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1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 Sitnusyak Native Center

5 Nome, Alaska

6 September 26, 2000

7 8:00 o'clock a.m.

8
9 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

10
11 Grace Cross, Chairman

12 Peter Buck

13 Johnson Eningowuk

14 Leonard Kobuk

15 Perry Mendenhall

16 Isaac Okleasik

17 Elmer Seetot

18

19 Ann Wilkinson, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm going to call the meeting to order of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The time is now 8:45. Can we have roll call and Ann can you do that please?

MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Johnson Eningowuk.
Grass Cross.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Leonard Kobuk.

MR. KOBUK: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Elmer Seetot.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Toby Anungazuk. Toby did tell me that would be able to come intermittently, that he's in another meeting. Isaac Okleasik.

MR. OKLEASIK: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Perry Mendenhall.

MR. MENDENHALL: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Preston Rookok. Daniel Olanna called me and told me that there was a death this weekend that prevents him from coming and also Frances Degnan, a death in her family and she'll not be coming.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: And Johnson Eningowuk just walked in.

MS. WILKINSON: And yes we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ann. I welcome each and everyone of you to this meeting. I'm Grace Cross, the current Chair of the Seward Peninsula Advisory Council. I hope that we'll have a productive meeting and I want everyone to respect each other and please be recognized by the Chair when

50 you're going to be speaking so we don't interrupt each other.

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1 And we'll have introductions now and we'll start with the
2 Regional Advisory Council beginning with Leonard.

3
4 MR. KOBUK: My name is Leonard Kobuk. I'm a
5 Federal Subsistence Board and I also sit on the Alaska Fish and
6 Game. I'm from St. Michael and I represent Stebbins.

7
8 MR. BUCK: My name's Peter Buck, I'm from White
9 Mountain. I also represent the Federal Subsistence Advisory
10 Council.

11
12 MR. ENINGOWUK: Johnson Eningowuk from
13 Shishmaref, I just woke up, good morning.

14
15 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig Mission.

16
17 MR. OKLEASIK: Isaac Okleasik, Jr. , from Teller
18 and I'm on the Federal Subsistence Board.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Perry Mendenhall, Nome, Alaska.
21 Resident of Seward Penn. I have relatives all the way from
22 Unalakleet into Canada on the coast. That shows how related we
23 are in Inuit world.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ann.

26
27 MS. WILKINSON: I'm Ann Wilkinson. I'm the new
28 Seward Peninsula Regional Coordinator. I work with the Fish and
29 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: If we could just go around the
32 table and introduce yourselves; our recorder.

33
34 REPORTER: My name's Tina, I'm the court reporter
35 for today.

36
37 MS. McCLENAHAN: I'm Pat McClenahan. I'm your
38 anthropologist for this region from the Office of Subsistence
39 Management, Fish and Wildlife Service.

40
41 MR. BUE: I'm Fred Bue with the Alaska Department
42 of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division stationed here in
43 Nome.

44
45 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm Jim Magdanz with the Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence in Kotzebue
47 and I cover this area, Seward Peninsula and Nana region.

48
49 MS. PERSONS: I'm Kate Persons, wildlife

50 biologist for Fish and Game stationed here in Nome.

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1 MS. GOTTLIEB: I'm Judy Gottlieb. I'm with the
2 National Park Service and on the Federal Subsistence Board.

3
4 MR. SPIRITES: Dave Spirites, Park Service
5 Superintendent for Bering Land Bridge and the three other parks
6 in Western Alaska and I'm from Kotzebue.

7
8 MR. MARTIN: Good morning. I'm Guy Martin, I'm
9 with the Nome Eskimo Community.

10
11 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton. I'm with Bureau of
12 Land Management out of the Anchorage field office. I'm a
13 biologist in subsistence.

14
15 MR. LEAN: I'm Charlie Lean with the National
16 Park Service. I'm a program and regulations analyst.

17
18 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson with the National
19 Park Service based here in Nome. I'm the subsistence program
20 coordinator for the Western Arctic National Parklands.

21
22 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the
23 Park Service and Staff Committee with the Federal Subsistence
24 Board.

25
26 MS. HILDEBRAND: Good morning, I'm Ida
27 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member to the Federal Subsistence
28 Board.

29
30 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole. I'm wildlife biologist
31 with the Bureau of Land Management out of Fairbanks.

32
33 MR. NELSON: Dave Nelson with the National Park
34 Service. I'm a fisheries biologist working out of Anchorage.

35
36 MR. UBERUAGA: Richard Uberuaga. Fisheries
37 biologist with the Office of Subsistence in Anchorage working for
38 the Seward Penn and Northwest Arctic and North Slope region.

39
40 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. My name is Tim
41 Jennings. I'm Division Chief in the Office of Subsistence
42 Management in Anchorage.

43
44 MR. LORD: I'm Ken Lord, I'm an attorney with the
45 Interior Regional Solicitor's office in Anchorage.

46
47 MR. TOCKTOO: My name is Fred Tocktoo. I work in
48 the Subsistence Department here in Nome with the National Park
49 Service.

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1 MS. MARTIN: Good morning. I'm Jackie Martin,
2 biologist for Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wildlife Parks and
3 Reindeer.

4
5 MR. BUCKLESS: Good morning. I'm Larry Buckless,
6 I think I'm last, and I'm a fisheries biologist with the Fish and
7 Wildlife Service in Anchorage. And I work with the fisheries
8 information service. That's the group that does a lot of the
9 fishery monitoring project work.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, welcome again. The next
12 thing on the agenda is review and adoption of the agenda. It
13 says here, add new items here under 12, are there any additions
14 to the agenda?

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes, Perry.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: We'll probably just leave it
21 open because we don't know what we'll be running up against on
22 the agenda for action items.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think so, too.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move for approval of the
27 agenda to leave it open.

28
29 MR. OKLEASIK: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All is in favor signify by
32 saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. So we'll leave
41 the agenda open. And I understand somebody from Kawerak -- I
42 mean not -- well, Kawerak will also be speaking with us at some
43 point in time so it's a good idea to leave it open.

44
45 Review and adoption of the minutes of February 22
46 and 23, 2000 meeting. Since our secretary is not here, Ann would
47 you please?

48
49 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry, do I.....

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I don't know if you want to read
2 the minutes or.....

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: I would like to suspend with the
5 reading and make a motion for the approval of the minutes --
6 because it's quite extensive and I think if we had a chance to
7 read it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second?

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move.

12
13 MR. SEETOT: I second the motion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Move and seconded by Elmer. All
16 is in favor signify by saying aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Are there any
25 corrections to the minutes?

26 MR. KOBUK: Madam Chair, the corporation would
27 like to be included in their mailing list, St. Michael/Stebbins.
28 It just says IRA/Tribal Offices.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: On Page number ?

31
32 MR. KOBUK: Number 2, on annual report, issues,
33 number 5, because since we're dealing with issues that are in
34 Native corporation lands, they want to be included in their
35 mailing list.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. In our next mailings we
38 shall include that. If there are no corrections to the minutes
39 we'll go on to the next item in the agenda. Are there any
40 corrections to the minutes.....

41
42 MR. KOBUK: That's for St. Michael and Stebbins.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. If there are no
45 corrections to the minutes, we'll go on to the next item in the
46 agenda? Are there any corrections to the minutes or do we need
47 more time?

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: Could we move with the

50 dispensing of the reading and to adopt it as it is? Call for the

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1 question on the motion then.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called, all is
4 in favor sig -- what was the motion, I'm sorry?

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: It was to dispense of the
7 reading of the minutes so we could adopt it as is.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, thank you.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Unless there was.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The question and the motion, all
14 is in favor of -- signify by saying aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. I'm sorry, I'm
23 a little nervous this morning so excuse me if I'm not doing as
24 well as I should. The next item on the agenda is election
25 officers, and it's in Tab C. And Ann, would you like to go over
26 that for us, please?

27

28 MS. WILKINSON: All right, It's basically a very
29 simple process which I know you've done before. You need to
30 elect a Chair, a vice chair and a secretary. Generally, the
31 Chairman is elected first. And during that time the Chair would
32 turn the Chair to me and then I would take nominations from the
33 Council members and when the nominals are ceased then we would
34 vote for the Chairman and then the new Chairman or the reelected
35 Chairman would take the Chair back and do the same process for
36 vice chair and secretary.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So I'll turn the meeting over to
39 you.

40

41 MS. WILKINSON: All right. Accept nominations
42 for Chairman. The floor is open for that. Are there any
43 nominations for Chair?

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd like to nominate Johnson
46 Eningowuk for Chair.

47

48 MS. WILKINSON: All right.

49

MR. BUCK: I nominate Grass Cross.

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1 MS. WILKINSON: All right. Any other
2 nominations?

3
4 MR. OKLEASIK: I make a motion to close
5 nominations.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: Second.

8
9 MS. WILKINSON: All right. Do you want to do
10 this with an open ballot or closed?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We normally do it with a.....

13
14 MS. WILKINSON: All right. Since the nominations
15 are closed, then please write on the note pad who you want for
16 Chairman and pass that over to me, please. It will just take a
17 moment here.

18
19 (Counting of votes)

20
21 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Grace is the Chairman.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you for your confidence
24 again.

25
26 MS. WILKINSON: I'll turn the Chair back over to
27 you, Grace.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, thank you. I move on to
30 the nominations for vice chair. Are there any nominations for
31 vice chair?

32
33 MR. KOBUK: I'd like to nominate Johnson
34 Eningowuk.

35
36 MR. BUCK: I move that nominations cease.

37
38 MR. SEETOT: second.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Are we voting?

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All is in favor signify by
43 saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Congratulations Johnson.
2 Nominations for secretary.

3
4 MR. BUCK: I'll nominate Frances Degnan.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Frances Degnan has been
7 nominated. Are there any further nominations?

8
9 MR. SEETOT: Move to close nominations.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion to close
12 nominations.

13
14 MR. OKLEASIK: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Seconded. All is in favor
17 signify by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. So now we have
26 the same group as last year. Okay. I want to emphasize that the
27 public testimony will be open throughout the entire meeting so if
28 anybody from the public would like to say anything, please be
29 recognized by the Chair and then state what you have to say.

30
31 Okay, Council reports are next and village concerns from
32 all members. Leonard had some concerns he wanted to present to
33 the RAC.

34
35 MR. KOBUK: My name is Leonard Kobuk, I represent

36
37 St. Michael and Stebbins. I had a meeting with Stebbins on
38 September 22 at 7:00 p.m. During the meeting the IRA Council
39 asked me how they ended up on the C&T, I told them that it most
40 likely might have been the guy that I replaced, that was ahead of
41 me, and they were quite angry. They didn't agree with the C&T as
42 it was written. And the same goes for St. Michael, both the IRA
43 Council, the city, the corporations of both villages. The way
44 the Federal government has the boundary at Canal Point, they want
45 it to be aligned with the State which is at Romanoff Point at the
46 lighthouse. The reason being is that the rivers that are -- our
47 own rivers that we have that come from our mountains will not be
48 able to support any other villages. They're very concerned
49 because of the fish crash and they were not only concerned about

50 the fish but other animals, too, because when we have caribou

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1 season in our area, our reindeers end up getting killed and the
2 IRA Council of St. Michael and Stebbins, that's how they get
3 their money. But their main concern, too, was the fish, they
4 just wanted to -- just the two villages because both villages are
5 growing. The 1968 population that shows for St. Michael and
6 Stebbins is low, both villages have grown. There are about 450
7 or it might be less people in St. Michael. And there's about 600
8 people in Stebbins and that may be less, too. We just guessed on
9 those. It grows every year.

10
11 Their main concern is the kids that are
12 being born, they want them to be able to enjoy fishing and
13 hunting within our own areas.

14
15 They're really angry about what the
16 Federal government was doing. I remember in our first meeting,
17 the Federal government people said they would have meetings in
18 the villages that is going to impact the villages. Now, our
19 subsistence way of life is being endangered by the boundary. So
20 they would like it to align with the State.

21
22 We had a teleconference yesterday, I sit on the
23 State Fish and Game Board, too, and that is what they stressed
24 and that is my only comment that I have and that they wanted me
25 to express.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So there are two different
28 boundaries?

29
30 MR. KOBUK: The Yukon management wants and the
31 Federal government wants to put it at the canal point and that's
32 according to this map that's here. St. Michael's is just an
33 island there's that black, they drew it right there, it's Canal,
34 what we call Little and Big Canal, that's where the Federal and
35 the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge wants to move it to but we want
36 to keep it at Romanoff Point. They're very upset about this.

37
38 They did not know that they had a C&T because
39 they thought that I was trying to put a C&T just for St. Michael,
40 I told them, no, according to the book that's what the
41 subsistence -- I think it was the purple or blue, I can't
42 remember which it is. And they were very upset about this and I
43 told them that the Federal government would be sending them
44 whatever comes up in the meetings that we have and apparently
45 this was never done. So they kind of took out their anger on me.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Meaning that they did not want
48 to be park of the Federal program or they just want to be State
49 or what? What was the outcome?

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1 MR. KOBUK: Well, that was the opinion of both
2 villages. They want a.....

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: They want a Federal?

5
6 MR. KOBUK: We just want to remain under the
7 Norton Sound fisheries management.

8
9 MR. MENDENHALL: Advisory.

10
11 MR. KOBUK: We've always been and that's the way
12 they want it, because the State has always treated both villages
13 fairly.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And the problem is two different
16 boundaries?

17
18 MR. KOBUK: Yes, two different boundaries. They
19 want to protect their way, their subsistence way of life. Those
20 little rivers that we have, we get kings, pinks, coho, silvers,
21 trouts, whitefish and there's many others and they want to
22 protect those. And by moving that boundary to Canal Point, it's
23 going to be inviting the whole Lower Yukon to come and fish in
24 our areas. I've been told by both villages on the city IRA and
25 corporation and during commercial, when they have an opening in
26 the Yukon, some Yukon fishermen will go to Romanoff Point or to
27 Pigmiktalik to fish illegally.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So where is this river that
30 you're talking about on this map?

31
32 MR. KOBUK: It's right -- it's the river that's
33 closest to Romanoff Point going north. It says Point Romanoff.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And the name of that river is
36 what?

37
38 MR. KOBUK: It's the biggest one right there that
39 comes from the mountains, not -- I don't know how they say that,
40 it's right other side of Nokrock, or however they say that, just
41 to the north of it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That combines with the
44 Andraefsky River?

45
46 MR. KOBUK: No.

47
48 MR. DENTON: It's the other way.

49

MR. KOBUK: None of the rivers we have combines

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1 with any of the Yukon drainages.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: And Norton Sound Fishery is
4 State or just -- what management are you looking for, State?

5

6 MR. KOBUK: Well, they wouldn't mind being under
7 -- because part of the Federal land goes into our lands, they
8 just want the boundary to coincide with the State's, which is at
9 the Romanoff Point at the light house. And the Yukon drainage,
10 the Lower Yukon drainage villages are trying to get that so they
11 can be able to go fish within our areas. We're dead set against
12 that. Because like I said, those rivers cannot support any other
13 villages except St. Michael and Stebbins.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: So you want from us to stay
16 under the State Norton Sound Fisheries Program or what?

17

18 MR. KOBUK: No.

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm confused. I'm just trying
21 to.....

22

23 MR. KOBUK: I just would like to.....

24

25 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm just trying to figure out
26 what's going on, you know?

27

28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What I understand.....

29

30 MR. MENDENHALL: There's some biologists over
31 there.

32

33 MR. KOBUK: Maybe Charlie Lean can address this
34 better.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charlie.

37

38 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Could somebody get us a bigger
41 map so that people can point it out. Fred, do you have a bigger
42 map?

43

44 MR. LEAN: The situation is confusing. The
45 boundary at Canal Point, which is the current Federal fisheries
46 boundary, not the wildlife boundary but the fisheries boundary is
47 where the State boundary once was. But about six years ago, the
48 State Board of Fish moved the boundary south to Point Romanoff.
49 Point Romanoff is just south of the Pikmiktalik and Nokok Rivers

50 which support subsistence fishing effort at Stebbings and St.

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1 Michael.

2

3

4 The lands, the fresh water in this area that's
5 being discussed, while under the Yukon Wildlife Refuge boundaries
6 and so essentially the freshwater is managed by the Federal
7 government and the salt water is managed by State government. So
8 with the Federal regulations as they are, any resident of the
9 Yukon can subsistence fish under their current C&T findings on
10 those rivers that fall within the Yukon boundary south of Canal
11 Point. Currently, only Stebbins is granted C&T under the Federal
12 regulation, St. Michael is not. So under regulation, St. Michael
13 is not allowed to fish in what they consider their traditional
14 grounds.

14

15

16 That's what initiated the whole process here.
17 What St. Michael and Stebbins told us in the advisory committee
18 meeting by teleconference yesterday was that they felt that those
19 waters north of Point Romanoff up to Canal Point are theirs and
20 that's their fishing area and they would like to see the Federal
21 boundary align with the State boundary to be the same so that the
22 C&T findings out work to allow Norton Sound residents, Stebbins
23 and St. Michael to fish at Pikmiktalik and the C&T findings for
24 the Yukon would not allow Yukon residents to fish there. And
25 then Stebbins would no longer need to have a C&T finding that
26 allowed them to fish on the Yukon. And then they would expect a
27 reciprocal that allowed them to fish on the Yukon, and they would
28 expect a reciprocal and therefore the Yukon would not be allowed
29 to fish in Norton Sound.

29

30

That's what was being requested.

31

32

MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair.

33

34

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

35

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: Leonard, do you want a motion to
38 that effect, that you want to keep that.....

38

39

MR. KOBUK: Yes. Because.....

40

41

MR. MENDENHALL: Support from this Council?

42

43

44 MR. KOBUK: Yes, I would like that. Because
45 it's like I said, a lot of the people from those two villages
46 were kind of angry at me and why I was trying to.....

46

47

MR. MENDENHALL: You're up a tree.

48

49

MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a quick question, in
2 terms of how we proceed with this.....

3
4 MS. WILKINSON: I see it more appropriate to take
5 up any motions when you're actually working on the proposal and
6 this is a time for reports.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: Motion to support.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Can we do that at the time at
11 the time for proposals?

12
13 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, looking down the pike,
16 there's
17 a meeting this Saturday in Anchorage for the Board of Fish and
18 there's going to be one in Bethel in December and there's.....

19
20 MR. KOBUK: And there's one going to be going on
21 in Kotlik here pretty quick, too.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: So I think you want some kind of
24 support from this Council in regards to your concern?

25
26 MR. KOBUK: Yes. It's not only my concern, it's
27 the concern of.....

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, I know, but it's your
30 village concern, I mean. I don't know whether that would be
31 jeopardizing -- but you want such a motion, though?

32
33 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, I would like support of the
34 Federal Subsistence Board for this region.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Could you attempt to make your
37 motion then.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that.....

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean let him make his motion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that he could make a
44 proposal to align the Federal boundary to the State boundary; am
45 I correct?

46
47 MR. KOBUK: Yes. I'll make that motion that the
48 Federal be aligned to match the State's boundary.

49

MR. MENDENHALL: You got until October 22nd, I

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1 think, is the deadline for that proposal.

2

3 MR. KOBUK: Oh, okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Just a minute, let Ann have a
6 turn because I'm not really familiar with how this goes for now.

7

8 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: It's just a call for proposals,
11 that deadline is October 22nd, I think is what it was.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I know but we also have call for
14 proposals a little bit later for the RAC, so Ann, could you
15 address that, please?

16

17 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Just a moment, let me look
18 at something real quick. Yeah, the call for proposals is for
19 wildlife proposals, deadline is October. If you want to, you can
20 make a motion now to write a resolution or write a letter to
21 support, but you can also address this during -- look at Proposal
22 5, to make an amendment.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

25

26 MS. WILKINSON: And that would go to the Federal
27 Subsistence Board that way. But if you want to write a letter in
28 support of the concerns of the people of St. Michael and
29 Stebbins, you can do -- for the Board of Fisheries, we can do
30 that at any time.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

33

34 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, why don't we give.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So you want to move to get a
37 letter of support to the Board of Fisheries?

38

39 MR. KOBUK: Yes, I so move.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charlie.

42

43 MR. LEAN: This is a Federal regulation so it's
44 the Federal Board.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, to the Federal Board.

47

48 MR. LEAN: Yes.

49

MR. KOBUK: I'd like the support of the Regional

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1 Council to write a letter supporting that the boundary be moved
2 to Romanoff Point to match up with the State boundaries.

3

4 MS. WILKINSON: That you can do when you're
5 working on Proposal 5 later in the agenda.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There is a motion on, though, so
8 let's address that. Is there a second to the motion?

9

10 MR. OKLEASIK: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion. Is there any
13 discussion?

14

15 MR. SEETOT: From what I understand, is this a
16 letter of support or is this a proposal that would be proposed by
17 the Regional Council?

18

19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Pardon.

20

21 MR. SEETOT: At a later time, is this a letter of
22 support or is this a proposal, you know, that would be acted upon
23 by the Regional Advisory Council?

24

25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: This is a letter of support.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a proposal.....

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS:number 5, that we'll be
34 discussing that relates to the issue, Number 5?

35

36 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So this is a motion for a letter
39 of support from the RAC to move the boundary.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And to support their concerns.

44

45

46 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: For St. Michael and Stebbins.

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: For St. Michael and Stebbins.

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1 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Call for the question.

4
5 MR. SEETOT: Question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called. All
8 is in favor of the letter of support for St. Michael and Stebbins
9 signify by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are there any other village
18 concerns from the members?

19
20 MR. BUCK: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Peter Buck.

23
24 MR. BUCK: We'll be discussing the muskox
25 situation a little bit later on. But the members from White
26 Mountain area are really concerned about the bears. We had three
27 of them this summer in the village. One of them -- one of the
28 bears attacked one of our dogs. That's our main concern I was
29 going to address.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And I think, Kate, you're going
32 to be discussing the population numbers in bears a little bit
33 later, too?

34
35 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, we can talk about bears, yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. That seems to be a huge
38 regional concern, the population size of the bears. And since
39 the majority of the lands are in State -- are under the State, I
40 think it would be appropriate if we touched that again when Kate
41 Persons comes and sees what the State plans are in addressing
42 this concern.

43
44 Johnson, do you have any concerns you want to
45 bring up?

46
47 MR. ENINGOWUK: I don't really have any concerns
48 from Shishmaref, however, we did have a pretty poor subsistence
49 spring hunt. Many of our hunters didn't get their catch of

50 oogruk that they tried to get this spring. In fact, our walrus

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1 hunt was so poor, I think only one walrus in the whole village of
2 Shishmaref was taken. Our fishing during the summer was poor.
3 First time we had real poor fishing. We have a bunch of proud
4 people that they won't ask for relief from anyone there, but it
5 seems to me when everybody else has fish from other fisheries we
6 seem to be on the wrong sea, we're still Bering Straits regional
7 village, however, we just happen to be in the Chukchi Sea so we
8 don't get the relief like the other villages in our region that
9 belong to the Bering Sea fishing villages, so Shishmaref is --
10 just happens to be on the wrong side of the Bering Sea.

11

12 I think the village will still survive despite
13 all the poor hunting and so forth. But I'd just like to remind
14 the Council that even though we're a Bering Straight village we
15 still seem to be on the wrong side of the Bering Sea.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: This was a concern that was
18 presented to me when I went on my job to do some work in
19 Shishmaref. Many people thought I was coming there to have a
20 meeting with the villages there because Shishmaref,
21 predominately, relies on sea mammals and it had been a very, very
22 poor year for them. Their racks are pretty empty of sea mammal
23 dry meat and one lady told me that all she had was a five gallon
24 bucket of dry meat, what we call black meat. It's a very big
25 concern for them. I talked to Kate Persons about it and Ann
26 Wilkinson start thinking of ways that might provide relief to the
27 area in the future. I don't know how their fall hunting is but
28 Austin Amosook with Kawerak was supposed to be checking on this
29 and reporting to us how their fall hunting is. Of course, their
30 fall hunting is not yet, you know, done. So it's something that
31 all of us have to keep a very close eye over throughout this
32 year. One of the suggestions that I made to Kate was to see
33 whether or not they could extend the moose hunting but Kate said
34 the numbers of the moose were pretty small but there is caribou
35 and it's something that we all have to keep a very close eye
36 throughout this winter until the spring hunt came. It's just
37 that the ice never went out and they did just get one walrus.

38

39 Predominately -- like I said, they rely heavily
40 on the sea mammals. And since they're not included in the
41 fisheries disaster because they're on the wrong side of the
42 ocean, they're not getting disaster relief and one of the things
43 that I was thinking about was perhaps writing a letter to Willie
44 Goodwin and informing him of the situation and perhaps something
45 can be worked out within that region that may address their lack
46 of fish and the other problems that they're having.

47

48 MR. SEETOT: When Kate and the National Park
49 Service representatives go to the communities to give out the

50 harvest tickets for the muskox, I made a recommendation that on

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1 Federal lands that when they do meet with the traditional and IRA
2 Councils, that they encourage the Councils, you know, to select
3 hunters that they being share, you know, bag muskox, so that the
4 harvest quota can be filled at the community level. This year
5 there was only four people -- or a total of eight people that
6 applied for muskoxen, we're pretty close to the lands -- we're
7 pretty much surrounded by muskox.

8
9 The hunt for muskox has changed over the years,
10 you know, that -- at first they were pretty excited and now it's
11 just another animal to the community. Like Grace was saying most
12 of the communities on the coast line are dependent on the sea
13 mammals and from my observations and from the low turnout of
14 applicants that I think were kind of oriented towards the sea
15 mammals instead of land mammals. That's something to consider.

16
17 I told Kate and Mr. Tocktoo that they recommend
18 to the Council that when they select their hunters that they
19 inform the Council that, you know, serious hunters be considered
20 by the Council so that the harvest quota can be filled by the
21 community instead of where the hunters are selected and if they
22 don't feel the harvest quota, you know, it makes a bad feeling
23 that the communities are really not going after the muskoxen or
24 any species of animals. That's just a comment from me.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Isaac.

27
28 MR. OKLEASIK: This is my first meeting so I
29 don't really have too much but it's good to be here.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question, how was your
32 hunting, sea mammal hunting this.....

33
34 MR. OKLEASIK: Fishing was pretty poor. Hunting
35 for sea mammals was a little bit low but we'll get by though.
36 Fishing was pretty poor, though, we didn't have very much salmon.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: I guess you know that we have a
41 Tier II situation in Nome and I don't think that the rivers have
42 coughed up very much fish for Nome. And when there was relief
43 given, purchase of fish from Norton Sound, it never quite reached
44 everybody that has a stake in salmon, from Kotzebue, they came
45 down and gave some fish away and I don't believe it went to
46 everybody it should have gone to, elders, and poor folks that had
47 need of fish. That is a concern that we have.

48
49 And we have concerns about the population of

50 bears that damage the streams and go after fish as well. And

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1 also concern about beaver dams that might be hindering the chums,
2 going up creeks and spawning where it used to. We don't know
3 whether the feed from the rivers -- the 10 rivers around Nome
4 that are depressed are really building back up or not. So
5 there's still a Tier II situation in Nome and it's been there
6 over 10 years. We, in Nome -- Nome Eskimo, too, been active
7 since '87 when we actively went to show this problem. But we
8 don't really think it's coming back up to where it was. They had
9 a limit of three fish a day and it went down to one fish a day
10 limit and if it wasn't the right kind you had to throw it back
11 in. So that was a little strange for us. In fact yesterday was
12 the first -- well, not yesterday, Sunday was the first time I
13 ever caught a fish, you know, a trout, it has to be 20 inches or
14 you got to put it back in the water.

15
16 So I think there's some major concerns in Nome in
17 that regards.

18
19 And the 30 million dollar fish disaster, I don't
20 think has really been -- really given public input into Nome area
21 as to addressing these 10 streams that are depressed and the
22 people that depend on the fish. It seems like other villages
23 that have the fish, they want part of that 30 million to help
24 jump start some of their economic development plan. But again,
25 we have a very high population here that's not being addressed to
26 that 30 million and as to what economic program they could jump
27 start in Nome for the depletion of salmon. And I think that's a
28 picture that's coming out -- like that 30 million dollars seems
29 to be a grab bag for other parts of the region for when they
30 themselves have fish that they could dry and depend upon. As to
31 Nome, for over 10 years, we haven't been able to put any fish on
32 the racks, except for very few. We found that some families
33 have that permit for Eldorado and then we'll find that there's
34 about three families that probably ride on -- piggyback on that
35 permit to get the fish that they need. But meanwhile, that's
36 only 10 permits that they gave out this summer. And we have fish
37 camps from that cape all the way over to Solomon. So it's still
38 a disaster area and I think it needs to be more public and
39 addressed that the salmon population has really crashed and not
40 recovered yet. And it's not fun to see empty fish racks in the
41 Nome area like you folks are probably feeling in Shishmaref.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have emphasized for a number
44 of years, that the lack of fish in Nome area is going to have
45 like a domino effect in other parts of the -- the other districts
46 and I think we're beginning to see that. I think displaced Nome
47 fishermen is another problem, if they don't catch a fish in Nome,
48 they catch it somewhere else and it's not going to be -- if we
49 don't have any in 22(D), we'll go to 22(C), 22(E) to get our

50 fish, which means that we're -- us people, too, are imposing an

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1 impact on the lack of fish in the different parts of this region.

2

3

4 And I will continue to emphasize that because I
5 really do think there ought to be studies on the impact of the
6 displaced fishermen in Nome and that there should be more monies
7 coming to this district from both the State and the Federal
8 government, even though we don't have any Federal lands in 22(E).
9 We do need to address this issue, it's not going away, it's just
10 getting worse.

11

12 For the second year in a row we had Tier II
13 fishermen and it didn't use -- that the Tier II licenses were not
14 used because there is no fish here. So I will continue to
15 emphasize that this region needs to be given as much attention as
16 Yukon, as Bristol Bay. For many, many years, as our fish
17 declined, we didn't get any fisheries disasters money, we didn't
18 get any relief. We did not even get any relief on the first year
19 that the Yukon area was given fisheries disasters money. It's
20 now retroactive to that and we have concerns about that and how
21 it's going to impact those people that are having -- that are
22 getting general assistance and how that fisheries money is going
23 to affect other benefits that other people are getting and I
24 believe Guy Martin, later on, will be expressing concerns on
25 that, too.

26

27 Anybody else have anything to say?

28

29 MR. KOBUK: Well St. Michael and Stebbins have
30 been having problems this spring and summer with the bears, brown
31 bears and grizzlies. And also we have concerns about the beaver
32 in the rivers, damming. That's where the problem is coming in,
33 is the beavers are damming up the rivers where the fish can't get
34 up to their spawning grounds. I think something needs to be
35 done. Since not very many people hunt beavers anymore except
36 those that make hats with them, that's just about it. And our
37 subsistence has been good except for we haven't caught any beluga
38 yet, in both villages, except maybe one person who puts out a
39 whale net for subsistence and they only caught one from what I
40 heard. So they've been catching a lot of mukluk from the Canal
41 rivers. This time of the year the mukluks go in there because
42 they get away from the storm and plus there's a lot of tom cods
43 and other fish in those rivers.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ida.

46

47 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Madam Chairman, Ida
48 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. In regards to your
49 concern in regards to a study of the decline of fish and fish
50 habitat in this area and the impact in surrounding areas is

50 certainly grounds for proposal, and I don't know if this Council

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1 or any group in this area or ADF&G or anyone else has submitted
2 a proposal or not for 2001, that's going to be discussed later on
3 your agenda and at that time we could have further discussion on
4 the process or whether or not someone has submitted a proposal to
5 do a study as you suggested.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ida.

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: Based on what you heard, BIA,
14 can you write something up for our concerns?

15

16 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madam Chairman, when we go into
17 that discussion I'll make notes on it. I'm on the committee that
18 reviews that. I believe the proposal time has passed for 2001,
19 I'm not sure but if it has we can certainly draft something that
20 can begin the process for 2002.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm just sort of asking her to
23 assist the Council in drafting something up based on what she
24 heard.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that's a good idea. Any
27 further comments from the members? Well, I don't see anybody
28 jumping on the wagon so I'll move on to 7B, Chair's report.

29

30 At the Regional Council Chair's meeting in
31 Anchorage in May 2000, all the Chairs got together and we
32 identified issues that we felt were important to be presented to
33 the Federal Subsistence Board and one of them is our long-term
34 problem with our per diem and so we drafted a letter asking for
35 some changes in it because we all feel that we just don't get
36 compensated enough although we're a an essential part of the
37 process. So a letter was drafted and resent again.

38

39 And then there was a concern that the Regional
40 Chairs would like to see all of the Chairs be provided a computer
41 and I thought that was going to be happening but so far we have
42 not seen any computers because it would make it easier for us to
43 correspond with the other parts of the world and including
44 ourselves, if you had e-mail service and then we'd be able to do
45 research for issues that we may be addressing. Well, apparently
46 it was going to happen but so far we haven't seen it.

47

48 And we had discussion the Native Liaison person
49 and made recommendations as to how we felt that position should

50 be.

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1 We discussed Memorandum of Agreement between the
2 State and the Federal government. And we identified some areas
3 that we felt that needed to be changed.

4
5 We also emphasized that we should let the Federal
6 Subsistence Board know that the RACs want more involvement in the
7 fisheries planning and implementation.

8
9 Okay, so that's what we discussed. And then the
10 meeting, with the Federal Subsistence Chairs at the Federal Board
11 meeting on May 2, we presented those and all the proposal -- we
12 presented those issues I just identified and then during the
13 proposal period, all our proposals from this region passed, as
14 you all know, there were some changes that we made through
15 telephone poll throughout the year but all the proposals we
16 submitted all passed. And they were kind of like -- they were
17 not even discussed because nobody contested them.

18
19 Anyway, regarding the more involvement to the
20 fisheries planning, Willie Goodwin and Dan O'Hara were appointed
21 to help with that, and Willie, as you all know was to represent
22 our region and that's why I was saying earlier that perhaps one
23 of the things that we should do is write a letter to the
24 Northwest RAC and let them know about Shishmaref's concerns. And
25 let them know that they're not included in the fisheries
26 disasters, perhaps something can come out of that region.

27
28 There's other things that I would like to report.
29 I don't think that I'm going to go to the Board's response to
30 Council's annual report because it is already in the packet, you
31 can read it, if you have any questions you can ask me about it
32 later.

33
34 But I'd like to report on a number of things that
35 have been happening within the region. Western Alaska Caribou
36 Herd organization met and I went to that meeting. Initially, we
37 only had one representative representing the entire meeting, we
38 now have two. I was concerned about that because our region is
39 quite large and we had one representative from White Mountain
40 representing everybody. But I made a recommendation that they
41 divide it into two, that 22(E) and 22(D) be represented
42 separately from 22(B) and (A). We do have a representative from
43 22(C). So as far as I know that position has not been filled
44 yet. A person from 22(D) or (E) has not been filled yet and it's
45 something that perhaps the RAC members from that region can be
46 thinking about.

47
48 I went to a muskoxen cooperative meeting and most
49 of you, I think everybody here was at that meeting, too, and Ken

50 will be reporting further development from that meeting at a

00024

1 later time.

2

3

4 I am also concerned about the moose population in
5 the Koyuk region and I've asked Kate Persons to keep a close eye
6 on that because the State is the one that does the counting. She
7 will be doing some reporting on that later on, however, it's kind
8 of too early to probably know what the population of the moose is
9 now.

9

10 And I'm glad to see Charlie Lean's position in
11 Nome. We had a bit of a fight over that one but I'm not going to
12 go into that, but I'm glad that Charlie Lean's position is now in
13 Nome.

14

15 Originally we were also lumped together with --
16 we are now lumped together, as you know, with fisheries,
17 Northwest, North Slope and our region is lumped together and we
18 will be sharing resources.

19

20 As you know we have a new coordinator. We will
21 be sharing her once again with Southcentral. The only concern I
22 have with that is that is that since Kenai has a new rural
23 status, I don't know how much work it's going to generate for our
24 new coordinator so we need to keep a close eye on that one. But
25 of course we don't know what direction the Kenai is going to be
26 heading either, it may remain a rural or it may not. But I have
27 been keeping a close eye on that. I have attended, through
28 teleconference, meetings that address the Kenai issues so that I
29 could keep an eye as to what's going on, mainly because we do
30 share resources with that region and I don't want to see any of
31 our staff be overworked to the point that we are neglected, our
32 region is neglected. I realize we have very few Federal lands
33 but I feel that our issues are just as important as issues
34 elsewhere, and I don't want us to get lost on the wayside. We
35 have gone through too many changes in the past, we've gone from
36 being tossed about -- being shared with a different regions and
37 we have gone through quite a bit of coordinators, so I want to
38 see stability be provided for this region and, although, if major
39 issues are happening somewhere I don't want to see us placed in
40 a position where we are being kind of put on the way side.

41

42 And I think there are some other issues that I
43 wanted to talk about that we've already discussed earlier and
44 that's the fisheries crash, declining moose population, bad sea
45 mammal hunting and we've discussed that.

46

47 So that kind of concludes my report. Are there
48 any questions.

49

MS. GOTTLIEB: Madam Chair, this is Judy Gottlieb

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1 from National Park Service. I did just want to let the Council
2 members know that Grace is a very strong defender and supporter
3 and spokesperson for your Council and she does make your needs
4 and concerns very well and clearly known to us. So as she
5 mentioned, she is looking out for the interests of this region.
6 And do want to thank you for the good job you have done.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that a proposal?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: At this point I think it would
13 be a good time to take a 10 minute break. So we're off the
14 record and let's be back at 10.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (On record)

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm going to call the meeting
21 back to order, it is now 10:04, we're four minutes late from our
22 10 minute break. The next item on our agenda is fisheries
23 proposal for Council review and recommendation to Federal
24 Subsistence Board and it's in Tab E. And the presentation
25 procedure is -- I don't know who the lead is so whoever's going
26 to be leading, please, begin.

27
28 MS. McCLENAHAN: I'm Pat McClenahan and I'll be
29 presenting with Staff analysis for your consideration. This is
30 Proposal F2001-5, which was submitted by Leonard Kobuk and the
31 St. Michael Native Corporation. It requests a positive and
32 customary and traditional use determination for salmon in the
33 Yukon River drainage for the residents of St. Michael. An
34 amendment to the proposal was received from St. Michael Native
35 Corporation requesting that the community of Kotlik be added to
36 the proposal. However, we determined that Kotlik is presently
37 included in the customary and traditional use determination for
38 salmon, chum salmon and fresh water species for the Yukon River
39 drainage. And so Proposal 5 seeks to add the residents of the
40 community of St. Michael to the existing customary and
41 traditional use determination for salmon and chum salmon.

42
43 This is an inclusive type of proposal rather than
44 exclusive. Both the Yukon and Pikkimktalik Rivers are in Federal
45 jurisdiction. The proposal area lies within in the Yukon
46 northern area and you can make reference to Map 1 or the maps
47 that are on the table for the area.

48
49 The present customary and traditional use

50 determination for the Yukon River drainage for the subsistence

00026

1 taking of salmon is Yukon River drainage salmon, except for
2 Yukon River fall chum salmon, residents of the Yukon area
3 including the community of Stebbins may take salmon for customary
4 and traditional uses. Chum salmon, Yukon River fall chum salmon,
5 residents of the Yukon River drainage including the communities
6 of Stebbins, Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, and Chevak may take chum
7 salmon for customary and traditional uses. Fresh water species
8 other salmon, residents of the Yukon northern area may take other
9 fresh water fish for customary and traditional uses. Freshwater
10 fish include sheefish, white fish, lamp ray, burbot, sucker,
11 grayling, pike, char and black fish.

12
13 At the October 9th, 1999 Seward Peninsula
14 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting, Mr. Kobuk
15 addressed the issue that the community of St. Michael was left
16 out of the Federal customary and traditional use finding for
17 salmon and chum salmon for the Yukon northern area, Yukon River
18 drainage. Stebbins, located in this area has a positive
19 customary and traditional use finding for the Yukon River
20 drainage. The nearby community of St. Michael did not -- does
21 not.

22
23 The Pikmiktalik River and the Yukon River are two
24 of the nearest rivers to St. Michael, Stebbins and Kotlik with
25 sufficiently heavy salmon runs to support subsistence salmon
26 fishing. And there are some other rivers in the area as well
27 that they also use.

28
29 Historically, and today, for most households,
30 salmon has been documented as representing the largest single
31 source of food and monetary income and of all resources it might
32 be considered the staple food and primary market product of the
33 region. Stebbins and St. Michael are neighboring villages, all
34 of which are predominately central Yupik. All three communities
35 share the same -- I'm sorry, Stebbins, St. Michael and Kotlik are
36 all neighboring villages and they are predominately are central
37 Yupik. All three communities share same salmon fishing locations
38 on the Pikmiktalik River, just north of the Yukon River. They're
39 all part of the same sharing communications network. Residents
40 of St. Michael provided information that they use the Pikmiktalik
41 River for subsistence salmon and that their parents and
42 grandparents did as well.

43
44 And so the preliminary Staff conclusion is to
45 modify the existing customary and traditional use finding to
46 include St. Michael. And so the revised regulation would read
47 the same but after Stebbins we would add St. Michael. And so it
48 would read, salmon, except for Yukon River fall chum salmon,
49 residents of the Yukon area including the community of Stebbins

50 and St. Michael may take salmon for customary and traditional

00027

1 uses. Chum salmon, Yukon River fall chum salmon, residents of
2 the Yukon River drainage including the communities of Stebbins,
3 St. Michael, Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, and Chevak may take chum
4 salmon for customary and traditional uses. The fresh water
5 species portion would remain the same.

6
7 Our justification for this are that Stebbins and
8 St. Michael are neighboring villages, all of which are
9 predominately central Yupik. The communities of Stebbins, Kotlik
10 and St. Michael share the same salmon fishing locations on the
11 :Pikmiktalik River and other rivers just north of the Yukon River
12 and are part of the same sharing of communications network.
13 Residents of St. Michael provided information that they use the
14 Pikmiktalik River for subsistence salmon and that their parents
15 and grandparents did as well. St. Michael was inadvertently left
16 out of the original customary and traditional use finding.

17
18 This concludes my comments on this proposal.

19
20 I'd like to suggest to you that there might be
21 another way for you to deal with this issue that's come up. I
22 suggest that you might want to go ahead and approve this today
23 and then make another proposal that could be an exclusive
24 proposal, in other words, that you would suggest that for a
25 particular area that only the residents that use that area would
26 be included in the customary and traditional use finding. This
27 is a possibility besides trying to move the boundary, if you
28 didn't mind being under, you know, Federal jurisdiction.

29
30 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, St. Michael and
31 Stebbins, both religious, they want that boundary moved and
32 that's the only way they can see to protect our way of life.
33 It's like I said, those rivers can only support St. Michael and
34 Stebbins and that's all they want it to be. They don't want to
35 include any of the villages in the Yukon including Kotlik.

36
37 Over the years there's been more and more people
38 coming from the Yukon, not only from Kotlik, they come from
39 Mountain Village or St. Marys to go do rod and reel to fish in
40 those rivers and they're starting to pollute the Pikmiktalik
41 River with their cans, pop cans or kettles that they just throw
42 in the water and this has angered the people of these two
43 villages. We still would like to see that boundary moved and
44 that is the wishes of those two villages. I just have to go by
45 what they tell me to do and I see no other way around this.

46
47 Because we have a right in these two villages, we
48 pay state taxes and we pay federal taxes and we don't tell other
49 people in the Yukon that we'd like to go fish in their waters.

50 We rather leave them alone to make their own rules in their own

00028

1 areas and we just want to be left alone to make our own rules to
2 support our villages.

3

4 So as it is, the only way the two villages are
5 going to agree to this is that boundary be moved to Romanoff
6 Point.

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: It seems Proposal 5 is a
13 positive thing. What she sort of recommended is to move with
14 this proposal in a positive vein because it could request -- even
15 your village corporation is for it. But she recommended that
16 another proposal be drafted regarding your boundary thing
17 regarding Stebbins and St. Mike and I think that's -- that's what
18 you mentioned at the beginning of this proposal. And I don't
19 think this proposal has anything against those two villages,
20 making them cohesive, that's what it is, and this added St.
21 Michael to there, but another proposal, you just identified this
22 morning would a different one altogether. And that's the way I
23 think I heard her expertise on this, is that correct?

24

25 MS. McCLENAHAN: In my opinion it would be a good
26 idea to go ahead and include St. Michael no matter what else
27 happens, you have, then, a positive C&T for your own region. But
28 then you do need to move beyond that and make some decisions
29 about how your problem can be addressed.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, it seems to me that right
32 now, the main concern that came up originally that generated this
33 proposal was to have St. Michael be included for C&T and this
34 proposal would do that for this year. If we submit another
35 proposal it would not be decided until 2001, so St. Michael would
36 still be excluded from C&T use of the Yukon, this would add on to
37 it. But if we submit another proposal at a later date for the
38 fisheries 2000.....

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: Or even now during this meeting
41 so it can take effect.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No, it would not take effect
44 because it has to be presented to the Federal Subsistence Board
45 and they would make a determination as to whether or not it would
46 be allowable to change the boundaries.

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: She had her hand up.

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ida.

00029

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madame Chairman, Ida Hildebrand,
2 BIA Staff Committee member. There are many ways that the Council
3 can proceed. If they're interested in granting C&T to St.
4 Michael and Stebbins, then I would also suggest that you adopt
5 the proposal to grant them C&T, however, this Council can also
6 modify the proposal to talk about the exclusion that St. Michael
7 and Stebbins are interested in.

8
9 MR. MENDENHALL: Great modify it for us in the
10 words that are being acceptable to us.

11
12 MS. HILDEBRAND: The modification would be that
13 the Council supports the proposal to grant C&T to St. Michael and
14 Stebbins, however, the Council, in addition modifies the proposal
15 to restrict the C&T use for these particular rivers to the
16 residents of St. Michael and Stebbins.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move then, if that's
19 agreeable to Leonard.

20
21 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, it's agreeable. Madame Chair,
22 it's agreeable to me and I'm sure it'd be agreeable to both
23 villages. I was going to say something about the corporation
24 letter.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: Wait a minute, I moved and
27 somebody's got to second it.

28
29 MR. KOBUK: I'll second the motion.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay, now you can discuss the
32 motion.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, discussion.

35
36 MR. KOBUK: I was going to say, this letter was
37 written before we even got this thing here and when the
38 corporation saw the way it was written, they didn't quite like it
39 and so did the IRA and city of both villages, but I'll go along
40 with what we just proposed now and hopefully the people of both
41 villages will be happy with that. Like I said, I got chewed out
42 for it and I told them that I didn't write it and all I proposed
43 was that we be including in the C&T, but -- and in doing so, I
44 didn't -- at the time had I known that we were going to have to
45 deal with the Federal boundary when they say's where the problem
46 came in. They just wanted to align with the State and everything
47 will be okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question, maybe

50 somebody from the State could answer this. Where the State

00030

1 boundary is, do you hear any complaints from the villages from
2 the Yukon as to where the State boundary is? Anybody from the
3 State, Jim?

4
5 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, members of the RAC,
6 Jim Magdanz, ADF&G Subsistence Division. Because the State has
7 no rural priority, the State doesn't make a C&T determination for
8 communities or particular areas. So in the State system, a
9 person from anywhere in the state has subsistence privileges in
10 Pikmiktalik or the Yukon or in Kotzebue for that matter. So the
11 issue that you're grappling with is not an issue for the State
12 because we don't have, under law, at the present time, the
13 ability to make that distinction.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: I was at a State Fish Board
18 meeting here in Nome and they had testimony from here on C&T on
19 fisheries.

20
21 MR. MAGDANZ: The State, absolutely, makes C&T
22 determinations based on a history of use which is usually a local
23 history. Because of the constitutional problem the State faces,
24 we are not allowed to give residents of a particular community or
25 rural Alaska a priority for subsistence purposes over residents
26 of Anchorage or Fairbanks. The Federal law allows that
27 distinction so that you can determine that the Pikmiktalik is
28 open to Stebbins and St. Michael and not Kotlik, the State can't
29 do that but the Federal government can. I mean that's what this
30 whole Federal/State management conflict is about.

31
32 Madame Chair, just briefly, so I have my head
33 around this issue that you're grappling with. It does seem to me
34 that Mr. Kobuk's analysis is precisely right, the problem here is
35 a boundary problem. Stebbins and St. Michael already have C&T
36 for all fish in the Norton Sound and Port Clarence area; is
37 that.....

38
39 MS. McCLENAHAN: Not St. Michael for Federal
40 land, that was one of the issues.

41
42 MR. MAGDANZ: Negative. I'm looking at the reg
43 book, residents of Norton Sound, Port Clarence area may take all
44 fish for customary and traditional uses from the Norton Sound and
45 Port Clarence areas. If you move the boundary that C&T moves
46 with it. So move the boundary, you don't have to make an
47 additional finding for C&T for Stebbins and St. Michael. Right
48 now it's very broad.

49

MS. McCLENAHAN: You're saying for the State?

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1 MR. MAGDANZ: No, for the Federal government.

2
3 MS. McCLENAHAN: No, for the Fed -- it does not
4 -- it's not included.

5
6 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, Charlie.....

7
8 MR. JENNINGS: He's correct.

9
10 MR. MAGDANZ: Norton Sound, yeah, that's right.

11
12 MS. McCLENAHAN: You're correct. I'm sorry, yes,
13 you're correct.

14
15 MR. MAGDANZ: Right.

16
17 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, that's right.

18
19 MR. MAGDANZ: So if you move the boundary, then
20 your problem is fixed, I believe.

21
22 MS. McCLENAHAN: It's very broad.

23
24 MR. MAGDANZ: Then the issue is does Stebbins
25 still remain in the Yukon determination and if Stebbins wishes
26 not to and the Yukon Council concurs then you would amend
27 Proposal 5 to take Stebbins out. So those seem to be the two
28 fixes that would fix the problem here. Move the boundary you
29 guys are in and then deal with Stebbins through Proposal 5 and
30 Stebbins is out of the Yukon, if I'm.....

31
32 MR. KOBUK: But both villages, what affects St.
33 Michael will affect Stebbins and what affects Stebbins will
34 affect St. Michael because we do our hunting in the same places,
35 same rivers, fishing. And Stebbins, they didn't know that --
36 they were wondering where the C&T came up and then they got angry
37 at me, they thought I brought it up. I told them I don't know
38 how it came about. I told them when I had attended the first
39 meeting we had in Shishmaref and then we came here, and then I
40 noticed it in the book and I asked why Stebbins was having a C&T
41 and St. Michael wasn't, even though we're on the same island.
42 We're connected together by a dirt road.

43
44 MR. MAGDANZ: Good question, I don't know the
45 history myself. But I guess the question I would have for Staff
46 at this point is whether it's possible to amend Proposal 5 in
47 such a way that you can include the boundary changes as part of
48 that proposal so that you've got a vehicle to move forward and
49 get Stebbins and St. Michael treated together in Norton Sound and

50 then deal with the Yukon issue.

00032

1 MR. MENDENHALL: But the person on BIA said we
2 could amend the thing.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charlie.

5
6 MR. LEAN: I guess don't absolutely know the
7 answer to Jim's question. But I think what happened is
8 historically the State boundary was at Canal Point and about the
9 same time the Federal regs were enacted the State was making the
10 change to the current State boundary and the two agencies weren't
11 aware of each other actions. This was a simple case of oversight
12 of non-coordination. And the complicating factor here is what
13 would the Yukon RAC say, this would be a surprise to them, they
14 haven't had any notice of this proposal. But I think that's the
15 hang up with the fairness issue. Is it fair to surprise Yukon
16 with a very short notice proposal like this.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elaborate on that a little.

19
20 MR. LEAN: Okay. These proposals have been out
21 in circulation all summer and they're viewing this as how it's
22 written in your booklet and suddenly within a week -- have they
23 had their meeting yet, I'm not sure?

24
25 MR. JENNINGS: No, they haven't.

26
27 MR. LEAN: So if they haven't had their meeting
28 yet, without the benefit of a written proposal they're going to
29 be hit with the idea of moving the boundary, losing some of what
30 they think is their territory and I don't know what their
31 response would be. I think a notice issue is the biggest hang up
32 here, that they might resent the fact that they had no notice on
33 this issue. So, anyway, I'm speaking beyond my knowledge on this
34 issue.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, what would your
37 recommendation be even though you're speaking beyond your
38 knowledge?

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. LEAN: Yeah. I was instrumental in getting
43 the State regulation changed. The logic that went on when we did
44 move the boundary for the State was that, you'll note on the map
45 an old townsite, Knakrat, and Knakrat residents moved away about
46 40 years ago from that village and some went to Stebbins and some
47 went to Kotlik and so I consulted with Mary Pete and residents of
48 Stebbins and St. Michael and I couldn't find anyone in Kotlik, but
49 anyway, I spoke to a number of people and what I drew from that

50 was that somewhere around the old village site of Knakrat was the

00033

1 place where roughly half of the users were from either north or
2 from south. And I knew from personal experience in 1982 and 1983
3 when I was researching and inventorying the streams, the
4 Pikmiktalik and Nokok, Charlie Green Creek, Pastolik, all the
5 streams along that coast that Pikmiktalik supported 10
6 subsistence camps, one was a Kotlik resident, the others were
7 Stebbins and St. Michael residents. And I found one subsistence
8 camp on the stream just north of Pikmiktalik and that was a
9 Stebbins resident. And from that knowledge and what people told
10 me I proposed to the -- I testified before the Board of Fish that
11 I believed that north of Point Romanoff was predominately
12 Stebbins and St. Michael use and south of that, the only sizeable
13 salmon stream north of the Yukon but south of Romanoff was
14 Pastolik River, which is actually the mouth falls within District
15 Y1 of the Yukon, so I opted that that should remain Yukon
16 territory and that those streams north of Point Romanoff should
17 be Norton Sound.

18

19 And that's how that boundary came to be. The
20 Board heard my testimony and acted on it.

21

22 MR. KOBUK: And that there is the only concern
23 that both villages would like to be Norton Sound, they don't want
24 to have to deal with the Yukon because they all seem to be making
25 rules and regulations that affect these two villages all because
26 of these rivers and boundary that the Feds have put. So that's
27 their only concern. They would be happy if the boundary would
28 just match up with the State and that would be that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think what we're seeing is our
31 domino effect in work, that the Yukon area is experiencing a lack
32 of fish and they're coming to an area where there's fish and
33 people are getting concerned about the impact in their region.
34 And this is what I've always been talking about, the domino
35 effect of the lack of fish, lack of salmon in our region. This
36 is one proposal that reflects that.

37

38 I urge both the State and the Federal government
39 to start doing something, do studies or do something to help this
40 region so we don't have to be pitting against one another.

41

42 Are there anymore comments regarding the
43 proposal? We're still in discussion.

44

45 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chairman, I was out of the
46 room but did you already ask for ADF&G comments and private
47 testimony?

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have not.

00034

1 MR. KOBUK: I also have a letter that I would
2 like to read for the record that goes to these proposals, too,
3 these are from the Native Village of St. Michael and St. Michael
4 -- city of St. Michael. You already got the one that we had
5 wrote. And these letters were written before this booklet came,
6 and when they saw all this stuff. But I'm just going to read
7 them anyway because they're addressed to this proposal. I'll
8 read the corporation one first, it's already in the booklet.
9 It's:

10
11 St. Michael Native Corporation, P.O. Box 59049, St.
12 Michael Alaska 99659. Federal Subsistence Board, Office of
13 Subsistence Management, Frontier Building, 3601 C Street, Suite
14 1030 Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Dear Sir or Madame: The St.
15 Michael Native Corporation is supporting the Federal Subsistence
16 Board Proposal No. 2001-5 with the changes made on No. 5 and No.
17 6. Changes made on No. 5 were: residents from St. Michael and
18 Stebbins subsistence fish in Pikmiktalik, Nunaqa, Goo-ya and also
19 in Big and Little Canal. Occasionally people from Kotlik will
20 come to our area to do subsistence fishing. Changes made on No.
21 6 were: salmon and other fresh water fish are harvested for
22 subsistence use in the Pikmiktalik, Nunvaqnuq, Nunaqa, Goo-yak
23 and Big and Little Canal rivers. There are also numerous unnamed
24 streams and tributaries that are known and used by the residents
25 of St. Michael and Stebbins that don't appear on maps which are
26 not connected to the Yukon River in any shape or form.
27 Sincerely, St. Michael Native Corporation, Bernie Joe, President,
28 St. Michael Native Board of Directors. And I happen to sit on
29 that board, too.

30
31 One from the Native Village of St. Michael, P.O.
32 Box 59050 St. Michael, Alaska 99659. They have phone numbers
33 and fax numbers on here. September 15, 2000. This was a letter
34 that was written to me by the Native Village. Mr. Leonord N.
35 Kobuk. P.O. Box 59008, St. Michael, Alaska 99659 Dear Mr.
36 Kobuk. I have enclosed a copy of the letters and resolution 00-
37 09-11 adopted by the St. Michael IRA Village Council members on
38 behalf of our tribal members for changes on number 5 and number
39 6 for the next meeting of the Federal Subsistence Board. These
40 changes are very important on Proposal No. 2001-5 for our tribal
41 membership.

42
43 The enclosed are your copies. They have been
44 sent to the Federal Subsistence Board in Anchorage and Susan
45 Bucknell, Regional Coordinator for SOA,
46 Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue. Thank you for your time
47 and if there are questions you can call the IRA Village
48 Council President Pius Washington, at the phone numbers listed on
49 our letterhead. Sincerely, Emily Kobuk, Tribal Coordinator. Who

50 happens to be my wife.

00035

1 And the Native Village of St. Michael, September
2 12, 2000. Federal Subsistence Board, Office of Subsistence
3 Management, Frontier Building, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030,
4 Anchorage, Alaska 99503. To whom it may concern: Oh, no, it's
5 the same thing. It looks like I gave my IRA one to -- uh-uh, I
6 think I gave it away.

7
8 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ann.

11
12 MS. WILKINSON: Leonard, I think you gave that to
13 me earlier this morning.

14
15 MR. KOBUK: Okay. Could you read that please?

16
17 MS. WILKINSON: Okay, I'll do that. This is from
18 the Native Village of St. Michael?

19
20 MR. KOBUK: Yes, Ann.

21
22 MS. WILKINSON: Resolution 00-09-11.

23
24 A resolution in support of Federal Subsistence
25 Board Proposal No. 2001-5 with changes made on No. 5 and No. 6.

26
27 Whereas, The Native Village of St. Michael, IRA
28 Village Council is the recognized governing body by the United
29 States and;

30
31 Whereas, The Native Village of St. Michael, IRA
32 Village Council was established in 1948 for the benefit of Alaska
33 Native people and;

34
35 Whereas, The Native Village of St. Michael, IRA
36 Village Council is non-profit tribal organization authorized to
37 provide services on behalf of the tribal government and its
38 members.

39
40 Now therefore be it resolved that the Native
41 Village of St. Michael, IRA Village Council supports the changes
42 made on No. 5 as: residents from St. Michael and Stebbins
43 subsistence fish in Pikmiktalik, Nunaqa, Goo-ya and also in Big
44 and Little Canal Rivers. Occasionally people from Kotlik will
45 come to our area to do subsistence fishing.

46
47 Be it further resolved that the Native Village of
48 St. Michael IRA Village Council also supports the changes made on
49 No. 6 were: salmon and other fresh water fish are harvested for

50 subsistence use in the Pikmiktalik, Nunvaqnuq.....

00036

1 Okay, I'm trying.

2
3 MR. KOBUK: You're doing okay.

4
5 MS. WILKINSON:Nunaqa, Goo-yak and Big and
6 Little Canal rivers. There are also numerous unnamed streams and
7 tributaries that are known and used by the residents of St.
8 Michael and Stebbins that don't appear on maps which are not
9 connected to the Yukon River in any shape or form.

10
11 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution
12 was adopted at a duly convened meeting of IRA Village Council
13 meeting members where a quorum was present by a vote of four in
14 favor, zero opposed and zero abstained on the 19th day of
15 September 2000, and it's signed by President Tim, I believe
16 Wright.

17
18 MR. KOBUK: It's got to be Pius Washington.

19
20 MS. WILKINSON: Oh, I'm sorry. It's hard to read
21 this.

22
23 MR. KOBUK: The thing that IRA was pertaining to
24 or talking about was this, that we have a document from the
25 United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
26 Corporate Charter of the Native Village of St. Michael Alaska,
27 approved June 11, 1948. United States Government printing office
28 Washington, 1950.

29
30 And I would just like to read this, if it's okay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

33
34 MR. KOBUK: Corporate Charter of the Native
35 Village of St. Michael, Alaska. A Federal corporation charter
36 under the Act of June 18, 1934 as amended by the Act of May 1,
37 1936.

38
39 Whereas, a group of eskimos having a common bond
40 of living together i St. Michael Territory of Alaska seek to
41 organize under Section 16 and 17 under the Act of June 18, 1934
42 and Section 1 of the Act of May 1, 1936 by adoption of the
43 constitution and bylaws and charter approved by the Secretary of
44 Interior.

45
46 Now, therefore, I, William E. Warne, W-A-R-N-E,
47 I can't say his last name, Assistant Secretary of the Interior by
48 virtue of the authority given to me by the above acts hereby do
49 submit this charter of incorporation to the group of eskimos so

50 organizing.

1 Section I. Propose a name. In order to enable
2 the village and its members to do various kinds of business for
3 their goods, the village is hereby chartered as a corporation of
4 the United States of America under the name of Native Village of
5 St. Michael.

6
7 Section II. Membership. The corporation by
8 membership corporation consisting of all persons of the village
9 considered members under the rules of it's constitution.

10
11 Section III. Management. The corporation shall
12 be managed by the governing body set up by the constitution.

13
14 Section IV. Powers. The corporations will have
15 the power to do the following things. To own, hold, manage and
16 dispose of all village properties, to make contracts, to sue and
17 to be sued, to borrow money from the revolving Indian credit fund
18 and to use it under a loan contract, to enter into business or
19 activity that betters the condition of the village and its
20 members. To do such other things as may be necessary to carry on
21 the business and activities of the village.

22
23 Section V. Limits of power. In using its power,
24 the corporation must not do the following things: go against any
25 law or constitution and bylaws of the village. Sell or mortgage
26 any lands set aside as reserved for the village, make leases,
27 permits or contracts covering any lands or waters set aside as a
28 reserve for the village without approval of the Secretary of
29 Interior or his authorized representatives.

30
31 Section VI. Property of members. Property owned
32 by a member of the village shall not be taken to pay debts of the
33 corporation without its consent.

34
35 Section VII. Records. The corporation shall
36 keep correct records of its business and activities and give
37 copies of these records when asked to do so to the representative
38 of the Bureau of Indian Affairs serving the village.

39
40 Section VIII. Change in the Charter. Changes in
41 the charter may be made by the village and if approved by the
42 Secretary of Interior shall be enforced when agreed to by the
43 majority vote of those members voting in an election called by
44 the Secretary of the Interior providing that at least 30 percent
45 of the voting membership vote, the Charter itself shall continue
46 its force for all time unless taken away by act of Congress.

47
48 Section IX. Adoption of Charter. This Charter
49 is hereby approved and submitted to the group of eskimos having

50 a common bond of residence in the Village of St. Michael Alaska

00038

1 to be voted on in an election called and held under the
2 instruction of the Secretary of Interior and shall be considered
3 enforced when it is agreed to by a majority vote of those members
4 voting in an election called by the Secretary of the Interior
5 provided that at least 30 percent of the voting membership vote,
6 and provide the village as agreed to and constitutes and bylaws
7 approved by the Secretary of Interior William E. Warne, Assistant
8 Secretary of Interior, Washington, D.C., June 11, 1948.

9
10 Certification, pursuant -- I don't know how to
11 say that word, pursuant to and ordered approved June 11, 1948 by
12 the Assistant Secretary of Interior, the attached charter was
13 submitted for verification for the group of eskimos having a
14 common bond of residence in the Native Village of St. Michael
15 Territory of Alaska was on June 11, 1948, duly rectified by vote
16 of six to three, four and zero against in an election in which
17 over 30 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots in
18 accordance with Alaska Act of May 1, 1936.

19
20 Statute 1250 and Section 17 of the Act of June
21 18, 1934. 48 Statute, 984s amended by the Act of June 15, 1935.
22 Michael Otwood, Chair, election board, Ralph Ivanoff, Secretary
23 election board, Carl Ivanoff, Government representative.

24
25 And the IRA still goes by what is on this paper.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question on the
30 motion.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We need to hear from Alaska.....

33
34 MR. KOBUK: And I have one more letter from.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS:Department of Fish and Game
37 and other agency comments.

38
39 MR. KOBUK:the City of St. Michael. Madame
40 Chair, I have one more letter from the City of St. Michael.

41
42 September 20, 2000. Federal Subsistence Board,
43 Office of Subsistence Management, Frontier Building, 3601 C
44 Street, Suite 1030 Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Dear Sir or Madame:
45 The City of
46 St. Michael is supporting the Federal Subsistence Board Proposal
47 No. 2001-5 with the changes made on No. 5 and No. 6. Changes
48 made on No. 5 are the same things that were read in the IRA
49 Corporation. Sincerely, Carl Otten, Mayor, City of St. Michael.

00039

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anything further to add?

2
3 MR. KOBUK: No.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Before we vote on the motion I'd
6 like to hear from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game if they
7 have any comments.

8
9 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, Jim Magdanz, ADF&G.
10 On Proposal 2001-5. The State's comments are deferred pending
11 review of Staff analysis on the eight factors. And it seems
12 we've talked here amongst ourselves this morning, that this
13 proposal is in the process of changing significantly from as it's
14 written in the book and so we'd need to consult with the Yukon
15 Staff before we could make comment. So we're going to defer
16 comments at this time.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jim. Are there
19 agency comments? Charlie.

20
21 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean, Park Service. Perhaps
22 a tactful way to do this to vote addressing the current Proposal
23 5 to include St. Michael for C&T finding, with the comment, and
24 this would require another vote to vote on another proposal as
25 discussed here to change the boundary and limit C&T to Norton
26 Sound north of the line and Yukon south of the line. And that
27 way the Federal Board could see the whole plan and not just this
28 proposal as it stands. And they may or may not take action on it
29 this year but it certainly would be in the hopper next year if
30 they didn't act on it. But it's a long shot that they just might
31 actually do the whole thing this season.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So you're talking about two
34 separate proposals?

35
36 MR. LEAN: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Different from the proposal we
39 have now?

40 MR. LEAN: Yes, Madame Chair. I believe you have
41 to take action on No. 5 as it's proposed but then I think it
42 would behoove you to go to the Federal Board and explain what
43 your long-range goal is and they might actually just be able to
44 take care of that. And it would also put the Yukon RAC on notice
45 that this is in the works and give them a chance to respond since
46 they're meeting is still to come.

47
48 Sandy.

49

MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park

00040

1 Service. I think, procedurally, what Charlie has just suggested
2 is a very good idea.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We already have a motion.....

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: There's a motion on the floor
7 already.

8
9 MR. BUCK: I call for the question on the motion.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called on the
12 motion.

13
14 MR. KOBUK: I make a motion.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Wait.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think we've already.....

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: There's already a motion on the
21 floor.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'd like to go on, though, are
24 there any other comments? We've already read the letters so
25 that's done. I don't think we have any more public testimony
26 so.....

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: He called for the question on
29 the motion.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS:the question has been
32 called on the motion. All is in favor of the signify by saying
33 aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So the motion that -- Ann, you
42 got the motion, right?

43
44 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry, I was out of the room.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that Ida Hildebrand has
47 it.

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: Wait.....

00041

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: She wasn't here when.....

2
3 MR. MENDENHALL:but wasn't Charlie asking
4 for a separate proposal or motion?

5
6 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madame Chairman.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: Go ahead.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ida.

11
12 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
13 Committee member. There's -- I can read the language that I was
14 talking about that Mr. Mendenhall turned into a motion and
15 subsequently Charlie was suggesting also to submit a separate
16 proposal regarding the boundary change and if you'd like language
17 on that, I also have suggested language. But you could discuss
18 that on break or at some other time.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Can you read the first proposal,
21 though, because, you know, that included the restriction right?

22
23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Let me find my notes. My
24 suggested language was to accept the recommendations to grant C&T
25 to St. Michael and Stebbins but to modify it to restrict the C&T
26 to the two villages and the two rivers that were being discussed
27 by this Council.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And Charlie was recommending
30 that we accept the previous motion No. 5 as is and then make
31 another proposal to -- for restricting the use of that area, for
32 moving that boundary?

33
34 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So that would be two separate
37 issues that would be addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board.
38 One is to grant C&T for St. Michael.

39
40 MS. HILDEBRAND: With the modification to
41 restrict the use to St. Michael and Stebbins on the rivers that
42 are discussed in the.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's the one that we just
45 passed?

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And then Charlie's suggestion

50 was to.....

00042

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: To also inform the Board that
2 you're interested in moving the boundaries. And if the Board
3 chooses to act on it, the Federal Subsistence Board, they may do
4 so, however, for precautionary notice considerations you may wish
5 to submit a second proposal for C&T to change the boundaries to
6 align with the State fish boundaries to become part of the Norton
7 Sound district by changing the Federal fish boundaries to Point
8 Romanoff and that would, in effect, place Stebbins and St.
9 Michael in the Norton Sound district and remove them from the
10 Yukon district. And that's what Charlie was concerned about,
11 that the Yukon Council may want to discuss that and have some
12 input in that discussion plus public notice to anybody who fishes
13 in that area.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: I have no problem if that's the
16 wishes -- I mean the way that they proposed it.

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Madame Chair, that's
19 only suggested language for discussion by this Council. It is by
20 no means a recommendation that you do this. But if that's where
21 the Council wanted to go.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

24
25 MS. HILDEBRAND: My suggested language is just
26 that, suggested language. There's expressed concern by this
27 Council and members of this Council that they want to separate
28 Stebbins and St. Michael, which is now in the Yukon district into
29 the Norton Sound district and to align the State fish district
30 and Federal fish district to have the same cut off place. The
31 proposal was to grant C&T to St. Michael and you passed that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

34
35 MS. HILDEBRAND: So the next discussion is are
36 you going to propose a separate-- are you going to suggest to
37 the Federal Board that when they discuss this proposal they
38 consider moving that boundary on Proposal 5. And if the Board
39 chooses not to do that then it is suggested that if you truly
40 want to move that boundary then the procedure would be to submit
41 a proposal requesting specifically that that boundary for C&T
42 purposes be moved.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So no proposal now just
45 recommendation, is that what you're saying?

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND: You can do both. The only
48 difference is the proposal -- submitting a new proposal to change
49 a boundary would protect you from any challenges regarding public

50 notice.

00043

1 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move in that regards to the
2 nature of a proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The suggested proposal?

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: What she just said, yeah.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So I guess I better ask that you
9 read your suggested proposal again?

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, she said it correctly. I
12 mean
13 think that addresses St. Michael's concerns about the boundary
14 change.

15
16 MS. HILDEBRAND: If you were going to submit a
17 second proposal it would be for the coming proposal solicitation,
18 to change the C&T boundary to align with the State fish boundary
19 to become part of the Norton Sound district by changing the
20 Federal fish boundary to Point Romanoff, and that would be the
21 end of that language. And to explain what that proposal is
22 suggesting was the intent to place Stebbins and St. Michael
23 within the Norton Sound district and remove them from the Yukon
24 area.

25
26 MR. KOBUK: And that's exactly what they want.
27 Charlie Lean said it would be in our best interest to move on
28 this right away.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: It would be good if you make the
31 motion.

32
33 MR. BUCK: I'll second the motion.

34
35 MR. KOBUK: I'll make a motion that.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You've already.....

38
39 MS. WILKINSON: You already did, Perry.

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: Yes, but I wanted him to make
42 the motion since it's his village. I'm kind of backing out.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So you're backing out?

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm backing out so Leonard can
47 make the motion in that regard.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

00044

1 MR. KOBUK: Yes, I'll make a motion that the
2 Federal boundary be moved to align with the State boundary and
3 that is the desire of St. Michael and Stebbins, they don't want
4 it no other way. They just want to remain Norton Sound.

5
6 MR. OKLEASIK: Second.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question is called. All is in
13 favor signify by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: If they get mad at you again
22 don't come back.

23
24 MR. KOBUK: Nope. That's what they told me to
25 do, that's what I'm going to do because I represent them.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, I know, but I -- we're
28 trying to -- we reacted to -- in your favor.

29
30 MR. KOBUK: It doesn't matter how the Yukon
31 people feel, it's not our concern.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: I was just teasing, Leonard.

34
35 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I beg this is something you guys
38 will want to discuss when you go back, and see if you guys come
39 up with a proposal to do the same.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I guess that concludes our
42 discussion on Proposal No. 5. Anybody else have anything further
43 to say on it? Nobody rushing on it. I was told that Proposal 39
44 is for information only, however, maybe, Ann, you could address
45 it a little bit for our information. Proposal 39.

46
47 MS. WILKINSON: Well, that's.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Or am I doing something wrong?

00045

1 MS. WILKINSON: No. When I saw this proposal, I
2 asked questions and found out that it might be of interest to
3 some people here partly because of family members that
4 participate in this fishery and also as something you might be
5 interested in in the future for yourselves so I included it
6 simply as an information only matter. If you have more
7 particular questions there are people here from Fish and Wildlife
8 Staff that could address it but it's just something I put in as
9 a heads up for you.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: And then could you explain it
12 from your perspective?

13
14 MS. WILKINSON: Donna.

15
16 MS. DEWHURST: Richard.

17
18 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry, Richard.

19
20 MR.U: Thank you, Madame Chair, members of the
21 Council. Proposal 39 analysis was done by Helen Armstrong with
22 the help of many people in here, the agencies, particularly,
23 Charlie from the Park Service, Dave Nelson, Fred DiCicco and Jim
24 Magdanz. Essentially this proposal submitted by the Northwest
25 Council with the intent of making a traditional practice of
26 netting white fish, making that practice legal. Originally it
27 was submitted for the Kotzebue area and latter was redefined to
28 -- and then narrowed down to the Selawik and Kobuk Rivers.

29
30 This proposal had a lot of conservation concerns
31 with many people because of the idea of blocking off entire
32 streams and impacting fish runs other than white fish, such as
33 sheefish and salmon and chars. And we made a number of
34 amendments to the original proposal to make it more palatable,
35 more acceptable to all agency concerns and we think we've arrived
36 at a proposal that we can support with certain amendments. And
37 those amendments are net sizes and periods of fishing.

38
39 We had a lengthy discussion at the Northwest
40 Council meeting last week on this proposal and some modifications
41 were proposed to increase the net size to four and a half inches,
42 however, we do not support increasing the net size to four and a
43 half inches because of conservation concerns with targeting fish
44 other than whitefish that may occur.

45
46 So essentially the proposal, as written and
47 amended, identifies the season of use and nets to 60 feet in
48 length and four inches or less in mesh size will be used to fish
49 whitefish in the Kobuk and Selawik Rivers. We support that

50 proposal as written.

00046

1 And if you have any other specific questions,
2 please ask them.

3
4 MR. SEETOT: When you talk about stream, you
5 know, do they determine the width, you know, when they make those
6 regulations or are there specific guidelines for the stream size,
7 the stream width?

8
9 MR.U: The net length will effectively limit the
10 streams that can be fished. The nets cannot be any longer than
11 50 feet. This will apply anywhere near the Kobuk and Selawik
12 drainages. So you can fish anywhere in the Kobuk and Selawik.

13
14 MR. SEETOT: Okay. So what they're meaning is a
15 stream may be, you know, the streams or rivers, we call them
16 either rivers, creeks of whatever.

17
18 MR.U: Sloughs.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: We do not determine, you know, the
21 width. If it's more than 50 feet we call it a river because it's
22 navigable. If it's a stream, you know, I'm thinking you know,
23 only five feet wide or something. So what this pertains to is
24 pretty much the Kobuk and Selawik river systems; am I correct?

25
26 MR.U: Yes. It's for those systems, sloughs,
27 creeks, streams, river.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: You know how they do white fish,
30 they do it overnight, catch it the next morning in camp at the
31 creek, that's that candy fish, nice.

32
33 MR.U: We also listened to the Kotzebue Advisory
34 Committee concerns about this proposal, too, and they had several
35 concerns also.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Could you summarize what their
38 concerns were?

39
40 MR.U: Well, their concerns were with the fact
41 that this proposal does block -- can block an entire stream, and
42 the precedent, statewide, that that may set in terms of some
43 State regulations, nowhere under State regulations can a stream
44 be blocked entirely with a net. However, this practice, a
45 traditional practice has been occurring in the spring and fall,
46 you know, for a long, long time. My understanding is this
47 proposal was submitted to make this practice legal in terms of
48 legally.

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: So was there.....

00047

1 MR. MENDENHALL: They don't traditionally let
2 their nets set and set, you know, because it's clogged up, they
3 have to get that fish immediately so it won't get soft on them.
4 That whitefish is very -- a delicacy for the people, the elders.
5

6 MR. BUCK: I'd like to support this proposal.
7 I'd like to know more on the progress, how this proposal goes,
8 you know, to keep track of this proposal and see how it goes
9 through. Because White Mountain is getting the white fish now
10 and we put away sacks and sacks of white fish anyway, but I'd
11 like to know the progress of this proposal and I support it.
12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charlie.
14

15 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, I wanted to stress that
16 the agency support for this proposal was one of fixing tradition
17 as it is and the assurance in the proposal that this is a fishery
18 that works on white fish and not larger species. If you look at
19 the proposal with the dates set out, the manner of fishing and so
20 forth, that focuses this stream blockage on whitefish streams,
21 because of this short window of opportunity that white fishermens
22 -- white fishers -- that probably didn't come out right, but
23 anyway, the people who fish for white fish have a very limited
24 window of opportunity. Usually that run is fairly short and they
25 have to catch fish while they're available.
26

27 The intent of the proposal is to allow this
28 activity on a species that's really numerous, no population
29 problem and then yet -- direct not to use these same methods on
30 fish like salmon that are in short supply and are really
31 susceptible in their migration paths to eradication by stream
32 blockage. So I think that's an important distinction, that this
33 is for a specific group of fish and not for all fish, the small
34 mesh size and the short net direct this fishery to a specific
35 species group and not to all fish.
36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chairman, I'd like to
38 make a motion for support of Proposal No. 39 for that people. My
39 dad's family lived up that way, about seven brothers and sisters
40 up there. And I know the practice of white fishing, my
41 grandmother, we used to do it, that's our candy fish in a way but
42 good for hunting and backpacking around going around in the boat.
43 And I make that motion to support Proposal 39.
44

45 MR. BUCK: Second the motion.
46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Peter Buck seconded.
48 Discussion. I guess we were asked not to make any motion on it
49 but we did now. Personally, I think everybody ought to be very

50 careful with other proposals that come to us from other regions

00048

1 and we'll be taking similar proposals on a case by case basis,
2 right, anyway. So what did the RAC in Kotzebue, what is their
3 position on this?
4

5 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, they're very much in
6 favor of this proposal. As Rich just explained, the proposal
7 kind of evolved over the summer to what it is now. But it's
8 widely done, this short-term blocking of rivers and intense
9 fishing and it's primary -- the primary targets are whitefish and
10 pike, and they specified that in their proposal.
11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any further discussion?
13

14 MR. SEETOT: So this is pretty much during the
15 fall season, spring and fall or just certain.....
16

17 MR. LEAN: Spring and fall, not mid-summer.
18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: During the hunting season.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's kind of similar to, I think
22 -- I can't remember, at one meeting people from that region were
23 discussing blocking the front of the river to catch the amount
24 that they need during the springtime. It's kind of similar.
25

26 MR. LEAN: Yeah, there are different treatments,
27 you know, the whitefish caught in the spring are for drying. The
28 whitefish caught in the fall are somewhat for fermenting or for
29 fresh consumption. There were comments by the Kotzebue Advisory
30 Committee about blocking streams and there were several members
31 of that committee were very uncomfortable with total blockage and
32 suggested maybe a three-quarter blockage rather than half or
33 total. They wanted to provide some support but they were very
34 uncomfortable with the total blockage issue.
35

36 MR.U: One thing I would add is that the local
37 advisory committee mentioned that 40 years ago this practice was
38 much more prevalent than today, maybe 10 times as much activity
39 40 years ago as today.
40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: It was also labor intensive,
42 too, lots of attention had to be given to it. You can't just --
43 you had to scale all the fish, split them and open them to dry.
44

45 MR.U: Uh-huh.
46

47 MR. SEETOT: When you're talking about whitefish,
48 are you talking about the different species, like the Bering Sea
49 cisco, round nose, you know, big nose and stuff like that? Or

50 are they going after a certain particular whitefish, you know,

00049

1 like for you say fermenting for fall consumption?

2

3 MR. LEAN: The proposal's directed at all
4 whitefish except sheefish.

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: They have lots of them up there.
7 Noorvik imports it to -- I mean exports it to Kotzebue, I know
8 that, trade.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: It must be the.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Johnson.

13

14 MR. ENINGOWUK: The proposal is brought by those
15 people, I imagine they know that the other species of fish have
16 already gone up the river so they don't do this to just catch all
17 kinds of fish. But most of the runs have gone through for salmon
18 and run fishes and they're only doing this for whitefish. The
19 proposal is there for whitefish only.

20

21 MR. LEAN: Whitefish and pike.

22

23 MR. ENINGOWUK: I imagine that other species of
24 fish has already gone through or that you don't necessarily
25 intercept those other species.

26

27 MR. LEAN: Right. As I understood their
28 testimony, they said that these practices only occur in slack
29 water, small streams that drain into lakes, sloughs and not
30 mainstream and it's practice to catch fish that are resident in
31 the, what I call the coastal flats and upstream on sloughs, the
32 slackwater areas, not flowing habitat suitable for sheefish,
33 dolly varden, salmon, not those three but this is primarily for
34 pike and whitefish, not those other species.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So this does include.....

37

38 MR. MENDENHALL: It just.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Excuse me. So this regulation
41 would impact Shishmaref according to the.....

42

43 MR. ENINGOWUK: Not necessarily.

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: No.

46

47 MR. ENINGOWUK: We don't practice.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's in Kotzebue area and

50 Northwest Arctic Regional Council, portion of North Slope,

00050

1 northern portions of Seward Peninsula, Shishmaref. So it won't
2 impact you, right?

3

4 MR. ENINGOWUK: No.

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I think the reason for
7 supporting this is to support another region because it would
8 have been illegal for them to do so if they didn't do this. And
9 this is a closely watched activity anyway for a 30 foot net,
10 nobody wants to lose that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes, I understand that, I was
13 just.....

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: And I think by doing this and
16 then it won't spill over to our region where we have some similar
17 practices and then make it illegal to us. And I think it's
18 prudent for our -- to support our neighboring RAC up north in
19 their endeavors on this because I don't think we would like to
20 have our fishing made illegally, we made this one and not support
21 it, and I think it's helpful to be for it.

22

23 MR. BUCK: I know in White Mountain it is, it's
24 a subsistence activity. We think about regulations and stuff
25 like that for this activity to go on. So I really support this
26 proposal and I support it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken.

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, Council members, Ken
31 Adkisson, National Park Service. I guess there's only a couple
32 of things I would add to this discussion. One is to stress the
33 point that the real problem in dealing with this proposal I think
34 from many of the resource management agencies has been to develop
35 language for the proposal that would adequately protect the
36 traditional fisheries practice while ensuring conservation
37 protection especially for the non-white species. And I think
38 part of that discussion is still actually ongoing so the proposal
39 may change.. You should also be aware that and if you choose to
40 formally support this proposal, what you see in the book right
41 now is not what the proposal is exactly because the RAC amended
42 the proposal to lengthen the season in the fall, and also extend
43 the -- enlarge the mesh size and especially the mesh size
44 enlargement has created a good deal of discussion among the
45 conservation and the resource management folks and the proposal,
46 as amended by the Regional Advisory Council, may not be
47 supportable by the agencies at this point in time. Willie
48 Goodwin has ask that the agencies direct their comments directly
49 to him so that they can begin a dialogue or whatever it takes to

50 work this proposal through.

00051

1 So I just wanted to bring those points to your
2 attention. Thank you.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question on the
5 motion.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called. All
8 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And we will be watching that
17 proposal as it further develops. But I would like to say that we
18 are in support in the Northwest RAC in their attempts to make a
19 traditional way of hunting be legal. It's kind of a early to
20 take a break but if people would like to go to lunch early at
21 11:30 and come back promptly at 1:00.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Why not just make the motion to
24 call for proposals and then break for lunch, that way the floor
25 is open and then go into reports.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Pardon me?

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: And then go into the reports.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: If there are any proposals, I'm
32 sure that there'll be extensive discussion on them, so I'm just
33 going to leave and begin new and fresh at -- begin our lunch now
34 and then come back at 1:00. Okay, so let's break for lunch right
35 now and come back promptly at 1:00, it is now 11:23, so we'll
36 break for lunch now.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: October -- it kind of gives you
43 a view for wildlife proposals. It is now 1:09 p.m., we are now
44 at the call for proposals to change wildlife regulations and
45 customary and traditional use determinations for 2001 regulatory
46 year. And the proposal period will be accepted from August 18th
47 to October 27, 2000, and that's in Tab F. It kind of gives you
48 an overview for call for wildlife proposals. I think most of us
49 have read that and so I'll go on and ask if anyone has any

50 proposals that you need to submit to us.

00052

1 I know there are some possible ones from the
2 muskox cooperative committee so maybe Ken Adkisson, we can start
3 with you.

4
5 MR. ADKISSON: You want to do those now, Madame
6 Chair?

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah.

9
10 MR. ADKISSON: Good afternoon, Madame Chair and
11 Council members. My name is Ken Adkisson and I'm with the
12 National Park Service. I'm really here this afternoon of co-
13 chair of the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperative Management
14 Working Group. Kate Persons from the Alaska Department of Fish
15 and Game has also joined me in case there are certain questions
16 that maybe she may be better prepared to address.

17
18 Basically I'm here to present to you the
19 recommendations that came out of a recent series of cooperative
20 management meetings that the Muskoxen Cooperators Working Group
21 have been involved in and to seek your support for these
22 recommendations as we move them towards the proposal period and
23 to make changes to existing muskoxen regulations related to the
24 Seward Peninsula Muskoxen Management Program. And basically in
25 the interest of time I'll make these very short and outline the
26 recommendations of the cooperators. You should have copies of my
27 report that I was going to give later under the agency report
28 area and some tables and other things that you might need to
29 refer to. But like I said, I'll try to keep this very short and
30 outline the basis of the recommendations.

31
32 As kind of an information note, one of the things
33 that happened at Kotzebue was, they simply -- the Northwest
34 Arctic RAC endorsed the recommendations as it related to 23
35 Southwest and directed Staff then to go ahead and develop the
36 actual proposal and we may try a similar approach here. Whatever
37 we do will go out probably as a single package or a one Federal
38 proposal. But you should also know that while we're dealing with
39 this there will be proposals going to the State Board of Game
40 which will meet in November and they'll be addressing parallel
41 sets of regs.

42
43 If there are no questions right now I'll go ahead
44 and just briefly outline what those recommendations are for you.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: You got two, single pages one or
47 the -- which one are you.....

48
49 MS. DEWHURST: I handed out the regs, too, Ken.

00053

1 MR. ADKISSON: You may have the regs. The report
2 really is a very short report labeled status report.....
3

4 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.
5

6 MR. ADKISSON:and it's three pages. You
7 should have a Table 1, which I was going to use as a part of a
8 different report or portion of it which outlines the results of
9 this year's hunts permit distribution and success. And that was
10 going to relate to the first part of my report 0001 hunt. Then
11 you should have a Table 2, which is a front and back page summary
12 of the recommendations that came out of the cooperator's meeting
13 and then a Table 3 which shows muskoxen numbers and how we
14 arrived at potential permit numbers and the distribution of those
15 between the State and Federal system. Keep in mind that this is
16 a joint effort along with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
17 the state of Alaska and to be effective it requires parallel
18 actions by both the State Board of Game and Federal Subsistence
19 Board. Also as an informational note and I'm not sure you have
20 them, but out on the table, there are full packets of note
21 materials from the cooperator's meeting, these include a
22 transcribed notes pretty much of the whole proceedings, they
23 include the attendance list, they include a transcription,
24 basically, of the comments and notes that were put up on the flip
25 charts and those were all compiled into a separate informational
26 package. So if you want to go through the complete record I
27 think it will give you a good feel for the kinds of issues that
28 developed, the range of comments and as a comment on the
29 cooperative process, the idea was that we met over a two or three
30 day period here in August, basically we outlined a series of
31 issues or topics that we needed to address and then broke down
32 into smaller groups representing more or less the different
33 potential hunt areas and let the small groups work on the issues
34 that were of major concern to them and reconvened in the larger
35 group and tried to resolve the differences and work things out
36 and formalize the recommendations. And the results of that are
37 all summarized in Table 2.
38

39 MR. MENDENHALL: What do you want this Council to
40 do?
41

42 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. Well, what I want you to do
43 is -- what I'm hoping you'll do is endorse the recommendations of
44 the cooperators, that's the basics.
45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: What page is it?
47

48 MR. ADKISSON: Table 2.
49

MR. MENDENHALL: Table 2.

00054

1 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, if you want you could just
2 vote to endorse the recommendations on Table 2 and that would
3 probably do it. But I think I'd like to give you a little more
4 information than that before you do.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: Which table?

7
8 MR. ADKISSON: It says recommendations from the
9 Seward Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperator's Meeting, August 2000, it's
10 just a front and back sheet set up as a grid of tables.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay, two pages.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. Let me basically, you know,
15 just outline for you in a concessive way as I can what the
16 recommendations are. Essentially the cooperators want to
17 establish a new subsistence muskoxen hunt in 22(B), where there
18 hasn't been a hunt previous to this. So that would create a
19 brand new hunt. On the Federal and State side this would be a
20 shared bag limit of bulls only up to five percent of the animals
21 counted in the subunit of the last count. The season for the
22 Federal portion of the hunt would be August 1st through March
23 15th. The State, for a number of reasons, is going to take a
24 slightly different tact in their presentation to the Board of
25 Game and they're going to divide up 22(B) into a larger portion
26 and a smaller portion along the Fox River drainage there kind of
27 on the road, say between Solomon and Council from like Scoocumer
28 (ph), somewhere in there. Kate can give you the exact geographic
29 differences and they may be shown on some maps that Kate has.
30 But the reason for that is so the State can establish a season
31 November 1 through March 15th in order to protect wildlife
32 viewing values along the road system there in the Fox River
33 drainage.

34
35 There really isn't any real Federal land to our
36 knowledge of significance in that area so we don't need to
37 concern ourselves with that on the Federal side, we can simply
38 deal with the Federal hunt as August 1 to March 15.

39
40 The cooperators are recommending establishing a
41 brand new hunt in 22(C), there's no Federal lands really in
42 22(C), so in one sense that's not an issue but there are people
43 in 22(C) -- 22(C) residents have C&T for muskoxen in 22(C) even
44 though there's no Federal lands and some of you folks represent
45 Nome people so if nothing else you might want to still endorse
46 the State's recommendations.

47
48 Basically in a nutshell, what they recommended
49 for 22(C) is a more conservative hunt, bulls only up to 3 percent

50 of the population in subunit 22(C) and the cooperators

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1 recommended dividing 22(C) essentially into two different hunt
2 areas with different seasons. Essentially that was to recognize
3 the unique wildlife viewing values and protect a portion of the
4 animals along the road system during peak viewing opportunities
5 and so forth.

6
7 We actually held a series of meetings and that
8 was one of the issues that was presented to the groups, was
9 balancing consumptive or like hunting values with non-consumptive
10 uses like wildlife viewing and the economic values resulting from
11 that. And everyone make a lot of compromises and in a good
12 spirit of cooperation really recognized each others positions and
13 values and really tried to strike a balance and I think the
14 recommendations really effectively achieved that. And we could
15 speak more about that, but basically that's what it is. And the
16 22(C) hunt will be a State Tier II only hunt, there won't be any
17 Federal hunt involved with it.

18
19 22(D), the recommendations of the cooperators are
20 a little more complex. They basically broke out a smaller
21 portion of 22(D), what we're calling 22(D) south/west. And what
22 that amounts to is essentially that portion of 22(D) along the
23 boundary line between the current 22(C) and (D), south of the
24 Teller road and then Canyon Creek, north of the Teller road. And
25 so what it creates is a small area in 22(D) right around Teller.
26 And what the cooperators decided on that was a five percent
27 harvest, overall harvest level, broken out to bulls and either
28 sex hunts. The either sex hunt would be beginning January 1st
29 and run through March 15th. The bulls only portion of the hunt
30 would begin September 1 through March 15th. And that one month
31 difference in there is to, again, protect the wildlife viewing
32 values along that portion of the Teller road for a period of time
33 during the peak tour season, yet early enough that it would allow
34 the Teller hunters to get out and use part of the road system and
35 stuff along there for their hunt when the animals are somewhere
36 in the proximity. So it was a really major compromise. And most
37 of that land is on Teller Native corporation land anyway so I
38 think it was a worthwhile compromise.

39
40 For the of 22(D), the hunt would stay pretty much
41 as you're familiar with now except for the addition of a cow
42 harvest. And that would be a bull hunt August 1st through March
43 15th. An either sex hunt January 1st through March 15th. The
44 overall harvest rate would be five percent and up to three
45 percent could be cows.

46
47 22(E), again the issue there was -- one of the
48 issues was to develop an allowable cow harvest and what came out
49 of the cooperators there, at least for now is to provide for an

50 either sex hunt. Cows could be harvested January 1st to March

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1 15th at up to three percent of the allowable harvest or the
2 population counted in the subunit. The remainder up to five
3 percent bulls, August 1st to March 15th. A similar season to
4 what we've got now.

5
6 For 23, the cooperators recommended basically the
7 same thing as 22E, and that is five percent overall harvest rate,
8 up to three percent basically could be cows, January 1st to March
9 15th, and the remainder in bulls August 1st to March 15th and up
10 to five percent.

11
12 So that's basically what the cooperators want to
13 recommend and develop into proposals, both from you folks for the
14 Federal system and the State system.

15
16 There are a couple other little twists to it that
17 we could go into if you want. Just for an example -- but we can
18 deal with these outside of the normal regulatory process. But I
19 would address them in my report and they are kind of interesting.

20
21 Harvest success rates have dropped off the last
22 few years. And just as an example, I think this last year, the
23 Federal harvest success rate was around 28 percent, the State, I
24 think was around 55 percent. And the low harvest success rates
25 have been of interest to the cooperators and the solution to that
26 or a solution it that they want to try is to increase the number
27 of permits that we issue up to about a third more above the
28 allowable harvest to see if by giving more permits out to people,
29 we can get the harvest closer to the allowable figure. So in
30 some of the areas we'll be doing that like in the northern or
31 larger part of (D) and in 22(E) and 23SW. So we'll actually be
32 issuing more permits than what the allowable harvest is but we'll
33 be monitoring the hunt very closely, probably put a permit
34 requirement in that success hunters call into a toll free number
35 within 24 hours of returning back to the village from the hunt,
36 and when we hit the allowable harvest figures we'll close the
37 hunt.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion that the
44 Regional Council here accept the recommendations from the Seward
45 Peninsula Muskox Cooperative.

46
47 MR. BUCK: Second it.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion.

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MR. BUCK: I seconded it.

MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

MR. SEETOT: Mr. Adkisson, what -- and to Ms. Persons, when the representatives from State and Federal agencies go to the communities, will they emphasize to the public that more permits are being issued, you know, to encourage that harvest success rate is at that number? And like Mr. Adkisson was saying, that some restrictions we face, like calling in within 24 hours, will that be emphasized to the communities? Because I think that some of the residents in the communities, you know, do get a little confused about these regulations, and I think that needs to be emphasized, you know, to the persons in the communities that more permits will be issued but the season will be closed when a predetermined number is reached. And I think that should be emphasized to ensure that -there's no confusion on the community residents.

MR. ADKISSON: Right, Elmer, we will. And I'll explain, really briefly, how that will happen. If you look at Table 3, which is sort of just a two part table, the upper part of the table shows the number of muskoxen counted at the last hunt, the various harvest levels that we're using to calculate the allowable harvest, the allowable harvest and the rounded harvest and then it shows a low harvest compensation factor and projected permits available. The low harvest compensation factor is what we're using to multiply the allowable harvest by to determine how many permits we're going to issue. The bottom part of the table where it says permit allocation by hunt area and between Federal and State programs, shows how those permits will be broken out. And as you'll recall, the process that we use every year is usually ADF&G and Park Service personnel go out to the villages, initially, prior to the application period for the State Tier II hunt and so we provide information on how to fill out and assistance in filling out the Tier II permit, so we give information out then and then we go back to the same villages a second time around actually to issue those permits as well as the State permits and this gives us an opportunity to also contact the individual hunters face to face and personally in most cases. And so what we'll be doing is we'll actually be putting the reporting requirement on the report, on the harvest ticket, and it will say, you know, call in, and then we'll also be providing information to the individual hunters on what the process is.

So I think it will probably work. We've done these hunts successfully elsewhere. One recent example that

50 we've been in Federally was with a very tightly controlled dall

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1 sheep hunt up in Unit 23.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kate.

4

5 MS. PERSONS: Madame Chair, Council, Kate
6 Persons, Fish and Game. That's a really good point that you make
7 Elmer and it will be very important that the people who get these
8 permits understand that more permits may be issued in some areas
9 than actually muskox can be harvested. We'll do everything we
10 can to make sure that is understood and although we'll base the
11 number of extra permits on past hunt history so hopefully it
12 won't ever happen that we'll have to close the hunt before all
13 the people that really wanted to harvest muskox have had a chance
14 to hunt but that always is a possibility if we have more permits
15 than there are muskox to harvest. It is possible that, you know,
16 the hunt will be closed before some people have hunted. And it
17 will important that people go into this understanding that.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: There's another element to that
20 too that you should probably be aware of and that everything has
21 been done that we can think of to make this, in one way, the most
22 flexible hunt possible with maximizing the opportunity. For
23 example, allowing a hunter to take either a bull or a cow, rather
24 than sitting there holding a permit for a bull when he can see a
25 cow right there or vice versa.

26

27 So for example, let me use 22(E) as an example.
28 Three percent of the harvest can be cows and the rest bulls up to
29 a total of five percent. So we'll have to have good reporting to
30 know when we reach that three percent level, if we do, on cows
31 and when we do we'll have to close the cow season. And that was
32 -- there's a risk in that but we felt that taking that risk and
33 trying it, if nothing else, if it doesn't work we'll go to
34 something else, but we felt that that would work better for the
35 hunters, than say, giving them simply a cow permit that's only
36 good from January 1st to March 15th when they're sitting out on
37 their allotment and they can see a bull right there, you know, on
38 August 20th or something like that. Instead they'll have a
39 permit that says one muskox and they can use that permit for the
40 bull if they choose or they can wait until the cow season opens.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: So what you're saying is that cow
43 season would be in the hunt 2000/2001?

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: 2001/2002.

46

47 MR. SEETOT: Not this season but the next season.

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: This whole thing that we're

50 talking about would take place next year so it'd be 2001/2002

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1 hunt. So the cow season that we're talking about here would open
2 January 1st 2002 and close March 15th, 2002.

3

4 MR. SEETOT: And Madame Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

7

8 MR. SEETOT: And another question, if you're
9 going to allow more than -- or the extra permits, how will they
10 be allocated? Will they be allocated to the communities or to
11 the hunt, general, as a whole? Because I think that Brevig
12 Mission and Teller are the communities that are in 22(D) and
13 they're getting pretty much less than half the number of muskox
14 within the hunt area. If the State and Federal government is
15 going to issue more permits, are they going to be allocated to
16 those communities or is it just to the whole subunit?

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: It's going to depend a whole lot
19 on what the communities want to do as we've done in the past.
20 But keep in mind there are limitations, like that the State is
21 operating under with their State Tier II system. Again, let me
22 just contrast 22(E) and 22(D). 22(E), the direction that we've
23 gotten from the group, the folks and the communities in the past,
24 Shishmaref and Wales, is they like to see roughly a 50/50 split,
25 Federal and State. So what we would do is take the increase
26 number of permits for 22(E), divide them basically into the State
27 and Federal systems and so all of the Federal permits would go
28 into those two villages. The State portion of it would simply go
29 into their Tier II system and anyone in the state can apply for
30 one of those. But past experience has shown us that only
31 residents of 22(E) have gotten the State Tier II permits. So the
32 prediction is the increased permits would go, State permits would
33 go into those two communities.

34

35 Now, for 22(D) on the other hand, 22(D) residents
36 have told us that they don't really want anymore Federal permits.
37 And so right now we're issuing six Federal permits and they don't
38 want more than that so any increase would go into the State Tier
39 II system, and who gets those in 22(D) would be largely dependent
40 on how many people from Brevig and Teller apply. That's been the
41 experience. What we anticipate is that there will be strong
42 interest in Teller, in Southwester 22(D) and any permits that go
43 into that 22SW likely will be taken by Teller. The remainder of
44 22(D), depending on, again, how many people from Brevig and
45 Teller apply and experience has shown if they don't, a lot of
46 those permits wind up in Nome. There's also a growing interest,
47 it would seem, over in White Mountain and I believe this year
48 they got eight permits -- seven.....

49

MS. PERSONS: Seven.

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1 MR. ADKISSON: Seven permits. White Mountain
2 residents got seven permits for 22(D). Some of that may
3 translate into something different next year when we open a hunt
4 in 22(B) because they have C&T for that, too. But would expect
5 there'll still be an interest in some of those people in hunting
6 in 22(D).

7
8 Experience has shown us that so far none of the
9 State Tier II permits have gone outside the basic region so that
10 indicates that the program is working, that it is successful and
11 by and large does work for the villages, and we hope that trend
12 will continue.

13
14 MR. SEETOT: So the number on the Federal side is
15 that they will be guaranteed that number, on the State side it
16 depends on a number of applicants for that hunt area and I think
17 that for the State permits, you know, there will be a big rush,
18 you know. Brevig has eight, four under State and four under
19 Federal and then White Mountain, which is pretty much in 22(B),
20 you know, we don't mind sharing the animal it's just that I think
21 in order for them to be successful they have to hunt before the
22 residents of 22(D), you know, get a chance to hunt. You know
23 weather has played a major factor in harvesting muskox you know
24 for our area and there'll be some disappointment, you know, among
25 community residents who do not get a Federal permit when there is
26 a rush, you know, to fill in the quota for that subunit.

27
28 And like I said, education is a major part, of
29 you know, giving out the permits because there's no guarantee,
30 you know, that they'll be the ones guaranteed to harvest the
31 muskox so it's just a matter of timing, and then the willingness
32 of the hunters to bag their muskox. And like I say, we need to
33 inform the residents of the community that even though you have
34 a permit, when a certain number is reached, you know, then that
35 season will be closed and I think that that needs to be
36 emphasized. Because the Tier II system, to my residents, in
37 Brevig, is a new concept to them. It's just the season was open
38 for certain species and then, you know, we went -- we went
39 through the seasons -- or within the certain time -- guidelines,
40 we don't hunt moose, you know, when they're in certain periods
41 because, you know, it was taught to us over the years that in
42 order for the species to, you know, reproduce, you know, you
43 don't hunt them during calving time just like their meat isn't
44 too palatable. So it's just a matter of certain seasons that
45 you're restricted. And then some of the elements, you know, come
46 into play that -- you know, that the season is open but, you
47 know, they're past their -- or during their prime time when you
48 can get them. Like between now -- or between September 1st and
49 maybe September 30th, and that would be the ideal time to get a

50 bull muskox or bull species of, you know, moose or caribou and

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1 then when they go into rut, you know, that their meat changes a
2 little because of chemicals that they put in the, you know,
3 during the rutting season. So we're kind of restricted, you
4 know, during certain parts of the season.
5

6 MR. ADKISSON: I recognize and, again, you know,
7 one of the things I'd say is that none of this stuff is perfect
8 but we're all trying to make it work the best we can. And I keep
9 coming back and stressing this and I always want the Federal
10 Board to keep this in mind, too, that, you know, if this system
11 is not working for those villages then we can change the system
12 and the process. So in a sense it's an experiment and so far
13 it's been working very well and all we can hope it will continue
14 to work well and improve. And there is a risk with this process,
15 as we've outlined here, that really aggressive hunters or groups
16 of hunters can reach some of those quota levels before other
17 eligible users or people with permits and cause a result in shut
18 down of the season. I don't know how significant that level of
19 risk is, but it's there. And all I can say is if that happens
20 and another group comes up empty handed, we'll go back and we'll
21 change it. And one of the ways we can do that is take some of
22 that harvest back into the Federal program. But in the case of
23 22(D), I mean it was made pretty clear through a whole series of
24 meetings that they basically want those permits to go into the
25 State Tier II system and not into the Federal system.
26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: So there was quite a bit of
28 discussion at this August meeting at that cooperator meeting?
29

30 MR. ADKISSON: There's been a series of meetings,
31 yeah, including.....
32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, yeah, but during that time
34 there was a lot of input from, what is it, about 50 people
35 attending?
36

37 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, well, in fact, just to show
38 you -- I mean just to show you what's actually gone into it, I
39 only really addressed one basic meeting but prior to the main
40 meeting on August 8th, 10th, we held sort of a pre-meeting
41 meeting in Nome that focused basically on 22(C) and the
42 consumptive/non-consumptive, the use issues. We had some
43 problems in reaching resolution and consensus in 22(D), basically
44 over Teller and some issues that they had. And so after the main
45 cooperators meeting, we followed that up about a week and a half,
46 two weeks later with another meeting just in Teller. And then
47 we've also done a teleconference with Shishmaref and some follow-
48 up work with Buckland and Deering.
49

MR. MENDENHALL: And also, you know, I hunt up

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1 that road, Kougarok, all the way to Kougarok and back, quite a
2 bit and sometimes you can see muskox and other times you can't
3 find one, you know. It's like when you go after bear you see one
4 without a gun and when you have a gun you don't see the bear.
5 It's the same thing that happens with muskox. They move around
6 a lot, where the feed is and the wind.

7
8 But I think they done their work, you know, they
9 had these meetings. And this was a test case for the last year
10 and now we're living with it and they're tweaking it. And I
11 think we need to tweak with them on this level. And like he
12 said, it's adjustable, if there's a problem with it we come back
13 to it next year. But that's why I made a motion to accept their
14 recommendation. Because we could tweak it, we have input into
15 this on the Federal side.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any further discussion.

18
19 MR. SEETOT: One more comment. I think that our
20 harvest rate went down because some hunters, you know, I guess
21 it's the first time they harvested muskox and they, you know,
22 didn't know how much time and effort can go into even butchering
23 a muskox because their hide is pretty much a quarter inch thick.
24 And you know, it's unlike moose. Moose you can pretty much --
25 but the hide and stuff, it gets heavy at times and even for just
26 one hunter. And then I guess that's where the interest kind of
27 fell among the residents of Brevig because with these new hunters
28 they love to shoot but, you know, they just don't like to butcher
29 it, you know, quarter it and all that work involved, they're
30 happy to pull the trigger but they're kind of let someone else,
31 you know, do the work. And I guess that's where the interest
32 kind of fell in the number of applicants, you know, with the
33 State program, but with the Federal program, I think that local
34 organizations know who pretty much are truly hunters or
35 foodgathers for that community and that's what I try to tell the
36 community, that you select the person that will guarantee success
37 and then that will -- and be able to distribute that meat through
38 time -- or through customs done over the years.

39
40 But that's just one of the comments that I think,
41 too much time and effort by the young hunters, at least, but
42 nothing does ever come free, you know, without time and effort,
43 you know, just something they have to consider when saying, yes,
44 I will have that permit. It's another thing to say -- to have a
45 permit but another thing to actually hunt, you know, under that
46 permit and do all the work required.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: I also see this opportunity to
2 supply protein to the village when the fishing is bad, and, you
3 know, like Nome's fishing's been bad and I'm glad that they kind
4 of opened it up for the Nome area for a muskox hunt. Because it
5 would provide some protein to some families that need the meat
6 when they don't have the fish.

7
8 Sound fishy here? Call for the question on the
9 recommendation.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All is in support of the
12 proposed Federal Subsistence regulations, muskox proposals for
13 2001/2002 indicate by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Kate, did you
22 have anything to add at all?

23
24 MS. PERSONS: No, I think Ken pretty well summed
25 it up. There are copies out on the table of the State proposals
26 that will be submitted to the Board of Game and they agreed to
27 address them out of sequence this fall. So they'll act on them
28 in November.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Are you going to go over the
31 regulations?

32
33 MR. ADKISSON: If you wish.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean, you know.

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: I guess treat those as sort of
38 informational. I think Donna and I will be working with Kate or
39 whatever to try and figure out exactly what the language should
40 look like. I mean we're having a little bit of a problem with
41 that. As you can see, you know, we're trying to keep it simple
42 for the users but we're kind of boxing ourselves into a fairly
43 complicated regulating writing process, I guess, internally so
44 treat that as a sample. But I think it will look something like
45 that.

46
47 And kind of on another cheery note and something
48 to look forward to, we'll probably be back again next year or the
49 year after, at the very latest, and issues that will be coming up

50 down the road will be addressing the State's determination on the

1 subsistence need level. There was a general feeling at the
2 cooperators meeting that that was too low. The State currently
3 has it set at 100 animals. The other thing we'll be looking at
4 is possibly as we raise the harvest levels down the road, we will
5 be moving out of a Tier II system into a Tier I system and that
6 got some discussion at the cooperators meeting. And it was felt
7 we didn't have enough information and enough time to really
8 adequately deal with it. So next year we'll be looking at that
9 issue. And also in the process of doing that take a look at some
10 different harvest options that may be available such as community
11 bag limits. So it may be that we'll be continuing to restructure
12 this hunt as we go down the road fairly substantially.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: If I remember correctly, some of
15 the more interesting topics that came up was the State Tier II,
16 if we go to Tier I, then how will that affect the Native
17 population? Those were some of the issues that we discussed,
18 muskox in the Native population.

19
20 MR. ADKISSON: Basically Kate or Jim can probably
21 maybe jump in here if they want, but basically a Tier I hunt is
22 a general registration hunt for all Alaskans.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's what.....

25
26 MR. ADKISSON: First come first serve. And so
27 in the past the State has, you know, when we first started this
28 thing several years ago, I mean the State was really trying to
29 make an effort to see that those permits would get out, largely
30 in the villages, nothing ever happened, of course, because of the
31 Federal intervention. But I know they would again -- and again,
32 we're looking at these issues that maybe we can use, under Tier
33 I, we can use a community bag limit system where a certain number
34 of permits or proportion would go into the community but those
35 are things we'll be addressing at the cooperators meeting.

36
37 Frankly, the cooperators were very nervous about
38 moving from Tier II to Tier I because of some of the implications
39 and being kind of concerned that they would be overrun from
40 outside.

41
42 And I'll just give you an example, how many phone
43 calls have you gotten on the emergency opening for 22(E) caribou?
44

45 MS. PERSONS: Dozens of people all over the state
46 that are wanting to go up into 22(E) and hunt caribou because
47 they read in the paper that there is an emergency order opening
48 there. But it's pretty well protected there because access is so
49 difficult. But if they don't have friends in Shishmaref that can

50 take them there with a boat, really there's no way they can

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1 access the caribou. So in this case it's not an issue, but the
2 interest is there.

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: And I think with the muskox,
5 something as kind of charismatic or as interesting to people as
6 a muskoxen, I suspect that under Tier I we'd have a great deal of
7 interest from outside region. And that was a concern with moving
8 too fast. I think if it hadn't been for that we'd probably be
9 looking at higher harvest levels this year, at least some of the
10 higher harvest levels. Yeah, Perry.

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: The fact that you're going to be
17 looking at 22(C) for some seasons and there is the fact that this
18 should be made public information to people that are touring or
19 just taking a look, that they should not be surprised to see a
20 muskox go down and being skinned. We don't want to -- we want
21 that information to be out, that this is the subsistence region
22 so some of your publications that you have for National Park
23 Service, that Nome also has subsistence dependency on land
24 animals and fish. That needs to be emphasized, I think, so they
25 won't be surprised when they see an animal being butchered, moose
26 or whatever, near the road or something.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's why the regulations are
29 pretty rigid in 22(C).

30

31 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, see but that's what
32 their recommendation was.

33

34 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, well, it's clearly an
35 educational opportunity that we shouldn't pass by.

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: And the one thing, and I really
40 should be straight out on this is that muskoxen on the Seward
41 Peninsular, frankly are a world class wildlife viewing
42 opportunity. You can see them occasionally and stuff up along
43 the Haul Road towards Prudhoe Bay but there's nowhere else in the
44 world that I know of that you can come with such ease and be
45 almost guaranteed of seeing these animals in these numbers in the
46 wild and in the greening groups and so forth, so it's a world
47 class opportunity. And there was real concern among folks,
48 especially around the 22(C) area and along the road systems that
49 hunting at all would drive the animals away from the road and

50 reduce that viewing opportunity. And again, the people who

00066

1 attended the meetings.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON:were really willing to
6 compromise. And what the State did was structure, taking that as
7 guidance, structured a hunt that basically would keep the hunt in
8 22(C), the early hunt away from the road system, period, and
9 provide a more road-oriented one after the roads really closed,
10 when access was by snowmachine.

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: But what I'm saying is that
13 these regulations should state that, that there's a dependency in
14 this region, 22 district on subsistence, and that includes Nome.
15 I mean it needs to be said, it needs to be stated and understood.

16

17 When somebody reads the regulations, oh, it would
18 help -- it would ease -- it would probably help ease our hunters
19 to go about hunting without being put down is what I'm saying.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that's a good idea. And
22 I think it's something that.....

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: And, you know, like BLM
25 publication, they got BLM land, they got National Park Service.
26 They need to emphasize.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think.....

29

30 MR. MENDENHALL: And State.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS:a good solution is to bring
33 that idea over to visitor's center and have them deal with that
34 issue. Because we're talking about 22(C) where there's no
35 Federal lands.

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: Right, right, but there's.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But we can bring it up as an
40 issue to.....

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm not saying 22(C), I'm saying
43 22 district, period, that it covers, that we do have subsistence
44 activity in 22(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), whatever, you know.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

47

48 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I know just for the Park
49 Service, for example, and it's literature that it puts out for

50 Western Arctic Parklands, I mean, you know, highlights

00067

1 subsistence as a major function in the parks and it's importance
2 and stresses things like that. I think it's very important to
3 get that information out and we should all be aware of it and
4 looking for ways to continue to get the message out. But
5 actually.....

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Especially in the.....

8
9 MR. ADKISSON:putting it in the reg books
10 is not probably the appropriate place to do it. I mean.....

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Right. I mean -- well.....

13
14 MR. ADKISSON:I don't even know if
15 we'd.....

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL:I'm not saying whether it's
18 the regs but.....

19
20 MR. ADKISSON:legally be able to.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL:or your -- any other
23 publication that's going out, it needs to be there because I --
24 we don't want to have some tourists go by and then make an issue
25 over it or environmentalist making an issue to where they want to
26 halt hunting grounds. That's what the newspaper was on Monday.
27 Where environmentalists are trying to prevent hunting on Federal
28 land, that's where I'm coming from.

29
30 We need to emphasize, as a people, that we depend
31 on those game on Federal lands and also State land. And that's
32 -- they're going against that bill that allows hunting on Federal
33 land in Washington, D.C., right now. We need to take a stand
34 with our publications, even if it's the reg, and put a statement
35 in there, that 22 district, regardless of (A), (B), (C), (D), (E)
36 or whatever, the whole area depends on subsistence, that's what
37 I'm saying. And that hunting should be allowed on Federal land
38 and State land and emphasize that, that our people are not in the
39 money making situation. We're an economic depressed area. The
40 dollar does not turnaround 11 times like it used to, it's only
41 turning around five times around now.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I think your comments are
44 well-heeded, and.....

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Right, but.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS:I thank you for them.

49

MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. My recommendation is to

00068

1 all the agencies here to emphasize in their publications or any
2 article that we, in 22, depend on muskox, caribou, moose, name
3 them, you know, whatever that we have here for a living. Like
4 he's worried -- Brevig's worried about their -- that that animal
5 is their animal, that permit goes to them. And Teller. So what
6 I'm saying is there's a lot of people that go up to Teller and
7 all that and we need to, as a people, make that statement in
8 black and white because that's what they read and they believe.
9 If it comes from us it makes it more stronger as a Council. And
10 then we're telling these agencies to get with the act so we don't
11 have to be fighting the battle down in Washington, D.C., about
12 hunting as a cultural and traditional way of life.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think your comments will be
15 well-heeded.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, can we make a -- I'm
18 making a motion that all the agencies represented here recognize
19 in their articles or literature that 22 district depends on
20 subsistence hunts.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We already have a motion that we
23 haven't acted on.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: Do we?

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah. You made a motion to
28 support the proposed.....

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Right, but that's the proposal
31 on the muskox, wasn't it?

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, we haven't even acted on
34 it yet.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, but I'm making another,
37 totally different motion.

38
39 MR. ENINGOWUK: We already did.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We did?

42
43 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, it's already done. This is
44 a new one.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The proposal that supported --
47 I thought we were in discussion.

48
49 MR. SEETOT: No, that was recommendation from

50 Ken, we already accepted it.

00069

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We already accepted it?

2
3 REPORTER: Yes.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm making a different motion
8 totally.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sorry.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: That we have in writing by the
13 agencies here that 22 district depends on subsistence hunt for
14 muskox, moose, caribou, due to a cultural and traditional usage
15 and that's all I want, that they put it in there and recognize
16 it. So when they go to court on us we can say that it's been
17 identified by that.

18
19 I don't want any environmentalist or tourists to
20 stop us if they go take a flight to Teller or Brevig and then see
21 something being cut up alongside the road, they'll want to stop
22 that. We even have people in Nome that want to stop that.

23
24 Anybody second the motion?

25
26 MR. OKLEASIK: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion.

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken.

33
34 MR. ADKISSON: As a procedural process, it might
35 be better to just act on the motion to support the
36 recommendations of the cooperators regarding the muskoxen
37 regulations and then once that's done, take up Perry's motion to
38 sort of pass a resolution or something, you know, ask or request
39 that the agencies and things evaluate their literature and
40 everything and continue to emphasize the importance of
41 subsistence and that sort of thing and treat that sort of as a
42 separate issue.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, see that's where I was, I
45 didn't think -- I don't think that we acted on that -- we haven't
46 voted on that -- did we?

47
48 REPORTER: Yes you did.

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: We did, okay?

00070

1 REPORTER: Yes.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: This is a totally new motion
6 that I'm doing.

7
8 MR. KOBUK: We voted on it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Where was I?

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: We already accepted yours.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Okay, well, we'll move along then,
15 I stand corrected.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question on my
20 motion.

21
22 MR. OKLEASIK: I call for the question.

23
24 MR. ENINGOWUK: Was there a second to your
25 motion?

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, there is a second to the
28 motion.

29
30 MR. ENINGOWUK: And then he called for the
31 question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The question has been called.
34 All is in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: So this Council wants the
45 agencies to do that, recognize subsistence in their articles and
46 literature. Good. That's good.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, is there anything further
49 from you, Mr. Adkisson.

00071

1 MR. ADKISSON: Not in relation to the
2 regulations. I can give you an update on this years hunt if you
3 want but we can save that, if you want, until reports, or
4 whatever.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are there any other proposals to
7 be presented on wildlife regulations and customary and
8 traditional use.

9
10 MS. DEWHURST: Madame Chair, we have one deferred
11 proposal from last year, which I'm prepared to discuss.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

14
15 MS. DEWHURST: It was Proposal 54. It was
16 submitted by you. It was to basically put the Federal
17 subsistence caribou harvest in 22(E) onto the permanent
18 regulation books. This came out of the meeting in Shishmaref,
19 it's been about a year, year and a half ago now. There was a
20 user conflict meeting over caribou and trying to resolve the
21 issues. And two things came out of that meeting, one was
22 emergency opening State hunt for caribou in 22(E), and at the
23 same time there was a proposal made to put basically that
24 emergency opening hunt permanently on the Federal books. Your
25 Council and the Federal Board deferred the proposal from last
26 year.

27
28 The justification that I remember from last year
29 was a couple of things. One of them was at the time of our
30 winter meeting we didn't have any representatives from 22(E)
31 present to discuss it and that was one concern, and the other
32 concern was just to give the State hunt time to see how it
33 worked. And if it was providing for the needs of the local
34 people, and that perhaps the State hunt would be good enough and
35 that we didn't need to put something on the Federal books.

36
37 So at this point, as far as the Council is
38 concerned, you have several different options on this. One would
39 be if you still want to wait and let the State hunt play out, you
40 could defer it for another year. Of course, we could take it up
41 this year and deal with it. Or the other possibility is it can
42 be withdrawn if you decide there isn't a need to deal with this
43 issue at this time and it could be brought up at this time next
44 year. Now, as far as withdrawing it, because the actual proposal
45 was made by Madame Cross, she would be the one that has to
46 withdraw the proposal, it wasn't made by the RAC, it was made by
47 you, Grace. So there's the option at this point that you could
48 -- basically the decision is yours, that you could withdraw it,
49 you could defer it or we could take it up.

00072

1 As your Staff biologist, just so far on the
2 analysis, it seems like the State hunt has been working well, but
3 I think it would be good, maybe for some discussion. But I think
4 the thing that we've really learned is the State system provides
5 a lot of flexibility. The hunt area, I believe, has changed in
6 the two seasons?

7
8 MS PERSONS: It changed this summer to a
9 different area when caribou were located along the coast for
10 insect avoidance.

11
12 MS. DEWHURST: So it's changed.....

13
14 MS. PERSONS: Now, it's reverted to.....

15
16 MS. DEWHURST: To a different area.

17
18 MS. PERSONS:the area.....

19
20 MS. DEWHURST: To the original area.

21
22 MS. PERSONS:that was opened by agreement
23 last winter.

24
25 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. So the State has shown that
26 their system has the flexibility to deal with where the caribou
27 move and seasons, where if we put this in the permanent Federal
28 regulation, it's a very rigid system and we can make changes but
29 it's a lot more cumbersome than in the State system. It's there,
30 it's on the permanent books. Every time we want to make a change
31 we'd have to do a special action. And if the State system is
32 working for you, I guess I question the need to put this on the
33 permanent books at this time. You can always do it later. At
34 some point when maybe things stabilize.

35
36 But anyway, I did need to bring this up because
37 it is deferred from last year.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think I'd like to hear from
40 Johnson as to what his views would be on this.

41
42 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think it might be better to do
43 it later on.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Do you want me to withdraw it or
46 do you want to defer it for a year?

47
48 MR. ENINGOWUK: I don't know.
49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Even if it's withdrawn, it can

00073

1 always be brought back up.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: It's kind of the effect is the
4 same, whether you defer it or withdraw it, we'll just be dealing
5 with it potentially next year.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think I prefer to withdraw the
8 proposal.....

9

10 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. It was Proposal 54 from
11 last year.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS:Proposal 54 to make the
14 hunt area that was earlier identified in 23(E) permanent in the
15 Federal regs.

16

17 MR. SEETOT: Who's the agency, you know, for
18 managing caribou? Is it.....

19

20 MS. DEWHURST: As far as Federal lands in 22(E),
21 it's the National Park Service. But if we had anything on the
22 Federal books, keep in mind it would only apply to the portion of
23 Federal land within the hunt area where, under the State hunt it
24 applies to the whole area, regardless of land ownership. So that
25 was one of the hindrances to our Federal system in putting this
26 on the Federal books because even the special areas that were
27 defined, only a portion of it was Federal land, it wasn't the
28 whole thing.

29

30 MR. SPIRITES: Dave Spirites, Western Arctic
31 Parkland superintendent. I'm on a group that's actually working
32 on a cooperative management plan for the Western Arctic caribou
33 herd. Pretty much the state of Alaska have taken the lead on
34 management on it. It wanders over almost a quarter of the state
35 and effects about 50 communities in Alaska. So we're trying to
36 work cooperatively on it but generally ADF&G are doing most of
37 the monitoring and have pretty much taken a lead role in its
38 management.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You're right. I think the State
41 has been doing a very good job with the managing the caribou over
42 there. They've responded very quickly to situations that are
43 happening. Did you get your caribou? Elmer, you wanted to say
44 something else?

45

46 MR. SEETOT: No, not now.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I will withdraw Proposal 54.

49 Any further proposals?

00074

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Where is it in here?

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It was an issue that was
4 deferred from last year.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: Here it is on Tab D, 54, portion
7 of.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's now withdrawn so it's no
10 longer a proposal. So keep in mind that the proposals for
11 wildlife regulations and customary and trade use will be open
12 from August 18th to October 27th and if we don't have any
13 proposals to be presented by now, these were the only two, right?

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: So you're withdrawing your --
16 you want us, as a Council to withdraw or defer so the proposal
17 can go forward?

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I already withdrew the proposal
20 that I made, Proposal 54, it's withdrawn.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, but.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It was a proposal that was
25 submitted by me and I withdrew it.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Can you withdraw it?

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: But what's Shishmaref going to
32 do?

33
34 MR. BUCK: That's what he wanted.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: I know but Toby was for it, you
37 know, from Wales.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The State is doing the caribou
40 over there right now.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: So do you agree with
45 withdrawing?

46
47 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think we're working pretty good
48 with the State.

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: I've asked him.

00075

1 MR. MENDENHALL: But.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have asked him. Okay,
4 now.....

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: So instead the Council is
7 requested to defer, that last sentence, Council is requested to
8 defer the proposal, you're withdrawing the proposal?

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm withdrawing my Proposal 54,
11 which was made by me so I'm withdrawing it. I have talked to
12 Johnson about it and it's okay, the State is -- the hunt with the
13 State is okay now.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So we'll move on to 10, agency
18 reports, Office of Subsistence Management, Larry Buckless.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, you should -- the fact
21 that it was deferred, it needs action. So you want to have the
22 Council.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No, I was the one that made the
25 proposal. So we can discuss this after the meeting, okay, or
26 maybe Ann can explain it to you.

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: I think when you defer, I think
29 it's at the Council's request you could defer.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ann, can you.....

32
33 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madame Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

36
37 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
38 Committee member. For your information Perry, when anyone makes
39 a proposal, they're called the proponent.....

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

42
43 MS. HILDEBRAND:and as long as that
44 proposal is on the table, the Council can discuss it. If the
45 proponent withdraws their proposal it is automatically off the
46 table and there is no need for further discussion.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay. I thought it might need
49 some action to accept that. Okay, that's where I was confused.

00076

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Is it Buckless?

2
3 MR. BUCKLESS: Yes, Madame Chair. My name is
4 Larry Buckless, I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
5 Fisheries Information Service Division of the Office of
6 Subsistence Management. There is material from the Office of
7 Subsistence Management behind Tab G, G as in Golovin. And the
8 front end of that set of papers is dealing with the projects
9 program that I'll be discussing today.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Excuse me, I hate to be rude.
12 I didn't realize it was 10 after 2:00. I think it's getting
13 really, really hot in here and we need to open the windows, so
14 can we take a 10 minute break before you start?

15
16 MR. BUCKLESS: Certainly.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm sorry, I wasn't paying
19 attention.

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (On record)

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm calling the meeting back to
26 order, it is now 2:29. And we will be hearing from Larry
27 Buckless.

28
29 MS. DEWHURST: Madame Chair, I have an
30 announcement before we get started. There is cake outside for
31 either the next break or if any of you drift out to get coffee.
32 It's in honor of our new fisheries biologist on Staff, Richard
33 Uberuaga, it's his 50th birthday today. So maybe we can have a
34 big round of applause for Richard.

35
36 (Applause)

37
38 MS. DEWHURST: So help yourself.

39
40 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you. Just as long as you
41 don't sing.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Mr. Buckless. And try to speak
46 loudly because there's noise out here but I don't want to close
47 the windows either.

48
49 MR. BUCKLESS: Can you hear me?

00077

1 REPORTER: Yes, it's fine.

2

3 MR. BUCKLESS: Okay. Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Again, my name is Larry Buckless with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
5 Service, Office of Subsistence Management. I'm in the Fisheries
6 Information Service Section. And there's a packet of information
7 behind Tab G. That includes information for several
8 presentations which will follow me. I think it's the first 11
9 sheets of paper, first 11 double-sided pages cover the topics
10 that I'll be covering this afternoon. There's a lot of detail
11 there that I won't go into, it's kind of a reference for you. I
12 think instead I'll speak from this little handout that was passed
13 around after we got back from lunch break, it looks like this.
14 I think Ann passed this around at about 1:30.

15

16 After the title page, the other pages are
17 numbered in the lower right corner so I'll try to reference where
18 I'm at so we can stay together. It can get a little confusing
19 with the different fiscal years and project plans but I'll try to
20 keep it on a track.

21

22 The first page describes what the monitoring
23 program is and who participates. The fisheries monitoring
24 program intends to identify and bring together information on
25 subsistence fisheries. It funds studies to collect information
26 which is needed but not available. I should point out, this came
27 up during your morning session, these studies need to be tied to
28 Federal jurisdiction. So there needs to be a connection to
29 subsistence management, Federal lands. Information is generally
30 of three types in the program; subsistence harvest patterns or
31 harvest assessment, stock status and abundance trends and
32 traditional ecological knowledge or TEK.

33

34 Organizational involvement. There's a diverse
35 group of parties involved and the goal is to identify issues and
36 information needs, review annual studies plans, and try to work
37 together to conduct studies that address identified issues and
38 needs.

39

40 Local hire preference this past year, which is
41 ending now, there were 83 local residents hired, 69 of which were
42 Alaska Natives.

43

44 On the next page, Page 2, this page provides more
45 detail on this years program, Fiscal Year 2000. As you know, the
46 Federal fiscal year ends September 30th. There were 160
47 proposals received for projects, 45 studies were actually funded
48 and total funding released was 5.6 million dollars.

49

The lower part of the page gives a breakdown on

00078

1 how the funding was allocated. 38 percent went to Alaska
2 Natives, Native organizations, other organizations and local
3 hires. About 40 percent when to Alaska Department of Fish and
4 Game programs. And 22 percent to Federal agency led projects.
5

6 Next page, Page 3, looking ahead to next years
7 program, that would be Fiscal Year 2001. A key date for the
8 Regional Advisory Council to keep in mind would be January 2001.
9 This coming January. There will once again be a special
10 statewide meeting of Regional Advisory Councils in Anchorage.
11 And my understanding is the tentative dates are January 22nd to
12 24th, in that time frame. And once again, Regional Advisory
13 Councils will be asked to develop recommendations on the annual
14 study plan. There will be other training sessions as well. But
15 for the Fisheries Information Service Division, a key aspect of
16 this week in January would be to get your feedback on the study
17 plan for the coming summer.
18

19 There's some problems with the 2001 schedule as
20 there was for the 2000 schedule, and basically it comes down to
21 a very compressed time line to get all the work done and get all
22 the feedback. There's three points there at the bottom of Page
23 3. Annual studies plan, review schedule, your work to review the
24 plan and others doesn't fit into the Regional Advisory Council's
25 schedule, the normal schedule. So we had a special January
26 meeting this year, and we're going to have to do it again next
27 year. Secondly, the Regional Advisory Councils do not have much
28 time to review the study plan and prepare your feedback and
29 recommendations. And third, investigators or researchers don't
30 have much time to prepare their pre-proposals or investigation
31 plans and then to implement their program afterwards. So
32 planning is cut short.
33

34 Page 4, will look further ahead to the way, the
35 kind of time line we'd like to apply to this program and we're
36 going to try to move to that for the 2002 summer. So we're
37 looking at quite a ways down the road now. Pre-proposals for the
38 coming summer of 2001 have already been received. We, at Fish
39 and Wildlife Service, will be putting together a studies plan
40 package for you to review in January and then we're to the field
41 in the summer of 2001. For 2002, Page 4 outlines some improved
42 time lines.
43

44 In moving to a better schedule for 2002, annual
45 studies plan review will fit into the normal RAC schedule. At
46 this time in the future you'd be receiving the study plan for the
47 summer coming months from then and you would have time to review
48 it without feeling the pressure of that special January meeting.
49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: So you're talking about the fall

00079

1 meetings?

2

3 MR. BUCKLESS: It would be the fall cycle, yes,

4 Madame Chair.

5

6 And also project leaders or investigators would
7 have more time to prepare their pre-proposals and then follow-up
8 with their detail plans and then, further, follow-up with their
9 logistics for the actual work.

10

11 Important date for 2002, bottom of Page 4,
12 September and October of 2001, next year at this time. As I
13 said, the Councils will have time in their normal cycle of the
14 fall meeting to receive the study plan for the summer that would
15 follow six or eight months later.

16

17 Finally, last page of my five page handout, I've
18 touched on the year that's ending, the summer that's coming up
19 and how we're going to try to get from here to there and the
20 improved time line for the future. Page 5 outlines some other
21 points that are probably of interest to you. The first area to
22 bring to your attention is the cooperative field resource
23 monitoring positions. There are up to be up to nine professional
24 positions placed within rural organizations funded by contract.
25 The vision is for six fishery biologists and three social-
26 scientists, and these positions would be allocated or distributed
27 among management regions based on needs, program needs.
28 Organizations housing these positions will be chosen by an open
29 competitive process. And my understanding is if such a position
30 is placed in a region with one particular group, it would be
31 expected of that position to help other organizations in that
32 region. They're not to work with the sole focus on that
33 organization's goals and objectives but to help others in that
34 region with their work.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Can you define a rural

37 organization?

38

39 MR. BUCKLESS: It might be a regional
40 organization such as AVCP in the Kuskokwim; Kawerak, I'm not sure
41 of all the different types of organizations. It could be a
42 tribal association, it could be a fishermen's association like
43 the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association. It's not
44 legislatively mandated to be a certain type of group. It's going
45 to be an open competitive process. And I'm not sure of the
46 criteria, by which, this placement will be divided.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are these temporary positions or

49 are they looking at more or less permanent?

00080

1 MR. BUCKLESS: My understanding is they're one
2 year contract but a five year plan for the positions. I think
3 more information would be available by your January statewide
4 combined meeting, in terms of position descriptions and more
5 specifics on the structure of these positions.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: These positions will be more
8 definitive?

9
10 MR. BUCKLESS: Madame Chair, Mr. Mendenhall, I
11 couldn't understand the question.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: Those positions will be more --
14 those perspectives for those positions will be more definitive
15 come January, right?

16
17 MR. BUCKLESS: Yes, they should be more well-
18 defined by then. My sense is that the goal is to have these
19 positions in place by the next field season, so between now and
20 May, June, July 2001, we'd want to get those positions in place.
21 So by January we'll have to have descriptions established and be
22 on the move.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have another question, a
25 social-scientist?

26
27 MR. BUCKLESS: That would be an anthropologist,
28 a subsistence resource specialist-type position.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm kind of wondering, would a
31 social scientist be somebody without a degree but knows a lot of
32 the local area not -- that has a lot of local area knowledge or
33 does the person have to have a degree of some kind?

34
35 MR. BUCKLESS: I'm guessing that the person would
36 need to have a college degree. I think the positions need to
37 meet Federal professional position standards for placement. So
38 my understanding at this point is that these would be degreed
39 professional positions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think my concern was that we
42 don't have too many people with such degrees and the positions
43 would probably be eliminating Alaska Native applicants more than
44 they would.....

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair, there's some
47 different type of programs, like UAF and UAA and APU, they have
48 rural development-type programs dealing with anthro and social-
49 scientist requirements, economic or resource development. I

50 think some of those in-house Alaska degree programs might be

00081

1 fitting to this. Are you going to open up to those colleges, put
2 those announcements in?
3

4 MR. BUCKLESS: Madame Chair, I'm sure the
5 announcements will be broadly disseminated. And it's intended to
6 be a very open and inclusive recruitment effort. And this
7 initiative is a part of the attempt to build capacity and have a
8 cooperative approach to the program, so that's the spirit and the
9 intent.
10

11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So in a sense, one of the six
12 biologist could be somebody like -- could possibly be in
13 internship with a biologist, a person looking for a biology
14 degree, kind of like an internship with maybe a biologist in a
15 local area like Charlie Lean?
16

17 MR. BUCKLESS: Madame Chair, I don't think this
18 is intended to be that type of internship. I think there very
19 much is an intent to have those kinds of opportunities in this
20 Federal program. But I think these nine positions are intended
21 to be senior level leadership for the cooperating organizations
22 to participate in the program with government agencies, and those
23 key positions would lead these efforts and those efforts can
24 include mentorship, internship, traineeships, outreach, extension
25 services, but the idea was to get professional positions placed,
26 not in government, but in the cooperators groups so they can
27 develop their own programs with that professional leadership in-
28 house.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, thank you.
31

32 MR. BUCKLESS: The final point on the bottom of
33 Page 5 is a special work group initiative. It was a subsistence
34 fisheries harvest assessment working group. You've probably
35 heard about this in the past year or so. It is a working group
36 that was organized to develop a unified harvest assessment
37 program for all subsistence fisheries to standardize methods and
38 instruments of data collection statewide, to the extent that
39 those can be standardized, recognizing unique aspects in certain
40 areas as well.
41

42 A draft report was distributed for review in
43 early 5 September and comments are due by 25 October of this
44 year. And a cover letter, a list of the names of the
45 participants in the working group and an abstract of their work
46 is behind Tab G in your books. I do have about 10 copies of
47 their 25 page findings report. And Madame Chair, I can make
48 those available to you or any others who are interested in that
49 full report. But I think it's eight or 10 pages into Tab G, is

50 the briefing of the working groups efforts, starting with a cover

00082

1 letter dated September 5th. And again, I have a copy of the full
2 report for anyone who's interested.

3
4 This working group included tribal members and
5 there was, I believe, five assigned to the working group and they
6 were representing different areas of the state and their names
7 are listed in this material. From Kotzebue Enoch Schiedt was
8 part of this group and from Bethel, it was Jennifer Hooper. So
9 those would be the two closest representatives to Norton Sound
10 Seward Peninsula.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: This is pretty well thought out
17 the way it was written and presented. I'd like to commend you on
18 the work that you've done so far.

19
20 MR. BUCKLESS: Thank you. I don't take special
21 credit for the layout of the work.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean whoever is working with
24 this. I think it looks pretty well right on track where the
25 money's supposed to go.

26
27 MR. BUCKLESS: I'll convey that back, thank you.
28 Madame Chair, that's all I had.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions for Mr. Buckless.
31 Well, thank you.

32
33 MR. BUCKLESS: You're welcome.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And the next report is from Tim
36 Jennings, Staffing to implement Federal Subsistence Fisheries
37 Management. Hello, Tim.

38
39 MR. JENNINGS: Good afternoon, Madame Chair,
40 Council members. I'll be giving several briefings this
41 afternoon. And if you'll follow along under Tab G, the first one
42 that I'll be addressing is the Staffing to implement the Federal
43 Subsistence Fisheries Management, it's a one page, right after
44 Larry's information that he discussed. Is everybody with me?

45
46 (Nods affirmatively)

47
48 MR. JENNINGS: About 12 pages back in under Tab
49 G.

00083

1 MR. MENDENHALL: At the bottom, it's 8/21/00.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

4
5 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Madame Chair and Council
6 members, we wanted to bring you up-to-date. The purpose of this
7 briefing is information update for the Council. We're presenting
8 this to all the Councils because there was a lot of interest in
9 the staffing of the Federal program for implementing fisheries.
10 There's also a lot of support expressed by Council Chairs and
11 Council members to have adequate staffing among the Federal
12 agencies to run an effective fisheries program. So this gives
13 the status to-date of the staffing of the Federal fisheries part
14 of it. To-date, all the agencies, as you can see under the
15 table, the total that have hired to-date are 21 new employees.
16 We plan to hire still an additional 22 for a total of 43 new
17 positions. From this total we've hired 18 Alaskans, including
18 seven former State fisheries managers or researchers with
19 extensive experience in the State. And I would note that Charlie
20 Lean is one of those for the Park Service. We also have Rich
21 Uberuaga who is a new hire in fisheries that is included in the
22 total numbers that we've hired, he's with our office.

23
24 So Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of
25 Subsistence Management, to-date, we've hired is nine, one of
26 which is Rich, we plan to hire six more. And I won't go into all
27 the details agency by agency, but if you have questions we can
28 address those issues -- or questions.

29
30 Larry mentioned in his briefing, on the studies
31 program, the projects, that there have been -- this summer,
32 there have been 83 local hires, of which 69 have been Alaska
33 Native rural residents to help with the projects that have been
34 done for the fisheries studies for the year 2000. And then Larry
35 also mentioned the initiative that's going to be for next year
36 for those nine technical positions to be placed in Native or
37 other regional organizations to help build the capacity in the
38 regional setting, the regional organizational setting to help
39 with the monitoring, the studies program.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question. At the
42 bottom it says, BIA will soon be recruiting for a Native Liaison
43 person, is that separate from the Native Liaison person we were
44 talking about at the Chair's meeting or is that the same
45 position?

46
47 MR. JENNINGS: No, it's the same position.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's the same position.

00084

1 MR. JENNINGS: The same position.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

4
5 MR. JENNINGS: And I might note that the
6 recruitment, the announcement period has opened, when does that
7 close -- it's already closed, it closed on the 18th of September.
8 So BIA personnel office is preparing a list of the qualified
9 applicants to forward to Niles Cesar and Tom Boyd, Office of
10 Subsistence Management. The position will be hired by BIA but
11 will work closely with the Office of Subsistence Management and
12 the Staff Committee and the Federal Board.

13
14 So Madame Chair, I'll stop with my remarks here
15 on this first report and ask if there are any further questions
16 about the staffing?

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Which department are you in of
19 all those agencies there, which one are you?

20
21 MR. JENNINGS: I'm part of the Fish and Wildlife
22 Service, Office of Subsistence Management.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: We didn't know who you are.

25
26 MR. BUCK: I got a question. You got that USDA,
27 what is that?

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: That's the United States
30 Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service.

31
32 MR. BUCK: Okay.

33
34 MR. JENNINGS: They have jurisdiction in
35 Southeast with the Tongass National Forest and then in
36 Southcentral with the Chugach National Forest.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: So maybe by the year 2002, we'll
39 understand all these letters, right?

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I guess there's no more
42 questions regarding staff.

43
44 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, we'll move on to the next
45 one. The next page is consultation and coordination with the
46 State of Alaska. Again, the purpose of this briefing is an
47 update, it's for informational purposes to advise you on how
48 things went during the first year with the dual management
49 between the State and the Federal agencies.

1 The Regional Advisory Councils have expressed and
2 continue to express a great deal of interest in tracking our
3 working relationship with the State of Alaska. So we've included
4 this briefing in the book to bring you up to date on that.

5
6 You'll recall that we had an MOA, a Memorandum of
7 Agreement, that was developed between the State and the Federal
8 agencies and the Regional Advisory Councils provided input and
9 comment to that last January. That MOA was finalized in April,
10 and immediately thereafter there was a working group that began
11 to focus on developing an in-season fisheries management protocol
12 for the Yukon River because it was, even before last summer, it
13 was viewed as a river that had the highest risk involving dual
14 management and also the concern for the fish stocks there.

15
16 And I think most of you are aware that this past
17 year 2000 was not a good year. On the Yukon River, it was a
18 record low year for chinook and chum salmon and it immediately
19 created a major test for working together between the Federal
20 agencies and the State of Alaska under some fairly extreme
21 circumstances. And we report back to you that we're gratified
22 that, although there were some initial bumps in the road, that we
23 believe that we worked very well together and it's due to all the
24 individuals involved, including some of the RAC members from the
25 three regions, Western and Eastern Interior and the Yukon-
26 Kuskokwim Delta. The State and Federal managers and the Council
27 involvement was very key to the success this summer of trying to
28 manage what was a very bad situation with the fish not returning.
29 You may have seen that there were several special actions and
30 closures restricting fishing in the Yukon this summer, those were
31 joint actions between the State of Alaska and the Federal
32 Subsistence Board or in some cases Federal in-season managers
33 that were designated by the Federal Board.

34
35 So we do have a Federal/State MOA working group
36 that continues to work on issues related to the MOA. You can see
37 on this handout in your book what the MOA summary expressed a
38 mutual responsibility to what the goals were, and that's the
39 first set of bullets on your page. Continuing the conservation
40 of the fish and wildlife resources, avoiding management
41 duplication and research duplication, et cetera. And what the
42 umbrella agreement this MOA laid out was that we're calling them
43 protocols, like the in-season fisheries management protocol, and
44 the one for the Yukon, as I mentioned, was developed this year.
45 There are working groups that are working on these other protocol
46 areas surrounding data management, regulatory processes with the
47 coordination with both Boards, both Federal Subsistence Board and
48 the Board of Fisheries, identification of subsistence use amounts
49 and fish and wildlife planning.

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1 We also expect that some of the Councils -- or
2 all of the Councils may have an interest in being involved in
3 these protocol working committees and helping to guide the
4 development of these protocols. And Council members are invited
5 to participate and you discuss this either later in this meeting,
6 if you have an interest in one of your members addressing one of
7 these protocol groups, we would like to hear that kind of input
8 from the Council.

9
10 And I think I'll stop there, Madame Chair, and
11 see if there are questions or comments.

12
13 MR. KOBUK: With the fisheries regulatory process
14 you work with the State and with the Federal process, have you
15 come up with any customary and traditional use determinations
16 with the State yet?

17
18 MR. JENNINGS: You mean on the fisheries part of
19 it?

20
21 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

22
23 MR. JENNINGS: When the Federal program assumed
24 fisheries, we, as you saw in regulations today, we have set in
25 place the initial customary and traditional use determinations
26 for the Federal program and part of that led to the discussion
27 this morning regarding Stebbins and St. Michael. From this point
28 forward, the way we will address the customary and traditional
29 use determinations is through the regulatory process such as this
30 Proposal 5, where somebody will come to us and say, well, we
31 believe this C&T determination is not right and propose either
32 adding a community or restricting use to certain communities and
33 so we'll go through an annual cycle from here on.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: I notice that the bottom
40 paragraph it mentions sonar capabilities, I just wondered, they
41 had one up on the Yukon, it was questionable as to whether it was
42 accurate or not -- whether the sonar is accurate or not in
43 determining chums going up the Yukon. I'm just wondering how you
44 improved it, you know, the capabilities of the fish counting?

45
46 MR. JENNINGS: I'm not familiar with that
47 project, I don't know if anybody else here is. Larry, are you
48 familiar with that project?

49

MR. MENDENHALL: How did it improve? I'm just

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1 curious.....

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah.

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL:because they were having
6 problems with that where they had the sonar system there near
7 Stevens Village.

8

9 MR. BUCKLESS: Madame Chair, Mr. Mendenhall, yes,
10 the Office of Subsistence Management role in improving the sonar
11 was granting funding for buying some new equipment. Now, there
12 may be improvements that the Department of Fish and Game has made
13 to the program and its operations, but the Office of Subsistence
14 Management, that cooperative program I was describing just a
15 moment ago, funded some updated equipment for the sonar project.

16

17 MR. MENDENHALL: So that improved it?

18

19 MR. BUCKLESS: It's a new technology, new
20 equipment, yes.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean they were saying it
23 didn't quite work because it didn't give an accurate count of
24 escapement, you know. They were saying that the sonar equipment
25 system was not working on the fish count so they figured they
26 fixed it now with new equipment.

27

28 MR. BUCKLESS: There's been problems with the
29 sonar operations in the past and I'm not sure which site and what
30 year you're talking about but I am fully aware of the problems in
31 the past. And you're right, buying new equipment does not
32 necessarily solve problems but it is a step in trying to improve
33 the program and it's what the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office
34 of Subsistence Management could do towards that effort. The
35 operations are in the control of the State. But OSM did grant
36 money to upgrade hardware.

37

38 Madame Chair, I'm also told that part of the
39 funding went toward extending the season that the sonar was able
40 to be in use.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anymore questions. Comments.

43

44 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, the next briefing I
45 have is on the next page. The Regional Council fisheries
46 training Phase III and we have a tentative week set aside from
47 January 22 to the 26th of 2001. You'll recall under the
48 fisheries implementation last October by the Federal program that
49 there were several initiatives that were laid out by our office

50 and the Federal Board to implement fisheries and one of these

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1 initiatives was training. And Phase I training, as it was
2 called, was an orientation for Federal Board members to go out to
3 the Yukon River and to see firsthand subsistence fishing on the
4 Yukon River and other sites.

5
6 Phase II training, as it was called, was last
7 January, I believe most of you attended the January fisheries
8 training session in Anchorage where we had several speakers talk
9 about fisheries issues. We had caucuses among several of the
10 Regional Councils to discuss common issues related to fisheries
11 implementation, we talked about the MOA and some other key
12 initiatives at that time for implementing fisheries.

13
14 We also held, in late May, an in-season
15 management fisheries meeting to deal with the Yukon River
16 protocol and then to talk about, in general terms, around the
17 state, the Federal Board had delegated in-season management
18 authority to several key Federal Staff around the state to make
19 in-season fisheries management decisions. And so we had a one
20 day session in May on in-season management.

21
22 And that brings us to this Phase III training.
23 Now, that the first year of fisheries under the dual management
24 is essentially complete except for some of the real late runs, we
25 want to begin to look back and reflect on how the first year went
26 and begin to prepare for the next year. So we've tentatively set
27 aside this week in January and the first topic here on the agenda
28 on this page is review of the draft fisheries studies plan. This
29 is in regards to what Larry had presented a few minutes ago about
30 the studies projects for 2001 that we needed to bring the
31 Councils together again in order to obtain Council
32 recommendations and input, advice on these draft study plans. So
33 one day will be set aside for that. And then the rest of the
34 time in Anchorage, whether it's another two or three days or
35 whatever, is to further train our Staff and to offer some
36 training for the Council members in terms of fisheries issues
37 that are important to you in your region. What you have
38 remaining on this proposed agenda and I mentioned this as
39 tentative and we're asking for input, we have several topics that
40 we've laid out. In-season fisheries management, status of
41 western Alaska salmon runs, fisheries assessment methods,
42 developing fisheries studies proposals, and then the fisheries
43 regulatory process. For instance, customary and traditional use
44 determinations request and to change season and harvest limits.

45
46 This is what we've laid out as some possible
47 agenda items and we're presenting this to all the Councils this
48 fall and we're seeking feedback, either today, if you want to
49 discuss this now or if you want to caucus among yourselves later

50 today and provide us feedback later. It's at your discretion,

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1 how you want to proceed. But we would really appreciate your
2 feedback and input on what additional topics our fisheries
3 training would be most beneficial for you and your region. We'd
4 also like to know, for instance, would you prefer the caucus
5 setting, the informal setting where you meet with some of your
6 closest regional councils to discuss issues or do you prefer a
7 separate caucus by yourself as a Regional Council? How much time
8 do you want to do that versus having prepared presentations.

9
10 So I'll stop there, Madame Chair, and leave it to
11 your discretion on how to proceed with feedback, if you'd like to
12 give that now or later in the meeting?

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What are the wishes of the
15 Council? Do we want to caucus now and discuss this or.....

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: We got the time.

18
19 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, later in a caucus.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Caucus later?

22
23 MR. SEETOT: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Later.

26
27 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, that will give you a chance
28 to look over what we've presented and we appreciate any feedback
29 you can give us because we really do want to bring the training
30 to you that you think is going to be most beneficial.

31
32 Okay, the last briefing I have, Madame Chair, is
33 on the next page. It's entitled statewide rural determinations.
34 The purpose of this briefing is an information update for all the
35 Councils.

36
37 We are just beginning a process to look at a
38 statewide review of the rural/non-rural determinations for the
39 Federal Subsistence Program. There's a requirement in our
40 regulations that we do this every 10 years. And so with the 2000
41 census becoming available in the next year, year and a half, that
42 will be the basic information that will be used to update the
43 rural/non-rural determinations.

44
45 Earlier this year the Federal Board directed
46 Staff to put in place a third-party contract process to help gain
47 some outside additional resources and expertise to develop
48 criteria and methodology in supporting this rural and non-rural
49 determination process. Currently Staff is working on developing

50 a proposal and a scope of work to go out and have a call for

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1 proposals for any -- for contractors to submit bids and proposals
2 to help with this effort.

3
4 All communities statewide will be reviewed and
5 evaluated during this process. The Board recognizes that the
6 Regional Advisory Councils have a lot of expertise and will have
7 a lot of interest in this initiative and we want to provide the
8 Councils an opportunity to participate at every step of the way.
9 You'll recall that during the fisheries implementation that the
10 Board invited a couple of the Council Chairs to participate with
11 the Board during discussions related to fisheries, and the Chairs
12 selected Willie Goodwin from Northwest Arctic and Dan O'Hara from
13 Bristol Bay to participate in those discussions. And we're
14 envisioning something like that, possibly for this initiative
15 where the Chairs might want to nominate a couple of the Chairs to
16 sit with the Board during the discussions.

17
18 So we're early in this process, this is an update
19 and status in terms of we're just getting underway. There's a
20 third-party contract effort that's about to begin. And we want
21 to keep the Councils updated and involved in the process.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question, are you
24 talking the selection of the Council Chairs will be at this
25 coming Federal Subsistence Board meeting?

26
27 MR. JENNINGS: That's one option, Madame Chair,
28 is in December there'll be a Federal Board meeting to discuss for
29 the Board to take action on the fisheries regulatory proposals,
30 similar to the wildlife cycle in May, there'll be a Chairs
31 meeting where all the Chairs will be at that meeting and there'll
32 be a Chair's meeting and that's an opportunity for the Chairs to
33 discuss and to make a recommendation on how to proceed.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: December 2000.

36
37 MR. JENNINGS: I believe it's the week of December
38 4th.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

41
42 MR. JENNINGS: So as you can see in the last
43 paragraph, the recommended methodology with using this third-
44 party contractor we believe will take approximately a year, if
45 not longer, and because of the census data not being available
46 fully until 2002, we expect the statewide rural/non-rural
47 determinations to be made in either late 2002 or 2003.

48
49 And I'll stop there, Madame Chair, and see if

50 there are any questions.

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are there any comments or
2 questions from the Council or anybody.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: My question in regards to all
5 this identifications is how Kenai became a subsistence --
6 involved in our group, so to speak, was that determined on the
7 Subsistence Board level or agency level or.....

8
9 MR. JENNINGS: For the Kenai?

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

12
13 MR. JENNINGS: That was the Federal Board
14 decision in May. And part of that discussion that led up to that
15 decision in May is what led the Board to recommend we look at a
16 third-party contract opportunity to further refine the
17 methodology and the criteria.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any other questions or comments.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: I sure do believe there needs to
24 be something done in that area. It was kind of a shock to hear
25 that it took place from our end of the world, our perspective.
26 That evaluation count is going to be very important. It might
27 generate more problems than it might resolve, too. I mean, you
28 know, which way to -- how to look at it, too, it's kind of -- a
29 lot of apprehension, I have a feeling of that, too, regarding is
30 it going to be the whole State RAC involved with the Federal
31 Subsistence Board.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I would like to comment. I'm
34 glad that they're going to have -- it's going to be similar to
35 the -- I'm glad that the Board recognizes the interest of the
36 Regional Advisory Councils and is providing an opportunity for
37 the Regional Council Chairs to select representatives to
38 participate in this.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd like to kind of like voice
43 my dissatisfaction on how Kenai got on, that's all, on the
44 record.
45 Okay?

46
47 REPORTER: Okay.

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: That's where I sort of view this

50 evaluation is probably going to be important to the rest of rural

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1 Alaska, especially northwest area, Western Alaska really. It's
2 on the record.

3
4 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, one thing I would
5 note is that I believe in this region all the communities are --
6 have a rural status, do they not? And in our regulations there's
7 a threshold, a population threshold level of 2500 and below with
8 smaller populations are presumed to be rural. And the new
9 methodology and criteria, it's possible they might recommend some
10 changes to that but they have to be approved by the Board, I
11 don't believe anybody expects much changes in rural Alaska, if
12 any, in these small communities. You know, the focus, the tough
13 issues has been as Mr. Mendenhall has indicated, where you have
14 these higher population areas, like on the Kenai, where there's
15 been some discussion and we're trying to develop a better set of
16 criteria methodology to address these touch issues in some of
17 these communities that are growing and there's a threshold level
18 in our regulations that says over 7000 population is presumed to
19 be non-rural, unless the communities exhibit significant
20 subsistence characteristics or rural characteristics.

21
22 So in this area, I would say, this is my personal
23 view and it obviously doesn't reflect the Board, but in terms of
24 this process, I wouldn't expect changes in rural status in this
25 area, I'd be very sur.....

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, but I don't see any
28 villages shrinking, I think they're growing more. And the fact
29 that the census bureau will probably looks at a percent a year,
30 you know, this part of Alaska or -- it's the fast growing
31 minority group in the United States. You don't see any villages
32 shrinking is what I'm saying and the region is not shrinking
33 either. And I think they need to look at it from that standpoint
34 and then almost, too, how much the population can bear on the
35 game resources and fish resources. Not counting the
36 international waters. That's the concern I have. Because most
37 of the fish that they intercept out there comes from our streams
38 and rivers.

39
40 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, the next briefing
41 will be by Ann.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, I think we'll take a
44 little short break, it's getting real hot in here again.

45
46 (Off record)

47
48 (On record)

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm calling the meeting back to

00093

1 order, it is now 3:30. The next speaker that we have on agency
2 reports is Donna Dewhurst on migratory birds, Tab H.

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, this won't take very long.
5 It's Tab 5. Basically an update and they're now at the stage
6 where they're working with their contracted management bodies,
7 which for this area is Kawerak. So Kawerak is now responsible
8 for drafting up regulations, spring hunting regulations for your
9 region. I believe their meeting, it's either this month or next
10 month, I'm not sure when, and what -- they're going to be doing
11 the management bodies -- or the next stage is they're going to
12 draft up what they're calling a frame works, which is kind of a
13 periphery to the regs. Basically they'll say this stuff is off
14 limits and anything else you hunt will be okay. And so they're
15 going to go about it a little differently than the way we do our
16 Federal regs for subsistence, and they're gong to just develop
17 supposedly this frame works and then basically as long as you
18 harvest within inside the frame works, you're fine. So they're
19 trying to do away with bag limits and seasons and all of that
20 sort of thing. so it's going to be a very different way. I
21 think it will be real interesting to follow in the future.

22
23 But anyway, that's where they're at. This fall
24 will be the first attempt at working on those frame works and
25 then they're going to try to finalize those in time for the
26 spring season, I believe. So that's the stage they're following.
27 So Kawerak will be your contact. I'm not sure if it's Jake
28 Olanna or who the actual contact within Kawerak is, I believe
29 it's Jake.

30
31 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Leonard.

34
35 MR. KOBUK: I have a question.

36
37 MS. DEWHURST: Sure.

38
39 MR. KOBUK: St. Michael and Stebbins, they're
40 bird count is usually done by the Yukon or I should say Bethel
41 area, but the village of St. Michael and Stebbins would like
42 Kawerak to do this since we're a Norton Sound village. And I
43 think I asked about this on the last meeting in Anchorage we had
44 and never got any feedback on that. You said you would look into
45 it.

46
47 MS. DEWHURST: My understanding, Kawerak is
48 supposed to be having a meeting, like I said, I don't know the
49 dates, but they're supposed to be bringing in representatives

50 from all the villages and discussing things like that so you

00094

1 might want to contact Kawerak and I think the contact would be
2 Jake Olanna and see -- make sure that somebody from St. Michael
3 or Stebbins is going to be there.

4
5 MR. KOBUK: Well, that's what our IRA president
6 was going to bring up.

7
8 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, that would be the time to do
9 it because they're now you're representative.

10
11 MR. KOBUK: And I'm going to remind him again
12 about it, both St. Michael and Stebbins.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And we're going to get a brief
15 report from Kawerak on this, too.

16
17 MR. KOBUK: Okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are there anymore questions for
20 Donna? You can go ahead, Mr. Ahmasuk, he wants to make a brief
21 report on the status of Kawerak's position with the Migratory
22 Bird Treaty.

23
24 MR. AHMASUK: My name is Austin Ahmasuk, I work
25 for Kawerak National Resources. And I can speak on Kawerak's
26 involvement in the migratory bird amendments. Kawerak has a
27 funding agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to
28 select a representative to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
29 management Council. And Kawerak will serve all the villages that
30 they normally do serve. And, please, Madame Chair, give me a
31 moment to -- Kawerak will work with Brevig Mission, Council,
32 Little Diamede, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, King Island, Koyuk,
33 Mary's Igloo, Nome, St. Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik,
34 Shishmaref, Solomon, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales and
35 White Mountain.

36
37 And we are in the midst of committee meetings at
38 Kawerak and the full board will deliberate on possible ways to
39 select that representative for that Alaska migratory Bird Co-
40 management Council membership, which I understand is going to
41 involve Native, Federal and State agencies throughout the state.

42
43 And that concludes my report. If there's any
44 other questions I can try and answer them.

45
46 MR. KOBUK: That answers my question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: While we have you over there,
49 did you have any information on the situation with Shishmaref or

50 what was discussed?

00095

1 MR. AHMASUK: Yes, I do, Madame Chair. Can I get
2 back to your question about dates? We received a letter September
3 21st, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management council will be October
4 30th in Anchorage.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: October 30th.....

7
8 MR. AHMASUK: In Anchorage, yeah.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS:in Anchorage?

11
12 MR. AHMASUK: Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Do you know where?

15
16 MR. AHMASUK: October 30th to November 1st.
17 Madame Chair, your question about Shishmaref, Richard Quizarook,
18 who is on the Natural Resource Committee of Kawerak met today and
19 he forwarded a letter from Lucy Eningowuk concerning the
20 situation in Shishmaref which was their poor spring hunting
21 season and their concerns for that. They were requested by
22 Kawerak to draft written comments concerning that. At this time
23 Kawerak has taken notice, consideration that Shishmaref forwarded
24 to us to the Natural Resources Department of Kawerak.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Does anybody have any questions
29 for Austin? Thanks Austin. Going back to our agenda, Donna,
30 anything further?

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: (Nods negatively)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are there anymore questions for
35 Donna? Now, we're down to -- Ann, I forgot you on the subsistence
36 lifestyle art contest, I'm sorry, I kind of overlooked you.

37
38 MS. WILKINSON: The Office of Subsistence
39 Management is sponsoring an art contest for school children,
40 kindergarten through 12th grade. And it's called the Subsistence
41 Lifestyles Contest. It needs to be something involving
42 subsistence uses. The Regional Council Chairman will be the
43 judges of this contest and will make their selection at the
44 December Board meeting. The final date for turning them in --
45 excuse me, the final date for applying for this contest is
46 October 27th. They will get prizes for this, they're listed in
47 your book under Tab G, the information about this, it's the last
48 two pages in Tab G. The art work, the winners will be used for
49 notebook covers and other applications that we need for

50 publications in the future. All the schools have been sent

00096

1 fliers, there's some out on the table in the hallway, but the
2 schools have been sent fliers about this art contest. We would
3 encourage you to encourage the children and the schools in your
4 areas to please participate in this program. And that's
5 basically it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions. Thank you, Ann.

8
9 MS. WILKINSON: You're welcome.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, the next person on our
12 agenda is Guy Martin with Nome Eskimo Community.

13
14 MR. MARTIN: Madame Chairman, before I get
15 started, my name is Guy Martin and I represent the Nome Eskimo
16 Community IRA Council. Before I get started I'd like to mind our
17 manners and say thank you to everybody coming here, first of all
18 to the RAC for coming to Nome, your Staff, the Federal
19 Subsistence Board representatives that are here, you know who you
20 are. And we appreciate you coming all the way up here.

21
22 Your Staff has a written prepared statement
23 public, Ann, has that over there.

24
25 Good day and thank you for the opportunity to
26 speak to the Advisory Council. My name is Guy Martin. I am here
27 representing the Nome Eskimo Community Council IRA. With the
28 NEC's Council permission, I will briefly report to the Advisory
29 Council on the chum fishery in the Nome area. Keep in mind that
30 Nome Eskimo said thank you for everyone's effort, including you
31 local folks, too, in case I step on any toes.

32
33 In the interest of time I will read directly from
34 the Nome Eskimo Community submittal of suggestions and demands to
35 the Federal and State agencies. Prior to the formal
36 communications to the agencies, meetings with biologists and the
37 NEC Council were conducting, including a public hearing on May
38 10th of this year, we're grateful to the biologists, both State
39 and Federal folks that helped us and the mangers. NEC's
40 suggestions, demands in cooperation with agencies:

- 41
42 1. NEC understands that there is a fish biologist
43 position scheduled for Kotzebue, Alaska. NEC
44 would like this position to be based in Nome,
45 Alaska. I see someone here and, thank you.
46 Something's starting to work.
47
48 2. In the March 2000 letter to Mr. Boyd, Mr. Boyd
49 is the subsistence chief for U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, NEC would like the following

1 studies funded, and they are: A) incline plane
2 trap study for the Nome and Unalakleet Rivers;
3 B) plankton study on out migration.
4

5 Let me stop there and say, that we agree with the
6 Governor, we agree with the State and Federal agencies, that the
7 intercept, high seas intercept is part of the problem but we also
8 have to move ahead and look at the studies that have not been
9 taken care of. Evidence some of the testimony and information
10 you received today at this RAC meeting, four projects scheduled
11 in the next two years for the Norton Sound area and 20 something
12 for the rest of the state. So let's look at it in the chum-type
13 situation stating that there is a problem here and we'd like to
14 see more of those studies come to the Norton Sound area. And
15 I'll get back to a couple of things at the end of my prepared
16 testimony to get back to some of the things we'd like to say that
17 aren't printed.
18

- 19 3. NEC strongly requests a salmon enhancement
20 program at the Nome Moonlight Springs location.
21
- 22 4. NEC believes the continued decline in chum
23 salmon returns to Nome area is a product of poor
24 marine survival.
25

26 Now, this is on the advice of people that are
27 smarter than us, biologists and managers that have lent their
28 advice to Nome Eskimo Community for quite a while and we want to
29 pass that on to the Council here for the record. The NEC Council
30 directs the agencies to study the various marine causes of this
31 decline. We suggest the Burgenet Hatchery production in the
32 North Pacific and the fisheries that intercept salmon bound for
33 Norton Sound and the Bering Sea be most closely examined.
34

- 35 5. The NEC Council requests that the agencies
36 listen and respond in a timely fashion.
37

38 Now, one of the things that I've noticed here
39 with this, most, and including Nome, Alaska, including Nome
40 Eskimo Community, let me pick on myself first, did not know all
41 the good work that's being done that Perry Mendenhall thanked you
42 for earlier, just a few minutes ago. So let me show you what's
43 going on there.
44

- 45 6. Finally, the NEC requests the agencies provide
46 examples and explain to NEC the procedure for
47 placing Nome area chum salmon on the candidate
48 list, or with threatened classification, or an
49 endangered classification.

00098

1 NEC understands that the candidate list is not
2 the same as two classifications but does warrant agency
3 attention. Verification of our understanding and further
4 explanation would be appreciated.
5

6 In conclusion, the NEC made these suggestions
7 prior to the Declaration of Fishery Disaster. Thank you, if
8 there are any questions I'd be happy to try and answer them.
9

10 Before I do that, I want to answer Perry's note.
11 Perry, I gave a copy of our testimony and it's been sent out to
12 all the agencies and all the villages in the Norton Sound region.
13

14 MR. MENDENHALL: It's just that it wasn't in the
15 packet.
16

17 MS. WILKINSON: No, we just got it.
18

19 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, it didn't make the packet, I
20 apologize for that.
21

22 The two things I wanted to talk about that's not
23 in our prepared testimony first are the -- is something called a
24 genetic study. We've been in communication with the Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game, their lab and they're going to the
26 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a pre-proposal as we're
27 sitting here now to look at a genetic study. We'd like this
28 Council to please support that as well as our other studies that
29 were advised to us by our learned biologists. We'd like to, at
30 this time, look at the dollars that are being sent and the
31 testimony which I refer to in your packet on the studies that
32 Larry was so eloquently doing. I don't know what page it is but
33 let me paraphrase it, and look at the studies statewide; Larry
34 might be able to help me out. Thank you very much. Let me look
35 at the study statewide very briefly.
36

37 Four projects for the Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton
38 Sound versus 11 projects, 17 projects, 12 projects, 9 projects,
39 14 projects for other areas. I'd like to remind the U.S. Fish
40 and Wildlife Service that we're in a disaster situation. We have
41 been in a disaster situation, we're not going to sit here and cry
42 but we want you to know that we're in a disaster situation here
43 and we have feelings for everyone. We don't want Unalakleet or
44 some of our other villages to experience what we've experienced.
45

46 And the last thing I want to bring to the Council
47 is, other than why is there less projects in the Norton Sound
48 area than other areas of the state, we'd like to just, and this
49 comes from the Council, they want the agencies, your Council to

50 know that we're going to continue to be the squeaky wheel. We're

00099

1 not talking through our paper hat. Before we speak, we get
2 advice from learned people. We get advice from our tribal
3 members, and that's how we come up with these determinations.
4 And we'd probably like to answer any questions and thank you, and
5 I apologize for not having this in your packet, it's a screw up
6 on my part, not the Council's part, and the Council wishes to
7 thank everyone for giving us the opportunity to speak in front in
8 front of the Advisory Council and ask for your support.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: I make such a motion to support
11 Nome Eskimo Community's concerns; is that right, concerns?

12
13 MR. MARTIN: Yes.

14
15 MR. BUCK: Second it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: That it go on record showing
20 that there is a need.

21
22 MR. OKLEASIK: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All is in favor signify by
25 saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same sign.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Thank you, Guy.

34
35 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, very much.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: One thing, I'd like to make a
38 comment, is never really -- nobody's really mentioned high sea
39 intercept yet, you know, in the fishery project types, you know,
40 I think that needs to be addressed at the January situation
41 there, because we don't know, the Russian trawlers been intercept
42 other fisheries and Area M never really was addressed to -- to
43 our fishery, that migrates through there. I think it's an issue.
44 That's what Nome Eskimo is trying to say but never really did
45 refer to that either. And I think that it should go on the
46 record.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry, you had an announcement
49 earlier.

00100

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Pardon.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You said you had an announcement
4 to make?

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: You want me to do that now?

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: You know that program, Who Wants
11 to Be A Millionaire, we have somebody from Nome, Alaska is going
12 to be on October 3rd, from Nome. The person's name is -- I can't
13 remember it, it starts with an M -- Maryanne Garrison is her
14 maiden name, and she's taking down her grandmother to make sure
15 she stays in line in New York, Ethel Carmen will be the escort,
16 that's the grandmother. So mark your calendar for October 3rd,
17 on Election Day. Go out and vote, too, but -- so that's a first
18 -- I think will be the first Alaskan to ever be on that program.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Perry. We're down to
21 Section C, Department of Fish and Game. And Fred, the first of
22 the Fred's -- oh, no, wait a minute, I'm sorry, Kate Persons,
23 Moose 22(E), Western Arctic Caribou Herd and bear census status.
24 And I asked her to make reports and I almost missed her. Sorry,
25 Kate.

26
27 MS. PERSONS: That's okay. Madame Chair,
28 Council, I've prepared a written report for you that I passed
29 around earlier today and I'll just mention a few highlights from
30 that and you can look the rest over on your own.

31
32 I'll start with bears and if you have any
33 questions or comments, please, just bring them up as I go along.
34 Everybody who lives around here knows that we've got a lot of
35 bears and they seem to be increasing all the time. In this last
36 year, out of Unit 22, we had a reported harvest of 100 bears and
37 that's like a huge number of bears to come out of an area this
38 size. And in spite of it, though, we still seem to have a lot
39 more bears. And the year before we had a harvest of 90 bears and
40 that was -- well, for the 10 years prior to that, the average
41 harvest has been 54 bears and so we've just about doubled our
42 harvest. And if we maintain harvest of 100 or so bears a year,
43 we may start to see a decrease in the number of bears but I'm not
44 entirely sure about that because the harvest targets mostly male
45 bears. Most of the hunting takes place in the spring and the
46 boars come out first and also large bears come out first and so
47 they take the brunt of the spring harvest. And it's possible,
48 this isn't like a fact, I'm just -- I just spend a lot of time
49 thinking about these things and wondering and I'm wondering if,

50 by harvesting this large number of boars, and boars are cub

00101

1 killers.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

4

5 MS. PERSONS:and it may be by harvesting
6 this large number of boars that we're actually increasing the
7 productivity of this bear population. And so maybe -- it's hard
8 to say whether increasing harvest is really the right way to go,
9 at least, increasing harvest at times when the harvest targets
10 boars. It's the females that produce the cubs whose numbers need
11 to be reduced if we want to see a reduction in the number of
12 bears.

13

14 But I've noticed some other things that may be a
15 good sign for people who would like to see fewer bears around
16 here. Bear productivity has been shown to be greatly influenced
17 by abundance of blueberries. And last summer, not summer 2000,
18 but summer of 1999 was not a great blueberry year. And it was
19 followed by a really cold fall for a couple months in November,
20 late November, December and early January it was very cold and
21 there was no snow. And those things combined should have
22 resulted in reduced productivity of bears. And in fact, my own
23 observations and observations by many people who have talked to
24 me about it this summer are, that there are very few cubs of the
25 year. And whereas in recent years, it's been common place to see
26 sows with two, three, even four cubs, this summer there have been
27 many cubs [sic] with just one cub of the year and they're really
28 small. I was just looking at one the other day that -- I mean
29 normally by this time a cub of the year would be over 100 pounds
30 and this thing probably wasn't more than 50. And this spring
31 there was a sow with two cubs in Icy View that I chartered a
32 helicopter to drive out of the area, and those cubs were just
33 tiny, really small compared to what you would really -- the size
34 you would really expect them to be. And so maybe Mother Nature
35 is going to help us with this problem. We don't know, of course,
36 what this winter will bring, but, you know, maybe there is hope.

37

38 Any comments or questions about bears before I
39 move on.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: There's still too many.

42

43 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, that's true.

44

45 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

48

49 MR. SEETOT: Has there been any scientific

50 studies, you know, on blueberries on why, you know, that they

00102

1 would produce more cubs for the females?

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Well.....

4

5 MR. SEETOT: Well, it's like from what I heard,
6 I'm not too sure if it's true that -- you know, if a guy wants a
7 male offspring, you know, he has to have more fish and then the
8 male offspring will be there. That's what knowledge is, you
9 know, from the elders. It's either bunk or fact but, you know,
10 you just have to kind of go through it in order to -- think
11 whether's its true or not.

12

13 MS. PERSONS: There have been done studies down
14 in the Alaska range. I guess the information that I'm thinking
15 of came from a study by a Fish and Game bear biologists by the
16 name of Harry Reynolds who has looked at bear production in the
17 Alaska range over a period of many years, and this is an
18 observation that has held true.

19

20 And blueberries in the summer make up a huge
21 portion of a normal brown bear's diet. And if the sows go into
22 hibernation and are not adequately nourished, even though they've
23 been bred, they may reabsorb the fetuses or spontaneously abort
24 if they don't have the body fat on them to be able to provide for
25 those cubs. And I think that's what the reason is for this.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: So blueberries are the major part of
28 a bear diet?

29

30 MS. PERSONS: They are a huge part in the summer
31 months, yes.

32

33 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

34

35 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. I mean people think often of
36 bears as being just carnivores, but that's not true at all. They
37 rely a huge amount of vegetation, roots and berries and plant
38 material. And, although, certainly there are plenty of bears
39 that have learned to be very effective at killing moose, there
40 are many that never kill big game, they eat, you know, ptarmigan
41 and hares and ground squirrels and then vegetation. They all
42 depend on vegetation to a large degree for their diet.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: So blueberry consumption might be
45 that they're replenishing their minerals and vitamins, you know,
46 that they're lacking just feeding on salmon.

47

48 MS. PERSONS: And actually fat. They are able to
49 get fat from eating blueberries.

00103

1 MR. KOBUK: If they don't eat blueberries, how
2 about salmonberries and blackberries?

3
4 MS. PERSONS: Yep, yep, all the berries,
5 absolutely, yeah. But generally blueberries are the most
6 abundant over the widest area, so they're thought of as really
7 providing more in the way of nutrition than the other berries.

8
9 MR. ENINGOWUK: Kate. We had some guided bear
10 hunts up in Shishmaref this spring. It seems like it's the first
11 time I seen the village welcome outside hunters to hunt bear in
12 our area, they kind of welcomed the hunters. They were starting
13 to complain about the number of bears that were coming around and
14 that's the first time I ever seen the village say, I'm glad
15 you're here, you know, to an outside hunter.

16
17 MS. PERSONS: Well, that's good because there's
18 going to be more of them. Because we increased the number of
19 non-resident permits for your area so I'm glad you're happy to
20 see them.

21
22 And also I should remind everyone that if there's
23 too many bears, it's bear season right now and there's no tag fee
24 required anymore. If you've got a hunting license and you
25 haven't harvested a bear in the last four years, you can get one
26 just under the regular brown -- with a regular just brown
27 bear.....

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Sow or boar?

30
31 MS. PERSONS: It can't be a sow with cubs. It
32 can be a sow though, yeah.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Good. I got one, I got one with
35 a bullet's name on it.

36
37 MR. SEETOT: For those that hunt, you know, in a
38 sport hunt, do they take the meat or do they sell the meat, you
39 know, like.....

40
41 MS. PERSONS: They don't usually. Not usually,
42 they're required to salvage the hide and to at least bring in the
43 skull to be sealed so we can take it and get the age and measure
44 the skull. That's all they're required to bring in. Although,
45 it's been interesting, this fall there have been a couple of guys
46 who have hunted under the general brown bear hunt and have said,
47 really, their interest was in the meat and they've been eating
48 the meat and they really have been enjoying it.

49

MR. SEETOT: But the sport hunters pay a high fee

00104

1 to the state to.....

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Non-residents do.

4

5 MR. SEETOT: Non-residents.

6

7 MS. PERSONS: But not people from the rest of
8 Alaska, or you know people that are around here that are sport
9 hunting, there's no fee.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: For subsistence purposes the \$25 is
12 waived but for sport hunters you have to pay the fee?

13

14 MS. PERSONS: Residents who are hunting in 22 no
15 longer have any fee. That \$25 fee disappeared as of this year.
16 That was something the Board of Game did last year. So if you
17 just have a hunting license, that's all you need. You don't need
18 that \$25 tag that you used to need.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: So if I want to just go for bear,
21 you know, because he's a nuisance, I can go under sport hunting
22 guidelines?

23

24 MS. PERSONS: You can right now, the season is
25 open for that, yeah.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: Yeah.

28

29 MS. PERSONS: It opened September 1.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: But all I would need to do was take
32 the hide and the skull and have it sealed with Fish and Game?

33

34 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. And for that, in the
35 villages, people can just call me and.....

36

37 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay.

38

39 MS. PERSONS:they gave me a plane so I can
40 come to you and seal it and if I can't come the protection
41 officer can come.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: Just a note, too, that if you --
48 the goldminers, years ago, that used to be their bacon. They
49 would get a bear and hang it up, aged, a number of days in the

50 fall time because it was really, you know, like bacon to them.

00105

1 And it was because there was no meat coming in then. That's the
2 way they had done it before, goldminers and villages, too.
3 Interior mostly.
4

5 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I think the Interior aspect is
6 really important. Because there they've been feeding on berries,
7 they haven't been eating fish and those two people that harvested
8 bears this fall that reported enjoying the meat so much got them
9 up the Kougarok River, which is, you know, way Interior and they
10 probably hadn't been eating fish, and that the meat was really
11 good tasting.
12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: They look like bacon when you --
14 their sides.
15

16 MR. SEETOT: Uh-huh.
17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: So it takes like bacon, too.
19

20 MR. SEETOT: Uh-huh.
21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: I got relatives up in Kivalina
23 that do nothing but hunt bear, you know.
24

25 MS. PERSONS: Okay, we'll move on to caribou.
26 And we've got a 129 radio collars out on Western Arctic herd
27 caribou and 29 of those are satellite collars. And I handed out
28 a two-page handout that shows the locations as of yesterday of
29 the satellite collared caribou. And the migration is a little
30 bit early it seems like this year, the lead animals are already
31 as far west as Imuruk Lake and then have moved down south just
32 over the weekend into Fish River Flats. And this is a pretty
33 common migration pattern, it's too early yet to say whether or
34 not they'll swing back over to the east and to the south, to your
35 area. But even in the years when they do that in big numbers,
36 they swing over onto the base of the Seward Peninsula first. And
37 so what's happening, you know, now, it looks like they're all
38 coming this way but if history repeats itself, you know, many of
39 those animals will turn back to the east and come down to the
40 Nulato Hills and maybe end up in your neck of the woods.
41

42 MR. KOBUK: The pilot told one of the airplane
43 agents that some are passing Unalakleet.
44

45 MS. PERSONS: Is that right?
46

47 MR. KOBUK: The river.
48

49 MS. PERSONS: Good. Yeah, I'd heard reports from

50 Koyuk even as of, oh gosh, a couple of weeks ago that there were

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1 small groups around Koyuk and I thought that was a good
2 indication that they probably will swing down that way again.
3 Because I know people were hurting last year not having them.

4
5 MR. KOBUK: Well, I had to go all the way to
6 Koyuk to get mine last year.

7
8 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. Yeah. Let's see, anything
9 else that you wanted, Grace, about caribou? Also I included a
10 summary of the last Western Arctic Herd Working Group meeting
11 notes with some nice color pictures from Anaktuvuk Pass that you
12 might be interested in looking over and some maps that show the
13 new Unit 22(D) permanent hunt area for caribou and then the
14 emergency order opening area in Unit 22(E) that's in effect right
15 now.

16
17 MR. ENINGOWUK: Kate. Madame Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Johnson.

20
21 MR. ENINGOWUK: Just a comment that we've been
22 noticing those caribou in the last few years have been
23 frequenting our area and they seem to be more and more every
24 year, a larger herd, that we see along the coast during our
25 spring hunt. So I imagine that this herd that returns to
26 Shishmaref is going to always -- is probably going to increase
27 over the next few years because we kind of noticed that they were
28 there about four years ago in small groups, you know, and now
29 they seem to be a big herd now, and that they're half reindeer or
30 half caribou or -- and they seem to like to return to that area.

31
32 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

33
34 MR. ENINGOWUK: So probably some time in the
35 future we might have to look at an area where we need to open it
36 permanently.

37
38 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

39
40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Like the other group.

41
42 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. I certainly agree with you
43 and I would expect the Board of Game will address proposals for
44 this region a year from this fall. And if the same pattern that
45 we've seen last year and this year continues, I would certainly
46 recommend that we make this hunt area, that was agreed upon by
47 everyone at that meeting in Shishmaref last winter, a permanent
48 open area. That particular area, though, doesn't address the
49 issue of where caribou go in the summer because in the summer

50 they move up here to coast to get away from the bugs. And so

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1 probably that would still have to be -- well, perhaps, I'm not
2 sure. I guess that will take more discussion to determine whether
3 that should be a permanent area as well or whether an emergency
4 opening is adequate.

5
6 MR. ENINGOWUK: I know we have two reindeer herds
7 in the village, I think one is just about being wiped out by the
8 number of caribou that were in the area. The other one is so far
9 towards Wales, and the Wales herd, I think, are pretty much
10 taking off because they don't -- the caribou comes in but I think
11 the reindeer herders know how to get rid of those caribou that
12 end up in their herd.

13
14 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

15
16 MR. ENINGOWUK: And they usually bring them into
17 the village and when they find caribou in their herd, I think
18 they pass them out to some of the elders and some of the people
19 that don't have much meat. So this, you know, working along with
20 the reindeer herders and the hunters and kind of working
21 together.

22
23 MS. PERSONS: Right.

24
25 MR. ENINGOWUK: And it's been pretty good so far.
26 There's.....

27
28 MS. PERSONS: Good. I'm really glad to hear
29 that.

30
31 MR. ENINGOWUK:nobody shooting at each
32 other.

33
34 MS. PERSONS: Good.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: That seemed to bring a thought
41 to Deering. Last winter was the first time there was not a
42 carmen in the village, all of them -- because they lost their
43 reindeer herd up there in Deering. It'd be the first time in
44 history there was no carmen up there, they all moved elsewhere to
45 Nome or Anchorage. So it's unheard of not to have a carmen in
46 Deering, you know. That's a note of how much it hurt the
47 reindeer herders of Deering and probably elsewhere.

48
49 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. No, it's a devastating thing

50 for the reindeer industry, there's no doubt.

00108

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question for you, Kate.
2 In your nice pamphlet, on the second page, who is your working
3 group representatives, it says there are five unfilled seats in
4 the working group at this time, is one of those seats the ones
5 that I recommended be separated from -- remember they used to be
6 with Elim, Golovin, White Mountain, Brevig Mission.....

7
8 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS:Teller, Shishmaref and
11 Wales were all lumped together?

12
13 MS. PERSONS: I think they're looking for a
14 representative from (D) and (E).

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Northern Norton Sound, right?

17
18 MS. PERSONS: Do you know?

19
20 MR. SPIRITES: I can't remember.

21
22 MR. ASHENFELTER: Madame Chair, I'm on the
23 Western Arctic -- I'm a member of the Western Arctic Caribou
24 Working Group. And I've got some instructions to approach
25 members from Shishmaref, Wales, Brevig and Teller tomorrow during
26 the Kawerak board meeting to find out who they would like to
27 represent those villages.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Roy. That was Roy
30 Ashenfelter.

31
32 REPORTER: Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Roy, that answers our
35 question.

36
37 MS. PERSONS: Okay, let's move on quickly to
38 moose. And moose is what I lay awake at night worrying about.

39
40 Last spring we were not able to do an actual
41 census. We had scheduled to do one with BLM in Unit 22(A) and
42 the weather never cooperated to allow that. And so instead of
43 that we did, what we call, recruitment surveys, where we're not
44 trying to find, by any means, every last moose, we're just trying
45 to get a good sample of as many moose as we can look at. And we
46 looked at what percentage of those moose are yearlings and that
47 -- the percent that are yearlings is what we call recruitment,
48 and that indicates then to us whether -- well, I mean we don't
49 really know what mortality is but it gives us an idea of whether

50 the population could possibly be stable or growing or declining

00109

1 and when -- and in all of the units, where we did recruitment
2 studies in (A) and (B) and in (D), recruitment was very low. IT
3 was between six and 10 percent. And studies have shown that in
4 moose populations that are healthy, that have very little hunting
5 -- have no hunting and very little or no predation, the natural
6 mortality is like six or seven percent. And so when you consider
7 that we've got a lot of bears right now and wolves are increasing
8 and people hunt and we only have six, seven, eight, nine percent
9 recruitment, it's an indication that the populations are in
10 trouble.

11

12 But we know that for (A), for last year, but we
13 don't know, it may be that in years before there's been adequate
14 recruitment and this was just a one time thing. So about (A) we
15 really don't know. But we've been watching 22(B) for a long time
16 and this has been the case now for most of the decade. And in
17 (D), it came as actually kind of a surprise, because when we did
18 our last census, which was in '97, we had every indication that
19 the population in 22(D) was doing pretty well but recruitment was
20 18, 22 percent, which is great. And it was six and seven percent
21 in the drainages last year in (D), which is just terrible. So
22 we've got to keep a very close eye on that and if that continues,
23 we're going to have to look at probably some further restrictions
24 in 22(D). 22(C) is an interesting case, it's the only place in
25 this whole unit where recruitment is really good. And this year
26 recruitment was 18 percent, last year 22 percent, lots of calves,
27 lots of twins, and that's why we have a cow hunt in 22(C) now.

28

29 Questions about moose.

30

31 MR. KOBUK: Since last year there was no caribou
32 around in 22(A), I know a lot of moose hunting was going on
33 because of their desire for meat and caribou didn't come.

34

35 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. KOBUK: And I heard there in the fall season
38 there some guys were doing moose hunting while it was open, they
39 said it was pretty scary to hunt moose because there was a lot of
40 bears around.

41

42 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

43

44 MR. KOBUK: And kind of worried, maybe.....

45

46 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

47

48 MR. KOBUK:our moose population might

49 be.....

00110

1 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, well, you guys have always
2 had a lot of bears. You guys have always had more bears than
3 anybody.

4
5 MR. KOBUK: Too many bears.

6
7 MS. PERSONS: Which may -- Unit 22(A) has always
8 had a lower density moose population than other parts of the unit
9 and bears may be part of that picture.

10
11 MR. KOBUK: So are you going to invite more bear
12 hunters?

13
14 MS. PERSONS: Well, the door's already wide open.
15 We don't limit the number of non-resident there. Any number who
16 want to can come. So you better go get your bear.

17
18 MR. SEETOT: Kate, I have a question. What
19 affect does wild fires do to the, you know, moose? Do they
20 migrate from certain subunits to areas that are smoke-free or --
21 especially the smoke was pretty thick during the last part of
22 July up around Unit 22(D), does smoke play a large role in the
23 moose migration?

24
25 MS. PERSONS: Smoke really would move them. I
26 don't know but one thing that wild fires do is they really
27 enhance moose habitat down the road.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: I know that, but in like.....

30
31 MS. PERSONS: But in terms of.....

32
33 MR. SEETOT: Like you said, the last census you
34 took was 1997, the latest was in 2000.

35
36 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. SEETOT: There's a three year time. There's
39 been wild fires every year, you know.....

40
41 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. SEETOT:when the season comes around.
44 And then you don't have the data, you know, to say, okay, we have
45 certain X amount of moose in '97 and then you have X amount of
46 moose in 2000.

47
48 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, yeah, years later.

49

MR. SEETOT: What you're calculating is just

00111

1 mortality rate, predation and whatnot, you're not probably
2 looking at natural disasters. It rained too much, there was a
3 slight freeze in the winter months preventing the moose from
4 picking on the willows or, you know, and wild fires, and, you
5 know, then that's one of the things.....

6
7 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

8
9 MR. SEETOT:that you pretty much have to
10 consider when you're looking at the recruitment rate or, you
11 know, just the population of a certain subunit.

12
13 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. And we -- well, actually we
14 don't even have that much information. In '97, we actually did
15 a census where we got a population estimate for large portions of
16 22(D). But what we did this year wasn't a population estimate.
17 All we know is that the recruitment was down. So -- yeah, no,
18 our information is limited.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: You know, Elmer, I remember when
21 the forest fires heavy at Yukon, Kuz -- you know, that area,
22 moose came into the Bering Straits region and the oldtimers said
23 it was because of the smoke driving the moose onto the Seward
24 Peninsula back then. That was in the late '50s, like '59, '60
25 and '61 and those time frames. That's when they started to go
26 back to Kougarok because of the smoke, that's what the elders
27 were saying, back in the '60s. They never saw a moose before, we
28 never did either here in Nome. We didn't even know what it was.
29 I didn't even know what it was when I saw it on the beach, I had
30 a gun, so that -- it's because of the fires, you know, they -- it
31 causes them to move all right, you know, move around. That --
32 from what I've seen in the Nome area, that the smoke.....

33
34 MS. PERSONS: And then I just have one more thing
35 I wanted to share with you. The wildlife Division of Subsistence
36 and Fish and Game has had a cooperative project going with
37 Kawerak for the last couple of years where we've done village
38 harvest assessment surveys. And we go to -- well, this year we
39 went to three villages, White Mountain, Elim and Shaktoolik, and
40 the year before to Koyuk and Shaktoolik. And we hire people in
41 the villages to go door to door and ask about big game harvest
42 and it's been -- the project's been really well received and we
43 hope to continue it this year. And maybe Jim could just.....

44
45 MR. MAGDANZ: I'll put those out on the table.

46
47 MS. PERSONS:pass them around -- yeah,
48 actually probably a lot of you already got the reports in your
49 mailboxes for last spring's surveys.

00112

1 That's all I've got. I'll leave muskox to Ken.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: He did that already, I think.
4 Thank you, then, Kate.

5
6 MS. PERSONS: Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Fred. The first Fred, on
9 fisheries status.

10
11 MR. BUE: Madame Chairman, my name is Fred Bue,
12 I'm the acting area manager, Commercial Fisheries Division in
13 Nome here for the State of Alaska. We're just getting over our
14 season and I don't have a very comprehensive summary but what I'm
15 passing out is just a real brief description of how our salmon
16 season went. I wasn't entirely certain on what direction
17 subsistence was headed in at this actual meeting so I took it on
18 as focusing on salmon. If you have other issues such as crab and
19 other miscellaneous species, I'd be happy to speak to those.

20
21 To begin with, looking at commercial fishing,
22 again, as most of you, I'm sure, are aware, our run this year was
23 poor overall, as a description. To begin with chinook, 90
24 percent below our 10-year average and essentially the harvest was
25 limited to allow for escapement and subsistence use. That was
26 commercial harvest.

27
28 Chum salmon, 85 percent below our 10-year
29 average. And there, we did not have directed fisheries on chum
30 salmon, what that harvest represents is an incidental catch to
31 directed pink salmon fisheries and coho salmon fisheries.

32
33 Pink salmon is a hit or miss deal with Norton
34 Sound as a commercial fisheries, it's typically market limited.
35 Odd years we don't have a very large return, even years, are
36 significantly larger but we don't always attract a market. This
37 year we had one, 166,000 fish harvested is reasonable but it's
38 below what the market had hoped for. They were shooting for a
39 half million fish. We did have a surplus of fish, we had good
40 volumes in most areas but the total volume was at such a level
41 that it was difficult for commercial fishermen to concentrate
42 their efforts. It wasn't a major push with fish concentrate so
43 that they could maximize the use of their gear and the market
44 interest in any one subdistrict.

45
46 Coho salmon, 21 percent below the 10-year
47 average. This, again, was the entry rate of coho coming into the
48 Norton Sound district. Overall the run was actually fairly good
49 but the fish didn't come in in a strong wave like they normally

50 do. Coho salmon tend to come in in a strong wave at the

00113

1 beginning and taper up through the season. This year they just
2 consistently came in throughout the season, returns were good but
3 the commercial fishermen weren't able to maximize the market and
4 harvest potential.

5
6 Commercial fishing is one component of the
7 harvest, the other component is subsistence fishing, and in these
8 -- this is just generalities, again, here, briefly to -- looking
9 at harvest was adequate in most places for Norton Sound salmon.
10 Chinook, we did have complaints in southern Norton Sound, which
11 was a primarily stocks for Norton Sound. We have much fewer in
12 the Nome area, northern Norton Sound and so primarily in southern
13 Norton Sound complaints were that -- there were a few complaints
14 there were not enough fish but we also had complaints that other
15 fishermen were harvesting in excess their needs. The thought
16 being that maybe some of those fish were bound for other markets,
17 other than a legitimate commercial use. And so essentially they
18 were taken away from one user group and shifting the harvest
19 effort.

20
21 More locally, much of this group is concerned --
22 well, major concern beyond commercial is subsistence. It hits
23 home a lot deeper. The Nome area fishermen, last year the state
24 of Alaska instituted the first Tier II salmon fishery in the
25 state. It goes to show the extreme -- the level of poor return
26 consistently year after year. Last year we went into the season
27 allowing 20 permits, this year we just couldn't even sustain that
28 level of use and we went into the season with 10 Tier II permits
29 for chum salmon. And again, even at that level of use, it was --
30 fishing time was greatly restricted. Fishing location was
31 greatly restricted and at this point, since we don't get fishing
32 permits back, I don't have a real good feeling for the success of
33 those fishermen that actually did have a permit and did go
34 fishing. But I suspect they were unsatisfied with their harvest.

35
36 The Nome Tier I fishermen were able to harvest
37 salmon other than chum salmon. But due to the poor chum return
38 we were really conservative in our management again. We didn't
39 want -- incidental harvest of chum was a real sticking point
40 since we were at a Tier II level in management. So Tier I, when
41 we did provide opportunity for pink salmon, we had numerous
42 complaints. Some people complained it was a specialized gear
43 type. Not everybody had, say, beach seines, which allowed chum
44 salmon to be released. It's a nice idea to conserve chum, but
45 not everybody has a beach seine in their fishing gear.

46
47 Time and area restrictions. Time restrictions,
48 what happens is once we see that we have, we're feeling a little
49 bit more comfortable about chum salmon being into our streams

50 then we'll relax other species, pink salmon. What is a common

00114

1 complaint, year after year is that we relax it too late, we're
2 past the drying season. And it's a major frustration when we
3 finally allow an opportunity to harvest fish, the quality or the
4 season is not appropriate for that type of use.

5

6 That's my primary comments for subsistence.

7

8 Beyond those two consumptive uses, then what we
9 have left going into the river is considered our escapement.
10 Overall, Norton Sound-wide, we were fortunate. Due to the very
11 restrictive management actions, we did feel we got our chinook
12 escapements through most of southern and eastern Norton Sound.
13 Chum salmon, district-wide, we were below average. In a few
14 places, Unalakleet, we felt we did fairly well. But getting up
15 towards Quinuik River we were below our -- 40 percent below our
16 escapement goal. Neukluk indicator of Golovin subdistrict, we're
17 better than 1999 but we were still 40 percent below the 10-year
18 average. In the Nome subdistrict with our very restrictive
19 management actions we did feel we got adequate escapement levels
20 in the Nome, Eldorado and Bonanza Rivers but the rest of the
21 streams for chum salmon were below what we would consider
22 adequate chum escapements.

23

24 I'll get back to some of these later. But pink
25 salmon, again, is an odd/even year cycle. This even year,
26 significantly was low for a typical even year return but it was
27 significantly larger than an odd year return, so we feel that
28 even though it was low for an even year, we got acceptable
29 levels.

30

31 Coho, district-wide again, we feel we're above
32 average. Not what we had expected based on our parent year
33 return. Production levels seem to be low but overall we felt
34 that we got slightly above average. Again, timing was -- with
35 cohos, it was a frustration for commercial, but also subsistence,
36 we were concerned initially, we don't often see a long drawn out
37 return of silvers, usually we see that early, steep portion and
38 initially we were pretty concerned about cohos not moving up the
39 river. Many of you noticed that the large schools of fish at the
40 mouth of the Nome River or low in the Snake River, fish were just
41 not moving fast and they were vulnerable to exploitation day
42 after day for two weeks there before they moved past and escaped
43 and we felt better.

44

45 What is missing on here is outlook, and I don't
46 have a very formalized outlook again. And generally speaking,
47 all species we're seeing a decline in productivity for whatever
48 reason. We're just not seeing the returns per spawner that we
49 might expect with escapement levels, even though we're attaining

50 escapements in most places, the returns that we'd expect, which

00115

1 would normally sustain a commercial, subsistence and escapement
2 levels doesn't seem to make it. We're barely making returns for
3 the escapement. Barely maintaining that escapement level. And
4 some districts, certainly this trend has been a lot longer or
5 started many years earlier than other trends but it seems to be
6 progressing, district-wide. I don't have to tell you, most
7 notable, the Nome area decline for the last 15 years and Golovin,
8 Moses Point are declining, you know, all along.

9
10 But also in another sense, the Nome subdistrict,
11 again, is unique. We feel subsistence nearly crises and that is
12 evident in the Tier II permit system issuance and management of
13 the system. But we see is not all streams have poor returns
14 every year. But we have a community that focuses on nine
15 different streams and if one stream's closed, effort is moved
16 down the line and so even though one or two streams may be doing
17 all right one year, at a time, it doesn't compensate for the low
18 return the neighboring stream, and so there's a balancing act
19 that we're really grappling with.

20
21 Issues that the State of Alaska is facing and I
22 realize this is a Federal meeting, but just to point out, again,
23 the advisory meeting schedule is coming up, we have -- we talked
24 a little bit yesterday on the Southern Norton Sound Advisory
25 about Proposal No. 5 yesterday, but they plan on having another
26 advisory meeting before the Board of Fish meeting which is due to
27 be held in January. Northern Norton Sound will have an advisory
28 meeting October 10th, I believe. We're working on an agenda.
29 Southern Norton Sound is going to have an advisory meeting
30 sometime in November, there's not a set date yet. But right now,
31 this week -- in early May, I believe, the State of Alaska adopted
32 a new State of Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Act, which the
33 Board of Fish is grappling with. It sets out some sort of
34 guidelines on how to manage escapement goals, triggers, at what
35 level we're going to proceed with very restrictive levels of
36 restrictive management and -- and so what the Board is dealing
37 with right now, there's a special work session on September 29th
38 that's going to be looking at conservation issues. Norton Sound
39 chum salmon is a topic for discussion. The Kuskokwim chum salmon
40 is a topic for discussion. Yukon chinook is going to be involved
41 and Yukon fall chum. And so all those stocks are going to be
42 discussed at this Board session and they're hopefully going to
43 outline how to proceed with the sustainable fisheries policy, how
44 will it evolve into the Board of Fish meeting cycle this winter
45 so people will have some idea going into next year, where we
46 stand -- where the State of Alaska stands. And there is quite
47 possibly going to be a lot of changes in management procedure out
48 of that.

49

As it stands right now, the Board, in January

00116

1 will -- although the work session will set up an agenda, we're --
2 we feel confident it's going to discuss Tier II again. It's been
3 two years now since Tier II's been implemented in the Nome area,
4 this is a very big issue and essentially we're the proving ground
5 for Tier II management. With the other Yukon fisheries,
6 Kuskokwim fisheries, they're considering possibilities looking at
7 Tier II scenarios and so Tier II, at the Board of Fish, they --
8 I'm -- they would really appreciate Norton Sound's, Nome area's
9 comments and evaluation of that.

10

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: When? September 29th?

13

14 MR. BUE: September 29th there's a work session.
15 I don't know, I tried to fax it out to most of the corporations
16 earlier when I did have the announcement. I don't have the
17 actual agenda.

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: So during that work session that
20 would discuss the Nome chum salmon?

21

22 MR. BUE: No. It's going to discuss how the
23 sustainable fisheries conservation policy is going to impact our
24 conservation issues. And I think that will set our priority or
25 precedence for the Board of Fish meeting cycle in January.

26

27 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you think it would help if
28 somebody, just go down there during the work session and listen
29 in on it or not?

30

31 MR. BUE: The work session, that's what I
32 understand is that it's not for public comment.....

33

34 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

35

36 MR. BUE:but the public is welcome to sit
37 in and follow through -- follow with what is going on
38 procedurally.

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: And they will also be discussing
41 the Tier II status, I mean the report?

42

43 MR. BUE: I don't know specifically but I'm sure
44 it can be.....

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: There was one line on there,
47 this Tier II.....

48

49 MR. BUE: Right. It's a topic that is going to

50 be.....

00117

1 MR. MENDENHALL:concerns.

2
3 MR. BUE:concerns. And part of this work
4 session is it's -- is it grounds that we're going to want to
5 venture out and explore for other areas.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: So it won't hurt if somebody
8 like from Nome area go down and just sit and listen?

9
10 MR. BUE: I can't imagine it would hurt at all,
11 it would sure give a perspective of what's -- an appreciation of
12 what's going on and what.....

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: And I imagine they're going to
15 be talking about the Yukon chum crash?

16
17 MR. BUE: Yes, Yukon and chinook.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: So it won't hurt, in other
20 words, for somebody to go down?

21
22 MR. BUE: No, it won't hurt.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: It might help the Nome area to
25 be there to listen?

26
27 MR. BUE: I believe so. You know, I don't know
28 at what level you'd be allowed to participate but I think it
29 would.....

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: No, I mean -- yeah.

32
33 MR. BUE:advan -- you would be there during
34 breaks to be able to feed information to somebody, they may ask
35 you a question or two. I couldn't tell you that but I do feel
36 that it's an important issue.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It sounds dismal.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: It might help, you know, if
41 somebody from this -- the Tier II situation to go down to just be
42 there Friday, Saturday to listen because it will help during the
43 January session that we're going to be involved with anyway.
44 It's just hand in hand, it's supposed to be joint working
45 relationship between State and Federal. That's that I was trying
46 to ask certain people in here about that meeting this weekend,
47 whether it would count -- be worthwhile to just go down and
48 listen in. Because this crash, we done everything we could, we
49 -- you know, except grow banana's, you know, and still no fish

50 come around. That's a new expression, we don't have bananas.

00118

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

2
3 MR. SEETOT: There's been a lot of concerns about
4 the Area M intercept. The Nome district, you know, has seen a
5 lot of gold mining activity, I would say what's in 100 years,
6 what's in the chemicals used to extract the gold or whatever they
7 use, the chemicals that they use, I know that there are some
8 miners that, you know, don't follow the letter of the law, you
9 know, saying that certain chemicals are supposed to be contained
10 in a certain area and then some of that do spill over into the
11 streams. Has there ever been any studies done, you know, what
12 the gold mining activity has done, you know, for the Nome
13 subdistrict? Because you have the Bema Dredge, that was a couple
14 years ago, does the noise, does the vibration scare away the
15 fish? Does the chemicals that are in the streams that are
16 spilled accidentally or disposed improperly go in the streams and,
17 you know, just kill off the habitat because from the literature
18 I read, is that, salmon use their sense of smell, you know, to
19 pinpoint their spawning grounds and with all these chemicals used
20 and with all the activities in the stream to extract the gold,
21 especially with the Nome subdistrict you see a lot of that
22 concern is toward Area M intercept.

23
24 The Area M intercept, does that include from
25 Unalakleet down to Kotzebue because Norton Sound and the Yukon
26 fisheries, they're saying that, you know, they have fishing
27 disaster, you know, they're commercially oriented. I'm not sure
28 what mining activities are done with these areas but if the
29 fishery system wants to see some success or, you know, they
30 should count the fish that go through the Ipewik River because
31 there are a large number of fish that go through there, chums,
32 dogs, all that that go through there. There's no commercial
33 fishing. Rarely any mining. And then over here commercial it
34 says chinook, chum, pink and coho. It doesn't mention any
35 sockeye or what we call red salmon, but that goes through the
36 Imuruk Basin, that goes through Port Clarence, Tuksuk, Imuruk
37 Basin and then on to Pilgrim and then they spawn up there, and
38 then that is missing also -- one species is missing within the
39 Norton Sound area. We have a lot of fish that go through Ipewik.
40 This year was pretty poor. The fish was there, the major factor
41 that cut the fishermen from fishing was the weather, it was wet
42 all the time. Because the primary source of preserving fish is,
43 you know, drying it.

44
45 The fish are good when they first come here,
46 they're good for the fresh quality. They make half-dried salmon
47 and salted, that's one of three primary uses when they first
48 come. Put it in the freezer or to be eaten, salted and then hang
49 the remainder of the fish for half-dried fish. And then Port

50 Clarence is between Kotzebue, I think, which allows commercial

00119

1 fishing, Norton Sound and yet, we still see a lot of fish that
2 goes to our local streams. One is that probably, you know,
3 there's been no commercial activities, there's been a lot of
4 subsistence activity within the course lane, along with Teller,
5 yet, we really haven't seen that problem other than the
6 restriction, you know, placed on us by the weather.

8 I think you know, talk about Area M, do our fish
9 go down there, too, because, you know, we still see a bunch of
10 salmon in our streams. One is that not too much activity takes
11 place with the Unit 22(D) or between those two communities other
12 than our subsistence fishing. But onshore winds play a major
13 factor in our area or in Brevig, because it's just right along
14 the coastline, it really doesn't affect Teller too much because
15 they are located -- or they can fish right in the harbor system
16 or along Tuksuk, but still wet weather, you know, is a major
17 factor in the preservation of fish. And that's one of the things
18 that half kind of restricted the number of fish that was taken
19 this past season is that it was raining and wet all the time.
20 And when you put a lot of work -- and the major effort is to dry
21 the fish for winter consumption, you know, there's just no use
22 because I tried that a couple times in the past and with the wet
23 weather it just kind of, you know, spoils the fish altogether.

25 But I think no study really has been done in the
26 Ipewik system, yet if you see a collapse of the fishery in the
27 Yukon Delta, in the Norton Sound, and I really haven't heard
28 anything around Kotzebue Sound. Are the fish on the Ipewik River
29 or the sockeye that goes through Pilgrim, are they the same fish
30 that go through Area M?

32 MR. BUE: Yeah, Madame Chairman, you are pretty
33 fortunate. I guess the big thing you have chum but the timing
34 seems to be significantly different than the other common stocks
35 farther south, your timing is more similar to the Kotzebue area.
36 And so it may be that those fish just moved through other
37 fisheries at a different time frame, that they're not being
38 picked up on. I found it real interesting, Johnson, indicated
39 his fish returns were poor and I wasn't sure which species you
40 were talking about, but where Ipewik American had a good chum
41 run, essentially a fall chum run, and Kotzebue had a good chum
42 run and you're right in between and I would suspect you catch
43 both local fish and traveling fish but yet your runs didn't sound
44 very good.

46 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think weather had to do with a
47 lot of it, too. When we catch our fish off the ocean, off the
48 beach, you almost have to be -- when I talk to people that had to
49 go up to the river to do their fishing, they said they either

50 missed the season or they just didn't come or they went up the

00120

1 river early when they usually do their fishing so they weren't
2 catching that much fish. We have some of our salmon, you know,
3 go up toward Kotzebue, got to go through the ocean probably, but
4 we know we have -- large salmons go up there. And that's where
5 we get our drying fish from. They either -- the salmon didn't
6 either come back or just a bad year for them to come back or when
7 people went that they -- that the fish had already passed
8 through. But it seemed like they weren't fishing that much this
9 year. But the ocean fish that we get off the beach really
10 depends on the weather, it has to be calm enough to set a net.
11 And up there we get a lot of north wind, we get a lot of winds.

12

13 MR. BUE: Madame Chairman, getting back to
14 Elmer's other question. I guess I apologize for asking
15 questions, maybe, but since you're the local experts. I know
16 Davidson's landing have some toxic problems and there's cleanups
17 and throughout that area, do you see any impacts from -- on your
18 fisheries associated with those cleanups or is that a concern?

19

20 MR. SEETOT: Well, from my understanding Davidson
21 Landing is maybe about 10 or 15 miles east of the -- maybe about
22 10 miles east of Ipewik River. And then I think over at Davidson
23 Landing, most of the silt is on top of the ground and isolated
24 pools of water and I'm not too sure how much cleanup they did
25 around that area. The runoff would probably go into the Kuzitrin
26 and, you know, the Kuzitrin is part of the Pilgrim or at the
27 mouth where the sockeye kind of goes through. The sockeye goes
28 through Kuzitrin, Pilgrim, the silvers, the chum go through the
29 American, I mean Ipewik American, system so they don't go through
30 the same streams.

31

32 MR. BUE: So they'd be influenced low, down in
33 the river if you had.....

34

35 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

38

39 MR. MENDENHALL: You mentioned Bema when it was
40 out here. They never put their heavy metals back into the --
41 they shipped it out for refinement. When people were going over
42 to where Bema was, they were catching a lot of crab over there.
43 So that didn't have any impact on that, and it was out away from
44 the shore where the migration was. And as far as mining in this
45 area, when they were doing full scale mining over here on those
46 dredges, we used to have fish, we could walk across on the jetty
47 on here when they were doing mining in those two dredges. And I
48 think there's more factors than this mining. And there's -- your
49 heaviest district for your area comes from Ipewik, Pilgrim and

50 Kuzitrin area, they got mining up there in Kougarok, but I don't

00121

1 think that has affected your fishes up that way with all that
2 mining activity. Up in Deering they did the same thing when they
3 first were there. They had more fish show up in the creek when
4 there was mining because of the sediment, it was able to feed the
5 fish.

6
7 I think there's other factors like freezing all
8 the way down to the bottom of the river bed or a stream bed with
9 hardly any snow around. I think that also killed a lot of the
10 fish. And we only started getting some of those high freezing,
11 all the way down to the creek bottom about 10 or 15 years ago.
12 We had -- a little kid, Pungowi, we had to hold his legs when he
13 went all the way down to put -- on the Eldorado, and froze all
14 the way down there, when we were kids, we never used to do that
15 before, we used to hit water. So it's climatic changes, I think,
16 is more to be looked at. But I think in support of what would
17 help this, would be the genetic study that Nome Eskimo identified
18 about the fish streams we need to look at. And I think we need
19 funding for that kind of genetic studies to go on all our
20 streams, you know, in the crash area.

21
22 And I don't think that we should be blowing them
23 whistle on -- try to blame it all on one factor when there are a
24 lot of other factors involved. And I think Charlie Lean and
25 those people, they pretty much -- when we start blowing the
26 whistle on, and -- like the chum crashes, they pretty much help
27 us police the creeks around and about and make sure that
28 everything was in compliance and even Sitnusuak, we had our own
29 people, we had our own planes flying around on our streams with
30 Fish and Game. So we watch mining quite heavily, even on that
31 dump they have, Bema Road that goes into the Nome River.

32
33 So I think as conservation, I think Nome area has
34 really worked in that area in trying to ensure fish to come back.
35 But I think there's other factors, like high sea intercept and
36 the freezing, climatic change and might even be four-wheelers
37 going up and down creeks besides bears running up and down the
38 creeks. So there's many factors. I mean we just can't lay blame
39 to one section, you know, one sector of things because most of
40 our people are going to have to probably depend on mining because
41 there's no fish. They're going to have to grab a shovel for once
42 and go in the dirt. And that -- see Sitnusuak is encouraging
43 mining to go and take place with our shareholders because they
44 can't get any fish anymore.

45
46 So what I'm pointing out is that there's other
47 factors, other than -- to look at and the genetic study would
48 help.

49

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Has anybody ever looked into

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1 mining impact?

2

3 MR. BUE: Yeah, Madame Chairman, it certainly --
4 we have a habitat biologist on Staff out of Fairbanks who polices
5 mining and there's independent studies all the time to some
6 level. I'm not sure what sort of comprehensive report there
7 might be looking at as a whole wide cross-section, but every
8 mining situation is completely independent of each other. They
9 all have a different influence, different impacts. The Solomon
10 River, for example, maybe, there's not the heavy metal problem
11 but maybe the habitat has changed. It may freeze down more
12 likely, like Perry says.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: In that.....

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, Fish River has a lot of
17 mining there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: In the Board work session, are
20 they going to be looking at -- is one of the things they're going
21 to be looking at is, what kind of, for lack of better word,
22 testing, to be done to see what's happening to the fish, is that
23 part of it?

24

25 MR. BUE: The Board of Fish is not going to.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: This Board work session?

28

29 MR. BUE: The work session is more -- their focus
30 is regulatory.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

33

34 MR. BUE: And so I believe that like.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Not problem-solving, regulatory?

37

38 MR. BUE: But the other side of it is like Larry
39 Buckless with the Fish and Wildlife Service has pointed out, in
40 '98 we, the Federal government has come up with essentially all
41 the disaster relief money. They've set aside a portion for a
42 study. Again, this year we're coming on line with another mega
43 amount statewide, I think I heard suggested 40 million and I
44 don't know how that's going to be broke down into what areas of
45 focus that is. What is -- how much is going to be related to
46 studying and how much is going to be related to just plain
47 relief, putting people to work and assistance. But that's --
48 again, that's a Federal program.

49

The other side, I'm not -- being new to this, I'm

00123

1 not clear on this, this body of people, the professionals here
2 deal primarily with the land portion of fisheries as it's closely
3 related. There's also other Federal bodies, the National Marine
4 Fisheries Service and such that I'm not sure how they may be
5 directed into research into the marine environment and I would
6 assume there's some work along those lines. There always is, the
7 universities are doing specific research and National Science
8 Foundation and such. If you went to Council this summer or up to
9 the Kougarak you saw the National Science Foundation people
10 studying environment. That's being closely -- in talking to them
11 I happen to have a cabin in Council and frequently talk with
12 them, and that was a multimillion dollar project that they've had
13 for two years, they're continuing it but they're looking at some
14 major big global factors that may be involved.

15
16 As far as, you may not be aware but chum salmon
17 statewide is at record levels. Commercial harvests are at record
18 levels, Southeast, Prince William Sound has really bumped up
19 their production.

20
21 California is -- their annual chinook harvest is
22 way in excess of our, State of Alaska's annual chinook harvest.
23 Which, you know, to me that really struck home, that that's
24 something really different to think that they can actually -- the
25 state of California versus the State of Alaska, land mass, river
26 system, such as actually coming up with a far larger chinook
27 stock for the state. And so there is some shifts in the
28 environment, they're claiming it's -- well, they're taking credit
29 for management, but I suspect there's a lot of environment
30 factors that has helped them -- that's benefitted them at the
31 same time it's costing us some fish.

32
33 But again, I'm not -- those are questions way
34 beyond my expertise.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: Is there any funding to do any
39 genetic studies from the State side?

40
41 MR. BUE: I believe so. Larry may have a better
42 idea but they were -- currently they're exploring possibilities
43 with this disaster money.

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: That 30 million?

46
47 MR. BUE: What would be -- as you're famil --
48 you're aware, we've discussed how we're going to spend the money
49 in the Nome area and everybody's going to have an opportunity for

50 their say and push for their own, you know, Mr. Martin, has been

00124

1 politicking to get his share in on his pet projects so -- but
2 again, I have very little input into that with -- especially with
3 this body here. Norton Sound is very minimal Federal property.
4 The pre-proposals, we had very little input into that because
5 one, the criteria for scoring a higher -- maintaining a higher
6 score and their priorities was how it related directly to Federal
7 lands and since we didn't have that, there weren't very many
8 potential projects we could put in for.

9
10 MR. MARTIN: Madame Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Guy.

13
14 MR. MARTIN: Just, if I may, I wanted to answer
15 a couple questions for Fred and also one of your Council members.
16 Guy Martin, Nome Eskimo, speaking for myself. My younger sister
17 was born and raised at the confluence of Ipewik and American
18 Rivers, our dog, Big Boy is buried there. We lived on that
19 property, that Native American allotment for five and a half
20 years before we moved to town. Elmer's right and you're right,
21 as far as the run is concerned this year. Getting back to the
22 other stream down to Davidson's Landing and further up the
23 American River, yes, there are two jobs, cleanup jobs, major jobs
24 that have been doing a million apiece or so consisting of
25 hydrocarbons and some lead acid, those are the two main things
26 there. The other streams, yes, there's a lot. Just in the
27 Bering Strait region, there's 181 identified Hazmat sites. They
28 have all been investigated but these are the ones that are out
29 there that are in our villages and near our streams and affecting
30 our streams and in some cases the hydrocarbons are in the streams
31 and other forms of pollutants.

32
33 The other thing I wanted to say is what I didn't
34 say, I didn't actually mean, when I gave my presentation for Nome
35 Eskimo, I didn't actually spell out the words dollars or funding.
36 But needless to say these funding requests will be coming your
37 way and we do want to do the studies that have not been done
38 before. Why keep doing the same studies over and over again, you
39 know, let's do something that we don't know anything about and
40 those were put down on paper for everybody to see.

41
42 So I needed to let you know that, you guys are
43 all right and we have to look at the other aspects. The data
44 base which I was referring to on the 181 sites just in this
45 region, the contaminated sites, reported contaminated sites,
46 they're in a rough data base form and they're being shared with
47 other entities. So that just might be part of the problem, like
48 Perry said, don't blame everything on mining or anything else but
49 I don't blame everything on World War II either. So I needed to

50 let you know my revered -- or revered Ipewik River is still there

00125

1 and I just wanted to say thank you again.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chairman.

4

5 MR. BUCKLESS: Madame Chair, I know you're
6 running late on your meeting but I heard a couple things
7 mentioned that I was, I think, asked to comment on. Larry
8 Buckless, Fish and Wildlife Service. First the funding I was
9 talking about earlier in the afternoon is the subsistence
10 management monitoring money. And that is intended to be a
11 program that collects information on the resource to assist with
12 subsistence management on the Federal side. And there's an
13 emphasis in that program on monitoring. And so as that program
14 settles in and matures, I would envision it would have an annual
15 character to it of monitoring the resource. Special
16 circumstances that arise like recent disasters across western
17 Alaska, have caused special funding to be passed that Fred
18 mentioned and that, instead of what I talked about is the
19 disaster studies funding that has been mentioned at times today.
20 And I think there was something on the order of seven million
21 dollars granted, recently, and that's Federal funds granted to
22 the State of Alaska to implement programs to obtain answers to
23 questions. And so it's not really a Federal program, it's a
24 Federal disaster package that the State has put together a grant
25 for and implemented.

26

27 Now, because of the very recent disasters,
28 including Norton Sound now, there is talk about 30 to 40 million
29 dollars in disaster studies, I don't think it's relief, I think
30 it's studies and also a relief package. And the amount of that
31 funding and what shape it will take is unknown to me. And I
32 assume a large part of it, at least, would go to the State of
33 Alaska, based on a grant they would submit and they would
34 implement a program. Whether Federal agencies would also do some
35 special studies or not, I don't know.

36

37 If it's marine questions, maybe National Marine
38 Fisheries Service would, those are things to be worked out. But
39 to this point, the earlier disaster studies had a large State
40 component.

41

42 Also there was talk about a genetic study in the
43 pre-proposals that were due a week ago for 2001 implementation.
44 There was a chum salmon genetics study in the mix, so that will
45 be in the package of proposals being considered. To remind you,
46 the time line for 2002 pre-proposals are going to be due later
47 this winter and by February 1st for that new time line we talked
48 about. So even if that one that you've mentioned doesn't get
49 approved for 2001, the deadline for a such a proposal for 2002

50 isn't far away so you could further develop ideas along those

00126

1 lines later this winter for February 1st deadline.

2

3 I think those are the main points I wanted to
4 make.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Fred, anything
7 further?

8

9 MR. BUE: Not for me.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Fred.

12

13 MR. DiCICCO: Madame Chairman, Fred DiCicco,
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish Division. I won't
15 take much time of the Councils time. I just wanted to give you
16 a brief report on a couple of proposals that will be heard before
17 the Board of Fish this January that will affect -- or may affect
18 subsistence fishing in the Norton Sound area and fill you in on
19 the status of the Federal projects that the Office of Subsistence
20 Management has funded that I'm working on.

21

22 First of all, for our proposals. This past
23 winter we issued an emergency order that closed the Nome River to
24 subsistence fishing for grayling. That was based on work that we
25 did in 1992 and 1997 on the river where we estimated abundance of
26 grayling. Now, grayling just live in the river and they don't
27 migrate to other rivers, and in a small river like the Nome
28 River, you know, that's -- the fish that are there are there. In
29 1992 we estimated abundance at about 725 fish and I'm just going
30 to give you the point estimates that we got. There's a range of
31 confidence around those. But all the estimates were comparably
32 accurate in 199 -- and based on that we closed the Nome River to
33 sport fishing at that time and it remained closed by emergency
34 order through 1997 for five years. We estimated abundance again
35 in 1997 and the point estimate again was about 690 fish. So it
36 was slightly lower but it's really not different than the other
37 estimate. And based on that, we closed that river and the
38 Solomon. We also did work in the Solomon -- abundance in the
39 Solomon River, grayling was so low we couldn't even make an
40 estimate. We only observed -- caught about 10 fish and observed
41 about eight or 10 others.

42

43 So in 1997 the Board of Fisheries closed both the
44 Nome and Solomon River to sportfish in regulation. Now, last
45 year, based on recommendations from the Fish and Game Advisory
46 Committee, we issued an emergency order closing the Nome River to
47 subsistence fishing during the winter for grayling, not entirely.
48 So basically, when people were out there hooking for trout, the
49 effect of the regulation would have been that they would have

50 released the grayling and put them back in the hole that they

00127

1 caught. There is a proposal before the Board of Fisheries to put
2 that into regulation this year until the grayling population
3 recovers.

4
5 This past spring we worked on the Nome River
6 again to estimate abundance of grayling, and this is all in the
7 same section of the river and that section is most of the
8 grayling habitat in the river, it's from Hopson Creek down to
9 where the Fish and Game weir is. So it's a large section of the
10 Nome River where most of the grayling live. Our abundance
11 estimate this spring was 551. So it's progressively going down
12 based on our data.

13
14 So I just wanted to alert this Board that that
15 proposal will be heard by the Board of Fisheries. There is
16 another proposal affecting subsistence fishing in Norton Sound
17 area, and this would recognize rod and reel as a legal
18 subsistence fishing method. And this will be heard by the Board
19 of Fisheries in January also.

20
21 Federal projects, I've been working on two
22 Federally funded projects through the Office of Subsistence
23 Management. Both of these are centered up in the Kotzebue area
24 but one is actually occurring in part down here as well. And
25 that is a dolly varden genetic study. And what we've done this
26 year is begun to collect samples, they'll be analyzed in the Fish
27 and Wildlife Service genetics lab in Anchorage. The purpose of
28 the study is to determine if there are genetic differences in the
29 spawning populations among rivers in the Kotzebue area and rivers
30 in the Norton Sound area. Whether there are differences among
31 individual rivers or aggregates of rivers, south of the Bering
32 Strait and north of the Bering Strait so that we can go into
33 sampling subsistence harvests, particularly in the Kotzebue area
34 where people depend on dolly varden very much and there are some
35 villages where that's the major subsistence species that's caught
36 and estimate the proportions of fish that they're harvesting that
37 come from north of the Bering Strait, basically Kotzebue Sound
38 streams and Chukotka streams as well, although we don't have many
39 samples from that side and those that are originating from south
40 of the Bering Strait. So we're working on collecting those
41 samples now and they're just fin clips that we take from fish so
42 we can release the fish, we don't have to kill them to do that.

43
44 The other project is a sheefish project and that
45 will be a winter census of harvest in the under-ice gillnet
46 fishery in Kobuk Lake, and I'll be working on that later this
47 winter.

48
49 So I don't have anything further unless there are

50 questions. I take that back, I have one other thing, I'd like to

00128

1 make an introduction of Jim Schwarber. And Jim might say a few
2 words about what he does but he works for the Sportfish Division.
3 He may have some interactions with this group and other groups
4 like it in the northern part of the state. He is our new
5 planner. Jim.

6
7 MR. SCHWARBER: Thank you, Madame Chair. Yes, my
8 name's Jim Schwarber, I've had a chance to be in Nome a few times
9 in the early 1990s before I was working for the Fish and Game.
10 So I just wanted to basically introduce myself for about a minute
11 and some of the stuff I may be doing in the future.

12
13 I was up here in the early '90s with the Native
14 American Fish and Wildlife Society at which time I was doing
15 workshops on cooperative management and co-management for Kawerak
16 and worked with Elim, Koyuk and Shaktoolik and their efforts to
17 develop the Marine Mammal Commission back in around 1994, so I'm
18 glad to be back up here. As a planner, I'll be working for the
19 Sportfish Division but in areas where there may be a need to
20 facilitate meetings and work on issues that have subsistence
21 implications but also affect sport use and perhaps some user
22 issue areas.

23
24 And with that, I just wanted to say thank you for
25 the opportunity to attend your meeting and wish you good luck
26 with your deliberations.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Do we want to take
31 a break or continue?

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: It's almost 5:30, it will be
34 5:30 shortly, I think it's time for a -- you guys, according to
35 the -- 5:00 o'clock is the ending time.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think I want to -- we have
38 just two reports, new business, establish time and place of
39 meeting and then we adjourn.

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: Then we can always come back two
42 hours from now.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think if we take a short.....

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: In two hours from now, 7:30.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Do you want to finish now or do
49 we want to come back in two hours?

00129

1 MR. BUCK: Finish now.

2
3 MR. MENDENHALL: Or wait until tomorrow.

4
5 MR. BUCK: Finish now.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Finish now?

8
9 MR. SEETOT: How long is it going to take the
10 National Park Service and BLM?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: How long are the presentations
13 of National Park Service and BLM?

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: Well, basically mine, you've heard
16 most of it and you've got a written form of it so.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You're done.

19
20 MR. ADKISSON:unless there's questions,
21 yeah, we're done.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: How long is BLM's presentation?

24
25 MR. DENTON: Probably five minutes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Up to you.

28
29 MR. BUCK: Finish today.

30
31 MR. ENINGOWUK: Let's take a five minute break.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Let's take a five minute break,
34 we're taking a five minute break.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I will call the meeting back to
41 order, it is now 5:35 p.m. The next person on the agenda is Jeff
42 Denton with Bureau of Land Management.

43
44 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Madame Chair and Council
45 members. My name is Jeff Denton. I'm with the Anchorage Field
46 Office with the BLM. And if Council will indulge us, I'll have
47 Jeannie Cole from the Northern Field Office cover what's going on
48 in the Northern Field Office first and then I'll follow her.

49

MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole, Bureau of Land

00130

1 Management, Northern Field Office. I have just one short item to
2 present, this is coming from Dave Parker, who's our fisheries
3 biologist who's been assigned to the Northwest area temporarily
4 until we hire somebody.

5
6 We started a project this last summer up in
7 Glacial Lake counting sockeye return to the lake. This year they
8 got started a little late and they counted 883 sockeye returning
9 but he also flew over the lake and estimated about 650 fish were
10 already there. So he estimated the total return to Glacial Lake
11 at about 2200 fish this year. And the project's going to be
12 continuing next year. We're going to try to get set up a little
13 bit earlier next year and get a better count next year.

14
15 And he also wanted me to mention that the one
16 issue of concern with the Glacial Lake population is the illegal
17 snagging that's going on on the Sinuk River bridge. He feels
18 that that could potentially have an impact on that population
19 since it is a very small run. And he just wanted me to bring
20 that to your attention, and that's all the information I have to
21 present.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Also GPA is down below. They
24 have a great big camp of -- a lot of people from out of state
25 spending \$4,000 a week for goldmining, but they rod and reel too.

26
27 MS. COLE: Okay.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: And we, at Sitnusuak, have to
30 watch those guys because they dig up artifacts.

31
32 MS. COLE: That's it for me.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Wait, you said sockeye was
35 coming to that Glacial Lake?

36
37 MS. COLE: Yes, that's what -- the counted 883
38 sockeye returning to Glacial Lake.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Because Dan Livingston, when he
41 started, there was hardly any, a school teacher.

42
43 MS. COLE: He said that that was probably a
44 little bit above average for that area.

45
46 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton with the Anchorage
47 Field Office, BLM. And as far as fisheries in this area,
48 basically BLM's Federal waters consist of the Unalakleet River
49 wild and scenic river, and what effort we're taking part in

50 there, it's kind of cost share efforts and partnership with

00131

1 Kawerak and USGS with the stream gage there, which is a 10-year
2 project to -- it's the prework that's necessary to do in-stream
3 flow requirements for the wild and scenic river. And we're in
4 about year six of that effort. And also we cooperate with Fish
5 and Game and Kawerak on the counting towers on the North River.
6 And hopefully we will continue to do that. Funding is tough from
7 year to year.

8
9 We're also increasing our infrastructure a little
10 bit in Unalakleet, we'll be building kind of a garage deal for
11 our boats and our equipment there and possibly capability at
12 housing somebody there, at least, temporaries in the summer,
13 we're anticipating doing some user monitoring on wild and scenic
14 river and that would be all uses from subsistence uses to float
15 boaters to outfitters, kind of a whole gambit during the summer
16 months and hopefully into September.

17
18 Kate already covered the past years work, we did
19 a little bit of cooperative effort with what moose work we could
20 do relative to weather and planes and what have you.

21
22 And I was going to mention to Guy, but he didn't
23 come back, and maybe somebody can tell him but he should look for
24 direct funding also for some of these studies that he mentioned
25 with the Congressional Delegation. The Yukon Fisheries
26 Association last year was extremely successful in getting one
27 time monies that initiated several BLM and cooperative BLM fish
28 and game projects on the Yukon last year kind of as a sideline to
29 the disaster funds there. So -- and it was a pretty healthy
30 chunk of money. I think total it was like a million dollars. So
31 look around and look for the direct line. Sometimes they can
32 attach some direct appropriations to some other bill. So don't
33 overlook that opportunity.

34
35 Let's see, that's about all. I've been doing a
36 little bit of work up here this summer, just some general
37 flights. I haven't even seen any cubs of the year in that
38 country for bears. But also I haven't seen hardly any moose
39 calves either. Recruitment in bulls that I just did kind of a
40 pseudo classification of bulls here last week and they're kind of
41 up and running around, all mature bulls, you know, 40 inches and
42 above. No yearling bulls whatsoever. So obviously what we saw
43 last winter is manifesting itself to the recruitment, it appears
44 to be quite low.

45
46 That's about all that I've got going right now,
47 so.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question for you, you

50 said user monitoring in wild and scenic river, define user?

00132

1 MR. DENTON: Well, wild and scenic river, you
2 know, for BLM users can be recreation users, you may have people
3 coming from Lower 48 to float it, you may have guides and
4 outfitters that fly people in for fishing up above on the gravel
5 bars, you may have subsistence users, both hunting and fishing.
6 And even in the wintertime, you know, there's a considerable
7 amount of traffic, subsistence and other events going on along
8 the wild and scenic river corridor with snowmachine races, these
9 sorts of things. We're trying to get a handle on gross numbers
10 of people by season and what types of use and what types of
11 activities are occurring on the wild and scenic river. So
12 eventually we'll be redoing the wild and scenic river management
13 plan and we need these -- just base information to kind of set
14 the stage for where the management in that river may go in the
15 future. So there's certain things we may need to limit and we'll
16 have some baseline values there.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And does that study include --
19 would that study include a number of users that are outside of
20 Unalakleet?

21
22 MR. DENTON: Yeah.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The district itself?

25
26 MR. DENTON: It would be all the users.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Down to subsistence use?

29
30 MR. DENTON: Right. It would be all.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Misplaces subsistence.....

33
34 MR. DENTON: Yeah, it would be subsistence users,
35 sport users, general recreation users, fisheries people, people
36 maybe just going down to float the river in a raft and look at
37 bears. But we'll monitor all those different kinds of uses, what
38 they're there for, when they're there, how long they're there,
39 this kind of information. You know, it's been needed for a long
40 time, we just haven't been able to get the funding to do that
41 sort of thing.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Unalakleet Native Corporation
44 has a lodge up on that river, like Fish River does, you know, on
45 Fish River, I mean somewhere.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That was one of the things that
48 Nome Eskimo had talked about before, to see how much impact
49 misplaced subsistence users from Nome would have on the

50 Unalakleet River. Because we are having concerns that our --

00133

1 that Nome Eskimo population, as they expand out will have impact
2 on other rivers.

3

4 MR. DENTON: Right. And now.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So I'm glad you're doing that.

7

8 MR. DENTON: Yeah, we're doing that but it will
9 be restricted to probably the wild and scenic river portion which
10 is upstream from -- well, upstream basically from the Churaski
11 River, so the lower river is still State jurisdiction, sorts of
12 things, we have no management authorities below the Churaski.
13 And right now the majority of the subsistence use occurs below
14 the Churaski, there's some above but not a great deal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, at least it's a beginning.

17

18 MR. DENTON: Yeah. Yeah, it's a start and it can
19 be piggy-backed onto State funding if the State wants to go ahead
20 and do similar types of work it can. I think that would probably
21 be DNR, possibly Fish and Game, probably a combination of, you
22 know, corporation and State agency sorts of things. So it could
23 be done.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's good to hear. Any
26 questions for Mr. Denton? Comments.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: How does it fit with the IRA
29 that has a million dollar processing plant there?

30

31 MR. DENTON: Well, I don't know, most of the BLM
32 lands above there, most of the spawning habitat and rearing
33 habitats, there's not -- the commercial fishing upstream that
34 occurs on BLM is virtually non-existent. So it's too far
35 upstream.

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, I wasn't worried about
38 that.

39

40 MR. DENTON: Yeah.

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: But you have collaboration what
43 I meant was with that IRA.

44

45 MR. DENTON: Right.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: In the corporation.

48

49 MR. DENTON: Right. And I'm not familiar with

50 how all that, you know, speaking out of turn, to say I have much

00134

1 knowledge of that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Denton.

4

5 MR. DENTON: You bet, thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Now, we're down to new business.

8 And one of the agenda items that was left out because our

9 coordinator's new and she didn't know it was supposed to be on is

10 our annual report. And I wanted to talk to the Council, how you

11 want to address that, the annual report. Normally, we spend.....

12

13 MR. ENINGOWUK: Would it be possible for you, as

14 the Chair, to work with Ann to put it together and then come back

15 with a draft for our report and come back either by

16 teleconference or -- would that be possible?

17

18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that would probably be

19 the best way to do it and then whoever wants to add onto the

20 annual report can discuss it at the teleconference level.

21 Because we normally do spend a little more than an hour or so on

22 annual reports. So I could sit with Ann, because she has time

23 tomorrow and she and I can start drafting the annual report so it

24 can be done soon. Your plane doesn't leave until the evening.

25

26 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So we can do that because I'm

29 still on leave, too. So we can draft that tomorrow and send it

30 out as soon as we can for each of your review and whatever you

31 need to add and we'll schedule a teleconference and whatever you

32 want to add you can add on or delete or whatever.

33

34 MR. MENDENHALL: You know, I -- she learned my

35 address, I gave her my e-mail address and it helped because she

36 sent the minutes, you know, and I wonder if we have e-mail

37 addresses so documents can be e-mailed out and.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: They do have e-mail addresses of

40 those of us that have e-mails. They were recorded last year.

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: Who don't have one, just out of

43 curiosity, who don't have e-mail addresses?

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Most of them, just you and I

46 because we live in Nome. Is there anything more under new

47 business? Nothing.

48

49 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I think it's going to be

50 left open anyway if we come back tomorrow and work on that.....

00135

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: She and I are going to work
2 alone. So the last item on the agenda is establishing time and
3 place of the next meeting. And there's a window, where's the
4 window?

5
6 MS. WILKINSON: Tab I.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Tab I. So right now, when did
9 Barb's group, Kotzebue area, when did they decide to have their
10 next -- oh, there's a new one, okay.

11
12 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, the Northwest Council
13 scheduled their meeting for March 1 and 2 in Kotzebue. And then
14 the only other meeting schedule which probably doesn't affect
15 your decision would be Southcentral region is having their
16 meeting in Copper Center on March 20th and 21st. So those are
17 the three meetings that have been scheduled. Excuse me,
18 Southcentral does affect you because Ann is the coordinator for
19 Southcentral.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, so March 20th and 21st is
22 definitely out.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: So when is Southcentral?

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So we're kind of looking at the
27 week of March 4th and week of March 11th.

28
29 MR. BUCK: March 8th and 9th.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: March 8th and 9th. Peter
32 recommended March 8th and March 9th.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, but where?

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Where do we want our next
37 meeting, do we want it in Nome or some other place?

38
39 MR. BUCK: It's easier for me to travel to Nome
40 than anyplace else.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: If you're going to have it March
43 8th and 9th in Nome, you better have your bookings then, it's
44 booked solid in Nome during the Iditarod. It should have been
45 done like -- most everything is booked a year in advance in Nome
46 during the Iditarod. I'm just saying.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Let's make an alternate then.
49 If Nome is booked up for March 8th and 9th, how about Unalakleet?

00136

1 MR. KOBUK: Let's have it in Anchorage.

2
3 MS. DEWHURST: Another option, which we've done
4 in the past because of the way our team overlaps with Kotzebue,
5 is you could potentially go like the 27th and the 28th of
6 February and then back to back with Kotzebue because of the way
7 the flights go we can fly directly from Kotzebue to Nome or Nome
8 to Kotzebue, vice versa. So I just offer that as another option.
9 We've done that before and it's not too bad.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: 22nd and 23rd, you're saying?
12

13 MS. DEWHURST: 27th, 28th, back to back with
14 Kotzebue.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But you need travel time on the
17 28th so we're kind of looking at 26th and 27th?
18

19 MS. DEWHURST: Well, then we have to go back to
20 Anchorage, that's the only reason we're saying if we do it back
21 to back we can just travel from Nome to Kotzebue.
22

23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The evening flight, right?
24

25 MR. DEWHURST: Yeah.
26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Assuming Alaska Airlines still
28 flies back and forth.
29

30 MR. MENDENHALL: We could have it in Anchorage.
31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We could have it in Kotzebue.
33

34 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh. See they have Iditarod
35 basketball pretty much every -- for a whole week, almost 10 days.
36 It takes about 11 days for the dogs to come in.
37

38 MR. SEETOT: I think March 11th is the
39 basketball.
40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: Basketball, yeah. And then
42 there's usually a bunch of dog musher people in, Iditarod people
43 in so.....
44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We could tentatively say that we
46 could have a meeting in Nome at either -- at some given date and
47 if there's no room, find an alternate place to have the meeting
48 and the next alternate place is Anchorage. So do we want it --
49 it might not make any sense to try to have it back to back with

50 Kotzebue.

00137

1 MS. DEWHURST: Just another option.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Should we leave it at March 8th
4 and 9th, and if there's no room, if there's no lodging in Nome
5 then have the meeting in Anchorage.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: There's no room at the end, you
8 know, here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: If we don't have a meeting room
11 or we cannot finding lodging for the amount of people that are
12 going to be coming, then go ahead and schedule it in Anchorage,
13 March 8th and 9th.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: You need to -- yeah, there's
16 another hotel here in Nome but it's probably all booked up, the
17 Aurora.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It means that somebody best be
20 checking soon.

21
22 MS. WILKINSON: Okay, I'll do that tomorrow.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: Tomorrow.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: To see if there's any room
27 anywhere for those dates for the number of people that you will
28 be expecting, and if there is none, then schedule it in
29 Anchorage.

30
31 MS. WILKINSON: I'll do that tomorrow or tonight
32 even.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Agreed.

35
36 (Everyone nods affirmatively)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And before we end the meeting,
39 the Council is going to caucus right after the meeting but I will
40 adjourn the meeting at this time, it is now 5:55 p.m.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

45 * * * * *

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state
8 of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:
9

10 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 137 contain a
11 full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL
12 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken
13 electronically by Salena Hile on the 26th day of September 2000,
14 beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at the Sitnusuk
15 Native Center, Nome, Alaska;
16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
18 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
19 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
20 and ability;
21

22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in
23 any way in this action.
24

25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of October 2000.
26
27
28
29

30 _____
31 Joseph P. Kolasinski
32 Notary Public in and for Alaska
33 My Commission Expires: 4/17/04