

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

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8  
9 Pike's Landing  
10 Fairbanks, Alaska  
11 March 3, 2011  
12 8:30 a.m.

13  
14  
15  
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17  
18 Sue Entsminger, Chair  
19 Andrew Bassich  
20 Lester Erhart  
21 Andrew Firmin  
22 William Glanz  
23 Frank Gurtler  
24 Joseph Matesi  
25 Virgil Umphenour  
26 Larry Williams  
27 Donald Woodruff  
28  
29 Regional Council Coordinator, K.J. Mushovic

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/3/2011)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like to call this meeting to order. Can everybody take their seats. Okay. We'll call the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council to order.

And I want to welcome everyone. And we're starting off with an invocation by -- Lester has appointed Larry to do that. Would everyone stand.

MR. WILLIAMS: In any public gathering in our culture, any public gathering or any time we get together to talk about important -- things that are important to us, it's appropriate to give thanks to the Great Spirit for watching over us, so at this time we'll be doing that.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us this beautiful day in which to conduct our meeting. Watch all our families while we are away from home, and watch over them and watch over our grandkids and over our grown kids and whoever that are real important to us. And guide us through the day to make appropriate remarks and to try to help our subsistence users to continue to live off the land and to voice their concerns at this meeting. And for this we give you thanks.

Amen.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Larry. Are you ready to do the roll call. Andrew is our secretary and he's going to do the roll call.

MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Sue Entsminger.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Myself is here. Larry Williams, Sr.

MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart.

1 MR. ERHART: Here.  
2  
3 MR. FIRMIN: Andy Bassich.  
4  
5 MR. BASSICH: Here.  
6  
7 MR. FIRMIN: William Glanz.  
8  
9 MR. GLANZ: Here.  
10  
11 MR. FIRMIN: Frank Gurtler. Absent.  
12 Joseph Matesi.  
13  
14 MR. MATESI: Here.  
15  
16 MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff.  
17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.  
19  
20 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil Umphenour.  
21  
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.  
23  
24 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair. I believe  
25 we have a quorum.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Quorum  
28 is established.  
29  
30 I want to welcome the two new members,  
31 Larry Williams from Venetie and is it Joe or Joseph?  
32  
33 MR. MATESI: Joe's fine.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe's fine.  
36 Okay. Joe Matesi, and you're from the.....  
37  
38 MR. MATESI: Porcupine River.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Out in the  
41 middle of nowhere, right? I like that. I want to  
42 check it out. All right. And welcome to the Council.  
43 All right.  
44  
45 Now, introduction of agency staff and  
46 honored guests. How do we want to go about that? Do  
47 you guys want to just go around the room, starting with  
48 Polly.  
49  
50 DR. WHEELER: Polly Wheeler with the

1 Office of Subsistence Management. Good morning.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning,  
4 Polly.  
5  
6 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg with Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service out of Anchorage.  
8  
9 DR. STRAM: Diana Stram with North  
10 Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage.  
11  
12 MS. KIMBALL: Nicole Kimball also with  
13 the North Pacific Council, Anchorage.  
14  
15 MR. TWEIT: And I'm Bill Tweit from the  
16 North Pacific Council, for Washington State.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gene.  
19  
20 MR. SANDONE: Public, too?  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. You can  
23 tell us you're public.  
24  
25 MR. SANDONE: Okay. My name is Gene  
26 Sandone, a private consultant working for Kwik'Pak  
27 Fisheries and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development  
28 Association.  
29  
30 MR. CASIPIT: I'm Cal Casipit. I'm  
31 with the Forest Service out of Juneau.  
32  
33 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department  
34 of Fish and Game, subsistence liaison team.  
35  
36 MR. DUDGEON: Greg Dudgeon,  
37 superintendent, Yukon Charley Refuge and KCR.  
38  
39 MS. MASICA: I'm Sue Masica with the  
40 National Park Service out of Anchorage.  
41  
42 MS. CELLARIUS: Barbara Cellarius,  
43 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National  
44 Park and Preserve.  
45  
46 MR. LIEBSCHER: I'm Tom Liebscher. I'm  
47 the chief of Natural, Cultural, and Fire Resources for  
48 the Park Service in Fairbanks.  
49  
50 MR NEELY: Good morning. Jim Neely

1 with the Division of Refuge Law Enforcement, Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews,  
5 subsistence coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon  
6 Flats.

7

8 MR. REARDEN: Spencer Rearden with OSM  
9 out of Anchorage. Wildlife biologist.

10

11 MS. BUCKELEW: Good morning. Stacey  
12 Buckelew, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
13 Commercial Fisheries.

14

15 MR. BUE: Fish and Wildlife Service,  
16 Fred Bue out of Fairbanks.

17

18 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning. Jeff  
19 Estensen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Yukon  
20 fall manager for commercial fisheries out of Fairbanks.

21

22 MR. MEARS: Jeremy Mears, Fish and  
23 Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The gentleman  
26 behind.

27

28 MS. BRYANT: Joanne Bryant, Arctic  
29 Refuge.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You were  
32 hiding, I didn't see you. Sorry.

33

34 MS. PETER: My name is Josephine Peter  
35 from Arctic Village, senior citizen.

36

37 MR. LORD: Willie Lord, first chief,  
38 Nenana. Public.

39

40 MR. KELLER: Peter Keller, Tetlin  
41 National Wildlife Refuge.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Peter.

44

45 MS. GRONQUIST: Ruth Gronquist with the  
46 Bureau of Land Management.

47

48 MR. KRUPA: Dave Krupa, subsistence  
49 program, National Park Service, Yukon Charley and Gates  
50 of the Arctic.

1 MR. POST: Jason Post, Eastern Interior  
2 fish biologist for BLM.  
3  
4 MR. BRYANT: Dave Bryant, Nenana.  
5  
6 MS. ROBERTS-HYSLOP: Julia Roberts-  
7 Hyslop, President for the Native Village of Tanana.  
8  
9 RON: Ron Dosamene (ph) from Nenana.  
10  
11 MR. JENKINS: David Jenkins. I'm an  
12 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
13 Management.  
14  
15 MS. MEDEIROS: Andrea Medeiros with the  
16 Office of Subsistence Management.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Over here.  
19  
20 MR. HALL: Yeah. I'm Dan Hall from  
21 Anchorage, and a member of the North Pacific Fishery  
22 Management Council.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. One  
25 other person just walked in. Would you like to  
26 introduce yourself.  
27  
28 MS. MCGREAGOR: Oh, my. I'm not even  
29 sure I'm in the right place.  
30  
31 (Laughter)  
32  
33 MS. MCGREAGOR: I'm here for the  
34 (indiscernible) Arctic. I'm in the wrong place.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We  
39 could still have your introduction.  
40  
41 MS. MCGREAGOR: Well, my name's Jaina  
42 McGreagor, I'm a student here, and I've lived here in  
43 Fairbanks since 1969, and in Alaska since 1962.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I hope  
46 you find your place.  
47  
48 (Laughter)  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I want

1 to introduce Sue Masica again. Also you didn't tell us  
2 that you're on the Federal Subsistence Board for the  
3 Park Service. So she's here. And I'm going to you all  
4 who they all are later, so you can tell me. I always  
5 forget.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
10 right. Now it's time to review and adopt the agenda.

11

12 Council members, do we have any  
13 changes. Okay. Virgil.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: The call for proposals  
16 for the State Board of Fisheries is going to be the 8th  
17 of April, and I have two potential proposals that I  
18 think we should address. So I'd like to get them put  
19 on the agenda.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Virgil.  
22 Two potential proposals, and you want them to come from  
23 the council, so do we want -- where do want to add it,  
24 before we start the wildlife stuff?

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think prior to the  
27 wildlife stuff, at the end of the fish stuff.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let's just  
30 add E, F, G. All right. Anyone else. Andy.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
33 Yeah, I have a special action request for fisheries  
34 conservation. I'd like to put it under fisheries  
35 issues as B.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's see.  
38 I've got two agendas here, so just hang on a sec. You  
39 want to put it where?

40

41 MR. BASSICH: I'm looking at the book  
42 here, that's the one I'm working off right now, but  
43 under 12, fisheries issues, B.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
46 else have any changes to the agenda. Go ahead.

47

48 MR. MATESI: Well, we discussed earlier  
49 that resolution.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
2 ahead and tell the Council. Yeah.  
3  
4 MR. MATESI: Okay. I'd like us to  
5 discussed the possibility of submitting a resolution  
6 concerning the Black River subunit of the Eastern  
7 Interior BLM Planning Area.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We  
10 talked about this -- go ahead.  
11  
12 MR. MATESI: Yeah. I'm not sure where  
13 we would put that in the agenda.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I  
16 thought under agency and organization reports, other.  
17 I've got an expanded agenda and a narrow agenda, so I'm  
18 going to get confused if I'm not careful. And that  
19 would be towards the end of the agenda. Okay?  
20  
21 MR. MATESI: Yeah. Uh-huh.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So for the  
24 Council members, that's 18.A.8., under other. Have any  
25 others.  
26  
27 (No comments)  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
30 Hearing none, do I.....  
31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to adopt the  
33 agenda.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion to  
36 adopt the agenda. Is there a second.  
37  
38 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
41 discussion.  
42  
43 (No comments)  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question.  
46 All in favor.  
47  
48 IN UNISON: Aye.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any

1 opposed.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wrote  
6 myself a note and I forgot to look at it, K.J. Staff,  
7 are we going to have that Unit 11 closure as part of  
8 the agenda? Caribou. Yeah, okay. All right.

9

10 So just for everyone's help here, if  
11 there is something that comes up, we're pretty flexible  
12 about, you know, bringing something up that isn't on  
13 the agenda if it was overlooked. So if that's okay  
14 with the Council members we'll -- okay.

15

16 Now it's the minutes. Has everyone  
17 reviewed the minutes. Go ahead, Andy.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Madame Chair. I'd  
20 like to have something added to the minutes. At our  
21 last meeting we had a rather lengthy discussion with  
22 the National Park Service, Yukon Charley, and I didn't  
23 see any reference to any of that discussion in the  
24 minutes. And so I would like maybe a brief paragraph  
25 entered into the minutes that we had that discussion.  
26 I think it's important to have that on public record.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
29 last meeting was -- we have to have a motion to adopt  
30 and then -- Staff, can you help me on this. I want to  
31 know if I'm right or wrong. Motion to adopt the  
32 minutes and then under that you make your changes?  
33 Okay.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: I move to adopt the  
36 agenda -- or the minutes as presented to us.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
41 other discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call for the  
46 question. All in favor.

47

48

IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
4 might have done that wrong. We're supposed to discuss  
5 it and then you make your -- I'm sorry. We're still  
6 working through Robert's Rules here.  
7  
8 (Laughter)  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we didn't  
11 vote, right?  
12  
13 REPORTER: Not yet.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have  
16 a right sometimes under Murphy's Law. So now is your  
17 turn.  
18  
19 MR. BASSICH: All right. Thank you,  
20 Madame Chair. Well, as I just stated, I would like to  
21 make a motion to add a paragraph into the minutes  
22 regarding the discussion with the Eastern Interior RAC  
23 and the Yukon Charley Preserve in regards some of the  
24 perceived heavy handed law enforcement actions along  
25 the Yukon River last summer.  
26  
27 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are  
30 there any other additions or corrections to the  
31 minutes.  
32  
33 MR. BASSICH: And, Madame Chair, if it  
34 helps, I can work with the Staff on just creating a  
35 quick paragraph or something on that at a later time.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and  
38 then you can even reflect back in the transcripts.  
39  
40 MR. BASSICH: Right.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did  
43 anyone see anything else in the minutes that needs  
44 corrected or added or deleted. Virgil.  
45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. I've reviewed  
47 the minutes and I couldn't find anything else other  
48 than what Andy brought up. Madame Chair.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any

1 other discussion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question on the  
6 approval of the minutes.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
9 motion is with the corrections to the minutes. All in  
10 favor.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
19 right. Council -- wait a minute. I want to follow  
20 this.

21

22 It's now your turn, Regional Advisory  
23 Council members, to express your concerns. And for the  
24 new members, we'll start over here with Donald, you  
25 just get to tell us your concerns about your area or  
26 things. So we'll start with Donald.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 I think the most pressing issue for the Council and for  
30 our Staff is the failure of the Chinook salmon runs on  
31 the Yukon. One of the most positive aspects of the  
32 management in our area would be the Fortymile success  
33 and growth of the herd.

34

35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester,  
38 you're next.

39

40 MR. ERHART: Yeah. What?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tell me about  
43 your concerns.

44

45 MR. ERHART: Well, my concerns is about  
46 the Yukon River king salmon situation and how to get it  
47 resolved some way. And that's one of my big concerns.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Thank you. Bill Glanz,  
50 Central. I think what I would really like to see is

1 that we have this coordination we have between the  
2 State and the Federal with this Fortymile Caribou Herd.  
3 It's been real successful in the last few years. It  
4 went from 5 or 6,000 to 52,000 almost. And so I hope  
5 we can have some dialogue on that.

6

7 And we have some proposals from the  
8 Fortymile Caribou Management Council that we'd like to  
9 forward to here so we could keep the balance.

10

11 And, of course, like Lester, the fish.  
12 And I don't know, like I say, we've been talking fish  
13 with net size and this, that, and everything else where  
14 the biggest problem is out in the ocean I believe, is  
15 that once they get past all the nets out in the ocean,  
16 then they've got to get past the drift nets and stuff  
17 in the mouth, and then they've got to get -- make their  
18 way to Dawson or Whitehorse, and it's a pretty  
19 important deal there. Both of those.

20

21 So that's all I have right now.

22

23 MR. FIRMIN: I guess where do I begin.  
24 I think our customary trade issue that's going to be  
25 coming up probably at this meeting and our fall meeting  
26 more is going to be a big issue to watch over the  
27 summer and in the near future.

28

29 And as far as that goes, the Chinook  
30 salmon are always a big issue for every one of us, but  
31 also with the upcoming wildlife proposals, I would like  
32 to see a few more resubmitted that were submitted  
33 before, like with the meat on the bone requirement for  
34 moose. And we'll discuss some of those later though.  
35 That with the Red Sheep Creek Management Area, the  
36 closure review.

37

38 And hopefully we can keep most of this  
39 meeting on wildlife, but I'm pretty sure most of it  
40 will be fish, too.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish is  
47 dominating, yes.

48

49 Go ahead, Virgil.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I have multiple  
2 concerns, but I think one of my biggest concerns is  
3 over-grazing in the marine environment. And the  
4 increase of production by Prince William Sound and  
5 hatchery chum salmon is not going to help anything.  
6 Our chum salmon, fall chum salmon that come up the  
7 Yukon River was severely depressed this year again, as  
8 well as the Chinook salmon. The Chinook salmon run  
9 into the Copper River, which is part of our region as  
10 well, was also depressed.

11  
12 And I think all of this has a bearing  
13 on over-grazing in the marine environment. The marine  
14 environment can only support so many fish. And if  
15 we're going to keep continuing to put in excess of over  
16 1.6 billion hatchery salmon smolt into the marine  
17 environment every spring, they're competing directly  
18 with the wild stocks, and so that is one of my major  
19 concerns, because I feel that the ocean can only  
20 support so many salmon. They all compete against each  
21 other for the available food source. And the way the  
22 hatcheries are operated where they put these hatchery  
23 salmon in net pens and release them when conditions are  
24 optimum for their survival, and that's usually prior to  
25 the wild smolts reaching the estuary, then we're going  
26 to continue to have this problem with our wild runs,  
27 because when those wild smolts get to the estuary, the  
28 food has been gobbled up by all of these hatchery  
29 smolt.

30  
31 Plus the hatchery smolt have caused the  
32 predators, such as the seagulls and other things that  
33 like to eat salmon smolt to have an artificially high  
34 population, because of these fish being held in net  
35 pens and so many of them being released at once. We  
36 have this high artificial population of predators. The  
37 wild smolt when they get there, not only is there not  
38 much for them to eat, but there's more predators there  
39 that are in good practice at catching salmon smolt  
40 trying to eat them.

41  
42 So that is my major concern.

43  
44 My other concern is it's been 10 years  
45 and about a month since the issue of the Chinook salmon  
46 and the chum salmon both on the Yukon River were first  
47 really addressed by the Board of Fisheries. And I  
48 chaired that committee did that, and Ms. Wheeler was my  
49 Staff assistant in that.

50

1                   And at that time we took action that we  
2 thought might help our salmon on the Yukon River, but  
3 subsequently, right after that, there was a loophole  
4 found in our management plan that we made as far as  
5 having true windows. And the windows were pitched out  
6 the window. And so we're sitting here 10 years and a  
7 month later with the same exact problem we had then.

8  
9                   I submitted an agenda change request to  
10 the State Board of Fisheries last spring to address  
11 this issue, and they rejected it. But now I see our  
12 joint Staffs has got that our agenda to do exactly what  
13 my agenda change request was, which was address how  
14 we're going to manage these king salmon so they'll make  
15 it to the spawning grounds. So that's my major  
16 concern.

17  
18                   But as I think I said a few minutes  
19 ago, the Copper River wild salmon stocks are having the  
20 same problem as the Yukon River stocks are. The  
21 Chinook and the early run sockeye.

22  
23                   And thank you, Madame Chair.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry.

26  
27                   MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

28  
29                   One of the main concerns, that --  
30 recently we had a meeting in Arctic Village, and one of  
31 the main concerns of the residents there were Red Sheep  
32 Creek and King Creek, which will be discussed later on  
33 in the meeting, so I'm just letting the Council know  
34 that it of concern to the residents up there.

35  
36                   And also another concern that was  
37 brought up by one of the public was that until about 10  
38 ago, at least 10 years ago, we've been having a lot of  
39 king salmon or Chinook going up the Tanana River. And  
40 nobody's been track of how many goes up that way.  
41 Nobody's counting them. They just go up there. We  
42 know they're up there, because we've been catching  
43 them, and nobody's been keeping track of when they  
44 enter the Tanana River to go up and spawn. And I don't  
45 know who the appropriate agency is to contact for  
46 counting those Chinook that goes the Tanana River.

47  
48                   And there's another one, there's a lot  
49 of mining. I'm not sure, I'm sure it's gold mining up  
50 above Venetie, the village where I live, and the East

1 Fork of the Chandalar goes right by our village where a  
2 lot of people are mainly subsistence users. And there  
3 I don't know the appropriate agency also to contact to  
4 try to find out more of how much waste and whatever  
5 waste water they generate they generate that goes into  
6 the Chandalar that flows right by our village. So I  
7 sure wish somebody would contact me or the appropriate  
8 people would contact me to try to address that, to find  
9 out how much damage is being done to the East Fork of  
10 the Chandalar.

11  
12 Also, there's another, I'm sure it will  
13 be brought up sometime during this meeting, a very  
14 prominent citizen from Nenana approached me a while ago  
15 and he asked, one of the first questions he asked me  
16 was where our leaders from the local agencies like the  
17 Tanana Chiefs and Doyon. Why are they not here. Why  
18 are they not acknowledged and present since this is a  
19 subsistence meeting, that supposedly goes -- we  
20 represent about 95 percent Native population, and the  
21 concern was our tribal leaders or their representatives  
22 be present, maybe not at the table, but in the public  
23 to support the subsistence side of the issues. And I  
24 told him that, you know, that's a good subject to bring  
25 up, because I for one feel like I'm not connected to  
26 anything here. You know, I'm sure I know of you guys,  
27 but I don't feel connected, like I would feel if  
28 somebody from Tanana Chiefs or Doyon is here, so we can  
29 discuss these issues and make more appropriate remarks  
30 at the appropriate time.

31  
32 And, Madame Chair, thank you for your  
33 time.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

36  
37 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
38 First I just want to thank those of you in the public  
39 for coming, and especially those of you who have  
40 traveled from other villages to be here. I know it's  
41 always been our wish to come go out to the villages and  
42 speak to and learn from the people out in the villages.  
43 But I want to thank you for making the effort to be  
44 here.

45  
46 Many of my concerns have already been  
47 spoken to. I think Virgil captured my concerns very  
48 well as far as the Chinook salmon and hatchery  
49 production. At times I'm incredibly frustrated with  
50 how much effort we've all invested in this, both in our

1 time and monies, and in some ways I feel like we've  
2 made some progress, but we certainly have a long way to  
3 go to fix this problem.

4  
5 Customary trade, as Andrew said, is a  
6 big issue on my mind right now and I'm sure we'll be  
7 talking about that. And I really look forward to  
8 working on some positive resolution to that issue for  
9 the future. I realize it may not come real quick, but  
10 I really look forward to that.

11  
12 The other issue that I've been bringing  
13 up for a number of years, some of the issues regarding  
14 impacts of urban hunters on rural areas. I'm glad to  
15 see it on the agenda finally. I applaud Staff for  
16 making the time and the effort to be here to do that.  
17 I think it's something that needs to be addressed now  
18 so that we don't have a big problem in the future. And  
19 I really look forward to working on that people, and I  
20 certainly invite other Council members during this  
21 meeting to work with a group of people on that issue,  
22 and also other agencies. I think this is something  
23 that's a very big problem. It's not going to be solved  
24 by just this entity or any one entity or agency. I  
25 think it needs to be a collaborative effort throughout  
26 all the agencies. Fish and Wildlife, OSM, Department  
27 of Fish and Game, BLM and any tribal councils. I think  
28 that's the only way we're really going to make any  
29 progress on this issue.

30  
31 The last thing that I have some  
32 concerns about, we recently had a Fortymile Harvest  
33 Plan meeting in Tok, and we had some very good  
34 discussion. But one of the things that really concerns  
35 me is I'm not seeing a lot of research or a lot of data  
36 on the effects of severe burns on caribou proliferation  
37 or growth in herds, and I would really like to see more  
38 information on that. I'm sure that there's been work  
39 done in Canada and other areas, but I'd really like  
40 some time spent to try and locate some of the research  
41 that's been done on the impacts of severe burns on  
42 caribou, both in herd growth and herd movement. It's a  
43 very important resource to the people of Central and  
44 Eagle especially, but also many other people that live  
45 within the Eastern RAC's region here. It's a very  
46 important resource to them. And we have had a lot of  
47 progress, but I'm a little bit concerned that it may  
48 have some impacts far-reaching that we're not really  
49 aware of that might help us to make better decisions on  
50 the growth of that herd.

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
4 I do have a few concerns that are specific to my area  
5 of the region.

6

7 First of all, I'm very pleased to see  
8 that it looks like we're going to be addressing the  
9 issue of increasing tribal participation in the  
10 subsistence management process, if I read the agenda  
11 correctly. I think that that's something that we  
12 really have to do. I've had people in villages and  
13 elders express to me the fact that they would like to  
14 see a certain amount of impact or issues brought before  
15 the Board, but don't feel that their concerns get  
16 through the filter of the Advisory Council. That may  
17 or may not be accurate, but that sense is out there.  
18 So I'm encouraged to see that there's a movement to  
19 increase the Board and that that increase is going to  
20 be constituted by rural residents, subsistence users,  
21 not necessarily, say, agency people. I hope that we  
22 have an opportunity to discuss that increased tribal  
23 participation more.

24

25 Another concern that I have is I'm  
26 hoping that we are able to look at and maybe weigh in  
27 on the administrative process which is currently  
28 underway with BLM that will have a direct impact on  
29 subsistence use in the Black River area. That's on the  
30 agenda now.

31

32 And then also in the Black River area  
33 there's a small remnant population, it used to be a  
34 good sized population, of king salmon. They're  
35 struggling and there's issues with that king salmon  
36 population, especially with the fact that the Yukon  
37 River drainage wide, it's a species of concern. We  
38 feel that this might be a venue where that issue might  
39 be addressed.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
44 And my concerns, I recently had a scary health issue  
45 and it makes you look at life, and for me it means so  
46 much to me to see Alaska, the people, both Native and  
47 non-Native join together their forces. Larry and I  
48 talked about this earlier. I want to see the people of  
49 Alaska respect each other, not drive wedges between  
50 each other. And I think sometimes a lot of this stuff

1 that we're going through, we're overlooking what the  
2 real picture is, is that we need to be a group of  
3 people working together. And that sometimes the  
4 system, this process we go through, I feel it does  
5 drive wedges, and for me and my future, that's the kind  
6 of thing I'm going to avoid, because I think it's  
7 negative, and I want to -- you learn in your life that  
8 positive is what makes things healthy. And we need to  
9 be healthy in our future and that's my concern, it that  
10 we continue to find ways to work together.

11  
12 So in my ways of trying to do the right  
13 thing, I failed to introduce our coordinator, K.J. I  
14 apologize. And she is our coordinator. For those of  
15 you who met her, you got to work with her here earlier,  
16 the two new members. And she has some announcements to  
17 make.

18  
19 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
20 Just a couple of housekeeping items. I should let you  
21 know, this is the exit for this room. It's all  
22 shoveled out so we can get around the building if we  
23 have to go. The restrooms are out in the lobby.

24  
25 There are sign-in sheets by the door.  
26 Everybody should sign in every day, please.

27  
28 Besides the sign-in sheets, there are  
29 testifier forms for people that would like to address  
30 the Council. They're blue half sheets like this, if  
31 you could fill them out and bring them to our attention  
32 up here, the Chair's attention or my attention. That  
33 would be the best way to do that. And if you could  
34 indicate on there if you have a time constraint for  
35 which you would to speak sooner, later, that would be  
36 appreciated. That will be helpful in scheduling your  
37 testimony as well.

38  
39 If you've brought out handouts for the  
40 Council members and meeting attendees, if you would  
41 please bring them up here rather than just dropping  
42 them on their chairs, that will help us track the  
43 material that's coming into this meeting better. I  
44 appreciate that.

45  
46 I'm glad to be here. Thank you, Madame  
47 Chair.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Welcome, K.J.  
50 Your first meeting alone, right?

1 MS. MUSHOVIC: yeah  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. She  
4 was in training last meeting, so she's doing a great  
5 job for us.  
6  
7 Okay. And then I also like to let the  
8 public know, hearing from the public and knowing that  
9 the public has a lot more to do than sit at a meeting  
10 for two days, we are very open to hear when you are  
11 going to be here and if you have to leave, and we'd  
12 like to accommodate you on that, so please let us know  
13 that.  
14  
15 And I have three blue cards here now,  
16 and I've spoken to one person that we think we'll be  
17 able to get to, Josephine Peter, in the next few hours.  
18 And she said she'd be here, so if anyone else has any  
19 time constraints, let us know.  
20  
21 All right. K.J. did such a good job of  
22 giving me a place to write notes, but it's a little  
23 harder to get through here. Okay.  
24  
25 Are we on the fisheries issues here  
26 already or this Council.  
27  
28 MS. MUSHOVIC: We are at Council -- oh,  
29 Chair's report and .805(c).  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yes. I'm  
32 going back to my short one. Okay.  
33  
34 This is the Chair's report. And Andrew  
35 Firmin went to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting,  
36 and I'm going to have him be prepared to give a report  
37 from that meeting. I just attended a Subsistence  
38 Resource Commission meeting in Glennallen for the  
39 Wrangell-St.Elias Park. And they had a two-day  
40 meeting, and I was not able to attend yesterday. I  
41 ended up going back home, and then coming back in here  
42 for this meeting.  
43  
44 There's a lot of things on the table.  
45 There's just so many things that I can't even remember.  
46 This is the other thing that's happening to me, I'm  
47 losing my mind, my memory.  
48  
49 Andrew, are you prepared to talk about  
50 all that had happened at the Federal Subsistence Board?

1 MR. FIRMIN: Briefly.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be  
4 fine. Yeah. Okay. I understand he did a great job  
5 for the Eastern Interior, so everybody should pat him  
6 on the back for doing a good job.

7

8 (Applause)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I heard you  
11 even made them laugh, so that's pretty good.

12

13 Polly. Oh, my phone's ringing.

14

15 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Ms. Chair.  
16 The .805(c) letter, the actions of the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board are on Page 16. That gives you the  
18 full -- all of the action that the Board took on all of  
19 the proposals that were before it. So if you want to  
20 reference that, or look through it, or if you have any  
21 questions, I'm sure Andrew can answer them with regard  
22 to the actions that they took. But probably foremost  
23 for this Council is that the Board did defer the  
24 customary trade proposals, the three proposals before  
25 it to form a work group and let the work group work  
26 through the process. So Andrew can answer any specific  
27 questions, but I just want to point that out, that that  
28 is in the book. So if you have any questions about  
29 what the Board did, you've got a Board member here and  
30 Andrew was there as well.

31

32 Madame Chair.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair,

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You better  
37 let him give a report, yeah.

38

39 MR. FIRMIN: Just basically during the  
40 Federal Subsistence Board they had it was a long and  
41 lengthy discussion on statewide issues, but for the  
42 most part Mountain Village Working Group came and they  
43 requested that they remove their proposals that they  
44 submitted that were kind of biased, not riverwide  
45 proposals. They were targeting specific areas. And  
46 they were all ones that we voted against, and I believe  
47 also they were voted against by even their own Lower  
48 Yukon RACs. However, they did pull -- excuse me, they  
49 go to the meeting and request that those be removed and  
50 the Federal Subsistence Board honored that request. So

1 we didn't have to sit there and hash through four or  
2 five proposals that would have been at length.

3  
4 And there were some other topics at  
5 that meeting that were deferred to us. One is the  
6 separation of, what is it?

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Separation of  
9 what?

10  
11 MR. FIRMIN: The proposal to cut  
12 District 5 into smaller areas was deferred back for  
13 public comment and review of other agencies, because it  
14 was short-lived. So that one is still on the table.

15  
16 They referred us back to some type of  
17 tri-council committee, and I was hoping to get that  
18 pushed through before these meeting so we could have  
19 something, due to time constraints, that possible. So  
20 hopefully we can get something worked out over the  
21 summer for our fall and spring meeting.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does  
24 anyone have any questions of Andrew specifically on the  
25 meeting. Andy.

26  
27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Madame  
28 Chair.

29  
30 Andrew, when they deferred the  
31 customary trade topic and they asked for forming a  
32 working group, and maybe this goes more to Polly, is  
33 there a timeline or what's the process going to be to  
34 formulate that committee or that working group?

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll let her  
37 answer. Go ahead, Polly.

38  
39 DR. WHEELER: Andrew, or Member  
40 Bassich, the Board was very interested in getting a  
41 solution to this issue out of the subgroup. But the  
42 Board also recognized that previous work on this has  
43 taken time, so they're interested in getting a solution  
44 that can work, so if it takes longer than -- if a  
45 solution takes time, they're interested in that. And,  
46 obviously, you know, they're feeling like the issue  
47 wants -- they want it resolved as quickly as possible,  
48 but they recognize that it's a contentious issue,  
49 getting all these different Councils together, or  
50 representatives of the Councils together, and working

1 through something that's going to work may take some  
2 time. So they're interested in a timely resolution,  
3 but they recognize that it may take some time.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: I guess, you know, I  
6 understand that, acknowledge that, but I'm just  
7 wondering where are we going from here? Is there a  
8 timeline set up for the formation of this? Is it just  
9 going to -- I mean, what's going to initiate this  
10 action to take place? We've been asking for this for a  
11 couple of years now, and it's obvious that it's needed,  
12 so has there been any discussion at OSM as to how to  
13 formulate this and put a timeline to when it will  
14 begin?

15

16 DR. WHEELER: It will begin this  
17 summer, Madame Chair and Member Bassich.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

20

21 MR. FIRMIN: One thing that came out of  
22 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting was the Lower  
23 Yukon RAC, the Y-K RAC wasn't able -- they didn't have  
24 anybody chosen for the -- Western and Eastern Interior  
25 both had committee members chosen already to move  
26 forward and they didn't want to appoint anybody at the  
27 time, and I believe hopefully at their the meeting that  
28 should have been this month or last month, they came up  
29 with committee members to put forward to take the next  
30 step ahead anyway.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 Addressing this customary trade issue, I made the  
36 comment yesterday, I don't know I was talking to, but I  
37 think we should be taking our time, because it is  
38 really controversial up and down the Yukon River. I  
39 make those comments because I lived on the Yukon River  
40 in my early years, and my mom and dad engaged in that  
41 customary trade. So that was the only way to make cash  
42 money at that time. I'll try to keep my comments brief  
43 and concise and to the point here as much as I'm able.  
44 But it's always been a part of our life. We trade out  
45 salmon to the storekeeper or we trade our salmon to the  
46 school teacher for cash money. And I would caution and  
47 thinking ahead, if you're going to address this issue,  
48 and it takes all of us, all of us, to put together to  
49 put a little proposal, a workable solution.

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Polly, I do  
4 have a quick question. Are we going to be bringing  
5 this up at this meeting where we're going to appoint  
6 people from each -- or from our Council to this? I'm  
7 sure you saw my email to Pete about it was brought up  
8 to me prior to the meeting, and I'm reading an email  
9 that he returned to me, saying that the Board  
10 encourages three Councils to pursue this. Keep in mind  
11 the Board cannot direct the Councils to form these  
12 committees. Is that -- I mean, I'm hearing you say  
13 that the Board said we're going to create this working  
14 group; is that different than a committee? Or what is  
15 going on here.

16

17 DR. WHEELER: It's just different  
18 languages -- or different words being used. The Board  
19 is recommending, the Board is asking that the Regional  
20 Advisory Councils form this subgroup. And my  
21 understanding is that the Eastern Interior appointed --  
22 the Eastern Interior Council requested that the  
23 subgroup be formed at its last meeting.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

26

27 DR. WHEELER: .....and appointed two  
28 members. The Western Interior Council also did that.  
29 The Y-K Council didn't. The Y-K Council had met before  
30 the Eastern and Western Interior Councils had met, so  
31 the request came in late to them. So they needed to  
32 meet this cycle and appoint their two members. So all  
33 three Councils are in synch in terms of agreeing to  
34 form this subgroup. They've appointed their members,  
35 and after the RAC cycle is ended, then we'll proceed to  
36 -- OSM will facilitate the process.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Y-K's  
39 already and done this?

40

41 DR. WHEELER: They met several weeks --  
42 or last week, yes.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
45 Virgil.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is the Limited Entry  
48 Commission going to be invited to the table, because  
49 they're one of the main reasons why we have this  
50 controversy?

1 DR. WHEELER: Thanks, Virgil.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a good  
6 answer, Polly.

7

8 DR. WHEELER: Yeah. I would say that  
9 -- I mean, I'm not the one in charge here, so the --  
10 well, the subgroup will get together, and OSM will  
11 provide the relevant Staff, the agencies will provide  
12 the relevant Staff. To be honest, the issue of the  
13 Limited Entry Commission hadn't come up. My suggestion  
14 would be that the group get together, kind of think  
15 about who they want to have there in addition to the  
16 people that are already there at its first meeting.  
17 Who else might be a good person or entity or agency,  
18 and we can move forward. There may be differences of  
19 opinion on the Limited Entry Commission being there.  
20 And so I would push, in a good bureaucratic way, I'd  
21 punt to the group and see what the group wants to do.

22

23 Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil has  
26 more.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Just an explanation as  
29 to why I ask that question. For people that may not  
30 really be aware of the history of the fisheries of the  
31 Yukon River, but when commercial permits were given  
32 out, they were given out to people that sole fish on a  
33 fish ticket to a buyer, and primarily those fish were  
34 supposed to be, well, commercial fish, but commercial  
35 fish were kind of defined prior to statehood as fish  
36 for export out of the State of Alaska, but not  
37 including Canada. Export to the Lower 48. And so all  
38 these fish that were caught commercially and sold  
39 within the State were not counted as commercial fish.  
40 So when they divvied up all the commercial fishing  
41 licenses in the State, then that was not considered.  
42 And so that's why there's so many commercial fishing  
43 permits in the Lower Yukon and not in the Upper Yukon.  
44 And like Mr. Williams here spoke about, his family, his  
45 parents fished and sold their fish when he was a little  
46 boy, but that wasn't considered commercial. That is  
47 what we call customary trade. Customary trade really  
48 was commercial in the early days. It's not considered  
49 that anymore.

50

1                               And so part of the box we're in, that's  
2 what caused it, and that's why I asked that question.  
3 And that's why I wanted to give a little explanation,  
4 because unless you've really studied the history of the  
5 fisheries and how they were formed, you wouldn't  
6 understand that. And it's an extremely complex issue.

7  
8                               Thank you, Madame Chair.

9  
10                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
11 Virgil. And that was the short version, right?

12  
13                              MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

14  
15                              (Laughter)

16  
17                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.  
18 I've got to laugh once in awhile. This is very, very  
19 lengthy, and I'm sorry to hear that it's a 10-year  
20 process, and probably if you go back some more, like  
21 50.

22  
23                              Okay. Any other questions.

24  
25                              MR. FIRMIN: One more.

26  
27                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

28  
29                              MR. FIRMIN: I just had one more  
30 comment, that kind of -- actually I don't have my  
31 notebook from Anchorage from the last meeting in front  
32 of me, but one thing that stuck in my mind that the  
33 Chair of the Lower Yukon RAC said during the meeting  
34 there was that he said that along the length of the  
35 river all of us will never get along, we don't like  
36 each other, we'll never get along, but it's a good  
37 dream to have. And that was one thing that hopefully  
38 they can bring that attitude of something so that we  
39 can work together and get something worked out over the  
40 course of the summer.

41  
42                              Thank you.

43  
44                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wow. It's  
45 amazing. I'm going to take a deep breath on that.  
46 Goodness. I have that dream so let's go for it.

47  
48                              Now we're going to review and finalize  
49 the draft annual report. So in your packets, it's in  
50 our green folder, right?

1 MS. MUSHOVIC: Yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's  
4 things that we've talked about in the past that we  
5 would put in our annual report, and K.J. has -- it  
6 looks like this in the front, it says draft. And it  
7 also has stapled to it the Y-K's -- that's one thing  
8 that we do agree with with the Y-K is making more  
9 critters however we can. And that's on it, too.

10

11 So just what I'm saying, what we'd like  
12 to do here is right now we have customary trade,  
13 incidental harvest of Yukon-origin salmon, potential  
14 effects of burbot predation on salmon fry. These are  
15 just topics that we have in our annual report right  
16 now. Intensive management. Impacts on non-rural  
17 users. Potential effects of climate change on seasons  
18 and bag limits. Dog lice. Chisana caribou.

19

20 So that handout she's stapled to it is  
21 more detailed, and Greg Roczicka sent that to me from  
22 the Y-K. And theirs is very much more detailed. So I  
23 want you all to keep this in mind at the end of the  
24 meeting we have to adopt our annual report. But it's  
25 best to be looking at it now.

26

27 Yeah, this one was on top, but I also  
28 had the other one. No, I think I have it here. I  
29 prefer it to be organized. Oh, it's right here.  
30 Here's my annual report, in big letters.

31

32 So in your green one, it has this in  
33 the front. Do you guys see that? It says, Issue 1,  
34 actual management of wildlife populations on public  
35 lands. Do you guys have that?

36

37 SEVERAL: Yes.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the  
40 one I want you all to look at very closely and see if  
41 you have -- if we would change it or add it or  
42 whatever. So keep that in mind.

43

44 Did you find yours, Virgil? Your  
45 brain's pretty good about thinking through all this, so  
46 I want your help. All right.

47

48 Moving rapidly along. I'm sorry,  
49 there's two fingers up here. Go ahead, Larry, and then  
50 Virgil?

1                   MR. WILLIAMS: It seems like I can't  
2 find it.  
3  
4                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have  
5 your green folder, that little.....  
6  
7                   MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.  
8  
9                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have  
10 a question, Virgil?  
11  
12                  MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, there it is.  
13  
14                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought  
15 you.....  
16  
17                  (Whispered conversation)  
18  
19                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did  
20 you have something you wanted to discuss, Larry, or  
21 you're just looking for the report?  
22  
23                  MR. WILLIAMS: I'm just looking for the  
24 report.  
25  
26                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
27 ahead, Virgil.  
28  
29                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I think in our  
30 annual report we should also address our concern about  
31 over-production by the hatcheries and its detrimental  
32 effect on wild stocks.  
33  
34                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you would  
35 add that. Let's take this all up, Virgil, we'll  
36 pension it in and we'll take a motion at the end of the  
37 meeting. And if there's anything else, we'll discuss  
38 it and add it to it, okay?  
39  
40                  Andy.  
41  
42                  MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Maybe just to  
43 build on that a little bit, I think specifically what  
44 we need to know is what process we would have to go  
45 through to address that issue, what agencies, and what  
46 the process would be to evaluate that. And also maybe  
47 address our concerns through regulation changes or  
48 whatever. I'm not really clear on what the avenue  
49 would be, so that would be really helpful to me to know  
50 what the process would be to address that issue.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
2 would everybody be in agreement to adding this to the  
3 annual report.

4  
5 (Council nods affirmatively)

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll just  
8 take a consensus here, okay? All right.

9  
10 MR. FIRMIN: I have one more then.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
13 ahead.

14  
15 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you. I'd also like  
16 to add like under the effects of burbot predation on  
17 salmon fry, I recently noted that they're updating the  
18 anadromous waters catalogue. Of course, that closure  
19 date is like next week; however, I'd like to see  
20 something -- I notice that there's lots of salmon-  
21 bearing creeks and rivers and streams that are somewhat  
22 small, maybe especially in the Black River area that  
23 are not even in the catalogue, and I'd like to see some  
24 type of study funded in that area in the Yukon Flats  
25 and upper regions along those rivers that produce  
26 salmon. Chinook also. That's like Larry said, I mean,  
27 there's -- 10 years ago they didn't even know Chinook  
28 salmon came out of the Chandalar, but they're catching  
29 them, so what are they doing at that sonar project all  
30 summer long.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your  
33 request would be in addition?

34  
35 MR. FIRMIN: My request would be in  
36 addition to the potential effects of burbot predation  
37 would be to have a study funded in the upper, maybe  
38 possibly like in the Black River area to identify more  
39 of those salmon-bearing streams so we can possibly take  
40 action if need be on them.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, then  
45 Joe. I said Virgil. How did I get Virgil out of Andy.  
46 Andy. Okay. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

47  
48 MR. BASSICH: Maybe addressing what  
49 Andrew was just saying, I wonder if it would be more  
50 appropriate to ask for that to be added to the Resource

1 Monitoring Program. It might be more appropriate, or  
2 it might get better attention in that realm than it  
3 would through this report, annual report. So just a  
4 thought.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That, or do  
7 both. I would do both. Yeah. I'm seeing agreements.  
8

9 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, it just  
10 seems like, you know, that's something that a  
11 researcher would look at for a monitoring program that  
12 could be funded if, you know, there was interest.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.  
15 Yeah, so it would be good to put it in the annual  
16 report and bring it up at that time. So everyone in  
17 agreement on this one.

18  
19 MR. MATESI: On what?

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Adding  
22 funding -- this study funded in the Black River area to  
23 identify -- go ahead, Joe.

24  
25 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now it's your  
28 turn.

29  
30 MR. MATESI: Andy, I think I can answer  
31 some questions you have on that, because actually there  
32 is work that has been, and there is work that is  
33 ongoing, and there are funding agreements and projects  
34 that are being put together currently to look at those  
35 issues. And I'm sure that those organizations which  
36 are putting together the research project would  
37 certainly be more than happy to receive more funding.  
38 So if there's a way that we could figure out how to  
39 throw more money that direction, I don't think anybody  
40 is going to turn it down.

41  
42 But I could tell you specifically what  
43 those projects are if you're interested. We could get  
44 aside and do that.

45  
46 There is documentation, on chum salmon  
47 and king salmon in Black River, including radio  
48 telemetry work. And I'm hoping we can get Randy Brown  
49 from Fish and Wildlife Service to come and give us a  
50 presentation on that. He was on the agenda to talk

1 about sheefish, but he also has done the radio  
2 telemetry work in the Black River, and he is working  
3 with CATG to put up that weir again on Black River,  
4 right at the mouth of Salmon River perhaps. And CATG  
5 is pursuing these various funding sources for that. It  
6 looks like it's a go. It will probably take a while to  
7 put it all together, but it should provide some very  
8 valuable data.

9

10 So I don't know, does that -- oh, and  
11 you asked also about the catalogue. Actually there are  
12 items in the catalogue from Upper Black River salmon  
13 spawning. You know, it's really hard to find stuff in  
14 there, and it's buried, but I can reference that to  
15 you, too, if you're interested. Yeah. You know,  
16 there's those major spawning holes in the Ingle up  
17 there, and they've been documented.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Thank you. Maybe we  
22 can do that later, because I just noticed that a lot of  
23 them, there was a handful that wasn't in there. Like  
24 you said, they're buried. I probably just couldn't  
25 find them.

26

27 MR. MATESI: I believe Jason Post is in  
28 here, and he's done some of that work as well, so maybe  
29 he can talk to us about that.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, later  
32 in the meeting. So I guess this is the annual report.  
33 Are we comfortable requesting for more studies in the  
34 annual report. Joe.

35

36 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair, I'm quite  
37 comfortable with asking for money.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
40 right.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The more, the  
45 better. Okay. So anything else for the annual report.  
46 Go ahead, Joe.

47

48 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. It didn't  
49 take long, I'm getting confused already. This Issue  
50 No. 1, are we discussing this at this point, or is

1 this.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can, yes,  
4 because this sent to us by the Y-K. Greg Roczicka is  
5 their vice chair I believe, and he sent this to me by  
6 email, and I think he sent it to the coordinator. This  
7 is what they took up and they put in their annual  
8 report. And this is for discussion for us if we wanted  
9 to do anything with it. So, I mean, we need to do some  
10 -- somebody needs to talk about it, look at it, and  
11 come up with something.

12

13 Go ahead.

14

15 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
16 Yes, I looked at it. In fact, I spent all of one day  
17 and half of a second day, laid awake in the middle of  
18 the night in between those two, trying to parse it out  
19 and make some sense out of it. And to cut to the chase  
20 right off the bat, as it's written now, I don't  
21 understand half of it, and what I do understand I don't  
22 think I support. So I would vote not to endorse this.  
23 And I can speak to specific issues in there if now is  
24 the time to do that.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
27 members, how do you want to work through this. Do you  
28 want to take it up now, or do you want to digest it and  
29 take it up later and then have discussion. Anyone.

30

31 MR. WOODRUFF: Let's take it up later.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
34 Everybody, you know, get their head wrapped around it,  
35 and then we'll make sure we take it up, because it's at  
36 the end of the -- we need to adopt our annual report.  
37 Okay. Great.

38

39 Anything else.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
44 So we did not adopt it, we'll adopt it later.

45

46 Now we're on the Council Charter  
47 review. The Council Charter review. K.J.

48

49 MS. MUSHOVIC: Well, you'll see in your  
50 book -- thank you, Madame Chair. You'll see in your

1 books that you have a copy of the Council's current  
2 Charter, and that is on Page 29. And if you've had a  
3 chance to look at that, I don't know if there's  
4 anything that you have considered you might want to  
5 change about the Charter. Generally the Council can  
6 change the name, membership size, SRC appointments, and  
7 causes for removal.

8

9 Under the heading of membership,  
10 there's been some discussion by different Councils  
11 across the State of considering alternate members.  
12 This Council doesn't normally have difficulty meeting  
13 its quorum, so I don't know if that's an urgent concern  
14 to this Council.

15

16 When I looked at the Charter myself,  
17 two things that I wanted to bring to your attention  
18 were Item 6.e. on Page 2 regarding the SRC  
19 appointments, and I understand that we will have a  
20 subsistence coordinator representative from Denali  
21 National Park at this meeting later in the Park Service  
22 portion of the agenda who will speak to making that  
23 appointment.

24

25 And then Item No. 7, just based on the  
26 fact that there's been some personnel changes at the  
27 OSM, that there may be a slight reduction in that  
28 amount of budget, and that I would be a half person  
29 year rather than three-quarters of a year support  
30 staff. You share me with the Southcentral Council.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're not  
33 really a half person.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Figure that one  
38 out.

39

40 (Laughter.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

43

44 MS. MUSHOVIC: Those are pretty minor  
45 though.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think you  
48 might have confused me; I don't know about the others,  
49 but this Charter we can change? We, the Eastern  
50 Interior? I thought that.....

1 MS. MUSHOVIC: Certain elements within  
2 the Charter, such as the name of the Council,  
3 membership size, SRC appointments, and cause for  
4 removal. And there is on Page 34 of your Council  
5 member manual, if you all brought them with you, speaks  
6 to that.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
9 continually learning. I'll bet you the Council members  
10 didn't realize we could change the name, the size. I  
11 always thought that was done by the Secretary. You  
12 guys?

13  
14 MS. MUSHOVIC: Well, okay, you  
15 recommend -- I beg your pardon. You can recommend  
16 changes, and you're right, ultimately the Secretary  
17 would accept those recommendations or not.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And  
20 tell me again the page.

21  
22 MS. MUSHOVIC: 34.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

25  
26 MS. MUSHOVIC: Unless yours is a  
27 different version and it's on a different page, but  
28 this is where.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All  
31 right. Council members, do you understand that.

32  
33 (Council nods affirmatively)

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm with you,  
36 and I've been here 10 years. We can change the name.  
37 We're Eastern Interior. We can change the size.  
38 There's 10 of us. I mean, we can recommend, I'm sorry.  
39 And we can change who makes appointments or what's this  
40 appointment thing? To the SRCs.

41  
42 MS. MUSHOVIC: Well, I may have to ask  
43 more senior staff for interpretation of what it means  
44 when it says Subsistence Resource Commission  
45 appointments. Perhaps it's the criteria or the number  
46 of appointments associated with each Council.

47  
48 DR. WHEELER: Thank you. I was looking  
49 in my other book for these, for the information.

50

1 My understanding is that the Charter is  
2 reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior. Right. I  
3 know. I was just looking at the -- in terms of how you  
4 change your Charters, you can make the recommendation  
5 to the Secretary of the Interior, but the Secretary of  
6 the Interior has the final call. Or has the final say.  
7 And the question was -- what was the question? It was  
8 how you can change your appointments for the.....

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can --  
11 yeah. And if we can make changes, and it's regarding  
12 appointments, I mean, what is it that we could change?  
13

14 DR. WHEELER: Well, that's the thing.  
15 I don't think there are -- there's fairly strict  
16 parameters for how appointments are made for the SRCs.  
17 We have Sue Masica here with the National Park Service.  
18 She may want to speak to the SRC appointments, but the  
19 SRC is looking to subsistence representatives, which is  
20 why it looks to the Eastern Interior Council for the  
21 appointments to the Denali and the Wrangell-St. Elias  
22 SRCs. So I'm not sure what you're looking at in terms  
23 of what would change.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm not  
26 either. But I know in my years of being around this  
27 ANILCA specifically says that there's three Secretary  
28 Interior, three RAC and three from the Governor,  
29 so.....

30  
31 DR. WHEELER: Exactly. Yeah, I mean  
32 the statutory and regulatory requirements are pretty  
33 clear, so maybe you could change what the person's  
34 call, but aside -- or you could recommend that change,  
35 but I think functionally what this Council's role is,  
36 is to make recommendations for the appointments to  
37 those seats.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And I  
40 know it's supposed to come from an advisory committee  
41 or the RAC, the person has that criteria.

42  
43 DR. WHEELER: Correct. Correct.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can we change  
46 that criteria; is that what they're getting at? I  
47 don't understand.

48  
49 DR. WHEELER: I think it's just making  
50 the appointments.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
2  
3 DR. WHEELER: Yeah.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we would  
6 still be.....  
7  
8 DR. WHEELER: I think there's very  
9 little -- in reality.....  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very little  
12 can be changed.  
13  
14 DR. WHEELER: Very little can be  
15 changed, because this just provides the structure for  
16 how the council does its business. And really,  
17 changing your name, I mean.....  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Right.  
20  
21 DR. WHEELER: I guess that makes you  
22 feel good, but in the end of the day, it doesn't change  
23 what the group does.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 DR. WHEELER: So I think that, you  
30 know, this group has a very important and very  
31 circumscribed role.  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. So I  
34 guess that's why it hasn't really been something I've  
35 ever thought we could have input on. Okay.  
36  
37 DR. WHEELER: Madame Chair. I did want  
38 to say one thing. In the Charter, that's true, it does  
39 say what your support, it's estimated operating costs  
40 are at, you know, No. 7, estimated operating costs. I  
41 want to assure you that even with budget cuts, we are  
42 committed to the Councils, and so even if you only have  
43 half of K.J., that's pretty good, and, you know, each  
44 coordinator in our office does take on two Councils.  
45 That's four meetings a year. It's two Councils. And  
46 so that is not going to change. We will provide full  
47 support to the Regional Advisory Councils. And in  
48 addition to K.J. you have the OSM provides additional  
49 support, and that's where those costs come in. It's  
50 not that we're going to reduce the coordinators, it's

1 that that cost also includes some of the cost of  
2 supporting the Councils. We have admin people that do  
3 the travel. We have -- and that's a whole separate  
4 topic which we'll talk about later on in the agenda.  
5 But that's an estimate for sort of the support provided  
6 to each Regional Council.

7

8 Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
11 questions, Council members. Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: So I guess I need a  
14 little bit of clarification. Are we -- do we need to  
15 make any kind of an action item out of this, or is this  
16 just something that if we want to make a change, and it  
17 would be an action item for us?

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's how  
20 I'm interpreting it. Yeah.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you. And  
23 maybe if I may just share something rather humorous  
24 about our name. At the recent Fortymile Caribou  
25 Harvest Planning meeting, Don Woodruff, who was our  
26 Eastern RAC member, was accused of being an Iraqi  
27 there.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. BASSICH: So a little bit of  
32 confusion over the name there.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe we  
37 should just keep it.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
42 else.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
47 Now the fun stuff begins. Fisheries Issues. Yukon  
48 River salmon preseason outlook. Fish and Wildlife  
49 Service and ADF&G.

50

51 You guys want a break? Okay. You guys

1 can get ready, and there's a call for a probably 10-  
2 minute break, which will turn into 15, but I would  
3 prefer it to be less.

4

5 (off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil can't  
10 hear, so I've got to say it louder. He heard me.

11

12 All right. While everyone's taking  
13 their seats, something had changed as we took the  
14 break. There's a lot to remember here.

15

16 On fisheries issues, No. 12, was what  
17 was up next on the agenda. We're going to take this up  
18 after 13.B. because of some scheduling. People are  
19 flying in now and are not here quite yet. And I've had  
20 a request, it's salmon bycatch in the Yukon Fisheries  
21 is 13. B, information session with the North Pacific  
22 Management Council Staff.

23

24 And afterwards I've had a request for  
25 YRDFFA to come and talk to us about what happened at the  
26 other two RAC meetings on the Yukon River.

27

28 So everybody in agreement?

29

30 (Council nods affirmatively)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going  
33 to make these changes often I'm afraid.

34

35 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go  
38 ahead.

39

40 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. Thank you  
41 for your indulgence in basically my ignorance in how to  
42 participate in this. But my question to you is, is it  
43 appropriate and where during this meeting should this  
44 topic be brought up of a proposal to the State Board of  
45 Fisheries coming from another organization for a change  
46 in fishing regulations, State regulations. But there  
47 is a desire for this Council to look at this fishery  
48 proposal and maybe sign onto it.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. and

1 that would be when Virgil said he had two State  
2 proposals for the Board of Fish, it would come  
3 underneath that one.

4

5 MR. MATESI: okay

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: 13.G.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 13.G. I'm  
10 having help, thank you. Do you remember when we  
11 brought that up?

12

13 MR. MATESI: Yeah, I do. Can we add  
14 that issue then?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that  
17 would be Board of Fish proposals. So you would be put  
18 in right there. Okay?

19

20 MR. MATESI: Okay. Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, you  
23 know, you guys overwhelm us with information, so  
24 sometimes we are very forgetful.

25

26 Is Josephine in here?

27

28 MS. PETER: Yes, I'm here.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She has asked  
31 me, if it's okay, if she could just pull up a chair  
32 right next to one of you, she wants to testify as a  
33 public. And, you guys, you're next.

34

35 So she is from Arctic Village, right,  
36 and she would like to testify. She has a time certain,  
37 so I'm going to allow her to do that now. Go ahead,  
38 Josephine. This is Josephine Peter.

39

40 MS. PETER: Yeah. My name is Josephine  
41 Peter. (In Gwich'in) My brother, Larry, will  
42 translate it. Okay.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was a  
45 take the light off of you. Put it on there again.  
46 You'll get the light off of you there, Josephine.

47

48 REPORTER: I'm going to put this here  
49 so the light's not on your face.

50

1 MS. PETER: Yeah.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There you go.  
4  
5 MS. PETER: Arctic Village, up in --  
6 Arctic Village (In Gwich'in). Thirty year I've been  
7 Arctic Village. (In Gwich'in). Red Sheep Creek, my  
8 grandpa James Gilbert (In Gwich'in) and Red Sheep  
9 Creek, I don't want no hunters and hikers around there.  
10 (In Gwich'in) My number is 452-7003.  
11  
12 Thank you.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hang with us  
15 here a minute, Josephine. There might be some  
16 questions, but Larry's going to interpret.  
17  
18 MS. PETER: Yeah.  
19  
20 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
21 What my sister Josie said was that she spent 30 years  
22 in Arctic Village. She raised seven children there and  
23 she's always participated in the activities of the  
24 village.  
25  
26 And she has land up in Red Sheep Creek  
27 which is very important to her that was given to her by  
28 her grandpa James Gilbert, who he passed away. And on  
29 her land, it's very important to her because it was  
30 given to her by her grandpa like I said. And right now  
31 she doesn't want anybody to go on her private  
32 allotment, native allotment which she has papers for in  
33 her name. And if anybody wants to go on that land, she  
34 would be glad to give permission, but she wants anybody  
35 who wants to go on that land to hunt, or to go fishing  
36 or just to hike, to please ask her and she provided her  
37 phone number where she can be contacted. And that's  
38 all she said.  
39  
40 And thank you.  
41  
42 MS. PETER: Yeah. Thank you.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Josephine.  
45 Anyone have any questions.  
46  
47 (No comments)  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Josephine, I  
50 really appreciate your testimony.

1 MS. PETER: Yeah. Sure.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm  
4 hearing that you would appreciate people ask and have  
5 the respect for your land.  
6  
7 MS. PETER: Oh, yeah. Sure. Uh-huh.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And  
10 that's the kind of thing that we want to see.  
11  
12 MS. PETER: Okay. Thank you.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
15 And it looks like you might have another question. Go  
16 ahead.  
17  
18 MR. MATESI: Josephine.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.  
21  
22 MR. MATESI: Josephine, (In Gwich'in)  
23  
24 MS. PETER: (In Gwich'in)  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who's going  
27 to interpret? Go ahead, what did you say, thank you?  
28  
29 MR. MATESI: I just said thank you.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you in  
32 the Gwich'in language, yes.  
33  
34 MR. MATESI: Yes.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very good.  
37 Okay. Now, this is going to happen, musical chairs  
38 probably quite often. So thank you for being patient.  
39  
40 MS. KIMBALL: Yeah. Thank you or  
41 having us on your agenda today, and you have a very  
42 full couple days.  
43  
44 My name is Nicole Kimball. I'm a  
45 fisheries analyst for the North Pacific Fishery  
46 Management Council. Our office is located in  
47 Anchorage. And this is Diana Stram, who is also in  
48 that office. Two Council members, and I think you  
49 heard their introductions, but go right ahead?  
50

1 MR. HULL: Thank you. Madame Chair.  
2 Dan Hull. I'm one of the State of Alaska  
3 representatives on the North Pacific Council. I live  
4 in Anchorage.

5  
6 I've been fishing in Cordova,  
7 gillnetting salmon, longlining halibut for almost 25  
8 years, but my first years of experience were along the  
9 Bering Sea coast. I worked in communities, worked at  
10 Togiak Fisheries for a number of years. I did fish in  
11 Goodnews Bay for salmon for several years, and the sac  
12 roe fishery from Togiak to Norton Sound, and did have a  
13 chance to observe the subsistence lifestyle in those  
14 formative years.

15  
16 I'm very glad to have the opportunity  
17 to attend these outreach meetings and to listen to your  
18 concerns.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
23 So your position then is for the State of Alaska as a  
24 representative?

25  
26 MR. HULL: I am one of the State of  
27 Alaska's appointees to the North Pacific Council. And  
28 Nicole will explain the composition of the Council as  
29 part of the presentation.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You've fished  
32 a lot of the places I have fished in the 80s and 90s.

33  
34 MR. TWEIT: And I'm Bill Tweit. I  
35 represent Washington State on the North Pacific Fishery  
36 Management Council.

37  
38 Thank you very much for having us.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're  
41 both Council members. Okay.

42  
43 MS. KIMBALL: Both Council members, and  
44 we're Council staff.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

47  
48 MS. KIMBALL: So we're trying to do  
49 this in several different places, several different  
50 meeting such as yourselves to get feedback and input,

1 and just to give you some information on what the  
2 Council has upcoming on their agenda. We were asked to  
3 provide a little bit of information two actions  
4 concerning salmon: the action that the Council  
5 previously took on Bering Sea Chinook bycatch  
6 management in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries, and  
7 that's called Amendment 91 in our process; and then  
8 also this upcoming action on Bering Sea chum bycatch  
9 management in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries.

10

11                   So just some brief background. I know  
12 several of you are very familiar with the Council,  
13 North Pacific Council, and that process, but we  
14 basically work in tandem with the National Marine  
15 Fisheries Service, so together we manage the Federal  
16 fisheries anywhere from 3 to 200 miles off shore, so  
17 clearly not, you know, the salmon fisheries in the  
18 State of Alaska manages. But what we are authorized to  
19 manage under the Magnuson-Stevens Act is the management  
20 of the groundfish fisheries in that area, from 3 to 200  
21 miles. And so one of those things is clearly managing  
22 the bycatch that are taken in those groundfish  
23 fisheries offshore.

24

25                   So ultimately the Council makes  
26 recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries  
27 Service, and they have the final say. So there's a  
28 couple of different steps in the approval process.

29

30                   We did hand out, I hope everyone has,  
31 and there's lots for the public, the PowerPoint. In  
32 case it's difficult to read some of the graphs, you may  
33 want to refer to the handout.

34

35                   There are 15 members on the Council.  
36 Eleven of those are voting members. and this is all in  
37 the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It dictates who are members  
38 of each Council. There are eight Councils across the  
39 country. So there are four designated seats. Bill  
40 Tweit holds one of those for the State of Washington.  
41 Also the head of National Marine Fisheries Service  
42 located in Juneau is on the Council. The Commissioner  
43 for Fish and Game is on the Council. And then kind of  
44 Bill's counterpart in Oregon is on the Council. And  
45 those are designated seats based on the position you  
46 hold. And then what Dan holds are one of the appointed  
47 seats, and there are five of those from Alaska, the  
48 Governor of Alaska puts in names for an appointment and  
49 the Secretary of Commerce approves one of those names.  
50 So there are five of those from Alaska and two from the

1 State of Washington. And then, of course, there are  
2 four non-voting members on the Council that participate  
3 in every meeting.

4

5 We have a very -- everyone has a  
6 different process. We have five meetings per year.  
7 Three are in Anchorage almost always. one is in an  
8 Alaska fishing community, which is typically a bigger  
9 community like Dutch Harbor or Sitka or Kodiak. And  
10 then we have one meeting per year in either Seattle or  
11 Portland, since we have representatives on the Council  
12 from those states.

13

14 Each meeting is eight days. The whole  
15 thing is open to the public, and there are  
16 opportunities for public comment on every agenda item,  
17 kind of similar to how you do it in this process.  
18 People sign up on a testifying sheet and can provide  
19 comment prior to Council decision on any agenda item.

20

21 And then the kind of new thing that we  
22 have, which we should have had a long time ago, is now  
23 an audio link available so you can listen to the  
24 Council meeting real time. The entire meeting is  
25 linked, and if you have internet access, you can listen  
26 to the meeting and listen that way. And that link is  
27 posted on our web site about a week before the meeting  
28 starts.

29

30 So without going through all these  
31 words, our Council decision process is really put in  
32 here, because we're at a very early stage of this chum  
33 salmon bycatch effort, and we have not yet done an  
34 initial review draft, which is pretty much what they  
35 call our first formal analysis of the alternatives on  
36 the table. So the Council has initiated an analysis.

37

38 They have this suite of alternatives  
39 that was handed out to you. It says revised February  
40 2011, because that was the last Council meeting. So  
41 this is what is on the table now for the Council to  
42 consider. And what we're doing between now and June of  
43 this year is developing an analysis of these  
44 alternatives.

45

46 In June, and that Council meeting is  
47 going to be in Nome for the first time, we'll have this  
48 first formal review of the analysis. And at that point  
49 the Council can determine whether they want to change  
50 alternatives, add new alternatives, request new data,

1 and they'll take a lot of public comment at that  
2 meeting.

3  
4                   So in this whole slide of our long  
5 process, we're kind of in that first initial review,  
6 public input stage for this action. And then we would  
7 expect kind of a final Council decision on chum bycatch  
8 management no sooner than late 2011, but more likely  
9 early 2012.

10  
11                   And so Diana will get right to the meat  
12 of the action.

13  
14                   DR. STRAM: Thank you. I'm just going  
15 to walk through kind of what some of the trends are as  
16 well as what the alternatives in front of the Council  
17 are right now, as well as the framework for how we're  
18 analyzing this. And as Nicole said, we're in the  
19 process right now of doing the analysis of these  
20 alternatives, so we don't have results of that yet.

21  
22                   Basically the pollock fishery catches  
23 salmon as bycatch, primarily just chum and Chinook.  
24 Bycatch when they catch it in the pollock fishery is  
25 counted, but it cannot be retained and it cannot be  
26 sold. Some of that salmon is donated to food banks.

27  
28                   Nicole already touched on that we are  
29 under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, there's 10 national  
30 standards, and when the Council takes an action, they  
31 are responsive to all 10 of these national standards,  
32 but in particular with an action like this, when it  
33 comes to bycatch in a fishery, there's three particular  
34 national standards that are the ones the Council works  
35 the hardest to try to balance between, and those are to  
36 minimize salmon bycatch, to prevent overfishing, while  
37 allowing a fishery to achieve optimum yield, and to  
38 provide for the sustained participation and minimizing  
39 adverse impacts on fishing communities. So they're  
40 sort of the over-arching things that the Council's  
41 working to balance in taking these actions.

42  
43                   This shows you the management areas in  
44 the Bering Sea. I don't know if I pushed it?

45  
46                   MS. KIMBALL: Yeah, it looks good.

47  
48                   DR. STRAM: Okay. So just to give you  
49 an idea of where the fishery itself operates, all these  
50 numbered areas are the NMFS management areas in the

1 Bering Sea, and the pollock fishery, and I have a  
2 closer-up diagram to show you this, but you're talking  
3 about a fishery that's operating here north of Unimak  
4 and up along this shelf break that pretty much follows  
5 along this line and to the north. So it is an offshore  
6 fishery. Even when we talk about the inshore part of  
7 the fishery, we're not talking about anything in this  
8 area. We're talking about here north of Unimak Island.

9  
10

11 The pollock fishery then, just to give  
12 you a little bit of background, there's two seasons  
13 under which it operates, a winter season, which is  
14 called the A season, and that's from June 20th and  
15 usually the quota is caught by about the middle of  
16 April.

17

18 MS. KIMBALL: January 20th.

19

20 DR. STRAM: Oh, sorry. What did I say?

21

22

23 MS. KIMBALL: You said June.

24

25 DR. STRAM: So January 20th, and then  
26 to around the middle of April. The B season then is  
27 the summer fishery, and that begins in June, and the  
28 pollock quota is usually taken sometime around the  
29 middle of October.

30

31 There's four sectors of the pollock  
32 fishery, and the quota is divided amongst these  
33 sectors. Actually by Congressional action. There's  
34 shoreside catcher vessels, those are catcher vessels  
35 that deliver to a shoreside processing plant. There's  
36 offshore catcher/processors that process the fish on  
37 board. There's mother ships that process and have  
38 catcher vessels that deliver to them. And then there's  
39 the CDQ fleet, which is primarily or entirely operated  
40 by catcher/processors as well.

41

42 This then shows you kind of a close up,  
43 just an overall, on the left here is the A season,  
44 where the fishery itself is operating, and then the B  
45 season where it goes up further north along this shelf  
46 break.

47

48 So this just shows you some trends in  
49 salmon bycatch from '91, which is when we have the  
50 fully domesticated fishery, through 2010. The dotted

1 line here is the chum trends, and that goes along with  
2 these numbers here, from zero to 700,000. The solid  
3 line is Chinook.

4  
5 We're primarily focusing on chum here,  
6 because that's the action in front of the Council. I  
7 would just note that while the pollock fishery takes  
8 Chinook bycatch in both A and B season, they only catch  
9 chum bycatch in the B season, so you're talking about  
10 summer fishery actions when it relates to chum bycatch.

11  
12 The Council has been modifying  
13 management measures for chum and Chinook bycatch since  
14 the mid 90s. I'll walk through these very briefly. In  
15 the past we've always managed it by time/area closures  
16 in the Bering Sea, and that's one of the things that  
17 we're looking at, is revising these time/area closures.

18  
19 Just to give you an idea, this big pink  
20 area that you see, it's called a chum salmon savings  
21 area and that was put into place and it has a cap  
22 associated with it, so that when the fleet hits a cap,  
23 they're moved out of this area. At the time this area  
24 represented where most of the bycatch was occurring.

25  
26 Similarly we had areas like that for  
27 Chinook. Those areas no longer exist because of the  
28 action that the Council took in Amendment 91.

29  
30 Currently then how we manage chum  
31 bycatch, what this shows you in the red areas are fleet  
32 closures. So these are closures that are put into  
33 place by the fleet itself. They're three to seven-day  
34 closures. This just shows you a snapshot of over the  
35 month of August what closures were put into place. And  
36 basically that large scale closure that you saw, that  
37 exists, but the fleet is exempt from it right now  
38 pending participation in this rolling hot spot program.  
39 So the fleet participates in a program and enacts its  
40 on closures based on real-time data on a three to  
41 seven-day basis depending on what people's relative  
42 bycatch rates are. So that's how we currently are  
43 managing chum bycatch, and the entire fleet is  
44 participating in that program.

45  
46 To go over briefly the action that the  
47 Council took on Chinook bycatch, this is an action  
48 taken by the Council in April of 2009, and the program  
49 itself was implemented in January of 2011. So this is  
50 our very first season of operation under Amendment 91.

1  
2                   The goals of Amendment 91 by the  
3 Council were to reduce Chinook bycatch always below a  
4 target level and to provide incentives at a vessel  
5 level to reduce salmon bycatch under all conditions of  
6 abundance in the ocean, and to provide the pollock  
7 fisher an opportunity to catch their quota.  
8

9                   There's a two-cap system then. There's  
10 a high cap of 60,000. That's over the entire year, but  
11 it's important that that's just an overall number.  
12 That number is actually divided out by season in terms  
13 of the winter and summer fishery as well as by the four  
14 sectors of the fishery. And that's basically the  
15 overall structure of the program.  
16

17                   But to be part of that program, the  
18 fleet by sector must participate in their own incentive  
19 program. And the purpose of the incentive programs is  
20 to get at the vessel level bycatch accountability.  
21

22                   There's a lower target cap of 47,591.  
23 If the sector exceeds their proportion of that cap any  
24 time, any of three years in a seven-year period, then  
25 they would be always restricted to a lower cap level  
26 regardless of participation in an incentive program.  
27

28                   There's other aspect to these -- to  
29 this amendment 91 program. The one that I would just  
30 highlight mostly is that in order to run a program on  
31 that sort of a fine-scale structure, the observer  
32 coverage in the pollock fishery was increased so that  
33 every sector has at least 100 percent observer  
34 coverage. And what that allows for is the ability to  
35 manage a program like that on such a fine scale. Our  
36 precision in bycatch estimates has always been  
37 extremely high, but there are other provisions that we  
38 needed, and that was why we had to increase the  
39 observer coverage.  
40

41                   Going back now to go through what our  
42 chum actions are, again this is just the closure. This  
43 is the system that's in place right now with the fleet  
44 putting rolling hot spot closures on this three to  
45 seven-day basis.  
46

47                   The alternatives that Council's  
48 considering then, there's four different alternatives.  
49 The first to the current program.  
50

1                   The second is a hard cap with a range  
2 of 50,000 to 353,000. Again I would note that this is  
3 only the summer -- this is a summer action only.

4  
5                   So the next alternative then is looking  
6 at revised trigger time area closures. And the caps  
7 for those trigger time area closures range for 25,000  
8 to 200,000. And I'll walk through what this closure  
9 system is. We based it on proportions of historical  
10 bycatch.

11  
12                   And then the fourth alternative is an  
13 exempted area closure system similar to what's in place  
14 right now, but with a different closure system in  
15 place.

16  
17                   Again, we're in the process of doing  
18 the analysis of these alternatives, and that's what  
19 will be presented to the Council in June. So what we  
20 look at in the analysis, I'll walk through briefly, but  
21 just we look at what the bycatch impact is on the  
22 returning salmon, and then we take that projected  
23 impact and we look at how the different alternatives  
24 would affect subsistence salmon harvest communities,  
25 commercial, and sport/ personal use.

26  
27                   So in terms of the monthly closure  
28 system, just to show you what this is, these little  
29 panels on each, down here to the left, are by month,  
30 and so this shows you the way the fishery's operating.  
31 And the proposed closure system under these  
32 alternatives then would put into place a different  
33 historical bycatch closure by month and based on where  
34 the highest bycatch is in those certain time periods.

35  
36                   When we used to do this before we did  
37 it over an annual, and we looked over several years,  
38 and you end up with a larger area that's not  
39 necessarily so well specified. So now we're trying to  
40 look at could we do a better job if we looked at it on  
41 a monthly basis. Still a time/area closure, but on a  
42 more refined scale.

43  
44                   So this shows you if you based your  
45 closure on a policy goal of reducing bycatch by 40  
46 percent. Then if you put your policy goal at 50  
47 percent bycatch reduction, you have more areas that are  
48 closed in each month. And then finally a bycatch  
49 policy goal of 60 percent and you have these additional  
50 areas that are closed by month.

1                   Then finally the other alternative  
2 under consideration is to put into place a closure over  
3 the whole season that would represent 80 percent of the  
4 historical bycatch, but with an exemption to the fleet  
5 from that closure provided they're participating in  
6 this rolling hot spot system.

7  
8                   So those are the alternatives that are  
9 currently in front of the Council. What we're in the  
10 process of right now is how we analyze both what the  
11 impact of bycatch is right now and what the projected  
12 impact would be under each of these different  
13 alternatives, and that's the information that we  
14 provide the Council in an analysis at June so that they  
15 can make a decision at that point on whether they want  
16 to change their alternatives, modify them, identify an  
17 alternative as their preliminary preferred choice.

18  
19                   So the first thing we have to do in  
20 analyzing it is estimate what the impact of the bycatch  
21 is, and to do that what we're looking at is trying to  
22 analyze what the adult equivalent bycatch is. So  
23 that's in any one year the number that you hear for the  
24 overall bycatch in that year isn't the true amount of  
25 salmon that would have come back in that year, so we're  
26 trying to estimate what's the real number of salmon  
27 that would have come back.

28  
29                   So the first thing what we do is look  
30 at the ocean mortality and the percentage of fish that  
31 would have died on their own in the ocean. Then we  
32 look at the ages of the fish in the bycatch to get an  
33 idea of the maturity. And then we look at the maturity  
34 estimates by river system to indicate what percentage  
35 by age would have come back in every year.

36  
37                   So in order to do that, to get at the  
38 age then, this just shows you the length of the fish.  
39 The good thing about having very high observer coverage  
40 is we have excellent information on the size of the  
41 fish that are caught in the bycatch and therefore we  
42 can calculate the age from that. And so this just  
43 shows you over all these years what the length is. And  
44 basically what's caught primarily in bycatch are four-  
45 year-old chums very consistently.

46  
47                   One interesting thing to note though is  
48 if you look at it by month, the same data for all those  
49 years by month, what we see is that in June and July  
50 you get bigger fish. They're still four-year-olds, but

1 they're a larger fish. And this goes along with what  
2 we're seeing in the genetics in that the June and July  
3 chum that you catch are more likely to be western  
4 Alaska chum than later in the year when you catch more  
5 Asian fish.

6  
7                   So then going back to estimating what  
8 your actual bycatch impact is with this adult  
9 equivalent, looking over all these years, the blue just  
10 shows you what the actual bycatch number that's  
11 reported by year, and then in green is this adult  
12 equivalent in terms of what the real impact is in that  
13 year. So you see for the highest year your adult  
14 equivalent is actually significantly lower than what  
15 the overall number is. However, because of the age of  
16 the fish that you catch in the bycatch, while you might  
17 have less of an impact in that year, in the following  
18 year you're going to have a lagged impact. So in a  
19 year following very high year, while your bycatch  
20 number itself might be low, your actual impact is  
21 higher than that, because of the fish you caught the  
22 previous year. So it's trying to get at this lagged  
23 impact due to the age of the fish that's caught in the  
24 bycatch.

25  
26                   We're also looking at the genetics in  
27 terms of looking at the stock of origin of these fish,  
28 and so what you see here are the aggregates that we  
29 have right now for genetics, and just to let people  
30 know, in terms of our analysis that we'll be bringing  
31 forward, right now all of Western Alaska, coastal  
32 Western Alaska is in one grouping, except for the Upper  
33 and Middle Yukon. And then the Alaska Peninsula is one  
34 grouping, and then everything from Prince William Sound  
35 all the way down to the Pacific Northwest is another  
36 grouping.

37  
38                   Basically the majority of the bycatch  
39 is Asian fish. We do find that the Alaska component  
40 again is slightly higher in June and July than it is as  
41 you get later in the year. So we're looking at both  
42 the overall proportion as well as the timing aspect,  
43 because this might help us to refine management  
44 measures that are more designed to conserving western  
45 Alaska fish.

46  
47                   In terms of preliminary results right  
48 now, our preliminary results are about 17 percent of  
49 the AQ, the adult equivalents are western Alaska fish,  
50 plus or minus on that. And again that most of the

1 bycatch is attributed to Asian hatcheries.

2

3                   Just briefly, this is in your  
4 PowerPoint in terms of the kind of information that  
5 will be included in this analysis that we should have  
6 by the first week of May. We look at the relative  
7 impact on the river systems to the extent that we can  
8 break it out regionally. We look at how effective we  
9 think those area closures might be at reducing bycatch.  
10 We look at what the impact of the closing the fleet  
11 down compared to area closures are. And then we look  
12 at what the impact of the bycatch is again on salmon  
13 subsistence, commercial and personal use fisheries.

14

15                   One consideration that we did not have  
16 as highlighted in the Chinook action is now that we  
17 have the Chinook action and the fleet operating under  
18 that system is now we have a policy trade off between  
19 reducing Chinook bycatch and reducing chum bycatch.  
20 And the issue is they occur at different times in the B  
21 season. This just shows you over the whole B season,  
22 starting June through the end of October, the  
23 proportion relatively of your pollock catch, your chum,  
24 which is here in blue, and then your Chinook catch in  
25 red. And the point being that you catch chum earlier  
26 and throughout, You can see this is going from June  
27 into August, where by August you've caught about 80  
28 percent of our chum. You haven't caught that -- the  
29 fleet has not caught that much Chinook at that point.  
30 The fleet tends to catch the Chinook later in the  
31 season when they get into September and October. And  
32 so one of the things that's a consideration at this  
33 point is you don't want to push the fleet -- to  
34 conserve chum, you don't want to push the fleet into a  
35 situation where it would actually increase the Chinook  
36 bycatch.

37

38                   So basically we'll have this analysis  
39 by early May. Right now we're looking at area closures  
40 in terms of reducing chum, and to also reduce Chinook  
41 bycatch, and we'll have -- this is our first year of  
42 operation under Amendment 91, so in terms of changes in  
43 fleet behavior, we're looking to see how this A season  
44 goes to see basically what changes are occurring under  
45 that new program.

46

47                   I don't know if you want to walk  
48 through?

49

50                   MS. KIMBALL: Yes. We don't need to

1 walk through everything -- the rest in detail, just to  
2 highlight, you know, when the Council's next action  
3 would be taken, when it would be, you know, most  
4 meaningful to have, you know, comment from this group  
5 would be definitely prior to and after the June meeting  
6 in Nome. And again as Diana noted, they could change  
7 the suite of alternatives, and they could also show the  
8 public which way they're leaning in terms of a  
9 preliminary preferred alternative. They always have  
10 the option to do that when they have initial reviews.

11

12 We are trying to do some outreach like  
13 providing this information today. You can read through  
14 this. We are trying to provide regular updates to the  
15 Yukon River Panel. They've had us on their agenda  
16 several times already. And then we've been trying to  
17 do these meetings.

18

19 Can you page down for me.

20

21 DR. STRAM: Sorry.

22

23 MS. KIMBALL: We were in Mountain  
24 Village for the YR DFA meeting a couple weeks ago. The  
25 presentation was given at the Bering Strait regional  
26 conference in Nome. And then, of course, the four RAC  
27 meetings that we were requested to provide this  
28 information, and we couldn't get to the Seward  
29 Peninsula RAC meeting due to conflict with another  
30 meeting, but we will be in Nome again in June and have  
31 plenty of time in the agenda for public comment, and  
32 hopefully they'll be providing us written information  
33 as well. And we'll also be at the Tanana Chiefs  
34 Conference under their bycatch issues and fisheries  
35 issues agenda item in Fairbanks in a couple weeks.

36

37 And then the last slide is always how  
38 to provide input to the Council. I think this group is  
39 very familiar with that process, but also any questions  
40 or feedback we get at this meeting will be provided in  
41 a written report in June, so regardless of whether you  
42 sent a formal letter or resolution, we'll try to take  
43 back any input that you provide today back to the  
44 Council for their June meeting.

45

46 And thank you very much for the time.  
47 I know you have a packed agenda.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
50 members, questions. Virgil.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: I noticed on one of  
2 your slides you said that, and that would have been the  
3 one that says other provisions of AM 91. What  
4 interests me, and I'd like to know what the difference  
5 is, the census approach to bycatch accounting rather  
6 than the subsampling of catch; could you explain that?  
7

8 DR. STRAM: Sure. Mr. Chairman. On  
9 some vessels -- basically what this does is there are  
10 different things there are different things that  
11 occurred as a result of Amendment 91. One of the  
12 things is increased observer coverage. Another is just  
13 in conjunction with it, a sampling protocol change.  
14 There were two parts of that. There's a sampling  
15 protocol change in terms of ensuring that the genetics  
16 are sampled over a broader area. The other is that  
17 every single haul is whole hauled for salmon rather  
18 than on some hauls they used to do a basket sample of  
19 the catch, not in processing plants, not on catcher/  
20 processors, but there was some of that going on on some  
21 of the vessels, and then the results of that are then  
22 extrapolated to the whole haul. Now it's a census  
23 approach in that every single haul is whole haul  
24 sampled so that every single salmon in it is counted.  
25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I'm glad to  
27 hear that.  
28

29 When you're doing the sampling for  
30 where these chum salmon come from, is it all GSI -- is  
31 that how you determine it is strictly by GSI, or do  
32 they examine the otoliths as well for thermal mark  
33 otoliths?  
34

35 DR. STRAM: Mr. Chairman. Virgil.  
36 Right now it's -- the genetics that we're using are  
37 based on SNPS, so the single nucleotide polymorphism,  
38 that's what the genetic information on -- I'm not sure  
39 whether or not in the past they've gone back and looked  
40 at otoliths, but we're doing it based on the genetics.  
41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: I know Dr. Wilmot  
43 looked at otoliths when he examined the chum salmon  
44 bycatch in the 90s, and I know that he found DIPAC  
45 hatchery chums in the Bering Sea bycatch, and so you  
46 don't know if they examine any otoliths or not to  
47 determine how many of these fish are United States  
48 hatchery origin?  
49

50 DR. STRAM: Mr. Chairman. Virgil. I

1 can get back to you on that to find out about that  
2 information as to whether or not that's occurring. I'm  
3 not aware of that occurring, but I can certainly check  
4 on that and get back to you.

5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I would  
7 appreciate it. Madame Chair.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

10  
11 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
12 Thank you for the presentation and thank you for all  
13 your time coming out and doing this outreach. I think  
14 it's really important both ways. I think it's  
15 important for you to see the faces of the people that  
16 your decisions impact, and it's important for those  
17 people to have an opportunity that otherwise wouldn't  
18 be able to talk to you. So thanks for all that effort,  
19 and from the Staff, I'll always be amazed at the level of  
20 analysis that goes into all of this of this.

21  
22 I had two questions. The first one  
23 was, under the current plans for the Chinook, is the  
24 fleet having any difficulty reaching its TAC with any  
25 of these closures in place right now? Are they able to  
26 fully catch?

27  
28 DR. STRAM: Mr. Chairman. Madame  
29 Chairman. Andy. Again, this is the first season of  
30 operation under it, so right now I haven't heard of  
31 any. One of the things we noticed in fleet behavior  
32 this year so far is that they stood down in the  
33 beginning of the season. Everyone was worried that  
34 traditionally at the end of January they'd run into  
35 Chinook, and so voluntarily the fleet stood down for  
36 awhile to see if that would pass. And right now I  
37 haven't heard any reports that they're having trouble  
38 catching their pollock quota at this point, and as far  
39 as I know, as of about a week and a half ago, their  
40 Chinook bycatch thus far was still fairly low  
41 historically for this time of year, about 3800 Chinook  
42 overall for the whole fleet.

43  
44 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

45  
46 MR. TWEIT: And if I may, last year,  
47 just to add briefly to that, last year two of the  
48 sectors voluntarily ran their incentive programs, and  
49 again last year it seemed to work very well for them.  
50 They did achieve the TAC. And so they were actually

1 able to work out some of the bugs in their incentive  
2 programs as well, but it did not impede them achieving  
3 the TAC. But it does involve conscious changes to how  
4 they're fishing, and a lot more exchange of  
5 information, so they're definitely -- it's affecting  
6 behavior, but not affecting you so far.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: I guess that's what it's  
9 intended to do, so that's a good sign. the other -- I  
10 guess it's more of a statement than a question, but one  
11 of the things that I'd like you to take back to the  
12 Council from those of us that live along the Yukon  
13 River, and in particular those of us that live in the  
14 Upper Yukon region, is the absolute dependence on our  
15 lifestyle to fall chum. People in the Upper Yukon  
16 still are very deeply embedded in dog mushing as a  
17 means of getting around, as traveling. We don't have a  
18 lot of money in the area, there aren't a lot of jobs,  
19 so people live pretty close to what I call a more true  
20 subsistence lifestyle. They really do depend on the  
21 resources. And over the years there's been a dramatic  
22 decline. I believe Dave Anderson gave us some reports  
23 in previous meetings on the use of dog teams, and it's  
24 depletion up and down the Yukon River. However, it's  
25 still very strong in the Upper Yukon regions, and with  
26 that, we rely very heavily on fall chum to feed those  
27 dogs. When the fall chum don't come in, we don't have  
28 very many options to feed those animals. So I just  
29 wanted to make sure that the council heard that  
30 message. You know, we often tend to think about what  
31 human consumption needs are, but this is a lifestyle  
32 need, and a very, very important lifestyle need for us  
33 up in that region, so please take that back to the  
34 Council, and please keep that under considerations when  
35 you do work on this issue.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: I recently read that  
42 the TAC, the total allowable catch, for the pollock has  
43 been increased by in the neighborhood of 50 percent for  
44 the upcoming year. And so I wanted to just verify  
45 that.

46

47 And then that leads me to a question.  
48 That will cause the gear to e in the water much longer;  
49 I don't know how much longer. And so my question is,  
50 do you have any idea how much longer the gear will be

1 in the water and what the ramifications will be as far  
2 as bycatch due to the gear being in the water longer?

3

4 DR. STRAM: Madame Chair. Virgil. The  
5 pollock TAC did increase, but keeping in mind that it's  
6 a result of annual assessments of the overall pollock  
7 population. And so the increase in TAC is a reflection  
8 of an increase in the overall population itself. So  
9 it's not necessarily a one-to-one that the gear's in  
10 the water more, because you're catching more pollock at  
11 the time that you're catching it because the population  
12 itself increased. So I don't think that there would be  
13 any assumption that you're fishing longer for more  
14 pollock. You're fishing the same, there's more pollock  
15 there.

16

17 I don't know if that gets to your.....

18

19 MR. TWEIT: And I'll elaborate briefly  
20 on that. First off, it'll be a good test, but what --  
21 and Mother Nature can always throw you a curve. But in  
22 most cases, what this should do with pollock being a  
23 lot more abundant, and the abundance went up a lot more  
24 than the TAC, so while the TAC went up, there's many,  
25 many more fish out there. That should allow industry a  
26 lot more opportunities to look for clean fishing as  
27 well.

28

29 One of the troubles in a low pollock  
30 year is they don't have -- there are only a limited  
31 number of areas where fishing is really feasible,  
32 whereas in a high abundance year there's a lot more  
33 areas where fishing is feasible. And so it gives  
34 industry a lot more opportunity to send out a boat or  
35 two, look for the clean areas. Once they've located a  
36 clean area, fish that as long as it stays clean, and  
37 then move on as they need.

38

39 So it should offer them a lot more  
40 opportunities for clean fishing, and because abundance  
41 is up a lot more, it should cut down on the amount of  
42 prospecting they have to do for actual pollock fishing.

43

44 So going back to Dr. Stram's answer, in  
45 a lot of cases fishing can actually be shorter and more  
46 efficient in the years when the abundance has gone up a  
47 lot as well. So assuming some reasonable separation in  
48 at least some of the areas between Chinook and pollock,  
49 this could actually be a very good year for achieving  
50 yield and continuing to minimize bycatch.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.  
2  
3 MR. TWEIT: But watch it, and we'll let  
4 you know at the end of the year.  
5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame  
7 Chair.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Thank  
10 you. Any more questions. Donald.  
11  
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I have one  
13 question about the research done on the salmon  
14 excluders in the pollock fishery. What's the progress  
15 with that? Thank you.  
16  
17 DR. STRAM: Madame Chair. Mr.  
18 Woodruff. That's still ongoing. Originally when they  
19 -- they would go through different iterations of the  
20 design of the salmon excluder. Originally the  
21 performance of the Chinook excluder was much higher  
22 than the performance of the chum excluder, just because  
23 the Chinook were better swimmers. And they've been  
24 reworking their design for chum. It's not a  
25 requirement to use the excluders, but as they improve  
26 the design of it, they're finding that particularly now  
27 under this new Amendment 91 program, more of the fleet  
28 is using the excluder to try to do anything basically  
29 that will reduce their own personal bycatch. So we're  
30 seeing an increase in the use of the excluders in the  
31 pollock fishery.  
32  
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
36 questions.  
37  
38 (No comments)  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a  
41 couple. On this Magnuson Act, you said there's 10  
42 national standards. Are these things like NOAA and all  
43 of that?  
44  
45 MS. KIMBALL: There are 10 national  
46 standards in the Magnuson-Stevens Act that each Council  
47 around the country has to try to balance. They're not  
48 all consistent, and it's pretty much a balancing act,  
49 because some are in conflict with one another. And  
50 there is NOAA guidance to tell the Council how to

1 interpret it, but there's no priority assigned to one  
2 national standard over another.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is  
5 different than all these other hoops that the Council  
6 has to go through to make a change in regulation?

7

8 MS. KIMBALL: That's correct. The  
9 national standards are kind of always up above  
10 everything that the Council considers taking action on.  
11 They have to show how they've met and considered the  
12 national standards. But the analysis and those  
13 analytical requirements they have to go through from  
14 all other sorts of laws before they can -- like doing  
15 an environmental analysis and an impact assessment  
16 prior to changing regulations.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think the  
19 thing that bothers me from -- you know, I'm not on the  
20 Yukon River. I'm on the southern end of the rivers  
21 going out through out the Copper, but in listening to  
22 all of this, in the 10 years I've been on our Council,  
23 you're a Council also, so I'll try not to confuse, is  
24 the fact that when there was a species of concern, the  
25 Chinook salmon or salmon, that it took through your  
26 process I believe it was three or four years to make a  
27 change in regulation. That bothers me. That bothers  
28 me as an individual and I don't know how you make  
29 changes to that, but does the Council ever consider,  
30 you know, sending your information to our government  
31 and say, this is ridiculous. I mean, it shouldn't take  
32 this long to make changes in something like this. And  
33 that would be to the Council members here.

34

35 MS. KIMBALL: It sure does.

36

37 MR. TWEIT: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
38 Our executive director undoubtedly would love a tape  
39 recording of what you just said.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's here.

42

43 MR. TWEIT: He's part of -- nationwide  
44 each Council's executive directors are part of a  
45 committee that advise the National Marine Fisheries  
46 Service and NOAA about Council process and how to make  
47 the Councils more effective. And one of the issues  
48 that he's been working on for a long time is the way  
49 the federal government interprets, and particularly the  
50 NEPA process is probably the primary reason it takes us

1 several years.

2

3                   As it is, it's always going to take us  
4 a little longer, because we are fundamentally an  
5 advisory body. We advise the Secretary of Commerce who  
6 then actually implements the regulations. And so that  
7 alone can take a little while. Most of the time they  
8 take our advice, but it still takes longer.

9

10                   But when you interject the NEPA process  
11 -- and certainly as a Council we've had a lot of  
12 frustration about that. We've expressed that  
13 repeatedly. We hoped that the most recent revisions  
14 that Congress made to the Magnuson-Stevens Act just a  
15 little over two years ago, we hoped they would address  
16 that. Congress considered addressing that in the  
17 revisions, but then ended up opting not to.

18

19                   So both Congress and National Marine  
20 Fisheries Service and NOAA are very aware of the issue.  
21 They're very aware of a lot of the Councils, not just  
22 ours, have a lot of displeasure with that time frame,  
23 but they ended up choosing not to address that. And so  
24 we work with what we can.

25

26                   MR. HULL: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
27 Maybe one of the -- maybe the eleventh national  
28 standard should be that it shouldn't take so long.....

29

30                   (Laughter)

31

32                   MR. HULL: .....as a policy objective  
33 to get changes in regulations made.

34

35                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, if you  
36 can change it, please consider it.

37

38                   MR. HULL: Yes. Well, it is  
39 frustrating as a council member to see how long it  
40 takes.

41

42                   The positive side of being thorough, I  
43 think we see that as Council members a positive side of  
44 being thorough in our analysis and trying to understand  
45 the effects of our actions, but even if we go as fast  
46 as we can as a Council, once our recommendations are  
47 made, there is still a lag time because it has -- our  
48 actions have to be written up as regulations and  
49 reviewed by National Marine Fisheries Service staff  
50 before it goes out for public comment, and then there

1 is a public comment period, and it may have to come  
2 back to us. So it is very frustrating for me as a  
3 Council member, but there's nothing that we can do  
4 specifically to change it, except perhaps to be as  
5 precise as we can when we decide to do something.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I see.

8

9 MS. KIMBALL: Madame Chair. On that  
10 note, I did bring a couple of these, I know I've handed  
11 them out to you before, but it tries to outline our  
12 process, which is different from yours, different from  
13 Fish and Game, different from the Federal Subsistence  
14 Board, for each Council members. And it's also on our  
15 web site. It kind of outlines every public  
16 participation portion of our meeting, and how someone  
17 can track both our process and then, as Mr. Hull said,  
18 when it goes into regulation writing.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, again,  
21 as a volunteer, all of us are, and we get hundreds of  
22 these things to read, so it makes it a little tough to  
23 be so on board on everything. I like that KISS  
24 principle very well in as much as we can do that.

25

26 Anyway, there was one other thing. I  
27 think this Council wrote a letter for getting support  
28 of somebody from the Yukon River being on the Council.  
29 Could someone report to me what happened to that? Do  
30 you guys -- I mean, you're going to all these meetings,  
31 you probably know a little more than I. Did we get  
32 that addressed? Remember, we sent that, was it a year  
33 or two ago? Polly.

34

35 MR. FIRMIN: It takes two more years to  
36 get it.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Andrew  
41 just said it's probably go through that long process  
42 again.

43

44 DR. WHEELER: Actually -- I'm sorry.  
45 The request was for rural membership on the North  
46 Pacific Fishery Management Council. And the important  
47 thing to remember with that is that neither the Council  
48 nor its staff have input on the selection of Council  
49 members. Nominations are done by the Governor and  
50 approved the Secretary of Commerce. The number of

1 seats on the Council as they mentioned earlier is  
2 identified by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Council  
3 and its staff are explicitly prohibited from lobbying  
4 Congress. It's the Governor's choice whether to  
5 nominate Council members who represent tribal or other  
6 interests. And the Federal Board really has no role to  
7 play in advocating for rural or tribal membership on  
8 the Council. So basically if this RAC or any rural  
9 organization wants representation on the Council, the  
10 best bet is to submit names of candidates and letters  
11 of support directly to the Governor.

12

13 Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. It  
16 sounds like a nice action item. Donald.

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: I was just going to say  
19 that.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And,  
22 you know, for us as a Council, we've got so much thrown  
23 at us, whenever these things come up, I like to take  
24 action items as we go. So if anybody sees fit to make  
25 anything during this, we need to do that.

26

27 Any other questions of this group.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you  
32 very much.

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: Nice presentation.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I feel like I  
37 should have met you somewhere, because I fished a lot  
38 of those same places. Okay.

39

40 Thank you very much.

41

42 Okay. As stated earlier, Becca from  
43 YRDFFA's going to come up and present some information  
44 for us, and she has some handouts, so we'll go from  
45 there. Okay, Becca, go ahead.

46

47 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you,  
48 Madame Chair, members of the Council. Becca Robbins-  
49 Gisclair with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
50 Association, and I currently serve on the Advisory

1 Panel to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council,  
2 which is a body of industry and other representatives  
3 that basically provide advice to the Council on each of  
4 their agenda items. But I am representing YRDFA today.

5  
6 And what you're receiving as handouts  
7 are two items. One is just a salmon bycatch update  
8 that kind of summarizes a lot of the information that  
9 was just presented, so I'm not going to go over that at  
10 all for you, but that's just for your information.

11  
12 And the other is a draft resolution.  
13 And this is the same language of resolutions that were  
14 adopted by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory  
15 Council as well as the Western Interior Regional  
16 Advisory Council. And this is basically asking the  
17 Federal Subsistence Board to work with the Councils and  
18 others to develop a recommendation for the North  
19 Pacific Fishery Management Council in regards to chum  
20 salmon bycatch management measures and to convey that  
21 position at or doing the June Council in Nome.

22  
23 And the reason there's no specifics in  
24 there, as I think you heard, the analysis is still  
25 ongoing, and I think YRDFA as well as all the other  
26 western Alaska groups that are engaged in this are  
27 still waiting to see sort of the final analysis and  
28 look at what really our best option for reducing chum  
29 salmon bycatch while continuing to reduce Chinook  
30 salmon bycatch at the same time is. And so we're not  
31 prepared at this point without seeing the analysis to  
32 offer our position. But by the June meeting we will  
33 have a chance to look at that. And so I'd encourage  
34 the RAC to move forward with at least, you know, moving  
35 something that suggests the Federal Subsistence Board  
36 take a position on this by June, and indicating the  
37 importance of chum salmon to the region.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
48 Andy.

49  
50 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I don't know

1 if I'm a little premature in this, but I'd be willing  
2 to make a motion to adopt this resolution on behalf of  
3 the Eastern RAC, and then open it up for discussion.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is that a  
6 motion?

7  
8 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

9  
10 MR. GLANZ: I'll second then.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
13 motion's on the table for discussion.

14  
15 MR. BASSICH: Yep. I think this is a  
16 really important thing for us to follow through on. I  
17 think it's really good to hear that the other RACs also  
18 were in favor of this position and want further  
19 communications and do everything possible to reduce  
20 bycatch in the marine environment, not only of fall  
21 chum or chum salmon, but also Chinook salmon. And I  
22 think if this resolution carries a little bit of teeth  
23 and can get some action and some coordination and a  
24 stronger voice, it's worth pursuing.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're  
27 happy the way it's written, or no changes.

28  
29 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Other  
32 Council members, any discussion.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil,  
37 you're awful quiet. You must be happy.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew, do  
42 you have anything? He's got his hand up now. I made  
43 him.....

44  
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I support this  
46 resolution as well, Madame Chair.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
49 else.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The  
6 question's called for. All in favor.  
7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
11 opposed.  
12  
13 (No opposing votes)  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
16 It passes unanimously. That's moving fast.  
17  
18 Thank you, Becca.  
19  
20 Okay. There was at last -- I don't  
21 want to overlook that potential action item on writing  
22 the Governor some names. I want you thinking about  
23 that. Do you have anything right now, anyone, that you  
24 would do that, send a name. Virgil.  
25  
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Before someone's name  
27 gets submitted to be on the Council, they need to  
28 realize that they're undertaking a giant commitment and  
29 studying lots of science, and spending lots of time  
30 away from home.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is what  
33 you volunteers are doing right now, right, every time  
34 you go to that meeting.  
35  
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. But I mean this  
37 is -- well, you heard what they said. They have five  
38 meetings a year. Most of their meetings I think last  
39 about a week at least. And if you're going to be  
40 knowledgeable as to that's going on, there's going to  
41 be lots of reading assignments to do. But, anyway, I  
42 just wanted to make that aware.  
43  
44 I don't know of anyone that's expressed  
45 a desire to be on the Council in our region, but I do  
46 know of a lot of former Council members that have been,  
47 some from rural Alaska that I know of. In fact a  
48 husband of one of them is in the audience that I know  
49 she spent time on the Council as a Council members.  
50 And so it's a great commitment, and there have been

1 people from rural Alaska that have served on the  
2 Council in the past, so I just thought I'd throw that  
3 out.

4  
5 Madame Chair.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
8 Virgil. Polly.

9  
10 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
11 While you're on this topic of the North Pacific Fishery  
12 Management Council, you just passed that resolution in  
13 support -- or the resolution that you just passed  
14 unanimously is with regard to the June meeting of the  
15 North Pacific Council up in Nome. And I just wanted to  
16 remind you or to let you know that the Office of  
17 Subsistence Management is prepared to send a  
18 representative from each of the affected RACs to that  
19 meeting. And obviously the Staff work hasn't been done  
20 yet, so you can't respond specifically to the Staff,  
21 but whomever -- if this Council selects a person to go  
22 up to that meeting, that person could represent the  
23 Council in the form of chum salmon is very important to  
24 subsistence users, you know, sort of the general  
25 principles, maybe be able to act or respond to specific  
26 Staff work at that meeting.

27  
28 The meeting is June 6th to 14th, and my  
29 understanding is there's going to be several days of  
30 Staff reports, and then public testimony will probably  
31 start around the 8th or maybe the 9th. So whomever --  
32 if you choose to send somebody, whomever that person  
33 would be would be there probably -- you would want to  
34 be there for the Staff reports and then for the public  
35 testimony.

36  
37 So it's an action item, Madame Chair.  
38 I don't know that you want to take it up now, but I'll  
39 remind you later on in the meeting if you haven't taken  
40 it up.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I  
43 count on, you to remind me.

44  
45 DR. WHEELER: Well, between the two of  
46 us, we'll get through it.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All

1 right. Does anyone want to take this up right now.  
2 Who would go? I mean, it's fresh in our minds.  
3  
4 MR. WOODRUFF: I would volunteer.  
5  
6 REPORTER: Donald.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.  
9  
10 REPORTER: Mic.  
11  
12 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll volunteer. Madame  
13 Chair.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
16  
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's five or six days  
18 at least.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Five or six  
21 days, you're willing to give up that life up there on  
22 the Yukon River for that.  
23  
24 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds  
27 good to me. Anyone opposed to Donald representing us,  
28 or does anyone else have an interest of going to that  
29 meeting here on the Council. Don't all speak at once.  
30  
31 (Laughter)  
32  
33 MR. GLANZ: I'll say Donald should go  
34 then, Madame Chair, if he's willing.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
37  
38 MR. BASSICH: I just want to reiterate  
39 that I think it's really important that someone who's  
40 tied pretty closely to subsistence and the use of chum  
41 salmon be there to represent the Yukon River,  
42 especially the Eastern RAC here. As I think many of us  
43 sitting at this table have always relied on that  
44 resource very heavily, and Don has extensive first-hand  
45 use of that resource and a long-time use of that  
46 resource, so I think he would be a good candidate.  
47  
48 And I also really applaud the fact that  
49 kind of spreading the duties around on our Council.  
50 There's an awful lot that we're involved in here. We

1 are a very active RAC, and I think it's really  
2 important for all members to carry some of the burden  
3 on shoulders of some of this work.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Absolutely.  
8 I totally agree. Okay.

9  
10 Do I hear anyone object to Donald being  
11 our representative. You are now -- well, maybe you a  
12 chance.

13  
14 (No objections)

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're  
17 appointed.

18  
19 MR. WOODRUFF: Good enough.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now,  
22 does anyone -- we're going to go back to the No. 12,  
23 fisheries issues, Yukon River salmon preseason outlook.  
24 And are we ready? I saw you got your computer there.

25  
26 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Members  
27 of the Council. For the record my name is Jeff  
28 Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
29 Commercial Fisheries. And I'm the fall manager for the  
30 Yukon.

31  
32 And you should have got a handout that  
33 went around, and this is just a copy of the slides that  
34 I'm going to show during this. And this is just going  
35 to be a quick look at the fall season outlook for fall  
36 chum and coho. And then maybe just discuss real  
37 briefly what our management strategies might be, and  
38 then open it up for any questions.

39  
40 So to go ahead and get started, for  
41 fall chum, and as you see on this slide right here, it  
42 just kind of lists everything there, we're looking at a  
43 preseason right now our outlook is for 737,000 fall  
44 chum with a range of 605,000 to 870,000. And that  
45 upper and lower range is 80 percent, around that point  
46 estimate.

47  
48 With this outlook right here for fall  
49 chum, with this projection -- outlook I should say,  
50 this would be adequate for escapement, for subsistence

1 priority, to meet our U.S./Canada agreement  
2 obligations, and would also provide for a U.S.  
3 commercial harvest which could be anywhere between  
4 50,000 and 300,000 fish depending on what the run size  
5 is.

6  
7 This is a table right here, and it  
8 might be easier to look at what's in your packet there  
9 as opposed to on the slide there. But this just shows  
10 -- you're aware that chum salmon come back at three,  
11 four, five and six-year olds. And what this table is  
12 just basically showing is the different brood years for  
13 each age class that are going to be contributing to the  
14 2011 run. 2005 would be for the six-year olds, 2006  
15 would be for the five-year olds, 2007 for the four-year  
16 olds, and 2008 for the three-year olds.

17  
18 The thing to take home here is that the  
19 age five and age fours are the ones that contribute  
20 most to any year's runs. 2006 will be contributing the  
21 five-year olds this year. And in this table here,  
22 showing the parent year escapement, production, this is  
23 the recruit per spawner for each one of those years.  
24 The estimated production, contribution based on age,  
25 and then what the current return would be.

26  
27 And for 2006, which will be this year's  
28 5-year olds, the parent year escapement was 873,000  
29 fish. The recruit per spawner, this is the number of  
30 recruits returning per spawner is less than 1 at .63.  
31 The contribution, as I mentioned, would be 25 percent  
32 this year, so about 186,000 fish coming back.

33  
34 And then for 2007, which is the 4-year  
35 olds, 72.5 percent contributing to this year's run.  
36 The recruit per spawner was .83, that's again a little  
37 bit of improvement from the 5-year olds, but still less  
38 than 1. The parent year escapement for that year was  
39 about 900,000 fish.

40  
41 And so this is the analysis we used to  
42 come up with our point estimate again of 737,000 with a  
43 range of 605 to 870.

44  
45 What this bar graph right here shows is  
46 over time from 1987 through 2011, and the dark -- if I  
47 could use it to do this, the dark bars are the observed  
48 return. This is the run, I should say, this is the  
49 observed run. This is what we saw in each one of those  
50 years. And then the lighter bars there are what the

1 projection was. And this is the point projection, what  
2 we're giving out right now, now based on the summer to  
3 fall relationship.

4  
5 And also what you can kind of see is  
6 that since the kind of disaster years in 2000, we've  
7 seen an increase in the runs up until about the mid  
8 2000s, and then the trend we've seen since then is  
9 decreasing runs up until where we're at right now in  
10 2011. Where we're going to be at in 2011.

11  
12 We're kind of -- you know, we had this  
13 trough, and then we had these high years, and now we're  
14 back down in this trough again. And we'll have to see  
15 what happens this years, but, you know, one of the  
16 things we might be looking at is kind of an increase  
17 coming out of this trough, going back into another one  
18 of these peak cycles again. We'll just have to wait  
19 and see.

20  
21 Another thing also to keep in mind,  
22 too, another way to look at what we might see back for  
23 -- for all for this year is that the last three years  
24 our observed run has been about 30 percent less than  
25 what our projected was at this point in time. So if  
26 that were to hold true, then we could look at our run  
27 size or our outlook as being about 537,000 fish, or  
28 right around there somewhere. If that was the case,  
29 then again we would have enough for escapement. That  
30 would be adequate for escapement, for subsistence  
31 priority, for meeting our treaty obligation with  
32 Canada, but it would be questionable about whether or  
33 not we would be able to have a commercial fish -- a  
34 directed fall chum commercial fishery. Very similar to  
35 what we saw last year.

36  
37 Now, I should mention that this is the  
38 projection right now, but you may be aware that when we  
39 see how the return, or the run size for the fall chum  
40 -- or for the summer chum occur, we do have a  
41 relationship that we use that we kind of refine our  
42 outlook, and this usually occurs, you know, right  
43 before we enter the fall season. And I think last year  
44 we refined it a little bit. I think it was 680,000 or  
45 something like that, and we refined it to 600,000. But  
46 this outlook could change, and likely will once we  
47 start seeing that relationship. And that relationship  
48 is simple regression based on what the summer run to  
49 what we see in the fall run and so we'll see how that  
50 goes.

1                   And just this is kind of some, you  
2 know, potential management strategies. If we hold true  
3 with what -- if we do indeed get this summer to fall  
4 relationship, and we're looking like we're right around  
5 700,000 fish as being our potential run size then, you  
6 know, we would definitely not be coming out of -- into  
7 the fall season, I should say, you know, with our pre-  
8 2001 subsistence schedule. And it would be possible  
9 that we could see some early fishing commercial, you  
10 know, especially if we have a lot of summer chum  
11 coming, we would want to try to fish early, spread the  
12 harvest out over the run.

13  
14                   But if we do, you know, see it's going  
15 to be closer to the 500,000 fish, or somewhere --  
16 600,000 like last year, then we would certainly be, as  
17 far as the commercial fishery is concerned, we would be  
18 taking more of a cautious approach, you know, maybe  
19 waiting until the quarter point to the half-way point  
20 to see what our projections are looking like before we  
21 would look at commercial fishing. It's kind of hard to  
22 say right now, but that's just kind of, you know, what  
23 we might be looking at for management strategy.

24  
25                   So moving on to coho salmon, this is a  
26 table showing -- this is the run abundance, this is  
27 past Pilot Station in the years from 1995 through 2010,  
28 and this is adjusted for run timing at Mountain  
29 Village.

30  
31                   For the 2011 coho run, the parent year  
32 will be 2007, and the other portion of this is what the  
33 run abundance was. The stippled portion above that is  
34 what the harvest was. In 2007 we had an above average  
35 return, an above average run of coho salmon.

36  
37                   And this slide right here just shows  
38 what's happened. this is the only place in the  
39 drainage where have an escapement goal for coho salmon.  
40 This is the Delta Clearwater. In 2007, the parent  
41 year, we were actually -- there's a range there for  
42 escapement from 5,200 to 17,000, and we were up at the  
43 upper end of this at 17,000 in 2007.

44  
45                   So in a nutshell for Coho is that  
46 assuming that there's going to be average survival, and  
47 based on parent year escapement, that we could be  
48 looking at at least an average run of coho this year.

49  
50                   And as far as the fishery goes, again

1 as I'm sure you're aware of, of the new modified coho  
2 salmon management plan, you know, fall chum, obviously  
3 abundance plays into it, and, you know, we'll just have  
4 to see how abundance goes in having any coho directed  
5 fishery.

6

7 And I'll leave it at that. If you have  
8 any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 I'm curious. The index that your use  
15 for the summer chum to evaluate the fall, do you know  
16 off the top of your head what that index would be?

17

18 MR. ESTENSEN: I'm not sure what you  
19 mean by index.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, for example, if  
22 you're getting 30 percent more summer chum than you  
23 expected, what would be the index that would -- you  
24 would evaluate the fall chum with?

25

26 MR. ESTENSEN: Let me try to explain it  
27 this way, and maybe this will answer your question.  
28 It's basically -- I believe it's taking over the years,  
29 you know, we have seen, observed what summer chum, and  
30 we take that and we look at what the fall chum run and  
31 we get a relationship, a regression. So that when we  
32 see what the summer chum is, we can go across and plug  
33 that in there, and that will give us an indication of  
34 what the summer chum might be.

35

36 So an index as far as like if we saw a  
37 big, large return of summer chum, that that would  
38 influence what we'd expect for fall chum. I guess we  
39 would just plug that into that regression and get our  
40 prediction or outlook.

41

42 Is that answering you question?

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, thank you. So  
45 you're basically saying that you're going to plug that  
46 into the historical data?

47

48 MR. ESTENSEN: Exactly. Yep.

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
2 questions. Andy.

3  
4 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah. I  
5 guess along those same lines, you know, having followed  
6 this pretty closely for many years, it seems in '99,  
7 '98, from that point on, all of the trends that used to  
8 be pretty reliable have pretty much gone out the  
9 window. And the fall chum have been incredibly erratic  
10 in this 10-year period, so I would just offer that  
11 there be caution. It's not a bad thing to look at, but  
12 as you pointed out, the observed runs have been  
13 approximately 30 percent lower than the projected runs  
14 pretty consistently. And when I look at the graph No.  
15 4, you can go back, boy, all the way back into the mid  
16 90s, that was pretty much the case where the projected  
17 was much higher than the observed.

18  
19 But I do want to also state that I  
20 think you did a great job last year of identifying the  
21 weak run early, and then taking steps to make sure that  
22 as much of the subsistence needs were met as possible,  
23 and I'm sure you'll do that again this year, and offer  
24 any support in that in-season management decisions  
25 made.

26  
27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.  
30 Any questions.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Again  
35 Virgil's pretty quite.

36  
37 MR. FIRMIN: He sure is.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
40 right. Well, are the next group here or did I go too  
41 fast. They're here. Okay. So this is Fish and  
42 Wildlife Service, right?

43  
44 MR. HAYES: And Alaska Department of  
45 Fish and Game.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Both  
48 of you here.

49  
50 MR. MEARS: Good morning, Madame Chair.

1 Members of the Council. My name is Jeremy Mears. I'm  
2 one of the managers with the Fish and Wildlife Service  
3 for the Yukon River.

4  
5 If you turn to Page 32 of your RAC  
6 book, you will see that we have a paper titled the 2011  
7 Yukon River Chinook rebuilding initiative.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you bring  
10 that mic a little closer?

11  
12 MR. MEARS: Sure.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There you go.

15  
16 MR. MEARS: Sorry. I'm soft-voiced.

17  
18 I should mention right now that we have  
19 made a correction to that, and with the lower  
20 escapement goal in Figure 2, currently it's 45,000 in  
21 your book. The number should be 42,500. I have copies  
22 of that. If you'd like one, I can distribute them  
23 after if anybody wants one.

24  
25 This paper will be part of a packet of  
26 materials that YRDFA will be sending out advertising  
27 the spring salmon preparedness meeting, similar to what  
28 we've had in the last two years.

29  
30 The purpose of the meeting is to bring  
31 people together from all over the drainage to exchange  
32 information and communicate their concerns and  
33 suggestions with fisheries managers. The meeting is  
34 funded by U.S. and Canadian dollars, and is scheduled  
35 for April 13th in Anchorage. Jason Hale with YRDFA  
36 will have more specifics on this meeting.

37  
38 At this time, we are still working  
39 among both agencies and with Canada on the 2011  
40 outlook. So we do not have a formal outlook in hand  
41 yet; however, this paper generalizes our expectations  
42 for the coming season and is fairly short, so I will  
43 read through it now.

44  
45 Yukon River Chinook salmon are  
46 important to all users in the Yukon area.  
47 Unfortunately, they have experienced a drop in  
48 production. Current run sizes are about half of  
49 historic levels, making it difficult to meet escapement  
50 goals and provide for subsistence uses on the river.

1 Harvests have been greatly reduced since 2000, Figure  
2 1. Despite good parent year escapements in 2007, 2008  
3 and 2010, runs were below expectations and escapement  
4 goals into Canada were not met.

5  
6 Preliminary analysis suggests that the  
7 2011 Yukon River Chinook salmon run will again be below  
8 average to poor. Due to poor production in recent  
9 years, it is likely that the 2011 Chinook run may be  
10 sufficient to fully.....

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not.

13  
14 MR. MEARS: May not be sufficient to  
15 fully support subsistence needs.

16  
17 Over half of the Yukon River Chinook  
18 salmon that are harvested in Alaska are Canadian-  
19 origin. Therefore, it is important to keep Canadian as  
20 well as Alaskan stocks healthy. Conservation of  
21 fisheries resources by all users is extremely important  
22 for ensuring future salmon runs. It is now prudent to  
23 enter the 2011 season with the expectation that  
24 conservation measures will be required in an effort to  
25 meet escapement goals and share available subsistence  
26 harvest.

27  
28 It is necessary for all users to help  
29 in meeting escapement goals. In recent years, Canadian  
30 fishermen have voluntarily reduced their subsistence  
31 harvest, sometimes more than 50 percent, in order to  
32 allow fish to reach spawning grounds. During these low  
33 runs, it is necessary for all users to look at the  
34 amount they harvest and determine how they can help  
35 ensure adequate Chinook salmon escapement.

36  
37 Given the users' concerns over the  
38 future of Yukon River Chinook salmon runs, it is  
39 necessary to develop a management plan focuses on  
40 rebuilding the stocks. The initial objectives of the  
41 plan would be to achieve escapement goals in the Alaska  
42 portion of the drainage and meet escapement and harvest  
43 sharing commitments to Canada. Furthermore, this plan  
44 must provide for subsistence use of Chinook salmon in  
45 the Alaska portion of the drainage and management of  
46 overlapping summer chum fisheries.

47  
48 Yukon River fisheries managers need  
49 assistance developing options and management strategies  
50 for 2011 that will assist in getting fish to the

1 spawning grounds should the Chinook salmon run be  
2 similar to the poor runs of 2007, 2008, and 2010.  
3 Because of the trend of low productivity, it is  
4 anticipated that a conservative rebuilding plan will be  
5 in place for the next few years.

6

7                   During the winter and spring, State and  
8 Federal fisheries managers will attend several meetings  
9 to inform fishermen and user groups of the 2011  
10 outlook, and to receive input on management options for  
11 the 2011 fishing season. Yukon River fisheries  
12 managers are soliciting practical ideas for reducing  
13 Chinook salmon harvests from resource users on the  
14 river. All people who depend on Yukon River salmon  
15 have a role in protecting these special fish for future  
16 generations.

17

18                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any  
19 questions. Donald.

20

21                   MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23                   When I got this in the mail, I sat and  
24 pondered this for a while, and looking at the graphs,  
25 and 2009 you guys had a pretty successful year with the  
26 fisheries. And we met our treaty with Canada. And I'm  
27 surprised that we aren't going to follow that same  
28 policy this year and sort of -- I'd hate to call it  
29 pulse protection, but let's just use that word, because  
30 everybody knows what that means. And I know that the  
31 Western RAC was advocating that, and I believe that's  
32 what we did in 2009 with the windows all the way  
33 through the river.

34

35                   And it's kind of an embarrassment to us  
36 if we don't meet our treaty obligations with Canada.  
37 I'd think they'd be gunning for you guys.

38

39                   So I'd be interested to know if we're  
40 going to follow that policy this year or where we're  
41 going to go with it.

42

43                   Thank you.

44

45                   MR. HAYES: Well, Madame Chair.  
46 Council members. For the record, my name is Steve  
47 Hayes with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm  
48 the Yukon summer season area manager.

49

50                   To the question, Jason Hale, of course,

1 will be going into more detail on the April 13th  
2 meeting and what that will involve.

3  
4                   The reason we haven't come out with a  
5 defined plan is because we do want input from the users  
6 on the river. We have said that the management this  
7 summer will look similar to 2009. Based on the actions  
8 we took in 2009, it was pretty restrictive. We did  
9 have a better run than what we were projecting, but it  
10 did have a pretty big impact on the subsistence users.  
11 And we're trying to avoid that while still meeting our  
12 goals in Alaska and Canada.

13  
14                   So as I said, it will look similar to  
15 2009, but I would expect that it would not be as  
16 restrictive going into the season as it was in 2009.  
17 But if we have to increase conservation actions, we'll  
18 have to do that.

19  
20                   So we're going to be looking for input  
21 from the users, but most likely, you know, the tools  
22 that we came up with in 2009, which were pulling off  
23 the first pulse or reduction on the windows schedules,  
24 those are still tools that we're looking at potentially  
25 using this year. But as I said, we want to get input  
26 first from the users on how to best handle these tools  
27 this summer.

28  
29                   Then the other thing is that in 2009 it  
30 was pretty much across the board that we pulled out the  
31 first pulse, and we did that way all the way up the  
32 river. We are also looking at potentially trying to do  
33 different things in different districts, because, I  
34 mean, districts, they fish differently on how they're  
35 fishing. So we're going to look at that and get input  
36 from the fishermen in those areas on how to best place  
37 these type of restrictions.

38  
39                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Continue.

40  
41                   MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

42  
43                   Well, just as a fisherman on the -- and  
44 trying to give you some input, I've reduced my catch by  
45 50 percent and I don't think it's a hardship or an  
46 undue hardship if everybody on the river can reduce  
47 their catch by 50 percent, and therefore we will be  
48 doing this exactly, a rebuilding. And I think that's  
49 where everybody's head should get wrapped around this  
50 whole Chinook thing. It's not just meeting escapement.

1 It's rebuilding the stock, and that's where I'm coming  
2 from. I think that you guys should sort of think in  
3 that -- I see that in bold print at the top of this  
4 page, and it's rebuilding. It's not just meeting  
5 escapement.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that an  
10 action item.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
15 Virgil, then Larry. Go ahead, Virgil, do you have  
16 anything else?

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: I just wanted to ask,  
19 well, this is one of the meetings you're going to, and  
20 you probably went to the Western RAC meeting and I  
21 assume the Delta meeting, are you going to have a  
22 meeting like you did last year, a big, giant meeting?

23

24 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. Correct. It  
25 will be April 13th and it will be an in-person meeting  
26 exactly like we've done the last two years, but  
27 following that we're going to have three regional  
28 meetings to go out to the public, provide the  
29 information that we obtain from that in-person meeting,  
30 to get the word out.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're  
39 welcome. Larry.

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 With all due respect to all your people  
44 with the college education, the question I have is when  
45 you have these closures on the first pulse, or on the  
46 second pulse, how do you go about enforcing those  
47 closures?

48

49 MR. HAYES: Well, Madame Chair. We  
50 hope that the users along the river would abide by the

1 closures so that we do get escapement for the future.  
2 And we're trying to get the word out to everybody, so  
3 that they're aware of what's going on.

4  
5 If the need arises that somebody's not  
6 following the regulation, then we have State  
7 enforcement officers that do patrol the river, and  
8 Federal enforcement officers that enforce the  
9 regulations.

10  
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Last winter  
12 sometime we had a meeting of the Yukon Flats Advisory  
13 Committee, which I'm the Chairman of, and these  
14 representatives from different villages along the Yukon  
15 were quite concerned about especially one guy from  
16 Circle, I wouldn't name any names here, he said the  
17 first pulse was going by and that normally we fish. He  
18 knows all about the closures, and he knows what the  
19 treaty obligations with Canada are, but what he didn't  
20 like was that he said there were enforcement either  
21 from the State or the Federal, he couldn't tell,  
22 walking around with big guns on their hips and saying  
23 that you can't fish, you know. I mean, I -- he thought  
24 and I thought also that was pretty heavy-handed, you  
25 know, I mean.

26  
27 And wish the State of Alaska or whoever  
28 enforces these rules would go to each village and  
29 explain to the residents why we're having these  
30 closures.

31  
32 Thank you, Madame Chair.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Response.

35  
36 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. It's  
37 difficult to hit every community. We are, as I said,  
38 trying to -- after the big meeting we'll have three  
39 regional meetings. And then, of course, we have the  
40 teleconferences in-season that we'll really push right  
41 up front on the first couple of them to explain to  
42 everybody what we're doing.

43  
44 I guess my suggestion would be, I know  
45 it's difficult, but we have very few enforcement  
46 officers, so it's hard for them to be everywhere at  
47 once. You know, if people see things that are going  
48 on, to report it to us so that we can deal with it.

49  
50 That's it.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything  
2 else, Larry.  
3  
4 MR. WILLIAMS: No, that's all I had.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.  
7  
8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. Larry  
9 brings up a point that I think it's kind of sad that we  
10 weren't able to divide Y-5D into small subdistricts for  
11 the very reason that we're discussing right now, and  
12 that is that it's a very large area and when it comes  
13 time to do a pulse or a windows type of management  
14 action, it's a very difficult thing to do within that  
15 region.  
16  
17 And so I'm wondering, Steve, have you  
18 -- knowing that the toolbox has the tool to use  
19 statistical area closures, do you envision maybe doing  
20 that on your own this year irregardless of the lack of  
21 the ability for us to get those boundaries changed? Or  
22 maybe what role you might consider using those.  
23  
24 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. We do have  
25 EO authority to divide a district or subdistrict up.  
26 We did that in 2009 where we split it in half.  
27  
28 We will be looking at that, and I'm  
29 sure that will be a discussion that comes up at the  
30 April 13th meeting. It is a tool that I think is  
31 useful during these low runs. When you have more  
32 normal runs, I think it becomes more cumbersome. But,  
33 yeah, it's a tool that we most likely will be looking  
34 at this summer.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fred.  
37  
38 MR. BUE: Yeah. Thank you, Madame  
39 Chair. I guess little bit of both of that. Last year  
40 when we were looking at, where we were contemplating  
41 restrictions, we were looking at that. In fact, some  
42 of our drafts of emergency orders, special actions  
43 included subdividing Subdistrict 5D with the  
44 recommended places that was recommended last year.  
45  
46 I think also a little bit to Larry's  
47 questions about what are we doing, last year prior to  
48 the season, we did go to Fort Yukon and had a meeting,  
49 and some of it was broadcast on the radio station  
50 there. But talking about that and what to expect for

1 coming season. You know, we're looking again after  
2 this preseason meeting to go out there and talk to some  
3 of these communities, but we can't hit all of them,  
4 like Steve says.

5  
6 I think over time it's something that  
7 we're trying to build a rapport with the villages. We  
8 can't meet them all, but, you know, over time we're  
9 trying to get to a number of them. A lot of  
10 enforcement is more of an education, cooperative  
11 process with the public, and gain their trust in  
12 working with them, and so that we understand back and  
13 forth, and I think that's -- you know, sometimes what  
14 happens on the river and specific incidents is one  
15 thing, but I think the process is for us to get a  
16 better understanding of where each other is coming  
17 from, better communication, understanding, and also to  
18 you as a Council to communicate with your communities  
19 also, and talk about what we've discussed at these  
20 meetings.

21  
22 Madame Chairman.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
25 Andy, you had a question. I'm sorry.

26  
27 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Fred. Yeah,  
28 in regards to what you were just speaking of, as far as  
29 public relations, I'd really like to advocate trying to  
30 use more of the public radio system within Alaska. I  
31 know a lot of communities have translators and people  
32 listen to that on a pretty regular basis in the  
33 morning.

34  
35 In 2009 one of the big issues in the  
36 upper river for especially the Fort Yukon Flats areas  
37 was people just were not in the loop as to what was  
38 going on, and there was a lot of confusion. And I'm  
39 sure that's something that you've talked about, and  
40 hopefully will address.

41  
42 But I think it's really critical for  
43 members here at the Council to go back to their  
44 communities and make that people know in their  
45 communities that the onus is on them to be aware of  
46 when openings and closures are. You know, I think  
47 Staff and the agencies do the best they can, or attempt  
48 to do the best they can, but, you know, but, you know,  
49 quite frankly it's my view that the onus is on the  
50 fisherman to make sure he knows when he's allowed to go

1 fish, just like when you go hunt game, you have to know  
2 when you're allowed to hunt, and make sure that you  
3 have proper permit or whatever for it. So I think  
4 sometimes, you know, fishermen tend to be a little bit  
5 more of a renegade when it comes to the resource, but  
6 the onus is on the fisherman, that's rally important to  
7 take back to your community so these kinds of  
8 miscommunications don't take place. Because we do --  
9 as you said, Sue, we all have to work together on this,  
10 and it only takes one or two bad apples to kind of  
11 spoil the whole bushel. And the goal is to have all  
12 good, ripe apples out there.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

17

18 I think that one of your outreach  
19 methods would be to coordinate with the village council  
20 meetings so that you could go when they're having a  
21 public meeting or a council meeting, and discuss that  
22 with them, or the city council meetings in our case in  
23 Eagle, and have a representative come to the ACs. We  
24 don't have that many in Eagle, but we had quite a few  
25 just before the Fortymile Caribou harvest planning  
26 meeting, and that way it's not just me or Andy or Bill  
27 talking to individuals, you know, it's somebody that  
28 actually represents the Department, and they're  
29 expressing a little conservation, it would go a lot  
30 further I think than must me or Andy or Bill saying,  
31 you know, we need to cut back our fishing.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a very  
36 good point. I didn't realize that wouldn't be  
37 happening, fisheries people doesn't go to the ACs.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. Also like in  
40 Circle, like Larry's talking about, the public radio is  
41 in Circle Hot Springs. It was hit by lightening  
42 sometime in June.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. GLANZ: So nobody in Circle had any  
47 inkling what was going down, other than calling us and  
48 trying to -- saying, well, here's what we heard or  
49 here's what we know, so they had very bad  
50 communications there last summer.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: God was  
2 speaking for some reason.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7  
8 MR. HAYES: Well, Madame Chair, Council  
9 members. We do attend as many ACs as we possibly can,  
10 and the RACs here, and other meetings. Unfortunately,  
11 we don't have a huge staff of people, you know, that we  
12 make every meeting, and we don't have the huge budget  
13 to send people to every meeting. So we do try to  
14 attend the meetings that are focusing on more the  
15 salmon issues at the time, as opposed to if they have  
16 game issues that take up most of the meeting.

17  
18 And we're looking at potentially trying  
19 to teleconference some of these places that we can't  
20 get to, so we'll be working on that, too, to get the  
21 word out more.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think with  
24 this great technology of today, the video  
25 teleconferencing would be awesome, because then we can  
26 look you in the eye, even though you're not sitting  
27 right there. I think it would be an awesome way to  
28 communicate better in Alaska since things are so far  
29 apart.

30  
31 Did I see any other questions. Andrew.

32  
33 MR. FIRMIN: I just have a comment, and  
34 this kind of goes back to that whole tribal  
35 consultation process, and that the State and the Feds  
36 need to get a big list of all the hundreds of tribes in  
37 the State and just get them all on a fax or emailing  
38 list. And like you said, too, the teleconferencing. I  
39 believe most tribes in the Flats I know have a  
40 teleconferencing ability. And possibly if there's some  
41 back and forth communication, you could get on during  
42 their tribal council meetings or something similar of  
43 that, which is also under the review process as we  
44 speak I suppose.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very good.  
49 Anything else.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
4 Fred doesn't have a big report for us.  
5  
6 MR. BUE: (Shakes head negatively)  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
9 Okay. Thank you, guys.  
10  
11 Well, let's take a look at time. What  
12 do you want to do here. Yeah, it's about 9 minutes  
13 until noon, so do you want to try to get back at 1:00?  
14  
15 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.  
16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 1:00 o'clock.  
18 All right.  
19  
20 MR. FIRMIN: Quarter after.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew thinks  
23 a quarter after would be better. Okay. It's 1:15  
24 we'll be back, thank you.  
25  
26 (Off record)  
27  
28 (On record)  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm calling  
31 it back to order regardless. If you're going to talk,  
32 I'm going to have you go outside the room.  
33  
34 I have three blue cards here. Julie  
35 Roberts Hyslop and Gene Sandone. Is Julie here? Okay.  
36 I just want people to know, if you see these people,  
37 that they can just raise their hand and tell me they  
38 want to testify. And then I have a place holder when  
39 Tremble Gilbert, so -- okay.  
40  
41 At lunch break we were at a point where  
42 Andy Bassich wanted to bring up his ideas there, on an  
43 agenda change. So, Andy, do you want to go ahead.  
44  
45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Madame  
46 Chair.  
47  
48 What I'd like to bring before the RAC  
49 here is conservation issue for king salmon on the Yukon  
50 River. And what I'm asking for the Eastern RAC to

1 consider is a special action request through the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board for the 2011 season. And you  
3 have a piece of paper here, it looks like this. I  
4 thought it would help for you guys to be able to see  
5 it.

6  
7 Now, one of the things I want to really  
8 emphasize is that this is not a means of trying to take  
9 away customary trade or in any way attack that. This  
10 is strictly a measure to help conserve Chinook salmon  
11 on years when there is very low abundance, and there  
12 are restrictions placed on subsistence fishing on the  
13 Yukon River. And so I'll just read this into the  
14 record and then hopefully we can have some discussion  
15 on this.

16  
17 It's Federal Subsistence Board special  
18 action request, 2011, Yukon River Chinook Salmon  
19 Conservation.

20  
21 Special action request, spring of 2011:  
22 If restrictions are placed on subsistence fishing on  
23 the Yukon River, by either fishing times reduction or  
24 fishing gear reductions to normal schedules and times,  
25 Chinook salmon shall not be allowed for use of  
26 customary trade during that fishing season. All other  
27 species of fish shall be permitted for use in customary  
28 trade.

29  
30 And I just want to emphasize that this  
31 is only targeting Chinook salmon in customary trade.  
32 So people would still be able to utilize summer chum,  
33 fall chum, coho and/or other species.

34  
35 And then justification for this is if  
36 restrictions are in place for subsistence users, it is  
37 a clear sign that the numbers of Chinook salmon are not  
38 sufficient to allow for full subsistence harvest and  
39 meet escapement goals and Treaty obligations. Future  
40 returns will be negatively impacted by not passing fish  
41 to the spawning grounds.

42  
43 Every fish counts and subsistence users  
44 are bearing the brunt of conservation throughout the  
45 river. This is morally and ethically wrong for some  
46 fishers to continue to take more than is needed, and to  
47 sell Chinook salmon for cash in times of low abundance.

48  
49 And good stewardship of the resource  
50 begins and ends with the users.

1                   So that's what I would like us to  
2 discuss, and I don't know if we need a motion to pass  
3 and then have discussion, but if so, then I would make  
4 a motion to pass this special action request as  
5 presented to you.

6  
7                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

8  
9                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

10  
11                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
12 There's been a motion and a second to take this up.  
13 Discussion.

14  
15                  MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

16  
17                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

18  
19                  MR. BASSICH: So in support, I've kind  
20 of summed up, you know, in the justification why I  
21 think it's necessary for us to do this. You know,  
22 we've been talking about this quite a bit. We talked  
23 about it quite a bit at our fall meeting, and certainly  
24 we couldn't come to any decisions. But when we talked  
25 about it in our fall meeting, we were basically  
26 addressing customary trade and it became very apparent  
27 that many people are very concerned about limiting  
28 customary trade or its long-term impacts.

29  
30                  One of the things that I want to stress  
31 in this, is this is a one-year special action request.  
32 And maybe Polly could come up and give us a little bit  
33 of a description of what is entailed in a special  
34 action request by the Board, but it's my understanding  
35 that this particular special action request would only  
36 be in place for the 2011 season.

37  
38                  I feel it's really important that we  
39 address this this year. I think we've had too many  
40 years of not addressing conservation concerns for Yukon  
41 River Chinook. And we need to get our head out of the  
42 sand. We need to start acknowledging that we have a  
43 real problem. We need to take every measure possible  
44 to conserve salmon, and I feel that this special action  
45 request does not target any particular user group on  
46 the river. It's a riverwide action. It impacts  
47 everybody equally. It shares the burden of  
48 conservation and I think anytime we're passing  
49 regulations or taking any kind of conservation measure,  
50 that should be one of the top priorities is that the

1 burden is shared by all people on the river equally.

2

3 So I'll leave it at that for  
4 discussion.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry.  
9 Council members, more discussion. Questions. Andrew.

10

11 MR. FIRMIN: Would this be sufficient,  
12 would this satisfy enforcement if like say for one  
13 summer, that would be my question I guess, if this  
14 would satisfy law enforcement to be able to get the  
15 people that are breaking the law. Like say you have --  
16 I'm sure every village has one person that goes out of  
17 their way to overfish, and they don't even have kids  
18 that they're sitting at home at their table, and  
19 they're, you know, catching as many king salmon as they  
20 can when they barely eat fish, and those -- would this  
21 be sufficient for law enforcement to target those  
22 individuals if they were so turned in I guess.

23

24 Could Mr. Neely answer that maybe?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have Polly  
27 raising her hand first.

28

29 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
30 And I should say I'm not in law enforcement, which may  
31 or may not be a good thing.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

34

35 DR. WHEELER: But just to give you an  
36 idea of the process that would be entailed in this, the  
37 Federal -- there's two kinds special actions. One is a  
38 temporary special action, one is an emergency special  
39 action.

40

41 Temporary special action, if it's  
42 adopted by the Board is in place for the duration of  
43 the season. So this would be a temporary special  
44 action. Anybody can submit a special action request to  
45 the Federal Subsistence Program. It will get analyzed  
46 and the Board will take it up.

47

48 If this special action were to be  
49 accepted by the Board or adopted by the Board, then my  
50 understanding would be customary trade of Chinook

1 salmon would be disallowed. So that's pretty clear.  
2 So, you know, if anybody were engaged in customary  
3 trade of Chinook salmon, then that would be a violation  
4 of this special action if it were to be adopted by the  
5 Board. If that's clear.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that  
8 includes somebody giving one strip of salmon for one  
9 dog biscuit?

10

11 DR. WHEELER: No, that's barter.  
12 That's barter. That's different.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
15 right. For a dollar. Uh-huh.

16

17 DR. WHEELER: Yeah, I was just -- you  
18 know, Jerry wanted to say that we would have a meeting  
19 in the affected area for a temporary special action. I  
20 wasn't going into the real process part of it, but, as  
21 with everything in the Federal system, there's a  
22 lengthy process attached to it. But if this should go  
23 in the mill today, there would be sufficient time prior  
24 to the season to have it go through the mill before the  
25 season started.

26

27 Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
30 would like to see if someone could answer Andrew's  
31 question.

32

33 DR. WHEELER: Law enforcement.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Law  
36 enforcement. Is there anyone here that can do that.

37

38 MR. NEELY: Madame Chair. Jim Neely  
39 again with Division of Refuge Law Enforcement. I work  
40 out of the Fairbanks office.

41 It certainly would give us a tool that  
42 we don't currently have. I'll put it that way.

43

44 I can't speak -- as you know, I think  
45 most in the room would know that there was some  
46 enforcement actions taken last year, and I can't really  
47 speak too much on those actions as they've not been  
48 adjudicated yet.

49

50 But I go back to say it would give us a

1 took that we don't have other wise.

2

3 I think that short of -- as we  
4 discussed I think last year at the spring YRDFA  
5 meeting, we talked about establishing a bright line or  
6 a cap, per se, on how many fish could be sold. That  
7 would be another methodology that we talked about  
8 before, but short of any other change in law, this  
9 would again give us something we wouldn't have before.  
10 And I think it would be a usable tool.

11

12 It also I think as, Andy, you just  
13 mentioned there, sends a pretty clear message about the  
14 seriousness that the Council here brings to this issue,  
15 and, in fact, making it a point of law and providing  
16 that clarification.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It actually  
19 brings a question to my mind. If somebody had left-  
20 over fish from the year before in their freezer and  
21 they traded it for a dollar.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Sale.

24

25 MR. NEELY: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sale. Oh,  
28 sorry.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: A big difference.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sold it,  
33 which I know occurs.

34

35 MR. NEELY: Well, you know, like any  
36 law enforcement action, investigators, the officers, up  
37 through the prosecutor has a great deal of discretion.  
38 Again, I'm sure I could speak for others, that we'll be  
39 looking for, as we typically have, looked for those who  
40 are serious offenders, those who are actually engaged  
41 at such a level that they're impacting the resource.  
42 That would be the type of discretion I'm sure we'd use  
43 in this case as well.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
46 questions. Joe and then Virgil.

47

48 MR. MATESE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

49

50 To use Donald's term, pulse protection,

1 I think many of us have been leaning towards that  
2 favorably as something that worked, was well received  
3 and it had positive results. And we're also  
4 anticipating that the managers would not hesitate to  
5 use that or some version of that again this coming  
6 season. Would any version of what we're referring to  
7 at this time, pulse protection, would any version of  
8 that trigger this.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Yes, I can answer that.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're  
13 authority on that, Andy?

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Well, I don't know if I'm  
16 an authority, but, yes. So as it reads, it's very  
17 clear here, if there's any restrictions placed on  
18 subsistence fishing, be it gear or time, so if normal  
19 subsistence fishing is restricted in any manner, this  
20 would then kick into place. And as many of the  
21 managers have said over the years, that's a last resort  
22 for them to meet escapement. They don't like putting  
23 restrictions on subsistence fishing unless they feel  
24 that they cannot meet escapement on those years, and  
25 we've heard a great deal of testimony over the years  
26 and actually the Department many years has been highly  
27 criticized for maybe not putting restrictions in place  
28 on some years. So, yes. Short answer, yes.

29

30 MR. MATESI: I have a follow-up  
31 question.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. MATESI: Thank you. I have a  
36 follow-up question to the agencies then. Would this  
37 have some sort of impact on the agencies, whether or  
38 not they would -- in terms of choosing to implement  
39 that particular tool in your tool kit, whether you  
40 would be more hesitant to protect the first run, the  
41 first pulse, for example.

42

43 MR. BUE: Madame Chairman.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Fred.

46

47 MR. BUE: To answer that question, at  
48 this point I don't think it would change our  
49 reluctance, or we would make the management decision  
50 that we thought was necessary to get fish to meet out

1 management objectives, and so I think that this -- in  
2 our sense of -- we don't have it very well quantified.  
3 Is this harvest that seems to be -- we're not sure if  
4 it's already recorded or not recorded. It's hard to  
5 quantify that, and so I think -- right now off the top  
6 of my head, I don't think it's going to change our  
7 management actions very much. I don't know if that's  
8 -- that's all I have.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil had a  
11 question, but you're going to follow up on that?

12

13 MR. HAYES: It's tough to respond to a  
14 question like that immediately with, you know,  
15 specifics. But I agree with Fred, I don't think it  
16 would change it. In fact, if you look at the  
17 fisheries, the way you manage it, you know, to meet  
18 escapement, subsistence, commercial, other uses, this  
19 would almost be the next step to reduce some type of  
20 harvest to meet escapement. And then, of course, human  
21 consumption would be the priority at that point. So,  
22 yeah, I don't think it would affect any type of actions  
23 we would take to reduce harvest.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that part,  
26 you wouldn't change any of your management. It would  
27 just -- other than when you restrict subsistence, then  
28 this would come into play.

29

30 MR. HAYES: I wouldn't say that it  
31 wouldn't have an effect at some point throughout the  
32 season, you might change your management in some way,  
33 but if you need to restrict subsistence to meet  
34 escapement goals, then you're going to do it. And if  
35 this kicks in at that time, then that's reducing  
36 harvest, so, yeah.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It might make  
39 you think that it would be more escapement than normal?

40

41 MR. HAYES: Well, there would no way to  
42 assess it I would think in-season on how many fish you  
43 would save from that, so I think it would be really  
44 hard in-season to say if customary trade wasn't  
45 allowed, we're going to save 10,000 fish. We don't  
46 know, so it really -- until you were able to gather  
47 data throughout the year, is it really, you know, going  
48 to play into the decisions right away.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, then

1 Joe.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Steve, if you  
4 have.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mic.

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is for Steve. If  
9 you place restrictions on the subsistence fishery, the  
10 current management plan would require that there could  
11 be no incidental sale of Chinook salmon in chum  
12 directed fishery; is that not true?

13

14 MR. HAYES: Well, Madame Chair, the  
15 actual definition is that you may not allow it. So we  
16 could still allow incidental sales the way the  
17 regulation reads. So it would be at the time, if we  
18 were restricting subsistence, and then looking at a  
19 summer chum commercial fishery, we would make the  
20 decision at that time whether or not to allow  
21 incidental sales, but it doesn't strictly say that if  
22 you restrict subsistence, you can't sell those. That's  
23 not how it reads.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. But the fact is  
26 that unless you restrict subsistence, you cannot stop  
27 the incidental -- or the sale of incidental caught king  
28 salmon in a Chinook [sic] fishery unless you've  
29 restricted subsistence; is that not true or not?

30

31 MR. HAYES: That's correct.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. You know,  
34 we had this, basically the same or a similar special  
35 action request two years ago that our RAC put forward  
36 that was not adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board.  
37 So I don't know, maybe they would be more receptive now  
38 that we went three out of four years without meeting  
39 our treaty commitments to Canada. I'm hopeful they  
40 will be. I'm going to support Andy's motion.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, you had  
45 something.

46

47 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
48 The truth of the matter is I forgot my question.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're

1 forgiven.

2

3 MR. MATESI: I'm sitting trying to  
4 think it through, and it seems like this is one way to  
5 get a double whammy as far as conservation is  
6 concerned. If there's any restriction, you get the  
7 effect of that restriction plus the secondary effect of  
8 -- well, I'm not really sure there would be a secondary  
9 effect. If your fish would be caught simply because --  
10 well, I guess -- see, I'm trying to think this out.  
11 The assumption is that because customary trade is  
12 allowed, that there's fishing occurring targeting fish  
13 specifically for that purpose? That's my question.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Absolutely.

16

17 MR. MATESI: Okay, that helps me.

18 Thanks.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: I had one.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Is this any -- we're  
25 talking about processed, like strips or -- what I was  
26 concerned with, if it's strips, some fellow the other  
27 day got caught for selling, what, a couple, 15,000  
28 pounds or something, and paid -- for selling chum as  
29 kings. And are we talking whole fish or just  
30 processed? Or, I mean, I'm confused on that.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Customary trade is  
33 defined as the sale of whole, uncut fish. Strips are  
34 illegal anyway. Strips are not legal in any fashion  
35 under customary trade or any other ruling. But we have  
36 to go by what the definition of customary trade is as a  
37 Federal program. And so, you know, the thing I really  
38 want to emphasize here is this not about customary  
39 trade. This is about passing Chinook salmon upriver on  
40 years when we have very low abundance. It's a  
41 conservation tool, it is not an attack on customary  
42 trade. I am all in favor of customary trade on years  
43 the run can support it. I have no problem with that  
44 whatsoever. However, as we've talked about a great  
45 deal earlier in this meeting, we've now gone on 10  
46 years, we're going on over almost three life cycles of  
47 very poor runs, very poor escapements, with the  
48 exception of one or two years.

49

50 The run is not showing signs of

1 improving as is obvious by all the efforts being put  
2 into preseason management. This is the first time I've  
3 ever in my 10 years heard Fish and Game come to a  
4 meeting and say ahead of time, very seriously, that  
5 they are going to put conservation measures in practice  
6 for Chinook salmon this year, because they need to do  
7 that to ensure escapement. And I think that really  
8 sets a tone, that, you know, when the Department is  
9 saying that ahead of time, trying to warn people ahead  
10 of time, we've got some serious issues here. And as I  
11 state in this justification, every fish counts. Every  
12 fish counts on these kinds of years.

13

14                   So, thank you.

15

16                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see Polly  
17 at the table. Did you have something to enlighten us  
18 with?

19

20                   DR. WHEELER: Well, maybe, maybe not.  
21 Maybe it will just confuse things further, but I think  
22 that under the Federal program -- you know, under the  
23 definition of ANILCA, subsistence, you know, you've all  
24 seen that subsistence uses is comprised of harvest for  
25 individual or family consumption, blah-blah-blah. It  
26 goes on to say customary trade. So customary trade is  
27 a legal use -- is a subsistence use under ANILCA, but  
28 that's where it starts to get fuzzy.

29

30                   And I'm getting back to Bill's question  
31 here. Where customary trade covers everything, but  
32 because the Federal program's position is that people  
33 still have to abide by State health laws, you know.  
34 That's where the strip issue comes in. So I just want  
35 to correct the record a little bit. Customary trade  
36 covers everything, or all resources, but it doesn't  
37 exempt people from abiding by State health care laws in  
38 the processing requirements. And that's why the Federal  
39 customary trade regulations speaks specifically to  
40 whole, uncut fish, and not strips.

41

42                   The problem I think for enforcement has  
43 been over time that it's tough to enforce, you know,  
44 the State health care laws, or the sort of processing  
45 laws, and that's where Mr. Neely was referring to. It  
46 would give them a clear line.

47

48                   But again to get back to the process,  
49 this Council can support this special action and then  
50 it goes to the Federal program, and it will go through

1 its process. And you're all familiar with that special  
2 action process. So I just want to remind you that  
3 passing this, or supporting this today then puts it  
4 into the process, and it will go down. So it's not a  
5 sure thing until when and if the Board supports this  
6 special action.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So when they  
9 get a special action, how quickly do they take it up?

10

11 DR. WHEELER: Well, it depends. If  
12 it's an emergency special action or a temporary special  
13 action. And as I said earlier, emergency special  
14 actions are immediate, temporary special actions are  
15 for the duration of the season. We have to do an  
16 analysis. If it's determined that it's a temporary  
17 special action, then we have to go through public  
18 meetings, which would mean we'd have to have public  
19 meetings in each of the three Council areas, or with  
20 each of the three Councils. And so I can't tell you  
21 specifically time certain how it will be dealt with,  
22 but again since the season starts at the beginning of  
23 June, it's now March 3rd, we've got a little bit of  
24 time to run it through the mill. A little bit of time  
25 in Federal speak.

26

27 Madame Chair.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Government is  
32 a slow wheel. Okay. I have Donald and Andy.

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 On the justification it says not sufficient to allow  
36 for full subsistence harvest. I don't know how we're  
37 going to define full subsistence harvest.

38

39 Do you know, Polly?

40

41 DR. WHEELER: Back at you.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, I voluntarily cut  
46 my subsistence harvest down by 50 percent, so that's  
47 full subsistence harvest for me, but other people --  
48 and I know that this is going to be one of the  
49 stickling points for the Board.

50

1 DR. WHEELER: Well, as you know, under  
2 the State system there's the amounts necessary for  
3 subsistence, and the State has ranges covering the  
4 different species' harvest. ANILCA isn't quite so  
5 specific. It's healthy populations and providing for  
6 subsistence uses. And so you're right. You  
7 voluntarily cut back your harvest as have a number of  
8 other people, but sort of defining what that normal  
9 harvest is or what the full subsistence harvest is, is  
10 difficult. But I think that you're going back to what  
11 Mr. Bassich, from speaking to him over time, is  
12 referring to is if there's any restrictions in place,  
13 that's where this would kick in, if it were to kick in.  
14 So I don't know that the Board would be stuck on the  
15 full subsistence harvest part. I think the trigger  
16 would be the any restrictions.

17

18 Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And  
21 where was my other hand? Andy and Andrew.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I just wanted to  
24 add one thing. The Eagle AC has adopted this and will  
25 be submitting this to the Federal Subsistence Board as  
26 an AC. So it will go before them through Eagle AC.  
27 And I would hope that our RAC, which hopefully would  
28 have a little bit more influence on the Board, would  
29 support that. But I just wanted to pass that bit of  
30 information as well, so this will move forward in one  
31 manner or another.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so in  
34 other words, you're asking for support?

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: I don't think that wording  
41 of full subsistence is going to do much, because it  
42 says right after it, meet escapement goals and treaty  
43 obligations. And as we just heard before lunch, that  
44 we're not expecting to meet treaty obligations, so I  
45 think that part of that wording would be, I don't know,  
46 a lawyer can play with that, but it's pretty clear, and  
47 I think that I'd like to see something like this in  
48 place for this year almost as an experiment to see if  
49 actually makes a difference, and maybe users along the  
50 river that know their neighbors are abusing this would

1 give somebody a call to see it makes a difference for  
2 users on the river or not, before we go forward with  
3 our committee this summer as well, too, and in our  
4 future cycles before we try to make something into a  
5 solid law, that I think this would be something in  
6 place, you know, as a test run to see if it actually  
7 helps or not.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
10 thoughts, Council members. Lester.

11

12 MR. ERHART: In our area we catch a lot  
13 of jack salmon, a lot of little fellows. Do you think  
14 this will help the harvest? Put more fish on the  
15 spawning grounds? I don't think so.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that a  
18 question? A question to the proposer of the.....

19

20 MR. ERHART: Yes, for Andy.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Go  
23 ahead, Andy.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Well, I respectfully  
26 disagree with you. You know, we've talked about  
27 quality of escapement for a long time, and quite  
28 frankly a fish caught for customary trade can either be  
29 a female, large/small, it can be a male large or small.  
30 So as far as affecting escapement, yes, it will improve  
31 escapement. Will it affect quality of escapement? I  
32 think it will, because there are -- you know, the only  
33 fish that are stripped are not just males. There are  
34 females being stripped or used for customary trade.

35

36 So what we're getting at here is  
37 conservation of Chinook salmon irregardless of size.  
38 And I think every manager will tell you the best thing  
39 that you can do for a run is to get all age classes  
40 across the border into the spawning grounds.

41

42 Now, the fact that many of us feel that  
43 many that many of the fish have been smaller fish and  
44 the quality has not been there is a completely  
45 different issue. But I believe that this would enhance  
46 quality of escapement, because there would be fish,  
47 larger females getting across the border, or even just  
48 more females getting across the border.

49

50 So that's my position, and I just want

1 to reiterate, this is conservation.

2

3                   The only other thing I want to mention  
4 to the Council here is that I feel it's our duty as  
5 Council members to set the tone for developing better  
6 stewardship of the resources, whether it be moose,  
7 caribou, fish, birds, whatever. We need to teach  
8 people how to be better stewards of their resource and  
9 this in my opinion is a first step in trying to educate  
10 people and make people aware that when the resource is  
11 in trouble, people have to stop doing what they're  
12 normally doing, because they've always done it, and  
13 they need to take a little bit of time to think about  
14 what they're doing.

15

16                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you'd turn  
17 that mic on again, you had something more to say.

18

19                   MR. ERHART: I just want to make a  
20 comment. You know, the people always tell us, if you  
21 want small dogs, you breed small dogs. I imagine it's  
22 the same way with salmon.

23

24                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have  
25 something, Larry?

26

27                   MR. WILLIAMS: I just want to make a  
28 quick comment here. I have a fish camp up above  
29 Beaver, about 35 miles in the White Eye area, and I've  
30 cut my fishing time 100 percent in order to do my small  
31 part in conserving the fish for my grandchildren.  
32 That's the only comment I want to make.

33

34                   Thank you very much.

35

36                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
37 discussion.

38

39                   (No comments)

40

41                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

42

43                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
44 question has been called for. I'm going to ask K.J. to  
45 do a roll call.

46

47                   MS. MUSHOVIC: All right. Sue  
48 Entsminger.

49

50                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

1 MS. MUSHOVIC: Andrew Firmin.  
2  
3 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.  
4  
5 MS. MUSHOVIC: Larry Williams.  
6  
7 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.  
8  
9 MS. MUSHOVIC: Lester Erhart.  
10  
11 ERHART: No.  
12  
13 MS. MUSHOVIC: Andy Bassich.  
14  
15 MR. BASSICH: Yes.  
16  
17 MS. MUSHOVIC: William Glanz.  
18  
19 MR. GLANZ: Yes.  
20  
21 MS. MUSHOVIC: Frank Gurtler's absent.  
22 Joe Matesi.  
23  
24 MR. MATESI: Yes.  
25  
26 MS. MUSHOVIC: Donald Woodruff.  
27  
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.  
29  
30 MS. MUSHOVIC: Virgil Umphenour.  
31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.  
33  
34 MS. MUSHOVIC: Motion carries.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
37 motion carries 8 to 1. The motion is to support the  
38 proposal as written.  
39  
40 Okay. All right. We're moving on to,  
41 this one, Bering Sea, right? Bering Sea/Aleutian  
42 Islands, written.....  
43  
44 MS. MUSHOVIC: OSM briefing.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. OSM.  
47  
48 DR. WHEELER: Madame Chair. In the  
49 books on Page 34 there's a Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands  
50 written briefing. And also on Page 42 there's a Gulf

1 of Alaska bycatch briefing.

2

3                   As I'd mentioned earlier, the Bering  
4 Sea/Aleutian Islands bycatch briefing kind of outlines  
5 the process, and a lot of it is specific to what the  
6 North Pacific Fishery Management Council just talked to  
7 you about this morning. It's a pretty technical  
8 briefing as you can see in there, but it just gives you  
9 the dates.

10

11                   And just to recap what they'd said this  
12 morning, Madame Chair, in terms of the Bering Sea  
13 pollock fishery chum salmon bycatch, the Council met in  
14 February in Seattle. They've directed some additional  
15 Staff work. That Staff work is occurring now. It will  
16 be ready for the June 2011 meeting in Nome, the 6th to  
17 the -- what was it, the 6th to the 14th. And you've  
18 already selected your representative to go to that  
19 meeting.

20

21                   And the Council may want to go on  
22 record and sort of say generally what the message  
23 should be from the Council, because the Council isn't  
24 going to meet before Mr. Woodruff goes up to that  
25 meeting, so you may want to give Mr. Woodruff some sort  
26 of general guidance that chum salmon's important to  
27 subsistence fishers all along the river, and you would  
28 expect the Council, you would hope that the Council  
29 would make the most conservative choice, or something  
30 along those lines so that Mr. Woodruff can then go to  
31 the meeting and represent the Council generally and  
32 maybe specifically depending on what Staff work is  
33 presented at the Council meeting in June.

34

35                   So I don't need to read you this  
36 briefing. You can certainly do it. And it fairly  
37 quickly gets into stuff that's way beyond my ability to  
38 comprehend. But you're looking at the status quo, hard  
39 caps, and what would be in there. But a lot of this is  
40 just preliminary, because you don't know where the  
41 Staff work's going to land in terms of preliminary  
42 alternatives.

43

44                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,  
45 Polly. With all this stuff that comes at us, sometimes  
46 I wish I would have asked those guys, the actual --  
47 they're calling it 91, right, the new law? Yeah. So  
48 to ever change that cap again, is that going to go  
49 through another long process?

50

1 DR. WHEELER: The Council is going to  
2 be looking at Staff work at their June meeting and  
3 making a recommendation. But as the Council members  
4 said this morning, they're an advisory body. They'll  
5 make a recommendation, but it will eventually go to the  
6 Secretary of Commerce in terms of the chum cap,  
7 whatever it may be. But it's not going to require a  
8 regulatory change. I mean, they're moving down the  
9 road.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, but I  
12 guess what I'm saying is, if a person disagreed with  
13 that cap, that process, to lower the cap is what -- I  
14 see Becca coming up. She probably can answer that real  
15 quickly. And Donald, did you want to.....

16  
17 MR. WOODRUFF: I think Becca can answer  
18 that.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

21  
22 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you,  
23 Madame Chair.

24  
25 The process to -- so Amendment 91  
26 addresses Chinook salmon bycatch management, and to  
27 change that cap level, they basically would have to  
28 start over the fishery management plan amendment act.  
29 So that would be sort of the same process.....

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is the  
32 two and half year thing?

33  
34 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: .....they just  
35 went through. Yeah. The Council does have -- or  
36 National Marine Fisheries Service actually has  
37 emergency regulatory authority.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

40  
41 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: So if, for  
42 instance, bycatch were to be approaching the cap for a  
43 number of years in a row, or if new genetic information  
44 came back indicating that, you know, it was a huge  
45 proportion of Yukon stocks, or if more information came  
46 in about the Endangered Species Act stocks that are  
47 caught there, and more, that could initiate an  
48 emergency regulation aspect, but I think barring any of  
49 those sort of dramatic changes, then you're really  
50 looking at sticking with what you've got and the

1 Council probably wouldn't look at changing that until  
2 they've seen how it works for a few years.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
5 Council members, do we have any direction to give  
6 Donald. Those of you who work in it all the time, do  
7 you have any key points for our RAC. Andy.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: As I stated earlier, I  
10 think Don's fully aware of the importance of fall chum  
11 salmon, not only to the people in the upper river, but  
12 all along the river, and I think he's quite capable of  
13 doing a bang up job of letting that message be known to  
14 the Council

15

16 And my experience in the Council is,  
17 you know, when you go in, you sit and you listen to all  
18 the testimony and you meet many different people from  
19 many parts of the State, you're able to kind of come up  
20 with what needs to be said to make your point. So  
21 there's a lot of ability to make your own testimony.

22

23 And I would give full support of Don to  
24 do whatever he feels is in the best interest of our  
25 region.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
28 Virgil.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Being it's salmon, we  
31 have an international treaty governing the chum salmon  
32 as well as the Chinook salmon, the national cap should  
33 be not any more than what it was at the time we signed  
34 the treaty, which was 2001. And so the average prior  
35 to 2001, it should not be any higher than that. And  
36 that's good justification, because the salmon treaty  
37 does state that both countries will endeavor to  
38 increase the number of chum salmon and Chinook salmon  
39 both going up the Yukon River by reducing marine  
40 catches and bycatches. That's part of the treaty. So  
41 that would be the most important thing to take I think  
42 to the Council meeting.

43

44 Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
47 else. Are any of you guys going with another hat like  
48 YRDFA? What's those other meetings that you go to?  
49 There's a ton of them it seems. In fact, you had one  
50 in just was it December? What's that meeting you guys

1 go to? I saw all three of you there. It's not YRDFA.  
2  
3 MR. BASSICH: Yukon River Panel.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, the  
6 Panel.  
7  
8 MR. BASSICH: Yes.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are they  
11 sending any of you guys?  
12  
13 MR. BASSICH: We're having our meeting  
14 in a couple of weeks, so it will be decided in a couple  
15 of weeks whether we'll be sending someone. We have in  
16 the past on the Chinook salmon issue, but.....  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So it  
19 could be anybody on that Panel?  
20  
21 MR. BASSICH: Yes.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not  
24 specifically anyone from our area.  
25  
26 MR. BASSICH: correct.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
29 right. So he would be the only one from our area,  
30 right?  
31  
32 MR. BASSICH: Correct.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Most likely.  
35 Yeah. Okay. All right. Anything else, guys.  
36  
37 MR. GLANZ: So basically we're just  
38 going to let Don do what he feels is best for our  
39 board, is that what the thing is, Madame Chair?  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Unless  
42 you guys have something specific.  
43  
44 MR. GLANZ: Sounds good to me. No,  
45 that sounds good. I agree with Andy there on that.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.  
48 Okay. All right. What's next. So the next one is OSM  
49 again with the Gulf of Alaska, there's a report.  
50 Briefing.

1 DR. WHEELER: Again, Madame Chair, I'd  
2 just refer you to the briefing document in the book.  
3 It's on Page 42, and it's more of a status update, just  
4 to keep this Council in the loop. So I don't need to  
5 say anything more than that.

6  
7 Madame Chair.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10  
11 DR. WHEELER: And just to let you know,  
12 I just called Randy Brown, and he'll be down here  
13 shortly, so he will be coming -- he's up on the agenda  
14 here in fairly short order so he's on his way down  
15 here, so he should be here in 10 or 15 minutes.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Great.  
18 Oh, yeah, there's this other one that's in our green  
19 folder, right. Final Council motion for Chinook salmon  
20 bycatch.

21  
22 MS. MUSHOVIC: It's more current than  
23 what's in the meeting book. It was just after the  
24 books went to print.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That  
27 was in your green folders, other information there.

28  
29 DR. WHEELER: Madame Chair. This  
30 Council asks for information. These books, you know,  
31 contain as much information as we can possibly throw at  
32 you, but in the interest of being respectful of your  
33 time, sometimes we have written briefings or  
34 informational briefings versus oral briefings, or  
35 sometimes oral briefings backed up with written  
36 briefings, but in the instance of Gulf of Alaska, those  
37 are both written briefings. But that's why we had the  
38 North Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff here  
39 earlier so that if you had specific questions regarding  
40 their process, they could speak to it. But I'm not  
41 prepared to speak to the briefing specifically.

42  
43 Madame Chair.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
46 right. It does get a little cumbersome with these  
47 papers flying at you all the time, to keep track of  
48 everything.

49  
50 DR. WHEELER: We try to keep -- you

1 know, our books go to print about a month before the  
2 meeting, so we do try and include as much material as  
3 possible in the books, recognizing that papers start  
4 flying during the meeting, and it gets a little  
5 cumbersome for you, and for keeping track of them back  
6 there, so I guess this would be a note to the public or  
7 the Staff behind me, that if they want -- the best way  
8 to get materials to the Regional Advisory Councils is  
9 to put them in the book rather than give you papers to  
10 be flying around at the meeting. So just as a reminder  
11 to people, that if they want materials in the book,  
12 that's our recommendation to get them in the book.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One of the  
15 things that actually helps me out, Polly and Staff, is  
16 a binder and then some hole punch so that I can put it  
17 in right where it belongs. I don't know if that's  
18 something that would work in the future. It would be  
19 really helpful, because then it's easier to find. You  
20 can just stick it in your open notebook and find it.  
21 So something to think about.

22

23 All right. So the next thing on the  
24 agenda is the Yukon River Panel December meeting  
25 report. Fred.

26

27 MR. BUE: Yeah. Thank you, Madame  
28 Chair.

29

30 I have to apologize on this one. I've  
31 been traveling for the last three weeks or so, and I  
32 wasn't sure exactly what it was. I just noticed my  
33 name next to the agenda item.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. BUE: I can speak some to it. And  
38 I guess for those not that familiar with a Panel  
39 meeting, a few people here have been actively involved.  
40 Andy Bassich is also a Panel member; Virgil and Andrew  
41 Firmin are also associated and work with the panel.  
42 And so they've been at the meetings, and they're pretty  
43 much up to date on the processes and things there.

44

45 I guess we had the meeting. We have a  
46 December meeting which kind of recaps how the season  
47 had gone as far as management. We also do some other  
48 administration and awarding, talking about funding  
49 projects and such. And that's pretty much road mapped  
50 in how we go about that process.

1                   But in the December meeting, I guess  
2 what I want to bring here is the sentiments of the  
3 Canadian fish people, their view on what they saw as  
4 far as U.S. management on the Yukon River. I think  
5 that was -- they brought quite a contingent of people  
6 over. Fishermen concerned about salmon at various  
7 levels of knowledge of how things work on the Alaska  
8 side. But I think the biggest thing that they thought  
9 in their mind was -- is that we haven't been doing a  
10 good enough job or doing enough to get fish across the  
11 border and doing our share was kind of the sentiments  
12 that I got. You know, we do stuff, but their average,  
13 you know, fishermen feel that we're not doing enough  
14 yet.

15  
16                   As far as management goes this past  
17 season, I think that for myself as a manager, it was a  
18 big question mark. We knew the runs were low, but we  
19 also had these high water events throughout the season.  
20 Initially as I explained at this fall RAC meeting, we  
21 had, you know, this late spring and maybe fishermen in  
22 the lower river didn't harvest very much off the first  
23 pulse fish, because it was too we of weather.

24  
25                   As we moved upriver, we had these high  
26 water events. They were pretty significant, and it  
27 wasn't just one high water event. It was three back to  
28 back, and so in some places the river, the debris never  
29 really let up between each one of those pulses.

30  
31                   And so as the fish -- our assessment  
32 firmed up that it was not a very good run and the fish  
33 moved upriver. You know, me as a manager, I was  
34 looking to see what sort of impact this high water has  
35 on the subsistence harvest, because we knew that we  
36 probably couldn't take a full subsistence harvest and  
37 get what we needed across the border. And so balancing  
38 subsistence fishing period reductions with what savings  
39 we were getting due to the high water and debris, that  
40 was what I was weighing in my mind.

41  
42                   I think our harvest this year, you as  
43 subsistence fishermen probably have a good idea also.  
44 I think it was less than the previous year, the last  
45 few years, even though we didn't take subsistence  
46 management actions to reduce fishing time, I think  
47 because of the high water I think our harvest was a  
48 little bit lower. Also because in our management  
49 action we asked people to voluntarily reduce their  
50 harvest.

1                   But I think Canada isn't that familiar  
2 with how things go on the Alaska side, and so they were  
3 pretty much stuck on that. Because we did not take an  
4 official action to reduce fishing time, they felt that  
5 we did not do much of anything of significance. And  
6 that's justifiable from their position. I know that  
7 they have reduced their harvest.

8  
9                   And so, yes, that was an action that we  
10 did do. We asked people to voluntarily reduce their  
11 harvest. We knew that there was fishing conditions we  
12 were working around. And to not pull a period or  
13 protect a pulse, that was a decision we, or me as  
14 manager, took.

15  
16                   Yesterday or the day before I guess we  
17 talked about that at the Western Interior RAC, and Jack  
18 Reakoff, the Chairman of RAC there polled his Council  
19 members on what they thought. Is asking somebody to --  
20 would they prefer a voluntary reduction versus pulling  
21 a fishing period. You know, those are things that as a  
22 manager would give us some idea or insight into what  
23 fishermen's wishes and preferences are.

24  
25                   And so it was -- listening here, we've  
26 heard a number of people say that they voluntarily  
27 reduced their harvest. At the Western Interior RAC  
28 they felt it was tough to be asked to voluntarily  
29 reduce your harvest knowing that maybe someone else  
30 isn't doing the same or similar manner, and so they  
31 were kind of -- it wasn't really clear, but I think  
32 they were favoring a management action that would put  
33 everybody on a similar footing.

34  
35                   And so I think as far as Canada goes,  
36 if we do a voluntary or some other measure and we're  
37 trying to mitigate the escapement passage into Canada,  
38 it's -- I don't know that they got a good message of  
39 just how much we've reduced our harvest, but I think we  
40 can do more, and as managers I guess the buck stops  
41 with us, and so we are going to have to do what we need  
42 to do.

43  
44                   This Council is free to talk about it,  
45 but we're also going to the YRDFA preseason meeting and  
46 we're going to discuss with the other users, not just  
47 the RACs, but the ACs and whoever shows up at the  
48 meeting. We're also communicating with people. And I  
49 think that was the whole -- this whole process is to  
50 ask people what their preferences are, what they think,

1 if they have ideas to bring to us as managers.

2

3                   And so I guess, although I didn't speak  
4 very much to the Panel, I think that's kind of the mood  
5 of the Canadian fishermen was concerned, we didn't do  
6 enough, and I think I need to relay that to this  
7 Council.

8

9                   Madam Chairman.

10

11                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions  
12 anyone?

13

14                   (No comments)

15

16                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It looks like  
17 you got off free.

18

19                   (Laughter)

20

21                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just one  
22 second. Okay. Yeah. Okay. Is Randy Brown here.

23

24                   DR. WHEELER: He's not here yet.  
25 Hopefully he won't get a speeding ticket driving down  
26 Airport Road.

27

28                   (Laughter)

29

30                   DR. WHEELER: Madame Chair. You might  
31 consider, since Randy's not yet here, you might  
32 consider -- I know Jason Hale is here for YRDFA, and he  
33 could speak under item F, so you might jump down to  
34 that while you're waiting for Randy.

35

36                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.  
37 That sounds like a plan. Jason. And then I've got  
38 Gene Sandone pencilled in there.

39

40                   MR. HALE: Madame Chair. Council.  
41 Love it when it sounds like a plan.

42

43                   (Laughter)

44

45                   MR. HALE: We'll see if it comes  
46 together. So I apologize for missing out on the  
47 morning when you guys started talking about this, but  
48 Galena's a lovely place to lay over if you guys ever  
49 find yourself there.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. HALE: Anyway, the summer or the  
4 preseason planning process. We've talked about this  
5 the last couple of years. This is the third time we're  
6 doing this. We do it a little bit differently every  
7 time. The purpose is always the same, and it's to  
8 discuss the upcoming king salmon run with fishermen and  
9 give fishermen a chance to talk about how they want to  
10 see the run managed given any conditions, and lately  
11 it's been, you know, pretty poor run outlooks. And  
12 also spread information, current information, whether  
13 it's science or policy related, or just what about the  
14 fishery. As long as you get a bunch of fishermen  
15 together, you might as well take advantage and kind of  
16 help everybody be as current as possible on what's  
17 going on with the fisheries. So those are the two big  
18 goals.

19

20 I want to mention from the onset that  
21 the funders, who we sure do appreciate, are the Yukon  
22 River Panel and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So  
23 they're the ones making this all possible. You guys  
24 know how expensive meetings are, so they're definitely  
25 taking a big investment into making sure the fishermen  
26 have a voice in their fishery.

27

28 This year's structure, which again is  
29 different than it's been, it's a little different every  
30 year. We try and improve it every year. It's a pretty  
31 long process. We started talking about it, and that's  
32 the fisheries managers, State and Federal fisheries  
33 managers as well as YRDFA, a the YRDFA annual meeting a  
34 couple of weeks ago in Mountain Village, just getting  
35 initial ideas, initial reactions, because that was the  
36 first big fish meeting of the, you know, meeting season  
37 of this time of year. And then we are now going to the  
38 RACs, the three RACs that work on the Yukon, and, you  
39 know, of course, Fred and Steve earlier today presented  
40 you with the flier and the information, the rebuilding  
41 ideas, and, you know, general run outlook. And, you  
42 know, we're just looking for general input and also  
43 kind of getting people thinking about it, and chewing  
44 on the ideas for this coming year.

45

46 And then as of I guess Friday we sent  
47 out a big mailer to every tribal council in the Alaska  
48 portion of the Yukon River drainage, that's 47 tribal  
49 councils.

50

1                   And the idea was we have this meeting  
2 in April, a big riverwide meetings, and we invite every  
3 tribe to come, and we sure do try to get every tribe to  
4 come. And, you know, we've realized, gosh, it would be  
5 real nice if they could talk about it before hand, you  
6 know, if the tribal councils would have a chance to  
7 meet if they so chose and talk about some of the big  
8 issues, and say, well, here's what we want to do, so  
9 when people show up, they can feel real good about  
10 raising their hand and saying, you know, let's  
11 definitely do this, or let's definitely not do that.

12  
13                   So we sent out a mailer and it was  
14 pretty --- hopefully cut to the chase pretty quickly.  
15 It was just a basic invitation letter that talked about  
16 the issues and the run. There was the flyer that was  
17 presented to you guys earlier today.

18  
19                   There were four questions that we've  
20 asked the tribes to talk about, and I'd like to read  
21 those four questions out to you now, just so you know  
22 what we're asking them to look at. And they're not  
23 exceedingly detailed, but we want to at least get a  
24 good starting point, and that's what these questions  
25 are aimed at doing.

26  
27                   So the four questions we've asked them  
28 to consider, and we'll be calling them to check up and  
29 see if we can provide any more information, but the  
30 four questions are: No. 1, does your tribe support  
31 cutting back subsistence harvests to get enough king  
32 salmon to the spawning grounds in years of poor salmon  
33 returns? No. 2, does your tribe support pulling or  
34 canceling subsistence fishing periods on the first or  
35 second pulse of king salmon as a way to get enough king  
36 salmon to the spawning grounds? No. 3, how does your  
37 tribe feel about using voluntary harvest reductions to  
38 get enough king salmon to the spawning grounds? And,  
39 No. 4, does your tribe support the use of different  
40 king salmon management tools or approaches in different  
41 parts of the river?

42  
43                   So four pretty basic questions. And,  
44 of course, we go into a lot more detail at the meeting  
45 than that, but these are some of the over-arching  
46 themes so if folks have ideas on that, then it kind of  
47 helps move things along a little bit.

48  
49                   And then lastly we sent everybody a  
50 nice, cute little invitation. I told the Western

1 Interior RAC that I've been getting just a ton of  
2 wedding invitations. I don't know why all my friends  
3 are getting married this year, but they are.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. HALE: And so I keep getting these  
8 things in the mail, and I say, well, darn, we're having  
9 a meeting, we should send out wedding invitations.  
10 That will be fun. And everybody thought I was joking,  
11 but, you know, I went out, at Office Depot you can pick  
12 them up real cheap, so anyway we sent everybody a nice  
13 little invitation, we invite you to come to the  
14 meeting, and we'll pay for you to come on out. And,  
15 you know, every tribe, and said, pick a representative,  
16 and give us a call. And we included in a nice little  
17 RSVP card, you know, it had a little stamp on it, and a  
18 little thing where they could check and say, here's who  
19 I want to send. And, you know, that kind of thing.  
20 And here's their phone number. And so anyway,  
21 hopefully they'll reply, and, you know, it's like  
22 having a party, which, you know, everybody likes a  
23 party.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. HALE: Anyway, so that's what we've  
28 done. And we're going to follow it up with a mess of  
29 phone calls and like that. And last year we had 50  
30 percent of the tribes, and it was the first year we had  
31 invited all the tribes, so it was a good start, but it  
32 wasn't good enough. So this year we're shooting for  
33 75. Heck, I'd love to see more, but we're going to  
34 work real hard to get as many as are available to come.

35

36 Which leads me to, what are we shooting  
37 for. Actually we're going to talk about this issue  
38 with the Panel first. You know, we're talking YRDFA,  
39 the RACs, the Yukon River Panel, because they're having  
40 a big fish meeting as well before April.

41

42 Then hit April, we're going to have  
43 this big meeting. We're inviting all these tribes.  
44 Every single tribe. We're inviting a representative  
45 from every RAC, and so we'd appreciate it if you guys  
46 would pick somebody to come and join us and speak on  
47 behalf of the RAC. We're also inviting the primary  
48 panel members on the Alaska side. We're inviting all  
49 the processors. We're inviting the Inter-Tribal  
50 Consortiums. We'll have a couple representatives from

1 YRDFA. And, of course, we'll fortunately have quite a  
2 bit of agency support again. We've been working  
3 through this whole thing every step of the way with the  
4 State and Federal fishery managers to be sure that, you  
5 know, it's structured in a way that can give valuable  
6 input. So they'll be there as well.

7  
8 And the meeting will be on the 13th of  
9 April. It's going to be in Anchorage, so we got a lot  
10 of feedback that said that was the only place people  
11 felt like was a neutral ground. And I know we had  
12 talked about having it in Fairbanks this year, and some  
13 people said, gosh, I don't know if I can travel. You  
14 know, we're going to be able to provide money for one  
15 person from every tribe as well as well as for the  
16 Panel people, as well as for the processors, as well as  
17 for the Inter-Tribal groups, and for the YRDFA folks as  
18 well.

19  
20 So it's not a -- YRDFA's coordinating  
21 it, I want to be clear on this. It's not a YRDFA  
22 meeting. If you're not in YRDFA, that doesn't mean  
23 you're not invited into the room. If you've never been  
24 to a YRDFA meeting, that's just fine. It's for  
25 everybody. It's for all the stakeholders and all the  
26 tribes, everybody. So we just happen to be the ones  
27 making the plane reservations and trying to get  
28 everything together to give everybody a voice. Just so  
29 that's clear.

30  
31 Anyway, so it will be on the 13th. We  
32 asked everybody last year, hey, we've done this twice,  
33 do we need to do it a third time? We know the runs  
34 aren't better, but do we need to keep doing this, or do  
35 you see value in it? And was everybody in the room  
36 voted on paper and said, yes, absolutely do it. Do it  
37 pretty darn similar to last year. Have a big meeting.  
38 We need to see each other in person and talk about it.  
39 So as long as we can get funding, and as long as people  
40 keep saying that, we're going to keep trying to do it.

41  
42 And also, lastly on that meeting, I  
43 mentioned that part of this is trying to get  
44 information back out to the people at the meeting on  
45 issues that they're interested in. And we've talked  
46 about different things, like maybe trying to have  
47 somebody from Canada explain how things work over there  
48 with the management. But we have session slots open  
49 up, so if there's something you guys think people would  
50 be interested in learning about or talking about,

1 please get with me now or later and let me know so as  
2 we plan out these informational sessions, we can make  
3 sure they really fit the bill. So just another  
4 request, so please select somebody send if you don't  
5 mind, if you'd like to do that, and also if you have  
6 any ideas on informational sessions, I'd love to have  
7 them.

8

9                   The last two little parts of this  
10 pretty long process, No. 1 is we're looking at having  
11 -- we've never done this before, but having regional  
12 meetings after this big in-person meeting. So the in-  
13 person meeting will happen, then the managers will set  
14 the preseason plan in stone. And then we're looking at  
15 having a meeting -- it's looking like they'll all be in  
16 May, and it's it would be in St. Mary's for the lower  
17 river, more or less Y1 and Y2. In the middle river  
18 we've been talking a lot about Nulato. And in the  
19 upper river we've been talking about Fort Yukon. So we  
20 need to approach those communities and make sure that  
21 they welcome us in. And we would have resources to fly  
22 people in from each region. We're not really sure  
23 exactly how many people yet, two, three, four people  
24 from each village, and just have a big one-day  
25 informational meeting. Here's the plan, present the  
26 plan. Please take it back and let people know. Here's  
27 some other information. Now hit us with the questions.  
28 So just so you know, that's something that's coming up.  
29 We've gotten a lot of feedback that we need more  
30 grassroots stuff going on just before the season. So  
31 that's why we're looking at May, just before the fish  
32 return.

33

34                   And then lastly we're looking at doing  
35 some sort of promotion of the plan. In the past we've  
36 done mailers, we've waterproof cards to every fishing  
37 household. We've taken out ads in newspapers. We've  
38 put stuff in our newsletter. We've had  
39 teleconferences. You know, we'll be trying another  
40 shotgun approach and try to reach as many people as we  
41 can.

42

43                   And that's pretty much the preseason  
44 plan outline for you. I'd be happy to take any  
45 questions or chat further if you have anything.

46

47                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The wedding  
48 invitation thing makes me think about all the meetings.  
49 If we were invited in that manner, we probably couldn't  
50 attend them all.

1                   Okay. Questions. Andy.  
2  
3                   MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Jason, I was  
4 wondering what kind of present do we need to bring to  
5 the wedding?  
6  
7                   (Laughter)  
8  
9                   MR. HALE: Wisdom.  
10  
11                  MR. BASSICH: Out of luck.  
12  
13                  (Laughter)  
14  
15                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Running out  
16 of wisdom?  
17  
18                  MR. BASSICH: Yeah.  
19  
20                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
21 What was the date of that meeting?  
22  
23                  MR. HALE: April 13th.  
24  
25                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we  
26 need -- we have three people from our RAC that's on the  
27 YRDFA Pan -- or, no, wait a minute.  
28  
29                  MR. BASSICH: I'll be there as a Panel  
30 member.  
31  
32                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You'll be  
33 there. Okay. So one of you will be there. That would  
34 be Andy Bassich. Are you going to be there?  
35  
36                  MR. FIRMIN: I believe I'll be there as  
37 an alternate board member. Is that correct, Jason?  
38  
39                  MR. HALE: Well, the whole YRDFA board  
40 doesn't come in for this thing, because we're trying to  
41 delineate it's not a YRDFA process; it's a riverwide,  
42 everybody process. And YRDFA's riverwide, but, you  
43 know, it doesn't have every tribe and everything, so  
44 CATG might very well send you. And I think they did  
45 last year, right? So, you know, we'd certainly be  
46 calling CATG and talking to them and inviting you guys  
47 and, you know, since you represented them last year,  
48 that would be how I might see you being there.  
49  
50                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

1 So would you be looking for somebody else to represent  
2 our RAC?

3

4 MR. HALE: That is entirely up to you.  
5 If you feel like the other people -- I mean, Virgil as  
6 a processor will certainly be invited, and we'll pay  
7 his way down, too. So if he's available, you know,  
8 we'd love to have him in the room as well, of course.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like these  
11 kind of weddings, they pay your way to them.

12

13 MR. HALE: Isn't that nice? That  
14 worked out well.

15

16 (Laughter.)

17

18 MR. HALE: Sure. And you don't even  
19 have to dress up.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we can all  
22 go.

23

24 MR. HALE: Yeah, everybody goes. Yeah.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're going  
27 to pay all our way there?

28

29 MR. HALE: Uh-huh. Yeah. We'll have a  
30 chocolate fountain. It will be great.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now I know  
35 you're not going to pay my way.

36

37 All right. Council members. Do you  
38 want to add another person that's directly there as a  
39 representative from the Council, and who would be  
40 interested. Are you meeting'd out? I mean, wedding'd  
41 out?

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because it is  
46 nice to have -- now, now many of you go to these, or  
47 are at these YRDFA meetings anyway? Lester, Frank, are  
48 you guys? Yeah. Uh-huh. Don is, too, yeah. Larry,  
49 are you also?

50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: No.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You don't.  
4 Uh-huh. Well, do we have a representative. Frank, you  
5 don't have to bring.....  
6  
7 MR. ERHART: He's late, I think he  
8 should go.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You just have  
11 to bring wisdom.  
12  
13 (Laughter)  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you have  
16 plenty of wisdom. Would you like to go to that meeting  
17 for us? Would you go to that meeting April 13th? The  
18 answer is by body English only. Language. There's a  
19 discussion going on here without turning on the mics.  
20 This is part of the culture, come on. I'm hearing a  
21 lot of -- or the body language is.....  
22  
23 MR. GLANZ: Virgil had his hand up.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.  
26 Virgil.  
27  
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I won't be going  
29 to that meeting, period, because I will be out grizzly  
30 bear hunting. So I'm not going. And so maybe -- are  
31 you going to go, Lester?  
32  
33 MR. ERHART: I don't know.  
34  
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I think Lester  
36 should go myself to represent the RAC.  
37  
38 (Laughter)  
39  
40 MR. BASSICH: Come on now, Virgil.  
41  
42 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you go,  
45 Lester?  
46  
47 MR. ERHART: Yeah, I'll go.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
50 we'd like you to go as our representative. And I don't

1 hear any objection. So thank you. There's the wisdom  
2 coming your way, your gift is Lester.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

7 Do we have anything else. Okay.

8

9 MR. HALE: Yeah. Just two more really.

10 Just while I'm up here, two more really quick updates.

11

12

13 And I think most of you guys are very,  
14 very familiar with our in-season teleconference  
15 program. We do it June through August, every Tuesday,  
16 1:00 p.m. Alaska time. Toll-free number, call in.  
17 Fishing reports. Hear management updates and ask  
18 questions and chat about how the run should be managed.  
19 We're going to be starting that up again this year, of  
20 course. It will be starting the first Tuesday of June.  
21 I think that's June 7th, but I'm not sure, but the  
22 first Tuesday in June regardless, and going through  
23 August. So just so you're aware, that will be coming  
24 again. And we'll be sending out promotional materials  
25 like always. I think at most point, most people  
26 actually have the phone number, and so just in case you  
27 miss everything else, we'll be cranking up that first  
28 Tuesday of June. So hope to hear you.

29

30 And lastly, YRDFA just published a book  
31 we're pretty excited about. It's called When Will the  
32 Salmon Come. It's a kids book. Our anthropologist for  
33 several years now has been, at the request of elders in  
34 kind of the middle/lower river, collecting traditional  
35 ecological knowledge, signs that people look at,  
36 natural indicators that people look at to tell them  
37 when the salmon are going to come back and how abundant  
38 they'll be, and what kind of quality they might be  
39 looking at. And the elders asked YRDFA, make sure that  
40 this information gets recorded, shown to youth, and  
41 passed along to future generations.

42

43 And the best way we could come up with  
44 making sure that happened was to make a kids book with  
45 nice illustrations that listed off all of these  
46 indicators that people look for in different  
47 categories. And there's all sorts of things like wind,  
48 and birds, and, that's kind of fun, insects, and that  
49 sort of thing with really nice custom illustrations  
50 that we had an artist do. And I just wanted to make

1 you aware.

2

3                   So it's being shipped out to every  
4 tribal council, every school, every city office as well  
5 as all the elders that participated and all sorts of  
6 other folks. When we were in Mountain Village, the  
7 local school district ordered another 200, because they  
8 wanted it in the hands of every single kid out there.  
9 There's a tool kit that's associated with it for  
10 teachers to do activities. And so there will be at  
11 least a tool kit for every school district, and we're  
12 working on trying to figure out funding to have a tool  
13 kit, kind of a more basic tool kit, because they are a  
14 little spendy, for every single school. We're trying  
15 to get funding for that.

16

17                   But anyway the idea is, you know, this  
18 is traditional ecological knowledge. Even the agencies  
19 are looking at some of this stuff as a way to help, you  
20 know, bolster their run predictions. And it shouldn't  
21 be lost, and so we're doing our best to help it not be  
22 lost. Anyway, so I just want to make you aware that  
23 it's out there. And I handed it out to few folks  
24 already, but if you're interested, get with me later,  
25 please.

26

27                   And that's pretty much it. Thanks very  
28 much.

29

30                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Great  
31 presentation.

32

33                   Okay. I just wanted -- I found out  
34 that Randy Brown has arrived. I think we need to take  
35 you next. We've been waiting for you, and then we'll  
36 take you, Gene.

37

38                   MR. BROWN: Chair and members of the  
39 Council. Thanks for having me today.

40

41                   I was asked a couple of months ago if I  
42 would come and give update on some of the sheefish work  
43 we've been doing in the drainage. And so I guess what  
44 I have to offer is kind of a summary of a number of  
45 different projects that we've been doing over the last  
46 15 years or so. And some of it involves radio  
47 telemetry; some actual sampling on spawning grounds.

48

49                   So I guess the best way to put it is  
50 sheefish populations spawn in upper drainage gravel

1 bottom reaches of big rivers. And we know about six  
2 populations in the Yukon drainage. And they occur in  
3 the Upper Koyukuk River, in the Alatna River drainage,  
4 in the Yukon Flats just upstream from the Porcupine  
5 River between Fort Yukon and Circle, in the Tanana  
6 River right out here in front of Fairbanks, between the  
7 mouth of the Chena and the mouth of the Salcha are  
8 really braided regions of these big rivers. And then  
9 there's a few smaller populations, one in the Upper  
10 Nowitna River in a little -- it's kind of an odd one,  
11 because it's a smaller stream, Slukna River. And then  
12 there's a small population in the Chatenega River where  
13 a spearfishery for humpback whitefish and least cisco  
14 takes place. And we found another one that we think is  
15 a spawning area in the Upper Innoko River this last  
16 year, and we're still investigating that one.

17  
18 But there are also a couple of  
19 populations, one in the Porcupine River that actually  
20 go -- they migrate somewhere up into Canada to spawn,  
21 and maybe several in the Yukon River upstream from the  
22 U.S./Canada border. And those two populations don't  
23 appear to go all the way down to the ocean, but all of  
24 the populations that spawn in the Alaska portion appear  
25 to -- at least many of the individuals within those  
26 populations go down and rear in the ocean at the mouth  
27 of the Yukon.

28  
29 And so all of the fish that we catch  
30 from the mouth all the way up into the Yukon Flats and  
31 the Upper Koyukuk and Upper Tanana -- well, they don't  
32 go in the Upper Tanana, but up to about here in the  
33 Tanana, all of these fish rear down in marine waters  
34 and migrate up. So we're all fishing off of the same  
35 very few populations in the Yukon drainage.

36  
37 The way we studied them was to actually  
38 catch fish in various places in the drainage. The most  
39 recent study was down in the Innoko River, which is a  
40 huge flat water system, very slow moving, deep  
41 channels, lots of connected lakes. They go in there to  
42 feed. And we went down over three different years.  
43 This was a project funded by the Office of Subsistence  
44 Management, and John Burr and myself were the primary  
45 leads on this project. But over three different years  
46 we captured adult-sized fish and put radios in them and  
47 then we have some radio stations in various places  
48 along the drainage.

49  
50 And we found that most of the fish

1 migrate up into the Yukon Flats between Fort Yukon and  
2 Circle to spawn. And we think that's the biggest  
3 population in the whole drainage. A smaller, but still  
4 large portion go up into the Alatna. So we think  
5 that's the second largest population. And then there's  
6 a substantial number that, not of our radio-tagged  
7 fish, but there's a substantial number of sheefish here  
8 in the Tanana. And so we think those are the biggest  
9 contributors to the drainage-wide group of sheefish.

10

11           One of the reasons we wanted to find  
12 the spawning areas is so that -- because they're in big  
13 rivers, and we really didn't -- weren't able to find  
14 them until we had radio telemetry to actually lead us  
15 to them, so we know they spawn in the fall, late  
16 September/October. So we radio-tagged them and then  
17 tracked them to where they went, concentration areas at  
18 that time of year, and then went back in and sampled to  
19 verify that there were spawning fish there. That's  
20 kind of the process for these fish that spawn in big  
21 rivers.

22

23           And once we found them there, then, you  
24 know, we could do things like find out how old they  
25 need to be before they spawn, and various things like  
26 that.

27

28           I don't know, maybe I should pause here  
29 for minute if anybody's got some questions so far.  
30 Yeah. Frank.

31

32           MR. GURTLER: Yeah, I'm Frank Gurtler  
33 from Manley Hot Springs. I was just wondering, do you  
34 have any idea of what those sheefish are eating?

35

36           MR. BROWN: Okay. Your question is  
37 what they eat, and there have been quite a number of --  
38 so we haven't done feeding studies ourselves, but  
39 there's a lot of people that have. And when they're  
40 really tiny, they eat insect larvae and various other  
41 things. But once they get to be large at all, they  
42 pretty much eat all fish. There's a few that will eat  
43 -- a few that we've looked at in the marine system, and  
44 they eat these large shrimp type invertebrates, but  
45 it's almost always just fish. And it can be, you know,  
46 small grayling or small salmon or small juvenile  
47 whitefish of various sorts, burbot, small pike. All of  
48 those have been found in sheefish stomachs.

49

50           MR. GURTLER: Yeah. Well, what I was

1 wondering was, I think they're having a big -- they eat  
2 a lot of our coho salmon I think. And I think that's  
3 where all those fish like the burbot and all that are  
4 eating a lot of our king salmon that are going up the  
5 river. Because I noticed in a burbot that you get one  
6 about that big around all the time with a whole bunch  
7 of those little fingerling fish in it, but I don't know  
8 what type they were. And I think we asked, had them do  
9 a study, going to do a study on that, on what they eat.  
10 And I kind of think we have a culprit in here that has  
11 more to do with it than the human beings myself,  
12 because I think they're getting more sheefish and more  
13 burbot and more pike, and they all eat the same little  
14 fish.

15

16 MR. BROWN: So one of the strategies of  
17 the juvenile fish, which are food for a whole raft of  
18 different predators, avian predators and other fish  
19 predators and things, is when they migrate, they  
20 usually migrate in big groups, they call it predator  
21 swamping, so that the predators, you know, for a brief  
22 period of time, there's lots and lots of juveniles  
23 going by and they're eating like crazy, but it may last  
24 for three days or a week, and then they're gone. And  
25 on a percentage basis, they get a very small percentage  
26 of all the juveniles that leave, but it's a system  
27 that's been going on forever.

28

29 And I think the question you're asking,  
30 which is, you know, are they creating a substantial  
31 decline in the populations because of how many they're  
32 eating, that would be a very, very tough thing to  
33 actually figure out, if it's more than normal, or what.  
34 But they certainly do eat anything that's available.  
35 So do the pike, so do the burbot, like you say.

36

37 And it doesn't end in fresh water. It  
38 happens when they go to sea, too.

39

40 I don't know what the answer would be  
41 if they were having a substantial impact on them,  
42 whether -- you know. I mean, because all these fish  
43 populations go up and down, and they vary from one year  
44 to the next. So, you know, they may be pretty abundant  
45 now and having an impact, and in a few years they  
46 wouldn't be. I don't know. But it would be a hard  
47 thing to address if it were thought to be a problem.

48

49 MR. GURTLE: Yeah, I think one of the  
50 things we asked last year was about how many burbot in

1 the Yukon River. And they kind of told me that they're  
2 all up and down the whole river. So they're eating  
3 these little fish all the way up and down the whole  
4 Yukon River. So I think we have a problem, it it's --  
5 and do a study sooner than later.

6

7 MR. BROWN: Well, burbot is not a  
8 species that I've been studying, and I do know they're  
9 all up and down the river, but I have absolutely no  
10 idea how many there are. In any case.

11

12 Are there any more questions about  
13 sheefish. Yeah, Joe.

14

15 MR. MATESI: Thank you. A lot of us  
16 found it very interesting when the research was done on  
17 the Yukon Flats prior to the proposals on the Yukon  
18 Flats land exchange. We found out from that how  
19 elevated the mercury levels were in pike, older, larger  
20 pike, being at the top of the food chain. And so the  
21 question arises, another large top of the food chain  
22 predator is the sheefish, and what's the situation with  
23 lead in sheefish? I'm sorry, where I said lead, read  
24 mercury, okay? I'm talking about mercury. I realize  
25 these fish are not drinking out of lead pipes.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. MATESI: But the question of  
30 mercury contamination in pike and now what's the  
31 potential -- is anybody looking at tissue samples on  
32 the large adult sheefish, analyzing for mercury?

33

34 MR. BROWN: Well, there have been a few  
35 studies that were done back in the 90s I believe. And  
36 what they did is they went into the Koyukuk and the  
37 Nowitna and the Innoko River drainages anyway, and they  
38 sampled a number of different fish, but we're talking  
39 sample sizes of three or six fish, three or six  
40 sheefish. And they did some sort of a contaminants  
41 thing, but it's more just they blast out the records,  
42 because, you know, all of these metals and contaminants  
43 are present in everything in some concentration. And a  
44 lot of it is environmental, so they're gaining it  
45 through just the geology of the region. And the older  
46 these fish get, you're right, there's a bio-  
47 accumulation factor for some of the metals. And so  
48 they get higher levels with age. But, you know, it's a  
49 complicated thing to figure out, are they too  
50 contaminated or not.

1                   And I think that study with the pike  
2 you're talking about, what they decided to do since  
3 it's such a huge subsistence food, they went around to  
4 these areas where people were harvesting large amounts  
5 of them to find out if there were any populations that  
6 had high enough levels that there would be a concern if  
7 somebody were eating them every day. For example, with  
8 somebody who was pregnant or something like that.

9  
10                   And so I don't really know that there's  
11 any current projects going on right now sampling for  
12 mercury contamination or anything in the Yukon drainage  
13 with sheefish.

14  
15                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, did  
16 you have one.

17  
18                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes. Thank you. Okay.  
19 How old are they when they spawn?

20  
21                   MR. ERHART: That's what I want to  
22 know.

23  
24                   MR. BROWN: Okay. Now we get down to  
25 the meat of it. So we've looked at a number of  
26 populations where we actually go to the spawning  
27 grounds and we capture fish that are spawning, and we  
28 age them. And sheefish have to be killed to age them,  
29 because the scales -- see, when they -- just shortly  
30 after maturity, they stop growing rapidly, and their  
31 scales stop reflecting annual periods of growth, but  
32 their otoliths, their ear bones.....

33  
34                   (Ringing on telephone)

35  
36                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you  
37 telling the truth?

38  
39                   (Laughter)

40  
41                   MR. BROWN: That was like a tuning  
42 fork.

43  
44                   (Laughter)

45  
46                   MR. BROWN: Their ear bones, the  
47 otoliths, continue growing, and they're made out of a  
48 material similar to a sea shell, calcium carbonate.  
49 And so by taking those and slicing them, you can  
50 actually read the growth increments. And we've had

1 sheefish as old as 42 for out in the Selawik River  
2 drainage. In the Yukon the oldest we've got is about  
3 28. And they become mature, the youngest mature fish  
4 are around seven or eight years old. So that's how  
5 long they have to be living and moving around in the  
6 drainage before they're ready to spawn the first time.

7  
8 And then our radio telemetry data  
9 indicates that very few of the fish in the Yukon will  
10 spawn two years in a row. there have been a few, but  
11 not very many. And most of them, it will be every two  
12 years or every three years that they spawn. So these  
13 fish in the Yukon Flats, which are the ones we've  
14 studied most, they will spawn in early October, and  
15 then migrate all the way back down to the coast and  
16 spend the winter, and then move back into the river  
17 again and feed in the lower drainage mostly, the  
18 Archuelinguk and the Innoko drainage. And whenever  
19 they're ready to spawn again, they migrate all the way  
20 back up into the Flats and do it and then back down.

21  
22 We had a project that was going on  
23 recently. A fellow from BLM, Dave Essey, was up in the  
24 Slukna River, so it's a much smaller system, and he  
25 used a DIDSON sonar, where you can actually see -- if  
26 it's close enough, if it's you and me, Virgil, you can  
27 see how big that fish is in the sonar. And so there  
28 were humpback whitefish, and round whitefish, and  
29 grayling, and suckers all up in the spawning area. But  
30 they were all much smaller than the sheefish, so he was  
31 able to count all the sheefish leaving the spawning  
32 area in early October. And that population, the  
33 youngest one was six, which is the youngest we've ever  
34 found in a spawning population, and he had the oldest  
35 as about 28. And there was 2,000 to about 3,500 --  
36 2,000 one year and about 3500 spawning fish the next  
37 year in that group.

38  
39 So those are the two populations we've  
40 studied most in the Yukon.

41  
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Have you noticed any  
43 difference in the size of the different populations?  
44 When I say the size, I mean the physical size of the  
45 fish, you know, 10 pounds, 20 pounds?

46  
47 MR. BROWN: So in the Yukon, again  
48 we've got two populations we've studied in depth enough  
49 to say that. The Yukon population, which migrate down  
50 to the sea to rear and to feed, and migrate up into the

1 Flats. So that's about a thousand-mile journey for  
2 them. And the Slukna, which is about an 8 or 900-mile  
3 journey. Those two, we can't tell the difference in  
4 size. And we're dealing with length right now, not so  
5 much weight. But they are the same size.

6  
7 When you get up to the Eagle area and  
8 the upper Porcupine, those fish are smaller. You know,  
9 we did a study on those fish, looking to see if they  
10 went to sea, and none of them appear to go to the sea.  
11 We know that the ones in the Porcupine go up into  
12 Canada somewhere and spawn. The ones up in the Eagle  
13 area, Circle and -- well, up upstream of Circle, in the  
14 Eagle area, I don't know where they go or what their  
15 migration patterns are. We haven't studied that at  
16 all. But they are smaller. So those ones don't go to  
17 sea, and they're quite a bit smaller in size, which is  
18 consistent with our understanding of, you know, the  
19 benefits of going to sea with more food and everything.

20  
21 Usually we relate age and size  
22 together, but they will be, you know, 25 years old and  
23 be the size of the very first spawning fish in the  
24 Yukon Flats population that does go to sea. So they're  
25 considerably smaller. I mean, if you'd just caught a  
26 fish, you wouldn't know, because you don't know how old  
27 it is, and you don't know whether it's mature or not.  
28 But when you look at those fish and their size at age,  
29 at maturity, and the anadromous population is the ones  
30 that are going to sea. The ones that do go to sea get  
31 a lot bigger.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want  
34 to follow up and I see another hand.

35  
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So you haven't  
37 really looked at the size of the ones here in the  
38 Tanana River then?

39  
40 MR. BROWN: That's right. I mean, we  
41 have a few measurements, but we don't have a large  
42 enough sample to say -- and we haven't sampled off of  
43 the spawning grounds. This was actually a recent  
44 project that was conducted by Andy Gryska of Fish and  
45 Game, who led a tagging operation where about 35  
46 sheefish were tagged in the Tanana. And they weren't  
47 -- we didn't know where they would spawn. We knew  
48 there were spawning fish that went through some of the  
49 fishwheels down in Nenana, but that was all we knew.  
50 And what we found was the spawning fish out of those --

1 we didn't tag them during spawning season, so we didn't  
2 know whether they were going to spawn that year or not.  
3 Well, the ones that did, I think there were 12 of the  
4 35 or so that got tagged that spawned in the Tanana  
5 River, and they went upstream and we found them between  
6 here and Eielson in the braids of the Tanana, and went  
7 out with an electro-shocker boat and caught a few of  
8 them to verify that they were spawning in there.

9  
10 And so we don't have spawning site  
11 samples from those fish. All those were released. We  
12 got some lengths on the ones we tagged, but we don't  
13 know how big that population is. There's a lot of  
14 things we don't know, so we're reluctant to kill a  
15 bunch of fish or try to catch them in that way, catch a  
16 lot of them in that way, because we could hurt them.  
17 So, no. And we haven't -- we have a few isolated.....

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A long  
20 answer.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's okay.  
25 We have a question over here. I mean, you got your  
26 question answered, right?

27  
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmative)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
31 ahead.

32  
33 MR. MATESI: We do find your commentary  
34 fascinating, I have tell you, Randy.

35  
36 Yeah, sheefish are a very highly prized  
37 subsistence resource, at least I know in Black River  
38 and Porcupine River, I'm sure, and other parts of the  
39 drainage. I don't know about anybody else, but there  
40 is a level of concern in my mind about possible mercury  
41 contamination in large sheefish, especially hearing now  
42 the age that they grow to. I remember on the pike,  
43 once they get to about 35 years old, they're off the  
44 end of the chart as far as mercury content, methyl and  
45 methyl mercury -- mercury and methyl mercury. You  
46 wouldn't want to eat them. I guess we don't know about  
47 the sheefish, so what would it take to initiate some  
48 research in this area?

49  
50 And I guess I also have a question for

1 the Chair. Is this kind of thing that I need to make a  
2 motion to request a study done by and then open it up  
3 for discussion?

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we have  
6 the -- Polly can probably answer that better than I.  
7 We have all these on-going studies. Go ahead, Polly.

8  
9 DR. WHEELER: Well, a couple things.  
10 The Office of Subsistence Management has what's a  
11 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and we fund  
12 fisheries projects that provide information to the  
13 Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal managers to  
14 manage these fisheries. And that we're actually in the  
15 process now where we had a request for proposals. were  
16 submitted. The Technical Review Committee will be  
17 reviewing the proposals the week after next, and then  
18 they'll go to the investigation plan stage. And at  
19 your fall meeting you'll have an opportunity to get an  
20 update -- or a briefing on the proposals or the  
21 projects that are being recommended for funding.

22  
23 As part of the Fisheries Resource  
24 Monitoring Program, we funded a whitefish strategic  
25 planning effort. Randy was one of the co-PIs on that  
26 effort, and that identified key information needs to  
27 sort of direct whitefish research over the course of  
28 the next -- at least probably the next decade if not  
29 longer.

30  
31 And I'm not aware of contaminants work  
32 or projects for contaminants work, I think because we  
33 know so little about these species, a lot of it's  
34 directed at baseline harvest monitoring and sort of  
35 life history type work.

36  
37 But having said all that, the next call  
38 for proposals will be two years from now. That will be  
39 an opportunity for this Council to weigh in on key  
40 information needs. And so if that was a study that  
41 this Council wanted to see, that would be a potential  
42 -- that would be the way to get that in the mill for  
43 project consideration. But we then put a call for  
44 proposals out and we respond to what comes back, and we  
45 don't always have control over what comes back.

46  
47 Madame Chair, if that helped.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, when I  
50 first got on this Council, that's a really tough one to

1 understand. It's very involved, just like a lot of  
2 these issues, so if I could ask Polly or somebody to  
3 help you to understand the process on how that is done,  
4 but right now the call for what's coming out is over.  
5 It would be a new call that this would come under, for  
6 him, that study.

7

8 DR. WHEELER: That's correct. And I'll  
9 be happy to explain this probably in greater detail  
10 than you care for off to the side.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Right.  
13 Okay.

14

15 MR. MATESI: May I say something.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Uh-huh.

18

19 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21 Yes, we've talked already in this  
22 meeting about the long, lengthy process to get anything  
23 done through the Federal process, but I also have a  
24 concern that we don't know, but we may be looking at a  
25 human health concern. And something like that may  
26 take, what, two years to get into the mill and two  
27 years to do a study, and two years to get reviewed in  
28 Washington, D.C. And if indeed large contaminated  
29 sheefish are being consumed by pregnant and lactating  
30 women, we're putting individual lives at risk when  
31 maybe there's an expedited procedure that we could  
32 follow.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you  
35 have a response.

36

37 MR. BROWN: Well, I don't think that  
38 there's any particular urgency to this that there  
39 wasn't 10 years ago or 20 years ago or 50 years ago. I  
40 don't think that anything has really changed in that  
41 regard. I think that if you're curious about it, you  
42 could go through the process and perhaps get somebody  
43 to do it, but contaminant studies are expensive and  
44 they're involved, and the planning is significant. So  
45 it's not something that fish biologists would normally  
46 do. You have to get people that do that sort of work.  
47 And I don't have a clue other than what Polly said as  
48 to how you might go about it.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald and

1 then Andy. Mic. Your name's not Mike, but turn that  
2 one on.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Sorry. Thank you,  
7 Madame Chair.

8

9 The whitefish populations are becoming  
10 more and more targeted as the Chinook salmon  
11 availability declines. And I'm wondering if you are  
12 studying population estimates of the broad whitefish or  
13 have a clue, a rough, you know, bazillion thousand  
14 population so that the people that are out there  
15 targeting whitefish aren't going to over-harvest these  
16 whitefish and damage the stock.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. BROWN: Yes. So the concept of  
21 abundance or getting an estimate of these whitefish,  
22 we've struggled with this for some time. The first  
23 step to any of these would be to find the spawning area  
24 so that you're dealing with a spawning population,  
25 because anywhere downriver you're dealing with multiple  
26 populations of fish. In other words say a population  
27 of broad whitefish that spawns in the Upper Koyukuk and  
28 the Upper Yukon and the Tanana, all are mixing down in  
29 the lower river, and we've got no way at this point to  
30 tell which stock or which population these fish are  
31 coming from. And so we felt that if you were going to  
32 pursue that, you would have to find where they spawn  
33 and then devise some sort of method of estimating a  
34 population in that way, and we don't really have  
35 answers at this point for these types of questions.

36

37 And they're certainly valid, although,  
38 you know, all of the whitefishes have very large  
39 fecundities. In other words, every female has a lot of  
40 eggs. Tens of thousands of eggs compared to salmon  
41 that, you know, may have 3 or 4,000 for chum salmon or  
42 5 or 10,000 for king salmon. These fish have 10 times  
43 that many eggs. And so the potential for generating  
44 large numbers of juveniles is certain there with a  
45 small number of whitefish. And we don't know how many  
46 it requires to have a viable population.

47

48 Not only that, we don't have harvest  
49 numbers that are species specific or anything.

50

1                   So it's a process. We're working on  
2 it. We've got some things in play that might put us in  
3 position to do that if we wanted to in some places, but  
4 we're certainly not there yet.

5  
6                   And I know there's a lot of talk about  
7 people harvesting more whitefish now as, you know,  
8 maybe the opportunity to fish for salmon is reduced  
9 some years. But I'm not really sure that that's true.  
10 It may be, but it's -- our data I don't think is  
11 sufficient enough to say that yet. I mean, it may be,  
12 but.....

13  
14                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
15 Polly.

16  
17                   DR. WHEELER: And just to add onto this  
18 for the information of the Council, the last call for  
19 proposals did include a number of projects identifying  
20 specifically whitefish-specific projects, harvest  
21 monitoring in certain areas, and also life history  
22 information. So in the fall you'll be looking at a  
23 suite of projects that are being recommended for  
24 funding or not that are addressing some of these  
25 issues.

26  
27                   So the idea -- I mean, one of the  
28 greatest things about the Fisheries Monitory Program  
29 really is its emphasis on non-salmon species,  
30 recognizing that they're critical for subsistence. And  
31 most of the research in the State has been pretty  
32 salmon-centric. And so this program has been focused a  
33 lot on non-salmon species, and I think that we're  
34 making a major contribution in part thanks to Randy's  
35 efforts in that way.

36  
37                   So in the fall you'll be seeing several  
38 -- a number of these projects for the Yukon and  
39 Kuskokwim area that are looking at whitefish, elements  
40 of whitefish harvest and use and life history.

41  
42                   MR. WOODRUFF: So to go on with this  
43 discussion, I know that on my fish calendar I have to  
44 fill out whether I catch a pike, a whitefish, a salmon  
45 or a coho, whatever. And I'm surprised that it's not  
46 statewide, that everyone record what they catch so that  
47 we'd have much better harvest data, instead of somebody  
48 going in the village and say, did you catch any  
49 whitefish, and they say, yeah, I got a bucketful.  
50 That's really inaccurate harvest data for people that

1 are trying to do population estimates or harvest data.

2

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

MR. BROWN: So in closing on that account, it is true that there are a lot of harvest calendars out there. I don't know if there -- if everybody in the drainage that fishes fills them out, but there are a considerable number. But part of the issue is that whitefish are not usually identified to species, and if there isn't somebody out there to clarify species, a lot of times if they do, it's not correct. And so it is a challenge getting the harvest information. So some of the subsistence harvest reports that come out on an annual basis from the Department of Fish and Game will have the number of whitefish, but no species, or it might be big whitefish and little whitefish, which again doesn't leave species. So it's hard to get that information in a rigorous enough form.

22

23

We are advocating that we develop methods to actually pull apart species specific harvest estimates for these fishes in the strategic plan. That's close to being done.

27

28

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, did you have one?

30

31

MR. BASSICH: No, I'll pass.

32

33

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andrew, have one?

35

36

MR. FIRMIN: I just have a quick question. On like some of those fish that you say got up to 28 to 42 years old, how large are those fish, I mean, like in length?

40

41

MR. BROWN: So those are sheefish, and so the biggest -- females are bigger than males in general. I mean, there's some overlap to it, but the biggest fish are always females for sheefish. And in the Yukon they get to be about 39 or 40 inches long. And when you get over into the Selawik or Kobuck River, they actually -- what, they'll be about 45 inches long, 50 inches long over there. So they're considerably bigger. The biggest ones are considerably bigger over there than they are in the Yukon, and, you

1 know, we've got theories about why that is, but that's  
2 the way it is.

3

4 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. I'll get with you  
5 after, at break here, but I've got -- I know if you  
6 only fish in October for like fall chums with the  
7 wheel, you get big four feet sheefish all day long  
8 sometimes. And hopefully you're there most of the  
9 time, but a lot of people don't keep them or -- or they  
10 keep them, but I mean, they don't target them. Only a  
11 few people do and they provide for a community, but  
12 they're -- that's just interesting. I was wondering  
13 how big -- how old those fish that are four feet long  
14 are.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

19 Anything else.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's take --  
24 there's a hand back there. I've been requested to have  
25 a short break. Is this regarding this? Yeah. Do you  
26 guys want to hear that or do you want to go to break.

27

28 Did you have a question?

29

30 MR. LIEBSCHER: A comment on a study  
31 that was done a few years ago.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, they  
34 want to hear it. And then state who you are.

35

36 MR. LIEBSCHER: Madame Chair. Tom  
37 Liebscher from the Park Service. And seven years ago  
38 we worked with Suzanne Georgette before she left Fish  
39 and Game and went to work for Fish and Wildlife  
40 Service. And she did a study on part of the Kobuk and  
41 Selawik and broke it out by the five species of  
42 whitefish, and had some interesting data. I'll bring a  
43 couple copies of that in tomorrow. Granted it's  
44 outside of this area of interest, but it gives some  
45 numbers, and a surprisingly higher percentage of using  
46 whitefish species than one might think.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
49 Let's take a short break and then we'll come back here  
50 in about five minutes. All right, 10.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling the  
6 meeting back to order, and we probably have three  
7 people that can't hear because they've been around  
8 airplanes too long. Well, maybe it's not jut three  
9 people. Virgil's sitting down. Yeah. All right.  
10 Calling the meeting back to order.

11

12 We are going to have Gene give us a  
13 report. He's asked to give a report, and we're putting  
14 it under our next line on the agenda, other timely  
15 organization and agency reports pertaining to  
16 fisheries.

17

18 Okay. Gene, I'm going to try ask you,  
19 I know the guys have said it's a 42-page document, if  
20 you can keep this brief, that would be great. Thank  
21 you.

22

23 MR. SANDONE: Okay. First off, thank  
24 you for allowing me to present this. I requested it,  
25 and was graciously accepted, and I think it's important  
26 information for you to have overall.

27

28 My name is Gene Sandone. I am a  
29 private consultant working for Yukon Delta Fisheries  
30 Development Association, also Kwik'Pak Fisheries. In  
31 a previous life I worked for Fish and Game. I've been  
32 associated with the Yukon River since 1988 as a  
33 research biologist, Chinook and summer chum research  
34 biologist, and then as a regional research supervisor  
35 for AYK, and then finally as the regional supervisor  
36 for the last eight years of my tenure with the State.

37

38 First off I want to say that all the  
39 data presented here is ADF&G-published data. I just  
40 kind of summarized it and presented it. There are some  
41 preliminary data, and I've noted that in the graphs.  
42 They have not been published, but I don't expect those  
43 data to change much.

44

45 And the title of my report is Yukon  
46 Area Chinook Salmon Subsistence and Personal Use  
47 Harvest Patterns. And I've included use in here  
48 because in the history of the subsistence fishery in  
49 the Yukon, Fairbanks was classified as urban at one  
50 point, or non-rural, and for those fishers in the

1 Fairbanks area, they had to get a personal use permit  
2 to fish the Yukon. Now it's the Fairbanks non-  
3 subsistence use area, and to fish the Yukon River,  
4 Fairbanks residents don't have to get a personal use  
5 permit, they get a subsistence permit. If they want to  
6 fish within the Fairbanks non-subsistence use area,  
7 they are a personal use fishery. So that's why I've  
8 included both subsistence and personal use in this  
9 analysis.

10  
11 Okay. Just to give you an overview,  
12 the Alaska portion of the Yukon River Drainage. We're  
13 looking at Districts 1 down here including the coastal  
14 districts, including the coastal districts, Emmonak,  
15 Alakanuk, Sheldon's Point or Nunam Iqua.

16  
17 And then in Districts 2 we have St.  
18 Mary's, Pitka's Point, Pilot Station, and Marshall.

19  
20 Districts 3 we have Russian Mission and  
21 Holy Cross. And going up -- and Shageluk's also  
22 included, because it's part of the Innoko River  
23 drainage, which empties into District 3.

24  
25 District 4 is a very long district  
26 starting at Old Paradise. It includes Anvik, Grayling,  
27 Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena, Ruby, all the way up  
28 to Illinois Creek here. It also includes the Koyukuk  
29 River drainage with Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna,  
30 and Bettles, Wiseman and Coldfoot.

31  
32 District 5 is another long district  
33 that goes from Illinois Creek up to the Canadian  
34 border. It includes Tanana, Rampart, Stevens Village,  
35 Beaver, Birch Creek, Central, Circle, and Eagle. It  
36 also includes Venetie on the Chandalar and Chalkyitsik  
37 on the Black River.

38  
39 The drainage in the Alaska portion is  
40 about 220,000 square miles. The drainage in the  
41 Canadian portion is about 110,000 square miles, so  
42 about a third is in Canada.

43  
44 Okay. This is a graph depicting  
45 subsistence and personal use harvests. Overall, the  
46 black line. And the horizontal lines are the five-year  
47 averages for the periods. And you can see that it's  
48 been fairly stable since the late 1980s. The red bars  
49 look at -- are depicting the upper river harvest with  
50 the horizontal bars or lines across depicting five-year

1 averages. The blue bars are the lower river. And you  
2 could see that most recently the upper river is taking  
3 about 30,000 Chinook salmon, with the lower river  
4 taking about 20,000.

5  
6 Oh, one more thing. Data prior to 1988  
7 are not strictly comparable. ADF&G changed their  
8 survey instrument and they're not strictly comparable,  
9 but ADF&G believes that these data can be used to  
10 depict trends.

11  
12 Okay. We're looking at the same basic  
13 graph on proportions on the Y axis, years on the X  
14 axis. And most recently the Upper Yukon has taken  
15 about 60 percent of the harvest while the Lower Yukon  
16 has taken about 40 percent.

17  
18 Now this graph I want to spend a little  
19 bit of time on, but I'll probably breeze through the  
20 rest of them that are like this, because I think the  
21 next graph is informative and would present trends.

22  
23 On the Y axis we have Chinook salmon,  
24 zero to 25,000. On the X axis we have years. We have  
25 one graph here, the Lower Yukon by district. And then  
26 on the right-hand graph we have the upper Yukon area by  
27 district.

28  
29 I just wanted to point out the annual  
30 harvests and also the five-year averages here. And you  
31 could see that District 5, with all the districts  
32 there, taking the most, at about 17,000, followed by  
33 District 4 at about 13,000, followed by District 2 at  
34 about 9, and then Districts 3 and 1 pretty close to  
35 about 5,000, 6,000, and then District 6 about 1500 per  
36 year on the average, 2004 to 2008 average.

37  
38 Now this is looking at just the five-  
39 year averages, I mean, just these lines, these  
40 horizontal lines. I plotted them on a graph so you can  
41 see trends. You can see that during the disaster years  
42 the harvests in District 5 and District 4, they fell,  
43 and then they rebounded in the most recent years.  
44 Again the rankings stay pretty much the same throughout  
45 the period, looking at District 5 followed by District  
46 4, District 2, District 1, District 3, and then  
47 District 6. And these are five-year averages. And all  
48 these data have been published.

49  
50 Looking at proportion. I'm not going

1 to spend time on this graph. You can look at it on  
2 your own. Looking at the five-year average  
3 proportions, you see that the most recent -- there's  
4 been a declining trend through the disaster years for  
5 Districts 5 and then a slight rebound. They're at  
6 about 32 percent now. District 4, here in the blue  
7 line, is about 26 percent, followed by District 2 at  
8 about 18 percent. Districts 1 and 3 just about over 10  
9 percent, and then District 6 down here at about 3  
10 percent.

11  
12 Now, looking at Chinook salmon harvest  
13 by community, we see that there's quite a spread, and  
14 it ranges -- and, okay, I'm sorry. Numbers of fish on  
15 the Y axis, and all the villages that are in the survey  
16 and permits on the X axis down below. The diamonds are  
17 indicating main stem -- villages that are on the main  
18 stem. The triangles, like in the Koyukuk River  
19 represent tributary stocks. Here's the Innoko,  
20 Shageluk down here, and then Venetie and Chalkyitsik on  
21 the Chandalar and Black River. And I also kept  
22 Diamonds for the Tanana. Maybe that should be changed.

23  
24  
25 Over all the median, the number of  
26 Chinook salmon or king salmon taken per village is  
27 about 818. They range from nearly 4,000 in the Village  
28 of Tanana to less than 1 in the Village of Bettles.  
29 And there's also equally low or nearly equally low  
30 values taken in Birch Creek and Central. And this is  
31 the total number of Chinook salmon, king salmon  
32 harvested by community.

33  
34 Now, if we look at fishing households,  
35 fishing households has kind of remained fairly stable,  
36 with fishing households now being about a little more  
37 than 1300, maybe closer to 1400 on the most recent  
38 five-year average. But they've been fairly stable  
39 overall. What I think is interesting is that the  
40 number of fishing households for the Lower and the  
41 Upper Yukon are nearly identical now. I think there's  
42 a difference of maybe two fishing households in the  
43 Upper and the Lower Yukon, the Lower Yukon being  
44 Districts 1, 2, and 3, and the Upper Yukon Districts 4,  
45 5, and 6 being upper.

46  
47 Numbers of fishing households, I'm  
48 going to breeze through this, just to get to the next  
49 graph which looks at the five-year averages, but these  
50 are the annual numbers of fishing households, and you

1 can look at that on your own time here.

2

3                   And then looking at the five-year  
4 averages, looking at the trends, we can see that  
5 District 2 has the most fishing households, about 315  
6 followed closely by District 4 at about 300. District  
7 1 and District 5 had nearly the identical numbers of  
8 fishing households, and so they're pretty much even, at  
9 least in the 2004 to 2008 periods. District 6 had a  
10 precipitous decline from the 1994/98 to the 1999/2003  
11 period and then has stabilized. District 3 shows an  
12 increasing number of fishing households.

13

14                   I want to point out here that data 2006  
15 and 2007 are preliminary data, but again I don't expect  
16 those numbers to change too much.

17

18                   Now, there's a number of graphs looking  
19 at fishing households by community, and I've ranked  
20 them from 1 to 44. The top 11 are portrayed here.  
21 They include Hooper Bay, Mountain Village, Emmonak, St.  
22 Mary's, Alakanuk, Galena. And over on the 7 to 11 you  
23 have Kotlik, Nulato, District 5 Fairbanks permits,  
24 which these are Fairbanks either personal use or  
25 subsistence permits, depending upon the year, fished in  
26 District 5, and then you have Pilot Station and  
27 Fairbanks. And there's a general increasing pattern in  
28 the ranks, they're 1 to 6, and you can see an  
29 increasing pattern in the 7 to 11, but that big  
30 decrease in the Fairbanks permits that fish in the  
31 Tanana. Okay. So those Fairbanks -- if you can see it  
32 down here, the red line, are the fishing households  
33 that fish in the Tanana under the permit system. And  
34 the number in back of each village is the rank.

35

36                   So this is the first quartile, it's the  
37 top 25 percent that have the most fishing households in  
38 the Yukon. And I'll breeze through the next three  
39 graphs, they just show different ranks. The scales are  
40 the same, so you can use comparative. And then the  
41 third quartile, and then finally the villages with the  
42 least number of fishing households.

43

44                   Okay. Look at fishing households by  
45 community. These are you number of fishing households  
46 that each community has. And you can see that the  
47 median number is about 20 fishing households per  
48 community according to ADF&G data. And these are based  
49 upon the 2004 to 2008 mean. So we're just looking at  
50 that last number there on the average graphs.

1                   You can see that in the lower river and  
2 in District 4, there appears to be a fairly high number  
3 of fishing households with very few villages,  
4 communities below the median, except for the Koyukuk  
5 River drainage. District 5, there's more below the  
6 median than above. And District 6 is about an even  
7 split above and below the median.

8  
9                   Chinook salmon harvested per fishing  
10 households and I'm going to breeze through this graph  
11 and get to the five-year average so that you can see  
12 the trends a little bit better and the rankings.

13  
14                   And the trend in District 5 has been  
15 down through the 1999 2003 period, and basically stable  
16 since then, but they rank number 1. District 3 ranks 2  
17 with about 50 salmon per fishing household, followed by  
18 District 4 which has increased recently up to about 42,  
19 followed by District 2, District 1 and District 6.

20  
21                   And these are similar graphs ranking  
22 the villages. The village that takes the most fish per  
23 fishing household, and this is the top 11 out 44, or  
24 the top quartile. And you can see that Rampart has  
25 been number 1 in the three five-year periods, followed  
26 by Tanana and then there's a conglomerate of other  
27 villages which includes Steven's Village, Circle, Anvik  
28 and Fort Yukon.

29  
30                   I just want to note here that most of  
31 the trends are down or stable except for Anvik. Anvik  
32 has continued to increase from about 30 to nearly 80  
33 now.

34  
35                   And the next three graphs showing the  
36 second quartile, the next 11, third quartile, next 11,  
37 and then finally the lowest, the villages or  
38 communities that take the least amount of Chinook  
39 salmon per fishing household.

40  
41                   Okay. Now, if you look at it, Chinook  
42 salmon harvested per fishing household by community,  
43 looking at it across the line, you can see they're very  
44 low in Districts -- or below the median of 33 salmon  
45 per fishing household in Coastal District, Districts 1  
46 and then three out of five in District 2. In District  
47 3 they're above the median. District 4 again above the  
48 median, except for the Koyukuk River, they're always  
49 low. District 5 is mostly above the median with  
50 District 6 being below the median. It ranks from about

1 105 in Rampart and nearly 100 in Tanana to very low  
2 numbers in Bettles and other District 6 communities,  
3 which are usually the Upper Tanana River communities,  
4 Delta Junction, Tok, and those villages, those  
5 communities out there.

6

7 Again, the 2006, 2007 fishing household  
8 data are preliminary.

9

10 Now if we look at number of people per  
11 fishing household, you can see that -- and these are  
12 data for 2004, 2005, and 2008, and these are published  
13 numbers. The fishing household numbers for 2006 and  
14 2007 are unavailable at this time.

15

16 There's P's inside the red diamonds  
17 that indicate these are permit areas, and this  
18 information is from issued permits. Most of the  
19 permits are returned and most of them do fish that  
20 permit. But the numbers of fishing households for  
21 those permits that are returned and fished is  
22 unavailable. So I used the number of people associated  
23 with the permits as a surrogate, and I think since most  
24 of those permits were fished and returned, I think it's  
25 a good estimate.

26

27 So you see that they're high in the  
28 Coastal Districts and Districts 1, Districts 2 start  
29 falling off. Districts 3, all above the median of 3.3.  
30 Shageluk is right at the median. In District 4 there's  
31 three above and four below. Koyukuk is getting pretty  
32 close to the median here, except for Bettles. In  
33 District 5 most of the communities are below the 3.3  
34 people per fishing household. And in District 6 it's  
35 basically split.

36

37 Now, just to give you an idea of where  
38 these permitted areas are for ADF&G, they're mainly the  
39 Tanana River, 4C, and then from Circle to Eagle.

40

41 Okay. Chinook salmon harvested per  
42 person by community show an increasing trend. There's  
43 overall median of 8.1 Chinook salmon per person. The  
44 lower river, most of them are below the median value.  
45 District 4 is above. District 5 is above. And  
46 District 6 is kind of split. They range from about 35  
47 Chinook salmon per person to about 1 Chinook salmon or  
48 less than per person.

49

50 Origins of Chinook salmon in

1 subsistence and P.U. harvest by stock. Within -- do  
2 you want me to end it here, or do you want me to  
3 continue? I know it's long, but.....

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you  
6 were going to make it short, and I'm not hearing short,  
7 so maybe you should, you know -- I can see another 20  
8 minutes here, so let's.....

9  
10 MR. SANDONE: No, I think this can go  
11 pretty good. Give me another five minutes, I think I  
12 can do it.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's  
15 do it.

16  
17 MR. SANDONE: Okay. The stocks of  
18 origin. This upper is the Canadian stock. The middle  
19 is the Tanana, Koyukuk, Chandalar, Sheenjek stock. And  
20 the lower river is the lower tributaries in the Yukon  
21 River. And you can see that the majority of the  
22 harvest is attributed to the Canadian stock. Overall  
23 it's about 30,000 out of the 50,000 are from the  
24 Canadian stock. The middle river stock is increasing  
25 here. Lower river stock is decreasing, and I don't  
26 really know why. It could be maybe the effect of  
27 windows, people fishing harder and earlier.

28  
29 I just went over the stocks. Lower  
30 river, middle river and Canadian. Proportion-wise, the  
31 Canadian contributes about 58 percent to the overall  
32 harvest. Middle river is about 33 percent, with the  
33 lower river less than 19 percent.

34  
35 Who harvests these stocks and how much,  
36 you can see that in recent years that Districts 1, 2,  
37 3, and 4 harvest the lower river stock. Those fish are  
38 available to those districts, and all districts are  
39 harvesting less 2,000 fish per district. The middle  
40 river stock we see an increase recently in District 4.  
41 There's an increase in District 5, because we just  
42 found out about the Chandalar/Sheenjek stocks in 2004.  
43 And we're using genetic stock identification to  
44 identify those. Previous to that they were considered  
45 all to be Canadian stock, but now we know different,  
46 about 10 percent are middle river stocks going to the  
47 Chandalar and Sheenjek. The upper river stock,  
48 District 5 harvests the most of those stocks, because  
49 they're the only fish available to them, almost anyway.  
50 They don't have the lower river stock. They have very

1 few middle river stocks to harvest.

2

3                   This graph is a little misleading,  
4 because these include those middle river stocks where  
5 this doesn't. So the trend has been up is you  
6 standardize these. District 4, their trend of  
7 increasing. District 2 is stable. District 6 does not  
8 have any access to upper river stocks.

9

10                   This is proportion, looking at about 45  
11 percent here, about 22, about 13, and then less than 10  
12 percent by District of upper river stocks.

13

14                   That's it.

15

16                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job.

17 Questions.

18

19                   MR. WOODRUFF: So what's the

20 conclusion?

21

22                   MR. SANDONE: I'm just presenting the  
23 data as it's been published. I kind of summarized it.  
24 It hasn't been summarized to date like this. I think  
25 it could be used to dispel misconceptions about who  
26 harvests what. It's all there. I think it could be  
27 used in your customary trade discussions. And I think  
28 it also could be by ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service if they have to go to more intensive management  
30 in a subsistence fishery.

31

32                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

33

34                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame

35 Chair.

36

37                   Gene, you notice I had an Ichthyophonus  
38 fish over there a while ago. It was a Kuskokwim fish.  
39 But a lot of the king salmon in the Upper Yukon, that's  
40 what they look like, and they're not -- I mean, you can  
41 eat them. It won't kill you to eat them, but it's not  
42 pleasant to eat those fish. And so I'm prefacing my  
43 question.

44

45                   And then the other thing is, is that  
46 the average size of the Chinook salmon caught from  
47 District 5 up is considerable amount smaller in weight  
48 than when caught in the lower river. And then, of  
49 course, you have a number of them with Ichthyophonus  
50 that end up in a dog -- I give them away for dog food.

1 But, of course, we haven't had a commercial fishery for  
2 quite some time. But that's what happens to them.

3

4 So my question is this. Has there been  
5 any analysis done on the difference on the amount of  
6 edible salmon, per salmon, the difference between the  
7 lower river and the upper river? Because I know what  
8 the average weight is in both places. It's running 20,  
9 21 pounds in the lower river for the average king  
10 salmon when they had a commercial fishery. And I know  
11 what it is for District 5, it's 12, 13 pounds. And  
12 when we used to -- you know, six years ago was the last  
13 time we had a commercial fishery in the Tanana River,  
14 and it averaged about nine pounds. So has any  
15 consideration been given to the amount of edible pounds  
16 of salmon per salmon and compared the two, you know,  
17 upriver and downriver?

18

19 MR. SANDONE: Madame Chair. Mr.  
20 Umphenour. The short answer is no, but I also disagree  
21 with your premise that the upper river fish are down  
22 much lighter than the lower river fish. I know that  
23 you have commercial sampling, but I believe that a lot  
24 of the fish, or some of the fish that you take are from  
25 fishwheels and fishwheels are notorious for taking  
26 smaller fish. But if you look at this graph, and this  
27 is Stan Zuray's data from last year, you can see that  
28 he does harvest a lot of small fish. But this graph  
29 here indicates the fish caught in the Rapids area in  
30 the gillnets, and they're mainly over 900 millimeters.

31

32 So I think that, to answer your  
33 question properly, you would have to do a survey, a  
34 complete survey and weight the data by gear type to  
35 really answer your question correctly.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I agree with  
38 that, but does it appear that anyone's doing that?

39

40 MR. SANDONE: Not to my knowledge.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame  
43 Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Do you think some of the  
48 numbers in District 5 are skewed, like you said,  
49 because a lot of the Fairbanks fishermen fish in  
50 District 5 instead of District 6? I forget which slide

1 it was. I think -- or maybe you could redefine that  
2 personal use thing for me again, the personal use  
3 harvest. I think it was like slide 9. I mean,  
4 personal use, that was because they don't need to have  
5 a subsistence permit any more in the Fairbanks area, I  
6 mean, for like Fairbanks people, do you think that data  
7 is skewed like that, because a thousand people from  
8 Fairbanks go fish on the Yukon?

9

10 MR. SANDONE: Well, the personal use,  
11 the State has gone through trying to figure out how to  
12 deal with rural versus urban for a while. And they did  
13 have an urban designation and a rural designation at  
14 one time, and that was basically thrown out by the  
15 Alaska state supreme court, and then all Alaska  
16 residents are subsistence users. So when it was an  
17 urban area, they had to get a personal use permit to  
18 fish. And those data are recorded under personal use.  
19 Now they get a subsistence permit to fish on the Yukon.

20

21 And if you look through my slides, and  
22 I can't find it right now, they're differentiated.  
23 There are Fairbanks people fishing in District 5, and  
24 they're segregated in this analysis, and there are also  
25 Fairbanks people fishing in District 6, and they are  
26 also segregated. So you can take a look at how much  
27 those people take in comparison to the District 5. But  
28 it's in there.

29

30 Madame Chair.

31

32 MR. FIRMIN: Also I was wondering like  
33 you don't have any recorded data for the Lower Yukon  
34 where there are incidental salmon catches. Do they  
35 keep those as subsistence use fish? Say I'm going  
36 commercial fishing for chum, and I accidently catch 500  
37 king salmon, and I just keep it and give it away to my  
38 family. Is that recorded under subsistence use or is  
39 that recorded at all if it's not sold?

40

41 MR. SANDONE: Madame Chair. Mr.  
42 Firmin. The ones that are not sold or taken home for  
43 subsistence use, and I'll have to defer to Steve Hayes  
44 as to whether they are reported on the fish ticket, but  
45 they are probably reported in the survey, in the  
46 post-season survey.

47

48 Madame Chair.

49

50 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Because just like

1 on slide nine it shows, you know, the first --  
2 basically it shows Fort Yukon catches twice as much  
3 fish as any for District 1, 2 and 3 all put together --  
4 not put together, but I mean they catch more harvested  
5 by community, and yet they have a higher population and  
6 they have more fishing households. So I don't see the  
7 population numbers, it looks like they're not added in  
8 there. As per fishing households. Because it shows  
9 there's six people per fishing household in the Lower  
10 Yukon, and only three in the Upper Yukon, but then how  
11 come they're -- I just don't see it, like if they  
12 caught their incidental bycatch in the first two  
13 districts was 5,000 the other year, then that would put  
14 them clean off of this graph. Do you see what I'm  
15 saying?

16  
17 MR. SANDONE: Madame Chair. Mr.  
18 Firmin. Don't forget that I think there's been only  
19 two years, or possibly one year in the Lower Yukon  
20 where they weren't allowed to sell their incidental  
21 catch. So most of what they caught in the chum salmon  
22 fisheries, the vast majority, were sold. So they went  
23 down as commercial. And again these are ADF&G data  
24 regarding all this, and it's all been published except  
25 for those years that I pointed out were preliminary  
26 data.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have  
29 any more?

30  
31 MR. FIRMIN: No.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

34  
35 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
36 I don't know if I really have a question for you, Gene,  
37 maybe more of some comments, but I always feel that in  
38 looking at all kinds of graphs that data in -- or data  
39 out is only as good as data in. And I've always been  
40 very skeptical, I've voiced it at a number of meetings,  
41 of some of the subsistence surveys that are done in the  
42 upper river. Many people are required to carry a fish  
43 calendar and fill out very accurately how many fish  
44 they catch, salmon and non-salmon species. In the  
45 lower river and in other parts of the Yukon River, it's  
46 done through a subsistence survey which is conducted  
47 oftentimes over a month after the fishing season.

48  
49 So I'd just like to point that out,  
50 that I think that that has the potential to pretty

1 drastically skew the original data.

2

3                   That being said, I also want to build  
4 upon what Virgil said a little bit earlier, and that is  
5 that the quality of escapement has always been a big  
6 issued on the Yukon River in the last 10 years, and the  
7 simple fact that the average, and I have done very  
8 accurate ASL studies in our region, and I've also done  
9 my own work on how much harvestable flesh we get from  
10 the fish. And I believe that some work has been done  
11 down in the Ruby area and a few other areas that seem to  
12 show very closely correlations. But what we have found  
13 is that, you know, when the average fish is only about  
14 10 pounds, irregardless of whether it's caught by a  
15 fishwheel or a gillnet in the Eagle area, you're looking  
16 at half the useable pounds of flesh for human  
17 consumption than you do on the lower river. So I think  
18 it would be -- before this really gets used as a strong  
19 tool for making management decisions, a study would  
20 need to be done to do that comparison so that it's an  
21 accurate portrayal of how much flesh households are  
22 using.

23

24                   The other thing that -- and I do  
25 appreciate you doing this, because I think it's really  
26 interesting to look at. But to me what this  
27 demonstrates more than anything else is that the  
28 farther up the river you go, the more dependent you are  
29 on Chinook salmon, because there is no other species.  
30 Up in our region, chum salmon are edible early in the  
31 season, and, you know, certainly as you go downriver,  
32 there's more access. So I think this very clearly  
33 points that out, and I think you for that. And I do  
34 appreciate the work that you did on this. I really  
35 like looking at that. But I really would encourage  
36 some kind of a study or comparison being done on  
37 useable flesh, and I know that TCC has done some work  
38 on it, and a number of other entities, and that's  
39 really the data that we need to make some intelligent  
40 management decisions in my opinion.

41

42                   So thank you, Madame Chair, for  
43 indulging me.

44

45                   MR. SANDONE: Madame Chair. Mr.  
46 Bassich. I think that's a valid criticism or valid  
47 comment and I don't disagree with you.

48

49                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
50 questions of Mr. Sandone.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have  
4 a question. Actually it would probably be to Steve on  
5 Andy's question. Just how is this incidental take on  
6 commercial harvest listed? Is it under commercial or  
7 subsistence? Is he here?  
8  
9 MR. SANDONE: I believe Stacey's here  
10 though.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who can  
13 answer that.  
14  
15 MR. SANDONE: He set you up, Stacey.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 MS. BUCKELEW: Madame Chair. The  
20 answer to that question is fish that are caught  
21 incidentally are recorded as a personal use fish which  
22 then are later included as part of subsistence  
23 fisheries, so the answer to Andrew's question would be,  
24 yes, they are included as subsistence caught fish.  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have a  
27 question?  
28  
29 MR. FIRMIN: No. Thank you, Gene. I  
30 think there is a lot of useful data here, and I'm just  
31 glad that you also pointed out that even though the  
32 numbers are comparable, that, I mean, Fort Yukon to  
33 Circle is the same length as District 1, and that's  
34 just in between two villages, and there's only a  
35 handful of people that fish there, but there is a lot  
36 of useful data here, and thank you for presenting it.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
39 else.  
40  
41 (No comments)  
42  
43 MR. SANDONE: Thank you.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
46 Thank you.  
47  
48 MR. SANDONE: Madame Chair. I have  
49 some public comments if I could do those now. I know  
50 it's getting pretty late.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's  
2 from you as an individual or no?  
3  
4 MR. SANDONE: No, it's from Yukon Delta  
5 Kwik'Pak.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
8  
9 MR. SANDONE: And I could be real brief  
10 on this.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
13  
14 MR. SANDONE: Okay. At the Federal  
15 Subsistence Board I was really surprised at the  
16 solicitor's comments regarding the prioritization of a  
17 species for use. Up until now all subsistence uses  
18 were considered equally important. And I've been a big  
19 proponent that human consumption should be the primary  
20 use for Chinook salmon. And the solicitor -- I think  
21 this might have been brought about because we already  
22 have a prioritization the Chinook salmon cannot be fed  
23 to dogs. And so it might be that -- well, anyway, the  
24 solicitor said that -- he opened the door to  
25 prioritization of subsistence uses, but he said that  
26 the record must be built.  
27  
28 So I would encourage this body on the  
29 next go around to put in a proposal, if you think so,  
30 that Chinook salmon should be prioritized and human  
31 consumption be the top priority.  
32  
33 And when I was at the YRDFA meeting,  
34 they considered a resolution, but did not pass the  
35 resolution that restricted -- and in the same sentence  
36 restricted customary trade to rural to rural  
37 transactions within the Yukon area. So meant all of  
38 Yukon basically, except the Fairbanks North Star  
39 Borough. And that was kind of taking two proposals and  
40 combining them, the human consumption priority and the  
41 customary trade issue. But again like I say, it did  
42 not pass.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
45 Appreciate the information. Anyone have any questions.  
46 Further questions.  
47  
48 (No comments)  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank

1 you, Gene.

2

3 MR. SANDONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hope you  
6 make your flight.

7

8 MR. SANDONE: I think I did.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
11 right. Next on the agenda is proposals for the Board  
12 of Fish. And Virgil had two, and did I hear, Joe, you  
13 said you had one?

14

15 Go ahead, Virgil.

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame  
18 Chair. I need to ask the Staff a quick question, and  
19 maybe someone knows this off the top of their head. My  
20 question is this. What villages are qualified for  
21 subsistence at Chitina, in the Chitina subdistrict of  
22 the Copper River under the Federal plan.

23

24 And while they're digging that out,  
25 I'll make the first motion. I move that the Eastern  
26 Interior RAC submitted a proposal to the State Board of  
27 Fisheries to reduce chum salmon production in Prince  
28 William Sound and Southeast Alaska to 24 percent less  
29 than the 2000 authorized amount.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'll  
32 second that motion.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We  
35 have a motion on the floor and a second. Okay. Virgil,  
36 chum salmon hatchery fish to be 24 percent less  
37 than.....

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: The authorized  
40 production from the year 2000.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
43 Discussion.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll speak to the  
46 motion. In January of 2001 the Board of Fisheries met.  
47 They addressed a YK, area M and Bristol Bay all at one  
48 meeting, plus they had some miscellaneous proposals.

49

50 One of the miscellaneous proposals was

1 a proposal by the Elfin Cove Advisory Committee, that's  
2 an AC out of Southeast Alaska, that requested that chum  
3 salmon production be reduced. That proposal has been  
4 deferred for either three or four years.

5  
6 And in the meantime what had happened  
7 is the state attorney general spent about two years  
8 deciding whether the Board of Fisheries had the  
9 authority to restrict or reduce hatchery production.  
10 It took him a couple years to finally decide that they  
11 did have that authority.

12  
13 And in the meantime the Board formed a  
14 committee of three people. I was one of those three  
15 people. And we held hearings all over the state on  
16 this issue. And then it was going to come to a vote in  
17 January of 2001.

18  
19 The hatchery people from throughout the  
20 state realized I had the votes to restrict their  
21 production so they went to the Governor and they  
22 promised the Governor they would reduce their  
23 production by 24 percent if the Board would not take  
24 that proposal up and vote on it. And so the Chairman  
25 of the Board kind of browbeat me and so I finally  
26 succumbed to that, which I should not have done.

27  
28 As soon as we changed governors, two  
29 years later, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Associate  
30 increased their hatchery production by over 100  
31 percent. They subsequently have increased it again  
32 just this last summer. Even though the Department was  
33 opposed to it, the Commissioner approved it. Or the  
34 former Commissioner approved their increase.

35  
36 You speak to any scientist that's not a  
37 biastitute, and by biastitute meaning a scientist that  
38 goes for the greenback dollar.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's his  
43 original noun.

44  
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. You speak to  
46 ethical scientist and they will tell you that the  
47 hatchery production, production of billions of hatchery  
48 fish, releasing them into the ocean like our State  
49 does, over 1.6 billion a year, of which over half of  
50 them are in Prince William Sound, that it is totally

1 counter-productive to the health of wild salmon stocks.  
2 I spoke to that a little bit earlier today. And so  
3 that's the background behind the proposal.

4  
5 Madame Chair.

6  
7 Well, the other thing is these fish are  
8 competing against.....

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mic.

11  
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: This fish are competing  
13 against the salmon stocks in both the Copper River and  
14 the Yukon River drainage that our constituents are not  
15 getting enough of and that we're having problems with.  
16 All species of the salmon. And so it's in the best  
17 interest of the residents of our region for hatchery  
18 restrictions to take -- or reductions in the hatchery  
19 production so that the wild stocks are not having to  
20 compete with so many of these hatchery fish.

21  
22 Madame Chair.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
25 Speaking to your motion, is this for the whole state  
26 then, or is this for one area?

27  
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's for two areas.  
29 That's for Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

32  
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, for the whole  
34 damn state. This is the only area, the call for  
35 proposals that's currently due on the 8th of April is  
36 only for Prince William Sound and Southeast, Yakutat  
37 regions. And so that's the only areas we can submit a  
38 proposal for at this time. So that's what the  
39 proposals are for, the two areas. But those are the  
40 two areas that produce the most of these fish.

41  
42 And like I said earlier today, when the  
43 Council people were here, I know that Dr. Wilmot who  
44 used to be in charge of genetics at Auke Bay  
45 laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service  
46 laboratory, that he found DIPAC, that's the hatchery  
47 out of Juneau, hatchery chum salmon in the trawl  
48 bycatch in the Bering Sea. There's no question that  
49 they're competing with AYK chum salmon and king salmon  
50 in the Bering Sea.

1 Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. More  
4 discussion on the motion. Anyone. Must be getting  
5 late in the day.

6

7 Go ahead, Frank.

8

9 MR. GURTLER: Yeah. Hatchery fish a  
10 big concern of mine, too. Anywhere. Because you never  
11 know what kind of sickness they're going to be carrying  
12 when they're let loose. And I think I agree with Virgil  
13 myself.

14

15 And I think I would like to see all  
16 hatcheries closed as far as I'm concerned for fish  
17 that's going out to the ocean on account of the  
18 sickness that they can -- and the wild stock that we  
19 have that's worth so much money, if we could fish them  
20 and all that.

21

22 But it's all right to have a lot of  
23 fish, but those type of fish I really don't want in our  
24 streams, because I think they're eating all the food  
25 for the wild salmon out there in the ocean, and that's  
26 why I think some of our fish are getting smaller. It's  
27 not that we're catching all the big ones; it's just  
28 that they're just not getting big.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: From  
33 competition out there.

34

35 MR. GURTLER: There's a lot of  
36 competition there.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'm  
41 actually going to try and go by the book here and just  
42 move down the discussion justifications here.

43

44 Is there a conservation concern. Most  
45 definitely. We've spent the last 10 years talking  
46 about the declining runs along the Yukon River, AYK.  
47 Actually throughout the entire state. Something's  
48 happening out in the marine environment. I think  
49 everybody's in agreement with that. We may not know  
50 exactly what's going on, but we do know that there's

1 been a change in the marine environment, especially  
2 very dramatically since 2000. So, yes, there is a  
3 conservation concern.

4

5           Is the recommendation supported by  
6 substantial evidence. Well, the only evidence that I  
7 would know, because it's a very difficult thing to  
8 study the carrying capacity of the Bering Sea, is that  
9 it's my understanding that the Japanese, who are very  
10 prolific at farm fishing and hatchery-released fish,  
11 determined that it was actually not healthy for them to  
12 continue to increase their hatcheries and I believe  
13 that they are actually in the process, or have been in  
14 the process of reducing some of their hatchery  
15 production, because of some of the problems associated  
16 with it. So I think there is some evidence out there  
17 that -- and probably some science to back that up.  
18 However I couldn't point to that right now.

19

20           How will the recommended address the  
21 subsistence needs. Well, we're talking about that all  
22 the time. Subsistence food on the table. Fish. You  
23 know, that's what many of us are living on along the  
24 Yukon River, and up into Canada as well. So we've got  
25 to get this resource back on track, because it's vital  
26 to the lifestyle. People living out in the Bush are  
27 becoming an endangered species in my opinion, and maybe  
28 we need Federal protection.

29

30           (Laughter)

31

32           MR. BASSICH: And then will the  
33 recommendation unnecessarily restrict others. I don't  
34 think it will, because the fishing is still going to  
35 continue, and the fish returning to Prince William  
36 Sound was abundant in 2000 prior to the time that  
37 Virgil was talking about. And I think that the fishing  
38 industry won't suffer dramatically. And I'm talking  
39 either off shore or at the hatcheries. They're not  
40 going to suffer that much. Maybe the profit margins  
41 might go down a little bit with the hatcheries, but  
42 that's another discussion.

43

44           So I will be voting in support of this  
45 proposal.

46

47           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Frank.

48

49           MR. GURTNER: Another thing on those  
50 hatchery fish. I'm wondering, who's harvesting those?

1 Is it the fishermen on the rivers or is it -- who's  
2 selling the eggs and all that from out of those fish?  
3 Does anybody have an answer for that?

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I don't  
6 think we need to get into discussion on, you know, the  
7 actual.....

8  
9 MR. GURTLER: Well.....

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But what this  
12 is is a proposal and all of this will come out once the  
13 proposal is sent forth. Now, if you guys want to  
14 discuss this more, I don't know. I just think that we  
15 could do that -- that could be done -- this proposal  
16 will go in the Board book, and then it will come out,  
17 and then we'll go through this whole process. So he's  
18 recommending a proposal.

19  
20 And I appreciate what you're saying,  
21 Frank. But do you understand how, you know, the  
22 process is to write the proposal, and then from there  
23 it goes to the -- we vote for it, then it goes into the  
24 Board of Fish's book and then it comes back to us. And  
25 then we're going to go through all this detail. Yeah,  
26 that works. Yeah. Okay.

27  
28 So I hear any more questions on the  
29 proposal itself.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 MR. BASSICH: Question.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The  
36 question's been called for. All in favor of putting  
37 this proposal forward say aye.

38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
42 opposed.

43  
44 (No opposing votes)

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
47 think you had one more, is that right, Mr. Umphenour?  
48 Did you?

49  
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move we put a

1 proposal forward to the State Board of Fisheries to  
2 reclassify the Chitina subdistrict subsistence.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Reclassify  
5 the Chitina subdistrict for subsistence?

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: As a subsistence  
8 fishery instead of a personal use fishery.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
11 kind of out of our region.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that for  
14 Virgil.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we have  
17 C&T over there. So I'll let you do it. All right.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The reason for  
20 the proposal, this fishery has bounced back and forth  
21 between a subsistence fishery and a personal use  
22 fishery over the years. The last time it was  
23 designated a subsistence fishery was in 1999. I was  
24 one of the Board members that did that on the State  
25 Board of Fisheries. But then after I got off the Board  
26 of Fisheries, there was a study done by Dr. Fall that  
27 was actually in violation of the State statutes,  
28 because he compared users against users. And then the  
29 commercial fishing interests lobbied the heck out of  
30 the Board, and they got them to change it over.

31

32 This proposal has been put in every  
33 cycle since then.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you'd  
36 like to do it again.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: And it's been in the  
39 courts, and we would like to get it done, get it  
40 switched back again.

41

42 The people currently -- the reason I  
43 ask for this thing as to who's qualified, it doesn't  
44 appear that Delta Junction residents are qualified to  
45 subsistence fish in the Federal subsistence fishery  
46 there under Federal rule, because it is a Federal  
47 subsistence fishery there, not a State.

48

49 So there's a number of our constituents  
50 that actually go to Chitina and go fishing, you know,

1 in the Eastern Interior region, and they're under  
2 personal use regulations rather than subsistence  
3 regulations. They have to fish under State personal  
4 use regulations. They don't qualify to fish there  
5 under Federal subsistence regulations. And then, of  
6 course, there's a lot of people that live in the  
7 Fairbanks area or other areas of the state that don't  
8 qualify under the Federal system that I think should be  
9 able to go to Chitina and subsistence fish and have  
10 their subsistence priority over the commercial fishery  
11 that takes place at the mouth of the Copper River,  
12 because those people have other alternative fisheries  
13 that they can participate in. That's one of the State  
14 allocation criteria. They have all those hatchery fish  
15 they can go catch.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, they do. They have  
20 all those hatchery fish they can go catch and they have  
21 caused major conservation concerns of king salmon and  
22 early run sockeye salmon, so that the people where you  
23 live, over by Mentasta, Madame Chair, are having  
24 trouble getting their subsistence needs met, because of  
25 that commercial fishery. And so that is, I think,  
26 plenty of justification to put this proposal forward.

27

28 Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm not  
31 going to discuss the proposal, just that we're going to  
32 put it forward.

33

34 Andy.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Is there  
37 someone in the room that could talk to us a little bit  
38 about that fisheries right now? Is there a  
39 conservation concern on that fisheries? Is there any  
40 problem meeting escapement? I'm just not that familiar  
41 with the fisheries or whatever, the way it's conducted  
42 right now. I'm ignorant.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we  
45 could really wrapped around the axle on that.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Well, I just need a real  
48 quick answer, because it goes to a conservation issue,  
49 too, if we're changing -- you know, it's basically an  
50 allocation if we're changing that, then it's pretty

1 important to know whether we're creating -- by having,  
2 you know, a large subsistence fisheries on it.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, see  
5 this gets really confusing, because this is a Federal  
6 -- we're a Federal, and there's Federal regulations and  
7 then there's State regulations, and on the Federal side  
8 with it being rural, you look at it differently, as you  
9 would if you're somebody from Fairbanks and now you're  
10 on the State side and you qualify for subsistence. So  
11 it gets really complicated.

12

13 I understand where you're coming from,  
14 Virgil, but I know a lot of people in my region don't  
15 agree with you, that Fairbanks should be considered  
16 subsistence under the State regs. And they don't  
17 understand what you're trying to say.

18

19 And how we're, you know, talking about  
20 the proposal, but, you know, this is not in our region,  
21 so the fisheries people that should be here to answer  
22 these questions aren't here. Barbara Cellarius is at  
23 the Wrangell Park, and the park borders the river, so  
24 she might be able to answer your question. Short. I  
25 don't know. Okay.

26

27 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame  
28 Chair. My name is Barbara Cellarius, and I'm the  
29 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National  
30 Park and Preserve.

31

32 And I'm not a fisheries biologist, but  
33 I am somewhat familiar with that fishery. The park  
34 superintendent is the designated Federal manager for  
35 that fishery.

36

37 And there's basically a plan. I  
38 actually have a copy of it on my computer, but just  
39 sort of how many fish we want for escapement, how many  
40 fish they think are going to go to the different  
41 fisheries in the river, and the State and Federal  
42 governments work closely. They have a pre-season  
43 meeting and kind of talk about how they're going to  
44 manage the fishery.

45

46 Is there something more specific I  
47 could help you with?

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess, Madame  
50 Chair, I'd just like to find out, is there a

1 conservation concern? Are they having difficulties  
2 meeting the escapement objectives there with the  
3 fisheries in its current practice?

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: I think over the last  
6 several years they have met the escapement goal. There  
7 is some in-season management that occurs, so if certain  
8 criteria are met -- a couple years ago the Board of  
9 Game [sic] actually instituted a closure I think it's  
10 inside the Barrier Islands if the early season return  
11 doesn't meet certain criteria. There is some ability  
12 to reduce the commercial fishing periods. But  
13 escapement goals have generally been met.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, this  
16 gets so complicated. We're taking up a call for  
17 proposals. I hate to see us get into too much of the  
18 detail, but, Virgil, this a little more complicated  
19 than what you bring out, as I said, because when it  
20 came out, I think Barbara can speak to this, the people  
21 in the Ahtna region were opposed to it. But I don't  
22 want to debate.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm not going to  
25 debate.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yes.  
28 Go.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Maybe the AHTNA  
31 are, some of the AHTNA are opposed to it. We don't  
32 just represent the Ahtna. We represent the Athabascans  
33 from Fairbanks. We represent Athabascans from Nenana,  
34 from Delta Junction that go there to fish. We  
35 represent those people as well. And so my job here as  
36 a commercial and a sport representative, which that's  
37 what I am on this Council, is to represent the people  
38 in the whole Eastern Interior region and to make sure  
39 that the people that are classified as sport, personal  
40 use and commercial, that their considerations are  
41 looked at properly. And that's what I'm doing. I  
42 don't feel the people that live in Nenana that is a  
43 subsistence area, that's called a subsistence area, and  
44 the people that live at Delta Junction, that also is a  
45 subsistence area, and they're in our RAC, and their  
46 Federally-qualified subsistence users, but they are not  
47 -- they can't go fish in the Federal subsistence  
48 fishery at Chitina, because it's not in our regulation  
49 book. They can't do it. So the only way they can fish  
50 there is under State regulations, which is personal

1 use. And they don't think those commercial fishermen,  
2 that about 45 percent of them live in Seattle, should  
3 have an equal amount or equal opportunity or equal  
4 footing, no head's up over them, the people that live  
5 here.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And see, this  
8 does.....

9  
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Because those  
11 commercial fishermen are going to go catch those fish  
12 first before the manager discovers, oops, management,  
13 and restricts the people at Chitina. And so I don't  
14 think.....

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
17 what we need to do here is decide as a Council, do you  
18 agree to put the proposal forward or not.

19  
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct. That's what  
21 we need to decide to do.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Don.

24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: But I just wanted to  
26 point that out that we have lots of constituents  
27 besides the Ahtna constituents that would like that.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I also have  
30 to bring this out, too, so now you see what we're up  
31 against.

32  
33 Donald.

34  
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, thank you.

36  
37  
38 I think that it behooves us to support  
39 this proposal, and then when we get an analysis by OSM,  
40 all this will get hashed out and we'll get a lot more  
41 data about it.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it's a  
44 State proposal.

45  
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Oh, okay.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just to  
49 clarify. This is a Board of Fish proposal, this is not  
50 a Federal proposal.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And,  
4 see, that's what makes it so complicated for even me.  
5 I mean, I live there, I fish there, and it's like,  
6 okay, where's the Federal water. I commend you guys  
7 for knowing where your Federal water is and your State  
8 water is on the Yukon, because it gets pretty doggone  
9 complicated. And people get confused, and I don't  
10 think they have it as separated out as you might on the  
11 Yukon on the Copper.

12

13 So sticking to the motion, it is to  
14 reclassify Chitina subdistrict, and this is a State  
15 proposal, from personal use to subsistence. And Virgil  
16 gives his argument why.

17

18 And we have to vote as a Council, are  
19 we going to put this proposal forward. And I imagine  
20 it's going to come from somewhere else if it doesn't  
21 from us, right?

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: (No audible answer)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-  
26 huh.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.

31 Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I heard  
34 the question called for. All in favor of this proposal  
35 coming from this RAC say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
40 opposed.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to abstain. I  
43 don't feel I have enough information, so I'll abstain.

44

45 MR. MATESI: I'm going to abstain.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to  
48 say no. So do you want a roll call vote. Do we need a  
49 roll call vote. Larry, how did you vote?

50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm going to abstain. I  
2 don't have enough.....

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, yeah, you  
5 need to turn your mic on. Yeah.

6  
7 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm going to abstain,  
8 because I don't have enough information to make an  
9 informed decision here.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. It's  
12 even out of our district, too. It's just that we have  
13 C&Ts in that area, that's why we're allowed to discuss  
14 it.

15  
16 So I hear three abstentions and one no.  
17 Is the rest of you in favor of this proposal to going  
18 forward. Okay. One, two, three, four, five, six. You  
19 got it? Six. One. And three abstentions.

20  
21 Okay. Joe, you had one.

22  
23 MR. MATEESI: Yeah. Madame Chair. I'm  
24 trying to work out the wording on it. It is if another  
25 Council or body is making a body, does this Council  
26 make a similar proposal or pass a resolution in support  
27 of their proposal, or sign onto their proposal. What  
28 is the process for that?

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So if  
31 there's another proposal that comes forward.

32  
33 MR. MATEESI: Say from a tribal  
34 government.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. To the  
37 Board of Fish.

38  
39 MR. MATEESI: Yes.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Then all you  
42 have to do is ask to take that proposal up when it  
43 comes out and we discuss it, because it's already out  
44 there. Now, if you wanted to put it forward also, that  
45 would be in addition.

46  
47 MR. MATEESI: Yes. That's what I'm  
48 asking for.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It would be

1 just like the Board of Fish does. They put proposals  
2 in from this entity and then a proposal from another  
3 entity.

4

5 MR. MATESI: Okay. So should I -- I  
6 could make a motion now?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You could,  
9 yes.

10

11 MR. MATESI: Okay. Well, Madame Chair.  
12 I move that the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory  
13 Council make a proposal to the State Board of Fisheries  
14 to close Black River and its tributaries to  
15 sportfishing for Chinook salmon.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Black River  
18 and its tributaries?

19

20 MR. MATESI: Yes.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Point of order.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I heard a  
25 point of order. Do you want to explain, Virgil.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right the Board of  
28 Fisheries is not taking proposals for the Yukon River  
29 at this time. Only for Prince William Sound and  
30 Southeast Alaska. It will be next year or the year  
31 after?

32

33 MR. HAYES: Next year.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next year I'm  
36 hearing.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Next year I believe  
39 they will. So a year from now we can put that proposal  
40 in, but not at this time. They're on a three-year  
41 cycle is what they are. Every third year you can put  
42 proposals in.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Joe  
45 probably understands that. What do you have in mind.

46

47 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
48 Yes, I understand. And there's a procedure for  
49 submitting proposals out of sequence.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Cycle.  
2  
3 MR. MATESI: Yeah, out of cycle. I  
4 forget the terminology.  
5  
6 DR. WHEELER: It's called an agenda  
7 change request.  
8  
9 MR. MATESI: Yeah. Right. Correct.  
10 Thank you.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So  
13 you're.....  
14  
15 MR. MATESI: And there's an advantage  
16 that if there's an immediate conservation concern, in  
17 that the Board may take it up out of cycle, in which  
18 case it would be acted on conservation measures would  
19 not have to wait for three years or whatever. If they  
20 do not take it up, then it's appropriate to wait and go  
21 ahead and put it in at the regular time and the regular  
22 cycle.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your  
25 motion is an agenda change request to the Board of  
26 Fish.  
27  
28 MR. MATESI: That's correct. Thank  
29 you, Madame Chair.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.  
32 To close Black River and its tributaries to Chinook?  
33  
34 MR. MATESI: Sportfishing for chinook  
35 salmon.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Chinook  
38 sportfishing.  
39  
40 MR. MATESI: Right.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's  
43 important to just discuss if you want to put the  
44 proposal forward or not. Okay. And that's the motion.  
45  
46 MR. FIRMIN: Second.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's  
49 seconded by Andrew. Discussion.  
50

1 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Joe, how do they  
6 sportfish for them up that far?

7

8 MR. MATESI: Well, I'm glad you asked.  
9 But first let me preface by saying that the population  
10 of king salmon in Black River is small. It  
11 historically used to be high, but was hit pretty heavy  
12 in the late -- well, during the depression when there  
13 were a lot of trappers out on the land, and they had  
14 big dog teams. And our belief, which is supported by  
15 some documentation as well as traditional ecological  
16 knowledge, is that they were over-fished heavily around  
17 the 1930s, early 1940s, and the population now is a  
18 remnant of that earlier population. They crashed at  
19 that time and now they're struggling to recover.

20

21 There are some outfitter guides who fly  
22 clients into the Salmon Fork of the Black River for  
23 sportfishing in July, and that actually is the spawning  
24 grounds of this population. So we are concerned that  
25 the fish are being sportfished on the spawning grounds,  
26 and it's a struggling population which we would like to  
27 see recover.

28

29 Now, remember, we're talking about  
30 Chinook salmon in the Yukon drainage, a species of  
31 concern. And there's a lot of different ways to look  
32 at how we can help this resource rebound, everything  
33 from the bycatch issue, net size and so on and so  
34 forth. In that part of the country we're just looking  
35 at what we can do locally, if we can start locally, one  
36 river at a time, taking some sort of measure. That  
37 absolute number of fish that will actually be saved by  
38 removing the sportfishery is not that great, but with  
39 king salmon, I think we're all pretty much in agreement  
40 now that every fish counts.

41

42 Madame Chair.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: But how do they catch them?  
45 Are they putting nets out?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, method.  
48 What's the method?

49

50 MR. GLANZ: What method they use for

1 sportfish, a rod and reel, that's what I consider.....  
2  
3 MR. MATESI: My understanding is that  
4 it's rod and reel.  
5  
6 MR. GLANZ: So they're just snagging  
7 apparently.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's  
10 usually what happens.  
11  
12 MR. MATESI: Yeah, could be. I don't  
13 know.  
14  
15 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. They're not feeding  
16 that far up, I'm sure, if they're spawning. Okay.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Frank,  
19 then Andy.  
20  
21 MR. GURTLER: Doesn't that come under  
22 subsistence or commercial?  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that?  
25  
26 MR. GURTLER: Rod and reel fishing.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's sport.  
29 Sportfishing, rod and reel sportfishing.  
30  
31 MR. GURTLER: Yeah, of the kings  
32 though, doesn't that -- what is that taking of that  
33 king, doesn't that come under, what, commercial or  
34 subsistence.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. If a  
37 person is out there fishing with a rod and reel under a  
38 fishing season, it's considered sport.  
39  
40 MR. MATESI: With a sportfishing  
41 license.  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.  
44 They're supposed to be licensed. I'm assuming that.  
45  
46 MR. GURTLER: Well, how come  
47 subsistence people aren't able to do that then on the  
48 river?  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You are.

1 MR. GURTLER: When?  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You'd have to  
4 get a sport license and hunt it with -- or, hunt it.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Excuse me.  
9 No, really, I mean, this happened in our area. Some  
10 people were out with a rod and reel and they thought  
11 they were subsistence fishing for grayling, and they  
12 were pinched because they said it's -- if they'd have  
13 used any other method, it would have been subsistence,  
14 but since it was with a rod and reel, it's sport.  
15  
16 Okay. Andy and then Joe and then  
17 Virgil. Okay.  
18  
19 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to defer to  
20 Virgil and then I'll go after him. Thank you.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
23  
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair. We have  
25 Mr. Burr back there that I think wished to get up.  
26 He's a State sportfish biologist in Fairbanks, and  
27 maybe he could give some information on this stock and  
28 what's going on.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Before  
31 you do that, Joe, what did you have? Or did you have  
32 something to add as a question on this before he  
33 speaks?  
34  
35 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. I have two  
36 things I would like to add. One is that the tribal  
37 council of Chalkyitsik is submitting this proposal as  
38 well. So they are hoping that this Advisory Council  
39 will throw in their support there.  
40  
41 And I will also like to add that the  
42 Draanjik Gwich'in do not fish for those salmon as they  
43 go by in July. They recognize that the population is  
44 too small, but they would like to see conservation so  
45 that sometime in the future they will be able to  
46 harvest them.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So the  
49 question now is sportfish for Frank; is that right?  
50

1                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I would like  
2 him to tell us what the Department knows about this  
3 population.

4  
5                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
6 think we're getting wrapped around the axle.

7  
8                   MR. BURR: Okay. I'll try to add a  
9 little bit of clarity here. First off, in the Yukon  
10 Drainage there is currently no provision for fishing  
11 with hook and line except under sportfishing  
12 regulations upstream of Paimiut Slough down by Holy  
13 Cross. So downstream of there, there's a provision for  
14 fishing with a hook and line in the Yukon drainage in  
15 the summertime. Only in the wintertime can you hook  
16 and line under subsistence regulations. that's under  
17 State regulations. That's not true under Federal  
18 regulations. Secondly, that whole area is open all the  
19 time to subsistence fishing. Obviously it's restricted  
20 by the windows like all the other subsistence fishing.

21  
22                   The regulation for the sportfishing in  
23 Black River and most of the Yukon drainage is it's a  
24 daily bag limit is how we manage that fishery. It's  
25 three fish per day, only two of those can be 20 inches  
26 -- 28 inches or larger. And you can only have one  
27 possession. So if you're out there for a week, you can  
28 catch just two larger fish. That's what the current  
29 regulation is.

30  
31                   There's almost no information about the  
32 stock status of king salmon in the Black River and in  
33 the Salmon Fork. Randy Brown was part of a large radio  
34 telemetry study several years ago with John Eiler and a  
35 very small portion of the radio tags that they put out  
36 in the main stem went up the Salmon Fork of the Black  
37 River.

38  
39                   I think that's pretty much all of the  
40 information we have about the status of the king salmon  
41 in Black River.

42  
43                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.

44  
45                   MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. I wonder if  
46 we could hear from Randy. I think he might be able to  
47 answer Virgil's question more completely.

48  
49                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
50 trying to figure this out. We're -- is the Council

1 going to support putting this proposal, an action  
2 change request to close the Black River and its  
3 tributaries to Chinook sport fishing, and we're asking  
4 -- are we going to do this, put this forward or not,  
5 and how much information do we need to put this  
6 forward. So like the last proposals, we probably  
7 shouldn't get too deep into, you know, all of the  
8 details.

9

10 Andy.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I agree with you,  
13 Madame Chair, but, you know, just to make the basic  
14 decision to move forward, we need some really basic  
15 information on is there a conservation concern, and how  
16 much, you know, is being harvested. I'm kind of  
17 surprised that maybe the Sportfish Department wouldn't  
18 have numbers, but I think people have to record that.  
19 So maybe we could put this to a little bit later and  
20 get a little bit more information on how many are  
21 actually taken, because if we don't know how many fish are  
22 taken, we don't know whether this is really an issue,  
23 so maybe it would be wise just to table this until we  
24 could get a little bit more information on numbers.

25

26 Just a suggestion.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And so you  
29 were suggesting Randy, the person that was here earlier  
30 and has left or who.....

31

32 MR. BASSICH: No, he's here.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, he's  
35 here. Okay.

36

37 MR. BURR: Madame Chair. I would add  
38 one more thing about the harvest level from the sport  
39 fishery. It's not zero, but it's very close to zero.  
40 The way we measure sport harvest in the Yukon is  
41 through a mail out survey, and we've never had a  
42 response that anybody ever caught a fish in this, so it  
43 doesn't mean that nobody ever caught any and harvested  
44 them. That means that just very few people participate  
45 and that the harvest level is very low.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Two  
48 more hands over here. Frank and then Donald.

49

50 MR. GURTLER: What about an emergency

1 closure on it.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That  
6 certainly can be done by our Department people.

7

8 Donald.

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 How would the guide, fishing guide  
13 industry how would they participate in the survey? If  
14 in fact they're going up there and fishing for Chinook,  
15 how do they participate in your survey that you say  
16 there's hardly any harvest?

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. BURR: Madame Chair, I'll try to  
21 get this quickly. There is no registered guide that is  
22 working on the Salmon Fork of the Black River. There's  
23 an individual who provides outfitting services and  
24 drops people off, but there is not a registered guide  
25 that is operating there.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But in  
28 answering his question?

29

30 MR. BURR: I'm sorry. So we have two  
31 ways to measure harvest. One is we have a guide  
32 logbook thing, so that anybody that is a fishing guide  
33 has to fill out a card every day, how many fish each of  
34 their clients caught and what kind and how many let go.  
35 How many keep, how many let go. Because there is no  
36 guide operating there, there's no certified guide  
37 operating there, we don't get that information.

38

39 So the only way we can measure the  
40 sport harvest in the Black River or in the Salmon Fork  
41 of the Black River, is if they're selected in the mail-  
42 out survey and they have never been.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Am I missing  
45 something? Do these people that fish not need a  
46 sportfishing license?

47

48 MR. BURR: They do need. I'm trying to  
49 keep this as short as we can, but I guess we're going  
50 to have more. So everybody that buys a sportsfishing

1 license is in a pool of potential people that will be  
2 contacted by this mail-survey I've gotten several of  
3 them myself over the years, and I suspect people in  
4 this room that buy fishing licenses have been selected  
5 over the years.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you --  
8 yeah.

9  
10 MR. BURR: And if you get one of those,  
11 you fill it out, right. Well, the probability of being  
12 selected for a particular fishing site.....

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see what  
15 you're saying, yeah.

16  
17 MR. BURR: .....is completely dependent  
18 on how many people fish there. So that we get a lot of  
19 responses from the Kenai. We get darn few from the  
20 Innoko, and we get none from the Salmon Fork of the  
21 Black River or any place else on the Black River. We  
22 get a couple from the Porcupine/Sheenjek, but that's  
23 it.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now they're  
26 going to have to get harvest tags.

27  
28 (Laughter)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry. But I  
31 can see what you're saying here. It's hard to get the  
32 data.

33  
34 Yeah, go ahead.

35  
36 MR. MATESI: How many of those  
37 questionnaires come back?

38  
39 MR. BURR: We actually get a pretty  
40 darn good response rate on the ones we send out. It  
41 varies by population. The people that live in the  
42 State have a different response rate from the people  
43 that live in the other parts of the United States  
44 versus those that live in Germany. But by and large  
45 it's pretty good. And I won't give you a number,  
46 because I don't know what it is, but it's pretty darn  
47 good.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I guess  
50 if you were suspicious that, you know, somebody's

1 bringing in people that are non-residents, you could --  
2 but then it's not by region, so it's really tough.  
3 It's really tough. I can see what he's saying. Uh-  
4 huh.

5  
6 MR. GLANZ: I'll tell you, if you don't  
7 fill them out, they'll send you another and another one  
8 and another one.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 MR. GLANZ: We'll fill it out  
13 eventually.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's how  
18 they get all that information.

19  
20 All right. So getting back to this, do  
21 you have enough information, or are you requesting more  
22 to vote on the motion for this ACR? Andrew.

23  
24 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you. I believe that  
25 there is no more information than what was just  
26 provided that we could actually request. So in knowing  
27 that and according to their general regs here, if one  
28 guy flies up, he can catch 30 king salmon in a day with  
29 three clients and come back and do it the next day.  
30 And being that's a spawning area of a stock of concern,  
31 I think we should move forward until more information  
32 is available to whether or not to open it back up  
33 again, because their daily bag limit is 10 a day if  
34 they're under 20 inches. And since the jacks are the  
35 size of what generally goes and travel, everybody's  
36 saying they're traveling all over, then they could  
37 essentially catch 30 salmon a day with one trip.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What did I  
40 hear about two before.

41  
42 MR. FIRMIN: Well, that's two of 28  
43 inches or longer.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which you're  
46 allowed to catch.

47  
48 MR. FIRMIN: With a limit of three per  
49 day.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And  
2 he's correct.

3  
4 MR. BURR: For those fish that are --  
5 it's three fish per day, three king salmon per day, two  
6 of which could be over 28 inches. There is provision  
7 for catching 10 king salmon a day if they are less than  
8 20 inches.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You misled  
11 us.

12  
13 MR. BURR: No. Well, I don't think  
14 about king salmon being less than 20 inches, I'm sorry.

15  
16  
17 MR. BASSICH: Come to Eagle.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So how many  
22 king salmon do you think are less 10.

23  
24 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Steve Hayes,  
25 can you refresh my memory? Isn't there a provision  
26 within the management plan whereby subsistence is given  
27 top priority, then sport and then commercial? Is that  
28 applicable here?

29  
30 MR. HAYES: (Nods affirmatively)

31  
32 MR. BASSICH: So I'm wondering if we  
33 could be given that information again. And then the  
34 other point I was going to make is, isn't there State  
35 regulations pertaining to harassing fish on a spawning  
36 ground?

37  
38 And maybe, you know with those  
39 provisions in place, really what it takes is just a  
40 little bit of enforcement there rather than creating a  
41 whole other level of regulations or whatever, so just  
42 two questions that I'd like answered, because it seems  
43 like there's already protection afforded. It's maybe  
44 just an enforcement issue here.

45  
46 MR. BURR: I can address both those.  
47 First off, yes, you're right. We don't permit in  
48 general fishing on spawning grounds. The Chena River,  
49 for example, they have to fish below the bridge so to  
50 avoid the king salmon.

1                   In a lot of rural Alaska, we haven't  
2 delineated where the spawning grounds starts, but in  
3 general you're right. If somebody is caught molesting  
4 spawning fish, they'd be cited.

5  
6                   And the other one was?

7  
8                   MR. BASSICH: The management plan.

9  
10                  MR. BURR: Oh, yes. In State  
11 regulations, subsistence gets first priority and then  
12 all other uses have the same priority, sport and  
13 commercial are on equal tier. Some people like to  
14 think that it's one way or the other, but I don't  
15 believe that's true.

16  
17                  MR. BASSICH: So it seems like really  
18 what needs to happen is the tribal entity up in your  
19 region needs to coordinate with Sportfish and identify  
20 those spawning grounds to them so that the word can be  
21 put out that sportfishing is not permissible.

22  
23                  And the people that are going up there  
24 have to realize that if there's no commercial fishing  
25 being allowed on the Yukon River, they're also not  
26 allowed to sportfish up in that region; is that  
27 correct?

28  
29                  MR. BURR: No, that's not correct.  
30 There's a lot of places where there's no commercial  
31 fishing, and there is sportfishing. No, no, that's not  
32 correct.

33  
34                  MR. BASSICH: So if I may, what's the  
35 difference then? If there's a cut-off point where  
36 you're allowed to subsistence fish, but you're not  
37 allowed to commercial fish and sportfish is put in with  
38 commercial, where's the differentiation? Can you  
39 clarify that?

40  
41                  MR. BURR: Yeah, I made an error.  
42 There is a lot of instances where there commercial --  
43 there is not a commercial fishery allowed and there is  
44 a sportfishery allowed. It has to do with conservation  
45 of the resource and the relative magnitude of the  
46 harvest and I believe -- I know that personal use and  
47 sportfish have the same level of priority. And you're  
48 going to have to rescue me here on this commercial  
49 fishery thing, Steve.

50

1 MR. HAYES: I'll try to help.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. HAYES: I think the easiest to  
6 explain it would be like the Tanana River. It's a  
7 terminal fishery. If we have no commercial fishing,  
8 because there's not a surplus for commercial fishing,  
9 there's sportfishing allowed on that river, because if  
10 we're meeting the escapement goals, or projecting to  
11 meet them, then there's no restrictions on that system.  
12 It's a tier level thing, too, like in 2009 when we  
13 didn't have a surplus for commercial, but we also  
14 restricted subsistence. At the same time the  
15 sportfishery reduced the bag limit I think to one, and  
16 the size limit. So in a sense you can still have  
17 sportfishing, like on the Tanana, if you don't have  
18 commercial fishing on the main stem Yukon. Now, once  
19 you start to get into the conservation is where you  
20 start to cut into subsistence harvest.

21

22 I hope that explains it.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I guess at  
25 this point in time I feel like there's an awful lot of  
26 information that we would need, and there's also some  
27 other avenues that the people in the region might be  
28 able to pursue, and so I'm not going to support this  
29 moving forward at this time. However, I'm very pro  
30 conservation as you know, and I would be very happy to  
31 entertain it in the future if more information was  
32 brought to us, definitive information on catches and  
33 numbers and impacts and so forth. But I think there  
34 may be some other avenues to limit this without going  
35 through this whole process.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see George  
40 has made the move forward, so he must have something  
41 important.

42

43 MR. PAPPAS: I'll make this quick.  
44 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game.

45

46 Sportfishing for fish in a river where  
47 there's not a spawning closure is not considered  
48 molesting fish independent of where they spawn, where  
49 they are. If there is a spawning closure enacted by  
50 the Board of Fisheries, then it would be illegal

1 fishing activity, but casting in a river, independent  
2 of where they spawn, is not considered molesting fish.  
3 There are definitions for molesting fish. I just  
4 wanted to make clarifications additive to what he said.

5

6

7 One way, one avenue is a proposal for a  
8 spawning closure in that area that you have identified,  
9 and the Board of Fish does have spawning closures state  
10 wide.

11

12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hum. Okay.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I have to revert back a few  
19 years back. Arctic Village sheep when the State opened  
20 it, they had, oh, my God, they're up there killing  
21 them, you ought to see them hauling them in and out of  
22 there, and all that, so the Feds or State, I can't  
23 remember who it was, put observers there. And I think  
24 there was two sheep taken that year. But, you know, to  
25 listened to the locals, they were just hauling them out  
26 of there in truckloads, you know.

27

28 So I've got a feeling that -- I have  
29 one other question to ask over there. Who's the  
30 administrator of that ground? Is it the BLM or is it  
31 Yukon Charley or is it -- oh, it's actually Arctic  
32 Wildlife Refuge?

33

34 MR. MATESI: It's Fish and Wildlife  
35 Service, the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge for  
36 the lower half of the river, and the upper half of that  
37 river is BLM.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Because I know with  
40 the Federal, they can probably fill it in better, I  
41 know you have to have permits and insurance and  
42 everything else, and you have to submit at the end of  
43 the season. I believe at the end of the season you  
44 have to submit what clientele you hauled in there and  
45 how many trips you made in there.

46

47 I myself am not going to vote for it  
48 right now, but if it's proven, like Andy says, I'll be  
49 supporting the heck out of it. Right now we're  
50 throwing darts and we have no comprehension, no numbers

1 or anything.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we're  
4 all getting tired, because we should be just debating  
5 if we want to do this or not. So everybody ready to  
6 vote or do you want to.....

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: Call the question.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The questions  
13 been called for. All in favor.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Can we have roll call.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Roll call vote, please.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roll call's  
22 been requested, so are you prepared? Yeah. Okay.

23

24 MS. MUSHOVIC: Sue Entsminger.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

27

28 REPORTER: Mic.

29

30 MS. MUSHOVIC: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank  
31 you. Sue Entsminger.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

34

35 MS. MUSHOVIC: Andrew Firmin.

36

37 MR. FIRMIN: Aye.

38

39 MS. MUSHOVIC: Larry Williams.

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

42

43 MS. MUSHOVIC: Lester Erhart.

44

45 MR. ERHART: Yes.

46

47 MS. MUSHOVIC: Andy Bassich.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: No.

50

1 MS. MUSHOVIC: William Glanz.  
2  
3 MR. GLANZ: No.  
4  
5 MS. MUSHOVIC: Frank Gurtler.  
6  
7 MR. GURTLER: Yes.  
8  
9 MS. MUSHOVIC:  
10  
11 MS. MUSHOVIC: Joe Matesi.  
12  
13 MR. MATESI: Yes.  
14  
15 MS. MUSHOVIC: Donald Woodruff.  
16  
17 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm going to abstain.  
18  
19 MS. MUSHOVIC: Virgil Umphenour.  
20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: My speaker quit. Gee,  
22 that's odd.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess I  
25 turned you off. Here, go ahead and vote, Virgil.  
26  
27 MR. BASSICH: Since when did we need a  
28 microphone for you, Virgil?  
29  
30 (Laughter)  
31  
32 REPORTER: Just vote.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we  
35 heard you.  
36  
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: I voted.  
38  
39 REPORTER: What did you say?  
40  
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.  
42  
43 REPORTER: Thank you.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I actually  
46 didn't hear him. It carries. Okay. The motion  
47 carries. What was it?  
48  
49 MS. MUSHOVIC: Six yes.  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Six to three?  
2  
3 MS. MUSHOVIC: Three no's and one  
4 abstain.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.  
7 Okay. All right. We have three new proposals to go to  
8 the Board of Fish from the RAC.  
9  
10 All right. How are we doing? Do we  
11 have anything else fisheries to talk about. This has  
12 been fisheries day.  
13  
14 So are we ready to quit for the day or  
15 do you want to take up anything on the wildlife stuff?  
16  
17 MR. BASSICH: What time is it?  
18  
19 MR. FIRMIN: Five.  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's right at  
22 five. I'm sorry.  
23  
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, it's working, good.  
25  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's two  
28 of them there. There's a Borough Assembly meeting  
29 starting at 5:30 that I want to go to that's very  
30 important about grandfather rights. There's some  
31 people on the Borough Assembly that hired someone from  
32 California to come up here as a consultant and tell us  
33 how we're supposed to keep our yard, and I'm totally  
34 opposed to that.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: So I'm going to go to  
39 that.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we can do  
42 a lot while you're gone.  
43  
44 (Laughter)  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
47 rest of you guys, you want to quit for the day and then  
48 start in the morning?  
49  
50 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, are we

1 going to be able to move through the rest of this  
2 agenda in one day tomorrow? I mean, there's still a  
3 lot for us to cover.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know, I  
6 have a little problem with that. I don't.....

7  
8 MR. BASSICH: I have no problem with  
9 going longer. I would gravely miss Virgil, but I  
10 really have no problem continuing on and knocking a few  
11 more of these out.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Are  
14 the rest of you in agreement?

15  
16 MR. MATESI: I agree with Andy.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I  
19 mean, there's just - these are some briefings. I don't  
20 know how long -- this is OSM, closure review briefing  
21 and a closure policy. Are these long reports? No.  
22 Okay. Is everybody okay with going forward for little  
23 longer?

24  
25 SEVERAL: Yes.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

28  
29 MR. GLANZ: How much longer, Chair?

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're  
32 getting nervous.

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Can we  
37 just go until six?

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

40  
41 MR. BASSICH: Take a five-minute break,  
42 go until six and call it a night. But if we can move  
43 through a lot of these briefings or whatever, I think  
44 it would probably allow for better discussion tomorrow.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. I  
47 will let you know that wildlife issues on the Chisana  
48 Caribou Herd, the biologist from Tok said, and I agree,  
49 that we'd do it in the morning, so we could go through  
50 these three. Okay. Let's go for.....

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible,  
2 away from microphone) Fortymile is coming from Tok.  
3 There's also Ted Burleson (ph) from Tok.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
6  
7 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, so he'll be here  
8 tomorrow.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-  
11 huh. Okay. We'll take a five-minute break and be  
12 back.  
13  
14 (Off record)  
15  
16 (On record)  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, gang,  
19 let's get back together here.  
20  
21 We'll have the wildlife closure review  
22 and Council recommendation. So there might be some  
23 action items here. No. 14.A., closure review briefing.  
24 We're got Spencer Rearden.  
25  
26 Get a little coffee to keep us going  
27 there, huh, Frank. All right. And Lester, he's got to  
28 have one, too. Okay.  
29  
30 Go ahead, Spencer. Welcome.  
31  
32 MR. REARDEN: Yeah. Madame Chair.  
33 Members of the Council. My name's Spencer Rearden. I  
34 work for OSM as a wildlife biologist.  
35  
36 I've kind of wrapped up the briefing  
37 and the policy into one and very short, just so we can  
38 get to the closure reviews, to get comments on those.  
39  
40 The Office of Subsistence Management  
41 reviews wildlife closures every three years to  
42 determine if justification for the closure is still  
43 consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board's closure  
44 policy.  
45  
46 Section .815 of ANILCA allows closures  
47 when necessary for the conservation of healthy  
48 populations of fish and wildlife or to continue  
49 subsistence uses of such populations. Distribution and  
50 abundance of fish and wildlife populations can

1 fluctuate along with subsistence use patterns.  
2 Councils are asked to consider the OSM preliminary  
3 recommendation and share their views on the issues.

4  
5 So that's all I have for the review,  
6 for the briefing, and if you'd like I can go into the  
7 closure review for the Arctic Village Sheep Management  
8 Area, 10-21.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You are  
11 making it happen short, aren't you?

12  
13 MR. REARDEN: Yep.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16  
17 (Laughter)

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

20  
21 MR. REARDEN: I figured it's not too  
22 new to you folks.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.  
25 So do you have any questions about the closure review,  
26 Council.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
31 Hearing none, we'll go on to why, right?

32  
33 MR. REARDEN: I'll start with Arctic  
34 Village. We have two of them. One wasn't included  
35 your books, and that was Closure Review 10-34, but I'll  
36 handle that one second. That one came after  
37 publication of your Council books, and there should  
38 have been some handouts passed out to you just to get  
39 you familiar.

40  
41 So Wildlife Closure Review 10-21 covers  
42 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. The analysis for  
43 his closure review begins on Page 52 of your Council  
44 books.

45  
46 The Arctic Village Sheep Management  
47 area has been closed to sheep hunting since 1991 due to  
48 concerns raised by Arctic Village residents who felt  
49 that non-Federally-qualified hunters interfered with  
50 sheep hunting by local residents.

1                   Population data and harvest information  
2 is lacking for the area within the management area  
3 where Federal lands are closed. Some survey data was  
4 collected in 2006, 2007 and 2008 from Cane Creek and  
5 Red Sheep Creek, areas adjacent to the fall closure  
6 area. Limited harvest data exists for years 2005  
7 through 2007 for the closure area.

8  
9                   At this point OSM does not have a  
10 recommendation on the closure. We want to note that  
11 there is continued local support for the closure, and  
12 that the Arctic Refuge is in support of maintaining the  
13 closure. We recognize the cultural importance of the  
14 management area to local residents.

15  
16                   Discussion by the RAC may help  
17 generate information over the population and harvest  
18 within the closed area or any other concerns they may  
19 have.

20  
21                   Thank you.

22  
23                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You really  
24 are keeping it short.

25  
26                   (Laughter)

27  
28                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Good  
29 job. Any questions. So we're on -- I'm sorry, Vince,  
30 did you have something to add?

31  
32                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair. Vince  
33 Mathews, subsistence coordinator for Arctic and part of  
34 my duties is to work with the villages involved with  
35 that Refuge.

36  
37                   And recently there was a Yukon Flats  
38 Advisory Committee meeting, and Larry Williams is the  
39 chair, and he would like me to give a little overview  
40 of how the committee addressed that issue and where  
41 it's at as far as in Arctic Village.

42  
43                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry, you  
44 want Vince to do that for you.

45  
46                   MR. WILLIAMS: Go ahead.

47  
48                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
49 right.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Anyways the committee met  
4 in Arctic Village similar to what you did, they have  
5 not been up there in a long time, so there was a lot of  
6 issues that came up and a lot of discussion.

7

8 Basically the committee discussed the  
9 closure at length but took no action on it. They  
10 encouraged the tribal council to take it up. So I've  
11 been working with the tribal council and we were hoping  
12 that they could meet by teleconference on Tuesday  
13 night, they could not. So they're going to meet,  
14 according to Larry, this weekend.

15

16 And the options that I gave them,  
17 because it is a complex topic and it's very sensitive  
18 to them, let me find my email on that, is basically  
19 they have the option of going with supporting the  
20 status quo, which is the management area that's in your  
21 briefing, but it excludes Red Sheep and Cane Creek  
22 area; or they can go with modifying the status quo  
23 including Cane and Red Sheep Creeks; or they could  
24 oppose the closure. We've not heard back. Obviously  
25 they haven't met. So that's where that's at.

26

27 And then Spencer already covered the  
28 Refuge's position on this, that they would like the  
29 current closure to stay in effect.

30

31 And that's all I have, unless there's  
32 some questions.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Can I comment on that.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: (Nods  
37 affirmatively)

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. Thank  
40 you. There's another item that was not mentioned by  
41 Vince there, was that -- and during that meeting I got  
42 the feeling that the Arctic Village Council and the  
43 tribal council would like to deal directly with the  
44 Federal Subsistence Board since the Federal Subsistence  
45 Board was directed to work more closely with the  
46 villages and the tribal councils, and I for one an in  
47 agreement with them, since I'm a resident up there,  
48 that the tribal council deal directly with the Federal  
49 Subsistence Board and bypass the Eastern RAC  
50 completely. And I don't know how far they'll get, but

1 that was the feeling I got from the residents up there  
2 when we had that meeting.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I did hear  
7 you right, they want to eliminate the RAC from going to  
8 the Board?

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, that was the  
11 feeling -- Madame Chair. That was the feeling I got  
12 from speaking with the leaders up there, that they have  
13 not gotten action from this RAC, and they feel like  
14 since the Secretary of the Interior directed the  
15 Federal Subsistence Board to work more closely with the  
16 tribal councils, wherever they may be, that they would  
17 maybe get something done with directly addressing the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wonder.  
21 You know, we -- I don't know what year it was, this RAC  
22 was in Arctic Village and we did hear them and we  
23 agreed with them. I think there was an alternative  
24 that we come up with. It's the Federal Board that made  
25 the decision, not this RAC. We agreed with the people.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: 2005, Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 2005. So it  
30 was now, in March also. Six years ago, that we were up  
31 in Arctic Village and we went with their  
32 recommendations. So it's really us, the RAC that was  
33 the problem. It went to the Federal Board and the  
34 Board made the decision.

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Madame Chairman.  
37 Maybe I didn't get enough background information, but  
38 that was the feeling I got. And like I said, in  
39 talking to the leaders, Gigi and James at the tribal  
40 council there, that nothing is being done about the  
41 closure of Red Sheep and Cane Creek. And you heard  
42 Mrs. Peter this morning expressing a concern about her  
43 allotment in those areas. And what they're going to  
44 request to the Federal Subsistence Board is that they  
45 have a complete closure of the Red Sheep and Cane  
46 Creek, and that's what they're going to request.  
47 That's what was told to me.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince had  
2 raised his hand and then Joe. What did you -- I saw  
3 your hand like this.

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. My interpretation  
6 of the meeting is the sensitivity of what happened with  
7 Red Sheep and Cane Creek is high on their attention,  
8 and so they kept you calling you the Board, this Board,  
9 this Council, and they thought you guys made the  
10 decisions. I told them you were in support of the  
11 closure, but due to all the different things that  
12 happened during that time, you were there to work out  
13 as best you could. But many of them still felt that it  
14 failed at your level, that you were the decision  
15 makers. And so that's why I have to get back up there,  
16 and I have to work with those individuals to get them  
17 to understand the process better. And so there was a  
18 lot of confusion there. Their agenda had a lot of  
19 topics on it, because they haven't met there in a long  
20 time.

21  
22 And Larry's politely bringing up, it  
23 was a lot of confusion. They really thought you guys  
24 were the Board that made the decision that resulted in  
25 Red Sheep and Cane Creek being open.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I  
28 became really good friends with -- was it Ed? Edward  
29 Sam.

30  
31 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, he mentioned that.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's why we've  
36 got to get you back up there somehow, because a lot of  
37 this is they just feel like they're not being heard and  
38 so as part of the Refuge Staff, they're always working  
39 on that. But there's just a lot of confusion there,  
40 and that's why I'm hoping through Larry and others that  
41 the tribal council will look at this closure and start  
42 taking whatever they want to do and see where it goes  
43 from there.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, then  
46 and I think that you need to take them the reason why  
47 the Federal Board voted the way they did, too, because  
48 it's in ANILCA.

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I read it into the

1 record there, but it's so close to their concern, that  
2 I need to meet with them individually. Hearing the  
3 words didn't matter; they still want that area closed.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
6 Joe, then Bill.

7

8 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 I would like to go on record as  
11 supporting the Arctic Village Tribal Council in their  
12 efforts to deal directly with the Subsistence Board. I  
13 am aware of the fact that that is the direction that  
14 the Department of the Interior has mandated that we go,  
15 that there should be increased tribal participation in  
16 the decision making process. And I support that  
17 wholeheartedly. And this is a good opportunity to  
18 start to put some of that new tribal involvement and  
19 opportunity for it to happen.

20

21 I do wish and I do hope that there is  
22 some way maybe that this Council can express their  
23 support of the Arctic Village Tribal Council. A  
24 resolution of support or an expression of support of  
25 some sort. I don't know what that might be. And see  
26 if they want this Council's support. If not, then I  
27 feel comfortable just stepping back and letting them  
28 take the lead.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to  
31 have Polly, she set up to the bench there. What our  
32 jurisdiction is.

33

34 DR. WHEELER: Well, this is sort of a  
35 discussion that we're going to have tomorrow, some of  
36 it, in terms of the tribal consultation and the roles  
37 of the tribes and the RACs and the Federal Subsistence  
38 Board, but under ANILCA the Federal Board has to defer  
39 to the RACs on the basis of the three criteria that are  
40 in .805(c).

41

42 And so the Board held a meeting on  
43 January 21st, invited all Federally-recognized tribes  
44 and ANCSA corporations to help the Board figure out a  
45 way to do consultation with Federally-recognized tribes  
46 and ANCSA corporations.

47

48 But that tribal consultation can't  
49 replace deferring to the RACs, because deferring to the  
50 RACs is actually in ANILCA. It's in statute.

1                   So it'll be an interesting path how we  
2 have to go down in terms of how this tribal  
3 consultation is going to fit in with the Regional  
4 Advisory Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board and  
5 the process. The Federal Board is clearly very  
6 interested in increasing tribal consultation and the  
7 Secretary of the Interior and the Obama Administration  
8 is also, but they also recognize that by statute the  
9 Board has to defer to the Regional Advisory Councils on  
10 regulatory proposals. So it's a complicated web and we  
11 will negotiate it and get through, and we're not  
12 throwing up roadblocks, but we do have to pay attention  
13 to the statute.

14  
15                   And that's the landscape. Madame  
16 Chair.

17  
18                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,  
19 I'd just like to in my mind and working in this process  
20 for 10 years and longer as a private citizen, there's  
21 nothing to stop Arctic Village from going directly to  
22 the Board, or any entity for going directly to the  
23 Board. I don't know, I'm finding it a little hard, and  
24 I know somehow or another something is, to me, driving  
25 wedges here instead of working together. And that's  
26 really hard for me.

27  
28                   And I think, Joe, did you have the  
29 next?

30  
31                   MR. GLANZ: I think it was me.

32  
33                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it was  
34 Bill.

35  
36                   MR. GLANZ: Well, being on the Board  
37 for six years, Madame Chair, we've revisited this, this  
38 is the third time. And every time, Larry, we even went  
39 to Arctic Village, and we told the people, we have  
40 support of them. We had no vote in that.

41  
42                   And I've got another question. How  
43 many Arctic sheep did they harvest last year in that  
44 village, do you know? Because that's the reason the  
45 Board took it away, because they showed no usage  
46 whatsoever, no harvest whatsoever for I don't know how  
47 many years. And they've got to show a harvest.  
48 They've got to show they're utilizing the resources.  
49 How can I explain it?

50

1 In Central we're allowed to harvest  
2 ducks. So I go to people and say, how many ducks did  
3 you harvest? Well, I'm not going to tell you. Well,  
4 you've got to tell me, because if you want to keep it,  
5 you've got to use it. So you've got to get the people  
6 in Arctic Village to go, they may kill three of them.  
7 I know they're a paperless society lives up there in  
8 the remote areas, but they've got to show usage to  
9 these boards, and that's where it's got to be coming  
10 from.

11  
12 Like I say, we visited three times on  
13 this issue, this is going to be the fourth I believe  
14 now. And we totally support Arctic Village people. We  
15 didn't want to take it away from them to begin with.  
16 We voted to maintain it, but we're just one little  
17 entity just like the village council is. The big moose  
18 are down there and meeting in Anchorage, you know.

19  
20 I rest. Go ahead. I asked, I want to  
21 know how many they harvested this year; do you have any  
22 idea?

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
25 Larry.

26  
27 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

28  
29 I think the individuals that expressed  
30 this view were confused like Vince said. They thought  
31 we as a Council made the final decisions, so I think  
32 that was the problem since you brought it up, you know.  
33 And I don't think they intentionally mean to bypass  
34 this Council, you know. But I believe they were  
35 confused by all the different levels that they have to  
36 go through.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's  
39 understandable.

40  
41 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. You know. And in  
42 answer to your question, Bill, is that I have no idea  
43 what the harvest was. Of course, I don't live up there  
44 and I live about 100 miles away.

45  
46 MR. GLANZ: Well, I understand that.  
47 But you're saying Matthew Gilbert, he was on our Board  
48 from Arctic Village there and he thought we could -- he  
49 had no idea. He was like Joe did today, he had no idea  
50 that, I'll make a recommendation, tomorrow it's law.

1 He don't understand it took years to get a law passed.  
2 That's why he dropped off our Board. That was a very  
3 intelligent young man. I wish he'd have stayed with  
4 us, but anyway -- to that's just something, I'm just  
5 wanting people to get involved there and then trust us.  
6 We're not their enemy. We're users ourselves anyway.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 I was on the Board at that time, or the  
13 Council, when we were in Arctic Village, and Vince was  
14 our coordinator. And I'm sure that he understands that  
15 there was some confusion. When I first got on the  
16 Council, I thought -- I was confused a little bit about  
17 the process as well. But it's not an easy thing to  
18 explain to a user that's say just coming out of the  
19 Bush that we don't have the authority to issue or to  
20 grant laws or bylaws or whatever. And I think that if  
21 we give our support to Arctic Village Council or  
22 whoever's funding this or backing this proposal, it  
23 would give more support, and like Bill said, you know,  
24 we're not the enemy. We're supporting and working  
25 together as much as possible.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I don't want to  
32 beat a dead horse here, but, you know, I've always been  
33 a very strong proponent of trying to encourage young  
34 people to get involved and be a part of the process,  
35 because this process takes a long time to really fully  
36 understand and learn how to manipulate and utilize it  
37 to achieve what you want to achieve. And coming from a  
38 relatively remove area and certainly not as remote as  
39 that, I understand the difficulty it is that people  
40 have in coming into an environment like this and being  
41 surrounded by a lot of strangers that they don't know.  
42 It's very intimidating.

43

44 But I would hope, Larry, that you could  
45 take the message back and maybe you as well, Joseph,  
46 that they really do need to get people on the RAC and  
47 learn the system and try to use the system to help  
48 benefit them. But it is a long learning curve.

49

50 And look around this table, we need

1 some youth here. I mean, we are so lucky to have  
2 Andrew on board here. He's a shining star here, and  
3 he's going to be carrying the torch when a lot of us  
4 are gone, and we need more of that, because there's an  
5 awful lot of gray hair at the time here.

6

7 MR. GLANZ: Not a whole lot.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chairman. May I  
12 make a brief statement then?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Go  
15 ahead, Larry.

16

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I hear you, Andy,  
18 and I said the same thing, Vince remembers. I  
19 encourage the younger people up there to take over,  
20 because I'm not going to last forever, you know. I  
21 feel like I will until -- you know, I feel like I will  
22 last forever.

23

24 And, Vince, I said the same thing  
25 during that meeting up there that the young people need  
26 to become more involved.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, could I  
31 add? I think it's really important for us to make sure  
32 that that message goes out to the villages and that we  
33 do everything in our power to support and encourage  
34 young people to be involved, you know, in our own  
35 communities. The people that are involved, those of us  
36 at the table, when we go back to our communities,  
37 usually we're the people that are trying to work with  
38 some of the younger people and encourage them, and I  
39 think the onus is kind of on us to make sure that we  
40 identify people that are going to stay in the  
41 communities and be there and then carry the torch in  
42 the future.

43

44 So I'm not asking OSM to do anything on  
45 that. I mean, I know they're always going to support  
46 it, but I guess I'm probably speaking more to all of us  
47 as Council members, that the onus is on us to make sure  
48 that we're represented well in the future.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

1 Getting back to the closure. I'm going to make it  
2 clear here.  
3  
4 Did you say Polly's hand was going like  
5 this?  
6  
7 DR. WHEELER: I was fidgeting.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh,  
10 fidgeting. Okay. Andrew.  
11  
12 MR. FIRMIN: I'd like to make a motion  
13 to support the current closure of the Arctic Village  
14 Sheep Management Area.  
15  
16 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
19 Discussion. Go ahead.  
20  
21 MR. FIRMIN: During the -- it says  
22 right here that ANWR supports maintaining the closure.  
23 The latest 2010 report here says the Arctic Village  
24 Sheep Management Area is traditionally used for hunting  
25 by local residents, and serves as an important  
26 subsistence area. I know it's open by permit, special  
27 use permit by residents of I believe four villages,  
28 Fort Yukon being one of them. Last fall two of my  
29 friends went up there, went hunting and they were  
30 allowed any two rams each, and they shot the only two  
31 rams they saw, and they were there five days and they  
32 left before the meat had rotted. However they did see  
33 a healthy population of ewes and young ones, but I  
34 think that there is enough justification enough to keep  
35 the area closed.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
38 discussion.  
39  
40 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I got one.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
43 Larry.  
44  
45 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
46  
47 On that motion you just made, does that  
48 closure, it to remain the way it is or now as written?  
49  
50 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. What the Arctic  
2 Village residents were saying is that they include Red  
3 Sheep Creek and Cane Creek in that closure.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just for  
6 clarification, is that included?

7  
8 MR. FIRMIN: No. This is for the  
9 current closure area which doesn't include Red Sheep  
10 and Cane Creek. This would only include the current  
11 status to remain closed, the current area.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
14 current status. So the motion on the floor is the  
15 current status.

16  
17 MR. FIRMIN: To keep it currently as  
18 is.

19  
20 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does everyone  
23 understand the motion. Okay. And the question's been  
24 called for. So all in favor.

25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

29  
30 (No opposing votes)

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
33 motion is passed. All right.

34  
35 And do we have one more?

36  
37 MR. FIRMIN: Yes. Also, however, I  
38 admire Arctic Village Council's tenacity, and they want  
39 to go to Federal Subsistence Board meetings. They're  
40 more than welcome to go and argue with those people.

41  
42 The current area, I know that they  
43 wanted -- the tribal consultation is just starting, so  
44 that whole process of them dealing with the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board directly could take who knows how  
46 long, because they've been talking about it for 10  
47 years. They probably just finally got a directive from  
48 the man on top, from Washington, to do so now.

49  
50 And according to the data right here,

1 in 2007 when it was reopened, the Red Sheep Creek and  
2 the Cane Creek area, there was even less of a  
3 population than when they closed it originally in 1991  
4 by half. So why it was opened was probably because of  
5 lack of use from residents; however, like you said,  
6 they're a paperless society and who knows where people  
7 go. And that's where the whole tribal consultation  
8 came from, because nobody probably went up there and  
9 bothered to ask. They just said there's no Federal  
10 permits being used, so they're not using it, open it  
11 up. And that's probably where Arctic Village would  
12 have been good to be there at the meeting and say,  
13 heck, the whole town goes there. We didn't know we  
14 needed a permit.

15

16 So in saying that, I would also like to  
17 make another motion to include the Red Sheep Creek and  
18 Cane Creek drainages into the Arctic Village Sheep  
19 Management area.

20

21 MR. MATESI: I'll second that.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been  
24 moved and seconded to include those two drainages.  
25 Discussion. Donald.

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm having to completely  
28 agree with Andrew. When we were up there, we discussed  
29 this as Bill mentioned about the non-documentation of  
30 use. And I want to emphasize again that if we don't  
31 fill out harvest tickets or show use, then it's going  
32 to get taken away from us.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
37 still looking down. Sorry. Go ahead, Polly, and then,  
38 Joe, did you have something? You had your hand -- oh,  
39 okay.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Polly.

44

45 DR. WHEELER: Madame Chair. Next on  
46 your agenda which I suspect you're probably not going  
47 to take up tonight, but rather tomorrow morning,  
48 there's a all for proposals to change wildlife  
49 regulations. And that's where that would come in as a  
50 proposal, because it's kind of a separate. It's open,

1 so it would have to be closed. So that's where this  
2 Council and come in and write a proposal and submit it.  
3 So that would be my recommendation, be a cleaner way of  
4 doing it.

5  
6 Madame Chair.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand.

9  
10 MR. BASSICH: Motion to table until  
11 tomorrow.

12  
13 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
16 right. I think that's non-debatable. Okay. Isn't it?  
17 Isn't a table non-debatable? Yes. I'm trying to get  
18 through this Robert's Rules.

19  
20 Okay. There's one more, right? Okay.

21  
22  
23 MR. REARDEN: Okay. Here, this is in  
24 dealing with Wildlife Closure Review 10-34, which  
25 covers Unit 11 caribou. The analysis for this closure  
26 review was handed out. We realized that after  
27 publication of the RAC book that Unit 12 residents have  
28 C&T for caribou in Unit 11.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's in your  
31 green one. Sorry. It's in their green folder. It's  
32 unit 11 caribou.

33  
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Go ahead.

35  
36 MR. REARDEN: So with that being said,  
37 we realized this should be shared with the Eastern  
38 Interior RAC.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because of  
41 C&Ts, yeah. Uh-huh.

42  
43 MR. REARDEN: Correct.

44  
45 MR. GLANZ: Is that 10-34 or which one  
46 were we talking about?

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That one.  
49 10-34. Did everyone find it? 10-34. This is what's  
50 called a crossover proposal, to the new members. And

1 it's becoming way far away from you, it's Unit 11. But  
2 it's right in my backyard. So the people in my area  
3 have C&Ts in that area, and that happens up in your  
4 area also.

5  
6 So speaking to the closure review.

7  
8 MR. REARDEN: Okay. This is fairly  
9 brief. The caribou season was first closed at first by  
10 emergency order in 1992. In 1996 the season was opened  
11 using a quota system, and then closed again in 1998.

12  
13 Low caribou numbers and low recruitment  
14 warranted protection. The population was estimated to  
15 be over 3,000 in 1987, and less than 500 in 2008. Calf  
16 production and survival remain low.

17  
18 So the OSM recommendation is to  
19 maintain the Federal closure for the conservation of a  
20 healthy population.

21  
22 So any questions.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any  
25 questions.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 MR. FIRMIN: I'd like to make a motion  
30 to maintain status quo and agree with OSM conclusions.

31  
32 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
35 Discussion.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody's  
40 all enlightened about Unit 11 caribou. That's just,  
41 well, pretty much in my backyard, and that herd has  
42 been low for a long, long time. And I think at the SRC  
43 meeting that I just attended, they said it was like 220  
44 animals, just over 200. I don't remember exactly  
45 without pulling out my paperwork. So it maintains  
46 being low.

47  
48 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. GLANZ: Is that a unit of the  
2 Fortymile Caribou that's wandered or is that a separate  
3 entire herd?

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is  
6 supposed to be a separate herd called the Mentasta  
7 Herd, it's really -- they migrate with the Nelchinas  
8 and go over through our area and sometimes into Canada.  
9 And so they're -- you know, the Park Service said they  
10 collared a bunch of animals this past year and six of  
11 them went and calved with the Nelchinas, and there's  
12 always been discussion that, you know, these two herds,  
13 are they the Nelchinas or are they two separate herds.

14  
15 And so it's been hammered in my brain  
16 all these years that it's two separate herds, because  
17 the Mentasta Caribou calve over here and the Nelchinas  
18 way over here.

19  
20 MR. GLANZ: It's similar to Fortymile  
21 and the Steese White Mountain Herd. Once in a while  
22 they intermingle, but they -- you know. Anyway.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.  
25 They're supposed to be two separate herds by the  
26 biologists, yeah.

27  
28 MR. GLANZ: right

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So at any  
31 rate, I would say looking at this data, there's no  
32 reason to go any further than to support the closure.

33  
34 Donald.

35  
36 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

37  
38 Is there crossover between the Chisana  
39 Herd and the Mentasta Herd?

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know  
42 what, I'm not a biologist, but the data that I have  
43 seen says that the Chisana Herd are more of a mountain  
44 caribou. They stay in their area, and sometimes the  
45 Mentastas can go through that area and continue, but  
46 they do not pick up the Chisana here. And Barbara is  
47 back there agreeing with me. And this is something  
48 that's been long talked about in our State ACs in my  
49 area.

50

1                                   And we're going to have to take that  
2 phone from Frank I think.  
3  
4                                   (Laughter)  
5  
6                                   MR. GLANZ: A motion to take all cell  
7 phones.  
8  
9                                   (Laughter)  
10  
11                                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. He's  
12 an elder. it's hard to beat upon him too hard. Yeah.  
13 Just take the phone away, huh, Frank?  
14  
15                                  But any rate, any other questions.  
16 Donald.  
17  
18                                  MR. BASSICH: I call the question.  
19  
20                                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
21 question's been called for. All in favor say aye.  
22  
23                                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
24  
25                                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
26 opposed.  
27  
28                                  (No opposing votes)  
29  
30                                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I  
31 think we've finished for the day. And tomorrow we're  
32 going to see where -- let me look at this again. The  
33 call for proposals for wildlife proposals is first, and  
34 then we're going to go into the rest of the agenda.  
35  
36                                  So 8:30. All right. See you at 8:30.  
37 Do you -- K.J. informs me we could start earlier if you  
38 want.  
39  
40                                  MR. ERHART: No.  
41  
42                                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. Lester  
43 is a solid no. I think we'll get through the agenda  
44 tomorrow.  
45  
46                                  (Off record)  
47  
48                                  (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14