

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 Pikes Landing
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 March 7, 2014
12 10:00 a.m.

13
14
15
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 17
18 Sue Entsminger, Chair
19 Andy Bassich
20 Lester Erhart
21 Andrew Firmin
22 William Glanz
23 Will Koehler
24 James Roberts
25 Virgil Umphenour
26 Larry Williams
27 Donald Woodruff
28
29 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/7/2014)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's do one more
8 test. George Pappas, can you talk to us for a minute.
9 Everybody is here but Andrew.

10
11 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Madame
12 Chair. If this phone line does work and hold out, I'll
13 be presenting the Office of Subsistence Management
14 Federal Subsistence Management Program's positions on
15 the State proposals that are coming up. I understand
16 we're going to go through the testimony protocol.
17 You've got a list to introduce. It will be State,
18 Federal, tribal, other government and then public. I
19 understand yesterday we got to the public part with the
20 first proposal and a presentation was going to be made
21 and we ended the meeting because of the problems with
22 the telephone system, but it appears like that's been
23 addressed. Thank you very much, Tina.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
26 George, I'm going to have to be reminded. Under the
27 OSM, what was your recommendation?

28
29 MR. PAPPAS: For the dipnet proposal?

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 371.

32
33 MR. PAPPAS: 371, the Federal
34 Subsistence Management Program opposed the proposal
35 based on concerns for any contact with kings during
36 times of low abundance may lead to mortality. Larger,
37 more efficient nets may lead to mortality. No
38 information or studies are out there that indicates
39 that more mortality will happen.

40
41 Also, the Western Interior supported
42 this proposal. Their position was in times of low
43 abundance you likely will see less kings killed in a
44 dipnet than gillnets. They put a two-year moratorium
45 on it and encouraged writing a letter to the Board of
46 Fish encouraging the Department to do research or maybe
47 some telemetry, maybe some DIDSON work to determine the
48 mortality rates or delayed mortality rates from
49 releasing kings out of dipnets. So that was one of the
50 reasons they supported the opposition there was at this

1 low abundance the kings shouldn't be handled.

2

3 The YKD voted yesterday to support the
4 proposal. It would be more efficient if there's a
5 harvestable surplus available, it's a way to release
6 kings. They didn't have much discussion about
7 modification of this proposal.

8

9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just one
12 quick question, George. What was the vote from the
13 Yukon Delta RAC?

14

15 MR. PAPPAS: It was unanimous. I think
16 there was a total of seven people there. They barely
17 had a quorum and they were 7-0.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
20 Do you guys have any other questions of George.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
25 right. We did have public comment and I understand we
26 have four of these, so if you could summarize and I'll
27 give you five minutes. Are you on, Gene?

28

29 MR. SANDONE: Yes, I am, Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
32 ahead.

33

34 MR. SANDONE: Is this for all four
35 proposals then, five minutes, Madame Chair? Madame
36 Chair?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry. I
39 was looking at the RAC. The public comment is five
40 minutes and we're on one, so you take up the first one.

41

42 MR. SANDONE: Okay. I don't
43 understand. Is this for both proposals that I have
44 five minutes or just one proposal?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just one.

47

48 MR. SANDONE: Okay. If you'd look at
49 my handout entitled Yukon Area Proposal, so that's the
50 Board of Fisheries March 2014. Slide 2, Proposal 371

1 would allow unrestricted commercial dipnet size. The
2 proposer is Yukon Delta Fisheries Development
3 Association. Increased efficiency of this gear without
4 causing harm to king salmon.

5
6 Presently there is a five-foot straight
7 line maximum on all dipnets and that reflects personal
8 use regulations. They didn't come up with any
9 commercial regulations when they enacted this last
10 year.

11
12 On a hoop net or a circular net, it's
13 measure is a five-foot diameter of the dipnet. On the
14 triangular dipnet, however, the maximum straight line
15 distance is from the corner base to midway between the
16 handle and the net. Presently, the base of the
17 triangle is approximately four feet. We would like to
18 see the base of the dipnet to be at least six feet.

19
20 If you look at slide 3, there's a
21 triangle dipnet. What I'm talking about is a base, the
22 bottom, four feet. Again, I just want to reiterate
23 that Department regulation for a one handle, one person
24 to operate. We're not challenging this or asking that
25 to be changed. So I think the hoop nets would -- you
26 know, you're not going to extend it more than another
27 foot or so to be workable.

28
29 With the triangle nets, I think you can
30 go six, seven feet and still could be workable and
31 increase the efficiency of catching the chum salmon.

32
33 Madame Chair, that's all I have for
34 Proposal 371.

35
36 Thank you very much.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
39 members, any questions.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
44 you.

45
46 Do I have Rondell Jimmie in the
47 audience?

48
49 MS. PATTON: He just walked out.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He just
2 walked out? Do you know Rondell? Just tell him I have
3 a blue card for him to testify under public. Not good
4 timing, is it. We'll give him a minute here. Next
5 would be our motion and what we're going to do on that.
6 Do you guys want to start on that and then if he comes
7 in, then bring him -- yeah, okay.

8
9 Do I hear a motion. Andy.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
12 make a motion we support Proposal 371 as presented
13 before us.

14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: I'm ready to discuss.
20 I'm going to be opposed to supporting this proposal. I
21 believe at this point in time we're all very much aware
22 of the crisis of the king salmon. I think this gear is
23 a new gear type. It's been used now for a year with a
24 lot of success. I don't know the exact numbers off the
25 top of my head, but it's my understanding that almost
26 50 -- or I think it was 40 or 45 percent of the
27 commercial harvest was actually through dipnet use,
28 which leads me to believe that it's actually quite
29 efficient and is working quite well as a conservation
30 means to take summer chum salmon during the king salmon
31 as well.

32
33 So I don't see a need for making it
34 more efficient than it already is. I believe we have a
35 conservation concern. I believe that the regulation,
36 as it stands right now, is providing for subsistence
37 opportunities to harvest summer chum with minimum
38 impacts to chinook salmon and it seems to be working,
39 so I see no need to modify it to make it more efficient
40 at this point in time.

41
42 I don't think it has any implications
43 on restricting anybody by supporting this or not
44 supporting it. It just seems to me a proposal to try
45 and make the efficiency greater, which I, at this time,
46 don't believe is needed. I have a lot of concerns
47 about king salmon being released from any type of gear
48 type, whether it be fishwheels, dipnets, gillnets,
49 whatever. There's a fair amount of evidence out there
50 that once fish are caught and released they are

1 stressed, they are damaged and we don't really have a
2 lot of information at this point in time on whether
3 they actually complete their run to the spawning
4 grounds. We don't know what the mortality rates are.

5
6 So, before any additional changes are
7 made to any gear or any new gears are added, I believe
8 that there needs to be a very thorough study of the
9 effects of being live-released from various gear types
10 on mortality.

11
12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For the new
15 Council members, that number 8 there, Andy did a good
16 job of the discussion and justification. These are the
17 kind of things we like to get on the record. When you
18 talk to it, that's really helpful.

19
20 Other discussion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MR. KOEHLER: Can we call for the
25 question?

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
28 Everybody happy?

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Do we need to have public
31 testimony on this or was the person who was going to
32 testify.....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We did. We
35 had public testimony and the one person that sent in a
36 blue card besides the guy that testified is not here.
37 Eva said that he wanted to testify with Victor Lord and
38 Victor isn't here.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I just wanted to
41 make sure that we covered our bases before we voted,
42 Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And I
45 will say this from Virgil when I talked to him this
46 morning. He said what you said and how are you going
47 to release these kings and them not be harmed. You
48 might have covered that, but I'm just going to say that
49 was his concern.

50

1 James.

2

3 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. I do a lot of
4 dipnetting at home and I used willows and poles and we
5 make handmade dipnets. What I'm concerned is if they
6 catch multiple fish, you know, that's going to stress
7 out that king salmon more because there's a chance
8 they'll catch three or four in a dip from my experience
9 dipnetting.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James, that
12 stuff is important, so don't hesitate to bring things
13 up like that.

14

15 I have the question called for. Does
16 anyone else have anything else they want to add.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
21 question is called for. All in favor of this motion to
22 -- okay, that's 371, Yukon River Chum Salmon Management
23 Plan, remove dipnet size restrictions for the Yukon area
24 Districts 1
25 through 3 commercial summer chum salmon fisheries as follows.

I

26 believe you all see what's here. I don't have to read it
27 again. Okay.

28 All in favor of the motion say aye.

29

30 (No aye votes)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
33 to the motion say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It passes
38 unanimous. Okay. The next one is Virgil's, 372.
39 George is going to introduce it. Go ahead, Don.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: You said that passed
42 unanimous and it failed unanimous.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Failed
45 unanimous. All right. Sorry about that.

46

47 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George
48 Pappas. Yes, the Federal Subsistence Management
49 Program did not make comments on the Proposal 372. I

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2 Thanks, George.

3
4 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Madame
5 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record, Jeff
6 Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
7 This is in regards to Proposals 372, which was proposed
8 by Virgil Umphenour. The proposal seeks to modify the
9 specifications and operations of commercial fishwheels
10 in the Yukon Area by allowing the use of leads.

11
12 Currently the regulations are that
13 fishwheels are allowed as commercial gear in the Upper
14 Yukon River in Districts 4 through 6 and the use of
15 leads with commercial fishwheels is not specifically
16 authorized in regulation. However, it is important to
17 note that the use of leads is authorized while
18 subsistence fishing and this is in regulation.

19
20 Just some background. Historically,
21 leads have been used with fishwheels for subsistence
22 and commercial fishing in the Yukon River. Commercial
23 and subsistence fishing periods in Districts 4 and 6
24 are often concurrent and many fishermen use the same
25 wheels for both commercial and subsistence gear.

26
27 Essentially what we're looking to do or
28 what this proposal is looking to do is to align the
29 regulations with current practices in the fisheries.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
32 questions. This is Virgil's. We can get into that
33 later if we have any questions to call him.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
39
40 MR. ROBERTS: How many people fish
41 without leads?
42
43 MR. KOEHLER: That's what I was
44 thinking.
45
46 MR. ESTENSEN: In terms of
47 commercially, I don't think very many do. Matter of
48 fact, I think this was kind of a surprise to everybody
49 on the river when it was found that this wasn't in
50 regulation. What kind of prompted this, we had a lot

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1 of inquiries about this last year and, again, you know,
2 as we said, and a lot of the commercial and subsistence
3 periods are concurrent in the upriver. I think it was
4 kind of a -- really, are you kidding me. So I think
5 this was a shock to everybody, including ADF&G. Or not
6 a shock, but just we weren't aware of this and it's
7 been going on. Again, I think the intent of this is to
8 just kind of align things and make it.....

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

11
12 MR. KOEHLER: So, am I understanding
13 this right, is it more of a housekeeping issue?

14
15 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, you could call it
16 that, definitely.

17
18 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's

ANCSA

23 corporations that have a report on this.

24

25 (no comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Agency

28 comments. Fish and Game.

29

30 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Jeff

31 Estensen. The Department supports this.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

34 Federal agencies.

35

36 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George

37 Pappas, speaking for the Western Interior RAC. They

38 voted to support this 6-1 or maybe 7-1. The one person

39 who objected to it was during times of low abundance

40 the gear shouldn't be as efficient, so it was more of a

41 concern that less kings will be handled if there were

42 not leads. The YKDRAC voted to support this

43 unanimously.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

48 Native, tribal, village or other.

49

50 (No comments)

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Interagency

2 Staff.

3

4 (No comments)

5

8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Fairbanks AC
10 supported it.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fairbanks AC.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Eagle AC
15 also supported this.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any others,
18 you guys, that took it up in your region.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
23 don't think there's any SRCs up there. Summary of
24 written public comments. Is there some, Eva?
25
26 MS. PATTON: We just have the written
27 comments from the State.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
30 They already gave theirs. Public testimony.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's too bad
35 Victor isn't here because that was Virgil's -- he said
36 as long as Victor is there and he was here yesterday.
37 Is there any public testimony?
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
42 Hearing none. Let's move along.
43
44 MR. FIRMIN: I just found our Yukon
45 Flats AC here and they said we opposed it unanimously
46 and we questioned where the commercial fishing with
47 fishwheels takes place on the river and what species
48 are targeted. All we understood is it's a housekeeping
49 proposal and liked the idea of defining it. They feel
50 the proposal should specify length and material that

it out of what, how long, how big, how
3 deep. That was our only concern and I'll say that
4 again later.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
7 guys want to take it up.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like
10 to make a motion we support Proposal 372 as presented
11 to us.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
16 Discussion.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: I'll speak to it. I'm in
19 support of this. I believe this was put into
20 regulation for commercial fishing to allow for harvest
21 of summer chum and have a minimum impact on king
22 salmon. Wheels have to be fitted with boxes that allow
23 for king salmon to be diverted directly back into the
24 river and not be held, which is a conservation measure.
25 Wheels also have to have a person standing on the wheel
26 while in operation at all times during operation,
27 therefore also being a conservation measure.

28

29 Traditional ecological knowledge will
30 tell you that a fishwheel is incredibly inefficient
31 without a lead, so there's really not much point in
32 running a fishwheel if you can't run a lead. To make
33 this gear type work in its traditional manner, it must
34 have a lead. As stated earlier, it seems to be more of
35 a housekeeping issue than a conservation issue here.

36

37 I think this will be a beneficial
38 thing. They're subsistence people that do use this
39 gear because it allows them to harvest a surplus of a
40 different species other than king salmon. There will
41 be other species, not only summer chum, that will be
42 caught for subsistence food. We are currently trying
43 to encourage people to use other species to meet their
44 subsistence needs and I think this is actually one of
45 the better tools for doing that because it catches
46 pretty much anything that's in the river as opposed to
47 different gill mesh stretch nets that will target
48 primarily salmon species.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But this is

1 just for commercial, a lead for commercial. They do
2 have allowance for subsistence.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Right. I agree. But I'm
5 just speaking to how -- you know, people that fish
6 subsistence are also fishing commercially. It's both.
7 So this will allow people to use those incidentally
8 caught non-salmon species in their subsistence harvest
9 and that's how it's going to benefit them.

10
11 And I don't believe that this is
12 unnecessarily going to restrict other users in any
13 method. In fact, it's going to actually allow more
14 harvest of that summer chum, the surplus. I believe
15 that's all I have, Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
18 discussion. Andrew.

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Again, this is kind of
21 like the proposal before. I agree with it. It says a
22 housekeeping proposal, but it's also unrestricted. I
23 think part of our AC's discussion was, you know, if
24 it's unrestricted, I could take a barge out there and
25 pound stakes halfway across the river, but, of course,
26 traditionally it's just from your spar to the beach,
27 from the wheel to the beach. It's like 20, 40 feet.
28 Leaving it unrestricted was our biggest concern.

29
30 Like Andy says, fishermen will find a
31 way around regulations and get creative with it, so
32 that was our biggest concern and it's still a concern
33 of mine. What are they going to use for a lead? I
34 mean a gillnet? Are they going to use beach seine or
35 are they going to use a solid structure of poles?

36
37 MR. ROBERTS: A mattress spring.

38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, a mattress spring.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. FIRMIN: That was our biggest
44 concern.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
47 to -- it's open for an amendment if you'd like.

48
49 MR. FIRMIN: I don't know what friendly
50 amendment would -- what specification somebody would

1 like to put on it though without Virgil.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
4 -- okay, here's a couple things. Larry is next and
5 then James. I'd like to -- I see that Rondell Jimmie
6 came in. Do you want to relax the rules and have him
7 testify.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Can we get through our
10 motion?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, he
13 wanted to testify.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: On this motion?

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to ask
18 him because he says all. He wanted to testify on all.
19 Okay, he's flagging me not. We're good there.

20

21 Then Larry, and you can be thinking
22 about that, James, next.

23

24 Go ahead, Larry.

25

26 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 Like Andrew was saying, we had a meeting with Yukon
28 Flats AC and we opposed this because it's not specific
29 enough and we questioned where are these commercial
30 wheels located. Are they down on the Yukon River where
31 there's just one river, down in Rampart towards Tanana
32 or Rampart to Stevens Village, because the river takes
33 on different characteristics the further up you go.
34 Like in Yukon Flats it's twisted and braided all the
35 way up to Circle and then it goes into one channel
36 again from Circle all the way up to Eagle. The AC
37 questioned where are these commercial fishwheels in
38 operation. Nobody tells us where they are or anything
39 like that.

40

41 We oppose the very idea of making a
42 commercial enterprise more efficient in the times when
43 we raise a cry about low chinook salmon and then we go
44 ahead and make commercial fishing more efficient. It
45 doesn't make sense to me.

46

47 So I'm going to oppose this.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and
2 Game.
3
4 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Madame Chair.
5 Jeff Estensen with Fish and Game. I can answer the
6 question. In the summer season, we have fishwheel
7 commercial occurring in District 4, 4A in Kaltag, and
8 then for the fall season we have a few wheels that
9 operate in subdistrict 5B and C that have a very
10 limited harvest and then we also have commercial
11 fishwheel occurring in District 6 Tanana.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tanana. All
14 right. James, then Donald.
15
16 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, Madame Chair. I'd
17 like to reword this proposal because I consider leads a
18 part of the wheel as much as somebody would consider a
19 lead line a part of a net or a floater as a part of a
20 net. This doesn't make sense to me as a fisherman.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James, do you
23 have wording?
24
25 MR. ROBERTS: Just write or word it
26 that a lead is an integral part of the fishwheel and
27 should be considered a part of the gear, not an
28 accessory.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See, what
31 you'd have to do is you need to make a motion and make
32 an amendment to this. I'd have to ask you, Andrew,
33 does that meet -- I mean does that restrict it enough,
34 your concerns from your area?
35
36 MR. FIRMIN: I just thought of
37 something like to amend it so the lead doesn't exceed
38 25 feet and must be solid, which would be made out of
39 wood or something.
40
41 Just something like that would satisfy
42 me.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald and
45 then Lester.
46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 It came out in our AC meeting that they're already
49 using leads and it's either not being enforced or it's
50 just an oversight that it's not permitted. So what we

1 need to work out is how we feel about what type of
2 equipment is used. Up at our end of the river a lot of
3 people use chain link fence. That seems to work okay.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester.

6

7 MR. ERHART: We couldn't use that in
8 our area. There's too much moss in the river. We have
9 to use willows, poles, small poles to make leads. You
10 just can't put anything in the river. If you've got a
11 swift place, how are you going to hold it? I mean
12 let's use our common sense here. You can't put a bed
13 spring there and expect it to stay there, you know.
14 You've got to make it solid and the pole has got to be
15 able to take that strong current. But I could throw
16 something in there too, you know. We could put a lead
17 lengthwise on the outside of the raft where the fish
18 come off the lead and hit that thing and they're kind
19 of in entrapment too.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I'm
22 hearing when you say bed springs and all this stuff, it
23 sounds like someone is trying to figure out how to swim
24 them where they're supposed to be. All right. I have
25 to ask you guys. Victor came in and they had put in
26 their blue card yesterday. Do you want to hear from
27 the public?

28

29 MR. GLANZ: Oh, sure.

30

31 (Council nods affirmatively)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
34 Sorry about this, Victor. We took up 371 and now we're
35 on 372. You guys wanted to come up together to speak
36 to this fishwheel lead thing. Do you want to speak to
37 that proposal as a public member?

38

39 MR. LORD: I could. I don't have it on
40 me right now. Is it over here?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I
43 believe it is. Is it over there?

44

45 MS. PATTON: Is what?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A copy of the
48 proposal.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Oh, yeah, yeah.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the one
2 for the lead for a commercial fishwheel. Do you
3 remember that one?
4
5 MR. LORD: Yes, yes, I remember.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did
8 Rondell want to come up with you?
9
10 MR. LORD: He isn't here. I just
11 walked in the door.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's in the
14 back. Did you want to come up? Oh, okay.
15
16 MR. LORD: This proposal is for the
17 legal use of a lead on a commercial wheel, right?
18
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Correct.
20
21 MR. LORD: Which, to me, it's not a
22 problem. Like he said, a lead is an integral part of
23 the wheel. If it's commercial fishing, that means
24 there's an extra bunch of fish and up where I fish it's
25 like 42 hours on, 42 hours off, on/off, on/off. So if
26 it's commercial fishing, that's how you make your gas
27 money. You're trying to catch a fish. If you want
28 escapement, you've got your wheel out for the other
29 period of time. So it's not a problem. This looks
30 like a housecleaning proposal to me.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
33 That's what Virgil said. We're in discussion right
34 now. We brought you up because you didn't have a
35 chance to testify under the public. Did you have a
36 question?
37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.
41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Do you guys man your wheels during that fishing period
44 so that the kings are ejected back into the river.
45
46 MR. LORD: Oh, we're talking about the
47 king salmon, when the summer and king are mixed
48 together?
49
50 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

1 MR. LORD: Yes, we do. I haven't done
2 it for the last couple years. I'm trying to conserve
3 for the king salmon conservation and I have a part-time
4 job also, but my brother does out there and there's
5 another guy that's been fishing down there in Nenana
6 and they're on their wheel the whole 24 -- as long as
7 they can handle it. Pretty tough guys.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
10 questions. Andrew.

11
12 MR. FIRMIN: Victor, I remember we
13 talked about this before, but what do you think we
14 could change it to just say like a max length of 25
15 feet so somebody isn't pounding stakes 100 feet across
16 the river? Do you guys use anything besides wood for
17 poles?

18
19 MR. LORD: No. Really, like Lester
20 says, the wooden poles are more streamlined. They work
21 with the current somehow. They don't gather up all the
22 moss and whatnot. A fence and stuff would work for a
23 little while, but it would be tremendous work, a burden
24 for the fishermen.

25
26 Then I think I heard you guys say
27 something about lengthening the length of a lead. I
28 agree with you there. Up where I'm at, most
29 subsistence leads are maybe halfway to the riverbank.
30 It's not a -- you know, they just catch as much as they
31 can. With the leads, you can catch a lot of fish.
32 Commercial doesn't last that long, but subsistence, up
33 where I'm at, you really don't need a lead all the way
34 to the bank. That's what we were talking about, I was
35 telling you. That's what I was referring to, Andrew.

36
37 Other than that, for commercial leads,
38 you're trying to catch the fish for commercial fishing
39 and a lead is part of the wheel. You only catch about
40 10 -- maybe, if you're lucky, 10 percent of what you're
41 going to catch without a lead.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
44 questions.

45
46 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. Do you use your
47 back spar and leads to adjust your wheel in and out?

48
49 MR. LORD: Yes, we do. Most
50 definitely.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
2 questions.
3
4 MR. ROBERTS: What I'm getting at is
5 not only are we using the leads to guide the fish to
6 the wheel, but we're also using the leads to adjust how
7 far the back end is out and in. Sometimes you could
8 pull your lead spar two feet in and you're right in the
9 zone or sometimes you have to push it out, so it's a
10 very important part of our fishwheels. Sometimes when
11 the water drops that lead will hold your wheel up off
12 the bottom of the river too. So they're more helpful
13 in a lot of ways than we realize.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know what
16 you're talking about. We use fishwheels on the Copper.
17 Question for.....
18
19 MR. BASSICH: No.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
22 other questions of Victor.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
27 Thanks, Victor.
28
29 MR. LORD: Excuse me, Madame Chair. I
30 don't know if we were in order yesterday or what, but
31 there were some comments going around about CDQ with
32 Mr. Erhart and then Mr. Firmin was talking about the
33 catch and release of wheels being so close together. I
34 just wanted to comment they both had pretty valid
35 points they were making in my opinion from sitting back
36 there listening to them. If you guys have time later
37 or on a break time, I'll be around.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
40 you for that.
41
42 MR. LORD: Thank you, guys.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're back on
45 the motion on the floor. I was hearing a possible
46 amendment. You've got your hand up. You must have
47 some input for relevance here.
48
49 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
50 think there was a question about what the definition

1 was for the subsistence fishery. Just for your
2 information, it's in 5 AAC 01.010, Section 4(a). All
3 it really says is a lead which is a length of net
4 employed for guiding fish into a seine or a length of
5 net or fencing employed for guiding fish into a fish
6 wheel, fyke net or dip net. So it doesn't really give
7 any specifications how long they can be or the size.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they can
10 use a net?

11

12 MR. ESTENSEN: A lead which is a length
13 of net employed for guiding fish into a seine or a
14 length of net or fencing employed for guiding fish into
15 a fish wheel. That's the subsistence regulation for
16 leads.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
19 the subsistence regulation. Would this proposal allow
20 that if this passed? So, yeah. The answer is yes.

21

22 MR. ESTENSEN: That's how it's defined
23 in the subsistence fishery.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This proposal
26 would make the same, right?

27

28 MR. ESTENSEN: I would -- yes.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The answer is
31 yes. Okay. That sounds like we better do something
32 here.

33

34 Andy.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 I think, if it's okay with the Council, I'd like amend
38 the motion to and I would like to amend the motion to
39 read that a lead would be limited to 25 feet from shore
40 to fishwheel, that it must be constructed of a solid
41 material, no fencing, no fishnet or webbing, and that
42 baskets must be clear of the water when the season is
43 closed. Which means that the basket would have to be
44 lifted up so that there is no basket in the water.

45

46 The motion reads the basket must be
47 stopped from rotation, but it can still catch fish and
48 it can still harm fish in the water if it's just
49 sitting in the water and fish are running into it or
50 getting tangled in it or whatever. The reason for the

1 amendment -- well, I'll just leave it at that and see
2 if we get a second and go from there.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
5 But it's so much that you just stated that I think it
6 needs to be printed and we can see it. Is there a
7 second to that?

8

9 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
12 guys want to see it in print?

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I can write that up
15 real quick, but I'll just speak to it real quickly.
16 The reason why this would be a friendly amendment to
17 what we have on the table is that my concern is that
18 the commercial fishery is being allowed to use a
19 fishwheel to harvest summer chum as a conservation
20 measure for chinook salmon. Anything that could impede
21 the progress of a king salmon is what we do not want.
22 Anything that would damage a king salmon or injure a
23 king salmon is something we do not want happening in
24 this fishery right now.

25

26 If you were to build a lead and use a
27 piece of webbing, fishnet or fence, which is pretty
28 typical for many subsistence leads, fish do get caught
29 in that. They do get damaged, they get gilled.
30 Smaller fish rub up against it and damage their gill
31 plates, so it could be detrimental to king salmon if
32 they were to have to bounce off that type of lead to
33 avoid the wheel.

34

35 By defining a lead as a solid object
36 that is constructed of willows or other solid
37 materials, the fish don't get damaged by that. So
38 that's why I think -- and I'm hoping that this would
39 satisfy some of the comments I hear coming from the
40 Fort Yukon AC.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's hear
43 from them. Andrew.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: I think that's exactly
46 what I wanted to hear. I know it's only probably like
47 a dozen wheels, but that's -- I just could see that's
48 leaving room to string a 100-foot gillnet off the back
49 of one side and make 100 feet of netting on the other
50 side. If a person really wanted to, they could get

1 away with it and that was what I wanted to avoid. I
2 mean I'm pretty sure most people wouldn't be doing
3 that, but there's nothing to say they couldn't. This
4 modification would alleviate those concerns.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I see a
7 hand? Okay. Will and then James.

8

9 MR. KOEHLER: Just one question. It's
10 been a couple years since I've been around fishwheels.
11 I might have forgotten something. On the wording on
12 that lead being restricted to 25 feet, you said 25 feet
13 from the wheel to the shore. Would it be better to
14 just simply say the lead is restricted to 25 feet. I
15 guess what I see is a potential problem is the spar
16 itself, you know, extends out beyond the lead
17 sometimes, especially in a shallow spot where they're
18 trying to get that wheel pushed further out.

19

20 I may not be making any sense here at
21 all, but if I'm visualizing the lead going all the way
22 to the shore, they might need a longer -- they might
23 need the spar to run out 40 feet and have a 25-foot
24 lead.

25

26 Am I making myself understood?

27

28 MR. FIRMIN: Uh-huh.

29

30 MR. KOEHLER: Okay. Thank you.

31

32 MR. ROBERTS: I don't necessarily agree
33 with the 25 feet part due to how we fish. Like the
34 Tanana River will meander and meander and sometimes we
35 get caught in a really shallow spot. You could spend a
36 week putting your wheel and everything together and
37 everything will just go right out inside and it's just
38 wasting your time. I think it should be up to the
39 discretion of the fishermen, the lead length. I mean
40 every spot is different, that's what I'm trying to say.
41 Like one size doesn't fit all in this.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That brings
44 me to a question because the height of a bank, you
45 know, and the water going out. Do you think, I'm going
46 to ask you, no fencing, no fishnet or webbing and
47 stuff, that the length of the lead isn't that
48 important?

49

50 MR. ROBERTS: I think the webbing and

1 the fencing and stuff is detrimental to the fish
2 because we do use poles. I mean we're using solid
3 wood. It does not harm anything. The benefit of
4 having a wooden lead is if you ever lose it, the thing
5 is going to float and you're going to catch it again.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But
10 what I'm hearing though, this is what I'm trying to
11 straighten out in my mind, the actual lead is the line
12 that connects the wheel to the beach, right?

13

14 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Just reword it to
15 say your first primary lead could be 25 feet.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. I
18 see. It is different.

19

20 MR. ROBERTS: You know, a 25-foot lead
21 is a really big, big lead. I mean it's going to take
22 two or three men to handle a lead of that size.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
25 okay with the 25 feet?

26

27 MR. ROBERTS: As your primary lead, the
28 one next to the wheel. Depending on the spot, we could
29 adjust if we have to.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That makes
32 sense. Lester. You can say it.

33

34 MR. ERHART: I can say that?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

37

38 MR. ERHART: You know, everybody is
39 talking about these fishwheels and not everybody uses
40 them because you've got to be a real man to run a
41 fishwheel.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. ERHART: This is the truth. And
46 you have to -- to put that lead in, you have to fight
47 with it in order to set it and get it just right, the
48 way you want it, or else you won't be successful. Then
49 all of a sudden you've got it all set, everything is
50 going fine and a bunch of driftwood comes along. I

1 mean this is no easy thing.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

4

5 MR. KOEHLER: James, could you kind of
6 remind me and others that don't have the experience of
7 the fishwheels when you talk about your primary lead
8 and I've seen people using two leads. Could you kind
9 of speak to that a little bit what you're talking about
10 there and kind of just remind me and educate us. I'd
11 appreciate it.

12

13 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. A primary lead is
14 where you mostly direct the salmon in. They're going
15 out a little farther, but if you want the little
16 whitefish and all the whitefish, you've got to throw in
17 another lead because they're going to go out the
18 inside. That way it's just a better way to harvest and
19 get more species and everybody eats better.

20

21 MR. KOEHLER: Do we have some kind of a
22 definition in any kind of regulation for a primary lead
23 versus a secondary lead?

24

25 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Madame Chair.
26 Jeff Estensen. I'll take a look too, but I think that
27 the only place that a lead is defined is what I read in
28 the subsistence there. I'll take a look, but I seem to
29 recall looking at this a little bit and not seeing any
30 distinction between a primary and a.....

31

32 MR. KOEHLER: Maybe that doesn't
33 matter.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, if we
36 -- right now we have an amendment to the motion. I'd
37 like to see it. Did you write it down? I mean I think
38 we've all got to look at it and make sure you know what
39 you're voting on. If we say primary, I'd have to take
40 another amendment or this one would have to say I'm out
41 of here, then we lack a second and we can start another
42 motion. What do you want to do?

43

44 MR. KOEHLER: I didn't mean to start a
45 big ball of wax. I'm just trying to understand it.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But that's
48 how it works.

49

50 MR. KOEHLER: So it may not be

1 necessary.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I mean
4 he brought it up and Lester agreed, so it's something
5 we need -- do you guys want to stand down for a minute
6 and just amongst yourselves. Yeah. Okay. First
7 Lester and then the answer.

8

9 MR. ERHART: In order to catch king
10 salmon, you've got to have a 12-foot wheel. You've got
11 to dip 12 feet in the water or better. If you run a
12 little wheel, like 10-foot dip, you're going to catch
13 summer chums, you're going to catch whitefish. Maybe
14 once in a while we catch one little jack king salmon.
15 The mainstream of the king salmon is out in the middle
16 of the river. Take that into consideration.

17

18 I've been here for almost 100 years
19 now.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. ERHART: I've never seen -- these
24 king salmon don't just come because I've got a wheel
25 there and bump the lead and get hurt. I don't think
26 they're doing that. They're going to stay way out
27 there.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so that
30 leads a question. People that are -- this is a
31 commercial wheel we're talking about.

32

33 MR. ERHART: Yeah.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So the
36 commercial wheels, is there a restriction to depth?

37

38 MR. ERHART: No.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So somebody
41 could have a deep wheel.

42

43 MR. ERHART: Yeah, you could have a 12-
44 feet wheel and do that, yeah, but 12 feet you're asking
45 for a lot of work and a lot of maintenance and lots of
46 lack of sleep because you worry about it.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand

1 what you're saying, Lester. Sometimes you're better
2 off not doing anything. But this fishery definitely
3 has a concern.

4

5 Larry.

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

8 I don't mean to sound critical of all these proposals
9 that's put before us, but, like I said, it's not
10 specific enough. I know exactly what these guys are
11 talking about because I've been fishing up in the Yukon
12 even before Statehood, so I've been here a long time
13 and I know exactly how to run a wheel.

14

15 We didn't call them a lead at that
16 time. We called it a fence. You know, it's made out
17 of natural material which we gathered out in the woods
18 and we used rope or cable. That's before the nylon
19 rope came out. So I know exactly what these guys are
20 talking about.

21

22 But, hell, we're talking about
23 commercial and I, for one, as an individual, do not
24 hold anything against a commercial fisherman because
25 they're trying to make money to get gas money, like
26 Victor said, to purchase their incidentals that they
27 need which they can't manufacture on their own. We did
28 the same thing, but we call it customary trade. We
29 traded the fish we caught to somebody else who couldn't
30 be able to do so we could buy things that we can't
31 manufacture on our own, like sugar, tea, salt or
32 whatever.

33

34 So I'm not going to sound critical of
35 any proposal that's put before us if it makes sense to
36 me. It has to make sense. So I just want to say that
37 I know exactly where these guys are coming from because
38 I've been fishing in that one area above Beaver since
39 1946. So that's a long time. Just like Lester said,
40 I've been at it for 100 years.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

45

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

48

49 Did you want to clarify something?

50

1 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. For Mr.
2 Koehler, right, Mr. Koehler's question. We looked in
3 the regs and the only place it's mentioned is in what I
4 mentioned, the subsistence.

5
6 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do you
9 want to proceed? I'm conducting the meeting. We have
10 a motion on the floor to adopt it and then we have our
11 amendment.

12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Are we going to stand
14 down for a minute?

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can do
17 that. Let's stand down.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (On record)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling the
24 meeting back to order. We have a motion for an
25 amendment for 372. It's all in front of you. Any
26 other discussion. At break we think we got our brains
27 wrapped around it, right, Lester? This is for the
28 commercial nets. Okay. Anyone have any other
29 discussion on the amendment.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: Did we get a second on that
32 original motion?

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We did and
35 this is it and this is the amendment. The amendment to
36 Proposal 372 is, number one, a lead is restricted to
37 25-foot total length. Number two, webbing of the lead
38 may not be made of fishnet, fencing or any other mesh.
39 It must be constructed of poles. And, three, a wheel s
40 basket must be clear of the water during closures. Any
41 further discussion on this amendment

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that
46 mean you're ready for the question?

47
48 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question

1 has been called for. All in favor of the amendment to
2 the main motion.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
7 opposed.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
12 The main motion is as amended. Any further discussion.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. GLANZ: Call the question on that
17 also.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
20
21 MR. BASSICH: I'd just like to
22 reference my earlier comments in regards to the bullet
23 points on 8 here. So the justification of this, I want
24 to just reference my earlier comments about the
25 conservation and the need.....
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
28
29 MR. BASSICH: So I don't have to do
30 that right now, Madame Chair?
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. We'll
33 refer all of it to the prior discussion. The question
34 has been called for. All in favor of the main motion
35 as amended say aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
40 opposed.
41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Aye.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One opposed?
45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: (Nods affirmatively)
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One opposed.
49 All right. The next one is 373. I believe George is
50 going to put it on, right?

1
2 MR. PAPPAS: Yes. Good morning, Madame
3 Chair. I can introduce the proposal for you. Proposal
4 373 requests removing the exception allowing for dead
5 king salmon to be taken, but not retained, in the Yukon
6 Area Districts 1 3 dipnet and beach seine commercial
7 summer chum salmon fishery. This regulation was put in
8 place so if a mortally wounded king salmon was killed
9 in a dipnet or beach seine commercial salmon fishery,
10 the individual who was in possession of it was required
11 to forfeit it to the State of Alaska.

12
13 Jeff can speak to the Department's part
14 of this, but the situation, as I understand, left a
15 loophole for folks that if you did end up killing a
16 fish or decided to keep a fish, a king that is, and
17 it's in your boat and you were stopped by enforcement,
18 they say you shouldn't have this fish, well, I'm on my
19 way to Fish and Game or I'm on my way to forfeit to the
20 State, so proof of intent is very difficult and Jeff
21 can elaborate on that.

22
23 This is a complicated proposal in our
24 minds. The Federal Subsistence Management Program
25 opposes this proposal as written because if it is
26 adopted as written, the Federal Subsistence Management
27 Program believes that ever king that's killed in a
28 dipnet or a beach seine would have to be dumped back in
29 the water because it would be illegal to be in
30 possession of it, which is a form of a wanton waste,
31 which is not along the lines of the Federal Subsistence
32 Program's beliefs.

33
34 So the enforcement team here came up
35 with ideas to -- modifications of this proposal to make
36 this regulation enforceable. Briefly, it's three
37 points. One, if you have a mortally wounded king in
38 your net, you could bring it on board, immediately mark
39 it in a way that keeps it different than the
40 subsistence fishery. You know, clip two pectoral fins
41 or something like that.

42
43 Two, record on a fish ticket. Since
44 you're commercial fishing, it would go right onto a
45 fish ticket so the chain of possession would be
46 documented. Now that's a challenge because in the
47 Yukon commercial fishermen aren't required to have fish
48 tickets on them. Other commercial fisheries around the
49 state for certain reasons, various reasons, they do
50 have to have fish tickets on their person, so this

1 would be something to actually mark it down. So, one,
2 clip it; two, record it.

3
4 The third part is for the State to
5 establish some type of reporting mechanism which
6 documents receiving the forfeited king salmon. So
7 basically it makes the king salmon traceable. So if an
8 individual is going up the river, they have a dead king
9 on board, it has to be clipped, written on their fish
10 ticket and once it's delivered to a certain --
11 forfeited to somebody from the State, they would have a
12 record of it so that fish could be traced back.

13
14 Now that's what the enforcement folks
15 here think would be a solution to make an enforced
16 regulation and that's our position. To oppose, but
17 offer modifications if they want to make it
18 enforceable.

19
20 Now the Western Interior RAC took this
21 up and discussed it and the RAC said, well, Fish and
22 Game must have already thought of that, but they
23 support the proposal with the idea that there should be
24 no reason to have a dead king in your boat. So the
25 incentive -- if this proposal is adopted, there is no
26 incentive to have a king in your boat and this would
27 require every fish to be released alive. That was
28 their discussion.

29
30 The YK Delta RAC voted to support this
31 proposal. There was some discussion of the Federal
32 Subsistence Management Program's recommendations, but
33 they unanimously supported the proposal as is.

34
35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
38 George. Any questions, Council members.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
43 kind of got a big report all at once there. Other
44 agency comments. ADF&G.

45
46 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Madame Chair.
47 Jeff Estensen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
48 Department submitted it supports this proposal. We
49 feel that -- you know, I've observed this fishery and I
50 know other people too and I've talked to fishermen that

1 have engaged in this. I think the Department firmly
2 believes that the way this gear type works that you
3 should never have a mortally wounded king in your net.

4

5

6 I've watched these guys doing it, the
7 fishermen down in the lower river. A lot of times when
8 they have their net in the water they can tell that
9 they have a king and they turn it immediately. I don't
10 recall seeing a lot of kings even getting to the point
11 where they were coming even to the surface. When it
12 did happen, it was real easy to flip it over.

13

14 With this regulation in there right
15 now, it does provide a loophole. Last year we did have
16 enforcement officers that did run into someone who had
17 three kings in their boat that were dead and they said
18 they were taking them and there was some confusion with
19 that in enforcement. So, by eliminating this, it does
20 eliminate any loopholes.

21

22 And, again, just to reiterate, I think
23 the Department feels that this shouldn't -- you know,
24 the best way to encourage the practice of returning
25 kings immediately to the water is just removing the
26 language.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
29 questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
34 Are there any Native, tribal, village or other that
35 would like to comment at this time. Okay.

36

37 MS. HERBERT: Darlene Herbert for
38 Yukon. On reading this -- oh, this is for commercial
39 fishing, is that right, or is this for everybody?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
42 it's for commercial.

43

44 MS. HERBERT: Oh, okay.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's dipnet,
47 beach seine commercial summer.

48

49 MS. HERBERT: Okay. It's fine then.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
2 right.

3
4 MR. HUNTINGTON: Good morning,
5 everyone. Orville Huntington with Tanana Chiefs
6 Conference. I usually like to let tribes speak for
7 theirself, but we don't really have a position on this
8 proposal. If we did, we'd be supportive of it because
9 I'm on the Board of Fish, so any proposal by the
10 Department other Board members are going to have to
11 argue pretty hard for me to vote against a proposal
12 suggested by Department of Fish and Game.

13
14 I like the proposal personally. I
15 think in the past because -- I don't think there's any
16 reason to have a king in your boat. I've talked to
17 fishermen up and down the river, around the state and
18 they all say all you have to do is turn that dipnet
19 around and the fish will swim out. There shouldn't be
20 any kings in that boat at all unless you're looking for
21 kings.

22
23 That particular proposal will pass, I
24 think. I don't know what other proposals you guys
25 discussed. Did you guys discuss the dipnet fishery?

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We
28 took up the other two.

29
30 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, the purse seine,
31 I don't think there's any support for that proposal.
32 To be fair, we have to hear all the proposals. There's
33 a process we have in place where we want the public to
34 have full input. In order for that to happen, you have
35 to hear all the people and all sides of the issue. I
36 know in the upper river there was no support for that
37 proposal. Even though I work for Tanana Chiefs, I have
38 to listen to all the people across the state. So I
39 agreed that we should hear the proposal at least. I
40 don't think there's any support for that proposal.

41
42 Was there any other proposals that
43 anybody remembers? I think there was four proposals.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's four
46 and we're on the third one of the four.

47
48 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay. Well, that one
49 will probably pass. The other one won't and then
50 there's two other ones. I don't know what they are and

1 I don't know if you discussed them yet.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've already
4 taken up two of them and already voted on them, but
5 welcome.....

6

7 MR. HUNTINGTON: Oh, the one you guys
8 just passed, that was good. I appreciate those
9 comments and I'll take them to heart. On the Lower
10 Yukon we do use that tar mesh, what do you call it,
11 it's a netting. The kings bounce off of it. It
12 doesn't hurt them. I would have gave that comment, but
13 I didn't get a chance.

14

15 So I appreciate you guys' comments and
16 we'll discuss them at the Board.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We appreciate
19 you coming to our meeting, too.

20

21 MR. HUNTINGTON: I don't know what
22 other proposal you guys were going to talk about if you
23 wanted input on it.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going
26 to take up 377 if you want to come up.....

27

28 MR. HUNTINGTON: I'll just wait. I'll
29 be here for the rest of the morning. I just wanted to
30 say who I am and.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the next
33 one, so it probably shouldn't take too long.

34

35 MR. HUNTINGTON: TCC didn't take any
36 positions on these because I didn't have time. We're
37 pretty much -- you're going to have to argue hard
38 against the Department if you want us to go away from
39 the recommendation because we're in such bad shape with
40 chinook salmon. Thanks.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I served on
43 the Board of Game for three years, so I know you have
44 your work cut out for you on the Board of Fish. Did I
45 hear any questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
50 you.

1 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Can I get
2 Jeff to come back up? I have a question for him.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Certainly.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Jeff, I was wondering if
7 you could briefly describe the methodology for the
8 beach seining that's taking place in this fishery. I
9 think we all understand the dipnet and I understand the
10 ease of which to release a king salmon. My biggest
11 concern is some of the seining type operations where
12 you're bringing large numbers of fish in, either
13 onshore or into a boat, where they're all kind of
14 pulled together and thrashing in the water. That's
15 where I'm concerned about damage. So maybe if you
16 could give us a really brief description of that
17 methodology for beach seining, I'd appreciate that.

18
19 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Andy, I didn't get
20 a chance to actually observe that firsthand visually.
21 I can say this and maybe Fred can come up. He may have
22 observed it during the summer, but it wasn't used a
23 lot. Just to be clear, I think the 188 summer chum
24 that were harvested using alternate gear, not the
25 gillnet, I think only 1,000 of those were actually
26 harvested using beach seine gear.

27
28 I know the fishermen down there had a
29 lot of difficulties getting out there and finding spots
30 to do it and deploying the gear and it just turned out
31 to be too much work. I think once the dipnets
32 continued or once the dipnets kind of picked up steam a
33 little bit, the beach seine just kind of fell off to
34 the side.

35
36 I can probably give you an idea of how
37 it worked just because I used to use beach seine
38 methods when I was doing telemetry work, but I would
39 imagine they have a net they deploy out, they drift it
40 down, bring it to shore. You know, it's connected --
41 the outriver portion is connected to the boat. It goes
42 out, drifts down, comes back into shore and then the
43 two connect and then they pull it up to create sort of
44 a pen and at that point you're dipnetting the fish. In
45 this case, the kings would go out of the pen with a
46 dipnet and then the summer chum would go into the boat.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: If I can ask, is there a
49 limit to the length of the net for this beach seining?
50

1 MR. ESTENSEN: I don't have that
2 information right in front of me. Do you have any
3 idea, Fred?

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: While he's
6 coming up, I commercially fished beach seining in
7 Norton Sound for herring and we had it attached to the
8 beach and come back to the beach. I thought I remember
9 them saying that there was 10 fathoms, I think, limit
10 for subsistence.

11
12 MR. NEWLAND: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

15
16 MR. NEWLAND: This is Eric Newland with
17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage. I'm
18 the Yukon area summer season manager. There's no
19 length specification for the beach seine, so it could
20 be long, could be short. Some of the beach seines that
21 were used in this year's fishery were in the
22 neighborhood of 50 to 100 fathoms. Some of them were
23 almost probably too large for the fishery. Lots of
24 opportunity to snag up. Like Jeff was getting at, the
25 gear type was not that successful. I believe three
26 fishermen employed that gear type during the course of
27 the fishery and interest faded rather quickly. One of
28 the things that was.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The nets were
31 too long.

32
33 MR. NEWLAND: There wasn't a whole lot
34 of beach, so you have to start on the beach and end on
35 the beach and there's not a lot of beach to work with.
36 At least in last year's summertime, because it was such
37 high water, I believe a lot of the fishermen that were
38 using that gear thought that maybe this would be
39 something that they would encounter regularly during
40 the kind of post break-up high water conditions that
41 would be occurring when these gear types would be
42 employed, which is when kings are around. That's the
43 deal with these gear types. These gear types are going
44 to be employed when we're concerned about king salmon
45 and summer chum are going by. So the idea is that we
46 expect to see high water at that time. You know, it's
47 typical.

48
49 Anyway, I hope that helps to clarify a
50 little bit. Just so people know I am listening in, I

1 am here if Jeff needs anything or you guys have any
2 questions.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
7 questions. Bill.

8

9 MR. GLANZ: I have one since I'm a
10 landlubber. How long is a phantom?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A phantom? A
13 fathom. Six feet.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. GLANZ: A fathom. This morning
18 there was an answer here of 600 foot they said for.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Six feet.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Six feet. For 100 fathom
23 it would be 600.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: A hundred fathom, he
26 said. Fifty to 100 fathom.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: So 300 to 600 foot long
31 nets.

32

33 MR. GLANZ: It sounds to me like those
34 should be banned also.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds
37 like it's hard to handle. They tried it. But I was
38 sure that they were -- for some of that subsistence it
39 was 10 fathoms. I don't remember exactly, but it was
40 short compared to what you can do commercially. You're
41 doing it by hand, so that's a lot of work.

42

43 Any other questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm to the
48 part where there's advisory committees and we heard the
49 report on other Regional Advisory Councils or SRCs.
50 Any of the ACs take this up? I'm sure Eagle took it

1 up. Huh?
2
3 MR. BASSICH: I believe we supported
4 this, but I don't have that with me right now, but I
5 believe we supported this proposal. Don, do you
6 remember?
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: We did.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: 376?
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 373. It's
17 373.
18
19 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, we supported -- the
20 Yukon Flats AC supported 373.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did your
23 committee take it up?
24
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, ma'am, we took it
26 up and we supported it.
27
28 MS. PATTON: They're both Yukon Flats.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
31
32 (Laughter)
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was hoping
35 you were on different committees. Okay. Any written
36 public comments.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public
41 testimony. I had Rondell Jimmie here that would want
42 to speak with your request. No? Are you getting shy?
43 Don't be shy. All right. If I hear no other public
44 comment on this proposal -- Victor? No. Okay. It's
45 our turn. It's time for discussion. I need a motion.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make a motion
48 we accept 373.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I

1 hear a second.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

6 Andy.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: I guess I'll go for it
9 again here. As stated by the Department, the retention
10 of dead king salmon is not supported by the State. I
11 don't think it's supported by anybody in this low
12 abundance and conservation mode that we're in for
13 chinook salmon. I look at this as a way to keep the
14 incentive for anybody damaging or harming a king salmon
15 to an absolute minimum. I don't think this causes any
16 type of hardship on a commercial or subsistence
17 fisherman. It's simply kind of holding their feet to
18 the fire as far as practicing this gear type in a
19 conservation minded method and that's what it was
20 intended to do.

21

22 I think that's all I have for support
23 of it, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
26 discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Question.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
33 has been called for. The motion is in support of
34 Proposal 373 on not having any dead kings. All in
35 favor.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
40 opposed.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes
45 unanimous. I got it right that time, Donald. Next is
46 377. George, are you going to introduce it?

47

48 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 George Pappas, OSM. Proposal 377 requests authorizing
50 the use of purse seine gear for commercial harvest of

1 Yukon River summer chum salmon in Districts 1 3 during
2 times of king salmon conservation. This proposal also
3 requests authorizing the use of monofilament purse
4 seine web in this commercial fishery.

5
6 I'll try to keep this brief. Along the
7 lines of the dipnet issue, authorizing the use of purse
8 seine gear especially during times of conservation
9 concerns in the Yukon, concern about any type of
10 impacts, capture and release mortality, you know,
11 potential detractors for spawning success, it could
12 result in a conservation concern down the line and
13 impact Federal subsistence users.

14
15 The Federal Subsistence Management
16 Program opposes any regulatory actions that may
17 increase mortality rates in Yukon chinook and we don't
18 have information that indicates what the mortality rate
19 is, so we're concerned about that.

20
21 The Western Interior RAC voted to
22 support this proposal. I think it was a 6-2 vote.
23 Supports proposal based on, in theory, the kings could
24 be released live and moving away from gillnets to other
25 means that allow the release of kings. They support
26 it, but they did put a modification on it. They want a
27 modification for a total of 50 fathom nets, a maximum
28 20 feet deep and a two-moratorium on it.

29
30 Also the YKDRAC supported the proposal
31 as written.

32
33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How deep?
36 Was it 20 feet or fathoms?

37
38 MR. PAPPAS: Twenty feet.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
41 other questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are
46 there any tribes or ANCSA corporation reports on this?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: ADF&G.

1 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Jeff
2 Estensen, Fish and Game. In regards to this proposal,
3 the Department is neutral on this. The Department
4 supports any gear, innovations or new gear types that
5 can address the harvest of the abundant summer chum
6 while in the meantime protecting kings. What we mean
7 by protecting kings is the live release with no
8 mortality.

9
10 We feel right now that there is a lot
11 of unknown with this proposal and using this gear type.
12 There was some evaluation that occurred in 2013, but we
13 feel that that evaluation was limited. When this gear
14 was tested, it was not operated during the peak of the
15 chum and the king run. Being able to evaluate how the
16 sorting out of a few kings amongst a large number of
17 summer chum was just not able to be seen or evaluated.

18
19 Also something to keep in mind too is
20 that there was also a lot of gilling of incidental --
21 of the smaller species such as pink and whitefish.
22 Again, you know, we would want to see more and evaluate
23 how this gear type would work when particularly the
24 pink are very abundant during that time.

25
26 Just something to keep in mind, this is
27 not unique to the Yukon. This is something that's been
28 looked at down in the Lower 48 in Oregon and
29 Washington, particularly the Columbia River. Both
30 Washington and Oregon biologists have been kind of
31 doing feasibility studies with this gear since 2009.
32 They're looking at how to selectively harvest hatchery
33 chinook salmon in that area while protecting the
34 protected wild stock of chinook and steelhead.

35
36 Really there's no conclusive -- you
37 know, anything conclusive from these studies other than
38 there might potentially be some effects on the kings
39 after being released. Not necessarily immediately
40 being released, but some short term and long term
41 effects on them which is being studied right now by the
42 Washington and Oregon biologist.

43
44 I can tell you that the ADF&G staff,
45 particularly our research biologist Stephanie Schmidt,
46 has been in close contact with these biologists. My
47 understanding is that there's going to be a paper
48 coming out summarizing the results of these studies
49 this year. I'm not exactly sure when, but that would
50 certainly provide a lot of insight on how this gear

1 type works in terms of protecting the kings.

2

3 I definitely want to reiterate though
4 that the Department does support continuing cooperative
5 efforts with the proponent and to continue to evaluate
6 this gear and to look at it. But the bottom line is
7 that any time we implement new gear like this or it's
8 implemented, the key for this is being able to protect
9 the king salmon.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions of
12 Fish and Game.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.
17 If you start a new gear type, does that get rid of the
18 old gear type? Any old gear type or is it another way
19 to fish?

20

21 MR. ESTENSEN: In these cases, it's a
22 new gear type. It doesn't necessarily supplant another
23 one or preclude one or whatever. What's going on with
24 these new gear types is, you know, the basic is that we
25 have this abundant summer chum that overlaps with the
26 chinook. What these new gear types are trying to do is
27 provide a way to harvest that summer chum but protect
28 the kings. So, in essence, for us it's another tool in
29 the toolbox. It's another tool that we might be able
30 to use during times of conservation when we can try to
31 harvest the summer chum and protecting the kings.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is the
34 gillnet commercial take on chinook a limited entry?

35

36 MR. ESTENSEN: For the commercial
37 fishery?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

40

41 MR. ESTENSEN: Yes.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So would this
44 be limited entry?

45

46 MR. ESTENSEN: I believe anybody that
47 has a permit for the gillnet would be able to use this
48 gear if it was implemented.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is it only

1 for the people that have gillnets?

2

3 MR. ESTENSEN: Anybody that has a
4 commercial license in the Lower Yukon River in these
5 districts I'm pretty sure would be able to use this
6 gear type as well. It would be available to them.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then they
9 would not be allowed to use a gillnet if they used a
10 beach seine?

11

12 MR. ESTENSEN: They would be able to
13 use any gear type.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean a
16 purse seine, sorry.

17

18 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. You know, I think
19 anybody that has a commercial permit would -- you know,
20 depending on where we're at, you know, we may have a --
21 this would be by emergency order. So if we were to
22 allow this gear, if it was implemented, then whoever
23 has a commercial permit in the lower river would be
24 able to use whatever gear types are available for them.
25 So, in this case.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would they be
28 able to use both?

29

30 MR. ESTENSEN: Not at the same time,
31 but they would be able to use whatever gear -- let's
32 put it this way. If we're using this, we're probably
33 not going to be using gillnets or it's going to be
34 restricted. They're not going to be commercially
35 fishing. This is to catch the summer chum and to
36 protect the kings.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what
39 you're saying is Fish and Game would have the
40 discretion to have either a gillnet or seining.

41

MR. BASSICH: No.

42

43 MR. ESTENSEN: Correct. If this is an
44 additional gear type that was in our toolbox and the
45 reason why we'd use this gear type over a gillnet is
46 because we want to be able to selectively harvest the
47 summer chum while protecting the kings. Gillnet does
48 not do that. Gillnet is gear we're definitely not
49 going to use because you're going to be incidentally
50 harvesting kings.

1 So this gives us an opportunity to
2 provide commercial opportunity. This alternate gear
3 type and the ones we've done with the dipnets and with
4 the beach seines are to provide an opportunity to
5 commercial fish for the abundant summer chum while
6 protecting the king salmon.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
9 know how commercial fishermen work. Just be patient
10 with me, please.

11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Your summary says that
17 this test has not been fully tested. Is the Department
18 going to pursue that angle this season, work with the
19 proponents to further test this and provide proposal
20 fails and would you guys be developing a protocol that
21 maybe all the commercial fishermen would be following
22 that would minimize the impact on chinook and maybe you
23 can give us a little summary of the process of purse
24 seining and how that could traumatize chinook as
25 opposed to a beach seine.

26
27 MR. ESTENSEN: The first part of your
28 question is -- I'm sorry, what was the.....

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: The first part was if
31 this proposal failed to us today, is the Department
32 looking forward to.....

33
34 MR. ESTENSEN: Right, right.

35
36 MR. WOODRUFF:perfecting a method
37 that would assure us, say it comes back next year, that
38 this is going to be a successful conservation measure
39 for chinook and explain a little bit about -- because
40 not everyone knows what purse seining is and how the
41 net is dried and the fish are somewhat grouped together
42 in a big bundle.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. ESTENSEN: Assuming that this
47 proposal does not get passed by the Board of Fish, then
48 it would be the Department's intent and desire and
49 we're certainly willing to do this, as I mentioned, to
50 work with the proponent to look at continuing to

1 evaluate this gear. I want to reiterate we fully
2 support looking at new gear types, but it has to have
3 its due evaluation. The bottom line, it has to protect
4 the kings. But we would be more than willing to work
5 with the proponent to do that.

6

7 I think Gene wanted to discuss -- maybe
8 describe how he does this. I don't know if he wants to
9 give a real quick.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It will be
12 under public comment.

13

14 MR. ESTENSEN: I watched this a little
15 bit last year. When I saw it, they were using a couple
16 boats. They were basically, in a nutshell, using a net
17 to create a purse seine. They would draw it in and
18 then the idea is that you have a net pen that has your
19 fish in it and then you can selectively take out -- you
20 go for the kings immediately, that's what the intent is
21 of this, and put them back in the water and other
22 species, and then be able to harvest the summer chum.

23

24 I think one of the concerns are and I'm
25 not necessarily saying it will or won't work. It
26 hasn't been evaluated fully in the Department's mind,
27 but the question, and a big one, is that when you have
28 a net pen full of -- let's say you have a couple
29 hundred summer chum in there, how efficiently are you
30 going to be able to get those few kings out of there.
31 That's something that we need to take a better look at
32 in the Department's mind.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, are
35 they pulling their lead line up on the boat? Because
36 that's how a purse seine works.

37

38 MR. ESTENSEN: Yes, I believe so. Gene
39 can explain -- talk to that more. I'd rather leave it
40 to him for the exact process. He can explain it to you
41 better than I can.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
44 questions of Fish and Game.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
49 Moving on. Oh, okay. Go ahead, Andrew.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Has any consideration been
2 put into something like this if it works out and
3 potentially could replace some driftnet fishing in the
4 future. Because when you're driftnet fishing, you're
5 basically killing everything you catch in your net.
6 When you've got something like this, there's a chance
7 you can throw kings back and there would be more
8 escapement.

9
10 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. At this point in
11 time, this gear type and these alternate gear types --
12 okay, I don't want to speak like -- you know, if this
13 becomes a tool in our toolbox, fine, but these
14 alternatives gear types at this point in time are
15 during times of king conservation at this point and
16 this is giving us a tool to be able to harvest summer
17 chum and protect the kings. If it were something that
18 works out and is being used, how it's used in the
19 future, I'm sure in the regulation it's going to be
20 used for times of king conservation. So it's something
21 that we'd have to look at.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: I guess to better state my
24 question, would it be used in a subsistence manner as
25 well and not only strictly commercial?

26
27 MR. ESTENSEN: There's been discussion
28 about that. Right now it's only being put up for the
29 commercial. It's been mentioned this could potentially
30 be subsistence gear as well and something that would
31 have to be looked at. Right now I think this needs to
32 be evaluated to see how it's even going to work before
33 we start going further down the road.

34
35 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George
36 Pappas.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, George.

39
40 MR. PAPPAS: The Western Interior RAC
41 during their discussions also included a request to
42 have the Department study this with some telemetry work
43 or possibly some DIDSON work to see what the mortality
44 rates were. Part of their intent behind their
45 supporting this proposal is to develop an alternative
46 gear that allows kings to live or be released and
47 eventually replace gillnets during times of
48 conservation issues.

49
50 Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
2
3 Any other questions of Fish and Game.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next. Any
8 Federal agencies or Interagency Staff Committee.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native,
13 tribal, village, other, have any comments.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
18 groups. Eagle.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. We did not --
21 we adamantly did not support this. I'll speak to that
22 when I make my comments on it representing the RAC
23 here.
24
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yukon Flats AC did not
26 support this. We opposed it.
27
28 MR. LORD: Nenana Minto opposed it.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we know of
31 any other ACs that took it up?
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: Just to add to what Larry
34 said. The Yukon Flats AC was against the monofilament
35 net that could cut up the fish and also the added
36 stress and how many times could they be caught and
37 released before -- they're gonna get caught in a dipnet
38 and then a beach seine and then a purse seine and then
39 they're going to the next district to do it all again.
40 That was some of our concerns.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our herring
43 beach seines and purse seines were all -- it's not
44 monofilament. It's a real soft netting. It's really
45 not bad compared to monofilament. Yes. Any other ACs.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public
50 comment.

1 MR. SANDONE: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

4

5 MR. SANDONE: This is Gene Sandone.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go

8 ahead.

9

10 MR. SANDONE: I have another handout
11 that you might want to look at. I'm not going to go
12 into it unless asked. It's called Test Purse Seine
13 Activities Lower Yukon River 2013 and in that handout I
14 go through what we did last year. It started in July
15 and then also I have pictures of how we operate and
16 also make conclusions and recommendations.

17

18 If you'll switch to the other handout,
19 the Yukon Area Proposal to the Alaska Board of
20 Fisheries 2014 and go to slide 4, I'll start my
21 presentation for the purse seines.

22

23 Proposal 377 would allow purse seine
24 use in the Lower Yukon area for commercial fishing for
25 summer chum salmon. Yukon Delta Fisheries Development
26 Association harvest large quantities of summer chum
27 salmon without harming king salmon. As Jeff spoke to
28 it, Washington and Oregon are studying gillnets on the
29 Columbia River fishing for salmon and they're going to
30 start using the purse seines this fall to selectively
31 harvest hatchery kings and release the wild kings.
32 There's a real good video on youtube that I highlighted
33 there. I encourage you to take a look at it. It's
34 pretty impressive.

35

36 Slide 5, Proposal 377. Secondly,
37 we're seeking to allow the use of multi-strand
38 monofilament webbing. We're not seeking to allow the
39 use of single strand monofilament period. This
40 increases the efficiency because multi-strand
41 monofilament is lightweight and easier to pull through
42 the water with the relatively small boats used in the
43 Lower Yukon.

44

45 Okay. Why allow purse seines. These
46 seines were basically not used during the summer season
47 because of the seasonally high water and Mr. Bassich
48 said that dipnets were pretty efficient. Well, I beg
49 to differ. Dipnets were an extremely inefficient
50 method of catching summer chum salmon. Overall there

1 was about a nine percent exploitation rate. Because of
2 this poor inefficiency we had poor participation of the
3 dipnet fishery by fishers. In Districts 1 and 2, the
4 median number of fishermen that participated in the 32
5 openings was about 15 fishermen per opening.

6
7 Overall, 2 billion summer chum salmon
8 were targeted for commercial harvest. That's about 65
9 percent of the run. The total drainage commercial
10 harvest was only about 486,000, which is about 15
11 percent of the run. 1.6 million summer chum salmon
12 were commercially foregone. That's half the run.
13 Drainage escapement was over 2.6 million. 81 percent
14 of the run wound up on the spawning grounds. Estimated
15 1 million summer chum salmon foregone in the Lower
16 Yukon alone. The value of the Lower Yukon summer chum
17 fishery was about 1.7. The foregone revenue was about
18 4.3 million. We're talking about the poorest area in
19 the nation. Very few jobs, high suicide rate, et
20 cetera, et cetera. So this money would have been really
21 beneficial.

22
23 Slide 7 is just a summary of what I
24 just told you and you could review that if you wanted
25 to.

26
27 Okay. Why allow purse seines. Because
28 of the high level of foregone harvest escapements have
29 basically been too high. Summer chum salmon
30 escapements have been in excess of 2 million salmon for
31 the last three years because of the concern for king
32 and the lack of commercial fishing. Summer chum salmon
33 escapement is over about 1.8 million to 2.0 have not
34 replaced themselves. In other words, it's poor
35 production off those large escapements. Therefore, as
36 anticipated in the beginning of 2015, we may see lower
37 summer chum salmon runs.

38
39 Slide 9 is just a bar graph looking at
40 escapement in the dark bars, with a return in the light
41 bars. I wanted you to see the trend here that low
42 escapements usually produce pretty good as far as
43 return per spawner and numbers of fish while high
44 escapements don't produce that well.

45
46 The next one, number 10, is a Ricker
47 curve. On the Y axis you have recruits. On the X axis
48 you have spawners. What I want to note here is that
49 over 2 million fish, between 1.8 and 2 million fish all
50 the years, brood years, that's what's indicated in

1 those numbers, are below that dashed line. That dashed
2 line is a replacement line where you get 1-1 return per
3 spawner.

4
5 So I think it's very important not to
6 exceed 1.8 to 2.0 million escapement. The optimum
7 escapement that I calculated is between 700,000 and 1
8 million summer chum where you have MSY.

9
10 Concern for king salmon. How do we
11 harvest large quantities of summer chum salmon without
12 harming king salmon? We need efficient selective
13 harvest techniques. Beach seines don't work because of
14 the seasonally high water. Dipnets work but are very
15 inefficient. You have poor catch per hour compared to
16 the gillnet and poor participation by fishermen. Purse
17 seines may be the answer to catch large numbers of
18 summer chum while allowing live release of kings.

19
20 Personally, I think if purse seine use
21 is allowed in the Lower River, it can revolutionize the
22 fishery. Another thing, and this is my opinion, and I
23 think Jeff mentioned it, is that there may not be a
24 commercial gillnet fishery in the Lower River this year
25 at all. In fact, there may not be much of a
26 subsistence gillnet fishery if there is any at all.
27 Purse seines and possibly beach seines would possibly
28 substitute for the gillnet fishery and I think the
29 purse seines probably have a less impact on the kings
30 than the beach seines would.

31
32 Slide 13 is a fish-friendly dipnet,
33 dipping the fish out of the pool and you could either
34 retain them or release them. The last slide is
35 basically saying it's the end.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
40 Gene. Any questions of Gene.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
45 Hearing none, we'll move along. Thank you.

46
47 Any other public comment in the room or
48 out in teleconference land.

49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
2 I'm ready for a motion. Do you guys want to do
3 anything here?
4
5 MR. GLANZ: Make a motion to adopt 377.
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.
10
11 MR. BASSICH: I'll give an attempt at
12 it, Madame Chair. I'm not going to be in support of
13 this proposal. It's a method of fishing that we don't
14 have much information on. One of the things I found
15 out is the Joint Technical Committee of the Pacific
16 Salmon Commission has basically stated and has
17 recommended to managers that if they use purse seine
18 gear that the managers should calculate between 50 and
19 72 percent mortality rate when assessing mortalities
20 from purse seine release of chinook salmon. That alone
21 tells me that there may not be immediate mortality in
22 purse seines, but through their studies they calculate
23 that there may be delayed mortality.
24
25 We just don't know enough about this
26 for a new gear type. I would be in support personally
27 of further studies. What really concerns me is the
28 studies done last year were done in June -- or done in
29 July and August when the king salmon were no longer
30 heavily present in the river. As stated in this
31 statement from -- I believe this is the State's
32 position on it, they only caught a couple of kings, so,
33 to me, that's not really a method of testing the
34 viability of this.
35
36 What also concerns me is that there is
37 incidental catch of other non-targeted species; pink
38 salmon, whitefish and other species, Bering cisco. We
39 still have to do a lot of studies and we're already
40 studying those fish to find out whether we can have
41 commercial harvest on them or whether they can sustain
42 a commercial harvest. We don't have good numbers on
43 that.
44
45 Bottom line, purse seining is very
46 indiscriminate. It catches anything that is in the
47 water column where it goes and I think we need a lot
48 more detailed study of mortality and the effects of
49 this type of gear before it is approved.
50

1 Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
4 discussion. Go ahead, James.

5

6 MR. ROBERTS: I think a concern for us
7 upriver fishermen is they might become too efficient
8 with this and wipe out the run. You know, we're
9 sitting up there in August and we're waiting for these
10 fish and if they overdo it, it's going to hurt
11 everybody in Y5 and Y6.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 I'm going to have to oppose the proposal. As the
17 chairman of the Yukon Flats AC, I'm going to have to go
18 with my people and oppose this proposal. To the members
19 of the AC, there are too many unanswered questions, so
20 we can't support this unless those questions are
21 answered. Like they were saying, how many times can a
22 king salmon be caught and released until he just gives
23 up and goes belly up. So I'm going to have to oppose
24 this.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
29 discussion.

30

31 MR. FIRMIN: I personally think they've
32 already got every type of gear available commercially
33 in the lower river. What more do they want? While I'm
34 restricted to 24 hours of fishing with a setnet or a
35 wheel. Those are my options. Commercially, down on
36 the other end of the river, they have more fishing
37 time, they have several sets of fishing gear and it
38 seems unfair to people in a time of conservation. I
39 realize that they're looking for other methods to
40 continue their commercial operation, but I also share
41 those same concerns. How efficient are you going to
42 get? I mean they just started dipnet fishing and they
43 still don't understand the mortality of those fish that
44 are released there.

45

46 I know while some people support it and
47 say the numbers are good, well, you look around other
48 places, look in Washington and look at some of their
49 mortality rates and other dipnet fisheries in the Mat-
50 Su area and they have high mortality rates, but they

1 just don't apply those because who's going to bring
2 that up.

3
4 So I think one new gear at a time is
5 good enough until it's proved sustainable.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.

8
9 MR. ROBERTS: I want to reiterate that
10 -- like what Sandone said. We're having a real hard
11 time upriver too and we have the same problems and it's
12 not just them that are poor and broke and going through
13 trouble. This is an issue that faces all of us, not
14 just downriver.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
17 discussion.

18
19 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: I just feel this is another
24 method of drift fishery is all this amounts to by the
25 way it looks with the fish all gathered up in a big --
26 where they're bashing each other while they're sorting
27 them through. I, myself, am not in favor of this
28 either.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I will
31 say purse seining and beach seining that I've been
32 involved in, they pumped the fish out for herring. I'm
33 in my mind trying to envision all of this dipnetting of
34 a lot of fish in one place. It's pretty tough, yeah.
35 I can't even imagine it actually and I have to agree
36 with Andrew here. One step at a time. You need to
37 study this more. And it causes me question about the
38 length. How do you determine how long it should be.
39 There's a lot of things that are unknown that need to
40 be known before you make another gear type like that.
41 That's my input.

42
43 Are there any others. Donald.

44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: One of my concerns was
46 that these released kings, because the water is so
47 turbid, that you're not going to see how many are
48 actually recovering and swimming back upstream. They're
49 going to sink to the bottom and float downstream 10
50 miles before they even maybe pop back up and decide to

1 start swimming. I think that's a big issue that you
2 can't see the fish after you drop them back into the
3 river.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Question.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
12 has been called for. All in favor of Proposal 377 to
13 start this new gear type of purse seining, all in favor
14 say aye.

15
16 (No aye votes)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving right
23 along. It fails unanimously. We tabled that one
24 proposal. Do you want to bring it back up or do you
25 want a break? Do you want a short break? I heard a
26 yes. Ten minutes.

27
28 (Off record)

29
30 (On record)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call the
33 meeting back to order. Are you guys ready? We're
34 calling the Council back to order. I would like to
35 call on Larry. We have a guest in the audience and
36 he's going to introduce him for us. Larry.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Like we said, in any culture, and especially I like to
40 think that in our culture we respect the elders and we
41 do anything for them because they are wise in their
42 ways and we look to them for our guidance. At this
43 time I would think it would be appropriate to welcome
44 Mr. Simon Francis of Fort Yukon, Traditional Chief of
45 Fort Yukon. He turned 90 last week and his daughter
46 Aleta standing over there. I think it would be
47 appropriate for all of us to stand up and give him a
48 round of applause.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

1 Larry. Nice to see you, Simon. I'm sorry, go ahead.

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: I thank the people very
4 much for their respect and acknowledgment of Mr.
5 Francis.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
8 It's nice to see you.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Welcome.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
13 We have this issue that was -- I believe the word is
14 tabled. I hope I'm saying it correctly. We need to
15 bring it back up. I believe I need a motion to bring
16 it back up.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I'll make a motion to
19 reopen it.

20

21 MR. KOEHLER: Second.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
24 Restate that, please. We have it all in front of us.
25 We're going to change driftnet fishery to setnet for
26 chinook in Districts 1-6 and this is a Federal fish and
27 shellfish proposal to the Federal Board. Discussion or
28 should I say any other discussion.

29

30 Anyone. Donald.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: After speaking with
33 Lester, I felt that some more conservation methods for
34 chinook were primary and I think that we talked about
35 this at our fall meeting and it was time to put it on
36 paper and in our annual report. I think it's going to
37 be hard on the people in the lower river, but they've
38 setnet fished in the past, so it's not like they have
39 to reinvent the wheel. They have these old sites that
40 they can use, so it's not an impossibility for people
41 to adjust.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need to ask
46 Staff clarification. Is this clear to you guys? This
47 is for commercial, right, or for all, guys? I just
48 want clarification on the record.

49

50 MS. HYER: Madame Chairman. Council

1 members. Good morning. This is Karen Hyer for the
2 record. Our jurisdiction is just Federal Subsistence
3 Management, so that would be who would be affected by
4 this regulatory proposal.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is
7 correct. I just wanted to get that in all of our
8 heads. Okay. So this only affects subsistence on
9 Federal waters.

10
11 MS. HYER: Madame Chairman. I have a
12 proposal. We have a form we usually fill out that
13 needs to go to OSM and I would propose that maybe we
14 get the general ideas on the record and we can work on
15 specific wording with individuals over lunch possibly.

16
17
18 Oh, you've got the wording already.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's just not
21 blue.

22
23 MS. HYER: Perfect.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. But if
26 you want more wording, that's fine. I mean I think
27 just knowing our intent you're saying is good enough.

28
29 MS. HYER: Yeah. Usually what happens
30 in our process is the proposals are submitted and then
31 we actually call the proponent to make sure the intent
32 and the wording is clear. So let's go through what you
33 have and if we need clarification, we can follow up
34 right here.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
37 have any copies of this?

38
39 MS. HYER: I don't think we have that
40 copy.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We read it
43 into the record. Yes, the whole thing was read into
44 the record.

45
46 MS. HYER: Okay.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was just
49 making sure that we're clear in our minds where we're
50 at. So this is strictly a subsistence proposal on

1 Federal waters and that's clear to everyone.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Do you want me to read
4 it?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
7 ahead.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Number 1 -- this is methods and means harvest. Number
11 1, which regulation do you wish to change? Change the
12 driftnet fisheries to a setnet fishery for chinook in
13 District 1 through 6.

14

15 How should the new regulation read? I
16 think that's about the same

17

18 Number 3, why should the regulation
19 change be made? Five out of seven years of escapement
20 has not been met for chinook.

21

22 Number 4, what impact will this change
23 have on the fish or shellfish populations? The
24 population of chinook will have a better chance to
25 recover and meet escapement needs.

26

27 Number 5, how will this change affect
28 subsistence uses? Over the long run, more chinook will
29 be available for future generations.

30

31 Number 6, how will this change affect
32 other users, i.e. sport, recreational or commercial?
33 No effect.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I believe
36 we tabled it for Virgil, didn't we, and he's not here.
37 Do you have any further discussion? Everything else is
38 all on the record. So if there's further discussion,
39 this is the time. Was that a hand, Will?

40

41 MR. KOEHLER: No, it was not.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I guess
46 I was just thinking back about some of our discussion
47 and at one point yesterday we were talking about what
48 it would take to make a special action or petition the
49 Board for a special action giving them the authority to
50 differentiate gear types. Because it was my

1 understanding that they can manage for gear and time,
2 but they can't manage for different types of gear type
3 during a fishery.

4
5 I guess I went away last night thinking
6 that maybe a better solution rather than closing down
7 the driftnet fisheries would be to actually give the
8 managers the tool to be able to restrict fishing
9 methods to certain types of gear. So I just wanted to
10 bring that up because I guess I came here thinking we
11 were maybe going to go down that road rather than
12 trying to outlaw driftnetting on the lower river.

13
14 Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: In response to Mr.
19 Bassich, I think that perhaps another proposal that was
20 well written out would give them the option or an
21 alternative choice so that if they rejected this
22 proposal and perhaps they would select a proposal that
23 would give the managers more decision-making power.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: No, I'm fine with
26 following that course of action. I guess I'm just
27 trying to get my head wrapped around what we're going
28 to take action on right now. I'm just trying to remind
29 the Council that we did have another area of discussion
30 pertaining to this subject.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Okay.
33 Any other input towards what's on the table right now,
34 is that proposal. No other proposal or amendments are
35 on the table. Just changing driftnet fisheries to
36 setnets for chinook in Districts 1 through 6. Any
37 other discussion or any motions. Will.

38
39 MR. KOEHLER: I think right now as this
40 is written I would oppose it. I would prefer the
41 course of action that we're talking about.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
44 Others.

45
46 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. This is
47 George Pappas.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Go
50 ahead, George.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Well, in the State's
2 commercial fishing regulations, they read during times
3 when the commissioner determines that it's necessary
4 for conservation of king salmon the commissioner may by
5 emergency order close the commercial gillnet fishing
6 season and immediately open the fishing season during
7 which -- so they have in State regulation for the
8 commercial fishery, they can authorize use of dipnets
9 or beach seines, et cetera. They do have a mechanism
10 to shut down gillnets.

11
12 If you wanted to put something down to
13 shut the whole fishery down and then reopen it only to
14 driftnets or other methods and means, that would be one
15 approach to keeping driftnets on the books, but during
16 times of conservation for kings, that would allow --
17 we'd put something in regulation on the Federal
18 subsistence management side that would allow the in-
19 season manager, which would be Fred Bue, to act
20 conservatively and meet the intent of your proposal.

21
22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester was
25 nodding his head and I didn't understand why he was
26 nodding his head.

27
28 MR. ERHART: Well, it sounded good to
29 me. Anything that we could do to help. I mean it's
30 not stopping. I mean no matter what kind of proposal
31 they put up here, no matter, the king salmon is still
32 going down. Are we going to wait until we choke the
33 last one and then say, oh, we should have did this. I
34 mean right now I talk to those guys in the lower river.
35 I said how many times did your driftnet get hung up.
36 Oh, we lose quite a few. I said do they still catch
37 fish. Yes, they do. Well, they're under the water
38 after they cut them lose.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
41 Speaking to the motion, Lester, are you still in favor
42 of this?

43
44 MR. ERHART: (Nods affirmatively)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
47 Others. Anyone else have any discussion on this.

48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: I call the question.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
6 has been called for.
7
8 MR. BASSICH: I'd like a roll call.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A roll call
11 has been requested. So, Andrew.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: So this is a roll call
14 vote on the motion that's on the floor that we set
15 aside from yesterday. I'll start with myself and I
16 support this motion as written. Larry Williams, Sr.
17
18 MR. WILLIAMS: I support.
19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart.
21
22 MR. ERHART: I support.
23
24 MR. FIRMIN: Bill Glanz.
25
26 MR. GLANZ: I support.
27
28 MR. FIRMIN: Andy Bassich.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: I do not support.
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: James Roberts.
33
34 MR. ROBERTS: I'm in favor of this.
35
36 MR. FIRMIN: William Koehler.
37
38 MR. KOEHLER: I do not support.
39
40 MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff.
41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: I support.
43
44 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil Umphenour is
45 absent. Sue Entsminger.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Support.
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: Motion carries 7-2, one
50 absent. Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I
2 did hear a possibility of another proposal.

3

4 Andy.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Madame
7 Chair. I think what I d like to do is maybe work with
8 you to develop a proposal to allow for a petition to
9 the joint Boards giving the authority for both State
10 and Federal managers to differentiate gear types during
11 subsistence and commercial openings for the purpose of
12 conservation of chinook salmon.

13

14 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Council
15 members. We're available at lunch to work with you and
16 that would probably be a great time so we could do it
17 face to face so we can bring it up after lunch.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you want
20 to do it after lunch then.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that's fine.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't let us
25 forget. You'll probably have it all typed up for us
26 when you come back from lunch, right, ready to go?

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. BASSICH: If possible, I'd like to
31 have another Council member there, not just my input
32 from it, so I think it would be very good to have at
33 least one other Council member present to work on some
34 of this.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

37

38 MR. FIRMIN: What?

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't shake
43 your head no. Shake your head this way.

44

45 MR. ROBERTS: We're hungry.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you'll
50 help him?

1 MR. FIRMIN: Which proposal is this one
2 that you're.....

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. This,
5 Andrew, would be to give authority to both State and
6 Federal managers to differentiate gear types when
7 setting openings for subsistence and commercial
8 fisheries on the Yukon. Basically it's like we were
9 talking about yesterday. Instead of closing fisheries,
10 allow managers to say, well, during this opening we're
11 going to allow for setnet only, 6-inch mesh, as opposed
12 to just saying we're allowing an opening and you can
13 fish with any gear type or any -- you know what I mean.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounded
16 like your idea, Andrew.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I understand. I
19 could sit in on that. I just also kind of feel the
20 same way about like if they can't driftnet, they can
21 still setnet, beach net, dipnet and fishwheel, run a
22 wheel. Yeah, but that was what I was aiming for
23 anyway. I'll be more than happy to do that.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe you
26 need to come up with language to cover what you're
27 concerned about. Just one question. Under that
28 scenario, that would only be Federal, right, or would
29 that just -- does that have to go to the Fish Board?

30
31 MR. ROBERTS: State also.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
34 mean. That call for proposals, is that still.....

35
36 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. We can only
37 act on Federal subsistence proposals, but George Pappas
38 is on the line and we're going to call him. He works
39 with the State and if there's an interest in putting
40 forward a State proposal, I do believe we could help
41 with the wording. It would still have to come from
42 you, but we're available as Staff to help.

43
44 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. That's
45 correct.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
50 George.

1 MR. PAPPAS: So if you do have -- I
2 believe your RAC has also submitted proposals to the
3 Board of Fish. I can help with that process.

4
5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All I was
8 asking is what the call was for the State Board of
9 Fish.

10
11 MS. HYER: Oh, excuse me. Our call is
12 for Federal subsistence. Maybe George could speak to
13 the dates for the State.

14
15 MR. PAPPAS: I'll probably need some
16 help there from Mr. Estensen about the deadlines for
17 Board of Fish proposals for that area.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can ask
20 somebody at lunch or later.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. May I
23 clarify something.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
26 ahead.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. What I'm
29 asking for is a joint Board petition and we were given
30 a handout that outlines how the process is to petition
31 the joint Board. That's the State and the Federal
32 Boards.

33
34 Am I incorrect?

35
36 MR. WOODRUFF: No, you're correct.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: So what I'm asking for is
39 not a proposal but a petition to allow for this to
40 happen, Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I was
43 just trying to help.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: I think it just fast-
46 tracks it a little bit, I believe.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Others can
49 correct me if I'm wrong. I believe the joint Board is
50 Board of Game and Board of Fish. It's not a joint

1 State/Federal board. So what this covers is joint
2 Board of Game and Fish, which is both State. But what
3 is an option is to submit two proposals. One under the
4 Federal regulations and one under the State regulations
5 which would address the same concerns. We'll get the
6 deadline for the State Board of Fish proposals for the
7 Council.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
10 was trying to ask. Okay. Moving rapidly along. We
11 are under the review and approve our draft annual
12 report. I've taken some notes and I have come up with
13 five, so I want to verify with you guys that this is
14 stuff we want. Do we want a motion for this?

15

16 MS. PATTON: Sure. If you're going to
17 read it into the record, we can just reconfirm.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On the list
20 we had -- the first things was Arctic Village sheep
21 management area or what was that called? Arctic
22 Village sheep management area?

23

24 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's been
27 lots of public testimony. Before we see -- do you want
28 to word that? I don't know how to word it.

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted it noted in
31 our annual report that we're continuing to see this and
32 we're continuing to get plenty of public participation
33 in opposition of opening and liberalizing Arctic
34 Village sheep management area when the biology hasn't
35 changed any from the original closure.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does
38 everybody agree to that one?

39

40 (Council nods affirmatively)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
43 in agreement. That's number one. And then we'll have
44 one motion for all of these. There was whitefish.....

45

46 MR. FIRMIN: Cisco.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, do you
49 want to handle that. You were requesting monitoring.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, we requested the
2 monitoring of Bering cisco as they are commercially
3 targeting Bering cisco and their commercial quota has
4 doubled and enumeration studies have been done. TEK
5 data in the upper river shows a decline in populations
6 and yet there are no official studies or monitoring any
7 population or anything of that nature going on and we'd
8 like to see those studies happen before more commercial
9 exploitation of the resource, which upper river users
10 may become more dependent on with the decline of king
11 salmon as we're told to target other species.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we all
14 agree on that one?

15
16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
19 The third one is 25A moose.

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: That one is already in
22 there.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you want
25 to add anything else to it, Larry? It's already there.
26

27 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. I think
28 it's adequate the way it is.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
31 don't need to take it up because it's already there.
32 The next one is what we just discussed, get rid of the
33 driftnets in the Yukon. Do you want that in there?

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: I think we should include
36 some wording on that that our intention was for
37 managers to be able to -- when the king salmon is at
38 its peak of its run, still have a subsistence opener
39 and get -- still be able to pull a specific gear type
40 that is known -- that's a commercial use gear type that
41 they're using in a subsistence opener and it's known to
42 be very efficient, that the people can still go out and
43 fish, however not use their commercial gear. Driftnet
44 gear anyway. That was our clear intent, but we're
45 doing that, I guess. If that's satisfiable.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that okay?
48 Everyone agree?

49
50 (Council nods affirmatively)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
2 then the last one is this -- Andy, you talked about the
3 use of data in a modeling.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I would just like
6 to see some studies done on the methodologies for
7 collecting raw data for fisheries escapement projects
8 on the Yukon River. So I would like to see an analysis
9 of the collection methodology and the effects of bias
10 nature of that collection method. Is that fairly
11 clear? I don't know if I clearly stated that or not.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do Council
14 members feel that's clear enough? All in agreement on
15 that one?

16
17 (Council nods affirmatively)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
20 those are the.....

21
22 MR. FIRMIN: There was one more.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you had
25 one more? Go ahead.

26
27 MR. FIRMIN: I believe Larry wanted
28 like the Chandalar River because of changes in
29 management. Twenty years ago people would tell you
30 there's no king salmon in those rivers, we don't study
31 them and yet people are catching them more and more
32 every year and no studies have gone on. Now the reply
33 is, oh, well, they're too small of a population to
34 catch and nobody notices.

35
36 But when you have people more and more
37 year after year catch more and more of these king
38 salmon in these rivers that previously had none and yet
39 there's still no studies done and if they're such a
40 small population -- I see other rivers that have
41 escapement goals of 800, 1,000, 2,000 and yet some
42 people in Venetie are probably catching in the hundreds
43 of fish and yet there's no fish up there, they're too
44 small of a population to manage.

45
46 I think some focus needs to be done to
47 expand some of those projects. Like the Chandalar
48 sonar, for instance, could be expanded slightly.
49 They're already there counting fish for a month or plus
50 two months out of the summer. So if they were just to

1 expand that program just to include counting those fish
2 or where are they coming from, why is there so many
3 now. Just simple questions like that could slowly be
4 added to make one large project a little bit bigger.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sure we
7 all agree on this one.

8
9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12 Andrew, I think you could handle that motion. Include
13 them all. This is what we're adding to our annual
14 report unless we can do it simply.

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: I guess I'd like to make a
17 motion to include all those additions into our draft
18 annual report.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Seconded.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
23 discussion.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MR. KOEHLER: Question.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
30 has been called for. All in favor.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
35 opposed.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
40 finally got our annual report.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We had the
43 wildlife presentation.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now we've got
46 a scheduling. Everybody wants to know when they're
47 going to be able to speak.

48 The Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. I don't see
49 anybody from Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. I know them.

50

1 MS. PATTON: They're ready to go. He
2 was here. There he is.

3
4 MR. LAKE: I work for Yukon Flats.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Oh, Yukon Flats. Sorry.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So he's the
9 one that needs to speak now.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Yes.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yukon
14 Flats. Because you have to depart it sounds like.
15 We're getting the screen down here. The Board of Fish
16 deadlines for Upper Copper proposals is due April 10th.
17 Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim are due -- it will be taken up
18 January 2016. The comments are due December 28. Call
19 for proposals has not been published yet. So that
20 proposal is a long time out. Well, it's a good
21 proposal. It has to be pretty important to petition
22 the Board, right?

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, but during times of
25 conservation (away from microphone).

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe we
28 should do it that way. A short discussion after we
29 come back. Okay. Go ahead.

30
31 MR. LAKE: Madame Chair. Members of
32 the Council. For the record, my name is Bryce Lake and
33 I'm a wildlife biologist with Yukon Flats Refuge. My
34 presentation today is about a wolf collaring study that
35 the Yukon Flats did starting in about 2008. Over the
36 years I provided kind of some summary interim reports
37 and this would represent the final report from the
38 study.

39
40 So the questions that we were looking
41 at were, first of all, what are the wolf numbers.
42 Surveys have been done from airplanes on what kind of
43 wolf numbers are on the Yukon Flats and there's some
44 issues with counting from the air and you can improve
45 using radio collars, so we capitalized on that.

46
47 The second question we were looking at
48 is how many moose are eaten by wolves on the Yukon
49 Flats. The main reason we were interested in that is
50 because the Yukon Flats has very low moose densities

1 and prior to our study no one had really looked at how
2 many moose are taken by wolves in a place where moose
3 are very scarce. The idea among scientists around the
4 world is that in a place like the Yukon Flats, it
5 probably takes wolves longer to find a moose, so their
6 kill rate is probably lower. So our study is the first
7 to ever provide real data on that question.

8

9 So that was the first motivation for
10 the study and then the second was just low densities in
11 moose and continued concern about low opportunity for
12 harvest. Just as a note, I think all of you were
13 provided a copy of the paper that resulted from this
14 effort, so you can read that at your leisure.

15

16 Just so everybody is on the same page,
17 I'm talking about the Yukon Flats, an area with seven
18 villages extending approximately from Stevens Village
19 east of Chalkyitsik and Circle. There's four different
20 areas here; the south area, east, north and west. Those
21 are all areas where over the years moose have been
22 counted. The gray dots here, we did an actual moose
23 survey that was specific to where the wolves in this
24 study went. That's where we surveyed for the moose.
25 That's where these gray squares are. So that gives you
26 an idea of where the wolf packs in the study were
27 located at.

28

29 Again, I mentioned the Yukon Flats is a
30 system with a single large prey species and that's
31 moose. This area is unique because really caribou
32 aren't around and there really aren't sheep around for
33 wolves to eat as well, which in most places in Alaska
34 there's multiple large prey species. So this shows
35 densities of moose on the Yukon Flats and the main
36 message is that densities are low and have been low.

37

38 Pretty much every survey that's ever
39 been conducted is a range of numbers from like .05
40 moose per square kilometer up to .13 moose per square
41 kilometer in the eastern area. Then the gray box again
42 are what we called the wolf survey area for moose. The
43 moose density in that was about .05 moose per square
44 kilometer in a spring survey. So again low moose
45 densities.

46

47 Just so everybody is on the same page,
48 the system has more than one large predator. There's
49 also black bear, grizzly bear and humans in addition to
50 wolves. So I thought I would just provide an idea of

1 what we know about some of the other predators in the
2 system.

3
4 We've done one survey of black bear
5 density and it demonstrated a high bear density and it
6 was in the area around Beaver, so it's just like a
7 small snapshot of the Yukon Flats, but that small
8 snapshot indicated pretty high black bear densities.
9 The survey estimate was about 40 bears per 100 square
10 miles or, you know, as scientists, we like to talk
11 square kilometers just to make things more confusing.
12 There was about 155 independent bears per 1,000 square
13 kilometers.

14
15 For comparison, over time you may have
16 heard about bear densities in McGrath and densities
17 there are about 70 to 90 bears per 1,000 square
18 kilometers. So the message is more black bears on the
19 Yukon Flats than there are on McGrath.

20
21 We've never surveyed grizzly bears to
22 come up with some kind of a number and there's a good
23 reason for that. Because it would be very expensive.
24 I think a solid number of grizzly bear densities in
25 this area would cost around half a million dollars.

26
27 In terms of human take of moose, about
28 130 each year. From ratios of bulls to cows, it's
29 generally above 30 to 100, which indicates a low to
30 moderate harvest rate. The regulations for moose
31 hunting are bull only, but the season length is pretty
32 liberal with both fall and winter seasons.

33
34 So, moving on to how we actually
35 conducted our study. How did we learn about the
36 questions that we had regarding wolf density and wolf
37 kill rate. So we used experienced pilots. There's
38 some people in Alaska that are pretty good at following
39 wolves in an airplane. So they'd find tracks and then
40 follow the tracks until they found the pack. Once we
41 found the pack we used helicopter darting to immobilize
42 or tranquilize the wolves. I put collars on them. A
43 pretty common standard way to study them.

44
45 We used a combination of VHF collars
46 and those are kind of a standard collar where you hear
47 a beep and as you get closer, the beep gets louder. So
48 we put 21 of those out in eight packs. The VHF collars
49 are pretty inexpensive. They cost about \$300 and
50 that's why I put out more of them.

1 And then we put out GPS collars. These
2 collars were a little different and every day they
3 recorded eight GPS locations of where the wolf was at
4 the moment and those collars are much more expensive.
5 They're about \$4,000. We put out nine of them in six
6 packs. I'll show you why we used the GPS collars.

7
8 To find moose that were killed by
9 wolves with the VHF collars where you get just the
10 beep, we used telemetry and backtracking. So we'd go
11 out every day for about a two-week period. Get in the
12 plane, fly out, we'd find a wolf pack or we'd see them
13 below the plane, we'd look to see if they were actively
14 feeding on a moose. If they weren't, we'd follow their
15 tracks in the snow to where they were at the previous
16 day. By doing that we were able to find moose that
17 they were actively feeding on, ones that were away from
18 the pack.

19
20 Then what we did with the GPS collars
21 is we were able to capitalize on the behavior of
22 wolves. They spend anywhere from two days up to 14
23 feeding on a moose kill. So if you have eight
24 locations a day and they spend two days with a killed
25 moose, you get this pattern of locations, like a
26 cluster, and that's what's depicted in this little
27 green figure.

28
29 Here are some locations of the wolves
30 where maybe they stopped to take a break as they were
31 traveling around and that's what these white dots are.
32 This is an actual spot where we flew over the wolves
33 and saw a moose that they were feeding on, so you get
34 an idea that when they kill a moose they make this big
35 cluster of locations. We used a sophisticated computer
36 program that would identify these clusters and we would
37 fly out and look.

38
39 We went to all the clusters, some of
40 which weren't kills, like they just took a break for a
41 couple hours, and some of which were and we could look
42 below us and be like, oh, is that a dead moose or not.
43 By doing that we were able to figure out over time,
44 well, this pattern of clusters is strongly associated
45 with a dead moose and these ones aren't. So that's how
46 we were able to estimate the number of moose they took
47 over the winter.

48
49 So how did we learn about wolf density?
50 We had the collars on the wolves that recorded their

1 GPS locations, so we had a pretty good idea of where
2 they went all winter long. So we used those collars to
3 delineate their territories and that's what these black
4 lines are. Each one represents the territory of a
5 different wolf pack. The red number is the size of the
6 territory. Just generally, these were really large
7 territories, about 24x24 square miles on average.

8
9 To determine their density, what we did
10 was summed up the size of each of these five
11 territories and then we subtracted these overlapping
12 portions, which are the little dotted areas. So we
13 knew the area that they occurred in and we counted them
14 from the air. We just took the number that we counted
15 and divided by the area they occurred in and that was
16 the density.

17
18 So moving on to some results finally.
19 The first question I talked about was what is wolf
20 density. The take-home message for you is that in our
21 study it was about 9.1 to 9.6 wolves per 1,000 square
22 kilometer. The 9.1 corresponds to the spring number
23 and the 9.6 to the fall number. There are also some
24 interesting things about that number.

25
26 Again, we calculated the density in the
27 fall and the spring and there's some disagreement among
28 the scientists about which is the best way to delineate
29 the size of their territories, so I just did both and
30 decided to see what would happen. Sure enough they
31 didn't really matter. There was only a difference of
32 about 150, 170 square kilometers on a pretty large
33 scale, 7,000 square kilometers roughly. So the method
34 that we used didn't really matter.

35
36 There was a net difference of one wolf
37 from fall to spring, so that's pretty common with
38 wolves. In the springtime, the juveniles start
39 dispersing away, kind of go their own way, and we saw
40 that in our study. So we arrived at a density of 3.5-
41 3.7 wolves per 1,000 square kilometers or expressed in
42 miles it's 9.1 to 9.6. These were also very low
43 densities of wolves. One message that you could take
44 home is the Yukon Flats has low moose densities. It
45 also has really low wolf densities. So they're what we
46 call -- they would be an equilibrium. Just to give you
47 an idea, this density here is about 160 resident
48 territory wolves within the boundary of the Yukon Flats
49 Refuge.

50

1 So moving on to our next question is
2 how many moose are eaten by wolves. What's the wolf
3 kill rate. So the take-home message for you there
4 would be for a pack of five wolves, which is about the
5 average size that we had, they took about one moose
6 every eight to nine days, so roughly once every 10 days
7 if you want to think about it.

8
9 There are also some interesting
10 patterns about that as well that I'll show here. This
11 graph here has the kill rate. You can think of that as
12 the number of moose that are eaten by wolves. It's
13 expressed moose per wolf per day and there's some
14 reasons for that. You look down here and .01 moose
15 isn't very many, but, again, just keep in mind this is
16 fewer moose eaten by wolves, more moose eaten by
17 wolves.

18
19 Then we have the months of our study.
20 One interesting thing we saw was that in late winter
21 they actually ate fewer than in early winter. We
22 speculated that was because in early winter here in
23 these months perhaps they were primarily feeding on
24 young of the year moose, basically the calves from the
25 previous spring. They're much smaller, so in order to
26 get enough food you have to eat more of them. Here in
27 late winter they may have been eating adult moose,
28 which are bigger, so they don't eat as many.

29
30 Another interesting thing is that in a
31 lot of places you tend to see in late winter the rate
32 goes up simply because the moose are more lethargic and
33 they might be easier to catch. Also snow tends to be
34 deeper in late winter. We didn't see that. The Yukon
35 Flats rarely gets real deep snows and that's probably
36 why we didn't see that.

37
38 So comparing what we learned to the
39 rest of what's known in North America -- and this is
40 really what brings everything together in terms of why
41 we did the study. Again, here's the kill rate. This
42 is not very many moose eaten by wolves. This would be
43 a lot. Then this is moose density here.

44
45 So on a continuum of moose densities
46 throughout North America, here's the Yukon Flats. It's
47 way over to the left. It's the lowest density where
48 kill rates have ever been studied. Then way out here
49 you've got like 20 times as many moose. What we saw
50 was that the kill rates in our study, which are these

1 triangles, were similar to those from what's been
2 learned elsewhere, so we concur that wolves didn't
3 adjust their kill rates or kill rates didn't decline on
4 the Yukon Flats.

5
6 The reason for that, the reason we
7 thought that the kill rates might decline are these
8 lines here. So the idea is really important right
9 here. So if you have zero moose, a density of moose of
10 zero, the kill rate has to be zero, right, because you
11 can't kill moose if moose aren't present. So
12 researchers have long concluded that at some point
13 these numbers decline down to zero. They had
14 speculated previous to our study that it was at the
15 densities that we saw, but we didn't see that. We saw
16 kill rates that were similar to what everyone else has
17 seen in North America. So that was a real important
18 conclusion from our study.

19
20 So the last few things I wanted to
21 mention is that wolf and moose densities in the Yukon
22 Flats are consistently low. They've been low from
23 every study that's ever been done. Wolves back to the
24 '80s and moose back to the 1960s and their densities
25 are among the lowest in North America.

26
27 Wolves maintain kill rates on the Yukon
28 Flats and this is what probably allows them to survive
29 out there, right. If they couldn't maintain the kill
30 rates, they wouldn't have enough food, so their options
31 are either die or leave.

32
33 Because we didn't see a change in kill
34 rates, we concluded that instead of adjusting the
35 number of moose that they eat, wolves adjust the
36 population numbers and that's consistent with low wolf
37 densities. So you have a low moose density system and
38 you have a very low wolf density system as well, so
39 that's also an important finding from our study as
40 well.

41
42 If you have any questions, I'm happy to
43 address them, but also here's my contact information if
44 you wanted to follow up later on. Thanks to the
45 Council members and to Madame Chair for allowing me the
46 opportunity to speak today and I'd be happy to address
47 any questions or comments that you have.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
50 that report. So you're the biologist for the Yukon

1 Flats now.

2

3 MR. LAKE: I'm one of the staff
4 biologists with Yukon Flats.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You've
7 been there how long?

8

9 MR. LAKE: I've worked at Yukon Flats
10 since I believe 2008.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
13 right. Any questions. Council members, any questions.

14

15 MR. LAKE: I guess one thing -- I meant
16 to give a brief introduction. Some of you I know.
17 Most of you I don't. I grew up in Alaska. We moved
18 here when I was four. I wasn't born here. My mom was
19 born in Alaska. I have family members sprinkled around
20 the state. I went to high school in Alaska. I went to
21 college here in Fairbanks, so I feel like I have a
22 pretty good sense for how things -- you know, a sense
23 for wildlife issues in the state.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I have
28 a question. Were you able to actually get down on the
29 ground and see whether these were cows or bulls, I'm
30 referring to the kills, or yearlings and record the
31 ratios of that? Was there any kind of data collected
32 on what type of moose they were killing, whether they
33 were males, females or young?

34

35 MR. LAKE: Yeah. So, Member Bassich,
36 through the Chair, we did do that and we attempted to
37 visit a lot of kills. We did get some information.
38 What we routinely saw was the wolves in our study
39 basically ate everything, including the bone, and that
40 indicated to us that they were -- I mean it was a lot
41 of effort to get a moose for them because that was --
42 other studies have reported no problems getting samples
43 to determine age or gender of the moose. So we did do
44 that for a sample and the majority of them were adult
45 females, so cows, and then next was like young of the
46 year, so calves, and then bulls were last. That's
47 summarized too in the paper that everyone should have a
48 copy of.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other

1 questions. Bill.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Between the bear predation
4 in the spring of the young calves and the wolves, I
5 can't imagine there was anything left out there.

6

7 MR. LAKE: Yeah. So, Member Glanz,
8 through the Chair, one of the conclusions that's in our
9 paper that we wrote is that basically the annual
10 production of moose, which is about 40 percent, is
11 about the most a moose could produce. About all that
12 gets eaten over the course of the year and that's why
13 densities have remained stable for so long.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
16 questions. Andrew.

17

18 MR. FIRMIN: I was just kind of adding
19 it up here, but like if they need one moose or they
20 average about one moose kill every eight, nine days.
21 If there's 160 wolves in the Yukon Flats, that's about
22 32 -- five wolves in a -- 32 five-wolf packs times 43
23 moose a year equals 1,376 moose they eat every year.
24 That's kind of a lot for saying that they don't eat
25 much. I wonder if we could train our wolves to eat
26 bears.

27

28 I just think that's -- do you see a lot
29 of that? I mean is there that many moose kills out
30 there because I've talked with some of my relatives
31 from Fort Yukon over the winter and Christmas and
32 they've found moose kills where they just killed the
33 moose and didn't even eat it all or didn't even eat
34 half of it. He looked at it and was like they're just
35 killing them for fun in some cases. I know there's
36 been other reports of that happening over the years.

37

38 MR. LAKE: Yes. Member Firmin, through
39 the Chair. The extrapolations they did are pretty
40 accurate, so they take in the hundreds of moose for the
41 total population of wolves on the Yukon Flats. In
42 terms of the percent of moose that they consume, in our
43 study they ate everything, including the bones, the
44 skull.

45

46 I've driven up on moose kills before on
47 a snowmachine and seen where they had consumed less.
48 One of the issues with that is when you drive up on a
49 snowmachine, if they're there, you're going to move
50 them off and they may not come back simply because they

1 were disturbed, so it's kind of hard to make
2 comparisons with what we saw with what people see on
3 the ground simply because there's a disturbance aspect
4 that goes on.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm wondering if you
9 could compare some of your data with Yukon Charley's
10 wolf population and moose densities, which I suspect
11 are similar although the geography is a little
12 different and what you can conclude from that part of
13 the state.

14
15 MR. LAKE: Member Woodruff, through the
16 Chair. So one difference with Yukon Charley from Yukon
17 Flats is that caribou are present, so wolf -- you know,
18 the number of moose that wolves eat on Yukon Charley
19 could simply be fewer because there's another alternate
20 prey there that they may key in on and be more actively
21 targeting moose, so it makes it difficult.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.

24
25 MR. ROBERTS: Is there any tools in
26 your toolbox for habitat enhancement, like prescribed
27 burns, area wolf hunting. Are you guys going to
28 implement any of those programs?

29
30 MR. LAKE: In terms of habitat, you
31 know, most of the Yukon Flats has burned in say the
32 last 50 years and moose haven't responded, so it's hard
33 to recommend habitat in terms of the way it will make
34 more moose because it hasn't really happened.

35
36 Then in terms of making more moose with
37 less predators, really the challenge on the Yukon Flats
38 is there's too many bears. That's partly why I
39 introduced all the players in terms of what eats moose
40 on the Yukon Flats because bears are really, really
41 important. Wolf densities are low in correspondence
42 with moose densities, which are also low, but black
43 bear densities are not and they are very high from what
44 limited information that we have. So they're a
45 challenge.

46
47 MR. ROBERTS: Well, what I think is --
48 you know, it's hard for me to say because I don't live
49 there, but I would encourage the bag limit on black
50 bears to 10 and encourage and push that as much as you

1 could with the people because where I live we get as
2 many as we can every time and it's a message that we
3 pass along to each other to remove the predators so we
4 could have more moose. I think it's up to the people
5 to become the top predator again and resolve this
6 situation.

7

8 MR. LAKE: I would encourage folks to
9 be active and motivated, but I would say from what
10 we've learned from the State study in McGrath where
11 they removed bears, you have to really remove almost
12 all of them to make a difference, so it's really a
13 challenge for the public to do that. You know, you
14 look at Unit 16 down by Anchorage, which is adjacent to
15 the largest population center in the state and they had
16 a public effort down there to try and remove bears and
17 it didn't work in terms of making more moose. It's a
18 challenge for the public to do that.

19

20 MR. ROBERTS: The problem I seen with
21 what they did in McGrath was they kind of helicoptered
22 all the bulls over to our area.....

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. ROBERTS:and made it harder
27 for us.

28

29 MR. LAKE: Okay. I'm not familiar with
30 all the ins and outs of that, but that's an interesting
31 observation.

32

33 MR. ROBERTS: Well, I thought that was
34 a bad move for us.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your
37 density of bears is more since?

38

39 MR. ROBERTS: Well, we just got a
40 little more successful, but, you know, it just doesn't
41 help us. It helps people in McGrath, but it doesn't
42 help people in Tanana.

43

44 MR. LAKE: I would offer to that with
45 what was done in McGrath they went back and counted
46 bears. From removal of about 96 percent of black bears
47 in four to six years they had all returned, so they
48 recolonized those areas pretty rapidly. An area that's
49 void of other species, they're going to move there
50 because it's open habitat.

1 MR. FIRMIN: I wonder if any of them
2 just walked home because I remember in Anderson and
3 Clear they relocated a bunch of those bears from the
4 dump sites that were habitual to the dump and moved
5 them somewhere like the McGrath area and within a week
6 later they were back in the dump again. So that's a
7 long way to walk for a little bear just to go for food,
8 which is interesting to add to that anyway.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
11 sure they come back.

12
13 MR. LAKE: From the McGrath study a
14 couple of them did go back, but by and large the
15 recolonization of the area was from bears that were
16 outside moving in and then from reproduction of the
17 other bears.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
20 questions.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.
25 Are you guys trying to come up with any solution to
26 increase this moose population because I know you'd
27 have more wolves if you had more moose.

28
29 MR. LAKE: Other folks have
30 demonstrated that, you know, you can have more moose
31 and have more wolves. I wouldn't offer that in terms
32 of the effort or the opportunity for moose hunting on
33 the Yukon Flats. A real interesting comparison was I
34 got a subsistence harvest report last year and it said
35 on the average moose hunters on the Yukon Flats it took
36 them about 7.5 days to get a moose. There was a range,
37 you know, in one village of one day on average to 14
38 days in other villages, but the overall average was
39 about 7.5 days.

40
41 I thought, huh, that's interesting. I
42 just had a conversation with the area biologist for the
43 Tanana Flats, which is just south of Fairbanks here,
44 which has the highest density of moose in North America
45 for an area of its size. He told me that the average
46 number of days for a hunter to be successful was six
47 days and that's been pretty steady for many years. I
48 thought that was interesting. You know, six days in
49 the Tanana Flats, which has the highest density of
50 moose of anywhere around, and on the Yukon Flats about

1 7.5 days, which has a density of moose 10 times fewer.

2

3

4 I was like clearly density doesn't seem
5 to translate into the amount of time it takes to get a
6 moose. So I thought about that a little more. There's
7 some differences between the two and one of those is
8 the hunter density. Yukon Flats doesn't really have
9 very many hunters, so because there's fewer moose
10 there's less interest.

11

12 The Tanana Flats, in contrast, south of
13 Fairbanks and there's gobs of hunters there. There's a
14 reason for that, a biological reason, is those moose
15 need to be harvested in order to protect the browse.

16

17 I guess the message is if there were
18 more moose on the Yukon Flats, more people would come
19 and the hunting experience perhaps would be impacted by
20 that. So there are some tradeoffs to whether or not --
21 whether it's good or bad to have more moose or less
22 moose.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it's
25 good to have more moose.

26

27 MR. LAKE: Okay.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what if
30 somebody else comes. Everybody is happy. I hope
31 that's not an argument to say, no, we don't need to do
32 anything. There's low moose densities up there. The
33 managers need to think outside the box and figure out
34 some solutions to some of the problems.

35

36 Will.

37

38 MR. KOEHLER: I guess I would like a
39 little bit clearer answer to Sue's question that she
40 just put on the record. It kind of sounds like no from
41 you guys, but I'd kind of like just a little bit
42 clearer answer to what she's saying. Do you guys have
43 a plan to want to do anything to change this long-term
44 pattern or not?

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. LAKE: One of the things too to
49 consider on the Yukon Flats is the pattern of land
50 ownership. There's millions of acres of essentially

1 private lands and prudent moose management, if you have
2 more moose, you have to elevate harvest to protect the
3 browse. So there's always going to be these areas
4 where other hunters or non-local hunters are not going
5 to be able to access. That's going to be a challenge
6 to implement, you know -- basically to move forward
7 with having an elevated harvest of moose and doing it
8 in a prudent manner that's consistent with what we know
9 and protects the browse.

10

11 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you get
14 your answer?

15

16 MR. KOEHLER: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
19 other questions. James.

20

21 MR. ROBERTS: I just had one question.
22 Has anybody ever implemented an aerial bear hunt that
23 you're aware of?

24

25 MR. LAKE: Not that I'm aware of with
26 the public. I think that would be really challenging.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
29 questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I will
34 say this about south of Fairbanks and that's got to be
35 definitely different habitat and harder to hunt
36 probably. Okay. Any other questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

41

42 MR. LAKE: Thanks for your attention,
43 folks.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's five
46 minutes to 12:00. Do you want to take up one more
47 thing or break for lunch?

48

49 MS. PATTON: We have a brief update on
50 research funds.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
2 have a brief update on research funds. I'm told this
3 document is brief and it has to do with fisheries
4 before we go on. Jennifer, I saw you a second ago.
5 There you are.

6
7 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and
9 Game. I was trying to, obviously didn't effectively,
10 communicate that I don't need to give a report. You
11 were simply missing an communication that the
12 Department had sent you in an official capacity
13 inviting partnerships for AYK fishery studies.

14
15 So we're hoping to make you aware of
16 that and hoping that you can go back to your home
17 communities and let potential partners, non-
18 governmental organizations, tribes, those in your area
19 who have ideas for partnering for fisheries research,
20 know that we have a prioritized capacity for that,
21 especially with the governor's chinook initiative and
22 that our directors would like to meet with them if they
23 have ideas to propose.

24
25 The letter also outlines what projects
26 we've already partnered with just so that you know.
27 That's it.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have this
30 in front of us. Council members, do you have any
31 questions of Jennifer regarding this?

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It looks like
36 not. Thank you, Jennifer.

37
38 So take it back to your community and
39 think about that one.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
42 This letter is also in the mail. For many of you, it
43 probably didn't arrive prior to this meeting, but it's
44 here and it's also coming in the mail.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
47 Do you want a break for lunch? 12:15 let's be back.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: 12:15?

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 1:15. Sorry.
4
5 (Off record)
6
7 (On record)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call the
10 meeting back to order. Your report?
11
12 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I am.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
15 Go ahead, Becca.
16
17 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Okay. Good
18 afternoon. Thanks for providing the time for me to
19 provide an update on salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea
20 pollock fishery. This is Becca Robbins-Gisclair. I'm
21 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.
22
23 I think many of you have heard me talk
24 about bycatch in the past. I serve on the advisory
25 panel for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
26 and have been following this issue there for a while
27 now.
28
29 Just by way of background, what I'm
30 going to talk about today is the bycatch of chinook and
31 chum salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. It's
32 managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management
33 Council, which manages all of the fisheries in Federal
34 waters. So that's from 3 to 200 nautical miles
35 offshore.
36
37 The North Pacific Fishery Management
38 Council, which I'll refer to as the Council, basically
39 it's technically advisory to the Secretary of Commerce.
40 So, in practice, their advice is almost always heeded.
41
42
43 Many of you have been tracking this
44 issue for even longer than I have. I know that in 2011
45 a cap went into place for chinook salmon in the Bering
46 Sea pollock fishery and I'll get into some of the
47 specifics of that management.
48
49 To start with the bycatch numbers, I
50 think you all should have an update that I provided

1 that gives a little bit of background and numbers. I
2 wanted to update that a little bit since I looked at
3 those numbers I think last week they've actually
4 changed and the current bycatch numbers for 2014 is
5 about 6,389 chinook salmon, so that's through March
6 6th, is the latest report. Chum salmon are primarily
7 caught as bycatch later in the year, so there hasn't
8 been much bycatch of chum salmon yet this year.

9

10 For comparison, in 2013 the total
11 chinook salmon bycatch was 13,000 chinook salmon and
12 125,000 chum salmon. It's early in the season. The
13 fishery just started in January, so it's kind of hard
14 to judge, but I will say comparing this year to last
15 year the bycatch is actually a bit higher so far this
16 year than it was last year, so that's something we
17 definitely want to keep an eye on.

18

19 The salmon that's caught in the bycatch
20 in the pollock fishery, most of you know, have to be
21 discarded. It can't be retained by the pollock
22 fishery. It has to be counted and then it can be
23 donated to food banks, is the only use that's allotted
24 for it. Otherwise it has to be discarded. The reason
25 for that is, as you know, king salmon in particular
26 have such a high economic value that if you're allowed
27 the sale of it, there would be an incentive to catch
28 chinook salmon and that's exactly the opposite of what
29 we want to see.

30

31 To give you a little more context, the
32 salmon that's caught as bycatch in the pollock fishery
33 we have a fair amount of information about which salmon
34 stocks those are that are caught as bycatch. The most
35 recent information we have, and this is from genetic
36 studies of bycatch, it varies quite a bit from year to
37 year, but for a number of reasons the sampling in the
38 fishery as well as the genetic stock ID work has gotten
39 significantly better in recent years. So the more
40 recent information is probably more accurate than what
41 we've had in the past.

42

43 Just to give you a snapshot of that, in
44 2011, which is the most recent we have so far for
45 chinook salmon, the stock composition was about 68
46 percent Western Alaska and that includes the Lower
47 Yukon as well as the Kuskokwim and Bristol Bay and
48 Norton Sound. It was 2.5 percent Upper Yukon and 1.6
49 percent Middle Yukon.

50

1 In contrast, in 2010, about 20 percent
2 of the bycatch was from the Upper Yukon River. The
3 results for 2012 are supposed to be released in April
4 and the Council will be receiving an update on that.
5 So we should have another year of good data to see kind
6 of where the trends are going and if one of those sets
7 of numbers is more accurate than the other.

8
9 In terms of chum salmon bycatch, the
10 latest genetic stock ID work indicates that about 20-25
11 percent of the chum salmon bycatch is of Western Alaska
12 origin and that includes the Yukon River in that
13 portion as well.

14
15 So to talk about management of salmon
16 bycatch, as I mentioned before, the Eastern Interior
17 definitely took a leadership role in advocating for a
18 cap on chinook salmon bycatch in the fishery and the
19 Council took action in 2009 that was put into place in
20 January of 2011, so it's been in place for a few years
21 now.

22
23 That's what they call Amendment 91,
24 which sets forward an overall cap of 60,000 chinook
25 salmon if the pollock fishery is participating in an
26 incentive program. If they're not participating in an
27 incentive program, then the cap is 47,591. To date,
28 the entire fishery has been participating in an
29 incentive program, so that cap is at 60,000.

30
31 Below that, there's also a performance
32 standard, which is 47,591 and, effectively, the fleet
33 is allowed to exceed the 47,591 and go up to 60,000 in
34 two out of any seven years. If they do so in a third
35 year, then the cap would automatically drop down.

36
37 So a pretty complex system in practice.
38 Since that's gone into place, bycatch has been well
39 below the cap. It's actually been even below half of
40 the cap level, so that performance standard hasn't
41 really come into play at all. That program has been in
42 place for a few years.

43
44 With the declines in chinook salmon
45 throughout Western Alaska, the Council -- with pressure
46 from all of us, including the Eastern Interior RAC, the
47 Council committed at their October 2013 Council meeting
48 to look at ways to further reduce chinook salmon
49 bycatch. The Commissioner of Fish and Game, Cora
50 Campbell, made a motion at that point to look at other

1 range of options to further reduce chinook bycatch both
2 through initiative programs and through regulatory
3 changes.

4
5 The idea is that even though bycatch
6 has been relatively low on a historical scale, given
7 the state of chinook salmon throughout Western Alaska,
8 that more needs to be done from wherever we are to make
9 sure that bycatch is being reduced to the maximum
10 possible.

11
12 So the things that are being looked at,
13 and the Council will come back to this at their June
14 2014 meeting, which is going to be held in Nome, and
15 they'll receive a discussion paper at that point, which
16 is the start of the process for making changes to the
17 regulations.

18
19 The general kind of gist of what's
20 being proposed is looking at ways to make sure that all
21 of the participants in the fishery are reducing
22 bycatch, so there's some sort of chronic bad performers
23 in terms of bycatch rates and they want to make sure
24 that everyone is reducing bycatch. Also making sure
25 that people are reducing fishing during times of known
26 high bycatch.

27
28 Then there's a specific change proposed
29 to look at that would change sort of the counting year
30 for bycatch and switch around when they start counting
31 from a calendar year starting January 1st to starting
32 sometime mid season. What that does effectively is it
33 changes things around so that the highest value portion
34 of the fishery, which is the roe fishery, which occurs
35 in the winter starting in January, would be at the end
36 of the count year. So effectively that kind of almost
37 reduces the cap to some extent because the fleet is
38 always going to be making sure that they sort of aren't
39 running up against the cap at that high value point of
40 year.

41
42 The one big thing that's not sort of in
43 the scope of the current options that are being looked
44 at in that discussion paper is the cap level itself.
45 YRDFA and many Western Alaska groups have advocated for
46 looking at that cap level and so far it's not on the
47 list and I think we're still advocating for it to be
48 looked at, but the things that are being proposed are
49 definitely some approaches that could conceivably
50 reduce bycatch a lot and we're really looking into that

1 report in June to see which of these options might be
2 more helpful and focus kind of direction at that point.

3

4 I want to add briefly too that the
5 Council is still also actively looking at chum salmon
6 bycatch reduction measures. The current provisions for
7 reducing chum salmon bycatch are a rolling hotspot
8 program in which the fleet is continually moving away
9 from hot spots or areas of high bycatch throughout the
10 year. That program does seem to work better for chum
11 salmon than it did for chinook salmon, but the Council
12 is still looking at other additional approaches to
13 further reduce chum bycatch.

14

15 At that same October meeting, they
16 started looking at rolling so that new and improved
17 chum bycatch measures into the same action as the
18 chinook measures and the rationale for that is the
19 Council have looked previously at a number of things to
20 address chum bycatch and some had the side effect of
21 increasing chinook salmon bycatch, which is not what we
22 were trying to do. So the Council is looking at
23 integrating those two so that you can make sure that by
24 reducing chum salmon bycatch you don't inadvertently
25 increase chinook salmon bycatch.

26

27 So there will be some information
28 included in the June meeting as well about methods for
29 including chum bycatch management kind of within the
30 same package. That's kind of where things are in terms
31 of management process and in terms of the numbers right
32 now. I think I'll stop there and if you have questions
33 or want more information about specific details of
34 that, I'm happy to go into more details.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
39 welcome. Any questions, Council members. Any
40 questions of Becca.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we have
45 some action items here? I was looking at this things
46 you can do list.

47

48 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: You can
49 certainly -- the North Pacific Fishery Management
50 Council will be looking at this issue at their June

1 meeting, so if reducing chinook and chum bycatch is
2 something that Eastern Interior RAC is interested in
3 continuing to push the North Pacific Council on, you
4 certainly could write a letter and you'd want to have
5 it submitted before the June meeting urging them to
6 continue to work to further reduce bycatch.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wake up,
9 Council members. Quit yawning.

10

11 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: It is after
12 lunch.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know.

17

18

19 MR. KOEHLER: It seems like if that's
20 all we can do is write a letter, then maybe we should
21 do it.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Is
24 that a motion?

25

26 MR. KOEHLER: I make a motion that we
27 write a letter.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
30 second.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Further
35 discussion on the motion to write a letter. Andy.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Maybe not a lot of
38 comment. I think in the process of writing a letter
39 it's really good to identify who is going to be
40 involved in it. Otherwise, oftentimes that just falls
41 on you and you have a big work load and Eva too. So
42 I'm just saying it's, I think, appropriate to have a
43 few Council members be a part of that.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we have
46 letters on this bycatch that we'd just be reiterating
47 or are we going to be adding something different?

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Well, I guess, Madame
50 Chair, if I may, the only thing I would really like to

1 focus on is right now the emphasis seems to be
2 primarily on chum salmon bycatch. They've gone through
3 most of their regulatory process for chinook salmon
4 although they keep trying to fine tune it, but the real
5 emphasis right now is for chum salmon. Even though
6 chum salmon are doing quite well on the Yukon right
7 now, they tend to do really well and then crash.

8

9 In my region and I think in most of the
10 region we're representing here with the Eastern
11 Interior fall chum salmon is absolutely critical to our
12 lifestyles, the way we live, and it's the only salmon
13 we have left to work with. So anything that can reduce
14 potential mortality before they make the river for
15 those of us in the upper regions of the Yukon it's
16 going to be pretty darn important that that's
17 quantified.

18

19 I guess that was a question I was going
20 to ask Becca, was if there's any genetic analysis being
21 done on chum salmon bycatch as to river of origin and
22 area.

23

24 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah,
25 absolutely. Thanks, Andy. There is genetic work being
26 done on chum salmon bycatch and it's been about 20-25
27 percent Western Alaska origin, so that includes the
28 Yukon, the Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, Norton Sound, a
29 pretty broad area. There will be some new information
30 coming out next month that will give us some more
31 recent information from 2012 of the stock
32 identification work for chum salmon bycatch as well.

33

34 I guess I would just note too I think
35 chum salmon bycatch is definitely still on the
36 Council's radar. They've shifted a little bit in
37 looking at chinook salmon bycatch again because of the
38 state of the chinook stocks. So I would say at this
39 point it's definitely worth -- if chum salmon bycatch
40 continues to be a concern for this Council, then you
41 would certainly want to point that out, but also
42 there's definitely an opportunity to get some
43 additional regulations reducing chinook bycatch. So
44 kind of both of those things are on the table right
45 now.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
48 what I was wondering.

49

50 MR. BASSICH: If I may, a follow-up

1 question. Becca, the genetic analysis of the fall
2 chum, do they have resolution down to Upper River Yukon
3 and Lower River Yukon? Do they have that good of
4 resolution for that genetic analysis

5
6 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thanks, Andy. I
7 am going to have to look that up. I think that they're
8 able to separate out the Upper Yukon, but they're still
9 not able to separate the Lower Yukon from the other
10 Western Alaska stock.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: Okay. If you find out
13 any of that information, if you could forward that to
14 me, I'd be really interested to know if they have that
15 kind of resolution.

16
17 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Absolutely. In
18 fact, I can provide the latest reports detailing the
19 full genetic stock identification work for both chinook
20 and chum. I'll forward those to Eva and she can share
21 with interested members. As soon as the 2012
22 information is available, I'd be happy to share that as
23 well.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So,
26 Andy, it sounded like you volunteered to help write
27 that letter. Donald.

28
29 MR. WOODRUFF: I have one question
30 about the progress the fishing fleet has made with the
31 salmon excluders.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was for
34 you, I believe, Becca.

35
36 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yes. And I am
37 not the expert on that, but I do know that a large
38 percentage of the fleet is using the excluders at this
39 point and I know that they're also working to refine
40 the excluder and I think that was a trip to
41 Newfoundland where they go to test the excluder in a
42 big swim tank there just this past fall and I know they
43 were really excited they were being able to exclude
44 more salmon than previously, but I don't have specific
45 numbers of what percentage are being excluded at this
46 time.

47
48 The pollock industry participants
49 themselves are conducting that research and I can
50 definitely provide some contacts. I'm sure they'd be

1 more than happy to provide information if you're
2 interested in more about that.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Another
5 question.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Sue, maybe
8 we can put that in our letter, an update on the salmon
9 excluders.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. What I
12 was wondering, can Becca help with this letter to make
13 sure we've covered what needs to go before that
14 council.

15

16 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Absolutely. I'd
17 be happy to assist in any way I can.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
20 got another volunteer. Does anyone else want to see
21 that?

22

23 MR. KOEHLER: See what?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A copy of the
26 letter before it's sent.

27

28 MR. KOEHLER: I would like to just to
29 kind of start to get some experience on the drafting of
30 these. I would very much like to be involved in the
31 process.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. So
34 I've got two Council members. Andrew, do you want to
35 see it? Or James? Or anyone?

36

37 MR. ROBERTS: I abstain.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're being
42 pointed at. It would be good for you, James. Okay.
43 You just have to look at the letter and make sure
44 everything is in it and I'm sure Becca will give us the
45 points that we need to go forward.

46

47 Any more discussion about the letter.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Would it be okay
2 -- I found the information Andy was asking about, about
3 the genetics. Would it be okay if I.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure, go
6 ahead.

7
8 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Okay. I was
9 able to look at the genetic report and it looks like
10 they're able to separate out the Upper and Middle Yukon
11 as a grouping and then the Lower Yukon is grouped in
12 with the rest of Western Alaska, that first chum salmon
13 genetics, at this point.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
16 one other thing, Becca. Is there any importance in one
17 of our Council members being at that meeting or is a
18 letter good enough? And then I'd have to ask another
19 question about funding.

20
21 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Well, I guess
22 I'll say if funding s available, it's always great to
23 have someone there in person. There will be this
24 meeting in June in Nome and then certainly this is
25 something that is not going to happen immediately, so
26 there will probably be other opportunities at meetings
27 in Anchorage as well.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, so maybe
30 another meeting would be more bang for the buck?

31
32 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: If funding is
33 limited. I know Nome is a challenging place to travel
34 to in terms of budgets, but it's certainly always good
35 to have people there in person.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll cover
38 that here. Thank you.

39
40 Any other questions or are you ready to
41 vote?

42
43 MR. BASSICH: I'd just like to say
44 thank you, Becca, for all your services over the years
45 and your dedication to this issue. It's a really
46 important issue to all the people in Western Alaska,
47 and particularly on the Yukon and Upper Yukon. We know
48 you've been doing a great job and you may not hear that
49 very often, but we really look to your guidance on how
50 to address these pretty complicated issues through that

1 entity. So thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Becca, I
4 think ditto from everyone here.

5

6 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you. I'm
7 honored I'm able to help in some small way.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
10 Thanks so much. We'll continue. We have a motion to
11 send a letter and a group to work on it.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Question.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
16 has been called for. All in favor say aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
21 opposed.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
26 Becca.

27

28 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you very
29 much.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So now -- Eva
32 said we got a letter from the Secretary of Interior
33 talking about the importance of the bycatch issue.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
36 There was a letter directed back to the Councils who
37 had written about the North Pacific Fisheries
38 Management Council in their previous annual report.
39 Those issues that are outside of the direct
40 jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board are
41 advanced to the Secretary of the Interior to address
42 across all DOI agencies.

43

44 There's a brief response in this letter
45 to the concern on bycatch and that the Secretary of the
46 Interior does take these concerns and has asked to work
47 with the Department of Commerce on these issues. So I
48 have the letter for the Council for your information
49 that these concerns do go to the Secretary of the
50 Interior.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you
2 might as well just copy that and send it to the Council
3 or get it to them today.

4
5 Okay. I think Pippa is next on the two
6 items that we waited for her to be online. One is the
7 clarification action on Council recommendation for 14-
8 42. Pippa.

9
10 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair
11 and Council members. I am available to give that
12 presentation. This Proposal WP14-42 was submitted by
13 the Eastern Interior Council and it requested a
14 customary and traditional use determination for sheep
15 in Units 20E, 25B, and 25C. Only the residents of
16 those units be in the customary and traditional use
17 determination. The communities in those units are
18 Central, Chicken, Eagle City, and Eagle Village.

19
20 The OSM conclusion adjusted a
21 modification based on ethnographic information and that
22 is information about where people hunted. The modified
23 regulation was for Unit 20E, the customary and
24 traditional use determination for sheep, be rural
25 residents of Units 20E, 25B, 25C, and, additionally,
26 Circle, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, Northway, Tanacross,
27 Tetlin, and Tok.

28
29 For Unit 25B, the rural residents of
30 Units 20E, 25B, 25C, and Chalkyitsik and Circle. For
31 Unit 25C, no modification was suggested.

32
33 When the Council deliberated on this,
34 it appeared as if they were deliberating on the
35 modification to include it, but it was unclear in the
36 motion itself if they meant to adopt the modification.
37 We wanted to come back to you and ask you to clarify
38 your justification for adopting the proposal with
39 modification.

40
41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42
43 That's the end of my presentation.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It
46 sounds like it wasn't clear on the OSM conclusion or
47 the way it was written. That wasn't even in our
48 minutes. You must have listened back to the tapes, is
49 that right, Pippa?

50

1 MS. KENNER: Please repeat.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I said did
4 you listen back to the tapes?
5
6 MS. KENNER: I looked at the written
7 transcript.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
10
11 MS. KENNER: If you adopt the proposal
12 with the OSM modification, this analysis would go --
13 this proposal would go on the agenda. However, it
14 isn't clear that the Council did adopt the
15 modification. When the motion was made, the motion
16 appears to have been only for the proposal and not for
17 the modification. However, when we listened and reread
18 your discussion, it appeared as if you meant to adopt
19 the modification. We just wanted to check with you and
20 get it on the record that you did, indeed, adopt the
21 modification.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
24 want us to make a motion of what appears to be what we
25 did?
26
27 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll make the motion
28 that we adopted with modification.
29
30 MR. FIRMIN: I'll second.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is for
33 clarification.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Our Yukon Flats AC also
36 thought about this and we noticed that the residents of
37 Circle actually wished to -- brought it up and wished
38 to include the residents Fort Yukon into that rural
39 determination use. If we could re-amend that.
40
41 MR. GLANZ: Do you want to modify that
42 for all of 25D or just Fort Yukon?
43
44 MR. FIRMIN: I believe with our AC we
45 just said Fort Yukon because Chalkyitsik and Circle are
46 already included.
47
48 MR. GLANZ: Right.
49
50 MR. FIRMIN: And then the only one that

1 would leave out would be -- I guess Venetie and Beaver
2 historically might go a different direction. But the
3 AC only mentioned Fort Yukon.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I stand corrected.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right now it
8 stands the motion is what's before us. So to make that
9 happen it has to be amendment to the motion or ask the
10 second.

11

12 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. It says 25D
13 in there, a resolution in their AC.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The residents
16 of?

17

18 MR. GLANZ: Yes, of 25D.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
21 covered, is that correct?

22

23 MR. FIRMIN: This is the ACs amendment
24 to this. The Yukon Flats AC was in support of it, but
25 they wanted to amend it to add 25D as Fort Yukon
26 residents. For example, in our dialogue, it was Fort
27 Yukon residents are just a few hours away from this
28 resource, so if they needed to or wanted to, it
29 wouldn't be that -- it's not like we're going over
30 mountain ranges to get there, you know. It's just
31 right up the river.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That jars my
34 memory of something we did in the past. Will OSM allow
35 us to do that? Because they told us we couldn't do
36 that one time on Kenny Lake for goats in Wrangells.
37 You had to make a new proposal.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. Was that a
40 question to me?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Probably.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 This is Pippa Kenner. In this situation, it would be
46 appropriate for the Council to make a modification and
47 add another community if it so desired.

48

49 MR. FIRMIN: Well, this is our
50 proposal. It came from the Eastern RAC. I thought

1 maybe there was discussion of adding 25D to that
2 original part. Maybe that's where some of the
3 confusion came from.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was just
6 remembering something that happened to us in the
7 Wrangells that seemed like common sense would say,
8 yeah, you can do that. At any rate, so we can do that.
9 The answer is yes. Pippa, the answer was yes, correct?

10

11 MS. KENNER: Oh, yes, Madame Chair.
12 The answer is yes. In key proposals, the way they're
13 formulated and based on what the previous regulations
14 have been, the situation can get complicated, but in
15 this situation it would be appropriate for the Council
16 to add an additional community if it so desired.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
19 to do the amendment process or have the second just
20 pull and make another motion? The amendment process is
21 cumbersome.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: I'm lost, Madame Chair. I
24 don't know what you.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a
27 motion on the floor for these, but now we're adding D,
28 so that would require an amendment to this motion.
29 It's easier for the second to say I'm pulling my second
30 and start all over.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: I withdraw my second or
33 pull it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
36 Andrew, do you want to make a stab at it.

37

38 MR. FIRMIN: So make a motion to adopt
39 Proposal 14-42 with OSM's modifications and amended to
40 include 25D in the customary and traditional use
41 determinations.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: I'll second that.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
46 Discussion.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: As I said before, the
49 Yukon Flats AC looked at how closely we are to this
50 resource and said -- people from Circle actually looked

1 at it and said why aren't you guys included in it and
2 that was where we decided to amend it and support it
3 fully. I believe we had a similar proposal like this
4 where we did add Fort Yukon. I don't know. We just
5 must have overlooked this one.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. May I ask
10 another question for clarification.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure. Go
13 ahead.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Does the member -- is the
16 member referring to including residents of 25D in the
17 customary and traditional use determination for sheep
18 in 20E and 25B only, which are the two subunits in
19 which Chalkyitsik and Circle are added to, or does he
20 mean to also include the residents of 25D in the
21 customary and traditional use determination in 25C?

22

23 MR. GLANZ: I'm sorry, but we mean all
24 of it. That was the original.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So all three
27 of them.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: We're just adding 25D.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Correct?

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: Yes. And I also just
34 realized, I think, Wildlife Proposal 14-43 -- see, we
35 added 25D to establish the hunting season harvest limit
36 for sheep and then I think we just didn't -- we forgot
37 to include 25D in the C&T determination, was there that
38 came from if I remember right. I think Don was one of
39 the main proponents of that.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we clear?
42 Pippa, are you clear for the record?

43

44 MS. KENNER: Yes, Madame Chair, I am
45 clear.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
48 Any other discussion. Will.

49

50 MR. KOEHLER: On this proposal we're

1 discussing, this 14-42 is what we're discussing either
2 passing or failing correct?

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. It's a
5 clarification, but, yeah, we kind of changed it
6 slightly.

7

8 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I understand. I
9 guess my concern with this proposal has always been
10 that our sheep populations throughout the state seem to
11 not react too well to high pressures of hunting. We
12 seem to be going -- in the State system, we seem to be
13 going on draw throughout the state. That seems to be
14 the future of our sheep populations is that the hunting
15 opportunities under State management are going to be
16 all on draw.

17

18 On this seat, I'm supposed to be
19 representing commercial uses and I guess from that
20 standpoint I should be in favor of this proposal
21 because I know that the people that can qualify for
22 subsistence use will be able to hunt in some of these
23 areas and may take pressure off of areas where
24 commercial users can still hunt. I guess I'm always
25 concerned from a resource standpoint if we really need
26 another layer of management on compromised sheep
27 populations. If the sheep populations are such that
28 they need to go on a draw, boy, I kind of think that it
29 needs to go on a draw for everyone.

30

31 So I will probably be opposing this
32 proposal just from a conservation issue as I understand
33 it right now.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.

38

39 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, this is for Will.
40 Will you be able to commercially hunt on Federal land
41 too with your guiding business?

42

43 MR. KOEHLER: Yes, on some Federal
44 lands. What this talks about though is residents, as
45 we're writing here, would be able to hunt in some of
46 the hard Park areas, which there are no commercial
47 services allowed.

48

49 MR. ROBERTS: So, in essence, you'll be
50 competing with the local people, right?

1 MR. KOEHLER: Well, we already do.
2 Commercial services already do compete with local
3 people on State land and on Federal lands that are not
4 hard Park. Again, that's not so much the issue. It
5 just seems that when these populations get really low,
6 it's best to either shut it down or put it to a very
7 limited draw to keep the quality of the population.
8 It's just on these sheep populations that seems to be
9 the only thing that works as I understand it.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
12 have to say my history of being on here. When we did
13 C&Ts like for Chistochina and caribou in Unit 12,
14 because they're in Unit 13, and I remember other C&Ts
15 that we did. C&Ts just give the area a customary and
16 traditional use, but the seasons and bag limits
17 actually determine if they have a season and bag
18 limits. Season and bag limits, an area could be
19 closed, it could be made permits or that kind of thing.
20 So this.....

21

22 MR. KOEHLER: So 14-43 addresses that.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just the C&T.
25 It does not address the seasons and bag limits. That's
26 a separate issue. This is how we've always been told
27 to look at it.

28

29 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what we're
32 talking about is just a C&T. So if there's shortages
33 of animals, that's when the seasons and bag limits come
34 in. The other thing is too, you know, a C&T in that
35 area, if it's deemed like the Red Sheep and Cane Creek
36 area, that it's going to be closed to only subsistence.
37 That is the one thing that can happen.

38

39 MR. KOEHLER: And that would be the
40 concern, is when it gets closed when the population
41 gets restricted down that far. Do we need another hole
42 where someone can take the small piece of pie that's
43 left rather than being able to just close that down
44 and see if that population can recover. Am I
45 completely on a dark road?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, no. He
48 has valid points and it's good to bring it up. Go
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to clarify.
2 I totally understand your point of view, but I think
3 you are on a tangent a bit. That 14-42 only
4 specifically says, yes, Fort Yukon did historically go
5 there and harvest sheep. They're not saying we're
6 going to go there and start shooting them, it's open
7 season. Historically we went there and ate those sheep
8 and harvested them. The same with Circle, Eagle and
9 these other villages.

10
11 So it's not -- so I guess when it does
12 come time to close it, then those areas have a priority
13 in the subsistence side and that's when the State goes
14 to a draw permit. But that's -- like that's 14-43,
15 which is a separate proposal to establish a season
16 because I believe right now you can go there and hunt
17 on the State side, but we can't go there and hunt in
18 our own backyard.

19
20 But now there's a State season over
21 there for people to go hunt them. Isn't that right,
22 Don?

23
24 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)

25
26 MR. FIRMIN: So this was just to
27 establish that, hey, we've been using this game for
28 years, why are we not able to use it.

29
30 MR. KOEHLER: So the point then -- so
31 my points would be more referencing 14-43 rather than
32 14-42.

33
34 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

35
36 MR. KOEHLER: All right. I apologize
37 for the confusion.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our 14-43 we
42 already adopted at the last meeting. It just parrots
43 the State season. It's exactly the same as the State
44 season, so it really isn't any different other than
45 when it comes down to what you clarified. If there
46 wasn't enough for everybody to go around, there could
47 be only to subsistence users.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: Will, those sheep up there
50 aren't easy to get. It's 50 miles off the Yukon River

1 and you're going through some raging whitewater to get
2 to it. Then, when you get there, you've got to go up
3 some raging hills. It's not a real easy area.

4
5 MR. KOEHLER: It sounds like you'll
6 have it pretty much eaten by the time.....

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, just take a salt
11 shaker with you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
14 has been called for on this. Does everyone understand
15 it? It is with 25D.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Question.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
20 favor say aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.

25
26 MR. KOEHLER: Aye.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One opposed.
29 I think the next issue is for Pippa also. Pippa.

30
31 MS. KENNER: Yes, Madame Chair. It's
32 probably the customary and traditional use
33 determination update.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Go
36 ahead, please.

37
38 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Members of the Council. I am Pippa Kenner with OSM and
40 I'm in Anchorage right now. This is not an action
41 item. My presentation is to tell you where we are in
42 our review of the customary and traditional use
43 determination process. This briefing begins on Page 40
44 of your Council book. I'll start with a short history
45 of the issue.

46
47 For the public, there were some
48 extra Council books on the back table, but I think
49 they're all gone, so I'm just going to quickly overview
50 what the materials say. I'll start with a short

1 history.

2

3 In 2009, Secretary of the Interior Ken
4 Salazar began a review of the Federal subsistence
5 program. Part of that review focused on customary and
6 traditional use determinations. A year later in 2010
7 the Secretary of the Interior asked the Board
8 to review with Regional Advisory Council input the
9 customary and traditional use determination process and
10 present recommendations for regulatory changes. How
11 appropriate. It's just what we just did. They are
12 based on the eight factors and the eight factors are
13 presented on Page 43 of your Council book.

14

15 At their 2011 winter meeting, all ten
16 Regional Advisory Councils were asked for their
17 perspectives on customary and traditional use
18 determinations. Nine of the ten Councils did not
19 suggest changes to the process and their comments are
20 once again presented to you beginning on Page 44,
21 Appendix B of your Council book.

22

23 The Southeast Council asked the other
24 nine Councils to review the customary and traditional
25 use determination process again. The Southeast Council
26 did not support retaining the current customary and
27 traditional use determination process. Instead, the
28 Southeast Council suggested that, when necessary, the
29 Board restrict who can fish, hunt or trap for
30 subsistence by applying ANILCA Section .804 criteria.
31 There are three criteria: (1) who has direct dependence
32 on the resource, (2) who is in proximity to the
33 resource, and (3) who has alternative resources
34 available.

35

36 In it's request to you, the Southeast
37 Council asked you to consider four options. One was to
38 eliminate the customary and traditional use process and
39 use the ANILCA Section .804 criteria instead. Another
40 was to change the way determinations are made by making
41 area-wide determinations for all animals in the area,
42 not animal by animal. Three, make some other change,
43 or four, make no changes.

44

45 At your fall meeting, this Council
46 adopted a motion to support Alternative No. 4,
47 maintaining the current system as it is with no
48 changes. Your recommendation is described at the
49 bottom of Page 51 in your Council books and the
50 recommendations of the other Councils are also in this

1 section of the book.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 That's the end of my presentation.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

8 Council members, are there any questions. This is just
9 an update, that it's ongoing. Pippa, right?

10

11 MS. KENNER: I think all the comments
12 -- all the Council recommendations are providing the
13 basis for a briefing to the Federal Subsistence Board
14 at its April 2014 meeting next month. The Board could
15 then decide whether to recommend to the Secretaries to
16 eliminate, amend or make no change to the current
17 customary and traditional use determination process.
18 So this will be coming up at the Board meeting next
19 month.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hate to say
22 it, but I don't think I consumed what she just said. I
23 was distracted.

24

25 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. This will
26 be coming up at the Board meeting next month and the
27 Federal Subsistence Board will review all these Council
28 recommendations and decide whether to request the
29 Secretaries to make changes or to make no changes. If
30 the Board decided to request that the Secretaries make
31 changes based on all these Council recommendations,
32 there would be another review process and you would be
33 able to see that and deliberate on it and vote on it
34 again.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is
37 just a report. It's not an action item.

38

39 MS. KENNER: That's correct. This
40 isn't an action item. It was just an update to show
41 you in the book where you can see what all the other
42 Councils decided.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hear no
49 questions, so thank you for the report.

50

1 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next thing on
4 the agenda is the tribal consultation implementation
5 guidelines and draft ANCSA consultation policy.
6
7 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, while we're
8 on it, this is Pippa, and I also have a briefing on the
9 rural determination process or did you receive that
10 yesterday?
11
12 MS. PATTON: We did it yesterday.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we did
15 do it yesterday.
16
17 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
20
21 DR. CHEN: Good afternoon, Madame Chair
22 and Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm with
23 the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I've been asked to give
24 the presentation on the Federal Subsistence Program's
25 Tribal Consultation Policy and its implementation
26 guidelines. Just to use a metaphor, I'm sort of like
27 the fourth string relief pitcher on this effort.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 DR. CHEN: Even though I'm listed as a
32 member of the workgroup, I haven't been actively
33 involved for quite some time. This was originally
34 supposed to be presented by Jean Gamache from the Park
35 Service, but she was not available today. Jack
36 Lorrigan was also the other person that could give the
37 presentation, but he's down in Saxman doing tribal
38 consultation with the Federal Board. So I'll do my
39 best to give the presentation and hopefully be able to
40 answer some questions.
41
42 Council members, this is an action item
43 and what the Board is looking for is the Council's
44 comment and feedback on the implementation guidelines
45 for the Tribal Consultation Policy. Just to review
46 things a bit, the Secretary of Interior, at the behest
47 of the Obama Administration, wanted us to develop a
48 policy on how to consult with tribes and also ANCSA
49 corporations on all matters involving the Federal
50 Subsistence Program.

1 There was a workgroup convened
2 consisting of agency representatives as well as folks
3 in tribes in Alaska to put together the consultation
4 policy. The Board then adopted this policy. Of
5 course, with any policy, you need to have a way of
6 implementing it. So another workgroup was convened to
7 develop the implementation guidelines. This is what
8 they've come up with at this time.

9
10 Just to review here, I'll turn your
11 attention to Page 71 in your Council book. Again, the
12 Board is looking for your feedback. Just a summary of
13 what's in the draft implementation guidelines.

14
15 The guidelines are intended to provide
16 Federal staff additional guidance on the Federal
17 Subsistence Program s Tribal Consultation Policy. That
18 includes the following: When consultations should be
19 regularly offered, aspects of the meeting protocols.
20 In other words, when does consultation fit in to the
21 RAC meetings and to the Board meetings. There's
22 information about how the meeting should flow, how the
23 room should be set up to provide a place and a location
24 for tribal folks who want to participate in
25 consultation. What topics might be appropriate for
26 consultation as well as preparation and follow-up for
27 the meetings.

28
29 As you know, our regulatory cycle is
30 very complex, lengthy, so the guidelines include steps
31 as to when tribes can consult. Starting from when the
32 proposals are initiated all the way through the Federal
33 Board's final decisions on proposals.

34
35 An important aspect that the
36 implementation workgroup wanted to address in the
37 guidelines was how to provide training and guidance to
38 both the Board and to the Federal staff that will be
39 consulting with tribes. For many Federal agencies,
40 consultation is sort of a new topic and so we all need
41 some guidance as to how to best approach that.

42
43 An important aspect of a consultation
44 is, of course, a report, so once we consult with tribes
45 on Federal Subsistence matters, how does this
46 information get to you guys as Council members as well
47 as to the Board.

48
49 I think the last item here is very
50 important, is with any sort of policy as you put in

1 place, especially a new policy, there's always going to
2 be learning aspects and bumps and so forth in the road,
3 so you have to find ways to revise it or change it to
4 make it work better. We've already encountered some of
5 these as we tried to put the current policy in place.
6

7 There's also a similar effort to
8 develop a policy for how to consult with ANCSA
9 corporations. One of the questions we commonly see
10 are, especially from both tribes and Council members,
11 is why do we need to consult with ANCSA corporations on
12 Federal subsistence matters. It turns out that there
13 was appropriation language that went before Congress I
14 believe back in the early 2000s which listed the need
15 to work with ANCSA corporations. Because of that
16 language our D.C. folks have determined that we not
17 only have to consult with tribes on Federal subsistence
18 matters, but also ANCSA corporations. So this is a
19 separate effort, a policy in the implementation of
20 consultation with ANCSA corporations as well as tribes.
21

22 If I could turn your attention to Page
23 73, this actually lists the draft implementation
24 guidelines. As I mentioned at the start of the
25 presentation, this is an action item. We're looking
26 for feedback from the Councils. The original intent
27 was to have all the input and feedback available for
28 the Board to take action at it's April meeting. It
29 turns out that with all the things that are on the
30 Board's agenda for the April meeting, action by the
31 Board on the guidelines might be put off a bit.
32

33 So I think the current discussion is
34 perhaps to have a separate meeting with the Board to
35 act upon the implementation guidelines, which gives the
36 Councils more time. If the Council doesn't have
37 comments today or would like further time to review the
38 draft guidelines and provide comments later, I believe
39 that's available. So we don't necessarily need your
40 feedback at today's meeting.
41

42 So at this point in time I guess I'll
43 pause my presentation and take questions or perhaps
44 provide more information to Council members as needed.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
47

48 MR. FIRMIN: I know I've said this
49 before and I'll say it again, I guess. ANCSA
50 corporations aren't necessarily a tribe. They're not a

1 tribe at all. They're a for-profit corporation. So I
2 don't know how you'd kind of distinguish from those
3 because I mean that's like taking B.P. in the back room
4 and talking about having a separate meeting with them
5 about what you're going to do next door without -- I
6 know the public is generally invited, but you
7 understand what I'm saying. There's no difference.

8

9 Doyon is a for-profit corporation.
10 They have their own agenda to do something on their
11 property that is owned in part by the tribes and the
12 people that live there. They want to sell my house and
13 drill on my land. Go to Fairbanks. We don't care.
14 That's their opinion, but that's not mine or the rest
15 of Fort Yukon's opinion.

16

17 I mean having them included in some of
18 this is kind of outrageous in my mind. It's similar
19 with some of the village corporations as well. The
20 village corporations, they're more grassroots and down
21 to earth where they're at and their land is pretty much
22 all they've got, but they're also a for-profit
23 corporation. They're not a tribe. I think ANCSA took
24 care of that, turning them from a tribe.

25

26 I guess my other question is does these
27 others, the workgroup members, is this consultation
28 guidelines here, this policy, is that going to be for
29 just the Federal Subsistence Board?

30

31 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair. Mr. Firmin.
32 Let's start with your first point about the role of --
33 why the Board is consulting with corporations. We've
34 heard that same comment from many tribes, which is why
35 I think there's been the decision -- because we are
36 mandated by the Secretaries to develop a policy to
37 consult with corporations. We decided to approach that
38 as a separate policy, a separate approach. So there's
39 one policy for consulting with tribes and a separate
40 one for dealing with corporations. Again, we've heard
41 that comment from many, many tribal members. They're
42 for-profit organizations and they have different
43 motives and so forth regarding subsistence.

44

45 And you had a question about the
46 workgroup?

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: I was just curious. Is
49 this tribal consultation policy only for the Board or
50 is it going to be for BLM, OSM, Park Service? All the

1 Federal Subsistence Board members have their own
2 entity. Is it going to be for each one of those
3 entities?

4

5 DR. CHEN: That's a good question, Mr.
6 Firmin. There are various levels of consultation going
7 on. There's Department-wide consultation, there's
8 consultation between each individual agency with tribes
9 on specific matters. What this refers to is how the
10 Federal Subsistence Program and the Board will consult
11 with tribes strictly on subsistence matters. The ones
12 you see before you here deal strictly with the Federal
13 Subsistence Program and the Board.

14

15 MR. FIRMIN: I guess my biggest thing
16 was I know in the past when they first came out with
17 this policy it was thicker than this book and they
18 also, when we brought up stuff about the ANCSA
19 corporation, they came up with a separate policy this
20 thick just for the ANCSA corporations and then they had
21 a separate meeting with the ANCSA corporations. I
22 think that regardless of entity when they have these
23 government-to-government consultations, they all need
24 to be under the same roof with everybody invited
25 because that's how it seemed like all of a sudden you
26 were meeting with Doyon behind closed doors and we
27 weren't even invited as a tribe. So it's like what are
28 you guys talking about. We thought you had a
29 consultation policy with us too.

30

31 When it became separate, now I'm kind
32 of hoping to get them all together so when they do have
33 these, all these parties are invited. Otherwise people
34 will start to speculate what's really going on and then
35 it becomes rumors and hearsay. If everybody was
36 invited and knew about it, that would alleviate a lot
37 of those concerns. I think those are my biggest points
38 to make.

39

40 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair and Mr. Firmin.
41 I think in the practical application of how this has
42 been actually performed, you're right, there have been
43 separate sessions that are for tribal consultation as
44 well as a separate one for ANCSA corporation
45 consultations. Now those have been open. They haven't
46 been closed door. So we've had people from the tribes
47 sitting in on the ANCSA consultations as well as vice
48 versa.

49

50 I think, for a practical matter,

1 they're not closed, but we do invite both parties to
2 sit in and listen at least as to what's taking place
3 between both sets of consultations.

4

5 MR. FIRMIN: I guess I just think that
6 being on a tribal council we were never invited to the
7 consultation policy comments with Doyon, for example,
8 because that's our larger one. When we did, they gave
9 us a whole book and said, here, you have 30 days to
10 comment on this. Knowing other smaller tribes that
11 might have two or three administrators, who has time to
12 sit down, read that whole thing and make sense of it
13 and then comment back in 30 days. I mean you fall
14 asleep three times trying to read through it, you know.
15 Even if you were getting paid to do it, you know, it's
16 a difficult thing to undertake and I'd just like to
17 keep it simple as possible.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Andy.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. For
22 clarification, I see this is an action item. Can it be
23 made clear to me what we're being asked to do because
24 I'm a little confused about what action we're being
25 asked to take on this.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Read a 20-
30 page document?

31

32 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair, Mr. Bassich.
33 Yes, the Board is look for your feedback on this latest
34 version of the consultation policies for both tribes
35 and ANCSA corporations. As far as tribal consultation
36 is concerned, we're looking for your feedback on how we
37 plan to implement.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that all
40 in our book.....

41

42 DR. CHEN: It's in your book, yeah.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:or is
45 there something else? Okay.

46

47 DR. CHEN: It follows after Page 71.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the last
50 page of it is 81.

1 DR. CHEN: Actually if you include the
2 ANCSA corporations, that goes all the way to Page 84.
3 What I didn't mention earlier
4 is this was originally supposed to be an action item
5 before the Board at its mid-April meeting, but with all
6 the things that are currently on the Board's agenda, I
7 believe that the current thinking is that this is going
8 to be put off for maybe another additional month or
9 two. So then that gives the Council more time at a
10 later date if you want to submit comments to the Board
11 about the consultation policy, the implementation
12 guidelines and so forth.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the action
15 item is two, this meeting and next meeting or one
16 meeting?

17
18 DR. CHEN: So I think the current
19 thinking is that they may delay action on the
20 implementation guidelines until a later time period.
21 It might be middle of summer. The Board typically has
22 a meeting in mid summer to talk about some items. So
23 that would mean that sometime between now and perhaps
24 mid summer the Council can submit comments and feedback
25 on both the implementation guideline as well as the
26 ANCSA consultation policy.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, for us,
29 that's a lot to consume. And you guys -- I mean.....

30
31 MR. FIRMIN: If this became policy and
32 was implemented, how often would it come up for review?

33
34 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair and Mr. Firmin.
35 So the inherent part of the implementation guideline is
36 for annual review of both the policy and how it's being
37 implemented. That, I think, is a key aspect of both
38 the policy and the implementation guidelines. As we
39 discover through putting this thing into effect and
40 problems, things that work, things that don't work,
41 there's the opportunity to revise this on a frequent
42 basis.

43
44 The tribal folks that were involved
45 with both the implementation guideline and the policy
46 itself, those workgroup folks, they insisted that this
47 document has to be flexible and adaptable. If we
48 encounter the need to change it, then we can make those
49 changes.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: So annually, it would be
2 every three years or one year?

3
4 DR. CHEN: I believe it calls for an
5 annual review.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have
8 lots of questions, Andrew. Do you have any -- have you
9 looked at this? Have you guys looked at this? I mean
10 it doesn't really affect us. It affects the villages.
11 Larry.

12
13 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame
14 Chair. I'm a bit confused. When you say tribal
15 consultation, how do they go about implementing that?
16 Are you going to consult with each tribe or the leader
17 of each tribe? And how do you consult with them? Do
18 you bring him over here so we can see him or you go to
19 him or you teleconference? I've been hearing about
20 this tribal consultation for some time now and I have
21 yet to see step one taken to bring the tribal leaders
22 into this little machine that we have. I have yet to
23 see a tribal leader in these meetings speaking out on
24 these policies and procedures that we go through. I
25 mean I have no idea how to implement this. Will
26 somebody with a bigger mind please enlighten me.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

31
32 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair and Mr.
33 Williams. Those are excellent questions. The
34 workgroups all struggle with those questions. So how
35 to best involve the tribes in consultation. We're
36 speaking about what is known as government-to-
37 government consultation. So the Federal government, as
38 represented in this case by the Federal Subsistence
39 Board, speaking directly with the tribal government.
40 So it could be a tribal president, it could be the
41 council, it could be a representative of the tribe.
42 This is an official government-to-government
43 consultation. That's the level of discussion we're
44 talking about.

45
46 I think all the questions that you've
47 raised are really good ones because, as I pointed out,
48 the process, for example, of setting up regulations is
49 quite lengthy. There's many opportunities for the
50 tribes to get involved from the very get go when the

1 proposals are first announced and put in place. The
2 review process that the RACs go through and then as
3 well as the final action by the Board.

4

5 So I think you've raised some good
6 points about why aren't there tribal leaders here at
7 this meeting consulting with you guys. I think that's
8 some of the details that we need to work out to make
9 this thing work.

10

11 For example, one thing that's in place
12 right now as far as implementing the policy, we sent
13 out proposals to all the tribes. We set up a specific
14 time period for the tribes to call in by teleconference
15 and talk about any of the proposals. That was somewhat
16 limited participation by tribes. That might be due
17 because of the way we're trying to get a hold of
18 tribes.

19

20 This was pointed out last week at the
21 Aniak meeting of the Western Interior Council. They
22 were dealing with a wildlife regulatory proposal. When
23 it came up for discussion and the Council was asking
24 what is the tribe's input on this proposal, it turns
25 out that some of the people in the room said, well,
26 we're from the tribe and we never heard about this
27 proposal. We have no idea what's going on. So that
28 kind of points out some of the flaws in the process
29 that we have right now.

30

31 So that's the kind of feedback that we
32 need to hear from you folks. We obviously need to do a
33 better job of getting a hold of tribes. Tribes are
34 busy folks. We need to work through how to make this
35 more effective in terms of getting meaningful
36 consultation with tribes.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.

39

40 MR. ROBERTS: I kind of feel like how
41 Larry feels. It's a real complicated situation. I
42 feel there's a lack of trust here. I feel the tribes
43 don't want to give up rights or sometimes within tribes
44 different groups have different angles. You know, like
45 a tribe might be half on one issue and the other half
46 is on the other side and they'll consult you. What
47 would you do in that situation?

48

49 DR. CHEN: That's a really good point.
50 When it comes to government-to-government consultation,

1 the Federal government is asking for the tribe to
2 define the official position on a particular aspect.
3 Typically what we've found is that involves some sort
4 of meeting with the tribal member of the council and
5 then developing an official council position that is
6 presented to government.

7

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Excuse me, Andy. I just
9 thought of another one. Maybe we went over this
10 before. It's more of a comment rather than a question.
11 Like I said, this thing is going to be cumbersome
12 enough to implement without including the corporations.
13 I know it's mandated by a policy of the Secretary, but
14 just like Andrew was saying, the corporations are not
15 tribes. They're a business created to make money for
16 the tribes, but they do not represent the tribe.

17

18 Where I come from, the tribal council
19 made up of members from Arctic Village and Venetie,
20 they're legitimate persons to go to if you want to talk
21 to the tribe. They're the elected officials and they
22 have the power to act on the people's behalf. So you
23 know, like I said, it's going to be a big job just to
24 implement this policy without including a profit-making
25 corporations, like Doyon and Cook Inlet. I'm going to
26 reiterate again that they are not the tribe.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess --
31 Andy.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I find this
34 whole topic kind of disturbing because when I think
35 about this process what keeps me involved in this
36 process is that we're representing small communities in
37 Bush Alaska, or rural Alaska I guess I should call it,
38 is comprised of many, many very small communities.
39 Many individuals spread out over a large area and they
40 have an extremely important stake in the fish and
41 wildlife resources in their areas because it is
42 critical to their way of living, both commercially and
43 spiritually.

44

45 Because we're such a small number of
46 people dispersed out over a large area, we often wear
47 many, many hats. I think what I'm hearing from Larry
48 and also from Robert here is that basically many of us
49 sitting at this table might be involved in three or
50 four different entities and therefore tribal

1 representation is there, even at this Council.

2

3 I'm really concerned about bringing in
4 any corporate representation, giving them a voice on
5 fish and game issues that impact small groups of people
6 in really remote areas that don't have the voice or the
7 resources to maybe counter what some of their thoughts
8 are for making their profits or whatever is on their
9 agenda. That really concerns me. I think that's going
10 to dilute the process, I think it's going to dilute our
11 voice as rural people representing our communities and
12 I think it's a bad road to go down.

13

14 I understand the need for government-
15 to-government tribal consultation, but I think Alaska
16 is set up a little bit different. We're so spread out
17 and there's so many different tribal entities. It's
18 not the same as it is in the Lower 48 where there is a
19 tribe that represents a large area and a relatively
20 large population base that's basically isolated in an
21 area. We don't have that in Alaska. We're all
22 intermixed and we're all overlapping.

23

24 I understand the need or the desire to
25 try and make that, but I don't think the system, as I'm
26 seeing it here, is going to accomplish much except for
27 create another level of bureaucracy and another level
28 of conflict, pitting neighbors against neighbors and
29 family members against family members in rural
30 environments because of the way it's structured here.
31 I really question the whole process of doing this.

32

33 I think the working group should go
34 right back to the drawing board and start really
35 thinking closely about what is the demographics in
36 Alaska. How is it set up in Alaska for representation.
37 Quite frankly, I think the program that we're involved
38 in right here does a very good job of representing the
39 area and representing most of the tribal interests in a
40 much smaller segment. It's dividing it up into groups.
41 Eastern Interior, Western Interior, AYK and those are
42 natural cultural boundaries that seem to exist and I
43 think that's why they did it that way. It seems to
44 work really well.

45

46 So I'm just really questioning this
47 whole process. I just have a really bad gut feeling.
48 I think it's going to really dilute the process and I
49 really don't think it's going to improve the process.
50 That's all I'm going to say.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you want
4 to respond? Yeah.

5

6 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair. Mr. Bassich.
7 I think what you just brought up was a big part of the
8 discussion between the Federal program and the tribes
9 and all the folks involved with putting this policy in
10 place. So we are mandated to come up with some sort of
11 tribal consultation, formal government-to-government
12 consultation regarding subsistence.

13

14 I think what's come out of this
15 discussion is the fact that ANILCA does provide the
16 mandate to have Councils and to follow Council
17 recommendation and I think that takes priority over
18 whatever comments might be offered forth by a tribe, by
19 a corporation. So I think the way we've tried to
20 structure this is to recognize the importance of the
21 Councils and the role of the Councils. What this
22 effort attempts to do is to get the tribes involved
23 with you guys as the Council members, with the Federal
24 program to provide tribal input on important issues.

25

26 A lot of times, Andy, I think there's
27 really good agreement between the Council's positions
28 and the tribes' positions on most of these natural
29 resource issues. So you could look at it as a way of
30 bolstering the Council's viewpoints as they go forth to
31 the Board.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Briefly.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
36 it just made me think too about what Andy was talking
37 about earlier, is using people up because it ends up
38 being the same people all the time. Go ahead, Andy.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I think if
41 that was the approach they wanted to do, I think the
42 most efficient way to do it would just be to add
43 another seat to the Council that would be tribal
44 representation and have a person who is a tribal leader
45 sitting at the table with us right here. That would be
46 way less complicated, way less bureaucracy involved in
47 the process.

48

49 The other thing that comes to my mind,
50 when I first started hearing about this a few years ago

1 or whenever it started, I thought it was going to be
2 basically tribal leaders would be given a seat at the
3 Federal Subsistence Board meeting and would have the
4 opportunity at those meetings to give their position on
5 a particular motion or topic. I thought that would be
6 a fairly simply, straightforward way to do it.

7
8 But to start having separate meetings
9 and separate consultations and then to bring in some of
10 these larger corporate, you know, for-profit entities,
11 boy, that really changes everything for me in the whole
12 process because they have lawyers and people that can
13 spend all kinds of time. Quite frankly, look around
14 the table here, we're not lawyers, we're not legal
15 people. We have to work pretty hard just to understand
16 an issue. We're not going to be able to stand up to
17 people like that if they want to put 20 lawyers or
18 associates.....

19
20 MR. KOEHLER: Even one.

21
22 MR. BASSICH:you know, to pit
23 them against us in a position.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. If I
26 could tell you what's running through my mind. I
27 better not. James.

28
29 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. I've been looking
30 at this for the last couple of years. You're trying to
31 reach a vast amount of people and it's hard to get a
32 hold of them, but one solution I had was every Federal
33 recognized tribe has one designated consultee so all of
34 us tribal members can go to that person and ask and go
35 through that person.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How many
38 tribes are there?

39
40 DR. CHEN: 229 tribes in Alaska. So,
41 Mr. Bassich, you just highlighted -- that highlights
42 Mr. Bassich's comment about the complexity and trying
43 to develop something here in Alaska compared to the
44 Lower 48.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And how many
47 ANCSA whatever? Thirteen? Corps that you're going to
48 be talking to. He's saying 13.

49
50 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair. There's the

1 regional corporations and then there's all the village
2 corporations. I don't quite remember the number for
3 all the village corporations, but it's a substantial
4 number.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
7 telling me this is in ANILCA or is this a CFR change?
8

9 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair. There's been
10 a policy issue or there's been a directive issued by
11 the administration to consult with tribes. This dates
12 back to, I believe, the '90s. The policies sort of sat
13 there without a lot of action for a number of years.
14 So President Obama came into office and then he's been
15 highlighting -- his administration has been
16 highlighting the importance of working with tribes to
17 resolve all kinds of matters from natural resources,
18 tribal government and so forth.

19
20 So the Obama administration has renewed
21 the effort to develop and put into place some program
22 to effectively consult with tribes. So that's been
23 translated down to all the agencies, including
24 Department of Interior. Our agencies under these
25 departments have to begin to develop formal
26 consultation policies to actually do this consultation
27 and so forth. But it's not part of ANILCA. It's
28 something that the administration has wanted to apply
29 to subsistence management here in Alaska.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you
32 guys sound like you're making it more complicated than
33 it needs to be.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean,
38 golly, that KISS principal is a pretty nice principle.
39 What's running through my mind is job security. Bill.

40
41 MR. GLANZ: I was just wondering how
42 many hundreds of people they had to employ in order to
43 run this consultation policy. Is it another Federal
44 pit? I mean we're just dumping money into a hole or
45 what's the deal on that. How many people besides you
46 are involved with this right now, roughly?

47
48 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair. Mr. Glanz. As
49 you can look on Page 72, I think, it shows the list of
50 people involved with the workgroup.

1 MR. GLANZ: No, I mean the Federal end.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To run the
4 program.

5

6 DR. CHEN: Right. So you have all
7 those people from Federal agencies and the tribes
8 involved with the workgroup putting together the
9 policies and the implementation guidelines and then to
10 actually do the implementation of the tribal
11 consultation is going to involve local staff at the
12 field offices, some people from the regional office.
13 So for example, a gentleman by the name of Jack
14 Lorrigan, he's the Native liaison for the Federal
15 Subsistence Program, works at the Office of Subsistence
16 Management. It's his job to set up the consultation
17 meetings, to contact the tribes that might be affected
18 by these different regulatory proposals. But there's
19 quite a number of people involved.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: I'm not being facetious
22 about it. I was just wondering how big a deal this had
23 to be to get implemented, to get it moving.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean we
26 have an action item and all we're doing is trying to
27 wrap our head around something that looks like an
28 elephant that has multiple veins running it's blood
29 system that we're having a hard time figuring out.

30

31 MR. FIRMIN: Actually, for me, it kind
32 of works as is because like a tribal administrator
33 employee I see this come across in the fax machine or
34 email or maybe I'm fortunate enough to know the people
35 that will be sending it to me and then at the time I
36 can turn around and respond and say what the heck is
37 this about, who put this forward, because not everybody
38 gets their meeting book or not everybody gets their
39 proposals, so then the tribe gets the proposal and they
40 say, hey, that's across the river here, let's call this
41 guy back and then they'll come and school us on what we
42 can do and how to support, when's the meeting, and this
43 is just more of a way to go about that.

44

45 I do appreciate it all, but, like I
46 said, I do not like the fact that ANCSA corporations
47 are given equal footing at the table when they're a
48 for-profit business. A perfect example is like the
49 reintroduction of woodland bison. They said, no, Doyon
50 doesn't want it because we're going to develop that

1 land, we don't want that stuff on our land. There was
2 more opposition for it than that and they did the same
3 thing in Minto Flats because, oh, it's going to get in
4 the way of our development. I think that's where that
5 whole 10(j) rule to try and get them reclassified came
6 from. That's a perfect example of opening or closing a
7 certain area to a season.

8

9 For the most part, I like the whole
10 idea of it and so far it's worked well for me. I think
11 part of the reason they have the corporations in there
12 is because some villages are not as developed as others
13 or some are run by their corporation. Like in Larry's
14 situation, the corporation and the tribe are the same
15 entity in some cases. That is probably why they have
16 to leave them in there. But, for the most part, I'm
17 not sure what our action is, to approve it or.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm with you.
20 I'm not sure what our action is.

21

22 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair. So actually
23 you have been providing comments and feedback, so it's
24 a very good discussion. They've been recorded. We will
25 definitely carry these back to the workgroup that will
26 be also then conveyed forth to the Board. Again, if you
27 want to take more time to review these documents and
28 provide comments at a later date in a written format,
29 probably best to send those directly to Jack Lorrigan,
30 the Native liaison. He can get them by email or by fax
31 or you can just pick up the phone and talk to him.
32 Those would be good ways to get further feedback to the
33 workgroup as well as to the Board.

34

35 Thank you very much.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So did you
38 guys discuss things like -- there would probably be
39 issues out of this 220 and 13 and all these
40 organizations that there might only be one proposal
41 they're interested in. I mean have you considered that
42 -- and you're not going to have to hear from all these
43 tribes for all this stuff?

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: I think only the State
46 sends me Yakutat crab guidelines.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. FIRMIN: So far the Federal side

1 has been good about sending only stuff pertinent to
2 your area or maybe close to it.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.

5

6 MR. ROBERTS: One concern I had too was
7 the tribes that lost their funding that are defunct but
8 they're still operating as villages. What are you
9 going to do in those situations?

10

11 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair. Mr. Roberts.
12 That does present sort of a quandary if the tribe
13 doesn't have a functioning program. All these
14 documents having to do with regulatory proposals and so
15 forth go to the list of 229 tribes that the BIA keeps.
16 It's a challenge to keep that list current in terms of
17 who the person is in charge of the tribe and who the
18 documents should be sent to, but they do go to all 229
19 tribes.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 I'd like to clarify one thing. Venetie and Arctic
25 Village do not have a corporation now. They dissolved
26 their corporation and they turned the land over to the
27 tribal council, which is a legitimate council that
28 you'd talk to concerning the land.

29

30 There's another question that I don't
31 have clear. When you say tribal consultation, we're
32 representing the Eastern Interior, I'm just taking you
33 as an example, you're sitting there, we're representing
34 the villages in the Eastern Interior, but are you going
35 to consult with the tribal leaders in that particular
36 area or are you trying to consult with the whole state?

37

38

39 The Western Interior, they've got their
40 own region and they have different needs and different
41 wants from us. Also Southeast has different needs and
42 different wants which is completely different from
43 ours. So how are you going to -- are you going to
44 invite these tribes from that particular area to come
45 over and consult or how is it going to be?

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 DR. CHEN: Madame Chair, Mr. Williams
50 and also Mr. Firmin. I think you guys raise some of the

1 -- the aspects of how this implementation policy can be
2 actually done. So, you're correct, not all 299 tribes
3 are interested in what happens in Southeast with deer
4 hunting, for example, on Prince of Wales Island.

5
6 The practical application of our policy
7 would be to work directly with those affected tribes,
8 so those would be ones on Prince of Wales Island, like
9 Klawock, Hydaburg, and so forth. Those users are
10 directly affected by those proposals.

11
12 You had asked the question, Mr.
13 Williams, about -- I know some of you folks are from
14 tribes on this Council, but what the Board wanted to
15 make clear is that while we have Council members from
16 tribes on the Councils, that's not actually tribal
17 consultation. Government consultation is actually a
18 very rigorous definition that the government applies
19 and that's talking directly with a tribal leader or
20 someone designated to represent that tribe to deal
21 directly with the Federal government.

22
23 So that process of the Councils working
24 with the Federal Board is different than tribes
25 consulting directly with the government. I'm not sure
26 if that answers your question, but I just wanted to
27 make that point.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy. Then I
30 think we've got a lot on the record. I mean you're
31 hearing from us and you're considering that our input,
32 right?

33
34 DR. CHEN: Yes, Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
37 you.

38
39 Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 In an effort to move this on and actually make a much
43 more powerful statement than just what's on the record
44 from our speech, I'd like to make a motion that we
45 offer our opinion that the inclusion of ANCSA
46 corporations should not be a part of the consultation
47 process. I'm really concerned about that and I don't
48 know the strongest way to make that message clear to
49 the Board and to people back in Washington, but I think
50 it's entirely inappropriate for fish and game matters

1 to be.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
4 make a motion.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: The motion is that it is
7 the opinion of the -- or the recommendation of the
8 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council that the
9 ANCSA corporations shall not be included in the tribal
10 consultation process.

11

12 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

13

14 MR. KOEHLER: Second.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
17 need further discussion.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Just speaking to the
20 motion, I'll just reference everything that we just
21 spoke to and then let's move on.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
24 favor.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
29 opposed.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
34 Do we need a break? It's 3:00 o'clock. So hopefully
35 we can move rapidly along after.

36

37 DR. CHEN: Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39 Thank you, Council members.

40

41 (Off record)

42

43 (On record)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's go. We
46 want to get this done today. Council nomination
47 process and outreach. Are you handling that?

48

49 MS. PATTON: Yes.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I heard
2 it's going to be brief.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
5 and Council. This is very brief. Just a reminder to
6 Council members we do have some applications in
7 already, but the Council nominations process is open
8 once again. It comes around every year. The deadline
9 to apply is March 21st. There's applications up on the
10 table there and it's also online. For Council members
11 it's in your packets on Page 85. So if you know of
12 other individuals from the region or areas that are not
13 represented on the Council, outreach and encouraging
14 interest into the process for additional applications
15 would be great.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you might
18 clarify for us what terms they are. It's 2015, not
19 2014? Because there's three of us up 2014. We already
20 put our applications in. So it's 2015?

21
22 MS. PATTON: Right, Madame Chair. For
23 the Council's information, the appointments were very
24 delayed, so those were finalized. All of our
25 applicants that were up for this year have been
26 reappointed and are seated Council members. Those
27 final letters from the Secretary of the Interior is in
28 the mail if you haven't gotten it already and we do
29 have copies for the Council.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is it
32 Bill, Andrew and James that are up or who's up?

33
34 MR. GLANZ: We're up.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Yes, Bill,
37 James and Andy.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy Bassich.
40 Okay. I was wrong, sorry.

41
42 MS. PATTON: In addition to the
43 nomination process at this time, the Council was also
44 asked if you have comments or feedback on the
45 nominations process as a whole. The nominations have
46 been greatly delayed in the last two years. Again, the
47 appointments are made by the Secretary of the Interior.
48 Once the interviews in the review panel through the
49 Federal Subsistence Board occurs, those recommendations
50 go to the Secretary of the Interior.

1 In the past couple years, that process
2 has been greatly delayed where we don't get -- haven't
3 had our final appointments until right before the
4 Council meetings. So there are a couple letters in
5 your meeting book as well from the Western Interior
6 Council addressing these concerns to the Secretary of
7 the Interior on Page 88. They have made some
8 recommendations to how the process could better support
9 Council members and had some recommendations on
10 maintaining current seats until the new nominations are
11 finalized so there aren't vacancies on the Council.

12
13 The way the process works right now is
14 when appointments are up they expire on December 3rd,
15 so the appointments are supposed to be made prior to
16 that by December 2nd. In the last two years, we've had
17 about a two-month gap where those appointments have
18 expired before we get the new appointments made.

19
20 Anyway, it's just for your information,
21 the letter from Western Interior Council, and if there
22 were any recommendations that this Council may have to
23 the Federal Subsistence Board on the process.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Just to clarify what you
30 just said, for those of us whose seats are up, do we
31 actually have to go through the whole process of
32 filling out the application or is it just a letter of
33 intent to wish to be considered to remain on the
34 Council.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
37 We would actually need a signed application.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Put it on
40 your computer so you can just pull it.

41
42 MS. PATTON: And that can be sent in
43 via mail, fax.....

44
45 MS. BURKE: Madame Chair, this is
46 Melinda. If I can interrupt. Actually you can use the
47 same application from an incumbent. The only thing we
48 would need is an email or something on the record,
49 something written, you could send a fax that just asks
50 your coordinator to use the same application from

1 before. That's actually an option for some of the
2 incumbents. Sorry to interrupt.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the answer
5 is yes. A letter is good.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 Yes, we had gotten the indication from our supervisor
9 to request full applications, but I will reconfirm.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But full
12 applications that are on file they can request to use
13 them.

14

15 MS. PATTON: I will reconfirm that. We
16 had a request from our supervisor not to do that this
17 time around. I will confirm that for you so you don't
18 have to go through the trouble if that's allowable to
19 send in a written intent that you'd like to reapply
20 using your original application.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
27 questions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next on the
32 agenda. Special actions.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. That was to
35 be addressed if there were any special actions that had
36 been submitted for fish or wildlife proposals for the
37 region. There are none at this time.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is OSM.
40 Somebody asked me what that meant, I used it so much.

41

42 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Tom Kron with
43 OSM, Office of Subsistence Management. Basically what
44 I'll be talking about is just giving an update on
45 things. This is something we talked about a little bit
46 yesterday morning. We have a lot of vacant positions
47 at OSM right now. The Deputy Assistant Regional
48 Director position held by Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, a
49 number of you met her. She has retired. Karen Hyer,
50 the lady that has been sitting back over in the corner

1 by the fireplace with us, she's acting in that position
2 right now.

3
4 The Fisheries Division Chief position
5 is vacant as well. George Pappas is acting in that
6 position. Earlier this week I did four waiver requests
7 to Washington, D.C. Those haven't left the region yet.
8 I just did the drafts. My understanding is Karen is
9 going to be taking them up for Regional Director's
10 signature on Monday. But, basically, we have to get
11 approval from Washington, D.C. The decisions can't be
12 made in the region alone.

13
14 In any case, just wanted to let you
15 know that there's a long process going on and a lot of
16 scrutiny because of the budget situation.

17
18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19
20 Again, just an informational item.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
23 questions.

24
25 (No comment)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
28 Next on the agenda is any tribal government reports.

29
30 (No comment)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.
33 Is there any tribal government reports anywhere?
34 Native organizations. Tanana Chiefs. He's here. Then
35 next on the agenda, if you guys are looking, is the
36 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and we did
37 that. That's the bycatch, right?

38
39 MR. ROBERTS: Yep.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
42 done. We'll be up to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

43
44 MR. MCKENNA: Good afternoon, Madame
45 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Brian
46 McKenna. I'm the fisheries biologist with Tanana
47 Chiefs Conference, Wildlife and Parks Department. I
48 just have a quick presentation for you just kind of
49 going over our Wildlife and Parks Departments, where
50 we're at right now in some of our current projects.

1 TCC serves 42 villages throughout the
2 Interior along the Yukon River representing over 10,000
3 Native Alaskans. Currently our department employs two
4 full-time staff members. Orville Huntington, who was
5 in here earlier today and spoke to you, he's the
6 director, and then there's my position, which is funded
7 through OSM Partners Program.

8
9 For TCC, one of the top priorities is
10 to maintain and sustain the customary and traditional
11 lifestyle. It's our goal to help advocate to keep
12 these practices going. Recently TCC partnered with
13 Doyon, Denakkanaaga and Fairbanks Native Association
14 and established a hunting and fishing task force, which
15 Lester serves on. One of the main goals is to advocate
16 for Native hunting and fishing rights throughout the
17 TCC region.

18
19 Moving on to a couple of our current
20 projects that we're currently doing. We have the
21 Henshaw Creek Weir and the Alatna River Sheefish Study.
22 Both of those projects are funded through OSM,
23 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program.

24
25 The Alatna River Sheefish Study was
26 originally a one-year study that started in 2012. The
27 Alatna River is the only documented spawning tributary
28 for sheefish in the Koyukuk Basin. Our goals are to
29 collect 200 genetic samples from the Alatna River
30 spawning stock so we can help develop the genetic
31 baseline and also to collect otoliths from these
32 samples to help describe the demographic composition.
33 We're partnering with local subsistence fishermen from
34 Alatna and Allakaket to collect these samples.

35
36 Like I previously stated, it was
37 originally a one-year project that started in 2012, but
38 there was flooding in 2012 that inhibited collection
39 efforts. Last year there were early winter conditions
40 that led to ice forming on the river, so we weren't
41 able to get out and make those collections either.
42 Funding for the project remains sufficient and we're
43 going to give it another try this year.

44
45 The Henshaw Creek Weir, another FRMP
46 project, has been going on since 2000, providing a
47 long-term dataset for us. Our goals are to determine
48 escapement and run timing of chinook and chum salmon,
49 describe the demographic composition of the run. Also
50 the project serves as a platform for hosting the summer

1 science and culture camp for the youth in the
2 surrounding area.

3

4 We work with many partners on this
5 project. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service helps us train
6 and our seasonal technicians that come in each year,
7 Village of Allakaket and community refuge both help
8 with logistical support and also with helping out these
9 science camps we hold each summer. The Department of
10 Fish and Game helps with aging our scale samples each
11 year.

12

13 Here's a quick overview of the results
14 from the 2013 run. The project was operational from
15 June 30th through August 5th. We saw our first chinook
16 and chum salmon on July 9th. However, there was a four
17 and a half day high water event where the weir was shut
18 down and counting did not occur. The weir remained
19 open so the fish could pass uncounted. So just keep
20 that in mind. Our results at the end of the season, we
21 have submitted that 772 chinook passed through the weir
22 and roughly 285,000 summer chum.

23

24 Just kind of comparing that over the
25 running average from 2000 to 2013, the chinook average
26 escapement in Henshaw is 900 chinook. We came in at
27 772, so just a little bit below that average. Like I
28 said, some fish were missed. We just don't know how
29 many.

30

31 On the chum side, as you can see from
32 the table there, the last three years have been well
33 above the 13-year average of around 115,000. In 2013,
34 we had 285,000. In 2012 and 2013, both those years
35 represent roughly 13 percent of the entire run of
36 summer chum salmon in the Yukon drainage.

37

38 Moving into future projects. We would
39 like to -- well, there's the Henshaw Creek Science
40 Camp, which I spoke to earlier. Funding for that
41 project was pulled in 2013 and we just found out
42 yesterday that the Fish and Wildlife Service has
43 reinstated those funds. So I'm currently working with
44 Kanuti and we're going to be sending in a proposal to
45 try to bring back the science camp for 2014.

46

47 We're also looking at hopefully doing
48 some genetic sampling on the Black River and that kind
49 of touches on a point that Mr. Bassich brought up
50 earlier on the genetic resolution of fall chum. Black

1 River is one system that's been pointed out by the JTC.

2

3 So we're going to try to partner with
4 Chalkyitsik Village Council as well as State Department
5 of Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service to
6 collect these samples. Our goal was to collect 200
7 tissue samples from both fall chum and chinook salmon
8 on the Black River, which will help identify stock
9 contribution and provide a genetic baseline for these
10 populations.

11

12 I think I already mentioned this.
13 We're trying to bring back the summer science camp. We
14 have a lot of partners to help make that project
15 successful year in and year out. We feel strongly for
16 this project, so we're hoping to bring it back in 2014.
17 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge and Allakaket Tribal Council are
18 both really big -- provide a lot of support for these
19 projects. The goal is just to kind of connect the youth
20 with nature, expose them to the National Wildlife
21 Refuge. Some of the science camp lessons, it kind of
22 mixes traditional knowledge with Western Science.

23

24 I'd just like to say thanks for
25 everyone that supports our help. Like I said, with our
26 small department, we rely heavily on partnerships with
27 outside organizations, so say thanks to all of them.
28 With that, just kind of open it up if you have any
29 comments or questions.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
32 members, comments or questions.

33

34 MR. FIRMIN: How come that dog looks
35 like you just clubbed him?

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. MCKENNA: That was the Henshaw crew
40 leader's dog from last season. I'm not sure what
41 happened, but he does not have one of his eyes. He was
42 a lot of help out there.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
45 that covers the dog.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
50 questions.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you have any
2 other camps any other place other than down that way,
3 like for Yukon?

4

5 MR. MCKENNA: We do not.
6 Unfortunately, with our department being so small, we
7 only have just a couple projects going on. That's the
8 one that occupies most of our time right now. Like I
9 said, we're trying to spread out and incorporate new
10 projects, but we have to rely on other organizations to
11 help us with those.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I just wanted
16 to say thank you for the long-term datasets there. I
17 know Henshaw Creek is one of the longer running weir
18 projects on the Yukon. I'm a very strong advocate of
19 these long datasets. I think they're probably some of
20 the most important data collection that's taking place
21 on the Yukon because it's going to show long-term
22 trends. Every time we've ever had an issue, it's been
23 the lack of long-term datasets to answer questions. So
24 kudos to you guys for continuing to follow through on
25 that.

26

27 The other thing is the education of
28 youth and getting young people involved in fisheries is
29 the future of our fisheries. I really applaud the work
30 that's done in any realm in the state to involve young
31 people not just at the high school or college level,
32 but starting at a very young age to instill that thirst
33 for knowledge and understanding of science and
34 hopefully they'll become the future biologists that we
35 need and they will be home-based people. I think
36 that's really important. So keep up the good work with
37 that. I'm glad to hear you got funded again for that.

38

39 MR. MCKENNA: Thank you for those
40 comments.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
43 have Andrew chair the meeting for two minutes.

44

45 MR. MCKENNA: I did have one other
46 thing. I just wanted to take the opportunity right now
47 to maybe ask the board if they had any suggestions or
48 ideas for maybe projects in your areas that you think
49 would be beneficial moving forward.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to sound like a
2 broken record. I really think that all the tribal
3 councils in the state need to take a really active
4 role in collecting pictorial historical data on what
5 they used to catch, especially in the king salmon
6 fisheries. I think we're going to lose that pretty
7 soon. Everybody is going to digital formats and the
8 old pictures and the old slides are going to go in the
9 garbage can. Once we lose that, we've lost it for
10 forever.

11
12 I think the sooner we make those
13 efforts at the local levels
14 and start gathering that information and cataloguing
15 it, that's going to be a really valuable traditional
16 ecological knowledge element that can add to some of
17 our future decision-making. So I would really like to
18 see that started. It's one of those projects I think
19 that once it gets started one place it will grow. It's
20 not going to require a lot of work. It just needs
21 people to be consistent and keep talking it up.

22
23 Maybe at potlatches and things like
24 that and community groups get together, if it's
25 included in announcements to bring your pictures and
26 everybody can kind of share them, it will get the ball
27 rolling. But I really think that's important.

28
29 MR. MCKENNA: Thank you for those
30 comments.

31
32 MR. FIRMIN: Brian, I've actually got a
33 note to get a hold of you and Orville about a few
34 projects and maybe you could take into account some of
35 the projects we mentioned earlier with Trent about
36 certain smaller projects that possibly you guys could
37 apply for funding through the Partners Program or other
38 places for the smaller burbot or whitefish studies in
39 some of those other villages or the lamprey ones or
40 something along those lines.

41
42 MR. MCKENNA: Yeah, thank you for that
43 comment. I agree with that. I was taking notes
44 heavily while you guys were having your discussion. I
45 agree with that.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
48 questions.

49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

2

3 Thank you very much.

4

5 MR. MCKENNA: Thanks for your time.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Next
8 on the agenda is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife reports.
9 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We get to see Vince's
10 lovely face again.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13 My name is Vince Mathews, Refuge Subsistence
14 Coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats. Before
15 I get into the Arctic report, I think it would help you
16 to understand what my job duties are because you talked
17 about them quite a bit earlier.

18

19 Basically when proposals come in,
20 either Federal or State, I review all the proposals and
21 develop charts, which I share with the leadership of
22 the three Refuges and beyond. I also target proposals
23 per villages and share those with them so they then can
24 know of it and share comments. So that's part of my
25 duties is to do this outreach.

26

27 For your particular area, some of
28 that's going on. A lot more is going on with Allakaket
29 where I actually meet with the tribal council on
30 proposals. It is not tribal consultation, but it is to
31 meet with them to understand some proposals. You need
32 to realize that there are staff doing what you were
33 talking about earlier.

34

35 The other thing, since you talked about
36 pictures, Andrew, the school district of Kaltag is
37 doing that with their youth. They give them digital
38 cameras and take pictures of the area. I asked them if
39 they could do that at fish camp. I don't know if that
40 will follow through. There's another school district
41 that's looking into doing that. Hopefully you can get
42 that information out so people can get those pictures
43 to see what fish camps are operating and obviously
44 which fish camps are not.

45

46 Finally, for Arctic Refuge, the only
47 new update -- I can hand out last meeting's update if
48 you'd like it. It's the same one. The only update is
49 that the Deputy Refuge Manager now is the Refuge
50 Manager for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, so that's

1 Anne Marie LaRosa now is the Refuge Manager for Kodiak.
2 So that position is in the process of being filled.

3

4 In addition to that, so you understand,
5 since you talked a lot about outreach, we have two
6 Refuge Information Technicians. We call them RITs, so I
7 don't want you to get lost if I slip into talking about
8 using the acronym RIT. There's one in Arctic Village,
9 which you met at your last meeting, Mildred Riley, and
10 then the other one is Lee Kayotuk out of Kaktovik, so
11 they have two RITs or Refuge Information Technicians,
12 which are our eyes and ears on the Refuge for Arctic.

13

14 So if there are any questions or
15 information you would like from Arctic Refuge that I
16 can either answer or provide you at your next meeting
17 or mail you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
20 members.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not
25 hearing anything, Vince. Donald.

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to reference
28 the new data for the 25A moose proposal that we talked
29 about and that a lot of that data came in, what, 20
30 years old.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or 12. I
33 don't know what it was, but it was old, yeah.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: I'll bring that up to
36 Brian, the Refuge Manager. I know the two Refuge
37 Managers were kind of talking about that when that came
38 up. There may be some additional information
39 discussing prioritization of collecting data. So I'll
40 carry that back to Brian Glaspell, who you met at your
41 last meeting. He was here earlier, but there's a lot
42 going on in the office right now, so he's not able to
43 attend today.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
46 else, Council members.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Yukon Flats. I
2 may ask Steve to come up, but the same thing. The
3 report has not changed. If you'd like a copy of the
4 report, it has not change.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the same
7 one we had?

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. We're targeting,
10 but your meeting agendas aren't helping us. We were
11 going to target your -- I call this a winter meeting
12 because they're less busy, but obviously that's not the
13 case. So we will be still looking at providing our
14 summaries at this meeting, but assure you that if a
15 timely issue comes up at your fall meeting, that we
16 would bring it up so you wouldn't have to wait and then
17 you could react to it. I don't know if Steve has
18 anything else to share.

19
20 MR. BERENDZEN: No, I don't.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: The last thing on that,
23 we are looking at hiring an RIT, Refuge Information
24 Technician, in Fort Yukon, so that's pending. You'll
25 have a little bit more eyes and ears on the ground for
26 the Flats. We desperately need that for the seven
27 villages that we're working with.

28
29 If there's any questions for the Flats,
30 Steve is here, I'm here. We'd be glad to hear them at
31 this point.

32
33 MR. FIRMIN: I noticed on the Refuge's
34 Facebook page something about old moose, some 16-year-
35 old cow moose you guys had documented in the Flats. I
36 was just wondering where that came from. Is that new
37 or old?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: I'm going to duck on
40 that. I'm an older person. Facebook, I -- Steve knows
41 I have difficulty with Facebook, so maybe he knows more
42 about it. I kind of apologize. Nathan is the person
43 who does an excellent job with that Facebook, but I
44 don't know what -- my final excuse, I've been traveling
45 for three weeks. So if it's been in the last three
46 weeks, I'm not aware of it. But a 16-year-old cow
47 moose on the web page, is that what you were saying?

48
49 MR. FIRMIN: There was just a mention.
50 I was looking at it and it said something about cow

1 moose studies and they found several cow moose that
2 were 10 years old and one as old as 16. I didn't get a
3 chance to really read it or look at it. I was just
4 curious if that was something new or old or in the
5 report or not.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if Steve doesn't
8 have anything, we can look into it and see what that
9 is. For you to understand, Facebook is basically to
10 get information in small attractive pieces out to the
11 public. We're using it quite a bit on the Flats.
12 We've been requested by Flats villages to mainly use as
13 -- well, not mainly use, but as one of our major ways
14 of communicating is through Facebook. It's helped me
15 in another region on permits to find people who didn't
16 fill out their permits. I just go on Facebook.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you do
21 know about Facebook.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: I do, but I don't know
24 how to put things on there other than maybe to find
25 people. I think it's a good communication channel.
26 I'm just concerned you don't have control of where it
27 goes. So that's my personal concern that somebody from
28 Afghanistan can comment on your moose proposal.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
31 other questions of Vince or the Refuge.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

36

37 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: So I'll leave these
40 copies with her, but you already have them. I just
41 didn't know what you wanted to do, so I made extra
42 copies. If you don't need them, I'll keep them because
43 they're valuable for other public meetings. When you
44 go there, it kind of gives them a summary. Yukon Flats
45 has pretty pictures in there and that.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I still have
48 mine. Does anyone want another copy. Will and James,
49 you weren't here last meeting. Sounds like a few want
50 another copy. All right. So that covers Yukon Flats

1 also. Tetlin National Wildlife, do they have -- I
2 don't see them here, but is there a report that was
3 sent in, Eva?

4

5 MS. PATTON: No.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
8 talked to the Refuge Manager and he said he was going
9 to do that. NPS, Yukon-Charley.

10

11 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon, Madame
12 Chair, Council members. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm
13 with Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Eva
14 should be passing out our update, but I'll go ahead and
15 start.

16

17 The working group for Yukon-Charley
18 Rivers National Preserve met on January 30th of this
19 year, so that 2013 should be a 2014. We discussed
20 issues related to the National Preserve's compendium,
21 public use cabins, law enforcement staffing for the
22 2014 season, Windfall Mountain fire, wolf and moose
23 survey updates and how we could improve relations
24 between the Park Service and local residents.

25

26 Additionally discussed at that meeting
27 local residents shared that they're foregoing fishing
28 of chinook salmon on the Yukon River and Park Service
29 staff are working with local residents to share
30 information with the greater public about low chinook
31 salmon runs and how it's affecting the local
32 communities.

33

34 I'm sharing information that just
35 occurred about a week and a half ago. National Park
36 Service wildlife biologists lost the ability to
37 research radio-collared wolves from the Lost Creek
38 pack, which has historically used Yukon-Charley Rivers.
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game eliminated all 11
40 members of the pack outside of the preserve for their
41 ongoing aerial predator control program in the Upper
42 Yukon and Forty Mile Rivers region.

43

44 The pack has been monitored by Park
45 Service researchers over the past seven years as part
46 of a decades-long ecological study and provided
47 detailed information about the condition of Interior
48 Alaska's wolves, how they disperse and the numbers of
49 wolves utilizing the preserve to den and raise pups.

50

1 Removal of the Lost Creek pack follows
2 similar losses from ADF&G's predator control efforts
3 last spring, which killed 36 wolves in the area,
4 reducing the population using the Preserve by more than
5 half.

6
7 On a lighter note, Peregrine Falcon
8 updates. Basically due to last spring's cold
9 temperatures and flooding near Eagle, despite all of
10 that researchers were able to complete the 38th year of
11 continuous monitoring of Peregrine Falcons on the Upper
12 Yukon River within the Preserve. Between 1975 and
13 2012, the number of total and successful pairs nesting
14 along the Upper Yukon has been steadily increasing,
15 although the percentage of total pairs nesting has been
16 declining. However, population estimates for 2013
17 dropped from 2012 primarily due to the late snow and
18 cold temperatures during last year's spring.

19
20 There were no furbearer surveys
21 conducted in 2013 and none are scheduled for this year.
22 Lastly, the Windfall Mountain fire is classified as out
23 by the Alaska Fire Service and a report titled
24 investigation of an oil shale fire at Windfall Mountain
25 is being drafted.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
30 questions. Andy.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Marcy. The
33 Windfall Mountain is still smoldering and there's still
34 smoke coming out of it, so I'm just curious what
35 determines it or classifies it as being out. I mean
36 it's a shale fire that may have been burning for a
37 decade or two, so I'm just curious what their process
38 is for making that determination. If you have any
39 information or maybe that's something that could be
40 brought to us at some later time.

41
42 MS. OKADA: I couldn't answer that
43 question offhand immediately, but I can come back with
44 more information.

45
46 MR. DUDGEON: Madame Chair. Greg
47 Dudgeon, Superintendent, Yukon-Charley. We'll actually
48 be bringing a small group in to Eagle on Monday, so
49 we'll ask that question and have some additional
50 information available. So people that attend the

1 meeting, we can follow up on that question.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I think Jennifer
4 may have had some information on that.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
7 Jennifer.

8

9 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Not from my official capacity as the State liaison for
11 Fish and Game, but through six years of being assigned
12 to the Type 1 incident management team, you can still
13 see that happening and the incident commander can deem
14 the fire out based on its inability to spread. So
15 there may be something internal that might be still
16 smoldering in the fire, but there may be enough of a
17 perimeter surrounding the fire that it's not going to
18 go anywhere.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. That makes
21 sense. It looks like a big volcano for those of you
22 who aren't familiar with it. It's basically a mountain
23 near the mouth of the Tatonduk River that has been on
24 fire for a while. It spread and started small forest
25 fires, but then it seemed to contain itself and now the
26 whole mountain is kind of collapsing on itself. It's
27 actually quite an interesting thing to see. You can
28 see it from the Yukon River fairly clearly.
29 Occasionally we do get the fallout from the smoke and
30 everything depending on wind directions around Eagle.
31 It's just an interesting natural phenomenon to witness.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: A lot of times those fires
36 were declared out by people like me or somebody that
37 has to be flying over that way on a mission. Like she
38 said, as long as it's contained, no advancing of fire,
39 there's no problem. Like you say, it may smolder for
40 years, but it's not going to go anywhere.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 Could you speak to the public meeting you're going to
46 hold on Tuesday about some fish and game closures.

47

48 MR. DUDGEON: Don, I'd be happy to.
49 This is Greg Dudgeon again, Madame Chair. As Don and
50 Andy know, they participated in the compendium meeting

1 that we had in Eagle back in January and we talked
2 about continuation for another year in the Yukon-
3 Charley Rivers compendium. Several wildlife temporary
4 restrictions. One being a subject we talked about a
5 year ago and that was take of brown bear over bait.
6 We're going to extend that another year.

7
8 Then the rolling back the season on
9 wolves to the end of April, which had been the case
10 back to -- what had been the case. The Board of Game
11 had recently, prior to that decision a year ago,
12 liberalized the take to the end of May because the
13 National Park Service units other than Yukon-Charley
14 have not all had the opportunity to work through some
15 of those restrictions in their own compendia.

16
17 In the weeks to come, there are
18 hearings set on wildlife hunting restrictions that
19 would involve the specific Preserves throughout Alaska.
20 For this group, the two hearings of interest would
21 again be Yukon-Charley Rivers. We're going to be
22 meeting at the Eagle Public Library on Tuesday, March
23 11th. For the folks in Eagle and Eagle Village, it
24 will be the same information that we discussed in
25 January and that we actually had implemented through
26 our compendia a year ago.

27
28 So, for the folks in Eagle and Eagle
29 Village, it will be somewhat of a rerun, but we'll be
30 back out there to talk about those restrictions to see
31 if there's anything else, including fire that folks
32 want to talk about. Mr. Woodruff had asked if we'd
33 bring out a biologist for this meeting and we're going
34 to do that too. So hopefully we can, in addition to
35 the hearing, provide some other information for folks
36 that people are interested in.

37
38 Then the other hearing that folks
39 around this table would be interested in is the one at
40 Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. That will be in
41 Copper Center on Monday, March 17th, from 4:00 to 5:30
42 in the afternoon. That hearing will be available for
43 folks who want to dial in. I'm sure when Barbara comes
44 up later she can be more specific about what it is if
45 people have questions about that hearing on the 17th of
46 March.

47
48 Madame Chair, if I may, just add one
49 other item. Marcy has already alluded to it, but we
50 did want to take the time to acknowledge and say how

1 much we appreciate, from the perspective of all of us
2 being conservationists, what the people of Eagle and
3 Eagle Village have done in terms of electing not to
4 harvest king salmon during this very difficult
5 challenge that people along the river, the length of
6 the river face.

7

8 We applaud what they're doing. We want
9 to acknowledge what they're doing and we also want to
10 help share that news, so we are developing some
11 messaging for our websites and other media outlets to
12 let folks know what's going on upriver in terms of the
13 salmon and, again, the idea of being able to harvest
14 and enjoy that species in perpetuity. We just wanted
15 to acknowledge that publicly here today.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Just to comment on your
20 public hearing. For those folks that don't know that
21 this is the brown bear over bait, the coyote and wolves
22 in the den, and artificial light of harvesting bears in
23 the den is going to be moved into CFRs, if I'm correct.

24

25 MR. DUDGEON: Well, this is a temporary
26 -- these, again, are temporary. This is an addendum to
27 the compendia. Just to be clear about the black bears
28 in dens, taking cubs and sows with cubs and using
29 artificial light, that was a liberalization of
30 regulations that affected Denali and Gates of the
31 Arctic. I don't believe there was any nexus to Yukon-
32 Charley Rivers or Wrangell-St. Elias. So that's why I
33 just mentioned the wolves and coyotes and the taking of
34 brown bear over bait.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
37 questions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I think
42 it's important for you to explain -- the compendium was
43 used last time for these wildlife things. Explain why
44 it got pulled apart and how it's going to affect
45 wildlife in the future for the Park Service.

46

47 MR. DUDGEON: Madame Chair. I'm not
48 sure what you mean by pulled apart. Why the hearings
49 are happening?

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, unless
2 I misunderstood what happened at my SRC meeting.
3 There's the compendium from the Superintendent and now
4 there's this wildlife restriction, which is not a
5 compendium process, it's a new process. Am I correct?
6

7 MR. DUDGEON: Madame Chair. These
8 hearings -- again, for units like Yukon-Charley where
9 we had already implemented these closures in the
10 compendium, not all the preserves had done that. Part
11 of the reason for that the National Park Service had
12 asked Board of Game to exclude the affected National
13 Park units. When the Board of Game elected not to do
14 that, but essentially said to the Park Service you're
15 the land manager, take care of this using your own
16 process, the compendium process was pretty much
17 through.
18

19 So this was an opportunity to make
20 these closures applicable in preserves that had not
21 already gone through the compendium process as we had
22 done, for example, in Yukon-Charley. That's why I
23 mentioned that for Don and Andy this was a bit of a
24 rehash of conversations we've had now for two
25 compendium meetings.
26

27 Does that help answer your question?
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I m totally
30 confused and because of my meeting in Wrangell-St.
31 Elias it did not come out this way.
32

33 MR. DUDGEON: Barb from Wrangell-St.
34 Elias is here. Not having attended that meeting
35 myself, maybe she can shed some light.
36

37 MS. CELLARIUS: Let me see if I can
38 help. These closures under a particular section of the
39 CFRs -- this is Barbara from Wrangell-St. Elias -- and
40 that gives us the authority to do a temporary closure.
41 That means if we want to do it for more than one year,
42 we have to do a new temporary closure. So each time we
43 implement this closure, we have to have public notice
44 and a public hearing. That is what's required for the
45 process for these closures.
46

47 The compendium is basically a list of
48 allowances and closures and exceptions. In the Alaska
49 region, we have started the process of actually taking
50 public comment and doing public notice about the

1 compendium, but there isn't a specific process set up
2 in the CFR for doing that review. But these wildlife
3 restrictions are under a specific regulatory authority
4 that requires for each temporary closure, so each year
5 we have to do public notice and public hearing.

6

7 Does that.....

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought I
9 was logical and sensible, but I'm beginning to wonder.
10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: We're following the
12 process that's required in ANILCA and the regulations.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is not
15 a compendium process.

16

17 MS. CELLARIUS: Which is not the
18 compendium process. The compendium process is simply
19 something that the region has been doing to give the
20 public an opportunity to comment on the compendium, but
21 it's not anything that's written down in CFR, you have
22 to do X, Y and Z.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are you
25 saying this wildlife thing is going to end up in CFR?

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: It's possible.

28

29 MS. CELLARIUS: That's not.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This process
32 doesn't create a CFR.

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: This process does not
35 create a CFR. The reason why we have to have a public
36 hearing and public notice every year is that it's
37 temporary and in order to renew it, essentially is what
38 we're doing -- it's basically the same restrictions
39 that were put in place last year.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

42

43 MS. CELLARIUS:but in order to
44 have them in place this year we have to go through this
45 process of the public hearing and public notice and
46 then, again, it will be written down on a list for this
47 year.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It
50 must be getting late. But the intent -- you know, this

1 is no reflection to anybody personally. It's just that
2 as the individuals out in the public, this Board of
3 Game passed these more liberalized seasons and bag
4 limits. Last year it was used under the compendium
5 process for the Parks to eliminate what the Board of
6 Game passed. This year it's being used under something
7 else, a hearing process through the wildlife hunting
8 restrictions, what's in front of us, correct?

9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: Actually we did do
11 public notice and public hearings last year as well, so
12 every year.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was on
15 your compendium.

16

17 MS. CELLARIUS: It was written down in
18 the compendium, but the hearings were required by this
19 particular section in the CFR for the wildlife closure.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we're
22 going through the same.....

23

24 MS. CELLARIUS: We're doing the same
25 one-year process that we did last year. Last year
26 there was a tie to the compendium.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this year
29 it's not.

30

31 MS. CELLARIUS: This year it's not
32 because we wanted to try to work through the Board of
33 Game process and we wanted to get a response back from
34 the Board of Game before we decided if we needed to --
35 and what we did with the Board of Game is we asked to
36 be exempted, that the Parks be exempted or the National
37 Preserves be exempted.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that was
40 not this last February meeting. That was a year ago.

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: It was actually in
43 Kotzebue, which was what, January.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, the
46 statewide meeting?

47

48 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. So we wanted to
49 wait and give the State a chance to respond to our
50 request before we went through the closure process for

1 this year and when they declined to take up that
2 request, then we scheduled the public hearings, put out
3 the press release. You should all have copies of the
4 press release. You'll see in the press release there's
5 a link to some additional information and we've also
6 distributed that. It's a determination of need for
7 each of the three sort of categories of restrictions.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Two more
10 questions. On this public hearing process, one, you
11 mentioned one in Eagle and one in Wrangell. How many
12 more are there? The second question, is your intent --
13 like I said, I'm not picking on you. Is it the Park
14 Service's intent to bring this up and have it in the
15 CFRs?

16
17 MS. CELLARIUS: So to the question
18 about public hearings, there's about nine of them.
19 There's one for each National Preserve that these
20 restrictions would affect as well as there's one in
21 Anchorage. The one in Fairbanks is actually associated
22 with Gates of the Arctic. So there's about nine
23 hearings. You can actually participate in any of those
24 hearings and provide comments on any of the
25 restrictions.

26
27 So if you have comments in Wrangell-St.
28 Elias, you don't have to go or call in to Copper Center
29 if there's a date that works better for you. You could
30 actually participate in one of the other hearings.
31 There's also going to be an opportunity for a Facebook
32 chat that's listed in this as well. We're taking
33 written public comment between the 9th of March and the
34 22nd of March and those can be either mailed or
35 emailed.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Facebook
38 one, is that going to be through each Park separately?
39

40 MS. CELLARIUS: The Regional Office is
41 hosting that Facebook chat and having not participating
42 in something.....

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it really
45 a chat?

46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I think there's
48 probably going to be an opportunity to post during a
49 particular period of time and those comments will then
50 be written down and they'll use those as written

1 comments as well.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How are you
4 going to use that?

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't know.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What if you
9 have a dozen Facebook pages and that person writes a
10 dozen different Facebook.....

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: No, I think it's going
13 to be go to this particular Alaska region NPS Facebook
14 page and write your comment on that page. So it's not
15 anybody posting on their personal page.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I knew that.
18 I just said how are you going to figure out those
19 people that have a dozen names on Facebook pages.

20

21 MS. CELLARIUS: Oh, okay, I see what
22 you're saying. If people have multiple identities on
23 Facebook.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
26 they do.

27

28 MS. CELLARIUS: The people in the
29 Regional Office are going to have to figure that out.
30 I'm sure they have a strategy.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because this
33 is open to all of the U.S., right?

34

35 MS. CELLARIUS: And then your second
36 question -- do you have the determination of need or do
37 I need to go grab it. Hold on. I need to grab
38 something from my chair.

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, can I make
41 a comment?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

44

45 MR. WOODRUFF: When Joel Hard was here
46 last year, we were discussing these issues, mostly
47 brown bear over bait. We were asking him that these
48 temporary closures can't go on indefinitely and they
49 eventually have to be put into a hard form, like the
50 CFRs for example, and he said he would prefer that

1 doesn't happen right away because there might be other
2 avenues to pursue to lessen this impact or whatever.
3 That sounds like what was going on between you guys and
4 Fish and Game this last year.

5
6 Some of the Council would like to know
7 if you can go on indefinitely with these temporary
8 closures and a press release and a hearing. I mean how
9 many years can you do that before it actually has to go
10 into a hard ruling?

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: So if you look at the
13 determination of need, there's three sort of packets,
14 but if you look at the last sentence in the last
15 paragraph, it says the NPS intends to propose a
16 regulation.

17
18 MR. DUDGEON: If I can add to Don's
19 question and statement. I was here too when Joel was
20 here a year ago and I know the question was what about
21 a regulations package. What I remember Joel saying and
22 what I have heard Joel say, and just for clarity Joel
23 Hard is the Acting Regional Director for Alaska for the
24 National Park Service. Actually he will be back in his
25 deputy role here shortly since we have a new Regional
26 Director named.

27
28 But Joel's point was that the National
29 Park Service really wanted to be able to work with the
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Board of
31 Game to avoid having to go through the process of red
32 writing. I know there was a meeting between some of
33 our folks in the Regional Office and some of the
34 leadership of Fish and Game just within the last couple
35 of weeks. While I wasn't privy to that, wasn't a part
36 of that, I know that the conversation went along the
37 lines of we understand that we have very different
38 missions depending on what side of the boundary you're
39 standing on.

40
41 The regulation package -- Don is right
42 and I think Madame Chair brought up too that the
43 compendia are about temporary restrictions. So I think
44 the hope a year ago was we could get to a point where
45 we could agree, and where we could agree, then the Park
46 Service wouldn't have to go forward with regulations
47 that would implement it's mission and the Congress's
48 intention for those conversation areas.

49
50 So a package is being prepared to

1 permanently address the issue. I would think that if,
2 again, we had an opportunity to come to an agreement
3 with Fish and Game, then that would not be the case.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
6 members, are your brains jarred to have more questions.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: Confusing.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I'll tell
11 you what's come to my mind is what you're saying over
12 and over, is for them to get along and we agree. And,
13 again, I'm not pointing at anyone in particular. If we
14 agree on the Park Service's method, what you want and
15 not being flexible. It doesn't appear to me that
16 you're flexible. Because we have testified at the SRC
17 over and over and over again what problem is it to
18 shoot a coyote in the summer. How many coyotes are
19 going to be shot in the summer that's really going to
20 be a conservation concern? How many wolves are
21 actually going to be taken in May that's a conservation
22 concern?

23

24 It's just a limited opportunity. Very
25 limited. So it doesn't seem like there's flexibility
26 to understand that.

27

28 MR. DUDGEON: Well, and I think -- you
29 know, that brings up one of the points I've heard in
30 the conversations between representatives of the two
31 agencies. Limited numbers or I've even heard it termed
32 as a small or low body counts. Really what it comes
33 down to is Congress's intention during the
34 conversation, the discussions as ANILCA was being
35 written that the National Park Service is responsible
36 for, quote, very special lands, close quote, and that
37 their intended -- even with the ANILCA provisions and
38 the opportunities for subsistence and rural lifestyles
39 -- Congress's intention were these conservation areas
40 were to be managed as National Parks.

41

42 We understand that Fish and Game is the
43 leading entity when it comes to managing wildlife.
44 However, when the regulations or the provisions for the
45 taking of that wildlife runs counter to the purposes
46 and the mission of these conservation units, that's
47 when we see -- we have a need to step in and engage.
48 We've been using compendia up to this point in hopes
49 that, for example, when the black bear denning issue
50 came up a few moments ago, it involved just very small

1 parts of Denali and Gates of the Arctic Preserves, but
2 in spite of our asks for the Board of Game to exempt
3 those areas, their answer, very clearly was you're the
4 land manager, deal with it with your own processes and
5 that's what this is.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd just like to point
8 out that this is a sport closure, correct? It's not
9 subsistence.

10

11 MR. DUDGEON: That's correct. This is
12 regarding sport take.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think
15 somebody needs to press *6 out there to mute. What the
16 Board of Game passed, it still wouldn't change it for
17 subsistence because we would have to have a subsistence
18 regulation to have the same thing on the Park land
19 because there is no -- it would stay the same on the
20 Park for a subsistence user as the sport hunt. It
21 would be the same. There would be no -- yeah.

22

23 MR. DUDGEON: To be clear, it was the
24 sport harvest that the Board of Game is making
25 regulations for. The subsistence seasons, bag limits,
26 methods and means are, of course, part of this process,
27 a different process. So these hearings and the
28 restrictions are in regards to sport take.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what the
31 Board of Game passed, there hasn't been a proposal to
32 open it up in the Park for subsistence. So it would be
33 back to the same thing that's under -- what was under
34 the sport regs?

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: As I understand it, all
37 Federally qualified subsistence hunters can pursue this
38 activity. It's for sport hunters. In other words,
39 somebody from Fairbanks comes to Yukon-Charley and
40 decides they want to harvest a whole den of coyotes and
41 wolves late in the season, they're not qualified, but
42 if subsistence people decided to do that for whatever
43 reason, they're qualified.

44

45 MS. CELLARIUS: So the proposed
46 restrictions affect allowances under the State of
47 Alaska's general hunting regulations. ANILCA uses the
48 word sport, so we often will use the word sport. It's
49 that set of regulations regardless of where you live.
50 If you're hunting under those regulations, these

1 restrictions could affect your activity under those
2 regulations.

3

4 I know that there are a lot of Federal
5 subsistence users who take advantage of opportunities
6 to hunt under State regulations, whether it's because
7 that's the land that's next to you, but what we're
8 talking about is opportunities under the State's
9 general hunting regulations.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And
12 all I was saying is that lengthens the season for wolf,
13 for example, for 30 days. Right now, under this
14 subsistence take, it's April 30th. That's what I was
15 trying to say. It was never changed, so it doesn't
16 give us any additional opportunity. Only on other
17 Federal lands, like the Refuge.

18

19 Any other questions.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: I've got just one. We
22 didn't know anything, Greg, about this CFR. How long
23 has that CFR been in place? We thought it was just
24 like last year or something when that blonde gal was
25 telling us, but anyway.

26

27 MR. DUDGEON: Bill, the CFR, Code of
28 Federal Regulations, has been around a long while. The
29 compendia has also been around for a while again and,
30 as Barb said, it allows the local manager -- it
31 clarifies closures, opportunities, where there's some
32 flexibility in the CFR. Does that answer your
33 question?

34

35 MR. GLANZ: Yes, it does. I just
36 thought they passed a new CFR or something. Okay.
37 Never mind.

38

39 MR. DUDGEON: Sometimes new regulations
40 or regulations are modified, but for as long as there's
41 been a Park agency there's been regulations that apply.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Thank you, Greg.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So any of us
46 who are affected by these regulations, if you have any
47 input, this is one method right, this second piece of
48 paper that was handed out, then the local meetings and
49 Facebook. So like the Facebook if you're a Facebook
50 person. You've got to push "like" and then you get to

1 go look at it.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: One other thing. Greg,
4 when you come to Central, I'm sure you'll be questioned
5 a lot about that stuff.

6

7 MR. DUDGEON: I know. That's a
8 promise. Maybe not Facebook.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. GLANZ: Will you be on my wall?

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. GLANZ: I got grandkids.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank God for
21 grandkids. All right. As frustrating as it all is,
22 I'm glad we can laugh. Okay. Any other questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

27

28 MR. DUDGEON: Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually,
31 Barbara, since you're there you might as well go on
32 because I don't see anybody from Denali here.

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: So is Denali next or
35 Wrangell-St. Elias.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know.
38 I have to look. You're next.

39

40 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I'm actually
41 doing both. We distributed the wildlife report from
42 the Park earlier and Sue was able to catch an error in
43 the table. Actually there were a couple errors in the
44 table. So we have for the Council members a revised
45 copy of the Wrangells wildlife report that has the
46 correct in the Chisana Caribou Herd table. I tried to
47 correct the copies that are in the back there. If
48 somebody else has a copy and wants to make sure that
49 they had accurate data, maybe the best thing is for you
50 to come find me after the presentation and I can get

1 you the revised data.

2

3

4 So in addition to the Chisana Caribou
5 Herd, the wildlife report includes some information on
6 a broad new survey that we've done recently in GMU 11.
7 It's something we do every three years. Then there's
8 some information about the Mentasta Herd and some
9 information about Dall sheep surveys. I'm not going to
10 go over those data, but if you've got questions I can
11 try to get answers for you.

12

13 In addition, there was a separate piece
14 of paper that's basically a table called Federal
15 Subsistence Registration Permits in Wrangell-St. Elias
16 National Park and Preserve 2003 to 2013. That's just a
17 summary of the number of permits issued for Units 11
18 and 12 under the Federal regulations. How many people
19 hunted, how many animals were harvested.

20

21 Just a couple of other things to
22 mention. At the Wrangell-St. Elias hearing on the
23 proposed wildlife restrictions we're also going to be
24 taking comments on a proposal to prohibit domestic
25 goats in the Park. The reason for this proposed
26 prohibition is to avoid disease transmission between
27 domestic goats and especially Dall sheep. That was
28 something that was proposed for our compendium and we
29 realized we needed to have a public hearing, so we're
30 just going to combine it with the other public hearing
31 we already have scheduled.

32

33 I am working with the Alaska Department
34 of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, to conduct a
35 community harvest survey in one of the Upper Tanana
36 communities. We'll probably do that in early 2015.
37 Once we have results we'll let you know what they are.

38

39 I'm currently taking applications for
40 seats on the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC. If anyone you
41 know might be interested, you can send them my way.
42 There's also some information on our Park website about
43 this. The next Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
44 Commission meeting is scheduled for October 7th and
45 8th. We're going to be generally in the Copper Center
46 area.

47

48 That's what I have for Wrangell-St.
49 Elias.

50

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 One question about access. I think it was four
3 meetings ago one of your managers came and described
4 some of the trail improvements, enclosures and stuff
5 that were going to have to be put into effect because
6 of overuse or degradation of trails and you guys were
7 going to upgrade these trails so the public could
8 access this area for subsistence use. Could you give
9 me some idea of the progress that's been made and how
10 the access has either been improved or closed.

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Sure. Thank you for
13 that question because one of the things I didn't manage
14 to put on my list is that we currently have a
15 regulations package out for public comment that
16 implements some of the decisions that were made in our
17 Nabesna Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and
18 Environmental Impact Statement. So that does some
19 designation of trails, it establishes some formal
20 weight limits for the use of off-road vehicles, and it
21 also makes some changes for subsistence users in
22 designated wilderness.

23
24 In general, subsistence users using
25 off-road vehicles in pursuit of subsistence in
26 Wrangell-St. Elias are not restricted to designated
27 trails, but within designated wilderness we're going to
28 be designating some trails. It's specifically sort of
29 south of Copper and Tanada Lakes in the Black Mountain
30 area.

31
32 If you're interested, I can get you
33 like a map. And there is a corridor for game retrieval
34 so that if you do get an animal, you're able to go off
35 trail and retrieve your moose.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By a half
38 mile.

39
40 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. In terms of
41 progress, we've completed a reroute of the Soda Lake
42 Trail, which is up Lost Creek, so that is now open to
43 both subsistence and recreational users. Basically
44 what we're doing is a number of the trails are closed
45 to recreational off-road vehicle use currently as we
46 improve trails in the National Preserve. The intent is
47 to then reopen a number of them to recreational use.
48 So it's just kind of a process.

49
50 The big focus this summer I think is

1 going to be some improvements on the Copper Lake Trail.
2 There's also kind of a swampy portion of what we call
3 the Caribou Creek Trail that they're going to do some
4 improvements on as well. That's another one of our
5 trails that could be open to recreational ORV use once
6 it gets put into sort of a sustainable condition.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

9

10 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, it's my
11 understanding on this and I'd like to applaud the Park
12 Service for some of their trail work because basically
13 what they're doing is they're taking some of these
14 trails that are basically just big bog holes from too
15 many machines running through there and they're filling
16 in some of those holes and just making it a lot cleaner
17 and a lot nicer. At least that's been my understanding
18 of it so far. If that's the case, then I really
19 applaud those efforts.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
26 questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
31 Barbara. You're going to go on to Denali.

32

33 MS. CELLARIUS: So I do have a report
34 for Denali. Amy was very sorry she wasn't able to be
35 here. She was actually planning to present this on the
36 phone and then she had something else come up this
37 afternoon. You should have a written report from
38 Denali National Park and Preserve. It's labeled Fish
39 and Wildlife update.

40

41 Amy wanted me just to mention a couple
42 of projects and then I'll just let you read what else
43 is there. So the third page there's a discussion of
44 moose. Denali is part of the larger Central Alaska
45 Network Monitoring Program and follows protocols
46 developed by that program. So information generated by
47 this program is used for management decisions relative
48 to Park resource preservation and improving our
49 understanding of ecosystems and representing an intact
50 naturally functioning subarctic site in broad base

1 monitoring networks.

2

3 Really the key thing here is that
4 Denali got some funding from the Subsistence Advisory
5 Council in 2013 to conduct moose surveys in two
6 important subsistence areas on the south side of the
7 Park. These were in the Cantwell and Yentna areas.
8 The survey results are still being analyzed, but
9 generally the moose numbers have increased.

10

11 She also wanted me to mention wolves.
12 In the spring of 2013, the wolf population count
13 recorded 49 wolves in 11 packs, which is the lowest
14 number since formal monitoring began. There's
15 additional information on the wolves, including pack
16 narratives in the address listed in the project update.

17

18 Regarding furbearers. Extensive
19 research and monitoring efforts have focused on wolves
20 in Denali, but little is known about other species of
21 carnivores. The Denali SRC has requested that the Park
22 Service begin a study of furbearer numbers and their
23 distribution in the Park and Preserve. Ground-based
24 track surveys show the greatest promise of collecting
25 meaningful data at a low cost. So they've got a
26 project that's been funded that will try to get an
27 index of furbearer numbers.

28

29 On the last page there's a list of
30 three different more ethnographic projects that are
31 going on in Denali. The last thing is Denali's next
32 Subsistence Resource Commission meeting is scheduled
33 for August 7th. It's the 7th, not the 6th, like your
34 report says. She's had to change the date. That will
35 be in Cantwell.

36

37 Like I said, you've got copies of the
38 Denali report, so I'd encourage you to take a look at
39 that if you're interested.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
42 Barbara. So we have both James and Lester on the
43 Denali SRC. And you've attended meetings before?

44

45 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. It's been a while
46 since we had one though.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How long ago?

49

50 MR. ROBERTS: Probably about a year and

1 a half ago unless I missed one somewhere.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You guys
4 aren't active like we are.

5

6 MR. ROBERTS: Well, there's no fish to
7 argue over, so we get along pretty good.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But there is
10 a Preserve and there is game there and wolves. That
11 always causes discussion. I highly recommend you guys
12 meet and push for her to meet. I see you've got one in
13 August, but August 7th in our area would not be good
14 timing for us to meet.

15

16 MR. ERHART: It was due to the
17 government shutdown that we didn't have a meeting.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we had
20 one after it come back up.

21

22 MR. ERHART: I know, but they wouldn't
23 go ahead.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's crazy.
26 Okay. Next is BLM. Is there any BLM reports?

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did talk to
31 Ruth and she said most of us are very clear on what
32 goes on because of all the meetings that we attend for
33 the BLM for our region at any rate.

34

35 ADF&G.

36

37 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game. I'll be brief. I know you're towards the end of
40 your meeting here.

41

42 Just to clarify, Member Woodruff
43 brought up at one of the breaks the letter that I had
44 passed out identifying the opportunity for
45 partnerships. We did have one date change with one of
46 the meetings. It was originally scheduled for March 8-
47 10 and you would have been able to participate this
48 weekend, but it was moved to April for the Yukon
49 International meeting. So I wanted to clarify that.

50

1 I want to give Barbara Cellarius some
2 credit today. Thank you for clarifying. The sport
3 versus subsistence is quite a definition issue for the
4 State. We understand that the Park Service recognizes
5 anything not on a subsistence permit as being sport and
6 that is their interpretation of the definition and the
7 State often recognizes and purports at meetings that
8 much subsistence hunting occurs on general hunt
9 permits. So if it's not a sport or trophy permit, we
10 do not recognize that as sport.
11 Many people around the state identify their needs as
12 subsistence under a general harvest permit.

13
14 The last item I have is one quick
15 clarification. In the Park Service report, Mr. Dudgeon
16 said that the intent of the Board of Game in refusing
17 to acknowledge an exemption for the Park Service ss
18 they requested could be interpreted as the statements
19 on the record that these are your lands and you have
20 methods to deal with that. I just checked with
21 Chairman Spraker and although that was quoted as what
22 was said, the intent behind that really was that the
23 Board of Game refused to adopt the exemption because
24 they thought it was necessary for the practices to
25 occur on those lands. They simply recognized that the
26 Park Service has other means available to them to
27 curtail those practices.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we still
30 awake here? Okay. Any questions.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: I have more of a
33 clarification maybe. When we have caribou season up
34 there in 25C, a lot of the people are harvesting
35 caribou during the State hunt, it's going into the
36 subsistence towards our account, but it actually should
37 be going to the sport hunt then?

38
39 MS. YUHAS: It was not my intent to
40 give that impression.

41
42 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I didn't know. Okay.
43 All right.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
46 clear.

47
48 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. GLANZ: It don't really matter
2 much, but I just didn't know if we were recording wrong
3 or not. But, okay, that's fine.

4
5 MS. YUHAS: It is not recording wrong.
6 I was simply identifying the discrepancy interpretation
7 of the definition of sport between the Park Service and
8 the State.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jennifer, I
11 have a question for you. Do you see this whole thing
12 with -- do you remember the free-ranging wolf issue
13 where there was a battle between the Park Service and
14 the Fish and Wildlife Service and Board of Game and
15 they made their own CFRs to disallow the taking of the
16 -- free-ranging wolves same day airborne, I think it
17 was. Do you see this coming down the same route?

18
19 MS. YUHAS: I decline to predict.

20
21 (Laughter)

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you go
23 to both meetings.

24
25 MS. YUHAS: I do go to both meetings
26 and I do recall the issue. I was just getting involved
27 in these issues at that time. I would not feel
28 comfortable predicting where this would go.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry I
31 asked you. Well, it doesn't take a rocket scientist.
32 It's been really unfortunate for us to -- I'd like to
33 see the State and Park Service work together, but I
34 know they always have their excuses why. It's
35 Washington, D.C. and all that stuff. It just seems
36 like sometimes we can figure out ways around it.

37
38 MS. YUHAS: Well, it depends on the
39 issue, Madame Chair. Mr. Dudgeon and I just had a
40 lovely conversation on who they might be able to bring
41 from State Fire Service to their meeting in Eagle. So
42 we're working together on one issue.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amen. Okey-
45 dokey. I wish we could solve that problem.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: According to BLM there's
48 no shale oil in that area, so don't ask them.

49
50 MR. GLANZ: We won't be invaded then.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
4 questions of Jennifer.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
9 Jennifer. Army Corps of Engineers Donlin Mine EIS
10 briefing.
11
12 MR. GORDON: Good afternoon. This is
13 Keith Gordon, Army Corps of Engineers.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
16 Identify yourself, please.
17
18 MR. GORDON: This is Keith Gordon with
19 the Army Corps of Engineers.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
22 ahead.
23
24 MR. GORDON: Do you all have the
25 PowerPoint presentation up or the handouts?
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we're
28 getting the handouts right now.
29
30 MR. GORDON: Okay. Thank you, Madame
31 Chair. I'll go ahead and run through this quickly for
32 you. As stated, my name is Keith Gordon. I'm the
33 regulatory project manager with the Army Corps of
34 Engineers Alaska District Regulatory Program. The
35 intent today is to give you a brief update on the
36 current status of the proposed Donlin Gold Mine Project
37 located approximately 10 miles north of Crooked Creek
38 and more specifically the environmental impact
39 statement that is being developed in relation to it.
40
41 As you are probably aware, the proposed
42 Donlin Gold Mine project is a joint venture between
43 Barrick and NOVAGOLD. As the Corps of Engineers and
44 it's cooperators goes through the development process
45 for the environmental impact statement, we're actually
46 completing a two-part process.
47
48 The first step is completion of the
49 NEPA process largely via development of the EIS
50 followed by various permitting processes conducted by

1 Federal agencies and State and local agencies who can
2 use the EIS and its related information to facilitate
3 their decision-making.

4
5 As you're aware, the relevance of this
6 whole process to the Regional Advisory Committee is
7 additional information on potential impacts to natural
8 and human environmental resources.

9
10 One point that's beneficial to all
11 frequently is that the
12 United States Army Corps of Engineers' regulatory
13 program is not a proponent for, nor a proponent of
14 proposed projects, including the Donlin Mine as it's
15 currently proposed or actually in any form it's
16 proposed. Our function is to provide an independent
17 evaluation of the proposed project through the EIS
18 process as the Federal lead agency. We're assisted by
19 URS Corporation and a substantial staff of subject
20 matter experts, Federal and State agencies, tribal
21 governments and various affected public. Many of the
22 Federal and State agencies and tribal governments are a
23 form of cooperators on the development of the
24 environmental impact statement.

25
26 One of the major components of the EIS
27 process is the scoping process, which was conducted
28 between January and March of 2013. As we go through
29 this very short presentation, I'll quickly walk you
30 through a variety of the comments received via the
31 scoping process, a discussion of data gaps and very
32 brief information on development of information related
33 to the affected environment, the environmental
34 consequences that might result from the project as
35 proposed and/or it's alternatives, and a discussion of
36 the development of the alternatives related to the
37 proposed project.

38
39 If you could flip to slide number two,
40 you'll see a very brief depiction of the overall
41 process we're going through. Box number 1 on the left
42 represents the 16 years of baseline studies,
43 exploration, Donlin God has done in preparation for
44 this process.

45
46 The middle box represents both the NEPA
47 and the permitting phase of the process. As I
48 mentioned, the NEPA phase of the process is the
49 development of the EIS. It consists of development of
50 a preliminary draft EIS, which is reviewed by the

1 cooperators, followed by a development of a draft
2 environmental impact statement, which goes out to the
3 public for review and comment, followed by the
4 development of a final environmental impact statement
5 that goes out to the public for review and comment.

6

7 The right-hand box indicates a timeline
8 for the project if it were permitted. The project as
9 proposed would take approximately three to four years
10 to construct, operate for an estimated 27 and a half
11 years, followed by closure and reclamation and ongoing
12 monitoring. As an example of monitoring, the current
13 proposal is that water quality monitoring after closure
14 of the mine would last for approximately 50 years.

15

16 If you can flip to slide number three,
17 you can very briefly look at the project area related
18 to the project as proposed. The star effectively in
19 the middle of the slide or your handout indicates the
20 proposed location of the Donlin gold mine approximately
21 10 miles north of the village of Crooked Creek.

22

23 To the right you'll see a proposed
24 pipeline route, which runs 313 miles to Cook Inlet. To
25 the left you'll see a large transportation route, which
26 follows the Lower Kuskokwim down to the mouth of the
27 Kuskokwim and materials would also be barged to
28 Unalaska in relation to the storage of diesel. Most
29 materials would be shipped from the Northwest,
30 typically the Seattle area.

31

32 As you're aware, this is a remote area.
33 There are effectively no real existing roads or other
34 infrastructure, so virtually all infrastructures of the
35 project as proposed would be new construction.

36

37 If we could flip to slide number four.
38 The pipeline that is proposed, as I noted, is a 313-
39 mile route from Cook Inlet to the proposed mine site.
40 It's a 14-inch diameter, buried steel pipeline that
41 would carry natural gas to supply operations at the
42 mine site. The pipeline would cross the Alaska Range
43 at Rainy Pass, run along the foothills of the Alaska
44 Range into the Kuskokwim River Valley. As proposed, it
45 would cross 56 percent State land, 34 percent BLM land
46 and 10 percent Native corporation land.

47

48 If we flip to slide number five or
49 handout number five, I'll very briefly give you some
50 information on the mine site layout. In the upper
left-hand corner, you can see orange number one. That

1 represents the pits related to the mine in a fully
2 constructed state. The proposed mine site has two
3 pits, American Creek and Lewis Creek. If the mine site
4 were developed, those two pits would ultimately become
5 a single pit represented by number one on that slide.

6
7 Number two is a tailings storage
8 facility. Tailings effectively are the materials that
9 remain after the ore is processed through the mill. So
10 whatever rock holds enough gold in it to be considered
11 ore, it would be processed through the mill and the
12 remainder of that processing would be stored in
13 perpetuity in this valley behind the dam. Effectively
14 the tailings coming out of the mill facility are a
15 flour-like material that will reside in perpetuity in
16 that facility.

17
18 Waste rock, either overburden or rock
19 that does not contain enough gold to be worth
20 processing would be stored at number three in a waste
21 rock facility effectively in perpetuity.

22
23 The mine pit as proposed would be 2.2
24 miles long, one mile wide, 1,850 feet deep. The
25 tailings impoundment would cover approximately 3.5
26 square miles. The waste rock facility would cover
27 approximately 3.4 square miles. The mill, as
28 proposed, would process 59,000 tons of ore per day, 365
29 days a year.

30
31 The last primary component if the
32 project as proposed is the transportation
33 infrastructure, which you'll see on slide number six.
34 It consists of a proposed port facility upgrade at
35 Bethel, effectively facilities to allow storage of
36 material that's being transported in from ocean-going
37 barges and/or transferred to river-going barges stored
38 and/or transferred to river-going barges.

39
40 A new proposed barge landing site
41 potentially at Jungjuk, a 30 mile road running from
42 Jungjuk to the proposed port site, a 5,000-foot
43 airstrip to facilitate ingress/egress from the mine
44 site and 40 million gallons of diesel storage at the
45 mine site.

46
47 If we could move to slide number seven,
48 we can very briefly look at categories of comments
49 generated during scoping. Basically there were a
50 number of primary categories; impacts from barge

1 traffic be it to fisheries, subsistence lifestyle,
2 erosion, et cetera. Potential impacts of the project
3 to subsistence traditions and subsistence lifestyle
4 from a variety of avenues. Impacts to water quality,
5 quantity and flow before, during and after operation
6 and completion of mine. Potential impacts from mercury
7 that might be released during processing or mercury
8 simply found as it is in this general area in some rock
9 strata. Impacts to obviously fish, wildlife and birds,
10 local residents in their communities and a variety of
11 potential health impacts.

12
13 As I stated earlier, one of the
14 critical components of the EIS is the development of
15 alternatives intended to represent methodologies by
16 which impacts of proposed projects might be reduced,
17 avoided, mitigated. What we are required to do via the
18 National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, is to analyze
19 a reasonable range of alternatives. Not any
20 alternative that could be conceived of, simply a
21 reasonable range. That range of alternatives is
22 largely developed through input via the scoping
23 process, development of alternatives, additional public
24 comment through multiple opportunities to address
25 impacts through the development of a draft in the final
26 environmental impact statement followed by comparison
27 of those alternatives in the draft and environmental
28 impact statements.

29
30 The alternatives development process
31 for this project as proposed is a five-step process.
32 As I noted, step one is identifying issues via a
33 scoping process. Step two is development of screening
34 criteria per resource impacted, be that birds, fish,
35 subsistence lifestyle, et cetera. Step number three is
36 identification of options to address concerns raised.
37 Step four is application of the screening criteria to
38 those options and determination of which options will
39 be carried forward for detailed analysis, followed by
40 packaging options into potential alternatives that
41 would be carried forward in the draft and final
42 environmental impact statement for detailed analysis.

43
44 If we move to slide number nine, which
45 represents alternatives under development, the NEPA
46 requires that we always look at the no action
47 alternative. In other words, what are the effects of
48 doing nothing. The second requirement is to look at
49 the proposed alternative, what Donlin Gold is
50 proposing. Then the various alternatives that have been

1 developed and determined to be carried farther forward
2 for detailed analysis.

3

4 Very briefly, we have alternatives to
5 the proposed pipeline route, how the mine might be
6 operated and whether or not materials are barged in and
7 methodologies by which we might reduce impacts to
8 barging.

9

10 If you look at slide number 10 or
11 handout number 10, you'll note that the red line
12 indicates the proposed Jungjuk port and the road from
13 the Jungjuk port to the mine site, which is also
14 indicated in red. An alternative is a development of a
15 port site at the Birch Tree crossing and what's
16 represented in blue as a much longer road route, but
17 the development of that road route versus the Jungjuk
18 port would eliminate the vast majority of all barging
19 on the portion of the Kuskokwim River in which we had
20 the shallower sections that might see greater impacts
21 from barging.

22

23 Other possibilities to reduce impacts
24 that may be developed into alternatives to portions of
25 the project include use of liquid natural gas at the
26 mine site, therefore eliminating the need to barge in
27 40 million gallons of diesel per year and/or
28 reconfiguring the pipeline entirely to transport diesel
29 instead of natural gas, therefore eliminating barging
30 of diesel entirely and running the facility effectively
31 off of natural gas and equipment off of diesel.

32

33 If we flip to slide number 11, the
34 pipeline route alternatives. There were a variety of
35 pipeline route alternatives proposed. Some of the
36 major concerns with some of the pipeline routes we've
37 heard so far are potential impacts to the Iditarod
38 Trail, impacts to natural resources, species movement
39 through the area, et cetera.

40

41 Slide number 12 is a brief depiction of
42 where you can obtain additional information on the
43 project as it's currently proposed, the process it will
44 go through as we go through the EIS process and avenues
45 for you to have input into the project. You can see
46 the website that Donlin Gold has where you can obtain
47 information on the project. The scoping report is
48 there as well as additional information on the project
49 and the process that we're currently going through.

50

1 Our primary points of contact are
2 listed, Mr. Don Kuhle and our tribal liaison Amanda
3 Shearer.

4
5 With that, does anybody have any
6 questions on the project as proposed, the process or
7 the steps we're about to go through.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
10 members. Donald.

11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Keith. What
13 do you project to be the start-up date and how do you
14 foresee the barge traffic effect on fish?

15
16 MR. GORDON: The start-up date, we have
17 no projection for a start-up date. At this point in
18 time, the Army Corps of Engineers are following the EIS
19 process and we are assuming first that the project goes
20 through the entire NEPA process and we develop the
21 final environmental impact statement. After the
22 development of the final EIS via the permitting phase,
23 the Army Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies,
24 State agencies, tribal governments, et cetera, would
25 make decisions as to whether or not the project would
26 be permitted. In the Army Corps of Engineers' case, we
27 would be developing a record of decision, which would
28 effectively say, yes, we will permit the project, no,
29 we will not permit the project or we would permit some
30 alternative to some aspect of the project.

31
32 As the agency, we are neither a
33 proponent for, nor an opponent of the project and are
34 not the decision-maker. No decision has been made in
35 relation to whether or not this project will be
36 permitted, nor will that decision be made effectively
37 until the end of 2016, assuming the current schedule is
38 maintained.

39
40 In relation to fisheries impacts of
41 barging, we have a wide variety of comments in relation
42 to everything from crop strikes to impacts to reds,
43 impacts to outmigration of species, et cetera. We're
44 currently going through the process of developing
45 additional information, looking at data gaps in
46 relation to additional studies that may be done,
47 defining the baseline in relation to the species that
48 are out there, their status, their needs, et cetera.
49 And looking at it from aspects of water quality, et
50 cetera, and so on.

1 Does that reasonably answer the
2 question?
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. You're being
5 very thorough.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other Council
8 members, any questions.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry, it is
13 the end of the day here. No more questions?
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
18
19 Thank you for that report.
20
21 MR. GORDON: All right. I thank you
22 very much for the opportunity and we're always
23 available if there's anymore questions or comments.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next,
26 Andy, that proposal.
27
28 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 I'll attempt to work through this and hopefully we
30 won't get wrapped around the axle.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
33 nice.
34
35 MR. BASSICH: It's relatively
36 straightforward. Just to remind everybody, this is in
37 regards to giving the State and Federal managers the
38 ability to differentiate between net gear types. So
39 what I would like to request is that the Council
40 coordinator and OSM Staff prepare a fisheries
41 regulatory proposal with the intent to give the Federal
42 and State managers the ability to independently
43 differentiate between net gear types for chinook salmon
44 and summer chum salmon.
45
46 An example of that would be restricting
47 drift gillnets while allowing for set gillnets during
48 times of chinook conservation. Then once this proposal
49 is reviewed by the Chair and Council members, the
50 proposal will be considered submitted to the Federal

1 Subsistence Board.

2

3 The motion, Madame Chair, is to give
4 the Federal and State managers the ability to
5 independently differentiate between net gear types.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second the motion.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: I'll speak to the motion.

12 What I would like to see done is we create two
13 proposals; one for the Federal Subsistence Board and
14 one for the Board of Fish. And that we also put in a
15 petition to the Board of Fish to take action on this
16 out of cycle.

17

18 The reason for this is I believe this
19 is a very important conservation concern. We haven't
20 been able to meet escapement of chinook salmon for five
21 out of seven years even with pulse protection, severe
22 subsistence restrictions and also no commercial
23 fisheries. Complete closure of commercial fisheries.

24

25 In effect, what this would do would be
26 to allow managers to close -- during times of chinook
27 salmon they would allow managers the ability to close
28 all drift fisheries on the Yukon River but allow for
29 setnet fisheries. The reason for this would be they're
30 a little bit less efficient method of fishing, but
31 primarily they tend to target smaller or fewer chinook
32 salmon and especially larger, more fecund female
33 chinook salmon, and that's the issue. It's quality of
34 escapement and also trying to get full escapement to
35 our spawning streams.

36

37 This would also allow for a time and
38 area opener for summer chum while protecting chinook
39 salmon and that's really a key issue. Both of those
40 two examples are really key issues of why I'm proposing
41 this as a petition to the State Board.

42

43 Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any more
46 discussion.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I guess what I would do
49 is reference a lot of our earlier discussion when we
50 were discussing 377.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is just
2 to clarify what we're doing, yeah. Okay. Hearing no
3 call for the question, I'll call for it. All in favor.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
8 opposed.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 MR. BASSICH: That was a record.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it was.
15 So we're up to confirming dates unless anybody remember
16 anything we forgot.
17
18 MR. GLANZ: I don't think we put it in
19 stone. I think we left it open to be.....
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you mean
22 our dates?
23
24 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I meant
27 other topics that I might have forgot.
28
29 MR. GLANZ: I misunderstood, Madame
30 Chair.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Assuming not.
33 All right. We're on first the fall meeting and we do
34 have -- gee, we're color coded now. October 22nd and
35 23rd, to be determined. Eastern Interior. Out of
36 curiosity, where's Western Interior meeting on the 28th
37 and 29th. Anybody know?
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: It says McGrath.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it does,
42 doesn't it. Is everybody happy with the 22nd and 23rd?
43
44 MR. BASSICH: Is there any conflict
45 with meeting that up one week? I mean traditionally in
46 the past we always met around the 15th or so of
47 October. The reason I'm asking for that request is
48 that once we get into that third week of October travel
49 for me to get from my home to Eagle to fly out
50 becomes.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Marginal.
2
3 MR. BASSICH:extremely marginal
4 some years. I just can't predict what's going to
5 happen. It's mainly the getting back home is the
6 problem and there's no way to land a plane around there
7 that time of year either.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know what
10 they're going to tell us, Andy.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: I guess what I would be
13 looking at, Madame Chair, would be moving it more
14 around that 14th, 15th. That was traditionally up
15 until this past year when we had the Federal closure,
16 that was usually the week that we would meet.
17
18 MR. FIRMIN: I think because YK Delta
19 always met earlier, so that was always open for us.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we're
22 not allowed to have more than two in a week. I'm
23 sorry, Andy.
24
25 MR. BASSICH: It's all right.
26
27 MR. FIRMIN: First week of October, 2nd
28 and 3rd.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: That gets tough for Sue
31 and Virgil.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That isn't
34 working for some of us.
35
36 MR. ERHART: No, not me either.
37
38 MR. BASSICH: My other solution would
39 be that OSM buy me a little R-22 and pay for my pilot's
40 license and I'd be more than happy to attend any
41 meeting in the future.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I kind of
46 remember being grumpy myself over this window closed
47 and I see that we are two weeks past the window close.
48 And we were able to meet in November, this past
49 November, and that sure works better for me.
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: What about that Northwest
2 Arctic there to be determined yet, the 8th, 9th, 10th,
3 somewhere in there.
4
5 MR. KOEHLER: Is that bad for
6 everybody?
7
8 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, Council.
9 For the Northwest Arctic, the to be determined is the
10 location, not the dates.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: For me, it would be much
15 better to meet that third week of October and take a
16 chance on it than to get into November because I know I
17 can't get out in November. Never. Until the lakes
18 freeze up I can't get out. This would be a better
19 alternative, the week of the 15th would be optimum for
20 me, but the week after that is still -- many years with
21 climate change, we're starting to see a little bit
22 later icing up on the Yukon.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We had an
25 unbelievable October this past October.
26
27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. So.....
28
29 MR. FIRMIN: What if we moved it to
30 20th, 21st then?
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Of what?
33
34 MR. FIRMIN: October. Just move it up
35 two days. That might help.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 20th and
38 21st, two days? Andy, does that help, two days.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I don't think so.
41 No, that's fine. Let's just keep it as is.
42
43 MR. KOEHLER: That would be the ideal
44 for me too.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what
47 they tell us, can't have more than two in one week.
48 It's frustrating, I know. Who is here to say no to us?
49 Is that you, Tom?
50

1 MS. HYER: Oh, I think that's my job.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's your
6 job to say no?
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. This is Karen
11 Hyer for the record. No.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
16 like, keep it simple.
17
18 MS. HYER: But, Madame Chair, we can
19 take your concerns back. I would propose maybe picking
20 a date and then a second date and we certainly can take
21 your concerns back and discuss it because we realize
22 how difficult it is to travel.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What do you
25 want to do? Pick date two or do you want to have date
26 -- you know, like what do they scream about 16 and 17
27 versus -- you know, it follows those other two
28 meetings. Do you want to say no again?
29
30 MS. HYER: I can't say because I'd have
31 to look.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you want
34 to look.
35
36 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
37 While they're looking at that, the reason is there's
38 simply not Staff to attend both meetings to
39 provide.....
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we
42 know. We've been told that over and over. It's too
43 bad it doesn't work later, Andy.
44
45 MR. BASSICH: Just keep it like it is.
46 It's all right.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
49 going to have some options. The first one is -- well,
50 option A, you said. Do you mean that as alternative

1 one? October 16th and 17th.
2
3 MR. KOEHLER: That would be ideal.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
6 would be our highest priority and then what's the
7 second one. Pick a second date.
8
9 MR. KOEHLER: Probably the current one
10 it sounds like.
11
12 MR. FIRMIN: 21 and 22.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 21 and 22.
15 You want to move it a day or you want to move it two.
16
17 MR. BASSICH: We can't travel on Sunday
18 out of Eagle.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see. So
21 just move it up a day, 21 and 22.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that gives us two
24 options to get back out.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah. I
27 hear you. Let's do that. Move it up. The second
28 option is 21 and 22. Is there a third?
29
30 MR. KOEHLER: The third option is to
31 get him the R-22.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
36 Now we're moving into winter. We've got to pick two
37 dates.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: With out budget, we're
40 just here in Fairbanks then.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you
43 know the deal, Andy.
44
45 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
46 I would encourage you to request where you would like
47 to meet at the next meeting.
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: Well, before it was always
50 the road system and then lately it's just been

1 Fairbanks because lots of places don't have the
2 facilities to house 40 people for several days and feed
3 us and all that kind of stuff.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. I
6 thought you guys liked Fairbanks.

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: I do.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I kind of
11 thought so.

12
13 MR. KOEHLER: It gives us a chance to
14 buy groceries.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's right.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: I just thought if there
19 was, I don't know, Nenana, Tok, Delta.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Places we'd
22 like to go.

23
24 MR. FIRMIN: Or is there interest for
25 people in those places. We never hear from them. I
26 don't know.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
29 you know what, it's really sad. Unless they have a hot
30 topic of concern you end up going to all these places
31 and then three people might come. We had one in Tok.
32 Some of the people that come in don't realize this is
33 only on Federal lands. They come in and they talk
34 about I want my moose at Healy Lake. It's State land.
35 So it's tough for people to get their head wrapped
36 around what this represents. Like I said, if you were
37 telling them they couldn't hunt somewhere and it
38 affected them, they'd all be there, but if it isn't
39 affecting them, it seems like there isn't a high.....

40
41 MR. KOEHLER: Turnout.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
44 Every time the same seems like.

45
46 MR. FIRMIN: Fairbanks then.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.

49
50 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like

1 to make a recommendation that we set the date anyway
2 for the February 24th, 25th or 25th, 26. I would much
3 rather see the meeting at the end of February than
4 getting into the month of March if possible.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Madam Chair and Council.
7 I have some bad news. We have several updates from
8 Councils that just met.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's why
11 they're not on here is because they just met.

12
13 MS. PATTON: So the only week that is
14 booked that has two Councils meeting right now is 24,
15 25, 26.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: How about March 2, 3 or
18 3, 4 then. Make it as early as possible in March.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then
21 Western Interior is 3, 4 and that's only one on that
22 week. They're meeting in Fairbanks? We could have a
23 joint meeting.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: I recommend that we have
26 our next meeting in January and then we can get ahead
27 of everybody on the scheduling.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. BASSICH: And then we make our next
32 one in August so that we can get ahead of everybody.

33
34 MR. FIRMIN: That was going to be by
35 suggestion too.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You wont see
38 me in August. I can tell you that. Okay. Right now
39 we have one suggestion, March 3rd and 4th.

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: I'm fine with 3rd and 4th
42 and preferably maybe we can work something out with the
43 Western Interior if we have more topics come up at the
44 time or for review at the time. At least we could be
45 in the same building or something. And Staff could run
46 between rooms.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It seems to

1 work actually. It seems to me we've done this twice
2 with Western or somebody. Southcentral maybe, yeah.
3 Okay. Is that agreeable to everyone?

4

5 MR. GLANZ: 3rd and 4th?

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
8 what did we do, move it up one day, Andy, 21 and 22 in
9 the fall. And then March 3rd and 4th.

10

11 Okay. Moving rapidly along. The last
12 thing on the agenda is closing comments. Do I have any
13 closing comments. Andrew.

14

15 MR. FIRMIN: I had one other thing kind
16 of pertinent to our scheduling. I actually enjoy this
17 establishment. I stay here all the time when I'm not
18 traveling, but I've heard from other members and other
19 people that say this is an out-of-the way place and
20 I've suggested researching other venue options for
21 places where you can actually walk somewhere after a
22 meeting or something. I've just heard that from --
23 every time we have a meeting here, but I don't really
24 have a preference. I'm fine with right here. I just
25 thought I'd bring it up.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have
28 suggestions?

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: No, I don't. I said I'm
31 fine here. I've heard it from other people. You know,
32 in the audience or just.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Audience or
35 Council members?

36

37 MR. FIRMIN: Audience and members at
38 the same time.

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: On this subject, it
41 seems to work for me because they have a shuttle that
42 can get us from the airport to here and for a minimal
43 amount of money they'll take us like to Fred Meyers so
44 we can pick up some fresh fruit, produce to take home.
45 I like it here and they're really good to us.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, same with me. I'm
48 happy here, but I just thought I'd throw that out there
49 if anybody else had anything to say.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think
2 what's happening to me, I'm getting habitual. I like
3 it here too.
4
5 MR. BASSICH: Too much baiting.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've been
8 baited here. Yeah. Ice cream, cookies, coffee,
9 breakfast. It's pretty nice.
10
11 MR. FIRMIN: Beer.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, beer
16 next door.
17
18 MR. KOEHLER: But they won't pay for
19 it.
20
21 (laughter)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If everyone's
24 happy with that. Is anyone unhappy, Council members,
25 staying here.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Closing
30 comments anyone.
31
32 MR. BASSICH: A quick one. I'd just
33 like to reiterate a lot of my concern for what's going
34 on with the king salmon. I think it's going to be
35 really important for us to stay on top of that and make
36 as much progress during these low abundance years on
37 putting the proper regulatory and proper data
38 collection in place so that we can make good decisions
39 in the future to protect them and hopefully rebound
40 these fish. I think if we lose this fish, it's going
41 to mean a tremendous loss to the people in our region
42 who depend on it.
43
44 And I really want to caution the
45 fisheries management to make sure that they protect
46 fall chum because I think that's actually almost even
47 more important to us in this region than chinook is for
48 way of life and it's all we have left.
49
50 The other thing I want to just say is I

1 really kind of enjoyed this meeting. It was a good
2 meeting. There was a lot of great discussion and a lot
3 of really interesting topics and I always enjoy hearing
4 Lester's short and to the point commentary. I need to
5 learn from him.

6

7

(Laughter)

8

9

10 MR. BASSICH: I look forward to trying
11 to make the meeting in the fall and continue to work on
12 a lot of these pretty tough issues with everyone. I
13 think we have a really good dedicated group of people
14 that are quite knowledgeable in many of these aspects.
15 I know every time I come I really appreciate hearing
16 the different perspectives from everyone.

16

17

Thank you.

18

19

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

20

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I'd just like to
23 thank all the other board members. It seems like we
24 all get along pretty well together and get stuff done.
25 So a great deal.

25

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
28 It looks like two of them are ready to boogie. All
29 right.

29

30

Thank you guys.

31

32

The meeting is adjourned.

33

34

(Off record)

35

36

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

