we can whip this horse all
40 morning and beat on it, but my suggestion is that
41 Friday you guys set a meeting date and request NSEDC,
42 Fish and Game, all the players come in, meet with the
43 people and discuss this issue. Just set a date and be
44 reasonable, set it far enough out that these guys can
45 plan for it, and expect them to come and try and work
46 this out. I would suggest you start there anyway.

47

48 MR. KENT: If I could add one comment.
49 There is a good venue for that. The NSEDC fishermen's
50 meetings that are conducted every spring. A Department

1 representative attends those and the Norton Sound
2 seafood buyer organizes those meetings, and that's a
3 good place to talk about stuff like this. And that's
4 all I've got to say.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yeah. And the other
7 place is the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Board.
8 There's a board that meets and they deal with fish and
9 game issues. And that's another good place to enter it
10 and get going, but more importantly I would -- if I
11 were you guys, I would just pick a date, November 10th,
12 15th, whatever, somewhere close and send letters out
13 saying, were going to hold a meeting and we want to
14 discuss this issue, and see who shows up.

15
16 Okay. With that -- Leonard, you've got
17 30 seconds.

18
19 MR. KOBUK: Okay. One think I want to
20 say about -- yeah, it would be nice to have, but,
21 Peter, we've got to also think about that it's going to
22 interfere with our subsistence way of life. Once we
23 open up commercial fishing, then we're going to be
24 limited on our subsistence fishing, because once they
25 open up commercial fishing, the subsistence fishing
26 part will close. In the Yukon it closes 12 hours
27 before commercial fishing and 12 hours after commercial
28 fishing for subsistence. So you might want to think
29 about that, too, also.

30
31 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, Leonard, I think
32 that can be worked out within our communities. We're
33 able to take care of our own regarding fishing. We
34 have -- and then from many centuries our forefathers
35 have done that, and I think we will be able to live
36 with that, too.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, you guys
39 will work this out and work towards something. Barb,
40 do you have.....

41
42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, we're ready to
43 call Weaver, who's waiting for us to call him.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Let's get him on
46 the phone.

47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Take a break.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Take a break, she says.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Good morning, you're
6 on. We're listening to you here from the Seward Pen
7 Regional Council meeting, and then you'll be talking to
8 the Chair, Tom Gray, and we have the presenter, Karen
9 Hyer and Tom Kron sitting. Thank you.

10

11 MR. IVANOFF: Thank you. Thank you for
12 calling.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So you guys are
15 going to introduce this thing or what's -- okay. Have
16 at it.

17

18 MS. HYER: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I'm
19 Karen Hyer, the statistician with OSM and I'm going to
20 present the analysis for Fisheries Proposal 09-14,
21 which starts on Page 29 of your book.

22

23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Can Weaver hear you?

24

25 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Can you hear, Weaver?

26

27 MR. IVANOFF: Yeah, I can.

28

29 MS. HYER: Can you hear me now?
30 Weaver, can you hear me?

31

32 MR. IVANOFF: Yeah, I can hear very
33 well, thank you.

34

35 MS. HYER: Okay. How is this?

36

37 MR. IVANOFF: That's great.

38

39 MS. HYER: Okay. Super. All right.
40 Weaver, we're on Page 29 of the Regional Council book.
41 This fisheries proposal is submitted by Kathy Johnson,
42 Native Village of Unalakleet, and it requests that
43 Federal public waters in the Unalakleet River be closed
44 to chinook salmon fishing except by Federally-qualified
45 subsistence users. Federal public waters in the
46 Unalakleet River drainage include the upper 81 miles of
47 the Unalakleet River. It's 106 total river miles.
48 This portion of the river is designated as a national
49 wild river and is administered by the Bureau of Land
50 Management.

1 The proponent states that closure to
2 Federal public waters would increase chinook salmon
3 returns by protecting chinook salmon on the spawning
4 grounds.

5
6 In a recent phone conversation with the
7 proponent, they expressed interest in modifying the
8 proposal to extend the closure to encompass all users
9 as a conservative measure, and in addition they propose
10 extending the closure to July 18th to ensure that the
11 majority of chinook salmon reach the spawning grounds.

12
13 The Unalakleet and Shaktoolik
14 subdistricts are managed as one fishery by Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game, because past studies have
16 shown salmon bound for these regions intermingle.
17 Beginning in 2004, the Board of Fisheries identified
18 chinook salmon in the Unalakleet/Shaktoolik subdistrict
19 as a stock of concern. In their February 2007 Alaska
20 Board of Fisheries, their last board meeting, the
21 fisheries decision was reconfirmed, and so the stock is
22 still a stock of yield concern. The Alaska Board of
23 Fish took further action in 2007 to increase escapement
24 by adopting a conservative chinook salmon management
25 plan. This plan involved putting subsistence fishing
26 on a schedule, and also reduce the fishing daily bag
27 limit and annual possession for the sport fishery.

28
29 Assessment of chinook salmon escapement
30 has been conducted on the river since 1984, and
31 currently from 1996 on it has been with the North River
32 tower, a tributary of the Unalakleet. Radio telemetry
33 work completed by the Alaska Department of Fish and
34 Game in 1997 and 1998 showed that 40 percent of the
35 chinook salmon entering the drainage went up the North
36 River, and the remaining 60 percent went up the
37 Unalakleet River and spawned in Federal water, waters
38 connected to Federal lands. Chinook returning to the
39 drainage have been poor since 2000, and in both 2007
40 and 2008 under State and Federal jurisdiction there
41 were closures for subsistence and sport harvest.
42 Chinook salmon escaping to the North River and the
43 Unalakleet River have not responded to any of the
44 closures to commercial fishing or the subsistence and
45 sport restrictions.

46
47 Currently the majority of the chinook
48 salmon subsistence harvest occurs under State
49 jurisdiction in the marine waters at the mouth of the
50 river.

1 The Unalakleet also supports a sport
2 fishery with coho and Dolly Varden the most commonly
3 harvested sport species. Chinook comprises a smaller
4 portion of the overall sport harvest. It is felt that
5 most of the sport harvest occurs in the lower
6 Unalakleet River, and it's probably taken near the
7 mouth of the North River. Unfortunately it's hard to
8 document exactly where sport fish are harvested.

9
10 Currently the BLM regulates
11 commercially guided sport fish in the Federal public
12 waters. And to date no special recreation permits have
13 been issued for the Unalakleet. But upper river, non-
14 guided sport fishers are hard to document. The BLM
15 Unalakleet wild river coordinator stated there's little
16 or not fishing in Federal public waters. However, one
17 of the local fishermen estimated 25 to 50 sport
18 fishermen travel up the river to fish for kings [sic]
19 and may harvest chinook salmon while up there.

20
21 Subsistence fishing in the Unalakleet
22 River occurs entirely in the lower portion of the river
23 and is outside Federal jurisdiction. So a closure to
24 the upper river would not provide any additional
25 opportunity for Federal harvest of subsistence fish.
26 Also, closure to the upper river waters under Federal
27 jurisdiction to non-Federally-qualified fishing, even
28 if it's extended to July 18th as recently suggested
29 would provide -- would have little effect chinook
30 salmon populations since the use of these waters by
31 residents and nonresidents is very limited. Currently
32 chinook salmon are harvested almost entirely in the
33 lower Unalakleet River by subsistence and sport
34 fishers, so restrictions and closures made by the State
35 managers to the lower river fishery have the greatest
36 conservation effect on chinook salmon.

37
38 OSM opposes this Proposal 09-14.

39
40 That concludes my presentation, and
41 I'll accept any questions.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Anybody have any
44 questions for her

45
46 MR. QUINN: I've got one. Is rod and
47 reel recognized as a subsistence method in that area?

48
49 MS. HYER: It is. My understanding is
50 it is.

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is BLM going to testify
2 on this? No? I don't see them on this list. And the
3 reason I ask is the special recreation permits issued
4 by BLM. In here it says there is no recreational
5 permits issued up in that area, but I'm a little bit
6 curious about the fishing guiding that's going on in
7 the Unalakleet River and how much of that river that's
8 being proposed to be closed is actually used by fish
9 guides. And maybe Weaver might be able to help answer
10 this question. I don't know.

11
12 MS. HYER: Currently my understanding
13 is, I spoke to the BLM, Geoff Beyersdorf is here, he's
14 better to advise.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And my concern, I have
17 a special recreation permit from BLM for bear hunting.
18 My concern is maybe some of these outfitters don't
19 realize that a special recreation permit would allow
20 them to go into BLM lands or waters and maybe they're
21 doing it anyway. That's what I'm after is are they
22 utilizing that resource up there.

23
24 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
25 the Council. And good morning, Weaver. This is Geoff
26 Beyersdorf with the BLM Anchorage field office. What
27 we've seen on the ground out there is that the river
28 guides are not using the Federal public waters up
29 there. They're in the lower part of the river. And as
30 Weaver is aware, I spent three weeks in Unalakleet in
31 August and was on the river almost daily, and in the
32 time that I was there, that's one of the things I tried
33 to pay attention to as to where the guides were
34 utilizing, and I did not come across any guides in the
35 Federal public waters while I was up there.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: But August is a total
38 different story when you're fishing silvers than when
39 you're fishing kings. And maybe -- I'm still fishing
40 for an answer on the kings. Are they going -- are the
41 guides going up into this area during the time the
42 kings are in there and fishing kings up in that area?

43
44 MR. BEYERSDORF: To our knowledge they
45 aren't. I talked to some local people in Unalakleet
46 and from what they've seen, there was very little to no
47 use. I think Weaver probably has some other
48 information that people may be incidentally going in, but
49 I wasn't on the ground there in late June/July, so, you
50 know, as far as direct observation for myself, I can't

1 provide that. I can just go by what I've heard from
2 locals.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Weaver, do you
5 have any comments on my question?

6

7 MR. IVANOFF: Thank you. Yes, I do.
8 During the time of July, from July 1 until July 31, of
9 course, pinks are in the river, and they're small and
10 they're numerous, and so for fishing pinks and whatever
11 amount, you know, anywhere from 20 to 30 or whatever it
12 is that you catch and release, it gets kind of boring.
13 So there is a very small number of sport fishers who go
14 -- who would go up the Chiroskey, the mouth of the
15 Chiroskey just to get a king. And, of course, above
16 the Chiroskey is -- that's one of the major spawning
17 areas of the chinook is. And while those number is few
18 and I don't have actually numbers -- I don't have
19 actually the number of fishers that do do that, there
20 is a potential for that to occur. But actual numbers I
21 don't have. And if there are a number there, it would
22 be a small amount.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Do we have any
25 letters of support or objection from the fishing
26 guides? Have they been notified of this?

27

28 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman, Brendan
29 Scanlon with the Sport Fish Division. The Alaska.....

30

31 REPORTER: You have to come up to the
32 microphone.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GRAY: If this is something
35 that will come up when you get on, we can address it
36 then. It doesn't matter.

37

38 MR. SCANLON: Good morning, Weaver,
39 it's Brendan.

40

41 MR. IVANOFF: Yes, Brendan, how are you
42 doing. Good to hear from you.

43

44 MR. SCANLON: Thanks. I spoke to the
45 two guiding operation in Unalakleet, Vance Grishkowsky
46 and the Apples who own the lodge about eight miles up
47 river, and I spoke to both of them last summer about
48 the proposed regulation. And they essentially said it
49 wouldn't affect them either way, because they don't go
50 up that far to fish.

1 Also to put the guide harvest of king
2 salmon in perspective, these guys, their main draw is
3 coho salmon, and they have reduced rates early in the
4 season to get people to come out to fish for kings and
5 pinks. But it's not their main draw. And since we
6 started the guide book, the sport fish guide logbook
7 program in 2005, we know exactly how many king salmon
8 were harvested out of the Unalakleet, and other
9 species. But in 2005 68 kings were harvested by guided
10 anglers, 60 in 2006 and 39 in 2007, so the guided
11 component on the total chinook harvest in the last few
12 years has been very small. That's all.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Anybody else have
15 questions. I could sit here all day and ask questions,
16 so you guys need your chance.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: How is the resource?
21 You're trying to protect the resource. How bad is the
22 source that we go to these measures in closing it down,
23 and has -- let me think. Normally if you have an issue
24 with a resource, you close subsistence, you close sport
25 fish down, and then you -- in the end you close
26 subsistence down, and commercial fishing should be
27 prior to that. Commercial fishing, sport fishing.
28 What has happened prior to -- I mean, you're talking
29 about shutting down, just saving a resource for
30 subsistence, which -- is the resource that damaged that
31 we need to do this, number 1. Have you taken the steps
32 with the commercial side of this thing and the sport
33 fish side of this thing to minimize the impacts on that
34 resource?

35

36 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, have Scott
37 answer that question.

38

39 MR. KENT: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

40

41 MS. HYER: Scott, you have to say that
42 for the record.

43

44 MR. KENT: Scott Kent, assistant area
45 manager, Division of Commercial Fisheries. Good
46 morning, Weaver.

47

48 MR. IVANOFF: Good morning.

49

50 MR. KENT: I can address that. In 2007

1 one of the -- the other thing that came out of this
2 conservative management plan at the Board of Fisheries
3 meeting was that we have to project that we will meet
4 or exceed the midpoint of the escapement goal range at
5 North River tower, which comes out to about 1900
6 chinook, for us to prosecute a commercial fishery. Not
7 surprisingly in recent years we've had really poor runs
8 and, you know, the outlook for commercial fishing is
9 nil. So commercial fishing is closed right from the
10 start of the season unless we have some indicator that
11 our run's going to be well above expectations. And
12 then typically we try to provide as much subsistence
13 fishing opportunity. We try to provide as many periods
14 as possible. And by doing that, a lot of times what
15 happens is we end up closing the sport and subsistence
16 fishery concurrently about the same time. Right at the
17 same date. So they kind of -- everything's been
18 compressed. We try to let people go fishing as long as
19 we can until we think, okay, if we don't do something
20 now, we're not going to meet escapement needs.

21

22 MS. HYER: This is Karen Hyer. I'd
23 like to just add one other point. Commercial fishing
24 has been closed up there since 2005, correct?

25

26 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So the resource
27 is not meeting escapement needs. And to you, why are
28 you opposing this proposal then if the resource isn't
29 meeting escapement needs.

30

31 MS. HYER: There are two reasons. The
32 Board has authority to close if it will provide further
33 Federal subsistence opportunities, and since the
34 subsistence fishery occurs at the lower river, it won't
35 provide any more opportunity for Federal user to have a
36 subsistence take. And, second, because there's so few
37 sport users up the river, that it's felt that whatever
38 measures were taken wouldn't really help in
39 conservation of this stock, because the majority of the
40 harvest occurs in the lower river in the State
41 jurisdiction.

42

43 MR. KENT: And to add, too, Tom, the
44 restrictions or closures are usually in place by July
45 4th or 5th, before migrating chinook are going to reach
46 these spawning areas, so they're already going to be --
47 they're still going to be milling around in the lower
48 river before this regulation would take effect.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anybody else.

1 Mike, you've got to throw something out here.

2

3 MR. QUINN: Alrighty. Bring Mr.
4 Beyersdorf back to the microphone then, please. Geoff,
5 if this proposal passes, and you guys are managing the
6 land there, it's going to fall upon you I assume to
7 enforce it? Your agency?

8

9 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Member
10 Quinn. That's correct.

11

12 MR. QUINN: And have you got the money
13 to do that? Have you got the money, the manpower and
14 the equipment to do that?

15

16 MR. BEYERSDORF: We do have law
17 enforcement personnel on staff. I know with the
18 Federal moose hunt that we had, we were very successful
19 as far as coordinating our efforts and getting out to
20 Unalakleet and doing outreach to people. I'm assuming
21 we would do similar type of actions here with the
22 fishery. I'm not sure that we'd actually need it
23 though to this level. As Weaver has pointed out, as
24 other people have said, as far as the non-local or
25 sport fish use of that area, there is a potential
26 there, but at this point it looks like it's very low.

27

28 MR. QUINN: Okay. Thank you, sir.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, we're
31 going to get back to the schedule here. I think it
32 will go a lot faster now we've aired some of these
33 questions, and Barb can relax a little bit. So the
34 next people on the agenda is Fish and Game.

35

36 MS. HENDRICKSON: Mr. Chair. I'm Nancy
37 Hendrickson. I'm very pleased to be here for the first
38 time in Nome and meeting the groups here and
39 understanding their concerns. I'm the chair of the
40 Federal Subsistence Liaison Team for Fish and Game, and
41 it's my goal to get out to as many RACs as possible and
42 learn about your needs and concerns.

43

44 Regarding this proposal, our complete
45 department comments are in your book I believe on Page
46 -- starting on Page 38 through 39. They're being
47 entered into the record via court reporter. And to
48 succinctly put it, the Department comments for this
49 proposal will be entered into the record, and I will be
50 summarizing the Department comments.

1 The State agrees with the OSM analysis
2 and we do oppose the proposal.

3
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

6
7 FP09-14 Unalakleet Chinook Salmon
8 Closure

9
10 Introduction:

11
12 This proposal would close all fishing
13 for Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River within
14 federal public lands from June 15 July 5, except by
15 federally-qualified subsistence users. The area of the
16 proposed closure is the waters upstream of the
17 confluence of Chirosky River, located approximately 20
18 miles east of Unalakleet. This proposal was submitted
19 with the intent of protecting spawning phase Chinook
20 salmon that are migrating through the area. However,
21 the majority of Chinook salmon are not likely to reach
22 the spawning grounds by July 5.

23
24 Impact on Subsistence Users:

25
26 If adopted, the proposal would prohibit
27 taking of Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes by
28 residents of Alaska and sport fishermen but not by
29 federally qualified subsistence users. There is little
30 benefit to federally-qualified subsistence users
31 because few, if any, Chinook salmon are harvested that
32 far up the Unalakleet watershed. The vast majority of
33 Chinook salmon are harvested closer to the village of
34 Unalakleet or in marine waters. Few non-federally
35 qualified users target Chinook salmon in federal public
36 lands where the fish are more watermarked than the
37 brighter fish closer to the mouth of the Unalakleet
38 River. In addition, travel to fish upriver on federal
39 public lands is increasingly cost prohibitive due to
40 the high cost of fuel.

41
42 Opportunity Provided by State:

43
44 Subsistence salmon fishing occurs in
45 freshwaters of the Unalakleet River and the surrounding
46 marine waters of Unalakleet Subdistrict. All state
47 residents can subsistence fish with gillnets in both
48 fresh and marine waters. Beach seines can only be used
49 by emergency order, and all Chinook salmon must be
50 released by regulation. The State subsistence Chinook

1 salmon fishery in the Unalakleet watershed is normally
2 open all year and is required by regulation beginning
3 June 1 to use set gillnets only until July 15. From
4 June 15 through July 15 subsistence fishing is normally
5 allowed twice a week for 36-hour fishing periods. The
6 commercial fishery targeting Chinook salmon is not
7 allowed to occur unless the midpoint of the escapement
8 goal is projected to be met, as described in the
9 Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan. The
10 Unalakleet River salmon sport fishery is normally open
11 all year, and the daily bag and possession limit is 2
12 fish, only one 20 or longer. There is an annual limit
13 of 2 Chinook salmon 20 or longer.

14

15 Conservation Issues:

16

17 The Unalakleet River Chinook salmon
18 stock was designated as a stock of yield concern by the
19 Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2004. This designation
20 was the result of the inability to maintain near
21 average yields despite the use of management measures
22 to provide harvestable surpluses above the stock
23 escapement needs during the previous 5-year period.
24 Since 2002 the Chinook salmon commercial fishery has
25 been closed, except for two 24-hour fishing periods in
26 2005. Since 2003, subsistence and sport fisheries
27 targeting Unalakleet watershed Chinook salmon have been
28 significantly restricted or closed to allow for
29 escapement. Under the State Policy for the Management
30 of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, if the Unalakleet
31 River Chinook salmon stock chronically fails to meet
32 its escapement goal, the Alaska Department of Fish and
33 Game would recommend changing the stock of concern
34 status from a yield concern to a management concern
35 until the stock recovers.

36

37 Annual commercial fishery harvests of
38 Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet Subdistrict have
39 dropped from a long term annual average of 5,717 fish
40 (1980-2000) to a recent average of 32 fish (2001-2007).
41 The annual State subsistence fishery harvests of
42 Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet Subdistrict during the
43 last 14 years have ranged from 6,325 fish in 1997 to
44 1,665 fish in 2007 with a decreasing trend in recent
45 years. The sport fish harvest from 2001-2007 has
46 averaged 286 Chinook salmon and ranged from 97 to 544
47 fish annually. A trend of harvest transfer from
48 commercial fisheries to subsistence fisheries has
49 developed due to the severe restrictions or closure of
50 commercial fisheries in recent years in response to

1 smaller returns of Chinook salmon to the Unalakleet
2 River.

3

4 Under the conservative management plan
5 adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in February
6 2007, the State managed subsistence fishery has been
7 restricted in-river by reducing the fishery time
8 periods to two 36-hour fishing periods per week during
9 the open season in fresh water and two 48-hour fishing
10 periods per week in the marine fishery. When
11 escapement goals still are not projected to be met
12 inseason, subsistence fishing has been further
13 restricted or closed. When lower escapement goals are
14 projected to be met inseason, subsistence fishery may
15 be liberalized. The sport fishery has been closed by
16 emergency order in early-July to the retention of
17 Chinook salmon in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2008 due
18 to conservation concerns. Management actions taken in
19 the subsistence and sport fisheries to conserve Chinook
20 salmon include state fisheries in federal public lands
21 upriver. Because of migratory timing, these actions
22 are likely taken prior to any fishing effort occurring
23 in those waters.

24

25 Jurisdiction Issues:

26

27 The vast majority, if not all,
28 subsistence and sport Chinook salmon harvest in the
29 Unalakleet River watershed and nearby marine waters,
30 occurs within marine and freshwaters not subject to
31 federal regulations. The land and waters from the
32 mouth of the Unalakleet river to river mile 22 is
33 state, corporation, or privately owned property. The
34 area of concern contained in the proposal is the lower
35 extent of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River area.
36 The Department requests detailed maps showing
37 boundaries and areas where federal regulations are
38 claimed to apply and justification for claiming those
39 boundaries.

40

41 While standing on state and private
42 lands (including state-owned submerged lands), persons
43 must comply with state law and cannot harvest under
44 conflicting federal regulations. If this proposal is
45 adopted, enforcement difficulties and user confusion --
46 concerning where and how federal regulations that are
47 different than state regulations apply -- will result
48 unless detailed maps and explanations specific to the
49 area are provided.

50

1 Recommendation:

2

3 Oppose. Adoption of this proposal will
4 not likely improve the health of the Unalakleet River
5 Chinook salmon stock and will not improve opportunity
6 for subsistence use because very few, if any, Chinook
7 salmon are harvested by any users within federal public
8 lands of the watershed. Further, in years where there
9 are low returns, state closures or restrictions are
10 normally in place before Chinook reach the waters
11 subject to federal jurisdictional claims.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Scott, do you have
14 anything to add?

15

16 MR. KENT: Not really. I think I'd
17 rather respond to more specific questions like the ones
18 -- I mean, that's what I'm here for.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. And again I
21 guess I would like to know the reasons you're opposing
22 it.

23

24 MS. HENDRICKSON: It's for the same
25 reasons that the OSM report stated, that there's very
26 little fishing where it would be closed. The closures
27 have to occur down lower in the river where all the
28 fishing is taking place for it to affect the runs. And
29 any specific questions related to it, I'm going to
30 defer to my specialist.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Now is the time
33 for questions, you guys. Anybody have a question.

34

35 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik. I'm
36 just wondering if the proposal that they've submitted,
37 would there be any difference in making a new proposal
38 or making a different than proposed right here or.....

39

40 MR. KENT: Mr. Chair. Mr. Savetilik.
41 I suspect not since this proposal pertains to the
42 Federal waters and for Federally-qualified subsistence
43 users. We would have to -- you know, the lower
44 Unalakleet River is under State jurisdiction, which
45 would be me, so that would be a whole another venue,
46 the Board of Fish.

47

48 MR. KEYES: Anthony from Wales. You
49 know, listening to what you guys are saying right here
50 about this fishing deal, I'm going to put it out

1 straight the way I think it should be said. The more
2 laws that you put on our villages, it doesn't matter
3 which village it is, you take out one source, you're
4 going to end up finding another source that's going to
5 be on top the priority list. We are -- the way I see
6 it is too many laws are being put against our Native
7 individuals that had grown up on this land since early
8 1800s, 17, 1800s, you know. These people lived off the
9 land, and now to this date, the year 2000, we are being
10 hit with all kinds of laws. We can do this, we can't
11 do that. The more laws you put in our books or in your
12 books for us to review and read, it's going to be a
13 burden and a hard impact on our next generation. The
14 more laws you put up, the more laws are going to be
15 broken. It doesn't matter how sneaky you can be or if
16 you're the top man on a totem pole. As we are being
17 hit with many laws, we are the very lowest persons on
18 the totem pole. We have to abide by them, and if we
19 don't, we have to pay, you know, a substantial amount
20 of money which these elders never used to do a long
21 time ago. You hit us with these laws, these laws are
22 for your own benefits to see how us Natives would react
23 on booklets like these.

24

25 Like I was listening about this
26 Unalakleet deal, about sport fishing, you know. You
27 take sport fishing away from the Eskimos. That's a
28 pretty sad thing to do. They have to go and buy it in
29 a can from the store, which costs twice as much more.
30 I hate to see our next generation having to fight
31 something like this that we are now faced with. It
32 hurts me to listen to people argue over such little
33 matters which was our specialty from the beginning. I
34 don't think any white person would want to be given a
35 book like this from an Eskimo. They'd say, hey, what
36 did this guy give me? What does it mean?

37

38 Like I say, the more laws you put out
39 for us to be, you know, read over, it's going to be a
40 tough challenge against what you had written down on
41 these papers in black and white.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I just want to
44 clarify something. This proposal was put before us,
45 before this Board by the Native Village of Unalakleet.
46 So everybody understands that it's the Native Village
47 of Unalakleet that's proposing this project.

48

49 I was just going through this thing,
50 looking at numbers and so on and so forth. You had

1 something you want to throw in here?

2

3 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
4 Brendan Scanlon again with Sport Fish Division.

5

6 While the Department doesn't support
7 this proposal, we do take the king salmon problem very
8 seriously in the Unalakleet drainage. Right now we
9 have a test net project. We have a counting tower in
10 the North River. Next year we're going to begin
11 another telemetry project on the kings to see if
12 there's any change in the proportion that spawn in the
13 North River versus the main stem Unalakleet. We have
14 collected genetic samples with the intent of
15 determining if there's any Unalakleet king salmon
16 caught in the pollack fishery as by-catch. And just
17 this year Scott Kent also started a fecundity project
18 upon Unalakleet king salmon. So we do take this
19 problem seriously. We're throwing a lot of resources
20 at it. Right now we have the most restrictive king
21 salmon fishery in the state on Unalakleet River for
22 sport fishing. It's gone from in the early 80s 10 a
23 day, no annual limit to one a day, two annual limit.
24 So Sport Fish Division and Comm Fish with this
25 management plan we have in place is doing our best to
26 bring these runs back to where they were.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anything more
31 for these guys.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Have you guys, just
36 looking at you numbers on this thing in the last year,
37 it looks like you're taking half the population and
38 subsistence is doing that. And I'm sure that part of
39 that subsistence is happening in the ocean also, is
40 that correct? And you have control over that? And are
41 you doing anything to help the situation here?

42

43 MR. KENT: Mr. Chairman. Scott Kent,
44 assistant area manager, Comm Fish.

45

46 Yes, we have the 48-hour fishing
47 periods in the marine waters that provide escapement
48 windows. We have 36-hour periods, two per week, in the
49 Unalakleet River. Additionally, on a proactive
50 measure, this year I implemented mesh size restrictions

1 in the lower Unalakleet River to protect the larger,
2 more fecund female salmon so we could get more of them
3 on the spawning grounds, and hopefully enhance the
4 productivity of this stock. It's like we've gone from
5 no restrictions on subsistence basically other than it
6 being closed for 36 in the Unalakleet, one, you know,
7 per week. And the marine waters were open seven days a
8 week prior to 2007. In 2007 we went to this schedule.
9 And now coming up on the next Board cycle here, we're
10 going to evaluate things again and decide if we need to
11 do more.

12
13 As Brendan pointed out, we take this
14 very seriously. We've moved a lot of our money over to
15 monitoring Unalakleet king salmon, a good chunk of it.
16 And I'm doing my best to try to not shut the fishery
17 completely down to subsistence users, and at the same
18 time try to increase escapements, you know, to a level
19 that's going to provide sustained yields.

20
21 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. My question to
22 you is where are the boundaries at the mouth? How far
23 do they go, like towards Shaktoolik or down south
24 towards St. Michael, the boundaries for the mouth of
25 the Unalakleet River?

26
27 MR. KENT: Are you talking about like
28 where people in Unalakleet throw their subsistence nets
29 out in the ocean? Is that what you're saying?

30
31 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

32
33 MR. KENT: The majority of those, the
34 fishers in Unalakleet, fish just right in front of town
35 north to Junction Creek, or what local people know it
36 as Steamboat. Most of the salmon that come into Norton
37 Sound, most of them have a north/ south migration
38 pattern. Like people in Shaktoolik will intercept fish
39 bound for Unalakleet, and maybe where you're from, and
40 the Yukon and so forth. And the same thing with
41 Unalakleet people. They intercept some fish. So most
42 of them are north of you. There are a couple people
43 that fish down towards Black Point.

44
45 MR. MARTIN: So I was just asking in
46 miles either north or south on the mouth of the Yukon
47 -- I mean, Unalakleet River. I was just asking about
48 miles.

49
50 MR. KENT: Okay. I'm sorry. I would

1 say the majority of the nets are about seven and a half
2 miles north of town, and there's probably a couple of
3 nets no more than four or five miles south of town. But
4 the vast majority of the nets are north of town to
5 Egavik.

6

7 MR. MARTIN: Okay. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Do we have any
10 more questions for Fish and Game.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Thank you, fellows.

15

16 MR. KENT: You're welcome. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And Nancy, was it?

19

20 MS. HENDRICKSON: Nancy Hendrickson.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. The next one on
23 the agenda I guess is Kawerak for comments. Is Kawerak
24 going to get up?

25

26 MR. SLOAN: Mike Sloan, fisheries
27 biologist with Kawerak.

28

29 I would like to support this proposal,
30 and anything we can do to increase escapement up river
31 and help Unalakleet out, that's what we should do.
32 That's really all I had to say.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I'll ask the
35 same questions to get things rolling here. Everybody
36 opposed it, you're supporting. And your justification
37 in supporting is?

38

39 MR. SLOAN: While the impact might be
40 impact, the impact on the user groups is also minimal.
41 So I guess I don't see any reason not to support it and
42 try to, you know, do what we can to improve escapement.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Barb's got a question.

45

46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I just need to
47 clarify, are you supporting the full?

48

49 MR. SLOAN: I'm supporting the
50 proposal.

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The proposal.
2
3 MR. SLOAN: Yes.
4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Not the opposition
6 by the State or the Federal?
7
8 MR. SLOAN: Not the opposition.
9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Do we have any
13 ques -- don't run away. That's called the hot seat.
14
15 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Well.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Do we have any more
18 questions. Anybody have any comments.
19
20 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. I'm with
21 you in supporting this proposal. We need to -- they
22 are the users and they know what they -- how to control
23 this, and I'm sure that what they're asking for is
24 something that they understand as a user. I'm with you
25 in your support for this proposal.
26
27 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. If there's no
28 other questions, I guess you're off the hot seat.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And we have InterAgency
33 Staff.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Barb's going to have to
38 get up here. Okay. Is there anybody here from the
39 fish and game advisory committee.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I sit on that
44 committee, but I'm not going to get up and speak.
45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, there's no
47 one here from the southern committee. It's their area
48 (AWAY FROM MICROPHONE)
49
50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Right. And that's

1 their area, so.....

2

3 MR. SAVETILIK: Mr. Chair. I am the
4 co-chair for the Southern Norton Sound. And I support
5 the proposal also, because one thing is, you know,
6 we've always come up with proposals to look at other
7 stuff that comes up, and with -- like Anthony was
8 saying earlier, that you get hit by a book and then you
9 get slaughtered by the monetary stuff that we get. So
10 just looking at this proposal, I looked at it for the
11 last few days, and I'm in favor for this proposal right
12 here.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Summary of
17 written public comments.

18

19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There are no written
20 public comments. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Public
23 testimony. Anybody want to get up and take this hot
24 seat away from.....

25

26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We have Weaver.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, I'm
29 waiting for somebody in the audience. Anybody. I know
30 there's some other people.

31

32 MR. SAVETILIK: Somebody's dying to say
33 something.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Exactly. Okay.
36 Weaver, are you still with us? Weaver, are you still
37 with us? Turn that. Weaver?

38

39 MR. IVANOFF: I'm still here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Turn that mic on
42 and put it by him. We're at public testimony, and I
43 think you've heard everybody speak I hope. So
44 hopefully you have something to tell us about this
45 proposal.

46

47 MR. IVANOFF: Yes. Thank you. Mr.
48 Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before
49 the Regional Advisory Committee meeting. And I want to
50 thank Barb as well as Helen Armstrong and Karen Hyer

1 for assisting in the proposal, drafting it up, and
2 consulting previous to today. They've been a lot of
3 help and have shown I think a great deal of
4 professionalism in trying to lend -- clearing up this
5 proposal.

6
7 First of all, I'd like to offer an
8 amendment to the proposal if it's time to do this. I'm
9 not sure at this time. But Proposal FP09-14 submitted
10 by the Native Village of Unalakleet requests the
11 Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream
12 from the mouth of Chirokey River be closed to the
13 taking of chinook salmon from July 1 to July 31. And
14 cross out except by Federally-qualified subsistence
15 users. And the reason that's qualified is -- the
16 reason for the deletion is that no one be allowed the
17 chinook salmon above Chirokey River. And that was by
18 unanimous vote of the council, the Native Village of
19 Unalakleet Council, feeling that there's a real strong
20 conservation reason for that. So offer that amendment
21 on behalf the Native Village of Unalakleet.

22
23 The July 1 to July 31 is more fitting
24 by the fact that the spawners have made their way to
25 the upper portions of the river during that period of
26 time.

27
28 The chinook -- as you have heard both
29 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and also
30 the other people, is that the chinook are a major stock
31 of concern. The escapement was not met this year, and
32 so there's a real biological concern on the chinook.
33 And so as a result, every spawner that makes it up the
34 river is important. And the major spawning areas on
35 the Unalakleet main river is above the Chirokey River.
36 There are other spawning areas below that that are also
37 identified by elders, but the major spawning areas are
38 above the mouth of the Chirokey River.

39
40 Because escapement was not met again
41 this year, we would like -- the biggest thing is that
42 the spawners be undisturbed, the ones who finally make
43 it up river.

44
45 As I mentioned earlier, while the sport
46 fishers have not used that area or a very little, small
47 amount of them have, mainly because the pinks are in
48 the river, and, of course, as most people know, if
49 you're fishing pinks, that's not a very challenging
50 thing. And also in that area, the subsistence fishers

1 are not using the resource above the mouth of the
2 Chirokey River as was pointed out. But going back to
3 sport, there's a small, in fact a very small number of
4 sport fishers who do -- who would make it up the river
5 and then find a school of chinook. Because the water
6 is clear, they're very easy to see. They're spotted
7 and they're turning red at that point in time, and they
8 all school together in different areas of their
9 spawning areas. And so it would be easy for a
10 fisherman to go up there and it's been done in the
11 past, not so much targeting chinook, but when people
12 are up there fishing, or going on other -- going out
13 for pinks to subsist, if they see a king salmon school
14 there, then they'll throw out rod and reel just to get
15 one.

16
17 Going back, I think there's -- as was
18 stated earlier by the Department, there's a large
19 amount of chinook that are taken as by-catch in the
20 pollack fishery at this time. This is in record
21 numbers in the hundreds of thousands. My understanding
22 is that the effects of this large amount of chinook by-
23 catch in the Bering Sea, well, the greatest effect will
24 be seen this coming season. While we still have small
25 numbers of chinook, the potential for even smaller
26 numbers to return I think is heightened by the fact of
27 that large amount of by-catch. So should that occur,
28 the potential for the fishers who fish -- who do not
29 get their amount of fish that they need to fish -- that
30 they need to put away from the winter has potential to
31 move further upstream to follow the migration of the
32 king salmon. And that's easy to do as I pointed out in
33 the river. And so the potential for fishers to migrate
34 with the fish is possible, not only with the sport
35 fishing, but also the subsistence users. Although most
36 fishermen, subsistence fishermen, prefer the kings that
37 are taken out in the ocean because of the fat content,
38 if you don't get any, the potential for other people to
39 follow the fishers upriver is real.

40
41 The special BLM recreation permit for
42 fishing is, from my perspective anyway, is not used at
43 all. People go up there and fish even now today.
44 They're targeting fishing -- they're targeting the
45 silver salmon for drying right now as we speak, going
46 upriver to seine and net and caught fish up there and
47 put dry fish away for the winter. And during that
48 period of time, there's a large huge amount of trouts
49 that are also up the river, and people sport fish for
50 that, just, you know, because the fish are there. And

1 it's good to have fresh trout when you bring it home to
2 cook.

3

4 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 has been very I think conscientious about their
6 proposals to cut down the take of king salmon, and
7 we've together with them very well and cooperatively on
8 the subsistence regulations for the chinook, because it
9 is a conservation. We recognized that as a
10 conservation issue a long time ago, and have tried like
11 heck to try to get something going so that we can
12 protect them. And both Mike and Scott have been a
13 great help in cooperatively drawing up regulations
14 along with the village to address the issue. And we
15 appreciate that.

16

17 While there are only a few users
18 upriver for the area that we're talking about the
19 closures, there's a great -- as I stated earlier,
20 there's a potential for that to be occurring, a greater
21 amount to be occurring next year. It's a biological
22 concern, it's a conservation concern. The chinook are
23 just not rebounding in the numbers that we've seen.

24

25 In the year 2000 when the fishery
26 collapsed and there was absolutely no fishing in the
27 river, there was absolutely no fish in the river I
28 should say, that was probably one of the scariest
29 moments we ever saw for Unalakleet. When you're able
30 to go upriver -- and I don't know if people have seen
31 it, when you're able to go upriver on a normal fishing
32 year and there's fish jumping just about in every bend,
33 and you can see that life teeming as you go up river
34 the whole time, in the year 2000 that river was dead.
35 There was no fish jumping. You could be traveling on
36 the -- in the river with a boat, and you could look in
37 the banks where normally fish congregate in great
38 numbers, and you could actually count out the fish on
39 your -- with your two hands. So that I think
40 precipitated a lot of interest in what was happening in
41 the fisheries both in Norton Sound and also on the
42 Yukon River. And the biggest idea was conservation.

43

44 With the great amount of by-catch that
45 happened this year and the potential impact it's going
46 to have next year, or this coming season, there's a
47 potential for the chinook to happen just like in 2000
48 where there was just absolutely no fishers. Based on
49 that, I would recommend that the total closure of the
50 fishing be occurred above the Chirokey River for

1 everyone. And that's how the council feels.

2

3 We would have liked to have made that
4 closure occur further down river where there are
5 additional spawning areas; but, however, since this is
6 a Federal proposal, that area was identified as
7 Chiroskey on up.

8

9 And that concludes my testimony. Mr.
10 Chair. And I invite any questions. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Any questions
13 from the Board here.

14

15 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. I have a
16 question, yes, for Mr. Ivanoff. Do any fish go in the
17 -- let me get the map -- South River? Do any fish go
18 spawning in that river? I notice no arrows pointing to
19 that, so I just wanted to know if any fish go up that
20 river?

21

22 MR. IVANOFF: That has a grayling --
23 there's a pretty good amount of grayling that go up on
24 the upper stretches of that river. By the upper
25 stretches, I mean from the bluff. There's some
26 spawners that occur for chum right near the mouth of
27 the South River. Because it's so swift in the upper
28 portions, there's hardly any salmon up in that area.

29

30 MR. KOBUK: Okay. That was my only
31 question. This is Leonard.

32

33 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony Keyes. You
34 were -- you've got down Chiroskey River. Is any of the
35 fish going through there, because there's two cut-offs
36 right there.

37

38 MR. IVANOFF: The spawners up in the
39 Chiroskey are pretty much the same as the ones like in
40 the South River area. We'll have some chums spawning
41 in the beginning of the -- in the mouth of the
42 Chiroskey River in that area. There's a great deal of
43 silvers. There's some -- a few kings and a large
44 amount of trout and grayling that spawn in -- what's
45 the word -- right at the mouth or near the mouth, in
46 the neighborhood of the mouth of the Chiroskey River.
47 But within the Chiroskey River itself, there's a
48 minimal amount of salmon. There are some, but not in
49 huge numbers as in the main river.

50

1 MR. KEYES: Yeah. One more.

2

3 MR. IVANOFF: Comparatively huge
4 numbers I should say.

5

6 MR. KEYES: Yes. One more time. Maybe
7 to kind of make those fish last longer there is to just
8 cut off the sport fishing altogether. That's where
9 your main problem is, is having too many sports
10 fishermen that are taking those spawning fish.

11

12 MR. IVANOFF: Yes. Through the Chair.
13 And that was what -- that's a huge topic of discussion
14 here in the village, and we've been trying to do that.
15 It's a real hard battle to do. Yeah. Thank you for
16 that comment. But, yeah, we are -- we have tried. And
17 the reason -- and a lot of it -- and the Department has
18 heard this from a lot of the people here is that it's
19 awfully hard for subsistence fishermen to be sitting on
20 the beach and not fishing while the sport fishing is
21 still occurring, and they're allowed 7/24, seven days a
22 week, 24 hours a day. Of course they don't do it 24
23 hours a day, but, however, they have that ability to do
24 that without a closure. They do have the regulations
25 of taking one or two kings, but once that happens, then
26 they're still able to go out and catch and release.

27

28 MR. KEYES: Yes, and I do understand
29 you're giving them permission to go ahead and do the
30 fishing, and you have to -- I mean, telling the other
31 people in the village that they can't fish. You're
32 giving permission to the sports fishing people, go
33 ahead and take all you want, because it's seven days a
34 week. That adds up -- after seven days in the week,
35 you add that up, and, you know, how many fish they got
36 together versus those ones that they can't fish. I
37 mean, that's totally off the book here. There's
38 something wrong.

39

40 MR. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair. There is a
41 regulation and I think Scanlon would explain it a lot
42 better. I think it's one. You can only get one fish,
43 one king salmon sport fishing. One or two. And after
44 that you can't get any more. And just clarification
45 purposes.

46

47 At the same time I really again would
48 like to say that, you know, with the Department of Fish
49 and Game, they've showed a real strong interest in
50 trying to work with the Native Village and trying to

1 handle -- to try to get a grasp on the conservation of
2 the chinooks. I really appreciate their efforts and
3 the resource they've put into it, and hopefully we'll
4 continue working together, you know, in the future.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Weaver, I have a
7 question. Of the -- last year you had 394 sport
8 fishermen fish. Of those 394, do we know how many
9 local residents of Unalakleet took versus other people
10 that would fly in, for example, and go fishing?

11

12 MR. IVANOFF: I'm not sure what 394
13 sport fishers are you talking about, whether that's the
14 whole amount including local people, but you know,
15 we're a village of 800. To tell you the truth, I
16 really don't have a numbers of sport fishers from the
17 local level, but just about every household I would
18 think and we've got over 110 houses, just from
19 household. I believe just about everyone does it. And
20 even if it's only half, it's 50-some or in the 100
21 figure. But that's guessing. But people do go
22 upriver, you know, they'll take rod and reel and try
23 for a few salmon. And there are people after work who
24 do run up and go for sport fishing king salmon.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. And I'm going to
27 go some place eventually here with this things, but you
28 have a comment on what I'm fishing for here?

29

30 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. Weaver, this
31 is Brendan again. I'm going to pass out a handout with
32 the detailed sport harvest from 1996 to 2006, and it
33 has the resident and nonresident breakdown, but that's
34 just state resident versus non-state resident. We
35 don't have numbers for people who live in Unalakleet.
36 The harvest survey is anonymous so we don't keep that
37 information. But I'm going to pass this out to the
38 Board if I may.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GRAY: But it seemed to me
41 Kawerak may have these numbers. No? Okay.

42

43 Well, and let me go somewhere here.
44 Weaver, I commend you guys for trying to protect your
45 resource, and I think this is a great thing. I wish
46 that would happen in my river system. I've been trying
47 to get Fish and Game and other players to deal with the
48 silver salmon in the same manner, and I have struggled
49 and fought with the system. And as a result I've kind
50 of thrown my hands up and walked away. But anyway I

1 commend you for doing this, but I'm a subsistence user
2 just like anybody else, and it looks to me like you got
3 5800 king salmon coming into the river system. You've
4 got 2100 of those 5800 going to subsistence users. So
5 your own people in my eyes are the ones that are
6 hammering this resource. You've got 405 sport user --
7 there's 394 sport fish last year. There's 11
8 commercial fish. You know, the 394 fish, that can be
9 managed by just simply saying you can't keep females.
10 Just a proposal saying no females kept below a certain
11 place in the river system, very simple process, going
12 to protect it.

13

14 But the concern that I have, and again
15 I commend you for coming to the Board and proposing
16 this thing, and especially changing your proposal to
17 include your own people. You know, that says a lot.
18 That say's you're trying to do something. But on the
19 other hand, if you're taking over one-third of the
20 resource that's coming in the river for subsistence
21 use, that's not a very good management system. And so,
22 you know, I look for some kind of answers here I guess.

23

24 MR. IVANOFF: Are you directing that
25 question to me?

26

27 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Well, you know, I don't
28 think we're going to get real answers, but maybe it's a
29 suggestion that this thing be looked at in a different
30 manner also by all the players. I mean, commercial
31 fishermen, sport fish, subsistence fish, everybody get
32 involved in this thing and manage it correctly. I
33 mean, you know, everything I've heard, Weaver, closing
34 it upriver is really not going to change things. But
35 it's a step in the right direction I think, but you've
36 still got the lower river that is the problem. It's a
37 huge problem and it needs to be addressed and like I
38 say, it could be as simple as nobody can keep females
39 once they enter the river system. And that would be a
40 simple solution to this thing, but anyway I just throw
41 that out.

42

43 The other question I have, is more for
44 these other guys is escapement goals. I heard 1400 for
45 North River or something. What's the escapement goal
46 for the Unalakleet River?

47

48 MR. KENT: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 MR. IVANOFF: I believe the escapement

1 is in the 500 or 500 to 600 range at what is called the
2 tributary of the Old Woman River, and there's also
3 another number that is attributed to the main river.
4 But those numbers are derived by the fact that they
5 don't have the counting tower in the main Unalakleet
6 River, and they are determined by flying -- by flights
7 along the river and counting and that's how they derive
8 the number from. The major spawning area is the
9 Unalakleet main river, and not the North River. I
10 believe there's 40 percent they say go up the North
11 River and the rest are destined up the Unalakleet main
12 river, what we all the main river, which Chirokey
13 empties into.

14
15 I'd like to go back to your comments
16 earlier in regards to the subsistence fishers taking
17 one-third of the resources as compared to everybody
18 else, or something in that neighborhood, and it's not a
19 good management system. We realize that. We're trying
20 as much as possible to try to come to terms with this
21 issue. As I said before, I think we've developed a
22 working relationship with the Department. We're
23 looking forward to more workshops this coming year as,
24 you know, things develop.

25
26 But I'd like to also point out that
27 historically, prior to the chinook crash and the
28 chinook lacking escapement, we had the ability to go
29 out there and commercial fish and that was great. You
30 could make some pretty good money doing that. You
31 can't do that any more. And we used to be able to go
32 out there and fish for king salmon and in two days we
33 would get 50 or 60 and that would be good enough for
34 the winter. And that would be great, you know, that's
35 fine. In the meantime, now, this last year, me and my
36 family has fished for two weeks and for the 25 to 30
37 king salmon that we got. Once we reached that number,
38 then we quit, knowing that there's a conservation
39 reason. So there's some voluntary efforts that have --
40 by some of the subsistence users, I would say majority
41 of the subsistence users to cut back on the amount that
42 they are taking. So historically our numbers, you
43 know, it was easy to get 60 and put away 60. Anywhere
44 60 to 80 and upward of smoking. But that's not
45 occurring any more mainly due to conservation.

46
47 But I agree with you that something
48 formal needs to be in place. We need to take a look at
49 it on a different level and see how we could come to
50 grips with that. And this proposal, I do agree with a

1 lot of this that are going on that it really doesn't --
2 won't make that big a difference on what's occurring
3 now. And mainly because there are just a small number
4 of users above the Chirokey River for the chinook.
5 And that portion I agree on. We're just looking at it
6 in the light that there's a potential for harm should
7 there be a real crash in the chinooks I mean this
8 coming season mainly due to the high catch of the by-
9 catch in the Bering Sea.

10

11 MR. KENT: Mr. Chair. This is Scott
12 Kent, assistant area manager once again.

13

14 I'll answer your direct question about
15 escapement goal for the Unalakleet River main stem. We
16 do have a area survey sustainable escapement goal range
17 of 550 to 1100 fish. And that's the Old Woman River
18 and the Unalakleet River main stem combined. As you
19 know, weather and pilot availability and all those
20 sorts of things, sometimes we don't get successful or
21 accurate aerial survey estimates. And they're only
22 accurate if you get them at peak spawn. This year we
23 did not get one. Last year we did actually reach the
24 aerial survey SEG for the first time since it was put
25 in place in 1999.

26

27 And then kind of a follow up on
28 Weaver's, kind of the tendency towards more
29 conservation. I, too, have witnessed that at
30 Unalakleet. When I was toying around with the idea if
31 escapements had improved this date, we would maybe
32 relax the restrictions again and let people go with
33 six-inch or less or back to king gear altogether, there
34 were a lot of people in Unalakleet that said, no,
35 Scott, just keep it closed, let them go. You know, so
36 that -- and I didn't hear that two years ago. So there
37 is a mind set and there were a lot of people in
38 Unalakleet that did not target kings this year and
39 said, no, we have lots of silvers. We can make up for
40 it on the silvers. So there is a trend towards more
41 conservation until the stock recovers.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. And what's the
44 escapement goals for the North River?

45

46 MR. KENT: The North River SEG is 1200
47 to 2600, and we made escapement last year for the first
48 time since 2003. This year we fell way short. We have
49 a very strong record arguably.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Just something for you,
2 Weaver. Something catches my eye here real quick is
3 the Unalakleet River escapement is 550 fish to 1100
4 fish, which is 60 percent of the silver. The North
5 River has an escapement goal of 1200 to 2600 which is
6 40 percent of the run, so you have justification to
7 change some of these goals. I would go hammer Fish and
8 Game on this escapement goal for the Unalakleet River
9 and that will help justify any of these proposals
10 you're putting forward, because if you don't meet -- I
11 mean, it's simple for Fish and Game and -- I mean,
12 we've got two agencies opposing this proposal here,
13 and, you know, all they have to do is say, we met our
14 goals. And what I'm hearing you say, Weaver, is my
15 subsistence need goals, we need more fish to make that
16 -- those goals. My subsistence needs. All of the
17 needs. I mean, subsistence, commercial fishing, sport
18 fishing. These numbers are very, very low to meet
19 everybody's goals. So, anyway, let me again throw it
20 to you. I would visit that area, what are the goals,
21 escapement goals in the river system, and adjust those
22 escapement goals, you know. These guys are chomping at
23 the bit to talk here, so.....

24
25 MR. IVANOFF: I don't have the letter
26 with me, Mr Chair. Through the Chair. But in I think
27 it was after 2000 we went back historically on some of
28 the numbers in the escapement and looked at the
29 escapement numbers. And we felt that the escapement
30 numbers were really low. And so we put together a
31 historical perspective on what was actually caught,
32 both on the commercial level and the subsistence level,
33 and also on the sport fish level. And said the run is
34 greater than an X number of fish, and so they tried to
35 justify that indeed the escapement goal should be
36 higher than what is projected here today. I don't have
37 that letter in front of me, otherwise I would show it
38 to you. But we did make that case, it has not been
39 adopted, but we'll still continue with that policy
40 battle. That scenario.

41
42 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman, this is
43 Brendan Scanlon with Sport Fish Division. I understand
44 the confusion with the two escapement goals. I wish
45 the aerial survey would go away, because we don't use
46 it, we don't manage by it. It's confusing, and we know
47 there's lots of problems with counting fish from the
48 air.

49
50 The escapement goal that we manage by

1 that's in the King Salmon Management Plan that was
2 adopted by the Board in 2007 is based on the tower
3 counts, 12 to 2600, and that was based on two years of
4 telemetry data that showed one year 38 percent of the
5 fish that were tag went up the North, the next year 41
6 or 42. We only have two years of data, and we're going
7 to repeat that study again starting this year, and
8 hopefully we'll get the same number, because we do all
9 our management based on just two years worth of
10 telemetry data.

11
12 All the harvest data that you have in
13 your handouts is all prior to the adoption of the King
14 Salmon Management Plan where everybody gave a little.
15 The sport fishery annual limit was cut in half, and the
16 subsistence fishers went to windows instead of being
17 open 24/7. So that was a case where we all agreed to
18 take a hit to improve this run. The management plan
19 only has been in effect for two summers now, so
20 hopefully we'll start to see in the future improvements
21 based on what the management plan has done. And
22 basically what it does is reduce harvests. That's the
23 one thing we know we can do. And so hopefully with the
24 lower harvest in the sport fishery and a little lower
25 in the subsistence fishery, that that's the first step
26 to bringing these runs back.

27
28 Also I just wanted to say something
29 really quickly about the trawl by-catch. We don't have
30 the information now that says there are any Unalakleet
31 fish in the by-catch. We know that there are some
32 Yukon, some Kuskokwim, some Bristol Bay fish. There's
33 a real chance that there may be no Unalakleet fish in
34 the trawl by-catch, so if it all went away there's not
35 necessarily going to be an improvement in Unalakleet
36 River. I think we should just have that in the back of
37 our mind that solving the by-catch problem may not be
38 the cure that we think it's going to be.

39
40 Thanks.

41
42 MR. KENT: And if I may. This is Scott
43 Kent again.

44
45 Although we don't manage based on that
46 aerial survey SEG, it is another index of escapement in
47 the drainage. And we fly it late during peak spawn.
48 And the point I was trying to make was you asked if
49 there was an escapement goal, and there is one. And if
50 that's also saying we made escapement in addition to

1 our tower count which said that last year, chances are
2 we probably did. We kind of look at everything
3 collectively when we're evaluating escapements.

4
5 And one other thing about escapement
6 goals, if you -- and maybe Weaver knows this already,
7 but if we raise escapement goals then, you know, that
8 means that it's going to restrict subsistence and sport
9 fish opportunity even further. So if we have a higher
10 threshold to meet, if we project we're not going to
11 meet that higher threshold, that means we have to make
12 reductions somewhere in the harvest.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, you know,
15 I look at your graph here. In 2006 there was 2655
16 subsistence fish. In 1997 there was 6,325 subsistence
17 fish. That's more than your whole fishery. So
18 something needs to be done. And again I commend these
19 guys for bringing this proposal forward to draw
20 attention to this thing, if nothing else. And, you
21 know, I think all of us have our work cut out for us to
22 try and bring this fishery. You know, no matter how we
23 do it, we all need to do our part.

24
25 MR. KENT: And I would say this is our
26 number 1 priority. And for whatever reason this stock
27 is declining, you know, we're approaching that point
28 where we have to maybe do something more urgently in
29 the Board cycle. You know, if we don't meet escapement
30 needs again this year coming up, that would be two out
31 of three years where we didn't escapement again, and
32 we're probably headed for management concern, which is
33 similar to what happened with the chum fishery here in
34 Nome. That's probably what we're headed for if we
35 don't do -- if something doesn't improve.

36
37 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony. Of all
38 these rules and regulations that we have to look at
39 through Unalakleet and those down in that lower region,
40 maybe the best thing that we can do, this is just a
41 suggestion, that maybe slow the trawlers down out
42 there. They're the ones that are taking our fish, and
43 we on this land are getting scolding to take the fish
44 off the waters, you know, the fish come up to our
45 areas. Why do we get scolding because -- I mean --
46 yeah, why do we get scolding because the trawlers take
47 all our fish, and us here on the inland, we have to
48 abide by these rules, and those people out there in the
49 ocean, they don't abide by no rules.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. We're back to
2 public testimony. Anybody else. Weaver, do you have
3 anything you want to add to this thing.

4
5 MR. IVANOFF: No, I don't. That's all
6 I have. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Do we have
9 anybody else that wants to give public testimony. I
10 see Rose waving her hand back here.

11
12 MS. FOSDICK: Good morning. Rose
13 Fosdick with Kawerak.

14
15 I have a comment more than anything in
16 regards to the discussion that you are having about a
17 resource that's being decimated by the pollack by-catch
18 fisheries. And also a comment in regards to the report
19 made just a while ago that it's -- about the ability to
20 determine trawl fisheries where the fish are
21 originating from.

22
23 I think it's difficult to determine the
24 genetic origin of chinook salmon, you know, determine
25 where are they coming from. And I do believe that
26 there are chinook salmon that are caught by the pollack
27 fisheries. I don't know of any research that is being
28 done or reported in regards to where pollack fishermen
29 are catching salmon and where they are originating
30 from. I'd like to encourage this RAC to advocate for,
31 or send a letter to National Pacific Fisheries
32 Management Council in regards to this issue to request
33 that they reduce the by-catch through whatever means,
34 because you are talking about a resource that we are
35 dependent on. So I'd encourage you, if you can, to
36 either pass a motion or do a resolution or send a
37 letter in regards to the by-catch issue in chinook
38 salmon.

39
40 That's it. Thanks.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Do we have any
43 other public testimony. Speak now or forever hold your
44 peace. Ken.

45
46 MR. ADKISSON: There we go, it's on
47 now. It stayed on. Mr. Chair. And Council members.
48 Ken Adkisson. You know me from the National Park
49 Service, but the comments I'd kind of like to offer
50 now, I'd like to divorce myself essentially from the

1 agency, and just offer some personal comments, although
2 I have to admit that some of them have been flavored by
3 or benefitted from experience with the Federal program,
4 but these are my personal comments, because at this
5 point I think I really don't know where our agency will
6 come down on this proposal as far as its position on
7 it. But there's a couple of things that I would like
8 to say about it.

9
10 And first of all, I'd like to offer
11 some perspective on the Federal management in general.
12 And I think the Federal program has been faced over the
13 years with a lot of difficult challenges in the Seward
14 Peninsula area in general regarding fisheries, largely
15 because there have been -- there is so little Federal
16 waters. And, you know, over the years fish have taken
17 some real hits in the whole general region. And you
18 heard Scott mention just now that if they don't meet
19 escapement goals again, you know, we may be headed
20 towards a biological concern and management concern,
21 you know, similar to what happened like for Nome.
22 Well, you know, Nome has the sort of dubious
23 distinction I think of being maybe the only place in
24 the state where they've had experience with a State
25 Tier II fishery, and, you know, with very mixed results
26 I think in people's impression. And I'm not sure that,
27 you know, folks down in Unalakleet want to go there
28 either, but, you know, it's possibly out on the
29 horizon.

30
31 And when folks have come to the Federal
32 system in the past for help in addressing their
33 fisheries concerns, generally the response has been,
34 well, we don't really have any jurisdiction there. We
35 don't have any Federal waters, and so there's
36 absolutely nothing we can do. And this has been
37 repeated over and over and over again, you know, since
38 the Federal program really got into fisheries. So
39 that's one thing I think about, you know, the general
40 response to the Federal program when faced with a
41 regulatory challenge.

42
43 The second thing is a comment on
44 Federal management as it's currently, you know, being
45 practiced on the Unalakleet River. And the Park
46 Service does have the Federal responsibility for in-
47 season management on the river as far as regulatory
48 decisions go. And what they've done over the last
49 several years, roughly four out of the last five, has
50 been to exercise that responsibility as closely as

1 possible paralleling State actions to reduce confusion.
2 But there has been a little more flexibility in, for
3 example, the gear provisions that can be specified on
4 the Federal side than what the State has. And frankly
5 the most effective tool that the Federal program has
6 had has been simply reducing or restricting subsistence
7 gear in the Federal waters to beach seining along with
8 the requirement that, you know, all chinook salmon that
9 are taken in those beach seines are released
10 immediately back into the water unharmed. Now, what
11 that really means is, that's a completely closure to
12 those Federal users. Complete. It's not capture a
13 fish, whatever, you know, take a couple fish home for
14 subsistence users. It in effect is a complete closure
15 that they've been faced with for the last several
16 years.

17
18 At the same time there really haven't
19 been any restrictions on Federal waters regarding
20 sports fishing, unless those have come from the State
21 side of the management system, even if, you know, the
22 sport fishing has been very limited on that actual
23 river, and you've heard discussions about that.

24
25 You know, so here we are today faced
26 with a very difficult and complex proposal. And I
27 think we've heard the Village of Unalakleet, the Native
28 Village of Unalakleet offer up, you know, some real
29 positive ideas and support. And I think you know,
30 while we can all agree that the level of fishing
31 activity on the river, both subsistence and sport, is
32 probably very minimal at this point in town, although
33 as Weaver pointed out, I think it has potential to
34 expand under certain conditions.

35
36 And the second thing is that whatever
37 action the Federal Board takes on this, or you
38 recommend may not have a lot of effect or have much of
39 an effect at all. I think any positive effect that it
40 would have would be very welcome. And frankly at this
41 point, in looking at that river, my own personal belief
42 in this is, and again I'm not speaking for my Federal
43 agency, is that any fish that can make it to the
44 Federal waters needs a chance to spawn, because I think
45 the situation's that bad. And personally I would
46 really hope that this group and the Federal Board, you
47 know, can support the modified proposal that the Native
48 Village of Unalakleet has offered. Because I think
49 they've gone a long way to making -- you know, trying
50 to put the focus where it belongs at this point, and

1 that's on conservation.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
6 have comments before we get into -- I guess we go to a
7 vote on this. Barbara.

8

9 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
10 comment a little bit.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay.

13

14 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, St. Michael.

15

16

17 It's like a lot has been said about the
18 pollack fisheries. I've been watching the pollack
19 fisheries. I have a satellite dish, and they come on
20 on History Channel, and I see all the different fishes
21 that they catch with these nets that they drag on the
22 ocean bottom along the Aleutian Chain. I think
23 something needs to be done with the by-catch, because I
24 see all these different sorts of fish that they're
25 catching, and they put them on board and once they go
26 on board these big ships, they're no more. Because
27 they're out of the water, they die. Even though I know
28 NSEDC is part of this fisheries, but we seem to be
29 losing a lot of fish all over the place in our region
30 in the Norton Sound, and I think something needs to be
31 done with the pollack fisheries and the way they
32 intercept all the fishes that's coming to our areas.

33

34 And that's all I have to say on that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
37 have anything to say.

38

39 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yeah.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Even though most of our
44 comments have been directed toward human take or human
45 seaman side of using the resource, I'm not really too
46 sure, you know, if any research has been done for the
47 predation of the marine fish, water temperature change,
48 other factors that come into being that we have in the
49 back of my mind, still have not been able to say, okay,
50 I'll take the human side, the weather side and stuff

1 like that. I think it all needs to be taken in
2 account. there are a lot of marine mammals out in the
3 sea that depend on fish, that depend on whatever they
4 are used to having. That needs to be in account. And
5 then also most of the research has been kind of focused
6 on the western style science thing. You also possibly
7 need to look at TEK, on that side. People have used
8 these resources for a long time. The State of Alaska
9 is a young state. Our people have been with the
10 Federal system for a long time, yet we don't take into
11 account that we should be working side-by-side with
12 Federal agencies, that we still argue, that we still
13 raise questions about the resources that we -- one part
14 of TEK is that the more you argue about the resource,
15 the resource won't be there for you. The more you use
16 the resource, the more that resource will be there for
17 you. Things that I learned from my ancestors, from
18 people that are still living I still keep in the back
19 of my head. I oppose a lot of argument, comments,
20 stuff like that, but yet I still try to talk softly,
21 because if I tried to talk pro and con with another
22 person then that resource, you know, like they say,
23 have here, and then we kind of wonder, gee, I wonder
24 where I went wrong, and then we start blaming each
25 other. Pretty much like the Nome chum salmon. Even
26 though the Nome people don't like to hear about it, a
27 lot of mining activity, commercial, subsistence.
28 Resources use these rivers to survive, to live. We
29 have houses, that the natural wildlife have their
30 ecosystems, you know, their natural things. And yet we
31 continue to destroy the environment on which our
32 resources thrive on. And that's what we need to try to
33 take into account other things that come into being,
34 yet we still argue about biological numbers, biological
35 this and that. And then very much little is said about
36 TEK.

37

38 All the agencies or the meetings that I
39 go to, pretty much rely on biological science. That's
40 a good part, at least to know where the numbers are,
41 but we also need to take into consideration. I as a
42 subsistence user have the opportunity to take as much
43 as I can, but in order to conserve these resources for
44 our future children, I still listen to what elders, my
45 parents, other people have said during the time I was
46 growing up.

47

48 TEK, that I know over the years have
49 been passed down, yet I still doubted some of their
50 sayings, some of their suggestions. You know, I'm a

1 high school graduate, you just only went to eighth
2 grade. I thought I was smarter than them, but then
3 later on in life I finally realize what they were
4 saying to me was pretty much right on about it. And I
5 still continue to kind of exercise that.

6

7 While the arguments may be in their
8 favor, and I want that resource, I'll try to speak
9 softly so that in doing that, honor what our ancestors
10 have said from time immemorial. And yet we still argue
11 about the numbers and wonder why our resource is not
12 there for use.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. We're getting
17 close to going to a vote here, and I want to caution
18 the Board that we're here for a reason. We're here
19 because of subsistence. We're here to manage a
20 resource no matter what the resource is. So when you
21 go to a vote on this issue, we may not agree with the
22 system and the bureaucracy, but we're here to again
23 manage a resource for subsistence users. Keep that in
24 the back of your mind as we vote on this, because I
25 think whatever we do is going to send a message to the
26 people out there that this is our resource, these are
27 our subsistence users, and this is what we think they
28 need.

29

30 So do you want to take a break for a
31 minute or do you want to vote on this.

32

33 MR. SAVETILIK: We're getting close to
34 lunch. We probably out to do our voting.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I'll wait for a
37 motion. Well, now, wait a minute, before we go to a
38 motion, Weaver, are you still with us?

39

40 MR. IVANOFF: I'm still here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. The question I
43 wrote down here is there's it sounds like two different
44 proposals have been proposed to us. We have one in
45 front of us that I was very reserved to vote on,
46 because all the players weren't involved. Weaver has
47 now come and said, let's include everybody, which
48 changes things. Can we vote on what he's proposing or
49 do we vote on the original one?

50

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think the right to
2 vote on either way that you think.

3
4 MR. SAVETILIK: We can amend the
5 proposal, is that right? Take a motion.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. What is the
8 pleasure of this group.

9
10 MR. SAVETILIK: Mr. Chair. I think
11 that we should amend the proposal and just take a roll
12 call. And I move to amend the proposal as Weaver's
13 presented.

14
15 MR. KOBUK: And I'll second that
16 motion. Leonard.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So we have a
19 motion and a second to amend the proposal that will
20 include language that -- and tell me if I'm wrong,
21 Weaver. It will include language taking of king salmon
22 from June 15th to July 31st, period. And except by
23 Federally-qualified subsistence users will be taken out
24 of the proposal. Is that right?

25
26 MR. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: What's that?

29
30 MR. IVANOFF: Yes. Mr. Chair. The
31 amendment that I proposed was that the taking of
32 chinook salmon and changing the date from June 15th to
33 July 5 and change the date to July 1 to June 31 and
34 then crossing out except by Federally-qualified users
35 also.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So there's a
38 motion and a second on adopting this amendment. Is
39 there any discussion.

40
41 MR. QUINN: Yeah, I'd like to discuss.
42 You're right, Tom, we've got to kind of represent the
43 subsistence users in this area. A proposal such as
44 this is pretty hard and fast. It's going to take all
45 the stuff we're going through now to change it again if
46 it passes. If I was a subsistence user down there, I'd
47 look more favorably upon a system or the current
48 regulations that allow things to be handled each year
49 according to escapement goals and changes made
50 accordingly. I think I read in here where you actually

1 closed subsistence fishing 2008 on July 5th?

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh. (AWAY FROM
4 MICROPHONE)

5

6 MR. QUINN: Okay. So, you know,
7 between ADF&G, Federal biologists and local people
8 there's an awful lot of opportunity here to handle each
9 season as each season progresses. I certainly would
10 had to be a subsistence user down there, not be able to
11 go up to my cabin about the Chirokey River when
12 there's a good run of fish and catch fish because a
13 hard and fast proposal was enacted this year that
14 prevents me from doing so.

15

16 So that's my discussion. I'm inclined
17 to not support this proposal and let things work on a
18 season-by-season system.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I guess I'm going to
21 kind of bounce this to Weaver, because it sounds like
22 there's quite a number of players involved in putting
23 this proposal together if it's coming from the IRA
24 Council down there. What Mike is saying has a lot of
25 merit, and I'm after your thoughts, Weaver, what are
26 your thoughts on his comment there.

27

28 MR. IVANOFF: Yeah. This pertains only
29 to chinook salmon and any other fish that are taken
30 about Chirokey River are eligible for the taking. As
31 I said earlier, we have a large amount of chum. We
32 have chums and we have pinks, a great amount of pinks,
33 and we have also silvers during that period. And the
34 only reason we're targeting chum is also because of the
35 conservation reasons. I think it was pointed, and it's
36 pointed out correctly, and I agree with people who have
37 said that it's limited. It's a very small amount of
38 users. Whether it makes an impact, I know that that
39 remains to be seen. The potential is there to follow
40 the migration. And it is true that most of the
41 subsistence fishermen who fish, target chinooks are
42 down in the lower portions of the river as well as in
43 the marine waters.

44

45 But, yes, we've discussed this. We
46 went with the -- we've also discussed it in the
47 community. Again, for conservation reasons, we just
48 restrict it only to chinook.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Ken.

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

3
4 You know, Tom Kron or someone can
5 correct me if I'm wrong, but this isn't just a hard and
6 fast rule. the Federal program would still have the
7 flexibility of making in-season management decision,
8 and in consultation with the users and with the
9 Department. If the run showed adequate strength, we
10 could open by an emergency order or special action, so
11 -- what it does, if the proposal is adopted, it's not
12 just locking it down, but it would send a message to
13 everyone that the conservation is a primary concern,
14 and it would simplify the regulatory process, because
15 it would remain closed unless opened by special action
16 on the Federal waters.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Any other discussion.
19 Oh, they're flocking to the mic now.

20
21 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon again
22 with Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division.

23
24 So, Ken, if you did want to go that
25 route, where you have the option to open it back up,
26 are you going to tie that to our escapement goals? And
27 does that mean it will be written into the proposal?

28
29 MR. ADKISSON: Do you want me to
30 comment on that? Yes. Mr. Chair. And Council
31 members. Tom Kron said that it would take a little
32 more work with the language to provide that, but, yeah,
33 we have been operating by looking at the escapement
34 goals that were set by the State, and, you know, as
35 long as we're all doing that, that I think would be
36 tied to that. And we would have to put language in
37 there that would allow us to do that. And I think all
38 it would take for you folks would be to authorize as
39 amended with a provision to allow the Federal program
40 to open it by special action if the run strength
41 warranted it based on the accepted escapement goals.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So we're going
44 to need a little bit more language in this thing, in
45 this proposal from these guys.

46
47 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. Basically what
48 you would be doing is I think you folks would be
49 recommending amending the proposal to adopt the
50 proposal as recommended by -- you know, before you to

1 basically close it to all users between the certain
2 dates, but add further language to amend it to add
3 further language to provide the regulatory language
4 that would allow the Federal program to open it by
5 special action based on, you know, consultation with
6 the State and the users and the accepted State
7 escapement goals.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Barb, let me ask
10 this. How do we do this? Do we have to withdraw the
11 motion and the second to include this and redo it, or
12 how do we do this?

13

14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, you'd have
15 withdraw the motion and then concurred by the seconder
16 and start over if you want.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. It has to fail?
19 Do we have to vote on it and let it fail and then re-
20 introduce it?

21

22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You can ask the
23 motioner to withdraw and then the seconder can concur
24 and then start over again.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Are you
27 interested in adding this language.

28

29 MR. SAVETILIK: Mr. Chair. I'm going
30 to withdraw my motion, my first motion, and I'm going
31 to make another motion.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Wait. He's got to --
34 who was the second on this.

35

36 MR. KOBUK: I would kind of like to
37 hear what Unalakleet has to say about this first before
38 I withdraw my second on this.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Weaver, are you
41 still with us.

42

43 MR. IVANOFF: Yeah, I'm still here.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. The question is,
46 are you guys comfortable adding language in there that
47 if the run -- basically the long and short of it, if
48 there's plenty of run that the system could open that
49 area up to fishing.

50

1 MR. IVANOFF: If the run should be --
2 if the run is increased, if they find out the run
3 increased and it's -- well, I guess if it's in the
4 upper portions of the escapement goals, then we would
5 have no objection.
6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So you're
8 willing to let that be included in your proposal.
9
10 MR. KOBUK: If Myron does decide
11 to.....
12
13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: He did already.
14
15 MR. KOBUK: Okay. Then I'll be in
16 agreement with him and take -- decline my second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Myron had the
19 floor next. Okay. You have the floor next.
20
21 MR. SAVETILIK: Okay. For to recommend
22 this motion here?
23
24 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yep.
25
26 MR. SAVETILIK: I'm going to recommend
27 to support this motion with -- to add further language
28 to amendment.
29
30 MR. KOBUK: And I'll second that. This
31 is Leonard.
32
33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Now, Mike,
34 discussion.
35
36 MR. QUINN: Okay. Well, the Native
37 Village's proposal seems to be getting longer and
38 longer. In addition to Mr. Adkisson's comments about
39 Federal and State people opening by EO, I'll remind you
40 that they already have the ability to close by EO. If
41 the Native Village of Unalakleet has a concern next
42 season, season after, season after, Federal managers
43 have concerns, State managers have concerns, they
44 already have the ability to close by EO. So what the
45 Native Village wants is available to them on a season-
46 by-season basis without going through this long
47 proposal, Federal meetings, taxpayer dollars and all
48 that. And there's -- the means already exist to close
49 the upper river to fishing through EO. And I betcha
50 you can close it a lot faster than you can open it.

1 MR. KENT: I guess I would just, yeah,
2 echo those sentiments. We have actually done that in
3 the past two years. We've closed the confluence or the
4 Unalakleet River from the confluence of the North River
5 upstream to protect fish already on the spawning areas.
6 And we would have to come up with some sort of
7 justification for -- you know, if this -- if we close
8 it from the onset, what this proposal may do, we have
9 to provide some sort of justification for re-opening it
10 back up. And it would have to be tied to escapement
11 goals I would think.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Who's -- what's
14 your name? I lost your name already.

15
16 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Tom Kron from
17 OSM.

18
19 Barb had suggested that we read into
20 the record what our understanding of the motion is.
21 And consistent with the discussion here, here's what I
22 believe I heard:

23
24 Federal public waters of the Unalakleet
25 River upstream from the mouth of the Chiroskey River
26 are closed to taking of chinook salmon from July 1 to
27 July 31st. This could be amended by special action by
28 the in-season manager if run strength warranted.

29
30 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

31
32 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon, Sport
33 Fish Division.

34
35 I'm going to make this just a little
36 bit longer. So the -- if you open it back up to
37 fishing, it will be closed to all fishing, and then it
38 will be opened to all fishing. So do we need to
39 specify in the language it's open -- the sport fishery
40 is open to back on regulation and subsistence is open
41 to no limit harvest?

42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: We're only talking
44 about kings.

45
46 MR. SCANLON: Right. But right now
47 he's talking about closed to fishing and.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN GRAY: No, just kings.
50

1 MR. SCANLON: Right. But sport and
2 subsistence fishing, correct?
3
4 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Exactly.
5
6 MR. SCANLON: So if you open it back up
7 by special action, you need to specify the sport
8 fishery is opened back up in Federal waters to the
9 other date?
10
11 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Well, subsistence
12 people would be first. I mean, that's the bottom line
13 is the chain of command goes subsistence, sport fish,
14 commercial. You have no commercial fishing up there.
15
16 MR. SCANLON: Right.
17
18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: The sport fish and --
19 so I'm not sure where the line is going to be drawn
20 here, but in normal situations when you guys close an
21 area to subsistence, subsistence opens first and then
22 sport fish later.
23
24 MR. SCANLON: So this proposal will
25 just reopen the subsistence fishery and not the sport
26 fishing.....
27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Good question.
29
30 MR. SCANLON:his special action?
31
32 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. What is your
33 intent.
34
35 CHAIRMAN GRAY: You know, I'll ask the
36 Board, what's our intent. I know what my intent is,
37 but I don't want -- anybody have any suggestions here.
38 And I already said my intent I think.
39
40 MR. QUINN: We don't cover sport
41 fishing.
42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Exactly.
44
45 MR. QUINN: This is a RAC. It's a
46 Federal RAC and it is only concerned with subsistence
47 fishing. You and Jim and Scott there get sport.
48
49 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Exactly.
50

1 MR. SCANLON: Sorry. Michael, you're
2 absolutely correct.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there any other
5 questions. Any other discussion. Any discussion.

6
7 MR. IVANOFF: This is Weaver.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Weaver.

10
11 MR. IVANOFF: In light of the
12 complication that would come from reopening by
13 emergency order should runs warrant it, I think it
14 would make it even more complicated. And so there
15 would be some jockeying, if you will, between managers
16 and the departments and the BLM and OSM. Usually the
17 National Park Service as well as the BLM or whoever
18 manages the fishery in Federal waters, rubber stamp the
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommendations on
20 emergency orders. If things are going to get
21 complicated as they look like they're trying to be now,
22 I would just be in support of then the amendment that I
23 made that the taking of chinook salmon from July 1 to
24 July 31 period be on its own. If the run is warranted,
25 people will have their fish. But the main purpose then
26 is still to protect the spawners who make it up there.
27 Even if we have a good run, that's great. The spawners
28 are protected, and that's what we've been wanting to do
29 all this whole time. And that's the intent of the
30 proposal that is before you.

31
32 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, I am --
35 we're kind of going on a yo-yo here. What's the
36 pleasure of the Board. We have a motion before us that
37 includes the ability for the system to open up above
38 the Chirokey River fishing for subsistence if the
39 numbers are okay. We have a motion and a second on
40 that.

41
42 Now, Weaver, just for discussion, it's
43 been agreed on by this Board that the motion, if this
44 thing is adopted, we're only talking about a
45 subsistence side of this thing anyway. We're not
46 talking about sport fishing, so there is no gray area
47 here. We're only talking about your people that live
48 there in Unalakleet, or subsistence users, period,
49 let's say.

50

1 We've got two guys raising fingers
2 here. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. This
5 is Tom Kron again from OSM.

6
7 The in-season special action capability
8 to re-open, again, if you were to include that part of
9 the wording, it would allow Ken to be able to re-open
10 in-season, you know, very quickly based on in-season
11 data. But I need to say, however, you know, if you
12 were not to include that, I've seen the Federal
13 Subsistence Board, you know, react very quickly to
14 special requests that have come in from the public, you
15 know, if there's a noticeable change in resource
16 abundance. If there were a large king salmon run, it
17 would have to go back through the Federal Board, and
18 again, you know, potentially that could happen very
19 quickly. In the summer season it gets to be a
20 challenge to get input from the Board members, but
21 again we have seen that happen relatively quickly. So
22 that's the route it would have to go if you did get a
23 strong run to re-open things back up. But again it
24 could be done.

25
26 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Ken.

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. Mr. Chair.
31 Council members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

32
33
34 The intent of the proposal as I
35 understand it that's put forth and the amendment is
36 based on biological concerns and conservation and the
37 intent is to close the Federal waters to the taking of
38 chinook salmon completely by both subsistence users and
39 non-subsistence users. So if that's what was voted on
40 and that was the intent of the proposal, based on what
41 I know of the Federal program, it would require adding
42 into the regulation to the effect that Federal waters
43 were closed to the non-subsistence taking chinook
44 salmon. That would be very similar to regulations you
45 see now in the wildlife book that you're more familiar
46 with regarding muskox and moose in various locations.
47 Yeah, it does require -- because the State manages non-
48 subsistence uses in those waters, it would require an
49 action by the Federal program to effectively close
50 those waters to that based again on the conservation

1 concerns. But that's to be -- you know, that goes
2 right hand-in-hand to making the proposal work as let's
3 say was proposed or the desire of this group to
4 implement.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Let's read the
7 motion again. The motion is to adopt what. Is it for
8 an amendment, is it to adopt the original proposal.
9 What is it.

10
11 MR. KRON: Okay. Mr. Chairman. The
12 motion that you currently have on the table. Federal
13 public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the
14 mouth of Chirokey River are closed to the taking of
15 chinook salmon from July 1 through July 31st. This
16 could be amended by special action by the in-season
17 manager if run strength warranted.

18
19 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. We're going to
22 vote on this thing. No more discussion. Do we have to
23 have a roll call vote, a regular vote. What do we do
24 here.

25
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Did they make a
27 motion (AWAY FROM MICROPHONE)

28
29 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yes, there is a motion
30 on the floor. All in favor say aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed same sign.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN GRAY: There you go, Weaver.

39
40 MR. IVANOFF: Okay. Mr. Chairman. On
41 behalf of the Native Village Council, I thank the --
42 also the managers that partook of the deliberations.
43 And I appreciate all your interest. And good luck with
44 the rest of your meeting.

45
46 Thanks again, Tom.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Good luck to you
49 guys. Very good.

50

1 Well, that was kind of interesting. I
2 hope somebody else has another proposal so we can do
3 this all over again.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Oh, lordy. It looks
8 like we're going to go into the afternoon. Barb told
9 me we'd be here this morning and that's it. So I would
10 suggest we go to lunch since it's getting close to
11 lunch. We'll be fine getting through this agenda this
12 afternoon?

13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Let's do that. Let's
17 go to lunch. We're kind of fizzled out. What time do
18 we come back? 1:00 o'clock.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN GRAY: There we go. Anyway,
25 welcome back. Here we go. Review issues and
26 information needs for 2010.

27
28 MS. HYER: Good afternoon. Mr.
29 Chairman. And Council members. For the record my name
30 is Karen Hyer.

31
32 And now we're moving out of the
33 regulatory arena and we're moving into another function
34 of OSM. We're going to talk about the Fisheries
35 Monitoring Program which funds research projects that
36 provide information to fisheries managers and help
37 manage the subsistence fisheries.

38
39 And we start with our request for
40 proposals in November, so what we're going to talk
41 about today is the priority information needs that will
42 help guide this research. So if you turn in your book
43 to the second Page 23, which you will find after Page
44 39, it looks like the numbering got off, this is our
45 draft priority information needs. And these needs will
46 guide the research that will be funded for work
47 starting in 2010. And this is not an action item, and
48 we're not going to require a vote on this. We're
49 basically looking for your input as to what you think
50 is important to help direct our research.

1 And at this point we have \$6 million
2 for projects in 2010, and those projects will be
3 divided up around the State based on how much Federal
4 public land exists in different regions. And so what
5 we're looking for you to do is address the priority
6 information needs in the northern region.

7
8 And as you can see documented in this
9 book, we have all six regions, and that's just there
10 for our information. And in addition to the six
11 regions, we have an inter-regional section, and that
12 inter-regional section has to with priority information
13 needs that fall over several regions, and it can be
14 two, three or more regions.

15
16 And it's important to note that this
17 again is guidelines for the investigators, but projects
18 won't be limited to what we put on this list. If we get
19 proposals for projects that are timely and necessary
20 and are not on the list, we've often funded those
21 projects also.

22
23 So if you turn to the northern section,
24 which starts on Page 24 and is on 25, the northern
25 region covers 3 Councils, Seward Peninsula, Northwest
26 Arctic and North Slope. The three Councils have
27 identified important issues and information needs for
28 their regions. Seward Pen and the Northwest Arctic
29 Councils have identified salmon and char fisheries as
30 being the most important fisheries in their respective
31 areas. The North Slope Council has identified char,
32 whitefish and Arctic grayling fisheries as the most
33 important for their areas.

34
35 So for the northern region, for the
36 2010 request for proposals, it's focused at this point
37 on three priority information needs. We have
38 subsistence harvest of fish where we collect baseline
39 harvest assessment and monitoring of subsistence
40 fisheries throughout the northern region. This sort of
41 product identifies what kind of fish are harvested, how
42 much, when, where and which communities.

43
44 Selawik whitefish, spawning
45 distribution and timing, and stock structure of the
46 Selawik River broad and humpback whitefish; and
47 identifying and characterizing critical factors
48 affecting population dynamics in the Selawik River
49 sheefish.

50

1 And then the last one is Unalakleet
2 chinook salmon. And the information need there is
3 obtaining reliable estimates of chinook salmon
4 escapement over time, including collection of age,
5 length and sex information to determine spawning goals
6 and examine trends in relation to environmental changes
7 and harvest practices. And for a proposal submitted on
8 the Unalakleet, a substantial amount of other funds
9 would be required to obtain monitoring program funding.
10 This is partially due to the fact that the river is
11 shared and it's both State and Federal land, and
12 predominantly the subsistence fishery occurs in State
13 waters. And that was a discussion the Board had some
14 time ago about these projects that span both State and
15 Federal jurisdiction.

16
17 And then the inter-regional priority
18 information need has to do with climate change and that
19 has become an issue that we're starting to address
20 also. And the inter-regional 2010 request for
21 proposals is focused on one priority information need,
22 and that is research that documents effects of climate
23 change on subsistence resources and uses, and
24 determines how subsistence fishery management can be
25 better adapted to deal with these effects.

26
27 And that concludes my presentation, and
28 I'm open for questions, and I'm interested in your
29 comments and input.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Who's going to
32 start it off here?

33
34 MR. QUINN: Mr. Gray. I'll say
35 something. Karen, are you the one who ultimately
36 decides how this 6 million is spent?

37
38 MS. HYER: No.

39
40 MR. QUINN: And who would that be?

41
42 MS. HYER: The Federal Board.

43
44 MR. QUINN: The subsistence Board? Oh,
45 okay. So we can make our desires known to them as far
46 as how this money -- or we'd like to see whatever our
47 share is spent to them?

48
49 MS. HYER: Well, they're the ones --
50 through the process, we accept proposals and we review

1 the proposals, and we have a Technical Review Committee
2 that reviews the proposals for technical merit. And
3 then it's actually reviewed by them, and it's reviewed
4 also -- the Staff Committee has a review process and
5 then it eventually goes before the Federal Board. So
6 this is your first opportunity to give input, because
7 this will -- when the call is actually posted, this
8 will notify the investigators of what is important in
9 this region.

10

11 MR. QUINN: Okay.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: The \$6 million that you
14 get, is that based on land that is out here in Alaska?
15 Do they proportion the \$6 million and you get X-amount
16 of dollars per acre or per the land status?

17

18 MS. HYER: We have some guidelines, and
19 the guidelines are set by land. And the \$6 million is
20 statewide, and then -- actually it doesn't include
21 Southeast, because the Forest Service funds projects in
22 Southeast. And so there are guidelines established,
23 but depending on what sort of proposals we get, those
24 are just guidelines. And sometimes we'll not get
25 enough proposals in a region to use all the money, and
26 sometimes we'll get more than we could ever fund. So
27 we use the guidelines as a starting place. But through
28 the whole process there's rankings within each region,
29 and then there will be rankings throughout the whole
30 state. And so if there's an excellent project in a
31 region that maybe will cause an area to go over how
32 much was allocated, that often gets funded.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. My question was
35 you get \$6 million. Did somebody pick that out of a
36 hat? Or let's say the Seward Peninsula has X-amount of
37 Federal lands, if we weren't included in that \$6
38 million, how much of that money would be lost?

39

40 MS. HYER: Meaning if there were no
41 proposals submitted?

42

43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: No. Is that funding --
44 how can I word it a different way. A lot of these
45 Native communities, if they have more shareholders in
46 their corporation, they get more money. Okay. If you
47 have more land in your thing, you're going to get
48 money, is that how this \$6 million -- is that how you
49 get it?

50

1 MS. HYER: That's how the guidelines
2 were established. If you had more Federal land in your
3 area when the guidelines were set up many years ago,
4 that's how they established the guidelines.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, what I'm
7 fishing for here though is what does the Seward
8 Peninsula or this RAC, how much are we bringing to this
9 table in your \$6 million budget? Of the \$6 million,
10 did you get X-amount of dollars because of our lands in
11 our region?

12
13 MS. HYER: No, the 6 million was
14 apportioned for our budget through the Fish and
15 Wildlife Service. That is our budget, and we're given
16 that money, and then we apportion that money out from
17 there. That 6 million, and, please, Tom, correct me if
18 I'm wrong, but that 6 million is the budget we're given
19 from Congress, correct? It has nothing to do with
20 Seward Peninsula lands.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. My next question
23 is what lands are you guys willing to fund up here?
24 And I don't want to hear BLM or Federal lands. I want
25 to know the Unalakleet River, the Koyuk River, the --
26 what rivers, what lands are available for funding in
27 this process here?

28
29 MS. HYER: I'd have to look at a map.
30 I don't have that at my fingertips.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Hold on.

33
34 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. I have a
35 question also. Would that include wildlife refuge that
36 sits right next door to St. Michaels and Stebbins?
37 Would that be included with those funds?

38
39 MS. HYER: Are you talking about the
40 national wildlife refuge managed by Fish and Wildlife
41 Service?

42
43 MR. KOBUK: Yes. The wildlife refuge
44 that St. Michaels and Stebbins are right next to
45 the.....

46
47 MS. HYER: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Do we have any
50 kind of a map that shows Federal lands on the Seward

1 Peninsula?

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Your harvest of
4 wildlife here throughout the Unit 22 (AWAY FROM
5 MICROPHONE)

6

7 MR. QUINN: Okay. While you're looking
8 at that, Tom, I just want to point out that you've got
9 a pretty good time to be doing this, and as you said
10 here, matching funds are going to be required at least
11 for a Unalakleet job. We're already seen that there's
12 people in this area worried about Unalakleet salmon.
13 So you've got a third player to pull money out of for
14 Unalakleet, and that's NSEDC. So I hope you guys will
15 look at cooperation between the State, the Feds and
16 NSEDC to do some more stuff. Probably a good time to
17 put a counting tower somewhere else in that area maybe.
18 Whatever you guys want to come up with.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Oh, the yellow.

21

22 MS. HYER: Right.

23

24 (Whispered conversation)

25

26 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. And again, you
27 know, what I'm after is I don't think -- I know we've
28 had several projects funded in this region through this
29 program.

30

31 MS. HYER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: But there has been lots
34 and lots of projects that haven't been funded through
35 this program. And like we talked earlier, you know, we
36 have -- you have a clientele, you have users no matter
37 whether or not the river is designated as Federal
38 lands, maybe the headwaters of the river where the
39 water comes out of the mountain is owned by Federal
40 lands. So it's traceable back to Federal lands. I
41 lived in White Mountain for years, and if you look at
42 all around White Mountain, Council, the headwaters of
43 the river system, there's Federal and park lands up in
44 that country. Yet we have trouble trying to get your
45 dollars into programs in my river system, because the
46 State manages it.

47

48 MS. HYER: Okay. There are a couple of
49 things One is having a Federal nexus is only one of
50 the requirements to get funding. It needs to have a

1 substantial capacity-building component, it needs to be
2 technically sound, and it needs to also a priority, and
3 it has to stack up within the region as a priority also
4 against what else is going on in the region. So the
5 Federal nexus is just one of many hoops it has to jump
6 through.

7

8 But on this map, the Federal lands that
9 we would be responsible for would be the Bering Land
10 Bridge National Preserve and the Yukon Delta National
11 Wildlife Refuge. The yellow BLM lands do not fall
12 under this program. They have to be a conservation
13 unit.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So the
16 headwaters of the Kuzitrin River and the headwaters of
17 the Koyuk River, you may do something in that area,
18 too, by the Bering National Bridge?

19

20 MS. HYER: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I'm trying to get a
23 feel of what we can get funded and what we can't,
24 because there's been very little funding in this region
25 from this program.

26

27 MS. HYER: Oh, go ahead, Tom.

28

29 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Tom
30 Kron from OSM.

31

32 The other piece that in addition to the
33 Yukon Delta Refuge and the Bering Land Bridge is the
34 Unalakleet Wild River. There's a lot of BLM lands
35 spread throughout the uplands. And, again, for
36 wildlife management purposes, there's jurisdiction
37 there. But when it comes to fisheries, we're pretty
38 much -- it's limited to conservation system units. So
39 again we've got the Bering Land Bridge Park, the Yukon
40 Delta Refuge and the Unalakleet River.

41

42 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. The Unalakleet
45 River because of the conservation issue on the fishery,
46 you're able to fund that?

47

48 MS. HYER: We're able to accept
49 proposals for the Unalakleet River, because of the wild
50 and scenic portion of the river, the 81 miles of it

1 that falls within the wild and scenic portion, which is
2 BLM land. That's why we can.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So those are
5 really the only places that you would consider funding?

6

7 MS. HYER: Correct.

8

9 MR. KOBUK: Unless there's other
10 proposals within that boundary or what?

11

12 MS. HYER: If the proposal was for a
13 research project within those boundaries, it would meet
14 the Federal nexus criteria. It has to meet other
15 criteria also. That's not just -- it's not just one
16 criteria to be funded through our program.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, you know,
19 I think you've heard a lot on Unalakleet and the
20 support on the Unalakleet River system, so you know
21 something needs to go on there. And not only upriver,
22 but downriver. You know, my concern, like I said this
23 morning, you know, half -- a third to half of the king
24 salmon that go in that river system are being taken by
25 subsistence users, and there needs to be some
26 management in there and some studies or something,
27 education process, something. So, you know, I would
28 say Unalakleet, we need to spend some money there.

29

30 MS. HYER: I agree with that, and
31 Unalakleet chinook is a priority information need. So
32 I'd be interested, if the Council feels like something
33 besides Unalakleet chinook needs to be added to the
34 list as far as -- I know there's more than chinook on
35 it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: You want my wishes?
38 Okay. You had asked about your area. Do you have
39 something going on you're interested in?

40

41 MR. KOBUK: No, I was just kind of
42 wondering. What I meant to say was Yukon Delta
43 National Wildlife Refuge, St. Michaels and Stebbins
44 sits right next to it. And we have the flats there
45 where we have birds and all kind of fish go in, even
46 the small, the hatch -- I guess they come from the
47 Yukon River and they go into our little rivers and
48 canal and that's where they grow up and -- but we also
49 have places in our own area where they go spawn. So
50 the monies, if we wanted to start like say like Peter

1 Martin, Sr. was saying, if we wanted to open up a
2 fisheries like for whatever, king salmon, silver,
3 pinks, cohos, if we wanted a study done for that
4 purpose, would that be allowed?

5
6 MS. HYER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7
8 MR. KOBUK: Okay. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And to do what he
11 wants, you would want a proposal from that community?

12
13 MS. HYER: That community or anyone
14 else who would want to submit a proposal. What we do
15 now through this process is if there's a particular
16 stock that he'd like to suggest, that just helps direct
17 the researchers when they're writing the proposal. For
18 example, Unalakleet chinook. It's very obvious that's
19 very important, and so if somebody was interested in
20 doing that, it would be obvious to an investigator that
21 this is an important issue.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anybody else got
24 anything.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN GRAY: You're going to get off
29 easy. You know, I would say that maybe a letter needs
30 to go to Unalakleet, to Stebbins, St. Michael IRAs just
31 saying this funding's available, we discussed this in
32 the RAC and maybe the letter should come from us. I
33 don't know. Educating people that there is some money
34 out there, and if you want to know the full ball game,
35 to get together with whoever and go forward.

36
37 You know, the sad thing is there's a
38 lot of us out there that need work done, and your
39 program doesn't fit our needs so to speak.

40
41 MS. HYER: Uh-huh. That's true.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: and if there's a way we
44 can fix that, we would sure like to. So if you guys
45 don't have anything else for her, I'm going to let her
46 off the hot seat.

47
48 MS. HYER: I'm still on the hot seat
49 for the next go round, too.

50

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CHAIRMAN GRAY:

MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair, that also includes climate change that's happening, too, within our region, right?

MS. HYER: Correct.

MR. KOBUK: Within the -- because we're starting to notice a lot of different things because of what the climate change is doing to the animals and the fishes. It's like I said earlier, the herring season we have, we usually get really big spawns in the bay of St. Michael, but all the spawning was done in Stuart Island, mostly in the Stebbins area, and hardly any -- it seems to be getting less and less every year, and I'm kind of wondering if that was the effect of the Exxon Valdez oil spill that's affected our herring runs, because we had hardly any -- it looked pretty poor the way they spawned on the kelp. So that's -- and Yukon usually comes to our area to get the kelp and herring, but this spring they mostly got it from around Stuart Island area I guess, because that's where it seemed most of the spawning was going. So studies like that can be allowed for that, too?

MS. HYER: Stuart Island.

MR. KOBUK: It's right next to Stebbins right there.

MS. HYER: Yeah, I see that. We have very little marine jurisdiction. Usually that comes under NOAA, and I know that there are a couple of places we have it, and my guess would be that we don't have marine jurisdiction around Stuart Island.

MR. KOBUK: But what I was talking about, I know part of St. Michael Island and right across the bay -- St. Michael's is an island cut off by the canals. And the Federal wildlife refuge is right from the mouth of Big Canal and it goes straight up into here. It doesn't show it very good on here, but if you had a map it would tell you exactly where it runs. But I guess we wouldn't be able to for that funding, because we sit also partly on State, which is the white area.

MS. HYER: Right. But we've done work, Pikmiktalik is an example of a river that actually has

1 a Federal nexus that we've done work on that's in your
2 area. And if a proposal came in, especially climate
3 change proposals, research in one area, you might
4 definitely find something that affects farther than
5 where the research is done, because that's such a
6 global issue. So it's possible a research project
7 could come in for the Yukon Delta that would definitely
8 have implications towards Stebbins, because they reside
9 so close to each other. And we do have that in our
10 call, in our regional as a part of the information
11 need.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. The thing I want
14 to leave you with is there's two places that tie into
15 Federal lands than maybe some projects could happen,
16 and that's the Kuzitrin River and the Koyuk River. And
17 those are the only two other places than Stebbins/St.
18 Michael and the Unalakleet River. Nome is involved in
19 that, and like I say, Koyuk. So those two players need
20 to be gotten ahold of and talked to. And I don't know
21 if you want to do it or our staff can do it, but
22 somebody should be made aware that there's some monies
23 out there, and, you know, \$6 million, even if we only
24 got 10 percent of that is a good project.

25

26 So with that, I think we'll just move
27 on to the next agenda, unless you have something else.

28

29 MS. HYER: No, that's it for the
30 priority information needs. Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GRAY: So Sandy's going to
33 come up and help with this one.

34

35 MS. HYER: Yeah. So we're going to
36 move on to the report concerning the Pikmiktalik. And
37 I brought that, so you should have copies of that, and
38 there are extra copies here on the table. This was
39 work that was done by Kawerak, and I'm just
40 summarizing. I'm going to give you a brief summary of
41 the report, because the biologist has moved on and she
42 no longer works for Kawerak. But this -- I have other
43 copies, too.

44

45 Okay. So this project was funded
46 throughout program as 06-01, and what you have before
47 you is the final report of the Pikmiktalik River salmon
48 escapement enumeration and sampling project from 2003
49 to 2007. And so during these five years a weir and
50 tower were installed at a counting site from early June

1 and they continued through August in 2003 and 2004, and
2 September in 2005 through 2007. And observers were at
3 the tower counting fish for 20 minutes every hour, and
4 the 20 minute counts were expanded, for every hour and
5 the counting was done 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
6 And it was done continually unless there was some sort
7 of issue with the river or flooding or something. And
8 through the years they had a few instances, but in
9 general they were able to proceed as normal. And in
10 addition to the counts, ASL samples were collected.

11
12 And then Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game in Nome and Fairbanks also did some subsistence --
14 used subsistence salmon surveys to collect some harvest
15 monitoring information in Stebbins and St. Michael
16 through 2006 and 2007, and Kotlik was done in 2007 by
17 using post-season surveys.

18
19 And so if you turn to figure 2 on Page
20 25, that's a good summary of the results, you can see
21 there on that graph that the number of chum returning
22 to the Pikmiktalik River to spawn increased each year.
23 In 2003 there were 7,707 chum, and the escapement was
24 measured at 21,518 in 2007. So there was a continual
25 increase during the period that the tower was in. And
26 chum salmon escapement began between June 19th and June
27 28th over the period of time they were monitoring. And
28 95 percent of the counts occurred between July 30th and
29 August 13th. And the majority of chum salmon returning
30 to the weir were four-year-old chum salmon.

31
32 The coho were counted in 2004 through
33 2007, and the highest returns occurred in the odd
34 years, and you can see it's the light line there, and
35 they have some fluctuation in the years. In 2005 and
36 2007 the coho returns were 17,424 and 13,777; whereas
37 in 2004 and 2006 the total returns were 11,799 and
38 8,575 coho. And the coho salmon counts began around
39 July 9th through July 18th and by August 29th through
40 September 6th over this period of time, about 95
41 percent of the counts had occurred. And from the ASL
42 information, the majority of the coho returning were
43 age four.

44
45 And then pink salmon, you can see on
46 that line, were the most prevalent stock in the river,
47 and the axis on the right-hand side is for pink salmon,
48 and the rest of the fish is on the left-hand side. And
49 pink salmon escapement began between August 22nd and
50 August 31st, and usually the weir was pulled before the

1 last of the pink salmon had migrated through the weir
2 and the tower.

3
4 And then if you turn to Page 28 and
5 figure 5, you'll see the chinook salmon. And the
6 number of chinook migrating past the tower decreased
7 each year. In 2003 the total number of chinook were
8 3,040 -- excuse me, 345 chinook salmon. In 2006 they
9 had 99 chinook salmon passing the tower. Chinook
10 salmon escapement began between June 20th and June
11 27th, and the last chinook counted through the -- or by
12 the tower ranged between July 13th and August 5th.

13
14 As the counts came in from the tower,
15 they were called in to Kawerak and then forwarded to
16 both the Federal and State managers so they did get
17 this information through the season.

18
19 And then Fish and Game did some post-
20 season salmon harvest surveys, and that information was
21 included in this report also at our request so all the
22 information resides in one place. And for Stebbins and
23 St. Michael they did the surveys in 2006 and 2007, and
24 the results indicated that the majority of the harvest
25 from these communities was conducted using a net in
26 marine waters. In 2006 18,890 salmon were harvested
27 from areas near the community while 511 salmon were
28 harvested in the Pikmiktalik River. In 2007 13,097
29 salmon were harvested in the waters near the community,
30 and 965 salmon were harvested from the Pikmiktalik. In
31 2006, according to the surveys, the majority of salmon
32 harvested were coho. In 2007, equal numbers of chum
33 salmon and coho were harvested.

34
35 And in Kotlik in 2007 105 salmon were
36 harvested between Stebbins and the Pikmiktalik River,
37 and 24 salmon were actually harvested in the
38 Pikmiktalik River.

39
40 And after five years of enumeration and
41 salmon counting, the project came to a close. And
42 there's a follow-up component where we're continuing
43 the harvest monitoring into this fall, and Kawerak is
44 going to do that. And so that's a continuation
45 project, and I'll let Sandy tell you about that.

46
47 MS. TAHBONE: Good afternoon. Sandy
48 Tahbone with Kawerak.

49
50 Like Karen mentioned, Kawerak, we've

1 started October 1st doing surveys, doing a post-season
2 survey for all species of salmon. We're looking at a
3 total harvest estimate, gear types, participating,
4 sharing, household size, whether customary trade is
5 occurring, also the use of salmon for dog food, and
6 salmon harvest locations by species as Karen mentioned
7 in the Pikmiktalik and marine waters adjacent to the
8 Pikmiktalik. We will continue to gather this
9 information until the end of this month, and we will
10 have a report completed by the end of this year.

11
12 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. I have a
13 question to ask them. I know one time I asked the Feds
14 about what effects does the beavers have, like the dams
15 that -- there are a lot of dams in the Pikmiktalik
16 River. And I know I remember one time I asked if they
17 would do a study about these dams, whether they were
18 keeping the fish from going upriver, especially when we
19 have hardly any rain come around. I know that's got to
20 affect the rivers, because when we don't hardly get any
21 rain, the water don't go up, and if any studies were
22 done about the beavers, the effects they have on the
23 fish that go up the Pikmiktalik River, if that was ever
24 done.

25
26 MS. HYER: There's nothing to my
27 knowledge that's been done on the Pikmiktalik
28 concerning beavers. And, in fact, I think this is the
29 first work that has been on the Pikmiktalik.

30
31 MR. KOBUK: Because I had brought up
32 that question when they were going to do the
33 Pikmiktalik survey on the fish, and that's a lot of the
34 current -- because hardly any people trap or hunt the
35 beavers any more, and we have a lot of beavers dams in
36 most of the streams that flow from the mountains that
37 we have down to the coast. Peter Martin, Sr. will also
38 let you know that there are a lot of beaver dams,
39 especially when you get closer to the mountains, they
40 get pretty high, and I was wondering. I noticed that
41 in some years it would go up, and then it seemed like
42 there seems to be a crash, and I was wondering if the
43 beaver dams, beavers had anything to do with the crash
44 that's on your charts.

45
46 MR. MARTIN: And I have a question, are
47 they counting fish in Pikmiktalik?

48
49 MS. HYER: I think that the tower
50 project has come to an end, and certainly proposals can

1 be submitted for more research. But you have to
2 realize that's going to stack up against whatever else
3 is happening in the region. And at this point I think
4 the discussion with Kawerak has been to do a little bit
5 more harvest monitoring and then reevaluate where we
6 are.

7

8 MR. MARTIN: We have another river
9 right next to Pikmiktalik that fish go up into, fresh
10 waters. It's about maybe less than a mile away from
11 the mouth.

12

13 MS. HYER: The mouth of Pikmiktalik?

14

15 MR. MARTIN: Another river that goes
16 up, if you can look at the map, another river right
17 next to Pikmiktalik.

18

19 MR. KOBUK: That's the Koyuk River,
20 isn't it?

21

22 MR. MARTIN: Nunaktuk.

23

24 MR. KOBUK: Nunaktuk? Okay.

25

26 MR. MARTIN: And that's where most of
27 our people need to go fishing, but due to the price of
28 gas, most of the villagers now fish in the community
29 and they don't do any camping any more. So if we get
30 some counting, I think you'd see more numbers and
31 higher on your graph.

32

33 MR. KEYES: Another question. Is the
34 lower Yukon River, the lower Yukon Delta region, are
35 they also taking and monitor readings on that part of
36 the area, because I notice on the map it's more closer
37 to the Yukon than it is to our region up here. Maybe
38 if we can get some -- if they're getting some -- if
39 they're doing some studies down there, maybe we can get
40 some ideas from them as to what kind of studies they're
41 doing and how long and, you know, when are they doing
42 this kind of surveys down there, because if we were to
43 hear from them on their report on what they're doing
44 down there, maybe we'd get a better idea up here in
45 this region about, you know, why the decline on the
46 fish down in -- you know, down there.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GRAY: We spent five years
49 studying a resource and I was just reading through this
50 thing trying to figure out what the end result was, and

1 maybe you guys can tell me that. After five years of
2 studying, is there some plan or something you're going
3 to do to help that resource or is it just we're going
4 to monitor now?

5
6 MS. HYER: Well, the project was
7 initiated to monitor the resource and provide
8 information. Kawerak initiated it to provide
9 information to the in-season managers, and the
10 information was sent to the managers, the Federal and
11 State managers, so in that way they did fulfill the
12 objectives of the report.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So from here,
15 and maybe, Sandy, you can answer, from here you're just
16 going to monitor the harvest levels of it? And the
17 concern that I have, I guess, is there's been several
18 people at the table here very interested in starting a
19 commercial fishery. Now, in my mind, if there's a
20 commercial fishery going to be started, this
21 information you guys have is very key to justifying
22 that fishery. And so anyway I'm a little bit curious
23 where we're going to go now that this project's done.
24 Where are we going from here.

25
26 MS. TAHBONE: My understanding, Tom, is
27 the initial question which this research resulted to
28 answer was what are the size of the runs, so that's the
29 information that we have from this five years of data.
30 Kawerak is -- our projects are run by the needs that
31 are expressed by our communities, so it's kind of if
32 it's -- if they express a need and we're able to get
33 funding to continue monitoring, then that's what
34 Kawerak will be doing.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Would you guys be
37 willing to finance the monitoring side of this thing?

38
39 MS. HYER: In our priority information
40 needs, harvest monitoring was our first need, so that
41 is something that we consider a priority for the
42 region. And again it depends on what comes in, what
43 the quality is, what the priorities are, but certainly
44 we have recognized that enough that we put it as our
45 number 1 priority information need. They're not in the
46 list in any particular order of importance, but it is
47 the first one on our list.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And the reason I'm
50 picking here is this is one area that you work in, and

1 I'm trying to figure a way of getting some of your
2 money.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Any more
7 questions here.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN GRAY: You know, I guess for
12 you guys from Stebbins/St. Michaels, I would get
13 together with Sandy and this gal -- what's your name?

14

15 MS. HYER: Karen.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Before they leave, and
18 find out what they need if you've got something to go
19 further, what their requirements are going to be. And
20 before they leave today, I'd grab them and pull them
21 aside. And then also again invite them to your village
22 and hold a meeting. And, you know, that's where you're
23 going to get action is having a meeting in your village
24 and bringing them there so you have all the players at
25 the table.

26

27 Anybody else have anything.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. HYER: Our initial request for
32 proposals is going to be going out in November, and
33 that's when we solicit, and then we will ask for those
34 proposals to be back to us I do believe in January.
35 And the proposal's just a two-page document, and it's
36 an idea document. And that starts the process.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, thank you.
39 Okay. Well, we're really cruising now. We're in
40 reports. Agency reports. Office of Subsistence. And
41 his name is Tom and my name is Tom.

42

43 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Tom. The
44 briefing on rural/non-rural is on Page 47 in your
45 Council books. And I'll just give you a quick
46 overview.

47

48 ANILCA requires a subsistence priority
49 on Federal lands for rural residents. And this
50 rural/non-rural issue revolves around deciding who's

1 rural and who isn't. Essentially the Federal
2 Subsistence Board made a determination of which
3 communities were rural during the 90s, and then based
4 on the census that came out in 2000 they basically had
5 to go through the process again. And basically what
6 happened, they made a decision in December 2006, and it
7 was based on the 2000 census basis. But again for your
8 region, for Seward Peninsula's region, the entire area
9 was considered rural in the 90s and it's considered
10 rural now. So there were no changes at all for your
11 region.

12
13 But, again, in other parts of the state
14 they did look at some changes. And in response to that
15 decision in December 2006, the Federal Subsistence
16 Management Program received six requests for
17 reconsideration. If people disagree with a decision
18 that's made by the Board, they can submit a request for
19 reconsideration. And those are listed there at the
20 bottom of the page. Based on those requests for
21 reconsideration, there was an analysis that was done.
22 The Board met in 2008, reviewed those analyses and
23 based on the information before them and their earlier
24 decision decided that they would reject those claims
25 for all six. But again the detailed information is on
26 the Federal Subsistence Management Program website if
27 you want to look at it. But again, this particular
28 issue, there were no changes at all for Seward
29 Peninsula.

30
31 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Ken.

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Council
36 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. During
37 one of the breaks a couple people told me that I used
38 up my time this morning.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: So in the interest of,
43 you know, speeding things along, I'll save some of the
44 wildlife things and some of the Arctic Network
45 Inventory and Monitoring Program for updates at our
46 wildlife meeting.

47
48 But I would like to just make a couple
49 personnel or staff announcements to you. One is the
50 Western Arctic National Parklands has hired a new

1 wildlife biologist, a new general biologist. Her name
2 is Marci Johnson. And, Marci, could you stand up. And
3 Marci will be based in Kotzebue, but she'll be working
4 with our Fairbanks staff and then also the Arctic
5 Network and Inventory Monitoring folks who are based
6 largely in Fairbanks. But she will be also working
7 with ADF&G staff and others in Kotzebue and Nome, so
8 hopefully you'll maybe see more of Marci on some of our
9 issues.

10

11 The other thing I'd like to announce,
12 earlier Nancy Swanton, our interim superintendent,
13 indicated that her term over several months here is
14 coming to an end. And I would like to announce that we
15 have a brand new superintendent appointed for Bering
16 Land Bridge, and some of you who are affiliated through
17 the RACs may know him, or in other cases, but that
18 individual is Craig Fleener from the Interior. And
19 Craig will bring I think a strong background in natural
20 resources management, wildlife, working with Native
21 organizations. He's got extensive experience from the
22 Interior and with the various Athabascan groups there.
23 Plus he brings in experience, personal first-hand
24 experience with the Regional Advisory Councils. He's
25 actually been a chair I believe of the Eastern Interior
26 Regional Advisory Council. So we're really looking
27 forward to having Craig come to Nome and assume that
28 position as superintendent of Bering Land Bridge.

29

30 So that's all I've got unless somebody
31 has any questions.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Any questions.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Thank you. Tom Sparks.
38 Another Tom. And you've got another BLM guy here.

39

40 MR. SPARKS: Got a few.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All right.

43

44 MR. SPARKS: I'll keep it real short as
45 I always do. Mr. Chair. Members. Good to see most of
46 you. Anthony, glad to see you up there.

47

48 I've just got a couple of things. Most
49 of the time you folks are interested in what we're
50 doing with the special recreation permits, and that's

1 the big game guides that we authorize through permits.
2 It's the same number that we've had for many years now.
3 No big difference. Vance Grishkowsky's one, or
4 Cromberger (ph) rather. Tom, you've got a permit. A
5 fellow by the name of James Smith. Bob Henna out of
6 Koyuk. Ben Rowe has one for fishing in a couple of
7 streams around here. Vance, who used to be on this
8 Board. And Jerry Austin. We do permit a couple other
9 activities that are not really directed to the hunting
10 and fishing realm, so I won't talk about those.

11
12 A couple other things that I've
13 mentioned in the past meetings is the conveyance of the
14 Native corporation property which I've been involved
15 with for many years. We're about half done on the
16 Seward Peninsula. We closed Shishmaref Native
17 Corporation this past summer, and we're currently
18 working on St. Michael. We're getting real close with
19 Shaktoolik and Nome as well. And those will change the
20 little boxes that you see in that Federal booklet. And
21 some of you may be aware that booklet is only supposed
22 to show those lands that are not selected by either the
23 State or Native corporations, because those lands are
24 not subject to the Federal subsistence regulations.

25
26 The other thing that I've been keeping
27 the Board appraised over the last few years is the
28 Kobuk/Seward land use plan, and the record of decision
29 came out in September of '08. So that's finalized now.
30 There's copies available on line at www.blm.gov, and
31 I've got copies in my office as well.

32
33 Continuing with the work on the
34 veterans' Native allotments and various permits
35 throughout the region.

36
37 And we also have some staffing changes,
38 too. Geoff Beyersdorf here, he took Jeff Denton's
39 position as the biologist. He does our subsistence
40 reviews. He's got a report as well.

41
42 And we also have a new manager for our
43 Anchorage field office, James Fincher, and I'm hoping
44 that he'll be able to come up to one of your meetings.

45
46 And that's all I have, unless there's
47 questions.

48
49 MR. QUINN: I've got a question. Well,
50 since you're giving us the names of the permit holders,

1 I was just curious. You don't have a recreational
2 permit for Mike Vanning for your lands?

3

4 MR. SPARKS: No, he was denied a permit
5 a year -- two years now, two years ago.

6

7 MR. QUINN: How much money are you guys
8 spending on enforcement up here, like this hunting
9 season? Do you have anybody up here?

10

11 MR. SPARKS: I don't know about the
12 dollars spent, but we do have an enforcement presence,
13 yes. We have one ranger in our district.

14

15 MR. QUINN: Was he out in this area for
16 the hunting season at all?

17

18 MR. SPARKS: He was in Unalakleet and
19 he came to Nome right before -- he was in Unalakleet
20 for the moose season.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Any other questions for
23 these guys. Do you have something?

24

25 MR. BEYERSDORF: Mr. Chair. Members of
26 the Council. As Tom as said, we have had some
27 administrative changes. I'm one of the new people on
28 board. Mike Quinn and I know each other from the
29 Nowitna River. And, Anthony, I believe I met you this
30 last June for the Reindeer Herders Association
31 meetings.

32

33 I wanted to say hello and also to
34 follow up on the Unalakleet moose hunt. I see that
35 Tony's going to be coming up later and he'll give you
36 the 22A moose survey results, but I wanted to pass
37 along as far as how the hunt went down there. I know
38 that proposal went before you guys last year and then
39 before the Federal Subsistence Board.

40

41 Obviously there was a hunt. It was a
42 quota hunt. It was 14 that was arrived at between BLM
43 and the State and the Native council. We went the week
44 before the season and issued the Federal permits, and I
45 spent from -- we were there from August 7th to about
46 August 31st. We did have a law enforcement person
47 there for about seven days that worked with the local
48 people there.

49

50 We ended up issuing on the BLM side 74

1 permits. Three animals were harvested on Federal
2 lands. The State issued I believe about 103 permits.
3 Eleven bulls were harvested under that permit system.

4
5 I just wanted to thank the State and
6 the State and Weaver Ivanoff from the Unalakleet Native
7 Council in regards to the extensive efforts that
8 everyone made in regards to meeting with people and
9 getting maps to people and getting the information as
10 far as where they could and couldn't hunt. It seemed
11 fairly successful.

12
13 We are going to have some -- I just
14 came from Unalakleet yesterday. I spent the day there
15 collecting the hunt reports from people, and also
16 talking to them in regards to what worked and what
17 didn't work with that hunt. And Tony and I are
18 planning on going back later on to meet with the
19 Unalakleet Native Council in regards to if they want to
20 put together a proposal that may work better for that
21 community. We don't know, but we wanted to at least
22 give them the opportunity.

23
24 And that's pretty much all I have,
25 other than to also introduce Daniel Sharp. He's going
26 to be coming up talking in regards to the timber veg
27 policy for BLM. He's a new employee from the State
28 office down in Anchorage.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I'm a little bit
31 surprised at how these animals were categorized or
32 whatever. If there's only three subsistence and 11
33 regular moose, does that mean -- well, that doesn't --
34 they means they only got them on BLM lands. And
35 there's a lot of BLM land up that river though. And
36 only three of them. The rest of them came off of a
37 different part?

38
39 MR. BEYERSDORF: During the State --
40 the State permit applied to either, both State and
41 Federal lands. The Federal season was earlier. It
42 started on August 15th and it went through September
43 14th. The State season didn't start until September
44 1st. It was fairly warm there, as you're probably
45 aware. We had almost 70 degree temperatures for about
46 three weeks straight there. There was effort to get up
47 the river, but it takes an effort to get up the river.
48 We were out there visiting with people when they were
49 out hunting. A lot of people, just because of gas
50 prices, wanted to wait until they really felt moose

1 were moving down and were going to be closer to the
2 river. And that's indeed what ended up happening. It
3 seems like most of the moose were taken the latter part
4 of the season.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GRAY: In the latter part of
7 the season and the lower part of the river out of BLM
8 lands?

9
10 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Any other
13 questions for these guys.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Thank you, fellows. So
18 we have a Daniel Sharp that's going to limit what we
19 can use for wood.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We all believe
22 that, too (AWAY FROM MICROPHONE)

23
24 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. What have you
25 got.

26
27 MR. SHARP: What's being passed out is
28 the same that's in your book. It just has my contact
29 information on the last page, which didn't make the
30 previous. Should I start? Okay.

31
32 Mr. Chairman. Again my name is Dan
33 Sharp. I'm the subsistence coordinator for Bureau of
34 Land Management. I'm sitting where George Oviatt or
35 Chuck Ardizzone would normally have been sitting. I'm
36 new to BLM. All of two months tenure under my belt.

37
38 I guess this issue, the reason this is
39 in front of you right now is initiated an action from
40 the Western Interior RAC. Jack Reakoff made a formal
41 request to the Federal Subsistence Board asking for --
42 well, the issue was their need to harvest house logs
43 from Federal public lands and recognizing that Federal
44 agencies, some didn't have a formal ANILCA subsistence
45 priority for renewable resources such as timber and
46 vegetative resources. So this policy, this draft
47 policy in front of you is what BLM is submitting. It's
48 not an action item. We're seeing comments at this time
49 to see how it addresses subsistence needs for users in
50 areas where BLM has forested lands. Again, this is

1 primarily at the behest of the Western Interior RAC
2 where they have the highway running right through BLM
3 lands where they can fairly effectively make use of
4 house logs there. BLM lands aren't that accessible for
5 a number of people in a number of areas, but again
6 those same regions that do have BLM timbered lands,
7 we're putting this draft policy in front of the
8 respective RACs.

9
10 A little bit of further background. In
11 looking at current BLM land management regulations,
12 when you look for timber harvesting policies for folks
13 that want to go out and cut some firewood, the 43 CFR
14 dates back to June 3rd of 1878. There's dates back
15 here of I think back in the -- the most recent date on
16 some of this timber policy I can find is in the 50s.
17 So it clearly needs some updating to address
18 subsistence needs.

19
20 What you have then with this draft
21 policy, the short and sweet of it, is that for
22 noncommercial harvest of up to 15 cords a permit
23 wouldn't be required. It would be -- an authorization
24 wouldn't need to be required. Move beyond 15 cords or
25 standing green timber for house logs or such, we're
26 asking the folks, seek an authorization from the Bureau
27 if the harvesting is going to take place on Bureau
28 land.

29
30 Although the authorization for 15 cords
31 isn't necessary, written authorization, the policy does
32 state that it would be very nice and important that
33 that use be documented, for one, so that when competing
34 uses may come up in the future, that there is a record
35 that the timber in that area has been used for
36 subsistence purposes. And so land designations won't
37 change and disallow that in the future.

38
39 I think that's about the length and
40 breadth of it, although there's a fair amount of
41 verbiage here. I think the cutoff, for one, is 15
42 cords for firewood is basically a given. And although
43 the policy is somewhat wordy in its title, for
44 vegetative resources, on Page 3 you'll see under
45 special forest products, it summarizes everything else
46 besides timber as saying it doesn't require a permit,
47 unless there's going to be some significant use. So
48 most vegetative resource use would be capable of being
49 done without authorization.

50

1 And again the only reason this policy
2 is in front of you is, one, to solicit comments. It's
3 nothing we're looking for votes yeah or nay on, but
4 we're trying to update BLM's policy to meet subsistence
5 needs and bring stuff out of the 1800s into the 2000s
6 here.

7
8 So I'd be happy to address any
9 questions if folks have some.

10
11 MR. KEYES: Yes. I'm Anthony. When I
12 received this at home, I went through it and I kind of
13 started kind of cussing to myself. Now we're going to
14 watch these old folks, these old elderly people with
15 the price of oil that is now upon us, how do we expect
16 to see them come up and ask for permission to get wood
17 when they've been living with the wood since they were
18 born. I mean, you know, with the price of oil that we
19 have to pay, the majority of them -- well, as a matter
20 of fact, I was just told recently, with the price of
21 oil that we have now, I'm going to start using
22 firewood, and I don't care who tells me I can't use it,
23 because it's been in our -- it's been on our land for
24 such numerous years. I'd hate to see an old, elderly
25 man and old, elderly woman have to ask for a permit
26 just to keep their house warm, especially with all the
27 little kids that is now in their generation. It's kind
28 of like -- the way I see it, it's kind of like I need
29 permission so I could keep my house warm.

30
31 MR. SHARP: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Mr.
32 Keyes. I guess in reading the current regulations that
33 are in place now, authority is required. The draft
34 policy for getting firewood would make it so you
35 wouldn't need authorization. So the policy that's
36 being put forth right now is more liberal than what is
37 currently in regulation with respect to getting
38 firewood and fuel. So this generally liberalizes your
39 ability to not have to seek permission to go onto BLM
40 lands, you know, unless those lands have another
41 designation like a wild and scenic river where there
42 may be other restrictions. In general, most BLM lands
43 without any other restrictions, it's open to -- it
44 would be under this policy once it's adopted, you
45 wouldn't need permission. You'd be able to go get up
46 to 15 cords.

47
48 MR. QUINN: Would that also include
49 wood that's already been washed up to shore on the
50 beach?

1 MR. SHARP: Well, I guess I'd have to
2 see where mean high water is and where BLM lands reach
3 and such. I don't think that's a BLM issue, beach logs
4 and such.

5
6 MR. QUINN: Okay. Is this stuff you've
7 got here, like, you know, harvest of up to 15 cords,
8 you've got cutting rules and restrictions. Is that
9 word for word right out of ANILCA?

10
11 MR. SHARP: It's not out of ANILCA.
12 It's out of BLM authorship. The ANILCA language, my
13 understanding, is, and I think it's quoted there, with
14 respect to renewable resources on public lands, it's
15 generally trying to put a definition for other
16 renewable resources, which basically is language used
17 in ANILCA is other renewable resources. So it's trying
18 to formalized a policy.

19
20 MR. QUINN: So this is your policy and
21 Ken might have a different policy and.....

22
23 MR. SHARP: Absolutely.

24
25 MR. QUINN: Fish and Wildlife Service's
26 policy might be different than that?

27
28 MR. SHARP: And they are.

29
30 MR. QUINN: Okay. And so why did you
31 guys use 15 cords?

32
33 MR. SHARP: Well, it's a step down from
34 the 200 cords from the 1898 law I guess when folks were
35 feeding paddle wheelers going up rivers. Let me see.
36 Some of the others are -- I believe the Forest Service
37 had 25 cords. There's a couple of different -- as to
38 where and how much and standing versus green versus --
39 some are written in board feet. I think what's driving
40 this has been Mr. Reakoff's push there in Western
41 Interior as to what their needs are.

42
43 MR. QUINN: Could you please send the
44 enforcement bill to Mr. Reakoff then. Okay.

45
46 MR. SHARP: And, truthfully, this is
47 out for comments. If 15 cords is felt not appropriate,
48 feel free to suggest 25. It's not a -- I'm not
49 splitting hairs here so to speak, but it is just a
50 draft policy that's being put out there for comment to

1 see how it addresses folks' needs.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GRAY: So in other words
4 you're telling us this is just a rough draft of what we
5 need to go through and fix up?

6

7 MR. SHARP: We would like to
8 incorporate comments, substantive comments that come in
9 from the RACs, the potentially affected RACs. I think
10 the time line is probably sometime this winter they'd
11 like to formalize this policy, to pull it out of draft
12 and bring things into the 20th century I guess.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: So you're saying this
15 proposal that you're putting out is a more lenient
16 proposal that you already have in place?

17

18 MR. SHARP: Yeah. Mr. Chair. That's
19 correct. It allows timber collection without written
20 authorization up to 15 cords once that policy's
21 adopted.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GRAY: I'll tell you, I have
24 no idea how many cords of wood it takes to heat a home,
25 but whatever that is, you know, we should be doubling
26 or tripling it just to be user friendly to the people.
27 You know, I don't think you guys want to get into the
28 timber management business, and whatever policy you put
29 into place is probably going to be forgotten about
30 after this guy builds his house. And the other thing
31 is I saw in here somewhere, you know, before -- what is
32 it -- something caught my eye. But I guess the point
33 being that we want to make it easy for our people to
34 use whatever the resource is. And, you know, if this
35 is better than what we've got, so be it.

36

37 Now, you have a public comment period,
38 then it's going to get written into law eventually
39 here, or what's.....

40

41 MR. SHARP: You know, administratively
42 I'm not sure if it has to go into codified regs or how
43 this policy would mesh with written regs. Clearly
44 there needs to be a rewrite of what's on the books now
45 when we're referencing 1878 is the timing. But once we
46 receive comments, that we're satisfied that this will
47 address subsistence users needs, we'll make the policy
48 formal. As to whether or not that needs to hit the
49 Federal Register and become a regulation, a codified
50 regulation, I'm uncertain at this point.

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Anybody else
2 have any comments.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Would you tell Mr.
5 Sparks I want my 50 bucks back if I was able to harvest
6 15 cords worth of Christmas trees (AWAY FROM
7 MICROPHONE)

8
9 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Now, now. I'm the
10 Chairman of the Council Board, and that's where the
11 closest trees are. Okay.

12
13 Getting back to -- I was very surprised
14 when I went through this packet. I had no idea there
15 was timber regulations for firewood. That surprised
16 me. And, you know, I think more importantly, it would
17 really surprise the public. And maybe there needs to
18 be education. Tom, you're part of this, too. Maybe
19 there needs to be some education that this is going on,
20 and get it out to the IRAs or whoever so they know that
21 this thing, this draft is coming down the pike.

22
23 MR. SPARKS: Most of the harvest is
24 taking place on Native corporation lands, and I'm only
25 aware of one permit we've actually given out out of the
26 Kotzebue office. And we haven't given out any around
27 here. I have had calls though about the opportunities
28 available.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Exactly. But the
31 point, and to give you an example, Tom, when I first
32 moved to Fish River Flats and brought my reindeer
33 there, up in the headwaters of the Cache Creek is miles
34 and miles of house logs that are just gorgeous And I
35 mean a guy could go in there and do a commercial
36 operation and make a killing in there if he could
37 figure out how to get them out of there. But the point
38 being, we need to educate the public somehow that this
39 is an issue. Because it's my subsistence users that
40 are going to get impacted from this.

41
42 MR SHARP: Yeah. I understand. And my
43 contact is on the back page there if folks do have
44 comments or if they want to, you know, receive some in
45 the -- or send some in the future.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Well, and Kawerak is a
48 nonprofit for all the IRAs, for every IRA council in
49 this region, and that may be an arm for you to get
50 information to who to talk to and who to send. And,

1 you know, just a simple letter, hey, this is an issue.
2 Here's our draft thing. And 90 percent of them will
3 probably go in the trash, because they won't understand
4 it. But at least they'll have opportunity to pick up
5 the phone and ask you a question.

6
7 MR. SHARP: Sure. Understand. Very
8 good. Appreciate the lead.

9
10 MR. KOBUK: So how many villages are
11 going to be hit with this kind of law up here?

12
13 MR. SHARP: It applies to BLM lands
14 statewide.

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 200 and some
17 villages (AWAY FROM MICROPHONE)

18
19 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Any more
20 questions.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Thank you very much.
25 All right. We're down to Tony.

26
27 MR. GORN: Good afternoon. Tom. And
28 fellow committee members. I'll try to keep this brief.
29 Just cut me off if I get long-winded.

30
31 There's a couple different handouts
32 that you should all have in front of you here. My name
33 is Tony Gorn. I'm the Unit 22 area biologist for Fish
34 and Game here in Nome.

35
36 There's a caribou map in front of you
37 and Unit 22 wildlife report, and then a chart that
38 shows historical brown bear harvest. I'll just quickly
39 go over our S&I activity since we last talked.

40
41 Last February we went down to Unit 22A
42 and completed a geo-statistical moose census in the
43 Unalakleet River drainage. We did that with financial
44 support from the Bureau of Land Management. We found a
45 statistical increase in moose down there. Our estimate
46 was 339 moose, plus or minus 23 and a half percent.
47 And we found 21 percent calves, which was really
48 encouraging. And since I've been working for the
49 Department and surveying moose in the Unalakleet area,
50 it was the first time I've censused moose down there

1 where we actually had census-friendly weather. And it
2 really made a big difference.

3
4 And then Geoff Beyersdorf went over the
5 hunt that happened there this fall because of the moose
6 that we counted last spring.

7
8 That was in February and March. In
9 March of last year I continued my calf weight project
10 where I weighed 10-month moose calves. It was an
11 interesting year, and it was kind of the year I was
12 looking for weatherwise, because the previous two years
13 I weighed calves were really low snow years all along
14 the southern Seward Peninsula coast. That was in '05
15 and '06. Actually, I'm sorry, '06 and '07. And last
16 year, as we all know, it was like the second highest
17 snow year in the last 100 years on the southern Seward
18 Peninsula coast. And calf weights changed
19 dramatically. In Unit 22C on average they were 50
20 pounds lighter than what we found the previous two
21 years. So instead of being 400 and, you know, 10
22 pounds, they were closer to, you know, 360, 370 pounds,
23 which is below that magical calf-weight line of 385
24 pounds where you start to think that your moose
25 population might be resource limited. So it was pretty
26 a pretty interesting set of data to add to what we've
27 already collected. And we're going to continue that
28 project.

29
30 Of course, in 22C for management
31 purposes we, you know, use that to assist us in
32 managing the antlerless moose hunt that goes on there.

33
34 So that takes us into April and last
35 April the Department deployed 15 VHF collars on
36 muskoxen in Units 22C, B and D. Blood collected during
37 capture work was tested for the brucella virus and
38 pregnancy and trace minerals. All the tests for
39 brucella returned negative for that antibody, and all
40 tests returned positive for pregnancy, which was
41 interesting.

42
43 We flew the collars several times a
44 week during calving and then periodically throughout
45 the summer and the fall. Two of the Fish and Game
46 collars died, and when you add that to the one collar
47 that the Park Service put out up in 22E, that gives a
48 natural mortality rate of 21.7 percent, and that's plus
49 or minus 16 and a half percent at the 90 percent
50 confidence interval, which is a very high mortality

1 rate. And I suspect that that will go down here as our
2 sample size increases. We're going to put out starting
3 late next week another 10 to 15 collars out of the Nome
4 area, and I believe the Park Service has plans to put
5 out additional muskox collars this spring on Park
6 Service lands.

7

8 During the flights during calving,
9 excuse me, we first observed calves on April 24th when
10 four neonates were counted in 10 different groups
11 outside of Nome. Calving appeared to peak by May 15th
12 when 47 calves in 12 groups were observed.

13

14 So that kind of summarizes the muskox
15 collaring project.

16

17 Going into this summer, we count the
18 muskox up in Unit 22E on Park Service lands in
19 cooperation with the Park Service. They funded most of
20 that. And there's a table there that shows what we
21 found in that composition survey. The short version of
22 that is, for management purposes, the percent of mature
23 bulls found in Unit 22D is very important in State
24 management, because the Board of Game has identified
25 the mature bulls component of that population its own
26 unique population for hunting regulations. And that's
27 where the drawing hunt comes from on the State side.
28 And we found 19 percent mature bulls, which is
29 consistent with what we found in 2002 and 2005. So the
30 number of drawing permits out of 22E is not going to
31 change. It will remain the same.

32

33 Also this summer Nome Staff
34 participated in the Unit 23 brown bear census based at
35 Red Dog Mine. This is another project funded heavily
36 by the National Park Service. Jim Dau, who is the
37 Kotzebue Area biologist, and myself both flew Fish and
38 Game planes for that project. I'm just mentioning that
39 here, because if the Park Service is able to kind of
40 hammer out the statistics part of that census
41 technique, it's really going to be a breakthrough for
42 how you count brown bears. Brown bear researchers and
43 managers have struggled here in recent years to try to
44 find an accepted way to count brown bears, because the
45 previous methodology just really isn't feasible any
46 more. It's not realistic. It takes too long and it's
47 too expensive. So if Brad is able to hammer out the
48 stats on that method, we're probably going to apply
49 that in areas of Unit 22 in the near future.

50

1 So we'll skip into September, and Fish
2 and Game Staff, Park Service Staff, U.S. Fish and
3 Wildlife Service Staff all worked together and put VHF
4 and satellite collars on caribou last month. Like in
5 other years, I'll radio track caribou from the Nome
6 office as much as time and weather allows, and provide
7 updates to the Reindeer Herders Association. And the
8 Nome office will continue to provide the updates on the
9 map that you have in front of you.

10
11 I'll just mention briefly if you see
12 that map, there just appears to be a big glob of
13 caribou there moving onto the Seward Peninsula. And I
14 know you guys know this, but I'll just mention that,
15 you know, that's a little bit misleading, because what
16 that is is it's showing all those collars that we just
17 put out last month. So those collars we can't
18 consider, you know, mixed in the caribou herd like we
19 do the others. And, you know, that's why it appears
20 when you look at that map that there's, you know, 150,
21 200,000 caribou streaming onto the Seward Peninsula,
22 and that's just not the case. But caribou have moved
23 through the upper Tag and into the upper Koyuk and
24 around Granite Mountain.

25
26 I'll mention to the Chair, because I
27 know you are curious about this, this last year I flew
28 the Cub about 300 hours on the Seward Peninsula on
29 different caribou and moose projects. So we're trying
30 to get out of the office as much as we can.

31
32 Down on the bottom of my report here I
33 just have handwritten a note that I wanted to address
34 something that Anthony, a question that you had this
35 morning, Anthony. And that was about the moose season
36 up in Unit 22E. And when you were talking this
37 morning, you mentioned that the moose season ended at
38 the end of December. And I wanted to remind you that
39 at the last Board of Game meeting, the Department
40 requested to the Board that your season be lengthened,
41 and the Board adopted that. So your hunting season
42 goes to the end of January and it's for antlered bulls.
43 So I just wanted to remind you of that.

44
45 MR. KEYES: So is that from August to
46 January, end of January?

47
48 MR. GORN: Correct.

49
50 MR. KEYES: All right. Thank you.

1 MR. GORN: Yep. So I'll quickly roll
2 this report over, and go over fall registration moose
3 hunts out of the Nome area. I won't go -- I won't
4 cover Unit 22A, but I will take one quick moment to
5 really show appreciation to BLM and specifically Geoff
6 Beyersdorf. He just did an outstanding job managing
7 the moose hunt out of the Unalakleet area. He spent a
8 lot of time down there, really did a great job
9 communicating with the Department and I appreciate
10 that. So, thank you, Geoff.

11
12 In Unit 22B this year's harvest quota
13 was 23 bulls. That's a split quota on the State side.
14 The advisory committee made a recommendation to have a
15 split quota of 18 moose in the fall, five in the winter
16 for a winter hunt. During the fall season we took 19
17 and we issued an EO to close that season.

18
19 In Unit 22C the quota this fall was 40
20 bulls. We took 38. The antlerless quota this year was
21 30 antlerless moose. We took 21.

22
23 In 22D the quota was 47 and we took 39.
24 So there will be a winter season up in 22D.

25
26 The other two permit hunts in Unit 22
27 this fall were nonresident hunts. In 22D remainder in
28 the drawing hunt the quota was 10. We took 6. And in
29 22E the quota was 10 and we took 2.

30
31 If you look down at the next chart,
32 I'll just quickly go over the muskox hunts to this
33 point. As many of you know, because you were involved
34 in it, major changes happened last year with the way
35 that muskoxen are now hunted on the Seward Peninsula.
36 So you can see there's this big series of registration
37 and drawing hunts there on the left.

38
39 For the registration hunt in 22D
40 remainder, in the western portion of that unit, in the
41 American and Agiapuk the quota is 16 and right now
42 harvest is at 8. The eastern part of that hunt area is
43 the Kuzitrin River drainage. That season opens January
44 1st and the quota there is 11. The drawing hunt in
45 that area, the quota is two, and reported harvest right
46 now is zero.

47
48 In 22E the quota is 62 muskox. Up to
49 31 of those can be cows. And we've got nine reported
50 muskox so far, all bulls, all bull harvest. The

1 drawing hunt out of 22E, the quota is 20, we've got
2 one.

3

4 In 22B, that's another area where it's
5 split, two different hunt areas. The eastern portion
6 of 22B east of the Darbies, so we're talking about
7 Koyuk and Elim country, we have no reported harvest
8 there. The quota is five. And then on the western
9 portion, west of the Darbies, is a January season with
10 a quota of 11.

11

12 All the rest of the hunt areas I won't
13 go through. It's basically the Nome road system, and
14 those seasons open January 1st.

15

16 The last thing I'll do quick is just
17 talk about brown bear harvest. And we had just a
18 really unique spring last year, and that's why I'm
19 going to bring this up. You can see when you look at
20 that chart starting in 1998 there's a significant
21 increase in brown bear harvest. And since then there's
22 been a higher brown bear harvest. That's no
23 coincidence of anything. The reason it's higher since
24 1997 is in '97 is when the Board of Game liberalized
25 brown bear regulations in Unit 22. And ever since then
26 we've had a higher harvest. Last year was unique. I
27 mentioned all that snow that we had. In Unit 22C we
28 had one spring bear harvested. And as many of you
29 know, we all but lost our traveling conditions in about
30 two days last spring, and people just weren't able to
31 get out. But if you add, you know, another 15 to that
32 76, you know, that would take us back up to what you'd
33 been seeing previously. And that's about what we get
34 in Unit 22C is, you know, 10 to 15 moose [sic] every
35 spring.

36

37 MR. QUINN: Bear.

38

39 MR. GORN: Or bear, sorry. Thanks,
40 Mike. So I just wanted to point that out, because it's
41 always going to be an interesting bar on the brown bear
42 harvest graph. And then so far this fall we've got 39
43 bears harvested in 2008, which is about -- that's about
44 where we're at every year for our fall harvest.

45

46 MR. KEYES: Are these bears taken by
47 guides or individual parties?

48

49 MR. GORN: Well, that's a good
50 question, Anthony. And the answer is it's a

1 combination of both. Most of these bears are harvested
2 by Unit 22 residents. A small portion of them are
3 guided hunts. And then what's also included here in
4 the number above the bar, you see that total number,
5 that includes DLP harvest. So it's a little bit of
6 everything.

7
8 MR. KOBUK: Does that also include the
9 reindeer herders? I know they protect their reindeers
10 every time they see bears around, because they want to
11 protect the reindeer herd. Is that included, too?

12
13 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to
14 Leonard. Leonard, it's included if the herders tell us
15 about it, it's in there.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And for the record I
20 haven't shot a bear in years.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Not that they know
25 about.

26
27 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. I have a
28 question about the moose. On 22A it says a quota of
29 14. Is that ended in August 31, 2008, where it says
30 quota 14. 22A.

31
32 MR. GORN: Right. That's the new quota
33 in basically the Unalakleet River Drainage. The area
34 of Unit 22A that's been closed the last couple of
35 years, the harvest quota there now is 14.

36
37 MR. KOBUK: Oh, that's just in
38 Unalakleet area?

39
40 MR. GORN: Right.

41
42 MR. KOBUK: It doesn't include down
43 south of Council yet, St. Michael area.

44
45 MR. MARTIN: It's a registration.

46
47 MR. KOBUK: Oh, okay. I didn't see
48 that. Sorry.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Any more

1 questions here.

2

3

MR. SEETOT: Mr. Gorn, I received a
4 call from you saying that 8 out of 16 muskox were
5 harvested. I might not have been here, or I might have
6 been ignorant of when this was put about on the quota
7 west -- the boundary line. Is that the road system in
8 22D and RX102?

9

10

MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Elmer.
11 Elmer, yeah, I'll try to kind of remind you. I know
12 you were heavily part of the last Seward Peninsula
13 Muskox Cooperators Group meeting where the idea for
14 these hunts, you know, were generated and taken to the
15 Board. And the boundary line for that area is drainage
16 based, like all of the hunt areas are delineated. So
17 what we're talking about west, when we say west, we're
18 talking about the American and Aguipek drainages. And
19 when we talk east, we're talking Kuzitrin Drainage. So
20 anything that flows into the Kuzitrin River, the
21 Kougorak, the Pilgrim, you know, that's -- and any
22 creek associated with that as a drainage, and that
23 would be the eastern portion. The western is
24 everything else.

25

26

CHAIRMAN GRAY: And the combined
27 harvest would be about 16, that's including the Federal
28 take and then also the State take, is that right.

29

30

MR. GORN: That's correct. It's a
31 shared quota.

32

33

MR. SEETOT: So the communities of
34 Teller and Brevig, they don't have, what do you call
35 it, if they're allocated these three, then that one is
36 opened for the whole system? If the quota is reached,
37 then the season in that subunit is closed, am I.....

38

39

MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Elmer.
40 That's correct, and that's exactly why I called you.
41 My message when I talked to you on the phone was that
42 the harvest quota of 16 muskox, we're halfway there.
43 And, you know, when we reach 16, both the State and the
44 Feds would take the necessary steps to close the
45 season. So my message was if you have interested
46 muskox hunters in your community, you know, there's
47 eight left.

48

49

MR. SEETOT: And then as something like
50 that, hearing that from you, I put a handwritten notice

1 saying that 8 out of 16, that the quota was 16 for our
2 area. And anything after that, you know, the season
3 would be closed. And that's what I posted on our
4 bulletin board, you know, for the public to see.

5

6 MR. KOBUK: I have a question.
7 Leonard. You said you did a study in -- did you do a
8 study for moose around St. Michael/Stebbins area, like
9 south of Golsovia River on town to our area?

10

11 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to
12 Leonard. We have no like research projects down in
13 your area. What we have done on occasion, and quite
14 honestly it's spur of the moment, you know, holy cow,
15 we've got some extra money and an airplane sitting
16 around, and we've got weather, we'll go down there and
17 we'll generally do either fall composition surveys,
18 which are important, but we know in your area -- at
19 least, we believe, that there's no bull/cow ratio
20 issues, so more importantly what we'll try to do is
21 spring recruitment surveys, because with a spring
22 recruitment survey, we can get calf/adult ratio, which
23 is real important. But they're not -- it's not a
24 scheduled event. You know, for areas like eastern 22B,
25 the Koyuk River, for areas up in 22E like the
26 Serpentine drainage and areas of southern Unit 22A,
27 that these areas, they're just not squeaky wheels, you
28 know, so we get there when we can, but they're not on
29 any schedule for surveys.

30

31 MR. KOBUK: The reason I ask that
32 question is because caribou haven't come around our
33 area now for about 11, 12 years, and the residents in
34 St. Michael are wondering about whether it would be
35 illegal for them to catch -- like I said earlier at the
36 opening that they were hardly seeing hardly any bull
37 moose, but they saw a lot of female moose, and they
38 wanted to harvest. Are we going to be allowed to
39 harvest any female moose if we want to? That's the
40 reason why I'm asking you if any survey -- I guess they
41 didn't do a survey, so I still would be -- like to
42 bring back -- because I've been approached by hunters
43 that we had an opening, but they didn't catch very much
44 bulls, but they sure saw a lot of females with
45 yearlings and they wanted to know about hunting females
46 moose.

47

48 MR. GORN: Yeah. Through the Chair to
49 Leonard. I had to actually look in the regs there to
50 kind of jog my memory. Last year we had that emergency

1 Board of Game meeting where we changed your season from
2 -- the winter season from December 1 to 31 to January
3 because of traveling conditions. But the bag limit
4 right now is for antlered bulls. Quite honestly I
5 think before at least the Department would make
6 recommendations to the Board of Game to have an any
7 moose bag limit, we'd need to get down there and get
8 more biological information. I mean, we all know, you
9 know, the effect a substantial, consistent cow harvest
10 can do to populations. So it although at times is a
11 very effective wildlife management tool, it's not
12 something you just want to implement if you don't have
13 cause to do so. So we should talk more, and it might
14 be time that, you know, we get down to the southern
15 portion of A and try to, you know, not just do trend
16 count, but get a moose census completed.

17

18 MR. KOBUK: So if that's what -- in our
19 area, if we wanted to have a female harvest, what we
20 need to do is put in a proposal through the IRA that
21 the hunters are desiring it, because like I said, a lot
22 of the people are -- because of the price in the
23 stores, food, everything's gone up because of oil and
24 gas prices going sky high, that includes the freight
25 that are brought in by the mail and our families need
26 food to survive the winter if they cannot get it from
27 the stores, because we have lack of jobs in our
28 village. And that's the way it is in all villages.

29

30 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to
31 Leonard. I mean, conceptually you're right about how
32 do we get a proposal into the Board of Game, but
33 certainly it doesn't have to be just through the IRA.
34 It can be through the Southern Norton Sound Advisory
35 Committee. It can be just through -- from a member of
36 the public to Board Support in Juneau. And I can help
37 you, you know, get the right form that you need and
38 keep you updated about the time period of when you
39 would submit that. I'd mentioned earlier today that
40 the next Board of Game meeting will be November of '09.
41 And this summer at some point, and I don't know what
42 the time period is, but Board Support out of Juneau
43 will make a call for proposals. And what that is is
44 it's going to be a period, usually a couple months long
45 where anybody and everybody can submit a proposal to
46 the Board of Game, and it will be talked about during
47 the meeting. So that's what you want -- we want to
48 make sure that you get your idea into the Board Support
49 during that time period, and I can help you do that.

50

1 MR. KEYES: This is Anthony. Maybe I
2 could kind of fill in Leonard here about how it could
3 be done, because I've done it last year and we got it
4 past. It would be wise to have maybe not just one
5 writer, but maybe two or three writing a letter in
6 black and white and sending it, making copies for Nome,
7 and sending one into Juneau. And Juneau would have the
8 top priority right there and they can go over it. And
9 I had an emergency call last year to open up our moose
10 season because of the weather and I had that passed, so
11 that might be good if you have people writing it in
12 black and white and have it signed by your IRA and by
13 the individual that wrote the letter, and then send it
14 out.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Any other
17 questions for Tony. These muskox collars and projects,
18 how are you putting the muskox down to collar them?
19 Are you darting them or what? How are you doing that.

20
21 MR. GORN: Yeah, Tom, we use a drug
22 call metatomadine, and we use a helicopter and a dart.
23 And it's a drug that for muskoxen works well, because
24 -- well, first of all we're only doing cows, and this
25 drug won't do anything to fetuses. So it works well on
26 the animal, and the animals down for about 15 minutes
27 and then it's back up again. And it's a combination of
28 an R-44 helicopter and then the Fish and Game Cub.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Uh-huh. And are you
31 doing this all over the Seward Peninsula or just
32 certain areas?

33
34 MR. GORN: Well, that's a good
35 question. I was a little bit -- what's the word I
36 should use here -- cautious when we began this program,
37 because it had been many, many years since this type of
38 thing had been done out here. And I, quite honestly,
39 wasn't sure how well it was going to work flying these
40 animals with our spring weather. So for that point
41 alone I wanted to start kind of close to Nome and start
42 small and see if this was even feasible. And it was.
43 It worked well. We were able to -- I mean, it occupies
44 a lot of weekends and just a lot of weird times during
45 the spring, but you get good weather days, and you go
46 out and fly the collars. So we started right outside
47 of Nome, and we're going to move a little bit more east
48 this year and capture animals in 22B.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And the goal of the

1 goal of this project is what? Why are we studying
2 them?

3

4 MR. GORN: Well, the main objective is
5 to be able to identify a mortality rate for muskoxen.
6 As we've just entered this new chapter of harvesting
7 animals where undoubtedly how we are going to start
8 either reaching our harvest quotas or getting darn
9 close to them. So that's the main objective.

10

11 And then underneath that, there's a
12 series of supporting objectives. Right now on the
13 North Slope of Alaska, they're all but losing their
14 muskox herds, and so researchers are very interested in
15 blood work from Seward Peninsula muskox, because our
16 herd is still growing. It's certainly -- growth has
17 slowed to six percent annually. It's not the 14
18 percent that it was for 20 years, but it's still
19 growing. So from a research point of view, this is a
20 healthy muskox population, so people are very
21 interested in blood work.

22

23 Other things that I'm interested in is
24 looking at calf mortality in the springtime. Flying
25 them as much as you can. And certainly you can't link
26 calves to individuals, but you can link calves to
27 groups, and looking at what group size -- what calf
28 numbers from each group are peaking at, and then how
29 many you're losing due to either predation or health.

30

31 And then other things that we're going
32 to get out of this is location information during our
33 censuses. You know, as these animals move, which I
34 didn't talk about this, but we've already learned that
35 these are not the stable, standing animals that people
36 think they are. They move great distances. It's
37 really interesting. But during censuses that we do
38 every three years, you know, we're going to have a
39 little bit of a head start on some of the groups,
40 because we're going to know where they are already.

41

42 MR. QUINN: Are you confident those
43 cows will stay out here that long?

44

45 MR. GORN: Through the Chair to Mike.
46 Yeah, we've learned -- hopefully we've learned some new
47 information from when wildlife managers did this in the
48 80s. I mean, the first thing we learned is that you
49 can't really collar a bull muskox. they just
50 absolutely destroy the equipment. But the collars that

1 have been placed on cows have stayed on for the life of
2 some animals, so they've stayed on 10 years. We
3 learned a lot from guys that kind of pioneered this and
4 made mistakes in the early 80s about how to capture
5 them and how to put collars on individuals.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Any other
8 questions, you guys.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Thank you, Tony. Well,
13 I'll tell you what. Let's take a coffee break or
14 something. Stretch our legs and we'll wind this thing
15 down.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 MS. FOSDICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 I work at Kawerak in the Natural Resource Division, and
23 I wanted to express thank you for coming here to Nome
24 and having the meeting here. We have not very many
25 opportunities to sit and talk about the resources,
26 wildlife and fish in one room involving most or all of
27 the agencies involved in management and decision-making
28 and recommendations and advisory board. So I
29 appreciate the fact that we sit together and talk about
30 the issues and the proposals and learn the process and
31 meet the people who are involved in -- you know, I've
32 talked to Karen Hyer on the phone a number of times,
33 and I finally get to meet her today, so that is a great
34 opportunity for us.

35

36 I also wanted to let you know that we
37 -- of course you met our new fisheries biologist,
38 Michael Sloan. Very happy that he's here working.

39

40 Within our Natural Resource Division we
41 also have Julie Raymond Jacobian (ph). And someone
42 mentioned earlier the fact that we need to collect
43 traditional knowledge in regards to chinook salmon and
44 environmental changes. That's exactly what Julie is
45 doing. She is traveling to all the villages, this year
46 seven villages, next year the rest of the villages to
47 interview elders. And the end result is that we will
48 have something to share with you and others about what
49 elders know about king salmon and environmental
50 changes.

1 And I also wanted to make sure that I
2 expressed thank you to this group and to Fish and
3 Wildlife for the funds we received to do Pikmiktalik
4 and we will continue to submit proposals to Fish and
5 Wildlife for funding, and hope that you will support
6 our requests whether they are on Federal or close to
7 Federal land.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Thank you. Is
12 there any agency that got left out. Anybody that would
13 like to talk to us.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Everybody tired of
18 talking. Well, okay. Where do we go from here. New
19 business. I would say new business, number 1,
20 somebody's got \$6 million in the room. We need a piece
21 of it. So those of you that are tied into that thing
22 or can figure out how to get a piece of that action, we
23 need proposals or whatever it takes to get something
24 going.

25

26 Other than that, I don't know. Any
27 suggestions. New business. Board, you want something
28 you want on the agenda next go around.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
33 give you guys one more chance. Anybody who hasn't
34 talked who wants to talk.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. I'm going to go
39 down the Board. Peter Buck, do you have anything you
40 want to throw out?

41

42 MR. BUCK: Not right now. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. We're going to
45 come right down the table.

46

47 MR. KEYES: Okay. I'm Anthony Keyes
48 and I'm from Wales. I was approached yesterday by an
49 elderly man to see if we can get something done about
50 this State -- for the Native people to take away -- to

1 do away with the State permit, because the land was
2 here before permits of any kind were introduced to
3 natives. This elderly man asked me to see if I can get
4 this brought up in a meeting like this, to do away with
5 permits for hunting for the Natives. It's our
6 traditional way of lifestyle, of living ever since our
7 greatest generation down the line were born. They
8 weren't hit with permits. They weren't given -- they
9 weren't told to go to an office and say, hey, you've
10 got to go sign up and get a permit so you can go
11 hunting. Nowadays we have to have permit in our pocket
12 out in the to go hunting to get our game that we really
13 want. I would say for -- you take a dying man and you
14 say, hey, this guy is hungry, and he has to go get a
15 permit. I think that's not right. And we can somehow
16 do away with this kind of permits for hunting for
17 Natives, I think it would be -- make our elderly people
18 happier, because right now they're really struggling.
19 As we live now in this generation of 2000, we are being
20 hit with majority of lists that goes on with high
21 prices, and I'm pretty sure next year it's going to be
22 even a lot more worse than this year. We are being
23 hurt by having to hold a permit to get meat to fill up
24 our freezers and to fill up our bellies. This was a
25 traditional way of lifestyle and culture that's been
26 carried on through the generations.

27

28 I would like to see that somehow we do
29 away with, having to have permits to go out hunting,
30 because right now when we have to go hunting, we have
31 to have it in our pockets, and if we don't, we get
32 caught out there, we're going straight to jail. Sure,
33 they'll feed us three meals and a cot in jail, but they
34 won't give us no Eskimo food in there.

35

36 We live this lifestyle of hardship and
37 it's hitting us twice as much more harder as our years
38 are progressing for our next generations. What are we
39 going to say to our younger generation? We try to
40 teach them the way of our lifestyle of living. They're
41 the ones that are going to be suffering more harder
42 than we are right now because of the new technology
43 that's out in this generation. We try to teach them,
44 but they don't want to learn. Too much fast food.
45 Microwave. Too much technology. T.V. and games.
46 That's keeping them away from us trying to teach them
47 the lifestyle that we grew up with.

48

49 I don't think any white person would --
50 I'm not taking it out on anybody, I'm just making these

1 as suggestions. I don't think a white person would
2 come out to a Native land and say, hey, can I go out
3 there and get this thing so I could fill up my belly?
4 An elderly person will say, hey, get off my land. But
5 if you need help, I'll give you help. If you need
6 food, I'll give you food. I won't let you spend a red
7 cent. I'll give it to you. That's how generous we
8 are. I am anyway. I don't care if I never knew him
9 from Adam's apple. I don't care if they came up from
10 Asia. I'd still bring them into my house and feed
11 them. But I'm the one that got to hold a permit and I
12 don't like it. If I pay for that permit and I don't
13 get nothing, that permit is not worth anything.

14
15 So I just want to bring this out while
16 it's clear in my mind. I don't want to forget about
17 it, because if I do, it will bother me, and I don't
18 want nothing to bother me. So I would like to see if
19 we can do away with this kind of stuff about having to
20 have permit when you go out hunting.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. KOBUK: My name's Leonard Kobuk,
25 St. Michael.

26
27 A lot of what he says is true. People
28 are trying to feed their family, but if they hunt
29 something that they're not supposed to catch, then they
30 are locked away or they are fined. And a lot of
31 Natives that move to the big cities because they can't
32 afford to live in the -- because of lack of jobs in the
33 villages, a lot of them end up in jails or in prison.
34 And not only that, they're always looked down upon.

35
36 But we live in changing times. And the
37 sad part about it is we Natives who live, always lived
38 a subsistence way of life have to have a permit to
39 hunt. These hunters when they go out hunting, it's not
40 cheap for them. They have to buy gas, motor oil, food
41 so they can camp, so they can get what they need, and
42 sometimes they see animals that they want, but they
43 can't kill it, because they're afraid they'll be turned
44 in. And that's one thing bad, too, about us Natives
45 who are changing. Sometimes we run into people we
46 don't like, because of what they did to us or to our
47 family members and just to get even with them, they
48 turn them in for catching the animal that they need for
49 their family.

50

1 So when they ask me about -- they know
2 I'm in the Federal Subsistence Board and they say what
3 if I catch a cow since I haven't run into any male
4 moose? I said, well -- I just tell them what my dad
5 tells me. Whatever you run into is what you get. And
6 since you have a family to feed, then that's just the
7 way it is. Yeah, it's a sad thing, but it would be
8 nice if we never had to have to deal with permits,
9 because we've lived all our lives off of subsistence.

10

11 I have nothing more to say.

12

13 MR. SAVETILIK: Good meeting. And good
14 to see all the people again, and I look forward for
15 another meeting that's going to be upcoming. You know,
16 progress is what we need to look at. There's a lot of
17 changes that are coming up with this global warming and
18 all the other stuff that are being taken care of by
19 other boards and good luck to you all in the fall and
20 winter.

21

22 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
23 Mission. Thank everyone for coming, listening to our
24 concerns and issues.

25

26 One of the things that -- the
27 fisheries, especially for fin fish, are what we kind of
28 talk about, salmon, herring, tom cod, smelt, river
29 fish. We never seem to talk too much about shellfish
30 or, you know, like gourmet dining, shrimps, you know,
31 stuff like that. Clams. We have to kind of wait for
32 northwesterly to westerly winds at Cape Prince of Wales
33 for them to harvest shellfish, clams. I know in Port
34 Clarence Bay, Grantley Harbor and possibly out at
35 Toksook Channel, you know, there might be signs of
36 shellfish there.

37

38 I requested from NSEDC an underwater
39 camera a couple years back so that I can kind of
40 explore and look for clam bed activity. Weather has
41 been a big problem for me to kind of look around for
42 that part. And I'm still continuing to still ask
43 elders. I'm still trying to look to other agencies --
44 not other agencies, other agencies for information on
45 what the bottom holds, what kind of surveys they have
46 done over the past years, and I'm still working through
47 that process.

48

49 Earlier today we kind of heard
50 something about commercial fishing. NSEDC kind of

1 initiated a Port Clarence fishery for sockeye a couple
2 years back. This was introduced or talked about maybe
3 about 30 years ago by I would think State of Alaska to
4 do a commercial fishing for sockeye in Port Clarence
5 subdistrict. Elders at that time did not support
6 commercial fishing activities. One is that the fish
7 was primarily used for subsistence, and for them to go
8 into the commercial aspect of selling fish or catching
9 fish for cash, you know, it was not really known or
10 that they had ancestors from them talk about that. And
11 it really did not get the support of Teller and Brevig
12 communities, even though there were some interested
13 people that wanted to do commercial fishing. Right now
14 I'm not too sure what future commercial fishing is
15 going to do to our fisheries. It's pretty much see and
16 wait attitude last year, or a couple years ago.

17
18 NSEDC did a fertilization program with
19 the Salmon Lake Project. And then after that the
20 sockeye rebounded quite a bit. The implications or the
21 side things, side concerns that weren't I think quite
22 addressed to the public was what effect does the
23 fertilizer do on the river system. Did it attract more
24 pike? Did it attract more other fish that prey on the
25 salmon smolt? Kuzitrin, Imuruk Basin. It's shallow
26 and it produces a lot of algae. When NSEDC first
27 fertilized Salmon Lake, that runoff went all the way to
28 the west side of Grantley Harbor, all the way to the
29 beach. And yet one feet from low tide, you know,
30 salmon were being caught. You know, they're usually
31 caught three or four feet from the edge, but, you know,
32 that was the first time I ever see such heavy runoff.

33
34 When we try to save one species, we
35 don't know what consequences will happen to other
36 species of similar kind. What preys on them. What
37 they prey on. The ecosystem. It pretty much effects
38 the whole system. Whatever we do, I think we must do
39 it with caution. We must do it with a lot of research.
40 And then just say hopefully that this will work out.

41
42 That's all I have.

43
44 MR. QUINN: Ken, you handed this
45 special action information out at the beginning of the
46 meeting. I guess I thought that was going to be under
47 new business. What's the purpose of this?

48
49 MR. ADKISSON: That's just an
50 informational item. It was requested, you know, back

1 at the last month's Muskox Cooperators meeting, and the
2 folks here at the last RAC meeting wanted it to go
3 forward, and it's gone forward. So that's an
4 informational item.

5
6 MR. QUINN: Has this been submitted as
7 a wildlife proposal?

8
9 MR. ADKISSON: It's gone in as a
10 special action, yeah. It went to the OSM. It's in
11 their -- the ball's in their court now to do an
12 analysis on it.

13
14 MR. QUINN: We're going to see it again
15 in February?

16
17 MR. ADKISSON: It's hard telling. It
18 may go through sooner than that. We'll see what comes
19 out of it.

20
21 Mr. Chair. Council members. To
22 address Member Quinn's comments on the special action,
23 the process basically for a special action is that it
24 will go to OSM and it will get what they call a
25 threshold analysis to see if it meets the extenuating
26 circumstances and everything, and basically whether
27 they'll accept it and process it. If it doesn't, then
28 it's either dead or it can be held over for a regular
29 wildlife proposal, which in our case would be the next
30 open period for wildlife proposals will be in January
31 of 2009. So we'll see what comes out of the threshold
32 analysis and whether it makes it into the process of
33 actually, you know, review and deliberation and so
34 forth of it, whether it gets adopted as a special
35 action.

36
37 MR. QUINN: All right. That answers my
38 question. That's all I've got.

39
40 MR. MARTIN: Peter Martin, Jr.,
41 Stebbins.

42
43 I'm wondering about the license and the
44 permit issue. When we get license, and right now duck
45 season is just about over, that we'll address this to
46 the State and we are required to have a duck stamp, but
47 we can get the Federal duck stamp from post office, but
48 I would like to see some State duck stamps along with
49 your license vendor. Have them available. I don't
50 know where in the community where we can get stamps. I

1 have two young boys right now that are becoming adults,
2 and I'd like to make sure that they have all these
3 required licenses with them when they go out hunting to
4 follow the laws, so that if they ever get caught, that
5 they'd be able to present to the officers or whoever is
6 doing that.

7
8 I'd like to see also the Walrus
9 Commission on our next meeting to educate our people so
10 that we can bring the information back to our
11 communities and let them know what needs to be done
12 when you get a walrus or find a walrus, and the tusk
13 and what they need to be done, and what part of the
14 walrus that you have to take. If that can be arranged
15 for the next meeting, we'd appreciate that.

16
17 Other than that, I want to thank all of
18 you for coming to our meeting. Quyana.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Well, I want to
21 thank everybody for coming also. You know, we're here,
22 we're charged to help manage a subsistence resource,
23 and even though our decision on the proposal today was
24 different than the majority of you guys, you know,
25 that's progress I guess. Times are changing. And it
26 shows agencies where our people are. You know, this is
27 a resource that's important to us, and every little bit
28 helps. So with that, I sure thank you guys for coming
29 and being part of this. All of us are tools in this
30 thing, and we'll eventually get somewhere. So thank
31 you.

32
33 The last thing that I have and maybe
34 Barb's got something else up her sleeve is meeting
35 dates and so on and so forth. According to what she's
36 got, the next meeting is February 10th and 11th and I
37 will be in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in a show at that
38 time. And maybe the meeting will go a lot faster
39 without me, I don't know. But if I'm going to partake
40 in the next meeting, I think Barb said we're going to
41 have to go to March. If I'm not, then we can go as
42 scheduled. Barb.

43
44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Well, we try
45 to stay away from March because of Iditarod. It will
46 be hard to have this place or find a place for the
47 Councilmen. The other one that you have an option to
48 move February 10 to 11 to be the very to meet in April
49 1 and 2 if you want your Chair to be here, or go on
50 February 10, 11 as planned. It's your call.

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: And on my part, I go --
2 I spend two months doing shows, January and February.
3 So I'm traveling for two months basically, so it's
4 going to be hard for me to -- in fact, I won't be here
5 if -- and that's fine. I mean, we can have somebody
6 chair this thing, that's not a problem. But the
7 question is, do you want to go with this date here,
8 10th and 11th or do you want to change it.

9
10 MR. KOBUK: I would move to do the 10th
11 and 11th.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. There's a
14 motion.

15
16 MR. KEYES: I second it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Second. All in favor?

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. Very good. The
23 next item is next fall's meeting. The fall of '09.
24 Anybody have any suggestions. I'll tell you for me,
25 this time right here worked perfect for me.

26
27 MR. SAVETILIK: I was going to say if
28 it was the dates that we had this meeting, it was
29 perfect for me also. I'm not too sure about you other
30 Board members, but this would be a good time and a good
31 place for our '09 meeting.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: It's on the back page
34 right here. Any other comments.

35
36 MR. SAVETILIK: Barb, can you say if
37 we're getting more people on the board or new or.....

38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Your winter meeting
40 you will have the other two seats filled at your winter
41 meeting. There were two vacancies. And Elizabeth
42 resigned just before, at the tail end of the panel
43 meeting, and then they were able to put -- recommend a
44 name to go in her place. So there should be two new
45 members if it went through the channel up. And we
46 don't get those two members until your winter meeting
47 in February.

48
49 MR. SAVETILIK: So that will be seat 1
50 and seat 8?

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes. Are you
2 planning to have another two day or a one day at your
3 fish meeting? And it seems to me at this time one day
4 worked out fine. And we've also been discussing to
5 teleconference some of these meetings, and.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN GRAY: This type of a meeting,
8 it would be very hard to teleconference. Very hard.

9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I mean from getting
11 you guys in here, and then teleconference all the
12 speakers or presenters, if there are no fish proposals.
13 We almost did that with North Slope, but then we just
14 didn't get it together before North Slope started,
15 because they didn't have any fish proposals at all, or
16 any issues to discuss. So that might be forthcoming.
17 We're just discussing it right now and trying to figure
18 out how we can do that. And Seward Pen is one of the
19 Council members that they did discuss. Northwest
20 Arctic, North Slope, all the regions that I'm working
21 with, and Kodiak regions to teleconference the
22 presenters, except for the people that are here. And
23 bring you guys in here and teleconference everybody
24 else in. But that's in the process, and if you guys
25 have any suggestions, I welcome any suggestions to see
26 if that's doable.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. We've tried
31 teleconference on the State side, and we've -- it seems
32 like it was a lot of interference we tried, because you
33 couldn't hear what others -- it seemed like everybody
34 was talking over everyone, and it became a problem.
35 And we seemed to have lost a lot of what was supposed
36 to be happening, and some of us didn't even know what
37 happened, because people were talking over one another,
38 plus you were getting interference. And it seemed like
39 just another -- I didn't know, picking up other
40 stations or something like was coming through the
41 teleconference.

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Well, we had
44 one with North Slope, but then North Slope have
45 teleconference rooms in their villages, and then that's
46 where they had it and it worked fine when that one fall
47 that we couldn't get together. I know we
48 teleconferenced everybody in. So it might be different
49 in this region, because you guys don't have any
50 teleconference offices in your villages. So it's just

1 in discussion. I just wanted to bring it out and see
2 what you guys thought about it. So keep talking to me.
3 Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. And I'm one,
6 especially if we only have a couple of meetings a year,
7 I am one that I would rather meet face-to-face with
8 everybody and discuss issues, you know. I don't want
9 to bad mouth a teleconference, because that's a way to
10 save money, but then all of a sudden agencies are going
11 to say, well, we don't have to go to this one, we'll
12 teleconference. We'll save \$500 or something. And I
13 think a teleconference is not a very effective tool,
14 especially in this setting here. I mean, we had a lot
15 of discussion on one proposal today, and it was a
16 healthy discussion even though this Board went against
17 what the system wants. Hopefully the system
18 understands a little bit where we're coming from also.
19 And you won't get that out of a teleconference.

20

21 The other thing about the one-day and
22 two-day meetings, I think we need to keep this set up
23 as a two-day meeting and if we can get it done in one
24 day, that's fine. But we have to keep budgeting money
25 and keep it in the system as a two-day meeting.

26

27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. So we can set
28 it up as a two-day meeting and as the agenda goes, I
29 could get ahold of you again and then knock it down one
30 day, because if we do set it up as two-day, we have to
31 pay for the next day just because we have it down. And
32 then that's why we have to keep bugging you when it
33 comes to see, here's your agenda, and it says that we
34 don't have enough to hold it for two days. But then
35 for this time, for your winter meeting, I think we're
36 going to just keep it as for two days, because
37 orientation will be happening then.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yeah.

40

41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. So we need a
44 date. Somebody ready to make a proposal on a date for
45 the fall of '09.

46

47 MR. KOBUK: Mr. Chair. Since two of
48 you seem to agree on the 10th.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GRAY: We agree. What's the

1 date today?

2

3 MR. KOBUK: Today's the 2nd.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yeah, so that's

6 what.....

7

8 MR. KOBUK: So if you want to keep it

9 the same, that's fine with me. It works out okay.

10

11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: 1 and 2.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there a motion to do

14 this.

15

16 MR. KOBUK: I'll make a motion for 01

17 and 02.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GRAY: October 1 and 2 of 2009

20 for our meeting dates.

21

22 MR. KEYES: And this is Anthony Keyes,

23 and I'll second that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Okay. All in favor.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GRAY: All opposed.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Very good. And

34 agencies, you didn't hear anything about

35 teleconferencing. We're not teleconferencing. You've

36 got to be here.

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible,

39 away from microphone)

40

41 CHAIRMAN GRAY: You're going to have

42 lots of money then. You'll come in with pocketfuls of

43 money.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Oh, my.

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Your charge card

50 will be full (AWAY FROM MICROPHONE)

1 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Well, I sure appreciate
2 you guys coming and taking time to be with us and work
3 with us. And I'm going to miss you guys next winter,
4 but I'll be trying to sell myself somewhere else.

5
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Just to let you
7 know, the agencies have not decided yet on the
8 teleconference. The InterAgency Staff Committee meets
9 in November and so the agencies haven't weighed in.
10 OSM has made their recommendation, but the agencies
11 have not weighed in. Just to clarify that (AWAY FROM
12 MICROPHONE)

13
14 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Yeah. Okay.

15
16 MR. KOBUK: I move to adjourn.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Is there a second.

19
20 MR. BUCK: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Oh, somebody seconded.
23 All opposed.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Everybody in favor say
28 aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GRAY: Very good. Thank you,
33 guys. Thank you everybody.

34
35 (Off record)

36
37 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 120 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 2nd day of October 2008, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Nome, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of October 2008.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/12