

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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6 VOLUME I
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8 NULLAQVIK CONFERENCE ROOM
9
10 Kotzebue, Alaska
11 October 16, 2008
12 9:00 o'clock a.m.
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14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
16
17 Victor Karmun, Chairman
18 Attamuk (Enoch Shiedt, Sr.)
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22 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 10/16/2008)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We have no quorum. By protocol we could cancel this, but I think we'll listen to agency reports and comments from Attamuk and possibly me.

I'd like to have all the guests introduced themselves, please.

MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning. Chuck Ardizzone for the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Western Arctic National Parklands.

MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch, National Park Service.

MR. HELFRICH: George Helfrich, National Park Service, Western Arctic National Parklands.

MR. SNOW: Patrick Snow, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Selawik Refuge.

MR. CANNON: Dave Cannon, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association.

MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette, Fish and Wildlife Service in Kotzebue.

MS. BUCKNELL: Susan Bucknell, Fish and Game board support in Kotzebue.

MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team, Comm Fish and Sport Fish Division representative.

MS. HENDRICKSON: Nancy Hendrickson, Chair of the Federal Subsistence Liaison Team, Fish and Game.

MS. HYER: Karen Hyer, OSM.

MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Alaska

1 Department of Fish and Game here in Kotzebue.

2

3 MS. HARRINGTON: Gretchen Harrington,
4 NOAA Fisheries in Juneau.

5

6 MS. AYRES: LeeAnn Ayres, Fish and
7 Wildlife Service, Selawik Refuge, here in Kotzebue.

8

9 MR. PARKER: I'm not Kyle Joly, I'm
10 Dave Parker from BLM in Fairbanks.

11

12 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, National
13 Park Service here in Kotzebue.

14

15 MR. DEON: Kevin Deon, National Park
16 Service here in Kotzebue.

17

18 MR. ORNESS: Alfred Ray Orness,
19 National Park Service here in Kotzebue.

20

21 MR. STEVENSON: Dan Stevenson, National
22 Park Service here in Kotzebue.

23

24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. I don't
25 think it's -- I don't think we'll call roll.

26

27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'd like to anyway
28 just to -- so I'll give some information to the people
29 on what's going on here, okay?

30

31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead. Thank you.

32

33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Mr.
34 Chair. We have Victor Karmun.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yeah.

37

38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And Raymond Stoney
39 had resigned last spring, but we kept him on the roster
40 just because this would be his -- would have been his
41 last meeting. And Mr. Stoney has been a Council member
42 for 15 years, since '93. So he would have received a
43 plaque and a short verbiage to praise his attendance in
44 being on the Council for 15 years on the Council.

45

46 Then we have Walter Sampson who was
47 directed to go to Anchorage on this oil spill stuff
48 under NANA, so he was not able to be here. I talked
49 with him this morning.

50

1 Enoch Shiedt, he's here.

2

3 And Virgil Adams and Austin Swan were
4 not able to come in because of weather, and regional
5 flights were canceled yesterday afternoon because of
6 fog in that area over there. And after they canceled
7 the flights, the fog lifted, and then they tried to
8 call the airlines back and say the fog is gone, will
9 you please come back up, and then the airlines wouldn't
10 come back up, to go back out to the villages to pick
11 them up, so that is why they are not here this morning.

12

13

14 And in discussion with my coworkers, we
15 do not have any issues or action items for this
16 meeting, and it would just be discussion only with the
17 two members that we have here.

18

19 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. I kind of
22 got ahead of myself, but review and adoption of the
23 agenda. Enoch.

24

25 ATTAMUK: Thank you, Victor. A
26 correction on Barbara's name, but Enoch is Attamuk
27 today.

28

29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And, Mr. Chair, if I
30 may have the floor. Under number 9, if you have your
31 book, and the chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock
32 fishery, if I understood it still as I heard it before
33 I came here, is that those people that are going to
34 give report on this will not be here until about 10:00
35 or 10:15. You're here?

36

37 MS. HARRINGTON: Actually that's Diana
38 Stram from the North Pacific Fisheries Management
39 Council and that's her plan, and if she is not able to
40 make it, then I can do the presentation.

41

42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, great. Okay.
43 So cancel the thought then. I was going to move it to
44 the last, but then if someone is here to give a report
45 on that, so we're okay then.

46

47 Okay. Thank you. That's all I have.
48 Now you can move the agenda.

49

50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We'll move down to

1 number 6.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You have to approve
4 the.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Oh, then we approve
7 the agenda.

8

9 ATTAMUK: So move. Mr Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

12

13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Seconded.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Review and adoption
16 of the minutes. Attamuk.

17

18 ATTAMUK: On my section, I'm okay with
19 it. I can't say for the other stuff or other things.
20 All good I think.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Number 6.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Village concerns.
27 Number 6. Attamuk, what's on your mind?

28

29 ATTAMUK: Well, I thought it was going
30 to be -- okay. I don't have too much this year, but we
31 still run into that issue of caribou being diverted.
32 Everybody pretty much get their -- they were a little
33 bit early this year, what I heard from the village.
34 Also I get early. They were pretty healthy.

35

36 But still when I check the fish at
37 Aggie, remember, I testified last year that the Aggie
38 had a lot of sores on their fish, on their trout and
39 mostly rainbow trout. They were pretty much as last
40 year's, but they were bigger. If I remember right,
41 don't really quote me, but to me they were getting
42 close to quarter size on most the whole body, all the
43 way around. Different spots on both sides. But I
44 check only about -- I had pretty close to a dozen
45 rainbow trout I checked at the Aggie, and it is -- I
46 saw a few on the small Aggie trout. They don't get
47 real big, they're average size, and I saw those. So I
48 hope that river's pretty much not going to be affected.
49 I requested before that they should -- someone should
50 check on it in fisheries, and I'm going to stress it

1 again, because if one river gets contaminate or fish
2 start getting sick, it's going to spread, because they
3 do go out the main river and out to our ocean here.
4 Everybody knows the trout go out to the ocean. And if
5 we don't start addressing something like this -- we,
6 the Natives, are the ones that see the country. We're
7 out there. So start worrying and start hearing what we
8 have to say. Not wait until it's too late like it's
9 been happening.

10

11 Also this year was different. I told
12 you I usually check the plants and stuff like that.
13 They were -- it was pretty much normal, back to normal.
14 I told you most of our grasshoppers and our little ants
15 and stuff like that we have in our camp, they're pretty
16 much back to before. There's a few big ones like
17 before, but I always stress that our ecosystem is
18 changing due to the global warming, but this year to me
19 was pretty much normal. And everything -- and so far
20 what I hear from the hunters, they were pretty much
21 happy.

22

23 But I heard from Noatak that the main
24 herd was still way up there. And I get calls, even I'm
25 not with Maniilaq no more, I still get calls from
26 people. And they haven't -- and when they closed the
27 road, they closed the road at Red Dog for about four
28 hours is what I was told, and I sure wish it had been a
29 little bit longer, up to 12 hours for the caribou to
30 cross. Once they cross, they're okay. But that's a
31 long road. If they cross further down here, you've got
32 to let the ones toward the Red Dog itself cross, not --
33 and toward the port also. And they were pretty
34 healthy, the ones we get.

35

36 So this is what I see and this is what
37 I hear from Noatak.

38

39 I get a few calls from Shungnak and
40 Kobuk that they haven't crossed up there. Like I told
41 you, they still call me whether I'm there or not. They
42 know I'm here with the Federal Board, and I'm passing
43 this on. I didn't see Jim here, Jim Dau here. I don't
44 know if they get any later, because I haven't -- I was
45 working Shungnak and Kobuk and Ambler pretty much and
46 they haven't -- they have to go down river to get their
47 caribou to Ambler. And at Ambler, they weren't up
48 toward the Jade Mountain like they used to in numbers.
49 They cross a lot at Onion Portage and the sand dunes is
50 what I was told.

1 And these are what I'm hearing from the
2 people, so I'm just passing it on to you guys to hear.

3

4

5 But still back to Aggie, by my camp,
6 I'm going to -- I've got plans to go over there just
7 after freeze up. I'm going to wait until it get nice
8 and thick, and I'm going to go check again, because
9 I've got an idea of where they spend the winter at at
10 the lakes. I'm going to go check it, because what I'm
11 trying to do myself without your expert of biologist,
12 see if they spend the winter in the same lakes I hate
13 to see the rainbow trout pass on the disease to another
14 trout.

15

16 So that is really what I have to say.
17 Back to Victor. Thanks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Attamuk.
20 Any questions for Attamuk.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. The
25 .805(c) letter is on Page 12 of the book. And this is
26 where the Federal Board sends their report out to each
27 Chair on their action items for what happened at
28 Federal Board meeting.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Barbara.
33 Number 8, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

34

35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Karen Hyer.

36

37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Turn your mic on,
38 please.

39

40 MS. HYER: Good morning. Mr. Chair.
41 I'm Karen Hyer with the Office of Subsistence
42 Management.

43

44 And today I'm going to give you a brief
45 overview of our Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
46 priority information needs. And these are draft
47 information needs for our 2010 request for proposals.
48 And the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is the
49 part of our program where we fund fisheries research to
50 provide information for managers.

1 So we're going to start by turning to
2 Page 25 of the book, which has the Fisheries Resource
3 Monitoring Program information needs. And again these
4 are the needs for the 2010 cycle. And what we're
5 looking for, this isn't an action item, what we're
6 looking for is input from the Council to include any
7 additional information needs that you feel is
8 important.

9
10 We'll have about \$6 million statewide
11 for projects on Federal lands. And the projects that
12 are eligible for money through this program have to be
13 either on Federal, excuse me, public lands or connected
14 to Federal public lands.

15
16 And so in this write-up there are six
17 -- all six regions, but today we're only going to look
18 at the northern region, so if you turn to Page 26, you
19 can see the start of the information needs. And we
20 have the information needs listed at the start of Page
21 27, and I'll just go ahead and go over those for you.

22
23 The first one is subsistence harvest of
24 fish, baseline harvest assessments and monitoring of
25 subsistence fisheries throughout the northern region.
26 And this is the sort of project that identifies what
27 kind of fish are harvested, how much, where, when and
28 in which communities.

29
30 The next one is the Selawik whitefish,
31 spawning distribution and timing, and stock structure
32 of the Selawik broad and humpback whitefish. And we're
33 asking for projects that identify and characterize
34 critical factors affecting population dynamics of the
35 Selawik River sheefish.

36
37 And then the final point is the
38 Unalakleet chinook salmon. And we're asking for
39 projects that obtain reliable estimates of chinook
40 salmon escapement over time, including collection of
41 age, length and sex information to determine spawning
42 goals and examine trends in relation to environmental
43 changes and harvest practices. And for that particular
44 area, a great portion of that river is under State
45 jurisdiction, so we're asking for a substantial match
46 in funds for any project that may be put forward in
47 that area.

48
49 And then you'll see the Yukon and the
50 Kuskokwim and Southwest and Southcentral and Southeast,

1 and those are the other regions the program is
2 responsible for.

3
4 And then on Page 30 we have our inter-
5 regional priority information needs. And the inter-
6 regional category is for projects that usually include
7 more than one region. And in this -- in the priority
8 information needs for this section we're asking for
9 information that has to do with climate change, and
10 often climate change affects more than one region.

11
12 So the inter-regional 2010 request is
13 focused on one priority information need, that is,
14 research that documents effects of climate change on
15 subsistence resources and uses, and determines how
16 subsistence fisheries management can better be adapted
17 to deal with these effects.

18
19 And so again these are just the
20 priority information needs we're putting out there to
21 guide researchers in the submission of proposals. And
22 this isn't an action item, so the Council doesn't have
23 to vote on it, but we would request any other input the
24 Council might have to guide us in our call for
25 proposals.

26
27 And at this point, I'll take any
28 questions or welcome your suggestions.

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any
31 questions, Attamuk.

32
33 ATTAMUK: On your climate change, are
34 you going to address.....

35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Don't forget to turn
37 your mic on.

38
39 ATTAMUK: Excuse me. On your climate
40 change, are you going to address -- what are you
41 addressing there? Sea mammals, land fish or -- what I
42 mean by land fish is the ones that go up the river, or
43 what are you going to do?

44
45 MS. HYER: Our jurisdiction would be
46 the fisheries that are connected with Federal public
47 lands and Federal public waters. So it wouldn't be
48 mammals, it would be fish.

49
50 ATTAMUK: Okay. The reason why I ask

1 this, because when I was up in Noatak, Ambler, Kobuk
2 and Shungnak, they all stressed that they were worried
3 about their river being so low. We all know that's due
4 to there's no rain and snow and stuff like that. Their
5 concern, the bottom concern is what will happen to
6 their fish if they get too low, the rivers get too low.
7 What I get from an elder out of Ambler and Kobuk is if
8 they get too low, if they run out of air, what's going
9 to happen. A lot of fish are going to die or what,
10 because this is the worst year of low water. I went up
11 there to Noatak twice. I tell you, I crossed a few
12 places on the river, not with waders, just with knee
13 boots. And this is also in Shungnak and Kobuk. And
14 it's getting scary, because when I went up there
15 looking for fish toward Noatak, I had to go well above
16 Noatak to catch the fish. I couldn't find any below
17 Noatak. I found few.

18
19 In fact, I tried seining 11 times in
20 the river below Noatak when I went up there and you
21 could spell the fish when it's real low. We got what
22 we needed, but I'll tell you one thing, they have --
23 they were just mainly where it's deeper. That's why
24 they were up the river. I think that is not normal for
25 them. Not for me anyhow for what I've been doing. And
26 I live this life and I'm going to keep doing what I'm
27 doing. That's why I know about Noatak. I go up that
28 river. And the only place I really get fish is where
29 it's a little bit deeper, like 11 feet down or more.
30 There's nothing below, hardly any.

31
32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Attamuk.
33 I don't have any questions. Thank you, Karen.

34
35 MS. HYER: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We'll stand down for
38 about 10 minutes to set up for the next presentation.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (On record)

43
44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Come to order,
45 please. David Cannon.

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He's right there.
48 From Bering Sea Fishermen's Association.

49
50 MR. CANNON: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

1 Yeah, my name is Dave Cannon, and I'm here representing
2 the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. And what I
3 wanted to talk about today, I don't know if anybody is
4 familiar, I'm sure you're somewhat familiar with the
5 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. In fact, I guess
6 you were one of the organizers of it.

7

8 ATTAMUK: Yes.

9

10 MR. CANNON: How many years ago?

11

12 ATTAMUK: It's been a while, but from
13 day 1. So I was called from Bethel and Kodiak to start
14 some kind of fisheries council of fishers, all the way
15 to Kodiak.

16

17 MR. CANNON: And what we have, and I'm
18 going to guess that at least some people have received
19 these over the last years. This is called the FAIR
20 Advocate, it's the newsletter that comes out every
21 several months. And what we have now is called the
22 FAIR Program, Fisheries Awareness Information and
23 Responsibility. And this is on our website, and I'll
24 pass out some papers here that have the websites,
25 address and then some information on how to access the
26 program I'm going to talk about.

27

28 And what it is basically, on the
29 website, if you can get on there, you'll see that we
30 have discussion forums where we talk about everything
31 from bycatch to this summer on the Kuskokwim we had
32 what was call spruce needle rust, and it's a fungus
33 that comes off of the spruce trees. And it was very
34 thick in the Kuskokwim, and I know part of the Yukon
35 area. I don't know if you noticed up here rust-colored
36 water from that fungus. But people on one of the radio
37 call-in shows in Bethel who had noticed it on the lower
38 Kuskokwim pointed it out, but wasn't sure what that was
39 and thought it could possibly be associated with the
40 mining exploration that was going on. And someone else
41 called in and had another idea. But we eventually did
42 a post that explained what that spruce needle rust
43 really was.

44

45 So you had talked about your concerns
46 with the sores on the trout and that up here, and this
47 program we have would be an exceptional tool to go
48 ahead, if you have pictures of those fish, and you
49 could write up -- anyone can get on on this website and
50 put a post, you know, just if you have a concern about

1 anything, go ahead and list that concern, or if you
2 see, have an observation, of some anomaly, especially
3 with climate change occurring the way it is, this is
4 just a good way to get out to, you know, anyone
5 actually in the world now since the worldwide web can
6 do that. But, you know, we want to focus on the Bering
7 Sea region and highlight any things of interest. It
8 can be some real basic things. Right now we've got a
9 post, a thread going, they call it a thread when you
10 have a common theme here and different people can
11 comment in there, on just freeze ups. The Kuskokwim,
12 middle Kuskokwim and upper Kuskokwim are starting to
13 freeze over, so I've got some pictures in there that
14 show what the Kuskokwim looks like just as of a few
15 days ago.

16
17 So, anyway, I think this is a good
18 tool, and researchers, biologists can update the public
19 on anything. We have sheefish studies, Dolly varden
20 studies. We've got a thread going for each of those.
21 Just anything of interest within the Bering Sea. So
22 when you have a chance, I would hope that you would go
23 ahead and look at that site, and I will pass out a
24 sheet here that goes ahead and tells you how to access
25 the site.

26
27 And I guess I'm done, unless you have
28 any questions.

29
30 ATTAMUK: I have one. You said you
31 were going to study the char, Dolly varden. Are you
32 going to do it just in the Bering Sea, or your Bering
33 Sea's concerned all the way from Kotzebue? Where is
34 your boundaries on your Bering Sea?

35
36 MR. CANNON: Well, we are the Bering
37 Sea Fishermen's Association, but we go -- and we will
38 include things in the Chukchi Sea and other areas
39 adjacent to the Bering Sea, because they're all
40 actually interconnected.

41
42 But we won't be doing the studies as
43 far as the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association. This
44 site and program that I'm talking about, the Fisheries
45 Awareness, Information, and Responsibility, is to
46 heighten people's awareness by sharing information
47 amongst commercial fishers, subsistence fishers, agency
48 people, biologists.

49
50 So what I did with the Dolly varden

1 study, Mark Lesack is the biologist for the Togiak
2 National Wildlife Refuge, he's been studying the Dolly
3 varden in Southwestern Alaska for quite a while. I
4 went ahead and put a post on there just briefly
5 describing his project and some of his findings, and
6 then I hope over time that, you know, after Mark
7 conducts a field season, that that winter he might go
8 back in and then update that and just pass along
9 additional information.

10

11 But as someone like yourself, a local
12 subsistence user, if, you know, you read his report,
13 you can go ahead then and comment on that and add, you
14 know, suggestions as to what you think he might need to
15 study, because of some concerns that you have.

16

17 ATTAMUK: Because I do have concerns,
18 because like I say, if they start getting sick in one
19 area and they do migrate and on to other fisheries, and
20 if they go out to the bay, and out to the Chukchi Sea
21 and to the Bering Sea, which I know trout do, you're
22 going to start getting all the fish sick, and pretty
23 soon we're going to have another disaster in our area.
24 And that's what my concern is, because it's not just
25 here in my region. Water is low all over, so the
26 disease, lower water, could spread a lot faster,
27 because that Aggie and even Noatak, the flow is so slow
28 now that the disease got a chance to stay, you know.
29 And when I see it, and I didn't see too many abnormal,
30 I saw only one abnormal fish, where I'm pretty sure it
31 was bone deficiency. It was more like L shape, but the
32 other, this year and last -- two years ago and a year
33 ago I saw more deficiency fish right in that river.
34 But this year I didn't spend much time in that river as
35 long as I usually do. I spend just a day this year and
36 I didn't spend overnight, so that's why I probably
37 didn't see any. But the river is so low where when I
38 cross with hip boots the fish were just hitting my
39 legs. That's why I was just getting them without net.
40 I was just grabbing them by my hand.

41

42 But if you know where to go, you could
43 see it from the air, and you could see the fish in the
44 lakes also from the air. I flew that, I chartered a
45 plane and I flew it. I wanted to find out. And it's
46 happening. And I hate to see it, because once they
47 pass out in the seas, they get out to the sterilization
48 waters where they grew up, that's the end of our fish
49 out in the sea.

50

1 MR. CANNON: Well, I think that's where
2 this program can work as a very good tool. I know I've
3 worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service and other
4 agencies, and oftentimes we would get one person
5 calling in saying they had some interesting, you know,
6 observation or concern and especially if it came in in
7 the summertime, everybody's very busy and you probably
8 would not be able to get an immediate response on
9 something like that. But if more and more people are
10 seeing things like this, and hopefully, you know, they
11 have cameras with them nowadays. A lot of people tend
12 to carry a little digital camera that you can start
13 documenting that, and then, you know, go ahead and make
14 a post on this site.

15
16 There's also another part of this
17 program where you can actually go in and document
18 unusual sightings. We had, as an example, two beluga
19 whales go 200 or more miles up the Kuskokwim this
20 summer. And it happens on occasion. Every so many
21 years people have seen that. But you'll be able to go
22 in there and if you have a GPS and were able to get a
23 good reading on whatever observation you had, you can
24 pinpoint that.

25
26 And then getting back to, you know,
27 your concerns as going out this summer, if more and
28 more people would read these posts and then concur with
29 your observations, and it could then highlight the need
30 for research to find out exactly what is causing some
31 of those concerns. And this is just a way to get out
32 there, discuss it amongst, again, commercial fishers,
33 all users, including research people, the public and
34 agencies. So I would encourage you to go ahead and
35 when you get a chance next time, just pull up the site
36 and look through it and see what the different posts
37 are, and, please, we welcome any comments or concerns
38 that you would have. Because if you really look at it
39 right now, most of the posts are by myself or other
40 people working for the Bering Sea Fishermen's
41 Association, and we really, really want to encourage
42 public use of this.

43
44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Barbara.

45
46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We have under agency
47 reports is the Office of Subsistence Management, OSM,
48 and we just have a written briefing on the status of
49 rural/non-rural RFRs on Page 31.
50

1 Back to you. Mr. Chair. You can go to
2 B.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The next one, Mr.
5 Helfrich, National Park Service.

6
7 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. Attamuk.
8 As always, thank you very much for the opportunity to
9 speak to the Regional Advisory Council.

10
11 There are three items on the agenda. I
12 would like to ask Willie Goodwin to come up and talk
13 about the SRC representatives appointment discussion.
14 And then I will speak to the .810 analysis. Then I'd
15 like to ask Dan Stevenson to come up to talk about air
16 taxi and transporter updates. And then also I would
17 like to ask, although I know this is not on the agenda,
18 Ken Adkisson, our subsistence program manager, to talk
19 about research projects going on the three park units.

20
21 Willie.

22
23 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman. I'm Willie
24 Goodwin. I work in the office here.

25
26 We received three applicants to be
27 considered for your consideration for the Krusenstern
28 SRC. Unfortunately you can't vote on it now, but when
29 it's appropriate we'll present the names to you and our
30 recommendations to you. At this time we have Enoch
31 Mitchell from Noatak, Austin Swan from Kivalina, and
32 Raymond Holly from Kivalina. So those three will be --
33 I think they were forwarded to you, right? No?

34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Not yet.

36
37 MR. GOODWIN: Okay. Well, we'll be
38 prepared to make a recommendation to you when your
39 prepared to vote on it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What's the criteria,
42 whatever, for qualifying?

43
44 MR. GOODWIN: Basically a resident in
45 the region, because the Krusenstern -- the residency
46 requirement is the whole region, but the applicants
47 came fortunately this time from Noatak and Kivalina
48 which are adjacent to the Krusenstern Monument.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Than you, Willie.

1 Mr. Adkisson.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. Mr. Chair and
4 Attamuk. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

5

6 Basically the SRCs are creations under
7 ANILCA set up to advise the Park Service on subsistence
8 matters in national park and monument units. Up here
9 that would be Cape Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley.
10 Preserves like the Noatak National Preserve, do not
11 have SRCs or Subsistence Resource Commissions.

12

13 These commissions include nine members,
14 three of which are appointed by the Secretary of the
15 Interior, three of which are appointed by the Governor,
16 and three of which are appointed by the RAC, you folks.

17

18

19 The Regional Advisory Council
20 appointments do have some specific criteria. An
21 individual that you appoint has to be a member of
22 either the Regional Advisory Council or an appropriate
23 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and be a
24 subsistence user of the park or monument area that's
25 under the appointment. So it should be a subsistence
26 user of like Cape Krusenstern. But they have to come
27 from either the Regional Advisory Council or a local
28 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

29

30 Currently, of the nine appointments
31 that we have, we have two vacancies currently for the
32 Krusenstern, and the Kobuk Valley Commission is
33 currently full. The appointments that you folks make
34 technically expire in November of this year. In the
35 past, when actions haven't been taken, it's been a
36 common practice to allow folks to continue over until
37 the body makes a decision. So probably, you know, it
38 would be good to take this up again maybe in the fall
39 or the winter, your winter meeting, when you have more
40 of a complement.

41

42 And we can provide you with some names.
43 You can come up with your own recommendations, discuss
44 it. But they're really your appointments to the
45 Subsistence Resource Commission, but the criteria are
46 that it has to be a member of the RAC, has to be a
47 member of the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
48 So like for Krusenstern, that would be the Noatak,
49 Kivalina AC, the Kotzebue AC basically. For Kobuk
50 Valley it would be upper and lower Kobuk, Kotzebue.

1 And we actually have somebody -- yeah, and we have I
2 think somebody from Noorvik on that one as well. So we
3 could provide you or ADF&G could provide you with lists
4 of the updated membership for those groups for the ACs
5 that you could select from.

6

7 So, probably, you know, given right now
8 there's probably not much we can really do about it if
9 you can't take official action, but it's something to
10 be thinking about, because it would be good to
11 formalize it and get current appointments.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

14

15 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. If we
16 could deviate from the agenda just for a moment, Ken
17 could speak to some of the research projects that we
18 have going on in these three park units.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Go ahead.

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: Basically it's largely a
23 carry-over of continuation of work that we've been
24 doing through the Arctic Network and Inventory and
25 Monitoring Program. I think the good news is that the
26 inventory and monitoring program is reaching the last
27 stages of what is called our protocol development stage
28 where we actually set up what it is we're going to
29 monitor, how we're going to do it, and formalize that.
30 And there are several of our key wildlife species that
31 will be indicators for the parks' health and that we
32 will be monitoring them. We haven't completed that
33 yet, but we need to finalize that basically this year,
34 and we're very close to it.

35

36 So far we've been sort of testing and
37 experimenting with some things you might say in trying
38 out some different protocol processes and things, but
39 the things that we have been doing:

40

41 There was a Brooks Range sheep survey.
42 Unfortunately, when they got to the Bairds they got
43 weathered out, so we don't have current, you know,
44 sheep information for the Bairds. But hopefully we'll
45 get a shot at that again next year.

46

47 An interagency effort was put together
48 to do a bear survey in the lower Noatak and the Red Dog
49 area. That's completed. The best that I could say now
50 is it looks like, you know, bears are fairly common,

1 but they're still crunching the numbers and working up,
2 you know, the analysis of it. So it would be a little
3 premature to actually throw out specific numbers,
4 density levels and numbers.

5
6 In addition to that, our effort to
7 count muskoxen basically got weathered out, but Jim Dau
8 was able to do a larger, more extensive count of
9 muskoxen through the western part of Unit 23. We did,
10 however, were able to conduct composition work, age,
11 sex studies on muskoxen both in the Krusenstern area,
12 Unit 23 southwest, and in Bering Land Bridge National
13 Preserve. And that data also is still being worked up.

14
15 And then the work this spring, they did
16 some collaring on part of the muskox project that was
17 described to you before, the multi-year project
18 comparing muskoxen in the Krusenstern with some of the
19 Bering Land Bridge area, looking at population
20 parameters and linking those to environmental and
21 habitat features. That was the one you may remember
22 that was going to require some extensive collaring, up
23 to 30 animals in each of the study areas. And this
24 spring they actually went out and put collars on a
25 limited number of animals to test it out, and that
26 seems to be working. So that's still in the mill for
27 coming down the pike to be expanded on next spring.

28
29 As far as bears go, it's probably going
30 to be at least three, two to three years before they'll
31 be back up here in this specific area working on bears.
32 It looks like next year probably they'll be doing a
33 bear survey in parts of Gates of the Arctic National
34 Park, and then probably going back down the year after
35 that to work in Bering Land Bridge again. But it looks
36 like the method that we're using is going to be pretty
37 efficient and cost effective, and from even the folks,
38 some of the folks on the State that I've talked to seem
39 pretty enthusiastic, and hope that when we get any bugs
40 or kinks worked out of it, that it will become -- the
41 method will become a pretty effective way for
42 monitoring bear populations in the area, so we're
43 hopeful about that.

44
45 That's all I've got.

46
47 ATTAMUK: I've got a question.

48
49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Attamuk.

50

1 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Ken, you mentioned
2 dall sheep. On the harvest, you said they did not do
3 the survey yet. I've just got a question. Harvest
4 versus last year was taken -- does it take it a shorter
5 period, a longer period this year by the locals that
6 have permit to harvest dall sheep?

7
8 MR. ADKISSON: I'm not sure there's a
9 real pattern. It seems to vary year by year. A lot of
10 it has to do with weather, and there was one year
11 within the last several, and I don't have the figures
12 in front of me to work from, that we actually I think
13 went one animal over in the quota in the Bairds, but
14 that's been the rare exception. Mostly the final
15 harvest comes in under the allowable harvest. Most of
16 the animals are probably in the fall via aircraft
17 access, but some animals, and especially ewes, seem to
18 be taken in the year and in the winter via snow
19 machine. And so that seems to have been a fairly
20 effective way of separating out some of that harvest.

21
22 This year the hunt in the DeLong
23 Mountains, the ram portion of it was actually closed
24 early. But there's a very limited number of Federal
25 available allowable harvest for the DeLongs. The other
26 hunts continued. The ewe hunt in the DeLongs
27 continued, and the hunt in the Bairds continued
28 basically as normal.

29
30 But the harvest has been picking up.
31 I'd say sort of the trend in the Bairds has been going
32 up, whether it will ever track the total allowable
33 harvest, I don't know, but it has so far.

34
35 ATTAMUK: Thanks.

36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes. Is the numbers
38 of the sheep, are they increasing, holding their own,
39 decreasing?

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: You'd probably need to
42 really ask Brad, but I would say that they're probably
43 increasing slightly. They seem to be doing well.
44 They're at least holding their own, you know, barring,
45 you know, another period of really highly unusual
46 weather or something that could knock them back down,
47 but -- I mean, we are talking about, you know,
48 reevaluating the harvest levels, the allowable harvest
49 levels and things, and so far sheep look like they're
50 doing well.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Thank
2 you, sir.

3
4 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. Let me
5 speak to the .810 evaluation, which is the next item on
6 the agenda.

7
8 The National Park Service's .810
9 evaluation on giving permits for big game
10 transportation services is still in draft. And we have
11 not made any changes to the evaluation since the spring
12 Regional Advisory Council meeting at which I explained
13 the analysis and its conclusion. That conclusion is
14 that there are moderate to major season-specific,
15 location-specific impacts to subsistence caribou
16 hunters from big game transportation services.

17
18 Even though we have not made any
19 changes to the analysis, we have added some material to
20 the administrative record. For example, at that spring
21 RAC meeting you all passed a resolution with your
22 recommendation about how that analysis should read and
23 your resolution is now included in the administrative
24 record. Similarly, the Cape Krusenstern SRC and the
25 Kobuk Valley SRC passed resolutions very similar to
26 yours. Those are also included in the administrative
27 record.

28
29 What I would like to emphasize though
30 again is that the National Park Service did not find
31 that there aren't effects on subsistence users from big
32 game transportation services. Clearly there are
33 effects. As we said, there are moderate to major
34 season-specific, location-specific impacts to
35 subsistence caribou hunters, and we are committed to
36 addressing those impacts.

37
38 We took what I think are two very
39 important actions this year. On May 12th we
40 established a moratorium on the issuance of additional
41 big game transportation service permits. So we had
42 issued eight permits by May 12th, and as of that date
43 we said that we weren't going to issue any more. So
44 there will be a maximum of eight companies operating
45 inside Noatak National Preserve in 2008 and 2009.

46
47 Now, I know that some people think that
48 eight is too many. On the other hand, through this
49 action, through establishing this moratorium, we've
50 ensured that there aren't 12 companies operating inside

1 the preserve, or 14 companies operating inside the
2 preserve. That is, we have capped the level of
3 commercial services. And I think that's a very
4 important first step.

5
6 Also on May 12th we informed those
7 eight existing permittees that we were going to put a
8 cap on the number of clients that they could bring into
9 the preserve. And we based each company's cap on the
10 number of clients it had carried in in 2006 or 2007.
11 And by doing that, we assured that there wouldn't be
12 more than 357 commercial clients coming into Noatak
13 National Preserve.

14
15 So, for example, let's see, Hagland
16 Aviation Services in 2006 and 2007 had taken in a
17 maximum of 27 clients. We told them that in 2008 and
18 2009, they wouldn't be able to take in more than 27 in
19 any one year. Similarly, Northwestern Aviation had
20 carried in 15 clients and 56 clients in the 2006/2007
21 season. We told Northwestern that it wouldn't be able
22 to bring in more than 56 clients in any year, 2007 or
23 2008.

24
25 Clear so far, Attamuk?

26
27 ATTAMUK: Yes. Yes.

28
29 MR. HELFRICH: Clear so far, Mr.
30 Chairman?

31
32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes, sir. Thank you.

33
34 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. So as I said,
35 there will be a maximum number of 357 commercial
36 clients coming into the preserve in any year 2008 or
37 2009.

38
39 Now, again, some people have said,
40 well, 357, that's a lot of clients. And I recognize
41 that it is, you know. On the other hand, by taking
42 this action, we've ensured that there aren't 457
43 clients coming in in 2008 or 2009, or we've ensured
44 that there aren't 557 clients coming in in 2008 or
45 2009. In other words, what we have done is both capped
46 the number of operators in the preserve and the number
47 of clients that they can bring in. And we've taken
48 these two actions because we recognize the impacts that
49 big game transportation service providers and their
50 clients are having on subsistence users.

1 Now, we have taken these measures as
2 interim measures, because we're still putting a lot of
3 confidence in this Unit 23 working group. You'll
4 remember that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 recommended that we take a unit-wide approach to
6 looking at this transporter issue. And the Department
7 took the initiative to establish this working group
8 that includes stakeholders from the subsistence
9 community, from the agencies, from the big game
10 transportation service providers, from the -- from some
11 of the local communities and from the guide industry.
12 And we were among the agencies that are both
13 participating in the working group and financially
14 supporting the working group. And the next meeting of
15 that working group will be on October 29th, 30th and
16 31st. It's going to be here in Kotzebue, and it will
17 be held at the borough chambers. So what we are doing
18 is taking these temporary steps while we -- while this
19 Unit 23 working group comes together.

20
21 If I may, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask
22 one of our resource protection rangers, Dan Stevenson,
23 to come up and speak to you about our resource
24 protection efforts this fall.

25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Go ahead.

27
28
29 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Mr.
30 Chairman. My name's Dan Stevenson. I'm with the
31 National Park Service, the Protection Division here in
32 Kotzebue.

33
34 And the handout I just -- that's going
35 around the room explains our efforts this fall. We --
36 I'll just go through each of the five points there, but
37 we basically checked about 52 camps this year
38 throughout the Noatak Preserve. All those camps ended
39 up being non-local folks from outside the region. We
40 have a standard set procedure at all the camps. We
41 check hunting licenses, we check permits, we check all
42 the game that's taken, to make sure all of it's
43 salvaged properly, there's no wanton waste. And we've
44 done the same type of checks every year on the Noatak.
45 And we also work the Kobuk and Cape Krusenstern, too,
46 to check local hunters as well.

47
48 We checked approximately 130 hunters
49 this year, which is right about average. 80 percent
50 non-locals, 20 percent locals is how that broke out to.

1 We handed out to all the hunters that we contacted the
2 hunting legal, hunting smart brochure that the State
3 Fish and Game has produced, a very good document. And
4 we hand that out to all the folks that we -- all the
5 folks that we talk with, all the hunters. And a lot of
6 the hunters already have that in their possession,
7 which is really nice to see. A lot of them had written
8 in advance and have a copy of that in their possession,
9 but if they don't, we give them a copy along with the
10 State regs, and then also one of our handouts that the
11 Park Service has created as well, a handout that talks
12 about some of the local issues.

13

14 We issue -- every year we issue several
15 warnings dealing from not signing a hunting license,
16 not validating harvest tickets, excess trash. It
17 really depends on the case. Either we'll issue verbal
18 warnings or we do issue citations. This year we have
19 three on-going investigations going on right now that
20 involve more serious crimes. I can't go into each one
21 of them. I'd be happy to talk to you about them in
22 general what they were and what they're about, but we
23 have three on-going investigations that involved
24 incidents from this fall. So we do pursue that with
25 help from our folks in Anchorage. We have folks in
26 Anchorage that help us out on some of our search
27 warrants, subpoenas, those type of things, if we need
28 to go to Anchorage, or outside of Alaska. We have that
29 ability, too, to serve search warrants or subpoenas in
30 other states as well if we need to do that.

31

32 Overall we observed fairly good
33 compliance with folks salvaging meat, proper care of
34 meat. This year we saw a lot more folks using canvas
35 meat bags and a lot less of the plastic meat bags,
36 which we have seen some in the past. Folks are getting
37 the meat up off the ground and hanging it well so it
38 can cure and get good air, and so in general we did --
39 at least from what we saw, our staff, we saw better
40 compliance with taking care of the meat and proper
41 storage of the meat.

42

43 And then also pretty good compliance
44 with clean camps. We still have some issues out there
45 with folks, you know, bringing in too much trash or too
46 much garbage, and we'll ask them to clean it up or
47 consolidate it or make sure it's brought out with them,
48 but that's still an issue, but it seemed to be a little
49 bit better this year as well.

50

1 And our patrol efforts, we use -- as
2 you know, we use helicopters, fixed wing, jet boat,
3 canoes, and foot patrol, so roughly we spend about
4 \$60,000 each fall and that's primarily August,
5 September with our back country efforts, trying to
6 check hunters primarily and just trying to access the
7 area, which you know can be difficult with
8 transportation costs.

9
10 As George mentioned, we roughly -- we
11 try to check about 30 -- we feel we check about 30
12 percent of the hunters that come into the Noatak
13 Preserve. I wish we could check a lot more, but just
14 based on cost and access and weather, we estimate that
15 we probably field check about 30 to 40 percent of the
16 hunters that come into the Noatak. Most of our efforts
17 are centered on the Noatak. We do check, we do work
18 Kobuk Valley and we do checks like Krusenstern. As you
19 know, those are both closed to hunting from non-locals,
20 but we still go and check to see if we have non-locals
21 hunting in those areas, and if they're using aircraft
22 to access those areas illegally, and that's what we
23 found this year on one of our cases in the Kobuk. So
24 we do try to patrol and get out and cover the Kobuk
25 area, Cape Krusenstern, and also Bering Land Bridge as
26 well. So, as you know, it's a large area, but most of
27 our efforts are centered on the Noatak, and primarily
28 the western half of the Noatak Preserve. We primarily
29 work the Aggie, the Eli, the Kuv, the Kelly and the
30 Nemi. We try to get up toward Howard Pass, and we try
31 to get up the upper end of the Noatak, but -- and the
32 Cutler, in that area, but most of the work is on the
33 western half of the Noatak.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Did you get any
38 complaints locally on Fish Creek?

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: We did not. I did not
41 personally, no.

42
43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Near as I could find
44 out, there was six camps say like about four, five
45 miles up from the mouth of the Fish Creek this fall,
46 and quite a few local people didn't really care for
47 that.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, if I could -- of
50 you could show me on a map exactly where that was. Was

1 it in Park Service area or the.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I think that's part
4 of the Noatak Preserve, isn't it?

5

6 MR. STEVENSON: The Fish Creek over
7 here, the.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: On the north shore of
10 Cook Lake.

11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah. We'd have to
13 check the map. I think some of that's outside, but we
14 can sure check, take a look at the map.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Attamuk.

17

18 ATTAMUK: I don't have question, but I
19 think Willie could answer what I got questions on, if
20 you could come up, Willie. It's back to the
21 transporters and outfitters, to you, George. You said
22 you had eight companies. I've got a question on your
23 eight companies. Are they going to -- and you're not
24 going to let any more in. If the company happen to go
25 bankrupt or something in the future, is another one,
26 another outfit could come in and keep it up to eight
27 companies? That's going to be one of my questions.
28 And you told me you had 350 clients within the eight
29 companies, and on the eight companies I have a concern,
30 and it's me again, that they might be in an area that
31 pretty much include the Squirrel River, and that's a
32 lot of clients just in one -- I would just call it just
33 a confined space. If it was spread out, I wouldn't
34 worry about it so much, because Willie knows this, that
35 we have interest in conflict.

36

37 This year was different. That's why we
38 never get so many people complain. Our caribou fooled
39 everybody and came in early before the transport and
40 outfitters go out and interfere with the local
41 subsistence hunters. That's why nobody really
42 complain. When I was in Noatak, I asked, when I was in
43 Kobuk, I asked what's going on, and they said they were
44 early, and we had our take. And I always testified
45 that in the future due to what's happening now for the
46 guides, outfitters and transporters, we re-open -- what
47 I'm trying to say is, we need to readdress the timing
48 of the guides that are hunting. We need to get our
49 chance first is what I'm saying. And, Willie, we've
50 been addressing that for years, and that's why I wanted

1 to hear if you hear anything from out of the Natives'
2 concern, because they will address more natives than
3 the guys in the Park Service, because they're scared,
4 and I understand that.

5
6 357 is a lot, but yet are you talking
7 about this one small area, and are they going to be
8 able to sell their company that they could keep or once
9 they go bankrupt, they lose and it go down to seven.
10 What I'm trying to say is, we don't really want to stop
11 them, because we were never able to stop, but I just
12 want to make sure they slow down, and our people will
13 be able to harvest their caribou and anything they
14 need. And like I said, the effects is not as strong
15 this summer as done in the past. But if gets back to
16 normal, because the little caribou that do come here,
17 that 10,000 or so wasn't the main herd. I wouldn't
18 worry, because I'm more worried about the main herd
19 than the ones that come in early that spend the summer
20 here. That's why we had our chance to get our take.
21 Yet when I walk to people in Noatak and upper Kobuk,
22 the main herd is not here yet. That's why we're not
23 being affected. Just because we have one good year,
24 please don't make it -- say it's okay now. No, it's
25 not going to be okay. It might be different next year
26 again like last year when we had our disaster where
27 nobody gets caribou. Times are changing, and I'm glad
28 the caribou are playing games with us. That way we
29 could study them better, and they don't do the same
30 thing year after year like they were told. And I've
31 been always trying to say that they never do the same
32 thing year after year. One way or the other Mother
33 Nature will make a slight change to it.

34
35 Thanks.

36
37 MR. HELFRICH: To answer your first
38 question, Attamuk, if one company should go out of
39 business, we would not issue another company that
40 permit. Instead we would drop down to seven companies
41 allowed to operate inside the preserve.

42
43 In regard to the number of clients, I
44 agree that if there were 357 clients all in the Aggi
45 and the Noatak and the Kelly, that would have a lot of
46 impact on subsistence users. Okay. Right now we don't
47 have any term or condition in a company's authorization
48 to describing where that company can take its clients.
49 But one of the management tools I think that we have to
50 look at, particularly through this Unit 23 working

1 group is -- well, for example, having some areas where
2 there's no commercial use, particularly having no
3 commercial use in an area that's particularly important
4 to subsistence users. Similarly, we should look at
5 timing, you know, perhaps have some times of year in
6 which there's no commercial use, particularly times of
7 year that are important to subsistence users. Right
8 now we don't have anything like that in place, but
9 those are two of the tools that we are going to look at
10 through this Unit 23 working group. That is, what
11 we've described as a space separation and a time
12 separation between commercial operators and their
13 clients and subsistence users.

14
15 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Thank you, George,
16 because this time I did not address that Aggie. I saw
17 only four camps up the Aggie this year, the ones that
18 normal -- but I didn't see them up the mountains like I
19 did before. That's when we always get affected when
20 their up in the -- hunters are out on top of the
21 mountain, away from the river, miles from the river.
22 You know that, I think you've been to my camp, and near
23 the area there's one mountain that's more like a real
24 sharp triangle, and right next to the right side of it.
25 I've seen campers there, hunters there that are being
26 dropped off by transporters and outfitters. And that's
27 how far away it is really from the Aggie River. That's
28 miles and miles away, and that's why we were being
29 affected before and that's what they were complaining
30 about. But this year, like I said, our caribou were a
31 little bit earlier, that's why us Natives are not
32 crying so much, because we can't afford to go out any
33 more with the price of gas, and we were lucky this year
34 like I say. And I would like to see the process be
35 stepped -- stepped up to be more like in a -- step up
36 the process, because we don't know what's going to
37 happen next year. If the main herd comes at its normal
38 time, and we have our guides and outfitters out there,
39 then we will be affected. You know, I don't want to
40 have another Shungnak incident. Like I always say year
41 and year. But I still have my concerns, because when I
42 talk to the people, when they tell me, that's why I
43 wanted -- that's why I have my concerns.

44
45 Thanks, George,

46
47 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. Attamuk.
48 We realize that next year may not be like this year.
49 And we also realize that this user conflict as we've
50 called it is not an issue that we can push aside. And

1 we are also interested in addressing it now and not
2 three years from now.

3

4 MR. STEVENSON: I might add real quick,
5 too, if I may, if it's okay. I saw a really good
6 effort by Northwestern Aviation and Hagland, both of
7 our local transporters, really making a big effort to
8 spread some of their use out. We checked quite a few
9 of their clients up on the eastern half of the Noatak
10 Preserve, the Nemi area, the Cutler, Howard Pass area,
11 so they seemed like they were really trying to spread
12 out some of their use, which sure helps us over all.
13 So that was really good to see.

14

15 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman. Attamuk.
16 Willie Goodwin again.

17

18 To answer your question, I didn't hear
19 from any of the locals about concerns regarding the
20 transporters early in the season. And it became
21 apparent that when the caribou kind of slowed down,
22 they started heading back northeast. So the camp that
23 you talked, Victor, I know some hunters reported
24 caribou crossing the Noatak here, the lower Noatak
25 going north. So they had to be turned from that area
26 back to start crossing going back the other way. So
27 that may have had an effect, but I think that Fish
28 Creek drainage is outside the park. It's part of the
29 Squirrel River area I believe.

30

31 And the other issue I'd like to point
32 out is that KIC made some selections up the Aggie
33 probably about 10, 12 miles up from the mouth of the
34 river that they've made a request to expedite the
35 conveyance. So that will be under KIC's control toward
36 the mouth, so that should relieve some of that pressure
37 along the Aggie.

38

39 So, Attamuk, I didn't hear anything
40 contrary, but there were some concerns that were voiced
41 to me that -- because there's nothing stopping the
42 transporter from setting up camp before the sport
43 season, and that's what generally is happening.
44 They're setting up their camps early so as soon as the
45 season opened, they can bring their clients out.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Willie.

50

1 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. May I
2 have two more minutes.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, sir.

5
6 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you. The first,
7 Rick Ashby, a resident of Noatak has put in a request
8 to build a cabin to support his subsistence fishing.
9 He would build it about two or even three miles below
10 where his permanent residence his, his cabin is on his
11 uncle's allotment. This is a spot that he's
12 historically fished in, and he's usually used a tent or
13 some type of lean-to. He says that because conditions
14 are changing, he now needs a cabin. So we are going to
15 release an environmental assessment on Rick's proposal,
16 evaluating the environmental consequences of letting
17 him build a cabin there. And that environmental
18 assessment is going to come out around November 1st.
19 And I'll make sure that all the members of the Regional
20 Advisory Council get a copy of it. And I hope that
21 either the Council as a whole or the Council members
22 will comment on it. I think that the environmental
23 assessment does a very fair job of analyzing the
24 impacts of Rick's proposal, what are the consequences
25 of it, and also of presenting alternatives to Rick's
26 proposal. Maybe he could put up a tent frame rather
27 than a cabin, for example. So if you all would look
28 for that. It's a -- yeah, it's a good proposal and a
29 good analysis, and we want to make sure that we give
30 Rick a fair hearing.

31
32 And then, Mr. Chairman, there's one
33 other item that you and I spoke about about a month
34 ago, or a little bit more than a month ago. One of our
35 employees has a business with her husband, and they
36 rent equipment, kayaks, rafts, tents and camping gear.
37 What I would like to emphasize is that this employee
38 does not have a commercial use authorization with the
39 National Park Service or a permit with any other
40 agency, whether it be State or Federal. The employee
41 and her husband don't transport sport hunters, neither
42 do they guide sport hunters. All they do is rent
43 equipment. Right now my best reading of both the
44 Federal ethics guidelines and also the National Park
45 Service housing management policies is that there's no
46 violation of any regulation or policy in this sort of
47 business. It would certainly be a violation if this
48 person were using her position in order to get clients.
49 Or there would certainly be a violation if this person
50 had some sort of permit with the National Park Service

1 or with another Federal agency. But neither of those
2 things is true. All this person is doing is renting
3 equipment.

4
5 Now, I have emphasized to the spouse of
6 my employee that there has to be a clear distinct line
7 between his living in a government-owned house and
8 where he operates his business. And to the best of my
9 knowledge he's respecting that line. And if he isn't,
10 I'll get him to change his behavior.

11
12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

13
14 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: BLM is next on the
17 agenda. Mr. Tim Hammond.

18
19 MR. PARKER: A couple handouts for you.
20 Again I'm Dave Parker. I'm a fish biologist out of
21 BLM's Fairbanks district office. And I'm here to give
22 you BLM's report.

23
24 The agenda calls or the air
25 taxi/transporters update and an EIS record of decision
26 on the Squirrel River. That should read the
27 Kobuk/Seward Peninsula Plan. And those two are kind of
28 wrapped together I'd like to talk about the Kobuk/
29 Seward Peninsula Plan first. And then if I could, I'd
30 like to just talk about three of the programs that BLM
31 has had active out here, the recreation and archeology
32 and fisheries program. And then we'd move on to the
33 subsistence use of timber policy and Dan will discuss
34 that.

35
36 So good morning. Mr. Chairman and
37 Attamuk. Again, Kyle Joly has moved on to the National
38 Park Service in Fairbanks. It's my understanding he is
39 -- I believe he's going to be involved with some of the
40 wildlife surveys out here yet, because he has done that
41 work in the past. BLM is planning on filling his
42 position and dedicate the work to this northwest area.
43 And BLM will also participate, continue to participate
44 in the spring moose census, interagency work that's
45 been going on.

46
47 As for the Kobuk/Seward Peninsula Plan,
48 this was from our field office manager, Shelly
49 Jacobson. The record of decision was signed in late
50 August. The plan directs BLM to put all transporters

1 and air taxis under permit if they are using BLM-
2 managed public lands in the Squirrel River area. Since
3 this plan was signed so late this past summer, BLM was
4 not able to implement it for the 2008 hunting season.
5 However, for 2009 BLM will require all guides,
6 transporters and air taxis to have permits for use in
7 the Squirrel River area. As a step-down plan from the
8 Kobuk/Seward Plan, BLM will be starting the Squirrel
9 River recreation implementation plan in 2009, and hope
10 to have it completed by 2010. We'll have information
11 coming out later as flyers. This will be an
12 environmental assessment, and we'll involve public
13 input. We want as much input as we can get concerning
14 this issue. And meetings will be scheduled, and you
15 folks will all be kept in the loop on that one, when
16 that's going on.

17
18 That is what I had about the
19 Kobuk/Seward Peninsula Plan and the air
20 taxi/transporters issues.

21
22 The recreation program, they have --
23 they did some flights this year in the Squirrel River
24 area. In September they did permit compliance checks.
25 They stopped at four of the eight guides authorized to
26 work in the Squirrel River area to conduct guiding
27 operations. They also flew over the Kauk, Mangoak and
28 Tag Rivers. We have three guides permitted to be on
29 those rivers, and there was just one camp off the
30 Mangoak River and no camps on the other rivers.

31
32 Again, with the Squirrel River, it was
33 my understanding there were I believe 11 guides that
34 were permitted last year and there are only eight this
35 year. And again as the Park Service had said, once a
36 guide does not guide in the area for a year they lose
37 their permit to do that and we'll not renew those until
38 the new recreation plan has been passed addressing all
39 the guides.

40
41 Would you like me to go on about the
42 archaeology program, the fisheries work, or do you have
43 any questions about the Kobuk/Seward Peninsula plan or
44 the air taxi transporter issue?

45
46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go on.

47
48 MR. PARKER: Okay. These other, the
49 archaeology and the fisheries work is being conducted
50 on the Kivalina River. We've had crews out there last

1 summer and this summer and fall. The archaeologists
2 are led by Bill Hedman who is our archaeologist back in
3 Fairbanks. The Central Yukon Field Office has been
4 conducting archaeological surveys and site
5 investigations in the Kivalina River drainage for the
6 last two seasons. Helicopter-supported work has
7 resulted, and the identification of numerous sites on
8 BLM-managed public lands. Most significantly, this
9 research indicates that people have been hunting big
10 game in the shadows of the DeLong Mountains for at
11 least the last 10,000 years. This work has been
12 largely non-invasive. Collections have been kept at a
13 minimum to insure these sites remain intact. Work will
14 resume in 2009 with the final year of this first phase
15 of the work. Our hope is that we can begin working the
16 Native Village of Kivalina to include lands on the
17 lower Kivalina River in the 2010 Survey work.

18
19 That 10,000-year age just came back
20 from some arrow tips that were collected at the area.
21 So that was quite significant for the archaeology
22 folks.

23
24 And again Bill Hedman will be in touch
25 with folks in the village. What he's like to do is
26 continue from the BLM-managed public lands and float
27 downriver and look at other possible sites going on.

28
29 Now, this is a fisheries meeting and I
30 am a fish biologist, so my fisheries notes are a lot
31 bigger than the others. I'd like to talk about the
32 work that we've done on the Kivalina River.

33
34 This work was initiated years ago by
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Ken Altz, and
36 continued by Fred DiCicco. The State are essentially
37 the population guys and we at BLM are the habitat guys.
38 So what we're trying to do is look a little bit closer
39 at the habitat being used by the Dolly varden on the
40 Kivalina River, and collect some of the habitat
41 variables and stuff. This is in anticipation of future
42 development. You know, with the oil and gas leases
43 offshore in the Chukchi and the coal to the north, who
44 knows when development will occur, but we suspect, you
45 know, 5, 20 years, something like that. A road is
46 probably a likely scenario to come down and hook up
47 with the Red Dog road. And so what we're trying to do
48 is look in the Kivalina River and look at these
49 important spawning habitats for the Dolly varden and
50 identify them and make sure that they're protected.

1 That's what we're trying to do.

2

3 You mentioned the low water, and we
4 certainly have seen that the last two years. The idea
5 is that there's two spawning runs on the Kivalina
6 River. There's an earlier one that peaks at the end of
7 July and early August a little bit lower on the river.
8 And then there's a mid September run of larger Dollies
9 that spawn a little bit further upstream. Last year we
10 saw that with the low water the fish didn't seem to be
11 -- they were collected at a location there, kind of a
12 bottleneck where they couldn't get upstream any
13 further. So we didn't feel we got a very good
14 distribution on that mid summer run. So we'll go back
15 out next summer and hopefully have higher water and get
16 a better idea of the distribution.

17

18 But this summer, this September we were
19 out. We went out on September 12th and it was even
20 more drastic. The water was lower. It hadn't rained
21 for a month. And we had found that the fish had been
22 able to get upstream. The fall run was happening
23 either earlier, you know, at the end of August. The
24 fish had gotten up, we counted a number of reds
25 upstream. But the water had gone subsurface about half
26 way up the middle drainage of the river. And
27 effectively what that had done is turn these pools into
28 ponds in that area. And we had found 20 to 50 of these
29 post-spawn Dolly varden stuck in these pools. And you
30 know, the water was 6 to 10 feet deep. It's fairly
31 deep. There is intergravel flow coming through, so
32 they're probably getting oxygenated water. But again,
33 a lot of the fish that had spawned in that river are
34 trapped in those pools right now, and they're going to
35 be over-wintering in those pools. So we don't know if
36 they're going to survive that or not. We suspect the
37 water's deep enough and they may be able to get out in
38 the springtime when the water comes up. But we thought
39 that was pretty interesting, and we got GPS locations
40 on these pools, and they certainly would be critical
41 over-wintering habitat for those fish.

42

43 Another part of that work, we collected
44 fin clips from 30 Dolly varden. Penny Crane with the
45 Fish and Wildlife Service has a data base looking at
46 Arctic char and Dolly varden, and we've added to that
47 last year with the clips from the early run Dolly
48 varden, and we're going to give her the fin clips from
49 this year to just compare and see if those are two
50 separate populations of fish or are they just related

1 and they come in at different times of year, just try
2 to add to that data base and find out more about those
3 populations.

4
5 And that is it in a nutshell I think,
6 what I've got for the summary. If you have any
7 questions, I'd be delighted to answer them.

8
9 ATTAMUK: I've got one. On your fin
10 clips, we all know that the trout migrate in different
11 parts of the river. I mean, not to the same river year
12 after year. And maybe to help you identify different
13 fish that migrate, I know they migrate up the Noatak,
14 up Third Kiata (ph), our fish, our char, and up the
15 Kugururok toward Point Hope and all the way to
16 Unalakleet. Is there a way, a process you use to see
17 -- we know they are all our trout. What I'm trying to
18 say is, can you identify that this trout that this year
19 was clipped in Kivalina River, or if you happen to do a
20 study in Noatak, you clip a different part of the fin
21 to say it was in Noatak River. Because if you go back
22 and you recapture that fish, if you're lucky, you'll
23 say this was captured this year at the certain year in
24 a certain drainage. Because our trout, you probably
25 know, and everybody know it here, that all go out to
26 the ocean and yet when they go back to the river, it
27 depends on the temperature, depends where they at at
28 the time at the ocean, they will -- that's the drainage
29 they go do. And I always trust that. I was taught by
30 my grandfather. He did that every year. And what I'm
31 really trying to say is maybe that will tell you for
32 sure that they do go different drainage and where it
33 was clipped.

34
35 MR. PARKER: Well, my understanding of
36 the genetics, the idea that Penny's trying to get a
37 collection of these fin clips from all these different
38 areas to see if they can be differentiated from one
39 another. The fact that the fish do move within
40 drainages certainly cloud that. We need at least 30
41 clips and up to 100 clips is what she wants, and so
42 essentially it's a pooled sample, and that the
43 individual fish is -- we would not be able to identify,
44 say one fish was here in the Kivalina one year and on
45 Noatak the next year. But can population
46 characteristics be pulled out from these pooled samples
47 in these different areas. And as the samples are
48 collected in more and more areas, then hopefully a
49 picture will come out that will either show that these
50 fish are unique to geographic areas or that they're

1 mixing and that they really are closely related, which
2 probably is the case.

3

4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: On the Squirrel
5 River, do you have any knowledge of the activities,
6 actions between Nova Gold and the BLM?

7

8 MR. PARKER: You know, I don't right
9 now. It was my understanding they were doing
10 exploratory work on the upper river, and they were
11 looking for a place to land so they could bring in fuel
12 for a helicopter that was going to be going out to the
13 various locations. but I would have to defer that to
14 our folks back in the office. I would get some
15 information from them and let you know exactly what's
16 been going on with that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

19

20 MR. PARKER: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
21 Attamuk.

22

23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Daniel Sharp.

24

25 MR. SHARP: Good morning. Mr.
26 Chairman. My name's Dan Sharp. I'm the subsistence
27 coordinator for Bureau of Land Management, based out of
28 Anchorage.

29

30 The reason I'm here before you is to
31 introduce the BLM subsistence use of timber and other
32 vegetative resources policy. It's a draft policy, that
33 I've been asked to present this to various RACs for
34 comment and consideration. I provided a loose copy in
35 front of you that has my contact information that
36 wasn't included in the RAC notebooks. But the loose
37 policy is the same that is within your notebook.

38

39 The reason this is in front of you is
40 there was a request in January from the Western
41 Interior RAC. Mr. Jack Reakoff requested a review by
42 Federal land management agencies regarding the
43 subsistence priority that would be assigned to
44 resources besides fish and wildlife. And BLM has
45 updated and trying to bring their regulations into
46 ANILCA terms. The current regulations on the book are
47 from the Non-sale Disposal Act of 1878, updated in
48 1934, and it clearly needed some modernization to bring
49 it into I guess the terms within ANILCA.

50

1 I'll briefly try to summarize what the
2 policy states. There are three components to it.
3 There's a firewood, a timber use and a special forest
4 products sections.

5
6 In essence, what the firewood policy is
7 doing is to allow a harvest of up to 15 cords per
8 calendar year. It would not require a permit for
9 harvest of standing dead or downed timber.

10
11 The timber policy is if there were
12 requests for timber in excess of 15 cords for house
13 logs or for standing green timber, BLM is asking that a
14 permit or letter of authorization be requested so that
15 we can potentially mitigate or direct folks as to where
16 it would be ideal to harvest timber.

17
18 The last part is the special forest
19 products section, which includes berries, any other
20 vegetative uses, birching, whatever folks may seek.
21 That also would not require a permit.

22
23 So in essence, what this subsistence
24 policy is doing is in essence liberalizing what has
25 previously required a permit.

26
27 I guess the few instances where we may
28 request information as to where folks are going to
29 harvest timber, clearly there are instances, wild and
30 scenic rivers, to where there may be designations that
31 would not allow timber harvest, but in most instances
32 the BLM lands would be open.

33
34 This particular policy, because of the
35 scattered nature of BLM lands may not serve a number of
36 individuals. A lot of the selections have been made
37 along river corridors and such. So in fact to get to
38 BLM lands, folks may be bypassing a lot of available
39 timber resources. Nevertheless, there may be Native
40 allotments and such where house logs or so may be close
41 by, and this policy is simply trying to address those
42 particular needs.

43
44 Again, what we're seeking with this
45 draft policy are comments as to whether or not this
46 particular approach is going to address folks'
47 subsistence needs.

48
49 The other -- despite the fact that
50 authorizations or permits will not be required for up

1 to 15 cords of wood, it would be very helpful for BLM
2 if we were made aware of where subsistence activities
3 were taking place. One of the ways BLM can justify
4 funding from Washington, D.C. is that if BLM lands are
5 being used, we can document that use. And so it's
6 certainly helpful even in an informal method that we're
7 aware of where those activities are occurring.

8

9 And I guess there's not much more to
10 the sort of -- there aren't too many details within the
11 policy. There are a few instances of how they would
12 like to see -- how we would like to see timber
13 harvested and such, but in general it's a
14 liberalization of what regulations are currently on the
15 book. I think the plan is to solicit comments over the
16 course of the winter from RACs and tribal entities and
17 formalize this policy later on this winter.

18

19 And with that, I'd be happy to answer
20 any questions.

21

22 ATTAMUK: Okay. On your 15 cords, you
23 say it's for the -- are you going to -- is this going
24 to affect the villages or is it just going to be the
25 guy that's out there subsisting and camping in the
26 rivers?

27

28 MR. SHARP: Any Federally-qualified
29 individual would be eligible to take 15 cords. It can
30 be villages, it could be individuals camping. In
31 essence what it does is it does not require a person to
32 have a permit in hand to go harvest timber.

33

34 ATTAMUK: Because I would like to move
35 to your house if that uses only 15 cords a year. The
36 reason why I say that, I grew up in Noatak. A cord
37 lasts less than a month when it's cold. And I have to
38 advise you to revisit the number of wood that's taken,
39 because we as Natives always get wood that are dead and
40 dry. We don't get the wet ones, because we will never
41 heat up the place. It takes too long to start burning.
42 And we always never get some in the same area, because
43 we always go different parts at Noatak. And this is
44 never in the same location. It depends on where the
45 wood are dying and dried. Because I tell you one
46 thing, the way it's going in the fuel, price are going
47 up, they're going to depend on more on firewood just to
48 make it through the winter.

49

50 And I think I would say that 15 cords

1 has got to be revisited. Where you get your
2 information from, I don't know, but you have to talk to
3 different households in our region to say how much wood
4 could be taken, because I tell you one thing, when I'm
5 going to get logs for home, I get logs twice in my
6 lifetime. My uncle and mine, but I helped build three
7 log homes at Noatak. And we have to go where they're
8 straight, not just a certain area. And we do get live
9 woods, but we dry them for couple years. We skin them
10 and we dry them. So if anyone decide to build a log
11 home, with the price of freight that's going up, I'm
12 pretty sure it's going to eventually happen, not that
13 it's going to happen every day or every year. Not only
14 dry woods. They have to get wet, live trees that on
15 the outside of the skin, you can see that first layer,
16 that it tell you every year And if they're at least
17 seven years or more, that's eligible for building log
18 homes. That's how I did mine. And I tell you one
19 thing, it's easily you need to get 40 logs, up to 60,
20 because you would never use every log, because it
21 depends if it dried and it would start twisting. You
22 just can't use that log. I'm sorry. You're not going
23 to waste it, you're going to use it for firewood.

24
25 I hope you understand what I'm saying,
26 and this will affect my villages, especially the upper
27 Kobuk where it's a lot colder, where it can get 50
28 below. So I think you need to get your information and
29 say -- I wouldn't even support this 15 cords a year,
30 because I used to live in Noatak. I used to go get
31 wood by dog team. Sometimes I get six loads and four
32 loads make a cord. That's with dog team with 8-foot
33 sled -- I mean, I'm sorry, 12-foot sled. Four loads
34 make a cord basically. Sometimes we use 6 and 7 cords
35 just in December trying to keep heat in the house 24
36 hours a day.

37
38 MR. SHARP: Yeah. I'd like to just
39 point out, it's not a limit of 15 cords. What BLM is
40 -- their draft policy is asking is that if it's going
41 to be more than 15 cords, We understand that that need
42 is being requested I guess. A letter of authorization
43 is -- that's sort of the line where we would ask that
44 folks apply for a permit or letter of authorization so
45 we understand where the harvest is taking place on
46 Native lands.

47
48 Again, this is a draft policy, and
49 those are the types of comments we're soliciting, is to
50 see if it is addressing folks' subsistence needs. And

1 that's probably the first substantive comment I've
2 received with respect to this policy, and I'll
3 certainly take that -- take note of it.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 ATTAMUK: Yeah. You say you have to
8 get permit if you're going to get over 15 cords. I
9 don't know how cold it's going to be this year. If
10 that permits going to take six months or nine months,
11 the winter's going to be over with and they're going to
12 be out of compliance. I'm sorry. How long is it going
13 to take for you to get a permit? If I want to get a
14 permit over 15 cords, by the time the letter and mail
15 goes nowadays, it will be -- winter will be half over
16 with. Now I'm going to be out of compliance and I'll
17 be cited.

18

19 MR. SHARP: I don't believe this is --
20 that we're trying to play gotcha here with respect to
21 this policy. The policy is clearly trying to address
22 folks' needs, and again I think it's well within our
23 ability to meet folks' needs. I isn't going to be a
24 complicated process to address if folks need to 15
25 cords or need 30 cords. It's -- again they're
26 certainly trying to liberalize what is currently on the
27 books. In theory right now folks should be applying
28 for permits. I'd have to see how many permits are
29 currently processed, but I tend to -- most of the
30 feedback I've gotten is that folks generally aren't
31 applying for permits right now, and this is in part
32 somewhat addressing that, that that's the way things
33 are happening right now, and so we're trying to
34 basically be less bureaucratic with respect to
35 addressing folks' need.

36

37 Again, the 15 cords is -- you know, I
38 don't have a great deal of ownership in this policy. I
39 was asked to present it. And this is folks working
40 with the Western Interior RAC, and I think that's where
41 the basis of some of these -- this policy came from.
42 But clearly if areas need additional firewood, I'm
43 certain the policy can be made to address that.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 ATTAMUK: The reason why I brought that
48 up, this thing got to be looked into a little bit
49 better, and it was mentioned earlier that our people
50 been here for 10,000 years, and we still have the

1 trees. We -- I think the western world is looking at
2 the western world of overharvesting. And you know us
3 Natives never overharvest. And we always keep our wood
4 in -- it will always be here. And I think this
5 approach being wrong for certain areas. I could see
6 where rain forest, other place, Southeast Alaska where
7 it's used for timber and harvest to put homes in the
8 rest of the world. And I don't think you will ever see
9 it here. It's only small log homes. I could see the
10 Interior building regular log homes where they could
11 wipe out the trees, but I don't think it's going to
12 happen here. I think you'll need to put your limits on
13 your concern. Thanks.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you Attamuk.
16 Barbara.

17

18 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Dan, I'm from
19 the upper Kobuk, specifically Shungnak, and for that
20 upper Kobuk area region, Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk,
21 totally a lot of them depend on firewood. And I would
22 ask or suggest that someone from BLM need to travel to
23 these villages to inform them of this 15 cords so they
24 can -- or be talking to the IRA villages. I mean, IRAs
25 in the villages to inform them of this, because of
26 right now I know they are not informed and there is no
27 one on this Council that represents the upper Kobuk
28 villages. And probably all the villages in the NANA
29 region need to be informed of this going on, and I
30 would be -- I could be between BLM or travel -- be
31 willing to travel with BLM to start informing them.
32 And also have Willie Goodwin here at Kotzebue with the
33 Park Service who can go out and translate this into
34 Inupiat and make sure that these people understand what
35 is going on, because it is that important to them.
36 That's a lot of the people up there who are really --
37 really don't have any work or jobs do depend on
38 firewood to keep their homes warm during the
39 wintertime.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any more
44 questions.

45

46 MR. SHARP: Yes, if I could comment. I
47 want to reiterate this applies to BLM lands. The Park
48 Service and the refuges have their own subsistence
49 timber policies and they're not all uniform across all
50 Federal lands. And that's why it is somewhat important

1 that -- to make that distinction I guess. And this is
2 a draft policy. It's just now sort of hitting the
3 street so to speak, and these are the type of comments
4 and feedback we're trying to solicit. I provided these
5 to the Bristol Bay Native Association, to AHTNA, the
6 Chitina Native Association, and other groups, and
7 we're putting this out there for comment, and I
8 appreciate the feedback.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Mr. Jim
13 Dau.

14

15 MR. DAU: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I'm
16 Jim Dau, Fish and Game, Kotzebue still.

17

18 And the first thing I'd like to do is
19 introduce Charlotte Westing. Charlotte is the new
20 assistant area biologist for Fish and Game in Kotzebue.
21 I think the entire RAC committee, both of you guys,
22 already know Charlotte. You've been by and met her.
23 But, anyway, we hired her in February, she moved to
24 Kotzebue in July, and has committed to spend the next
25 25 to 30 years of her life working for slave wages in
26 Kotzebue. So Charlotte's half my age, she's got twice
27 my smarts, and unfortunately there's always some ups
28 and downs with personnel changes. And she's probably
29 not as attractive or as charming as the guy you've
30 worked with for the last 20 years, but you're just
31 going to have to get used to it.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. DAU: This doesn't mean that I'm
36 going to retire. I have no plans to retire soon. I'm
37 going to work, you know, for at least, I don't know --
38 well, heck, with the world economy doing what it's
39 doing, I'll be able to afford to retire about two years
40 after I die, so -- anyway, I have no plans to retire
41 immediately. My position now is I'm a caribou
42 biologist and Charlotte is the assistant area
43 biologist, and the expectation is she'll become the
44 area biologist in, you know, probably a couple years
45 when she qualifies.

46

47 I've got just a couple things for Fish
48 and Game. I think you probably both are aware of this
49 already, but the first thing I wanted to mention was
50 the Western Arctic Herd's census estimate from 2007 was

1 finalized last spring. The official count was 377,000
2 caribou in the herd. That was as of July 2007. It's
3 down from 490,000 in 2003. The reason it's down is we
4 have seen an increase in adult mortality in recent
5 years. We've seen the continuation of the slow decline
6 in calf survival. That decline goes back 20 years, so
7 that's nothing new. But this increase in adult
8 mortality is new.

9
10 In 2005/2006 we saw 32 percent
11 mortality rate in the collared cows. And you've heard
12 that number before. I've told you both that before.
13 But that was huge. We've never seen anything close to
14 that. In 2006/2007 it went back down to 15 percent
15 mortality, which is what the long-term average has
16 been. But then last year, the year we just finished,
17 came through and we're back up to 22 percent mortality
18 right now, which is going to be -- it's probably going
19 to be the second highest mortality that we've ever
20 seen. So I think that's what's going on.

21
22 You know, this big increase in adult
23 cow mortality, it has a double whammy. Not only do you
24 lose the cows, but you lose their babies, and the
25 babies of their babies and the babies, you know, on and
26 on and on.

27
28 One thing I just wanted to note, that
29 this is not unique to the Western Arctic Herd. You
30 know, we've got other herds, big herds in Alaska that
31 are declining. The Porcupine Herd is slowly going
32 down. They're, I think, under 100,000 now. The
33 Mulchatna Herd is absolutely tanking. They're down 40,
34 50,000. They may have been up as -- you know, as much
35 as 200,000 perhaps. But they're really going down
36 rapidly.

37
38 If this herd has declined at a steady
39 rate from 2007 to 2003, that's about a six percent
40 annual decline. If you look back to the 1970s when
41 this herd declined, it was an 18 percent annual
42 mortality rate. So there's a big difference. Even
43 though we've lost a lot of caribou, it's not doing what
44 it did in the 70s, at least so far.

45
46 Personally, I don't think it's been a
47 steady decline though. I don't think we lost, you
48 know, the same number of caribou for each of those four
49 years, 2003 to 2007. And our mortality estimates that
50 I just gave you, they suggest the same thing, that

1 we've probably had a couple years where adult mortality
2 was really high, and then other years when mortality
3 was just sort of average.

4

5 I don't have any data, you know, that
6 tells me exactly what's going on, but I think what's
7 going on is something we've talked about here and at
8 the Western Arctic Herd Working Group meetings and the
9 AC meetings. We've had a couple years where it got
10 real warm in December/January. We had these mid winter
11 thaws combined with rain, and we had terrible ice in a
12 couple years, and I think that's what's affecting the
13 numbers.

14

15 We're planning to do a census next
16 July, so July of 2009 we're going to try and photograph
17 the herd and hopefully we'll have an estimate by spring
18 of 2010.

19

20 Another thing I just wanted to mention.
21 George Helfrich already beat me to this, but the next
22 user conflict meeting is the end of this month, the
23 29th, 30th, and 31st.

24

25 We're planning a -- I think we're going
26 to census moose this spring in the upper Noatak. That
27 will be National Park Service, BLM, Fish and Wildlife
28 Service, and Fish and Game all working together on
29 that. So I'm pretty sure that's what we're going to do
30 next spring. We did -- those four agencies did the
31 lower Noatak and upper Squirrel last year and we saw no
32 change from the previous two censuses. So it doesn't
33 look like things are getting any worse with moose. If
34 anything, they might be getting slightly better in that
35 we're seeing more calves. But we're still not seeing a
36 lot of cows. But it looks to me like the downward
37 slide that we were on for at least 10 years, it looks
38 like that's stopped. So that's good.

39

40 And that's about it.

41

42 I think -- I can't remember who, but
43 one of you asked about Nova Gold and the Squirrel.
44 Attamuk, you asked that. And they're actually on State
45 land in the Squirrel, that's where their camp is. And
46 they were not active this last summer at all. They
47 didn't have anybody in there. There was no helicopter
48 work. But talking with one of their camp managers this
49 spring, it sounds like they plan to ramp up and get
50 going again next summer.

1 So that's all I have from Fish and
2 Game. Do you have anything you want to.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Jim.
5 Attamuk, any questions.
6
7 ATTAMUK: No.
8
9 MR. DAU: I think Jim Magdanz wanted to
10 say something for Fish and Game, too, so we'll step
11 down and let Jim come up.
12
13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.
14
15 MR. DAU: Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. We'll step
18 down for you to set up.
19
20 (Off record)
21
22 (On record)
23
24 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman. Are we
25 ready?
26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Mr.
28 Magdanz. Thank you.
29
30 MR. MAGDANZ: My name is Jim Magdanz.
31 I'm with the Division of Subsistence at Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game. I'm based here in
33 Kotzebue.
34
35 I have a bunch of different things to
36 talk about today. I passed out some materials to the
37 Council members during a break, and back on the table
38 there are additional copies.
39
40 I want to briefly announce that I have
41 a new boss. The Subsistence Division director position
42 has been vacant since June when Elizabeth Andrews
43 retired. On Monday the commissioner, Denby Lloyd,
44 announced that Craig Fleener is the new director of the
45 Division of Subsistence. He's a life-long Alaskan from
46 Fort Yukon. He's worked extensively with subsistence
47 programs in Fort Yukon. He was with the Council of
48 Athabascan Tribal Governments which administered some
49 of the first tribally-directed subsistence surveys in
50 the State. He's also worked ask an environmental

1 manager, a project coordinator, and a wildlife
2 biologist. So he brings a wealth of experience to us.
3 He is an Athabascan Indian. He's the second Native to
4 be our director. Mary Pete was the first. His first
5 day is today, so I haven't talked to him, but I'm sure
6 he would extend his good wishes to you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: His name again?

9

10 MR. MAGDANZ: Craig Fleener, F-L-E-E-N-
11 E-R.

12

13 A second issue, Attamuk mentioned the
14 fish. We have received three calls this summer and
15 some other information reporting similar incidences of
16 fish. Eugene Smith saw some whitefish at the Aggie
17 River that had gray patches on their wide. Teresa
18 Outwater in Noorvik reported whitefish with patches on
19 them. They looked kind of like spawned-out salmon, the
20 way they get these patches on them. And then Ingham
21 Marmatiason called a couple weeks ago from Ambler where
22 he's fishing for his dog pot and he reported not only
23 whitefish being infected, but sheefish and trout and
24 grayling were involved. And then just the other day I
25 was in Fairbanks and I was mentioning to Fred DiCicco,
26 and he said grayling in the Nome River were also
27 infected this summer. So it's a widespread situation.

28

29

30 We don't have any physical specimens to
31 test, but people have described the symptoms to us, and
32 we circulated a photograph to Eugene and Ingamar, and
33 they have said, yes, this photograph looks like the
34 condition. And what we believe is going on is
35 something that is commonly called a cotton wool
36 disease. It's a fungal infection. It affects salmon,
37 spawned-out salmon will have this, but it does affect
38 other fish and it does sometimes occur in hatcheries.
39 If it is really severe, if it gets into the viscera, a
40 fish may not survive. But if conditions are good, they
41 do survive and heal. It may be related to the low
42 water that we've seen. It may be related to the
43 extreme abundance of salmon. We've had really strong
44 salmon runs. So we've got water, warmer water, lower
45 water, more salmon, and it may be just that it's like a
46 crowded river out there, and these fish are just having
47 a little harder time beating off these infections. So
48 that's what we think it is. There's a page from a fish
49 disease book, I copied it, it's on the back shelf. I
50 passed out a color version to the Council members. So

1 that's what we think is going on.

2

3 There may be people -- I'm sure there
4 are people in this room that know far more about this
5 condition than I do, and so if the Council members have
6 more questions, maybe some of the fish biologists in
7 the room could address those or I can carry them back
8 to our staff.

9

10 The next thing I'd like to talk about
11 is an algae -- what we think was an algae bloom in
12 Hotham Inlet or Kobuk Lake this summer. It was first
13 reported to us in early September by Lucy Nordlum and
14 Alex Whiting at the Kotzebue IRA. Lucy actually
15 collected some samples from Illavak (ph) and brought
16 them over to us. She was initially concerned that it
17 was an industrial chemical, that a barge or a ship had
18 off-loaded something. Since she's just a mile down for
19 the dock there, she thought maybe we had a spill that
20 hadn't been reported.

21

22 We contacted DEC and they contacted a
23 private lab in Anchorage, SGS, to do an analysis and
24 look for hydrocarbons, industrial chemicals, pollutants
25 that had been introduced into the ecosystem. And on
26 the back table there's a report from the lab, we just
27 got this yesterday. Tuesday, day before yesterday.
28 I've also handed it out to you. They tested for the
29 kinds of chemicals that would be associate with a
30 gasoline spill or an oil spill or an antifreeze spill,
31 you know, things that -- not natural chemicals in the
32 environment. And that was negative. there were no
33 detectable levels of any pollutants in the samples that
34 Lucy collected.

35

36 Lucy and I talked about it yesterday,
37 and we did a little bit of quick research on the web.
38 Jim Dau observed while he was flying this fall, a
39 couple weeks after Lucy, he observed what appeared to
40 be an extensive green algae bloom in Hotham Inlet and
41 Kobuk Lake. Miles. Several square miles of what
42 appeared to be an algae bloom on the surface of Kobuk
43 Lake. And when I was duck hunting with my family in
44 mid September, early September actually, walking along
45 the beach there north of Singerachuk (ph), there was
46 what looked like a bathtub ring for a mile along the
47 beach there of just a green, a bright, bright green
48 bathtub ring on Kobuk Lake.

49

50 So we think it's an algae bloom. Most

1 algae blooms are benign. They're triggered by an
2 increase in nutrients like in particular phosphates,
3 but there's -- at this point we don't have dead fish,
4 we don't have any dead animals. There are a few rare
5 conditions, algae, that are toxic. The most famous is
6 red tide. That's not what this is. So at this point
7 we're still -- we're going to see if SGS can analyze
8 the remaining sample to detect the type of algae that's
9 involved. But at this point we think it's algae, but
10 we don't know. We know it's not industrial chemicals.

11
12 There are -- on your agenda -- none of
13 the things I've talked about were on your agenda, so
14 let me turn now to the agenda items.

15
16 I have been funded for two projects
17 recently by the Fisheries Information Service. One of
18 those was started by Susan Georgette an Attamuk some
19 years ago called exploring approaches. It was a
20 planning project, and in that project we went around to
21 each tribal council in the region. We made a
22 presentation and showed them the information that we
23 have about their harvest, and then asked them for their
24 advice on how to assess subsistence harvest in the
25 region. What did they want us to do. Did they want us
26 to do surveys. Did they want paper permits.

27
28 At the last RAC meeting I presented a
29 summary of our findings from that. There is now a
30 report at the printers. The project is basically over.
31 I thought we might have a report here for you today.
32 We don't have the finished, printed report, but that
33 project is over. We'll have a printed report soon.

34
35 The second project is in midstream
36 right now. We're in the field with it. It's called
37 patterns and trends in subsistence harvest in Northwest
38 Alaska. In this project we have collected fish harvest
39 information in six communities here for 11 years. It
40 was a project that Susan Georgette ran when she was
41 with Fish and Game. We surveyed the Kobuk River
42 communities and Noatak from '94 to 2003. During that
43 time we saw salmon harvest decline overall and harvest
44 of other fish, whitefish in particular, increased. And
45 in some communities, the overall harvest increased, in
46 other communities the overall harvest was flat. But
47 there definitely was a change in the mix of species
48 that people harvested.

49
50 We can't afford to survey every village

1 every year. In fact, that project was cut for funding
2 reasons. And so there's an interest in all the
3 agencies in better understanding the patterns and
4 trends in subsistence harvest so that we could sample a
5 smaller number of communities, a smaller -- fewer
6 households in the communities. And have confidence
7 that our estimates were right.

8
9 And so this project is taking that body
10 of data, about 5,000 household surveys, going back to
11 the communities, sitting down with a sample of the
12 households that gave us the data and going over the
13 data with those people, showing them the harvest that
14 they actually reported in each of those 11 years for
15 all four species, and asking them to explain the
16 changes in their own harvest. It's one of the few
17 times that we've ever done something like that where
18 we've actually gone back to the household with data
19 that we collected from that household and asked them to
20 discuss it with us and explained to them, well, you
21 know, your salmon harvest is going down. Is that
22 because your fish camp is eroding? Is that because
23 your kids have grown up and moved away? Is that because
24 you're working now? Was it gas that's more expensive?
25 Just what is it that has caused your harvest to change.

26
27
28 So we were in Noatak in April. This
29 summer Nicky Braum who works with us out of Fairbanks
30 and Hazel Smith with Maniilaq visited the Kobuk River
31 villages, all the villages except Shungnak, and I'll be
32 going to Shungnak in November with Nicky and that will
33 be our last project -- or last piece of fieldwork in
34 that project. And then we'll go into analysis.

35
36 So those are the two projects that I
37 have worked on.

38
39 What I would like to show you know are
40 the draft results of one of the surveys -- well, two of
41 the surveys that we did. This is the title slide for
42 Noatak, but I've actually put in the Kivalina results
43 here, too.

44
45 We were approached a year ago about
46 this time by Steven Braunt (ph) who has been contracted
47 by EPA to do an environmental assessment on subsistence
48 impacts from Red Dog. And the Red Dog Mine is
49 expanding. They want to open up a new pit there. In
50 order to do that, they have to file a supplemental

1 environmental impact statement. And the EPA wanted to
2 have current subsistence harvest information before
3 they did that.

4
5 We surveyed Noatak for salmon until
6 2004, but we hadn't done a comprehensive survey in
7 Noatak since 1994. And in Kivalina we hadn't done a
8 comprehensive survey since 1992. So in both communities
9 it had been more than a decade since we had done a
10 comprehensive survey. So we worked with Maniilaq and
11 with the tribal council in Noatak and with the city
12 council and the tribal council in Kivalina, and
13 surveyed households in both communities in February
14 this year. And this is the results of that project I'd
15 like to show you now.

16
17 What I'm going to talk about is how we
18 do our surveys, then I'll show you the results for
19 Kivalina and Noatak. I'm going to talk about how the
20 harvest that we saw this year compared with harvests in
21 the past, and then just a quick discussion.

22
23 When we do these big, comprehensive
24 surveys, we put together a team that's usually about
25 half village residents and half agency staff. And we
26 had eight Noatak residents that worked on this project
27 and six agency people that came up, including myself.
28 And this is -- we spent two days in orientation going
29 over the survey and practicing giving the survey to one
30 another before we actually go out and do it.

31
32 The survey looks like this, only 12
33 times as many pages. This is a salmon page. It
34 basically asks about most of the species that we expect
35 people will harvest, and we ask how many they caught
36 and how they caught them.

37
38 In Kivalina we surveyed 51 percent of
39 the households, 42 of 81 households. In Noatak we
40 surveyed 90 of 119 households. So Noatak in particular
41 was a large effort, more than twice as many households
42 as we got in Kivalina. It's a bigger community. They
43 haven't been surveyed so much before. You see we had
44 19 percent of the households in Kivalina declined.
45 Kivalina has been the focus of lots of attention
46 because of their erosion problems and so we didn't
47 sample -- there were people there who just said, you
48 know, I've been surveyed enough.

49
50 MR. HELFRICH: Jim, what is no contact?

1 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, there may be a
2 household that's out of town, and we're there for a
3 week and they're not. And so that's a no contact?

4
5 MR. HELFRICH: And then how about not
6 available? That's different from no contact?

7
8 MR. MAGDANZ: There were households in
9 Kivalina that said, well, I can't do it today, but I'll
10 do it tomorrow. And then there were -- you go tomorrow
11 and they say, well, rally you should do this with
12 Wally, but she's working, and maybe you could come back
13 the next day. And it just never quite happened.

14
15 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay. So we didn't
18 survey every household, but we want to estimate the
19 total harvest for the community so we can compare it
20 with past years. And so to do that, if we survey half
21 the households, to be real simple about it, we double
22 our reported harvest and that is our estimate. We
23 don't do that unless we survey at least 30 households.
24 In both cases we had 30. And when we survey at least
25 30, we make the assumption that our surveyed and
26 unsurveyed households are similar. And then we check
27 that assumption by reviewing the results and comparing
28 the results that we have with other data for the
29 community and looking for patterns that we typically
30 see. And if we see the patterns that we typically see
31 in fully censused communities where we do talk to
32 everybody, it gives us confidence that our estimates
33 are right.

34
35 We don't know, but it gives us a degree
36 of confidence. When we publish our results, we will
37 say usually plus or minus 10 or 20 or 30 percent based
38 on the characteristics of the households that we talked
39 to. We have higher confidence in our estimates when we
40 talk to everybody, obviously, and when most households
41 harvest subsistence food, we're pretty confident that
42 everybody's doing it, we feel better about expanding.
43 We're not so confident in our estimates when we don't
44 survey as many households and only a few households
45 harvest subsistence foods. But up here most of the
46 time we survey most households.

47
48 Most households are active, but there
49 are a few exceptions. In this project, whales were an
50 important exception. There was a huge beluga harvest

1 last summer, in 2007. We knew from the Beluga
2 Commission what those harvests were. And rather than
3 try to estimate, especially in Kivalina where we only
4 had half the households, we just went to the Beluga
5 Commission and said, how many beluga did Kivalina take,
6 how many beluga did Noatak take, and those are the
7 numbers that we used.

8

9 So I'll show you Noatak's results and
10 then I'll show you Kivalina's results.

11

12 This is the 2007 harvest of the
13 different categories in Noatak. Our total estimate was
14 191,000 pounds of wild food for Noatak. An average
15 household harvest of 1600 pounds, average per person of
16 364 pounds. Fish and shellfish were the number 1 --
17 the largest amount of the harvest, followed by land
18 mammals and marine mammals. And those little whisker
19 lines, the black and white lines, those are the
20 confidence intervals around the point estimate. So for
21 fish and shellfish it was about plus or minus 20
22 percent.

23

24 This is arranged in the order of
25 harvest, the top 10 subsistence foods for Noatak.
26 Caribou was number 1, trout, chum salmon. So this you
27 see on the right is the confidence interval. And here
28 is a graph that shows you the same thing.

29

30 What we find when we do these surveys
31 is that 10 species, more or less, usually account for
32 about 90 percent of the harvest. And so if we get
33 those 10, we're pretty confident that we have a good
34 idea of the harvest. We actually asked about 40
35 species, but these 10 rose to the top.

36

37 And we also ask about income. Rather
38 than look at the table, I'll take you right to the
39 chart. The biggest source of income was local
40 governments in Noatak, followed by mining, Native
41 corporation dividends, and then services, which would
42 be like health services, and then the Alaska permanent
43 fund. Local governments includes the school.

44

45 In Kivalina, marine mammals were the
46 biggest part of the harvest. The total community
47 harvest was estimated to be about 255,000 pounds, and
48 the average per person was 594,000 pounds. And again
49 the bars are the confidence intervals. Bearded seal
50 was the biggest single contributor to the subsistence

1 harvest followed by trout. Oops, it looks like I'm
2 missing that slide. I edited this just before we got
3 here. So bearded seal, trout, caribou, beluga whale
4 and tom cod were the top five species in Kivalina. And
5 then ring seals, salmonberries. It was a tremendous
6 year for salmonberries, all berries last year. Salmon
7 and blackberries and moose round out the top 10.

8
9 The income. Again, local governments
10 followed by Native corporation dividends and mining.
11 And so NANA's role here in the region, and you figure
12 that the school districts are funded in part by income
13 from the Red Dog Mine through the borough. So the
14 local governments, the Native corporation dividends and
15 mining were over half of the income in Kivalina.

16
17 Now, this compares what we found in
18 2007 with the last good data point we have. And there
19 -- it's quite a bit of similarity as you can see.
20 There's a little higher harvest of fish, the blue line
21 there for the fish, the blue column is the 2007 data,
22 and the wide hatched column is '94. And trout
23 increased, bearded seal increased, whitefish increased.
24 And at the other end of the scale, caribou and salmon
25 decreased. Those were the species that changed the
26 most in Noatak.

27
28 This compares the total community
29 harvest between '94 and 2007. Harvests were
30 increasing, this is just statistically. Harvests vary
31 from year to year, of course, but if in fact the
32 harvest were on that red line, they were increasing
33 about 1,000 pound or 1 percent per year, which is not a
34 very large increase.

35
36 Over time the population in Noatak has
37 increased quite a bit. The 1990 census was 333, in
38 2000 it was 428, and in 2007 our estimate was 526. And
39 so the population is increasing by about 10 people a
40 year, almost 3 percent, while the harvest per person is
41 declining by about 1.6 percent per year. So as the
42 population increases, the subsistence harvest per
43 person is going down at a similar rate.

44
45 This is Kivalina. Again there are
46 changes, but they're not major. A few more marine
47 mammals, a few less land mammals, a few less fish and
48 shellfish. Berries and greens were almost twice what
49 they were in '92. The changes there, an increase in
50 bearded seal, a dramatic increase in bearded seal, an

1 increase in beluga, but a decline in bowhead and
2 walrus. It didn't get a bowhead in 2007. In 1992 they
3 did get a small bowhead in Kivalina, and so that showed
4 up in our old data.

5
6 This is the chart that is most
7 fascinating to me, and is really -- this is the one
8 that I wanted to show you and it's the reason I'm
9 showing you all the rest of this stuff. We have data
10 for Kivalina that goes back to 1964. It was collected
11 during Project Chariot by Tiger Birch. And they
12 estimated in 1964 and '65 harvest of 233,000 and
13 269,000 pounds for the community. In '82 and '83 when
14 our division was first established, we hired Tiger
15 Birch to go back to Kivalina and replicate his '64 and
16 '65 study. It's some of the oldest, reliable
17 subsistence harvest data in the -- for the whole state,
18 if not the most. And his estimates for those two years
19 were 210,000 and 253,000. In 1992 Kivalina was
20 selected as a control community for the Exxon Valdez
21 oil spill studies. It was not oiled, so any changes
22 that occurred in the harvests there presumably be not
23 related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. And our
24 estimates in '92 was 261,000. Now in 2007 we've come
25 back and our estimate was 255. That line across there
26 couldn't be flatter statistically speaking. The trend
27 in harvest for Kivalina was increasing about 168 pounds
28 a year over more than 40 years. 43 years. .1 percent
29 per year. Very stable overall harvest. Now, I don't
30 know if other communities look like this or not. But
31 it's very interesting to me that it would be so stable
32 over time as a total harvest.

33
34 As a manager of wild resources, that
35 gives you some comfort that even as these villages
36 increase in size, their demands on the local wild
37 resources have been fairly stable.

38
39 Here's Kivalina's population. In 1970
40 the census estimate there was 188. I think it was
41 actually about 150 when they did the surveys in '64 and
42 '65. And we estimate 430 in 2007. On the right
43 there's the per capita harvest. And so if you're
44 looking at it, you know, statistically, you would say
45 that the population changes explain the changes we see
46 in per capita harvest. But, you know, kind of
47 practically, it's a fascinating question about just how
48 is it this whole system stays so balanced.

49
50 Here are all of the comprehensive

1 surveys that we have, and the trend line that best
2 explains the changes in those harvests over time. More
3 recently it appears that harvests are changing less
4 than they did initially. We don't have very many early
5 data points, but we have -- you know, Kivalina is our
6 best early data, but we don't see as much change in the
7 recent years as we do in those early years.

8
9 I've also put a line on there to mark
10 about the time when snow machines were introduced in
11 Northwest Alaska, about 1975. And when we asked people
12 how much did you harvest, it includes dog food. So
13 harvests in those early years, in '64 and '65 had --
14 the biggest difference is ring seals, and those were in
15 large part dog food.

16
17 A few final comments and then I'll try
18 to answer some of your questions. Although we didn't
19 survey every household, the patterns of harvest were
20 similar to harvests in the past in these communities
21 and in other communities, and so we feel fairly
22 confident that we have a good sample. The confidence
23 intervals, that is our estimate plus or minus for all
24 resources in Kivalina is plus or minus 23 percent, in
25 Noatak plus or minus 18 percent. Even if we talked to
26 90 percent of the households, our confidence intervals
27 are still on the order of plus or minus 10 percent. So
28 we feel pretty good about the confidence intervals that
29 we have.

30
31 And for the lowest -- we have the least
32 confidence for the species that were harvested by only
33 a few households. For Kivalina our confidence interval
34 for moose was plus or minus 81 percent. For Noatak,
35 the three walrus, plus or minus 99 percent. That's
36 what happens when very few households harvest. We just
37 aren't sure what's happening with the rest of the
38 sample.

39
40 In Noatak, the community harvest, the
41 total community harvest have slightly increased, but
42 within the range of our estimates. And in Kivalina
43 virtually no change. And to us this suggests that the
44 harvest levels in those two communities are
45 ecologically sustainable. The per person harvests in
46 both communities were declining about 1.6 percent per
47 year, and the rates of decline were identical in Noatak
48 and Kivalina. And we don't know why this happened. We
49 can speculate, and you can, too, about improved
50 transportation, for example, but speaking from our

1 survey, we don't ask people why their harvest changed,
2 we simply document what we find, what they did harvest.

3
4 So that -- I think I've used up all my
5 time and a little bit more, so, Mr. Chairman, I'll turn
6 it over back to you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Attamuk.

9
10 ATTAMUK: Yeah, Jim, I'm pretty much
11 happy with your survey here. You're right, they
12 harvest a lot less caribou and salmon. The last time
13 Susan and I did it, due to they have a lot less dog
14 team, and that's why it increase.

15
16 That Tiger Birch survey you talked
17 about, I've seen that survey he did, and it was done
18 also at Point Hope. They use a lot for dog feed at the
19 time.

20
21 MR. MAGDANZ: Right.

22
23 ATTAMUK: And I still have his book.
24 He gave me a copy. And I'm really happy with this
25 survey. But I would like to see it done, but the
26 reason why your effectiveness on households, I think
27 Susan's and I's approach was a little bit different.
28 We hired someone, and we told them per household survey
29 you get paid. And that's why I think our survey was
30 more effective, you know, they get paid by per
31 household. So in order for them to get that \$20, they
32 had to keep going back until they get it. I think if
33 you hired someone, I think your survey would increase.

34
35 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, that is how we did
36 it. We paid \$50 a household because it was a longer
37 survey, so the surveyors got paid per household. Our
38 problem in Kivalina was that we came in right after a
39 big mapping project that was paying the households I
40 think it was \$200 per household. So there we were.
41 But you're right, Attamuk, that is how we do it. It's
42 an excellent approach.

43
44 ATTAMUK: I just got one more. You
45 said in some places -- I mean, the take of harvest is
46 decreasing. Did you look into this -- since people are
47 working in Red Dog, a lot of them, the younger ones,
48 are moving away from the villages, because it's a lot
49 cheaper for them to make their money last longer when
50 they move to Anchorage or Fairbanks, away from the

1 villages. Did you look into that process to see why
2 they -- because, you know, the take is less due to they
3 moved away.

4

5 MR. MAGDANZ: In this survey, no. This
6 was a straight harvest survey. But in the patterns and
7 trends project, those are exactly the kinds of
8 questions that we ask is, you know, why did your
9 harvest go down? Was it because you were working? You
10 know, was it because gas prices have gone up? You
11 know, what is affecting your harvest. So not in this
12 project, but in this one that we're working on, we do
13 ask that.

14

15 ATTAMUK: Okay. I've got another one
16 here. I've seen this also when I went all the way up
17 to Selawik with a boat twice this summer. I've see
18 this in both sides of the Kobuk Lake and the Kokopuk up
19 there, both sides also. The fish I'm talking about in
20 Aggie and the fins. On the whitefish and the rainbow
21 trout and the trout, where the fins practically
22 deteriorated. And you know those four or five bones in
23 the top fin, that's about all that would be left on
24 both the bottom, toward the head, and the one in the
25 middle, and the tail is practically gone. And this is
26 -- and I've got to learn how to take a camera, but all
27 I could do is tell you that this is what's happening at
28 Aggie. There's hardly anything left in their fins.
29 The worst one this summer that I've seen where the top
30 fin, there's practically nothing except that main bone
31 right there. The fins are gone, and that membrane that
32 goes between the fins, there's nothing on them.

33

34 MR. MAGDANZ: Photographs would be
35 really helpful, so Teresa said she would send us some.
36 We haven't received those, but certainly if you're --
37 if you have a digital camera with you, by all means
38 take pictures. And if the conditions are such, if
39 you're coming back to town and you see it, you know,
40 put a fish in a bag and bring it back to us and we can
41 send it out and try to figure out what's going on.

42

43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Jim.

44

45 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
46 Attamuk.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Susan Bucknell.

49

50 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

1 Attamuk. Yeah, I just have a minute. Susan Bucknell
2 for the record, Fish and Game Kotzebue.

3
4 Attamuk, I was down in Norton Sound and
5 on the El Dorado River there was a lot of grayling with
6 -- they're moldy looking. They're really just what
7 you're describing, yeah, just like eating into them.
8 So a lot of them down there, too.

9
10 I'm Susan Bucknell. I work with the
11 State Fish and Game Advisory Committees. One thing I
12 do is relay to them any RAC proposals that are
13 relevant, to get the AC comments on them, too, and kind
14 of work back and forth that way.

15
16 Another thing I do is get the AC's to
17 give their testimony, get their information to the
18 Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries. And that
19 brings me around to what Jim mentioned. Craig Fleener
20 is going to go work for Subsistence Division, which
21 means there's going to be a vacancy on the Alaska Board
22 of Game. And it's a seven-member board. Historically,
23 they kind of try and keep a balance between different
24 areas of the State and different interests, although
25 it's not set up with certain seats. In the past Walter
26 Sampson and Sarah Scanlin are two people from this
27 region who've been on the Board of Game. There may be
28 others I can't think of right now. And they're
29 appointed by the Governor, it's not like a public
30 nomination process. But if there are names from people
31 around here that anyone would like to suggest, call me
32 and I'll relay those names to the Executive Director of
33 the Board of Game down in Juneau, and just get local
34 people's names on the list.

35
36 That's all. Mr. Chair. Attamuk.

37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Sandy
39 Rabinowitch or -- yeah, come on, Sandy.

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you. Excuse
42 me. Thank you. Mr. Chairman. Attamuk.

43
44 Just a quick item, and let me pass
45 these out to you here. This is just a quick
46 informational item. There's copies on the back table
47 for anyone else who would be interested. The National
48 Park Service a little less than a year ago got a
49 request from the Eastern Interior Regional Council that
50 was directed, not to the Federal Subsistence Board, but

1 to the National Park Service to allow the collection of
2 either shed or discarded horns and antlers.
3 Technically it's not allowed for people to pick up
4 discarded or shed, naturally shed horn or antler in
5 national park area. And so the Eastern Interior asked
6 the Park Service to change that regulation and
7 essentially allow that.

8

9 So this little one-page scoping letter
10 just explains the purpose and need, some potential
11 alternatives, and the possible outcomes. So this is at
12 the beginning stages of a process. It's the NEPA
13 process that I think you're all pretty familiar with.
14 The Park Service is going to do an environmental
15 assessment on this. We're just at the beginning stages
16 of doing that.

17

18 The first step that we did undertake is
19 we took this request to the seven Subsistence Resource
20 Commissions, including two here in this region. If I
21 remember right, Attamuk, you were at a meeting that I
22 was at here six months or eight months ago, whenever.
23 And so we shared it with each of the Subsistence
24 Resource Commissions and got their input. That was our
25 first step.

26

27 And then we're going to begin to write
28 this environmental assessment. That's the second step.

29

30 The third possible step would be to
31 change the regulation, so we would write a proposed
32 regulation and circulate that. And then ultimately
33 potentially change our regulation, which may or may not
34 happen. Of course, that's what the assessment's all
35 about.

36

37 So that's it very quickly. I just want
38 to make sure you're aware of it. You can look this
39 over. If you have questions, on the back side at the
40 bottom where it says contacts, there's contact
41 information for myself and other people. You could
42 call or email to any of us on that list. Several of
43 those names you'll recognize, of course. And we'd e
44 happy to take questions or any input. I don't need any
45 action from you today. I just want to make sure you're
46 aware that this is going on.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Attamuk.

49

50 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I remember this report

1 that was given to us. Okay. Thanks.

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. LeeAnn

6 Ayres.

7

8 MS. AYRES: Thank you. Mr. Chair. My

9 name is LeeAnn Ayres with the Selawik Wildlife Refuge.

10 And I'd like to update you on a couple resource

11 projects that we've been working on this last year, as

12 well as Susan is going to help kind of update you on

13 where we are in the process of updating our refuge

14 management plan. And also Patrick Snow, the assistant

15 refuge manager, is going to share with you some of the

16 information from this fall hunting activity on the

17 refuge and in the region.

18

19 So the first project I'd like to just

20 touch on is the avian influenza monitoring that the

21 agency's been doing, the bird flu project here. This

22 last summer, in July, there were a number of folks that

23 came up and worked with people here to capture tundra

24 swans in the region, and they basically did some

25 capture work of molting swans in the Noatak Flats area,

26 delta area, in the Kobuk delta and the Buckland River

27 mouth. And they were able to sample approximately 200

28 swans in this region. And the results from those have

29 been negative for any of the active H5N1 virus. So

30 that continues to be good news for Alaska and for this

31 region as far as monitoring efforts.

32

33 And I was just talking with one of the

34 investigators, and on the back table there's some maps

35 of a website that the Alaska Science Center puts out

36 that actually has the article or kind of updates on the

37 birds, and they planted -- they put in five satellite

38 transmitters in the swans this year, and their

39 locations are posted on that website for folks to

40 follow. And as of now, the birds from this area that

41 left in late September are already in Alberta. So if

42 people would like to kind of watch and see how the

43 birds from this region end up mixing with a lot of

44 other birds from the state and the migration routes

45 that they use down to their wintering areas, that's

46 available for folks. And for everybody who's kind of

47 swamp with different websites and places to look for

48 these, the website's right on the printout back there

49 for folks.

50

1 And I think we'll continue to see this
2 project going on in the region. Tundra swans have
3 ended up being kind of on the top priority for the
4 avian influenza monitoring. A lot of -- overall the
5 program is kind of winding down a little bit from its
6 initial start, and they're focusing just on the really
7 high priority species that they feel are most likely to
8 be either carriers or good species for detecting it.
9 And tundra swans, they have found some positive cases
10 for them in eastern Asia and in the UK, so that's --
11 we're likely to see that project continuing on up here.

12
13 And the other species that they are
14 still interested in are pintails, and we've kind of --
15 don't quite have as many of those in the region or in
16 areas that are as accessible for them to do the banding
17 work in. But the tundra swan project will be one that
18 we'll be likely to continue to be reporting to you
19 about here the next few years.

20
21 And another project, research project,
22 that I think we're real excited about is our continuing
23 work with sheefish on the Selawik and also in the
24 Kobuk. I noticed Jim brought in a handout on the
25 update for the joint project on the Kobuk sheefish
26 telemetry and monitoring project back there. That's a
27 joint one with the Park Service, the Alaska Department
28 of Fish and Game, and the Fish and Wildlife Service
29 that's supported here in the region.

30
31 And their objectives for that project
32 are to determine the timing and migration and spawning
33 frequency of sheefish in that drainage, and so that
34 will be continuing on. They put in radio tags in a 150
35 sheefish this year, and found major concentrations of
36 spawning sheefish to be upstream of the Maniilaq River
37 and downstream from the Reed River. And the other one
38 of -- one of the objectives as I mentioned was looking
39 at the timing of spawning. And they found out most of
40 the sheefish in that area had spawned by October 1st.
41 So they plan on continuing this and putting on some
42 more transmitters next year on that project.

43
44 And the last sheefish project I'd like
45 to update you on is one that involves a pilot study on
46 the Selawik that we did this year. Ray Hander from the
47 fisheries office in Fairbanks has been working in the
48 region here with us for the last few years, was joined
49 by Chris Zimmerman (ph) of USGS. And one of the things
50 that they were interested in looking at was the effect

1 of that slump on the upper Selawik, the sedimentation
2 coming from that, its effect on spawning sheefish that
3 -- or the spawning grounds are just right downstream
4 from it. So this is one that I think it has some
5 really interesting kind of regional implications as we
6 see more of this type of activity in our rivers in the
7 region, the thall slumps and the permafrost --
8 thermacost (ph) activity. We were interested in what
9 that sedimentation or silting of the river would do to
10 the eggs, the spawning eggs or the spawning fish right
11 below it.

12

13 So what they went to do this year was
14 just pretty much a pilot project to see how successful
15 they'd be in actually identifying some of the egg --
16 places where the eggs were actually being deposited and
17 whether they could catch some of those eggs in the
18 water channel. And they were, so they are interested
19 in putting in a proposal, possibly one that will come
20 before this group with the FIS funding for the coming
21 year. And their objective will be to look and see how
22 that sedimentation affects the viability of those eggs
23 and sheefish in those conditions.

24

25 And I guess the last project, to just
26 give you a little bit of an update, is the telemetry
27 work that they did last year with -- if you remember,
28 we had some sheefish that were seen up in the Tag River
29 with kind of the interest being that they hadn't really
30 identified any spawning areas on the Tag for sheefish
31 before. And so last year they put in a number, about
32 30 transmitters in fish there, and they were watching
33 them this year to see if they returned and if they
34 could actually kind of pinpoint any additional spawning
35 grounds for sheefish in the Selawik drainage. Well,
36 this year, as other folks have mentioned, we had that
37 really low water, and they did not see any spawning
38 activity in the Tag. And some of those fish actually
39 ended up on the Selawik River spawning grounds. So
40 they weren't able to determine whether they would be
41 returning up there, but plan on continuing watching
42 those next year. But I think that the extreme low
43 water might have had something to do with their kind of
44 absence from that drainage or that river part.

45

46 And I guess with that I'll turn it over
47 to Susan and let her update you on our plans with
48 revising our refuge management plan, called our
49 Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

50

1 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you. Mr. Chair
2 and Attamuk. The Selawik Refuge has a management plan
3 that's about 20 years old now. And we're supposed to
4 update them every 15 years. And so right now our
5 refuge, as well as other refuges in Alaska, are getting
6 updated management plans.

7
8 And as part of this -- or at this point
9 in it, we're trying to solicit public input about what
10 issues people would like us to address in the
11 management plan. And LeeAnn handed out to you a sheet.
12 This is part of a newsletter that's going to get mailed
13 out to the whole region. But it talks about some of
14 the topics that people might be interested in.

15
16 LeeAnn and I and Clyde Ramus spent last
17 week in Selawik at the city council meeting and the
18 tribal council meeting and talking to all sorts of
19 community members and NANA board members, Maniilaq
20 board members, search and rescue folks about what
21 issues they would be interested in. And we weren't
22 surprised at what we heard for the most part. We spend
23 enough time there to know. People talked about
24 beavers, of course, and the impact that has on fishing
25 and water quality. People talked about the Singauruk
26 Bridge, which there's a picture of on the bottom, and
27 if you've been between Noorvik and Selawik on that
28 bridge, you'll know what the problem with it is, which
29 is that it's too steep, the approach is.

30
31 And people talked about trail staking.
32 There's a lot of opinion over what kind of trail stakes
33 we should use in our region. There was some interest
34 in a direct trail from Selawik to the hot springs
35 instead of via Shungnak. There was interest in perhaps
36 a staked trail south to the Selawik Hills where people
37 hunt.

38
39 We asked people what they thought about
40 our research, putting transmitters in sheefish and all,
41 what LeeAnn was talking about. And everyone we talked
42 to at least was fine with that. They thought it was
43 great to learn more about our fish.

44
45 And we also heard -- oh, we also asked
46 people about what their views were about the Fish and
47 Wildlife Service promoting more visitor use of the
48 refuge, you know, making rental cabins or boat launches
49 or anything really. And at least in Selawik, most
50 people really liked it how it is. They like the hands

1 off kind of policy of not really developing a lot of
2 facilities that would promote more visitor use.

3

4 In the next couple months we're going
5 to be doing a similar work in Buckland, Kiana, Noorvik,
6 the upper Kobuk, and then do something in Kotzebue.
7 We've pretty much avoided having a traditional public
8 meeting which is usually not that productive we find,
9 but instead going to existing meetings and also talking
10 to people individually who are interested in the
11 issues.

12

13 So that's all I have right now.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Attamuk.

16

17 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Thanks. I have a
18 couple for LeeAnn here. On your flu there, I know
19 Congress funded three years ago 8.3 billion or 8.4
20 billion. And half of it would -- on the western world
21 on the other side, a little more than half. Are they
22 planning to fund more for the avian flu? Because I
23 know when I access it on the web site, that on the
24 other side that some swans did die and there was a note
25 in there that maybe cats got it, and I never hear
26 nothing or seen anything yet on it on the other side of
27 the world here where our swans come here.

28

29 And on your pintails, when you're going
30 to do surveys, you say you have a hard time. I would
31 advise you to look for your pintails, they mostly stay
32 together just when they're laying their eggs. I know
33 an area where you could down the coast. I'll go to
34 your office and mark some bays further down the coast
35 and the one towards there, and on the other side where
36 they band together just for this time they lay their
37 eggs if you're going to do a study on them, because
38 those are one of the birds that survive up this way
39 just mostly like our seagulls.

40

41 And I still have interest of what the
42 avian flu and the other flu, because a few years ago,
43 the first one that -- not a virus, killed a few
44 reindeer down in the Lower 48 before they get to
45 Canada, and they told me they will not survive if they
46 get 70 degrees or 68 degrees of warmer in our region.
47 I said -- they said I didn't have to worry about, but
48 they're wrong. We get more than 68 degrees here
49 summertime. Sometimes we do. This is an exceptional
50 year, we're never there.

1 Anyhow, good work, you two, and thanks.

2

3 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Attamuk.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I don't have any
6 questions. Thank you.

7

8 MS. AYRES: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Patrick.

11

12 MR. SNOW: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

13 Attamuk. Patrick Snow, assistant manager of the

14 Selawik Refuge in Kotzebue here.

15

16 I gave you each a handout, and if I
17 could get you to turn to Page 2 first actually, I have
18 compiled a number of locations that were taken from
19 various agencies throughout the area. A lot of these
20 locations were gathered by Dan Stevenson of the
21 National Park Service, Jim Dau, Department of Fish and
22 Game, Eric Lohring, the fish and wildlife protection
23 officer for the State of Alaska, as well as our own law
24 enforcement officers. And they gave them to us in
25 order to accumulate and place on a map. A lot of these
26 can be camp locations that might have been counted
27 twice, and some of them are camp locations that were
28 used more than once. So they're not necessarily
29 indicative of the number of hunters out there, but they
30 are more indicative of the areas that were hunted this
31 year.

32

33 As far as our efforts on the refuge, we
34 initially had a few law enforcement officers and dual
35 function officer/pilots that were supposed to be
36 patrolling the refuge, although one of the law
37 enforcement officers got called to another duty and one
38 had dislocated his shoulder and was unable to fly. So
39 we were able to call a third from Anchorage. So we had
40 LeeAnn and myself acting as observers, and a pilot came
41 up from McGrath, and we flew a few days of observation.
42 We had Kevin Fox come up from Anchorage, who used to be
43 the assistant manager here before I was, and he flew
44 for about a week in the area. We had the National Park
45 Service pilot, Mike Hink, also assist us by bringing
46 our law enforcement officer from Soldotna out to the
47 field, and the law enforcement officer from Soldotna
48 also did some ramp checks.

49

50 And it was a very quiet year on the

1 refuge. As you can see, we had located six camp
2 locations on the refuge and there was one camp location
3 right off the refuge, about three miles south of the
4 border on BLM lands that we monitored. And about half
5 the camps were contacted. They looked good. They were
6 clean. They were dropped off by permitted transporters
7 or guides. And no citations were given this year.

8
9 On the first page we have estimated
10 numbers of clients and game taken. The transporters
11 and guides are not required to give their progress
12 reports until November 1, and I just gave them a call,
13 let them know they weren't under an obligation, but
14 they did give me some estimates of the clients and the
15 animals taken. And that's what we have here on the top
16 graph. As far as hunters transported to the field,
17 about 26. And below the primary species that were
18 gathered were moose and caribou. And I think one of
19 the transporters said maybe a couple of black bear were
20 taken as well.

21
22 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I've got -- on your
23 camp locations there, on your X marked them there, you
24 have the one, that upper Cutler that drains off from
25 those mountains there from Ambler and Kobuk area. Is
26 that just somebody that's a dropped-off hunter right
27 there, way up the Cutler?

28
29 MR. SNOW: That was a location that
30 might have been taken by Dan Stevenson from the
31 National Park Service. Again, this is a map that I
32 gathered all the way points and we processed the map,
33 but the data were actually collected by a number of
34 different agencies. And that was one that we didn't
35 collect, so possibly Dan Stevenson.

36
37 MS. AYRES: I don't know if Dan's still
38 here, but, Attamuk, I would.....

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Yeah, I can
41 answer that if you want. There's actually two lakes up
42 there, Attamuk, and they're flown in by float plane.
43 Northwestern uses that site and Buck used to use that
44 site, too. And the hunters are dropped on those lakes
45 to hunt on the upper Cutler.

46
47 ATTAMUK: Okay. The reason why I asked
48 is a couple years ago I testified that they were
49 dropping off hunters there, about six planeloads,
50 including their little boat with about 20 gallons of

1 gas. And that's where they told me they were going.
2 They were so proud. I'm glad they didn't know who they
3 were talking to. And I asked Buck, a guide. And they
4 were back this summer. And Buck, his idea was to keep
5 away from us, that way his dropped-off hunters wouldn't
6 be interfered with us. I see Buck's point of view,
7 he's trying to help us, yet to me that's still wrong,
8 because that's the migration of the caribou starts
9 right around and they go through Walker Lake, the end
10 of the Noatak River. And I've been there before, and
11 that X spot, that furthest one up north, by dog team.
12 And the reason why I say that, I've seen caribou there.
13 But, you know, that's why we're being affected on some
14 years when the migration of the caribou changes. Like
15 this year it's a little bit different, because of that
16 10,000 herd that crossed around Noatak and Noorvik
17 wasn't the main herd.

18

19 And, yes, thanks for this information.
20 It's very helpful for me to use in the future. But
21 that -- to me, that's a lot of camp, and a lot of it is
22 not in the river. That's well away, and it's in the
23 headwaters, like the Kugururok and the Kelly, and
24 Napaktualuit and those other places. These are the
25 headwaters on the left side of this map here. I could
26 see it, I'm from Noatak. Just by looking at, I know
27 exactly where they're at. And the ones that are
28 further north is well over 20 miles from the river.
29 That's a long ways. So and when we're in the river
30 trying to wait, they are changing the migration. And
31 that's just the reason why I say that someone out there
32 that have an interest in our conflict could hear what
33 we're saying. And these are routes that are now coming
34 out.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. AYRES: And this is LeeAnn Ayres.

39

40 And one of the objectives of this map,
41 and it's really a joint, you know, effort by a number
42 of all the agencies here, is to try and help get that
43 snapshot of where activity is in the whole -- in the
44 region. And, you know, we're trying different things.
45 We were really fortunate in 2006 to have a lot of State
46 presence here and law enforcement folks out in the
47 field. Since that time, you know, we haven't had that.
48 And some of the agencies, you know, like the Park
49 Service has put an incredible effort into monitoring
50 activity there, and we're doing a fair amount on the

1 refuge through our permit program. But we're trying to
2 kind of figure out a way of looking at this whole
3 region, you know, like the Squirrel and some of these
4 other areas, to help kind of monitor that snapshot of
5 where activity is in the region. And so you can have
6 input at places like the upcoming GMU 23 Working Group
7 when we're talking about how to manage and where do we
8 want to encourage people to go and where do we want to
9 discourage, you know, outside activity or commercial
10 activity from being. So ideas of how we can improve
11 this and if it's helpful and what's a good way of
12 getting this information is really helpful for us to
13 know, you know, how much more continued effort to put
14 into providing this type of a snapshot for you.

15

16 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Thanks.

17

18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have one question.
19 Shooting range.

20

21 MR. SNOW: Yes.

22

23 MS. AYRES: Yes, we need one.

24

25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. No more
26 comments.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MS. AYRES: It's still on the list,
31 Victor.

32

33 MR. SNOW: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We'll stand down for
36 five minutes so that North Pacific Fisheries Council
37 can set up.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Good afternoon. Go
44 ahead. Thanks.

45

46 DR. STRAM: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
47 Members of the Council. Thank you for having us. My
48 name is Diana Stram. I'm a fisheries analyst on staff
49 with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

50

1 With me are two of our council members,
2 Mr. Duncan Fields and Mr. Gerry Merrigan. They're
3 going to introduce themselves to you to provide you a
4 little information on their background, and then I'll
5 walk you through the presentation that we have for you
6 today.

7
8 I would also call your attention to a
9 couple of items that are available in the back of the
10 room, as well as I passed them out to you. A copy of
11 the PowerPoint, a booklet that I'll refer to in a few
12 minutes on our Council process, and the flyer that you
13 received in advance.

14
15 I would also introduce Gretchen
16 Harrington with the National Marine Fisheries Service
17 who is also here.

18
19 MR. FIELDS: Good morning. Mr.
20 Chairman. Nice to be in Kotzebue. I'm from Kodiak
21 Island. I fished there for about 50 years at our
22 salmon set gillnet site for salmon and done some other
23 fishing there. We also owned a processing plant in
24 Kodiak for about 20 years.

25
26 In the winter, professionally I'm an
27 attorney and I work with the Native villages around
28 Kodiak Island on fisheries issues. And I've been on
29 the North Pacific Council now for about a year.

30
31 MR. MERRIGAN: Mr. Chairman. Members
32 of the Council. My name is Gerry Merrigan. I'm from
33 Petersburg, Alaska. I've been on the North Pacific
34 Council about a year and a half. I've been commercial
35 fishing since 1981, mostly salmon trawl and then
36 halibut longline in small boat fishing, and I also work
37 for a Bering Sea company that fishes cod with hook and
38 line gear in the Bering Sea for P. cod.

39
40 So it's a pleasure. My first time in
41 Kotzebue, and I think my first time above the Arctic
42 Circle.

43
44 DR. STRAM: Okay. Mr. Chairman. I'll
45 walk you through this and all four of us are available
46 for questions as you have them.

47
48 The first is just to give you an
49 indication of who we are. The North Pacific Fishery
50 Management Council jointly manages the Federal

1 fisheries with the National Marine Fisheries Service.
2 And Federal fisheries then are all fisheries 3 to 200
3 miles off shore. This is in both the Bering Sea, the
4 Aleutian Islands, as well as the Gulf of Alaska. So
5 we're primarily talking about the major ground fish
6 species such as pollock, cod, rockfish, sable fish. We
7 make allocative decisions for halibut. We also have
8 shared management with the State of Alaska for the
9 Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands crab species. So the
10 major species, for snow crab, Bristol Bay red king
11 crab, tanner crab, all those species are also jointly
12 managed. And then we also have joint management for
13 the Alaska scallop fisheries.

14
15 The North Pacific Council, to provide
16 you a little bit of background, we have 15 members. Of
17 those 11 are voting members, and four are non-voting
18 members.

19
20 The booklet that I provided for you,
21 which is called Navigating the North Pacific Council
22 Process is to provide you kind of an overview of the
23 Council process in general, who the voting members are,
24 what the meeting schedules are, how the process itself
25 works.

26
27 So just to briefly indicate to you
28 then, we have 11 voting members. We have five meetings
29 per year. These meetings are organized in order to
30 make decisions on our various fishery management plans.
31 Again that's for crab, for scallop, for ground fish in
32 the Bering Sea, as well as in the Gulf of Alaska. And
33 so each of the meetings then, different decisions,
34 different analyses are prepared and put forward to the
35 Council as well as the Council's advisory bodies. The
36 Council then is making decisions. It's a public
37 meeting. We have five of them per year. Three are in
38 the Anchorage area. One is in a fishing community in
39 Alaska. And then every other year we rotate between
40 Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington for the fifth
41 meeting during the year.

42
43 And again we include the states of
44 Oregon and Washington. We have a representative from
45 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and
46 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on our
47 Council as voting members. We also have, of the 11
48 members, there are 7 private citizens that are members,
49 5 of which are designated from Alaska, 2 are from the
50 State of Washington. We have two of our Alaska members

1 here with us today.

2

3 With respect to the issue that we're
4 going to talk about right now, the NMFS and the Council
5 then manage the pollock fishery in the Bering Sea, and
6 that includes the bycatch of salmon that is caught in
7 the pollock fishery.

8

9 So this is the main problem that we're
10 trying to address right now is the fact that the
11 pollock fishery, which operates with large pelagic
12 nets, so it's a very large-scale fishery in the Bering
13 Sea, operating with these large pelagic nets. And what
14 they do is they accidentally catch salmon species,
15 chinook and chum species accidentally in their nets.
16 It's termed bycatch. It is prohibited for retention or
17 for sale, so they cannot profit from it, and all of it
18 that is brought to the surface is dead. It cannot be
19 retained sold. The only time it is ever retained is
20 when it is then donated to a food bank. A small
21 proportion is donated to a food bank. And in general
22 the distribution of the donated is in the Washington
23 area where the fish is off-loaded.

24

25 I'll keep going. So this is the -- if
26 you look here on this graph, it shows you the trend in
27 chinook bycatch. I would note that here in Kotzebue
28 you're probably very more concerned about chum as well
29 as chinook, but with respect to chum, while this
30 presentation is in relation to the Council's actions
31 currently on chinook salmon bycatch, we are also
32 addressing chum salmon bycatch, which is also caught in
33 the pollock fishery, not in numerous numbers in the
34 last couple of years. But that's on a different time
35 track. So in December at our Anchorage meeting we
36 will be addressing management measures for chum salmon.
37 But the majority of this presentation then is focused
38 on management measures explicitly for chinook salmon.

39

40 So that the issue as you can see since
41 2000, particularly 2002 on, we've had increasing
42 numbers of chinook salmon in our pollock fishery. 2007
43 was our historical high at 122,000 taken as bycatch. I
44 would note that in 2008, while it doesn't show here on
45 the graph, the numbers are closer to 17,000, so they're
46 much lower and have only been around 1995, '99 and 2000
47 were the low years, and this year is right around that
48 level as well.

49

50 So what are our chinook salmon

1 measures. Currently we do have and we have had since
2 the mid 90s measurements in place -- measures in place
3 in the Bering Sea to try to control the bycatch of
4 salmon species by the pollock fishery. These have
5 always previously been large time area closures. So we
6 have massive areas of the Bering Sea that when the
7 pollock fishery reaches a certain level of bycatch,
8 these giant areas close for fixed time periods, usually
9 for the end of the fishing season in the winter and
10 then again in the B season which is our fall fishery.

11
12 When these closures were put in place
13 in the 90s, they represented average bycatch patterns,
14 and for several years that seemed to work in terms of
15 keeping the bycatch numbers low. But in recent years,
16 what we saw is that not only were the bycatch numbers
17 increasing, but when these closures were put into place
18 and the fleet was pushed out of it, they were actually
19 running into areas of even higher by catch than they
20 were in the closure areas themselves.

21
22 So the Council started taking measures
23 in 2005 to evaluate what are some alternative ways to
24 manage bycatch. The first thing that the Council did
25 then is the industry had proposed a voluntary closure
26 system of their own. Our closures are very fixed and
27 kind of cumbersome to enact. The fleet is able to,
28 under their voluntary closure system, they can put into
29 place smaller, they call them hot-spot closures, so
30 they can put into place a small fixed area closure that
31 is only in place for three to seven days depending on
32 what the bycatch trends are looking like in that area.
33 So they're able to do a much more real time closure
34 system that we would not be able to do from the
35 government side that rapidly.

36
37 However, given that, the bycatch
38 numbers were still rising in recent years, so the
39 Council is again looking at it to say perhaps their
40 voluntary closure system isn't sufficient or just isn't
41 working. We don't know.

42
43 So what the Council's now looking at
44 for the first time ever are absolute limits on the
45 number of chinook salmon that the pollock fishery could
46 take. This is called a hard cap, and what it means is
47 that when that cap is reached, the pollock fishery must
48 cease fishing altogether. We've never done this on the
49 pollock fishery before, so it's a pretty big deal that
50 they're considering this as their management measure.

1 What we are now looking at is where do
2 you set that level. So in order to provide the Council
3 the information that they need upon which to make their
4 decision, we put together a massive analysis of what
5 these different measures that they're considering, what
6 the impacts would be both on the chinook salmon species
7 as well as a range of other species that I'll talk
8 about. And we specifically are looking at these caps
9 with relation to the stock of origin of the salmon
10 bycatch, what the adult equivalents to the fiver
11 systems are, and how this relates in terms of what the
12 run strengths have been in recent years in this area.

13
14 So the different measures that the
15 Council's looking at then, we compare everything
16 against what our current system is. So that's our
17 current system of time area closures with the fleet
18 voluntarily participating.

19
20 The other measures then are looking at
21 a range of hard caps. And the numbers that are shown
22 up here, 29,000 to 87.5, that's an annual hard cap. It
23 is broken out by season as well as by the different
24 fishing sectors.

25
26 Another thing that we're looking at is
27 a new time area closure that would be managed by the
28 government, so that would be another large scale time
29 area closure that would be reached at a cap level, but
30 the fleet could continue fishing outside of that
31 closure area.

32
33 And then finally the alterative that
34 I'll focus on, the Council in June of 2008 initially
35 reviewed an analysis that was put forward of these
36 first three alternatives and out of that the Council
37 selected what they considered to be -- it's called a
38 preliminary preferred alternative, and it's intended to
39 direct the public to the likely direction they're going
40 to go when they pick their alternative at final action.
41 So what the preliminary preferred alternative is then
42 is it's taken from alterative 2. So it looked at the
43 range of hard caps and then the Council selected a
44 specific operating management measures that they would
45 consider to be their preferred alternative at this
46 time.

47
48 This alternative then first looks at a
49 hard cap, and it's an annual hard cap of 68,392. And
50 this hard cap would be available to the industry if

1 they're participating in an incentive-based program.
2 The specific aspect of the incentive-based program then
3 is that it must reduce salmon by-catch in all years of
4 abundance. So the intent here is -- and if the
5 industry is not participating in this incentive-based
6 program, or the Council does not feel that the program
7 they put forward is sufficient, under this alternative
8 the cap level would be set at 47,491.

9
10 The intention of this incentive-based
11 program then is that it's to offer the industry
12 something in order to give them the incentive to create
13 a program and bring the entire industry together to
14 then present to the Council, here's how we think we
15 could do a better job if you give us this higher cap
16 level. And we can answer more questions as we go
17 along.

18
19 The analysis that we are putting
20 forward to the Council, however, I would note does not
21 include this incentive-based program. The industry's
22 currently working collaboratively to come up with what
23 they think would present the ideal program. They
24 basically will have the opportunity to convince the
25 Council that they can do better, and they'll do that by
26 final action in April. Until that time, the Council is
27 continuing to hear updates from the industry on their
28 progress towards these programs. And there's several
29 different opportunities where the public can come and
30 receive additional information from the industry on
31 their progress towards this program.

32
33 For our purposes, and for the
34 information we're providing to the Council, we're
35 focusing on the actual cap levels and what that means
36 in terms of impacts on the fleet as well as on the
37 salmon fisheries.

38
39 So again then this cap is divided
40 between seasons. 70 percent of it would go towards the
41 A season. The A season is the winter fishery. This is
42 the more lucrative fishery for the pollock given it's
43 the roe season. And then 30 percent of it would go
44 towards the B season.

45
46 There's specific aspects to the
47 alternative in that 80 percent of your A season cap
48 could be rolled into your B season and the caps are
49 divided by the four sectors that we have in the pollock
50 fishery: the CDQ sector, the mother ship sector, the

1 inshore catcher vessel sector and the offshore
2 catcher/processor sector. So the sectors would each
3 receive their specific cap.

4
5 And then they also have the ability
6 under this alternative to transfer the -- transfer
7 salmon back and forth between sectors. So if one
8 sector is running out of salmon and wishes to receive a
9 transfer from another sector in order to keep fishing,
10 that ability would be there for them.

11
12 So the analysis then that we're putting
13 out will analyze the effects of these different
14 management measures on chinook and chum salmon, on
15 pollock, on other marine resources, and this includes
16 things such as other groundfish stocks, crab, herring,
17 other prohibited species, marine mammals. We look at
18 environmental justice, specifically whether there are
19 disproportional impacts on low income or minority
20 populations. And then the economic impacts, and this
21 includes both the pollock fishery as well as salmon
22 fisheries, both commercial and subsistence salmon
23 fisheries.

24
25 So how do we analyze. How do you take
26 these management measures and analyze what the impacts
27 of them would be. Our analysis focuses on looking
28 backwards from the time period 2003 to 2007. Basically
29 what we did was look at if these caps had been in
30 place, when would the fishery have had to have stopped.
31 And that gives us by individual fishing sector a
32 closure date in every year, in every season, when each
33 of the sectors or the entire fishery as a whole would
34 have had to have stopped fishing. From that time
35 forward then this is how we structure it so that we can
36 then look at if you had stopped fishing on that date,
37 how many salmon wouldn't have been caught in that year.
38 And so that's considered your salmon saved. And then
39 likewise, if you stopped fishing on that date, how many
40 pollock would you have foregone, you would not have
41 caught that pollock, you wouldn't have profited from
42 the catch of that pollock. And that's the main thing
43 that we're comparing is the amount of pollock that you
44 did not catch and gave up versus the amount of salmon
45 that you gained by stopping fishing on that day.

46
47 So this is a summary table that just
48 shows you some results from the analysis. The analysis
49 is not yet final, but this is a summary table from it.
50 This just gives you over the time period that we're

1 looking at in the analysis, which is 2003 and 2007,
2 they represent the highest and lowest bycatch years
3 that we're looking at. 2003 is not the lowest bycatch
4 year historically, but in the five years that we're
5 analyzing, 43,000 chinook was the lowest year that we
6 looked at. So then moving over to the right, the next
7 column gives you the range of the bycatch cap levels on
8 an annual basis in order to compare the high and the
9 low range that's under consideration with the two levels
10 of the Council's preferred alternative.

11
12 Moving again to the next column then,
13 what this gives you, and I would just caveat that these
14 are general results and the actual results here are
15 very dependent on how the cap itself is divided
16 seasonally land by sector, but just on a general basis,
17 you can have a snapshot of it, the percent salmon
18 reduction then. So if -- what you would be looking at
19 is if you enacted a cap of 87,500 in 2007, the next
20 column would indicate that 37 percent of the salmon
21 would not have been caught. So that's the reduction
22 from your actual level of 122. And then the next
23 column then gives you the associated pollock catch that
24 would have been foregone.

25
26 So this is mostly to illustrate the
27 kind of decisions that will be in front of the Council
28 in terms of balancing what's a sufficient level of
29 salmon that we can reduce from now and what are the
30 trade-offs with the pollock catch. The Council is
31 mandated under the National Standards of Magnuson-
32 Stevens Act to reduce bycatch to the extent practicable
33 as well as to allow fisheries to operate to their
34 optimum yield. So what the Council's trying to look at
35 is where -- what's the balance between these two. If
36 your goal is mostly -- is only salmon reduction, if you
37 look at 2007 and you go with the lowest cap, you would
38 have reduced your salmon by 92 percent in that year.
39 However, it would have come at a pretty big cost in the
40 foregone pollock where you're losing almost 50 percent
41 of your catch.

42
43 So this is just to highlight what the
44 results are. And the other thing to show is that in a
45 lower bycatch year as in 2003, the higher caps don't
46 give you any reduction in salmon, neither the Council's
47 preferred alternatives nor any of the caps under
48 consideration, until you go to the lowest cap under
49 consideration. So while the Council's preferred
50 alternative performs pretty well in a high bycatch

1 year, you have roughly the same amount of foregone
2 pollock at the Council's cap level for much higher
3 reduction in salmon than you would at the highest level
4 under consideration. In a low bycatch year, you don't
5 get very much for it until you really crank down to a
6 very low level.

7
8 So that's one thing that we look at We
9 look at the number of salmon that would have been
10 saved. How do we translate that then into what number
11 of salmon would have actually come back to a river
12 system. So what we're then trying to do is come up
13 with what the adult equivalent is from the salmon
14 bycatch, what number of salmon would have actually gone
15 back to a river we would estimate in that year.

16
17 So we know that not all salmon caught
18 as bycatch would have survived. Some of them would die
19 in the ocean anyway, so we take into account ocean
20 mortality. We also have to take into account that not
21 all of the salmon, even if you deduct for those that
22 would have died in the ocean, not all of them are of
23 the age that they would return in that year. And
24 there's a different -- salmon return at different ages
25 to different river systems. So we have to look at both
26 the age composition of the salmon in the bycatch. How
27 many three-year-olds, how many four-year-olds, how many
28 five-year-olds, how many six-year-olds, as well as if
29 you're looking by specific river system, what
30 proportion of three-year-olds come back in that year,
31 what proportion of four-year-olds go back in that year.
32 So we have good information on the maturity and age of
33 returns for several river systems in Western Alaska.
34 And we're fortunate in that we have very good observer
35 coverage in the pollock fishery, so we have very good
36 information on the age composition of the bycatch.

37
38 So these are just to tell you the
39 things that are taken into account so that you don't
40 look at a number of 122,000 and think all of those
41 would have returned to some river system, because not
42 all of them would have returned. Some would have
43 returned in that year, some would have returned the
44 subsequent year, and we have to account for that as
45 well. And some would not have returned at all.

46
47 Then we need to know how spatially in
48 the bycatch where are each of those fish going. What's
49 the river of origin. We have -- we use recent genetic
50 data on the estimated river of origin of the bycatch

1 and we look at -- it's very -- it's spatially
2 dependent, so we have to look at both where the fleet's
3 fishing as well as what the composition of the bycatch
4 is and relate the two of them together. If the fleet
5 is concentrated in a certain area, they're going to
6 take more salmon from certain systems than they would
7 if they're dispersed or if they're up in the north
8 versus down in the Southeast.

9
10 So we use the adult equivalent
11 estimates and then we approximate them back to these
12 river of origins based on recent genetic data that we
13 have from the pollock injury from 2005 and 2006,
14 aggregating to river systems both in Western Alaska as
15 well as to say an aggregated Pacific Northwest grouping
16 and river systems like that.

17
18 So just to give you an overview then of
19 the kind of results that we're reporting on, and I'm
20 focusing here on Western Alaska, because we know that
21 people are very concerned with specific river systems
22 in the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay. But that's not
23 meant to indicate that those are the only river systems
24 we're reporting on in this. We do them to the extent
25 that we can based on the genetic breakouts. We report
26 all of those river systems.

27
28 So the first two bullets here then just
29 show you the same thing as that table with respect to
30 the overall bycatch reduction in the highest year of 37
31 and 92 percent, depending on what cap level you pick,
32 in the lowest year of zero to 52 percent, again
33 depending on the cap level you pick. Then when you
34 translate that first into adult equivalents and then
35 translate it back to a river system, and using -- this
36 is if you were to look at it in aggregate, you're
37 basically talking about 54 percent of the bycatch is
38 going back to the aggregate Western Alaska river
39 systems. From there then we break it down into these
40 aggregate groupings of the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Bristol
41 Bay. And for that we're using different genetic data
42 that breaks out Western Alaska by these percentages
43 that you see listed so that if you have a percentage
44 that's going to Western Alaska, 40 percent of that is
45 going to the Yukon. Likewise, 26 percent of that
46 Western Alaska group is going to the Kuskokwim.

47
48 So given that sort of carrying it
49 forward down to that lever, over the range of
50 alternatives then, if you're at the Yukon, you're

1 looking at zero to 15,000 salmon saved depending on
2 your bycatch year, depending on your cap alternative.
3 So looking at your broadest possible range. No
4 additional Yukon salmon come back or 15,000 would have
5 come back. In the Kuskokwim, zero to 9,000 and in
6 Bristol Bay, zero to 13,000.

7
8 The absolute num -- the reason why we
9 try to report these in terms of numbers is because
10 that's the best we can do to say that many at the most
11 based on our estimates would have been at the river
12 mouth. What happens from there forward is not anything
13 we're trying to estimate. We're just trying to draw
14 forward so that you can look at some of these
15 alternatives and say, okay, if 2,000 more had shown up
16 in this river, maybe they would have opened the
17 subsistence fishery. It really depends on timing.
18 It's very dependent on how ADF&G manages on a seasonal
19 basis, but we're doing the best we can to try to
20 translate it to something that they would then manage
21 from should those fish have come back.

22
23 MR. FIELDS: Diana, if I might.

24
25 DR. STRAM: Sure.

26
27 MR. FIELDS: Can you amplify the other
28 Western Alaska systems that may be affected. Since
29 we're here in Kotzebue, that might be of particular
30 relevance.

31
32 DR. STRAM: Sure. And the reason why I
33 said that is basically just to -- we don't have
34 Kotzebue chinook broken out. We do look at effects on
35 chum if you're taking say a river system of Norton
36 Sound. Norton Sound chinook we also can't break out,
37 even though we know genetically that they can look at
38 Norton Sound chinook separately. So, for example, for
39 Norton Sound, the way that the genetics worked out for
40 that, they were aggregated into this coastal west
41 Alaska grouping. So if you are trying to figure out
42 what the effects on say Norton Sound chinook are by
43 these alternatives, they're going to trend the same way
44 as the these Western Alaska rivers. We don't have
45 absolute numbers, but if you look at the overall
46 grouping and there's a different grouping that I didn't
47 indicate that would lump all of these back together.
48 And in there as well is Norton Sound. So the
49 percentage that's not going to any of these river
50 systems includes other systems that they could not

1 break out separately. So we do report on the trends in
2 all these river systems. We just have the ability,
3 given a previous genetic study, to look at the Yukon,
4 the Kuskokwim and the Bristol Bay as a single river
5 system.

6
7 Some additional areas that we look at,
8 the north Alaska Peninsula river systems, we look at as
9 general grouping. we also look further down into the
10 Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet stocks as well as Pacific
11 Northwest stocks.

12
13 Did that cover?

14
15 MR. FIELDS: Okay.

16
17 DR. STRAM: Okay. So where are we in
18 our process. Currently the Council's conducting these
19 outreach meetings. We've been trying to work through
20 the Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee meetings to
21 the extent that we can to try to get this information
22 out there.

23
24 This draft analysis will be released
25 for public review we are anticipating December 5th. At
26 that time then there will be a 60-day public comment
27 period and that's for everyone to comment to the
28 National Marine Fisheries Service on this document.

29
30 The Council is scheduled to take to
31 take final actin on the document in April of 2009, and
32 that meeting is in Anchorage. And that's when the
33 Council will look at the entire document, all the
34 information put forward, all the public comments that
35 have been received, as well as information they receive
36 that we will be compiling from these outreach meetings.
37 And then the Council will say at that time, this is our
38 preferred alternative. It may be very close to their
39 preliminary preferred alternative, or it may be
40 something entirely different. At that time they will
41 indicate that.

42
43 Given Council action in April of 2009,
44 the National Marine Fisheries Service will implement
45 any new regulations resulting from that, so say if a
46 hard cap is chosen at that time, that hard cap would go
47 into place January of 2011.

48
49 And just to show you where we are in
50 terms of the outreach meetings, again we've been trying

1 to work through the Federal Subsistence Regional
2 Advisory Committee meetings. We aren't able to meet
3 all of those given our own Council meeting schedule.
4 So to the extent we can meet in other areas, we did
5 participate in the AVCP meeting in Bethel last week as
6 well as the Dillingham RAC meeting. We were in Nenana
7 yesterday at the Eastern Interior RAC meeting, today
8 here in Kotzebue, and in two weeks we'll be in McGrath.
9 We also weren't able to reach the -- to meet the Seward
10 RAC meeting -- Seward Peninsula RAC meeting, so we are
11 trying to set up a different meeting in Nome, possibly
12 in February to provide this information.

13

14 And then finally, so the Council and
15 the National Marine Fisheries Service are seeking
16 public input, and what we're trying to do here today is
17 provide an opportunity for questions and answer and
18 also to relate a highlight to you. This is coming up,
19 it's a very important issue, and we want to make sure
20 that you have access to the document, that you know how
21 and on what to comment, and that you can provide your
22 input to the Council. And if you can't provide it in
23 person, that you can provide it by written comments.

24

25 The ways then to provide input: write
26 a letter to the Council or to the National Marine
27 Fisheries Service; talk to Council and staff members at
28 these regional meetings; testify at the April 2009
29 meeting. We understand the difficulty and the cost
30 involved in traveling to Anchorage for a meeting, so
31 we're trying to provide all these other opportunities
32 that you can get your voice heard to the Council as
33 well.

34

35 And then some recommendations on what
36 your comments may address: both the scope and the
37 content of the analysis; the analysis of the impacts,
38 whether or not we've covered the right bases, whether
39 or not we're indicating things appropriately; the
40 merits of the different alternatives; and really what's
41 your recommendation for preferred alternative; do you
42 think that cap is appropriate; do you recommend a
43 different cap; are there other measures you would have
44 preferred the Council considering.

45

46 And so the document, it's an EIS. We
47 have just been calling it a draft analysis in this, but
48 the document itself will be available again early
49 December. You can download it from the NMFS website,
50 you can request a printed copy by calling. You can

1 contact any of us and we'll make sure that you get a
2 printed copy. We are hopeful we'll have CDs available
3 as well that we can mail to people.

4

5 And that's it. Thank you very much.
6 And we can all answer questions.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Attamuk.

9

10 ATTAMUK: I have a couple. On your
11 cap, when you start the non-targeted fish, start
12 increasing in numbers, do you put a closure in that
13 certain area or what? What I'm really saying is, you
14 say they could get so much bycatch fish in your non-
15 targeted like the chums and the chinooks. They're
16 getting -- they start increasing in percent, do you
17 close that area and say you can't fish no more for that
18 season, or do you just close out that certain area
19 where they're fishing?

20

21 DR. STRAM: The current program that
22 the industry is operating under, when they start to see
23 increasing numbers in a certain area, they close that
24 certain area for a time period and everyone can fish
25 outside of it, depending on your bycatch rates, but
26 that area itself is closed. Different areas may close
27 throughout the season.

28

29 One of the alternatives the Council's
30 looking at would be a large area closure that when it
31 reached a certain level, that area would close for the
32 rest of the season, but fishing could continue outside
33 of it. The other measure, when we're looking at a hard
34 cap, is that when you reach that level, the entire
35 fishery closes. You can't fish anywhere else. You
36 have to stop fishing.

37

38 ATTAMUK: So is this done by observers
39 in each ship and each fishing process?

40

41 DR. STRAM: Yes, we have very good
42 observer coverage in this fishery already, and an order
43 to implement this measure where we would have caps at
44 these specific levels, we'd have to have 100 percent
45 observer coverage on the entire fleet. Currently we
46 have 100 percent observer coverage on the majority of
47 the fleet, but that portion of the fleet that's not
48 observed all the time would have to also carry
49 observers all the time as well.

50

1 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Thank you. This
2 question here, I don't think you really, or the other
3 two guys, could answer. When our fish started to crash
4 here and in the Yukon area quite a few years ago, I
5 accessed a sterilization waters that went out toward
6 Nome. It usually be toward Dillingham area where our
7 fish go winter. And when you watch it in the map of
8 different sterilizations, that it -- the sterilization
9 water current went up toward Nome at that time, not
10 only the interior, and the Bethel area decreased for
11 years. And ours also did. And I don't know if you
12 guys know anything about it, but I always questioned
13 it, and I've seen it on the website, and I accessed the
14 map before. And it's non-sterilization waters.

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The in-river
17 disease that's doing that.

18
19 ATTAMUK: No, it's out in the ocean.
20 What it does, it's more like a current that it comes --
21 it came up this way when I was watching it for years,
22 because I'm a commercial fisherman for chum in this
23 area, and as it come up this way, our salmon decreased.
24 Not only that, Bethel area also for years, and they
25 were right in the middle of it, and they had more
26 impact than we did. And now that current, that
27 sterilization water is going back down toward
28 Dillingham again, and our salmon and also there is
29 starting to increase. I mean, if you're going to watch
30 the ocean, I think you should go a little bit further
31 on stuff like this that you need to study and you need
32 to watch. Because it is not going to -- it's going to
33 happen again. If it happened before, it's going to
34 happen again.

35
36 MR. MERRIGAN: One of the other hats I
37 wear is on the North Pacific Research Board, and we
38 just put out our request for proposals in September,
39 and that was one of the -- looking at salmon diseases
40 was one of the categories for request for funds,
41 recognizing -- and I think it's the same disease we're
42 talking about, so there is funding available for that.
43 It's not directly connected to the Council, but it kind
44 of parallels those kind of issues.

45
46 I guess part of the -- the first
47 question you asked about, does it close everything, and
48 the cap will. And the previous way we did it was the
49 way you described it, is that you hit a -- we had an
50 area that would close for season, you know, when a

1 number was reached, and that used to correspond where
2 they thought the chinook were. And I think the point
3 you're making is the Bering Sea started to change, and
4 the water started to warm up steadily to 2003, and the
5 closure area no longer was relevant to the chinook,
6 they were some place else. So that's when they started
7 moving towards these -- a hot spot closure system,
8 trying to figure out who had the rates and they would
9 close areas of occurrence. And they're doing research
10 also on, you know, correlations of pollock and salmon
11 abundance and temperature, because they thought that
12 was the key. So the water kept warming up, and then in
13 '03 it peaked, and now it's cooling down again. '04 and
14 '05 were still above average, very warm, but now '06,
15 '07, and '08 are getting much colder, with '08 being
16 the coldest we were told in the last 25 years.

17
18 So we understand -- I think your point
19 is that things are changing and we have to monitor more
20 than just catch numbers. But this is about the most
21 complicated issue our Council has. We've got, you
22 know, our very large fishery that we know the most
23 about, it's the most well managed, and it's got this --
24 you know, a small proportion, less than like .1
25 percent, and, you know, less than two-tenths of a
26 percent being chinook bycatch. And then we have the
27 Yukon Salmon Treaty, Pacific Salmon Treaty, Endangered
28 Species Act, and subsistence fisheries and commercial
29 fisheries in Western Alaska. It's the intersection of
30 a lot of issues. So what we're looking at is to try
31 to, you know, minimize bycatch to the extent
32 practicable is one of our charges, but also to take all
33 those laws, put them aside and do something that makes
34 sense.

35
36 And I guess what you guys could help us
37 is, is our approach making sense. We've had caps in
38 fisheries for other bycatch reason, for halibut. That
39 shuts down fisheries. And so it's not new, it just
40 hasn't been done with salmon because it hasn't been the
41 big issue until it started trending up. So this is a
42 big step. The pollock industry didn't think we would
43 put a hard cap in, and we did. And so now we have to
44 pick a number.

45
46 In a perfect world, we would know what
47 the chinook abundance is out there, and then we would
48 have a floating cap related to abundance, so it would
49 work for all run sizes. We don't have that kind of
50 information, so as best as we can do is to pick some

1 historic number.

2

3 And then the incentives program that
4 Diana referred to is we don't want the fleet to fish
5 right up to the cap even in a low abundance year,
6 because that's when the fish are important to get back
7 to the streams, back to the other people that are
8 depending on them. So it's come up on their side, or
9 commercial fisherman, one thing they understand is
10 money. So you put in a financial system where there's
11 economic incentive to not catch salmon at any level of
12 abundance, so they don't just fish right up to the cap.

13

14

15 So you guys could comment either on the
16 cap numbers or that approach as well and any other
17 suggestions you'd have would be more than welcome.

18

19 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I was trying to
20 understand -- excuse me. I was trying to understand
21 your high cap number and your low number, if you look
22 at it. Your numbers are pretty much same on the high
23 cap and the low cap side, and this one here, like the
24 87,000, 87,500, the numbers on the high cap versus the
25 lowest, I was trying to understand that part where
26 they're basically all the same, but if you look, went
27 to the right side, I could basically get an idea of
28 what you are trying to say. I'm trying to say what the
29 difference between your high cap and your lowest cap
30 when the numbers are the same.

31

32 MR. FIELDS: We might all have to take
33 a shot at that. Diana can tell you specifically.

34

35 I know the mid range number, the
36 47,591, is the prior 10 years average. 29.3 is
37 approximately the 10 years average prior to when the
38 Yukon Treaty was signed in Canada. The 68,392 was an
39 average inclusive of 2007.

40

41 MR. MERRIGAN: '04, '06.

42

43 MR. FIELDS: The '04, '06 years.
44 Gerry's got it specifically here. That was from
45 memory. Gerry, if you've got it on paper, you can go
46 ahead and finish.

47

48 MR. MERRIGAN: Yeah. And I guess the
49 rationale of the high number and the low number is so
50 they get the historic framework for the two numbers.

1 And the idea was if -- we'd go for the lower number
2 unless the industry can come in and show us that
3 they've got an economic incentive plan or an incentive
4 plan, it probably is going to be economic on their side
5 of the fence, that will keep them from fishing right up
6 to that cap in years of low abundance. If they have a
7 plan when we get to final action that we don't think
8 does that, they get the lower number. If they have a
9 plan that will have an incentive -- and the incentives
10 they're talking about, one plan, was that everybody's
11 paying in during the course of the year every time --
12 for every metric ton of pollock. And at the year of
13 the year, people that had good, you know, low bycatch
14 rates are going to get money back, and those that were
15 bad are going to be paying like \$2 million. That was
16 one of the examples that -- so it's going to have an
17 incentive for them not to be catching or having -- you
18 know, avoiding bycatch. And so we're putting some
19 stock in the industry.

20

21 I guess for this year, in '08, we have
22 a much reduced catch number where '07 was the peak, the
23 122. And now we're at like about 18,000. And we can't
24 really attribute to what that's due to. It's either
25 abundance of chinook, there's a drop -- there was a
26 drop in the pollock tack. We don't know if the fleet
27 behavior changed. The only thing we do know is that
28 the fleet agreed to put in a large closure area in the
29 area they all the horseshoe in Unimak Pass. Because
30 they can -- as you can on our time line, if we take
31 action in April '09, it doesn't go into regulation
32 until January 2011, and that's because of all the
33 proposed rules and the way regulations are structured.
34 But the industry can move very fast in doing actions
35 and write contracts among themselves, so we have to --
36 we're kind of looking at them to kind of, you know,
37 take the lead on part of it, but we have a punitive
38 part if they don't come up with something good, then
39 the lower number, that's what they get.

40

41 MR. FIELDS: Let me kind of address
42 more the maybe policy rather than the details. That's
43 the most difficult part of where the Council is now is
44 what's the appropriate number for the cap. We've
45 jumped over the policy hurdle as to whether or not
46 there's going to be a cap, and that was a substantial
47 policy step for the Council to take in the face of an
48 industry that felt strongly that there shouldn't be a
49 cap. But it's determined now there will be a cap, and
50 the question for us is, what's the appropriate number.

1 And in part that's why we're here. We want to hear
2 from you what you think the appropriate number is, and
3 in the public comment period all those that have an
4 interest to comment on what that number will be. And
5 we will take those comments into consideration in our
6 final decision in April in choosing. And the Council
7 has designated these ranges in terms of benchmarks for
8 you and others to comment on as to what that
9 appropriate number would be.

10

11 ATTAMUK: Yeah, it would be hard for me
12 to decide on the cap level if you're not really
13 catching my chums and my char. I'm not going to tell a
14 region what they should be capping, because I'm not a
15 commercial fisherman from Southeast Alaska. I would
16 like to thank you for considering us into it, but still
17 if they're not catching my chums and my trout, I really
18 can't recommend what's their high or for low when I'm
19 not involved with the fishing themselves.

20

21 MR. FIELDS: And I appreciate that
22 perspective. I want to say we're focused on chinook
23 now, but the pollock fishery does catch chums, and so
24 that's going to be a subsequent amendment package. And
25 the Council in their determination to limit bycatch is
26 first of all looking at chinook, but also going to
27 address chum bycatch. And so we want to interact with
28 you and others with regard to your chum fishery as we
29 address those chum bycatch numbers.

30

31 ATTAMUK: Okay. And I think you for
32 considering us in there as far as chums. Thanks.

33

34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have a question on
35 the Chukchi Sea. If and when it does open for
36 commercial fishing like the Bering Sea does, is the
37 village fishermen or who is going to have the priority
38 on the first crack at the Chukchi Sea.

39

40 MR. MERRIGAN: And then this is a
41 different action in front of the Council right now
42 where the -- we don't have an Arctic fisheries
43 management plan, and the Arctic being Chukchi Sea and
44 Beaufort Sea. So the action we -- we just took an
45 initial review action in our October meeting is to
46 close all fishing, commercial fishing, and to come up
47 with a -- there's two options now on how to figure out
48 when there would be enough biomass to ever open a
49 fishery. So that is more the scientific part of just
50 how do you -- you know, you have a survey, you know,

1 what's optimal yield, those kind of things. And then
2 if you -- the thinking is if you ever reach that level,
3 that's the time you would then come back out, do a
4 consultation on if you would open it, and who would be
5 involved.

6
7 So right now were just at the mechanics
8 of closing it until a fishery management plan is
9 developed. That plan would include how you might open
10 it up. And there was two kinds of approaches. One was
11 more of the normal scientific approach of trying to
12 look at, you know, their two recent trawl -- or two
13 trawl surveys in '90 and '97, and I think they did one
14 this summer as well, to look at what would be, you
15 know, OY, MSY, to look at, and then three conserv.....

16
17 MR. FIELDS: Don't be using any
18 acronyms. Optimum yield.....

19
20 MR. MERRIGAN: Okay. They had a
21 scientific way to figure out how much is there and
22 could you have a fishery. I guess that was the short
23 term. And the other one was more of kind of a newer
24 concept of an ecosystem component.

25
26 But I guess the point is, once you
27 reach that level where there is something that might be
28 of commercial -- you know, of biomass and might support
29 a fishery, then that's when we'd come back out to
30 whether we would open it. I mean, that just gets you
31 to the numbers part. But we wouldn't open it without
32 figuring out who's involved, and that was.....

33
34 But the one question that does come up,
35 is there is one commercial fishery that we know of, and
36 it was in Kotzebue area, of some red crab that was
37 delivered I think in 2005. Somebody filled out a fish
38 ticket, and so I'm real hesitant of shutting down a
39 fishery on somebody that -- so I don't know if there's
40 an ongoing fishery. So far we haven't found anybody
41 that's been fishing red crab here as an ongoing basis.
42 We want to make sure that there isn't some unknown
43 commercial fishery that is happening.

44
45 And this fishery management plan
46 doesn't affect salmon, you know, inside of three, or
47 any of the salmonids, any grayling or anything like
48 that. And it's going to be confined to the groundfish
49 and crab. So if there is anybody that had fished red
50 crab here commercially, we'd sure like to know about it

1 before we pass some regulation, a bunch of acronyms in
2 Anchorage, pass some regulation and shut the guy down.

3

4

5 So there was a little bit of reference
6 here. They just had -- maybe Duncan could speak, and I
7 could figure it out.

8

9 MR. FIELDS: Go ahead, why don't you
10 respond.

11

12 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and
13 Game.

14

15 I work with the Subsistence Division,
16 not the Commercial Fisheries Division, but the Bering
17 Sea Fishermen's Association for I think two years had
18 an experimental fishery here on red king crab just to
19 assess both the stock and the economic potential for
20 that fishery. It's a relatively small operation. The
21 fish were not sold commercially. They were retained
22 for personal use. But there is on the books, and here
23 where I'm limited in Subsistence Division, but there
24 are some boundary issues in how the crab boundaries are
25 drawn. And at one time the Bering Sea, I think it's
26 Area Q that extended all the way up into Kotzebue
27 Sound. And I believe the Board of Fisheries has
28 recently redrawn those boundaries to conform more
29 closely with some of the North Pacific Fishery
30 Management's management areas. So I think there is now
31 a boundary at Cape Prince of Wales and this northern
32 Chukchi Sea area is managed separately from Area Q is
33 my memory of how that works.

34

35 MR. MERRIGAN: And I think for us,
36 we're trying to get a -- amend our groundfish and our
37 crab fishery management plan to try to have one
38 boundary, and that's where this comes in. And if it's
39 inside of three, I don't think it's our jurisdiction at
40 all. It would be the State. It just says there was a
41 sale in 1992, a small sale of 16 crabs. And so we just
42 want to make sure there wasn't an ongoing fishery or a
43 growing fishery. And again this would not affect
44 personal use or subsistence activities at all. This
45 would be commercial groundfish harvest.

46

47 And it gets back to your original
48 question. Yes, we would be doing outreach at the time,
49 whenever we're going to open up the fisheries, and I
50 think that's when you'd want to voice those concerns,

1 that if there was something harvestable, that you want
2 to -- the local people want to be involved. And we've
3 heard from North Slope folks as well at our last
4 meeting kind of saying the exact same thing.

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

7
8 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I haven't heard of any
9 numbers of wishing on red crab, and I've been here
10 since day 1, so I haven't heard anything. And I think
11 that questionnaire might have been just
12 misunderstanding by another Native saying they get it
13 for commercial.

14
15 MR. MERRIGAN: Filled out a fish
16 ticket.

17
18 ATTAMUK: Yes.

19
20 MR. MERRIGAN: And not really meaning
21 to.

22
23 ATTAMUK: Uh-huh. Because I haven't
24 heard anything. I know it's not going to open, because
25 I'm going to fight it not to open it here in my region,
26 because I want to save my belugas and walrus, to where
27 they have feed somewhere.

28
29 MR. FIELDS: So, Victor, if I might. I
30 think you've identified the three initiatives of
31 importance to your subsistence board here. We have the
32 chinook salmon bycatch that's ongoing with final action
33 by the Council in April. We have the Arctic fishery
34 management plan that you referenced with Gerry. It's
35 essentially going to close commercial fishing in your
36 region. It will be taken final by the Council -- is
37 that for February we're planning? Either February or
38 April of this winter. And then following behind that
39 we're going to do a chum salmon bycatch plan. And that
40 will probably have final action by the Council sometime
41 late in 2009 or perhaps even in 2010. So those are the
42 three initiatives right now before the Council that I
43 think have relevance to this community and your
44 fisheries here.

45
46 DR. STRAM: I think December 2009 is
47 the Arctic final.

48
49 MR. FIELDS: Oh, okay. So we've got
50 about a year until final action on the Arctic fisheries

1 management plan.

2

3 DR. STRAM: Sorry, 2008.

4

5 MR. FIELDS: Oh, 2008.

6

7 DR. STRAM: I'm sorry, I have.....

8

9 MR. FIELDS: Oh, okay. Let me regroup
10 then. But it's good that you get a sense of the three
11 things that are in play. In sequence then, the Arctic
12 FMP, we'll have final action on that at our meeting in
13 December. So that's the first thing up, and I think
14 there's been outreach, I know there's been outreach
15 here in the past on that. The second thing would be
16 the chinook bycatch, and we'll take final action on
17 that in April of 2009. And then the chum salmon
18 bycatch will follow that probably two or three
19 meetings, and we'll take final action perhaps at the
20 end of 2009, but most likely sometime in 2010 on the
21 chum salmon bycatch initiative.

22

23 George Pappas here reminded me to maybe
24 give a sense of some of the comments relative to the
25 chinook bycatch initial that other RACs have made. As
26 we said earlier, we were in Nenana yesterday and talked
27 with the RAC there. They felt strongly that the lower
28 bycatch number was an appropriate number based in large
29 part on the Canadian treaty, the Yukon treaty with
30 Canada relative to the number that was benchmarked by
31 that treaty in I think it was 2001 or 2002.

32

33 They had a lot of questions and
34 concerns about observer coverage on the boats. I think
35 some of their information about observers was dated,
36 and we communicated the current observer program. But
37 they also commented that if we do have hard caps, then
38 we're going to have to insure that our observer
39 coverage is adequate to manage those caps.

40

41 They talked some about what's called a
42 voluntary food bank program. Currently chinook that
43 are caught, it's required that those fish are retained
44 and landed either on a factory trawler at sea or on a
45 shore-based plant. And some portion of those fish are
46 processed and then made available to food banks. And
47 currently the fish are distributed in Seattle. And
48 they felt strongly that at least some portion of those
49 fish should come back to Alaska as possible and be
50 distributed to some of the folks in their region who

1 hadn't had an opportunity for subsistence chinook
2 harvest during this past year.

3
4 I think that's a brief summary from my
5 notes. I'm going to check Diana's here.

6
7 Also, and this is something that has
8 always been frustration to me and I know of others in
9 the fisheries, is how slow Federal regulations can
10 change, how slow the North Pacific Council process is.
11 And, you know, currently we realize that we had a real
12 problem with chinook bycatch in 2007, but it's unlikely
13 that we're going to be able to actually implement a
14 regulation until January of 2011. That's something
15 like three to a four-year time lag between a problem
16 and the implementation of regulation. And the RAC in
17 Nenana expressed great frustration with that kind of a
18 time line for a Federal process.

19
20 So I think in summary those were the
21 recommendations we received yesterday, and I think kind
22 of by way of information, it's important for you to
23 know what some of the other RACs in Alaska were
24 thinking about. Did I miss anything, Gerry or Diana?

25
26 MR. MERRIGAN: We totally concurred
27 with their frustration in getting regs in place in a
28 timely fashion. We were frustrated, too, but it's
29 bound by many laws, more than -- more names than I
30 could string off I guess, but it's a process. We grind
31 our way through it. It's not that expedient, but we
32 share their frustration as well.

33
34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is that it? Thank
35 you. That was a good presentation. Anybody else. Did
36 we miss anybody else in the audience.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. I'll turn it
41 over to our coordinator, Barbara Armstrong.

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: For the NFMS
44 information, Seward Pen will be meeting February 10 and
45 11. Whatever her name is.

46
47 DR. STRAM: When again?

48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: February 10 and 11,
50 2009. February 10 and 11, 2009 Seward Pen will be

1 meeting in Nome.

2

3 DR. STRAM: Oh, okay.

4

5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I just wanted
6 to give you that date.

7

8 And for number 12, for the next meeting
9 dates, to confirm March 3, 2009 in Kotzebue. And also
10 to establish the date and place for our fall 2009
11 meeting, we are not able to do it at this time. I will
12 have to poll the Council and set up those dates and
13 send the dates out. So at this time I'll refer it back
14 to the Chair for adjournment.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We'll call it a day.
19 Thank you. I appreciate your attendance.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
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