

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Ft. Yukon, Alaska
9 October 13, 2009
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Sue Entsminger, Chairman
16 Andy Bassich
17 Andrew Firmin
18 Frank Gurtler
19 William Glanz
20 Virgil Umphenour

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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews
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44 Recorded and transcribed by:

45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 135 Christensen Drive
48 Anchorage, AK 99501
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Ft. Yukon, Alaska - 10/13/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Call the meeting to order. That means you too, Virgil. Okay. It's good to see you, Andrew.

(Pause)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. While Virgil's getting his last cup of coffee I'd like to welcome everyone and I'm sure we're going to have a few more people show up during the meeting. We're visiting quite a little bit, we're learning a lot even at our little break that we had here. So did -- Nancy's here, she'd said she'd wait for me. I'd like to ask Nancy to do the invocation. So may we all stand. Nancy, can you come up here.

Thank you.

MS. JAMES: Can I do it in our language or.....

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You can do both.

(Invocation)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Nancy. Okay. Vince will do roll call.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you. Andrew Bassich.

MR. BASSICH: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Frank Gurtler.

MR. GURTLER: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Bill Glanz.

MR. GLANZ: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Lester Erhart is ill, he came down with the -- well, I don't know what he came

1 down with, but he was -- he's ill and he was going to
2 the clinic when I talked to him.
3
4 Andrew Firmin.
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: Here.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Virgil Umphenour.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Sue Entsminger.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Here.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: And then Richard Carroll
17 is out at trapping cabin. So, Madam Chair, you have
18 six of your eight standing members so you have a
19 quorum.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
22 Vince. Okay. I guess we'll go around the room here if
23 it's okay, Vince, introduction of people here. Can we
24 do that by.....
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: They could either come up
27 to the mic or.....
28
29 REPORTER: Turn that mic on, they can
30 shout loud.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, they need
33 to come up to the mic? Oh, he said not.
34
35 REPORTER: We'll just turn it on
36 and.....
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just turn it
39 on. Okay.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: He can pick it up. The
42 reason we have you guys is so we get the right names on
43 the record. It's no big deal.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's start
46 with Richard standing here.
47
48 MR. CANNON: Richard Cannon with the
49 Office of Subsistence Management.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's go over
2 here to Chuck.
3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning. Chuck
5 Ardizzone, I'm the wildlife division chief at Office of
6 Subsistence Management.
7
8 MR. CARPENTER: I'm Daniel Carpenter,
9 Land Management.
10
11 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Becca Robbins-
12 Gisclair, YRDFA.
13
14 MR. SONG: Philip Song, I'm just here
15 (indiscernible).....
16
17 MR. KELLEY: James Kelley, I'm the
18 acting natural resource director with the Council of
19 Athapaskan Tribal Governments and also human resource,
20 so I do both.
21
22 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm Barbara Cellarius,
23 I'm subsistence coordinator for Wrangell St. Elias
24 National Park.
25
26 MR. (INDISCERNIBLE): Kevin
27 (indiscernible), tribal member.
28
29 MR. (INDISCERNIBLE): (Indiscernible)
30 Fort Yukon subsistence fisherman since I was 11 years
31 old, 50 years. Thank you.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And one more
34 person in the back.
35
36 MS. PITKA: Wilma Pitka.
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Pitka.
39
40 MS. PITKA: Yes.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you related
43 to Don or Ron?
44
45 MS. PITKA: Probably both.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. They
48 live where I do. Okay. All right. Now let's go to
49 the Regional Council members, your concerns, and I'll
50 start with Frank if he feels comfortable.

1 MR. GURTLER: (Indiscernible - away
2 from microphone).....

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, Frank,
5 I'll start on the other end with Andrew.

6
7 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, some of my concerns
8 recently, I'm sure we'll get into this more later on,
9 is some of the Lower Yukon fisheries in the Marshall
10 area with the (indiscernible - background noise) I'm
11 sure most of you have read it in the newspaper and how
12 a dozen people were bragging about how they were
13 fishing out of season and giving it away. And I think
14 just recently one person was ticketed three months
15 later out of a dozen. And I'd actually like to turn
16 that into a proposal later on to have some stepped up
17 enforcement or something down there as they did up in
18 this area this summer. And another one was -- I guess
19 we can talk about moose later. That's one of my other
20 issues I've -- I have some -- I wanted some -- discuss
21 options or what it would take for -- to possibly make
22 Unit 25D a tier two area as it is like down in the
23 Lower Birch -- lower mouth of the Birch Creek and down
24 towards Beaver.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: See that would
27 -- yeah, that would be a proposal, yes. And that.....

28
29 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and bring
32 that -- make sure we don't miss that.

33
34 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Okay.
37 Bill.

38
39 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Oh, I have a few
40 concerns and actually it's -- has to do with the
41 caribou season we had up there in our area, 25C, the
42 overkill. And last year I thought we had it worked
43 out, but this year I was on the Yukon River and I got
44 stopped by the Park police and I asked them why'd you
45 stop me and they said oh, we're doing Federal boat
46 inspections. And I said well, that's swell, but, you
47 know, you stopped me unjust cause, you can't just -- a
48 trooper can't just pull you over and say I just stopped
49 you because I want to look at your car. And then he
50 wanted to see my fishing license and I said I thought

1 we was doing a, what do you call it, a Coast Guard
2 stop, what's my fishing license got to do with me
3 driving the boat. So they're -- you know, I spent
4 three years and 10 months in the military. And they
5 have this kind of stuff, people pulling you over and
6 stopping you, it's damn Nazi socialism crap. It's BS.
7 And I thought we had it all worked out last year with
8 the State troopers or the State troopers, they don't
9 bother us. And then that Youngblood out of Eagle, he
10 goes oh, we'll take care of that, we'll stop harassing
11 the people. Well, they have not stopped harassing us.
12 So that's something I'd like to address again.

13

14 Anyway that's -- I got a lot of other
15 issues, we'll bring it up as we go along through the
16 day, folks. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Well, my
21 main concerns, I think most of them are addressed now
22 in the form of proposals before the State Board of
23 Fisheries as far as the fisheries issues goes, but it's
24 primarily with the -- having responsible management of
25 the salmon in the Yukon River and having equitable
26 opportunity for all the users on the river to be able
27 to harvest salmon for their family's use.

28

29 And then I still -- a major concern of
30 mine especially after this year's hunting season being
31 as I'm a big game hunting guide, is the lack of any
32 type of management on the part of the Fish and Wildlife
33 Service as far as predator -- predators versus prey.
34 They seem to want to just do everything they can to
35 provide stumbling blocks so that as far as methods and
36 means as an example, you can position yourself with a
37 snow machine which is our proposal when you're hunting
38 wolves which means you can track the wolves at high
39 speed to shoot them, however you can't do that on a
40 National Wildlife Refuge or National Park Service
41 lands. And I think that's baloney and I just read a
42 letter written by a Mr. Horn, an attorney in
43 Washington, D.C. that demonstrated that the National
44 Park Service in the past did manipulate predator
45 populations to increase prey populations. I don't know
46 why they have to have all these anti-providing for
47 human's consumption of moose and caribou because
48 they're so worried that we might -- that the wolves
49 won't have enough to eat. So they need to get their
50 priorities straight, the law's there, they can do it.

1 Get their priorities straight and provide for people to
2 eat moose and caribou, not just the wolves.

3

4 But those are my two main concerns.
5 Thank you, Madam Chair.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
8 Virgil. Andy.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 A couple of different issues for myself. Number 1 is
12 the over harvest of caribou on the Taylor Highway and
13 the Steese Highway. I'm going to be addressing that in
14 meetings directly after this one, hopefully we'll be
15 able to begin to come up with some solutions, but this
16 has been a long-term problem, we've been identifying it
17 for a long time and it has some very serious
18 implications to the people in my area as far as their
19 reliance on caribou.

20

21 And as always the king salmon fisheries
22 on the Yukon River is a paramount concern of mine. And
23 I'm not sure where we're at with it. I do think that
24 management did a good job of working with the fishers
25 on the river this year to provide very good quality of
26 escapement across the board so I applaud that action as
27 far as taking care of the biological needs of the
28 salmon and I hope to see that continue in the future.

29

30 And I was a little bit shocked with the
31 chum salmon returns this year, I think everybody was.
32 But there again I think in the long run the management
33 did a good job of at least getting the biological
34 escapement that we needed up into Canada to hopefully
35 bolster that run in the future.

36

37 I guess that's it for now. Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
40 Andy. Frank.

41

42 MR. GURTNER: Yes, I have quite a few
43 concerns about just about everything. One of the
44 problems we're having is we have a lot of laws on the
45 books and, you know, they're not being enforced. And
46 here we are making more laws every time we get
47 together. And it's not doing any good to make more
48 laws if you don't have the original laws enforced. And
49 I have a problem with that.

50

1 (Applause)

2

3 MR. GURTLER: And a lot -- these
4 fisheries, I see a lot of people just stripping the roe
5 and throwing the fish overboard and I don't believe in
6 that. And that was -- they had a law saying you can't
7 do that, but they just never enforced that law and it's
8 been going on for 25 years. And that's why our salmon
9 run is so poor even on the Tanana River and the Yukon.
10 I've seen fishermen down there hang fish up and bears
11 are eating off the racks down there. And they don't --
12 they didn't do anything about it, it's been 20 years
13 ago.

14

15 But I have a lot of other concerns, but
16 I'll quit at that one for now.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
19 Frank. I'll just give a few of my own concerns. I
20 think you hit on part of what I feel and, you know,
21 this lack of enforcement when laws are being broken,
22 why make more, that's a very good point, Frank.

23

24 And another thing that, you know, with
25 the government, I don't know what it makes, but
26 sometimes the government has so many rules itself --
27 within itself that makes it really hard for us to get
28 anything done. I find that pretty frustrating at
29 times.

30

31 And one of my major concerns is at the
32 SRC meeting that I just attended there was this letter
33 to the Coordinator from Jean Public. And she's saying
34 ban all hunting and trapping in your area, I mean, it
35 goes on and on and on. And called us gun whackos, that
36 we have -- all this power we have, we're power mad
37 psycho animal killers, that's what we are. And my
38 concern is when we got people like that out there
39 wanting to do away with hunting that we as peoples need
40 to work together more than ever before. And my whole
41 concern is for us as Native and non-Native people to
42 constantly see the value in working together. And
43 that's big -- one of my biggest things for being on the
44 Council is to have a future for our children and
45 grandchildren.

46

47 So that is -- around with that. And
48 now it's my Chair's Report and I just wanted to let you
49 guys know I've attended -- I'm trying to be organized
50 here, here's my Chair's report, several meetings one

1 this summer. There was this bear claw marking strategy
2 or whatever the State's been pushing us to work on some
3 method of tracking. So I attended a teleconference and
4 between the law enforcement people out there trying to
5 throw in oh, yeah, maybe there is a problem, but the
6 users are not seeing the problem right now and I guess
7 this working group's going to -- they tried to get us
8 to meet in August when everybody was out doing -- using
9 their subsistence lifestyle and no one could meet so
10 they -- now it's going to be in the winter.

11

12 And then I attended the -- an Upper
13 Tanana Fortymile Caribou -- not caribou, but Fortymile
14 Advisory Committee Meeting and there's been a push by
15 some of the members there to open the Chisana Caribou
16 Herd. And they had like a three hour discussion. So
17 that was interesting to listen to the -- all the
18 different thoughts about that.

19

20 And then I attended an SRC meeting for
21 the Wrangell St. Elias as your representative. And
22 most of the meeting took up reports for Park Staff and
23 some of the members were a little discouraged because
24 as the meeting went on there was like very little time
25 for action items by the Committee. And I guess a lot
26 of times you might not feel that there's -- the
27 government might not feel a meeting might that long,
28 but a lot of times there's a lot of things that the
29 Committee likes to -- you know, we -- it makes it go
30 longer. And I remember when I first got on this I
31 think Craig Flinger was telling me that the reason that
32 we take up issue items first, the proposals, is so we
33 don't get -- all the reports could take up our whole
34 meeting. So that's something to -- that I commend him
35 for because it really helps on your meeting process if
36 you take your action items and be sure you do your
37 action items. Great stove.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So that
42 concludes my report if you guys have any questions
43 about the meetings.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now it's
48 the approval of minutes. Has everyone read the
49 minutes? Does anyone need time to read the minutes?

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Then I'll
4 entertain a motion.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Move to approve the
7 minutes as written.
8
9 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
12 questions or comments, additions.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
17 been called for. All in favor.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any opposition.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The minutes are
26 approved.
27
28 All right. Moving rapidly along.
29 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Rich Cannon and
30 Liz Williams.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Did you want to go --
33 whoops, did you want to go over the agenda, approve the
34 agenda?
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did I miss
37 something, Vince?
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it's no big deal.
40 It would -- if we could approve these.....
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's called old
43 age, I got these glasses and they don't work good. I
44 apologize. I forgot the adoption of the agenda. Which
45 Rich is getting in place.
46
47 Okay. Any additions or -- Vince.
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, there's three
50 additions that somehow just didn't get put in there.

1 One is Yukon deferred proposals, that's your proposals,
2 just an update on that. And then last meeting you
3 reviewed.....

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince, where is
6 that on the agenda, is that Fisheries?

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: We're going to have to
9 add that under Fisheries, probably.....

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Under C.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS:under -- yeah, we'd
14 make it C -- 8C and then move North Pacific down.

15
16 Okay. The next one in your last
17 meeting you did review the closure for your area, but
18 we need to look at that closure again just to reaffirm
19 your decision on the closure. And I'm actually drawing
20 a blank on where that is, I think it's 25D.

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 25D, West.....

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, 25D, West. So
25 we'll look at that closure again. You did it at your
26 last meeting, we just need to affirm that.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's under
29 the same one, right or where are you going to put that
30 in?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: That would go under 8,
33 probably 8B if we move down.....

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
36 away from microphone).....

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we probably should
39 do it really under A(i). It's more of a reaffirming,
40 it shouldn't take -- shouldn't take too long.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. If I
43 miss it, you're going to be my policeman.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'm going to -- I
46 got -- I got my partner over here.....

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS:to tap me on my

1 shoulder. The last thing which you received in the
2 mail was from Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
3 on North Pacific Fishery Management membership. I
4 don't know if you want to take that up or not, but
5 that.....

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd like to
8 take that up.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That'll go under,
11 let's see, 8(C), probably (i)(c). I'll let you know
12 when it is, but it would be the last item on your North
13 Pacific Fishery Management Council review.

14
15 And with that I think -- you'll be -- I
16 think you already mentioned it, I apologize I didn't
17 have it on my front page, discussion on the Fortymile
18 Caribou Herd would come under 9D(iii) probably. I
19 don't know why I didn't put that on the agenda, I
20 apologize for that. And that would just be a slot for
21 people to talk about Fortymile.

22
23 And Andy already covered it, three of
24 you are attending the Harvest Planning Group on
25 Thursday, but there may be some items you want to deal
26 with in this arena.

27
28 Madam Chair, I believe that's it unless
29 Staff know of other items I didn't catch or public.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council members
32 and Andrew. For you I think that's a proposal, will it
33 be the Federal proposal?

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
36 away from microphone).....

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Right.
39 Right. So that's where that comes under. Okay. And,
40 Andy.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I don't know
43 if this needs to be an agenda item, but one of the
44 things I'd like to relate to the public that I'd like
45 to hear some comment on is some of your feelings in
46 this area on outside hunters coming in or if there are
47 conflicts in the area, that sort of thing. I've for a
48 long time been speaking in support of better education
49 between rural and urban hunters and the impacts that
50 the urban hunters have on rural areas. And so I'd

1 really like to hear comments from you on what your
2 situation is in this area. So and hopefully we can get
3 some discussion on the Council level along that point.
4 So I think that would be appropriate during public
5 comment periods for you, but that's one of the reasons
6 why I'm here, that I'd really like to hear how you
7 folks are doing up.....

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

10

11 MR. BASSICH:in the Fort Yukon
12 area here.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I wanted to --
15 so you're -- that's just at public comment that.....

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:yeah. So
20 for the public that's here, we're pretty flexible and I
21 would like you if you have to leave and you haven't
22 testified you raise your hand and we'll bring you right
23 up. So and I see a hand right now. Would you like to
24 testify right now?

25

26 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes, ma'am.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But you need to
29 come up and -- and, everybody, there's a microphone at
30 the table and you have to push the mic on/off button
31 because the meeting is being recorded.

32

33 MR. ALEXANDER: Can you hear me?

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, uh-huh.
36 Just give us your name.

37

38 MR. ALEXANDER: Well, my name is Adlai
39 Alexander.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, you turned
42 it off.

43

44 MR. ALEXANDER: Hello.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There you go.

47

48 MR. ALEXANDER: My name's Adlai
49 Alexander and I've been living here in Fort Yukon for
50 half a century I should say. And anyway I've been

1 subsisting and hunting and fishing and trapping ever
2 since my granddaddy was alive. Anyway about the
3 subsistence business, you know, all the way up and down
4 the Yukon River we've been subsisting all our lives,
5 it's part of our blood, you know. Who gave the okay
6 that we cannot subsist anymore, that's our god given
7 right and this is our land and all waters and we take
8 care of it, we're the true stewards of this land. And
9 as you can see we -- our country is still intact ever
10 since there's non-Natives come around.

11
12 Anyway about subsistence, it's been in
13 our bloodlines all our lives. And, you know, is anyone
14 here from US Fish and Wildlife?

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.

19
20 MR. ALEXANDER: Who's -- are you -- are
21 you the head man that signed on that piece of paper
22 that say we cannot subsistence anymore?

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm not aware
25 that there's a paper that says that.

26
27 Mr. Alexander: Yes, there's a law that
28 US Fish and Wild -- it was a regulations I should say.
29 They made a regulations that they said we cannot
30 subsist on the Yukon Rivers.....

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You might.....

33
34 MR. ALEXANDER:last summer.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:I.....

37
38 MR. ALEXANDER: And it was all the way
39 up and down the river. And who made.....

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I need
42 some help on that.

43
44 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah, and who made --
45 another question, who made these Federal waters, you
46 know, where is the boundaries on these stuff. And
47 there's a lot of stuff us in rural Alaska who subsist
48 mainly off the land and they're making all these rules
49 and regulations and laws and saying they put it on a
50 tray.....

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
2
3 MR. ALEXANDER:and they say here,
4 now you can't -- you got to follow these. Why did not
5 they come and ask us for our inputs and how we feel
6 about it because there's a lot of fishermens up and
7 down the Yukon who subsist and they're frustrated with
8 all their regulations, you know, and it -- you know,
9 it.....
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I want you to
12 know you're not alone.
13
14 MR. ALEXANDER: I know that.
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
17
18 MR. ALEXANDER: That's what I'm trying
19 to say.....
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
22
23 MR. ALEXANDER:let's get these
24 folks from the US Fish and Wildlife up here into our
25 community and tell them, hey, how we feel about it, you
26 know. There's only a hand full of subsistence
27 fishermens and hunters compared to the commercial
28 fishermens down on the coast, all the way down to False
29 Pass, all the way to the Pacific Rim countries.....
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
32
33 MR. ALEXANDER:for golly, you
34 know. And there's -- you know, we -- we've been -- you
35 know, like this past summer they told us we cannot
36 subsist anymore because you got to pull your nets out
37 or you go to jail, you get fined, we'll take your boat,
38 motor, your fishing gear. And why did we let all this
39 -- you know, why didn't they come and talk to us first.
40 And let's let the second pulse go by because up here
41 there was no second pulse. These folks behind me could
42 tell you that, when they first -- fish first hit the --
43 came here, they were all good fish, everyone of it,
44 they were good, healthy fish. And by the time we were
45 allowed to fish again all the fish already went by.
46 How do we know -- they know there's going to be a
47 second pulse, you know, it never happened. So, you
48 know, there's -- it's pretty frustrating. And I don't
49 know if -- you know, a lot of folks here used to catch
50 enough fish to feed their families all winter until

1 next year, but that's not the case.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And this is the
4 king salmons that.....
5
6 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:you're
9 referring to?
10
11 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah.
14
15 MR. ALEXANDER: And, you know, did we
16 do that for -- for the commercial fishermens or for the
17 Canadians. And we're stuck right here in the middle,
18 right here in the middle of everything we're stuck.
19 And the river here as you can see it, it's wider than
20 most rivers all the way down the river and from Circle
21 and up, you know.
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
24
25 MR. ALEXANDER: Because this is a lot
26 of tributaries these king salmons and fish could
27 escape, you know, unless we find a really -- get lucky
28 and find a really good spot, you know.
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
31
32 MR. ALEXANDER: But that's not the case
33 up here. Bad leases. You ever go up the river,
34 there's thousands of islands in between here and there.
35
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So let me ask
38 you something, if you were able to be the manager, you
39 would say let the first pulse go, don't even fish.....
40
41 MR. ALEXANDER: No, no. No.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:on the
44 first pulse?
45
46 MR. ALEXANDER: That's the main fish,
47 when the.....
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
50

1 MR. ALEXANDER:fish first get
2 here, those are the good ones.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
5
6 MR. ALEXANDER: The healthy stock. I
7 think, you know, like last year, you know, like I said,
8 there was no second pulse by the time we were able to
9 put our fish nets back in and turn our fish wheels
10 again. There was no second pulse, people was
11 disgruntled, frustrated.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you would
14 take the first pulse?
15
16 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes. I don't.....
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If you can.....
19
20 MR. ALEXANDER:like I said, let
21 the US Fish and Wildlife, whoever make these
22 regulations and laws for us, you know, ask us for our
23 input. That's what I'm trying to get across here.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
26
27 MR. ALEXANDER: I've been a through a
28 lot of meetings, but, you know, whatever's been -- it
29 -- does it get passed on, I don't know.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
32
33 MR. ALEXANDER: Anyways, you know, it's
34 just that, you know, subsistence fishing and hunting, I
35 used to enjoy it, but nowadays I got to keep looking
36 over my shoulders. It's.....
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I understand.
39
40 MR. ALEXANDER:you know, it never
41 used to be like that.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
44
45 MR. ALEXANDER: Here's airplane flying
46 around with helicopters, floatplanes and boats, you
47 know, I -- I have to keep looking over my shoulders
48 because, you know, if I keep on fishing they're going
49 to make -- they're going to say I'm a criminal. Now is
50 that the subsistence way of life. My question here is

1 are you for subsistence or are you just here to take
2 information, you know. I'd like to see something in
3 writing that says, you know, subsistence is our way of
4 life, it's our god given right.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. ALEXANDER: And who give the
9 authorization for the US Fish and Wildlife to make
10 these policies and regulations telling us what we.....

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

13
14 MR. ALEXANDER:cannot do, what we
15 been doing for the last 10,000 years.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, what I'd
18 like to tell you, this group here, we are advisory, we
19 are.....

20
21 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:from our
24 area and we are advisory to the.....

25
26 MR. ALEXANDER: Well.....

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:Federal
29 Board who makes regulations.

30
31 MR. ALEXANDER: Right.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And.....

34
35 MR. ALEXANDER: Why don't you give them
36 our advice from your advisors.....

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We try so hard.

39
40 MR. ALEXANDER:I mean, we have
41 told them, hey, man, these folks up here.....

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I hear you.

44
45 MR. ALEXANDER:we do subsist.....

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

48
49 MR. ALEXANDER:period. Thank you
50 very much.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We --
2 we're -- I mean, we're probably very strong advocates
3 for you guys up here and.....
4
5 MR. ALEXANDER: Apparently it wasn't so
6 last summer.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:that guy
9 especially -- yeah.
10
11 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But Virgil
14 would like to -- he -- unless there's a Fish and
15 Wildlife Service person here that could address
16 him.....
17
18 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:
21specifically, what he's saying.....
22
23 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah. That's -- that's
24 what I'm -- yeah. It's -- it's.....
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Could you
27 address.....
28
29 MR. ALEXANDER:we need the head
30 man of the US Fish and Wildlife, not his lieutenant,
31 not his advise, you know, we need the top man. You see
32 what I mean, that's what I said.....
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well.....
35
36 MR. ALEXANDER:last time these
37 folks were here.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:if you're
40 used to meetings, you know, it's -- this is what we
41 work with here. Unless we call Anchorage and ask the
42 head person to get on line -- can we do that?
43
44 MR. ALEXANDER: Why -- why didn't he
45 come to the meeting in person, you know.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, because
48 it's our meeting.
49
50 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah. Well, we would

1 have invited him, you know.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
4 let -- I'm going to let Vince handle this.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The Fish and
7 Wildlife part we're going to set aside for a second.
8 Your point is that, if I got it right, correct me if
9 I'm wrong, why didn't they talk to us before they
10 implemented this season different actions. Okay.
11 That's the past, now let's look forward right now. Now
12 the reason I'm saying that is to make the changes you
13 may want, the opportunity is right before you in
14 January and then in April. Okay. And I think Virgil
15 may be talking more about this, but in case he isn't,
16 the Board of Fish manages the whole river. They're
17 meeting in January. Everything is going to be on the
18 table for kings and chums. So you may not want to go
19 to that meeting, but you need representatives from this
20 area of the river. It is very discouraging for people
21 to see a large contingent, it's okay for them to come
22 from the lower river and testify 20, 30 people, but
23 then there's only one from upriver. So united up here
24 in the river, you guys got to come together with your
25 thoughts on these proposals, you'll hear some today,
26 they are complex. I can help you, the State can help
27 you figure those proposals out, but you guys got to
28 look at those and say what works for us, what doesn't
29 and then have someone or multiple people go to the
30 Board of Fish in January. Then the Federal Board's
31 going to take up proposals that this Council brought up
32 and I get the phone calls from the whole river, there's
33 a lot of people who don't like those proposals because
34 they're going to be restricting enough so you can have
35 fish for future generations, that's their motivation.
36 You've going to need to possibly have people go to that
37 because that same meeting which is in April, I believe.

38

39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it is April. The
42 same thing's going to happen, it's America, there'll be
43 30 people from the lower river there and there'll be
44 maybe one from the upper river. So those are ways you
45 can interact. Now back to your Fish and Wildlife
46 Service thing. And I hope I get this right. Obviously
47 we're not going to be able to get the director of
48 Wildlife Refuges out of D.C. to get online here. What
49 happens here just like in your Tribe, the chief
50 delegates to other people that authority. So you do

1 have the refuge manager here which in -- within Fish
2 and Wildlife Service is about the highest position you
3 can get. The next step is probably the regional
4 director. So he can explain some of their actions.
5 The history behind the Refuge coming into existence is
6 going to take a long time to discuss. You can look at
7 this two ways. You can look at it that you got more
8 people looking over your shoulders or you can look at
9 it through this group and others, you got more people
10 helping you. Because now you have two management
11 regimes on fisheries. So you have two ways to go.
12 We're bound to the law that there's a rural preference
13 and least adverse impact. The State is bound to their
14 laws and reasonable opportunity. You need to look at
15 those, we can help you figure out how you can plug into
16 those systems. It's hard, I'm not denying it's hard.
17 But the public process just like this meeting is
18 difficult too.

19

20 So I hope that helps you. I know the
21 Refuge manager's willing to talk to you about some of
22 the other issues. On your particular fishery issues I
23 did see some of the fishery managers come in, it might
24 be up to the -- Madam Chair to decide to wait until all
25 the managers are here so they can hear some of these
26 concerns.

27

28 But anyway so that I hope will help
29 you. I mean I know there's Refuge Staff to address
30 your issue on the -- why is the refuge here.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy has
33 requested also to comment here.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: I just wanted to make a
36 comment. This is the kind of discussion I'd -- I
37 really am looking to -- forward to hearing and
38 participating in with the public here. But I think we
39 have an agenda item set up for this evening at 7:00
40 o'clock and we have a lot of work to do that's on our
41 agenda right now that I would like to take care of.
42 And I think the reason why we have this meeting at 7:00
43 o'clock is so that we can address this and give it the
44 proper time to listen to it. And rather than being
45 really rushed right now and trying to finish this
46 discussion and move on to take care of our agenda
47 items, I'd like to ask the Chair that we table
48 this.....

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. BASSICH:until this evening
2 and hopefully all of you can come back so that we can
3 have some very good discussion on this.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, what I
6 was trying to point out, too, Andy, and I'm going to
7 ask the Council to help me out here, if they agree or
8 disagree, but many times people come to these meetings
9 and they only have the time that they're here for these
10 meetings. So this 7:00 to 9:00 thing might not work
11 for them. So I'm open and I'm asking the Council if
12 you're open to hear when people wish to speak I'd like
13 to give them the opportunity. If anyone's.....

14
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
16 away from microphone).....

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is that -- do
19 you all agree to that, we want to give them the
20 opportunity? And if our meeting takes longer this is
21 why, we're here to hear the people. So it's really
22 important to me to hear what the people have to say.

23
24 MR. ALEXANDER: Okay. I'll -- thank
25 you very much. Like you said, you mentioned earlier
26 that if we're -- you know, some of -- some folks work
27 see and so.....

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, right.
30 And then that.....

31
32 MR. ALEXANDER:and, you know,
33 that's why I'm here, I just want to testify before this
34 gets.....

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:I'm self-
37 employed so I understand.

38
39 MR. ALEXANDER:you know.....

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. Right.

42
43 MR. ALEXANDER: But, you know, anyways
44 if -- forgive me, but I'll.....

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What was your
47 name again, I didn't write it down?

48
49 MR. ALEXANDER: Adlai Alexander, A-D-L-
50 A-I Alexander.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Alexander.
2
3 MR. ALEXANDER: And I'd like you to
4 forgive me, but welcome to (in Tlingit) you know, and
5 this is, you know, the home of the (in Tlingit) you
6 know, we've been subsisting all our lives, you know.
7 And so anyway thank you very much for giving me the
8 opportunity to speak my mind on, you know, how I feel
9 about our subsistence.....
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
12
13 MR. ALEXANDER:way of life, you
14 know. Like I said it's a god given right and who.....
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.
17
18 MR. ALEXANDER:get the right to
19 take that subsistence rights away from us.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
22
23 MR. ALEXANDER: Do you see like.....
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You know I
26 appreciate what you're saying.....
27
28 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah, like.....
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:because
31 when you have such an intimate feeling about something
32 like that, it's -- you've got to be able to speak to
33 it.
34
35 MR. ALEXANDER: Like our Senator Al
36 Kookesh, he's been -- you know, he's subsistence and
37 then they're going to, you know, fine him, take him to
38 court and everything else and I think we all need to
39 band together and say hey, we support these folks on
40 their subsistence way of living. That's all there is
41 to it.
42
43 Thank you very much. Welcome to Fort
44 Yukon, Frank, long time no see.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you
47 Adlai. And I saw one other hand there to -- yes, come
48 on. You need to come forward and push the mic.
49
50 Andy, are we okay with this?

1 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And give your
4 name.

5

6 MR. PETER: My name is Michael Peter,
7 I'm the (in Tlingit) government first chief.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
10 Michael.

11

12 MR. PETER: I'd like to comment on what
13 Adlai said and then that -- then like we can carry on
14 with your meeting, you know, we don't want, you know,
15 to keep it -- postponing it or prolonging it. But like
16 what he mentioned, we -- you know, we met with the
17 counterparts, we met with the State, but the Feds --
18 the Federal government was -- they didn't show. The
19 only one that showed up to the meeting in July to let
20 us know that they were going to close it was the State.
21 And what I -- and from my understanding these are
22 Federal waters out here and the State was managing fish
23 in Federal waters. I mean, you know, we need to kind
24 of work together with this, not only with the State,
25 but the Feds also because as -- as -- them being a
26 counterpart with the State, I mean, they weren't even
27 there at the sit down, at the table, it was a public
28 meeting.

29 And with that we -- there's a low moose
30 population around here and I thought it was closed to
31 outsiders, but then when I seen the Fish and Wildlife
32 enforcement officer down the -- down the river, he was
33 checking me out. I had -- I got a moose and it was
34 tagged and everything. And then I asked him who's
35 those guys, you know, they're not from around here, I
36 thought it was close to outside -- you know, outside
37 hunters because of our low moose population and plus
38 our predator control problem. We have -- we're having
39 problems with bears also.

40

41 So and that's just some of my comments,
42 some of my feelings that, you know, I mean, we -- there
43 is a low moose population around here and due -- due to
44 seeing people coming in from outside and knowing that
45 some other people here in the Village didn't get a
46 moose and these people that got moose. And then when
47 something happens the Feds are right there. And then
48 when somebody -- this is when -- when somebody from the
49 outside that comes in with only part -- a partial of
50 the -- of salvaging just the head and then a couple of

1 shoulders and where's the rest of it, you know. I mean
2 some of that stuff that needs to be address also
3 besides the fishing too.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

8 Okay. Well, if anyone else wants to testify right now,
9 you're -- the floor's open. If you can't be here, but
10 then tonight we're having a 7:00 o'clock to 9:00
11 o'clock for the public. So we got lots of time for you
12 then too. If we have to take up our business then
13 we'll do that.

14

15 MR. ENGLISHUE: Good morning. Ron
16 Englishue, Fort Yukon.

17

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Push the button.
19 The big button.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: See that
22 button.....

23

24 MR. ENGLISHUE: Ron Englishue, Fort
25 Yukon. On Page 5 of the March 10, 11, '09 meeting at
26 -- in Fairbanks, it says on Council Action, Umphenour
27 made a motion, second by Carroll to support the FAC
28 special action to restrict customary trade between
29 rural to rural. As a rural subsistence fisherman I
30 would like this clarified. I don't know what made this
31 person that's a resident and a subsistence fisherman
32 from Fort Yukon to support this motion. I believe
33 basically it's wrong because from time way back, even
34 way before I was born, we traded between village to
35 village, we supported the outer villages out of Fort
36 Yukon with our subsistence fishing because they did not
37 get any fish at that time which is still running true
38 today. And this time also I believe that this motion
39 is very detrimental to us as subsistence rural
40 fishermen because of the high unemployment here in the
41 rural community. The job market here in the Yukon
42 Flats is pretty nil at a minimum, it always has been.
43 We depend on the summer fish -- fire fighting season to
44 supplement what little income we make from trapping and
45 whatever trade we do between rural communities. We are
46 not based on monetary value of what we trade for, our
47 subsistence right. And I believe that this motion that
48 was second by Richard Carroll, Jr., the -- is -- I
49 shouldn't even say that, it should have been in the
50 minutes.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's going
4 to be a clarification here. So this would have been
5 something we overlooked, Virgil. Go ahead. Hang on a
6 second.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm Umphenour, I
9 made the motion. There's an actual mistake in our
10 minutes here.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Which we didn't
13 fix.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: It was not to restrict
16 customary trade between rural to rural, it was rural to
17 urban.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: Or non-rural.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Or non-rural, one or
22 the other.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Non-rural.
25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that is a mistake in
27 our minutes that we did not correct.
28
29 MR. ENGLISHUE: If I want to take fish
30 over to Fairbanks that is for my relatives residing in
31 Fairbanks, I believe that's personal, I don't believe
32 that it's a Federal agency to intervene because of what
33 I want to send to my grandmother who just turned 101
34 years old.....
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.
37
38 MR. ENGLISHUE:three, four days
39 ago.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: They're just
42 saying you can't sell it to her.
43
44 MR. ENGLISHUE: No, I don't -- we don't
45 sell the fish that we catch in the Yukon or the
46 tributaries. We do not. Either the ducks and the
47 geese also.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
50

1 MR. ENGLISHUE: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me explain
6 this to you so that you understand. We did not have a
7 motion that would have any effect of any kind for you
8 sharing your subsistence fish with any or your family
9 that lives in -- no matter where they live. The motion
10 that we made was to restrict people from selling for
11 money subsistence caught fish to people that do not
12 live in the village, that live in an urban area such as
13 Fairbanks, Anchorage or even Barrow. And the reason we
14 did this was because there are some people that abuse
15 the subsistence privilege and they catch as many fish
16 as they can, they fish from when the first king salmon
17 comes by until the last king salmon comes by and sell
18 the fish. We know of one case where one individual
19 from Holly Cross hired a person from Kaltag to do their
20 fishing for them and made enough money to buy a brand
21 new crew cab pickup truck and have it shipped to Holly
22 Cross. We put that in to stop those type of abuses.
23 And in the past subsistence.....

24

25 MR. ENGLISHUE: I would appreciate it
26 if you put a handle on your attitude.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, and to protect
29 subsistence for the purpose that subsistence is for is
30 to feed your family, but it hadn't -- that was only the
31 sale of the fish, that was what the proposal was for to
32 people that do not live in the village. It had nothing
33 to do with sharing your subsistence caught fish with
34 your family and your friends. I don't know if that
35 helps you or not.....

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's a
38 mistake in the minutes.

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR:but it's a mistake
41 in the minutes, it was not rural to rural, that's a
42 mistake in the minutes.

43

44 MR. ENGLISHUE: Well, that is -- as it
45 is now the quota of fish that is caught up here, in and
46 around Fort Yukon, we not get as much as people down
47 the river, down the channels of the Yukon. So you
48 cannot classify the upper eastern Yukon subsistence
49 fishermen as abusing their right to fish for
50 subsistence because we do not go out and sell our fish

1 for money.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Then it would not have
6 affected you. But what you -- there's something I'd
7 like to say.....

8

9 MR. ENGLISHUE: Thank you.

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR:right now.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just a second.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: I -- no, I just want to
16 say this, Sue. I need to say this. And what -- we are
17 here to get input from the people that live at Fort
18 Yukon. Now Mr. Mathews a minute ago spoke about how
19 the regulations get imposed that you have to live by.
20 He said that when the -- Board of Fish meets in
21 January they're going to meet in Fairbanks, that there
22 will be probably a bunch of people representing
23 commercial interests from the mouth of the river at
24 that meeting. There will be. At the last -- the last
25 time these regulations were open for changes was this
26 January will make three years ago. There were 72
27 people representing commercial interests at that
28 meeting, all from the Lower Yukon. Most of them were
29 flown in there free of charge, put up free of charge,
30 all expenses paid, but the commercial fishing interests
31 in the Lower Yukon, there were 72 of them there. The
32 people representing you people, the Upper Yukon, two of
33 them are setting at this table right now, myself and
34 Andy Bassich. I was there as -- representing the RAC
35 and the Fairbanks Advisory Committee, he was
36 representing the Eagle Advisory Committee. There was
37 one person there representing the Tanana Rampart Manley
38 Advisory Committee, Stan Zuray and Mike Smith from
39 Tanana Chiefs. There were four of us representing your
40 interests and 72 representing the commercial interests.
41 When this meeting gets held in Fairbanks this coming
42 January and we're going to go over these proposals
43 after this on the agenda, we need people from Fort
44 Yukon at that meeting telling how this will affect
45 them. And I really encourage everyone here to try to
46 be at the meeting tonight and to stick around here this
47 morning so you can hear us address these proposals and
48 how they will affect you and your life and your ability
49 to harvest your subsistence fish. But I really, really
50 encourage to round up.....

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR:all the fishermen
4 in the village to be here tonight. It's very important
5 because you get run over by the commercial interests.
6 You have been run over since 1920 when Hudson Stuck
7 went to Washington, D.C. and got the commercial fishery
8 stopped. Since 1920 -- Hudson Stuck got it stopped for
9 10 years only and then back in 1930 they started the
10 commercial fishery again and you've been run over from
11 1930 to 2009. And so you need to be at this meeting
12 tonight so that you can understand what's going on and
13 how you have been run over for 90 -- 89 years and it's
14 going to continue unless you start participating more.
15 That's the only way.....
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, Virgil.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR:you're going to
20 win is to participate more. And your voice needs to be
21 heard.
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil is very
28 passionate as you guys are. So -- any rate, I did see
29 another hand and I -- what he's saying, I hope you
30 understand and don't take it like he's being offensive,
31 it's just Virgil's way to make a point. So.....
32
33 MR. P. SOLOMON: My name is Philip
34 Solomon, I'm a hunter, fisher, whatever. I live off
35 the food here because our grocery is swimming in water,
36 flying and walking around and we value it a lot. And
37 maybe I should start off by repeating what Sue said,
38 that this panel here in front of us is our advisors,
39 helping us to accomplish what we want and they're not
40 our enemy. But I got a page full of stuff that I wrote
41 down, I was trying to not waste too much time.
42 But, you know, let's get -- let's get
43 the moose out of the way first of all. This guy named
44 Mike somebody, he was flying his airplane. I was
45 hunting upriver last winter with my snowshoe or I had a
46 toboggan there. I was sitting there waiting for the
47 moose to come out of the island, I tracked it down for
48 two days, I had a moose in a bag. It was coming out of
49 the island and this pilot named Mike is a Fish and Game
50 guy.....

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UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ennish.

MR. P. SOLOMON: Yeah, I think so. Anyway he was coming down -- coming down the river and just -- I could tell, maybe another 10 minutes, 20 minutes, I was sitting there having my cup of tea and that -- that moose was just ready to walk out of the island, here he comes by from Circle, coming down and then he sees me sitting there so he circles around. The moose went right back in the island. And I spent a little bit of money hunting and a lot of time. And that shouldn't happen. That shouldn't happen. And I told him to his face, I said that shouldn't happen again. I'm not the kind of guy who's going to knock him out of the air or nothing, I'm not threatening, I'm not saying that, I -- you know, I just told him to his face, I told him, I said hey, there's some people though that might think about it. You know, that kind of stuff shouldn't happen. And when we're -- when we're cruising along on a river boat, we're hunting moose, they shouldn't have to cross over and ask us if we got hunting license. If we don't have no moose in the boat what's the point. Maybe I'm out there for ducks or fishing, you know. They shouldn't come and harass us. It's hard going fishing here in Fort Yukon, there's no -- there's no moose around. And sometimes the season is opened too early. Like right now the season's open two early, like two weeks too early. So maybe we can extend it. Maybe if you want to open it at that certain time let's extend it another two weeks.

My opinion of moose is I'm allowed one moose a year and I should be allowed to kill a calf, male calf, if I want to. I should be allowed to kill whatever I want. Because that calf -- how many times I've gone upriver with a snowmachine and I've seen moose dead. I've seen -- this past winter I went up that way because that butthead went up that way, he chased that moose away, I went up this way towards Chignik. And there was a moose that was killed right there at the mouth of the Black River. And there was five wolves there. And those wolves didn't want to hang around so I could shoot them because I would have shot them. So I went -- I kept on going, right below the mouth of the Chignik there's another moose killed on the other side by that same pack of -- I tracked them, they went over and killed that moose. And then they just left it, they ate maybe five or 10 pounds out

1 of the ass end and then they ate the nose which I
2 wanted the nose, but, you know, those wolves are pretty
3 smart, they know what we like. They ate that too. So
4 they ran back over to the first one they killed. And
5 the law is if I took -- the front shoulder was
6 unharmed, I could have taken that off, but the law is
7 if I took it then I'd be a criminal. You know, I mean,
8 making us criminals when we're trying to feed
9 ourselves, you know, and we're feeding the elders and
10 disabled people and, you know, that -- it's a goofy
11 law.

12
13 Anyway here's where the opener and
14 here's the difference between downriver and up here. I
15 don't know if I'm correct about this, but I think the
16 opener happens when the fish hits the river, right.
17 Anyway, but then when a fish gets up here and if we're
18 lacking the fish, the amount of fish going into Canada,
19 they shut us down. You see the injustice there? It
20 shouldn't be like that. Like somebody was saying, we
21 get 18 hour openers and then we get a three day period
22 that we're supposed to shut down and then we get 18
23 hour openers. All we're doing is we're having to pay
24 for gas to go over there and turn our fish wheel on and
25 we get no fish to take out of it. Why don't we just
26 say let's run it for one week straight and like Adlai
27 was saying, let's run it for one week straight and, you
28 know, all -- 10 fish or 25 fish would satisfy me, from
29 the kings. Anyway something like that. But like Frank
30 Gurtler was saying, you know, let's stop the waste. If
31 we can stop the waste there'll be more fish in the
32 river because what happens is people are wasting fish
33 and I hear a lot about this on the lower part of the
34 rivers, they waste the fish. We don't waste very many
35 fish around here at all.

36
37 But and the ocean satellite tracking,
38 if I'm correct they have satellite tags on the fish.
39 They can track them in the ocean, their migratory
40 routes. We -- if it's possible I think it would be a
41 good idea to stop those big trawlers or whoever's
42 fishing down there, taking all the fish, wherever their
43 migratory routes are, where the majority of the fish
44 are, let's get them to stop fishing in that area. And
45 let's deal with that bycatch. I mean if there is so
46 few fish in the Yukon let's limit -- let's lower the
47 limit of that bycatch, it what's, 100,000 fish right
48 now or something, you know, let's lower it 45, 50,000
49 like we were trying to do.

50

1 Anyway.....
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Can you go on
4 that, I'd like -- does anyone -- can anyone answer that
5 for me, just for my own information, are these fish
6 trackable while they're out in the high seas? So
7 they're not. Thank you.
8
9 MR. P. SOLOMON: I'm surprised if
10 they're not able to. I mean there are computers
11 nowadays that are capable of a lot. So.....
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, maybe
14 it's something we should kind of recommend here, I
15 don't know.
16
17 MR. P. SOLOMON: Maybe you guys are not
18 fully aware, but I'm.....
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
21 wanted to make sure. Yeah.
22
23 MR. P. SOLOMON:pretty sure they
24 do. But that's all I got to say and thanks for your
25 time.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks,
28 Philip. Okay. Council members, thank you for this
29 little agenda change and I'm glad that we can do this
30 for the people and they can open -- raise their hand
31 anytime.
32
33 I want to take care of some unfinished
34 business since there's -- got his blood pressure up
35 over that horrible thing, that's our minutes. I need a
36 motion to bring it back up. It's what.....
37
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
39 away from microphone).....
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
42
43 MR. GLANZ: I'll make a motion we
44 reopen the minutes from the last Council meeting.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
47 you're on the side that can do that so -- correct?
48
49 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And that's a
4 second, Virgil?
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, second.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. And
9 you're going to address what the error is?
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. There's an
12 error, it's on Page 9 of our meeting book where it says
13 council action down at the bottom of Page 9. It says
14 Umphenour made a motion, seconded by Carroll to support
15 the Fairbanks Advisory Committee's special action
16 request to restrict customary trade between rural to
17 rural. It should have been rural to non-rural, not
18 rural to rural.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a pretty
21 big mistake.
22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, that's a big
24 mistake.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sorry we missed
27 that. Maybe I was trying to move too fast. So any
28 other discussion. Go ahead.
29
30 MR. FIRMIN: I think part of what
31 Ronald Englishue was saying was I notice that when we
32 did request some more law enforcement in the local
33 areas and I think it -- some of it -- I just -- I heard
34 this, I didn't witness any of it, but I know people
35 were trying to send, you know, like two geese and a
36 fish over to their grandmother in the spring or
37 something and the enforcement officers actually were --
38 I don't know if they were actually seizing the game
39 and, you know, the -- here's two geese, I mean, that's
40 not like they're selling it.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.
43
44 MR. FIRMIN: But, I mean, they did -- I
45 did hear a few rumors of people -- of their little
46 boxes of meat getting seized and it's not like
47 they.....
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, really.
50

1 MR. FIRMIN:were any -- there was
2 no large scale amounts being sent or anything, but I
3 did hear rumors of that.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Wow.
6
7 MR. FIRMIN: And I think that's what
8 Ronald was saying.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew, after
11 we vote on that you can expound upon it, okay. This is
12 just this agenda change.....
13
14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
15 away from microphone).....
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:I mean,
18 minutes.
19
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That was what he
21 took it as (indiscernible).....
22
23 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
26
27 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair, I'd also like
28 to.....
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd like to --
31 yeah, go ahead.
32
33 MR. GLANZ:like to do on that
34 proposal I made, it's not coming out exactly like it
35 was voted on.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Also we should
38 have read these minutes, huh.
39
40 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Well, this one here
41 -- I mean to bring that up on Page 17.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 17.
44
45 MR. GLANZ: Okay. The proposal I had
46 for Unit 25c, all Federal land within 25C, not just
47 a.....
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Give me
50 the exact language, is it under Council actions?

1 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Glanz made a
4 motion seconded by.....
5
6 MR. GLANZ: To submit a proposal to
7 align the fall moose season in Unit 25C with the
8 current season in Unit 20E. And then I -- and which
9 would be on both sides of the Yukon River and then also
10 all Federal lands within 25C is my proposal. And
11 that's eliminated out of it. I think if I.....
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Was this a --
14 this was -- this would have made it a proposal or not?
15
16 MR. GLANZ: This would have made it a
17 proposal and voted -- yes, but it.....
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did --
20 Vince, did you get the language?
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you're going to be
23 going over that proposal in draft form.....
24
25 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
26
27 MR. MATHEWS:when you get to that
28 agenda item, you're going to be going over it again.
29 So.....
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you want to
32 change.....
33
34 MR. MATHEWS:the minutes still
35 need to be corrected, but if there's any errors in that
36 draft proposal later on in the agenda you can correct
37 them.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.
40
41 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But I think you
44 can go ahead and put the -- his language in the minutes
45 and you have that correctly?
46
47 MR. MATHEWS: I'll get it off the
48 transcripts.....
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. MATHEWS:because just to keep
2 the meeting moving along.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we -- right.
5 We have two corrections to the minutes, does everyone
6 understand what they are?

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
11 call for the question. Somebody needs to call the
12 question, please.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Question.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
17 been called for. Anyone opposed to the changes in the
18 minutes.

19
20 (No aye votes)

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. They're
23 approved. All right. How we doing.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now in -- just
26 to keep your thought, Andrew, go ahead with what you
27 were discussing just to makes sure.

28
29 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, okay. I was just
30 thinking like I was saying a few minutes ago that I
31 know that -- I just heard rumors, didn't see it, didn't
32 witness or anything like that, I don't know if anybody
33 here knows about it, but I know that people were
34 sending like a few birds and a few fish to their
35 relatives in Fairbanks. And they were -- I heard they
36 were getting seized and they were -- I don't think
37 anybody got ticketed or were refused at the airport or
38 something, but I just know of other people after that
39 were wary of sending anything over if it's not going to
40 get to their grandmother in Fairbanks. So there's --
41 they stopped send -- I know a lot of people just
42 stopped shipping stuff on the airlines. So I don't
43 know what the truth is to that or -- but enough people
44 told me about it this summer to.....

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Man, I'd sure
47 like to know more about it so if anybody in the
48 audience can give us some information later I'd sure
49 like to hear more about why it was seized.
50

1 MR. JESS: Well, I just.....

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, you can
4 answer it?

5

6 MR. JESS: Rob Jess, Refuge manager,
7 Yukon Flats Refuge. Andrew, your question was
8 specifically again?

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: Well, specifically like
11 Ron Englishue was saying earlier that, you know, he
12 misread some of the wording, but I don't know if that
13 was part of the reason, but were any game -- wild game
14 seized at all or were they denied being sent out of
15 town because they thought it was for sale or.....

16

17 MR. JESS: Okay. Relative to that on
18 spring migratory waterfowl there are policies in place,
19 laws in place, regulations in place, that prohibit
20 spring waterfowl, subsistence waterfowl from being
21 shipped out of the rural areas from where they're
22 hunted. And both State and Federal working in
23 conjunction with others, we brought in dog -- a dog, a
24 dog sniffing -- bird sniffing dog and there were some
25 seized. There weren't as many as what rumors had, but
26 there were a few that were seized. And this is one of
27 the things as far as the Fish and Wildlife Service is
28 concerned that if people don't like these regulations
29 and they want to bring or ship birds to family members,
30 then we need to get the regulations changed, but until
31 that time we, for better or worse, we're not the
32 policymakers, unfortunately we're the enforcers on
33 these, on migratory waterfowl, and we have to enforce
34 these. It's -- we have no opinion in it, it's just
35 part of the purpose for which we are based on this
36 regulation. So if people don't like the regulation we
37 need to get the regulation changed.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Rob, I have a
40 couple questions for you. What is the definition of
41 this -- the waterfowl, is it -- if it's -- you know,
42 sometimes after something's processed then no longer
43 the regulation holds place. But.....

44

45 MR. JESS: I'd have to get back to you
46 on that, Sue, to be honest with you, I don't know the
47 specific regulation.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, that
50 would be good information to know because if it's --

1 after it's processed and it's taken care of
2 properly.....

3
4 MR. JESS: And again it falls under the
5 same thing that Virgil was talking about, the intent.
6 There's so many people out there in the villages and if
7 you look at subsistence that want to send something to
8 a grandmother or to a mother in a -- in an urban
9 community like Fairbanks or something like that. And
10 that was the one thing we made clear to our officers
11 this year, was that if it looks like that, you know, go
12 with your gut instinct on that. But we had plenty of
13 cases, plenty of cases this year and instances where we
14 were getting 20 and 30 birds going to Fairbanks. We
15 had more of those than we did of the one and two, you
16 know, sending to mother or sending to a brother. And
17 so how do you stop that. Let us know how we stop that
18 while still allowing trade to ensue between
19 communities. There's a no win on that one because a
20 cap.....

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we.....

23
24 MR. JESS:I mean, and we can get
25 into philosophy and all on caps and things like that,
26 but again we are just the enforcement on it, the people
27 are the ones that set the regulation, we did not set
28 the regulation, we enforce.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And the entity
31 that we would make a proposal to to change it would be
32 that panel right, the migratory.....

33
34 MR. JESS: Absolutely.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:bird --
37 the people that's on that penal.

38
39 MR. JESS: Absolutely.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So the -- and I
42 think that's on our agenda so we can bring that up and
43 talk about a proposal for that agenda item. So we'll
44 be thinking about that right now and how we would write
45 that proposal.

46
47 Okay. Frank.

48
49 MR. GURTNER: Yes, I was just wondering
50 how long has these regulations been in the books?

1 MR. JESS: I don't know, Frank, I could
2 get back to you on it and let you guys know.

3
4 MR. GURTLER: Okay. And another thing
5 is who made the regulations, who put that in the books?

6
7 MR. JESS: We can get back to you on
8 that as well, I don't know.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you could do
11 that for us this meeting?

12
13 MR. GURTLER: Okay. Well, I was just
14 wondering whether we did it on ourselves or did
15 the.....

16
17 MR. JESS: More than likely it was the
18 result, and this is just me guessing.....

19
20 MR. GURTLER: I know, but that's what
21 I'm saying. I mean.....

22
23 MR. JESS:I suspect what
24 happened, Frank, was that a case came to fruition or to
25 light through law enforcement, that an inordinate
26 amount of ducks or migratory waterfowl was being
27 transferred from a subsistence area such as one of the
28 villages into one of the bigger communities like
29 Fairbanks and as a result of that they wanted a
30 regulation to stop or to be able to enforce that and to
31 slow that type of illegal activity down.

32
33 MR. GURTLER: Well.....

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, if you
36 could get that information that you're asking.....

37
38 MR. GURTLER: Yeah. Well, I didn't
39 know it was illegal to do that in the first place is
40 what I'm saying. I didn't know about it. I thought we
41 were just doing that to -- want to make more
42 regulations. And my theory is we get too many
43 regulations and all of a sudden they're going to throw
44 the book at everyone of them regulations and they're
45 going to say well, here's all the law's right here, a
46 big, long list of them. And just eating one of them
47 pretty soon is going to be.....

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. JESS: Well.....
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I understand
4 what you're saying.
5
6 MR. JESS:and you probably have a
7 valid point, Frank, in the sense you talk to one of
8 Fairbanks PD and I've a friend as a neighbor and he --
9 I said, you know, what's the reality of being able to
10 nail somebody for something. And he said we have so
11 many laws on the books right now that you an about pull
12 somebody over for anything.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's been that
15 way for a long time.
16
17 MR. JESS: And maybe we're there, I
18 don't know.
19
20 MR. GURTLER: Yeah. Well, that's what
21 I'm afraid of and there's so many now if we just
22 enforce the ones we have.....
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Mic -- your
25 mic.
26
27 MR. JESS: Frank, the bottom line is
28 that there's always a few bad apples that make it bad
29 for everybody. And what we -- what I've encouraged the
30 officers that I oversee is that you make discretionary
31 calls on these things, you know, it isn't black and
32 white. Life is 5 percent white, five percent black and
33 90 percent gray and you need to utilize your discretion
34 on that and they do.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Common sense.
37
38 MR. JESS: Sure
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Common sense.
41
42 MR. GURTLER: Yeah, I was just worried
43 about making too many regulations then when they start
44 enforcing them they'll -- you don't know what they are,
45 there are so many. If they could just make a couple of
46 good ones and throw out the others I think we'll be a
47 lot better off, it would help.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I share his
50 frustration, yes.

1 MR. JESS: I do too.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. So
4 you'll probably get -- answer those two questions for
5 us later?
6
7 MR. JESS: We will.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
10 Appreciate that. Thank you.
11
12 How we doing, do you need a break?
13 Keep going?
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, might as well.
16 Let's -- oh, Virgil, look he's waving.....
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. Are
19 we ready to go into the report, Fisheries Resource
20 Monitoring Program. Richard.
21
22 MR. CANNON: My name is Richard Cannon,
23 I work with the Office of Subsistence Management and
24 I'm the Yukon Region fisheries biologist.
25
26 Madam Chair and Council members. I've
27 got a short report for you today, giving you an update
28 on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. This
29 briefing.....
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do we have a
32 handout?
33
34 MR. CANNON: There's one in your book.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay:
37
38 MR. CANNON: It's found on Pages 25
39 through 54 of the Council book. I'll give you a few
40 minutes to kind of turn to that. And it's -- there's
41 not a lot of changes from what you've seen in past
42 years so I'm just going to hit the highlights for you
43 today.
44
45 This is kind of a review of the -- our
46 Monitoring Program as I think most of you aware was
47 initiated in 2000 when Fisheries became part of this --
48 of the Federal program. To date the Office of
49 Subsistence Management has funded statewide 322
50 different Fisheries projects. There are 15 of those

1 that have already been funded in past years that will
2 be continued in -- next season in 2010. And these
3 projects fall into one of two basic categories. There
4 are the stock status and trends projects, usually the
5 typical biological projects. These projects address
6 things like assessment of the abundance, composition
7 and the timing behavior or the status of the fish
8 population that sustain subsistence fisheries with a
9 direct linkage to Federal public lands and waters. The
10 budget guideline for this particular category of
11 project is about two-thirds of the available funding.

12
13 The other type of project are the
14 harvest monitoring and traditional knowledge projects.
15 These projects address assessment of subsistence
16 fisheries, including harvest and effort and description
17 and assessment of the fishing and use patterns
18 associated with those harvests. The budget guideline
19 for this type of project is basically one-third of the
20 available funding.

21
22 All these projects go through an
23 extensive evaluation process which includes review by
24 and recommendations from an interagency Technical
25 Review Committee and then coming back to the Councils,
26 the affected Regional Advisory Council, and there are
27 also policies and funding guidelines that are -- the
28 Federal Subsistence Board provides. And these are all
29 described on Pages 27 and 28 of your Council book.

30
31 The Federal Subsistence Board will make
32 final funding decisions on this particular -- the 2010
33 program in January of 2010. For 2010 a total of 44
34 investigation plans are currently under consideration
35 for available funding statewide and 35 of these are the
36 biological studies, nine are the harvest monitoring or
37 traditional knowledge studies. And you can see on
38 table one, Page 29, there's sort of a summary of that.

39
40 The Technical Review Committee at this
41 stage recommends funding 41 of these investigation
42 plans. The 2010 draft Monitoring Plan recommended by
43 this Technical Committee would provide 34 percent of
44 the available funding to Alaska Native organizations,
45 29 percent to State agencies, 27 percent to Federal
46 agencies and then 10 percent to non-government
47 organizations, these are mainly universities.

48
49 Our purpose here today is to discuss
50 the Monitoring Plan as it relates to your Council and

1 to provide an opportunity for the Council to take an
2 action by making its recommendation for the Yukon
3 Region. Since 2000 84 projects have been funded in the
4 Yukon Region, five will still be -- five of these that
5 are already funded, already in the pipeline, will still
6 be operating in 2010. And if you look at tables one
7 and two, Pages 32 and 34, you can see the status of
8 what's already been funded.

9
10 The 2010 request for proposals for the
11 Yukon Region identified seven issues and information
12 needs, this is when the call goes out and that's --
13 they're listed on Page 31. For the 2010 request for
14 proposals 11 proposals were initially submitted to the
15 Office of Subsistence Management. One was later
16 withdrawn by the investigator and in March, 2008 the
17 Technical Review Committee reviewed the 10 remaining
18 proposals and recommended nine of them develop a full
19 blown investigation plan. That's a detailed budget and
20 much more detailed methods that are being proposed to
21 do the study. One proposal at this stage was withdrawn
22 by the investigator prior to submittal of the
23 investigation plan. By July, 2009 the Technical Review
24 Committee reviewed the remaining eight investigation
25 plans and then recommended funding seven of these eight
26 projects and prioritized them as shown on Page 34. And
27 those are the priority list that is before you today
28 and it's a list of eight and -- or we're recommending
29 funding seven of the eight so those seven are
30 prioritized. And that's shown on page -- like I said
31 on Page 34. Six are stock status and trends projects,
32 and one of those is a harvest monitoring, traditional
33 knowledge study. Project summaries of these projects
34 are found on Pages 34 through 37, it's a real -- just a
35 short, brief, couple bullets or a little paragraph on
36 each one. And then a fuller description is actually
37 found of each -- on each project on Pages 39 through
38 54, so you can get a little more detail if you want to.

39
40 Three of these seven projects are
41 continuation projects, there's the Gisasa and
42 Andreafsky River weirs which have been going on for
43 some time and have been funded by this program. And
44 then the in-season mix stock analysis of chum salmon
45 which occurs at Pilot Station that would be continued,
46 but with an expansion to not only do fall chums, they
47 want to do in addition to that summer chum salmon. And
48 that would then go on for four years.

49
50 Some of the new projects which I think

1 are going to be real important, one is the total run
2 reconstruction for chinook salmon to provide estimates
3 of total run size and stock structure for the years
4 1976 through 2011, that's an important I think
5 milestone to be able to put that kind of assessment
6 together. And that one would be started then in 2010
7 if you agree and then the Federal Subsistence Board
8 agrees to fund that work. But I believe it can be done
9 now, it's being done on the Kuskokwim and there is
10 actually more data for the Yukon than there was for the
11 Kuskokwim, but there's some methodologies that are
12 actually -- been used successfully to do this. It was
13 developed at the University of Alaska, it's a modeling
14 approach that has a lot of promise.

15
16 The other one, a new one is a study of
17 the stock origin of Yukon Delta Bering Cisco which is
18 going to be a real important project that we're
19 fortunate to have a really -- quite a capable
20 researcher from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Randy
21 Brown, who a lot of you know, and he's the lead
22 investigator on that one and he's -- I think it's a
23 good study.

24
25 The third new one is a feasibility
26 study for installing a salmon counting weir on the
27 Nulato River. And this one is the Tanana Chiefs,
28 they've done a good job on Henshaw Creek and they want
29 to just to start doing some of the background work and
30 the feasibility work to putting a counting tower there
31 on the -- putting a count weir on the Nulato River. So
32 I think that's a -- that's a good effort.

33
34 Then the fourth new initiative would be
35 an assessment of impacts of climate change on
36 subsistence fisheries. And this will be mainly working
37 with the traditional knowledge, talking about how --
38 from local people seeing how things have changed over
39 their lives and the lives of their grandparents. And
40 this is important part of climate change research and
41 it's one that we want to see further in the Yukon.

42
43 So that's basically the overview and
44 I'll just leave it at that and if you guys have any
45 questions about any of these I'll try to answer them
46 and if you would like a recommendation from your
47 Council, a formal recommendations, that's what every
48 other Council has done with these that are.....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. CANNON:working with you on
2 it, appreciate that. And I'm sure.....

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council members
5 Andy and then Frank.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
8 On Page 31 under the Yukon River salmon request for
9 proposals, bullet number one, two, three, four, says
10 evaluate the effects of salmon stocks and users of
11 fishery management practices implemented to conserve
12 chinook salmon, i.e., gillnet mesh, gillnet depth and
13 windows openings. I was wondering what projects are
14 being developed to look at those and especially the
15 emphasis on the effects of windows openings on
16 management and escapement. And then also two bullets
17 below that it says develop and evaluate methods for
18 including quality of escapement measures in
19 establishing chinook spawning goals and determining
20 reproductive potentials of spawning escapements and I
21 was wondering what projects are possibly going to be
22 developed to address those two.

23
24 MR. CANNON: Madam Chair, through the
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a lot of
28 questions.

29
30 MR. CANNON: Yeah, I -- I'll try to
31 answer those.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that's a question.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

36
37 MR. CANNON: Madam Chair, through the
38 Chair to Mr. Bassich. They're good questions and as
39 you know the -- these are the requested proposals,
40 these are the things that based on our conversations
41 with you and other -- and the fishermen and our
42 understanding of the fishery needs, these are the
43 things we think are most important questions that need
44 to be answered for the -- you know, to try to improve
45 the fishery and to help the subsistence users. And we
46 didn't get any proposals that directly addressed those.
47 We can't -- you know, we throw out the questions and
48 then we hope the investigators, you know, the agencies
49 and researchers, will come back with something
50 specific. But we didn't get any proposals that

1 directly addressed those. But we have some there, the
2 ones -- some of these new -- actually all of these help
3 us get a little closer to those answers particularly
4 this ability to do the run reconstruction gives us --
5 if we're able to do this we'll get a lot longer look at
6 what's going on historically with the chinook fishery
7 and you can actually develop brood tables and look at
8 how the production is cycling over time. And it's not
9 perfect, it's modeling so, you know, you do -- you have
10 to make some assumptions, but it gives at least the
11 researchers and the managers some idea of what may be
12 going on with the fisheries, what may be driving these
13 fisheries. And so it's a real useful exercise to go
14 through. And, you know, with that you'll ask -- you'll
15 try to ask questions about what would maybe have
16 improved things if we -- you know, if we would have had
17 more females, for example. That's one of the things
18 you might be able to look at. I don't think there's
19 anybody that, you know, would disagree with the idea
20 that it's just not the number of fish you put on the
21 spawning grounds, it's the quality of escapement that's
22 really, really important. So we're -- you know, doing
23 the weir projects help us to evaluate that so we can
24 actually get over time to see actually how we're doing
25 with our quality of escapement. And all this basic
26 information then feeds into how we adjust the fishery.
27 So nothing direct yet, nobody was willing to jump at
28 that and actually try to do an evaluation, but all of
29 this basic information helps us to get to that point.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair, just a --
32 maybe a comment more than anything else. I think --
33 I'd just like to make a comment. I -- you know, we've
34 been talking about quality of escapement for a decade
35 now basically and I think everybody recognizes how
36 important it is and I got to say I'm a little dismayed
37 that we're still not a little farther along on working
38 on two things, one, developing programs to monitor
39 quality of escapement on a more meaningful level. And
40 what I mean by that is, you know, we're still just
41 counting fish, we're not really looking at the quality
42 of escapement really closely, as closely as I think we
43 should anyway or we have the capability of doing.
44 There are some technologies out there that are being
45 used since this -- such as what Stan Zuray is doing
46 down at the rapids which are very effective. And
47 that's the direction I think we really need to move in
48 in monitoring the quality of escapement up in the Eagle
49 area for our obligations to the Canadians.

50

1 And the other thing that I think is
2 paramount, I don't know how Fish and Wildlife and Fish
3 and Game can make real good reconstructions of the run
4 without getting really good, accurate, subsistence
5 harvest data. And that's been pointed out for a long
6 time. And I know the attempts are being made to
7 improve that, but people need to know that there's no
8 way you can accurately -- since we're counting numbers
9 all the time if you leave out an important such as the
10 subsistence harvest out of it or you're not getting
11 accurate numbers to work with in your analysis of that,
12 you're not going to get good results. And I think that
13 really has to be emphasized throughout the entire
14 drainage. You know, the people along the road system
15 are required to fill out calendars for fisheries
16 harvest and that should be mandatory on the entire
17 river given the situation that we're in where we're
18 really trying to reconstruct these runs, we're really
19 trying to have a handle on how many fish are truly
20 coming into the river and what's happening to those
21 fish once they do enter the river through human
22 harvest. And, you know, we can only really look at
23 what humans are doing, we can't really control what
24 nature's doing very well, we have to react to that.

25
26 But I guess I'll just stop for that,
27 but I -- it's just -- I got to say I'm really
28 disappointed that we're not making more progress
29 because I know -- you know, I've been sitting at the
30 table since 2000 talking about these same issues and I
31 really don't feel like we've made a lot of progress in
32 those two areas. And so I just wanted to emphasize
33 that again at this meeting.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Before we go on
36 -- I mean, I guess he gave you a really strong comment
37 there so we're not here -- you know, why is the
38 Committee not choosing some of these important projects
39 like that.

40
41 MR. CANNON: Madam Chairman, we
42 definitely hear you and agree with the comments that
43 this is important and we put it out in the call. We
44 simply did not get anybody -- any investigator from a
45 Federal agency or a State agency who had a better idea
46 or that was wanting to address this. So.....

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is it only open
49 to them?
50

1 MR. CANNON: No, it open to anybody
2 that wants to put a proposal in. There's no -- it's
3 not closed to anybody. But they're the one that
4 generally put the -- put in proposals.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. If
7 something isn't happening in nine years I feel like
8 some -- there's a missing link here. So, I mean, maybe
9 Andy needs to put a proposal in.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair, that's okay.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I'm just --
14 I mean, that's what it sounds like, somebody that knows
15 what's going on.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Well, no, it's not -- I
18 don't feel like I know what's going on, but I do feel
19 that I've heard from all the agencies that this is an
20 issue that they want to address yet I don't see us
21 really making a lot of progress in that area.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: See that
24 doesn't make sense to me.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: And it doesn't and I'm
27 not sure why that is, I'm not sure -- you know, we tend
28 to stick with what we know and I guess what I'm
29 encouraging is a little more out of the box thinking
30 and a little bit of more out of the box development of
31 ideas, management strategies. We're in a situation
32 that since 2000 a lot of the old ways of analyzing and
33 managing the river just don't seem to be working.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: We're bouncing all over
38 the place. And so you're still trying -- we still seem
39 to be using the same tools that we used in the '60s,
40 '70s and '80s and even the '90s, to try and predict
41 what we're going to get and they're not working because
42 there's -- we're kind of in a flux.....

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

45
46 MR. BASSICH:it seems like. And
47 that's where I -- I guess what I'm saying is we need to
48 be a little more courageous, be willing to step outside
49 the box in some of our -- the ways we look at managing
50 fisheries and especially, you know, I can't -- I can't

1 stress this enough, we need to really work on making
2 people understand how important it is to report your
3 catches.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: That -- you can't -- you
8 can't deal with numbers in a fisheries or wildlife if
9 you don't get accurate numbers. We all know what you
10 can do with statistics. You can play with those
11 numbers and.....

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.

14

15 MR. BASSICH:make them look like
16 anything you want them to look like. But if you can
17 get accurate numbers at least you can be a little bit
18 closer to the true mark there and that's what I guess
19 I'm mainly trying to say.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Andy, I
22 -- I wasn't picking on you. I was just saying it's so
23 frustrating that -- why isn't the State and Feds doing
24 something. But your hand is raised and you're going to
25 address that.

26

27 MR. CANNON: Yeah, I don't want to give
28 you the impression that people aren't trying to do
29 this, I believe they are. You know I've been working
30 with the Yukon Fisheries since 1985 and today they're
31 collecting a lot more of this information than they
32 ever were when I was, you know, working as a State
33 manager. I mean there are more weir projects where
34 they actually do monitor, they collect ASL data and
35 they try to monitor the entire escapement. The Eagle
36 project is a great project. I mean they're trying to
37 get more ASL, they're -- you know, the stock biology
38 work is they're actually trying to figure out how many
39 fish are going to go to each part of the drainage. And
40 that technology has just been -- is really recent
41 development and it's only -- I mean, they -- people in
42 Alaska have taken this beyond anything anywhere, you
43 know, than they ever thought was going to be -- that
44 people thought would be possible. So they're doing as
45 much as they can, it's just it takes time and it takes
46 a lot of money.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Which is
49 unfortunate.

50

1 MR. CANNON: Yeah, but I think people
2 are working on it.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Frank and then
5 Virgil.
6
7 MR. GURTLER: Yes, I heard rumors down
8 there that their fish counter wasn't working accurate.
9 And that was the first question. The second one on
10 that part is how could you close fisheries and --when
11 you don't know what's coming up the river with an
12 inaccurate count of the sonar down in the mouth pointed
13 in the mud from what I heard. I don't know if that's
14 true or not, but it's just.....
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a
17 question to you, Rich, or one of the managers.
18
19 MR. CANNON: Well, I guess I have to --
20 I'm supposed to remember that I'm not a manager anymore
21 and I'd love to talk about this, but, you know, I --
22 I'm not afraid to, but I probably shouldn't.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Frank, I
25 guess those questions -- when we discussed the
26 fisheries, this is the -- this is regarding his report
27 and we need to take an action, are we going to support
28 the five proposals that -- so and do you understand
29 what's going on here. So we'll get to your discussion
30 later.
31
32 MR. GURTLER: Okay.
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil had a
35 question or a comment?
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Question.
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you.
42 Rich, when I read this thing on the Nulato River salmon
43 escapement, it says a second component will assess a
44 condition of available weir material from the Tozitna
45 River. So my question is is that not going to operate
46 this coming year, the Tozitna River weir, is it getting
47 shut down?
48
49 MR. CANNON: That is my understanding.
50 I think the Bureau of Land Management's running that

1 project and it's been part of their long term
2 assessment of their -- of resources on their lands to
3 do these projects over a certain period of time. And
4 they -- they're coming to the point where they're --
5 for their purposes that -- that's ending and certainly
6 somebody else could have picked up that, but nobody
7 apparently is interested in doing it on the Tozi. So
8 that weir material's available and I think the Tanana
9 Chiefs is arranging to try to make use of that because
10 it's a good idea to make use of that material for a
11 project on the Nulato. But we have someone here from
12 BLM that can talk to you about that. I think what
13 their bigger plans are for doing a fisheries assessment
14 on their lands, on BLM lands.

15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Now that you've
17 said that, this really upsets me. Do you know if BLM
18 let other agencies know they were going to do this so
19 that they could have maybe put in to take over that
20 project?

21
22 MR. CANNON: Madam Chair, though the
23 Chair to Mr. Umphenour. Yes, I -- people were aware of
24 this, I -- it wasn't a surprise. I mean BLM has let us
25 know that from pretty much day one that they -- they
26 have a -- you know, for their program they have a --
27 they do an assessment of different resources on their
28 lands and that was the plan for the Tozi, they'd go in
29 and develop it, run the project for a life cycle and
30 then -- or two and then it would -- then they would
31 move onto something else. And that's been -- people
32 have been aware of that. At least I've been aware of
33 it for sometime and I -- I'm sure the managers have as
34 well.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, it's upsetting to
37 me and I'll tell you why. When I look at these
38 projects, the Andreafsky River salmon stocks are not
39 exploited. So that's a good check for a basically
40 unexploited population to compare it to an exploited
41 population. The only exploited population that we
42 could compare it to, the only project we had, was the
43 Tozitna River weir that was a relatively exploited
44 population. And if you looked at the ASL data between
45 the Andreafsky or the Gisasa River weir and compared
46 them to the Tozitna River weir, then it would be
47 similar to the same data or the ASL, the sizes and ages
48 of the fish, the king salmon especially, that were
49 harvested or caught in the test fishery in the rapids,
50 would be similar to the Tozitna River weir which would

1 be similar to what would get caught in fish wheel on
2 the Tanana River. And you could compare that -- you
3 know, those would be close, less than 20 percent
4 females normally, normally less than 20 percent six
5 year old and older fish and 80 percent jacks, that's
6 what gets caught in the Tanana River, in the rapids and
7 at the Tozitna River weir. Now we're not going to have
8 any project that's even going to assess that. So to me
9 that's really disappointing and this Cisco mixed stock
10 analysis, I think that's going to only benefit the CDQ
11 group and the commercial fishermen in the Lower Yukon.
12 I'm opposed to that one for that reason. They want to
13 commercially fish those fish and so to heck with them,
14 let them pay for that science. The public should not
15 pay for it. So I'm opposed to the Yukon Delta Bering
16 Cisco Mixed-Stock Analysis. If they want that and they
17 want a commercial fishery, they can pay for that
18 justification.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hey, Virgil,
21 that is -- that is our job to make recommendations.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. And so I'm
24 making recommendations.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you're
27 saying right now.....

28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: My recommendation is do
30 not support Yukon Delta Bering Cisco Mixed Stock
31 Analysis, let the commercial fishermen pay for it, that
32 analysis or studying that.

33
34 (Applause)

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: And until they pay for
37 it then there should not be no fishery. Let the people
38 that are going to make a profit off of it.....

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hang on.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:and
43 potentially cause subsistence problems upriver, let
44 them pay for that and the public should not be paying
45 for it. That's -- that'll be my motion on that. So I
46 make a motion on project 10-209, Yukon Delta Bering
47 Cisco Mixed Stock Analysis. That's so that the Lower
48 Yukon have a commercial fishery directed at whitefish,
49 which are a very important subsistence fish to the
50 people upriver, then they can pay for the study and

1 there should not be no commercial fishery directed on
2 this whitefish until they pay for the study and the
3 study's completed. That's my motion.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's quite a
6 motion. So in simple language the -- you're opposed to
7 -- the motion is 10-209, you're opposed to it until
8 they -- the Lower Yukon pays for the study? Short.
9 Short. Short.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Until the commercial
12 fishermen that are going to benefit from that through a
13 commercial fishery, they can pay for the study. That's
14 my motion, that I'm opposed to any public money goes to
15 that project for that reason. The only people that are
16 going to benefit.....

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
19 That's.....

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR:is going to be
22 commercial fishermen in the mouth of the river.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now I have a
25 second on this proposal or motion? You got me
26 confused. Is there a second.

27
28 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'll second that.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill has
31 seconded it. Any discussion.

32
33 Andy.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I think as a body
36 making a recommendation, I don't think we really have
37 the right to say who should fund it, I think we have
38 the ability to make a recommendation that this resource
39 monitoring plan is either funded or not going to fund
40 it. But I -- as far as the motion goes, I would strike
41 any words that say who should fund it and just leave
42 the motion as we do not recommend the support or the --
43 that we do not recommend that the Resource Monitoring
44 Plan take this proposal on. If that makes sense. But
45 I don't think.....

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It makes sense
48 to me.

49
50 MR. BASSICH:I don't think we

1 have the -- really the right or the authority to say
2 who should fund or who shouldn't fund a project. But
3 we do have a right to make a recommendation whether the
4 Resource Monitoring Plan is to adopt this or not. And
5 I think that's about as far as we really have the
6 ability to make a recommendation on.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
9 discussion. Bill.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Maybe in the question is
12 where we can put that in, that perhaps there's
13 somewhere that we don't -- we don't support the funding
14 of it, but the -- I don't know how to go about wording
15 it the way Andrew's.....

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think I know
18 what you're saying, you don't support the funding by
19 the public?

20

21 MR. GLANZ: Right.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Would you like
24 to change your motion with the second concurrence?

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me -- let me say
27 something here.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is this
30 discussion on the -- your motion?

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is discussion on
33 the motion and to clarify it a little bit. Okay. To
34 clarify my motion I agree maybe partially with what
35 Andy said, we cannot tell them -- we can't tell how we
36 think the money should be spent. I don't think -- my
37 personal opinion is that I don't think that this money
38 should be spent where the primary purpose is to benefit
39 a small portion of the river and it's not going to
40 benefit the subsistence users. The only way it could
41 potentially benefit subsistence users is if this study
42 gets done and it shows that well, if we exploit this
43 population of fish commercially it's going to have a
44 severe impact on the subsistence users upriver and so
45 that causes them to stop the commercial fishery, that's
46 the only way it would benefit them. But the way I look
47 at things is that if a group, a commercial interest
48 that's interest is the greenback dollar, that if they
49 -- if science is needed to demonstrate that they are
50 not going to harm the subsistence user then they should

1 foot the bill to provide that science to prove they're
2 not going to harm the subsistence users. I don't
3 feel.....

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR:that the
8 subsistence users should be paying for that. And if
9 it's Federal money.....

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But we need you
12 to say that in a.....

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me.....

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:short
17 sentence.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I said it, I
20 think, short enough. Okay. But what I do want to add
21 to the discussion on this is that I am extremely
22 disappointed that the Tozitna BLM decided not to
23 operate the Tozitna River weir and they may have made
24 it public to the agencies, but it was not public
25 knowledge to the RAC which I'm on the RAC, been on it a
26 long time.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's just
29 discuss the motion. You're saying it's relevant.....

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd like to -- yes,
32 it's very relevant. We are going to have an
33 information gap now that that project's not going to be
34 run. And so I would much rather see the money that was
35 going to be used for this Cisco study, maybe there's
36 some way that if the agency decided not to fund that,
37 took our recommendation, that they could put out a
38 supplemental announcement for Tanana Chiefs or someone
39 to take over this project on the Tozitna River weir
40 because it's been going to two life cycles or close to
41 it, nine or 10 years, and maybe some other agency would
42 -- that's competent to do it, would want to take that
43 project over and they could just switch the money over
44 to that. So that's -- so I do have a question, it's
45 a.....

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I would
48 like to hear from Rich on that. Go ahead.

49
50 MR. CANNON: Madam Chair, through the

1 Chair to Mr. Umphenour. This year, 2009, will be the
2 last year of data collection, but in the final report
3 that will be coming back to our program, we've asked
4 the investigator and then I think, you know, they
5 certainly agreed they're going to try to take the data
6 that they have over this period of time and try to make
7 some comparisons with other escapement projects in the
8 river to see if there are some and make recommendations
9 about long term. So once that's done, that analysis is
10 done, that'll be available to all the managers and
11 agencies and at some point they may -- somebody may
12 decide that well, this really is a project that they --
13 somebody may want to pick up and continue. You know,
14 it -- it's a -- there's a balance here, Virgil, you
15 know, between -- because these projects are expensive,
16 you can't put one on every system, and it's reasonable,
17 I think, to do an initial assessment, see what you
18 have, do the analysis, compare it to some of the other
19 indicators you've got in the river to see if it really
20 can tell you something that you don't already have
21 before you just continue to fund projects, you know, on
22 -- without ever making a -- asking the tough question,
23 is this really telling me anything. So that's what
24 we're trying to do and that will be something that
25 they're going to try to address in the final report.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So, Virgil, in
28 hearing your motion and looking at our action today, we
29 need to say which projects we fund and which projects
30 we do not fund. And right now I'm hearing that we do
31 not fund 209.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And the motion
36 is on the floor and I think -- if there's any change to
37 the language it's got to be done now, that -- to your
38 motion.

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll make a
41 simple motion.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're
44 -- are you amending your first one?

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll withdraw -- with
47 the permission of my second, I will withdraw my first
48 motion and make a new motion so i's very clear.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. GLANZ: I agree.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's.....
4
5 MR. GLANZ: I agree.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
8 Bill. Go ahead, Virgil.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move that we
11 take the Staff's recommendation on proposals with the
12 exception of propose -- to fund all the proposals
13 recommended by Staff with the exception of proposals
14 10-209, Yukon Delta Bering Cisco Mixed Stock Analysis.
15 We fund all other proposals except for that one.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. Any
22 discussion on this motion. Virgil.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I will reference
25 all my previous comments made. Thank you.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
28 pretty simple. Any other comments by the Committee --
29 Council.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
36 been called for. All in favor say aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
45 motion carries. All right. Now we go on to Vince.
46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, in case you're
48 moving off of this, I need to ask Rich a question
49 because in Western Interior it came up. Does the
50 Council have opportunity when the call for proposal is

1 developed to put in suggested research project types,
2 not actually a project, do they have that opportunity?

3

4

5 MR. CANNON: Madam Chair, Vince. Yes,
6 that is something that is an important part of the
7 process is to try to refine this call so that we are
8 trying to get the right -- ask the right questions.
9 And we've attempted to do that and if you see something
10 on this list or, you know, something that isn't there,
11 then yeah, that's something that we would like to get
12 from the Council definitely.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And there's
15 good timing that it happens prior to your call, we get
16 opportunity to comment each time?

17

18 MR. CANNON: Right. Well, when we
19 bring this to you.....

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: (Indiscernible
22 - simultaneous speech).....

23

24 MR. CANNON: Yes, then.....

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

27

28 MR. CANNON:you know, if you have
29 something that you would like to see included in the
30 call and we're on a two year cycle so we've got more
31 time now, but yeah, definitely at this meeting or at
32 your joint meeting in the winter, if you have something
33 that you'd like to include here, absolutely, that's
34 something we want to address.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
37 members, is there anything missing in this that you
38 would like to bring out? Andy brought out his concern.

39

40 Virgil.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I have the same
43 concerns as Andy. We need ASL data on what's getting
44 on the spawning grounds. That's why I'm really upset
45 about not knowing in advance if the BLM was going to
46 stop operating the Tozitna River weir because the
47 Tozitna River weir is the furthest one up the Yukon,
48 it's not really that far, it's only 700 miles roughly
49 up the Yukon before the Tozitna River takes off from
50 the mouth. And but it gives us the best indication of

1 what's actually getting on the spawning grounds. And
2 that population that they're sampling there, their
3 sampling basically mirrors what's going up -- what I
4 know is going up the Tanana River and getting on the
5 spawning grounds in the Tanana River which is the
6 largest producer of King Salmon in the Yukon River
7 drainage. And so it upsets me that we will not have a
8 monitoring system to monitor what's actually getting on
9 the spawning grounds as far as age, sex and size of the
10 fish. And we're going to just have these weirs on the
11 Gisasa and Andrafsky and especially the Andrafsky
12 River weir, it's good as a control because that
13 population is basically not targeted, those fishermen
14 don't want to catch those fish on there, they want to
15 catch fish headed up this way so they don't even
16 attempt to catch those. So that's what really upsets
17 me about this.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm sure
22 Richard's going to carry that message back.

23

24 MR. CANNON: Madam Chair. Yes, I do
25 hear what Mr. Umphenour's saying as well as Mr. Bassich
26 and other Council members. I understand what they -- I
27 think what they're interested in. One possible way of
28 addressing this would be once the study for the Tozitna
29 is done and we look at the available data to see if
30 there is some longer term value in that project, then
31 that could become a specific all for proposals in
32 future years. And I would imagine that one way to do
33 that would be to come back to your Council and give you
34 a briefing on that report and what it turns up showing
35 us. And, I mean, that seems to me like a reasonable
36 way to go, to see what we've actually -- rather than
37 just putting a project in and running it forever we
38 actually stop, do an analysis, see if it has some value
39 and then bring that back. And if it does we put it
40 back on the list as something we really want to see
41 continue. It's not fast, it's not, you know, rapid,
42 you know, response kind of thing like we would like,
43 but it's kind of the way we have to do fisheries, it's
44 a long process.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
47 ahead.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I really
50 appreciate that, Richard. One of the things I wanted

1 to point out I did this in 2001, I compared different
2 projects because we had real windows in 2001 and we
3 just had real windows last year. So to me it would be
4 extremely interesting to compare like the Andreafsky
5 River weir to the Tozitna River weir that -- you know,
6 that -- and for the people that don't really understand
7 what I'm talking about, what I'm comparing is the size
8 of the king salmon and how many females there are and
9 the ages of them, compare them to see it how it changed
10 when the Lower Yukon didn't get to fish seven days a
11 week. And so.....

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Calm down.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR:and so having a
16 project like that gives you a real good way to evaluate
17 what the -- how the quality of escapement, the number
18 of female fish and the ages of them and compared to the
19 males, how it changes when you different things in
20 managements like was done this past year. If --
21 without a project like that the only thing we have is
22 carcass surveys which is where they go count the number
23 of dead salmon, king salmon, that they can find on sand
24 bars and gravel bars up below the spawning grounds.
25 And that's not accurate at all. And so I hate using a
26 method that's not accurate when we have an accurate
27 way, called a weir, that we could use instead.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Rich.

32

33 MR. CANNON: Just a little bit more on
34 this. I don't want to mislead anybody, you know, that
35 with a short window of time for king salmon, you know,
36 seven or eight years is a short window of time, that's
37 about one cycle. And unfortunately seeing kind of a
38 trend in some of these very complicated, you know,
39 relationships, maybe -- it may be difficult to tease
40 out of just that short of timeline, but one thing that
41 is reasonable to look at is to see over a life cycle if
42 through that same life cycle some other escapement
43 project is trending the same way. What that begins to
44 tell you, suggest, is that maybe some of these stock
45 groups or stock are being influenced by the same
46 things. And really the whole idea is that you're
47 trying to get an index of these trends throughout the
48 river. That's why there are project on the Tanana,
49 that's why there's some up in Canada, that's why we're
50 trying to have some in the middle in the Lower Yukon.

1 Now the Tozitna is sort of a -- you know, like the
2 Andraefsky Lake you said it's sort of its own stock.
3 And it may be by itself, it maybe just trends up and
4 down. At that point you've got to decide is it worth a
5 couple hundred thousand dollars a year just to evaluate
6 that small stock. But if it's trending, for example,
7 if it -- it may be trending similar to the Chena, that
8 may be more interesting and that's something that, you
9 know, we might want to use as a -- you know, a way of
10 looking at an index. But until we do that analysis we
11 can't tell you that.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy had
14 another short comment.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Rich.
17 Given all your vast experience in fisheries management,
18 not -- I'm just wondering if something that wouldn't be
19 a viable addition for our calls is to start looking at
20 projects that would do long term assessments or create
21 an index for out migration of particular rivers, given
22 like the Tanana if it's such a large produce or chinook
23 salmon. We -- managers and everybody seems to put so
24 much emphasis on escapement, but we really haven't put
25 a lot of energies into what the out migration is. And
26 given the changes in climate and the concerns on
27 spawning habitat and that sort of thing, I wonder if
28 there's been much discussion through the Department on
29 trying to develop ways to look at that.

30

31 MR. CANNON: Madam Chairman, through
32 the Chair to Mr. Bassich. Yeah, there's been a lot of
33 discussion of the -- you know, I've been out of this --
34 I worked on the Kuskokwim for about the last eight or
35 nine years so I haven't been directly involved with the
36 Yukon, but I know the Joint Technical -- the -- yeah,
37 the JTC, Joint Technical Committee with the Yukon has
38 this -- discusses this quite a lot and back -- and get
39 backs to the panel about it. And, you know, looking at
40 juvenile studies in relationship to adult, helps you to
41 evaluate the freshwater life fish -- life history phase
42 of their life cycle and that's what it does. It's
43 expensive to do and difficult to do, but, you know,
44 there may be some ways to do it and it may provide some
45 value. In most cases juvenile studies can't be done or
46 aren't done widely because people in Alaska found that
47 the -- looking at the spawner to spawner relationship
48 gives you the best look at the total productivity cycle
49 and that includes the marine system. But you brought
50 up an interesting point, when we're looking at some of

1 the questions about climate change, there is some work
2 going on, mainly on the Kuskokwim, there's a project
3 there where we're actually doing chum salmon juvenile
4 work and there's been a little bit done up on the
5 Tanana. And a lot of that's been done with chum to try
6 to work out some of the challenges of sampling in ice
7 environments and that's a real big -- real tough thing
8 to do. But there is work on it, there's a lot of
9 interest in it and there's also interest in trying to
10 assess habitats as another way to try to evaluate this.
11 So there's been -- there's -- and there's some
12 encouraging work done on that, you know, it's not ready
13 for prime time, but people are working on those kinds
14 of methods and it just takes time to develop it and
15 people are looking at it.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe -- it's just a
20 suggestion, would be to form a subcommittee and then
21 would work with Rich between now and your next meeting.
22 And correct me, Rich, if -- they would have the
23 opportunity at the next meeting, at the joint meeting,
24 to give their suggestions for the call for proposals
25 and then the subcommittee would meet between now and
26 then to get some language that covers globally what you
27 guys would want that would be in the call proposal and
28 then you would approve it next meeting assuming that
29 timing matches the call. It's up to you, we -- you
30 could keep going now.....

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
33 members, how do you feel about his suggestion, do you
34 want to have a committee that can discuss this prior to
35 the call so -- sometimes I think it is a good idea
36 because, you know, you come to the meetings and you end
37 up oh, we have all these issues and sometimes you go
38 home thinking, man, we should have dealt with this a
39 different way. How -- what's your feeling on this?

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sounds good to me.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And have it --
44 do it that way?

45

46 MR. BASSICH: That's the most effective
47 way.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Put that on the
50 record, please.

1
2 MR. BASSICH: I just said that that's
3 the most effective way to develop these plans. It
4 takes a lot more time to really think these things
5 through than.....
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.
8
9 MR. BASSICH:10 minutes during
10 the Council meeting.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. Right.
13 I'll leave that up to Vince to.....
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we'll.....
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:talk at
18 break who would be on this.....
19
20 MR. MATHEWS:I have to work with
21 Rich's schedule, but it would be a teleconference and
22 some back and forth and then you have your full meeting
23 at the joint meeting. And Western Interior wanted to
24 look at some -- you don't have to work with them, but
25 it may dovetail into them. I don't -- I assume that
26 schedule will work, that's why I'm a little lost.
27
28 MR. CANNON: Well, I'm certainly going
29 to rely on Vince to set all this up.....
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sure.
32
33 MR. CANNON:and I'll just be
34 available to chat with you guys. Thanks.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I can do that and
37 the -- but the schedule's okay, Rich, the meeting --
38 the call will not have gone out before their next
39 meeting.
40
41 MR. CANNON: Okay.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, Andrew.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: I have some questions for
46 you, Mr. Cannon. When -- on the Page 47 of the Bering
47 Cisco Mixed Stock Analysis, it says a commercial
48 fishery was -- has been initiated. So when --
49 initiating you mean like it started recently as within
50 the last year or two or.....

1 MR. CANNON: Madam Chair, through the
2 chair to Mr. -- is that Firmin?

3

4 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

5

6 MR. CANNON: Yeah, the State manager's
7 here so he can give you -- Steve Hayes is here so he
8 can give you the specifics, but yeah, the fishery's
9 been going on for a couple of seasons. It's a small
10 fishery, they're not getting in a large harvest. But
11 one thing just to speak in some of the -- on the pro
12 side of this is that in -- with a lot of -- in the
13 State of Alaska with a lot of, you know, new fisheries,
14 they try to work with the fishermen to try to collect
15 samples so that they can learn something about the
16 stocks which we don't know very much about these fish.
17 I mean this is really, you know, kind of cutting edge
18 research. I mean if Mr. Brown is correct, he thinks
19 there's only maybe three spawning areas in the Bering
20 Sea and he's including the Susitna that may be seeding
21 all of the Bering Cisco that occur up and down the
22 coast. And they're -- they often are found in coastal
23 lagoons. So knowing that is extremely important to
24 learn how to protect them.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: Well, my other question
27 was when it says the harvest is about 10,000 fish and
28 they want a much larger allocation has been requested,
29 how much larger -- I mean, how much more fish do they
30 want?

31

32 MR. CANNON: That one I'm going to
33 leave to Mr. Hayes if he wants to come to the table
34 because I really don't know on that, I don't work with
35 the processor.

36

37 MR. HAYES: Thank you, Madam Chair,
38 Council members. My name is Steve Hayes, I'm the Yukon
39 summer season area manager and I also manage the
40 whitefish fishery in the Lower Yukon. Just a quick
41 background, that fishery has been going on for about
42 four years. Initially we came up with the 10,000 pound
43 limit because in the past we have issued permits for up
44 to that amount and we felt that it was safe to issue
45 that amount because there was not affect in the upper
46 river areas. There has been request to increase that
47 amount every year since the fishery started. We've
48 kept that number in place until we basically gain more
49 information that tells us we can increase that harvest.
50 So they just had the fishery in September, they took

1 10,000 pounds so that fishery's over at this time. And
2 we also are collecting samples, ASL samples and harvest
3 information and currently that program is funded by CDQ
4 for everything we do on that fishery they pay for.

5
6 MR. FIRMIN: But one other thing.
7 Basically some of these fish though are the same --
8 that they're catching are the same fish that are
9 possibly -- they came from here definitely, huh, or
10 some of them?

11
12 MR. HAYES: Well, most likely. And one
13 thing to point out too is they are targeting Cisco,
14 they're not targeting sheefish or humpback or broads,
15 they don't want those fish. So everything they take is
16 like lease Arctic cisco.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Rich.

21
22 MR. CANNON: Yeah, just -- I know that
23 you don't get a lot of time to look at this right at
24 the meeting, but, you know, this particular proposal is
25 to do the genetics work so that you develop, you know,
26 the baselines, you're collecting baselines and then
27 getting the samples from the fishery to see if those
28 fish down there in the Delta are coming from just these
29 few spawning areas that we're aware of. So that's --
30 biologically that's the kind of information they hope
31 to get out of that study.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

34
35 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair. Just one
36 thing to add is, you know, we feel that genetics is
37 very important and, of course, we didn't have funding
38 for it on this year's fishery, but the State did
39 collect genetic information off the commercial harvest
40 this year.

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
42 members, any other questions.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
47 ready for a break?

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil's ready
2 for a break, let's take a five minute which turns into
3 10.

4
5 (Off record)

6
7 (On record)

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
10 go. Council members, join us.

11
12 (Pause)

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We just
15 had one small forgetful moment here. We got deep into
16 discussion and hearing the public that we failed to
17 adopt that agenda changes. We had a motion on the
18 floor and we didn't vote on it. Do you remember that?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I kind of
23 remembered a couple times, but I failed to remember
24 when I needed to. So I think I heard the call for the
25 question. All in favor of adopting the agenda.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now a lot of
32 new faces came in while we started the meeting. And
33 those of you had not introduced yourself, if you would,
34 please. Should we turn this mic on or.....

35
36 MS. BRASE: Hi, I'm Audra Brase, B-R-A-
37 S-E. I work for Fish and Game in Fairbanks, Sportfish
38 Division.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Do
41 they need to come up.

42
43 REPORTER: It would help.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. He says
46 it helps so.....

47
48 MS. SWANTON: Good morning, I'm Nancy
49 Swanton. I'm with the National Park Service out of our
50 Regional office. I'm on our Interagency Staff

1 Committee, focusing on fisheries primarily.

2

3 MR. HOLDER: Russ Holder with Fish and
4 Wildlife Service and I'll be up next after the Partners
5 presentation, Yukon River Federal in-season fisheries
6 manager.

7

8 MR. BERTRAM: Mark Bertram, I'm a
9 wildlife biologist with Yukon Flats Refuge.

10

11 MS. SOLOMON: Ms. Hannah J. Solomon
12 here in Fort Yukon.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

15

16 MR. KELLER: Peter Keller, wildlife
17 biologist for Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

18

19 MS. BERKBIGLER: Brandy Berkbigler with
20 Tanana Chiefs Conference, Partners Fisheries biologist.

21

22 MS. PUTERA: I'm Judy Putera, wildlife
23 biologist with Wrangell St. Elias National Park and
24 Preserve.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else we
27 miss? Okay. I think Brandy is next with the Yukon
28 Partners Fisheries Monitoring Program. Do we have time
29 to do that, Brandy, before lunch?

30

31 MS. BERKBIGLER: I'll take probably a
32 few minutes to get loaded.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh. I just --
35 okay. Council members, do we want to take this up now
36 or.....

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Brandy's?

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Brandy's, yeah.
41 Because how long is your report, Brandy? Long?

42

43 MS. BERKBIGLER: It's pretty short
44 unless you ask a lot of questions. So.....

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I can guarantee
47 you there'll be a few questions.

48

49 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, I think there
50 will be.

1
2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So we'll take the
3 presentation and then.....

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sure. Did you
6 say this takes five minutes to load?

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 MS. BERKBIGLER: Good afternoon, Madam
11 Chair and Council members. My name's Brandy
12 Berkbigler, I'm the Partners Fisheries biologist with
13 Tanana Chiefs Conference. So today I'd like to just
14 give you a little overview of what the Partners program
15 at TCC has been involved in this past season as well as
16 our two other biologists, Paige Strovni and Lisa
17 Kangas.

18
19 So this year our TCC Fisheries projects
20 were located throughout the region, I primarily worked
21 on the Koyukuk River with the Henshaw Creek weir. We
22 had Paige Strovni working on an ASL subsistence data
23 collection and she worked in the community of Nulato,
24 Galena, Hess Creek which is above Rampart and Fort
25 Yukon and Mike Smith worked in the good pasture which
26 is on the Tanana River. And Lisa Kangas worked in Holy
27 Cross and Bishop Mountain collecting age, sex and
28 length data from subsistence harvested chinook salmon.

29
30
31 So this year at Henshaw Creek weir it
32 was funded through the OSM, it's Fisheries Information
33 Service Project 08-201. It's been operated fully by
34 TCC since 2008 and it has funding through spring of
35 2012. So the crew arrived in the camp on June 24th and
36 we -- the water was high when we got there so we
37 participated or we ended up doing a lot of weir panel
38 repair, the weir's kind of old, it's been in operation
39 since 2000, it was transferred over from Fish and
40 Wildlife Service. And then we started assembling the
41 weir July 2nd and it was completed the night of July
42 4th. Our first chinook and chum salmon arrived on July
43 5th and were counted and the last day of counting was
44 August 7th. We didn't have any flood events this year
45 so it was a full, 100 percent count. So our
46 preliminary escapement numbers for this year is 1,637
47 chinook salmon and for chum salmon 156,933. This shows
48 the previous year's counts excluding 2006 which that
49 year the entire weir was flooded out for the season.

50

1 So this is just a graph I put up
2 showing the daily run timing of each of the years, so
3 the different years are in color. And this year was a
4 little bit later timing than previous years, I mean,
5 pretty right on in the beginning, but the pulse came
6 probably around the later end of normal time. And then
7 the second graph here is for the chum salmon. So at
8 the bottom you're just looking at the first day of
9 counting all the way through the end of counting that
10 we've seen of counts recorded per day.

11
12 So then with Henshaw Creek we also tie
13 in a science camp and we invite students, sixth through
14 12th grade from Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes and
15 Evansville to come up to the weir for a one week
16 traditional knowledge science camp where we try to
17 blend western science and traditional knowledge by
18 having elders participate. This year the camp was held
19 July 20th through the 24th and due to a competing bible
20 camp, the high school students were at the bible camp
21 the week of the science camp so we actually had fifth
22 through seventh graders at the camp so it made it
23 pretty interesting because it was a different group of
24 students. We curtailed the curriculum just a little
25 bit differently for their knowledge. So what we do
26 there is we kind of have them go out on the weir and
27 show them what it's like to collect age, sex, length
28 data and what the purpose of the weir is. They get to
29 do traditional activities like net mending and net
30 making and we harvest fish to dry and then they -- we
31 also do stream ecology and aquatic invertebrates and
32 stuff like that.

33
34 So this is a couple pictures of who was
35 kind of at camp this year, the -- between the Staff,
36 elders, some of the students. And we also have a
37 volunteer through the SCA and through Friends With
38 Refuges.

39
40 So this year we incorporated a couple
41 new lessons into our traditional ones. We did
42 understanding topo maps, making a spruce paddle with a
43 new elder, Pollock Simon, Sr. We also had Lisa
44 Saperstein who's a Refuge biologist with Kanuti come up
45 and do a lesson on dragonflies.

46
47 And then with Paige Strovni she
48 collected samples in seven locations along the main
49 stem for the age, sex and length. We also collected
50 fecundity information, gear type and mesh size, the

1 capture location and girth and weight. This is due to
2 when you don't have a commercial fishery in the Yukon a
3 lot of information doesn't get collected so we're
4 trying to fill that gap with collecting the information
5 off of the subsistence harvest.

6

7 So she -- Lisa Kangas worked in Holy
8 Cross and she had 239 samples collected and worked with
9 five fishermen. Nulato, Paige collected 387 samples
10 with six fishermen. Most of the fishermen were taught
11 how to take the ASL samples themselves and so they
12 actually collected off their own harvest. So then
13 Bishop Rock was 191 and two fishermen participated in
14 that. And then Galena, Ruby was actually a project
15 that I worked on with the Ruby Tribal Council and we
16 had 144 samples collected and there we hired a
17 technician and worked with Ed Sarten who is the --
18 works with the Ruby Tribal Council. And in Fort Yukon
19 152 samples were collected with three fishermen.

20

21 So in Ruby there's pictures of Ed and
22 Maureen taking the ASL samples, the weight and girth
23 from one of the subsistence harvesters who use fish
24 wheel. And this study was actually studied through the
25 Yukon River Panel R&E fund. So preliminary we had 144
26 chinook samples and 99 of them were males and 41 of
27 them were females. Most of the information was -- or
28 most of the fish were harvested through set nets, a
29 couple through driftnets and one fish wheel. Most of
30 the samples were taken off the south bank just because
31 not a lot of people were fishing the north bank this
32 year.

33

34 So current and future proposals. We
35 put in the proposal for the Nulato weir pilot study.
36 Originally it was going to be a few year weir pilot --
37 a four year weir study, but due to the fact that we
38 don't know the condition of the materials out there, it
39 was going to be very expensive to purchase a whole new
40 weir and then with Tozitna weir being available
41 possibly to us which wasn't found out until later the
42 spring or early summer after we had already put in a
43 proposal for the -- to rebuild an entire weir at Nulato
44 River. That one we're waiting on so we want to do a
45 pilot study first just to make sure that we don't go
46 spend a bunch of money on a project that's not
47 feasible. There used to be a weir in Nulato in 2002,
48 2003 that was operated by the State in joint with I
49 believe it was Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and
50 the Nulato Tribal Council. Due to operations just not

1 going well and flooding, they decided to discontinue
2 the project and left -- the State left the weir
3 materials there on the bank, but since nobody's been
4 watching them since 2003, some, I guess, have drifted
5 downriver or have been damaged by flooding. So we want
6 to make sure we go out there, assess the river, find
7 out what the condition of those materials are in and
8 then know that we can put together a good study to put
9 a weir in to count the escapement coming back in the
10 Nulato which this year with an ADF&G aerial survey
11 there was quite a few kings and chum in the Nulato
12 River compared to the other drainages they did aerial
13 surveys on.

14

15 So the other -- that's where that one
16 is going and we are working with the Nulato Tribal
17 Council to put that together. The -- we also submitted
18 or I submitted a proposal to both R&E and R&M for the
19 Ruby subsistence chinook data collection again this
20 year and Paige submitted one to R&E for genetic
21 analysis of the subsistence samples to the Department
22 of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Canada, their lab.
23 I'll be submitting a proposal for the Henshaw Creek
24 rural science camp coming up in December and then we
25 each wrote articles for the TCC Council newspapers
26 which I haven't been around the office because I was at
27 that Western RAC meeting last week, so I'm not sure if
28 it's in publication just yet. And so I was going to
29 bring copies, but I don't know the status of our -- the
30 Council newspaper right now.

31

32 So also I was involved in the Strategic
33 Whitefish Planning Committee last fall and the spring.
34 And one of the recommendations was for TCC or maybe
35 just me in general to start maybe putting in for some
36 whitefish studies. Once the call goes out next
37 November, 2010, there will be money available for
38 whitefish research through OSM once the strategic plan
39 kind of identifies some of the priorities for that
40 research. So that will be something that we might be
41 looking into next fall for proposals.

42

43 So with that I was going to address any
44 questions you may have or recommendations for proposals
45 which I've been taking in from you guys earlier.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
48 members, there was a suggestion that we have lunch
49 first and then come back to the questions. Do you feel
50 comfortable remembering your questions.

1 Okay. So, Brandy, you're still here
2 for us. Okay. We'll break for lunch and I guess give
3 it -- how much time, Vince, should we allow here?
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know
6 because Mabel said soup and I don't see soup. Probably
7 an hour.
8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She said it wasn't
10 done yet.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: She wasn't done yet?
13
14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, the soup
15 wasn't done.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: So an hour and 15 minutes
20 at least.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, maybe if
23 she's not done yet we could go -- let's just.....
24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
26 away from microphone).....
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, is that
29 -- yeah. Let's do that. Yeah, I like it when it's
30 fresh in my mind.
31
32 Andrew.
33
34 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, I had a few questions
35 about how long was the ASL data taken in each village
36 that you showed earlier on there, you had -- not the
37 graph, but you had a list of villages and fishermen, I
38 mean, were those dates for like 30 days each or.....
39
40 MS. BERKBIGLER: Through the Chair, Mr.
41 Firmin. To address your question of how long those
42 samples were collected, basically they coordinated with
43 the window subsistence schedule. So when the fishermen
44 went out and fished that's when we able to collect the
45 samples due to some of the numbers not reaching our
46 maximum goals, specifically Ruby that I know of is
47 because we weren't there during some -- or we didn't
48 have the samples early enough when the fishing was open
49 and the fish started running up before the windows were
50 in place, then once the windows got in place a lot of

1 fisherman were having a hard time catching the fish or
2 just didn't get as many so we didn't collect as many
3 samples and we would have liked.

4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Because I just kind
6 of noticed an obvious trend there of like Holy Cross
7 had 500 samples, were they paid per sample or per
8 person as they fished them or.....

9
10 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, the fishermen
11 since they were collecting their samples were paid, you
12 know, for the quality of their sampling. So basically
13 each fish was paid a specific amount for the sampling.

14
15 MR. FIRMIN: But was there like a hard
16 cap, say each fisherman can only count 50 each or the
17 point I'm trying to look at here is like in Holy Cross
18 five people caught 500 fish, that's 100 fish each. And
19 the obvious trend is there in Fort Yukon, you've got
20 three fishermen and they're only catching 50 fish
21 apiece. Is that -- would that be affected in anyway by
22 the amount of pay or who you're paying or.....

23
24 MS. BERKBIGLER: No, more of it is the
25 affect of how well the fishermen fished. So not
26 necessarily -- not a -- not -- I know it sounds bad
27 because, you know, it's paying for a sample, but it
28 would be no different than paying me to go out there
29 and take the samples. So we figured we're going to
30 give the money to the fisherman who's actually going to
31 do the work to take the sample. And for some places in
32 Nulato some people didn't even want to participate even
33 though we were saying well, if you want to take the
34 sample we'll -- you know, you'll get reimbursed for it.
35 But then in Fort Yukon there were a couple more
36 participants who wanted to participate, but due to the
37 timing of showing or increased participation too late
38 in the run, then we couldn't get out there in time to
39 train them to take the samples. So it's kind of a
40 mixed bag whether or not somebody did well during an
41 opening or even fished that opening who we had worked
42 with and then finding the participants ahead of time
43 and then that's also switched in season. Some people
44 are like I don't want to deal with this anymore and
45 then they stopped and so we had to find somebody else
46 too. So.....

47
48 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. I just was
49 wondering because the trend of the fish seems to go --
50 the amount of fish people caught here in town and it

1 just -- there's too many other factors to actually use
2 that as hard data, how much fish per people. Every
3 fisherman caught separately as compared to an upriver
4 village to a downriver village. That was what I was
5 getting out.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That sounds
10 like a good study. Okay. Andy then Virgil.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
13 Couple of quick questions and then one I'll need you to
14 pull up one of those graphs again. But in your Henshaw
15 Creek weir project. do you guys collect any kind of
16 girth sampling on that?

17

18 MS. BERKBIGLER: Through the Chair, Mr.
19 Bassich. No, we don't collect any girth or weight
20 because they're live fish and we try to minimize the
21 stress on those fish. So take putting them in the
22 cradle and we could probably do it, it just wasn't
23 written into the plan originally. So.....

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, it's just one of
26 those things I was referring to earlier. I think
27 there's some creative abilities for us to learn how to
28 sample fish for weight and girth for live sampling
29 rather than, you know, subsistence caught dead fish.
30 And I would highly encourage a program that would help
31 to develop that because I think that's a really
32 valuable tool in assessing quality of escapement.

33

34 And then the other question I had --
35 one of the other questions I had was in the programs
36 where they were sampling the subsistence were they
37 doing fecundity counts?

38

39 MS. BERKBIGLER: Through the Chair, Mr.
40 Bassich. No they were not. It was kind of -- some of
41 the fishermen thought it was a little invasive even to
42 just try to slice the fish open just enough to verify
43 that there were eggs or milt so we didn't do any
44 fecundity type studies. So.....

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And I'm not sure
47 how valuable that would be in those particular areas,
48 it's probably more valuable as you get closer to
49 spawning grounds for those fish, but there again I
50 think it's an important thing to establish a baseline

1 in certain parts of the river what fecundity you're
2 getting.

3

4 And then I was wondering if you could
5 pull up the graphs that showed the run timings, you had
6 the two graphs there. And I couldn't see -- I can't
7 really see which color is this year, is that the blue,
8 the later -- can you point to the spikes that we're
9 looking at for this year?

10

11 MS. BERKBIGLER: Okay. It's pretty
12 much mixed in right in here, there's the green and this
13 is kind of the blue -- purpley blue here on high.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: All right. Maybe I'll
16 look at that with you on a break or whatever, but I'd
17 just like to look at those a little bit closer.

18

19 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, I can totally
20 show you those.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess you
23 didn't have a handout for this meeting, huh?

24

25 MS. BERKBIGLER: No, in theory I was
26 trying to get there, but just with everything else and
27 data checking, it's just enough to try to get the
28 presentation going. But I can always print these off
29 and print you the actual numbers as well that we have
30 preliminary. So.....

31

32 MR. BASSICH: And now I guess the final
33 thing is I'd be really interested as a Council member
34 to get a copy of your reports that you publish through
35 the TCC paper or whatever. I think that's important
36 information for the Council members to have. But I do
37 -- this is the type of work that I really like seeing.
38 I think this is a very cost effective program, we get a
39 lot for the work that's being done and it's obvious
40 that they are moving in the directions that I was
41 referring to earlier in trying to establish better
42 quality of escapement and get a better understanding of
43 stock compositions and that sort of thing. So I really
44 applaud the program here and of many of the programs
45 that I've seen, this seems us to give us one of the
46 biggest bangs for the buck, very diverse and they try
47 and incorporate a lot of different data with the
48 research that they're doing in the field. And I think
49 that's sometimes overlooked. I think a lot of times we
50 -- when we're collecting data out in the field if we're

1 -- take just a few more minutes we can oftentimes gets
2 another component in that data that is very useful in
3 comparisons long term.

4

5 So great job, Brandy, thank you.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Brandy, the --
8 for the timing you just barely get it done to come to
9 the meeting, is that what usually happens, is it --
10 once you're done before a meeting is it emailable?

11

12 MS. BERKBIGLER: Madam Chair, as far as
13 this goes, I did take two weeks off in September to
14 actually go on my honeymoon because I was married. And
15 that's coming out of the field in August, like middle
16 August, with everything. Getting -- trying to get gear
17 taken care of so that, you know, it's put away for the
18 winter. Also the data into -- the data at least
19 incorporated into an Excel file. And so it usually
20 does run a little late and so that's primarily what I
21 was working on is getting Ruby's data in, getting this
22 data in and then, you know, coming to these meetings.
23 This year it seems like the RAC meetings were a little
24 earlier in October than sometimes like.....

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see.

27

28 MS. BERKBIGLER:the Western RAC.
29 To then when -- by the time you travel. So I do -- the
30 reports are due out in the spring so I have more
31 information in the spring, because then my scale cards
32 are sent off, they're aged and then I have that data
33 coming back in December, January time frame so I can
34 incorporate that into this. And the reports -- for
35 Andy Bassich, I am behind on two years' reports due to
36 just the difference in the funding cycle it's called
37 now that OSM has had. So this last spring I was
38 writing for OSM proposals and then also for the
39 Partners Program. It just seems like it's just been
40 building up, the more I get myself involved in these
41 projects the harder it gets to start keeping up. So
42 I'm trying to delegate some of that stuff off like now
43 that we have Lisa hired on Staff, she's taking over
44 Holy Cross and Bishop Mountain. Paige is doing a whole
45 separate slew of activities and so that's leaving me
46 more time to start getting caught up on a lot of this
47 stuff. So once you -- once the reports are done they
48 will be on the OSM website and I will be getting copies
49 out to RAC people, RAC members.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
2 Brandy, good job. Anyone else.
3
4 Okay. We're going to break for lunch
5 and I need a feel of how much time we might need here
6 because other people have to eat besides us.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'd say it's at
9 least an hour because I think Mabel -- the crowd's
10 larger than she projected. So.....
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And she's the
13 only source of having -- someone getting something to
14 eat here?
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. At this point, yes.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now does
19 everyone here -- well, maybe I should give you an hour
20 and 15, hey? Okay. I'm going to give it an hour and
21 then in an hour and 15 we'll probably get started.
22
23 (Off record)
24
25 (On record)
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Call the
28 meeting back to order. These breaks we get a lot
29 accomplished though. And we're up to -- while
30 everyone's getting their seat I would like to mention
31 that Fish and Game in Tok wanted to get on
32 teleconference and they're scheduled to do it at 2:00
33 o'clock. So we're going to -- at 2:00 o'clock we'll
34 stop where we're at and we'll move right into getting
35 them on teleconference. They could not attend the
36 meeting and they requested to be on teleconference.
37 And that works for them so we're trying to be
38 accommodating.
39
40 So it looks to me like not everybody is
41 finished with lunch. But moving along, we have the
42 Yukon River fisheries postseason review. And we --
43 who's the State person. Oh, he's here. Okay.
44
45 (Pause)
46
47 MR. HOLDER: Madam Chair and Council
48 members. Vince Mathews is handing out two copied
49 season summaries. One is an overview of the 2009 Yukon
50 salmon season. I'm trying to get this -- I'm going to

1 try to turn the volume down so it doesn't seem to have
2 the feedback. And the second one is the State season
3 summary. So you're getting two summaries, one is from
4 Fish and Wildlife Service and the other is from Fish
5 and Game and we both basically have reviewed each
6 other's summaries and collaborated on getting those
7 completed.

8

9 My name is Russ Holder, I'm with Fish
10 and Wildlife Service based in Fairbanks and the Yukon
11 River fisheries manager. And to my right is Steve
12 Hayes with Fish and Game, the summer season fisheries
13 manager and as he indicated he also deals with
14 whitefish and lamprey. And I'm going to go ahead and
15 go through the overview that I've provided and in the
16 interest of time I'll basically summarize the different
17 pieces and kind of point you within the handout kind of
18 what I'm discussing. And then I was going to turn it
19 over to Steve to fill in some additional information
20 that Council members have requested or shown interest
21 in in some of the opening comments and some of the
22 discussion that has occurred prior to lunch.

23

24 So in summary this 2009 season was very
25 challenging. We had anticipated a low chinook salmon
26 return and we did not anticipate the lower number of
27 fall chum salmon returning this year. Many subsistence
28 fishermen lowered their harvest goals, they worked
29 harder than usual or they shifted their harvest to
30 another species to provide for their household
31 subsistence needs this year. Overall 2009 was a very
32 difficult season with unprecedented management actions
33 being taken to achieve or Chinook salmon escapement
34 into Canada and for Fish and Game to provide for some
35 limited commercial opportunity for summer chum, fall
36 chum and coho salmon. Preseason we did anticipate a
37 below average to poor return for chinook salmon. And
38 the summer chum and fall chum runs were projected to be
39 near average while the coho salmon was anticipated to
40 be average.

41

42 This winter the US/Canada panel
43 provided funds for Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife
44 Service and these -- the outreach activities were
45 coordinated by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
46 Association because last year when the management
47 agencies had to take restrictions with subsistence in
48 season, we felt that one of the downfalls in 2008 was
49 that fishermen were not prepared or had not been aware
50 or weren't ready for the restrictions that happened.

1 So for 2009 there was a considerable amount of outreach
2 during the winter which that larger middle paragraph
3 identifies on the overview.

4
5 We -- there were teleconferences that
6 occurred, there were village meetings that occurred and
7 we had -- also Steve and I came to Fort Yukon to
8 participate in one of those teleconferences in the --
9 last winter. And then in working with fishermen
10 pre-season there were five key management pieces that we
11 were planning to implement for this upcoming season and
12 that's at the bottom part of that middle paragraph. We
13 anticipated that there would be no directed commercial
14 fishing on chum -- on chinook salmon, that we would be
15 beginning the regulatory windows seven days after the
16 ice out at Alakanuk and I want to have -- note for you
17 that that's different than establishing a calendar
18 date. Basically this was an environmental approach
19 that fishermen had suggested. We were going to
20 potentially reduce the regulatory windows period by
21 pulling one or two windows, it depended upon the
22 strength of the chinook on what we were -- might be
23 pulling. And number 5, the Federal manager imple --
24 was going to implement a special action to limit the
25 harvest of chinook salmon in Federal public waters to
26 Federally-qualified rural subsistence users only. And
27 what I -- I believe there was some opening concerns
28 about some of the customary trade. This special action
29 was not dealing with the customary trade piece.
30 Customary trade has to be dealt with by the Federal
31 Subsistence Board. This special action, the intent,
32 was to provide the priority for rural subsistence users
33 participating on Federal waters to have that first
34 opportunity on the subsistence fish and that urban --
35 basically urban residents, non-qualified folks, would
36 not be able to be fishing. They could still come out
37 to fish camp, they could still actually take fish home
38 from the camp, they just could not actively participate
39 in the fishing activity.

40
41 Additional public outreach included
42 posters mailed to villages in May or June by the Yukon
43 River Drainage Fisheries Association and Fish and
44 Wildlife Service identifying the need for chinook
45 salmon conservation. And I believe I saw one of the
46 YRDLFA posters actually over in the Tribal Council.

47
48 When we entered into the summer season
49 the run strength was assessed based on the lower river
50 test fishery, Pilot Station sonar and subsistence

1 fishermen catch reports. And what we've heard concerns
2 regarding Pilot Station and I believe Steve has some
3 additional comments that he'll be providing after I
4 complete my presentation. But what I want to capture
5 is that all of these indicators were indicating a low
6 return of chinook salmon, including the net mesh study
7 being conducted in the Lower Yukon by the commercial
8 fishermen down there. Basically all four indicators
9 were indicating a low return of chinook.

10

11 The summer season began with ice out
12 near average on May 26th, but we had considerable high
13 water and flooding this past spring which lasted for a
14 considerable amount of time and hampered the assessment
15 projects in identifying the Chinook salmon passage.

16

17 Shifting to the second page, basically
18 there were two pulses of chinook salmon that occurred,
19 but basically the sizes of these pulses were
20 considerably smaller than average. The entry timing
21 was judged about two days later than average and based
22 on the CPUE on the test net, it was about half of what
23 it usually would have, but I believe that is in large
24 part attributable to the high water and debris that --
25 and the shifting river in the Lower Yukon. And then
26 Pilot Station number was approximately 122,000. And I
27 -- if anything I believe the manager's responsibility
28 for interpreting that Pilot Station number is of
29 considerable importance. And this year I believe that
30 this number of 122,000 really did not accurately
31 reflect the passage that went upstream based on what we
32 saw at Eagle.

33

34 The middle two pieces -- paragraphs on
35 Page 2 identify the management actions that were taken
36 in season that we, you know, started the windows, that
37 the windows were on half of the normal time. Based on
38 the low return on chinook that we identified, two
39 subsistence windows/periods were pulled and that was
40 implemented chronologically upriver. And that equated
41 to nine or 10 days of closure in all the fishing
42 districts.

43

44 And the consistent with the preseason
45 plan, there wasn't any directed chinook commercial
46 periods. And the summer chum commercial that happened
47 waited until about 85 percent of the chinook salmon
48 that passed and Fish and Game took the unprecedented
49 measure of adopting emergency regulation which
50 prohibited the sale of incidentally caught chinook

1 salmon to remove the incentive for chinook to be
2 harvested and then sold in the summer chum commercial
3 fishery. That was rescinded with the fall season.

4

5 In 2009 the Subdistrict 4B and 4C
6 permit, drift permit, that the Fish and Wildlife
7 Service oversees, the -- there were 14 permits that
8 were issued by the Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife
9 Refuge Staff. And of those 14 all reported either by
10 returning their permit or verbally and they harvested
11 58 chinook in 30 hours of fishing.

12

13 The bottom paragraph of Page 2
14 basically identifies that the assessment indicators
15 were conservative this year. There were about 70,000
16 chinook salmon which passed Eagle sonar which met our
17 US treaty obligation for escapement and for harvest
18 sharing. And the Canadian Aboriginal fishermen
19 preseason had agreed to take about half their usual
20 take. And one item of note was that even when they
21 were liberalized mid season, one First Nation's group
22 opted to keep their Aboriginal harvest at the reduced
23 level in order to provide additional fish to the
24 spawning grounds.

25

26 Shifting to Page 3, the post season
27 evaluation of the summer chum salmon escapement
28 identified lower than anticipated escapement in the
29 lower portion of the drainage than we would have
30 expected and with higher escapements in the upper
31 portion of the drainage. And Fish and Game flew
32 additional aerial surveys this summer to try and
33 document some of this shift.

34

35 Shifting to fall season, the managers
36 entered the season expecting a near average run and yet
37 near the mid point we became concerned because the
38 return was much weaker than projected. We'd
39 anticipated that the run would be near 600 to 900,000
40 and yet in season in -- we had projection that it would
41 be around 200 to 400,000. So considerably less than
42 we'd anticipated.

43

44 Based on the preseason outlook, fall
45 chum commercial fishing did happen early, but then was
46 suspended in the middle of the season. And commercial
47 fishing did resume at the very tail end of the run to
48 allow some coho salmon to be harvested.

49

50 For 2010 the outlook will be prepared

1 by Fish and Game after this year's escapement
2 information and age composition are analyzed over the
3 next several months. And we are concerned that this --
4 the trend of poor productivity which has been exhibited
5 these past several years will likely continue into
6 2010. And we anticipate that conservative management
7 actions will likely be necessary for next year also to
8 maintain the health of Yukon River chinook salmon.

9

10 And I'll turn it over to Steve to
11 provide some additional comments. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do the Council
14 members have any questions now or do you want to wait?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
19 Steve.

20

21 MR. HAYES: Right. Madam Chair,
22 Council members. I'll try not to be too redundant with
23 what Russ just went through. But Russ did provide that
24 we'll be putting the 2010 outlook out most likely after
25 the first part of January. But with that being said,
26 the preseason meetings that we had last year to deal
27 with the poor projected run for this year, YRDFA, the
28 Yukon River Drainage and Fisheries Association will be
29 putting their proposal in to the Yukon River panel to
30 seek funding to continue those meetings this winter so
31 that we can come up with a management strategy on how
32 to deal with next year's run if it is a poor return or
33 run. So just to let you know that.

34

35 And with that, you know, we're not
36 sure, I mean, we don't know what the total run is yet
37 until we get our subsistence data in which we have
38 Staff out right now collecting that information. So
39 until we get that and we actually know the size of this
40 year's chinook run, we're not going to be sure how we
41 could have done things differently this year for next
42 year. So we'll be working on that this winter with the
43 fishermen, tribal groups and, of course, the State and
44 Federal agencies.

45

46 Now it was a tough year, you know, the
47 chinook run pretty much came back as we expected. We
48 had some difficulties with our assessment projects, as
49 Russ said the lower river test fishery, it didn't work,
50 plain and simple. We typically go through three or

1 four nets in a summer season, this year we went through
2 17 shackles a year due to high water and debris
3 problems. So we had a lot of problems with that
4 project.

5
6 Pilot Station sonar. While there's a
7 little misconception that the sonar itself was having
8 problems, the sonar worked perfectly, the equipment,
9 but they had the same issues with the high water
10 problems until about June 23rd. So the numbers were
11 considered conservative up to that point. We did take
12 that into our management decisions, we -- the
13 conservative number, but at the time we felt that it
14 was still projected, you know, at a poor run size. So
15 we stuck with the plan that we came up with preseason.
16 We pulled the one to two periods, we had the reduced
17 subsistence periods. After the mid point of the run we
18 felt that it was still coming in as a poor run and we
19 stuck with reduced periods.

20
21 In the end we put more fish across the
22 border than we anticipated. I think that's a positive
23 thing, we met the escapement. For the first time in
24 three years we actually met our obligation for their
25 Aboriginal fisheries. But as I said the goal is to
26 meet the escapement goal, but also to provide
27 subsistence fishermen on our side of the river, their
28 subsistence fish too. And unfortunately this year
29 meeting that goal at the border came at the cost of
30 subsistence fishermen. So we'll have to address that
31 this winter on how to -- I don't know how you would
32 describe it, fine tune the management strategy for next
33 year if we're able to.

34
35 Now with the Pilot Station sonar and
36 the lower river test fishery next summer with our low
37 river test fishery we're going to be making some
38 changes. Some of our site locations are no longer
39 efficient. We're going to have to move some sites.

40
41 (Phone announcement)

42
43 MR. HAYES: I forget where I was.
44 Okay. Lower river test fishery. Some of our sites are
45 not as efficient, they're not working as well as they
46 used to and it's tough to use that project as we say to
47 compare to historical data. So we're going to have to
48 relocate some sites next summer to try to correct that
49 problem. But it's still a very valuable project for
50 timing and to a lesser extent abundance information.

1 Pilot Station sonar. We are looking at
2 -- well, this summer they actually did go to a
3 different location. There's a big push to move the
4 sonar site. We're having problems on the left bank
5 sonar, the left bank is eroding which is causing silt
6 which causes a problem seeing with the sonar. And that
7 was one of the problems this summer with the high water
8 conditions.

9
10 So the sonar crew is going out, they're
11 looking at different sites with the possibility of
12 moving the sonar site. And they're also looking at
13 moving the left bank sonar downriver to a different
14 site. Currently they use 25 fathom driftnets, they're
15 looking at testing 50 fathom driftnets to see if
16 they're having a problem with species avoidance on the
17 nets.

18
19 So they're going to be doing a lot of
20 things next summer in looking at moving the sites. I
21 think the one point I would like to make is it doesn't
22 matter -- we may still have the same problems no matter
23 if we move the sonar somewhere else or all these things
24 we do. And you're going to have difficulties with
25 these assessment projects on this river. And that's
26 why as Russ said as managers we do have to take those,
27 you know, conservative numbers into our management
28 actions.

29
30 So I think that's all I have, Madam
31 Chair.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
34 Council members, questions. Go ahead, Andy.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I'm not sure
37 who I want to have take this question, whether it be
38 Steve or Russ here. But I heard a couple of Council
39 members and also members of the public voice concerns
40 over two issues. Locally I think a lot of the people
41 what I'm sensing is they feel that people on the lower
42 river are getting their subsistence needs met, but yet
43 they're not able to get their full subsistence needs
44 met up here. And I'm wondering what strategies the
45 Department might be able to fine tune their management
46 plan to try and address the difficulty in fishing in
47 the Fort Yukon Region due to the type of gear used and
48 the type of river conditions, i.e., the width of the
49 river and trying to find the fish every year. So if
50 there's a way that the people up in this region could

1 be given some better opportunities to meet their
2 subsistence needs.

3
4 And then the other question that I had,
5 the other concern that I'm hearing is some of the
6 illegal fishing that went on in the lower river and the
7 lack of enforcement. And I'm just wondering if either
8 or both agencies could make a statement as to whether
9 they tried to follow through with any kind of
10 prosecution or encourage law enforcement entities into
11 enforcing some of the regulations. It's not sitting
12 pretty with a lot of people that people given the
13 amount of public discussion, the attempts at meetings,
14 getting people together to forewarn them of this
15 fisheries and then for people to still go out and
16 protest fish or whatever and then have very little or
17 no enforcement actions taken upon these people is not a
18 good message to send. So a comment on that.

19
20 Thank you, Madam Chair.

21
22 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, Mr. Bassich.
23 If I -- to your first question on the subsistence
24 issues. It's difficult on the lower river, I mean,
25 they're fishing on all stocks that come through there
26 as, you know, opposed to the Yukon or Fort Yukon area
27 where they're just fishing on Canadian stocks. This
28 year in the lower river they were reduced in half on
29 their subsistence schedule, we pulled two periods which
30 was a total of nine days of no fishing at all down
31 there. Now once we determined that this run was larger
32 and that we were going to meet our escapement into
33 Canada and actually provide more than the goal was,
34 originally we were looking at closing two periods in
35 5D, which includes the Fort Yukon area. Once we
36 determined there were plenty of fish crossing the
37 border we actually backed off and we put 5D back on the
38 seven day schedule sooner than we expected. So we
39 actually provided more subsistence opportunity this
40 year in this area than the other areas.

41
42 To the enforcement question, in the
43 lower river we had State and Federal enforcement
44 officers patrolling every day. I know that the State
45 enforcement officers patrolled every day. The only
46 issues and they informed me every day of the issues
47 that they ran into, and actually I was informed that
48 people were following the regulations in the lower
49 river. We had the incident at Marshall which was
50 investigated. I believe it was a Federal citation that

1 was issued on that to one person. And, of course,
2 that's going to be going to court so can't really just
3 talk about that issue at this point. But there was a
4 lot of enforcement down there, I mean, I dealt with our
5 State trooper every day and I'm based down there, the
6 troopers are down there, communicate with me every day.
7
8

9 And the same issue on the upper river.
10 Now I think in the upper river there is a lot less
11 enforcement that goes on up here and that's something
12 that the State is working on. But I feel that we
13 actually stepped up the enforcement this year with the
14 State side.
15

16 MR. HOLDER: Madam Chair, Mr. Bassich.
17 As you're well aware the regulations do provide for
18 additional time for subsistence in the upper river,
19 normally it would be seven days a week. And in the
20 lower river it would be two, 36 hour, you know, periods
21 per week. So and what we hear in a lot of meetings is
22 trying to address, you know, the equity and fairness in
23 some of this. And so the approach this year was
24 cutting the time, the regulatory time that's allowed in
25 half. So even though everybody was cut in half, you
26 know, it was two 18 hour periods in the lower river and
27 two three and a half day periods in the upper part of
28 the river. And that -- and as managers that was
29 something we took into account in making that decision
30 in -- that there would actually be additional time in
31 the upper river when we did cut that down because of
32 some of the additional difficulty there is with the
33 fishing conditions and the say lack of efficiency in
34 the gear in this upper part of the river.
35

36 And then as Steve mentioned the
37 enforcement effort by the Fish and Wildlife Service law
38 enforcement officers was the greatest that I've seen it
39 in the eight years that I've been a manager for the
40 Federal program. And during the closure time there was
41 a definite emphasis of the patrols and for typically
42 about two weeks the law enforcement officers on the
43 Federal side did track chronologically, you know, the
44 closure time upriver in making the patrols and there
45 was a considerable amount of effort that was put into
46 effect this year. And overall I believe most
47 subsistence fishermen followed the restrictions very
48 well. The publicity that the Marshall activity
49 occurred and it is in process as Steve indicated for
50 going to court. And so it isn't being overlooked and

1 it is being pursued.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
6 questions, council members?

7

8 MR. GLANZ: I just have one regarding
9 the commercial, meeting commercial, I mean, harvest
10 even though it was minimal and so forth and so on it
11 still looks pretty bad when that happens when we got
12 people here that don't even get enough fish to get
13 through the winter.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Bottom of page.....

16

17 MR. GLANZ: Bottom of Page 2.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: On the Federal
20 report?

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

23

24 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, Council member
25 Glanz. As Mr. Holder during his summary, he was giving
26 a summary, he indicated that we did have directed
27 summer chum openings after the majority of the kings
28 had passed the lower river districts. We additionally
29 had chum fisheries in Subdistrict 4A, we had a buyer
30 interested in the Anvik area. We had fisheries on the
31 Tanana River. So basically after the majority of the
32 kings went through all these districts and there was a
33 surplus of summer chum salmon for commercial harvest,
34 anywhere we had interest for those chums we had a
35 commercial fishery to pick up that surplus to provide
36 economic opportunity. Now the kings that were
37 harvested, you'll see that there were 360 -- I don't
38 want to give you the wrong number.....

39

40 MR. GLANZ: (Indiscernible) breakdown
41 of the commercial harvest in Canada.

42

43 MR. HOLDER: Oh, the harvest into
44 Canada?

45

46 MR. GLANZ: That's what I'm speaking as
47 to the chinook harvest in Canada, not the chums, the
48 chinooks.

49

50 MR. HOLDER: Well, based on the treaty

1 the Canadians have a right to harvest, have a
2 commercial fishery on that side of the border. We have
3 nothing to do with that as managers, that is in the
4 treaty. And we did put a surplus of fish across the
5 border this year.

6
7 MR. GLANZ: I'm fine with that, I
8 understand that. But I'm just saying it just looks bad
9 is all I'm stating.

10
11 MR. HOLDER: Well, historically they
12 usually take about eight to 11,000 commercially. So
13 300 was pretty minimal on what they took.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Thanks. Bill, just
18 something I'd like to share not only with you, but the
19 public. But it looks pretty bad to the Canadians when
20 we can't even provide escapement in many, many years
21 and we're having commercial harvest as well over here.
22 So sometimes it's good to see the shoe on the other
23 foot.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're
26 referring to the chinook, right?

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Yes, I am.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: But he's talking about
31 Tanana River which has no effect on the -- you're
32 referring to the Tanana River which has no effect on
33 Canadian waters, that's.....

34
35 MR. BASSICH: No, I'm referring to --
36 you were referencng the Canadian harvest commercial of
37 chinook salmon; is that correct?

38
39 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, you're right. Okay.
40 Andy, we did have the driftnet or whatever it is down
41 there of commercials in the lower.....

42
43 MR. BASSICH: No, what I'm just.....

44
45 MR. GLANZ:should be able to
46 eliminate totally.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: The point I'm trying to
49 make is that under the treaty we're obligated to pass a
50 certain amount of fish to Canada and then they have

1 their own system for distribution and also escapement
2 just like we do on the Alaskan side. So if we do the
3 right thing and get the treaty obligations met then
4 what the Canadians do on their side of the river is
5 completely up to them. And the point that I'm trying
6 to make is that for many, many years the Canadians have
7 not had a commercial fishery and, in fact, in the last
8 couple of years haven't had much of an Aboriginal
9 fisheries which is equivalent to our subsistence
10 fisheries and yet they see commercial harvest on the
11 Alaskan side and oftentimes they see people getting
12 their full subsistence allocations met. And the point
13 I'm trying to make is that I think it's a good thing
14 that we finally made -- some treaty obligations were
15 met and I think it's a good thing that the Canadians
16 whose country spawns 50 percent of the Canadian or the
17 -- I'm sorry, 50 percent of the chinook harvest -- I'm
18 sorry, 50 percent of the chinook production, finally
19 got a chance to harvest a few of those fish. And
20 that's the point I wanted to bring out is that it's --
21 I'm really glad to see that the Canadians finally got
22 the opportunity to take some fish out of the water
23 because I live very close to there, I see what goes on
24 up there and how would you like to live on the Yukon
25 River and watch all these fish goes by for the last
26 seven years and not even be able to eat a single fish.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: To get back to original
29 statement, it looks bad, that's all I said. End of
30 comment.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I think
33 that that's something you guys probably ought to hash
34 out between you. I understand what you're saying, both
35 of you actually. Yeah. I mean it's -- sometimes --
36 perceptions is what you're concerned about, but also
37 what he's trying to say is it's also their perception.
38 So we have to look at each other at that point.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: I'm just going by this
41 morning where everybody was mad at the Fish and
42 Wildlife Service for not allowing fishing and the
43 windows and all that and that comes down -- I mean, the
44 Canadians do with their fish what they want, they can
45 blow them up for all I care after they lay their eggs,
46 but.....

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now don't talk
49 like that.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I see
4 that you'd like to say something, Russ.

5

6 MR. HOLDER: Yes, Madam Chair, Mr.
7 Glanz. Managers did express that concern to the
8 Canadian managers that -- you know, the perception on
9 our side of giving up and decreasing harvest and
10 providing, you know, these fish to Canada and then
11 having commercial. We were concerned about that
12 perception on our side and that has been relayed, but
13 as Andy identified they have that ability, you know, to
14 harvest and to do with those fish, you know, consistent
15 with the treaty obligations. And they were sensitive
16 to that and they delayed having that commercial, but
17 yet that opportunity was provided and we need to be
18 able to say, you know, share our concern which we did
19 and yet also be sensitive that they have that ability
20 to do with those fish consistent with the treaty.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: I agree with you there.
23 Okay. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Frank then
26 Virgil.

27

28 MR. GURTLER: Well, I think one of the
29 things that might help is to put out a flyer on why
30 they're having a commercial and how come and what the
31 reason was and explain it to the people in the villages
32 up and down the Yukon River because I don't think they
33 fully understand what they're doing with those
34 commercial fish.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You mean in
37 Canada?

38

39 MR. GURTLER: In Canada.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
42 That.....

43

44 MR. GURTLER: To have us put a flyer of
45 them to all the villages and explaining about what's
46 going on instead of listening to hearsay.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I see. So
49 you'd like to see maybe the Fish and Wildlife Service
50 try to get this information out to the villages along

1 the Yukon?

2

3 MR. GURTLER: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6

7 MR. HOLDER: Madam Chair, Mr. Gurtler.
8 I think that's an excellent suggestion and I think that
9 would be something, I'll try to see if we can get it
10 incorporated into this year's preseason approach that
11 YRDFA is putting together as far as coordinating these
12 meetings. Because I think it is an important piece to
13 identify looking back at what happened and why.

14

15 So I appreciate you suggesting that.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now

18 Virgil.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I think Frank's
21 idea is a good idea too, just a little bit of a brief
22 thing about how the treaty sets the numbers or
23 percentages of harvestable fish that can be harvested
24 by each side of the border. And then it's basically up
25 to each side of the border to decide who gets those
26 fish on their side of the border.

27

28 But I had a question in the Federal
29 report it talks about the fall season and it says that
30 based on the preseason fall chum salmon commercial
31 fishing occurred during the early portion of the run
32 and suspended during the middle portion of the run due
33 to less than expected run size. Commercial fishing
34 resumed during the late portion of the season to target
35 coho salmon. And it says the Yukon commercial harvest
36 was about 25,000 fall chum and 8,000 coho. The -- I
37 guess fishing under the coho management plan, how many
38 fish were caught under that portion of the plan?

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: As he's looking
41 that up I'm going to remind everyone, we're five
42 minutes past putting the Fish and Game on line. And
43 I'm going to assume that they're on line?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: No, they're not.

46

47 (Off record comments - telephone
48 connection)

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

1 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, Councilman
2 Umphenour. There's approximately 10,000 chums that
3 were taken during the time that we were targeting
4 cohos.

5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And how
7 many cohos?

8
9 MR. HAYES: Don't quote me on my
10 numbers, I did a quick add, but about 5,000.

11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That's all.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are there other
15 questions.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: Not a question, I just
18 wanted to make a comment like in regards to -- that was
19 the reason I asked about the commercial, guys. I was
20 getting all kinds of phone calls from Circle and
21 Central net fishermen who were raising heck about the
22 -- they seen the commercial paper apparently, without
23 having the numbers at my home I couldn't tell them what
24 the deal was on this.

25
26 So thank you, guys.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I saw
29 two hands. Rob Jess and then James.

30
31 MR. JESS: Just a couple, Rob Jess,
32 refuge manager, Yukon Flats. Madam Chair. Two
33 questions here. Two of the biggest concerns that I've
34 heard from people along the river within the Yukon
35 Flats, it's a two-fold question, is first and foremost
36 they believe that Unit 5 is too large because of the
37 braided, meandering of the river and just the length in
38 which Unit 5 entails, what is it A through D or A --
39 that it's broken down to, Russ?

40
41 MR. HOLDER: Yes.

42
43 MR. JESS: And so the dissemination of
44 information is almost too much to get out to the
45 various villages. And because of that I guess the
46 second part of the question is is it due -- you as
47 managers, fisheries managers, have enough flexibility
48 within your management protocol and regime to be able
49 to -- and the scenario is that on the -- what little
50 second run there was, people along the river felt that

1 they were actually closed out from when the fish would
2 go through. So the question I guess to lay it on the
3 line is is there enough flexibility within these
4 schedules to quickly modify open and closed seasons
5 along the river way to allow people to take better
6 advantage of that second run hypothetically if we're
7 going to close the first run again next year. Does
8 that make sense?

9

10 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair. Yes and no.
11 We did somewhat do that this year with 5D, we split 5D
12 into two subdistricts, 5D is one subdistrict. And we
13 did that for that exact reason was because it is a
14 large subdistrict, it's difficult to manage those
15 because those fish do take longer to get through those
16 subdistricts. It gets a little tougher trying to do it
17 for every subdistrict, not only because it -- I mean,
18 you have to get the word out to people and it takes a
19 lot of effort to get the word out, people are out at
20 fish camps so you just can't do something immediate and
21 change your management action. So you have to do it to
22 give people enough time to prepare. And I think we
23 took the first step this year as I said with
24 Subdistrict 5D, but additionally when you're looking at
25 splitting these districts up to make them smaller,
26 that's something that I would think that you'd want to
27 present to the Board of Fishery to make that change
28 because that's something as a manager we don't want to
29 have to look at doing every year.

30

31 MR. JESS: And just one more comment
32 too. You know it's unfortunate we heard what Marshall
33 did, but the one thing we haven't heard in the media
34 and I've tried to work with the Daily News Miner on
35 putting an article together but, the tremendous
36 sacrifices and successes that we had. When I say we,
37 we along the Flats. There's a tremendous amount of
38 people that abided by the law and these open and closed
39 seasons. And, you know, what's unfortunate is that
40 they weren't given credit for it. It's just -- all we
41 do is we've heard what people did in protest from
42 Marshall, we never hear of the sacrifices that these
43 people upriver made and downriver. I mean people from
44 Yukon Delta all the way to Canada gave up an awful lot.
45 And I know an appreciation is hard to pull out of the
46 freezer and eat every night, but it was very much
47 appreciated. There was a lot of people that gave up an
48 awful lot. And, you know, the decisions that these
49 people are making, it's not selfish decisions, these
50 decisions are to ensure that there are fish for these

1 people's children and grandchildren. And I just want
2 to make sure that there is a positive side to this in
3 spite of what media says or doesn't say.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
6 James.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 MR. KELLEY: I'd like to, you know,
11 thank the Board for giving me this opportunity to talk
12 about an issue that's been lingering for years. Just
13 this summer alone the closure for the first pulse,
14 everybody made a sacrifice true, but I believe a lot of
15 the villages in the Yukon Flats for years have been
16 making sacrifices. Past years when they monitor the
17 runs, the first pulse, second pulse, they're so
18 widespread -- they're so far -- they're spread apart so
19 far that between Pilot's Station, Kaltag and rapids
20 that it's really hard to gauge the run size. And
21 there's been years where by the time it gets to
22 Rampart, the rapids, they have to make a decision to
23 shut everything down or establish closure dates. And
24 the people in the Flats and further up, Eagle included,
25 have to feel that. This year alone I think when we
26 looked at that first pulse, everybody allowed that to
27 go by the communities. They did it willingly, there
28 were a lot of people down -- a lot of villages down the
29 Lower Yukon that really opposed that, you know, but
30 they had to do it. And they made it -- when I listened
31 to the teleconference they felt the hurt and I'd like
32 to -- it would be nice if they could get the message
33 that we've been feeling the hurt for years up here.
34 They would enjoy meeting their subsistence needs, then
35 when they hit the rapids and the determination's made
36 that the size wasn't what they anticipated, then they
37 have to make -- take steps to shut down different areas
38 from the rapids on. And I think this is what we've
39 been exposed to for years. And last in this summer
40 here when the second pulse, people were allowed to
41 fish. Well, they knew it was close to the rapids and
42 by the time it got to Fort Yukon they were told they
43 had to shut everything down, shut their wheels down,
44 pull their nets. Communities probably of Stevens and
45 Beaver, I don't know if they met their subsistence
46 needs, but it shows that lumping all four or five
47 villages in the Yukon Flats area into one closure
48 period it's not working.

49

50 I made a recommendation when John

1 Letterman, I believe that's the gentleman's name, was a
2 commercial subsistence or he was with the State, he was
3 up here this summer. And I said we probably need to
4 use the rapids as our point of reference with what
5 information they get there, establish closure periods
6 for the communities within the Flats, allow us to get
7 at least some of our subsistence needs met. You know
8 it was really hard for the people in this community.
9 There was a lady that stood up and said by this time I
10 should have all my fish jarred and put away for the
11 winter. She didn't have one, not one jar. And these
12 are just issues that we're facing up here, you know.
13 Like I said we're making the sacrifices and we've done
14 it for quite a few years. And what I'd like to see is
15 that people step forward and say, you know, if there's
16 going to be years like what we seen this year, there
17 needs to be better emphasis on getting -- making sure
18 the people in the Upper Yukon get the -- their needs
19 met, you know.

20

21 And look at the villages, instead of
22 lumping all five together for one closure period, maybe
23 two periods up here would be -- would work. Of course
24 Fort Yukon and Circle probably lost a lot there on the
25 second pulse. I don't know if Eagle got theirs at
26 reopening, but this is something we need to talk about
27 and I -- like I said I brought it up in our meeting
28 with I think it was Letterman and he said that might be
29 a good idea to look at. I don't think continue to put
30 the whole Yukon Flats in one period, three and a half
31 day period, closure period or opening period would
32 continue to work or would work, you know. We need to
33 do something that's more effective, that allows the
34 communities in the Yukon Flats area to at least get
35 partial needs met, you know, because there are a lot of
36 people that said they opened their freezer right now
37 and don't have nothing.

38

39 Yeah. So we need to really look at
40 that and there's a lot of other issues I'm hearing
41 today. And I think what I see is that there's a lot of
42 confusion out there. There's a lot of passing out
43 information maybe that different people might be giving
44 out the wrong information even though the agencies
45 might have said this, somebody else might have said
46 something different or might have took it different.
47 And that's probably what's leading to a lot of
48 confusion that we're seeing and hearing today. I don't
49 believe that anybody's really out to make another
50 person hurt, but, you know, the Feds are bound by their

1 guidelines, no different than the State.

2

3 It's coming together and I'm really
4 happy to see that the Eastern Advisory Board has
5 elected to, you know, bring this meeting for Fort
6 Yukon, you know, we want to say what we're feeling.
7 And it's not easy for anybody to tell me you cannot
8 fish if you're living outside the Yukon Flats area. We
9 have elders that are directed by their physician to be
10 near a hospital, they have to live in Fairbanks. And
11 if any closure like this really limits or actually do
12 away with any fishing for a community, it also hurts
13 our elders. We need to think about them because
14 there's been times when I know that elders could not
15 eat the food that they're eating in Fairbanks, if
16 they're in a hospital or if they're hospitalized or in
17 the hospital. But somebody in the community bringing
18 forward, could be anything from their community, it
19 could be rabbits or just their natural diet, they would
20 eat that open the food that the hospital services. So
21 that's why we want to focus on making sure that the
22 elders that are directed by their doctors to be near a
23 hospital be given and allowed that opportunity to fish.
24 If they have to come to -- back to the community for
25 two to three weeks that's a break for them. And it's
26 -- we know they won't be with us, you know, for too
27 long so I believe we need to start supporting our
28 elders in that fashion.

29

30 And I think that everybody's here
31 waiting to see some action taken and, you know, there
32 seems to be a lot of -- like I said a lot of confusion.
33 Talking to Frank about regulations, it's maybe time to
34 bring that back to the table, you know, create a group
35 that will look at the regulations, are there
36 regulations that are outdated, redundant, overlapping.
37 Maybe it's time to redo that because like I said if we
38 -- if you guys adopt additional regulations or make
39 recommendations for additional regulations, you're just
40 going to add more to the pot that's stirring already
41 and you might be doing exactly what you hope not --
42 hope to prevent from doing, you know, basically you
43 don't want to make another regulation you know it's
44 already on the books.

45

46 So again welcome to Fort Yukon. I'd
47 like to take this opportunity to welcome each and every
48 one of you here and hope you enjoy your stay. Okay.

49

50 Thanks.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
2 Yeah. I've got these guys on teleconference now and if
3 we have Council members, anything that you missed,
4 please when we get finished when this please bring it
5 back up and if we have to go -- bring these guys back
6 up that's just fine. And thank you for your comments,
7 I heard some action items in what you spoke of so I
8 want the Council members to be thinking about some of
9 the things that he mentioned. And I thank you guys.

10
11 And so I guess you need to turn it on
12 so they know that we're.....

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: We're ready to go to your
15 topic now.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Torston,
18 this is Sue Entsminger, the Chair. Hi. Torston
19 happens to be my new neighbor. And Fish and Game
20 assistant biologist -- area biologist in Tok, ADF&G.
21 So these guys couldn't be here and they asked for
22 teleconferencing. And so I believe you have a report
23 for us?

24
25 MR. BENTZEN: Yeah, did -- fill me in a
26 little bit, did Judy talk about the Chisana Caribou
27 Herd?

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, we haven't
30 even got to it yet, we're still on fisheries. So does
31 that mess you up at all?

32
33 MR. BENTZEN: I'm having a hard time
34 hearing, is there some way to turn up the volume?

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
37 answer -- can you hear me now?

38
39 MR. BENTZEN: Yes, a little better.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. No, we
42 did not get to Judy's report, that'll come quite a bit
43 later actually. And we're right now on fisheries so
44 I'm asking you if that -- did you have any questions
45 about what might have come up or do you have a report
46 on the -- to give us here?

47
48 MR. BENTZEN: No, I don't.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, so it would

1 have been better for you guys to have -- us to have
2 discussed -- I think it was Chisana Caribou Herd that
3 we were going to hear from you on?

4

5 MR. BENTZEN: Yeah, that's why --
6 that's material that I have here that I wanted to be
7 available to answer any questions on.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Can you just
10 give us a short report?

11

12 MR. BENTZEN: Yeah, I can do that.
13 Does that fit in the schedule right now?

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just fine, yes.

16

17 MR. BENTZEN: Okay. We have a
18 cooperative management plan for the Chisana herd that
19 is now in the draft form. It's a cooperative between
20 the Government of Yukon and Yukon Environment and
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Kawoni First
22 Nation's, US National Park Service and the Fish and
23 Wildlife Service and the White River First Nation. And
24 in that plan -- it's a plan to further monitor the
25 Chisana Caribou Herd. The Chisana Caribou Herd has
26 been stable at roughly 700 caribou for the past several
27 years. And in the plan there are guidelines for -- to
28 follow if a hunt is proposed. And we agreed with those
29 agencies to continue monitoring the herd. We're
30 planning to do another census next year. We just
31 completed a comp count and found not -- not any major
32 growth in the herd, but healthy bull/cow numbers and it
33 looks like calf production is comparable to other small
34 herds in Yukon that have a -- have a harvest. And if a
35 hunt is proposed as long as it remains above certain
36 threshold levels that draft plan which should be ready
37 this fall would, you know, all the people cooperating
38 in that plan would consider a harvest, there wouldn't
39 be biologically any objection to a small harvest shared
40 between Yukon and Alaska.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That was the
43 short version?

44

45 MR. BENTZEN: Yeah.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

48

49 MR. BENTZEN: But I'd like to answer
50 any questions.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know
2 that it's really hard to get this timing down on the --
3 these meetings when people are -- just only have one
4 issue.

5
6 Judy, did you -- Judy is here so, you
7 know, she's heard the brief report and did you want to
8 say something while he's online?

9
10 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, I guess I'm a little
11 confused. I thought we were going to have a special
12 report for the Chisana herd at 2:00 today, but I guess
13 I was supposed to be giving.....

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh. Oh, no, I
16 -- what happened was.....

17
18 MS. PUTERA: I'm just -- it was
19 confusing.

20
21 MR. BENTZEN: I'm a little
22 confused.....

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I see.

25
26 MR. BENTZEN:about where I'm --
27 you know, that's what I wanted to do is just be
28 available to answer any questions and.....

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's go for it
31 since he's on line.

32
33 MR. BENTZEN:be there when Judy's
34 giving her presentation.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We wear
37 a lot of hats here so we don't always do a good job of
38 getting to the -- things done in a timely fashion. So
39 yeah, did you want to give your report now then and
40 then he's on line and.....

41
42 MS. PUTERA: For the Chisana Herd?

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

45
46 MS. PUTERA: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That would be
49 great. This is giving -- while she's getting her
50 report I have a question, Vince.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think for the
2 audience it might be -- and I'm sure Judy will cover
3 it, the location of this so they get a general idea of
4 where this is transpiring and -- so they have an idea
5 for the audience that's here. And then I think some of
6 the Council members also just to get a grounding of
7 where this is happening.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This is in Game
10 Management Unit 12 in Eastern Interior. It takes up
11 12, 20 and 25, so it's a pretty big region. It's
12 basically my region.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: And, Madam Chair, maybe
15 what communities are involved in this. So -- I'm sure
16 people here know people in those communities, but that
17 might just help the audience track.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Tok and the
20 Chisana Caribou is east of there.

21
22 MS. PUTERA: Right. So, Madam Chair
23 and Members of the Council. I believe I brought this
24 up at the last RAC meeting in Fairbanks and I can't
25 remember was that in the spring or do we have just one
26 every year or two? Okay. Yeah, so just a kind of a
27 brief summary.

28
29 The Chisana Caribou Herd ranges between
30 -- well, it ranges over the border between Alaska and
31 Yukon. In Alaska it's primarily within Game Management
32 Unit 12 as Sue mentioned and it's primarily within the
33 preserve of Wrangell St. Elias National Park and
34 Preserve. And so due to declining numbers harvest of
35 the caribou herd ceased in Alaska and Yukon in 1994.
36 Following several years of decline there was a lot of
37 concern and therefore the Yukon Government conducted a
38 captive recovery effort in which pregnant cows were
39 captured and penned and kept away from predators. So
40 this project went on from 2003 to 2006.

41
42 And then I guess in 2008 the Board of
43 Game -- a proposal came before the Board of Game from
44 the Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee to open a
45 harvest again and the Board of Game, I hope I'm getting
46 this right, decided that -- not to -- not to open a
47 harvest until a management plan was put together.

48 And.....
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think what

1 happened, Judy, is the Park Service had told -- come
2 with a recommendation of that and that's the way they
3 went, yes.

4
5 MS. PUTERA: Okay. Thank you. So
6 there have been several management planning efforts
7 over the years, but this last one we had was in -- we
8 held in Tok in last February of 2009 with the intent to
9 put together a formal management plan. And we had --
10 this first working group just included the folks from
11 Yukon Government, White River First Nation, Kawoni
12 First Nation, Environment of Canada, Alaska Department
13 of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service which would
14 have been Tetlin and then Wrangell St. Elias National
15 Park. And based on all the notes and discussion we had
16 at that meeting, the folks in the Yukon put together
17 this five year management plan and we -- the members of
18 the group got that plan this past spring in May and
19 reviewed it and made comment. So there's also I guess
20 question as to whether we would want to come up with an
21 allocation ahead of time for the harvest between the
22 two nations and also between the Federal and State side
23 on the Alaska side. And so there was quite a bit of
24 discussion that we had with the Office of Subsistence
25 Management. And so that's kind of why the plan is
26 still sort of -- you know, hasn't been finalized yet.
27 But we're hoping to get together again in mid November
28 and finalize that plan. And then we would have it out
29 for review to the public and to the Councils and the
30 RAC and the SRCs and all those.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So next month?

33
34 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, hopefully.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry, next
37 month?

38
39 MS. PUTERA: Yes. Yes. Okay. So in
40 that third paragraph under the draft management plan,
41 we'll -- we want to complete a population census so
42 this next fall of 2010 to determine whether the herd is
43 stable or increasing. And the draft plan would
44 recommend a small harvest of bulls, not exceeding 2
45 percent of the population, provided the population has
46 a minimum of 35 bulls per 100 cows. And I also believe
47 would have to have a rolling three year average calf
48 recruitment of at least 15 calves per 100 cows.

49
50 So the other thing that happened

1 recently was there -- the Tok -- the Upper Tanana
2 Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee met again in
3 September, this past September to discuss the Chisana
4 herd and whether they wanted to put another proposal
5 into the Board of Game. And we had myself, my boss,
6 Eric Veach, Jeff Gross and Torston from Fish and Game
7 were there. And we also had Polly Wheeler from the
8 Office of Subsistence Management on the phone and she
9 -- she was there to basically explain the Federal
10 process I think to the members of the Committee. And
11 the upshot of that meeting was that the Committee voted
12 to draft a Federal proposal for a joint State/Federal
13 harvest of Chisana Caribou to put to the Federal Board.
14 That proposal would be due November 5th. So and I
15 think they'll be getting together again in October,
16 October 20th to possibly draft that proposal.

17

18 And that's kind of where we're at. And
19 I did on the second page, I do have some I guess
20 population data. We did pull off a comp count just
21 last week and on table two, that's at the very bottom
22 for 2009 we saw 506 caribou and the numbers of calf/cow
23 and bull/cow ratios are listed there. Calf/cow ratios
24 are -- have dropped pretty significantly since the
25 previous year. So and that's right on the low end of
26 what we would consider, you know, to open a harvest.
27 But we'll -- the Federal proposal that would be put in
28 would definitely be in accordance with the management
29 plan that we're developing. And I think it would
30 essentially be a placeholder. We would want to
31 definitely do that fall census in 2010 so we probably
32 wouldn't consider a harvest until 2011.

33

34 But that's about all I had. So I don't
35 know if, Torston, if you could think of anything I
36 missed.

37

38 MR. BENTZEN: Yeah, I think you
39 definitely hit the main points. One thing Judy
40 mentioned that there was a harvest of the herd up until
41 1993 and then it was stopped because the herd was very
42 small, was declining and had very low calf production.
43 And just mention about the harvest of that herd,
44 there's very little local harvest. Looking at the
45 harvest reports and the Fish and Game reports, we don't
46 have all those years, the early '80s in our system, but
47 we do have pretty good information about total number
48 of hunters and numbers of Alaska residents versus non-
49 residents and local hunters and there's -- you know, in
50 the early '90s there were between 30 and 40 hunters

1 were harvesting, you know, on average between 20 and 25
2 caribou a year of which about five of those hunters
3 were local Unit 12 or Unit 11 residents. And it -- and
4 coming from a very few number of communities, Chisana
5 is most notably the community that was harvesting that
6 herd. So that's just a little bit of a historical
7 perspective of who was harvesting that herd. The other
8 -- the non-resident hunters, there was about equal
9 numbers of resident and non-resident resident hunters,
10 but most of the resident hunters, Alaska residents were
11 not local Unit 12 or Unit 11 hunters.

12
13 MS. PUTERA: Madam Chair, I should
14 point out, which I didn't is that like I said earlier
15 the herd at that time of year is mostly on -- well, at
16 least on the Alaska side within the Preserve. There is
17 a C&T use determination for caribou in GMU 12 which is
18 all of -- rural residents of 12, I think it's Dahl
19 Lake, Healy Lake and Mentasta, I'm not sure if I'm
20 correct on that. But so there -- you know, there would
21 be a subsistence priority for that harvest and that
22 would be what we'd try to figure out I think if what
23 that would be and that would be through the -- you
24 know, the Federal process, the Board process and how
25 we, you know, would be able or would be able to
26 allocate between the State and the Federal side on the
27 Alaska side.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, what
30 we're hearing now is reports and I will say this, that
31 the --she -- and reiterate what Judy had just said that
32 I attended this meeting with the Upper Tanana Fortymile
33 Advisory Committee and they chose to go ahead with a
34 joint proposal/suggestion to the Board of Game and it
35 all hinges -- it's all conceptual and it all hinges on
36 this consensus [sic] that's to occur.....

37
38 MS. PUTERA: Right.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:in 2010?

41
42 MS. PUTERA: Right. In the fall of
43 2010.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. So
46 nothing could happen until 2011 at the soonest.....

47
48 MS. PUTERA: Right.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:and the

1 reason that they wanted to start -- wanted to see this
2 proposal go forward is they wanted to start a process
3 because of the two year cycle.

4

5 MS. PUTERA: That's correct, yeah.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So as far as
8 we're concerned this is a report and, you know, unless,
9 you know, it's in my region and since that Advisory
10 Council which is local to our region, puts the proposal
11 forward, it'll come back in our booklets and then we
12 will take it up then. So I guess I don't see a lot of
13 reason for us to take up a lot of time, but it's really
14 -- this is a report. So.....

15

16 MS. PUTERA: Right. And -- yeah, and I
17 think the newest information was that this proposal --
18 you know, the AC would put in a Federal proposal for a
19 joint.....

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.

22

23 MS. PUTERA:harvest. And this
24 would be coming before the Board -- the Federal
25 Subsistence Board. I don't think one is going to go
26 into the Board of Game, I think it's going into the
27 Federal.....

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I believe they --
30 that's their plan because that's what has to happen to
31 make it a joint.....

32

33 MS. PUTERA: Right.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:because
36 both of them.....

37

38 MS. PUTERA: Oh, both of them have --
39 okay.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. Right.

42

43 MS. PUTERA: That's probably true. So
44 yeah, it's just, you know, you.....

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

47

48 MS. PUTERA:this will be coming
49 up before the RACs and the SRCs this winter.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It'll come up
2 at our next meeting, we'll take up this proposal, we're
3 going to have a lot more information then and I just
4 see that we just needed to talk about it as a report
5 and this is when these guys could attend our meeting.
6 So that's why we had to take it out of sequence.

7
8 MS. PUTERA: And then we'll get the
9 finalized management plan to you for review too I
10 imagine shortly.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, soon as
13 we can get some of this information it really helps us.

14
15 MS. PUTERA: As soon as possible.
16 So.....

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince is just
19 nervously shaking his hand over there.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the -- let's get it
22 clear on the record then that the draft final plan will
23 be before this Council in February to comment on and
24 then that will go to the Board of Game
25 the end of that week when they meet. And then the
26 Board of Game can or cannot act on a harvest proposal
27 if the plan's not approved or can they go separately.
28 And then, Madam Chair, you lost me on the consensus.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's pretty
31 complicated.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: The consensus would be
34 with Canada is what you're talking about or the
35 consensus would be within users in the US.

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I was
37 talking about the.....

38
39 MS. PUTERA: A population census.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:a
42 population.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay.

45
46 MS. PUTERA: The -- just a -- yeah.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Because they're

1 going to do a -- it's called census?

2

3 MS. PUTERA: Right.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. A census
6 of the caribou herd. Did I say consensus, it happens
7 when you're.....

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: I might have heard
10 consensus. But I wanted the Council to know that then
11 basically you're going to be looking at the plan and
12 you'll be looking at these joint proposals in your
13 normal process next and that was the main thing. And
14 then we'll see which process works on it. The Board of
15 Game meets on February -- the end of the week that you
16 guys meet, I'm drawing a blank on the dates. The
17 Federal Board does not meet until May so there's some
18 sequencing here, but we'll work through it.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I think one
21 of the hardest things for us is, you know, some of this
22 stuff -- it means a lot to me to keep regulations
23 simple. I really appreciate what Frank says all the
24 time. And that joint harvest ticket that you pick up
25 for the caribou, Fortymile Caribou, that's awesome
26 because it's one -- it isn't, you know, a Federal, it
27 isn't a State, it's just one thing that works for both.
28 And that's what the Advisory Committee wants to work
29 for is something simple and if there isn't a harvest
30 that -- you know, it's kept a joint, you know, and this
31 is all in unity, work together. So I -- like again I
32 think it's a -- at some point somewhere I think if the --
33 the way the cycles come up between the Federal and the
34 State, there's -- I don't know how they're going to do
35 it, but it should be -- there should be a way for them
36 to work together that is not so rigid.

37

38 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, I think the hardest
39 part will be deciding what the allocation will be.....

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

42

43 MS. PUTERA:and how many Federal
44 users and so that should be interesting.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You know if
47 it's at all possible I would like to at least have an
48 invite maybe to this November meeting. It would be
49 nice to be -- partake in that. And is it going to be
50 in Canada or.....

1 MS. PUTERA: I'm not sure yet, there
2 was mention of Beaver Creek, but I don't know. But
3 yes, I'll.....
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that
6 would be great. So.....
7
8 MS. PUTERA: I'll bring that up and
9 see.....
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12
13 MS. PUTERA:how that works out.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
16 Thank you.
17
18 MS. PUTERA: Thank you. Are there any
19 questions or.....
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are there any
22 questions.
23
24 MR. GLANZ: I have one, Judy, is this
25 an offshoot of the Fortymile herd running around over
26 there or is this an actual herd?
27
28 MS. PUTERA: This is a distinct herd,
29 yes.
30
31 MR. GLANZ: It's distinct. Okay. And
32 I was also wondering, I heard you say -- him say
33 something on a -- about the non-resident hunting and it
34 was such a limited number of caribou I don't think
35 that's a real wise deal to do.
36
37 MS. PUTERA: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
38 the first.....
39
40 MR. GLANZ: I say I understand that
41 there's non-resident hunting in there is what he was
42 stating.....
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There had been.
45
46 MS. PUTERA: Well, that had been,
47 right.
48
49 MR. GLANZ: There has been. Which
50 don't sound real logical to me with a 500 member herd.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And all of this
2 information is probably going to come up whenever they
3 analyze.....

4
5 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:the
8 proposal. And it's all -- you know, as we hear all the
9 testimony and -- from the areas, you know, it's for us
10 to decide what recommendation we would bring to the
11 Federal Board.

12
13 MS. PUTERA: Right.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So.....

16
17 MS. PUTERA: Right. The RAC will have
18 a lot to say, a lot of say or has.....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

21
22 MS. PUTERA:the ability to have a
23 lot of influence. So that's why I want to bring this
24 up and.....

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And actually,
27 RAC members, I'm going to add some more information for
28 you. There's people in -- on the Advisory Committee
29 that feel that they don't want to limit if they can the
30 commercial harvest. So it's just stuff that we have to
31 talk about when it comes time to talk about it. And
32 some of them feel like if there's a harvestable -- if
33 the herd has a harvest they would like to see it open
34 and they see too long of a process. So that's why
35 they're starting it now.

36
37 All right. Okay. Thank you very much.

38
39 MS. PUTERA: Thank you. And thank you,
40 Torston.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And just.....

43
44 MR. BENTZEN: Thanks.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Out of
47 curiosity when we talk about Fortymile Caribou are you
48 guys going to be available?

49
50 MR. BENTZEN: When are you planning to

1 talk about Fortymile Caribou?
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a good
4 question. Can we call you?
5
6 MR. BENTZEN: I'll be available the
7 rest of the day here.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we could
10 call you? And tomorrow I mean, because we meet all day
11 tomorrow.
12
13 MR. BENTZEN: Yeah, especially if you
14 could give me a time. (Indiscernible) office right
15 now, but I could -- I can definitely try to call in.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: We can -- we'll give you
18 an estimated projected time later today. I'm kind of
19 joking here, but we're still struggling through fishery
20 issues, but we can give you a general time tomorrow.
21 And if you can give me a number where I can call you in
22 Fairbanks and we can communicate ahead of time to give
23 you a head's up.
24
25 MR. BENTZEN: You can call at 883-2971
26 and I'll get a message at any rate there.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: So you're going to be
29 back in Tok then not Fairbanks tomorrow?
30
31 MR. BENTZEN: Well, since I don't have
32 an office.....
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Can you deal
35 with this off the record?
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, well.....
38
39 MR. BENTZEN:I can get a message
40 easier at that phone.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, I'll work
43 through your Tok office and they can give me that
44 information. Thanks.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
47 right. Now.....
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if you guys
50 actually concluded the post season discussion because

1 we had to get this teleconference. If it is then you
2 would move on to the.....

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS:proposal reviews.

7 So I -- to be honest with you I don't know if you
8 concluded that.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I told them
11 before we went into this if anyone had anything left
12 from that post season review -- does anyone have any
13 other questions from the State of the Federal people,
14 Council members?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
19 we're going to move along to the.....

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Now you would go to -- I
22 believe you wanted to cover the deferred proposals,
23 just a quick update on that. I think.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: And I.....

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I put it as C,
30 but yeah, that's fine.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Or yeah, it's real quick.

33 Yeah, Chuck is going to cover that. It's just an
34 update on your proposals. I do have a handout and
35 we'll go from there.

36

37 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good afternoon. For
38 the record Chuck Ardizzone, Office of Subsistence
39 Management. If you look in your folders, I think Vince
40 passed out a pink sheet, it's on your proposals that
41 you submitted on the Yukon chinook salmon deferred
42 proposals. It's proposal FP-09, 12 and 13. I'm not
43 going to cover all this because you guys are intimately
44 familiar with these proposals. And it's just an
45 update, you know, at the January Board meeting the
46 Board deferred these proposals to the spring of 2010.
47 Analysis are currently being drafted. These analysis
48 will be -- come before your Council at that joint
49 meeting with the -- in Fairbanks on 23 through 25,
50 February. You'll be able to give your recommendations

1 and there'll be an opportunity for public comment. And
2 after that in March it'll go to the Interagency Staff
3 Committee for their review and comment. And then the
4 Board will take action on those proposals in April 13th
5 through 14th in 2010 in Anchorage at their Board
6 meeting. And if you flip to the back of your sheet
7 there's a little table with timelines of how things
8 will flow.

9

10 If there's any questions I can answer
11 those quickly. It's just an informational update so
12 you know where things are.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
15 members, any questions regarding -- I guess we're
16 looking at the -- this -- you just have a nice draft
17 here or not a draft, but outline of how -- before it
18 gets to the Board.

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Actually they --
23 I'll tell you this that when I was at the meeting they
24 wanted to defer it for two years and they had a
25 Southeast issue come up that they should have postponed
26 for two years, but they just decided for one year. And
27 I thought well, if they're going to do it for Southeast
28 why can't they do it for us. So they agreed to bring
29 it up in April out of cycle instead of two years. And
30 I think there was a lot of question as to why we put it
31 forth again because it was turned down and then we put
32 it forth again and there was -- some of the people on
33 the Subsistence Board didn't like that actually, we're
34 that -- we're so persistent. At any rate that's why we
35 got it to come out of cycle this one year.

36

37 Any questions? Okay. Thanks. All
38 right. I have -- so, Vince, are you keeping me
39 straight now, it's Alaska Board of Fisheries?

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And.....

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The YK region
44 review of pending proposals.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And what we'll do
47 on that is I just got to give it a little prelim and
48 Fish and Game Staff are willing to help you through the
49 proposals, but I prefaced that with you already, you
50 know, none of the agencies have any positions on these

1 proposals yet. It's -- they're basically here to help
2 you walk through those proposals.

3

4 And I think we have a public comment
5 first.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you -- oh,
8 I'm sorry.

9

10 MS. H. SOLOMON: Excuse me.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

13

14 MS. H. SOLOMON: My name is Hannah, I
15 made some biscuits for you guys over there and a little
16 moose meat.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
19 That's a great lady. Thank you very much.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then, Madam
22 Chair, on -- what I'm doing is I just have to go
23 through some disclaimers so everything is forthright.
24 You have in your packet of materials this and this was
25 my review of this book of what proposals I thought
26 would be in your jurisdiction. We have copies of this
27 blue book here and, of course, Fish and Game Staff if
28 by accident I missed a proposal, that either the public
29 or the Council or someone else wants, we can bring it
30 up. I just felt to save a tree I did it this way.

31

32 The other thing as I talked to Virgil
33 about this and I know -- I know your feelings kind of
34 on these proposals, but to empower your person who goes
35 to the Board of Fish you need to go through the steps
36 of the review that are behind your nameplates. That
37 way there's a clean record that you've covered all the
38 topics and all the people in there. It's just -- I
39 know it slows you down a little bit, but there'll be no
40 question that you attempted to touch all bases.

41

42 So with that I don't know how to
43 proceed other than to go through this handout. And it
44 looks like Steve has a copy of it or we can go through
45 the book.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So what
48 you're saying, you went through this and you have it
49 setup for the ones that pertain to us; is that correct?

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, based on my
2 understanding. That's why I have the disclaimer on
3 there.....

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
6

7 MR. MATHEWS:and that's why I
8 have extra books here. Maybe I didn't have enough cup
9 of coffee that day and I missed one.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
12 Vince, we're going to give you a chance here. And I
13 bet you there's somebody on this Council that can make
14 sure we didn't miss any.

15
16 And, Andrew, go ahead, you have a
17 question.

18
19 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, Mr. Hayes, I was
20 wondering like earlier you said -- I think I misheard
21 you or you misspoke when you said they normally fish
22 with 25 meshes and that you were going to try 50 to see
23 if the fish were -- I thought you said fathoms earlier
24 though, you meant measures or you meant length or
25 depth?

26
27 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair. Are you
28 referring to the Pilot Station sonar project?

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, and you were saying
31 that they -- just to see if the species were specific
32 to avoiding the nets so you were using a different
33 size. I was -- when you said fathoms did you mean
34 meshes or were you referring to length or depth?

35
36 MR. HAYES: Correct, length.

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Length.

39
40 MR. HAYES: Currently they use 25
41 fathoms in length, they'll e testing 50 fathoms in
42 length next summer.

43
44 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Just for
45 clarification. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
48 members, this -- we're taking up -- this could take a
49 while for those who thought this was going to be a
50 short meeting. I would like -- did you review this,

1 Virgil, any of you guys, did you look at this -- this
2 didn't come to us before the meeting, correct?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I mailed out this
5 ahead of time to you.....

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS:correct.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Because
12 it's fisheries in the Yukon I'll let you guys deal with
13 this. So I need to know if you reviewed this and if
14 this is in excess of the proposals we want to take up
15 or how you want to deal with this.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. Madam Chair, I
18 reviewed it. There's a few of them like the first one
19 that's basically a housekeeping proposal. Some of them
20 -- all of them affect our region, I think.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: As we go through them --
25 I'm going to go through their actual proposal book as
26 we go through this to make sure we don't skip something
27 that we shouldn't skip, but -- and I believe Mr. Hayes
28 has something to say.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Mr.
31 Hayes.

32
33 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, just one
34 comment. When you -- if you go over the Kuskokwim
35 proposals I don't think at this time we would be able
36 to assist you with those, but we could take your
37 questions and get the information back to you.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. One at a
42 time, Council members?

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I guess
47 we need a motion.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair, I'd like
50 to get procedurally -- decide exactly how we're going

1 to proceed so let me ask Vince a question. Vince, do
2 you want us to go through this like -- exactly in this
3 manner, correct?

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, what's on the back
6 of your -- back of your card, correct. And I'll get
7 you a copy for over here.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's pretty
10 cumbersome for these, because we're only taking up one
11 or two of Federal's a lot of times and this is 20.

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. Some of these
14 things won't.....

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I want to make
17 this short.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR:take a whole lot
20 of discussion on them, but some will. So some we can
21 go through pretty fast.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think --
24 Vince, I'm sorry, but I'm not going to do all of this,
25 I'm going to do what I think is right and I'm trying to
26 use common sense.

27
28 Does everybody else here have -- the
29 agencies have -- know what we're going by here? Well,
30 I -- anyone that's involved in giving us reports on
31 this, they need to see this and I'm not going to sit
32 here and say this every time, it just takes too much
33 time.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: No, you just need to get
36 it on the record that you've asked if there's an
37 Advisory Committee here and if they say there's no one
38 here you move along. And it's just to make sure that
39 no one can later come to the Board of Fish.....

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
42 say it short. It's going to be agency comments, it's
43 going to be Advisory Groups and I'm not going say all
44 of this stuff over and over again. And do -- this
45 summary of written comments, we're not going to get
46 that.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: No, I.....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So I'm not

1 going to do that.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I didn't -- I'm
4 working two Council, I didn't have time to modify this
5 procedure. So there won't be any written comments
6 because.....

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
9 enough.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS:they haven't
12 compiled.....

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I understand.
15 Okay. Council members, motions are always in a
16 positive motion. So basically there's a window for
17 public testimony here too and then there's discussion
18 and justification and a vote.

19

20 Mr. Hayes.

21

22 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, just to
23 clarify. There will also not be any agency comments at
24 this time. We haven't prepared our comments, okay, but
25 we can answer questions.....

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So I can
28 eliminate that.

29

30 MR. HAYES:towards the proposals
31 that you may have.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think what
34 I'm going to do, Vince, is I'm just going to ask if
35 there's any comments including the public. That takes
36 care of everything. If there's any agency, advisory or
37 public comments and that takes care of all of it in
38 one. And then the Regional -- I think I'm going to
39 have the Regional Council make a positive motion first
40 and then we can go right into it.

41

42 Okay. So the floor is open.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
45 number 63. Need a second.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hearing no
48 second, then we move along.

49

50 MR. BASSICH: Second.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I was just
2 kidding.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: I'll second Virgil's
5 motion.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. There is
8 a second. So now I'm into.....
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Staff comments from the
11 Staff, introduction of proposal, that's what they do.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that would be Audra
16 on this.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think -- do I
19 need to let him take over?
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you want me to do
22 this.....
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I think I
25 need practice. All right. Now we're into some
26 reports.
27
28 MS. BRASE Do you want me to read it or
29 I can just give a brief synopsis of what this?
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Just a synopsis of what
32 it is is what we want.
33
34 MS. BRASE: Okay. Proposal number 63,
35 Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan. This --
36 there are two different management plans out there, one
37 is a subsistence plan and one is a sport plan. When we
38 were going through them we found that the language is a
39 little bit different in the two different plans. So
40 this proposal basically aligns the language so it's the
41 same in both plans, both the sport and the subsistence.
42 So the Department basically looks at this as a
43 housekeeping proposal. It was proposed by Fish and
44 Game, Sportfish Division and it's just -- it's
45 relatively simple.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And it doesn't
48 change subsistence, the way it's managed?
49
50 MS. BRASE: No, it's actually -- it's

1 adopting the language that it's in the subsistence
2 plan.....

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

5
6 MS. BRASE:aligning the sportfish
7 one with the subsistence plan.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So does
10 everybody understand that or is there any other
11 questions or discussion.

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair, it's
14 basically -- the Staff said a housekeeping to clarify
15 the language so we have less confusing regulations and
16 more user friendly. So that's basically all it is, we
17 should support it.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. If
20 there's any public testimony you need to raise your
21 hand on this proposals. I don't even know if the --
22 does the public have access to this?

23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's out there?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there's those copies
29 and we can share copies.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
32 right.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: And, of course, Fish and
35 Game distributes the book massively.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
38 making sure that people see what we're doing. Any
39 other discussion.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Question.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is there any
44 opposition?

45
46 (No aye votes)

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The proposal
49 passes, number 63 as a housekeeping measure. Next one.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
2 64.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: Second.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Second. Okay.
7 A report from Staff.
8
9 MS. BRASE: Okay. Proposal number 64,
10 this is again Minto Flats Northern Pike Management
11 Plan. This is put forth by the Fairbanks AC so Virgil
12 may want to speak to this as he is on the Fairbanks AC.
13 It's -- the goal of it is to put forth a daily bag and
14 household limits on northern pike in a certain area of
15 the Minto Flats Management Area. I -- it's a little
16 bit confusing how it's written here, I did put up --
17 make a little synopsis that you guys might want, that
18 kind of describes a little bit more in detail what
19 exactly you guys wanted to do, Virgil, but I'm not sure
20 if you guys actually wanted to act on this or not, if
21 you had an interest in the Minto area. If you do I'll
22 give you what I have.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I want to look
25 at something here. Okay. Is this.....
26
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's State land.
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I know, I see
30 that.
31
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay.
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Why are we
35 doing this. Go.
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is addressing some
38 greedheads. I can't understand why people do this.
39 But one group of people went down and caught one-third
40 of the year's harvest at once and so this is addressing
41 that issue because there's a -- people are supposed to
42 report after they finish fishing because this is -- and
43 they have to get the permits at the Fairbanks Fish and
44 Game office. And so once the quota is caught of 1,500
45 fish for the year then the fishery gets closed. And so
46 that's what this was addressing and putting a limit, a
47 household limit, and then people could go back and get
48 another household limit if they wanted. But anyway
49 that's what this was addressing and it is on mainly
50 State land where this -- or maybe it's all State land

1 where this takes place, but I recommend that we
2 recommend approval.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, you know
5 what it makes me think, Virgil, it makes me wonder if
6 somebody -- if some group is going down and getting all
7 of it if it's just shared through a whole community.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, they're not doing
10 that. These are people that live in Fairbanks that are
11 idiots that went -- go down there and because fish easy
12 to catch just keep catching them because the pike are
13 in their overwintering area.....

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, this is --
16 this was taken.....

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR:and this is
19 through the ice.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:by
22 Fairbanks.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's in their
25 overwintering area and you're catching -- and then
26 there you have the same problem as we do with king
27 salmon except pike, some of them live to be over 30
28 years old, all those great big ones are big mamas is
29 what they are. And so when you kill all the big mamas
30 pretty soon there's nothing except a bunch of runts and
31 it takes a long time for them to recover.

32

33 I think Audra wants to say something.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

36

37 MS. BRASE Yeah, Madam Chair, this is a
38 really, small, localized area, it's really close to
39 Fairbanks and the Chatanika River. Minto Village does
40 -- is in part of this Minto area, however the
41 proposal's only addressing the small portion of the
42 Chatanika River that's close to Fairbanks where it's
43 true most Fairbanks residents do go down there and
44 participate in the fishery. So it's really -- it's a
45 State issue more so than a Federal issue, but you guys
46 are -- you can -- anybody can comment on these
47 proposals.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We can comment
50 on it. We're within our boundaries. Yeah. Okay. Any

1 others.

2

3

MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

4

5

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Andy.

6

7

8

MR. BASSICH: Audra, is this a
conservation concern in your view?

9

10

11

12

13

14

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50

MS. BRASE: It is because the pike are
kind of stacked up there and it is -- it's a distinct
population and they can get over harvested pretty
easily when they are localized in this wintering area.
They're not always there, but the last couple years
they have been so they've been really easy to target.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anything else.

(No comments)

MR. BASSICH: Question.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Everyone in
favor of this proposal say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
motion passes.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
65.

MR. BASSICH: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
been moved and seconded.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll.....

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Agency first,
Mr. Umphenour.

MS. BRASE: Okay. Proposal 65 looks to
require single hooks for summer sport and winter

1 subsistence pike fishery in the area. You guys were
2 just -- you just made the support of the previous
3 proposal. In the Chatanika River currently there's a
4 portion where it is already single hook and this just
5 looks to extend the area out into the lakes for the
6 summery fishery. And this is again proposed by the
7 Fairbanks AC which Virgil's on so he may be -- have
8 more comments on it.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I don't
11 think he has any influence.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The reason why
14 we put this proposal forward is a conservation reason.
15 As everyone that's caught pike knows it's hazardous to
16 your fingers releasing them. So a lot of these people
17 are going to release a lot of these pike, especially
18 the ones that are not the size they want. And so if
19 you have treble hooks on your lure or your line you get
20 one hook undone, the fish flops and the other hook
21 hooks in. And so it's -- what you end up doing is --
22 as I said it's a conservation measure to keep from
23 doing too much damage to the pike and possibly a safety
24 measure to your fingers trying to unhook the pike. But
25 that's why we did that, Madam Chair.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I know one
28 thing pike are pretty tough in my experience anyway.
29 Any more.....

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: And also it's for user
32 friendly regulations, that way the whole area has the
33 same regulation instead of part of the area having one
34 regulation and part of the area having another
35 regulation it's all the -- this makes it all the same.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
38 comments. Go ahead, Frank.

39

40 MR. GURTLER: Yes, I'm a sport
41 fisherman and I take out sport fishermen and I've been
42 using a single hook now for about the last 15 years on
43 account of it's easier on my fingers. I even pinch the
44 barbs on those single hooks so -- and you get -- when
45 you let -- release the pike all you do is just take the
46 bars and go like that and the pike is gone. And they
47 get caught on lips mostly. And a treble hook can --
48 they can get caught way down in their throat and if
49 they bleed a little bit, the pike -- you might as well
50 keep them. And if you're into a big batch of pike

1 you'll never use that many, you'll just a bunch of dead
2 pike. And I think a single hook is the best remedy
3 myself.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other comments.
6 Go ahead.

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil, you said -- isn't
9 most of Fairbanks already -- in the Chatanika area they
10 already have to have a single hook like for the salmon
11 fishery in the Chatanika, is that true or most of their
12 current regulations it's -- there's -- you already have
13 to have a single hook except in this one area or what?

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: She has it.

16
17 MS. BRASE: Madam Chair, I'll just
18 clarify. No, most of the Chatanika is not single hook,
19 it's just this lower part of the Chatanika is single
20 hook.

21
22 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Thank you.

23
24 MS. BRASE: But the Chena River is
25 single hook.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anything else.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: So this means that if you
30 have a two treble hooks on a pike bar that you have to
31 cut them all off except one or you can leave one on
32 each end of the lure?

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a good
35 question. A rapaula (ph) with two hooks, two triple
36 hooks, what would that do.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: You would have two
39 single hooks on it is what you would have.

40
41 MR. GLANZ: Basically worthless.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Frank, am I
44 going to catch one on my rapaula with only a single on
45 each one?

46
47 MR. GURTLER: Well, the way it's
48 written in here is a single hook.

49
50 MR. GLANZ: That's exactly the way it's

1 written, a single hook.

2

3 MR. GURTLER: And I think -- it all
4 depends on what your lure is too. I don't know what
5 kind of lures they're using, whether it's a floating
6 plug or dare devil or -- it all depends and I don't
7 know how to define that now that you mention it. But I
8 think the way it's written right here is it's a single
9 hook. And I've used a single hook on a float and it
10 works good.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: On a rapaula,
13 one of those big long ones that have doubles?

14

15 MR. GURTLER: No, a wooden plug or
16 whatever they use as floaters and jigs and stuff.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: See a jig is different,
19 that's a single hook anyway to begin with.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And you're
22 talking about.....

23

24 MR. GLANZ: I'm talking about the basic
25 lures. I use a double jointed piking minnow and so
26 forth or even the dare devils, you could probably work
27 a hook. But that's not -- the rest of them would be
28 pretty worthless from what I can see, but by bending
29 hooks -- I cut all the barbs off my hooks, that's what
30 I'm saying to begin with. I myself feel this is a
31 ridiculous law.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil,
34 enlighten me one more time, why are you doing this?

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, if you read what
37 will happen if nothing is done, in the summer fishery
38 the limit has been reduced from five to two. People do
39 not travel to Minto to only catch two fish. Many pike
40 are caught with treble hooks, lifted from the water by
41 the eyes or gillplate into the boat where hooks are
42 removed. Single hooks facilitate release into the
43 water and would reduce mortality of a rapidly declining
44 population. It's much easier to release the hook.
45 Like Frank said, you take your needle nose pliers, you
46 go down there, you get hold of the hook and you give
47 it a little twist and you can release the pike, you
48 don't have to pull it out of the water. But like it
49 says here, a bag limit of two pike a day. So if you --
50 people don't want to go down there and catch two pike,

1 they want to catch several pike and have fun catching
2 pike and just releasing the pike. That way you're
3 doing much less physical damage to the pike. And
4 whenever -- and something that a lot of people don't
5 realize, everyone thinks it neat you can grab a pike by
6 the eyeballs, squeeze his eyeballs real good and he
7 doesn't wiggle around. What you're doing is you're
8 killing those pike when you do that. And you have to
9 remember that when a pike gets over 36 inches long or
10 say a 40 inch pike is roughly about 20 years old,
11 Audra, so you're killing a 20 year old fish when you're
12 doing that to it. And you have to.....

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I've never done
15 that.

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, a lot of
18 people do do it though. And because they know that the
19 pike isn't going to flop around. If you have a single
20 hook it's much, much easier to reach down there and
21 release the fish. But the person with the most
22 experience, with years and years of catching pike,
23 hundreds, maybe thousands of them, is right there,
24 Frank. He just got through saying that's what he does.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is this a
27 conservation issue, you might address that, I'm getting
28 lost here.

29

30 MS. BRASE: I'm not sure if this is
31 going to -- it would definitely make it easier to
32 release the fish and there would probably be less
33 mortality. I'm not sure if it's really going to save
34 that many pike for -- conservation wise. We haven't
35 finished our analysis on this so I can't really give
36 you a good answer on that. It will make it easier to
37 release pike.

38

39 I'm -- just a clarification. I believe
40 that you could still have two hooks on a rapaula
41 because the way this is written it's may be multiple
42 single hooks. So as long as you replace the two treble
43 hooks with two single hooks that would be legal so the
44 rapaula would still swing the right way.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's what we
47 were getting at, yeah. What's the wishes of the
48 Council here, any other discussion.

49

50 Go ahead, Frank.

1 MR. GURTLER: It's pretty tough to
2 decide what this says right here. It doesn't say two
3 hooks does it?

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let -- Audra
6 first then Virgil.

7
8 MS. BRASE: Yeah, Madam Chair, Frank.
9 It says under (d) there in the Chatanika River, Minto
10 Lakes and Goldstream Creek, only single hooks, and then
11 in parenthesis, may be multiple single hooks, may be
12 used in the summer sportfishery or the winter
13 subsistence fishery. So I believe that is where the
14 intention of this proposal is to have two single hooks
15 on something like a rapaula. I believe that's what the
16 AC wanted.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Bill.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: I have another question.
21 Isn't the Department of Fish and Game trying to
22 eradicate northern pike. From what I.....

23
24 MS. BRASE: Get them by the eyes. No.
25 That's a huge issue out there with the public. In the
26 northern part of the State pike
27 are native, they're supposed to be in the Yukon
28 Drainage, they're supposed to be in the Kuskokwim
29 Drainage. They are not supposed to be in the Susitna
30 Drainage or the Copper Drainage. So down in that part
31 of the State, Southcentral, they are trying to
32 eradicate them because people have taken pike and put
33 them where they're not supposed to be. But up here in,
34 you know, Fairbanks and north, we want the pike around.
35 I mean they're a great sportfishery, they're supposed
36 to be there. So no, we don't want to eradicate them up
37 here.

38
39 MR. GLANZ: And I was just saying
40 there's nothing finer eating than a pike. But anyway
41 so.....

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anything else,
44 Council members.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think I heard
49 a call for the question.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes, you did.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Everyone
4 in favor say aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I am.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Move to adopt
15 proposal 67.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I need a second
18 or it goes.
19
20 MR. GLANZ: Second.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Fish and
23 Game.
24
25 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, as this is
26 Kuskokwim proposal I'm not familiar with it.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see,
29 yeah. Uh-huh.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, I am.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How can you be?
34 Go ahead.
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Madam Chair, the
37 reason why I brought this up is because it is similar
38 to our proposals for the Yukon. I just wanted to point
39 out that if you read the justification and et cetera by
40 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
41 they don't want eight inch mesh, they want six inch
42 mesh in the Kuskokwim River. And so that's why I
43 brought this up as an informational -- it's for
44 information to demonstrate that we're not the only ones
45 with the concerns for the king salmon for the same
46 exact reasons. They don't want their commercial
47 fishery targeting king salmon with any gillnet larger
48 than six inch mesh. That's why I brought it up.
49 That's what the proposal is, change maximum mesh size
50 from eight inch to six inch in Kuskokwim River as

1 follows.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
4 why you brought it. So that's information, but.....

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's why I brought it
7 up for discussion purposes.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:now we got
10 to vote on it.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. We can vote on
13 it, we can support it. There -- it's a conversation
14 thing the same reason why we have our proposals in for
15 the same exact thing.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other Council
18 members, discussion.
19 Go ahead, Andy.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I want to echo
22 Virgil's observations here. You know we've been making
23 proposals to try and limit mesh size on the Yukon for a
24 while, it's been in place on the Kuskokwim for many of
25 the same reasons since 1986 and they're concerned that
26 they're going to fall back to the use of eight inch
27 mesh and they've identified that as detrimental to the
28 king salmon populations in the Kuskokwim River. And I
29 think it very closely mirrors a lot of the concerns
30 that have been voiced from this panel and many of the
31 ACs and therefore I would be in strong support of this
32 due to conservation concerns of the chinook salmon on
33 the Yukon and also for subsistence use and harvest of
34 chinook salmon, long term chinook salmon harvest by
35 subsistence users along the Yukon River.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other Council
38 members, any other discussion. Okay. What is it,
39 Vince?

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Basically, just so you
42 know, it's outside your jurisdiction, you already made
43 a link to the Yukon. The way the Board of Fish works,
44 there's subcommittees, you would not have a standing
45 seat on the subcommittee on the Kuskokwim. This
46 comment will go to the Board, but you won't have a seat
47 on that.....

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's all
50 right.

1 MR. MATHEWS:working group.
2 You'll have one on the Yukon, just so it's clear.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We get to
5 comment though.
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: And then Western Interior
8 did take up this proposal if you want to know.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And they voted
11 for it?
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: They voted unanimously
14 for it.
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
17 you. Virgil, there's more?
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes. When the Board
20 goes into deliberations before they vote on proposals,
21 what they will do is they will -- one of the Board
22 members, it will be their responsibility to research
23 what organizations are in favor or against various
24 proposals. And so they will say if we vote in favor of
25 this proposal, the Eastern Interior RAC supports this
26 proposal. And so that will just demonstrate to the
27 Board more support for the proposal is what it would
28 do, Madam Chair.
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and then
31 you can write a comment, Vince, that would be what, you
32 know, the Board members look at as, you know, why'd
33 they vote that way and you put your once sentence of
34 two word comment there. So just -- I'm sure you got a
35 handle on that for us.
36
37 Anything else. Frank.
38
39 MR. GURTLER: It's out of our
40 jurisdiction, right, the Kuskokwim? Okay. Well, what
41 I'm afraid of is voting on somebody else's problems, if
42 it's a problem. If it might create a problem. They
43 might be voting on ours next time and we might not want
44 that.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
47 you should.....
48
49 MR. GURTLER: It's just a thought.
50 I.....

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you -- I
2 hear what you're saying, Frank, and, you know -- other
3 Council members, would you like to respond to that. Go
4 ahead, Andy.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Can I ask who the working
7 group is composed of on the Kuskokwim because if it's
8 users, if it's work -- the working group is composed of
9 subsistence and commercial users as well as agency
10 people, then this proposal to me is in support of
11 greater conservation on the Kuskokwim and protection of
12 the chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim. And so we're not
13 supporting something that may adversely affect their
14 subsistence use, we're actually supporting something
15 that would be supporting conservation of a valuable
16 resource on their river. So I understand your
17 concerns, Frank, and in the past we've been very
18 careful not to comment on other people's proposals, but
19 I think this parallels and supports so much of what
20 we've been trying to accomplish on the Yukon River in
21 terms of conservation for chinook salmon and proper
22 management strategies in our view of chinook salmon
23 that it's appropriate for us to comment on that -- on
24 this proposal.

25
26 Thank you, Madam Chair.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I was just
29 curious if the Fish and Game people here knew who's on
30 that working group.

31
32 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, Mr. Bassich.
33 I think you answered it yourself, it's commercial,
34 subsistence users and agencies.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's pretty
37 good. I wonder if we can do that on the Yukon. But
38 we're not working together with this kind of solution.
39 Yeah, I think Frank was just a little bit concerned
40 about the fallout, but anyone else concerned about
41 that? Yes, go ahead.

42
43 MR. HAYES: Let me correct that. It's
44 subsistence and commercial users and the agencies, of
45 course, are not on it, but they assist in.....

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah. I
48 see, yeah.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Frank, many

1 times our Council has supported other councils'
2 recommendations. And in this case we would be
3 supporting more or less our sister council, the Western
4 Interior Council's recommendation because they voted
5 unanimously to support this proposal. And so we do do
6 that.

7

8 And I believe Vince has something to
9 say.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know if the
12 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta took up this proposal, if anybody
13 in the room went to that meeting. I know their actions
14 that are going to come up, what they did, but I don't
15 believe they took up this proposal. So I don't know --
16 Richard's saying no, they did not. So they also have a
17 stake in the Kuskokwim, the -- but both those Councils,
18 Western and YK, my assessment is they defer to that
19 working group, the working group has been very
20 successful. So that basically.....

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, and I
23 think we can put that in our comments, we really favor
24 working groups that come up with good solutions. I
25 mean I would like to add that my myself. I'm just
26 curious if anyone knows, do we have any C&Ts on the
27 Kuskokwim from our region?

28

(No comments)

29

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: At any rate I
32 think I'd like to support work -- the decisions of
33 working groups myself and to add that comment if
34 everyone's agreeable, yeah. So am I hearing the
35 question again?

36

37 MR. GLANZ: I'll call -- I'll call for
38 the question on that.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. The
41 question's been called for. All in favor.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

46

(No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. 81 is
49 next. That looks like a -- I guess I'm relying on you,

1 Virgil. Go.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move to adopt
4 proposal 81.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
7 second.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Second.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Discussion. Or
12 actually agency, I'm sorry.

13

14 MR HAYES: Madam Chair, proposal 81 is
15 a housekeeping proposal that was put forth by the
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And what it's
17 intending to do is clarify the subsistence fishing
18 schedule in Subdistricts 4B and C. In 2004 the Board
19 of Fishery changed the subsistence schedule for
20 District 4 and since then Subdistrict 4B and C has
21 requested to be on a different schedule. The
22 Department has no issue with it, and we've been issuing
23 an emergency order since 2004 to do that and what this
24 will do is place it in regulation so we don't have to
25 do an emergency order every year.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I see. That
28 sounds pretty reasonable. Any discussion.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: And, Madam Chair, it's
31 basically housekeeping, it's what the Department's been
32 doing anyway by emergency order so it just saves the
33 Department issuing emergency orders and saves on
34 confusion.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Well, I call for the
37 question.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Not to muddy the water,
42 Western Interior took this up and couldn't come to a
43 conclusion and so they deferred to the Home Advisory
44 Committee on this one.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a piece
47 of information, I take it. Thank you. The question's
48 been called for. All in favor.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are we working
6 that far outside our Region.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Just to clarify, you have
9 positive C&T for these species.....
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS:that's why they're
14 in front of you even though they may be hundreds of
15 miles away, those fish travel through.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So what you're
18 saying in 4A and C, is it -- well, those -- that's not
19 in our region or is it?
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: It's not in your region,
22 but the species travel through there.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. But
25 somebody like from Tanana might have a C&T over there
26 too, right?
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. And you'll.....
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS:be getting data
33 that.....
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS:on Tanana's use
38 maybe.
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did --
41 we voted on this or did.....
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
44 82.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't hear
47 any second.
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's been moved
2 and seconded. And agency has a report?

3
4 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, this is
5 another housekeeping proposal by the Alaska Department
6 of Fish and Game. And what this will do is it will
7 allow subsistence and commercial fishing to occur two
8 48 hour periods a week in Subdistrict 4A. In the mid
9 1990s there was a large scale roe fishery there,
10 commercial and subsistence was separated. More
11 recently the market is starting to come back and we've
12 been allowing commercial and subsistence fishing to
13 occur at the same time. So what this does is it puts
14 it in the regulation to where we don't have to issue
15 another EO to allow subsistence fishing to occur during
16 the commercial periods.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair, this is
19 just another housekeeping proposal. And what it also
20 does which Staff to didn't say, is the rest of the
21 Upper Yukon operates in this manner currently. And so
22 this makes the entire Upper Yukon operate in the same
23 manner. If there's a commercial fishery that the
24 subsistence fishery does not have to close down, the
25 subsistence fishery can continue to operate so it
26 doesn't become burdensome and penalize the subsistence
27 fisherman because there's enough fish for a commercial
28 fishery. The subsistence fisherman can keep fishing.
29 And so it's a housekeeping proposal and it only makes
30 common sense to have the whole Upper Yukon operate in
31 the same way. The whole Yukon should operate the same
32 way which they don't, but we will address that later in
33 a later proposal, Madam Chair.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
36 Virgil. Any other comments.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for the question.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question
41 has been called for. All in favor say aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
50 83.

1 MR. BASSICH: Second.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
4 been moved and seconded and for proposal 83. I'm -- go
5 ahead.
6
7 MR. PETER: (Indiscernible - away from
8 microphone).....
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If you -- I'm
11 sorry. If you can raise your hand and you'd like to
12 comment, please do so. Did you -- would you like to
13 comment on some of these?
14
15 MR. PETER: (Indiscernible - away from
16 microphone).....
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Wait a minute,
19 you have to come up. WE've already voted on them, is
20 it stuff that we've already voted on.
21 MR. PETER: Yeah, it is.
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you
24 agreeing with us?
25
26 MR. PETER: No.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh. Come on
29 up.
30
31 MR. PETER: (Indiscernible - away from
32 microphone).....
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry. I
35 didn't mean to do that. Come on up.
36
37 MR. PETER: So push the button here?
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, you do.
40
41 MR. PETER: Okay. I was just.....
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And your name?
44
45 MR. PETER: Oh, my name's Walter Peter.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
48
49 MR. PETER: I currently work for the GZ
50 -- GZGTG. I had a comment on your proposal 72, but --

1 oh, that's with.....
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 72. Did we do
4 72.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: We're not addressing
7 72.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We -- yeah, we
10 didn't take that one up.
11
12 MR. PETER: Oh, that was the mesh size
13 though, but that was concerning the whole -- just the
14 Kuskokwim, but then there's also a proposal on 90
15 concerning the same mesh size, six inch.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We haven't
18 taken up 90 yet, but -- and we did not take up 72.
19
20 MR. PETER: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you would
23 like to comment on 90?
24
25 MR. PETER: Yes.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, be sure
28 and raise your hand and thank you.
29
30 MR. PETER: Okay. So I just wait.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, wait.
33
34 MR. PETER: Sorry about that.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. That's
37 all right. So anyone else in the audience, I don't
38 mean to overlook you, just as we put these up please
39 raise your hand on these numbers when we take them up
40 one at a time like this if you have a comment.
41
42 Now did I have a motion on the floor
43 and a.....
44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Proposal 83 and it's
46 time for the Staff to.....
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Roger. Okay.
49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR:give us a briefing

1 on it.

2

3 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, proposal 83
4 was submitted by the Fairbanks Advisory Council. This
5 would require subsistence fishermen to record their
6 harvest on a catch calendar and currently they're not
7 required to do that.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
10 comment.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Madam Chair, the
13 reason we put this proposal forward, the Fairbanks
14 Advisory Committee put it forward, is that what some of
15 us have discussed since we've been here at this meeting
16 is the Department has absolutely no earthly idea what
17 the subsistence harvest is. There's been a lot of
18 abuse on -- of the subsistence fishing by a small
19 number of individuals, but a small number of
20 individuals when they have a gigantic amount of abuse
21 can have a big effect. And so all this is doing is
22 taking the language that's already in the regulation
23 for the personal use dipnet fishery at Chitina and
24 applying that to the subsistence fishery where people --
25 everyone gets a catch calendar anyway. What they
26 would have to do is record their fish daily on the
27 catch calendar and have the catch calendar available
28 for inspection by either enforcement or the Department
29 when they were requested to do so. That's what it
30 would do.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: And then the catch
35 calendar has to be turned in and if a person doesn't
36 bother to do that then they'll lose their subsistence
37 privileges just like a hunter does if he doesn't send
38 in his harvest ticket. So basically -- and I talked to
39 the director of Subsistence Division, Craig Flinger,
40 about this, and he really like this proposal, Madam
41 Chair, because it puts some accountability in
42 there.....

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR:so that you really
47 can tell how many fish people are harvesting.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
50 Other Council members. Andy.

1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 I guess I'm going to go by the green card just to help
3 Vince in the -- some of the justification here. First
4 item is is there a conservation concern. Yes, I
5 believe there is a conservation concern as spoke about
6 earlier. If you're trying to reconstruct runs, total
7 runs, you need to have good information on how many
8 fish are being harvested in the river both commercially
9 and through subsistence. So I think it's very
10 important to achieve that goal. Is the recommendation
11 supported by substantial evidence. I think it is, I
12 think we all know that there are people that abuse
13 subsistence fishing privileges and we've been calling
14 for the ability to try and reduce some of those abuses
15 to whatever extent and the only way that I see that law
16 enforcement has the opportunity to enforce some of
17 these regulations is to have this tool in place so that
18 if a person does not keep accurate records then they
19 have the ability to either prosecute or cite -- issue a
20 citation based on that. So I think it will help law
21 enforcement with their job. I think right now law
22 enforcement has a very difficult job of enforcing some
23 of these regulations because it's very difficult to
24 prove how the fish are being used or where the fish are
25 even being caught. Will this recommendation address
26 subsistence needs and involvement. No, I think people
27 are still going to be able to fish the way that they
28 have been fishing and all this is doing is asking
29 people to simply write a number down at the end of
30 their fishing day which I don't think is a burden to
31 any subsistence fisherman. And will this
32 recommendation unnecessarily restrict other users.
33 Absolutely not in my opinion, it -- there's no
34 restrictions, all we're asking for is accurate
35 recording of harvest. It's as Virgil alluded to, it's
36 no different than if you shoot a moose, making sure
37 that your ticket is filled out when you're in the
38 field. So we're not really asking for anything that
39 the Department of Fish and Game asks for in other
40 harvest of other species.

41
42 Thank you, Madam Chair.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: I've got something to
45 add, Madam Chair.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'll let
48 you add it. But I want to make sure the public knows
49 this is your chance to also comment on these proposals.
50

1 Go ahead, Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. One other thing
4 I wanted to add and we wanted to make sure that we
5 included sharing in this. And so if the fish are
6 shared outside of the household of the catch calendar
7 holder, the number of fish shared and the name of the
8 person shared with must also be recorded in the catch
9 calendar. This is similar to a transfer of possession
10 form for game which is on the back page of all the
11 hunting regulation books. But that way if you, you
12 know, catch say 15 or -- fish, king salmon and your
13 neighbor can't fish, she's hurt her leg or back or has
14 a broken leg or too old to fish or whatever, then you
15 share your fish with here and you go give her fish then
16 you just write that down on the catch calendar as well,
17 I gave five fish to Suzie that lives next door to me or
18 whatever. And so that way the Department will be able
19 to actually know how many are really being harvested
20 and then that protects the person that you're giving
21 the fish away to, sharing the fish with as well, Madam
22 Chair.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, Frank.
25 And then I have something to add.

26

27 MR. GURTLER: That's a good idea, but
28 that's more paperwork. And I don't think it would help
29 if you -- I'd like to see them mark down the amount of
30 fish they caught and just leave it at that. I don't
31 like any more restrictions on what you're supposed to
32 do, how you're going to do it because you get more
33 paperwork and you're -- you get all frustrated with
34 filling out paperwork already and I don't think that
35 has anything to do with -- you get this many fish, you
36 got that many fish. I mean why explain where it's
37 going.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: One thing I
40 would like to add here, I -- my -- I get most of my
41 salmon off the Copper River and it's by fish wheel.
42 And we get -- we get a piece of paper when we go get
43 our permit to go fish and then it just -- it's a
44 reporting on it, it's just one piece of paper, you
45 write down the day and how many. And we don't have to
46 go through that sharing thing, we just tell them how
47 many. And the -- and we're using somebody else's wheel
48 in a lot of case. We -- were just the permit holder
49 with the permit and then the guy that has the wheel or
50 the person that has the wheel, we put their wheel

1 number down, they have to give us permission to use
2 their wheel. So, I mean, to -- it's not extrapolated
3 out like that, Virgil, it's just pretty simple, it's
4 just a one page report. I'm surprised you guys don't
5 do that up here actually. But any rate I don't see any
6 problem with something that's simple, but to make it
7 complicated, I wouldn't be in favor of that.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me add
10 something here. Everyone gets a catch calendar,
11 they're available so people already get the catch
12 calendars, they're available in the villages. If this
13 passes and we've spoke with the Department about it,
14 then they're going to issue everyone a catch calendar
15 that wants a catch calendar. The reason we put that in
16 there is similar -- I can just give you an example.
17 Subsistence Division goes to a village and they are say
18 doing how much moose meat you eat survey. And so they
19 go to a village say like Huslia that I guide out of.
20 All of my client's moose goes to the village, all the
21 meat goes to the village from my hunters. Okay. So
22 Joe Smuck that works over in Subsistence Division goes
23 to the village and says well, how much moose did your
24 household use this year. Oh, we ate a moose and a
25 half. Do they ask where did you get the moose from.
26 No, they don't ask where they got the moose from. It
27 appears from the data from Subsistence Division that
28 these people went out and harvested that moose
29 theirself, that's part of their amount necessary for
30 subsistence. A nonresident or an alien from England
31 shot the moose, he paid \$500 for the moose tag, \$300
32 for his license, flew over here from England, paid me
33 to take him hunting, all the moose meat went to this
34 family and so whenever they decide the allocation they
35 take the amount necessary from subsistence -- no, I
36 want you -- you asked me a question, I'm going to
37 answer it.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, it was
40 not so much a question.....

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: The amount necessary
43 for subsistence comes right off what's allowed to be
44 harvested. Whoops, not enough moose so this old lady
45 that can't go hunting herself, that has -- no, she's
46 the old grandma and she's to several grandkids living
47 with her, she -- her source of moose meat just got
48 taken away from her because they're not going to let
49 this sport hunter go over there and kill a moose and
50 give her all the meat and pay for all that. Not going

1 to get to do that anymore. So the reason that's in
2 there is so that we do not double count the amount of
3 subsistence fish harvested. That's why we need to have
4 that part in there where when you give it away to the
5 old grandma over here that can't go fish herself and
6 catch her own fish, that I caught -- my name's Jones, I
7 went out and I caught 15 king salmon today. I kept
8 five for me, I gave five to Mrs. Vent over here and
9 five to Mrs. Jones over here. That's what I did with
10 them and I kept five myself. That's 15 fish.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We don't do
13 that.

14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, that's why we want
16 it to be that way, Sue. I'm -- it's not trying to make
17 it complicated, it's simple, it's -- you just write all
18 that on the one catch calendar. That's all you have to
19 do.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Bill.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I don't see anything
24 in here, commercial use of subsistence caught fish, I
25 see that part, it says all fish. It doesn't say king
26 salmon, it does -- down here it says (in Tlingit) like
27 the stuff individual, Yukon catch king. And also the
28 last meeting we had there's already a law on the books,
29 we voted for another law to punish subsistence people
30 hauling their fish into urban areas. Like Frank says
31 at the end, we're making more laws, it's ridiculous.
32 That's my opinion.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I believe in
35 the KISS principle, keep it simple.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Keep it simple, yes.

38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is simple.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's not, but
42 go ahead, Andy.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Once again I've heard
45 from a number of Council members in discussion that
46 they're concerned that enforcement is not being place --
47 is not taking place. And it's my opinion and through
48 my observations over the years that the reason why many
49 times enforcement is not being put in place is because
50 it's sometimes very difficult to prove that something

1 is going on that you're trying to cite a -- somebody
2 for. And subsistence fishing, that is a very, very
3 difficult thing to prove the way things are setup right
4 now throughout the drainage. The only people that are
5 required to fill out a calendar by law are people on
6 the road systems. Everyone else does not have to
7 legally fill out -- and I stand to be corrected if I'm
8 wrong, but nobody in the lower river and many other
9 places, if you're not on the road system, right now you
10 are not required to fill out a harvest report. Is that
11 true or untrue? That is true.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you
14 required to have a permit?

15

16 MR. BASSICH: You're required to have a
17 permit, but you are not required to fill out what you
18 take in fisheries. So if you're a law enforcement man
19 and you're being asked to investigate or create a
20 citation for someone who is illegally using their
21 subsistence caught fish, it is almost impossible to do
22 if you do not have this in place. That's why we're not
23 getting the enforcement on illegal harvest or use of
24 the fisheries in my opinion. And so I am in very
25 strong support of this if we want to begin to address
26 the abuse of subsistence harvest of fish.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy, at that --
29 all extrapolated out, I gave five to Sue and I gave
30 five to Frank and I gave 10 to grandma and.....

31

32 MR. BASSICH: And if you're the person
33 in a certain village who catches 500 chinook salmon
34 under your subsistence harvest and that aren't 500
35 sitting in your smoker, but they're going to Anchorage
36 and who knows where they're going to Anchorage, whether
37 they're going to someone who's buying them commercially
38 or they're going to family members there or whatever,
39 it gives the law enforcement agencies the ability to
40 track where those fish ended up. And if they're going
41 to illegally sold commercial entities, then they have
42 the ability to prosecute. If they do not have that
43 information then it's virtually impossible and that is
44 the loophole that we're trying to get rid of.....

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't think I
47 agree with you.

48

49 MR. BASSICH:that is the one
50 loophole that's stopping from -- law enforcement from

1 proceeding with their job right now as I see it. So I
2 think this is a first step, a very powerful first step
3 in allowing law enforcement to do their job.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And you're
6 saying yes to my question, extrapolated out, just to
7 every little -- if I gave a half a fish to my neighbor.
8 That's kind of crazy to me, but.....

9
10 MR. BASSICH: I think everybody has the
11 option to do it to whatever extent they want, you know,
12 beware.....

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill and then
15 Frank.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair, we had
18 problems up there at Arctic Village with the sheep
19 hunters, they couldn't even fill out a sheep form
20 because they're not a paper society. And we go into
21 something like this, it's not going to work, it's going
22 to cause a lot of people to be busted for no reason.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. If I
25 could have Frank speak next and then you had something
26 to add. Yeah, uh-huh.

27
28 MR. GURTLER: Well, I think one of the
29 things we're not looking at is how hard our economy has
30 been hit. And I'd like to go back up and say
31 traditional lifestyle like we used to do in the early
32 days, I have a problem with all this subsistence. In
33 the early days we used to sell fish our traditional
34 way. We put up a lot of fish when I was a kid and a
35 lot of the old timers, whether they were native or
36 whether they were from Germany or wherever, they sold
37 fish. They bundled fish up for dogs and sold it to
38 Nenana and all over the whole state. And we're -- we
39 got away from that traditional way with this word
40 subsistence. And I think what I'm looking at is we're
41 just making a whole bunch of laws that we don't really
42 need to make on account of the people are pretty
43 destitute out in the villages. They don't have an
44 income, they don't have anyway of making an income and
45 the future doesn't look like they're going to have --
46 make any money.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I have a

1 question of Frank. Yeah. I'm going to call on Steve
2 and then the hand behind.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'd like to make a
5 comment.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: One second. I
8 would like to hear from Fish and Game and then you're
9 next and over here.

10
11 MR. HAYES: And, Madam Chair, I just
12 wanted to clarify one thing Mr. Bassich said about
13 permits. Now the -- you're only required to have a
14 permit if you're on the road system, if you're not on
15 the road system you're not required to have a permit
16 for subsistence fishing.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, really.

19
20 MR. HAYES: Yeah.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So there is no
23 way -- nothing -- you don't pick anything up so there's
24 record?

25
26 MR. HAYES: No.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: But they do issue the
29 catch calendars.

30
31 MR. HAYES: Well, we do issue the catch
32 calendars, but they're not required to return the catch
33 calendars.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So do they have
36 to have a license of any kind?

37
38 MR. HAYES: No.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Really. Okay.
41 I have some comments from the public. Did you have
42 something to -- Frank, did you have something to add?

43
44 MR. GURTLER: I was wondering why did
45 they have to have these for just the road system, I
46 mean, what was the theory on that?

47
48 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, it's really to
49 track people that are coming in that you normally
50 wouldn't be interviewing on what they would harvest,

1 like sport fishermen coming in or tourists coming in
2 and taking fish or from other areas of the State, I'm
3 correct about the tourist. It's a way to track the
4 harvest.

5
6 MR. GURTLER: Yeah, but they can come
7 in with a -- in an airplane, same thing, I mean, that's
8 why I can't figure out with all these rules and
9 regulations of why they had these certain regulations
10 for the people on the road and not for the people out
11 in the bush and has an airport.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I don't
14 think -- today it seems like everything's more -- the
15 access for the -- out here.....

16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
18 away from microphone).....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. But boy
21 if I could I'd like to call on the public now. The
22 gentleman in the back, would -- come forward and you
23 need to state your name and turn on the mic. We're
24 supposed to play musical chairs for a little bit.
25 Because I really would like to hear from the people
26 here about this type of regulation.

27
28 MR. J. SOLOMON: Yeah. Well, my name
29 is Joseph.....

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hey, Joseph,
32 could you turn the mic on. Push the button there.

33
34 MR. J. SOLOMON: Yeah, my name is
35 Joseph Solomon and I'm from Fort Yukon. And I'd just
36 like to make a comment about this -- these catch
37 calendars. And I'd like to agree with Virgil about the
38 lack of enforcement that has to do with this --
39 reporting this data. And I myself I get these
40 calendars every year, but I'm not filling them out. At
41 the end of the year I just make a rough estimate about
42 how much fish I catch. But I'm not -- if there was a
43 rule on the books about having to report the exact
44 figure I think it would -- might help out with the --
45 with the fisheries management a little bit better. And
46 that's about all I have to say. And I think the guy's
47 right, you know, that this -- there's lack of
48 enforcement there. I'm not (indiscernible -
49 simultaneous speech).....

50

1 MR. GLANZ: You understand that this
2 law, stated the way it's written is you will have to do
3 that at your fish camp. He comes in and you got -- you
4 got 17 fish there and you don't show it on your paper,
5 he could bust you right there.

6
7 MR. J. SOLOMON: Well, you know, the
8 kind of -- I don't see any other way around it, you
9 know, because if somebody's not writing this down
10 they're going to forget about it, you know.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: All right. As long as you
13 understand you have to do this every time you come in
14 out of the boat, you have to write it down.

15
16 MR. J. SOLOMON: Well, if you -- you
17 know, if you give me 24 hours to write it down there's
18 probably a good chance that I will write it down.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: Well, you know law
21 enforcement.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but if
24 the -- I -- if they didn't use common sense in a
25 situation like that I hope.....

26
27 MR. GLANZ: Well, yes, I understand
28 that, but that -- the jails are full of people with
29 good intentions.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. But
32 you're in favor of doing this and you would have no
33 trouble filling it out.....

34
35 MR. J. SOLOMON: I'm in favor of this.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:and
38 sending it in?

39
40 MR. J. SOLOMON: I'm in favor of this.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
43 good to hear.

44
45 MR. J. SOLOMON: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
48 from the public?

49
50 MR. P. SOLOMON: Phillip Solomon with

1 the same -- pretty much the same thing Kevin said.
2 Okay, Virgil, I'll start filling them out. And I think
3 the reason I didn't fill them out is because I hate
4 papertrails. And I think it was addressed earlier that
5 it's papertrails and law enforcement. I hate law
6 enforcement for -- because, you know, it's just like
7 you said, there's a law for everything. If you drive
8 to North Pole without -- with a low tire they're going
9 to bust you because they want to or you got brown skin
10 or whatever. They'll just do it just because they want
11 to, they could -- they're bored.

12

13 And that was all I had to say. Thank
14 you.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, wait a
17 minute, Phillip. Like in -- where I live, it's the
18 Wrangell St. Elias where we get our fish and it's been
19 noted to us from the time the Park came that if we
20 don't show our use we might lose our use. So I just
21 wanted to point out that maybe in that effort it's good
22 to have data.

23

24 MR. P. SOLOMON: Well, like Virgil
25 said, you know, it's good to do it so I'm going to
26 start doing it and I'm going to probably catch up on
27 what I done in the past.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm glad
30 to hear that. Good.

31

32 MR. P. SOLOMON: Yeah, thank you.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other ones from
35 the public, would you comment on this? Come forward.
36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. TACKETT: Hi, my name's Clayton
39 Tackett, I'm with the Gwich'in tribal government. I'm
40 the environmental director here. I like a lot of the
41 good information that's coming in here. And this needs
42 to continue, but on that half let's talk about this
43 right here. This is -- this is actually what you call
44 data entry here. This will actually turn around and
45 you can actually use this information to show the
46 government here that, you know, we're lacking our fish
47 here, you know, it shows -- if you sit there and you
48 put down hey, I'm -- I live at 16 mile camp down here,
49 you know, and I only caught, you know, 55 fish this
50 year. And it sits there and it shows on a calendar

1 actually where, what and when you caught that fish.
2 And, I mean, it is data entry, it is entries that we
3 can use towards the government, you know, towards our
4 Federal people that sit there and regulate on this and
5 we can turn around and say well, why are they catching
6 200 fish here and while that on my calendar it shows
7 that the same fishing I'm only catching 35, you know,
8 35 in four days instead of like them downriver where
9 they sit there and if they had this calendar they would
10 be showing data entry saying that they are catching 200
11 fish and all of at once, you know, or in their -- in
12 their openings. So I would accept something like this
13 because it would turn around and
14 it would give -- it would give our government something
15 to sit there and go by instead of sitting there going
16 by what they say. It's actually coming from us, the
17 people that are actually doing the fishing. I mean it
18 may be a little bit more hassle to turn around and
19 write, you know, I got five this morning and 10 this
20 afternoon, but this is information that, you know, we
21 need to put out to them because, you know, it's coming
22 from us and it's not coming from what they're sitting
23 there gathering, it's coming from what we're gathering
24 out there in our fish camps. So yes, this would be
25 something that would be accepted by me as a fisherman,
26 subsistence fisherman.

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just wait a
28 second, we probably have some questions. Yes, go
29 ahead, Andy.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: No, that's all right.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone who
34 would like.....

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I would just
39 ask a question and everyone out there, if you would
40 take a survey of this community, would they agree with
41 what the three of you have just said?

42
43 MR. TACKETT: There are surveys that
44 are done throughout this community I believe. I
45 believe that CATG has a survey that they do put out
46 there every year, they have somebody.....

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But what I'm
49 saying is.....

50

1 MR. TACKETT:that comes in and
2 asks me, you know, how many fish I caught.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. But
5 would the people be willing to fill this out is what
6 I'm asking you?
7
8 MR. TACKETT: If we sat there and we
9 showed them justification as to what this information
10 is being used for instead of saying you have to go do
11 this, you know, you're just telling somebody yeah,
12 you're making another regulation, but give them the
13 purpose as to why they're giving this information out
14 to the, you know, to the people,.....
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.
17
18 MR. TACKETT:to the State, to the
19 Feds, you know, because they don't know what we're
20 doing out there. So on that.....
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It means a lot
23 to me to hear from you guys. Did you have anything
24 else?
25
26 MR. TACKETT: No, that's it.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
29 wondering from any other people from Fort Yukon here,
30 if you would like to comment to this.
31
32 MR. P. SOLOMON: I just want to clarify
33 something. This is Phillip Solomon again. I'm not
34 saying that I make it a habit of not putting
35 information in and that's just me, I'm not speaking for
36 the community, they've done a survey every year and
37 every year we've put in information. And I haven't
38 fished much this year and hadn't fished at all last
39 year, it was just -- there's fish wheels breaking, you
40 know. There's so much stuff in the river, logs going
41 down, people losing fish wheels, I just didn't want to
42 bother last year. So it's been pretty hard and you
43 look around town, most of the freezers are empty. And
44 if you ask around town if you can buy fish, you know,
45 or trade or hey, I'll give you a shotgun for some fish
46 or something, you ain't going to get no takers for
47 that. There's -- we don't have very many fish you
48 know, if there's -- people are -- we are trying to
49 figure in our mind it's like who's helping us or are we
50 going to help ourselves by filling out this paperwork.

1
2 So it just seems like we're losing out
3 every year, Fort Yukon's losing out.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Don't
6 be trading shotguns. Okay.
7
8 (Pause)
9
10 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to call question
11 on this. I think there's been pretty good testimony
12 from the public and I think all the Council members
13 have had a chance to comment on it and I think it's
14 time to move on.
15
16 (Whispered conversation)
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I know. I'm
19 sorry, Vince. And that he has to -- let me see what
20 part of that it is. It's other comments.
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Western Interior
23 unanimously opposed this proposal, felt it was an undue
24 burden on subsistence users and so they opposed it.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What was the
27 vote, unanimous?
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Zero for, nine
30 against, zero and one absent.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How much
33 discussion was there?
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: There was quite a bit of
36 discussion, not as long as yours though. It would
37 probably be around five minutes, six minutes.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
40 Refuge manager.
41
42 MR. JESS: Yeah, Rob Jess. I have to
43 be honest. I -- when I talked to my law enforcement
44 folks about this one, we weren't sure that this was
45 something that would be good, enforceable, although it
46 is enforceable when you get Copper River permits you
47 have to write your data down, et cetera. But listening
48 to the Solomons, they really hit upon an idea there and
49 I didn't hear the last gentleman's name, but the people
50 along the Yukon River can really take advantage and

1 utilize this to their benefit. And that is is that it
2 gives us data, when I say us the fisheries, the State,
3 the Feds, better information as to how empty freezer
4 are, et cetera, and how many fish are really being
5 caught. We do have a survey that's done, the holistic
6 survey that is done through CATG and we know that it's --
7 CATG does a very good job, but we're not exactly sure
8 how good that data is. Because people are inherently
9 hesitant at giving where they shoot their moose and how
10 much they really gotten fish wise because there's an
11 inherent distrust and it's -- I can understand that and
12 I'm sympathetic to that, but if people up and down the
13 river are -- truly want to demonstrate how empty
14 freezers are, this is an opportunity to do so and -- at
15 least in my mind. I think it's a -- it may be very a
16 valid thing to implement.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Did
19 I -- was there someone else?

20

21 MS. NANCY JAMES: Nancy James, project
22 direct for (in Tlingit) tribal government. I'm also at
23 that age where I've been fishing. When you start --
24 I've got one of those surveys that they -- I get every
25 year. It got to the point where I don't even fill it
26 out to be honest with you because it comes to how do
27 you enforce it. And the economy and the fishing has
28 really gone down. We're just lucky to get fish, have
29 time to cut it or the time we bring it to town, we
30 might as well went to the store. How valid is it for
31 each Department when they use that survey. How many of
32 those surveys that has been sent out to the households
33 and are actually subsistence, actual go out or are you
34 just getting resources for people that just hop in and
35 fish and check somebody else fish wheel, are you
36 duplicating it. Basically there's not that many
37 subsistence people that really go out here. They'll
38 call your cell, what do you mean by subsistence
39 fishing. So survey itself unless you regulate it and
40 so forth, it's also it's very self defeating. For the
41 State agencies and Federal government it might be good
42 for statistics, but for subsistence people like myself
43 it is self defeating as we get less populated in the
44 community. You have to ask yourself the actual
45 subsistence people that call themselves subsistence and
46 let all subsistence versus commercial. You only have
47 one commercial permit here in the Yukon Flats, in the
48 upper Yukon. So I would be very concerned and you need
49 to look at the surveys that we -- you sent out and the
50 calendar, how many have went out, how many has really

1 been returned the last five, 10 years and look at
2 statistics.

3

4 That would be my comment. Thank you.

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a question.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Nancy, there's
9 a question of you. Go ahead, Andy.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for your
12 comments. Can you explain to me a little bit more what
13 you mean by self defeating, I'm not really clear on
14 what point you're trying to make?

15

16 MS. JAMES: I think sometimes we --
17 some people they call themselves subsistence, they go out
18 with a boat and they come back. Where are they
19 actually getting the fish from, is it duplicating when
20 I say are they using the same fish wheel. So when you
21 use statistics as government departments you tabulate
22 it and you use it to make recollections [sic]. In the
23 end it comes back to bit us. That's what I mean.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
26 questions? Thank you, Nancy. Go ahead, Virgil.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Of course I'm
29 Chair of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee and this is
30 the Fairbanks Advisory Committee's proposal. We
31 thought long and hard about this and like I said, I
32 talked to Craig Flinger about it who's from Fort Yukon,
33 former Chair of this RAC and now head of the
34 Subsistence Division for the State. And he's in favor
35 of it. And he's in favor of it for the same reasons
36 that Andy and I both are in favor of it. What it does
37 is it does two things. One thing is it validates how
38 many fish people actually have for their household or
39 how many fish they do not have for their household. And
40 it also puts a tool in place so that the people that
41 really are abusing the system that are downriver from
42 here, where it's easier to catch fish, very easy to
43 catch fish, on the teleconference this year at the
44 start of the season and we didn't -- and we have a poor
45 king salmon run, at the start of the season one of the
46 individual's that lives in Mountain Village said on the
47 teleconference, I caught my winter's supply of
48 subsistence king salmon in 20 minutes. He caught all
49 the fish he needed in 20 minutes. That's all the
50 longer it took him to do it with his commercial net

1 that he uses for his subsistence fishing.

2

3 So there are people that abuse the
4 system, there's no way to catch them, it's almost
5 impossible to make a case against them. If we have
6 these catch -- the catch calendars are made up by the
7 State anyway, they're sent out to all the villages
8 anyway, if it's a requirement to fill it out, it is an
9 inconvenience, but it's going to do two things. Like I
10 said it's going to show how much fish people really do
11 have so we have the data to better manage the fishery
12 and number 2, it's going to take the people that are
13 using the fish like the one individual that bought a
14 brand new crew cab pickup truck, over \$40,000 in once
15 season off of subsistence fish when you got restricted
16 up here and couldn't get your subsistence needs met.
17 That will put the tool in place so that those people
18 won't be able to do that anymore. But I am going to
19 vote in favor of this proposal because I consider it an
20 absolute essential thing to having accountability so
21 that we can responsibility manage the fishery and
22 provide subsistence to everyone, not just.....

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil.

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR:the people in the
27 lower river.

28

29 Thank you, ma'am.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you have
32 anything, Andrew.

33

34 MR. FIRMIN: I kind of agree and
35 disagree with this at the same time. I know it -- I
36 don't think it'll put much of a burden on people unless
37 they're actually, you know, maybe trying to cite them
38 for not filling them out. But I do see this as a tool
39 that can be used to, you know, show exactly what some
40 people are doing out there because some people catch
41 more than others and I can say that every fisherman in
42 this room probably fishes for at least a dozen other
43 people while they're out there for themselves and their
44 own families.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So it's a
47 double edge sword. Are you ready to vote? Okay. Is
48 that a call for the question then?

49

50 MR. FIRMIN: Call for the question.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
2 question has been called for. All in favor.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Wait a minute,
7 is anyone opposed besides Bill? Frank, are you okay?
8
9 (Two opposing votes)
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Frank's okay.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
14 like.....
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's take a break.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I --
19 we're ready for a break. Five, 10 minutes.
20
21 (Off record)
22
23 (On record)
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We'll come back
26 to order. Virgil
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
29 86.
30
31 MR. BASSICH: Second.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll
34 have a report from Staff.
35
36 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, proposal 86
37 would allow set gillnets to be tied up during closures
38 in Subdistrict 5D. In District 5D during fishery
39 closures a setnet may be tied up in a manner to render
40 it non-fishing and shall be marked with a blank ink or
41 float. And this was put in by -- I believe by the
42 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Us. I suspect
45 we support our own proposal. Discussion.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Discussion.
48 Madam Chair, I'm going to defer to Andy because this
49 actually comes from his region or his town. It's a
50 problem that's happened there and so.....

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR:I'm going to defer
4 to Andy.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Virgil, Madam
7 Chair. I brought this proposal up, I've had a number
8 of people from our area that have approached me and
9 asked for this. One of the main reason for this is
10 that they recognize that management strategies in the
11 future are probably going to require more closures.
12 Typically when we're open we're open seven days a week
13 and people can usually fish until they meet their
14 subsistence needs. But with the current strategies in
15 place with more openings and closure, this creates a
16 real hardship. We have a number of people in our
17 community that are lone fisherwomen that go out and set
18 their nets in small boats. We have very strong eddies
19 and very strong eddie line in our region. And setting
20 an anchor and setting your net can be a pretty
21 precarious and dangerous operation especially when
22 you're by yourself. And so they've expressed interest
23 in pursuing this. The reason for the black anchor is
24 that it allows law enforcement to be able to do their
25 fly overs and.....
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Black float.
28
29 MR. BASSICH: Black float, I'm sorry.
30 What did I say, anchor?
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
33
34 MR. BASSICH: But black anchor float.
35 And this allows them to do a fly over and see that
36 people are complying and if they have any issues they
37 can still go in and check the net via boat by landing
38 or whatever. But it's a way of allowing law
39 enforcement to still do their job here. And then my
40 recommendation was for a pretty stiff fine if you don't
41 comply with that. And there again I think it's an
42 incentive to get people to comply with this. But it's
43 mainly a safety issue. We haven't had anybody
44 seriously injured, but the potential has been
45 identified by numerous people at numerous times at our
46 AC meetings. And I think it's a reasonable regulation
47 to put into place. And I think what it's doing is
48 encouraging people to recognize that management has to
49 have different strategies to work with low abundant
50 years. And that's why this is being proposed.

1 Thank you, Madam Chair.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
4 other discussion.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7 I support this proposal for all the reasons that Andy
8 said. I just want to add that management needs to be
9 flexible and where there's things that are different
10 than normal that -- such as this which is primarily a
11 safety issue, I think that the Department should be
12 flexible and go ahead and recommend approval on a
13 proposal like this to the Board.

14

15 Thank you, Madam Chair.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
18 written or public testimony, comments. Mr. Jess. As
19 long as it's from Fish and Wildlife Service and not a
20 person.

21

22 MR. JESS: Rob Jess. Sorry to be
23 commenting on everything, but again we talked to four --
24 five law enforcement officers that routinely do law
25 enforcement up and down the Yukon River and all felt
26 that this was not a very good idea to move forward on.
27 From an enforcement point of view this is not open
28 water, this is along the river way and we felt that the
29 ability to deal with this would not be there as it
30 would be out in the open ocean water where this idea
31 and this concept is typically used. River ways, this
32 isn't going to function well for us.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Could you elaborate on
35 that?

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I don't
38 understand.

39

40 MR. JESS: And I think the problem runs
41 in with you have ocean water, you're able to -- when
42 you're flying over you're able to see whether a net is
43 further down in the water or it's been tied up with a
44 black float. With the Yukon River being as murky as it
45 is, you can sew a black float on that and it could
46 theoretically still be fishing. Law enforcement felt
47 like this was too big of a temptation to allow to move
48 forward on something like this.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

1 MR. BASSICH: We had considerable
2 discussion on this at our last meeting in Fairbanks and
3 when Mr. Youngblood was there one of the things that we
4 talked about was communities and law enforcement
5 beginning to understand and work with each other on a
6 more close -- much more closely. And he identified
7 that people in at least the region we have do not
8 routinely break the laws, that they're very compliant
9 with the laws and the reason why this was discussed was
10 that this is an effort to begin to open up better
11 working relations between law enforcement officials and
12 law abiding citizens. And so this is a compromise and
13 it's a compromise on both people's parts, you know.
14 And we have the ability to say no, we're not going to
15 pull our nets and face citations and there are some
16 people that are seriously considering that because it
17 is a very dangerous thing for them to do this. So this
18 is something that we're trying to do and we're asking
19 that law enforcement work with us in the area to make
20 this happen because we want to comply with the law, we
21 want to make it easier for fisheries management to do
22 it. Our understanding is that most law enforcement
23 techniques are to fly over, but in our region we're --
24 99 percent of the fisherman are fishing within eight
25 miles of Eagle Village. If they have an issue with
26 someone they can stick a boat in the river and they can
27 go check them out physically if they really worry about
28 it. But I don't know what it's like down in this area
29 for you, but we drew this up for 5YD and if there's
30 going to be a subdistrict made out of that then it
31 would probably be -- we would be asking this proposal
32 to go to the Upper Yukon region whether that be 5YD-1
33 or I don't know how they're going to identify that.

34
35 But, you know, we had this discussion
36 at the last meeting and I disagree with your point of
37 view, I think it's a very viable means of working
38 together for a solution that's safe for fishermen.

39
40 MR. JESS: Oh, just to clarify on that,
41 Mr. Bassich, Madam Chair. Just as far as management
42 and the concept behind it, we felt like it was a very
43 good idea. Health and human safety is always first
44 priority for us, especially for those that are
45 subsistence fishing out there. So managerially we feel
46 it's sound. Law enforcement wise I listen to those
47 that are on the ground and they felt that it wasn't a
48 very good idea. So we're passing that information
49 along. We're on the fence on it right now, but.....
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
2 I'd just like to comment. Sometimes I have a hard time
3 personally with law enforcement always trying to
4 influence regulations because sometimes it's just for
5 the convenience of the law enforcement officer to be
6 able to go look at something from the air or whatever
7 and at some point it's not to their convenience, I
8 think they need to do their job. And if it's a little
9 more difficult to get there and find out that they're
10 tied up, I -- yeah. That's -- you know, I wanted to
11 add that.

12

13 Go ahead, Andrew.

14

15 MR. FIRMIN: That same set of thinking
16 is with the -- from the law enforcement point of view
17 just kind of goes back to some other comments that I've
18 heard throughout the summer that a lot of people are
19 being looked upon like when they -- when they come
20 across law enforcement people they're automatically a
21 criminal, you know, they're being treated like a
22 criminal before they're -- you know, as they're being
23 checked out. And then as they talk to the officers
24 more than they oh, okay, well, you're not a criminal,
25 have a nice day. You know that just kind of goes back
26 to that same -- what we were talking about earlier, a
27 lot of people feeling they were being more harassed
28 than just checked on. But that's just something that
29 some people need to get used to.

30

31 MR. JESS: Well, certainly no
32 disrespect to your opinion or those of the others, but
33 in defense of law enforcement you're one person out
34 there, you have to exercise officer safety. You most
35 likely know that everybody you're dealing with has a
36 weapon. This is certainly a lot more dangerous than
37 other law enforcement, whether it be in L.A. or
38 whatnot, you know that people are armed. And so you
39 have to exercise officer safety when you go out on
40 these types of people. And so naturally you're going
41 to be cautious. When I say these types of people, it's
42 anybody that you are not familiar with. And as far as
43 our law enforcement officers on this, we could have
44 written hundreds of tickets between two or three
45 officers this year. We wrote less than, I believe, 15
46 total tickets the whole year for two people. So what
47 we're doing is exercising hopefully information and
48 instruction rather than the strong arm of the law. And
49 we do that on this Refuge as is done on other Refuges.
50 But as far as this is concerned, what they felt like

1 for those officers that fly, it's going to force them
2 to have to land more and to have those interactions
3 which there's nothing wrong with, but again we're
4 falling into that very trap that you're saying that why
5 am I always being checked, why are you assuming I'm
6 guilty. We're falling in -- this policy or this
7 potential draft would force that hand even more so.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew had
10 another one. Andrew, go ahead.

11

12 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I agree with, you
13 know, that your officers are exercising extreme caution
14 when they're out in the field especially by themselves.
15 And I just also wanted to thank you, I thought your
16 officers did a very good job this summer of, you know,
17 educating people as many -- like you said I'm sure they
18 could have wrote hundreds of tickets, but they didn't
19 and that's good that this goes along with educating
20 people here that there are laws that they have to
21 follow that most people probably didn't even know
22 existed.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, that's
27 good to hear, yes. And I heard -- Andy then Bill.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
30 I think the point that you're missing is -- and what
31 I'm hearing from most people in Fort Yukon and what I
32 know to be true in our area around Eagle is that there
33 are a relatively small number of fishermen that are
34 consistently out there fishing. Fish and Wildlife
35 conservation officers as well as State troopers, if
36 they're familiar with the people in the area, they know
37 the people that are out there fishing. They usually
38 know the sites, especially up in our area where it's
39 all setnet fishing or fish wheel fishing. It's
40 extremely consistent over the last 50 years where every
41 net is every single year and who that person is
42 operating the net. And so to say that you're
43 approaching someone that you don't know is not a true
44 statement at least in our region. I'm not familiar
45 with here, but I just heard a number of people from
46 Fort Yukon say that there's only a handful of people
47 going out there fishing. So you're going to sit here
48 and tell me that you don't even know the people from
49 your community here that are out there fishing.

50

1 The point that I'm making here is the
2 discussion that we had at our last meeting was a very --
3 the crux of that discussion was that there are very
4 few people out there fishing, they have a good rapport
5 with the law enforcement people in their area. The law
6 enforcement people know who those people are. Fishing
7 is very different than coming upon someone who's out
8 moose hunting or bear hunting or something like that.
9 I don't know too many people that go out fishing
10 packing a bunch of weapons with them. They're out
11 there in their boat, they got a net and they got a tote
12 to throw the fish in and then they're coming home.

13

14 So I just wanted to make those comments
15 because I think you're missing the point.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I don't
18 think we need to debate this.

19

20 MR. JESS: Well, I certainly don't want
21 to get.....

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We don't.....

24

25 MR. JESS:I don't want to get in
26 a debate with you on that. But I don't believe I'm
27 missing the point.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No.

30

31 MR. JESS: We understand and we know
32 these people up and down the river, but the -- you say
33 that you know the locations and the individuals, we do
34 too from Stevens Village on down to the bridge, but you
35 come up from there up here and the very difficulties
36 that make this place difficult is the fact that it's a
37 braided river that changes and you -- one person isn't
38 always in the same place at the same time. And these
39 local fishermen will tell you that. How many wheels
40 got washed away this spring, we saw a lot of them go
41 down the river this year. And so people are having new
42 equipment, different equipment, we don't always know
43 where camps are at. Do we know most of the people,
44 yeah, we do. Do we know all of them, no, we don't. It
45 isn't a few like three or four people that -- from here
46 to Stevens Village that fish, there's many more people
47 than that that fish. So.....

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Mr. Jess, we
50 won't -- I don't think we need to go through all of

1 that. He's -- we're -- he's just making our point and
2 maybe we don't agree on this one. Okay. And.....

3

4 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madam Chair, when I
5 voted for this I thought it was for the whole Eastern
6 Interior, I didn't know it was only for 5D or 5YD. Is
7 there a way to amend this for the whole Eastern
8 Interior?

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sure there is.

11

12 MR. GLANZ: Because I was.....

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But.....

15

16 MR. GLANZ:because I'm -- there's
17 a lot of elderly in Circle that fish too.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, 5D ends
20 at -- just below Stevens Village; is that correct?

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oh, I haven't.....

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You thought it
25 would go clear past to Tanana.....

26

27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Fort Yukon, yeah.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:that would
30 be B and C added to D. But evidently it was just 5D.
31 So are you telling me you want to amend it and consider
32 it?

33

34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: If it would be
35 possible.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yes, it would be
38 possible.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It is possible.
41 Virgil wanted to clarify something. And that would
42 take an amendment to the motion.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. For those of you
45 that don't know I served on the Board of Fisheries for
46 eight years. There were times when I was on the Board
47 of Fisheries where we had a situation such as this one.
48 And I can give a real good example. Big Eddie over by
49 Ruby. There we made an exception to the normal
50 regulations which is what this is doing, is asking for

1 an exception to the regulation for a specific area for
2 a specific reason. The Board can, if they want, they
3 can pass this regulation and make it for all of 5D or
4 they could make it for just the area around Eagle. So
5 we need to decide whether we want this for all of 5D or
6 just the area around Eagle. But the Board can and does
7 make special exceptions to the regulations for very
8 small areas for specific reasons and it's usually for a
9 safety reason that they do something like that or a --
10 such as when we did it at -- near Ruby, it was so that
11 fishing gear could be closer than the distance required
12 in the regulation for fishing gear to be apart because
13 it was a good place to fish and everyone that fished
14 there were friends and there was no conflict. And so
15 the Board can do that, we just need to decide.....

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR:whether we want it
20 just to there or what.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, let's get
23 to that point.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: So we should decide
26 that here now.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
29 That's what I want to discuss right now. I -- you're
30 saying to make it smaller and I'm hearing over here to
31 make it larger. So, Council members, I guess I thought
32 this wasn't going to take that long because we already
33 voted to put this proposal forward and we had a lot of
34 discussion.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Well, as far as I'm
37 concerned I brought this forward mostly to address the
38 concerns that I'm hearing in my area. I guess I'm
39 certainly willing to entertain something from Bill if
40 he feels it should be expanded upon, but I guess my
41 personal feelings are if we have less chance of this
42 passing because we expand it to a larger area I would
43 be much more in favor of trying to keep it to a very
44 small, select area to address the issues concerned by --
45 concerns addressed by those people in that area.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: I propose an amendment to
48 the motion to make it all of Eastern Interior.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I have to have

1 a second to that to discuss it.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll second that.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Bill,
6 you want to discuss your motion.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I'd like to clarify on
9 this proposal 86 that it include all of the Eastern
10 Interior for the safety reasons as stated earlier.
11 Because the dangerous water don't end two miles outside
12 of Circle or Eagle or Fort Yukon, it entitles the whole
13 area where they're working the fish. So that's the
14 only reason I have for doing this.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Fish and Game
17 is that -- this 5A, does that end at our Eastern
18 Interior boundary or is that a different boundary?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair, that's a
21 different boundary, Tanana is the boundary.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So it takes in
24 Western Interior?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, yes.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, no. It
29 doesn't take -- go ahead -- go ahead, Vince, describe
30 it for me.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Your boundary is at
33 Tanana so it's part of 5A.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, so you --
36 we would stop this -- your motion is to stop at the
37 Eastern Interior boundary?

38

39 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That splits up
42 5A then. You see that?

43

44 MR. GLANZ: I understand where.....

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
47 right. So you want to talk to your -- you want to talk
48 to that, why you want to do that?

49

50 MR. GLANZ: The main reason when I

1 voted for it to begin with, I thought it was zone -- it
2 was the Eastern Interior because I seconded the motion,
3 you look in the minutes for him. I thought that's what
4 we was doing was making it safe for all of the eddies
5 and so forth all the way down the river.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil
8 wants to speak to it also.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: From my experience when
11 I served on the Board of Fisheries, I think if we
12 expand it to all of the Eastern Interior Region that
13 the Board will not pass it. I think if we limit it to
14 5D there's a good chance they would pass it for all of
15 5D and it could be amended in the Committee to only
16 apply to the area around Eagle. So I think -- we don't
17 really know for sure what the best thing to do would be
18 so I think the best thing is to just leave the proposal
19 the way it is and after we see what the Department's
20 comments are, then.....

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. He has --
23 he's changing his mind.

24
25 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion to withdraw
26 my motion.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, he's.....

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What -- he's
33 suggesting he withdraw his motion, does the second
34 concur.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm the second, I
37 concur.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So it's
40 not on the table. What's on the table is the motion as
41 -- or yeah, the proposal as written. So I didn't think
42 it would take that much discussion.

43
44 Vince, I'm sure you had something to
45 add from the Western Interior? Oh, no, I thought I saw
46 your hand moving over there.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: No. No. No. I was --
49 Virgil brought up exactly what I was going to advise
50 the Board.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. And the
2 question's been called for. All in favor of our
3 proposal going forward or us supporting number 86.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
14 87.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: Second.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
19 been seconded. We're going to get a report from the
20 Fish and Game.
21
22 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, proposal 87
23 was a placeholder that was put in by Fish and Game.
24 And what this is is it allows the King Salmon
25 Management Plan to be reviewed for such things as the
26 guideline harvest ring. But other proposals such as
27 proposal 95 that have been submitted would do the same
28 thing anyways. So this was just a proposal to review
29 the King Salmon Management Plan.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And so I just
32 wanted to -- 95 was put in by.....
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Us.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:us. Oh,
37 us. It's not RAC, it's Fairbanks AC?
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, it's RAC, this is
40 us at the table.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, Okay. Go
43 ahead.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
46 Madam Chair. I have just one question to ask on this.
47 Well, maybe more, but primarily one. What about -- now
48 the screw up we did in 2001 when we made the windows
49 was we just made the windows or when we wrote it
50 because of the press of the agenda of a 26 straight day

1 meeting with no break, about 12 to 14 hours a day, was
2 that we forgot to put the windows in the -- because
3 king salmon is also addressed in the subsistence
4 regulations as well. So is this opening up the
5 subsistence regulations as well?
6

7 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman, if you look
8 at the proposal it says to review the subsistence
9 fishing schedule so I would assume so, yes.
10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And so
12 basically, Madam Chair, what this -- this is the
13 Department's proposal and they're opening the whole
14 thing wide open so the Board can do -- can consider any
15 option they want and totally rewrite the management
16 plan, basically they can do anything they want. And
17 what we've done is put a whole bunch of proposals
18 forward of things that could be put into this
19 management plan, the proposal 87 is opening wide open.
20 Is that not correct?
21

22 MR. HAYES: Correct.
23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
25 I don't think we need anymore discussion on this
26 placeholder proposal by the Department, we can just go
27 on with our proposals.
28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So in other
30 words you shouldn't have even took it up?
31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. It's just a
33 placeholder, there's nothing to vote on, it just says
34 that this proposal is here so that the Board can do
35 whatever they deem necessary to have responsible
36 management of king salmon in the Yukon River.
37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, now that
39 it's on the table we need to vote or withdraw it.
40

41 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for the question.
42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Clarification
44 here, Virgil.
45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The only thing
47 we'd be voting on is that we support the Department
48 opening up the management plan so it can be changed.
49 So I'm in favor of that.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
2 question's been called for. All in favor.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
11 88.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Second.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
16 been moved and seconded. Report from the Department.
17
18 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, proposal 88
19 would prohibit drift gillnet gear for subsistence and
20 commercial. No subsistence or commercial driftnet
21 fishing would be allowed in the entire Yukon River
22 Drainage. All upriver and downriver driftnet areas
23 would be included in this proposal. And this was put
24 forth by Tanana, Rampart, Manley AC and Eastern
25 Interior Regional Advisory Council, Fairbanks AC, Minto
26 and Nenana AC and Ruby AC.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Lot of support.
29 Okay. Go for it.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. For the -- now
32 we've discussed this at our last meeting, however the
33 people at Fort Yukon weren't there and so I just want
34 to give just a little bit of a brief history here.
35 What we did, a number of us, the organizations that
36 were just read off, that's Tanana, Rampart, Manley
37 Advisory Committee, Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
38 Council, that's us, Fairbanks Advisory Committee,
39 Minto/Nenana Advisory Committee and the Ruby Advisory
40 Committee, all of us are supporting I believe four or
41 five proposals. This is the first one we're supporting
42 and that would be to ban drift gillnet fishing in the
43 entire Yukon River. Drift gillnet fishing was not
44 really started until the last '70s or early '80s and it
45 was started by a family that lived in St. Michael, that
46 fished in the Lower Yukon, ambitious guys by the name
47 of Johnson. And so what they did is they started drift
48 gillnet fishing instead of setnet fishing. And, of
49 course, they were catching way, way more fish than the
50 local people that lived in Emmonak and Mountain Village

1 and those places. So then those people started copying
2 them. Prior to that time they used to get fish, I
3 think, two 48 hour commercial openings a week in the
4 late '70s. And so after that happened that's when
5 they're fishing time started getting cut because they
6 started getting way, way too efficient. Well, they
7 used to fish with setnets, that was their historical,
8 traditional method of fishing. And so this is an
9 option that we all decided we'll throw out there to go
10 along with what the Department put in in the proposal
11 we just got through discussing which is open the plan
12 wide open so that you can address all the options of
13 what to do to have sustained yield of our king salmon
14 resource, to make sure that everyone has reasonable
15 opportunity to get their subsistence needs met and if
16 there is -- and if the stocks ever come back then we
17 could have a reasonable commercial fishery again.

18
19 But that's why we put the proposal
20 forward. I don't know how much the Council wants to
21 discuss these proposals because we already discussed
22 them once. But I'm going to just go through the
23 discussion real quick. Is there a conservational
24 concern. Darn rights there is. How will our
25 recommendation address the concern. We would make the
26 fishing in the lower river much less efficient and make
27 it equal to what we do in the upper river where there's
28 no driftnetting allowed outside of District 4A under
29 State regulations and a little teeny bit in 4B under
30 Federal regulations. And so that's what we would do,
31 we would -- what's good for the goose is good for the
32 gander. If the guys in the lower river could fish the
33 way we have to fish upriver. And, in fact, some of us
34 discussed to hell with it, let them use the fish wheel
35 too if they want. But anyway so if they're going to
36 fish with a net they would have to fish the way the
37 people at Fort Yukon have to fish, they wouldn't get to
38 drift gillnet anymore. And so that's why we put it in
39 there. And if you take the time to read all this what
40 happens is down there the river is not as swift as it
41 is up here. And so the king salmon swim out in the
42 middle of the river, a lot of them will. And so what
43 they're doing is, of course, the larger fish swim in
44 the swifter water. So they're targeting the larger
45 fish that are headed farthest upriver which are the
46 ones that go past Fort Yukon. And so they're out there
47 targeting those fish with nets 300 feet long. Anyway
48 so that's how the recommendation addresses the
49 conservation concern. And it is supported by
50 substantial evidence. And the traditional ecological

1 knowledge is that the fishermen will tell you, the
2 older guys, we never fish with drift gillnets, we all
3 fish with setnets in the lower river. That's the way
4 they used to do it.

5
6 And it will address the subsistence
7 need of the people upriver because if that were to
8 happen and they had to fish the same way you do, a lot
9 of those big fish that they're catching, they would not
10 be able to catch because they couldn't catch them in a --
11 with a setnet.

12
13 But anyway that's all I have to say on
14 this one, Madam Chair. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Vince.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Both Councils on the
19 river took these up, proposal 88. Western Interior
20 unanimously opposed it. And then YK Delta took up the
21 block of proposals, 88 through 97 and they opposed
22 them. These proposals are very negative, very
23 negatively affect the Lower Yukon people, their economy
24 and their subsistence lifestyle.

25
26 Also I provided as requested by Gene
27 Sandone, a consultant for Kwik'pak and for Yukon
28 Fishery Development Association, a copy of their
29 Powerpoint program that he presented to YK. So Virgil
30 and Sue have those and a couple other members. It's in
31 your packet so it's on the record that you have his
32 information.

33
34 And that's it.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's only
37 three people that have that information of the Council
38 members?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's 48 pages long,
41 I can make more copies, but it's in there, it's a color
42 Powerpoint program. I actually have the.....

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This one?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I actually have the
47 file here if you want to project it, but I don't know
48 if we want to go there. But.....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If you guys --

1 if you want to look at that, it's here. Okay. Man,
2 this is tough.

3

4 Andy, did you have something?

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Virgil said it all.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. What did
9 you and I vote against the last time, do you remember?

10

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm sorry.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What did you
14 and I vote against them last time. It said something
15 that was -- it was -- I thought it was this one. Oh,
16 it was another one. Okay.

17

18 All of you guys in the public, I don't
19 know if you're following along, but you're welcome to
20 comment here. Any comments. You got to come up, I'm
21 sorry.

22

23 MR. KELLEY: Like Andy said, Virgil
24 said it all. And I think that if this was to pass I
25 think it would catch everybody by surprise because it's
26 really going to impact a lot of people on Lower Yukon.
27 I support it, go for it, you know. Driftnetting is an
28 issue everybody's bringing up now. It's been talked
29 about last year and this year again. So people are
30 talking about doing it around Galena area, I think
31 those areas are also driftnetting. So if it can be
32 done and help maybe alleviate a lot of the pressure
33 that's on the salmon stock today that's in the rivers,
34 what's left of it, that'll maybe definitely help
35 increase the numbers. So I'm for it and I think you
36 got to challenge it, but, you know, it's got to start
37 somewhere. But I'm behind this.

38

39 Thanks.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd like to see
42 you guys at that Fish Board meeting. Go ahead. Thank
43 you.

44

45 MR. P. SOLOMON: Yeah, I agree with
46 this. And the whole thing is it's all about being
47 fair, you know, what's -- like I've been saying we're
48 losing out every year and the people down at the mouth
49 they seem to not care about us. I mean hey, let's make
50 it fair. What's good for -- I mean, we -- we're

1 letting fish go by. We could easily all fish, we done
2 it before. But that's not what we want to do. We're
3 trying to make it fair and we want to make it fair for
4 the fish so we can all have it. But the thing is if
5 they're taking their -- they're drifting and they're
6 catching all the fish it's not helping us. If that's
7 what they call subsistence, you know, it's not
8 subsistence to us. They're probably catching what we
9 catch in -- what we all catch in one day in one net,
10 what they're catching down there, you know. Just let's
11 go back to setnetting.

12

13 That's all I got to say.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks. Frank.

16

17 MR. GURTLER: Now are we talking about
18 subsistence and commercial, closing both for
19 driftnetting?

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That would do
24 the whole river, right?

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: The whole river.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, uh-huh.
29 Anyone else, comments.

30

31 MR. W. PETER: Yeah, my name is Walter
32 Peter, I was up here before. I just want to say a few
33 short words. It sounds like a good idea, but then the
34 big picture is who are we all doing this for, are we
35 doing this for, you know, the big commercial fisheries
36 that are taking all our king salmon. I mean, that's
37 really what we're looking at, that's where all our
38 kings are going to is the commercial fisherman. So
39 anyway to minimize that, you know, it's a good idea.

40

41 Thanks.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
44 you.

45

46 Call -- you know what to do, don't you,
47 call for the question.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: I'm going to call for the
50 question.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
2 question is called for. All in favor say aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Move to adopt
11 proposal 89.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Was that you,
16 Andrew?
17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andrew
21 seconded.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: What would you want to do
24 about dinner, you have a 7:00 o'clock. Secondhand
25 information, Mabel's got it done now. But I can try
26 to.....
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Man, I'd like
29 to finish this.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I can try to call
32 her to see.
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'd say
35 5:30ish.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We told her
40 5:30 to.....
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: You did tell her 5:30
43 to.....
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, last
46 night.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay. Then ignore
49 that, that was anecdotal data from somewhere.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you --
2 yeah, I -- we had mentioned it to her last night so I
3 think all is well. One second. I'm looking at these
4 and I see a whole bunch of proposals that have been all
5 co-authored by us and the same ACs and I'm wondering if
6 there's a way to work on all of them.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, there's two more
9 proposals.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I thought
12 I saw more than that.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair, there is a
15 way.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What?

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Basically you
20 were provided the copy of these proposals by myself,
21 you were also provided copies I believe by Fish and
22 Game. If the Council members have all reviewed those
23 proposals that they submitted or endorsed and don't
24 have any amendments, then you could probably take them
25 up as a block. The down side of that would be is the
26 public here, you wouldn't have the benefit of their
27 input. Now there's a way of working it.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we could
30 do the public comment, they could comment on each one
31 at a time because I'd have these guys introduce each
32 proposal.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think Steve and
35 them are leaving.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're going to
38 get to it. We're back to one a person or one apiece, I
39 think.

40
41 Go ahead, Virgil, make your motion.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move to
44 address proposal 89 and proposal 90 both together. So
45 I'll just say move to adopt proposal 90 along with
46 proposal 89.

47
48 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All

1 right. Now we're going to get a report on.....

2

3 MR. HAYES: So, Madam Chair, do you
4 want me to go ahead and present them both or one at a
5 time?

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's do one at
8 a time, I guess.

9

10 MR. HAYES: Okay.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We'll vote on
13 them once though.

14

15 MR. HAYES: I'll be -- I'll try to be
16 fast. Proposal 89 would restrict the depth of
17 subsistence and commercial six inch mesh to 35 meshes.
18 Gillnet depth limit, no commercial or subsistence six
19 inch gillnet with a hung depth of more than 15 feet or
20 35 meshes shall be allowed in the entire Yukon River
21 Drainage. And that was, of course, proposed by the
22 Tanana Rampart Manley AC, Eastern Interior RAC,
23 Fairbanks AC, Minto and Nenana AC and Ruby AC.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam chair.
26 Okay. These two proposals go hand in hand. Now we
27 addressed and already voted on supporting the proposal,
28 I don't remember the number, but anyway it was the one
29 on the Kuskokwim River where there the Kuskokwim River
30 Working Group was wanting nothing larger than six inch
31 mesh.

32

33 We've addressed these proposals a
34 number of times or these -- this issue a number of
35 times. And what we're looking to do in this is do what
36 has been done throughout the State, it was done in 1981
37 in Cook Inlet, the six inch -- they went to six inch
38 mesh to conserve king salmon in Cook Inlet. They did
39 it based on all available science at the time. That
40 science that was available then is still valid science
41 today. Nothing has changed. Gillnets of a certain
42 size catch a certain size fish. What's happened to the
43 Yukon River is we have lost our genetic integrity, the
44 eight year olds. I know some people say there never
45 were that many of them, but I know that in I believe
46 '82, 3 and a half percent of the commercial harvest in
47 the Lower Yukon were eight year old king salmon. I
48 know that between '79 and '83, that's a four year
49 period, the average, the absolute average was 28
50 percent of the commercial harvest were seven year old

1 fish. What we've got on our weirs here the last four
2 or five years is less than one-half of 1 percent were
3 seven year old fish going to the spawning grounds.

4
5 What these proposals are doing is
6 addressing those issues, genetic integrity and the
7 productivity of the king salmon stocks in the Yukon
8 River. We've.....

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think we have
11 a correction, please. Did you guys say that.....

12
13 MR. HAYES: Yeah, Madam Chair, just to
14 be clear, proposal 89 deals with the mesh depth, not
15 the mesh size. Proposal 90 deals with restricting the
16 mesh size to six inch or smaller. Just to be clear.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. So the
19 two proposals together, one of them addresses how deep
20 the net can be, 35 mesh is maximum. The other one
21 addresses the size of the mesh. There was in the
22 Department comments to the Board of Fisheries at the
23 19, I think 96 meeting, when the -- or '97, one or the
24 other, when the Lower Yukon commercial fishermen put in
25 a proposal to make their nets deeper than 45 meshes.
26 Well, in the Department comments they had a study that
27 was done in the middle '80s, the '83, I believe, and
28 '85 or '86, somewhere in there, of the average size of
29 the depth of the nets. And this just goes to show you
30 what the commercial fisherman and they're the -- those
31 same fishermen are subsistence fishermen in the Lower
32 Yukon. The majority of them were using 25 mesh deep
33 nets back then. They were using large mesh, but they
34 were only 25 meshes deep. And then they got them way
35 the heck up to some of them 60 mesh and even deeper and
36 that's when the Department came to the Board in 1994,
37 November of '94, and that's when I -- one of my first
38 Board of Fish meetings as a Board of Fish member, and
39 we reduced it to 45 meshes.

40
41 But anyway all the science is there, no
42 need to reinvent the wheel. The Department has done a
43 study on gillnet mesh size, but to me it's not a valid
44 study because they didn't do the ones that -- they
45 never had any gillnets that were 35 meshes deep in
46 their study, they were all 45 mesh deep I believe in
47 their study. And I -- I'm not going to criticize the
48 Department study, I'm just going to say that I don't --
49 we don't need to reinvent the wheel, some of the most
50 famous fishery scientists that ever lived have come to

1 the conclusions that you should not use -- if you want
2 a sustainable king salmon population that's going to
3 maintain all age classes, you can't have any gillnets
4 larger than six inch mesh. And so that's -- and you
5 can't have the deep nets because what a king salmon
6 does when it hits the net, if it doesn't get stuck in
7 the net it does one of two things, it either goes
8 underneath the net or it jumps bumps along it and goes
9 around the other side -- the end of the net so that you
10 don't -- that's what some of them are going to do.
11 Some of them are going to get caught, but a lot of them
12 are not going to get caught. And so that is why you
13 use the larger mesh -- smaller mesh gillnet if you
14 don't want to catch all those large female fish.

15
16 Anyway I think I've talked enough on
17 that.....

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: uh-huh

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR:we don't need to
22 beat a dog.....

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A dead horse.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR:we don't need to
27 beat on a dead horse or kick a dog that's already had
28 it. And so we don't need to reinvent the wheel.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: I call the question.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you have
35 something, Andrew?

36
37 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, please.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to say that
42 one of the people that I see that would hurt -- this
43 would hurt the most, I'm all for this motion and I have
44 been since I first read it a year or so ago, but I
45 could see this would hurt the subsistence fishermen
46 because I know I can't go out and buy a brand new net
47 today. And I probably couldn't in the springtime.

48
49 But on that I'd like to make a motion
50 to amend this to add a grace period to subsistence

1 fishermen, like a five year period before they have to
2 abide by this law, but the commercial fishermen can
3 start overnight.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see what
6 you're saying. Five year period, you said?

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Or three or whatever,
9 let's -- we can have a discussion on that to see how
10 long you think because I know I can't go buy a brand
11 new net to match this law if it was in effect by next
12 year.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: And I don't know too many
17 people that could themselves either.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So right now
20 you'd like to discuss maybe having a.....

21
22 MR. FIRMIN: Either amending the
23 subsistence out of there or adding a grace period for
24 subsistence users of a few years to get themselves a
25 new net. So they're all aware of it and they can't
26 play dumb when this goes into effect.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: What the Board normally
31 does in a case like this is they phase it in over a
32 three year period. Now for commercial fishermen it
33 doesn't need a phase in, all the commercial fishermen
34 in the lower river have six inch mesh anyway. And what
35 the Board normally would do would be phase it in over a
36 three year period. We could amend it to phase it in
37 over a three year period which there's no problem with
38 doing that or the other thing we can do -- now Mike
39 Smith from Tanana Chiefs checked with Memphis Twine
40 Company which is a big net company and he -- I think
41 last year he had the funding to go buy nets for the
42 Tanana Chiefs people in the Tanana Chiefs region. I
43 don't know whether they still have the
44 money to do that or not, but if you buy a whole gob at
45 once you can get it way, way cheaper than if you just
46 go buy them as an individual. But I know that Tanana
47 Chiefs has looked into that so you can -- we can -- if --
48 I'm amenable to amending it -- the proposal, to have a
49 phase in for subsistence fishermen only.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Correct, subsistence only.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did you
4 say you want to add something that Western had done now
5 for our information now?
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: I can do it now or you're
8 almost at an amendment motion so I didn't want to stop
9 that movement. But.....
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you sure?
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
16 not going to stop that motion then. You know what to
17 do.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'll make a motion that we
20 phase this in.....
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This will be an
23 amendment to our motion. Amendment to the motion.....
24
25 MR. GLANZ:make an amendment to
26 our motion but the gillnet size to phase it in in a two
27 year increment.
28
29 MR. FIRMIN: For subsistence.
30
31 MR. GLANZ: Of course.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you --
34 three year, right?
35
36 MR. GLANZ: Modified three year,
37 gillnet size is six inch for subsistence users only.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. You got
40 it? Do I hear a second.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
45 want to speak to the motion besides what has been
46 discussed?
47
48 MR. GLANZ: I think what Andrew said
49 was good enough for me. I move for the question. I
50 can't, somebody can.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
2 motion on the amendment. I mean call -- yeah, call for
3 the question.

4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Call for the question.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
8 question's been called for. All in favor of the
9 amendment to the motion.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Opposed.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
18 we're on the amended motion.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: I call for the question on
21 the amended motion.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
24 going to honor that after I make sure Vince
25 reports.....

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And if the
30 public had anything else to say?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair, I -- I'm not
33 trying to stop you in your motions. There have been
34 many people across the drainage highly critical of the
35 three advisory councils. Their main point or criticism
36 is there doesn't seem to be communication between the
37 councils and there doesn't -- this is their opinion,
38 and that they're working in isolation. My job is to
39 bring in what the other Councils are doing.

40
41 So on that note Western Interior
42 opposed both 89 and 90 unanimously based on mortality
43 of using six inch nets. And then Virgil -- they
44 focused on 89 because the first sentence says restrict
45 subsistence and commercial to six inch to 35 mesh
46 depth. They focused on the six inch component of that.

47
48 Madam Chair, that's all I have. And
49 then, of course, I already said Yukon Kuskokwim voted
50 these in a block, 88 through 97 and opposed them.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. But what
2 we have before us right now, Council members, is two
3 proposals and we just amended proposal 88.

4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
6 away from microphone).....

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.
9 So they're both amended the same. Okay. Gotcha. So
10 we're voting on both of them as amended.

11
12 All in favor.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: You didn't get any
17 input from the public.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: They didn't
20 raise their hand. If they -- are we moving too fast?

21
22 MR. W. PETER: Yeah, you are.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Come on
25 up.

26
27 MR. W. PETER: Yeah, again my name's
28 Walter Peter, I'm a subsistence fisherman, trapper and
29 hunter and I live off this land. And what you're
30 saying to me is so I can't use my eight inch fishnet
31 anymore, now I've got five nets, that's over \$2,000
32 worth of gear there. I got five children I need to
33 feed. Now what am I going to do. I think you made a
34 problem with the eight inch meshes with the commercial
35 fisherman and the driftnetters. I don't think it has
36 to deal with us subsistence users. We need this fish
37 and by going to six inch no, we'll end up buying new
38 nets. Where are we going to get the money for this.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any questions
43 of -- you might want to stick by -- stick around.

44
45 Andy.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Maybe not so much a
48 question as a comment to you. I think what you would
49 probably find and maybe Steve Hayes could correct me if
50 I'm wrong, but the largest proportion of king salmon

1 harvested in the Yukon River is by subsistence
2 fishermen and not by commercial fishermen, especially
3 in recent years where there's been no commercial
4 fisheries. And what we're trying to do here is we're
5 trying to create a method for conservation of large,
6 what we call fecunder, the large females with lots of
7 eggs which are targeted primarily by eight inch gear.
8 And we're I think as a Council very sensitive to the
9 economic situations that people are in right now,
10 living in these villages. It's hard to feed your
11 families, it's hard to take that extra money to buy new
12 nets and I think what we're trying to explore also is
13 to find other avenues to get nets to people.

14
15 But the main thing that I think you
16 need to understand is this isn't something to hurt
17 subsistence fishermen, it's something to protect
18 subsistence fishermen in the future by having more fish
19 available to us in the future by passing better quality
20 of escapement. And if there's a way that we can try
21 and workout getting nets to fishermen, that is by far
22 the preferred thing to do rather than to ask people to
23 take money out of their pocket to have to buy new nets.

24
25
26 So rest assured I think you -- this
27 Council here is very sensitive to your economic
28 situations. We're just trying to look after the long
29 range protection of these fish so that you'll be able
30 to fish these fish in 20 years from now. Because the
31 trend we're going in right now you're going to see more
32 and more restrictions to your subsistence in very near
33 years if we don't begin to make some very serious
34 adjustments to the way we're managing the fisheries or
35 at least the techniques at which we take the fish out
36 of the river.

37
38 So I just wanted to make that comment
39 to you so you fully understand we're not trying to hurt
40 you financially, we're trying to protect the resource
41 for you.

42
43 MR. W. PETER: Yeah, it's just that
44 we're at the end of the road here. I mean we're at the
45 -- we're on the Upper Yukon, you know. I think the
46 main concern is mainly Lower Yukon, right, that's where
47 the big problem is. I mean you could see it over the
48 -- you know, the amount of fish we get up there. It's
49 probably not even half of what they get downriver.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I want to know
4 did his comments change anybody's position on this
5 proposal.

6

7 Virgil.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm very sensitive to
10 what would happen and that's why I said what I said a
11 while ago. And that's why Mike Smith from Tanana
12 Chiefs did this investigation so that Tanana Chiefs
13 could buy a large quantity of net at once and therefore
14 reduce the costs of the nets a lot and that is why we
15 just amended this proposal a while ago to have a three
16 year period for it to phase in for subsistence fishers
17 because we are sensitive to that, we know that.
18 However we know that if we don't take action and we
19 continue with the large mesh gillnets that pretty soon
20 we'll be getting restricted more and more because the
21 productivity of the king salmon stocks will continue to
22 go -- decline more. And which means that there won't
23 be any fish for your grandchildren or maybe your
24 children or in your lifetime.

25

26 I want to -- while I'm at it just
27 address the Western Interior RAC's position opposing
28 these two proposals, the six inch mesh proposal based
29 on mortality of drop outs. The individual, I respect
30 him a great deal, that has this opinion and probably
31 convinced the Western Interior Rac to vote against this
32 proposal, is used to fishing in Bristol Bay in a combat
33 fishery where they have boats that have over 1,000
34 horsepower and they're dragging nets 900 feet long,
35 their nets are 900 feet long there. And they're
36 banging boats against each other, they have them
37 armored and they really bang each other hard. And they
38 pull on those nets and sometimes they pull their net
39 complete -- rip it completely in half. And they rip
40 the fish completely in half when they're doing this.
41 They have a giant drop out problem there, combat
42 fishing like that. Fishing on the Yukon out of a
43 skiff, even if it's a big one, a 24 footer, does not
44 even come close to comparing to what they're doing in
45 Bristol Bay. And so there has been no drop out study
46 done that anyone knows of, that the Department knows
47 of. We can ask the Department if they know of one, but
48 I know of none. And so you can't compare the drop outs
49 in that Bristol Bay combat fishery to what takes place
50 with the subsistence fisherman fishing at Fort Yukon or

1 someone fishing out of Emmonak. It's just -- you can't
2 compare the two together. This is done everywhere in
3 this -- on the whole west coast and we are the only
4 fishery in the State of Alaska that has unrestricted
5 mesh gillnets to catch king salmon. The only one in
6 the State of Alaska.

7

8 Thank you, Madam Chair.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil, have
11 you ever crewed in Bristol Bay yourself, personally?

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I haven't, but I
14 think you have.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But I have. I've done
17 it for five seasons.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Why don't you give us
20 your experience.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, it's been
23 a long time ago.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: I've seen lots of video
26 of it though.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: '81 through '85
29 and then I think I did it in '93. And yeah, there's
30 some combat fishery, but that's usually only in
31 isolated areas along the line where there's a lot of
32 fish. So to -- I will tell you this, when it wasn't a
33 combat fishery, places where it wasn't, there is a --
34 there is this basket we called it, they just -- they
35 hit -- they don't bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce and go
36 around and, I mean, that's your -- your the only net
37 out there. And they end up -- they're such a big fish
38 they roll and they're just completely -- it's a mess to
39 get them out of the net. Their -- they just completely
40 roll and they basket themselves in the net. And there --
41 that's a difficult one to get out of the net and
42 that's a dead fish. And sometimes when they're pulling
43 them over, over the reel, if -- some people finally put
44 up baskets underneath there because you'd this plot and
45 then pretty soon you'd realize you just lost a big king
46 salmon.

47

48 So I -- I mean, I -- it's just my
49 experience that there could be some drop out rate, it
50 might not be as large as what you're saying, but I

1 don't think I ever saw a fish torn in half ever in
2 those five seasons that I fished out there.

3
4 But at any rate I'm not here to debate
5 any of that. I think we covered this proposal. I
6 think the concern I heard back here though that we may
7 not have addressed is -- are we concerned that they're
8 not going to catch their fish if they have a six inch
9 net?

10
11 MR. BASSICH: No, it's economics.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I
14 think one of the concerns he brings out that I would
15 think if it was me as a fisherman, a subsistence
16 fishermen is what if they don't buy the nets for me and
17 the economics is destroyed, am I going to lose my
18 ability to go fishing.

19
20 MR. W. PETER: Well, it's kind of --
21 this little -- this six inch mesh kind of makes me mad
22 a little bit because I just bought two brand new nets
23 this year. So that's 1,200 bucks right there. And,
24 you know, what I'm reading about is this pollack
25 industry, you know, 80,000 fish. Now that's where the
26 problem's at.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I hear what
29 he's saying, I just -- I'm just saying I'm sensitive to
30 what I hear here. And it's hard for us, you know, to
31 make these decisions here like this and knowing that it
32 affects people like you. It's pretty tough.

33
34 Go ahead.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: I find it astounding to
37 think that Yukon River fish are somehow different fish
38 than Kuskokwim or Bristol Bay or Anushiak (ph) or
39 whatever. If this mesh restriction is in place and
40 it's been working in these other river systems for a
41 decade or more, two or three decades, boy, we must have
42 a pretty special fish here in the Yukon River if we
43 have greater drop out rates than they have in those
44 places and that's a big issue. Think about it.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't think
47 it's a big issue, I just say that we need.....

48
49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
50 away from microphone).....

1 MR. BASSICH: The point I'm making is
2 that they're using this as an excuse to try and shoot
3 down a very viable method for conserving.....
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
6
7 MR. BASSICH:large fish. And
8 it's bogus.....
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
11
12 MR. BASSICH:it's a bogus
13 argument, there's no studies to prove it, it's
14 something that people say happens, but by gosh it
15 happens with six inch mesh, it happens with eight inch
16 mesh. I used to fish with eight inch mesh when I
17 setnetted and fish would fall out. Well, if you don't
18 want that to happen you learn how to adapt, you carry a
19 pole with a net on the end of it and you have a person
20 that puts that net underneath the fish when you start
21 to pull your fish out of the river so that if he falls
22 out you save him. You have to be adaptable as a
23 fisherman and fisherman are very adaptable people if
24 they want to be, if they choose to be.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And they
27 adapted in Bristol Bay also.
28
29 MR. W. PETER: I like the three year
30 setback, but I think it should be longer.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Like the five
33 to end.....
34
35 MR. W. PETER: Well, what can I say,
36 I'm a subsistence fisherman.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, right.
39
40 MR. W. PETER: I got to fight for my
41 rights. I got the Council member laughing at me, you
42 know.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: No, no, I'm agreeing with
45 you, I understand where you're coming from. Let me
46 clarify. I'm not laughing at you, I understand exactly
47 where you're coming from and I would pledge to you
48 right now that if this goes into effect I will do
49 everything I can to get you nets. I will do that
50 because this is very important.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're --
2 Vince, I lost myself. Council members, did we actually
3 vote on this or.....
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: No, you.....
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We just
8 about got in the middle of it now?
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you were up to your
11 main motion as amended.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Here is
14 your chance to go to five years.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think we've discussed
17 it enough.
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
20 going to stay at three years, three years grace period?
21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: I thought we already
23 voted on that.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. The
26 question has been called for.
27
28 All in favor.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hey, it's 5:30
37 so.
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do we have to quit?
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't know.
42 How many do we have. We got to finish this.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me move it
45 along here. Move to adopt proposal 91.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Second, anyone
48 second.
49
50 MR. BASSICH: Second.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 91. Go ahead
2 with 91 on your.....
3
4 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, proposal 91
5 would limit commercial king harvest during chum
6 directed fisheries. On the Yukon River once you've
7 reached 3,000 kings in -- during directed chum
8 openings, then all fishing would stop and that would be
9 for chum fishing as well, commercial fishing. And that
10 was put forth by the Eastern Interior RAC.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is there any
13 discussion.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Madam Chair,
16 this is our proposal. It simply sets a bycatch cap of
17 king salmon during directed chum salmon fisheries when
18 there's not going to be a king salmon fishery. So that
19 there will be -- so if they reach that point then
20 they're done fishing for any kind of salmon
21 commercially.
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. It's our
24 proposal, so do we need.....
25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. We -- I don't
27 really think we need much of anything unless there's
28 anything from the public. I -- we should -- we
29 discussed our own proposal, we spent the time to write
30 it and we need to support our own proposal.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I'm going
33 to ask public if they have anything to say on this.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MR. GLANZ: I'm going to call for the
38 question.
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question
41 has been called for.
42
43 All in favor.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
48
49 (No opposing votes)
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Proposal -- move
2 to adopt proposal 92.

3

4 MR. FIRMIN: Second that.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 MR. HAYES: Well, Madam Chair, proposal
9 92 would prohibit the sale of kings during non-king
10 directed fisheries. It's similar to proposal 91, when
11 you have a directed chum fishery this proposal would
12 make it illegal to sell those incidentally caught king
13 salmons.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 We cosponsored this proposal, I believe we voted to
17 write the other proposal before we did this and this is
18 two different options, two different ways of looking at
19 it. One put a cap like the proposal that was just ours
20 and this would just totally prohibit the sale of king
21 salmon. Actually I like this one better.....

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Me too.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR:just totally
26 prohibit the sale of king salmon in a chum directed
27 fishery. They would have to be -- go to the
28 subsistence fishers. And so that's.....

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I would
31 agree with you about this one's better.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any public
36 would like to speak to this?

37

38 MR. P. SOLOMON: Now I think is about
39 the salmon by-catch, catching chinook. Well, it has to
40 be happening down at the
41 lower part of the Yukon again and they're just catching
42 it on purpose, calling it bycatch, right. So I'm
43 against it. Because, I mean, what they're doing is
44 they're just saying oh, I caught it by accident so I
45 can sell it. Well, it's like saying oh, sorry,
46 officer, I had a bunch of joints in my pocket, I didn't
47 mean it, I don't know where I got it from. But, hey,
48 if you don't mind I'll just sell it. Sorry about that,
49 but that's maybe a point analogy, but.....

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Point analogy
2 there.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Good point.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
7 you.
8
9 MR. KELLEY: The question I got and I
10 guess I didn't give my name all during the testimony.
11 I'm James Kelley, acting director for the Natural
12 Resource.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Because we knew
15 you.
16
17 Mr. Kelley: We'll see if you do, yeah.
18 How would this affect the ability to barter? Barter, I
19 mean, that's something that's been -- I think it's been
20 allowed before where you can exchange fish for.....
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Customary
23 trade.
24
25 MR. KELLEY:like gas,
26 customary.....
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's called
29 customary trade of.....
30
31 MR. KELLEY: Yeah, I believe so. How
32 would it affect that if you're saying selling is -- are
33 you looking at in more of a commercial approach or
34 anybody that just would sell across the board and it
35 would be cash only or monetary value?
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This is
38 commercial for the -- these are the commercial
39 fishermen taking incidental kings during their chum
40 run.
41
42 MR. KELLEY: Oh, okay. Yeah.
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And they're
45 selling them to a commercial market, not to the
46 customary trade.
47
48 MR. KELLEY: Oh, okay. I heard it
49 wrong then because I just want to make sure that we --
50 we're not -- you know, this is the part that really

1 gets confusing.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I didn't even
4 have a clue that was happening until it was brought to
5 my attention. That's pretty crazy.
6
7 MR. KELLEY: Yeah. Well, if that's the
8 case then I'd say that I would support prohibiting the
9 sale because it's really one of those ares like we talk
10 about Canadians making a lot of sacrifice and other
11 regions that just -- you know, they made that point
12 clear during one of their teleconference, they're
13 totally against commercial while they're still waiting
14 for the fish to cross the border. So I believe -- I
15 think everybody would support it.
16
17 Thank you.
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
20 you. Go ahead, Vince.
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the Western Interior
23 took this up and they support it with modification as
24 long as subsistence restrictions are in place that this
25 would be in effect.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did you
28 call for the question?
29
30 MR. GLANZ: I called for the question.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
33 been called for. All in favor.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
38
39 (No opposing votes)
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil,
42 what's next. I see the Fairbanks AC, 94.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
45 94.
46
47 MR. BASSICH: Second.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
50 been seconded. We're on number 94.

1 MR. HAYES: Madam Chair, just a quick
2 comment. Once I go through your proposal 94 I am going
3 to have to step out. I have a plane to catch and then
4 Audra will continue on with them.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What's that?

7
8 MR. HAYES: I will have to step out
9 after this proposal.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

12
13 MR. HAYES: I have a plane to catch,
14 but Audra will continue on with them.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

17
18 MR. HAYES: Proposal 94 would require
19 the windows schedule, subsistence schedule, during the
20 lower river commercial fisheries. Basically what it's
21 saying is when we have determined that there is a
22 surplus of fish to have a commercial fishery, that we
23 have to stick to the subsistence schedule that is in
24 place in regulation. At this time once we've
25 determined there's a surplus of fish above subsistence
26 needs, we go off the windowed schedule and then
27 subsistence if opened and closed around the commercial
28 periods.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
33 Basically what that -- what happens is once there's a
34 commercial period in the lower river then they don't --
35 they go off of the windows schedule which means the
36 places where it's the easiest to catch the fish gets to
37 subsistence fish seven days a week. Where the places
38 where it's a lot harder to catch a fish, they don't,
39 they stay on their subsistence schedule because that's
40 the way the schedule's made. And the reason they do
41 this and this is what's absurd, the reason they do this
42 is because someone puts a subsistence fisherman in the
43 lower river might get his brother-in-law or cousin or
44 buddy to take his subsistence fish and sell them. So
45 what they do is they have a closure for 18 hours
46 before, during and 12 hours after a commercial opening.
47 And so they don't do the windows. Now the windows were
48 put in in 2001. I chaired the committee that put the
49 windows in. The intent of the Board at the time we put
50 the windows in and we did the same thing on the

1 Kuskokwim except there we let them fish I believe four
2 days a week and then they had a three day window. The
3 reason we put the windows in was to have unmolested
4 escapement get up the river. That's why we put the
5 windows in. And it had nothing to do with worrying
6 about someone taking his subsistence fish and giving
7 them to a buddy or relative to sell because a dead fish
8 is a dead fish, doesn't make any difference how it got
9 killed, if it gets sold or it gets ate or what happens
10 to it. We wanted true windows so that the only time
11 any fishing would be conducted, whether it be
12 commercial or subsistence, would be during the windows
13 that the fishery would be open. And they would have to
14 conduct both the commercial and the subsistence at that
15 time. So that's what this proposal is asking, is for
16 the Board to establish windows that they stick to no
17 matter what.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
20 ahead.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
23 I think this is probably the most effective and fair
24 tool that has been proposed of any of the proposals.
25 This affects every single person on the river equally
26 and it does the greatest to protect all age and sex
27 classes of the fish coming up the river. It is across
28 the board the most effective means for conservation and
29 it is the fairest means of conservation for all users.
30 And therefore I will support it. I think Virgil is
31 absolutely right in his statements of the intent of the
32 Board, it's unfortunate that that intent wasn't
33 followed through, but I think this year's Fisheries
34 Management Program for chinook salmon demonstrated that
35 if you have closures you get very good escapement
36 throughout the drainage and people are still have to
37 obtain a reasonable opportunity to fish. And on a
38 given year when fish abundance is greater, people will
39 be able to meet their subsistence needs even easier.
40 This was a tough year and still people had at least a
41 reasonable opportunity to fish. Granted it wasn't
42 perfect, but we all knew we were going into a tough
43 season. But this is in my opinion probably the most
44 important proposal of any proposal in the packet.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Andy.
49 It's good to hear that. Anyone else. Public. You can
50 stay there. It's -- the musical chairs is over.

1 MR. P. SOLOMON: I'd like to address
2 something. I don't know if the Lower Yukon or the
3 people downriver know about the Gwitchin people, that
4 we -- when we say something about our fish it's not
5 just our fish, it's everybody on the Yukon. We have to
6 work together. And it's pretty important to us, it's
7 one of our main resources here.

8
9 And I need to bring something else to
10 attention. It's that oil, the oil deposits that's all
11 over here in the Yukon Flats. We could easily say
12 yeah, we want that, but what's going to happen if the
13 oil gets into the Yukon the people down at the mouth
14 are going to get the oil in the river, it's going to
15 hurt them too. We're protecting them by stopping the
16 oil development here as well. So if they think we
17 don't care about them, well, that's their own opinion,
18 but we care about them. Why don't they show that they
19 care about us by responding in a favorable way.

20
21 That's all I got to say.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd love to see
24 you go to the Fish Board meeting. That's what these
25 guys need to hear. Thank you.

26
27 MR. W. PETER: I just have one comment
28 on this. You know, the closures -- you know, the Yukon
29 River is a long river and -- but then the closure from
30 Stevens to Twenty-two Mile Slough. You know, I don't --
31 I think that's a little too long, little too long of a
32 stretch there because we're at the end of that cycle
33 there. Stevens -- you know, it's not fair to us that
34 Stevens Village gets the fish before us already and
35 that they get three more days of fishing than us. It --
36 you know, at the beginning of this season, you know, I
37 just started getting the fish at the closing day, you
38 know. They said we were going to let the first run go
39 and hell, there's people out there fishing. And so a
40 little mix up on the closure dates, you know, so it
41 turns out that Stevens Village gets three more days of
42 fishing time than us. And that was all just good fish,
43 I mean, just prime fish there. And I was kind of a
44 little disappointed in that. And within an hour of
45 that, you know, planes started flying around, you know,
46 it just wasn't fair to us of that so far of a distance
47 there, it wasn't fair to us that, you know, downriver
48 got more fish than us, more fishing time.

49
50 That's just a point I wanted to make.

1 MR. BASSICH: Could I ask you a
2 question, where do you think a good line would be to
3 draw if we were to break 5YD into smaller sub-units.
4 Is there an area that you can think of in your mind
5 downriver where that break should take place?

6
7 MR. W. PETER: Beaver.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: So would Beaver be
10 included with Stevens Village or with you?

11
12 MR. W. PETER: Keep Fort Yukon and
13 Circle together.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And then Beaver
16 and Stevens Village?

17
18 MR. W. PETER: Right.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank you.

23
24
25 MR. TACKETT: Hi, Clayton Tackett. You
26 guys are right, understand we do need a management
27 plan. You guys have been, you know, implementing it
28 over the couple of years that -- you know, that I've
29 started fishing again. A long time ago I used to fish
30 all the time, used to get very much more fish. And I
31 agree a little bit with him about the closure plan,
32 some of the closure plans are a little bit -- I say --
33 like they said far off, you know. We got distances
34 between our homes, if you go downriver there's not that
35 much distance between village to village. But they all
36 live in close community. And their districts are a
37 little smaller, smaller towards the river. And with a
38 better understanding of a management for actually, you
39 know, the whole Yukon, you know, we -- I understand we
40 do need to close this down and, you know, at certain
41 times and let these fishes go by so we can get these
42 escapements up river, you know, because a lot of people
43 up in Canadian are hurting people because they haven't
44 had, you know, the fish that we've always had down
45 here.

46
47 But on the other hand, I mean, these
48 management plans needs to be set forth as to, you know,
49 where the fish are and, you know, how the people are
50 going to be affected by when it's closed. Because if

1 you do close it, you know, a day early then, you know,
2 there goes all the fish, you know. And while that --
3 some people have had, you know, the opportunity to fish
4 during, you know, a good strong run because they -- you
5 know, they've only got one river down there or, you
6 know, they've only got two channels. Well, I can count
7 five channels going across this river right now. And,
8 you know, it just makes it a little bit harder to judge
9 it, but we do need this management plan, I agree with
10 it, but, I mean, we need to make good choices about
11 when we do the closings or when the closings are going
12 to be taking place, as of where the fish are at, you
13 know, understanding a little bit more where they're at.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. So I guess
18 what I'm hearing you say is you would be in favor of
19 dissecting 5YD into much smaller units so management
20 can have their closures in much more compacted units?

21

22 MR. TACKETT: Yeah, with some more
23 studies on it, I mean, we don't want to sit there, you
24 know, close it down on Beaver and then Beaver get, you
25 know, get affected by this. We want to be able to have
26 a, you know, like you said a management plan. And this
27 management plan is, you know, people understanding
28 that, you know, where the fish are at. So, I mean, we
29 do need to do some studies on it and ask, you know, ask
30 the right questions to the right people.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is that it?

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you have
37 something, Virgil?

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. When the Board
40 put the windows in, it was January of 2001, I chaired
41 the Committee that did that. And what we attempted to
42 do at that time was to determine what reasonable
43 opportunity was by district. And so we put in
44 different fishing times for different districts. And
45 District 5D and the Koyukuk River we -- for normal
46 fishing we listed -- for subsistence is seven days a
47 week for those two areas. And then by district we
48 determined what reasonable -- what would be reasonable
49 opportunity for people to go out and get their
50 subsistence needs met. But that is what we did at that

1 time and so what this proposal is attempting to do is
2 to get the Board to redetermine what is reasonable
3 opportunity.

4

5 MR. TACKETT: Yes.

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: By the districts and
8 subdistricts and redo that and then have no exceptions
9 to it, that that's the way it is going to be. And so
10 that's what this proposal is asking the board to do. I
11 just wanted to make it so you could maybe understand it
12 a little bit better.

13

14 MR. TACKETT: Okay. Okay. Thank you
15 very much.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

18

19 MR. TACKETT: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Western Interior did take
24 up this proposal and it was a difficult proposal for
25 them. They ended up opposing it, remember the motion
26 is to adopt. There was two for, seven against and one
27 absence. So they opposed this proposal. I don't have
28 my notes in front of me as to why they did, but I think
29 it's fair to say it was confusion, it was two for and
30 seven against. But again they're like you, they get on
31 a roll on proposals and sometimes it's difficult to
32 understand the details of all the proposals.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm just
35 curious, the two that were for it, do you know what
36 part of the region they lived, closer to us or further
37 away?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: I don't really remember.
40 I remember we were meeting in Aniak when that was time,
41 so Kuskokwim was kind of a focus at that time.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. Any
44 other discussion.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Question.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
49 been called for. All in favor.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
8 Virgil.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
11 95.
12
13 MR. GLANZ: Second.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's been moved
16 and seconded. Fish and Game.
17
18 MS. BRASE: Madam Chair, possibly a
19 suggestion for you guys. 95, 96 and 97 are all about
20 allocation, just a different species. So if you wanted
21 to move a little further along it might be easier to
22 bring them all up at once. So number 95 reallocates
23 the commercial king salmon as harvest as follows. I'm
24 not going to read through all these numbers, but
25 essentially it's just reallocating lower river's
26 allocations -- giving lower river less and giving upper
27 river more.
28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to adopt all
30 three of them at once. That's 95, 96 and 97, Madam
31 Chair.
32
33 MR. GLANZ: I second that.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I'm
36 assuming that the first motion was withdrawn and the
37 second concurred and we're back to the motion on the
38 floor.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. And the
43 consensus.....
44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I second that for that
46 one there. Okay. All right. Now we can take them
47 all.
48
49 MS. BRASE: Okay. Yeah, proposal 96
50 would be the summer chum management plan, looking at

1 the allocation there. And the proposal 97 would be the
2 fall chum management plan and look at the allocation
3 numbers there.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Madam Chair, the
8 first one is actually our proposal, it's a RAC
9 proposal, that's proposal 95.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: And proposal 96 is a
14 Fairbanks AC proposal. Proposal 97 was the Fairbanks
15 AC proposal and I'm trying to find in our minutes from
16 our last meeting when we discussed this, maybe Andy
17 could help me.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, Eastern
20 Interior and not the Fairbanks AC?

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. The first one
23 was Eastern Interior, the second one was -- oh, here we
24 go. It's on Page 10 of our book. So if everyone turns
25 to Page 10 it says Umphenour made a motion -- down at
26 the bottom where it says Alaska Board of Fisheries
27 called for proposals.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Seconded by Glanz to
32 submit a proposal to reallocate the commercial fishery
33 in the Yukon River by reducing the harvest in the lower
34 river by 50 percent across all species of salmon and
35 reallocate it to the fishing districts that the salmon
36 originate from. The motion passed by unanimous
37 consent. Okay. So if you look at that, what we ended
38 up doing is we wrote the one, proposal 95, we wrote it
39 for king salmon. Or Vince wrote it for us basically
40 and then I helped him write it. And then I don't know
41 what happened on the rest of it, but we got behind the
42 eight ball somehow and I ended up writing -- I wrote a
43 lot of proposals last year at the last minute. So I
44 wrote proposal 96 and 97 for the Fairbanks AC and then
45 we adopted those and, you know, voted to submit them.
46 So we could get all this stuff in the book in a hurry.
47 But we already voted for actually all three of these to
48 do the same thing.

49

50 Now their justification for doing it.

1 Is there a conservation concern. Yes, we have a
2 conservation concern. And what happened with the fall
3 chum fishery this year is a prime example why this
4 needs to be passed. There were seven commercial
5 openings for fall chum salmon in the Lower Yukon this
6 year before the -- and the reason why they had to do
7 seven commercial openings is because the Lower Yukon
8 has such a high allocation. Even though none of these
9 fish originate in the Lower Yukon. International law is
10 that the fish, the country with primary interest in the
11 fish is the country of origin. Well, none of these
12 fish originate in the Lower Yukon, they originate in
13 the Upper Yukon, in the upper drainages in District 5,
14 District 6 and in Canada. The Sheenjek, the
15 Chandelier, the fishing branch of the Porcupine, the
16 main stream Yukon in -- in the Yukon territory and the
17 Tanana River drainage, that's where these fish come
18 from, none of them come from the Lower Yukon. But
19 because the allocation is such that they're supposed to
20 get the majority of the allocation, they had seven
21 commercial openings down there. Then the Department
22 decided whoops, our preseason forecast or outlook is
23 way off, there's not near enough salmon coming up the
24 river, we may even have to start restricting
25 subsistence even though we let these guys have seven
26 commercial openings. So then they shut the river down.
27 I don't know how many times this has happened, but it
28 probably happens at least every -- once every third
29 year. I know that for the last 25 years it's happened
30 at least once every third year on different species of
31 salmon. It happens with the king salmon, it happens
32 with the summer chums sometimes, it happened with the
33 fall chums last year, it happened with the king salmon
34 three years ago. Commercial openings down in the Lower
35 Yukon, they get to commercial fish for king salmon.
36 Where most of them -- the one drainages where they come
37 -- the most of them come from, the Tanana River, did
38 they get to commercial fish for king salmon, no, they
39 didn't get to. The next year again the same thing
40 happened. I've seen this happen so many times it's
41 unbelievable, it's depressing. My wife calls it oops
42 management. Oops, we let the Lower Yukon catch too
43 many fish, there's not enough fish. You guys upriver
44 don't get to fish, sorry about that, you don't even get
45 to catch one to eat. But they got to catch a bunch to
46 sell. That's the reason for these proposals.

47

48 Thank you, Madam Chair.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's to avoid oops
2 management and have responsible management and to
3 comply.....

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR:with the
8 sustainable salmon policy which is in regulation
9 That's the reason for these proposals. And that's
10 addressing conservation of the resource.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
13 else. Any public like to comment to these?

14
15 MR. P. SOLOMON: Phillip Solomon again
16 and thank you, Virgil, I was wondering where the salmon
17 went to. Couldn't get no king salmon and I was
18 depending on the chum salmon. Now I know where it went
19 to. I still can't find none, I can't trade nothing, I
20 can't buy none, you know. Where's our salmon. Oops
21 management. We should -- we should not do that so we
22 can get some salmon and so we wouldn't get so pissed
23 off. That way we wouldn't have to be criminals up
24 here, you know, I mean, we're -- we're -- it's getting
25 so where wanting -- we're going to have to do something
26 what we don't want to do, you know, we're wanting to go
27 by the guidelines that's given us and go by the openers
28 and -- but we can't go with oops management, we got to
29 have a little more communication, a little more help,
30 got to get some fish our way.

31
32 I'm tired of walking up here, I just
33 want some fish.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Keep walking up
36 here. Okay. Anyone else.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: I'm going to call for the
39 question.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
42 question has been called for on the three proposals.
43 All in favor.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Looks
2 like we're down to a couple.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
5 98.
6
7 MR. BASSICH: Second.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
10
11 MS. BRASE: Okay. Proposal 98 would
12 open commercial fishing between the Black River and
13 Crisp Point as follows. Fishing would be permitted for
14 both drift and setnet between Crisp Point and Black
15 River, before statistical areas 334-11 and 334-12.
16 Steve told me that no one is exactly sure why this
17 area's close to fishing. Commercial Staff are
18 researching it and it'll be in their staff comments of
19 what they found out. If it was -- I imagine it was not
20 an arbitrary thing, but nobody's quite sure what the
21 history is. So that's it.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.
26
27 MR. BASSICH: The only thing that I see
28 if we were to support this is that just previously we
29 passed a support of limiting driftnet fishing or
30 fishing or not allowing driftnet fishing. So I would
31 say that on the second paragraph here says fishing
32 would be permitted both drift and setnet, but it would
33 just be setnet that we would be supporting.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
36 amend the motion. You need to make that motion to
37 amend, Andy.
38
39 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair, I guess the
40 amended motion would be to support this proposal,
41 striking the word drift from the second paragraph.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
44 procedurally you just have to make a motion to amend.
45 Motion to amend, I take it?
46
47 MR. BASSICH: Yes.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I
50 hear a second.

1 MR. GLANZ: Second.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
4 Discussion on this motion.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7 I'm going to oppose it and I'll tell you why I'm going
8 to oppose it.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're going to
11 oppose the one on the floor.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm going to oppose the
14 amendment and -- that's on the floor. And I'm going to
15 tell you why I'm going to oppose it. I participated in
16 causing the Board to write what they call the mixed
17 stock policy. The mixed stock policy says that when
18 fisheries are fully allocated the Board will not allow
19 any new or expanding fisheries. This would be in
20 direct violation of the Board's policy, therefore the
21 Board should not adopt this because the fishery is not
22 only fully allocated, we have a severe conservation
23 concerns and problems. And so to create a new fishery
24 to target more of the same fish that we have a super
25 conservation problem with, not only does it violate the
26 Board's mixed stock policy, but it flies in the face of
27 the sustainable salmon policy the Board has in
28 regulations.
29
30 So I'm going to oppose doing anything
31 with this, Madam Chair.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: I have a comment. I think
36 like -- it says it's proposed by Kwik'pak Fisheries, I
37 imagine that's a commercial entity, possibly is it
38 Native corp owned or anything.
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sure it's
41 a.....
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Kwik'pak is the
44 commercial arm of the processing arm of the CDQ Group
45 in the Lower Yukon. They're the guys that are selling
46 all these commercial salmon in the Lower Yukon.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair, Western

1 Interior opposed this proposal for the exact reasons
2 that Virgil said.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anymore
5 discussion on the amendment.

6

7 MR. FIRMIN: Call for the question.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
10 been called for. All in favor of the amendment to
11 switch it just to the setnet. Any -- all in favor --
12 anyone in favor of it?

13

14 (No aye votes)

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're all
21 opposed. Okay. Sorry, Andy. I hear what you're
22 saying, but.....

23

24 MR. BASSICH: I'm just trying to be
25 consistent with the Council's actions.....

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
28 understand. Yeah. All right. So now we're back to
29 the proposal as written. And anymore discussion.

30

31 MR. FIRMIN: Question.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
34 been called for. All in favor of this proposal.

35

36 (No aye votes)

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All opposed.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
43 99 and that's the last one.

44

45 MS. BRASE: Proposal 99. Open the
46 Andreafsky River to commercial fishing as follows. It
47 would remove the portion of the management plan that
48 bans commercial fishing there.

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Madam Chair, I

1 put this proposal in. This proposal actually doesn't
2 violate the Boards mixed stock policy because this
3 could be a terminal fishery and managed as a terminal
4 fishery. It's the only river in the Lower Yukon that
5 actually produces king salmon and it produces summer
6 chum salmon. And so the Department could manage it as
7 a terminal fishery, independent of what takes place in
8 the main stem Yukon. And I would like to see them fish
9 on their own fish stocks, they don't do it. So why not
10 let them fish their own fish down there and if they
11 drive them into the ground then that's their business.
12 Madam Chair. It's the most responsible to manage a
13 fishery is when it is a terminal fishery, you know what
14 the escapement is and after you've got your escapement
15 then you let them fish. And so they could manage
16 Andreafsky River like that. But currently they're not
17 allowed to commercial fish on the Andreafsky River. So
18 let them catch their own fish.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other -- go
21 ahead, Bill.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: I was just wondering, it's
24 opened for subsistence fishing, correct?

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's opened to
27 subsistence fishing certainly. But you have to
28 remember and they'll always tell you this at every
29 meeting, we -- our commercial is our subsistence.
30 That's what those guys in the Lower Yukon tell you
31 every time you go to a meeting with them, that's what
32 they say. All the subsistence fishermen there are --
33 the majority of the people that fish subsistence in the
34 Lower Yukon are commercial fishing fishermen that are
35 fishing with commercial gear.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but is
38 there a subsistence fishery is what he's asking.

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

41

42 MR. GLANZ: And so what my comment is
43 then is that commercial will go in there and kill it
44 off, what are we helping the subsistence fishermen
45 there for.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, they are
48 the subsistence fishermen there.

49

50 MR. GLANZ: I understand that, but

1 there has to be some suspicion like me that would be
2 there or somebody. Not everybody there is commercial
3 fishing.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, then they would
6 get a taste of their own medicine and maybe some of
7 those pure subsistence fishermen down there would go
8 beat up on their commercial fishermen neighbor.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew and then
11 Andy.

12

13 MR. FIRMIN: Bill asked the same
14 question I was going to ask, were there subsistence
15 fishermen on there and the answer was yes. And also I
16 do agree with this one because like Virgil said if they
17 screw it up it's their own problem although I hope they
18 don't do that, I hope they manage it in a good, proper,
19 sound way and then don't come back to the Yukon and
20 start stealing our fish again.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Well, as Virgil stated,
25 it's a terminal fisheries river and it's much easier to
26 manage that. They do have weir up there. It's a
27 smaller system so I think as far as them over fishing
28 it, I think the Department would be pretty -- keep a
29 pretty close eye on reasonable harvest. So I think
30 that's a moot argument. I would be in favor of this
31 proposal.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill, did you
34 have another comment?

35

36 MR. GLANZ: (Indiscernible - away from
37 microphone).....

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
40 discussion.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Call for the question.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
45 been called for. All in favor of opening a commercial
46 fishery on the Andreafsky.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're done.
4
5 MR. BASSICH: No, Madam Chair, I'd like
6 to at least look at proposal 100 because I think it has
7 -- it has.....
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
10 100.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: I'll second.
13
14 MS. BRASE: Proposal 100. This would
15 close the Tok River Drainage to sportfishing for salmon
16 as follows. It's basically right now you can sportfish
17 in the Tok River, but this would totally close it. The
18 reason behind it is there were -- in the past there
19 really hasn't thought to be salmon there so it's like
20 well, you just have it open, you know, it doesn't
21 really matter. But we documented that there we coho
22 salmon in there in 2008, 50 salmon. So it was kind of
23 a new area where the fish are expanding into. So it's
24 put -- put forth by the Department just to protect that
25 small stock.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You know I
28 remember the school kids working on a project and they
29 put fry in the Tok overflow. Could this be fish coming
30 from this project?
31
32 MS. BRASE: Well, they shouldn't have
33 been.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It was totally
36 endorsed by the Department of Fish and Game. It was
37 their meeting after meeting after meeting, it's
38 probably been 10, 15 years ago, maybe 20. Could these
39 fish be coming from that, they kept checking to see if
40 the fish were surviving, you know, the fry, they kept
41 checking and I think they thought they didn't.
42
43 MS. BRASE: Yeah. Well, I mean, if the
44 -- for cohos it's a four year cycle so it could have
45 been potentially, you know, years ago maybe, I don't
46 know. But, I mean, in 2008 we had a decent run of coho
47 and coho are kind of notorious for spreading out
48 wherever they can find good spawning areas. So if it
49 was a decent run they're just going to start -- you
50 know, that's how you get fish -- salmon in new areas,

1 they just start expanding. But they may have been from
2 the school kids, I don't know. You're not supposed to
3 put.....

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I spent a lot
6 of time on the Tok River and I don't think I've ever
7 seen a salmon in that river, but that's pretty cool

8
9 MS. BRASE: Yeah, it was really cool.
10 Yeah, they were construction guys who had no clue what
11 they were, they sent us pictures, what are these red
12 fish.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And where were
15 they, right there by the road or by the culvert.

16
17 MS. BRASE: Oh, yeah, there's a -- we
18 call it the Tok overflow and it never freezes in there,
19 there's a little spot there that people always fish.

20
21 MR. GURTLER: I was just wondering why
22 would they want to close that to sportfishing, what is
23 the reason behind it.

24
25 MS. BRASE: I guess as a conservation
26 concern, just because it is a brand new stock, we don't
27 really know anything about it as far as an assessment
28 on the number.

29
30 MR. GURTLER: Is that a stocked stream?

31
32 MS. BRASE: No, we don't stock streams,
33 per se. Not in the Yukon drainage.

34
35 MR. GURTLER: That's what I thought.
36 But I was just wondering, what was the reasoning they
37 closed -- want to close that to sportfishing because I
38 don't think the fishing on the Tanana River is that
39 crucial to the.....

40
41 MS. BRASE: I think the though behind --
42 this is put forth by the Upper Tanana manager, Parker,
43 and I think he's just concerned because it is -- I mean
44 these fish are just brand new, getting up there and I
45 think maybe let them get established and then possibly
46 we could open on top of there. But if you allow
47 sportfishing then people start yarding them all out,
48 then, you know, the population won't even get started.

49
50 MR. GURTLER: In other words, they're

1 fishing that pretty heavy?
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: For grayling.
4
5 MS. BRASE: Well, I -- I don't think
6 so. Well, they fish for grayling, yeah. But I don't --
7 I don't think that many people really know they're
8 there yet.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I didn't and
11 I've been there 32 years.
12
13 MS. BRASE: Yeah. Well, I mean nobody
14 noticed them. You'd think they would because it's
15 right next to the road, so I think 2008 may have been
16 the first year.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I didn't even
19 hear about this.
20
21 MS. BRASE: Uh-huh.
22
23 MR. GURTLER: Well, once you close
24 something I think it'd be pretty hard to open back up
25 again, I don't know.
26
27 MS. BRASE: I just have a feeling
28 that.....
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, on all of
31 this isn't.....
32
33 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, Tok, is not a Federal
34 zone anyway.
35
36 MR. GURTLER: There's not that
37 definition.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This wasn't.
40
41 MR. GLANZ: So.....
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A lot of this
44 stuff is on State land that we're talking about and
45 this is one of them, so we did it on Minto on State
46 land.
47
48 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I can understand.....
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, uh-huh,

1 okay. So you want to vote on it.
2
3 MS. BRASE: Madam Chair.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: I support it.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Excuse me,
8 Andy's first.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 I would be in support of this proposal because I think
12 it's really important to recognize that, as I think
13 Audra alluded to, one of the main protection methods
14 for salmon and other species is to diversify into new
15 areas and establish new spawning habitats and new
16 colonies, whatever you want to call them, in those
17 areas, and I think when something like this is
18 recognized, until it's fully understood or given a
19 chance to propagate and get to a viable level, it's
20 important to protect those areas.
21
22 And so I would be in support of this on
23 the basis of a conservation concern.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, anyone
26 else. Virgil.
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I agree with
29 Andy, Madam Chair.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
32 you, Virgil.
33
34 MR. FIRMIN: Call for question.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Question's been
37 called for, all in favor.
38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
42
43 (No opposing votes)
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
46 going to.....
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's one more.
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, there's

1 another one.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: One last one.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Really. I
6 thought we were on the last one.
7
8 MR. GLANZ: 164.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Which one is
11 it?
12
13 MR. GLANZ: 164 in the back of it.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh. That's you
16 again Fairbanks AC.
17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, we put out lots
19 of proposals.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Terrific Virgil.
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. Move
26 to adopt Proposal 164.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How did you
29 forget it.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MR. BASSICH: Second.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is this
36 going to be a long one, and dinner's going to be
37 postponed some more, we're supposed to start at 7:00
38 again.
39
40 MR. GLANZ: I think it might be cold
41 already.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MS. BRASE: This is a statewide
46 proposal. Proposal 164, unlawful possession of
47 subsistence finfish. Revise unlawful possession
48 subsistence finfish as follows:
49
50 This is to -- talking about home packs --

1 do you want me to read this whole thing?

2

3 Since Virgil's on the Fairbanks AC
4 perhaps he can summarize this because I don't actually
5 remember you guys doing this one.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is Mike Kramer's
10 baby, I think. Anyway, what Mike is concerned about
11 and if you read it, it says:

12

13 Home packs shall have no monetary value
14 and cannot be sold to any business or
15 individual. Home packs may be bartered
16 for other subsistence foods. Only one
17 home pack shall be authorized per
18 family of two or more. ADF&G issuing
19 permits for home packs shall be
20 required, at no cost to the receiving
21 family. Only three proxy permits shall
22 be authorized per commercial fishing
23 vessel. Home packs shall be limited to
24 a total of 40 salmon, of which only two
25 can be chinook salmon. Commercially
26 caught salmon and salmon caught for
27 subsistence shall not occupy the same
28 storage or processing areas.

29

30 But anyway what they're wanting to do,
31 and you can read this, to adopt better controls for
32 Alaska salmon fisheries to monitor and enforce the
33 potential illegal sale of subsistence caught sockeye
34 and chinook salmon caught with commercial fishing gear
35 and to put a limit on the amount of sockeye and chinook
36 salmon allowed per household.

37

38 And what he's wanting to do is control
39 the amount of salmon that get caught in commercial
40 fisheries or with commercial fishing gear is what he's
41 wanting to do.

42

43 Do you remember anything else Audra?

44

45 MS. BRASE: No, I think he was
46 originally talking about in terms of the Copper
47 drainage but then he kind of expanded to full
48 statewide.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, really.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: But this is primarily a
2 Copper River issue and then they wanted to.....

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But this is a
5 statewide proposal, goodness gracious.

6
7 MR. FIRMIN: So this here is only going
8 to be for people that go out on a commercial fishing
9 boat, can basically only offer that, say, here, this is
10 my 40 fish that I can take home, and that's all you're
11 allowed to have.

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. It would limit
14 them to 40 fish that they could take home and they
15 could, say like if it's someone that lives up here --
16 say it's a guy that lives at Ft. Yukon, and he goes
17 over there and goes commercial fishing on some boat or
18 something and then he comes back here, then he could
19 trade some of his fish for moose, dried moose meat or
20 something. It wouldn't prohibit any of that kind of
21 stuff, but you wouldn't be able to sell any of it.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you telling
24 me that a guy that takes a fish commercially and he
25 wants to do, what's that called, save a little money --
26 or make a little more money and market it himself, he
27 can't do that?

28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, that would not
30 prohibit that.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
33 You're catching me late in the day, I'm having a tough
34 time here.

35
36 Yeah, go ahead.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: I guess I'm a little
39 confused because when this says who's likely to suffer,
40 only those who do or intend to sell subsistence salmon
41 in the Black Market, I don't see how this proposal
42 addresses that at all. Maybe I'm missing something?

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think I'm
45 missing something because I'm not picking up on it.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: I guess I just don't -- I
48 don't feel real comfortable with this proposal as its
49 written or at least as it's been explained because I
50 really don't.....

1 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I feel the same way.
2
3 MR. BASSICH:see what this
4 proposal is really doing.
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: Other than -- all I can
7 see it doing is limiting an individual to only having
8 40 salmon. What if I want 50.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Maybe I can help a
11 little bit. Okay, what he's trying to address, is he's
12 trying to address commercial fishermen using commercial
13 gear to go out and catch subsistence fish and put them
14 up and sell them. That's what he's trying to address,
15 you know, can them and then sell them. That's what
16 he's addressing.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But how
19 does.....
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Which is already
22 against the law for them to do that but, anyway.....
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. But how
25 does this address that?
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: I will agree it's kind
28 of a hard to understand regulation, you have to
29 understand a lawyer wrote it so it's hard for the rest
30 of us to understand it.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A lawyer wrote
33 it.
34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm not going to say
36 anything else.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MR. FIRMIN: I kind of see where this
41 is coming from but I agree with Frank on this one that
42 there are a few of these in place already and they need
43 to be enforced before we start putting on a hard cap on
44 what somebody can take home. Somebody might want more
45 than 40 fish, they might want 80 or 100. I don't know
46 how many fish -- if you eat a fish a day, that's 50
47 fish, that'll only get you until December, what about
48 the rest of the spring.
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, in our

1 area we have a catch for -- I don't know this is just
2 so confusing. It's different on State and Federal for
3 what we're allowed, and it's more than 40 fish.

4
5 So what do you want to do with this
6 one.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Maybe because
11 we don't understand it maybe we should just drop it,
12 just drop it from the table if the second.....

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Sounds good to me, let's
15 do that.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, move to table.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
26 favor.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, let's go
31 eat.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 7:00. We
38 didn't stop here until 6:30, I think it was. Something
39 that was supposed to end at 5:00 took until 6:30, so --
40 and I would like to ask the public I'm going to indulge
41 you in a couple short reports that might help you to
42 hear some of the things that's going on that affects
43 your fishery. So I'm going to have the reports for the
44 National Pacific Fisheries Management Council. We're
45 going to have -- go ahead.

46
47 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madam Chair, Chuck
48 Ardizzone for the record. On Page 55 there's a
49 briefing which covers the North Pacific Fishery
50 Management Council recent actions on bycatch and their

1 outreach actions. I was going to cover this but Becca
2 said she would be covering it in more detail so the
3 briefing is in the book and you'll get the information
4 just via a different source. So I'll pass the mic to
5 Becca.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

8

9 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

12

13 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair, and members of the Advisory Council. My name is
15 Becca Robbins-Gisclair, I'm with the Yukon River
16 Drainage Fisheries Association. And I just wanted to
17 offer a brief update on the North Pacific Fishery
18 Management Council's action on chinook salmon bycatch,
19 which they took this past April and I know that's a
20 little ways past now, but since this is your first
21 meeting since then and you've been hearing from me
22 regularly before leading up to that decision, I wanted
23 to make sure that you had accurate information about
24 what the Council decided to do. And that handout that
25 Vince just brought around kind of gives a description
26 in even more detail of what I'm going to go over. I
27 wanted to just a brief update and then let you guys ask
28 any questions and then provide an update on the chum
29 salmon bycatch actions, which are up before the Council
30 next.

31

32 So the Council took action this past
33 April to address chinook salmon bycatch. And they
34 chose a two-part approach, which is much more
35 complicated to explain than a simple hard cap. But
36 they basically have two different caps. And the
37 pollock has to choose, if they create what they call
38 industry incentive programs, which are designed to
39 reduce salmon bycatch and all conditions of salmon
40 abundance then they get to fish under a hard cap of
41 60,000 salmon. But within that 60,000 hard cap, they
42 have what they call a performance standard of 47,500.
43 And how it works is they're allowed to hit -- they're
44 allowed to go above 47,500 in two out of every seven
45 years with no repercussions. If they go above 47,500
46 in a third out of seven years then the hard cap
47 automatically drops down to 47,500.

48

49 The other option is if they don't
50 create these incentive programs then the hard cap is

1 just set at 47,500.

2

3 And so that's what the Council decided
4 to do at their April meeting. There are some benefits
5 to this, in that, there will actually be a hard cap on
6 the pollock fishery and there is no limit currently on
7 bycatch. But as you'll remember most of the --
8 yourself and many of the other groups in Western Alaska
9 were recommending a cap in the 30,000 range so this is
10 significantly higher than what we were all
11 recommending.

12

13 The other benefit is that as part of
14 this action, because they're setting a real strict
15 limit that will shut the fishery down if they reach it
16 they've decided that they have to have 100 percent
17 observer coverage on the fishery to be able to enforce
18 that limit. So that means that once these regulations
19 go into effect in 2011 they'll have observers on all of
20 the pollock fishery boats all the time.

21

22 So that's sort of the very basic
23 summary of the action. I don't want to take too much
24 of your time explaining it up front, but I certainly
25 could answer any questions about it.

26

27 There's also still, just to go over the
28 timeline for this process, the Council took action in
29 April, currently the National Marine Fisheries Service,
30 which is actually responsible for implementing these
31 regulations, is developing the regulations, they will
32 go out for a public comment period sometime around
33 December of this year, and there'll be, I believe a 90
34 day public comment period, and we'll be certainly
35 letting people know when that comment period is open.
36 And ultimately the Secretary of Commerce still has to
37 approve these regulations and the amendment to the
38 Fisheries Management Plan before they can go into
39 effect, and that'll take place sometime about the end
40 of March of next year. And so there still is an
41 opportunity for those of us who aren't happy with the
42 action that the Council took to write to the Secretary
43 of Commerce directly, in addition to commenting on the
44 regulations when they come out.

45

46 The other piece of this is chum salmon
47 bycatch, which you might remember a while back when the
48 Council was looking at both chinook and chum bycatch
49 and realized that it was going to be a big piece of
50 work and wanted to get the chinook piece done first.

1 And so now that they've taken action on that part
2 they're coming back to look at chum bycatch measures.
3 Right now the Council is still in the process of what
4 they call defining their alternatives, which basically
5 means outlining what their options are going to be that
6 they can choose from and they have a preliminary list
7 now. There's a salmon bycatch work group, which I
8 serve on, that was also part of the chinook
9 development, and that group is meeting at the end of
10 October and we'll try to come up with a list of options
11 for the Council to choose from, and then they'll be
12 looking at that again in December to narrow the range.
13 But they won't be actually taking final action on the
14 chum salmon bycatch at least not before 2010 at the
15 earliest. And so there'll be -- we'll definitely be
16 letting you know as this develops when, you know, the
17 key meetings are to send letters or even
18 representatives, but this is kind of the beginning of
19 the process for the chum salmon bycatch action as well.

20

21 Yeah.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, go ahead.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thanks, Becca. Can
28 you give us some ball park figures on what the chum
29 salmon bycatch is by the pollock industry and then also
30 what the percentages are to Western Alaska, and has it
31 been -- is there any kind of numbers on what the
32 representation would be to Yukon River drainage chum?

33

34 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Madam Chair.
35 Mr. Bassich. The chum salmon bycatch numbers this
36 year, I haven't looked recently but I believe they're
37 about 35 to 40,000, and they've generally been
38 somewhere between that and 100,000. There was a spike
39 in the chum salmon bycatch, similarly to the chinook
40 salmon bycatch and then I believe in 2005 there were
41 over 705,000 chum salmon caught as bycatch. We have
42 even less information about the stock of origin of chum
43 salmon than we do for chinook. There are a couple
44 studies that are pretty outdated at this point and the
45 stock of origin really varied a lot by season and by
46 location, anywhere from 19 percent Western Alaska to 60
47 percent Western Alaska, I think somewhere in that
48 range, so it's hard to say. There are definitely some
49 Western Alaska stocks represented but we don't know
50 specifically, exactly how many.

1 MR. BASSICH: One other question.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Going back to the chinook
6 salmon, I know that there was some work being done on
7 the sampling protocol of the chinook salmon and also
8 having the genetics for stock of origin for chinook
9 salmon, can you fill us in on what the Council or what
10 the industry is coming up with on that?

11

12 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Sure. There's
13 actually a report, the Council met in Anchorage just
14 last week, and that was one of the things that they
15 received a report on, was their update sampling
16 protocols, which the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
17 and the pollock industry put up some money to have sort
18 of sampling design done to see what they needed to
19 change and how the observers were sampling in the
20 pollock fishery to make sure that they had a
21 representative sample and that we could actually know
22 the stock of origin from the samples that were
23 collected. And my understanding is that NMFS, National
24 Marine Fisheries Service, is prepared to put those
25 sampling procedures into place with the advent of this
26 new chinook salmon bycatch measures, so that'll be
27 January 2011, that they need the 100 percent observer
28 coverage to implement it, but then they'll be doing a
29 much broader sampling and they'll actually be doing a
30 census where they count every salmon that's taken as
31 bycatch in the -- on the factory trawlers, and the
32 mother ships, the larger ships, where now they're doing
33 a representative sample.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: And when they do this
36 stock identification, is that going to be an in-season
37 information or is that something that's going to be
38 post-season? Is it going to be set up so that the
39 sampling, for the most part can be identified in-season
40 so that they can lay off particular stocks if they're
41 finding abundance of particular stocks?

42

43 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I think at this
44 point we're still trying to get the commitment that the
45 samples will actually be -- the genetic analysis will
46 be run on the samples and I don't think -- it won't, in
47 all likelihood, be on an in-season; I think we'll be
48 lucky if we can get them analyzed a year or two
49 afterwards.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: When does that
2 fishery occur?

3
4 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Madam Chair. It
5 takes place in two seasons, the A season, which starts
6 in January -- January 20th, I believe, and goes through
7 late spring and then the B season starts in, I believe,
8 it's the end of July or August and runs through
9 basically until they've caught their total allowable
10 catch, which is generally they fish until September or
11 October, occasionally it's been November.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, what's
14 the late spring then, what month?

15
16 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I believe it's
17 March or April, but I'd have to check to be sure on
18 that.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That looks like
21 a significant part of the year so, I don't know that's
22 interesting that that won't take place until January 11
23 so they're getting two fisheries.

24
25 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah, and
26 basically the reason for that is the Council makes a
27 decision but it still goes through the whole Federal
28 rulemaking process and so there's a 90 day comment
29 period because it's through the Magnuson-Stevens Act,
30 the Secretary of Commerce also has to approve this and
31 then while it might be possible to implement it earlier
32 because these are hard caps set on an annual limit they
33 have to start it at the beginning of the year and so
34 they can't possibly have it done for 2010 and so 2011
35 is the next time that they can start the clock,
36 basically.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it's been
39 a tough one for me to understand why the government
40 takes so long.

41
42 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Well, the good
43 side of it is that because of the regulatory process
44 there are several more opportunities for all of us to
45 comment that otherwise it would be over and it's not
46 over because of that.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What's the
49 likelihood of it changing though?

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: It's hard to say. In the
2 past the North National Marine Fisheries Service has
3 been pretty hesitant to change any of the Council's
4 decisions but with the new administration nobody's sure
5 exactly how that process will work.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Another one.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. If the Department
10 of Commerce was to reject this plan, what would be the
11 outcome of that, would then the Council revert back to
12 the old program until they could review it or come up
13 with another plan to present, or what are the
14 alternatives? If we were, say, successful in asking
15 the Department of Commerce not to approve this plan as
16 presented what's the process after that?

17
18 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: It would go back
19 to the Council and generally if the Secretary does have
20 a problem with part of a plan there's usually a
21 specific directive of what needs to be fixed. But our
22 ask from YRDFA is that not only that the Secretary
23 reject this action but that he uses his emergency
24 regulatory authority to put in place a hard cap in the
25 interim at a lower level.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, that's
28 good. Any other questions of Council members.

29
30 Vince.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair, I need to
33 ask Becca because I wasn't clear at Western Interior.
34 Have you got a picture of when the proposed rule will
35 be out for the chinook salmon bycatch because if it
36 goes out later than December you guys could take it up
37 in February, a letter to the -- in response to that?

38
39 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Vince the
40 proposed rule is scheduled to come out at the end of
41 December. The latest I've heard is that it is supposed
42 to come out before the Christmas holiday so that the
43 people doing the rule will have it off their desks and
44 the rest of us will be able to worry about it. But
45 that's the latest I've heard as of a couple weeks ago
46 and so far there haven't been any delays that would
47 push it back, although that's always possible.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: So then if it was
50 December 23rd it would be 60 days after that, would be

1 the comment period?

2

3 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: This one is a 90
4 day so it runs through March.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: The reason I bring this
7 up is because Western is going to wait to do any
8 response to the proposed rule until their February
9 meeting and so you'll be meeting with Western Interior,
10 maybe you'll want to do a joint, this is on the chinook
11 bycatch.

12

13 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Vince, I stand
14 corrected. I should read my own materials, it is a 60
15 day comment period, so it would be the end of February
16 then.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: It would be the end of
19 February?

20

21 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, they're meeting
24 February 22nd and 23rd, so it's a possibility -- it's a
25 possibility on that.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
30 questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks
35 Becca.

36

37 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah, thanks for
38 fitting this in on your agenda.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right, you
41 bet, no problem. All right, now it's time for the
42 public and I guess we don't need to sign up they can
43 just raise their hand and come forward.

44

45 So this is your chance to come up and
46 tell us your concerns or any of the issues in your
47 area. And we've heard from some of the people that are
48 in the audience already and so if anyone else wants to
49 raise their hand and come forth you're sure welcome to.

50

1 MR. SHENFELT: On record.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, you got to
4 be on record. You got to turn on the mic there, and
5 give us your name.

6

7 MR. SHENFELT: My name is Paul
8 Shenfelt, subsistence fisherman. One of the concerns I
9 think that we have up here -- along the whole Yukon
10 River drainage system is I understand that 97 percent,
11 that area of all fishing resources in Alaska, in Alaska
12 waters go to commercial uses, two percent designated
13 for subsistence, one percent for sports, those figures
14 were given to me by a member of the Advisory Council,
15 and I think that the subsistence use should at least
16 double up to 4 percent, which is, you know, way below
17 the aboriginal's take, before the Council -- you know,
18 before the fish traps are collectively deemed illegal,
19 you know, since those days.

20

21 We complied with the fish closure this
22 year. We were told by people that came up, there was a
23 pulse coming through of king salmon, and I recall them
24 saying four days when the pulse did come through it was
25 closed for 10 days. Also there was a lot of
26 misinformation. A lot of people were under the
27 impression that you couldn't even fish until the pulse
28 passed through, which was false. There was a lot of
29 miscommunication in that area.

30

31 Also I don't know how it relates to
32 moose hunting but the Fish and Wildlife officers and
33 their departments and officers have not adjusted to the
34 laws of the land in the Yukon Flats, which is a basic
35 law, which is of common courtesy, one of non-intrusion.
36 If a boat is driving, if they're dodging driftwood, you
37 can't run around with a brown jacket on and say, hey,
38 look at this guy he's drunk, you know, I mean they're
39 treating people out here in such fashion, stopping
40 people asking them where they're going. They're tying
41 up their boats on -- if they tie up their boats to a
42 Native allotment, you know, that's like trespassing and
43 we won't say that to them, we're not that type of
44 people to treat another human people like that and we
45 deserve respect here too for just trying to live here.

46

47 You know, none of you people will be
48 here when it's 60 below, you'll be somewhere probably
49 in warmer weather, probably in Fairbanks it's just as
50 cold, if any of you guys live there, if you're from

1 Anchorage, ha, ha, ha because it rains and it's cloudy
2 all the time and that probably affects a lot of the
3 decision-making, like down in Juneau, they never get
4 any sunshine.

5
6 Anyway, I missed the meeting today and
7 I'm just trying to guess what's going on here by
8 voicing these concerns of mine.

9
10 No consideration at all was given to
11 the dogs.

12
13 Whoever had -- I don't know if you'd
14 call it mismanagement of the fishing resources, but
15 whoever is making these decisions based on numbers and
16 based on this and that, I'm about to call the humane
17 society on whoever's responsible for this. A person
18 told me one time down in Stevens Village, they couldn't
19 take care of their dogs, it was cold out, the only way
20 that they got help, they called the humane society.
21 Somebody from Fairbanks flew in some hay and some
22 Friskies and they fed the team. The community tried
23 but it's pretty cold that time, and that just gave me
24 an idea, but, you know, nobody thought about the dogs.
25 What alternative resources -- in the old ways, you know
26 what I think they'd go out and get beaver, a lot of
27 people use carcasses from the lynx and the trappers,
28 they're pretty good around here, but right now there's
29 an immediate need. And, you know, I made a list, I've
30 got a list of about 190 dogs by the team owners, not
31 the household pooches but the people who have dogs and
32 dog teams and actually run them, and I don't think -- I
33 think I said at the last meeting that the mentality of
34 a lot of people in the state is, if we took Ol Yeller
35 out to the dump and take a videotape and shot him in
36 the head and say I can't feed you and send that tape
37 down to Channel 2 Anchorage, all sorts of people would
38 feel sorry and send a whole bunch of donations for
39 these dogs. But when it comes to the human beings, you
40 know, look at this guy's going to go hungry, yeah,
41 well, the hell with him, you know.

42
43 I know there's an emergency request to
44 the Federal government through the State for the people
45 who didn't have -- didn't catch king salmon, don't have
46 no king salmon in their freezer, I still think that
47 that emergency order should contain things for the dogs
48 too.

49
50 You know if you take the percentages of

1 how much a human being eats during the course of a
2 winter of fish, my Auntie in here, she said at the last
3 meeting, she don't like White man food, she got to have
4 Indian food, (In Native) Indian food. Now, a lot of
5 the people who are putting in for the -- waiting for
6 the request for the Federal government, I guess, who
7 subsidizes the lack of fish in their freezers, if you
8 take the percentage of how much we eat and compare it
9 to how much traditionally the dogs eat, they have fish
10 every day, you know, and I know somewhat the legal
11 system and the court system, and my bet would be
12 instead of filing a lawsuit on behalf of the people I
13 think the dogs have the better shot and, you know,
14 traditionally speaking with the mentality that
15 everybody seems to have on these fishing resources I
16 think I'd put my money on them.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Pretty sad.

19

20 MR. SHENFELT: Anyway if there's
21 anybody that can address this concern in addition to
22 the proposal, please let me know, because I'm not
23 talking about the whole Yukon River, I don't know
24 what's going on on the whole Yukon River about that,
25 but I'm saying the immediate needs right now is for the
26 dogs. And, you know, if it can be included with that
27 proposal, that would put a lot of people's mind at
28 ease.

29

30 And also by complying with the closure
31 and not defying it, I sort of talked to people and
32 said, you know, maybe we should this year and maybe
33 we'll have a voice, now if you want to manage fish you
34 got to spawning grounds and work from up river down
35 river, you know. And you've got to make the biggest
36 users of the resources by regulations, for instance,
37 this would be an ideal thing, the dogs are hungry right
38 now, the pollock industry, by a regulation should be
39 the ones, if we're running low, they're the ones that
40 should be coming up here and giving the dogs some food,
41 you know, all this bycatch and all this kind of issues,
42 but, you know, that's -- it's not an unattainable goal.
43 And like I said it's only fair if you reap the biggest
44 rewards from the resources and problems come up you
45 should be the ones to be able to kick back a little bit
46 of your, what do they call it, your abundance or
47 whatever you got.

48

49 All right, thank you.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
2 Paul. Paul, hang on. Andy.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, for your
5 testimony Paul. I'm a dog musher, I live up in Eagle,
6 I know exactly what you're talking about.

7
8 MR. SHENFELT: Thank you.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: And I've been through
11 this for many, many years, just as you, both in the
12 king salmon fisheries and the chum salmon fisheries so
13 I feel for you. I'd like to give you a little bit of
14 advice. I've been very successful in our area getting
15 programs to help feed dogs initiated. It takes a lot
16 of work to do it but my advice to you and your tribal
17 council here is be a very squeaky wheel and you will be
18 able to obtain some help but don't waste time doing it
19 because the windows are usually very short when there's
20 a disaster that happens and people and animals are
21 affected, there's a very short period of time when the
22 public has compassion for that and is willing to step
23 forward and make something happen, but they will do it
24 if you put the energy into it.

25
26 I think this year's chum salmon run was
27 a real surprise to everyone, I think everyone was
28 expecting it to be at least a normal year and it caught
29 a lot of people by surprise. I know all the people up
30 in our region, we focused very hard on working together
31 to try and get as much chum salmon put together as
32 individuals and some of us even kind of co-op'd
33 together to make our fishing efforts more efficient,
34 and not everybody got everything they wanted but, you
35 know, I think we were able to get enough to get us
36 through the year. But I know what you people are going
37 through here, in both of these fisheries, and I think
38 you'll find that this particular Council is very
39 sensitive and understanding of the position you're in
40 and we're everything we can think of to try and help
41 you, but I think the one thing that you can do to help
42 yourself more than anything else is make sure that you
43 show up to the Board of Fish meeting as a community and
44 as individuals, as a tribal government, and voice your
45 opinions and your concerns and share these experiences
46 like you share with us, with that entity because that's
47 the way you're going to get change made.

48
49 MR. SHENFELT: Yeah, well, it would be
50 nice to have a meeting across river, just take a teapot

1 and no food and sit there for a day and let that
2 fishwheel don't run.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: I hear you. Thank you,
5 for your testimony.

6

7 MR. SHENFELT: Thank you.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: And I hope you can find a
10 solution there.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
13 you, Paul. Anyone else who would like to come and give
14 us some info and speak about your issues.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Come on up and
19 don't be shy.

20

21 MR. FIRMIN: Also I was going to plan
22 on tomorrow in our wildlife section, I wanted to try
23 and get Ft. Yukon area, the remainder of Unit 25D,
24 discuss options to try to get it to be a Tier II permit
25 area so people from Kenai can't come a mile from your
26 cabin and shoot a moose, they'd have to be a
27 permitholder and it'd be open to local residents only.

28

29 If you guys have questions or comments
30 or views -- I know before when they did that to beaver,
31 Area 93, I think Ft. Yukon people are the only ones
32 that opposed it, because they would have had to get a
33 permit to go hunt in a place they traditionally could
34 have before without any problems.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

37

38 MR. FIRMIN: So if anybody.....

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now, that still
41 has got me mesmerized.

42

43 MR. FIRMIN:has questions or
44 comments on that I'd like to hear that tonight because
45 a lot of you, I think, will be working tomorrow in the
46 morning.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

49

50 MR. P. SOLOMON: Philip Solomon, Ft.

1 Yukon. I spoke to a couple of you about this on the
2 side, but the communication is something that's pretty
3 important for me when we can fish, and like I told
4 somebody we had -- we decided we're not going to fish
5 on the first pulse but we didn't realize that it was
6 open before that closure when we were closed down for
7 that first pulse. There was a period of time before
8 that that we were -- we could have been allowed to
9 fish. And just communication like that. And like
10 prior notice, when you think that we've got enough
11 escapement goals met or the goals met going into
12 Canada, if we -- if you see that happening, if we can
13 get maybe prior notice that, hey, maybe in a week from
14 now we might have our needs met in Canada and it's
15 possible you might have an opener. Being that we are
16 the ones that's always losing out, I don't know how you
17 communicate with them down river but for us anyway, for
18 us people that aren't consistently year after year,
19 we're not getting our needs met, it's pretty important
20 for us to get our needs met and if not for me, for the
21 elders. Because a lot of us are fishing and giving
22 fish to other people and this year it's been like that
23 for some of us, we're helping each other and trying
24 whatever we can, like Andy was saying, there's several
25 people going together to try to get fish going. Single
26 moms. Elders. If we have a year where we're just
27 going to shut down, we still need to meet the needs of
28 the elders, if nothing else, and I think that should be
29 pretty important.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil and then
34 Andy, you got some questions.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. You guys didn't
37 know that you could fish before that first pulse
38 closure; is that what you said?

39
40 MR. P. SOLOMON: There was no notice
41 anywhere. I was asking people in the Native village if
42 they heard anything and basically what it was, was up
43 to me to call in to find out, and I just thought
44 there'd be better communication. I didn't know that --
45 I just took it for granted that we're just not supposed
46 to fish so I didn't bother to call in. And if I did
47 call in then possibly I would have got some fish, but I
48 didn't do it.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. We have a weekly

1 teleconference, YRDFA does, or YRDFA pays for it, or I
2 mean they manage it, or conduct it, and then the Yukon
3 River Panel actually pays for it, but we have these
4 weekly teleconferences where they give a report from
5 each village and one week they start at the mouth of
6 the Yukon and go up the river, village by village, and
7 then the other, the next week, they start way up at the
8 headwaters, from Canada and come down the river, but
9 those teleconferences are really important and you
10 should have a couple of people that -- it's every
11 Tuesday at 1:00 o'clock that participate in those
12 because you actually can track where the fish are
13 because there's people on there that tell where the
14 fish are and so then you know when it's time to
15 actually go fishing because you can keep track of where
16 the fish are at the time but you guys really missed out
17 by not fishing before that first pulse closure because
18 the fish were running for a couple of weeks before
19 that.

20

21 MR. P. SOLOMON: Right.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Not real strong but
24 there were fish there and good quality ones. But I
25 just wanted to make sure you knew that.

26

27 MR. P. SOLOMON: Well, that's a good
28 point because we, at the time, had two natural
29 resources people here. Two different outfits CATG and
30 the Native Village and I'd like to pay attention to it
31 but sometimes I'm busy so I wasn't able to. But I
32 guess we're all asking each other to watch and I don't
33 know, I just -- somehow we need to have better
34 communication; that's all I'm asking for.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So help me out,
37 is anyone in Ft. Yukon on these teleconferences?
38 Andrew says you're gone for the summer.

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: I know there are a few
41 people that do listen in on them, like basically with
42 the tribe and CATG, but if you don't go ask them about
43 it, normally it's just whatever's posted at the store
44 that I've noticed or if you don't listen in yourself,
45 but I know a lot of people were firefighting this
46 summer so there was a lot of coming and goings.

47

48 MR. P. SOLOMON: I know I wasn't the
49 only one that was wondering because there was a bunch
50 of us that was asking, like, you know, we kept meeting

1 over here and kept running into each other, as we
2 passed, it's like, so what's the deal, when are we
3 going to be able to open, we didn't know.

4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me just add
6 something, Sue.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, Virgil.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Another thing that
11 happens, the Department of Fish and Game sends out what
12 they call announcements, news releases and they do this
13 at least every third day during the summer, and weekly
14 they give out a real extensive one before they have the
15 teleconference but you could get those sent to the
16 village office or CATG or someone and just post them on
17 the bulletin board and then people would know what's
18 going on.

19
20 MR. P. SOLOMON: Right.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: And you would know
23 where the fish are and actually they're pretty
24 extensive news releases when they -- you know,
25 informational reports that they give on where the fish
26 are and how many fish are passing here and there and et
27 cetera, but that would be something good to do in the
28 future. Because they can just fax those to you or
29 email them, one or the other, to the CATG office or the
30 village office or some office so that they could be
31 posted.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You guys have a
34 radio station, is that what I understand here?

35
36 MR. P. SOLOMON: Yes. And I've got an
37 email address if we could maybe hook up in a different
38 way, have different ways, methods of communicating.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If it was out
41 on your radio and you guys could listen to it.

42
43 MR. P. SOLOMON: For myself I'll pay
44 better attention next year, I guarantee you that. But
45 I mean we've got two offices that could have gave us
46 some information but, anyway.....

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's just not
49 happening, yeah.

50

1 MR. P. SOLOMON:better luck next
2 year, I guess.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah, go
5 ahead, Andy and then Frank.
6
7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, two suggestions.
8 YRDFA also will send out -- they send out after every
9 teleconference a summary of that and you can be on
10 their emailing list and your tribal government should.
11 I know in our community we have a couple of people that
12 participate in the conference, but we also make sure
13 that once those get emailed to someone that they get
14 posted at the post office, we make a pretty good size
15 poster that says these are the openings and closures or
16 whatever and that really helps out. So that might be
17 something to look into making sure you contact YRDFA
18 and get on that email list so that you're apprised. If
19 you can't take the time to listen, like I don't have
20 the time many times to listen to the whole
21 teleconference, but I can look at it at my own
22 timeframe because the summary of it is emailed to me.
23 So get on that email list and that will probably
24 eliminate the problem that you're having.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Frank.
27
28 MR. GURTLER: I was just wondering, is
29 it was up to the Fish and Game to let the people know
30 when the openings are, aren't they responsible for
31 that? They sure have one when they close it.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince.
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: My experience is, and I
36 don't work for Fish and Game, but they have an
37 extensive email list that goes out to everybody, they
38 have a huge fax list that goes to all the village and
39 tribal councils, so they've been doing that, so if you
40 give me your email address I'll get it to Fish and Game
41 so you'd be on that list. Realize you're going to get
42 a lot of emails.
43
44 MR. P. SOLOMON: Right.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Because we're not talking
47 one or two here.
48
49 MR. P. SOLOMON: Vince, I realize that.
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: We're talking quite a
2 few. And then I'll get it to YRDFA for the other one
3 and then your fall back is I have an 800 number that I
4 share with the Federal in-season manager so I can relay
5 your question to him, if it's a State one then he'll
6 relay it to the State. So there's multiple levels to
7 do it, but the key one which has been mentioned already
8 is the Tuesday YRDFA teleconference is very rich with
9 information. If you can get some people assigned to
10 listen to that then you'll be plugged in. So anyways
11 make sure you give me your email address and I'll plug
12 it into these other people.

13

14 MR. P. SOLOMON: Well, if nobody else
15 is going to put it up, you know, I mean, you know, it'd
16 be nice if somebody would -- somebody that's getting
17 paid to run natural resources, or somebody would put it
18 up, if they're not going to do it, I'll do it. I'll
19 put it up myself if you would send me the information.
20 But next year I promise you I'll be paying better
21 attention to the whole thing.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go ahead.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: And, Phillip, while we
26 have you up here I wanted to thank you for
27 participation earlier in the day and also talking to us
28 tonight and anybody in the public here, that's why
29 we're here at these meetings, we want to meet people
30 locally and we really want to hear straight from the
31 horse's mouth how you're feeling, what issues are
32 important to you and what you think needs to happen to
33 fix those issues and with that in mind Andrew's brought
34 up that you guys are having problems with moose around
35 here and it's a pretty serious situation and I think
36 I'd like to -- if you're willing, to hear a few
37 comments from you, on where you feel this area is on
38 the moose issue, conflicts with other hunters and/or
39 law enforcement entities and kind of just give us a
40 little summary of where you're -- how you feel about
41 some of these issues because I'm really kind of
42 concerned about that. I've been concerned for years
43 about urban, non -- or non-rural and rural conflicts
44 over fish and game, and I think it's something that's
45 really important that needs to be addressed on a long-
46 term timeframe and it sounds to me like you have a real
47 problem up here at times with that, people coming in
48 from outside and you're having to compete with other
49 people for the resource.

50

1 So if maybe you could take a few
2 minutes and share some of your thoughts I'd really
3 appreciate it.

4
5 MR. P. SOLOMON: Sure. Okay. Actually
6 I've done it earlier but I've got another thing too.
7 There's hunters coming here with these big expensive
8 boats and they've got a lot of money to spend and some
9 of us -- I mean they might be the big shots of these
10 companies, oil companies or whatever, I don't know
11 where they're from, but they got a lot of money and
12 they come in here with these boats with inboards and
13 they're gas hogs and running up the river and when you
14 see an airplane going over and you know it's them, and
15 they're talking and they're communicating or they land,
16 they can go up the Porcupine and they got all the --
17 all the sand bars are just like runways so they can
18 easily -- somebody can pull over and tell them where
19 the moose is and, you know, it's easy for them to go
20 hunting but for us, we've got to get out there and do
21 our leg work, do our walking, and go find the moose.
22 We don't got no eyes in the sky.

23
24 But, you know, like I told earlier, I
25 think, you know, we're allowed one moose a year, and
26 some years I just like to shoot a one year old bull.
27 If it's nine months old, I don't even care. If that's
28 my allotment, let me have that. I know in some of the
29 cities or some places of Alaska they got to be a 50-
30 inch and got all these regulations to them. I'm glad I
31 don't have to hunt like that. But, you know, it should
32 be one moose a year at the time of period during that
33 year that I choose. If I run across a moose in August,
34 I don't see what's wrong with me killing in August.
35 And by then it's only going to be a few months, I mean,
36 you know, seven months old or something, you know, I
37 don't care, if that's what I decided. You know maybe
38 I'm going -- maybe I'm going to go out and get a
39 welding job during hunting season because that's my
40 choice. I either have to take my job offers when it
41 comes or gamble that I'm going to get a job offer after
42 the season's over and so I'm going to go moose hunting
43 and then get my job later. But then maybe I'm not
44 going to get that job offer so I'm always expecting a
45 job offer in August or September, somewhere in the
46 fall. So I mean I don't see why we have to wait until
47 September to get our moose, see. And also the season
48 isn't really working out very good for us we could
49 stretch it out a little longer, open it at the same
50 time but have it a couple weeks longer. I don't see

1 what it hurts.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So just out of
4 curiosity are you -- around here is it State regs or
5 Federal?

6

7 MR. P. SOLOMON: Yeah, it's both.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and if I
10 look.....

11

12 MR. P. SOLOMON: It depends on where
13 you're hunting.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And if I look
16 at the map, just right around Ft. Yukon -- go ahead, I
17 was just trying to get my mind clear on that.

18

19 MR. P. SOLOMON: And also another issue
20 is the harassment from the -- all the Fish and Game,
21 Fish and Wildlife officers, whatever. Like I was
22 talking about that fellow that's cruising down the
23 river with his airplane and circling me while I'm
24 waiting for my moose to come out, you know, I'm not the
25 only one that's hearing this, I've heard this from
26 countless other people, they're doing that -- they're
27 landing on the side of the river and -- somebody's
28 driving by and they're saying, hey, you got to pull
29 over and a lot of us don't know the laws, a lot of us
30 don't know that we don't have to pull over, and if we
31 have an empty boat, I don't see why they want us to
32 pull over, you know. If I'm going fishing, if I'm
33 going duck hunting I don't have to have a moose hunting
34 license.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: It's called a Coast Guard
37 check, that's what they told me.

38

39 MR. P. SOLOMON: But you know what I'm
40 saying, there shouldn't be this harassment from people,
41 all it is is they're just pissing us off.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm
44 looking at both these regs right here, State and
45 Federal, on the Federal season it's August 25th to
46 February 28th, of that 25D west.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: That's the proposal,
49 that's the Tier II-- that's the Tier II area that goes
50 from.....

1 MR. P. SOLOMON: That's down river.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN:the lower mouth of
4 Birch Creek clean down past Beaver and into Stevens and
5 we are the remainder of Unit 25D.
6
7 MR. P. SOLOMON: And you better shoot
8 it on that same -- the other side of the river.
9
10 MR. FIRMIN: And they use Birch Creek
11 as the boundary and I've asked people countless times
12 well does that mean I have to shoot a moose on the
13 north side of the north bank and I can't shoot him on
14 the south and they said it's at the officer's
15 discretion whether you can shoot them on the north bank
16 or not.
17
18 MR. P. SOLOMON: So if you shoot it on
19 the north bank you're going to get fined.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: You might get fined.
22
23 MR. P. SOLOMON: Lose your boat and
24 everything else.
25
26 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: TM, is that
29 Tier II on the State regs?
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: That's the permit the
32 State regs, yes, I don't have the State regs but.....
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's the
35 State regs. But the Federal regs are saying.....
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: You've got until the 25th
38 of September. But look at it outside it's still
39 raining out there. We need to -- like Phillip says, we
40 need to adjust our.....
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, so I need
43 to go to the remainder.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN:moose seasons to go
46 with the climate, leave it open longer for climate
47 change.
48
49 MR. P. SOLOMON: But see -- well, the
50 river's still open and there is some young moose

1 running around still. I can still go out and get my
2 young moose, it ain't -- you know it ain't all stinky
3 or, you know, what I'm saying.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: December 1st
6 through December 20th.

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: That's your second season,
9 they have that in the State.

10
11 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, they don't.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Phillip, how long have
16 you lived here?

17
18 MR. P. SOLOMON: I'm 50 years old, I
19 was born and raised here and I've spent most of my life
20 here.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: And in that amount of
23 time, how have things changed for you as far as hunting
24 and fishing in this area in say the last 10 years or
25 the last.....

26
27 MR. P. SOLOMON: Well, the most.....

28
29 MR. BASSICH: When you think about it,
30 what are the biggest changes that have taken place?

31
32 MR. P. SOLOMON: The biggest things
33 that's took place -- that changed is the climate. The
34 lakes have dried up. We don't have the -- there's not
35 as many moose around. Ducks and geese, they've even
36 changed their migratory routes, kind of.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

39
40 MR. P. SOLOMON: We're getting more
41 laws on us, you know, it just seems like every time we
42 talk to somebody they change the laws against us that's
43 why a lot of people are hesitant to speak or write
44 things down on paper.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

47
48 MR. P. SOLOMON: Because it's a
49 papertrail. Everything we write down on paper they use
50 it against us.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince, what you
2 got going?
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think what we
5 could do for you, to make this work out better.....
6
7 MR. P. SOLOMON: It's not just for me,
8 I'm speaking for the general population.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: No, I know, but I meant
11 since we're here -- I don't see the Refuge manager
12 here, but we'll try maybe tomorrow to set a little time
13 aside and compare these regs and see because right now
14 both the Board of Game, call for proposals and the
15 Federal Board are up for wildlife proposals. I'm not
16 saying there will be a proposal you'll like, but I'm
17 sensing there may be something in here. And I know
18 Andrew is talking about a Tier II, that's' something
19 else, but you're talking about a different season date,
20 so maybe we could get some meeting of the minds because
21 the wildlife biologist is here, the Refuge manager,
22 maybe Chuck, we could sit down and help you figure this
23 all out, what is there and what you would like and then
24 maybe look at writing a proposal or something.
25
26 MR. P. SOLOMON: Well, where is Rob?
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know. I mean
29 he's here, I believe.
30
31 MR. P. SOLOMON: He's supposed to be at
32 the meeting.
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Well.....
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Why isn't he
37 here at the after hours time.
38
39 MR. P. SOLOMON: Yeah, I mean did he
40 leave town or what?
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know, but I
43 mean if he isn't here we could work it out, I mean
44 but.....
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Maybe he just
47 gave the time for you guys but he sure should be
48 listening.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: But that's up to you if

1 you want us to help you. That's what Chuck and I and
2 others are here, is to get your issue, look at this
3 stuff and then give you options and you can decide on
4 proposals or not.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I
7 don't.....

8
9 MR. P. SOLOMON: Well, see, I probably
10 know what you know inside, I'm just asking can we
11 change the season, can we extend it another two weeks
12 on the tail end, you know,?

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we can
15 put proposals forth, and that's what.....

16
17 MR. P. SOLOMON: Yeah, put a proposal
18 in. That's all I'm requesting.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We probably --
21 I mean just.....

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: (Talking without a
24 microphone)

25
26 MR. GLANZ: Can't hear you Andrew.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, put your
29 mic on there.

30
31 MR. FIRMIN: I'm sorry. In the front
32 of this book there's one here for individuals --
33 there's a form in the front here to submit your own
34 proposals.

35
36 MR. P. SOLOMON: Right.

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: You could submit them as a
39 tribe, a committee and I wanted to submit one with this
40 Advisory Council.

41
42 MR. P. SOLOMON: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we need to
45 hash out what that will be.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: We need to hash it out and
48 that's going to be a little more.....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And we probably

1 should spend some time -- I mean you're going to be
2 around, right?
3
4 MR. P. SOLOMON: I'll be around and I'm
5 going to fill it out, but would you guys also help me
6 on that, you know, I think.....
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there's.....
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I guess
11 I'd like to hear from the rest of the public here.....
12
13 MR. P. SOLOMON: Right.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:and then
16 if there's time tonight maybe we could continue this
17 discussion about how you'd want this written, but do
18 you have an idea of what you want to do?
19
20 MR. FIRMIN: I started writing one.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Your mic.
23
24 MR. FIRMIN: The one option that I had
25 was to extend the Federal season like say five days in
26 either direction so it's August 20th to September 30th,
27 or add those 10 days on the end of it so it goes into
28 October 5th.
29
30 MR. P. SOLOMON: The end, right.
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: And the other one, my
33 other option, too, was going to be to make this a Tier
34 II permit area, which would be.....
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: On the State
37 side.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN:on the Federal level,
40 I think you can just leave it as.....
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, Tier II is
43 State.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: It's State.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, uh-huh.
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: Well, then how come it's
50 in all this Federal land down here is a Tier II?

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Because it's a
2 State permit, yeah.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Well, either way those
5 were the two options I was thinking because I believe
6 that down river they don't -- the Tier II permit are
7 only available to local rural residents and nobody
8 else.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Not the State.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: Not necessarily.
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Not the State.
17 Not the State. Unfortunately Tier II is open to all
18 Alaska residents.
19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Well, there's 60 permits
21 given out, 25 for Stevens, 25 for Beaver and 10 for
22 Birch Creek.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And are they
25 done by -- it's the drawing, right?
26
27 MR. FIRMIN: This is.....
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is it
30 registration or draw?
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: It's registration I
33 believe.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, well,
36 that's better for you guys.
37
38 MR. FIRMIN: And they don't even give
39 out all 60 permits every year. I tried filling out for
40 one this year but they told me no because I emailed it
41 to them a day late.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's not very
44 good commensense.
45
46 MR. FIRMIN: No.
47
48 MR. P. SOLOMON: There's two permits,
49 there's a State permit.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You know, I do
2 not live here so I don't know what you guys have to
3 deal with for -- I just know that Tier II is through
4 the State. And if you go into a restriction on the
5 Federal side it's a complete different, it's .809 I
6 believe.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: .804.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: .804. .804,
11 which probably isn't necessary, I don't think, but I
12 don't know. You guys are going to -- do you know
13 what.....

14
15 MR. M. PETER: You need to register
16 before May 30th and it's a first come, first serve
17 basis. I've talked with the enforcement officer before
18 and a Tier II.....

19
20 MR. BASSICH: You need to come up to
21 the microphone.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We need to have
24 -- you have to come to the microphone, I'm sorry.

25
26 MR. P. SOLOMON: Anyway this is what
27 changed since I was younger until now, there's more
28 regulations coming in and -- go ahead, Mike you can
29 take over.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
32 fine.

33
34 MR. M. PETER: Yeah, I testified
35 earlier.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. M. PETER: My name is Michael
40 Peter.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Michael Peter.

43
44 MR. M. PETER: Also, too, you know, I
45 mean I think maybe you guys need to work with us
46 because international law, us, as indigenous people, we
47 still fall under Gwich'in law, internationally.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And we're here
50 to listen.

1 MR. M. PETER: And like I said, we do
2 need to work together. And the Fish and Wildlife
3 officer that did present that to us, he said you go to
4 the post office before May 30th, register, put your
5 name, and that you'd be able to -- because it is a Tier
6 II, it's not a drawing, it's by locals only and he was
7 wondering why that people weren't putting in for it,
8 and people didn't know that they were eligible to put
9 in for it.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess that
12 doesn't surprise me.

13

14 MR. M. PETER: Yeah. And it's like
15 more stuff needs to be -- there needs to be more
16 education, more communication.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. M. PETER: And, you know, but us,
21 also, too, as indigenous people, you know, we fall
22 under the international law, too, also, as indigenous
23 people under our Gwich'in flag. And I think also too
24 that needs to be followed and, you know, maybe some of
25 us do or don't have to be here but I know that we need
26 to start working closer together, if we could close
27 that gap, the communication gap that needs to be
28 closed.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

31

32 MR. M. PETER: Because I know there is
33 a lot of false saying and when something does happen,
34 there sure is a Federal officer right out here in no
35 time and they are actually here, they've checked me out
36 before, too, I mean me, I had my son, my wife and then
37 a friend, and we were out riding and we seen a cow and
38 calf and they were right behind us all that time, you
39 know, and like we kept going and, you know, and then
40 they checked us out before that and they knew who I was
41 after that and then when I landed down here in the
42 beach they checked me out again and I had a moose, like
43 I told you before. But I punched my ticket and
44 everything else. And like I said there was another
45 boat that was from the outside, so we're competing
46 against outside hunters again. Not only that, I mean
47 and I said, well, they're waiting for the 9th or 11th
48 and he said, yeah, I -- I couldn't remember the date,
49 for that to open to non-residents and we're getting --
50 and like I said, you know, the moose population here is

1 low enough already and Phillip -- and to answer one of
2 Phillip's questions, too, I -- before I left earlier I
3 talked with Rob and Rob said we're going to get a
4 proposal together to close the Refuge to outsiders, to
5 residents only for that moose hunting season. So tell
6 Phillip, you know, fill in some of the void on that.

7

8 But like I said, we're Gwich'in and we
9 do go on both sides of the border and not only that but
10 as an indigenous people too, we fall under the
11 international law.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Can
16 you answer the questions, you know, do you understand
17 the regulation as it is now?

18

19 MR. M. PETER: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's a State
22 regulation for Tier II and it's a registration.

23

24 MR. M. PETER: Yes. And like I said,
25 it was mentioned before that it was -- it was not
26 really public knowledge, people didn't really know
27 about it. You know, that.....

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you know how
30 many years it was in place?

31

32 MR. M. PETER: No, I can't really say,
33 but nobody really knew that they could put in for it,
34 they thought it was a raffle, a drawing.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And where do
37 you go for the registration?

38

39 MR. M. PETER: The post office.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

42

43 MR. M. PETER: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The post office
46 issues the Tier II?

47

48 MR. M. PETER: No, they submit your
49 name on behalf of the Tier II. It goes through the --
50 supposedly it goes through the Federal office.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That doesn't
2 make sense. Chuck, can you answer that? Chuck's from
3 the Office of Subsistence Management and so, you know,
4 when there's a State regulation, some of the times the
5 permits are issued differently and this is one I don't
6 understand, I don't think.

7
8 MR. ARDIZZONE: My name's Chuck
9 Ardizzone for everybody out in the audience. There's
10 some confusion here because there's a Federal
11 registration permit for parts of 25D west, and that
12 would -- I think this is what he's talking about.
13 That's through the Refuge. So, you know, like Beaver
14 gets 25 permits, Birch Creek would get 10 and Stevens
15 Village gets 25 permits allocated. But there's also a
16 Tier II permit, TM940 under the State in part of 25D
17 west. But then there's a lot of different seasons
18 here. 25D remainder, there's one, two, three, four,
19 five, six different seasons under the State and then
20 the Federal regulations on 25D remainder is just a
21 general hunt ticket, harvest ticket. So I think we're
22 mixing a bunch of things together.

23
24 But I'd be happy to work with these
25 gentlemen this evening or tomorrow and try and come up
26 with a proposal. But I can see why they're confused,
27 I'm looking at it and I'm confused.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah, I am.
30 I thought I was a logical sensible person but I'm
31 having trouble here.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Madam Chair, you do
34 have the area biologist here and the Federal Refuge
35 manager. It is confusing, no doubt, but this was
36 something that was worked out. Remember you have a
37 checkerboard land jurisdiction.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: You have to remember
42 that, you're now out of fisheries, you're now into
43 wildlife. So they're here if you'd like them to help
44 you figure out this hunt in 25D west.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The State Fish
47 and Game person for this area?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Beth Lenart's here.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Cool. And we
2 have the Refuge manager. We'd just kind of like to
3 understand these regulations for 25D.
4
5 MR. M. PETER: They don't understand
6 them either, they don't live here.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's what I
9 was afraid of. They don't understand them either.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MR. M. PETER: Well, there you go.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, are you
16 serious, you don't understand your own regs?
17
18 Okay, if it's okay, while you guys try
19 to get a little handle on this.
20
21 MR. M. PETER: Sure, that'd be fine.
22 But other than that, too, like I mentioned with the
23 fish, you know, us, as aboriginal people, you know, we
24 are -- we also fall under the international law so it
25 is our right also not only in ANCSA, but our right, our
26 God -- our grandfather rights, if I may say, that out
27 of respect for the State and the Feds, we do follow
28 your regs. So we're not just here, just a bunch of
29 yahoos, that we don't know what we're doing, we don't
30 know our laws, we do know what we're doing, and that's
31 why we live out here. I mean we'll fight to protect as
32 long as we're here.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew, do you
37 understand your regs?
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Sort of, yes.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sort of.
42
43 MR. FIRMIN: I just don't understand,
44 you know, (no microphone).....
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, that's
47 why we'll take this -- okay.
48
49 MS. FAIRCHILD: I just want to say, my
50 name is Louise Fairchild, and I was born and raised

1 here. And my concern is what they all said, too. And
2 I haven't heard anybody talk about the planes that
3 comes in to go hunting.

4
5 We have these Fish and Wildlife check
6 the river and they stop us, of course, they stopped me
7 too going out fishing. They want to know what's in the
8 boat. I don't think that's called -- you know, it
9 shouldn't be that way. But this fall I counted six
10 planes that flew by here, I don't think they even
11 landed here, they just flew by and we all know that
12 they're out hunting. Who checks up on them? How many
13 moose do they have? Do they have moose meat in their
14 plane or just antlers? And what about all these
15 hunters that come up and they go out to hunt on the
16 Brooks Range, they come here, what do they do with
17 their meat? They're from down the States, they come up
18 here and they go hunt out there. Now, what happened to
19 their meat? Now, I don't think they'll send it all the
20 way down to the States, what do they do with their
21 meat?

22
23 I know that there's tons of antler that
24 flies out of here on the airlines, now who's checking
25 up on them?

26
27 I mean we have this Fish and Wildlife
28 that's checking us on the boat or even our fishing, I
29 mean I'd like some answers, I want to know who's
30 checking on those people, and what they're doing with
31 their meat. Because there's people here in Ft. Yukon
32 who didn't get their meat. I didn't get my moose this
33 year. And a lot of other people didn't get their
34 moose. I just want to know what happened to all the
35 moose that they take, I know that they don't take two
36 or three moose out of here when I see three big antlers
37 and maybe a couple hams that goes into the airplane. I
38 mean I check the plane, and I see it, you know, what
39 happened to it?

40
41 And that was my concern.

42
43 And also the people -- the Fish and
44 Wildlife stopping us on the river, I mean we want to go
45 out fishing, we don't want to be harassed by them. So
46 that's another concern.

47
48 Okay, thank you.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

1 Virgil.
2
3 MS. FAIRCHILD: Thank you.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I'd like to
6 ask you some questions, if I may.
7
8 MS. FAIRCHILD: Okay.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, what you said is
11 a number of planes land at Ft. Yukon, they have the
12 antlers.
13
14 MS. FAIRCHILD: Some of them don't even
15 land here, these are private airplanes.
16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, I know. But
18 what I'm -- so I have a couple of questions to ask.
19 This really interests me.
20
21 Okay, you have plans land, they have
22 antlers and not enough meat; is that what you're
23 saying?
24
25 MS. FAIRCHILD: Yeah, not enough meat.
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, now are these
28 commercial planes, like Wright's Air or someone like
29 that?
30
31 MS. FAIRCHILD: No.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: They're just private
34 planes?
35
36 MS. FAIRCHILD: Just private planes. A
37 couple of -- Warbelows, they -- or Wrights, whoever's
38 hauling meat out, they don't haul enough of one moose,
39 I know how big -- you know, how many chunk of moose
40 they should have. I don't see no ribs or anything in
41 that plane, you know, what happened to the rest of the
42 meat?
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Now, Wrights is a
45 legitimate transporter and air taxi operator, they're
46 not going to do anything that's in violation of the
47 law, I don't think, in fact I know they're not.
48 MS. FAIRCHILD: How do you know, I mean
49 you got to come down in there.....
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I deal with
2 Wrights, I'm a big game guide and so is my son and she
3 is also, and the last thing that Wrights is going to do
4 is violate the law and risk losing one of those
5 airplanes because if they get caught violating the law
6 they lose the airplane; that's how the State gets all
7 their airplanes.

8
9 MS. FAIRCHILD: Well, who goes and
10 checks on them?

11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: The State Troopers are
13 supposed to do that.

14
15 MS. FAIRCHILD: Well, I don't think
16 there's State Troopers here or when they land in
17 Fairbanks.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm attempting to give
20 you some advice to solve the problem that's why I asked
21 a couple of questions. If you see a private plane land
22 and it has antlers and if it's moose antlers and you
23 can tell by looking at the size of the moose antlers if
24 it's a mature moose, of course, it depends on where
25 they killed it then they have to have a certain amount
26 of meat with them, if they don't have that meat then
27 it's wanton waste, and if they get caught with wanton
28 waste they will automatically, I guarantee you, lose
29 that airplane. It'll be gone. The Troopers will
30 confiscate it.....

31
32 MR. FAIRCHILD: Well, you guys should
33 have.....

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR:the Troopers will
36 confiscate it and they will not get it back. And so if
37 you see someone that you're positive, if they've got
38 antlers and you're positive if it's an adult moose and
39 they don't have at least 400 pounds of boned out meat
40 in that airplane then they left part of the meat
41 behind, you need to call the State Troopers, that's
42 what you need to do.

43
44 MS. FAIRCHILD: Well, what I'm trying
45 to say is, you know, you got the Fish and Wildlife out
46 on the river boat, why can't they sit down here at the
47 airport checking all these planes coming in too? I
48 mean we don't have to sit down there and check for it.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I mean I can

1 understand.....

2

3 MS. FAIRCHILD: I mean they're out
4 there checking our boats and our fishwheels and
5 everything, why don't they sit down there by the
6 airport too?

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: I can understand your
9 frustration. I share your frustration. It really
10 aggravates me to see people that do things like what
11 you're talking about, however, we do not -- and I heard
12 something -- I saw something on television just here
13 recently where they were talking about the state of
14 Florida, having how many game wardens they have there,
15 you know, enforcement officers for hunting and fishing,
16 the little dinky state of Florida has almost 1,000, do
17 you know how many we have in this state, we're
18 authorized -- I don't know what it is now, but when I
19 was on the Board of Fisheries we were authorized 120-
20 something and we had 88, that's all for the whole state
21 of Alaska. And so what it takes is it takes the
22 public, like you, when you see something that you think
23 is a violation such as wanton waste like that, leaving
24 meat in the field then you need to call the Troopers or
25 call the Federal Fish and Wildlife agents as well and
26 tell them, look, you need to check these guys out
27 because I feel confident that they did not bring all
28 the meat. And that is a very -- that's the most
29 serious violation.....

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR:that a guide can
34 do, if her or I do it, we go to jail automatically for
35 at least a year, lose every bit of our equipment.

36

37 MS. FAIRCHILD: I understand that.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Wrights Air will lose
40 their airplane if they condone that and they haul in
41 people's antlers and don't bring the meat in, they will
42 lose their airplane, they'll lose one of those half a
43 million dollar airplanes so they're not going to do it.
44 But these private planes will do it, so when you see
45 something like that, if you can't get the State
46 Trooper, you need to call the Refuge manager.

47

48 MS. FAIRCHILD: Well, have one of your
49 Fish and Wildlife sitting down there.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: And when a couple of
2 them get busted and lose their airplane it doesn't take
3 long for the word to get around.

4
5 MS. FAIRCHILD: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

8
9 MS. VAN DYKE: Can you hear me okay?

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.

12
13 MS. VAN DYKE: Am I too close?

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, that's
16 okay.

17
18 MS. VAN DYKE: My name is Deborah Van
19 Dyke, and I'm a tribal member of the tribe, and I'd
20 like to talk to you today about the fishing, the
21 fishing that happened over the course of the summer.
22 And I'm just really going to reiterate what you've been
23 hearing all evening.

24
25 Number 1 is the lack of communication.
26 And I believe this gentleman here alluded to the fact
27 that you do have audio conferences up and down the
28 river, and two years ago our local radio station did
29 broadcast those conferences and it was very educational
30 and then I saw the 1-800 number posted someplace and I
31 did sit in -- I can't remember -- it was right before
32 the fishing season started and I remember hearing then
33 that we could not fish on the first pulse, we could not
34 fish, and so I believe it was the end of June, maybe
35 the first part of July, people here started putting in
36 their fishwheels and I was thinking oh, my gosh,
37 they're going to get ticketed, we're not supposed to be
38 fishing this first pulse, but yet they were allowed to
39 and so it's like, you know, there is big gap --
40 communication gap that we need to be working closer or
41 the agencies need to be working closer with the tribal
42 government, CATG, you know, and the State was in some
43 time towards the end of July taking comments from us
44 about the fishing season, there was no Federal
45 representation there at the time and that was the one
46 thing that kept coming up was this miscommunication,
47 you know, a lot of what goes out on the radio and a lot
48 of people don't listen to the local radio station. So
49 what are some other ways that we can get creative and
50 insuring that the word goes out and that the correct

1 word goes out, you know, so there's that whole issue
2 there.

3

4 And then the other thing is the way,
5 you know, I don't really keep up on the regs, all I
6 know is that when the fish start coming and my husband
7 says, okay, we're going to go and so we pack up and we
8 go and we do -- we get our fish and we come home and
9 then that's kind of when my job starts, jarring and
10 doing all that stuff. But this year -- this past
11 season was really -- it was really sad in listening to
12 the comments taken with the State people in July and
13 one of our tribal members said when grandma has no fish
14 ain't nobody got fish. And, you know, I thought about
15 that and it was kind of funny at the time, you know,
16 but it's so true. I mean it's us and it's some of the
17 elders you see in the audience, I mean I look over at
18 Hannah and I know she has no fish and she has a big
19 family to feed and it's like, you know, it's our
20 grandkids, I mean when we fish it's not only for me,
21 I've got three kids, I've got a mother, I've got other
22 family members that all that fish goes to, you know.
23 And so I was fortunate -- we didn't get our fish, you
24 know, I'm going to have to go buy smoked salmon from a
25 friend in Stevens Village at \$35, \$40 a pound. I
26 wasn't able to jar regular fish and that's what I
27 brought my bag to show you, is this is what I should be
28 feeding my family. You see the color of this, you see
29 what we're going to eat this year, do you see that
30 bottom stuff there, it's kind of funny because I was
31 telling my cousin the other day when we were kids -- I
32 won't tell you the whole story but homebrew used to be
33 made.....

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MS. VAN DYKE:and the bottom
38 stuff on the homebrew was called (In Native), and
39 that's what this stuff looks like on the bottom so
40 every time I open this jar I'm going to think about
41 that. But, you know, you look at this here, you know,
42 and this is -- like I said, this is what my grandkids
43 should be eating, this is what I should be eating, but
44 this is what we're going to be eating this year and
45 it's all because somebody said, Deb, you can go check
46 my fishwheel and so there was some chum salmon and
47 that's what I was able to jar and put away for the
48 winter, you know.

49

50 And so to me it's like there's

1 something wrong when somebody sits here and they say,
2 you know, the outer sea industry is taking all this
3 bycatch and it's like, gosh, maybe we ought to go put
4 an ad in the paper and boycott all those products that
5 come out of that fish, you know. I mean what do we do?
6 I mean what percentage of the fish do we actually take
7 and use out here? It's a small percent. I mean if I
8 can get 100 salmon I'm happy, that'll carry us and my
9 family through the winter, you know, and so it's not a
10 huge percentage that we take. But, yet, we're the ones
11 that get penalized. And if you look at how -- you
12 know, somebody made the comment earlier this summer if
13 you look at how the regs are in our district our
14 district goes from where, can you help me out Andrew,
15 it goes from Stevens Village all the way up?

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Tanana.

18
19 MS. VAN DYKE: 25, are we in.....

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, 25D.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: 25D goes from Beaver all
24 the way back up to Circle.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I believe it's
27 Tanana.

28
29 MS. VAN DYKE: And so every time we
30 were asked to pull our nets or to stop the wheel it's
31 like those people down river had already gotten their
32 catch and so here, again, we get penalized, and so they
33 got their fish but we didn't. And I tell you it's not
34 just me, and I don't know what kind of comments you
35 were hearing today but it's a good portion of our
36 community that has, you know, no salmon to eat this
37 winter.

38
39 So I really think that that whole thing
40 needs to be looked at so it's equitable. And, you
41 know, even just looking at what we have to pay out
42 here, you know, to even get that fish, you know, our
43 gas right now is \$5.50 a gallon so it's pretty spendy.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

46
47 MS. VAN DYKE: So, anyway, thanks for
48 letting me voice my concerns.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Deborah, you

1 probably worked today, didn't you?

2

3 MS. VAN DYKE: I did.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I want
6 you to know that we took up a lot of proposals that
7 would affect what you're pointing out so intimately I
8 really appreciate you bringing the jarred salmon, I jar
9 my own actually and I don't like the color of the other
10 one.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But at any rate
15 I believe it was -- a lot of the proposals that would
16 affect what's going on down river which affects you, if
17 there was any of this that would pass it would make a
18 difference in what color that jar is and we worked on a
19 lot of stuff this afternoon. So I really do appreciate
20 you taking the time. Because that's effective, if you
21 would go to the Fish Board and show those two jars of
22 fish, that would be awesome. I wish we could take you
23 guys all down there.

24

25 MS. VAN DYKE: I'll gladly give it to
26 you.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I live just
29 as far from there as you but somebody from Ft. Yukon
30 needs to go to these meetings. I mean that's really
31 impressive to see that. So if somebody could do that
32 down at the Fish Board meeting that would be very, very
33 powerful.

34

35 Yes, Virgil.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I have a lot of
38 experience in these Fish Board meetings. Now, like Sue
39 said and some of the people in the room here were here
40 all day, we spent over half the day discussing just
41 what you've brought up, about how to help solve this
42 problem we have of not enough fish. And so what will
43 happen is the Board of Fisheries is going to meet in
44 Fairbanks in January, the commercial fishery in the
45 Lower Yukon will send up probably a minimum of 50 to 60
46 people to come to the Board of Fish meeting, they're
47 going to cry, you see how they get all the newspaper,
48 last spring, they got all the newspaper coverage,
49 national coverage, people were sending food to Emmonak
50 from all over the Lower 48 because they're crybabies.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, they are, they're
4 commercial fishermen and they only care about one
5 thing, and that's catching as many fish as they can to
6 sell, that's what they care about. They don't care
7 what you have in a jar, whether you have anything in a
8 jar as long as they can commercial fish, that's the
9 only thing they care about. They're going to come to
10 this Board of Fish meeting, over 50 of them will be in
11 Fairbanks for that and they are going to talk about how
12 poor they are and they need their commercial fishery
13 and they do not want any of these proposals that we
14 have put forward to pass, so what we need is we need
15 you there and some of your neighbors to bring your jars
16 of salmon, like Sue said, no, that is what we need.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, absolutely.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: And we need you to go
21 testify before the Board of Fisheries and tell them,
22 you do not want any fish to sell, you want fish to feed
23 to your children and to your grandmother, that's what
24 you want the fish for, and that is what you need to do.
25 And you people need to really get organized because the
26 last time we met and discussed these issues there was
27 this guy, me, Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs and Stan
28 Zuray from Tanana, four of us speaking for you but
29 there was 72 people speaking for the commercial fishery
30 in the Lower Yukon. We need you in Fairbanks the last
31 week of January.

32

33 MS. VAN DYKE: I'll make a commitment
34 to be there if I can find the time and the date.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I was
41 going to say, if your village or anybody can find
42 funding to send more people down there that would be
43 awesome.

44

45 I wanted to ask you one other question,
46 why did the radio stop covering those teleconferences?
47 Man, I'd encourage you guys to push your radio station
48 here -- if there's a local radio station that you guys
49 are listening to, whatever, that would really inform
50 people. It sounded really informative for you then.

1 Yeah.
2
3 Thank you, very much, Deborah.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Andy wanted to ask her
6 something.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy did you
9 want to ask her a question.
10
11 MR. BASSICH: I wanted to make more of
12 a comment than a question.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you sure.
15 Okay. And anyone else who wanted to testify, don't be
16 afraid to raise your hand and come forward.
17
18 MR. SHENFELT: This is Paul Shenfelt
19 again. On the radio station issue on communications.
20 I have a 1985 fish closure sign put up by the
21 Department of Fish and Game, their letterhead,
22 commercial fishing closed. There's only two commercial
23 fishermen from Stevens Village to the Canadian border,
24 could have simply called up the two people and told
25 them and give them some numbers and there's a lack of
26 communication. I sort of disagree with the radio
27 station broadcasting when the fishwheels are supposed
28 to be on and off, I'll say no, why should we do that,
29 why should we do the dirty work for the Department of
30 Fish and Game and accommodate them in their
31 communications.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Excuse me,
34 maybe I'm misunderstanding something, they also do the
35 subsistence opening and closing, correct, and that's
36 what I was referring to.
37
38 MR. SHENFELT: Yeah, anything that has
39 to do with opening and closing it, if you talk about
40 communications, as Debbie said, she doesn't listen to
41 the radio station, country music drives her crazy. I
42 mean she basically said that at the last -- you know I
43 came this close to going to the tribe and I said you
44 guys got the fax number, why don't you tape a Fish and
45 Wildlife thing to a piece of paper and say all fishing
46 is open again and fax that down so Leroy can announce
47 that. Like I said, we complied, but communications is
48 a big.....
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm

1 searching for a way for you guys, ideas pop into my
2 head.

3

4 MR. SHENFELT: Yeah. I really like
5 this thing about going to that fish meeting and
6 speaking up for the commercial.....

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Very important.

9

10 MR. SHENFELT: You know, the S word, I
11 guess you call it subsistence, you know, it's sort of
12 like an undefinable word because it's sort of.....

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Like a fish.

15

16 MR. SHENFELT:it's sort of woven
17 it's way around the State Constitution and nobody seems
18 to know what it is. But if you think about it, non-
19 Native people way back in history, in fact, created a
20 holiday, the United States government created a holiday
21 and it's called Thanksgiving and they sat down and they
22 shared the subsistence things of the land and they even
23 made it a National Holiday and now we can't even
24 define it. That's really ironic.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Andy.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Just maybe a little bit
31 of information, too, for whatever it's worth to those
32 of you here in Ft. Yukon. I know when the Department
33 of Fish and Game started looking at the poor run that
34 was projected for this year that came about for the
35 chinook salmon we spent a lot of time with people up
36 and down the river talking about what needed to be done
37 and what people would have to expect as far as closures
38 and one of the solutions was not to fish on that first
39 pulse. But one of the other things that was discussed
40 was how management could somehow break down some of
41 these large units like 5YD into smaller units because
42 they recognized when a fish entered 5YD down around
43 Stevens Village it was a better part of two, two and a
44 half weeks before that fish got to Eagle and they
45 recognized that they would not be able to provide
46 opening and closures that were really meaningful, and
47 so they kind of split 5YD into two different districts
48 this past year in an effort to address that. And
49 what's become very apparent to me at this meeting,
50 hearing from you, is that that 5YD needs to be split up

1 into even a smaller unit. And so, you know, one of the
2 things that I think I'll be taking to all of these
3 meetings is to insist on managers trying to do that. I
4 don't think it necessarily takes a Board of Fish action
5 to do that, I think managers can do that within
6 themselves and my feeling from them is that they want
7 to try and be able to be a little bit more friendly as
8 far as the openings go, have meaningful openings and
9 meaningful closures to protect the fish and also to
10 protect the ability for you subsistence people to get
11 your fish.

12
13 So for whatever it's worth that's an
14 issue that they recognize that they're trying to deal
15 with and hearing this from you today, I think will help
16 me to bring that message a lot stronger to them.

17
18 And I can't help, I've got to reiterate
19 what Virgil's saying, what we're saying to you, you
20 need to come to that Board of Fish meeting. I can't
21 tell you how many years we've sat down and it's been
22 three or four of us and it's a pretty overwhelming
23 feeling to walk into a room when there's 70 -- I think
24 back in 2000/2001 there was probably more like 100 to
25 115 people from the Lower River and about four or five
26 people from the Upper River regions, so we really do
27 need your support, and believe it or not that's the one
28 place you can really make a difference. If there's a
29 time and a place to get involved, that's the one place
30 and the one point in time where you will make a
31 difference. So, really, seriously, try and make it to
32 that meeting. Because that kind of testimony is what
33 works on your behalf.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are there other
38 people in the public here who would like to speak to us
39 tonight?

40
41 Come on up.

42
43 MS. THOMAS: Hi. My name is Lorrie
44 Thomas. I'm from here, Ft. Yukon. And we -- my
45 family, we all live and subsistence fish and hunt all
46 in the Yukon Flats, around here, Ft. Yukon, that's our
47 main livelihood for many of us, all of us who live
48 here, that's why we live here, too, is we're very
49 blessed and we feel fortunate by the country we live
50 in.

1 It's expensive to live here. Food, you
2 go to the store, you see you can't survive on the AC
3 Store. You have to depend on the land you live in.
4 That's how we raised our -- I raise my children, they
5 all know how to hunt and fish.

6
7 I have one thought about the fishing.
8 Last spring, you know, that Board of Fisheries, they
9 sent out emails and letters and announcements, they
10 needed testimony and letters from people regarding the
11 restrictions that were going to be implemented for
12 summertime subsistence fishing and so I wrote a letter
13 voicing my concerns and I didn't hear anything from it.
14 But I'll just kind of tell you what I wrote about, you
15 know, with living here, the expense of gas being \$5.50
16 a gallon and heating fuel at 4.40, whatever it is, and
17 then the regulation they had, they imposed on us during
18 fishing season, there's a lot of people who fish here
19 who have -- they share, a lot of families share a
20 wheel, and so they -- you know it was because of the
21 regulation imposed on us, a lot of the people didn't
22 get fish, I didn't get a lot of fish either. My
23 freezer has no fish in it. Maybe one from last year.
24 I'm very fortunate, I feel to have that one from last
25 year, I saved it, too. And -- but I was -- my thought,
26 too, in my letter I wrote, you know, we need to impose --
27 they need to impose the restrictions out there to the
28 commercial fishermen who are fishing around the mouth
29 of the Yukon, especially after, you know, we hear all
30 over the news even in the world about how they're
31 bragging up Yukon River salmon being the best in the
32 world, so sure there's a high market for it now and,
33 you know, and so that was very irritating. And then
34 whenever we got -- I was listening to -- I work at the
35 clinic and I would listen to the radio or the
36 teleconference, that call in number you guys were
37 talking about, I listened to that just to see where the
38 fish were too, I didn't raise any questions or
39 comments, but I was listening to the fishermen and they
40 were, you know, giving their reports and saying, yeah,
41 we got so much, we're doing well and then in one other
42 village they said, you know, they weren't even abiding
43 by the rules and they were fishing anyway, so I was
44 listening all down the way and I was like, wow, this
45 really isn't fair for us and the fish haven't even come
46 up to Ft. Yukon yet. So then by the time they did come
47 and then like everybody said, the planes were flying
48 around the boats, and people were getting stopped and
49 they were getting fined because they didn't have a life
50 jacket and that was very frustrating and irritating, we

1 all had to make darn sure we had our hunting license,
2 fishing license, life jackets, everything like that but
3 then whenever -- if you look out on the Yukon River,
4 this is my thought, you know, out here we're at the
5 widest -- well, from what I hear, we're at the widest
6 part of the Yukon River and there's a regulation on us
7 and, you know, people do have their places on the river
8 that are strategically -- they strategically place
9 their wheels and their nets to get their salmon but
10 sometimes, you know, if the water raises or however,
11 you know, it's hard to go out there to get your fish.
12 So that restriction imposed an even greater deterrent
13 on us to where we couldn't get fish because, you know,
14 it cost so much for gas for us we can't just zoom down
15 river, zoom up river where the river is -- the channel
16 is smaller and, you know, where I think it's easier to
17 fish because I know people down river they have one
18 channel, one smaller river, they put their wheels in
19 and they get their fish and I didn't hear too -- I
20 talked to some people in Rampart and they said they got
21 their fish but here we didn't get ours.

22
23 And so I think maybe the regulation for
24 around our area should be changed, you know, so that --
25 I don't know, I'm going on the means -- because the
26 river is so much wider here and it is harder to fish
27 here, I think.

28
29 But that's just a thought. So maybe
30 somebody could speak about that.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, we have a
35 proposal that addresses that issue and it's called our
36 windows proposal that the Board of Fisheries will hear.

37
38 Now, when the Board of Fisheries
39 initially did windows I was on the Board of Fisheries
40 and what we did, for this area here, we decided that
41 you should be allowed to fish subsistence seven days a
42 week. But anyway this issue will be addressed at the
43 Board of Fisheries meeting, and like Andy and I have
44 both said, we need some of you people to come to that
45 meeting, as many as possible, and voice your opinion.

46
47 And one of the things -- I want to
48 explain just a little bit, the process, what the Board
49 will do, the Board of Fisheries meeting, first they
50 have what they call the Staff reports, the Department

1 Staff will give kind of an overview, and give basic
2 scientific reports on the status of the fish and after
3 they do that, and then they might just address just a
4 little bit about a few of the proposals. But then
5 after they do that they will have public testimony, and
6 so the public gets to come up and they'll get either
7 three minutes, five minutes or four minutes, one or the
8 other, groups like the Advisory Committees or the RAC
9 will get 15 minutes to speak, but every individual will
10 either get three minutes or five minutes. But then
11 after they do that they're going to break down into
12 committees and so the committees will have either two
13 or three Board of Fish members on it and then they will
14 have one or two representatives from each group, now
15 each Advisory Committee gets an automatic place there,
16 and then the RACs will have an automatic place, but
17 CATG could have someone there, your tribal government
18 could have someone there representing the tribe and you
19 could have one person there representing just Ft. Yukon
20 in general. But what you need to do is you need to be
21 at that meeting and you need to get at least a tribal
22 member there, a CATG member there, and just someone
23 who's a fishermen from Ft. Yukon there that can be on
24 the committee that's going to address this. Then the
25 committee addresses it. If you can get consensus on
26 the proposal, but you will not do that, because there
27 will be Lower Yukon fishermen on there, too, so there
28 will be no consensus on the proposals and so what the
29 committee will do, after the committee meets, they will
30 write up a report and they'll say well -- they'll list
31 the people and whatever organization they were from and
32 then they will give a brief synopsis of each -- or
33 little review of what each group of people's opinion
34 was on the proposal, and then they may or they may not
35 make a recommendation to the full Board.

36

37 But like on the windows thing, which
38 you're talking about, about a fair amount of time for
39 you to fish based on your fishing conditions that you
40 have to fish under.

41

42 Okay, on something like that there's a
43 good chance they will make a recommendation on that so
44 that's why it's so important you're there and you try
45 to get on that committee meeting because if they make a
46 recommendation to the full Board, more than likely the
47 full Board will follow that recommendation and they
48 will pass that. And so that's why it's so important to
49 be there and to try and get on the committee that's
50 going to address your issues and then if you're on that

1 committee you will actually get the opportunity to even
2 question the Fish and Game Staff in the committee
3 meeting. No other time can you do that, but you can
4 actually question the Fish and Game Staff and ask them,
5 why can't we do this or why can't we do that and they
6 will explain it to you.

7
8 But that's why it's so important to go
9 to the meeting and then you guys have to decide amongst
10 yourself who is going to represent your groups in that
11 committee meeting and then when you testify you tell
12 them I would like to serve on the committee that's
13 going to address this issue and they'll have a sign up
14 sheet after the public testimony is over and you go
15 sign up to serve on that committee to be able to put in
16 the input and represent your group of people.

17
18 MS. THOMAS: Okay, thank you.

19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: You're welcome.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks for your
23 testimony.

24
25 Okay, any other ones that would like to
26 testify tonight from the community.

27
28 MR. KELLY: I'm James Kelly. I'm the
29 acting Natural Resource Director for CATG.

30
31 Earlier I did testify to concerns I had
32 and it's reflecting what the feelings of the members
33 here today are expressing. You know, we all got lumped
34 into one closure that was -- like I said, from an area
35 going from Stevens Village to Circle or even to Eagle,
36 putting all of us into one area and when you have a
37 three day, three and a half day closure it affects all
38 of us, they open it up for three and a half days it's
39 open for the whole five villages and you heard earlier
40 that when they found out that the fish was starting to
41 hit the rapids it took, what, two weeks, you said, to
42 get to Eagle, and, you know, this is really uncalled
43 for. Because the time -- by the time the fish start
44 hitting Ft. Yukon it was the end of the opening and
45 that's when they closed for three and a half days and I
46 did say this this morning and that's the time I felt
47 that, you know, we got shafted this year again. No
48 different than all the years previously. And, you
49 know, I think we get the short end and we really -- in
50 time we really start feeling the frustration and this

1 year it's really open, it's visible in the community.

2

3 I have a worker that works directly
4 with me, Janice Carroll, she does survey out going to
5 the fishermen and asking them what did they catch,
6 identifying the fish and everything, and it got to the
7 point where they told her we're not participating and,
8 you know, they didn't want to use profanity, so they
9 just told her go fish off, you know, it was just a joke
10 but they used it in a way that to say -- we're not
11 being treated fairly in our opinion and this is where
12 we're going to stop it and so they quit participating.
13 And that's happening, you know, probably all over, you
14 know, people are just going to come to that point and
15 say enough.

16

17 There's going to be a lot of, you know,
18 issues brought up every time we talk about this and I
19 was talking with Andy earlier, you know, the fish comes
20 up the river, and, you know, irregardless of how long
21 it takes, you know, it gets to the spawning area, but
22 there is one thing that happened the last two to three
23 years was a lot of this talk about the land exchange
24 and the biggest concern that came out when that land
25 exchange issue was put on the table was if that there
26 was to be spill it would pollute the waters and that
27 would affect all the villages down stream from -- you
28 know, from Beaver on down.

29

30 We're concerned about the people on the
31 Lower Yukon but for some reason they're not concerned
32 about us when it comes to fishing. They get their
33 needs met, you know, and like I said earlier, too, is
34 that the way the monitoring is being done, you got a
35 sonar in Pilot Station, Kaltag and Rapids. It's too
36 far apart between these sites to really make an
37 accurate determination. And by the time they get to
38 the rapids they -- if they find out that the number was
39 not what they anticipated, you know, way below what
40 they were hoping for, way below the projections they
41 would shut down everything up stream from the Rapids on
42 and that would be from Ramparts, Stevens, Beaver and
43 Ft. Yukon and on up, and this has been going on for
44 years up here. It's nothing new to us.

45

46 This year where there was an emergency
47 closure on the first pulse, everybody down river was
48 screaming, but they didn't hear us all those years
49 previously that we were doing the screaming too up
50 here. We wanted our fish here to at least fill our

1 freezers. And like Debbie said when she held up the
2 two jars, that was all she's going to be able to show
3 for what this year was able to give to her, you know.

4
5 I think there's going to have to be
6 more involvement from the community here and it's
7 something, you know, I think I have to say is that we
8 all have to be accountable. You know we heard about
9 the communication problem and that there's no notices
10 up, I can tell you, I walk into the post office almost
11 on a daily basis, I walk to the AC, I see these fax,
12 like one of the members here mentioned, so we have to
13 be accountable. We have to say did we look at that
14 information, or did we just -- in the community --
15 walking around or what -- I don't like pointing
16 fingers, but I don't like to hear that the people are
17 not doing their job out here. I do sit in on occasion
18 on this teleconference, with the Yukon River Fisheries
19 every Tuesday at 1:00 when I get the opportunity. I
20 have two jobs. I work in the morning as the Human
21 Resource Manager and the afternoon, I'm the Natural
22 Resource acting director so it really calls on me to do
23 a number of things and there's times I won't even make
24 the teleconference, but when I listen to the
25 teleconference I do hear people from up this direction,
26 up in this area, you know, participating, and like Lori
27 said, you know, she got on to hear what the conference
28 was about and that's very informational but all and all
29 we have to be accountable for ourselves. If we want
30 the information we got to get it, you know, we really
31 do. We can't expect it to be dropped into our lap for
32 nothing, you know, I don't.

33
34 And I think that it's time that we also
35 really push our leadership to be involved with these
36 kind of issues, this is what we need to tell our
37 leaders here in the community, you know, we should see
38 them at these kind of meetings. I only see one or two
39 today and one barely stayed around long enough, you
40 know, just made some comments and left the building
41 here and if we're going to be changing things within
42 our area we got to have our leaders really involved
43 with a lot of these issues.

44
45 Like you were saying earlier if we
46 don't get to Fairbanks to be represented, the fault
47 lies with us. You can only tell us what we need to do.
48 Everybody else has to come together and say let's do it
49 because it's not -- like you said, it's no fun four
50 showing up to testify against 70 who might then, you

1 know, sway the decision that's going to be eventually
2 made. And I know that everybody hurt this year,
3 through these times, you know, and there's people again
4 hunting through the hunting season. And just recently
5 just looking at some articles that came out talking
6 about the caribou herds throughout Alaska, the
7 Porcupine Caribou Herd, that a lot of our community
8 members would normally go out and hunt around the
9 border, you know, in that area, they said it went from
10 like 178,000 down to 100,000 and there's a big concern
11 about that now, that's going to affect people in this
12 area again.

13

14 So we're starting to see a whole number
15 of issues, it's not just fishing, but it's moose, it's
16 the wolves that are preying on them, on the calves,
17 there's bears and then the Porcupine Caribou Herd. As
18 it starts getting to a point where it's so low that,
19 you know, there's going to be a lot of drastic actions
20 taken, I think you're going to see people competing for
21 those resources so it's going to bring more issues to
22 the table later.

23

24 I know it's not an easy fix but, you
25 know, everybody's doing what they can this summer and,
26 you know, pointing fingers won't really resolve the
27 issues we're facing today. We really need to recognize
28 everybody's playing a productive part.

29

30 The Wildlife Refuge are only doing what
31 they're called to do. The State is doing the same
32 thing. True, there may be some bias opinion here and
33 there but we have to learn to deal with those. I think
34 the Advisory Board here is also working under those
35 same conditions, you can only put so many
36 recommendations forward if nobody supports it, you're
37 just walking around in circles, you know, you're
38 fighting an uphill battle.

39

40 And I think those are going to be
41 really ongoing issues now, you know, every year we're
42 going to be waiting to hear well what's the projections
43 going to be for this coming year, you know, when they
44 put out their notices in April and May, they'll say,
45 okay, you guys are going to close these days, open
46 these days and we seen what that did to us this summer.
47 The day that we're supposed -- I mean the day that
48 everybody starting to get their fish that was
49 supposedly should have been here, you know, in the time
50 that the people were kind of projecting people here in

1 the Ft. Yukon area had to shut their wheels down, pull
2 their nets, the fish was hitting the area and you had
3 to just watch it go by, you know, in the time they
4 started back up it was already by, it already went by
5 and I think it went by Circle, too, because we're very
6 close to Circle.

7

8 There's going to be those concerns
9 every year now, and how do we deal with it, I think
10 like you're saying we need to have a stronger voice, we
11 can't just sit back and wait for four people to show up
12 and we need to see our leadership start stepping
13 forward and saying, you know, let's show up in force.
14 I'm hearing, from listening today, just the testimonies
15 it's like it's not my fault, it's those people out
16 there, but, hey, we have a responsibility to ourselves,
17 to our families and to our communities, we got to
18 really be involved. And if it means changing something
19 there then change it, you know, our leadership should
20 be looking at, you know, making sure the community is
21 becoming more aware of what are the issues today, you
22 know, are there meetings coming up that's going to
23 change regulations, they have to carry that
24 responsibility and we need to hold them accountable.
25 People hold me accountable, you know, for the job I do
26 here so I think that that's the way we need to view our
27 leaders is, hey, you have that position, let's go, you
28 know, let's deal with this issue. Because I don't know
29 how many times we've been sitting to the table
30 listening to -- we ask, you know, we listened to the
31 State's version this summer here, you know, after
32 everything was said and done, you know, telling them
33 that maybe they need to -- instead of one closing and
34 opening periods in the Flats, maybe divide to like you
35 said earlier, I think I heard it from Andy, let's put
36 Stevens and Beaver in one and then Ft. Yukon, Circle,
37 break it down so it's more manageable, you know. Those
38 are just, you know, recommendations and good options.

39

40 So with that, I'd like -- like I said
41 we got a lot more issues than just fishing this year,
42 there's everything else that's starting to show. You
43 know, fires are really a big factor now in probably
44 what's happening. The effect it has on the wildlife,
45 and things of that sort and I think those are something
46 that people are starting to talk about more openly.
47 I'm just reading -- just recently this -- I don't know
48 how long ago it was, but there in Fairbanks area,
49 they're starting to question this let burn policy now
50 because of what it did to Fairbanks, so it tells you

1 that people are starting to see maybe the negative
2 impacts; is it the best system we got or should we
3 change it now.

4
5 And if we need to change that let's
6 change other things that, you know, hopefully will
7 bring some benefits back to the people that depend on
8 that resource and everything.

9
10 With that, that's all I have, thanks.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm getting a
13 tired Council up here. Anyone else that has anything.
14 I wasn't sure, I think she was coming up.

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, I'll be
17 translating what she has to say.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'll
20 thank her again for the nice stuff she brought us
21 today.

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I will speaking
24 and translating for Hannah Jayce Solomon, Hannah Jayce
25 Solomon was the wife of one of the Athabaskan Gwich'in
26 people well revered here in the Yukon Flats, the late
27 Jonathan Solomon.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Welcome Hannah,
32 and thank you again for the stuff you brought us.

33
34 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hannah says that
37 she welcomes you people here to Ft. Yukon and that what
38 you have to say here to the community and the people of
39 the Yukon Flats, we receive it here with open heart and
40 we ask that you help and work for the betterment of the
41 people of the Yukon Flats.

42
43 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

44
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mrs. Solomon
46 wishes to express her opinion at this time that with
47 all the regulations of the local fishing areas on the
48 Yukon along with the hunting seasons we have limited
49 take of wildlife subsistence fish and game.

50

1 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hannah also wishes
4 to add that this past summer she has fished with a
5 limited take of king salmon also along with silver
6 salmon and that since she has started fishing this has
7 been the first summer season that she has an empty
8 cache.

9

10 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

11

12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hannah would also
13 like to share her sentiment with Fish and Game Board
14 that due to the restrictions placed on the people of
15 the Yukon Flats in regards to the regulations with the
16 fishery and the closures of the Yukon to fishing, that
17 minimum they have taken too few of fishes. Hannah also
18 wishes to share that she has a large extended family
19 here in the community also in the Yukon Flats and that
20 she wishes to add that she hopes that everything will
21 be resolved for the betterment of the people of the
22 Yukon Flats.

23

24 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

25

26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Native)

27

28 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hannah said that
31 when she was in Fairbanks that she asked around and
32 called around for moose meat among her friends and she
33 didn't get anything because of the scarcity of the
34 wildlife game here in the Yukon Flats, Wildlife Refuge.

35

36 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hannah would also
39 like to add that due to the global climate change that
40 the people here in the Yukon Flats will face a severe
41 winter due to the limit take of fish along with moose
42 and caribou that we have subsisted on for times
43 immemorial.

44

45 MS. SOLOMON: (In Native)

46

47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And with that I
48 share my sentiment with my elder here. I've known
49 Hannah since I was a little boy and she's been a mentor
50 to me.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MS. SOLOMON: Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
6
7 MR. BASSICH: Not so much a question,
8 maybe a request of the Council here, Vince pointed out
9 to me that I think there's a deadline of January 12th
10 for written submission of testimonies and I would like
11 to ask this Council to make -- have a motion to present
12 the public testimony from this meeting as testimony to
13 the Board of Fish.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Through the
16 transcripts.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Through the
19 transcripts.
20
21 MR. BASSICH: Through the transcripts,
22 yes, I'm sorry.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
25
26 MR. BASSICH: Yes, through the
27 transcripts.
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a
30 motion, you say.
31
32 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. And maybe I'll
33 tell you what, I'll think about it a little bit tonight
34 and give a more formal motion in the morning.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
37
38 MR. BASSICH: But I really think that
39 this is good testimony. I think it's a way to get it
40 out there. It doesn't get you off the hook, we still
41 need you.....
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, it does not
44 get you off the hook.
45
46 MR. BASSICH:to come to the Board
47 of Fish. But I do realize that there are going to be
48 some people that may not be able to attend that meeting
49 or whatever, but there's been very good testimony here,
50 very good comments and I think it's important that it

1 be given in the form of transcripts for the Board of
2 Fish members to be able to read.
3
4 So I'll develop that tonight and we can
5 do that tomorrow, hopefully.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, sounds
8 good.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Does anyone
13 else have anything they'd like to add here tonight.
14
15 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair. Would a
16 petition work also as well if we get about 400
17 signatures out of this community and 60 or 80 out of
18 Circle?
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, sometimes
21 petitions are good, but those transcripts are like, he
22 said.....
23
24 MR. GLANZ: I understand that, but
25 maybe to coincide with them.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but
28 anything you can do in this case is great.
29
30 Yes, go ahead.
31
32 MR. W. PETER: Yes, I got a couple
33 concerns about moose hunting.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
36 Okay.
37
38 MR. W. PETER: This is around the Birch
39 Creek area, it's managed probably by two different
40 kinds of permits. One's a State permit called a Tier
41 II, it's a 940.....
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 840.
44
45 MR. W. PETER: Tier II, 840, I thought
46 it was nine.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, let me
49 look, but that's okay, go for it.
50

1 MR. W. PETER: But anyways, the Feds,
2 they offer a permit on it also. They issue permits to
3 Stevens Village, Beaver and Birch Creek.....

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're right.
6

7 MR. W. PETER:and my question is
8 how can we add Ft. Yukon to that list of permits?
9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We just make a
11 proposal.
12

13 MR. W. PETER: Yeah.
14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
16

17 MR. W. PETER: I think that's what
18 Andrew was getting at?
19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. Yeah.
21 And just to hear all you guys out, it would have been
22 interesting but I guess we'll do it tomorrow. Is that
23 okay with you guys, you'll be here tomorrow.
24

25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Absolutely.
26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, great.
28 Because we have the Fish and Game and the Federal Fish
29 and Wildlife here, and we're going to try to develop a
30 proposal and get a handle on what the regulations say
31 now and then develop proposals before the Board.
32

33 MR. W. PETER: Do you have any kind of
34 like a moose management policy on predator control?
35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do we?
37

38 MR. W. PETER: I mean is there any kind
39 of -- is that one of your concerns?
40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's always
42 been one of our concerns.
43

44 MR. W. PETER: Okay.
45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But then with
47 the Refuge we get these roadblocks, let's put it.
48

49 MR. W. PETER: Well, one of my main
50 concerns is wolf control.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I hear you.
2
3 MR. W. PETER: Yeah.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We hear you.
6 Everybody here hears you. As a matter of fact, this
7 Council, under the direction of Gerald Nicolai as the
8 Chair, sent a letter to the Secretary of Interior
9 December 19th, 2006 and I brought it to this meeting
10 because it actually had come up at the Federal Board
11 meeting again -- and, Vince, I don't remember if it was
12 January or the meeting before, but one of the last two
13 Federal Board meetings, it was brought up by Greg
14 Roczicka from the YK - which one is he, YK?
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
19 Roczicka.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Greg lives in Bethel.
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, he lives
24 in Bethel. And he brought this letter up at that
25 meeting telling us that, you know, we should keep
26 moving on this so it's an uphill battle unfortunately
27 on Federal land.
28
29 MR. W. PETER: It's the main concern on
30 us.....
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah. They
33 drive the train.
34
35 MR. W. PETER:yeah, they think
36 they're big furry creatures that.....
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I mean this is
39 a long discussion but I think Greg has pointed out to
40 the Federal Board that ANILCA does give special
41 provisions and these discussions need to continue and I
42 think we talked a little bit about it with Rob Jess.
43 We got to get a handle on it and keep pursuing it to
44 try to get it done on Federal land.
45
46 MR. W. PETER: Yeah, so it's a big
47 windy road.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It is
50 unfortunately.

1 MR. W. PETER; So how do you go about
2 issuing like a bounty after them, I mean is that a long
3 process?

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's probably
6 the last thing they're going to consider.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. W. PETER: Really. Because I know
11 they did bounties in the past.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I know,
14 yeah, we've discussed that at all the other ACs around
15 the state.

16
17 MR. W. PETER: Because you know I was
18 after a pack one time and I watched them where they,
19 you know, chase the different moose at least once a
20 week and they don't quit chasing that moose until they
21 got them, you know, that's one of the things I learned
22 out there. They're pretty easy to catch if you know
23 how, you know, in packs, but, you know, it'd be nice to
24 have some kind of predator control policy after them,
25 you know, out there in places where we can't get them
26 along the ranges and, you know, out there in the middle
27 of nowhere, you know, aerial hunt. You know that's
28 just one of my main concerns. Because, you know, the
29 moose kills -- well, one of your fliers said that 118
30 moose in, what 100 days, I mean what's the average of
31 moose per pack out there.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Every 12 days
34 -- 12 or 17, I don't remember exactly.

35
36 MR. W. PETER: I mean that's probably
37 more moose right there than we take in the three
38 villages.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, yeah,
41 it's more than people eat, yeah.

42
43 MR. W. PETER: So that's probably one
44 of my big concerns is predator control.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And we're a
47 very strong Council on predator control it's just that
48 our hands are tied a lot of times and I don't know,
49 this needs to be pursued more.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, we did get the
2 State to change the regulation, you can -- on the
3 season for shooting wolves, we got it extended it until
4 the last of May, it's still the last of May, I think,
5 and that was our proposal that got that done, just so
6 you know it.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All of Eastern
9 Interior.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, all of Eastern
12 Interior, the wolf season goes until the end of May and
13 we're the ones that got that changed.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And did you get
16 that positioning one changed at all?

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: And I think we got --
19 well, I'd have to look it up, can you chase them with
20 snowmachine here, we can, right, I think we can, except
21 for on Refuges.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you can
24 only do it on State lands, so.....

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. GLANZ: Actually positioning.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. You can track
31 them at high speed to position yourself so you can
32 shoot them.

33
34 MR. W. PETER: All right. That's all
35 the questions I have, thanks.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you, uh-
38 huh. So tomorrow we'll -- yeah, all right. Anyone
39 else in the community.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I thank
44 you guys for hanging in with us. I really appreciate
45 all your public testimony tonight, it's been very
46 informative. I think this is one of the most attended
47 meetings that we've had in a long time by the public so
48 we really appreciate you coming out.

49
50 And so we'll start again, I almost feel

1 like we should start a little earlier than 9:00.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: I had a hard a tough time
4 getting here at 9:00 this morning.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You had a hard
7 time, what happened?
8
9 MR. GLANZ: My alarm didn't go off.
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, you need a
12 catch up, uh.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: Mabel said she'll come
15 here at 7:30.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah, Mabel
18 said she's out at the airport at 7:30 and I think we
19 knew that. So can we start 8:30, I would just as soon
20 start at 8:30 if we could. You like that BS session --
21 okay, it looks like 9:00 o'clock.
22
23 See you at 9:00 o'clock.
24
25 (Off record)
26
27 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

