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1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5 Arctic Technical Institute
6 Kotzebue, Alaska
7 September 21, 2000
8 8:30 o'clock a.m.
9

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12

13 Willie Goodwin, Chairman

14 Joe Arey

15 Bert Greist

16 Raymond Stoney

17 Enoch Shiedt

18 Percy Ballot

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20 Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If the agencies are not here, they're not here but we're here, we're getting started, this is our meeting. Okay, I'll call this meeting to order. The Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at the Alaska Technical Center here in Kotzebue. Please call the roll.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Willie Goodwin.

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Bert Greist. Raymond Stoney.

MR. STONEY: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Joe Arey.

MR. AREY: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Enoch Shiedt.

MR. SHIEDT: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Rosy Ward. Mr. Chair, you have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. What we'll do is just go around the table and introduce yourself first and then we'll get out to the introductions of the guests. We'll start with you.

MR. SHIEDT: Enoch Shiedt, Kotzebue.

MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot and I'm from Buckland.

MR. STONEY: Raymond Stoney, I'm from Kiana.

MR. AREY: Joe Arey, I'm from Noatak.

CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, start of there with you Bill.

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1 MR. KNAUER: I'm Bill Knauer. I'm with the
2 Office of Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service
3 in Anchorage.

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst, same office.
6 I'm a wildlife biologist.

7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong. I'm
9 with the Fish and Wildlife Subsistence and anthropologist
10 serving the Council.

11
12 MS. WOOLWINE: Louise Woolwine, Office of
13 Subsistence Management, public affairs specialist.

14
15 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Fish and
16 Wildlife Service Subsistence Office. I'm a technical
17 writer.

18
19 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong with the
20 Office of the Regional Director.

21
22 MR. TOCKTOO: Fred Tocktoo, National Park
23 Service, Nome.

24
25 MR. K. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, Subsistence
26 Program Coordinator for Western Arctic National Parklands.

27
28 MR. MOW: Jeff Mow, National Park Service,
29 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserves.

30
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch,
32 National Park Service, Staff to the Federal Board.

33
34 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean, National Park
35 Service, Western Arctic Parkland.

36
37 MR. UBERUAGA: Richard Uberuaga, fisheries
38 biologist for the Office of Subsistence in Anchorage.

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40 MR. DiCICCO: I'm Fred DiCicco, I'm area
41 biologist for the Division of Sportfish, Alaska Department
42 of Fish and Game.

43
44 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette with the
45 Subsistence Division, Fish and Game.

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47 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Division of
48 Subsistence, Fish and Game, Kotzebue.

49
50 MR. SCHWARBER: I'm Jim Schwarber, I'm a

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1 planner with the Sportfish Division of ADF&G.

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3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Item four, review of the
4 agenda. Are there any new items that we should add?

5

6 MR. RABINOWITCH: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy.

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: Could I be added in after
11 Ken Adkisson on 9B for about two minutes?

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Ken Adkisson and
14 company, okay.

15

16 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anything else? Item
19 five is review and adoption of minutes February 29th,
20 they're in the packet. I need a motion to put it on the
21 floor for discussion.

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I move to
24 approve the minutes of February 29th.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

27

28 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Discussion. Are there
31 any changes or corrections anyone wishes to make?

32

33 MR. BALLOT: Question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Question's been called
36 for for the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes.
37 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, the Chair's
46 report. First of all the Regional Chair's meeting May 1st,
47 I'll just summarize a couple of things that happened down
48 there when we were down there. The issue of stipends came
49 up again. A stipend above the per diem was requested by
50 the Chairs throughout all of Alaska and all the RACs have

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1 been requesting it, but we got a letter back as you recall
2 from the Secretary saying because of regulations we
3 couldn't do it. So there was a letter sent to the
4 Congressional Delegation to ask their assistance in
5 resolving this issue. So far we haven't heard back,
6 hopefully it will come back positive.

7
8 The other issue of concern that we talked
9 about was the position of a Native liaison within the
10 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. While that
11 position has been talked about in the office down there
12 nothing was happening with it so when the subsistence
13 fisheries management was being put together with the
14 positions throughout the state of Alaska, that was an
15 opportunity to put it in so when I was -- the Park Service
16 was having a problem getting the positions started in rural
17 Alaska for some of the people, field people that we needed,
18 so they asked me to go to D.C. and I did. The Assistant
19 Secretary agreed to put the positions on the table but I
20 also asked that if he could consider putting the Office of
21 -- for the Native liaison position in the Office of
22 Subsistence and he did. But I'm sad to say that the Office
23 of Subsistence Management hasn't hired anybody yet. And I
24 think we should send a clear message from here that that
25 needs to happen. I know the announcements are out, I know
26 you had them out, and I'm not sure what kind of applicants
27 you got but we need to see that position filled.

28
29 MR. KNAUER: I was just going to update
30 you, Mr. Chairman, the Office of Subsistence Management
31 worked through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to advertise
32 this position. It was advertised and the advertisement
33 closed on September 18th. So I have not seen a certificate
34 list yet. The next step is for a list of the applicants to
35 BIA for selection. The reason it was advertised the Bureau
36 of Indian Affairs is because they have certain preferential
37 hiring authorities that the other agencies do not have. So
38 it is in the works and it is proceeding.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That is the other thing
41 the Chairs talked about is the preferential hiring that the
42 BIA had so that we wanted to make sure that we got a Native
43 in that position, you know, because the Office of Fish and
44 Wildlife Management, there was a possibility that it
45 wouldn't be Native. And we felt very strongly that it
46 should be a Native in that position. So the avenue that we
47 took was to recommend that the BIA did the hiring because
48 they can use that preference. So that's where it's at.
49 And that is basically the two issues that we had long
50 discussion on at the Chair's meeting.

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1 Anybody have any questions?

2

3 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, and again, you
4 said that they have a problem filling this seat being, you
5 know, from rural, I don't know what it states, but what is
6 the problem with it, they just don't want to get a Native
7 in this seat or it was just give it to somebody else that
8 can handle this kind of position?

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, as I understand
11 it, the Office of Subsistence Management and the director,
12 Tom Boyd, voiced -- it wasn't a position but in one of the
13 Board meetings he did say that this position has been
14 talked about but it's never been brought forward but the
15 push had to come from -- it was unfortunate that the push
16 had to come from Washington, D.C., to get this position
17 filled because of the real absence from, as I saw, as a
18 reluctance from the Office of Subsistence Management in
19 Anchorage to pursue this, so I think it's going to happen
20 now.

21

22 Any other questions.

23

24 Item 6B, we didn't -- the Chairs had a lot
25 of input into the proposal that are being brought forth,
26 especially with fisheries during that Federal Board meeting
27 in May. And I was present for most of it but I left a day
28 early. The fisheries stuff, I think because of the time
29 frame that this thing had to be implemented, some of them
30 were conservative actions but I think with a year now or
31 one season under the system's belt, so to speak, the State
32 and all the -- as I see it right now, they've been working
33 with the State on fisheries management and now that they
34 have some Staff and we're fortunate to have Charlie Lean on
35 our Staff up here for the Park Service to take care of or
36 to oversee some of the fisheries concerns that we have, and
37 the other positions I think have been filled throughout the
38 State. So they have been working hand in hand with the
39 State, as I see it, with the salmon crises and all that
40 kind of stuff that they've had down in the Yukon Kuskokwim.
41 And I think after this year they'll be prepared to make
42 more better decisions or better recommendations from the
43 Staff to the RACs to make decisions so I think it will work
44 out in the long-run. But I see that the State is finally
45 coming around and helping, you know, with some of the
46 problems that they have. Before we saw the reluctance and
47 it wasn't the field people, I got to say that, it wasn't
48 the field people that had a concern for the resources out
49 there, it was the higher ups that we were making political
50 decisions that had an effect on what we were doing; that

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1 was the problem. So I think it will work out. I hope it
2 does.

3
4 As far as our fisheries are in the region,
5 our concern, the salmon, we had a pretty good run again but
6 I think Charlie will get into that or somebody will later
7 on. We're fortunate to have Charlie working on our Staff
8 now.

9
10 I did bring up the user conflict issue in
11 that meeting and brought them up to date. It's in our
12 agenda so I'll bring more forth on that. We had a meeting
13 this summer on it here in Kotzebue.

14
15 Federal Subsistence Board meeting May 2-4,
16 that was what I was talking about here. The meeting with
17 the Board itself and the Chairs alone, we went over the
18 issues that we wanted the Board to address, mainly the
19 stipend and the other issue I talked about earlier along
20 with some of the regional concerns that various RACS had.

21
22 Any questions. Item D, the annual report,
23 the 1999 response, Tab C. You can see the letter from
24 Mitch under report we submitted. Anybody have any
25 questions on it?

26
27 Now, we'll go on to 6E, the charter.

28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I thought there would be
30 some things but there isn't.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Anybody have any
33 questions. I understand there was a problem from the
34 Office of Subsistence Management in Barrow, you guys have a
35 problem with ours? Good.

36
37 User conflict meeting. We had one in
38 Shungnak where there was a guide and an outfitter there and
39 I'm not sure, were you there Raymond? Oh, you didn't make
40 that one, uh?

41
42 MR. STONEY: No, I didn't make that one.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

45
46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The minutes of that
47 meeting should be in your booklet that I handed out.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. There's.....

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1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's in there.

2

3 MR. STONEY: Under Tab what?

4

5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I just stuck them in
6 there so it should be somewhere. I tried to put them in
7 your booklet so I didn't have it. Anyway, Mr. Chair, they
8 had decided to have another meeting October 5 at Ambler,
9 Upper Kobuk, an Upper Kobuk user conflict meeting that will
10 happen again October 5 at Ambler. And Joe Jackson was
11 present for the Upper Kobuk floaters and what's the other
12 guy's name?

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, it was that guy from
15 Kodiak.

16

17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And then Jay Jefferson
20 from Bettles, yeah.

21

22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Jay Jefferson, yeah. So
23 it's still ongoing but it's -- it went well where a lot of
24 public people attended the meeting and had their voice in
25 what's going on up there and they also preferred to work
26 with the people that are working on the Upper Kobuk are.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They made a couple of
29 recommendations. I think that, Jeff, are they looking at
30 now or are they -- you know, that time period they were
31 concerned about where all the activity is happening or the
32 subsistence user's activity is taking place was the concern
33 from them people up there at that meeting.

34

35 There was some concerns about catch and
36 release on sheefish that was voiced there. Basically it
37 was a time that people -- the time that they are hunting is
38 what they're mainly concerned about when they see the
39 floaters and the outside sport hunters.

40

41 Then we had one scheduled in Kiana but
42 unfortunately there was a death in the community and we
43 were not going to impose on the community during their
44 normal mourning period for the funeral and all that kind of
45 stuff so we scheduled it for Kotzebue and there were a few
46 people from Kiana here. You were here, Raymond, yeah?

47

48 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And Ben Samson and
50 Lonnie Tebbets from Noorvik was here.

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1 We went over the issue. What was decided
2 and recommended at that meeting is that the Park Service
3 will use the Thomas Bill when it comes out to begin
4 implementing regulations to limit the number of permittees
5 that bring people in. That's the vehicle that's going to
6 be used. At least that's what we decided to use. We're
7 still waiting for word when the Thomas Bill is going to be
8 acted on or passed and regulations are going to be
9 implemented, that's the time when we can start working on
10 how to do the implementation of limiting the number of
11 guides and outfitters and people coming into the region
12 other than -- and how it affects the subsistence user.

13
14 Now, the Fish and Wildlife Service, you
15 know, we've been pushing on this for years and they've had
16 the opportunity, I've been told that they can do it but
17 they haven't and now we have a letter in our packet from
18 Leslie Kerr that she wants to do it, finally, what I'm
19 disappointed in, again, they never got started earlier on
20 this thing here, I was told by the Anchorage office that we
21 would get it started, nothing happened and now we see a
22 problem in Selawik. As far as the local people are
23 concerned, it's just being overrun by outside hunters that
24 are coming into the Selawik area. Hopefully -- well, we'll
25 take this letter and run with it, now, I mean we got to do
26 it, that's the bottom line. So we got to start planning
27 with the Selawik people, having meetings up there to
28 address the situation and how the Fish and Wildlife can
29 implement the regulations needed to limit the number of
30 guides and outfitters and the number of people coming into
31 that area. Because they get pressure not only from the
32 Kotzebue end, but from Anchorage and Bettles and Fairbanks.
33 So we will get into that. I'll wait for Bert and try to
34 get some guidance from him. I'm sure he has a lot of
35 comments to make and will want to make some input into this
36 issue from Selawik.

37
38 Okay, she found the minutes. Anybody have
39 any questions on the user conflict meetings? I think we're
40 finally starting to get somewhere since the meeting we had
41 over a year ago in January here in Kotzebue where a number
42 of people from the villages were brought in to discuss
43 these issues. And I thank the State for doing that, you
44 know, I really do. They've come forward on the problems
45 that they see.

46
47 6G, village concerns. Joe, we'll start
48 with you.

49
50 MR. AREY: They said they was going to go

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1 up Noatak and see about that sonar.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, and Charlie you'll
4 give a report on that sonar thing?

5

6 MR. LEAN: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, you'll get it Joe.

9

10 MR. AREY: Okay. And these people that go
11 out and go fishing, been seeing a lot of otter, sometimes
12 five in one day and then two the next day and three. Every
13 day they're getting like more otter up there and then
14 they're hardly getting any fish. That's what I wanted to
15 bring up. That's all I got right now.

16

17 It's hunting season time and we have our
18 floaters coming down every year, not only that we're
19 getting these trophy hunters that comes up out of wherever
20 they come from, out of Kotzebue, they come from Anchorage
21 and all over. They come up there and people are talking
22 they're not in our boundary but they're outside like on
23 Federal land, down around Aggie and they're further up
24 river. And they say we're getting a lot of outsiders up
25 there, too, they're concentrating up Noatak around Aggie
26 where we can't get to them and then they're just scaring
27 away their subsistence use, like caribou.

28

29 That's all I got right now.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thanks Joe. I think as
32 we go forward with this user conflict issue that the people
33 coming into the Aggie, I think will be brought up and
34 discussed.

35

36 Raymond.

37

38 MR. AREY: Thank you.

39

40 MR. STONY: Mr. Chairman, I've traveled to
41 almost all the villages this fall because of my work for
42 Nana as a resource protecting officer and I've talked to
43 the IRA people and quite a few local people in the area.
44 One point that came out, Mr. Chairman, it's just -- nothing
45 against it, but they do, is the transporters and guides,
46 you know, they're just overcrowding everywhere, especially
47 right now at Tag and up in Squirrel. I was asked a number
48 of times is how can we get going or what could we do to
49 limit these transporters and guides in the hunting areas,
50 and I have no answer to that question. But, however, I

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1 just told them that there's the a possibility that in the
2 future they might change it to limit it, permit issues, to
3 all these people that come to these areas. Because you
4 probably know right now there's something like 48
5 transporters and guides in that Unit 23, they cover quite a
6 bit of area, especially around Squirrel River and Tag and
7 Upper Kobuk, their concern is that there's just too much
8 activity, but you know, they're doing their part legal.
9 You know, they got the permits to hunt in this area with
10 their clients and I had not much to do anything against
11 them.

12
13 Secondly, was one, the most important part now and
14 we'll probably talk about it today is whitefish fishing,
15 you know, in springtime, because you know we've done that
16 for thousands and thousands of years in order to feed our
17 family and now that -- I don't know how it's leaked out to
18 some of the villages that the proposal is going to effect
19 the people that usually fish springtime for survival. And
20 if they do that, if this thing passes and it won't allow us
21 to fish in those sloughs no more, you know, we just can't
22 let it happen. Now, if it does pass and becomes law that
23 we won't fish in these sloughs, the best thing you could do
24 is just agencies and State and get a helicopter and go to
25 every slough and undam them because the beaver dammed them
26 all up anyway. All the fish are stuck in these lakes, they
27 can't go out. That's a very very important issue to us and
28 these people are very concerned about this issue that will
29 be coming up on proposal. And they asked me, they said,
30 yell about it and cuss about it, don't let it pass.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, Raymond, the
33 problem is the State. You know, all of a sudden -- you
34 know, the issue was brought forth because our people have
35 been doing it and it's illegal so we wanted to make it
36 legal. All of a sudden the State is saying there's a
37 conservation issue. There's other fish we have to worry
38 about. But if it was such a conservation issue, why the
39 heck didn't they arrest people before, why haven't they
40 done it? It doesn't make any sense to me. Now, all of a
41 sudden we want to make something legal and they say it's a
42 conservation issue. Our people have been doing it, like
43 Raymond said, for hundreds of years, well, since we started
44 making nets. And back then they used to make nets out of
45 caribou hide or something, but they blocked them off anyway
46 with trees and branches. So we'll get into it when the
47 proposal comes forward.

48
49 MR. STONEY: Just like I said right now, if
50 you want to go out that, go out and shoot all the beavers

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1 because they block all the sloughs anyway.

2

3 Thirdly, you know, still very concerned
4 about the caribou that we talked about in Anaktuvuk Pass,
5 it's still, in the table some place the results of these
6 sick caribous, it came up again this fall, what do we do
7 with it? Where can we report them? However, you know, Mr.
8 Chairman, when these concerns come before the State and
9 Federal, while they do get the samples and then they send
10 them out someplace and then so far, Mr. Chairman, there's
11 no results what they are. The results, we don't know where
12 they went, we don't know what kind of caribou was that,
13 that's a very, very concern to a lot of people that do hunt
14 caribou for subsistence. And so we would like to see --
15 they would like to see this issue, if I turn in a sample
16 from a caribou, I'd like to see some results in at least a
17 week to 10 days, not six months or a year.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, that's a good
20 point. Anything else.

21

22 MR. STONEY: That's all I got, Mr.
23 Chairman.

24

25 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, everything's
26 fine in Buckland and Deering. The less we talk about it,
27 the less we know about it, the less conflict we have in
28 there.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Good point, Percy.
31 Enoch. Enoch works in a very good position, I mean he gets
32 to travel to the villages, he talks to people everywhere,
33 that's his work, subsistence.

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Well, actually I haven't been
36 traveling, I've been emailing and calling due to money
37 problems we're having. Like Raymond says, Noorvik and
38 Selawik people got concerns about nets blocking the creeks
39 and that's all they've been talking about lately and the
40 beavers, so we're hearing the same thing.

41

42 And on the caribou issue when he was
43 talking about those reports, I've been working with Jim
44 Dow, there's a pamphlet the Canadians put out on the
45 different parts of animals that are sick, what's edible and
46 not and what's good. And he's going to print out 5,000
47 copies, he finally got the copyright to do it for our
48 region. Barrow heard about it, they've been bugging me and
49 asking if they could get a majority of it, I says, you guys
50 got a lot of money you can do your own. The way he wrote

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1 it was from Nome, all the way to Barrow. So it's going to
2 probably go out late at the end of the year, hopefully. I
3 got to talk to him more about it. It's a real nice little
4 pamphlet. But the caribou, bear, moose, polar bear,
5 wolves, wolverines, it's all in there. All different
6 disease.

7
8 That's about all I have and I got to leave
9 for the hospital.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anything else.

12
13 MR. SHIEDT: No.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You got to leave when?

16
17 MR. SHIEDT: I got to be there at 9:30 for
18 shots.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other concerns that
21 you've heard here from Kotzebue?

22
23 MR. SHIEDT: Well, on fisheries, only a
24 couple of them, they wanted to see more -- they heard about
25 this char study we'd like to do and they would like to see
26 done and see what -- because we had a couple of people --
27 same thing as last year, they're getting trout with sores.
28 And the samples we send out, we haven't returned them, they
29 told me it's going to take six months to seven months and
30 that's the fastest I could get them. And we had samples
31 sent out on sheefish -- this is -- I think I reported all
32 of this, sheefish, tom cod, herring and bullhead here that
33 are coming up dead and they wanted to find out, and at the
34 time I didn't know how to take the samples. We were just
35 doing them normal, we were freezing them, we were -- I was
36 doing them wrong. And I was trained how to do it so next
37 time we run into that, we will do it correctly.

38
39 Also the city is dumping out in the bay,
40 I've been getting samples and sending them out for this
41 from the sewage and they are in compliance, and I've been
42 watching them pretty close, so that's about all I have.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Enoch. Some
45 of the people here in Kotzebue that I get the complaints,
46 like the rest of the region, is that, when they see people
47 coming off the jets, they know they're not here to do
48 business but except to go do their own business of hunting.
49 And we see them at the airport every day. I mean I was on
50 a flight to Minneapolis here not too long ago and 20 guys

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1 were getting on the jet out of Kotzebue, 10 of them were
2 going through Minneapolis, they were talking about and
3 complaining about the air fare and, you know, so I just
4 said, after we were up in the air and he's counting people,
5 there's like 20 empty seats, why do they actually charge
6 me extra to bring my meat home and that's what he was
7 asking us. I was just listening to them.

8
9 That is a concern from the local people,
10 the number of people they see going out and the horns
11 coming back, you know, and it concerns me, too. I live
12 right on the lagoon's edge, as some of you know, and
13 Maverick Air, man, even when it's dark, in and out with
14 that float plane, bringing hunters back and forth, rain or
15 snow, it doesn't make any difference to him, it's going.
16 Let me tell you. That's the most activity I've seen as far
17 as coming in and out of the lagoon, with floats, just
18 unbelievable.

19
20 Does anybody have any other concerns they
21 want to bring?

22
23 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

26
27 MR. STONEY: One final thing I have left
28 and want to bring up, like in Squirrel River, you know, you
29 got about 15 tents up there and my concern and a lot of
30 people's concerns in Kiana, I brought that up last year and
31 this winter, but I think because it's controlled by BLM. I
32 think the way I see it now with all the activity going on,
33 there should be some law enforcement personnel in that
34 area, because all the air traffic up there, are managing
35 one way or another, and one or two probably left something
36 someplace and nobody's just dealing with it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I forgot to mention BLM,
39 in our user conflict meeting. They've agreed to put back
40 on the table the Northwest area plan which would address
41 the issue of how many people they can allow in the Squirrel
42 River area. So that's coming out, and it's going to
43 include some of the Buckland area, the Buckland, Deering,
44 all the State lands so, the BLM will be coming forth with
45 their way of dealing with the issue in Squirrel River
46 because we brought it up as a concern, too.

47
48 MR. SHIEDT: Willie.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Enoch.

00015

1 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, before I leave, I talked
2 to one hunter at Alaska Airlines, he was hunting at
3 Squirrel River. There was two in his party that was
4 leaving, in their camp alone in Squirrel River, they got
5 eight moose in four days. And I asked him what about your
6 rack and he gave me a measurement from 52 to 62, eight
7 moose, but I said, how many in your camp, he wouldn't give
8 me his number but he gave me the number of eight different
9 measurements on moose racks, just from two hunters. I said
10 where's your racks, I tried to get that far and he wouldn't
11 show that, I wanted to see how many he was shipping out, he
12 couldn't take them.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They got to ship them
15 out freight.

16
17 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, I know that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody else. I got one
20 announcement here. If you plan to have lunch here, you got
21 to sign up, they need to know so they can prepare the
22 kitchen staff.

23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There's a sign up sheet
25 over here at the front table so we kind of need to know
26 right away whether you're having lunch here.

27
28 MR. BALLOT: What's cooking?

29
30 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: How much it cost?

31
32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: About seven or eight
33 bucks for lunch.

34
35 MR. BALLOT: What's cooking?

36
37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I don't know.

38
39 MR. STONEY: Caribou.

40
41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: They said they could
42 change their agenda depending on how many people decide to
43 lunch there.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, that takes care of
46 Item 6. Item 7, fisheries proposal review and Regional
47 Council recommendation. Helen, you or -- you?

48
49 MR. UBERUAGA: Yes.

50

00016

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

2

3

4 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
5 Page 3 there's a correction under Proposal 38. The general
6 description, that's Section E, under the general
7 description it says, allows subsistence to intermittently
8 block the stream, that's not correct, it's to delete the
9 closure in the Kelly River area is the Proposal 38.
10 Proposal 38 basically deletes the current closure in the
11 Kelly River area and it aligns State and Federal
12 regulations to allow subsistence harvest year-round.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, you finally got it
15 done, all right.

16

17 MR. UBERUAGA: Any questions?

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Proposal 39, we'll get
20 into it.

21

22 MR. UBERUAGA: 39 is following.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right. Anybody have any
25 questions on Proposal 38? Joe are you happy with it now?

26

27 MR. AREY: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

30

31 MR. AREY: My people are.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, you need to
34 have the Council vote to support the proposal, just for the
35 record.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: On 38?

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What I'll ask for is a
42 motion to support the Proposal 38.

43

44 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

47

48 MR. BALLOT: I move to support Proposal 38.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second.

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1 MR. AREY: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion on it.

4

5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Who seconded it?

6

7 REPORTER: Joe.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Joe. Hearing no
10 discussion, all those in favor of the motion signify by
11 saying aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Unanimous. 39.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 My name is Helen Armstrong, I work with the Office of
23 Subsistence Management in Anchorage for Fish and Wildlife
24 Service. Proposal 39, as you remember, was submitted by
25 this Council last spring. There was a little bit of
26 confusion when it went from the proposal that you presented
27 and went into our books, so what was presented in the
28 proposal book, we amended in this analysis because the
29 proposal book actually included all of Kotzebue area and
30 Kotzebue area goes from Point Hope vicinity in the North
31 Slope all the way down to the northern portion of Seward
32 Peninsula and Shishmaref. What the Council actually talked
33 about in the meeting we had that was -- and it was in the
34 transcripts, was that this proposal be for the taking of
35 whitefish in the Selawik and Kobuk River drainages in the
36 Kotzebue area, so that's what we focused on in this
37 analysis. And I know that there's some people in the
38 Seward Peninsula who are interested in having the same
39 proposal, perhaps, but I think through discussions we
40 decided that that would be something they can deal with on
41 their own.

42

43 Because this is new doing fisheries, I'm
44 just going to talk a little bit about where this applies.
45 If you look on your map it's a little bit hard to tell but
46 there's a little dark line that's drawn around the pink and
47 the purple areas and everything within that area, so it's
48 not just where it's pink or purple, it's within those --
49 the little line, is what's covered by this proposal. So it
50 -- and it doesn't include BLM lands in this particular

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1 proposal. Sometimes BLM lands are included, but they
2 aren't in this case. So anywhere there's a park or there's
3 a refuge, it's the whole boundary of the refuge, it's not
4 just where the lands are pink and that's the way it's been
5 designated under the Fisheries Program. So it's river and
6 streams within the Kobuk Valley National Park and the
7 Selawik River and streams and rivers within the Selawik
8 National Wildlife Refuge that are affected and the
9 communities that could possibly be affected, not all of
10 those do we have information, whether they actually take
11 whitefish in these areas, are, Noorvik, Ambler, Kiana,
12 Selawik, Shungnak, Kobuk, Buckland and Kotzebue.

13
14 There is a series of maps that show the use areas,
15 and what we had information on is for non-salmon, we didn't
16 actually have it for whitefish, but whitefish is included
17 in that, so we don't really know exactly where people are
18 taking whitefish. That's never really been -- that's not
19 in the literature anyway, that data has not been collected.

20
21 Whitefish are taken in the late spring,
22 early summer months from late May to late June, they don't
23 take whitefish in July and early August because of the
24 weather conditions. The precise timing of the harvest is
25 totally weather dependent. We have some information on
26 harvest and we're getting more. There's a table in the
27 analysis that shows -- there are two tables, there's one
28 that shows some whitefish harvest from a variety of years
29 and then there's another one, Table 2 that shows whitefish
30 harvest from the last three years for Ambler, Kiana, Kobuk,
31 Noatak, Noorvik and Shungnak. Because whitefish is so
32 important, ADF&G Subsistence Division has added it to their
33 salmon surveys that they're doing. And as you can see from
34 that table, they are a pretty significant number of
35 whitefish that are harvested by those communities with an
36 estimated harvest, in 1998, there were about 39,754
37 whitefish taken in those communities, and 56,326 in 1999.

38
39 Whitefish, as Raymond was talking about and
40 Enoch, I mean whitefish is very important to the
41 communities as you all know. There are a lot of people
42 very concerned about this proposal, both at Fish and
43 Wildlife Service and in the ADF&G. This is the sort of
44 thing that kind of sets up a red flag to people, as you
45 were talking about, and the Council just needs to be aware
46 that it was put to me that this is the most controversial
47 proposal of all of the ones presented. That this is one
48 that they're pretty interested in and worried about. The
49 reason being that, if, unrestricted, there were no --
50 there's just this fear that if we -- if we don't restrict

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1 it in some way then the way it was originally written was
2 just to allow -- the original writing of it was, you may
3 not obstruct more than one-half width of any stream and
4 then we added, except for the taking of whitefish in the
5 Selawik and Kobuk River drainages in the Kotzebue area with
6 any gear used to take fish for subsistence users. And that
7 said to them that somebody could come in and put a big net
8 across the Selawik River and block all the fish. And we
9 know that's not what's happening so we decided that we
10 should put some restrictions in there to actually what's
11 happening and put some lengths of the net and mesh size,
12 some things like that to make it more palatable to those
13 people who are really concerned. If we didn't do that then
14 there would be concern that it could lead to short and
15 long-term depletion of fish stocks.

16
17 There are other fish that are migrating at
18 that time and so the concern is just that other than
19 whitefish might be taken. The other concern that was
20 brought up to me is that modern gillnets are very, very
21 effective and I'm not a fisherman so I didn't know about
22 this and I'm an anthropologist, it was actually interesting
23 to me. They were saying that even in the past five years
24 the nets have become much stronger and much more effective
25 and so that was one of their concerns.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Do you think that we'd
28 put out nets that won't hold the fish?

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, but that a larger
31 fish like sheefish would be more likely be able to be taken
32 was the concern, that's what we discussed.

33
34 MR. STONEY: Well, the sheefish and the
35 salmon, they don't go there.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, this is the
38 problem, is that, we were trying to define -- I mean we
39 even discussed, you're absolutely right, we even discussed,
40 well, trying to -- that what really is happening is people
41 going in sloughs, they're not going in the major rivers.
42 And so if we could even come up with a, some how some sort
43 of definition of where people are going, exactly, then that
44 would probably make these fish biologist happier.

45
46 What we decided to do and this is -- and,
47 you know, the Council can support, you can add, you can
48 change, however you want to do it you can, whatever you
49 want. But the Staff recommendation was to modify the
50 proposal and to restrict the regulation to the Selawik and

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1 Kobuk River drainages, limit the length of gillnets to 60
2 feet. What I found in the literature was that the average
3 size is probably 30 or less feet, but there was some
4 discussion at the Council meeting last time in the
5 transcripts that there was some people using, on the
6 Selawik River, there was some people using as long as 60
7 feet.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, the reason for
10 that is sometimes the river is more than 60 feet so they
11 put the net all the way -- even in the Kobuk Delta.

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I know because my
16 mother-in-law uses one.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So we put it up to 60
19 feet. You know, we'll see what the Council feels about
20 that, whether you think that's a good length. Limiting the
21 mesh size to between two and a half to four inches to
22 target whitefish more specifically and only allowing the
23 gillnets to block the streams, creeks or sloughs from May
24 15th to June 30th, and from August 15th to September 15th.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think that September
27 15th is a little early.

28
29 MR. STONEY: (Nods affirmatively)

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's a little earlier?

32
33 MR. STONEY: It's early.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This is up to your
38 discussion. I mean what you think.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: October 15th.

41
42 MR. STONEY: Right now is the best time to
43 do, fall harvest right now.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right. They're doing
46 the fall harvest now.

47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I mean, you know, it was

00021

1 okay maybe 20 years ago when they used to freeze up in the
2 middle of September, you know, but now it's later and
3 later.

4
5 MR. STONEY: See right now, I see in
6 Selawik area, even though they put a net in they're not
7 getting any fish anyway.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

10
11 MR. STONEY:they're not because up
12 river the beavers, they got four different dams, they block
13 the whole thing.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

16
17 MR. STONEY: There's no fish coming out
18 that slough, nothing.

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: What I'd like to suggest
21 is that the Council can make any kind of modifications to
22 the Staff recommendations that they'd like and make it more
23 appropriate to what you think it should be. I know ADF&G
24 has some comments they wanted to read. And if there is any
25 other types of things you think you could put in there. We
26 did talk about putting in, like saying you couldn't have
27 your nets in the water for more than 24 hours without
28 pulling them. We talked about that. There were some
29 concerns whether that could even be enforceable, but in
30 some discussions we had in our office some people felt that
31 if something like that was in place, that might make it
32 more acceptable to the fisheries biologists.

33
34 Those are the types of things I want you to
35 think about or you can't, you know, you can't -- I don't
36 know what length of time people actually are fishing, if
37 there is some kind of -- you know, you can only do it for
38 24 hours and you can't do it for more than X number of
39 weeks or you can't leave the nets in more than 12 hours, I
40 mean I'm not sure what the right answer is but that's the
41 sort of thing I want you to think about.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can I explain how.....

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Sure.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let me use my mother-in-
48 law as an example, uh.

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That'd be great.

00022

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. She goes down to
2 her camp, a dead end, it used to be a tributary of the
3 Kobuk River but now it's a dead end, but there's pike fish
4 in there where the lakes are, there's no salmon there,
5 there's no sheefish there, there's pike and whitefish.
6 Spring time, as soon as the ice goes out and she can get
7 down there and she gets down there to dry the fish for the
8 summer. She puts the net out, maybe two or three of them,
9 just little short, one of them I know is not more than 10
10 feet, you know, another one's probably 15, and the other
11 one's probably about 60 feet, maybe, the one that goes part
12 way out to the -- but she's not blocking that stream. She
13 checks the net, if she has enough help she'll keep them
14 out, but if she doesn't have enough help with her daughters
15 or somebody -- some other person coming down, lately people
16 from Ambler have been coming down to help her. So she just
17 gets enough to cut to dry and make sure nothing's happening
18 to them while they're drying and leaves the net out. When
19 she cuts those up, hangs them, she puts the net out or when
20 she things she has enough time to cut them up, she'll put
21 the net out, take a break, go check the net, get the fish
22 out, pull the net out again and cut them. I mean this goes
23 on for about a week. You know, if the weather is good and
24 it's not raining or anything and it's not too hot. She has
25 enough to share with her family, extended family.

26
27 Now, in the falltime, okay, this time of
28 year, just before freeze-up, she'll go down, but these fish
29 have -- they have the roe in it and that kind of stuff, you
30 know, and that's a delicacy part of our diet when we freeze
31 the fish. She goes down there sets her nets again, same
32 place, she takes the whitefish up, cut open in the middle,
33 take the stomach off, put the rest of the fish into a
34 gunnysack, cut them up, when she has about six or maybe 10
35 sacks she'll stop and go back to Noorvik. Pull the nets
36 out. And we have enough aged whitefish to eat for the
37 winter.

38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have a couple of
40 questions.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Do you think that there
45 are people who are not doing this practice because it's
46 illegal and that they would do it if became legalized or
47 not?

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, nothing's going to
50 change whether it's legal or illegal, I'm just trying to

00023

1 make it legal for them to do it.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. This was just a
4 point brought up to me and I was curious of what the
5 Council would react to.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

8

9 MR. STONEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, thank you
10 for bringing that up, you know, that's how it's brought up
11 to me in Noorvik, especially, because they're the ones that
12 do a lot of this slough fishing below Noorvik in the lakes
13 and there's a number of sloughs in there that's blocked by
14 beaver and they're asking, what should we do, what can I
15 do? Because these beavers have blocked the whole stream
16 and that's the whole thing, it never gets -- and there's
17 hundreds of them, fish that are trapped in there, so I just
18 brought this up, well, you know, the beaver season is open,
19 no limit, if you can handle them get them, but, however, I
20 said, once you -- what I would have to do is to go to the
21 agencies, see what is my question all about, what do we do
22 to destroy the dam from a beaver, go up there 24 hours a
23 day and then because you undam it right now and it'll be
24 the same thing, a pile like this overnight, just like that.
25 I seen it's happened at Salmon River now, they're blocked
26 the same now and all the salmon is stuck in there.

27

28 So the issue is, Mr. Chairman, how could we control
29 beaver? How could we just stop them? That's what most
30 people are concerned about, especially in Noorvik.

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I had one
33 more question. How.....

34

35 MR. STONEY: I don't know the answer, you
36 know, just want to bring that up, some work around it, the
37 species.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Helen.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: How hot is too hot to
42 dry whitefish?

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Never had to worry about
45 a thermometer out there. When I know it's hot, when it's
46 starting to cook the fish and they start smelling, it's too
47 hot.

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I was curious more than
50 anything.

00024

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, when it gets too
2 hot they start to.....

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Somebody asked me that
5 and I said I have no idea how -- I mean how warm is too
6 warm.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They have tarps on top,
9 you know, to keep the rain out and keep the ravens out and
10 that kind of stuff, but their -- it does get too hot so
11 they got to watch them very carefully while they're drying
12 otherwise they wasted a lot of work.

13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They sit there and watch
17 them probably 20 hours a day, you know, as they're drying.
18 We're talking about whitefish, Proposal 39, under Tab E.

19
20 So what I would recommend is that the we
21 change that last date. I think May 15th to June 30th is
22 okay, uh, Raymond?

23
24 MR. STONEY: For spring?

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

27
28 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

31
32 MR. STONEY: But after.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But for fall.....

35
36 MR. STONEY:June.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

39
40 MR. STONEY:sometimes we get good,
41 like weatherwise, you know, it's -- even like that, it gets
42 too hot after June.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And by that time the
45 fish are out anyway. The springtime, the fish that they
46 catch are the ones that are going out of the lakes.

47
48 MR. STONEY: As soon as the ice breaks up,
49 you know, that they starting move out.

50

00025

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And I would recommend
2 changing from August 15, instead of September 15th to
3 October.

4
5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: October 15th?
6

7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Bert, we were
8 talking about the length, as you see it, to modify it,
9 would you guys have any problem down to 60 feet?

10
11 MR. GREIST: That's pretty standard.
12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, that's pretty
14 standard. Standard, yeah.
15

16 MR. GREIST: We got some long ones.
17 Normally what we do is double them up if we need to.
18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But they don't block the
20 whole stream?
21

22 MR. GREIST: Right.
23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's on the river
25 part, uh?
26

27 MR. GREIST: Yeah. On the river, yeah.
28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Where those eddies are.
30

31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Eddies.
32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.
34

35 MR. GREIST: We do block small, very small
36 streams but not for very long.
37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Like for how long?
39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Just enough to cut, like
41 I was saying.
42

43 MR. GREIST: Yeah.
44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You know and then.....
46

47 MR. GREIST: It just depends. Some people
48 have dog teams and some people only do it for making like
49 during falltime, you get them while they have eggs.
50

00026

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

2

3 MR. GREIST: And then we age them. So
4 we.....

5

6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Sometimes if you keep it
7 down more than three hours you won't have a net left. It
8 will sink because of those.....

9

10 MR. GREIST: Three weeks -- about two weeks
11 is pretty standard for a family, maybe.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But the other thing,
14 too, is white fish, if you keep it in the net and it dies
15 in the net, if you keep it in the water too long it's just
16 too soft for anything to do with it.

17

18 MR. GREIST: Yeah. You don't want to keep
19 it in the water too long.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So the people are there
22 to check them.

23

24 MR. GREIST: Yep.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

27

28 MR. STONEY: You know the history of the
29 whitefish like in the Kobuk River, because Kobuk River is a
30 very large river, and in the early days, when I seen all
31 these fish traps in the Kobuk Rivers, there must be about
32 15 of them, you know, they block the river but they're
33 traditional way of fishing and setting a fish trap was set,
34 before even statehood, when you set a fish trap both sides
35 of the river it has to be no less than eight feet, that's a
36 village law. If it wasn't eight feet and they find out,
37 well, during -- before statehood, the people had a meeting
38 and they'd go cut that off right now with no questions
39 asked whatsoever, that's how they did it in a traditional
40 way. Every trap, it has to be eight feet or even more,
41 both sides of the river where the fish can still continue
42 to go through that river.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We had regulations
45 before this regulations. Conservation measures. Fred,
46 state your name for the record.

47

48 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong, Fish and
49 Wildlife Service. I think that what would make it easier,
50 too, if the Staff analysis would go more in depth into the

00027

1 process as far as the people, the limited amount of time
2 that they have to fish, the humidity and the temperature
3 that they have to watch, you know, because it's just a very
4 short period of time. To people who don't know about this,
5 you know, they don't realize the short time that's involved
6 in this. So the more that you guys could explain the
7 better it will be. Because it is a very sensitive proposal
8 that is getting some attention.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, just to
11 follow our process I think we're supposed to have the ADF&G
12 give their comments.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, I'm following the
15 agenda and I'll call them, they'll have their crack.

16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I didn't want them mad
18 at me.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You're doing good, keep
21 talking. You got anything else?

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any.....

26
27 MR. GREIST: Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

30
31 MR. GREIST: We might need to, on the mesh
32 size, between two and a half and four.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. GREIST:I'm using four and a
37 half.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, that's because the
40 fall ones are bigger, yeah.

41
42 MR. GREIST: And four and a half is, yeah,
43 for the large ones.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Charlie.

46
47 MR. GREIST: So we need to make that a
48 little bit bigger.

49
50 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, my name's Charlie

00028

1 Lean. I was in a difficult position of being a State
2 employee when this first happened and now I'm a Federal
3 employee. Just a bit of history for you first, one of the
4 tenants of statehood, one of the big issues in the
5 statehood declaration was the closure of all traps for
6 fishing in Alaska. There was some notable bad situations
7 that occurred on the Yukon and Southeast Alaska with traps
8 taking too many fish and so forth and so this regulation of
9 no stream blocking has been in effect in State regulations
10 since statehood.

11
12 Many of us understand that this has been a
13 long-term practice, preceding statehood and has always been
14 that way. An attempt was made, I think, on.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can I interject
17 something here?

18
19 MR. LEAN: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I don't think it was
22 intentional, they said, traps, these are nets.

23
24 MR. LEAN: Yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think the recognition
27 was to allow for the nets back then. That's my thinking.
28 If it was said any kind of stream blocking, it would have
29 said that, it said traps.

30
31 MR. LEAN: I beg your pardon but on the
32 Yukon there was an instance where nets were put clear
33 across the entire Yukon and the Missionary Hudson (ph)
34 stock took it to Congress and got that fish plant shut down
35 so.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: On the Yukon.

38
39 MR. LEAN: On the Yukon. But anyway, many
40 of us realize that this is consistent with tradition and
41 how things have been. Helen, with all of us giving our
42 hard time did our best and wrote an analysis that tried to
43 describe existing practice. And that's what she's
44 presented here today and we're not, at least, I think on
45 our part, we're not trying to change existing practice.
46 We're trying to define it so that it doesn't change,
47 though.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Charlie, while you're
50 there, I was going to ask you later on anyway. Charlie,

00029

1 does the Park Service have a problem with this proposal?

2

3 MR. LEAN: Not with the final analysis.

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We worked rather closely
6 together on it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All right.

9

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I worked really closely
11 with Charlie and Ken and did a lot of consultation. And,
12 Charlie, because he's lived out here so long was able to
13 give me a lot of good information.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: He's seen it.

16

17 MR. LEAN: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I mean he's had to fly
20 over it and see it.

21

22 MR. LEAN: But anyway to get to Mr.
23 Greist's comment about net size and why four inches and not
24 why not four and a half and so forth. Four inch in
25 regulation is the dividing line between salmon gear and
26 other sorts of gear.

27

28 MR. GREIST: Okay.

29

30 MR. LEAN: And in the subsistence regs,
31 both Federal and State and so that's how that upper limit
32 of four came into being. If it's the wish here, that's
33 your business, if you like four and a half better than
34 four, but in many people's minds, and perhaps the Federal
35 Board's minds, there should be a separation between large
36 gear and small gear, and currently in regulation that's
37 four inches.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

40

41 MR. GREIST: I could go along with that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

44

45 MR. GREIST: Yeah, I could go along with
46 that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Leave it as is?

49

50 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

00030

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

2
3 MR. LEAN: Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions to
6 Helen? LeAnn.

7
8 MS. AYERS: Helen, I'm just wondering in
9 the proposal you say streams.....

10
11 REPORTER: LeAnn.

12
13 MS. AYERS: It's such a short question.
14 LeAnn Ayers, biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service. Helen,
15 in the proposal the wording that was chosen was streams,
16 creeks and sloughs, does that specifically exclude the main
17 river or was there an intent to do that and is that
18 possible with that wording?

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually in the -- you
21 know, I'm not sure, because in the final modified proposed
22 regulation, it's on Page 23, it says, this was our
23 recommended, the reading of it; you may not obstruct more
24 than one-half the width of any stream with any gear used to
25 take fish for subsistence uses except when using gillnets
26 for, you know, et cetera, et cetera, but it doesn't
27 actually -- I'm not even sure -- we had this discussion in
28 Staff Committee whether there's a definition between what
29 is a stream versus what is a river, and that is something
30 that.....

31
32 MS. AYERS: So it's still ambiguous?

33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's ambiguous.

35
36 MS. AYERS: Okay.

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think because there's
39 no good definition, is there? I'm not a fisheries
40 biologist, I don't know.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any other
43 questions?

44
45 MR. GREIST: Mr. Chairman on your date.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. GREIST:you got October 30th,
50 right?

00031

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: October 15th.
2
3 MR. GREIST: 15th?
4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.
6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Is that too early?
8
9 MR. GREIST: Yeah.
10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Still too early?
12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: October 30th better?
14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: End of October?
16
17 MR. GREIST: Well, right after it freezes
18 we do under ice fishing anyway. Do you guys do that
19 in.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, we do too here.
22
23 MR. GREIST: Okay.
24
25 MR. STONEY: Yeah.
26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: October 30 or 15?
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's up to the Council,
30 you can.....
31
32 MR. GREIST: October 30th.
33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: October 30th.
35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:make whatever
37 recommendations you'd like to.
38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 30, October 30.
40
41 MR. GREIST: It freezes over anyway,
42 but.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: By that time it will
45 be.....
46
47 MR. STONEY: Okay.
48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:but we need to make
50 room if it doesn't freeze up.

00032

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, in case of global
2 warming, you know, you might get a warm late fall.

3
4 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, you got to
7 understand, too, in the fall time, we don't want to get
8 them too early because they'll get too ripe by the time it
9 freezes. You got to get them.....

10
11 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:when it's just
14 right for everything so they don't get too strong, you
15 know, age too much.

16
17 MR. GREIST: Like right now, during this
18 meeting.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any other
21 questions to Helen?

22
23 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I know that in
24 the last couple of weeks this issue leaked out to the
25 public and you know, I'm sure glad they're getting a lot of
26 calls, you know, because they're very concerned, you know,
27 about locking -- a situation like this because that's what
28 we've done all our life. And like you said, number 1, it's
29 been like the beaver's operation, they're not human. And
30 then, of course, then State called me and they wanted it on
31 teleconference, this issue, I said, nope, we'll never get
32 done through a telephone conversation because I'm going to
33 support this through telephone, but it together and we'll
34 talk about it, the State denied my request.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is Susan Bucknell here?
37 She's not, uh, when did they have a State Advisory meeting,
38 not too long ago, didn't they, couple days ago?

39
40 MS. MAGDANZ: Last night.

41
42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Last night.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Last night.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'll get to you, Jim,
47 were you there?

48
49 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, several of us were
50 there. Susan's typing up notes from that meeting right now

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1 for the purpose of bringing them over here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Anybody have any
4 other questions of Helen? Are you comfortable, Helen, with
5 what we've described here and what we want to see in the
6 final analysis so the proposal can go forward?

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. We'll call
11 on you if we have any other questions. What we'll get into
12 now is -- anybody have any other biological analysis they
13 want to give on this thing? Charlie. From the Federal
14 side? LeAnn, do you have any problems? Does the Fish and
15 Wildlife Service have any problems with this?

16

17 MS. AYERS: LeAnn Ayers, Fish and Wildlife
18 Service in Kotzebue. Leslie was sorry she couldn't make it
19 today but she'd like me to put forth a question to you or
20 an idea to consider, and that's concern with the upper
21 Selawik and the possibility of nets going across the river
22 where some of the sheefish spawning is. The question for
23 Bert would be, would it be possible to limit the regulation
24 to below the Tag in the fall if, indeed, people from
25 Selawik never went up past there? So the concern was, the
26 Upper Selawik River and the 60-foot net length and the
27 request was to consider that an option when you think about
28 the final proposal wording. Thank you.

29

30 MR. GREIST: Too shallow to go up there in
31 the first place.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Too shallow to go up
34 there in the first place.

35

36 MS. AYERS: Well, that's what we thought,
37 so.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It don't make any sense
40 for the people to go up there a hundred miles if they can
41 get it 15 miles away from Selawik.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Helen.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It doesn't make any
48 sense to you because you live here but for the people who
49 don't live here, they have this concern. What was
50 expressed to me, this isn't my opinion, okay, but I'm just

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1 trying to express what other people have said. Is that,
2 there might be some, you know, yahoo white guy who says,
3 I'm going to go, you know, and put my net all the way
4 across the river and take all these whitefish, that's their
5 concern more than anything, is that, not the people who
6 know the traditions but somebody who is new to the area who
7 might come in and do it differently. And then there is one
8 particular person in our office who's very concerned about
9 the Upper Selawik. And I think if you -- and I said that,
10 you know, look at the maps, look at where they're taking
11 fish, they're not going up there, and so the response was,
12 well, if they're not going up there, couldn't we just put
13 something in saying that they're not going above -- you
14 know, to make it -- put it in regulation what they're
15 actually doing would make them a whole lot happier. And if
16 people aren't going up there, then maybe it doesn't matter
17 if it's spelled out in regulation. But they're trying to
18 keep someone from, you know, 10 years down the road,
19 actually thinking about going up there because that's where
20 sheefish are spawning.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Who was it? Why isn't
23 he here?

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, it's Rod Simmons,
26 who's really concerned about it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, why isn't he here?

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know the answer
31 to that question. But he's on Staff Committee and I don't
32 know whether he's gone to other meetings or.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: There's none on the
35 schedule.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't know. I don't
38 know. He's not right in my office and I don't know what
39 his -- what he's doing and why he's not here.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

42
43 MR. GREIST: Are we talking about just the
44 Tag or Selawik River itself?

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think the concern is
47 the Selawik.....

48
49 MS. AYERS: Selawik.

50

00035

1 MR. GREIST: The Selawik.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:because it's.....

4

5 MR. GREIST: Starting from the mouth of

6 Tag?

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:because of the
9 sheefish are spawning up there, yeah.

10

11 MR. GREIST: Okay.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's the concern.

14

15 MR. GREIST: We have a lot of people.....

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And I don't know, he's
18 not here, maybe if we go back and say, look it's -- you
19 know, it's too far away from the village, people aren't
20 going up there, whether he'd be more satisfied.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, let me mention one
23 other thing here, people take a chance when they block the
24 whole stream of that net getting damaged. They watch it
25 pretty close. I mean they're not going to block the stream
26 if there's a lot of traffic. I mean the net is there so
27 they can catch fish. If there's a lot of traffic there,
28 there's a high probability that that net's going to get
29 damaged or cut in half. Right that down in the analysis.

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It will be in the
32 transcript, too, don't worry. That's what's great about
33 having Tina here, it's all in the transcript so you can all
34 read that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Well, she must be
37 an expert in subsistence by the time she gets done with all
38 the meetings. She should be our leading spokesperson, you
39 know.

40

41 MR. STONEY: You know, what concerns me,
42 Mr. Chairman, I'll mention again, you know, is different
43 agencies look over these streams and sloughs, get a pick
44 and shovel and start working right now, otherwise guys will
45 not get fish anyway, fly over every day and unblock them.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody here from the
48 BLM, do you have any problems with this proposal?

49

50 MS. MEYERS: I don't have a fisheries

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1 background and I'm not qualified to analyze it.

2

3

4 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole with the BLM, I
5 didn't hear anything from our fisheries biologist in the
6 office about any concern about these proposals and I did
7 give them copies of the proposals to look at. And it
8 doesn't affect BLM land so I don't think we really have any
9 major concerns.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Okay, ADF&G.

11

12 MR. DiCICCO: Fred DiCicco, Alaska
13 Department of Fish and Game. I guess the enviable task of
14 being Mr. Popularity today in regard to this proposal.

15

16 The Fish and Game presented Helen's staff
17 with some comments. I think they're real short and
18 succinct in what's being handed out right now. The
19 Department feels that allowing the complete blockage of a
20 stream risks the depletion of local stocks of whitefish.
21 We realize that this practice occurs to some degree and
22 apparently it occurs to a greater degree than I realized
23 and it is traditional, that that goes on.

24

25 Your description of how your mother-in-law
26 fishes, I don't think our concerns are for those kinds of
27 fisheries. And if the reality is that that is entirely the
28 definition of the way everybody fishes, at least speaking
29 personally, and I can't right now speak for all members of
30 the Department, I would have much less of a problem with
31 this kind of a proposal -- with this proposal. Jim Magdanz
32 has discussed with me the way that some fisheries occur in
33 the Upper Kobuk and they're talking about tiny little
34 creeks, watching their nets, they just need four or five
35 sacks of whitefish. They throw their net in, take it out,
36 those kinds of fisheries aren't a problem. And there's no
37 indication that they have been a biological problem, as
38 you've said, they've been going on -- I guess our fear is
39 that if the door is legally opened for this practice to be
40 recognized as legal, that abuses might occur. Either with
41 new people, people that aren't educated in the traditional
42 methods of doing it, people who would block major
43 migrational pathways of the fish and deplete local stocks;
44 that's our concern.

45

46 And I'm not sure how to get around it
47 because what we end up with is a problem, and Helen's
48 struggling with this, is the problem of putting all this
49 stuff down on paper so it makes sense. And I think that's
50 where we are. I think if it's -- again our concern is

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1 open-ended, stretching nets all the way across creeks,
2 sloughs, we don't like that idea, and I think it flies in
3 the face of our perception of basic sound fisheries
4 management. If you catch all the fish, if somebody puts a
5 net in, and the worst case scenario, there's a net blocking
6 a stream of a major migrational pathway, it's in, that net
7 comes out, another one goes right in, and that comes out
8 and another one goes right in and it happens year after
9 year after year, those stocks are going to be negatively
10 impacted.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: In this, you know pretty
13 much about the area, uh?

14
15 MR. DiCICCO: Not as well as you do, but I
16 know something about the area.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can you tell me which
19 stream or major migration route is 60 feet?

20
21 MR. DiCICCO: Well, there are a number of
22 small sloughs that are important connecting lakes that are
23 used for feeding areas by these whitefish.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And it's limiting to
26 whitefish, this is what I'm talking about, those small
27 streams that come from a lake. They get the fish from
28 there. They're not blocking streams to migration routes
29 for other fish.

30
31 MR. DiCICCO: Well, it's more -- my concern
32 is more of a conservation concern for whitefish than it is
33 for interception for other species. I don't think
34 that.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Have you got
37 documentation that this is a conservation problem, a
38 practice that has existed for hundreds of years, you know?

39
40 MR. DiCICCO: No, in the area we don't.
41 And it appears that it probably isn't. And again, our
42 concern is less -- or my concern, I should, and I can't,
43 again, speak totally for everybody in the Department of
44 Fish and Game, is less for the practice that you've
45 described, the way it happens, the way your mother-in-law
46 fishes, the way Jim described to me, that people in the
47 Upper Kobuk.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's what happens.

50

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1 MR. DiCICCO:and that's probably
2 okay. It's been going on for years, there don't seem to be
3 negative impacts on whitefish. If we can describe that in
4 writing in such a way that it won't allow for people, you
5 know, that -- for abuse of it where they catch all the
6 fish, then I think that the Department would be.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let me ask, right now
9 there's a regulation that limits the area to 25,000 pounds
10 of whitefish/sheefish combination for commercial, what
11 you're talking about is the commercial-type enterprise, so
12 to speak, if somebody wanted to do it, but we're not doing
13 it, nobody's doing it. We have a problem, you know,
14 whitefish, you keep it out in the sun, it gets soft in, you
15 know, a few hours. So if we were going to get a whole
16 bunch of fish we'd have to bring ice out there, well, I
17 don't think it's going to happen.

18
19 MR. DiCICCO: Well, again, our fear is that
20 it might happen and that's our concern.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Here's our fear,
23 some rambunctious protection officer is going to go arrest
24 one of our people because that's what's happening.

25
26 MR. DiCICCO: Well, let's work closely to
27 find a way to put it on paper so it makes sense and doesn't
28 allow for abuses. And I'll help and other people in the
29 Department will help, they have been in contact with
30 Helen's office.

31
32 Another approach, and this has come up,
33 Helen mentioned it to me earlier, would be to pass it and
34 design a study to have somebody within a specific area, see
35 if it's impacting things over a five year period. I think
36 the Department, as a whole, would support that approach.
37 I'm just throwing out ideas now, I guess, at this point.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We certainly have
40 harvest data, there's no, in my mind, there's no
41 conservation problem with the data that's been gathered. I
42 don't see it getting any more, in fact, I see less of
43 what's happening, you know. People aren't taking the time
44 to go out and get as much as they used to.

45
46 MR. DiCICCO: So you think that the
47 practice is actually becoming less and less?

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: For Kotzebue it is.

50

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1 MR. DiCICCO: Well, potentially and we
2 don't know a lot of things about whitefish up here. We
3 don't know stock size, we don't know the definition of
4 stocks or how those fish mix as they move in and out of
5 these feeding areas for the summer from the lake. If they
6 mix and go into these summer feeding areas and get
7 intercepted and as they leave they get intercepted, you
8 could probably catch every one and you'd never know the
9 difference. If they don't mix.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You think our people are
12 going to sit there and wait for a fish to come by, we know
13 they're there. We wouldn't put our nets there if they're
14 not there.

15
16 MR. DiCICCO: Right.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We'd leave.

19
20 MR. DiCICCO: Well, no, I don't think that
21 you understood what I was getting at.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I understood what you
24 were saying, what I'm trying to say is that if our people
25 know that there's a problem with the fish stocks in the
26 area they won't go there. They're not going to waste their
27 time with a few fish to worry about, they'll find some
28 other place. And most of the families have their own areas
29 where they fish. They have the allotments there, they do
30 it all the time, the other people respect it.

31
32 Go ahead.

33
34 MR. DiCICCO: Well, I guess I don't have a
35 whole lot more to say.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

38
39 MR. DiCICCO: Bert.

40
41 MR. GREIST: I appreciate your concern
42 about the conservation of any fish stock. I think we're
43 pretty much got the same concern, I mean we're probably
44 more concerned than conservationists because we depend on
45 them for our livelihood, you know.

46
47 MR. DiCICCO: Yes, and you should be. I
48 think we all share that.

49
50 MR. GREIST: Yeah. It's a cultural

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1 practice, though, for us to do that and to ask us to stop
2 is like not being who we are. I mean it's just kind of
3 like, if you take a look at the Legislative report of
4 ANILCA, it addresses probably some of those things that you
5 might find that are different and it asks that we -- as we
6 put together regulations and management plans, that we
7 don't alter the livelihood of our Native people and some of
8 the stuff that they do. And I think that we kind of
9 foresaw that there would be some times where conservation,
10 whatever, when you take a first look at something like
11 that, it just doesn't seem a wise thing for conservation
12 but this is one of those things that you have to make that
13 stand about basically who we are and that if we've done it
14 for thousands of years and the fish, they're still there,
15 they're still there, that's the point.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Helen.

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I have a question and a
20 comment when Fred was talking about possibly doing some
21 research. The fisheries program we have now does have
22 funding for research to be done and I checked on this. The
23 soonest any research could be done would be 2002 because
24 we're in a cycle, and you'll hear about this later in the
25 meeting, the Council's can make recommendations as to any
26 research they want done and then it goes forward and then
27 Board looks at all the recommendations. They look at how
28 much money and they decide what the highest priorities are.
29 The soonest that would happen would be 2002 because we're
30 already in the 2001 cycle. And what was suggested to me by
31 at ADF&G in Sportfish in Anchorage was a study that would
32 document where people are actually taking whitefish because
33 we don't have that information. We have the chum
34 information on non-salmon, but not whitefish, and then that
35 would maybe appease the people who are concerned about, you
36 know, where people are going. And it might be that that
37 information will be important to have 10 years down the
38 road, I mean if you look at it in the future, maybe to have
39 some documentation of practices and there's more
40 information as Fred was saying on the white fish stock,
41 that it might be to your benefit to make a recommendation
42 to do a study like that. Of course it's up to the Council.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think a harvest study
45 at this point would be good.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, they are
48 collecting harvest information already.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

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1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's being done in
2 some communities and Jim Magdanz or Susan Georgette could
3 talk about that more.

4
5 My other question was, do you have a sense
6 of, I'd like to put this into my analysis, of how far
7 people, the maximum distance people would go from their
8 villages to take whitefish.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Noorvik, they go towards
11 the end of the Delta, I know that.

12
13 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But they don't block the
16 tributaries going into it.

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's off the tributaries
21 into the little lakes. They're not blocking.....

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:the major streams
26 and the river parts that go into the Kobuk River. It don't
27 make any sense to do that. What they're doing is, that's
28 where they come out from the lakes into the river.

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And there, again, like I
33 said, they're careful because they know if there's stoppage
34 through that area then that's going to get damaged, you
35 know. So they pick their spots.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I mean would it be
38 possible for me to say that people aren't going to more
39 than X -- I mean sort of a generic statement or is that not
40 possible to say, that they will go more than X number of
41 miles away, you know, away from their villages or not or
42 that my be too generic?

43
44 MR. STONEY: Most of them there today who
45 are doing the harvest in the springtime is to their own
46 allotment.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

49
50 MR. STONEY: That's just -- 40 or 50 miles

00042

1 away.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, and there's Kiana
4 people that go down to the Kobuk-Delta even from Kiana to
5 fish in the streams down there in the falltime, you know,
6 part of his family does that.

7

8 MR. STONEY: Private allotments and they do
9 their fishing right there.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: What about Kotzebue
12 people

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We'll go over, you know,
15 only in the Noatak somewhere but we don't block off.
16 There's one area where in the Noatak area where the last
17 person that did it, Lena Sours, 15 years ago maybe, but it
18 was just five feet. She just barely got her little row
19 boat up that stream to bring her stuff for her camp. She
20 had to pack most of her food and her tent but she knew
21 where to get the fish.

22

23 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, like this
24 fishing for subsistence today on the slough is not like 40
25 years ago. Forty years ago every household would have to
26 go out and do their harvesting on these sloughs. Today,
27 now, after 40 years ago it's changed, maybe there's a
28 dozen, at the most, fishing the Kobuk area, maybe 12 of
29 them out there. Not the whole town that goes anymore,
30 because they get a lot of social, they get all the
31 agencies, but they are not like 40 years ago.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here in Kotzebue, we let
34 the ocean block the streams for us. We do. And there's a
35 way we get fish, we just make a ditch, you know, and pick
36 the fish up.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh, I've heard that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. I mean we don't
41 even put nets, I mean.....

42

43 MR. DiCICCO: So Raymond, back to your
44 comment, you feel that there is a lot less effort on the
45 whitefish stocks now than there was just 30 or 40 years
46 ago?

47

48 MR. STONEY: About 90 percent, you know, of
49 the population in that area don't fish for harvest at
50 springtime now, not like 40 years ago.

00043

1 MR. DiCICCO: Even though there's a lot
2 more people, there's still less effort?

3
4 MR. STONEY: Yes. It's not like 40 years
5 ago because that was our survival.

6
7 MR. DiCICCO: Right.

8
9 MR. STONEY: Not today because the people
10 -- there's all kinds of sources where they can get their
11 food from. Like I said, maybe there is a dozen of them
12 because Kiana and Noorvik and Selawik -- I don't know about
13 Selawik but there are not very many people left that do
14 setnets on these sloughs. They just get what they want,
15 stay there for two or three days, they got enough, that's
16 it.

17
18 MR. DiCICCO: Well, Helen, I think that's a
19 real critical point that you could add to your analysis.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, I will.

22
23 MR. DiCICCO: And that would help.

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions
28 about -- Fred, you had a question?

29
30 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Well, I just wanted to
31 bring something up. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Some of this
32 same discussion is going to occur at the Board level here
33 and I think that, you know, I'd just throw this suggestion
34 out, that, perhaps you could ask the agencies that have
35 concerns about this to forward all those concerns to you so
36 that you can sort of rebut those concerns or the other way
37 is to create a little working group prior to the Board
38 meeting to hash out all the concerns so that -- because,
39 you know, in realty, you're facing an uphill battle with
40 this proposal. And the better work you put into it the
41 more chance it has of passing. A lot of it is people are
42 not educated with how we do things up here. So the better
43 you could document it the better chance you have of passage
44 of this. Because both sides have both, good interest at
45 heart and it's just a matter of documentation.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Fred. After
48 the discussion this morning, what's your sense? I mean you
49 guys still going to say, no way?

50

00044

1 MR. DiCICCO: I guess I can't speak for
2 everybody in the Department, Mr. Chairman, and I can bring
3 what I've heard here back to people and discuss it and work
4 with Helen's office and see if we can come to some
5 consensus. I guess I can't make any promises.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Don't go away
8 yet, Jim, can you come up and give us a brief rundown on
9 what happened last night in the advisory -- the State
10 Advisory board was meeting last night for the local area?
11 Kotzebue, I think, it was, uh?

12
13 MR. MAGDANZ: Yes. The Kotzebue Advisory
14 committee met last night.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Jim Magdanz.

17
18 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: She knows.

21
22 MR. MAGDANZ:State of Alaska,
23 Department of Fish and Game. Fred DiCicco was there,
24 Charlie Lean was there, so please jump in if there's
25 anything that I should make -- the committee discussed this
26 for about an hour and a half, and in the end decided not to
27 vote on it and one of their reasons was that this is a
28 committee that represents Kotzebue. There is a committee
29 for the Lower Kobuk and Selawik and so they felt, first of
30 all, that the people who were affected by this proposal
31 should be the ones that actually take a vote.

32
33 There was a lot of concern on the committee
34 about, initially, blocking an entire stream. But as they
35 heard information about the practice, the kind of
36 information that's come out today, I would say that the
37 committee gradually swung around to a little different
38 position. At the end of their discussion, they polled the
39 members and my brief notes here show that Elmer Goodwin
40 supported Proposal 39, Victor Carmen supported it but felt
41 that it should be amended to not totally block.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What?

44
45 MR. MAGDANZ: Amended but to not totally
46 block a stream. They talked about three-quarters. Alex
47 Whiting supported it but felt that net tending is the key
48 issue. He felt that people should be there to tend the
49 net. And Homer Mills also offered his support but
50 expressed concern about blocking streams completely. And

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1 Elmer Armstrong, I missed his comments at the beginning of
2 this wrap up poll of each member, he also expressed concern
3 about blocking the stream in total.

4
5 But I'll reiterate, kind of their base
6 decision was, this Kotzebue group didn't feel that they
7 should be imposing their view on a fishery proposal that
8 affected the Kobuk and Selawik drainages and they wanted to
9 defer to those committees that represented those areas and
10 defer to the RAC on this issue. So Fred, have I.....

11
12 MR. DiCICCO: I think you've captured what
13 happened. The discussion was all over the place for about
14 an hour.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Will you take that
17 message back to your folks, that the local people, there's
18 support out there for it but they can't say for the other
19 villages?

20
21 MR. DiCICCO: Yes. In fact, here's Susan
22 Bucknell. Susan was taking notes and wrote up notes and
23 she can probably give you a better of idea of what
24 happened, and I have her notes to take back to people.

25
26 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair, Charlie Lean
27 pointed out that Elmer Armstrong mentioned the beaver issue
28 and urged that there be a program to deal with beavers and
29 pointed out the inconsistency between the State's concern
30 over blocking streams with a net when beavers were a major
31 problem in the Selawik drainage blocking streams. And yet
32 he was also one of those who proposed a three-quarter width
33 modification, that three-quarters of the stream could be
34 blocked, in his view.

35
36 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a
37 comment, if we're legalized to set a net three-quarters
38 width, because those nets, you know, they cost \$300 even
39 though it's 10 feet long, it cost \$300 all completed. Now,
40 if I set a net three-quarter way across the stream because
41 I just got finished paying that \$300 and here comes a big
42 outboard, he's not going to see it -- into that line for
43 the end of the net, he's going to go right through it. Of
44 course, you know, the State said we can't use red buoys.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, anybody have
47 another questions to Mr. DiCicco?

48
49 MR. STONEY: I'm glad you brought that
50 thing about beavers, especially for you guys go out there

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1 and they go camp on these dams with a pick and shovel and
2 work on it for the next five years, maybe we'll be
3 satisfied because none of us get fish anyway because
4 beavers block them, like I say.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Take this back to your
7 superiors, that we would like to see if you're so concerned
8 about conservation of the fish, that you pick on the
9 beavers instead of us.

10
11 MR. DiCICCO: I will. And I'll take more
12 back to them, Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

15
16 MR. STONEY: Yeah, that's right.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

19
20 MR. STONEY: I think the way the people are
21 talking to me, I don't think we even should talk about
22 this, blocking the streams, because people, they told me,
23 you know, go talk to the beavers first.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: At this time I'll open
26 the floor to public comments on the proposal, anyone wish
27 to make any comments from the public on this proposal?
28 Does anyone want to stick their neck out for their agency?
29 Susan come on up, you got the floor, state your name for
30 the record.

31
32 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Susan
33 Bucknell, Fish and Game Board Support. I work with the
34 advisory committees. In what I passed out, there's two
35 committee comments, Upper Kobuk, they were too busy to meet
36 but they asked me to phone poll, that committee unanimously
37 supported the proposal. And some people were out at camp
38 so trying to reach them, I talked to a number of other
39 people, and I heard the message from everybody, without
40 exception, that that is what they do and that it hasn't
41 been a problem for the fish, they've always done it, it's
42 just little streams, it's not the big ones. Everyone
43 thought that. They had no objections.

44
45 Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee had quite
46 a different attitude. They really do not like the idea of
47 blocking streams completely, they're really uncomfortable
48 with that. They do recognize that it's for a different
49 area, though, they weren't totally comfortable commenting
50 on the other area. They do want to see the proposal that

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1 comes out of this committee today and then comment on that
2 finally. And there's just a few brief comments. I wrote
3 them up this morning and Homer Mills okayed them over the
4 phone so they have some committee oversight.

5
6 Also, I didn't get like a complete quorum
7 of opinion from Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee, but I
8 talked to a number of people there -- well, really just one
9 or two people from Kivalina and they said we don't do that,
10 we just go seine, we don't put nets across. But in Noatak,
11 at least a couple said, we do put nets across streams, we
12 cork the streams, we've done it, it's the way we do it.
13 And I don't know if that's on Federal lands around Noatak
14 or State lands but there was testimony that they do do
15 that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

18
19 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anyone else. I want to
22 thank you all for your comments and concerns on the issue.
23 What we'll do now is take it up here -- you guys want to
24 take a break first?

25
26 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

27
28 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

29
30 MR. STONEY: Sure.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Take 10 minutes.

33
34 (Off record)

35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'll call this meeting
38 back to order. Where we're at now is Regional Council
39 deliberation and recommendation.

40
41 I think the concern I see or I hear from
42 the State is the incidental catch or whatever you want to
43 call it with others. I think that if we put this proposal
44 just for whitefish we'll have a better chance -- but that's
45 what it is anyway, the proposal is just for whitefish. And
46 if it's worded just for whitefish, the final proposed
47 regulation, Helen, and in the areas just for what you
48 outlined, the Selawik Refuge and Kobuk Valley Park, limit
49 it to that, I think it would be okay. That's where most of
50 the concern is in the Kobuk and Selawik areas anyway.

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1 There may be some practice in other parts but it's so
2 minimal that I don't think we have to address it.

3
4 So what is the with of the Council, anybody
5 have any comments or concerns they want to voice before we
6 take any action. Bert.

7
8 MR. GREIST: No, not really. I know there
9 is 97,0000 lakes on the Selawik Refuge and I could go for
10 weeks without going through the same place and if we adopt
11 this regulation right now and I would keep my net out right
12 now. I mean I got a net on top of my seine right now and
13 it's our traditional spot for our family that, I don't
14 know, maybe it's third or fourth generation, you're asking
15 me to stop what my forefathers taught me through my mother
16 and father, that's kind of a pretty heavy-handed thing to
17 do. I think we need to take a look at that as well.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

22
23 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, on this
24 proposal, instead of just whitefish, I think that pike
25 should be included on this proposal. You know, a history
26 of pike and white fish, you know, like every year I see it,
27 in fact we use that net on the sloughs, we set net for half
28 an hour and pull it out. If it's nothing but pike we pull
29 it out, but pike goes out first.

30
31 MR. GREIST: Yeah, that's right.

32
33 MR. STONEY: Yeah, so we keep that net in
34 half an hour and that's it.

35
36 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

37
38 MR. STONEY: For a week to 10 days.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think the State would
41 be glad to see us catch pike.

42
43 MR. STONEY: So on this proposal, I think
44 that.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can we do that, Helen?

47
48 MR. STONEY:my big concern is.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Because it's the same

00049

1 time that the pike are going out, I forgot to mention that,
2 I was thinking about it and some of those Noorvik people,
3 they do dry a lot of pike at the same time they're catching
4 their whitefish. I know my brother does, him and his wife.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You can do whatever you
7 want Willie.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, that's the
10 recommendation. That's the recommendation to include the
11 pike. Bill.

12
13 MR. KNAUER: The only thing, we just --
14 just make sure that whatever you do it's on the record and
15 very clear in a motion that expresses everything.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. So.....

18
19 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:what I seen is some
22 documents here -- which proposal is it?

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's Tab E, Proposal 39.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I know, but it says
27 shaded, except for taking of whitefish in the Kotzebue
28 area, didn't we propose language into.....

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This what the Staff has
31 recommended and you want to change all of those.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. On Page 22, on
34 the bottom, the preliminary conclusion on Page 22, we were
35 recommending the change to October 30, that date. Do you
36 need that in a motion?

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Nods affirmatively)

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So the Chair would
41 entertain a motion to amend the preliminary conclusion of
42 the Staff report.....

43
44 MR. GREIST: So moved Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:to change one date
47 from the September 15th date to October 30. You moved?

48
49 MR. GREIST: Yes.

50

00050

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

2
3 MR. STONEY: Second.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion? If
6 there's no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying
7 aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

12
13 (No opposing votes)

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Now, let me get
16 something clarified here, Helen, restricting the proposed
17 regulations to Selawik and Kobuk River drainages, that
18 would take care of the areas that you're talking about, the
19 Selawik Refuge and the Kobuk National Park?

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Now, on the next
24 page is the proposed, the modified regulation, you may not
25 obstruct more than one-half the width of any stream with
26 any gear used to take fish for subsistence uses except for
27 using gillnets for taking whitefish and pike in the Selawik
28 and Kobuk River drainages in the Kotzebue area. Gillnets
29 no longer than 60 feet with a mesh size between two and a
30 half to four inches may obstruct more than one-half the
31 width of any stream in the Selawik and Kobuk River
32 drainages from May 15 to June and August 15 to September
33 30. There again, the amendment needs to be made until
34 October 30 and also to include pike.

35
36 MR. GREIST: Pike.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: On the proposed
39 regulation. The Chair will entertain a motion to -- before
40 we do that, do we need to change that to four and a half or
41 are you okay with four?

42
43 MR. GREIST: I'm okay with four. Well,
44 yeah, I'm okay. Are we?

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You're okay with four,
47 too, Raymond.

48
49 MR. STONEY: Yes. Yes.

50

00051

1 MR. GREIST: (In Native)

2
3 MR. STONEY: (In Native)

4
5 MR. GREIST: (In Native)

6
7 MR. STONEY: (In Native)

8
9 MR. GREIST: It's four and a half, that's
10 what I use.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Charlie, what did you
13 say about this, is this more than.....

14
15 MR. GREIST: Well, I think four and a half
16 might be a little bit less than salmon, smaller than the
17 salmon nets, I know.

18
19 MR. STONEY: I seen yesterday, they did
20 have four and a half mesh net and then those, you know,
21 that whitefish, they got two types.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

24
25 MR. STONEY: One's got long and one's got
26 short and the long, with the short the real stubby fish,
27 all they do is just put the head in the net and stay there.

28
29 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

30
31 MR. STONEY: If you trip the net they just
32 fall right out.

33
34 MR. GREIST: Big ones.

35
36 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

37
38 MR. GREIST: I'm only getting the big ones,
39 I'm making

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We might miss the one
42 that gets away.

43
44 MR. GREIST: Is that four and a half, when
45 they say four and a half, I mean.....

46
47 MR. STONEY: Only if it's.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would you like to change
50 that to four and a half, too?

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1 MR. STONEY: Well, yeah, yeah.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

4
5 MR. GREIST: That's good.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's another amendment
8 then.

9
10 MR. GREIST: Okay.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: From two and a half to
13 four and a half. So the proposed regulation would read,
14 you may not obstruct more than one-half the width of any
15 stream with any gear used to take fish for subsistence uses
16 except for using gillnets for taking whitefish and pike in
17 the Selawik and Kobuk River drainages in the Kotzebue area.
18 Gillnets no longer than 60 feet with a mesh size between
19 two and a half to four and a half inches may obstruct more
20 than one-half the width of any stream in the Selawik and
21 Kobuk River drainages from May 15 to June and August 15 to
22 October 31.

23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You need to change your
25 motion.

26
27 MR. GREIST: Okay, to the 31st.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So the motion would be
30 to -- the motion was to change the preliminary conclusions,
31 the earlier one.

32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: This would be a motion
36 to adopt the proposed regulation.

37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anyone wish to make a
41 motion.

42
43 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I move.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

46
47 MR. GREIST: Second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You got that recorded
50 the way I read it?

00053

1 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)
2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: For discussion, Bert.
4
5 MR. GREIST: With the language about
6 pike.....
7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.
9
10 MR. GREIST:four and a half and 31st?
11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.
13
14 REPORTER: Yes.
15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.
17
18 MR. GREIST: Okay.
19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion.
21
22 MR. BALLOT: Question.
23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Question's been called,
25 would you call the role, Barb?
26
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Willie Goodwin.
28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.
30
31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Bert Greist.
32
33 MR. GREIST: Yes.
34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Raymond Stoney.
36
37 MR. STONEY: Yes.
38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Percy Ballot.
40
41 MR. BALLOT: Yes.
42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Joe Arey.
44
45 MR. AREY: Yes.
46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Enoch Shiedt is excused.
48 Rosie Ward is absent. Unanimous.
49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let me make one more

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1 point clear, that when the proposal comes before the
2 Federal Board, of course, the State will have ample time to
3 make any comments and recommendations they want but this is
4 coming from us here to the Federal Board. And I'll be
5 there to defend every comments you guys make.

6
7 MR. STONEY: Good.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: At the same time, you
10 know, what I think I should do is if any of the agencies
11 have any concerns on this proposal, if you would give it to
12 me in writing, I want that. I want to see that. And that
13 includes the State. We're not catching you off guard on
14 this proposal and I would respectively ask that you don't
15 catch me off guard with any comments that might, other than
16 what we've talked about here, if you have them, let me
17 know.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 That takes us to Item 8, proposal to change
22 Federal Subsistence wildlife regulations and customary and
23 traditional use determinations. Do we have any proposals?
24 Yeah, Ken.

25
26 MR. ADKISSON: We do need to talk about --
27 and I don't know whether you want to consider it coming
28 from you, coming from an agency or coming from the public,
29 but what we do need to do is talk about potential
30 regulatory changes for Seward Peninsula muskoxen, and lay
31 the groundwork for finalizing.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Aren't you on the agenda
34 here later on?

35
36 MR. ADKISSON: What's that?

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Aren't you on the agenda
39 for that later on?

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. It's at your pleasure
42 and the Council's pleasure how you want to deal with it.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think we can, as you
45 give your report, your recommendation would be for a
46 proposal, too?

47
48 MR. ADKISSON: We could do it that way if
49 you wish, yes.

50

00055

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there any problem
2 with that with any council members?

3
4 MR. GREIST: No.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Then that's the way
7 we'll handle it then.

8
9 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. Because I was just
10 concerned that we might get towards the very end and sort
11 of run out of time before we really talk about it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Does anybody have any
14 other proposals other than what we have on the agenda of
15 being proposed? Let me ask that. Jim.

16
17 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair, I guess.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Could you get closer to
20 the microphone.

21
22 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and Game.
23 Just so I'm clear here, there is a proposal on the State
24 side to change muskox regulations in the Buckland, Deering
25 area, so it's a formal proposal the Board of Game will be
26 taking up. It was recommended by the cooperators in Nome
27 in August, and that's what Ken is talking about. I mean on
28 your agenda it would appear that at this time you're taking
29 wildlife proposals and so I just want to make sure that if
30 this Council wants to submit a parallel proposal or some
31 other proposal for that area.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's what we're going
34 to talk about, about what we're going to do?

35
36 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, okay.

37
38 MR. ADKISSON: So we're just talking about
39 whether we need to do it right now as it's indicated on the
40 agenda or save it for when I do sort of the whole report
41 and kind of come back and deal with it right then.

42
43 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, just.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And I'm saying that
46 we'll deal with it when he gives his report, deal with it,
47 I mean.

48
49 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay, okay, but it is a
50 proposal, okay, got it.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody feel that there
2 should be any proposals we should propose here? Are we
3 missing something?

4
5 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes, Charlie.

8
9 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, Charlie Lean. The
10 advisory council has put forth some proposals regarding
11 sheefish fishing, both commercial and subsistence, and I
12 don't know if you want to address those or not?

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All right, let's hear
15 them. Last night, you mean?

16
17 MR. LEAN: They proposed them last spring
18 but they discussed them again last night. The proposal
19 would set gear size for both subsistence and commercial
20 gillnets to be six inches to seven inches. Right now the
21 State regs say nets up to seven inches. So this effects
22 both subsistence and commercial nets. Also they've set an
23 upper length of 20 fathoms and I believe it's now 25
24 fathoms under regulations. So they shortened the net and
25 the removed the small mesh sizes as an option for both
26 subsistence and commercial.

27
28 Speaking on behalf of the Park Service, I
29 expressed concern that the removal of the small mesh size
30 makes those gillnets target predominately large female
31 sheefish and removes the opportunity for small fish to be
32 taken. In my mind the small fish are the more expendable,
33 the more harvestable surplus than the large females who are
34 responsible for reproduction. So that's a biological
35 concern, and as a Park Service biologist I expressed and
36 their argument was that people are mostly interested in
37 large fish for human food and that many small fish have
38 been left on the ice, I asked, why not just use large nets
39 if you're interested in large fish and I didn't get a clear
40 answer.

41
42 I am aware of at least one subsistence
43 fisherman that I was informed of that's mostly a dog racer
44 and, therefore, in their mind not as much a subsistence
45 person as they believe should be and then they had very
46 little sympathy for dog mushers catching small sheefish,
47 they thought that far and away, the bulk of those dog
48 mushers today are more of a commercial enterprise than a
49 subsistence enterprise. So anyway, that was the discussion
50 on that.

00057

1 There's a second proposal dealing with the
2 commercial season, and after much discussion last night, I
3 believe they set the season from November 1 to February 1
4 for commercial gillnet winter season.

5
6 And those are the two that I remember
7 dealing with sheefish. There was another proposal I need
8 to go back and check on.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Charlie.
11 Well, they can do whatever they want with the commercial
12 end but I'm not inclined to try to change or limit our
13 subsistence way of getting fish and I wouldn't support or
14 propose anything like that to try to limit us.

15
16 MR. GREIST: Unless there's a fish stock
17 concern, population-wise.

18
19 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, as I understand it,
20 Hotham Inlet is State waters but certainly if your body
21 wishes, you could make a comment to the State Board of
22 Fisheries regarding that proposal.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred. Hold on a second,
25 Charlie.

26
27 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I guess, first I would
28 be concerned about the term, commercialization. To me, I
29 mean, it's probably individual interpretation, but to me,
30 that commercialization would mean that you would rely on
31 the income of that to support your life and that's not the
32 case here in Northwest Alaska. If we did that, I mean
33 everybody would be on food stamps. And so, you know, I
34 think that -- I don't know how, if that was brought up
35 during the advisory council meeting but it certainly is an
36 issue that this Council should take up.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, the sad thing,
39 Fred, is that they're targeting only one fisherman that is
40 selling sheefish, and he's a non-Native that lives over in
41 Hotham Inlet.....

42
43 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:that's doing it.
46 And it's unfortunate that the advisory board is targeting
47 this one guy to set the standard for the rest of us.
48 That's the unfortunate part. I know that. Two of my
49 brothers are on that advisory board, I talk to them.

50

00058

1 Thank you, Charlie.

2
3 MR. LEAN: You're welcome.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But if it does come
6 forward, you know, we should be ready to comment on it.

7
8 MR. GREIST: Yeah. If it comes forward, we
9 will.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Susan.

12
13 MS. BUCKNELL: Mr. Chair, I'd just remind
14 Charlie that the third proposal was number 133 about no
15 catch and release on sheefish spawning grounds.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, we'll support that
18 one. Any other proposals that we have to worry about? Let
19 me ask you this, Charlie, what is your recommendation, do
20 you think we should go ahead and address these proposals
21 when they come out or should we align something that we
22 like with them?

23
24 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, I think in interest
25 of trying to work within both systems, I think it's very
26 appropriate that you, as a body, express an opinion on all
27 three proposals, support or not support and a rationale
28 why. If you're going to have another meeting soon you
29 could delay this action but if you -- as I understand it,
30 they just took final action on these proposals, so any time
31 now would be a good time to make a comment.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Susan, can you come up
34 and explain those?

35
36 MS. BUCKNELL: Don't move Charlie. I just
37 thought I'd say that the time line for comments on those
38 proposals, the Board of Fisheries will meet on those
39 proposals beginning January 9. January 9th into February
40 in Anchorage, in 2001. The comment deadline is December
41 26th. They'll accept comments after that but to get them
42 into the Board book, the comment deadline is December 26th,
43 just so you know the time frame to work within for comments
44 on.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The one proposal, the
49 catch and release in the spawning areas, that was a concern
50 brought up by the user conflict meeting in Shungnak. They

00059

1 also don't like the idea. You know the study that was done
2 in Selawik showed that, what was it, two out of three fish
3 that was caught and released died, especially when the hook
4 was caught inside in the gills and bled, that that fish
5 died.

6
7 Fred.

8
9 MR. DiCICCO: Just to clarify, I wasn't
10 aware of a study that was done in Selawik, but we -- the
11 Department did a study in the Upper Kobuk back in 1996 and
12 '97, one of those two years on hook and release mortality.
13 And we caught fish using treble hook lures and using single
14 hook lures and held them for 48 hours to see if they died
15 or not, and then released the fish that survived. The
16 overall mortality rate was less than, and I'm trying to
17 remember exactly. I believe it was 2.4 percent, it was
18 around three percent or less, of the fish died. Of the
19 fish that died, which was only -- it was fewer than three
20 in a hundred, most of those were hooked in the gills or in
21 the tongue. So that's what the results of that study was.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You know when they gave
26 that report during the conference we had last January in
27 Anchorage, the number that came out and the guy that did
28 the study, I told him right there at the meeting that I
29 didn't believe it, and those were the comments that I got
30 from the Upper Kobuk people also.

31
32 MR. DiCICCO: Right. I understand that
33 there are some local concerns with the study because --
34 from what I've heard anyway, the concern is that it was
35 done by trained people and really the mortality level is
36 much higher than that. And when we get farther along and
37 discuss project proposals, we have a proposal to try to
38 address those questions that this committee may choose to
39 lend their support to.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, we do have a
42 proposal in to do a future study in the Kobuk.

43
44 MR. DiCICCO: Right, that's what I'm
45 talking about.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So, thank you.

48
49 MR. DiCICCO: Thank you.

50

00060

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Charlie.

2

3 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, I beg your pardon
4 again, we -- there's another proposal that I forgot to
5 mention as well and that's a State proposal sponsored by
6 U.S. Fish and Wildlife to reduce the sportfish bag limit on
7 the Upper Selawik to one sheefish daily, currently it's 10.

8

9 MR. GREIST: We can support that.

10

11 MR. DiCICCO: Excuse me, Charlie, does that
12 mean one daily or -- I believe it's two, which would be the
13 same as the Upper Kobuk spawning area.

14

15 MR. LEAN: Okay.

16

17 MR. DiCICCO: Right now it's 10 and we want
18 to make it -- Fish and Wildlife Service would like to make
19 it the same as the Upper Kobuk, which would be two per day
20 and the State supports that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. But that's just
23 to take them now, the other stuff you can release.

24

25 MR. DiCICCO: Right. And I understand your
26 concern.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. So you think that
29 if we took action on these proposals and the message would
30 be forwarded to the State Board of Fish?

31

32 MR. LEAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think
33 someone, myself, maybe, could forward your comments.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, can we just
36 comment on them instead of making a formal motion or
37 something like that or do you want a formal motion?

38

39 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, a formal motion would
40 be better but anything would be better than nothing.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Well, let's take
43 them one at a time then. The first one is that Upper Kobuk
44 one and I think we should support that one from -- Selawik,
45 is that the one that you're talking about, the Selawik, the
46 two per day to keep?

47

48 MR. LEAN: Yes, that is Selawik, and that
49 is two per day.

50

00061

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Two per day to keep, to
2 take?

3
4 MR. DiCICCO: Yes. In the.....

5
6 MR. LEAN: Yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Of sheefish?

9
10 MR. DiCICCO:sheefish above the Tag
11 River.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. So I'll entertain
14 a motion to support that proposal. You guys have a problem
15 with it?

16
17 MR. GREIST: No. I move, Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

20
21 MR. STONEY: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Under discussion,
24 it's a motion to support the proposal to limit the taking
25 of two sheefish above the Tag for sportfishing, right now
26 it's 10.

27
28 MR. DiCICCO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just for
29 clarification, that is State Proposal No. 132.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: For the record it's
32 Proposal No. 132.

33
34 MR. DiCICCO: Yes.

35
36 MR. BALLOT: Question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All those in favor
39 signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Opposed.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The other one. Yes.

48
49 MR. DiCICCO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the other
50 one is Proposal 133 that deals with sportfish regulations

00062

1 for sheefish. And this proposal does not allow for catch
2 and release fishing for sheefish in spawning areas.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's one we can
5 support, where no sport fishing would be allowed in
6 spawning areas or we should support it.

7

8 MR. DiCICCO: Mr. Chairman, it's no catch
9 and release fishing in spawning areas.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No catch and release,
12 okay.

13

14 MR. DiCICCO: That's what the proposal
15 speaks to.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But they can keep only
18 two?

19

20 MR. DiCICCO: They could keep two fish.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And that's it?

23

24 MR. DiCICCO: That's it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

27

28 MR. STONEY: And that's for both Selawik
29 and the Kobuk area?

30

31

32 MR. DiCICCO: It reads sheefish spawning
33 grounds so that would include both areas.

34

35 MR. STONEY: Okay.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And this was a concern
38 brought out in the meeting in Shungnak.

39

40 MR. GREIST: So I move we support that
41 proposal.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's Proposal 133. Is
44 there a second?

45

46 MR. SHIEDT: Second.

47

48 MR. STONEY: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion.

00063

1 MR. BALLOT: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All in favor signify by
4 saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's take up the one
13 for the commercial taking of sheefish.

14

15 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, there's the one
16 regarding the mesh size and there's one regarding the
17 season.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. I have a problem
20 with the mesh size, you know, I think it would limit our
21 people. Enoch, the proposal from the State, you know, to
22 limit -- make the mesh size only from six to seven inches
23 and that's it, for subsistence for sheefish under the ice.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Uh-huh.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So I don't think -- we
28 got a lot of them that have five and seven, eight nets, you
29 know, five and a half, not that many but it would limit our
30 ability to get fish.

31

32 MR. LEAN: Right. It's Proposal 126, it
33 deals with mesh size and it sets the new mesh size limit
34 from six inches to seven inches. There's another aspect of
35 the proposal that reduces the length to 20 fathoms and I'm
36 scrambling to make sure that it's -- what the current reg
37 is, I think it's separate -- I'm not sure whether it's
38 separate for the commercial and subsistence or not.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That shortening the
41 length doesn't make any sense to me. You know, I'll give
42 you my own personal experience with this. When I'm making
43 a net, I take the web, sometimes it's a salmon net, I'll
44 cut it in half one way and then cut both ends halfway so I
45 end up with a 25 fathom net. It doesn't make any sense to
46 me to get a 300 -- or a 50 fathom net and throw away 10
47 fathoms. It don't. So I wouldn't support shortening the
48 length of the net, five fathoms is just another 15 feet.

49

50 Charlie.

00064

1 MR. LEAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, it's 50 fathoms
2 in both currently.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, so it's 50 fathoms
5 right now, okay, the total aggregate that we can use?

6
7 MR. LEAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. It reads 50
8 fathoms in aggregate, so you could use two 25's if you
9 cared to.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. How do you guys
12 feel? Now, you got to realize that most of the under ice
13 fishing with sheefish is in Kobuk Lake, you know, Hotham
14 Inlet, there's some Selawik River, uh?

15
16 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But they don't use that
19 long? They use smaller sizes?

20
21 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, and they use
24 smaller sizes so.....

25
26 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, there's got to
27 be -- how many fathoms, a fathom and a half in Kobuk Lake
28 because it's so shallow in some places.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

31
32 MR. STONEY:how much mesh you use, a
33 foot and a half?

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 15 meshes deep is just
36 right.

37
38 MR. GREIST: Five and a half.

39
40 MR. STONEY: One fathom or two fathom
41 or.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What, the depth of my
44 net?

45
46 MR. STONEY:the net in the Kobuk
47 Lake?

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The depth of my net?

50
MR. STONEY: Yeah.

00065

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fifteen -- 15 meshes
2 deep.

3
4 MR. STONEY: Oh, okay.

5
6 MR. GREIST: Seven feet.

7
8 MR. STONEY: Fifteen mesh, okay.

9
10 MR. GREIST: It's about seven feet.....

11
12 MR. STONEY: Seven feet.

13
14 MR. GREIST: Five and a half, it's less
15 than seven feet.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 90 inches.

18
19 MR. SHIEDT: 90 inches, right.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If you make it too deep
22 it sticks to the ice.

23
24 MR. STONEY: Yeah. Yeah, that's right.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It will float and stick
27 to the ice so we got to make them not too -- you know, we
28 use a lot of sinkers if it's too long or it floats right
29 up.

30
31 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

34
35 MR. LEAN: The current regulation says 12
36 meshes deep and they didn't propose a change to that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I fudge a little bit.

39
40 MR. LEAN: It's a State reg.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Should we make any
43 comments on that one or just -- you know, I'm against it.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: do we have it in front of us
46 in here somewhere?

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No.

49
50 MR. GREIST: No.

00066

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No it came out from last
2 night's State advisory board meeting.

3
4 MR. GREIST: It's Proposal 126.

5
6 MR. SHIEDT: Just last night?

7
8 MR. GREIST: Yeah, State advisory.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Do you want to wait to
11 comment on that one Enoch?

12
13 MR. SHIEDT: I'd like to wait and I'd like
14 to see it and understand it more.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

17
18 MR. SHIEDT: Because I'm trying to figure
19 it out in my head right now with what's going on.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We're okay with the ones
22 that we support Charlie, but we just want to stay silent on
23 the ones we don't like right now.

24
25 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, I understand. Do you
26 wish to consider No. 127, which changes the commercial
27 fishing dates to November 1 to February 1?

28
29 MR. SHIEDT: On sheefish?

30
31 MR. LEAN: Yes. Commercial sheefish, net
32 fishing.

33
34 MR. SHIEDT: We put our nets when it
35 freezes, we don't worry about the dates.

36
37 MR. LEAN: This is just a commercial reg
38 not a subsistence.

39
40 MR. SHIEDT: This is for commercial?

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

43
44 MR. LEAN: Yes.

45
46 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And like I said earlier,
49 they're targeting one fisherman that sells sheefish.

50

00067

1 MR. SHIEDT: Dates again please?

2

3 MR. LEAN: November 1 to February 1.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is it a biological
6 concern, conservation concern?

7

8 MR. LEAN: Not in my judgment. The concern
9 was that if you went too late then the nets were more
10 likely to freeze in and that in April there was
11 concentration of spawners at the river mouths and they
12 wanted to keep an intense effort away from that, the
13 commercial effort away from that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I don't know about that.
16 I mean I don't know about -- I've been fishing more than
17 those guys that are on that advisory except with the
18 exception of my brothers, you know. Concentration of
19 fishing in river mouths, where'd they come up with that
20 anyway? They have nets in the.....

21

22 MR. LEAN: One of the members said that
23 he'd experienced that last season.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The only one that we do
26 that close by and you got to take a chance and if you want
27 to do it you can do it but most of us don't, we just do it
28 early on is the mouth of the little Noatak River. If you
29 don't watch it it freezes in, it's too shallow, you got to
30 check it every day.

31

32 MR. LEAN: Yeah. Lots of overflow, yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. And that's only
35 in October and maybe in November.

36

37 MR. LEAN: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, boy, I'd rather stay
40 silent on that one right now. Let's see it. Thank you,
41 Charlie.

42

43 MR. LEAN: You're welcome.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other proposals.
46 Okay, let's start with the agency reports, 9A. U.S. Fish
47 and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Management, Subpart 1A
48 is cooperative projects and resource monitoring program.
49 State your name, rank.

50

00068

1 MR. FRIED: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. My
2 name is Steve Fried, I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service, Office of Subsistence Management. And I'm going
4 to discuss some of the information that's under, I believe
5 Tab F in your books. I've also got a little briefing
6 packet that didn't get included in the books and there's
7 some on the table and I think they've been distributed, I
8 don't know.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm distributing them
11 right now.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

14
15 MR. FRIED: I just wanted to provide some
16 information on the fisheries resource monitoring program
17 that we're operating. Last year was the first year of this
18 program.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So excuse me, what's
21 your position at the Subsistence Management Office?

22
23 MR. FRIED: I'm a fisheries biologist in
24 the Fisheries Information Services Division.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you work statewide or
27 is it just for a certain area?

28
29 MR. FRIED: No, actually right now I'm the
30 only fisheries biologist that's involved with biometrics
31 there so -- but my area, supposedly, will be Arctic and
32 also Bristol Bay, Kodiak and the Aleutians.

33
34 MR. GREIST: That's the whole state.

35
36 MR. FRIED: So if things don't change then
37 you got me, I guess.

38
39 MR. STONEY: When you say, Arctic, what do
40 you mean, the Barrow area or Kotzebue area?

41
42 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it would be Kotzebue,
43 North Slope, the Seward Peninsula and they'd have separate
44 people working on the Yukon, a biologist for the Kuskokwim
45 and then somebody else would be working the Gulf of Alaska
46 and Southeast, which would be Southeast Alaska, Prince
47 William Sound, Cook Inlet area.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

50

00069

1 MR. GREIST: Where's the schedule?

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Schedule for new
4 fisheries project 2001, this summer.

5

6 MR. FRIED: Right. Is everybody here
7 familiar with what the fisheries resource monitoring
8 program does?

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, they're not.

11

12 MR. FRIED: It's pretty new.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm probably the only
15 one.

16

17 MR. FRIED: Okay. Well, I'll just kind of
18 quickly go through that and if anybody's got any questions
19 just stop me.

20

21 But basically it's a program that will
22 identify and bring together information on subsistence
23 fisheries, statewide and focus on fisheries that occur on
24 Federal lands, Federal subsistence fisheries. It's a
25 program that's going to fund studies to collect this
26 information and hopefully it will fill in some of the gaps
27 in our knowledge in places that we identify information is
28 needed. It will help collect this information.

29

30 We've divided it into three types of basic
31 information, one is looking at the subsistence harvest
32 patterns, getting information on that. Looking at the
33 actual fish and the status of the population and their
34 abundance trends. And then also gathering information on
35 traditional ecological knowledge. So those are basically
36 the three main areas we're looking at to fund studies.

37

38 There's a lot of Alaska Native rural
39 organization involvement in this program. We look to the
40 Regional Advisory Councils to identify the issues and
41 information needs for the program. In other words, what is
42 important to study. The Regional Advisory Councils will
43 also review annual study plans which are basically groups
44 of proposals for different studies for their areas and
45 comment on those and, you know, basically pick the ones
46 that you think are most important to do. There's only a
47 limited amount of money so we'll have to, you know, focus
48 on the most important ones. We're trying to work together
49 to conduct the studies and this would mean that the
50 agencies work together with rural organizations to do this

00070

1 partnership. There's also local hiring preferences, that I
2 think both State and Federal organizations have tried to do
3 in the past and we're going to make a greater effort to do
4 that. This first year of the studies in the 2000 studies
5 there were 83 local residents that were hired, this is
6 statewide, and of these, 69 were Alaska Natives.

7
8 In fiscal year 2000, the one we just went
9 through, there were 160 different proposals that were
10 submitted, and out of these 45 of them were funded. There
11 was 5.6 million dollars available to fund studies, and out
12 of this money, 3.5 million was from the Department of
13 Interior's budget and there was another 2.1 million that
14 went into the United States Department of Agriculture, the
15 Forest Service budget. People are curious about who
16 received funding in 2000, 38 percent of the funding went to
17 Alaska Native organizations and other organizations outside
18 of the agencies and also local hires. 40 percent of the
19 funding went to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
20 22 percent, the remaining was for studies conducted by
21 Federal agencies.

22
23 Well, now, we're coming into the 2001
24 program and we're right in the middle now. The proposals
25 were due last Friday. We're just getting them.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are these positions that
28 you're talking about -- let me get background here?

29
30 MR. FRIED: Okay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: These are mostly field
33 positions?

34
35 MR. FRIED: The local hires that I talked
36 about?

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

39
40 MR. FRIED: Yeah, they'd be field positions
41 to help run -- to help operate the studies.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How many Natives do you
44 got in the Office of Subsistence Management for Fisheries?

45
46 MR. FRIED: In our subsistence office?

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

49
50 MR. FRIED: That's a good question. Does

00071

1 anybody -- I've never looked it at that way but.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How many have you added
4 since the program started?

5

6 MR. FRIED: I'm new. I just got there in
7 July so.....

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We've added two since
10 fisheries started.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But those are just
13 coordinators, they're supposed to be there anyway, right?

14

15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, one was a new
16 coordinator. We added a new position, a new coordinator
17 position for fisheries.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Have they made any
20 efforts to hire Native biologists or stuff like that?

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We try, Willie.

23

24 MR. FRIED: Actually we still have several
25 positions we're still advertising and we can't -- we're
26 having trouble finding qualified people, Native and non-
27 Native, so.....

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Do you want me to answer
30 that?

31

32 MR. FRIED: Sure.

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Because I know I was
35 involved in trying to find -- in hiring the anthropologist
36 and we did hire an anthropologist who is Aleut. But we
37 made efforts by advertising everywhere we could to let
38 people know that those positions were open. And then we,
39 you know, I personally called places -- I called people I
40 knew who worked with Natives and let people know, you know,
41 it's -- we are making efforts. And I will say that Tom
42 Boyd, even, you know, I had to get his approval to do an
43 extra cert list to do more outreach and it cost us a lot
44 more money and he said, you know, I can't quote him
45 verbatim but, we need to reach as many people as possible
46 because we need to make an effort to hire Natives in this
47 program, so he's willing to spend the extra money and it
48 cost us about \$3,000 or \$4,000 per advertisement in order
49 to make it available, you know, outside the government.

50

00072

1 They're trying, really.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred.

4
5 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, as part of
6 nationwide initiative to diversify the work force, each of
7 the departments are under pressure to try to diversify
8 their work force and try to reach out further to the
9 minorities to try to get them to go to work for the
10 service. And there is a screening process to ensure that
11 minorities are taken into consideration for selection. So
12 there are steps in place to try to do that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Fred.

15
16 MR. FRIED: And as I've said, there's
17 several positions.....

18
19 MR. STONEY: I only got a simple question
20 on the -- you said, they've funded 2.2 million, that's
21 statewide, of course, I would imagine?

22
23 MR. FRIED: Yeah, that's statewide.

24
25 MR. STONEY: And then I don't know if you
26 have an idea or not, how much is up here for Northwest
27 Alaska from this 2.2.....

28
29 MR. FRIED: How much from the study money?

30
31 MR. STONEY: Yes, for Northwest Alaska up
32 here.

33
34 MR. FRIED: I think there's like a little
35 over \$200,000 that was spent for studies in this area.

36
37 MR. STONEY: Okay.

38
39 MR. FRIED: Plus there's some more money
40 that has gone for studies that are statewide in scope.

41
42 MR. STONEY: Okay.

43
44 MR. FRIED: So I think what we're looking
45 at here is that we're a little bit underfunded up in the
46 Arctic and we're hoping that there is more proposals that
47 come in this time.

48
49 MR. STONEY: Okay.

50

00073

1 MR. FRIED: You know, like I said, I
2 haven't had time, the proposal just came in and we've just
3 been giving them numbers and putting them in files.

4
5 MR. STONEY: Northwest has always been
6 underfunded in project.

7
8 MR. FRIED: Well, hopefully there will be
9 more interest this year and we'll be able to fund some more
10 studies.

11
12 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

13
14 MR. FRIED: And I guess the important date
15 to remember for these 2001 study proposals would be this
16 January 2001, when I guess we'd be looking to the Advisory
17 Councils to develop recommendations on the proposals,
18 which, at that point, will be full proposals and
19 investigation plans that have some more detail.

20
21 And there's going to be a special training
22 session in Anchorage in January, I think it's late January
23 about the 20th to the 23rd or somewhere around there for
24 the Regional Advisory Councils, and there will be a bunch
25 of different things discussed there but one of the things
26 we hope will be discussed will be the completion of the
27 recommendations on the studies. And we hope to get these
28 proposals to you before that, so that it's not the first
29 time you've seen them. But like I said, right now, we've
30 just gotten them ourselves and we'll be having -- we'll be
31 getting those out once we get them sorted through and
32 actually what will be interesting is to get the full
33 proposals once we get the ones that look like they're
34 worthy -- more worthy of study. So we don't want to just
35 give everybody 250 proposals, it gets kind of confusing so
36 we're trying to get this organized a little bit better.

37
38 There's some problems with the schedule we
39 have now for 2001. One, this studies plan review doesn't
40 fit into the Regional Advisory Council meeting schedule,
41 and because of that it makes it difficult to get these
42 reviews and it doesn't give you much time to review, you
43 know, the studies and prepare recommendations. And also,
44 it doesn't give the investigators a lot of time either to
45 do their proposals and do their plans. So what we're
46 trying to do and what we're going to do is for 2002
47 studies, we're going to move to a different schedule.
48 We've talked about this quite a bit, and we're going to
49 make sure that this schedule fits with the Regional Council
50 schedule, you know, the fall and the winter meetings so

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1 that it's not coming in between and it gives people plenty
2 of time to take a look at them. And also we're looking to
3 give the investigators more time to prepare these proposals
4 also. And there are full schedules in Tab F if you want to
5 get some more detail, I'm just trying to keep this brief.

6
7 But basically for these 2002 studies, in
8 September and October 2001, you'll have two months in which
9 to develop recommendations on these annual study plans and
10 this will happen during the regular fall meeting. So it
11 will be occurring now, you will actually have those study
12 plans in front of you and you'll be able to, you know, look
13 at them and make recommendations and understand what's
14 there. So hopefully this will help improve the program and
15 help improve the input we get.

16
17 Something else of interest that has
18 been.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I got a question.

21
22 MR. FRIED: Sure

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: On the proposals for
25 studies. Last year our Council expressed an interest in
26 studying the affect of beavers on fish and I don't know
27 where that went.

28
29 MR. FRIED: I really wasn't with the office
30 when they went through last year's proposals but I'm not
31 sure anybody submitted a proposal on that. There is one
32 funded in the Upper Yukon on interactions between beavers
33 and fish. But the only ones funded up here, there's some
34 char studies for stock identification and there was -- I
35 think there's a sheefish harvest study and those were the
36 ones there were for the Arctic. Now, whether or not
37 somebody put on in this year, I don't know yet. But if
38 nobody has and that's of interest, then there's still -- in
39 November there will be a call for studies, not for this
40 summer, this coming summer, but for the next summer for
41 2002 and somebody can put in one there also.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

44
45 MR. FRIED: And I know there's also been a
46 lot of interest in these cooperative field resource
47 monitoring positions, positions that would be hired that
48 would actually be out in the different areas to work with
49 the people. And it's my understanding that there's going
50 to be up to nine of these positions within rural

00075

1 organizations and of these, they're talking about six
2 fisheries biologists and then the other three would be
3 social scientists. And hopefully, it's been really tough
4 administratively getting this done but the positions are
5 supposed to be distributed among the different subsistence
6 management regions according to need and since there's only
7 about nine, we're going to have to be careful, you know,
8 what organizations actually house these positions and to
9 make sure that they work for the whole region and not just
10 necessarily for the, you know, as a single organization's
11 interests.

12
13 And I think the latest I heard, that
14 they're hoping to have, at least some of these positions,
15 hired by this spring. But my understanding is it's been
16 pretty difficult, you know, getting all this set up.

17
18 The other item and the last one I've got
19 for you that I thought people would be interested in is
20 there is a subsistence fisheries harvest assessment working
21 group and you're lucky because one of the members here is
22 on it so he'd be a real good information source, which is
23 Enoch Shiedt. And the working group just put out a draft
24 plan, a draft report, and basically this group is made up
25 of tribal, State and Federal members, and the project is
26 actually being conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish
27 and Game, Division of Subsistence and the Alaska Inter-
28 Tribal Council. And they've formed a working group and
29 what they're trying to do is develop a unified harvest
30 assessment program for all subsistence fisheries throughout
31 the state. And so they've got a draft report, it just came
32 out, it's got some guiding principles, very good
33 information and I think we brought 10 or 12 copies for
34 people that are actually interested for the whole -- to see
35 the whole report. It's being very widely distributed. I
36 think it came up for -- it started being distributed on
37 September 5th, and they're asking for comments back on the
38 25th of October. And supposedly, they're hoping that the
39 comments for each region will come through the working
40 group member that is assigned for the region of that part
41 of the state.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Enoch.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: The last one he just
46 mentioned, the working group, they're mainly worried about
47 the salmon, subsistence take of salmon and commercial. I
48 went to the meeting, I'm involved in that group there and
49 I'm not worried just about salmon, I'm worried about
50 whitefish, trout and sheefish also of commercial take for

00076

1 future. You know, start worrying about saving for our
2 future for others besides just salmon. I'm having a hard
3 time getting through to them saying, we don't rely mostly
4 on salmon.

5
6 And I sent email and faxes to all our
7 villages on this one and I just received one comment so far
8 and we do it on September 5, I went ahead and did it six
9 weeks ahead of schedule on the draft. And I've received
10 little comment on it.

11
12 I had problems with the funding that went to the
13 State on this one here. My main concern is, why did the
14 Feds fund the State for the -- to get advice on how to do
15 subsistence? Why couldn't they go straight to the Federal
16 recognized tribes?

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The problem was the
19 timing of the -- the spending of the money plus the fact
20 that the State had these proposals ready to submit for
21 funding. The Staff wasn't there in the office, subsistence
22 office or even in the field offices to do them. So the
23 Federal Board opted to go ahead and allow the State to do
24 the work that they proposed to do, not all of them now, you
25 know.

26
27 MR. SHIEDT: Right.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Like the char one. Fred
30 did that. We supported the proposal to get it done, that's
31 an example. But now as we move forward, we're going to
32 hear from Charlie about the proposal on the sonar thing and
33 how we're going to work that or how the Park Service wants
34 to work it when his time comes up to talk about it.

35
36 Any other questions, comments?

37
38 We'll get with you when we're ready.

39
40 MR. FRIED: Oh, I'm sure you will. I'll be
41 here all day, you know, so if you think of something just
42 feel free.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

45
46 MR. FRIED: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Staffing to implement
49 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management.

50

00077

1 MR. KNAUER: Just a short update, Mr.
2 Chairman. I'm Bill Knauer, Fish and Wildlife subsistence.
3 Steve gave you some of the information on the nine
4 technical positions that we're looking to contract out.
5 We've already talked a little bit about the Native liaison
6 position that we're looking to fill in association with
7 BIA. Overall, all of the agencies look to fill 43
8 positions, we've currently hired 21 folks. In Subsistence
9 Management we've hired nine, we plan to hire another six
10 for a total of 15. The other agencies, the positions are
11 split between both their regional office staff and their
12 field staff and they likewise have different figures.

13
14 There is a briefing in your book that's got
15 a table on those. And of the 22 people we've hired, 18 are
16 from Alaska and we're very lucky, in that, we've been able
17 to hire seven former State fishery managers or researchers.
18 So we've got folks that have got in-depth knowledge of the
19 resource that we're going to be dealing with.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
22 questions?

23
24 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I was just
25 wondering you have a lot of professional positions opening
26 but we need more Natives. We don't see resource management
27 people at our career fairs and stuff like that. It's
28 really a good idea to try to have some people going to the
29 villages to attend the career fairs or whatever so that the
30 students or people can get an interest or, you know, what
31 it takes -- what these jobs involved and all that.

32
33 MR. KNAUER: We certainly appreciate that.
34 We've been trying to work through our personnel and our
35 office of Human diversity and with our Native Liaison
36 specialist, Fred Armstrong, to hit various fairs around the
37 state, like at University of Alaska-Fairbanks and UAA and
38 so on, and of course we always try to have a booth at AFN.
39 This year, my understanding is the number of booths have
40 been cut way back so we may end up sharing one with another
41 agency but we recognize the need and, of course, part of
42 the resource monitoring program is based on building
43 capability within the local communities and organizations
44 around the state.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions?
47 Got anything else, Bill?

48
49 MR. KNAUER: Not on that.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you very
2 much. Well, this next item might be a little hot and
3 heavy, why don't we break for lunch, yeah, I don't know how
4 we're going to consult with the State here but we'll --
5 let's come back at 1:30.

6
7 (Off record)
8 (On record)
9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, I'm going call
11 this meeting back to order. In the packet there's the item
12 we're going to discuss next, it's the consultation and
13 coordination with State of Alaska. Who's going to head up
14 that discussion? Go ahead, Bill.

15
16 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just
17 a brief summary of the document that's in you book. You've
18 been intimately involved in the development of the interim
19 Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal program and the
20 various State agencies but your Council members may not be
21 as familiar with it. Over the past year, the Federal
22 Subsistence Board, with its various Staff members work
23 pretty closely with the State to develop an umbrella
24 agreement, it's an interim agreement until all of the
25 various protocols are developed. The agreement has been
26 initialed by the Chair of the Board of Game, the Chair of
27 the Board of Fish on the State side, as well, as the
28 Commission of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
29 all of the Federal Board Subsistence Board members. And it
30 talks in general terms about conservation, subsistence,
31 avoiding duplication. Things that both the State and
32 Federal programs could easily agree upon. And it left for
33 future, the development of working protocols where there
34 was maybe some greater separation and ideas. Although,
35 this first year they did develop a protocol for in-season
36 management on the Yukon River.

37
38 And this first year, with the assumption of
39 Federal jurisdiction for fisheries, there was quite a bit
40 of concern. Things started out a hair shaky on the Yukon
41 River, but they surprising enough quickly smoothed out.
42 There have been about a half a dozen in-season actions that
43 occurred on the Yukon River. Initially closing things, and
44 the most recent have opened opportunities, particularly
45 with coho because on the Yukon, if you've been following
46 the news, you heard that the chinook run and the summer run
47 of chums were the lowest on record, the fall run looks like
48 it's probably going to be right there also. But the coho
49 run is real strong. So the last two actions were
50 coordinated Federal and State actions to open up

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1 opportunities for harvest of coho to try and make up a
2 little bit of what would normally have been lost.

3
4 There was also a closure action on the
5 Kuskokwim River early on, also with the -- relative to
6 chinook and chum salmon, and down in Southeast there was a
7 coordinated closure on Redoubt Lake on sockeye. So there
8 has been pretty darn good cooperation this summer in these
9 areas.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Does anybody have any
12 questions. Well, basically consultation and coordination
13 efforts, the MOA that we talked about in that January
14 meeting in Anchorage when all Council members statewide
15 were there, when it was in a draft state before the Federal
16 Board adopted it, it seems to be working.

17
18 Anybody have any questions. Thank you,
19 Bill.

20
21 MR. KNAUER: You're welcome.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Regional Council
24 fisheries training, Page 3. You've got it again?

25
26 MR. KNAUER: I've got it again.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

29
30 MR. KNAUER: We started out a year ago with
31 Phase I, which involved essentially a field exposure with
32 the Federal Subsistence Board members to some of the
33 subsistence fishing practices, primarily on the Yukon and
34 Kuskokwim Rivers to give the Federal Subsistence Board
35 members an opportunity to actually go out in the field and
36 talk to some subsistence users, see what they were doing
37 and how they were doing it. Taking a look at some of the
38 fish camps and drying racks and fish wheels and so on.

39
40 Phase II was the opportunity in January
41 where we brought in all of the Regional Advisory Council
42 members to Anchorage to participate in a three day training
43 session, we also included Federal agency staff from around
44 the state and also invited State folks. It was a
45 resounding success. It didn't do maybe everything that
46 everybody wanted but it was an opportunity for everybody to
47 hear about the program from the same sheet of music. And
48 there were some break out sessions where some of the
49 Councils and folks interested in specific areas could get
50 together and talk about some things. Also opportunities to

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1 go over the MOA.

2

3 Phase III, there have been a couple of
4 different thoughts proposed for it. Currently, we're
5 looking at a session, again, in January before the Regional
6 Councils meet. And it would -- right now we're still in
7 the formative stage trying to figure out what we would like
8 to have in it and what the Regional Council members would
9 like to see in it. Some of the potential topics include
10 in-season management, how did the first year go, what
11 suggestions might come up, how did it work for the local
12 people. Possibly some information on what we know
13 scientifically related to the western Alaska salmon runs,
14 what we might be able to expect in the future. Some other
15 ideas about the regulatory process, about monitoring
16 projects. But we would also like to hear what the Regional
17 Councils would like to see in such a training session.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions. Keep in
20 mind those dates are tentative right now?

21

22 MR. KNAUER: Right. Those are tentative
23 dates.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But somewhere in January
26 we'll head down to Anchorage.

27

28 MR. KNAUER: That's what we're looking at
29 right now.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

32

33 MR. KNAUER: But if there's things that,
34 you know, the Council would really like to see included in
35 that training, we'd really like to know. Because like I
36 said, we're right now in the formative stages of the agenda
37 development and we want this to benefit you folks.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. So if any Council
40 member things of a subject that we need to talk about in
41 the training, let Barb know. Thanks Bill.

42

43 MR. KNAUER: Uh-huh.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: E, Statewide rural
46 determinations. You again?

47

48 MR. KNAUER: Yes. We're in the process
49 right now of putting together a, I think it's called a
50 technical evaluation panel that will look at developing the

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1 criteria for the awarding of a contract and the contract
2 would be for an entity to provide the Federal Subsistence
3 Board two methodologies. One methodology would be for, how
4 and when and where communities should be grouped together
5 for consideration. In other words, if you've got two
6 communities beside each other, should they really be looked
7 at a single entity or should they be looked at separately.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, why are you guys
10 trying to confuse the issue?

11
12 MR. KNAUER: And -- well, we know that some
13 communities are very closely related and it's primarily
14 most common in the non-rural areas. For example, like in
15 Anchorage, Eagle River, for a large part is a bedroom
16 community for Anchorage. And I used to live there and,
17 you know, I could see it every day on the road, a huge
18 amount of traffic back and forth. So.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's a poor example.
21 What about Napakiak and Napaskiak? Right next to each
22 other, total population is probably around 700, when they
23 get to 4,000 are you guys going to disqualify both
24 villages?

25
26 MR. KNAUER: Let me finish what's happening
27 here. There are two things. In the rural process, there's
28 the first thing that says, that communities that are
29 socially, economically and communally related need to be
30 aggregated for consideration, okay. So we're asking -- we
31 would be asking for a contract to -- for a firm to say,
32 okay, what features should be looked at and what are the
33 levels that determine whether or not communities are that
34 closely related. The second contract or it may be a sub-
35 set of the contract, would say, okay, tell us what
36 characteristics and levels determine -- or should we be
37 using to determine the non-rural or conversely rural nature
38 of these communities or areas. And we hope that this will
39 be something that we can use and will be able to be
40 defended in court and is scientifically accepted, and we'll
41 be, of course, asking the Regional Councils, when we have
42 the process, you know, does this look like a pretty
43 reasonable thing to you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is this direction coming
46 from the Board?

47
48 MR. KNAUER: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Because as you know.....

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1 MR. GREIST: The Subsistence Board?

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, the Subsistence
4 Board, is that what you said, that's what they are looking
5 for?

6

7 MR. KNAUER: The Federal Subsistence Board
8 directed the Subsistence Management Staff to find a process
9 for the rural determinations. As you know we're under
10 litigation and -- excuse me, we're not under litigation,
11 we're under a request for consideration on the Kenai rural
12 determination. The Board, in May, declared the entire
13 Kenai Peninsula rural and there's been requests for
14 consideration. Well, during that process, there were -- we
15 had a number of individuals evaluate the process and they
16 found that the process that was used back in '91, some of
17 the characteristics and factors that were used are probably
18 not scientifically defensible. It wasn't maybe the
19 cleanest process that could have been used, not necessarily
20 that the decisions were right or wrong, but the process was
21 not a good clean process. And so the Board asked the
22 office to develop a process that could be utilized, not
23 that the outside entity would make the decisions as to who
24 would be rural and non-rural, this would still be left to
25 the Board, but to come up with a process that the Board
26 could use that would be fair for the communities and would
27 be -- folks could look at it and say, yes, this makes
28 sense. They could see why decisions were made one way or
29 another.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think it's just a way
32 to try to disqualify a village, say for instance, Eklutna.
33 Totally dependent on the wildlife, culturally dependent on
34 it, but the unfortunate thing is that they're living too
35 close to Anchorage. That's what I think. You guys are
36 trying to figure out a way to disqualify the subsistence
37 user on the Kenai Peninsula.

38

39 Fred, you got a comment?

40

41 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, well, you know, I
42 have a hard time sitting back because, you know, I do have
43 concerns about the process that this thing is evolving
44 into. You know, Bill mentioned the RFR, and is this new
45 category or structure that they're creating, is that going
46 to be used to determine the RFR? My assumption is that
47 they would have to follow the existing guidelines for a
48 rural determination because you can't change mid-stream.
49 And if that's the case then that whole thing is flawed.
50 You need -- the determination was based on the existing

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1 priority -- I mean the rural determination status, it's not
2 based on -- you can't just switch to a new one.

3
4 And also my concern is about Native
5 participation in the entire process. I mean I just see a
6 -- I don't know what the structure of this make up is, but
7 if there's going to be a rural determination I think rural
8 Alaska needs to be actively involved in the process and
9 that's the message I would bring back.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Fred.

12
13 MR. KNAUER: Okay, I'd like to respond to
14 two things. First off, for the RFR, we're not going to be
15 changing in mid-stream, the RFR, currently the Board is
16 using the process that it has in regulation.

17
18 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Okay, that's good.

19
20 MR. KNAUER: And secondly, in the rural
21 determinations that the Board will make in the future, all
22 of those rural determinations or non-rural determinations
23 will come before the Region Councils.

24
25 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: What I'm talking about
26 is how is it -- I mean you talk about a process that's
27 evolving now, but with lack of rural participation is my
28 concern. I think to make an objective determination is not
29 going to happen. I think it will end up being a subjective
30 thing.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bill, when can we
33 comment on this process?

34
35 MR. KNAUER: Well, as soon as we have
36 something from the -- some proposals from the contractors
37 the -- after the.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But you've already,
40 you're out there looking for somebody to do something
41 already?

42
43 MR. KNAUER: Right now we're looking to
44 develop what would be the wording in the contract, how it
45 would be formed and what would be the minimum requirements
46 of expertise, where the folks would need to knowledgeable
47 in or from. That's what's occurring right now.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy, you had a
50 comment.

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1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park Service. I work for the
3 Park Service Board member. Really just to answer a
4 question that I heard you ask, Willie, and I'm not sure
5 that I heard the answer, which was, why is this being done?
6 The existing Federal Board regulations require the Board to
7 do this once every 10 years. So that's why this is
8 happening. All the discussion with the Kenai Peninsula, if
9 none of that occurred, this would still be happening, okay,
10 so I don't know if you want to add to that but that might
11 bring a teeny bit of clarity.

12
13 MR. KNAUER: Yeah, the rural -- the review
14 of all the communities and the rural determination must be
15 done every 10 years. That's in our regulation. What I was
16 talking about in the Kenai, is the review of the analysis
17 for the Kenai determination, that highlighted that there
18 was some problems that we had used before. That's why
19 we're going out with a new contract to figure out where we
20 should be coming from. But the 10 year review is something
21 that's in regulation and we would do whether or not there
22 was ever a request from the Kenai.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So we've been lax in the
25 review or the Subsistence Office has been in lax, every 10
26 -- I think it's 12 years isn't it?

27
28 MR. KNAUER: No. The Federal Subsistence
29 Program started out in June of '90 with temporary
30 regulations and in May of '92, published final regulations
31 so this would be the first 10 year census after the start
32 of the program.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

35
36 MR. GREIST: Is that part of the Section
37 .810 of ANILCA, the process?

38
39 MR. KNAUER: The rural determination
40 process is really not identified in ANILCA. It just says
41 that the rural areas will be provided a priority and in the
42 Congressional history, in the Legislative history there is
43 a little bit of discussion about some areas that are non-
44 rural and that those were Fairbanks, Anchorage, Ketchikan
45 and Juneau. And it gives them as examples of non-rural
46 areas. And so when we started the program back in '90, you
47 know, the Board had to take a look and figure out, okay,
48 what areas are non-rural and what areas are rural. And so
49 now that we've had 10 years of the program, it's time to
50 relook at it.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But we will have an
2 opportunity to review them?

3
4 MR. KNAUER: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions.
7 Have you got customary trade, too?

8
9 MR. KNAUER: I've got customary trade, too.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

12
13 MR. KNAUER: There is really nothing to
14 report right now on customary trade. We know that
15 customary trade is a part of subsistence. Right now we
16 don't have -- the regulations do not fine well what
17 customary trade is, other than to say that it does not
18 include anything that constitutes a significant commercial
19 enterprise. Well, we don't have that defined either.

20
21 We recognize that what customary trade and
22 what folks might consider a significant commercial
23 enterprise could differ significantly region-to-region.
24 And the Board is committed to working with the Regional
25 Councils to come up with something that fits in each region
26 as best possible.

27
28 Right now, this first year, we've just had
29 too many other things on our plates to go any further. We
30 tried to put together a group to come up with what we have
31 found to present to the Regional Councils, because we did
32 have a contract for folks to look at what was out there in
33 the literature thus far. But that didn't come to pass so
34 right now we're sort of treading water and we'll be getting
35 back to the Regional Councils probably at their winter
36 meeting asking for more information from the Councils on
37 what they feel constitutes, either customary trade or what
38 they feel is the threshold for a significant commercial
39 enterprise in their region.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. How about the art
42 contest, do you got that, too?

43
44 MR. KNAUER: I'm just looking to see the
45 agenda to see if I'm able to step down here.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Subsistence lifestyles
48 art contest for Alaska school children.

49
50 MR. KNAUER: Barb's got that one.

00086

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions for Bill.
2 Thank you.

3
4 MR. KNAUER: Thank you.

5
6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There's an art contest
7 going on statewide for school age, from kindergarten
8 through 12th grade. It closes on the 27th of October and
9 the title is to be something of having to do with
10 subsistence lifestyle. And the people that are going to be
11 -- the Chairs when they have their meeting in December will
12 be picking out the winners for -- they'll be judging at
13 their meeting in December. And this has been sent out to
14 all the schools in the region, statewide. That's it.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions.

17
18 MR. GREIST: Okay.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, migratory birds. Who's on that?

22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No one's on that, it's
24 just information.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. There's some
27 information in the packet on migratory birds.

28
29 MR. B. ARMSTRONG: Fred can answer some
30 questions if you have any.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bill.

33
34 MR. KNAUER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I was just
35 going to mention that there is in your.....

36
37 REPORTER: Bill.

38
39 MR. KNAUER:in your booklet some
40 information about the migratory birds and the management
41 body efforts that the Office is involved in.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. Enoch.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: On the migratory birds, I'm
46 getting money from the Feds to bring people from all our
47 villages here for a one time meeting. It's a total of
48 about \$13,000. And I wrote a letter to the villages, I
49 haven't returned -- I just sent it out, how many they would
50 like to see coming and see if they have any concerns on

00087

1 migratory birds and water fowl.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

4

5 MR. GREIST: I got a question, are we
6 getting an Alaskan on the Flyaway Council, the membership?

7

8 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: What was that?

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The Flyaway Council
11 membership, is there an Alaskan that's going to be put on
12 that?

13

14 MR. GREIST: An Alaska rep.

15

16 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: That's under
17 consideration right now. Actually, if I may, the Alaska
18 Migratory Bird Commission, now, I think it may be called,
19 will be considered a Flyaway Council, they will be making
20 recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Service
21 regulations committee. They're the ones that passed the
22 Staff regulations. There is going to be a meeting next
23 month of these regional representatives to kind of finalize
24 the bylaws for this body. After the passage of the
25 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the language in there stated
26 that the management body will consist of Alaska Natives,
27 Federal and State representatives acting as equals. We've
28 had one meeting so far with the representatives, Enoch was
29 at that and one of the biggest concerns that was aired and
30 discussed at length was the equality in the voting process.
31 It's kind of difficult when you got three different
32 governments, so to speak trying to decide how the voting
33 process will go.

34

35 The Regional Director has made his
36 determination about the management bodies will consist of
37 seven regional management bodies, I think Northwest and
38 North Slope are combined together in that.

39

40 There is still talk about perhaps adding a
41 representative to the Pacific Flyaway Council, that still
42 hasn't been determined.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Enoch.

45

46 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, just to add on there,
47 they had a big issue on that voting, the Feds had one, the
48 State had one and -- the Native working group to work on
49 the voting side, and it's on the agenda and we're working
50 on where we have a representative from the Native working

00088

1 group and it's going to be nice and hopefully we get it in
2 the future.

3

4 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, and another topic
5 of concern that was sort of hard to address was the
6 Chairmanship, either having a chair voted by election
7 process or rotate between the three bodies and I think
8 they're more inclined to rotate.

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Rotate, yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thanks, Fred.

13

14 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions. Okay.
17 I was asked by LeAnn to give her some time here before we
18 get on with the Park Service.

19

20 MS. AYERS: Thank you, Willie. LeAnn
21 Ayers, Fish and Wildlife Service, wildlife biologist and
22 temporary acting Refuge manager until Jimmy Fox, our new
23 assistant Refuge manager gets unpacked. I'd like to
24 introduce him to you and the Council. He comes from
25 Hagerman Refuge in Texas, northern Texas. Where he has
26 worked with big game hunting issues, fisheries management
27 issues and also a lot of water fowl habitat work for
28 wintering habitat for birds there. If Leslie was here, I'm
29 sure she'd talk about his experience of nine or 12 years of
30 land management work and law enforcement credentials but
31 since I'm here introducing him, I'm going to tell you he's
32 a great observer in the backseat of a SuperCub and he knows
33 water fowl, ducks and geese on the wing better than anybody
34 I've flown with. So with that I'd like you to welcome him
35 and he'll be working quite a bit on the planning efforts
36 for the the transporter issue this winter with folks.

37

38 So with that.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you're a game warden,
41 uh, or used to be?

42

43 MR. FOX: Yes, sir, still am.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Welcome to Kotzebue. I
46 hope we can work well together. We have some concerned
47 people in the Refuge right now, you've probably seen this
48 letter from Leslie.

49

50 MR. FOX: Uh-huh.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And probably, you know,
2 in January over a year ago, almost two years now that this
3 issue has come up on user conflicts. And as I understand
4 it, you know, I live right in the lagoon like I said this
5 morning, and I see this Maverick Air going back and forth,
6 land and water, taking off with this big airplane now. Was
7 he caught without a permit?

8
9 MS. AYERS: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Did you guys cite him?

11
12 MS. AYERS: No.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Why?

15
16 MS. AYERS: We had an explanation that the
17 solicitor decided that they would accept and they wouldn't
18 be able to prosecute. The other reason that was given was
19 -- or decided on, that it was better to have him in the
20 system this year, as far as reporting his activities and
21 being required to report his activities and numbers of
22 clients and where he was going, which then would be a basis
23 if there were problems to revoke a permit the following
24 year. And that's kind of what is in process now.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Boy, wait a minute.....

27
28 MR. GREIST: Wait, wait, wait.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:now that's wrong,
31 Bert. They come up to your country with airplanes, bring
32 people in to hunt up there, and yet they get away scott
33 free.

34
35 MR. GREIST: I know. Well, I saw it three
36 times myself.

37
38 MS. AYERS: Yeah, and actually the first
39 reports we got were from other special use permit holders
40 and transporters. So I.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's not fair to the
43 longstanding local transporters that have been working in
44 the area within the law.....

45
46 MS. AYERS: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:by reporting and
49 everything else, giving us the information we need to make
50

00090

1 the decisions based on those for subsistence and other uses
2 and this guy comes in and does that and gets away with it.

3
4 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

5
6 MS. AYERS: I agree with you
7 wholeheartedly, Willie.

8
9 MR. GREIST: Just because you don't have a
10 -- why did you decide not to prosecute?

11
12 MS. AYERS: Actually a lot of the basis for
13 it is the issue of navigable jurisdiction.

14
15 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

16
17 MS. AYERS: That that issue came up where
18 they felt that they would have a difficulty making a case.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Wait a minute, I thought
21 they were the ones that told us that with the fisheries
22 program, that the navigable issue was settled?

23
24 MS. AYERS: No, it's not. The regulations
25 are being published, but they are not a done deal until, I
26 believe, sometime this winter or later this winter. And
27 that's one of Leslie's reasons for going ahead with
28 the.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, let me ask the
31 Council, is it okay if I draft up a letter and write to
32 Dave and telling him that this is very wrong.....

33
34 MR. STONEY: Yes.

35
36 MR. GREIST: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:and shouldn't
39 happen.....

40
41 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:in -- or during his
44 watch in Alaska.

45
46 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's just a situation
49 that's going to balloon. If he gets away with it.....

50

00091

1 ME. SHIEDT:every other.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Hey, how many
4 transporters do we got operating up there in the Refuge?

5

6 MS. AYERS: I believe there's eight
7 transporters and one guide.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Nine.

10

11 MS. AYERS: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Boy, so let me do
14 that, can I do that, let me do that, uh?

15

16 MR. GREIST: I went up Apokak River, I
17 stayed over night about halfway up the river and I heard a
18 gun shot in the morning and then later on that plane
19 stopped by and picked somebody up and took off with a
20 moose.

21

22 MS. AYERS: Yeah. Yeah, definitely a very
23 high volume operation.

24

25 MR. GREIST: And there were about.....

26

27 MS. AYERS: And we've had those in the
28 Selawik before but they've come from the Galena side so the
29 activity has been farther up. But, yeah, this changed
30 things quite a bit this year. Also there's a -- we had
31 quite a bit of law enforcement presence down there which
32 they have a number of things in the works now about a lot
33 of those cases, both the State and Mike Wade, with Fish and
34 Wildlife were based out there. So I think you'll be
35 hearing more about some of the things that they were able
36 to document that people were reporting in to have checked
37 out.

38

39 But I think right now the atmosphere is
40 just, it's perfect with the other operators as far as
41 working on a plan for limiting places. And also the other
42 option of working on areas to have off limits for
43 operations.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You could do that by
46 regulation, have you found that out or do you need an
47 opinion on it, to allow the Refuge manager to designate
48 certain areas?

49

50 MS. AYERS: It can be done through the

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1 recreation plan process that Leslie is talking about now.
2 The other thing, Joe Ballot called up with some concerns
3 about -- again, about the trespass issue, and this winter
4 we'll start working on something toward that. A number of
5 the operators came in and asked us for maps, they had seen
6 the survey markers out on some of the lakes and said, you
7 know, we didn't know there were allotments even out there,
8 do you have any maps that we can give our clients. So
9 we'll have those maps ready to give them next fall so they
10 can actually give them to their clients. And Joe is
11 talking about working with a new realty division they have
12 in actually posting or marking some of the allotments that
13 tend to be more of the problem ones that are getting used.

14
15 MR. GREIST: So where are we at in
16 developing a process to deal with this kind of issue of
17 permit -- or where are we at on this -- giving this guy a
18 permit.....

19
20 MS. AYERS: On the whole thing?

21
22 MR. GREIST:he don't have a permit,
23 right?

24
25 MS. AYERS: Yeah, that's a separate issue.
26 But the part that will start this winter that Leslie has
27 people who have been involved in working on these type of
28 plans and has the support now as a result of a lot of the
29 comments and call in and the permit issue that we had to
30 deal with with Maverick Air, the support of Jerry Strobel
31 in the Regional office to make this happen as quickly as
32 possible. So.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You mean the permit?

35
36 MS. AYERS: No, this will be.....

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MS. AYERS: Yeah, I wish, yeah -- that,
41 too, unfortunately.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I wouldn't put it past
44 them.

45
46 MS. AYERS: No, of setting up a way of
47 putting a different format where we don't have to give
48 everybody who walks in the door and asks for a special sue
49 permit a permit. That's what we're talking about changing.
50 And it may take -- the first year may be -- we may not see

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1 all of it happen next fall, it's probably unlikely that a
2 whole new Refuge permitting process will be in place, but
3 by next fall the navigable jurisdiction will be in place so
4 revoking permits or not or citing people for not having
5 permits will be possible and the following year a new
6 system should be in place, if all goes well.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Hey, Park Service, these
9 guys are going ahead of you guys there, can you guys catch
10 up?

11

12 MR. RABINOWITCH: We'll see.

13

14 MS. AYERS: And I think, just the
15 atmosphere now, with the other operators and things is ripe
16 for working something out that will be agreeable and
17 reasonable. So hopefully.

18

19 The other projects that are kind of in the
20 works, the moose study is still going on. We'll get back
21 with more information on that in the winter. Also in this
22 coming years budget, we set aside 5,000 to 7,000 dollars to
23 help with the whitefish/beaver issue. And I guess what I'd
24 like to see it go for is, while the other funding is coming
25 through for maybe the larger scale projects, this first
26 year starting this winter, we spend it just pretty much
27 determining from local folks what we already know and start
28 talking about how to plan a project that will fill in the
29 gaps of what we don't know.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: On the beaver issue?

32

33 MS. AYERS: Whitefish and beaver.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. So you'll do
36 mostly harvesting over in the Selawik -- in the Refuge?

37

38 MS. AYERS: No, I think it will probably be
39 more talking to people in Selawik about how to go about
40 collecting that type of information and bringing in people
41 like Fred DiCicco and the State or whoever is going to be
42 working on the fisheries part of it and finding out what --
43 you know, just kind of starting to plan the process by
44 coordinating three fairly different issues, of whitefish
45 ecology, where local people are traditionally hunting and
46 harvesting and also the beaver issue. I think it's going
47 to take us putting our heads together and figuring out the
48 best way to do that and the best people to be doing the
49 projects. So we'll put that on the table to help everybody
50 kind of get started on it.

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1 And that's it.

2

3 MR. GREIST: I just kind of -- I'm kind of
4 lost on this issue of why we decided -- why the management
5 decided not to issue a citation, at least, on Maverick Air.

6

7 MS. AYERS: Yeah. I guess the two things,
8 one is to raise it to a higher level to get a more
9 definitive answer to it. That was State jurisdiction. The
10 answer on it. But the answer -- or the reasons that were
11 given to me were that, one, there's an issue of
12 jurisdiction, that if he actually stayed on the river
13 corridor and dropped people off there, he could contest
14 that that was State jurisdiction and the Refuge didn't have
15 authority. The same thing, which was an eye-opener to me
16 was that on a lake, they can do the same thing if they
17 never touch the bank. This person had worked with somebody
18 who had made that challenge before so it was thought that
19 that would be the course they'd go. Fish and Wildlife
20 solicitor felt that they would lose that case if push came
21 to shove.

22

23 The other opinion that was given as far as
24 with that aside, from Jerry Strobel, was that, at this
25 point in the game, when they documented him out there, they
26 could not require him to remove his clients. So basically,
27 those people would still be out there and kind of the
28 damage was done as far as impact went, and he felt it was
29 better to have him in the system, in the permit system
30 than.....

31

32 MR. GREIST: Was this Jerry's call?

33

34 MS. AYERS: Partly. He and the solicitor
35 and Mike Wade. So those are the -- and the fact that once
36 he was in the system then a lot of the stipulations and
37 requirements then applied. It's a bad deal, I mean nobody
38 was.....

39

40 MR. GREIST: I wasn't the only one that
41 kind of brought this thing up, this Maverick Air, and saw
42 it myself. People call me up at Selawik and said, hey,
43 there's a plane flying around right in the same area we're
44 hunting moose.

45

46 MS. AYERS: Yeah.

47

48 MR. GREIST: And they saw the plane, I
49 think, flying in circles.....

50

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1 MS. AYERS: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. GREIST:and then go back.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's a sad situation.

6 But certainly you guys didn't have any problem going to
7 Kobuk, checking in Elmer Ward's freezer, digging in his
8 freezer, getting some evidence and arrest him and charge
9 him. It's a sad situation. You catch this guy flying in
10 with people, going to kill the animals and don't do
11 anything.

12

13 MS. AYERS: Not right away, I agree with
14 you, yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Any other
17 questions.

18

19 MS. AYERS: Am I done? Can I go?

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. AYERS: See, you're next. You sit
24 here.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. I mentioned I
27 asked you guys if I could write a letter, maybe if you guys
28 give me an authorization by motion I'll do it, draft it,
29 and get some help in drafting it and we'll do it. I think
30 we need to send a message to Fish and Wildlife Service, I
31 think we need to let our Congressional Delegation know that
32 amidst all the controversy with subsistence and how we use
33 the resources this abuse is going on within the Federal
34 system.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairmen.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: I move that you draft a letter
41 citing our concerns on why a citation wasn't given to this
42 transporter?

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

45

46 MR. STONEY: Second.

47

48 MR. SHIEDT: Question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion.

00096

1 MR. GREIST: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All in favor signify by
4 saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, I'll do it.
13 I'll be glad to do this one, oh, boy. Right up my alley
14 here. Okay, we're moving right along here. National Park
15 Service, Ken Adkisson, muskox update. What tab?

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: There may not be any real
18 tab in the books. Mr. Chair, Council members, my name is
19 Ken Adkisson, I'm with the National Park Service. And
20 basically what I wanted to do was give you a brief update
21 as to a status report on a couple things. One is the
22 current Seward Peninsula muskoxen hunt that's underway
23 right now, and the second one is the results of the
24 cooperative management meeting that was held in Nome last
25 month. You should have a copy of the three page report
26 that I did, and I'll just try to touch on the highlights of
27 that and summarize the key points, in the interest of time.

28

29 First I'd like to talk about this years
30 hunt. With respect to that, the joint process of issuing
31 State Tier II permits and Federal permits went very well,
32 overall, for our villages. Those villages having Federal
33 C&T. There were a total of 74 permits issued this year.
34 56 of those were State permits and 18 of them were Federal
35 permits. You should also have a copy of what I've listed
36 as Table 1, and it may not be listed that way on yours but
37 it shows a breakdown of the permits if you want to look at
38 them by village. The key issue, of course, that's always
39 come up is the situation with the State Tier II permits,
40 and all of the State Tier II permits this year stayed
41 within the region, so none of them went outside the region
42 to Anchorage, Fairbanks or Galena or anywhere else. Of the
43 State permits, all of those went to our six Federally
44 eligible villages, except for 22 of the permits. 13 of
45 those wound up in Nome, 8 of them wound up in White
46 Mountain and one of them wound up in Noorvik.

47

48 MR. STONEY: Noorvik?

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: (Nods affirmatively)

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1 MR. STONEY: We weren't aware that these
2 permits were going to be issued to Noorvik otherwise
3 anything on it granted to Buckland side was the only one
4 that we authorized.

5
6 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. I'll make this brief
7 and if I get it wrong or you have additional questions,
8 probably, Jim Magdanz is the one you should talk to. But
9 essentially, on Federal permits, those can only go to
10 Federally eligible villages, so that's the six villages,
11 okay. Under the State Tier II permit system, anyone in the
12 state, anyone in the state of Alaska can apply for a State
13 Tier II permit. Those applications are scored on the basis
14 of several criteria, including cost of living and -- and
15 past use of the resource and so forth and they're rated and
16 ranked and the highest scores get the permits.

17
18 Generally what happens within a region is,
19 is that there are so many high-scoring applications that
20 the State then takes that pool of high-scoring ones and
21 does a random drawing on them to see who gets them. So,
22 for example, people from Kotzebue, people from Fairbanks,
23 people from Galena all can apply for a muskoxen permit in
24 23SW, and those are all scored. And what happened is that
25 apparently the person from Noorvik, on basis of cost of
26 living and so forth, you know, scored high enough to get a
27 permit. And in his case, that's only good on State and
28 private lands, it's not good on Federal lands. On the
29 other hand, residents of Buckland and Deering who got their
30 State permits, they can use those permits on both State and
31 Federal lands. So that's one of, what you saw right there,
32 is one of the little glitches, from our point of view, in
33 the State Tier II process, but one of the things that the
34 cooperators have repeatedly said in several of our meetings
35 is that, they're willing, to a certain degree, to share the
36 resource with other people in the region. So I think as
37 long as things stay within sort of a manageable control
38 like that, that you're not going to hear a lot of
39 complaints. I'd be really more interested, I guess, in
40 hearing from Buckland and Deering folks if that becomes an
41 issue, and if it does, that's what you folks are here for,
42 is to address that and I repeatedly say that if the State
43 Tier II system is not working for our villages, the
44 Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal Board can take
45 action to draw some of that harvest back or whatever, into
46 the Federal program. But I think when you look at the
47 table, overall, you'll see it worked out very, very well
48 for the villages. And especially like Buckland and
49 Deering, all you have to do is look at a land status map
50 and you can see the problems that they're up against. It's

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1 just so far for those folks to go to get to Federal public
2 lands that they're best hope of getting muskoxen right now
3 are through the State Tier II.

4
5 Yeah, Raymond.

6
7 MR. STONEY: Would you give us an update of
8 what's happening Noatak and Kivalina on these permits?
9 Because they're very concerned about the permits in
10 Kivalina.

11
12 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. Again, right now, I
13 can't speak for the Seward Penn because I don't know if
14 anybody from those communities applied, but the State right
15 now has a State Tier II muskoxen hunt for north and west of
16 the Noatak River and the harvest quota was six. There was
17 six permits issued, four of those permits went to Point
18 Hope and two of them went to Kivalina. There were none
19 that went to Noatak. And probably Jim Magdanz might be
20 able to give you more information on that situation. But
21 again, I don't know how many applicants, say, from Noatak
22 applied or whatever, because that's one of the things we
23 run into is getting information out and getting people to
24 apply. I know, for example, we had lots of people from
25 Brevig Mission and Teller apply for the State permits,
26 nobody in Nome got them. This year everybody from Brevig
27 and Teller that basically applied got a permit but there
28 were still permits leftover, those are the ones that wound
29 up like in Nome.

30
31 MR. STONEY: The reason I asked that
32 question about Noatak, you know, is that we started this
33 thing with Noatak three years ago. They were the ones that
34 were interested in legalizing themselves to hunt muskox,
35 now, they wound up with nothing, so give us a reason.

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: Willie, you know, Jim's here
38 maybe if you want to just take a side bar.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's answer his
41 question first.

42
43 MR. STONEY: Yeah, can you.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Why has Noatak been.....

46
47 MR. STONEY: Yeah, give us a reason why
48 Noatak didn't get a permit. Because they call me and then
49 I have to get the answer and bring it back to them.

50

00099

1 MR. ADKISSON: All right.

2

3 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, State of Alaska,
4 Division of Subsistence. Your history is absolutely right,
5 Raymond, that Noatak people were interested in this muskox
6 hunt. The State runs it as a Tier II hunt and because the
7 State cannot take into account rural residency as a factor
8 in eligibility for these hunts, the State looks at the
9 history of hunting the resource and it looks at alternative
10 resources. That is what would you do if you couldn't get
11 this animal? And it measures alternative resources
12 primarily by the cost of food and the cost of gasoline in
13 the community where the hunter lives.

14

15 Hunters fill out an application and they
16 give their hunt history. They give their community of
17 residence and then they are scored and get so many points
18 up to 10 for the cost of food and the cost of gas and then
19 they get additional points for their hunting history. This
20 is a brand new hunt. Nobody has a hunting history. So it
21 comes down to the cost of living in the communities as
22 being the only factor to determine who gets these permits.

23

24 The most points anyone could get in this
25 hunt was 20, the 10 for food, 10 for gas. And there were
26 two applicants from Kiana, both of them got 20. There were
27 four applicants from Kivalina, both of them got 20. All of
28 them got 20. There were 32 from Kotzebue, because gas and
29 food are a little cheaper in Kotzebue, their scores were
30 all 16. The Noatak, we had 13 applications they all got 20
31 points. There was one applicant from Nome, it's even less
32 expensive there, he got 12 points. And there were 13
33 applicants from Point Hope, and they got 20 points. We
34 only had six permits and we had 13, 4, and 2, 32 total
35 people who applied who had a score of 20, we pulled names
36 out of the hat.

37

38 MR. STONEY: Jim, why are we doing all this
39 stuff like this?

40

41 MR. MAGDANZ: Because the State Legislature
42 refuses to pass a rural priority. That's why we have
43 Federal management. You guys can provide a priority on a
44 rural basis under state and we can't so we wind up in this
45 box.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions, anyone?

48

49 MR. STONEY: I guess I just -- I'll be done
50 for now.

00100

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Just one more comment on
4 that. I think, you know, I mean I know Jim mentioned to me
5 and thought it was really a shame that Noatak didn't, but
6 basically I think Jim basically gave you the numbers, it
7 was really, at that point, a random luck of the draw and so
8 hopefully it might change next year or is if the population
9 continues to grow and more permits become available, that
10 will open up more opportunity for others. So hopefully the
11 door isn't closed. But that is one of the shortcomings of
12 the State program.

13

14 MR. STONEY: Like for myself, if I wanted
15 to hunt muskox, you know, from Kiana, it would cost me \$800
16 for gasoline only. It would cost you 240 bucks now,
17 otherwise if I wanted to go to -- I'd have to have four --
18 that's \$800.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The other shortcoming is
21 that the Park Service won't allow us to hunt.

22

23 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I had to mention that.

26 Jim.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. MAGDANZ: Go ahead, no comment.

31

32 MR. GREIST: So, Jim, out of the 20, you
33 said, 20 got 20 points, then the remaining 10 scored less
34 than 20 points, essentially.

35

36 MR. MAGDANZ: There were 65 applicants, 32
37 got 20 points because they lived in villages where the cost
38 of food was so high that they got the maximum 10 points.
39 And all of the communities in the Nana region, except
40 Kotzebue get 10 points when they apply in one of these
41 hunts because of the cost of food and gas, it's higher.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's all screwed up,
44 this system.

45

46 MR. MAGDANZ: Uh-huh.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If I wanted to go
49 hunting -- if I was lucky enough to get a permit and I
50 wanted to go hunt, right, I'd get enough gas for me to go

00101

1 to Kivalina, still buy my gas from Kivalina, why can't you
2 let me use that rate?

3

4 MR. MAGDANZ: The idea, I think, the basic
5 idea is that subsistence is an efficient method and you
6 would.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You want me to take a
9 whole drum?

10

11 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, you would harvest the
12 resources in the most economic way.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'd have gas sloshing
15 all over if I took too much gas into meat if I'm lucky
16 enough to get a muskox.

17

18 MR. MAGDANZ: No, I hear you. It's like
19 this net proposal, if you look at it.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

22

23 MR. MAGDANZ:from the prospective
24 from the lawyers it looks one way and when you look at it
25 from the perspective of the user it's totally different.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, any other
28 questions? Thank you.

29

30 MR. STONEY: I got a question for Percy,
31 how you guys doing in Buckland on the State land?

32

33 MR. BALLOT: On the hunt?

34

35 MR. STONEY: Yeah, on the hunt.

36

37 MR. BALLOT: We just got our permit,
38 nobody's gotten anything yet except a case of mistaken
39 identity. Otherwise we're waiting for them to get back
40 right now. And the guy that he's been talking about, he
41 lives in Candle, that's why he got the permit, most of his
42 time is spent in Candle. We did talk about it in Buckland
43 and Deering, that part, but we just try to encourage more
44 people to fill out for the permits.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fill out a permit and
47 mail it from Candle?

48

49 MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh, from Candle. Don't
50 tell too many.

00102

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken, where are we with
2 the Federal hunt?

3
4 MR. ADKISSON: Okay, let me just update
5 you. Now, we've talked about the permits, let me talk with
6 you about this year's hunt which is actually going on.

7
8 To-date we've had limited harvest success.
9 There have been three, maybe four animals taken by Nome
10 hunters. Most of those are in eastern 22(D) and we've had
11 the one taken by the Noorvik/Candle resident, and we've had
12 one Federal permit filled so far and that was by a resident
13 of Shishmaref who took his, I believe, up in the Serpentine
14 drainage area with access by foot and boat.

15
16 But the typical pattern is that it starts
17 off fairly slow and then snowmachine access picks up, and
18 again, depending on whether another subsistence activity's
19 influencing a lot of it. But that's kind of where we're at
20 on this year's hunt.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. There's not a
23 Federal hunt in Krusenstern.

24
25 MR. ADKISSON: No, there's not one right
26 now.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I know.

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: Oh.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What can we do to get
33 one? Do we have to wait for the census?

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: There is a census of sorts
36 that was largely complete, cooperatively.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What do the numbers
39 show, we can do it?

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: From our point of view, no.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Why?

44
45 MR. ADKISSON: It showed, I can dig them
46 out if you want, but roughly what it showed, I think, was
47 that overall there was an increase and this is between
48 Krusenstern and Point Lisburne, roughly, or wherever, there
49 was probably close to about a 25 percent overall increase
50 and that's distributed differently, it depends on what's

00103

1 going on. Whether that's a real trend or whether that's a
2 fluke or not, you know, I think remains to be seen. And
3 the Park Service still has a number of concerns, small
4 population sizes, some of it deals with the isolation,
5 relative isolation of the Krusenstern animals and the
6 effects of weather and things on them, and the fact that
7 we're currently -- and social organization -- and Brad
8 Shults is here and he can address some of these concerns
9 maybe a little more than I can if you want to really, you
10 know, take those issues up with him. We're concerned about
11 social organization and so forth and I'll just give you
12 some examples of the kind of things that we're looking at.

13
14 I mean if you compare what's going on on
15 the Seward Peninsula with what's going on up here, in the
16 Cape Thompson area, the same number of animals were put out
17 or reintroduced at the same time and that total number
18 originally was around 70 animals or so. And the Seward
19 Peninsula herd today, at the last count, numbers close to
20 1800 animals. And compared to about 350 or 400 animals
21 maybe for the Cape Thompson herd over the same period of
22 time. There are roughly 80 some groups or more counted at
23 the last census, spring census, compared to say seven
24 groups in Krusenstern. And there's a different when -- the
25 general counts that are done up here, they're done in the
26 summer and the way we count on the Seward Peninsula is
27 late, in spring, when the animals are still parked and it's
28 easy to see against the snow, we think it gives a better
29 overall count. But we have done a March census in
30 Krusenstern and that is what I shared with the Fish and
31 Game Advisory committee last time around. And there were
32 only seven groups of animals of which two or three of those
33 groups really comprise the breeding stock that's out there.
34 I mean that's where most of the cows and the calves and the
35 yearlings are going to be found. And we're concerned with
36 potential impacts on that. We've got a three year study
37 underway right now, and when we get the results of the
38 study we'll reassess it or if we continue to get good
39 numbers out of the census we can reassess the situation
40 right then. It's not that we're exactly against hunting,
41 it's not -- in fact it's not that we're against hunting
42 muskoxen at all but we do have these concerns about
43 Krusenstern. It's okay to hunt them outside the Park if
44 they wander out onto the Delta, it's okay to hunt them if
45 they wander east of the Park towards Noatak, it's okay to
46 hunt them if they wander north across the Wulik river. And
47 currently Noatak National Preserve north and west of the
48 Noatak River is open to hunting under State Tier II
49 permits.

50

00104

1 It's not that we're against hunting but we
2 do have these concerns at Krusenstern, and we'd rather
3 complete a management planning process for those animals,
4 evaluate the results of the ongoing research. And we also
5 believe right now, for example, that there's value. We now
6 have, with those animals, really the only unhunted
7 population in this breeding population in the state, that's
8 easy to access and that we can basically, you know, conduct
9 baseline studies on. So in a nutshell, we're not
10 interested in hunting within the confines of the Park at
11 this time. But it's not that we're closing the door down
12 the road.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

15
16 MR. STONEY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, you mean
17 like the Noatak, it's very confusing. Now, you can hunt
18 both sides of the rivers and now they don't even have a
19 permit.

20
21 MR. ADKISSON: We're not working with a
22 perfect system but, you know, we're sure working hard to
23 make it work better, I guess, is the best way I could put
24 it.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Unlucky people in
27 Noatak, they didn't get picked to hunt.

28
29 MR. STONEY: My final question now, the guy
30 from Noorvik, he's one of the lucky guys, where can he go
31 to get one, all the way to where? To Noorvik, he's got to
32 go where to hunt otherwise if the muskox around Noorvik in
33 the Federal land he could hunt it? Can he get it?

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: The only animals would be
36 probably up around Noorvik, would really be some of those
37 -- most likely the isolated bulls that are, you know, and
38 small bull groups that are pioneering, in other words.

39
40 MR. STONEY: I see them too.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: And there's no open hunt
43 right now, either under the State -- the only two hunts
44 right now are the Seward Peninsula one, which is a joint
45 State/Federal one and then a State Tier II hunt, which is
46 north and west of the Noatak River.

47
48 MR. STONEY: Uh-huh.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Any other

00105

1 questions. The issue about the strays, remember we talked
2 about that, you've allowed to be able to hunt them in the
3 Preserve and that kind of stuff.

4
5 MR. ADKISSON: I understand, for example,
6 if you have a permit there were a couple bulls seen
7 recently up around the Kelly River.

8
9 MR. SHIEDT: I like caribou.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We got one down by the
12 old basement hanging around all summer here, you know.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Around where?

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The end of our road
17 here, the basement.

18
19 MR. ADKISSON: Well, if you got -- I guess,
20 well, I don't know that probably doesn't come under any of
21 the hunts, either, unfortunately. It's not north and west
22 of the Noatak and that's where the State hunt is.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But it's on State land
25 for Percy.

26
27 MR. ADKISSON: What?

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's on State managed
30 land for Percy.

31
32 MR. ADKISSON: Well, not if there's not a
33 State hunt. The State lands for Percy are open around
34 Buckland, I guess, is the best way to put that. And we can
35 come back to some of these issues if you want, probably
36 maybe the most effective thing to do right now, though,
37 would be to move on to the cooperative management meeting
38 in Nome.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON:because I think that's
43 a success story that I'd really like to share with you.
44 And, you know, I'm not saying we're ever going to duplicate
45 the results up here but it really is, I think, a positive
46 experience.

47
48 The Seward Peninsula Cooperative Muskoxen
49 Management Group completed a series of meetings recently.
50 The major group, which now comprises roughly 20-some

00106

1 villages as well as agencies and tribal groups and other
2 stakeholders met for several days in Nome in August, that
3 was preceded by another smaller focused meeting in Nome,
4 and followed up later by an additional meeting in Teller, a
5 teleconference later down the road with Shishmaref to
6 resolve some issues and then a special conversation with
7 Percy and Percy was doing more follow-up work with Buckland
8 and Deering. So that just gives you a little idea of some
9 of the involvement that we're trying to get and the local
10 participation and so forth in it.

11
12 The cooperators came up with a number of
13 recommendations and they've been very successful in
14 formulating recommendations that then go to both the State
15 Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. The idea
16 being that we generate these proposals for regulatory
17 change from the bottom up through the cooperators, they go
18 through the Regional Advisory Councils, the Fish and Game
19 Advisory Councils, getting support and then they, you know,
20 show up before the State Board of Game and the Federal
21 Subsistence Board with basically a consensus or broad-based
22 support and we've been very successful in getting
23 regulatory change through that process. And that's what
24 I'm here also today to talk to you about is to let you know
25 what those regulations are and to seek your support.

26
27 And I'll get to those, very briefly, you
28 also should have a table, mine's listed Table 2, yours may
29 not be labeled at all, but it's a summary sheet of the
30 issues that were addressed at the cooperator's meeting and
31 the results by smaller area or subunit of what the
32 cooperators decided on. And then also there's one other
33 sheet of paper you should have that's a table that shows
34 the number of animals that were counted at the last census
35 in the hunt areas, what the harvest levels we decided on
36 and what the allowable harvest would be, and there's
37 another figure I'll talk about in a few minutes. And then
38 on the bottom of it, what that translates out to in terms
39 of available permits for next year's hunt. So that's where
40 we're going. We're preparing for next year.

41
42 The proposals or the kind of regulatory
43 changes I'm going to bring before you and seek your support
44 on will also be going, in maybe a slightly different,
45 but complimentary form, to the State Board of Game as Jim
46 mentioned earlier, when the State Board of Game meets, I
47 think in November, early November in Juneau. So, you know,
48 it's good to have the support and keep everybody advised
49 and keep the process sort of moving up. Our final shot, of
50 course, is in early May when the Board will deal with these

00107

1 proposals, and maybe I should turn now to that.

2

3

4 First in general management, what the
5 cooperators essentially decided on were these. They want
6 to continue to manage by smaller areas rather than Seward
7 Peninsula wide. As one person from Shishmaref said,
8 conditions are somewhat different from area to area on the
9 Peninsula, habitat and so forth, and people are different
10 in terms of their needs and desires and issues with the
11 animals, so we have more flexibility when managing in
12 smaller areas. So they decided on that.

12

13

14 As for the, you know, how do people out
15 there want to see the population develop or whatever,
16 what's their long-term goal, there was a little bit of
17 difference and we didn't reach overall consensus but by and
18 large, the majority of people who went to the meeting, in
19 fact, all of the villages, all of the agencies, essentially
20 except for three villages, Shishmaref, Wales and Teller,
21 all the rest of the participants wanted to see continued
22 growth and expansion of herd at about the proximate level
23 we're looking at now, which is an average, roughly annual
24 growth rate of about 14 percent. Obviously folks in the
25 eastern periphery are looking to advantages down the road
26 and future hunts. So Shishmaref and Wales wanted to cap
27 the population at the current level and folks in Teller
28 actually wanted to see the animals around Teller greatly
29 reduced. That's one of the reasons we had the Teller
30 meeting and the Shishmaref teleconference to resolve these
31 in light of some harvest levels we all agreed upon. And
32 the harvest levels that we agreed upon are indicated in
33 your table handout of what was accomplished, and it's been
34 amended since the Teller meeting.

34

35

36 Basically everybody agreed, though, to
37 stick with fairly conservative harvest levels for now. We
38 all agreed -- the current harvest level, by the way, is
39 five percent of the animals counted in the subunit or hunt
40 area at the last count, we all agreed to stay with that for
41 now. And there's another reason other than just biology
42 and it's very more socially oriented. The State Board of
43 Game has identified a subsistence need level of 100 animals
44 for the Seward Peninsula herd and this year -- or the next
45 year around we should be issuing, you know, like I said
46 about 74 or more permits. And we're fast approaching that
47 subsistence need level that was identified by the Board.
48 When it crosses that level, the State's basically compelled
49 to go out of the Tier II hunt they're in now to sort of a
50 Tier I, almost general hunt. And if you have questions
51 about how that process works, you know, probably call up

00108

1 Jim and he can explain them to you some more. But there
2 was a real level of concern that among all of the
3 cooperators that we didn't have enough information at hand
4 and we weren't -- didn't understand our options enough to
5 take that bold leap, raise the harvest level way up there
6 and suddenly find ourself in a general hunt. They were
7 concerned that it would draw in a lot of outsiders, and
8 believe me, any time you open a hunt to really the
9 outsiders, you can expect that. I mean ADF&G just opened,
10 by emergency order, a caribou hunt in eastern 22(E), that's
11 just east of Shishmaref and, boy, I guess their office in
12 Nome is getting deluged by calls from Anchorage and
13 Fairbanks, hunters wanting to go out in there and hunt
14 caribou. So it's that kind of concern that the cooperators
15 felt they wanted to keep the harvest level where it's at
16 right now but we'll revisit that next year.

17
18 And also next year we'll be making
19 recommendations of how we can move from Tier II to Tier I
20 and look at other permit options such as community bag
21 limits versus individual permits and so forth. But that's
22 down the road. What we decided on for now was stick with
23 the five percent level but it's been noted, for example,
24 that even though we have a five percent harvest level,
25 we're actually only harvesting in some cases at around say
26 two, two and a half, three percent even though we've got a
27 five percent allowable harvest, and the cooperators were
28 very concerned about that and wanted to see if there was a
29 way we could increase the harvest success and they came up
30 with an answer to that and that was to provide more
31 permits, above the allowable harvest level, and so that's
32 one of the points that we'll talk about and I'll need
33 support on it to accomplish that.

34
35 So those are the basic things that they
36 worked on. The other thing is, by and large they wanted a
37 cow hunt. They wanted an opportunity to take cows. And so
38 what we came up with was agreed upon harvest levels and I
39 think what's probably the most flexible system we could
40 work with at the time and I'll outline those just to show
41 you how they'll work for 22(E) and again, like I said, seek
42 your support for this continued process and to support
43 Staff developing in more detail a regulatory proposal based
44 on these recommendations.

45
46 For 22(E), the recommendations are
47 essentially -- or 23SW, for Buckland and Deering, the
48 recommendations that came out of the area there are, you
49 know, continued growth and expansion. They want to see a
50 cow hunt and basically that would be at a three percent, up

00109

1 to three percent of the population at the last count could
2 be cows, with a cow season that would open January 1st and
3 close March 15th. The bull season would stay the same as
4 the current bull season, that's August 1st to March 15th,
5 and the harvest level of the bulls would be whatever wasn't
6 taken in cows could be taken in bulls up to a total of five
7 percent. For permits, they wanted to issue 33 percent, a
8 number of permits, 33 percent above the allowable harvest.
9 So let's say we were going to issue -- in the past, let's
10 say we were going to issue a 100 permits, in this case we
11 would issue 133. So actually there'll be more permits
12 going out to the community and they wanted to keep
13 approximately the 75/25 percent distribution between State
14 and Federal permits.

15
16 So those are your basic recommendations
17 from the cooperators for 23SW and Percy was at the meeting,
18 as was James Moto, Jr., from Deering and Percy can probably
19 fill you in on anything else. But those are the basics and
20 what I'd really like you to address today are support for
21 those recommendations.

22
23 MR. BALLOT: Nothing else to add. It's a
24 very good but we are supporting the recommendations,
25 Buckland and Deering.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
28 comments?

29
30 MR. GREIST: I only got one, I guess, a
31 couple of years ago we had to scare off a muskox from our
32 airport, it's now about 25 miles east between the Y-
33 confluence of Kougarok and Selawik River. It's been there
34 about two years now, I think we ought to transport it or
35 send a mate there so they can start growing a herd or
36 something.

37
38 MR. ADKISSON: It's probably an isolated
39 bull and if it's not too old to breed it probably would
40 enjoy the company. But I think you'll have to talk to Jim
41 Dau about that, whether -- I sort of suspect the State's
42 not going to want to transplant too many more muskoxen,
43 they've sort of gotten mauled in the last few years over
44 transplants.

45
46 MR. GREIST: It's still there, yeah.

47
48 MR. STONEY: We seen two muskox in Kiana
49 and Joe Hill called me and he says, Raymond, what shall I
50 do, there's a muskox under my door, a bull one, can I shoot

00110

1 it, I said, no, no, you better not, five feet away from the
2 door.

3

4 MR. GREIST: We sent the VPSO after it and
5 it chased the VPSO out of the airport so he called the
6 State Troopers.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Chain of command.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. We got the
13 recommendations to.....

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: The basic ones are also
16 found on the bottom of the last page of your handout, you
17 can see there. The one thing I didn't mention there is
18 that we should also reinforce is, that for now, keep
19 Federal public land closed to non-Federal except for
20 Federally eligible users. Down the road we may want to
21 revisit that but for now that's the safest course until we
22 straight.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You mean advancing these
25 recommendations to the Board, is that what you're talking
26 about?

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: Yes.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: Below that, I think it's the
33 next one down on that, it's -- yeah, that's the section,
34 they're advancing them.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
37 problems with advancing these recommendations to the
38 Federal Board?

39

40 MR. ADKISSON: And I think that could be
41 done. I've talked to Donna, especially about this about
42 what language -- or how we can actually write the language
43 and we're kind of kicking this around.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So if I got a motion
46 supporting all five in just one shot, you'll take it from
47 there?

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: We'll take it from there,
50 you can direct the Staff to prepare.....

00111

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. I'll entertain a
2 motion from the Council to support advancing these
3 recommendations to the Board, one through five, that have
4 been provided by the Park Service.

5
6 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: I move to support the
11 recommendations for Unit 23SW from the Seward Peninsula
12 Muskox Cooperators meeting.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

15
16 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: For clarification it's
19 five recommendations.

20
21 MR. BALLOT: Five recommendations.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Retain the overall
24 harvest of five percent, change the bag from one bull to
25 one muskox by permit, provide a cow season, retain a bull
26 season of August 1st to March 15th, issue up to 10 Federal
27 permits for 23SW. Any more discussion on the motion?

28
29 MR. GREIST: Question.

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

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Ken. Okay,
41 we got a few more minutes before we take a break here.

42
43 MR. ADKISSON: And I've just one other
44 minor thing. Brad Shults from the Park Service is here if
45 you have questions on the moose or the sheep project.
46 Several charts and things have been posted over there for
47 information.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

50

00112

1 MR. ADKISSON: He's available if you have
2 questions but hadn't prepared anything else special for the
3 group.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's take care of Sandy
6 first and then we'll take a break, how does that sound?

7
8 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, folks.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Ken.

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll try to be very, very
13 quick. Council members may not know that the Park Service
14 invited Willie to come to St. Louis recently and he did.
15 Willie donated a week of his time to come listen to about
16 1,200 other Park Service people and I repeat, 1,200, really
17 a lot of people, talk about the National Park Service and
18 its future. And I'm here simply to offer a thank you to
19 Willie and I've actually got a letter I'm going to hand him
20 here from Judy Gottlieb, our Federal Board member. Willie,
21 not only patiently listened to all this but he participated
22 in a session that we had organized about subsistence with a
23 fellow chairman, Dan O'Hara, from Naknek and did a great
24 job. So I just wanted to say that out loud and offer our
25 appreciation and Willie and I talked quite a bit during the
26 week and we intend to invite him again to do more things.

27
28 So thank you very much.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You're welcome. Let's
31 take a break here, 10 minutes.

32
33 (Off record)

34 (On record)

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm going to call this
37 meeting back to order. We're still with the Park Service.
38 I'm going to ask Charlie Lean to give us an update on one
39 of the proposals that we had submitted, that's the sonar in
40 the Noatak to count salmon. Charlie, can you give us an
41 update of where we're at and what the plans are?

42
43 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair, this is Charlie Lean.
44 We've been talking about, the Park Service, the Chairman,
45 and the Kotzebue IRA have been talking amongst ourselves
46 about reestablishing the Noatak River sonar, the salmon
47 counting station that was there in the lower canyon.

48
49 That project operated six years with the
50 advance qualify sonar, the 1993 and 1994 seasons were fully

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1 operational. The project was stopped because Fish and Game
2 ran out of qualified personnel to run the project. It
3 takes a math whiz to run that project, it's a very
4 technical thing. It's a five person project. It would
5 cost on the order of \$300,000 to purchase the materials to
6 run it again and lease the land, build the tents, boats, et
7 cetera. It would cost about \$150,000 a year to run. I
8 wrote an attempted preproject proposal but our discussions
9 weren't far enough along with the Kotzebue IRA to turn it
10 in this cycle. So both the Park Service and IRA are still
11 quite interested in going after this project but there's
12 some concerns on both sides about the hiring of this
13 technical expert and some other details. So it's a project
14 that's -- actually we're having a meeting tomorrow to talk
15 about that.

16
17 If I could I'll digress just a bit, part of
18 my job is to interface with the State managers for the
19 salmon fishery here in Kotzebue. And I was looking over
20 their shoulder this summer and got involved somewhat with
21 the salmon fishery, Kotzebue had an average sort of return,
22 in my estimation, and one of the weaknesses in my
23 estimation here is that we have no way to determine what
24 the escapement of salmon was up the Noatak River this year
25 except talking with local people. There was no counting
26 done by the Department or by the Federal government. You
27 know, as a fisheries manager, this bugs me a lot. We had
28 an escapement project, the State has an escapement project
29 at Kiana, a test netting operation, we had the commercial
30 catch statistics to compare, there will be a subsistence
31 survey done this fall, but there was no escapement count
32 from the Noatak, that's disturbing. And so this project
33 would fill that gap. And I think agencies and local
34 residents would benefit to know just how many fish, dolly
35 varden or salmon going up the river were there and what was
36 available for subsistence harvest is -- it is the Federal
37 mandate to provide an adequate subsistence harvest, it is
38 our mandate to provide enough fish to reproduce.

39
40 So thanks.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: In the discussion we had
43 with, the first discussion we had with Charlie and the IRA
44 was if this project can proceed, then the discussion can go
45 further into cooperative management, letting the IRA with
46 us here manage the salmon in the Noatak. That's what we
47 want to end up with, that's the goal. The escapement data
48 from the harvest would all be there, it'd be complete, and
49 it's one of the few places in the state where it actually
50 can be done. So we're hoping it will be a model that the

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1 rest of the state can use.

2

3 MR. LEAN: A project like this serves as a
4 springboard for other projects, that could eventually help
5 establish an estimate of the total run of salmon coming in
6 the Kotzebue Sound. There is no other fishery in the state
7 that I'm aware of that could make that claim, that they
8 could estimate harvest escapement and put it all together
9 like that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So we're hoping it will
12 go forward here once the study is -- and the money is there
13 to get the counting station and everything. Anybody have
14 any questions?

15

16 Thank you, Charlie. You got anything else?

17

18 MR. LEAN: I had a good summer. I got up
19 on the Upper Kobuk to look at the sheefish. I spent some
20 time with Sunny Woods out of Shungnak, talking to
21 subsistence sheefish fishermen and sports fishermen and
22 looking around. And, you know, for 15 years I've been
23 flying overhead but this was the first time I actually
24 walked around on the ground and so that was very
25 educational for me and I enjoyed it a great deal.

26

27 I got over on Imuruck Lake, just south of
28 Deering, too, and looked at that for what kind of fish were
29 there and it's been an interesting summer for me.

30

31 Thanks.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Charlie.

34

35 MR. LEAN: Thanks.

36

37 MR. BALLOT: What did you find there,

38 Imuruck Lake?

39

40 MR. LEAN: Imuruck Lake, we only found --
41 Fred DiCicco was with me, we only found grayling. We found
42 all sizes of grayling from almost too tiny to about a foot
43 long. And they seemed to be eating clams, snails, a few
44 bugs, they had a lot of parasites, tape worm sort of
45 parasites that would be found in dogs or bears.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Charlie.

48

49 MR. LEAN: Yep.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Jeff, do you have a
2 couple of things to discuss with us here? Jeff Mow from
3 the Park Service, he works out of Fairbanks, isn't it?

4
5 MR. MOW: Right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 My name is Jeff Mow, I'm the subsistence manager for Gates
7 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charlie
8 National Preserve. Just a couple of items I'd like to
9 bring to your attention.

10
11 The first is purely informational. The
12 Subsistence Resource Commission at Gates of the Arctic has
13 finalized it's subsistence management plan and we hope to
14 distribute that in November. So you will be receiving
15 copies of that for your information to look at.

16
17 The second item is something you, I guess,
18 have the option to act on sooner or later but it's in
19 regards to a subsistence -- well, this Council appoints a
20 commission member and currently the member that you have
21 appointed is Levi Cleveland, who's term has expired. He
22 will continue to serve on the commission until you
23 appointment someone else. And when you do appoint someone,
24 they have to be currently serving on an advisory council or
25 on an advisory committee. And again, that's not something
26 you have to act upon right now but, you know, you may wish
27 to take it up in the future at some point. But I just
28 wanted to bring that to your attention then.

29
30 So that's all I have.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Anybody have any
33 questions? With respect to your last comments there, I
34 think what we should do is take it up in our winter
35 meeting. By that time we should -- we'll direct Barb to
36 see who in the advisory committees are interested and if
37 somebody from this body who is interested in sitting in
38 that seat.

39
40 MR. GREIST: I think we got a member from
41 our region, don't we?

42
43 MR. MOW: Caralee Walker is currently on
44 the SRC.

45
46 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But we can appoint one
49 from here. Either from this body or an advisory committee
50 member from.....

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1 MR. MOW: That's correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So we'll -- Barb, can
4 you check and ask or write them a letter and see who's
5 interested in serving in that and then we'll do the
6 appointment in the winter meeting.

7

8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is that okay?

11

12 MR. MOW: Sure, sounds good.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All right, thanks, Jeff.

15

16 MR. MOW: Thanks.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Brad, can you give us an
19 update on the sheep and the moose?

20

21 MR. SHULTS: Sure. This will be really
22 brief. Brad Shults with the National Park Service. As
23 most of you know we just completed the sheep surveys like
24 we've always completed them, with a minimum count. This
25 summer, in July, we had horrible weather as I think
26 everybody knows, but we got them done and we saw about a
27 20-some odd percent increase in total numbers this year.
28 We saw another bangumup year in lamb production with about
29 32 percent of the sheep -- well, let me go back. Let me
30 just say that lamb production was good and it's real
31 comparable to the previous years. And the one thing that
32 we're seeing right now is we're seeing that when lamb
33 production picked up in 1995, we're seeing those, we've
34 seen really good recruitment, those animals have high
35 survival, they're rolling into the older age classes and
36 the place where we can see that best is in the ram horn
37 size classes. The half-curl rams and the three-quarter
38 curl rams numbers have been increasing the last couple of
39 years and we saw a big jump this year in half-curl rams,
40 which means those youngsters are really moving into those
41 horn size classes as they get older. We saw a pretty large
42 decrease in the number of full-curl rams we counted. And a
43 slight -- about -- it's pretty even on the seven-eighths,
44 and I think, you know, some of the problems with
45 distinguishing between a seven-eighths and a full-curl
46 going 70 miles an hour on a steep hillside is part of the
47 problem there, but the main point is those older age class
48 rams that we hunted in '98 are pretty much disappearing. I
49 mean not to say that there aren't some big rams out there,
50 there are and they're old and people have seen them, but

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1 the numbers of those have really declined.

2

3 So based on that, we went ahead and stuck
4 with what we talked about before, there wasn't a
5 harvestable surplus of large rams so we didn't have a
6 hunting season. But the positive note is in the next two
7 to three years we ought to see some real strong cohorts or
8 age classes of sheep moving into those larger horn size
9 classes just like we kind of thought might happen, it seems
10 to be coming true, which is good. And even if we have a
11 couple of tough winters, I would suspect those rams that
12 are young now would have high survival because that's what
13 happened last time, that's why we had that huge pulse of
14 larger older rams. So things look real good. So patience
15 is really paying off, I think.

16

17 Moose survey plans, I think that's.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, one other
20 thing.....

21

22 MR. SHULTS: Oh, sorry.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:before you go on,
25 we did -- before the Park Service determined that it still
26 should be closed, I did have some discussions with them and
27 agreed with them that the population was not high enough to
28 allow a hunt, even a subsistence hunt yet, based on the
29 numbers that we talked about in earlier meetings.

30

31 MR. GREIST: Of sheep?

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, on the sheep so
34 it's still closed right now. For this year anyway.

35

36 MR. SHULTS: I think we should continue to
37 look at it on a year to year basis.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think so, too. One
40 other question that I wanted to ask is that should we allow
41 a hunt, and the State still insists on a sport hunt, could
42 we allow or could we propose on Federal lands a minimum
43 size that the sport hunters can get, like a full-curl? Can
44 you guys check that out for me?

45

46 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair, Jim Magdanz,
47 ADF&G. Certainly the sport hunts are open to proposals, so
48 this body could submit a proposal with a minimum curl size
49 or other conditions to the State Board of Game.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, what I'm saying
2 is, if we allow a hunt, you know, I want to do it under
3 Federal regulations, and the State can do whatever it wants
4 with its State lands, but I want to make sure that if we're
5 going to allow sport hunters, that they only get the full-
6 curl rams.

7
8 MR. MAGDANZ: I think that's the way it is
9 now.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, I'm asking the
12 Park Service to check into it.

13
14 MR. SHULTS: As it stands, yeah.

15
16 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy or Ken, either one
19 of you?

20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, my answer would be,
22 I don't know why not.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: I don't know if anyone
27 else in the room's got any other views, but I think you can
28 put forward a proposal with whatever degree of specificity
29 you like and the Federal Board's done regulations, spike-
30 fork 50 moose regulations in other places.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: I mean I see that very
35 similar. The reasons are.....

36
37 MR. MAGDANZ: For non-subsistence hunts?

38
39 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good question and I think
40 the answer is no.

41
42 MR. MAGDANZ: I mean for sport hunting, I
43 think that's the State's jurisdiction.

44
45 MR. RABINOWITCH: Your point is well taken,
46 Jim.

47
48 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
49 Service. Now, I think that's a matter of working with
50 ADF&G to see what's possible. I mean Sandy's mentioned it,

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1 you know, you can look at the reg booklets, especially for
2 moose, and you can find non-resident moose hunts with
3 specific antler requirements that are very different from
4 resident hunts or subsistence hunts. So you can set
5 different criteria for different user groups.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Fred.

8
9 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I was just going to
10 mention that, isn't the Board under litigation?

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Ninilchik?

13
14 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: No, the goat -- I mean
15 the sheep hunt? I think there was someone that filed a
16 lawsuit over the sheep thing -- they didn't?

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They threatened to but I
19 don't know if.....

20
21 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: They didn't?

22
23 MR. SHULTS: They did. There is a lawsuit.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, they did. Okay.

26
27 MR. SHULTS: Yeah.

28
29 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: So I think that may
30 spell out some of the criteria.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But if you go to court,
33 remember what we were asking here. Okay.

34
35 MR. SHULTS: I should have just added on
36 sheep, too, so everybody knows we started that sheep
37 project that we received funding for for three years last
38 spring. And as you may or may not be aware, and I know
39 Willie's aware because we brought him in the day after this
40 got going, we collared roughly about 45 sheep. We had
41 three mortalities right off the bat of older sheep all
42 related to being caught. That's mostly from a condition
43 that's -- it's basically stress. That's the simple way of
44 putting it. We changed our handling methods a little bit.
45 We caught the rest of them without any problem. We've had
46 seven mortalities total, including those three. We've had
47 three wolf kills since then, most of those were in the late
48 spring, early summer. And we had one sheep that had a
49 twisted intestine and died, which was odd but it does
50 happen in ungulates occasionally. And we're monitoring

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1 those guys once a month right now and so we'd like to just
2 proceed ahead with the plan, with the same plan for next
3 spring. We did do sightability estimates this year which
4 we've never done in the past, we've always said, yeah, we
5 see --we're pretty sure if we say there's 500 we see 90
6 percent of them. We used the radio collared sheep and we
7 looked at how many of those we found within the units where
8 we knew where they were at because we located them prior to
9 surveying those units and we saw over 90 percent of those
10 collared sheep on a given day.

11
12 So our sightability is good, so we're doing
13 all right.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions on the
16 sheep? Moose.

17
18 MR. SHULTS: Moose. Moose plans, we met
19 recently, LeAnn, Jim and I met about survey plans for the
20 fall. We -- I can say from the Park Service point of view,
21 that our big priority is to get the Noatak done. The last
22 decent estimate we have there is from 1995, that's a long
23 time ago. So we're going to put our efforts and my
24 efforts, certainly, into the Noatak as a priority to get a
25 fall composition survey so we can get the bull/cow ratio
26 and the fall calf/cow ratio to see what we're headed into
27 the winter with. We've had very little luck doing fall
28 abundance surveys because the days are too short. The snow
29 conditions didn't cooperate at all last year, as you know.
30 So we're going to go to a spring abundance estimate. So if
31 we want total numbers of moose in the Noatak, we're
32 considering expanding the area all the way up almost to the
33 Nimiuktuk and doing a larger area, perhaps, but we're going
34 to get total numbers in the spring and composition in the
35 fall and use the two together, and I think that's going to
36 work better for a long-term solution, especially in the
37 Noatak. We still believe the Noatak population's declining
38 at a slow rate. We had another good year of productivity
39 with calves but what we didn't see, you know, we're going
40 into the winter with about, somewhere roughly around 30
41 calves per 100 cows, something like that. And you know,
42 you can expect a 50 or 60 percent mortality rate through
43 the winter so recruitment is still dismal and the
44 recruitment has to equal the adult mortality for it to be
45 stable and it's not doing that because we've seen 15 to 25
46 percent rates of adult mortality and we're just not keeping
47 up with that by replacing them with youngsters.

48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Questions. Bert.

49
50 MR. GREIST: Where's the population of

00121

1 moose now, basically, region-wide?

2

3 MR. SHULTS: Oh, that's the magic -- we had
4 to answer that at the Board of Game.....

5

6 MR. GREIST: Rough.

7

8 MR. SHULTS: Unit 23, we came up with a
9 rough estimate of -- do you remember what that was?

10

11 MS. AYERS: I really don't.

12

13 MR. SHULTS: It was really a crystal ball
14 sort of thing. For the Noatak, we're certainly staying in
15 that 2500 range, you know, for the core Noatak, there's
16 certainly moose up to the Cutler and beyond the Anasak and
17 the Aniak and up in that country. But you know we don't
18 have a good idea.

19

20 MR. GREIST: Okay. How about the Selawik
21 Flats? I know a Selawik survey was done last fall?

22

23 MS. AYERS: Actually that's one of the
24 things we talked about, we're talking about, is we'll do
25 the same thing in the Selawik, we'll do a fall composition
26 work and then in the spring try and get basically in the
27 area that's being heavily sport hunted, that area, get an
28 abundance estimate there and then we have one for Selawik.

29

30 MR. SHULTS: We're going to all rush around
31 together this fall and spring and we're going to bounce to
32 wherever's got the best snow and the best conditions to get
33 the best estimate, and then we'll do the same thing in the
34 spring, so that's what we'll do in the fall. So we're just
35 pooling all our resources. And as always you guys are
36 welcome to, if you want to get out of a day's worth of work
37 somewhere else, because that has been a big point of
38 Willie's, is to take more people along with us and, you
39 know, I worked on the Seward Peninsula muskoxen survey last
40 spring and took Cliff Wayawana a couple of days so it's
41 worked out great. So if there are people you know that are
42 interested or you're interested.

43

44 MR. GREIST: You might need to include
45 Squirrel River if you're going to do Noatak River.

46

47 MR. SHULTS: The Squirrel River I'll leave
48 up to BLM to talk about.

49

50 MR. GREIST: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anymore questions.
2 Thank you, Brad.

3
4 MR. SHULTS: You bet.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody else from the
7 Park Service that missed out or anybody want to give a
8 report? If not, the next person is Randi from the Bureau
9 of Land Management.

10
11 MS. MEYERS: Randi Meyers from the Bureau
12 of Land Management, and I do have a handout, just a one-
13 pager.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Pass it around Joe.

16
17 MR. SHIEDT: Share.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

20
21 MS. MEYERS: I had been scheduled to talk
22 about the Squirrel River designation update. So the record
23 of decision was signed by our BLM state director September
24 23rd of last year. And this record of decision, which was
25 a compilation of all the public processes that we went
26 through as well as BLM analysis said that the Squirrel
27 River was not suitable to be designated as a wild and
28 scenic river. And so the final environmental impact
29 statement and the record of decision were published in the
30 Federal Register and no appeals were received on that
31 decision. So Washington, D.C., has received that package,
32 the final EIS and the record of decision. But there is
33 some additional steps that have to be taken. And so it's
34 not good enough to just have that package go to Washington,
35 but apparently there is a very specific report with a very
36 standardized format that you take those two documents and
37 then you turn them into this report. So that is still
38 being worked on in Fairbanks by the BLM people in
39 Fairbanks. So once they get that final report ready, then
40 they'll send them to the BLM, Washington, D.C., office and
41 that office will forward them to the Secretary of the
42 Interior. And then the Secretary of the Interior actually
43 sends out that report to about 13 different Federal
44 agencies and they just take a look at it, it's for their
45 libraries, it's for their information but they can't change
46 anything, it's just for them to know about. And then the
47 report is sent on to the President and then the President
48 forwards it to Congress. And at that point, Congress has
49 three years in which to take a look at it. And normally
50 when a package like that, on a wild and scenic river

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1 proposal comes into Congress with a no designation label on
2 it they usually just set it aside and they don't do
3 anything with it and the three years passes and then it
4 goes into law.

5
6 So for the Squirrel River, one of the
7 things that would happen if that three years passes and
8 nothing is done is that currently there are withdrawals,
9 two mile corridor down the main stem of the river and then
10 proceeding north along the main tributaries that says that
11 that area has to be managed by BLM in that three year
12 interim period to preserve its wild quality. And so at the
13 end of that three year period, that stipulation would drop
14 away and the State selections for that particular corridor
15 would then come into place and would be there.

16
17 If, by a very small, small chance, Congress
18 should say, we don't like this no designation decision,
19 then it wouldn't just flip-flop to, yes, it's going to be
20 designated a wild and scenic river, that would not happen.
21 What would happen is that BLM would have to start all over
22 again with a full public process, write a new EIS and that
23 probably is not going to be the case, you know, it just
24 doesn't happen that way. So the wild -- when you're
25 dealing with a wild and scenic river, the pattern of
26 legislation in the United States is that local support is
27 really important and if you don't have local support then
28 Congress doesn't want to push it through. So in this case
29 the Congressional Delegation and the local communities were
30 not interested in having a wild and scenic and hence the no
31 designation. So it, you know, looks like 99.9 percent sure
32 that it's going to stay that way.

33
34 Any questions on that?

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody.

37
38 MR. GREIST: It's been a very long and
39 drawn out process.

40
41 MS. MEYERS: Yeah, it is, isn't it. You
42 know, I thought writing the EIS and having the public
43 meetings was long and drawn out but it continues.

44
45 On another topic I just wanted to mention,
46 Willie was talking about the user issue meetings that we
47 had, the Shungnak subcommittee -- or the Upper Kobuk
48 subcommittee meeting that took place in Shungnak with the
49 advisory committee and then also the Lower Kobuk advisory
50 committee meeting and the Squirrel River subcommittee of

00124

1 the user issues group which happened on August 8th. One of
2 the recommendations that came out of those meetings was
3 that BLM should take another look at the Squirrel River
4 integrated activity plan, which right now is only in a
5 draft format. And so to start that process, Bob Schneider
6 accessed the electronic copies in Fairbanks, sent me an
7 electronic copy and also sent me a stack of hard copies,
8 and so at the end of August, I hand carried seven of them
9 -- actually eight, one to Barb, and so at this point all of
10 the RAC members should have a copy of that draft plan and
11 then the Lower Kobuk advisory committee members also have a
12 copy of it.

13
14 And one of the things I wanted to say about
15 that is speaking realistically, right now BLM in Fairbanks
16 is committed to looking at some other planning efforts
17 before they can get to the Squirrel. They're looking at
18 some major planning efforts for the Colville River area,
19 for the Steese National Conservation Unit and then for two
20 military withdrawals. So it's going to take several years
21 before they can really focus on the Squirrel. But in the
22 meantime we know that there's a lot of interest and we're
23 going to be working with our individual special recreation
24 permit holders to do whatever we can to lessen their
25 impact.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How many permits have
28 you issued in the Squirrel River?

29
30 MS. MEYERS: Right now we actually have
31 five active special recreation permits in the Squirrel and
32 we've got three or four inactive permits, that people are
33 just paying the minimum fees every year but they're not
34 actually showing up and guiding. And two things that I
35 wanted to say on that.

36
37 There's a little bit of self-regulation by
38 the special recreation permit guides that are operating in
39 the Squirrel. One example is one of the guides decided to
40 maintain his place in the Squirrel by paying his minimum
41 fees but he's not guiding in the Squirrel this year. He's
42 guiding elsewhere because he just judged it to be a little
43 too crowded and he just wants to wait. Another fellow is
44 changing the time of his operation so he said to his
45 clients, I'm not guiding for moose in the Squirrel, what
46 I'm going to do is focus on caribou, so instead of coming
47 in on September 1 or at the end of August and setting up
48 his camp, he's going to come in at the end of September and
49 set up his camp and then stay as long as he can into
50 October.

00125

1 So those two things, coupled with it's
2 different every year on where the caribou actually migrate
3 through, and this year, early in the season, and so by that
4 I mean late August and very early September, there were a
5 fair number of caribou moving through the Squirrel and this
6 is what I get from talking with the special recreation
7 permit guides and also the Fish and Wildlife protection
8 officers. And then later on in the month, mid- to late
9 September, that caribou movement really dropped off. So
10 this year in the Squirrel, for the first time in several
11 years, there wasn't a lot of crowding. People just went
12 elsewhere because the caribou were elsewhere. So we've got
13 some self-regulation by the guides taking place and then
14 this year we just happened to have less use because of the
15 caribou patterns of movement.

16
17 That's all I had.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How about the
20 transporters?

21
22 MS. MEYERS: Okay. Like number of
23 transporters?

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

26
27 MS. MEYERS: Okay. I think we have
28 approximately active this year, five transporters.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
31 questions? Moose. Who's going to talk about counting
32 moose?

33
34 MS. MEYERS: Well, one thing I can say that
35 I know Jim Dau's been talking about and working in concert
36 with LeAnn and Brad, you know, wanting to take a more
37 regional approach. And so if, at any point in time, it
38 looks like the Squirrel River is going to be included as a
39 part of that regional package, you know, we would certainly
40 work on a census. But at this point we're probably not
41 going to mount a census independently, just BLM. But we
42 want to work together with Fish and Wildlife and Park
43 Service and Fish and Game before we do that. But it very
44 well could happen this fall but I'm not positive how that's
45 going to play out. I'm not positive at all.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Anybody have any
48 questions?

49
50 MR. GREIST: Are you going to do your moose

00126

1 survey in the Squirrel?

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: She was just talking
4 about that.

5

6 MS. MEYERS: Yeah, you know, I'm just not
7 sure. We're going to try to make it part of a regional
8 census effort. But we're still talking about this fall,
9 how to do that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Brad.

12

13 MR. SHULTS: I was kind of unfair to you
14 guys, but we have talked about that and I think part of the
15 solution to what's going on in the Squirrel, other than the
16 technique thing that has been discussed a lot, is that, we
17 know that a lot of moose in the Lower Noatak use the
18 Squirrel and that our census area doesn't really reflect
19 that, if we just take the Squirrel and we census that and
20 you take the Noatak and census that, we need to really
21 change and look at the boundaries of our census area and
22 encompass that and that's part of what we're looking at
23 doing, perhaps this fall. If we do the Noatak, really that
24 means doing the western portion of the Squirrel River
25 drainage. So we've kicked around those ideas, but Randi's
26 right, we haven't decided on whether or not we can all get
27 together and do that given some of the other priorities.

28

29 MS. MEYERS: Thanks, Brad.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Fred.

32

33 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I just have a question
34 about, you know, I've heard concerns about, I won't say,
35 who, but there's some guides and the issue of contaminants,
36 oil and gas containers and stuff like that. It's BLM land
37 but I was wondering who has jurisdiction to kind of enforce
38 some of that actually.

39

40 MS. MEYERS: Oh, that would certainly be
41 BLM. I mean you know that's one of the reasons we go in
42 and visit.

43

44 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: I received a call from
45 that -- actually I forwarded them to your office.

46

47 MS. MEYERS: I haven't -- forwarded it
48 through Fairbanks or to Kotzebue?

49

50 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Well, actually I did it

00127

1 to the DEC office in Nome, but I didn't know if I.....

2

3 MS. MEYERS: Because I hadn't heard that, I
4 hadn't. But one of the.....

5

6 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: There was an issue of a
7 good quantity of oil and stuff that was left.

8

9 MS. MEYERS: Well, I should talk to you
10 further about specifically where because I'm hoping to fly
11 in the Squirrel again after the guides have gone to just
12 check individual camps to make sure, you know, what has
13 been left behind is appropriate.

14

15 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

16

17 MS. MEYERS: So that would fit right in.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you.

20

21 MS. MEYERS: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Do you have anything to
24 add? Next item, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
25 Subsistence, Susan Georgette.

26

27 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette, Fish and
28 Game, Subsistence Division. I just had a couple of things
29 to mention, Maniilaq Association and Fish and Game worked
30 together on the wildlife harvest project and that pretty
31 much is Enoch and me who works on it. This blue sheet is a
32 summary of that research that we mail out to all the
33 households in the villages that participate. It was kind
34 of started as a caribou harvest survey but since we were
35 doing house-to-house visits anyways, we added in other big
36 game. So we have moose and wolverine and wolf and bears on
37 there as well.

38

39 This year we worked in Kiana and Noatak and
40 Selawik, and last year in Shungnak, and this year, I think
41 we're hoping to do two or three more villages. It's a
42 really good time to collect this kind of information
43 because caribou are abundant and there's not a lot of
44 regulatory problems. We try to go to all the households
45 but usually go to maybe 80 or 90 percent of them. And
46 people pretty much give us fairly accurate numbers, though,
47 people underreport some of it, we believe, because they're
48 reluctant to tell us how many they get of certain things.

49

50 The second thing, I guess, I wanted to

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1 mention was that we also really see a need for more
2 documentation of traditional knowledge of fish and animals.
3 And the harvest surveys provide a lot of important
4 information but there's not really the descriptive
5 information that goes along with it. And it's something
6 that Enoch and I have talked about and that we'd like to
7 try to do some more work on. And one idea we talked about,
8 for several years actually, is about traditional knowledge
9 of whitefish, and today's like an example of why that kind
10 of information can be really useful, in fact, we had some --
11 you know, we've been to a lot of villages and documented a
12 lot of knowledge people have about, you know, where they
13 fish and where whitefish go and how it's changed over time
14 and a lot of that just isn't really recorded anywhere, even
15 though there's just a tremendous amount of it in the
16 villages. And every time I'm in a village I'm struck again
17 by how much information there is, that really you never
18 read in anything that's written down somewhere. So I guess
19 I'd just like to -- if the RAC were interested and Maniilaq
20 and the Federal agencies to maybe work this winter on a
21 research proposal to document some traditional knowledge of
22 fish of some kind in some parts of our region, whitefish or
23 whatever else people are interested in and maybe do some
24 more work on that.

25
26 That's all I have.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
29 questions. Only two wolves in Selawik, uh?

30
31 MS. GEORGETTE: Right.

32
33 MR. GREIST: That might be a little bit
34 low.

35
36 MS. GEORGETTE: Some of them are low, for
37 sure.

38
39 MR. GREIST: Same thing with wolverine, it
40 might be a little low.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The other 10 percent was
43 wolves that caught the other hunters.

44
45 MS. GEORGETTE: Right. No, yeah, you're
46 right, some of them are low, but some of them -- for the
47 caribou, at least, we figure it's probably somewhere --
48 what do we think it is, Enoch, low by 20 percent or
49 something still?

50

00129

1 MR. SHIEDT: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. GEORGETTE: Okay, thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you.

6 Biologist, Jim Dau is not here, who's speaking for him,
7 Fred?

8

9 MR. DiCICCO: I'd like to speak to some
10 fisheries stuff, I can't speak for Jim Dau. Fred DiCicco,
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish. I just
12 wanted to briefly go over, for the RAC, the status of the
13 projects that were funded by the RAC for this region.

14

15 We had two projects funded. One was a char
16 or genetics project. And we began work on that this year.
17 The idea is to collect stocks, specific genetic data from a
18 number of rivers up here in this area, north of the Bering
19 Strait, also south of the Bering Strait and once we get
20 some data analysis back from those collections, we'll go in
21 and get collections from the mixed stock fall harvest at
22 Kivalina and in Noatak and see if we can determine, at a
23 minimum, the proportions that are coming from north and
24 south of the Bering Strait of fish that are contributing to
25 those harvests. And if there's enough differentiation in the
26 samples, and we don't know yet, we may be able to actually
27 estimate proportions by river and by stock that people are
28 harvesting. That would be the best of all situations.

29

30 Anyway, to those ends, we collected about
31 800 genetic samples, and those samples are just a little
32 piece of a bony fin. We don't kill the fish. And we want
33 known stock fish, so we go to the streams where they spawn.
34 We either collect samples from juvenile fish that are still
35 rearing in the stream or from spawning adults. And we
36 collected samples from the Kougarok, Kaluktavik, Nimiuktuk,
37 Wulik and Kivalina Rivers in this region. Approximately
38 800 samples. We've also started collecting samples in the
39 Nome area, and that's what I'm working on right now and I
40 have someone down there working on that. So far we've
41 gotten a sample from the Tisuk and the Penny Rivers, we
42 hope to get additional samples from the Nome River, the
43 Solomon and the Niukluk. That's where we are right now.
44 The samples that we've collected so far have been sent to
45 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service genetics lab in
46 Anchorage, they'll look at them this winter and do their
47 initial screening for differentiation and then analyze the
48 stocks for us.

49

50 We also have the sheefish winter harvest

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1 project, and we expect to get started on that as soon as
2 people start fishing. Leading up to that, I talked with a
3 couple folks last night, I'm going to try to meet with most
4 of the individuals that participate in that fishery, either
5 as a group or one on one within the next month and solicit
6 their cooperation in the project and get a local hire here
7 from Kotzebue to work as well as we're going to hire a
8 seasonal biologist in Fairbanks that will be coming up and
9 working with that person to collect that data.

10
11 In addition, we have three project
12 proposals for next year. Two of them deal with char, one
13 is a continuation of the genetics project assuming that we
14 get information back this winter through the analysis that
15 will allow us to learn what we want to learn and then the
16 continuation would be to go in and collect the mixed stock
17 information and perhaps some additional stock specific
18 genetic stuff and all the analysis involved with teasing
19 out the contributions.

20
21 The other project would be a detailed study
22 of one spawning stock of dolly varden to increase our
23 knowledge of life history to give us some comparisons
24 between the two spawning parts of the population and what
25 we call summer spawners, the ones that stay in the streams
26 all summer long, that would have come in from the ocean the
27 previous fall, spawn, and then overwinter again and then
28 the fall spawning group that come in in the fall and go
29 right to the spawning grounds and spawn. And that's a very
30 small part of the whole fall movement in from the ocean but
31 they have an entirely different pattern to their movements,
32 and they spawn in different places than the summer spawning
33 group. And that's about all we know of that.

34
35 In addition, to do that, the idea is to
36 find an appropriate stream and right now it's a choice
37 between two and part of it is logistically oriented, ones
38 that we can get the easiest access to because we'll be
39 maintaining a camp all summer long, the entire open water
40 period but we'd like to put a trap on this stream that
41 would catch fish, basically a net trap and then we would
42 tag the.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Across the whole stream?

45
46 MR. DiCICCO: Yep, and it would be just a
47 small stream and it would be closely tended.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

00131

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you can do it but we
2 can't.

3
4 MR. DiCICCO: Well, these fish wouldn't end
5 up on the drying rack, hopefully.

6
7 But we would mark each one, measure it,
8 weigh it, as it goes to the spawning grounds, catching them
9 again as they come back off the spawning grounds. We would
10 get a total number, we would know how many fish were there
11 at each time. We'd be able to use that number to determine
12 how accurate our aerial surveys are to count fish because
13 we've been doing aerial surveys right along except for this
14 year because you know how good the weather's been. We
15 haven't been able to do them this year. IT would give us
16 an idea of the accuracy of our aerial surveys, it would
17 give us detailed data on the spawning stock of the fish.

18
19 And then the third study proposal is a
20 study of the long-term mortality of catch and release on
21 sheefish, where we would catch fish on sportfishing gear in
22 three treatment groups and they would be tagged with
23 regular tags and followed for about four months. Hopefully
24 to the spawning grounds, we'd determine if, indeed, what
25 the long-term mortality was on these fish. The only -- the
26 three treatment groups would be -- and here we're trying to
27 address the concerns of this RAC, where you didn't believe
28 our other study because Fish and Game people did it and
29 handled fish carefully. Here, we would have one treatment
30 group of 60 fish that would receive radio tags, that would
31 be caught by guided anglers and we would contact the
32 guides, kind of trail along with them, when they catch a
33 fish, we wouldn't influence how they handled it, we'd slap
34 a radio tag in it, release it and do that for 60 fish. The
35 other would be unguided anglers that are fishing probably
36 where most of the fishing goes up in the Paw River area or
37 someplace up there, we would do the same thing. And then
38 as a third group, it would be fish that a trained crew did.
39 So we could assess the difference in mortality by these
40 groups and the long-term hook and release mortality.

41
42 So we could at least get an answer that we
43 feel would be the best answer to that question to address
44 the concerns of the RAC.

45
46 This project, the way it's originally set
47 up, would be, set up as a master of science project through
48 the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, so here's an
49 opportunity, it'd be wonderful if there was a qualified
50 student from the area that would be interested in working

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1 on something like this to make it work in the area. You
2 know, training local people to be involved at a
3 professional level in management would be a really good
4 thing for everybody.

5
6 But those are the three project proposals
7 for 2001.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Does anybody have any
10 questions? Thank you, Fred.

11
12 MR. DiCICCO: You're welcome.

13
14 MR. GREIST: Thank you.

15
16 MR. DiCICCO: Excuse me, I have one other
17 thing. I wanted to introduce Jim Schwarber, Jim do you
18 want to come up. Jim was just hired for us about four
19 months ago, he's a planner, he's working for our division
20 in Fairbanks. And Jim may want to tell you just a little
21 bit about how he's going to function for Sportfish Division
22 and hopefully you'll be seeing more of him in this region.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

25
26 MR. SCHWARBER: Mr. Chairman, my name is
27 Jim Schwarber, thank you for the introduction Fred. Just
28 earlier this year I was hired by the Sportfish Division of
29 ADF&G. I've been in Kotzebue a number of times before and
30 just thought I'd give a very brief introduction of some of
31 my background because I'm going to be comparing notes with
32 Charlie later. I don't have any formal Federal background
33 but I did work on the Federal Commission back in the '80s
34 similar to the resource commission for Gates of the Arctic
35 National Park. And from that sense, I see myself coming
36 from being a subsistence user, Federal side over to where
37 I'm working for the State now and maybe we can see how that
38 worked out over time on which is the hardest transition.
39 But I am enjoying the work with the Sportfish Division.

40
41 Primarily what I wanted to say now as part of an
42 introduction is I've been finding that the Sportfish
43 Division is very committed to working closer and more
44 effectively with local people around the state and with
45 other agencies, both within the Department of Fish and Game
46 but also with the Federal government. Some of this
47 commitment is demonstrated by them deciding to pull some
48 money away from some research projects and hiring their
49 first planner within the Sportfish Division in Alaska, so I
50 have the honor of filling that position for the first time.

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1 They've also hired a project coordinator for their
2 information and education program which will help share
3 information from the Sportfish Division to the various user
4 groups around the state. And a third area where there's
5 been a change within our Sportfish Division, we've based a
6 full-time fisheries biologist in Bethel for the Lower
7 Kuskokwim area, and that's a new position out there for an
8 area that's really important for fisheries.

9
10 The goal of Department of Fish and Game
11 Sportfish Division is primarily the conservation of wild
12 stocks of fish. And within that and the recreational
13 fishing opportunities that we support, we do that in full
14 recognition and support of the state constitution's
15 recognition of subsistence as being the overriding priority
16 use of a resource. So we do recognize that and work within
17 that framework also.

18
19 Some of the things I've been involved in
20 over the past five or six months is primarily meeting
21 facilitation. My role as a planner is to be neutral when
22 I'm in a position where I'm helping with a meeting and
23 that's, I wanted to emphasize that here, is that, I do work
24 for the Sportfish Division but there may be opportunities
25 in the future where I'll be able to work with maybe a
26 smaller working group, informally, or short-term working
27 group where I'll have a role perhaps helping with the
28 process but I won't be directly involved in the outcome of
29 that other than helping folks get together from different
30 agencies in a working group format. But that's one of the
31 potential things I'll be getting involved with in the
32 future.

33
34 Another thing I'll be doing but more as a
35 new participant and getting involved will be with the user
36 conflict group that Jim Dau has initiated up here and has
37 had some good results already. But again, the Sportfish
38 Division recognizes it's an important effort here locally
39 in this region and with the sportfish issues being part of
40 those issues involved, we wanted to make sure that we're
41 there to assist in whatever way we can.

42
43 And the last part I want to talk about,
44 just briefly, the Federal fisheries investigation
45 proposals, this is their second round which we've had a
46 briefing on and the third round is actually, the deadline,
47 I believe is February 1st, coming up fairly quickly but
48 under the current deadline of September 15th, just last
49 week, our Division put together, working closely with the
50 Yukon Kuskokwim communities of Aniak and Bethel and a

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1 little bit in Quinhagak. We developed a package of 18
2 proposals actually statewide. Fred, just mentioned three
3 for this region but we've been making an effort to look at
4 the RAC issues that were identified last winter through
5 your sessions on what are the important fisheries issues
6 that deserve some research. Our Division looked at what
7 existing research was taking place around the state that
8 was being funded by disaster monies through Stevens,
9 through Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, through other
10 sources of funds that were primarily focused on salmon, and
11 the Sportfish Division biologists primarily work on
12 resident species issues and they have a lot of expertise
13 there and basically are recognized as the experts on doing
14 stock assessments and research like Fred's doing up here on
15 char and some of the sheefish issues. But basically what
16 we've come up with was we looked at those issues, we
17 decided that we could contribute to some of these research
18 efforts on resident species primarily and we went and met
19 with some local representatives of local communities and
20 said we'd like to develop some research proposals and we
21 have a package of proposals based on RAC issues, based on
22 follow-up local support and we consider most of them joint
23 proposals in that we have investigators of the Copper River
24 Native Association with local hire and the Kuskokwim Native
25 Association with several proposals on the Aniak River
26 which, again, is a different area, a different RAC will be
27 looking at those proposals.

28
29 But I wanted to give you a little
30 background on the efforts the Division has been doing
31 throughout Region 3 in trying to work more effectively in
32 these issues that overlap sport use and subsistence use.
33 And with that, I'll close, and I'll thank you for the few
34 minutes of your time.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Anybody have
37 any questions. Susan, did you give your report already or
38 are you ready to give another one?

39
40 MS. BUCKNELL: I have a report for you.
41 Susan Bucknell, ADF&G Board Support. But also I have some
42 information here from Fred Bue. He is -- the Bering flight
43 cancelled from Nome this morning so he emailed this stuff
44 up this morning, and if you'd like I can go through it in
45 about one minute, there's five pages here.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, you got one
48 minute.

49
50 MS. BUCKNELL: Okay, don't start me yet. I

00135

1 think Barb and the court reporter already have these. The
2 first page is just the Kotzebue commercial harvest this
3 year, how they did and like Charlie said, it looks like an
4 average run for around here. And the second page is an
5 updated, just the whole history of the Kotzebue commercial
6 chum salmon, that's real interesting to look at the prices
7 and the catch and the fishermen over the years, it goes way
8 back. The third page is this season, again, but just the
9 catch by period throughout the season, you can kind of see
10 how it went that way. The fourth page is the two graphs we
11 always use comparing the catch this year and the rate of
12 catch this year to a historical average. This time they're
13 using a 20 year average. So you can kind of see how the
14 summer of 2000 compared to the average of summers in the
15 past. And the last page is the Kobuk River test fish at
16 Kiana. And you can see that year 2000 is the heavy dark
17 dots and you can see it's just kind of like a high average,
18 it tracks really closely to most years and it's the
19 highest, maybe except for that one year '96 that was so
20 high. So Kobuk did good. And like Charlie said, we really
21 don't know about Noatak, if they came late, if they didn't
22 come well or if they did. That's kind of an unknown.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: There's a catch in there
25 right in the middle of August, extremely higher than
26 normal.

27
28 MS. BUCKNELL: Which? What?

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: In August there, you
31 know.

32
33 MS. BUCKNELL: That's when you were
34 fishing.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Historical information.

37
38 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
39 Board support, you know, there's five State Fish and Game
40 local advisory committees in the NANA region. Raymond
41 Stoney is the Chair of the Lower Kobuk advisory committee,
42 otherwise there's not much overlap in this region between
43 the State advisory committee members and the Federal RAC
44 members. In some regions there's quite an overlap, in some
45 regions it looks like -- it seems like most of the RAC
46 members are on the AC and vice versa, here there's not. We
47 do, both systems seem to think it's good to coordinate the
48 systems which is kind of hard, as there's like more
49 activity and the schedules are different but we're trying.

50

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1 Thank you for commenting on the Board of
2 Fisheries proposals, the numbers 126, 127 and 133, it's
3 good to get the RAC comments on the State side. That Board
4 of Fisheries meeting is coming up in Anchorage. The Board
5 of Fisheries had scheduled meetings in Bethel, Dillingham
6 and Anchorage this year so they could take the local issues
7 out to the local areas so more people could comment and
8 participate but the Legislature cut \$77,000 this year out
9 of the Board of Fisheries, specifically their budget, so
10 they're just consolidating in one mega meeting in
11 Anchorage. If advisory committee's comment they'll send
12 representatives to that meeting and if you're there for the
13 RAC Federal Fisheries training at the same time you should
14 stop in it will be at the downtown Marriott. It can be
15 real interesting, you see people from all over the state
16 and see how the State system works.

17
18 The Board of Fish won't ask for fish
19 proposals from this region for another two years but they
20 can take things up out of cycle, especially if it has to do
21 with subsistence. So if there's issues that come up on the
22 RAC side that you're considering and you want to coordinate
23 them with the State side and do a coordinated effort with
24 both systems, by all means, don't worry that it's out of
25 cycle. Let me know, we'll let the advisory committees know
26 and both systems can work on it.

27
28 Board of Game proposals are up for this
29 region next year. The deadline will be in late summer so
30 by next spring local advisory committees will be thinking
31 about any new game proposals. A lot of discussion of
32 bears, I know, and other things will come up. So it would
33 be good to try and coordinate with any RAC proposals that
34 come up, let the advisory committees know what you guys are
35 thinking, too, so if they want to work on the same issue,
36 just to coordinate the two systems. Basically that's what
37 I'm here waving the flag for today.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Questions. Thank you.

40
41 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are there any other
44 reports that were not on the agenda that someone would like
45 to share with us? How about from the RAC, the committee
46 members?

47
48 Well, the meeting in St. Louis, that letter
49 did catch me unaware, but thank you, I appreciate it. I
50 really do. When they first asked me to speak on

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1 subsistence in this gathering of Park employees nationwide,
2 I never -- you know, when I first got there, I commented to
3 the superintendent from the Nome area, that I've never been
4 amongst so many rangers in my life. But it was an eye-
5 opener for me. A lot of those people down there, and we've
6 seen some come up from down there, the Lower 48 to work in
7 the Parks up here have no idea what subsistence is all
8 about. You know, I attended one session where the resource
9 stewardship of the Park Service mandate was one of the
10 issues and cultural stewardship. So there's some people
11 talking, they said, one guy was saying, you know, he took
12 his kids out to the sand dunes of New Mexico and slide down
13 whatever it is on the sand dunes and just enjoying the
14 peacefulness and the quiet of the sand dunes, you know, and
15 then another guy said he went into this one park and just
16 viewed the wildlife, just looked. By that time I couldn't
17 keep quiet. So I told them what our way of life is up here
18 with the resources. And I reminded them that they have a
19 resource stewardship that they have to worry about up here,
20 also the cultural stewardship that they have are the basis
21 for the parks that are established up here. The archeology
22 that are found in the parks are the basis for the
23 monuments, for the National Parks, in this area. So they
24 have a stewardship that they got to watch, the cultural
25 awareness of our people on the subsistence resources. And
26 I told them I, you know, started hunting when I was four
27 and five years old, still shooting animals, still catching
28 fish. I may not know how old a fish is but I know when
29 it's big enough to eat, you know.

30
31 And I left them with one question that they
32 might want to think about, and I said, you know, based on
33 your comments here and your awareness of the history of the
34 parks in the Lower 48 and what's up in Alaska, I asked
35 them, should my way of life die so yours can live? It was
36 dead silent. I think they couldn't figure it out but they
37 certainly sure thought about it.

38
39 All in all it was an interesting trip and I
40 appreciate the Park Service asking me to speak on
41 subsistence to the panel there. Dan O'Hara from Bristol
42 Bay was there and the attendees appreciated our comments or
43 what we said. I thank the Park Service for that, it was
44 educational for me.

45
46 Any other reports?

47
48 The next item -- before we go onto the next
49 item, you know, one of our people that had been really
50 involved with the State advisory board and has been to our

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1 meetings on the resources in the region and how it should
2 be managed or they should be managed passed away this past
3 winter, Gordon Itto. Even though he had his way of
4 communicating that wasn't appreciated by a lot of people,
5 his points were well taken and appreciated. So if I can,
6 and he probably would be here, too, today, with some of the
7 issues that we're talking about. Some of his comments may
8 have been good, may have been bad for some people, but all
9 in all his issues were towards making sure that the
10 subsistence activities of our people continued. And Gordon
11 Itto was that person. I'd like to just ask for a moment of
12 silence, if I can, in memory of him for some of the work
13 that he did for the people in his region with regard to
14 fisheries and the Bering Sea Fishermen Association and his
15 work at the State advisory board.

16

17 (Moment of Silence)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you for joining me
20 in that. I was reminded of it, I was thinking about it
21 earlier and I forgot about it, so I appreciate your
22 indulgence with it.

23

24 The last item on our agenda is time and
25 place of our next meeting. Usually in February or March we
26 know that we're going to have a difficult time during the
27 annual friendship gathering which I think may be the week
28 of March 11th or 18th. The North Slope meeting is February
29 20th and 21st so we can't take those dates because of Barb
30 having to go to those meetings. Anybody have any
31 suggestions of what we should?

32

33 MR. GREIST: Don't we have a February
34 Anchorage meeting, fisheries update, any dates on those
35 yet?

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's in January, I
38 think.

39

40 MR. GREIST: January, okay.

41

42 MR. F. ARMSTRONG: January, yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What about the last week
45 in February?

46

47 MR. STONEY: Sounds good.

48

49 MR. GREIST: Yeah. Monday.

50

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1 business before us, is there anything else that we missed.
2 I certainly want to thank all of you for attending, your
3 input and your reports is what helps us go forward with
4 this program, the subsistence program on Federal land, and
5 I certainly appreciate your input, I encourage more.
6 Sometimes we're a little hard on you but all in all, the
7 end result is something that we want to see done, from
8 everybody's point of view.

9
10 A motion is in order to adjourn.

11
12 MR. GREIST: Second his motion.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, who moved?

15
16 MR. SHIEDT: I will.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second? Bert
19 seconded, any objection? We're adjourned until March 1st,
20 thank you very much.

21
22 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

23 * * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

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6

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 140 contain a
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTICE
13 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken
14 electronically by Salena Hile on the 21st day of September
15 2000, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at the Alaska
16 Technical Institute, Kotzebue, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
21 and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
24 in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 29th day of September
27 2000.

28
29
30
31
32
33
34

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04