

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8
9 Pikes Landing
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 October 21, 2014
12 8:30 a.m.

13
14
15
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/21/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Welcome,
everyone. Call the meeting to order.

Andrew, could you do a roll call.

MR. FIRMIN: Yes, ma'am. Roll call for
the meeting today. Sue Entsminger.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin is here.
Larry Williams, Sr.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart.

MR. ERHART: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: William Glanz.

MR. GLANZ: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Bassich.

MR. BASSICH: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: James Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: William Koehler.

MR. KOEHLER: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff. He's
excused I believe or he might be teleconferencing.

MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
He got weathered out yesterday, and will be trying to
arrive today, if all weather goes well, around noon or
one this afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. And Virgil
2 Umphenour.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We have a
7 quorum. Okay. If we could all stand, I'd ask Larry to
8 do an invocation.
9
10 MR. WILLIAMS: (Gives invocation -
11 microphone off)
12
13protect our families and our loved
14 ones back home while we attend this very important
15 meeting and speak for our people, to make their voices
16 and their concerns heard. And always keep in mind
17 people who are less fortunate than we are, and always
18 keep them in your prayers and in your thoughts.
19
20 Amen.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
23 Larry.
24
25 Welcome everyone. We'll just go around
26 the table and introduce us, and then we can go around
27 starting here.
28
29 James, just introduced yourself and
30 where you're from.
31
32 MR. ROBERTS: Hi. My name is James
33 Roberts. I'm from Tanana.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin, Fort Yukon.
36
37 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, Central.
38
39 MR. KOEHLER: Will Koehler, Wrangell-
40 St. Elias Park.
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Virgil Umphenour, North
43 Pole.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sue Entsminger
46 from Mentasta Pass.
47
48 MS. PATTON: Eva Patton, Council
49 coordinator.
50

1 MR. ERHART: Lester Erhart, Tanana.
2
3 MR. WILLIAMS: Larry Williams, Venetie.
4
5 MR. BASSICH: Andy Bassich, Eagle.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
8 Thank you. We'll start here with.....
9
10 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, OSM.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I almost called
13 you Dan, sorry. Okay.
14
15 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA
16 Anchorage.
17
18 MS. CELLARIUS: Barbara Cellarius,
19 subsistence coordinator, Wrangell-St. Elias National
20 Park and Preserve, Copper Center.
21
22 MS. BRANDY: Jane Brandy, I'm with
23 Northway.
24
25 MR. GLASPELL: I'm Brian Glaspell. I'm
26 the refuge manager at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
27
28 MS. GABORIOUT: Holly Gaboriout, U.S.
29 Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge Program in Anchorage.
30
31 MR. BUE: Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife
32 Service, Fairbanks.
33
34 MR. MEARS: Jeremy Mears, Fish and
35 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.
36
37 MR. GUSTAFSON: Good morning, Madame
38 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Joe
39 Gustafson. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and
40 Game, Yukon area. I'm Fairbanks based.
41
42 MR. GLEASON: Christy Gleason. I'm
43 with Fish and Game.
44
45 MR. FRASIC: I'm Jeff Frasic (ph). I
46 work for the National Park Service. I'm the chief of
47 resources for Yukon-Charley Rivers.
48
49 MR. FOX: Good morning. Trevor Fox.
50 I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Trevor, you are
2 wearing a new hat. Would you explain that?

3
4 MR. FOX: Yes, I was with OSM as a
5 wildlife biologist for three years, and I'm the new
6 area and (Indiscernible - away from microphones) with
7 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Replacing Jerry
10 Berg for those that remember.

11
12 All right. Thank you. Oh, there's
13 another one. Did we get you?

14
15 MR. LIEBICH: I'm Trent Liebich. I'm a
16 fish biologist with Office of Subsistence Management.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. Did
19 we miss anyone else?

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
24 Okay. Review and adopt the agenda. All right. Did
25 everyone look at the agenda. Do you have any additions
26 or subtractions. No.

27
28 Eva had one request from the agencies.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have a
31 request from the Park Service to change on the agenda
32 to be the first agency reporting tomorrow so that they
33 can address the Council before attending a public
34 hearing tomorrow, and have ample time to discuss their
35 proposals.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does
38 anybody have any objections to that? They're talking
39 about the proposed rule, which people in my area are
40 very interested in.

41
42 So I think that would be great to have
43 that person here.

44
45 Any objections.

46
47 Go ahead, Virgil.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have no objections.
50 I look forward to that.

1 But I also -- I don't know whether
2 Reddick was told it or what, but I understand that the
3 Fish and Wildlife Service wants to have a similar
4 regulation as the National Park Service, and so my
5 question is, is there anyone prepared to discuss that
6 from the Fish and Wildlife Service at the same time.

7
8 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
9 We do have -- we have a representative from the
10 Regional Office, Holly Gaboriout is here, and we also
11 have representatives from both Arctic National Wildlife
12 Refuge and Yukon Flats, and they are fully planning to
13 provide an overview of those proposed regulatory
14 changes as well. And I guess would be a follow up to
15 the National Park Service or, you know, if there's
16 overlapping questions, would be available as well I
17 believe tomorrow.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Does that
20 answer your question, Virgil.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Fine. Thank you,
23 Madame Chair.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any others on
26 the agenda.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have one
29 other addition or request in order to keep all the
30 fisheries presentations together for the Council.
31 TCC's fisheries program was initially under Native
32 organizations, if we could -- Brian McKenna will be
33 here this afternoon, if he's able to present after
34 YRDFA on their in-season salmon management and other
35 subsistence fisheries projects on the Yukon.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So that's going
38 to be when or where. Right in front of the priority
39 information?

40
41 MS. PATTON: Yes, that would be
42 probably the best place for the Council to receive
43 those updates prior to the decisionmaking.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
46 objection.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Alrighty. Was

1 there anything else.
2
3 MS. PATTON: That was it. Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Could I get a
6 motion to adopt the agenda as noted.
7
8 MR. GLANZ: So moved.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Wake up. Is
11 there a second.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Second.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All in favor
16 say aye.
17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.
21
22 (No opposing votes)
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
25 minutes, review and approve. Have we all seen the
26 minutes and read them. Do we see any corrections.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do we need some
31 time?
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt the
34 minutes.
35
36 MR. KOEHLER: Second.
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. There's
39 a motion moved to adopt the minutes.
40
41 MR. KOEHLER: I second that.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
44 seconded. Ready to vote, everybody.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All in favor.
49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council

6 member reports.

7

8 Andy, do you want to start.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Okay. Thank you,

11 Madame Chair.

12

13 I think the fishing season was managed
14 really well this year on the Yukon River. I have some
15 things I want to talk about during the meeting
16 regarding fall chum, but I'll leave that to that point
17 in time.

18

19 Probably the biggest topic on my mind
20 right now is the influx of hunters and the pressure in
21 the -- I don't think it's only Eagle, but into rural
22 communities. It was insane during the hunting season
23 this year on the Yukon River around Eagle, and I heard
24 also around Circle area, Central, with the influx of
25 people. And it's really beginning to impact those of
26 us that live out there. It's forcing us to go farther
27 away and hunt in new places. And I'd really like to
28 take some time during this meeting to start putting our
29 heads together on what we might be able to do to take
30 some of this pressure off of people living out in
31 remote areas that live out there. I'm concerned about
32 the harvest of moose in our region. We're already at
33 one of the lowest densities in the State, and this is
34 putting a lot of pressure and taking food away from
35 people that live out in remote areas. So I'd like to
36 have some discussion on that this year.

37

38 And the topic, a couple years ago we
39 started a process where we were going to try and do
40 some hunter education and outreach, coordinating both
41 with the State and the Federal agencies, and I'd really
42 like to open that door again and maybe start that
43 process. I think that might be the way to address some
44 of this issue.

45

46 And I'll leave it at that for now. And
47 as we go through the meeting, I'll be bringing that up
48 again. It's a really important issue on my mind. It's
49 really got some long-term negative effects for people
50 in our region, and something that we have to start

1 thinking about and planning for if we're going to do
2 the right thing for people that live out in remote
3 areas.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Larry.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

10 I really don't have any concerns when I go to Venetie,
11 but I do want one question answered.

12

13 We've been talking about tribal
14 participation for years and years, and I was just
15 wondering how that's going, and how it's being handled,
16 and how are the villages going to be represented here
17 at these meetings to speak for the people if they so
18 desire. And I haven't heard anything, so maybe
19 somebody can answer those questions for me whenever the
20 time is appropriate.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Lester.

25

26 MR. ERHART: Yeah. I'm kind of with
27 Andy on that moose hunting pressure in the villages.
28 It seem like every creek there was on the Yukon at home
29 there was a boat there in front of it, and a lot of
30 pressure, a lot of boats coming in. So I'm quite
31 concerned about that, too. And like Andy says, there's
32 not that much moose in our area either.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: I agree with Andy, the
37 fisheries this summer were managed very well. Only I
38 have a little bit of concern, and that is that with
39 absolutely no fishing for Chinook, then the remaining
40 fish that we fish for, the chums and the coho. One of
41 the things that really bothers me is when I look at the
42 daily report from the Department of Fish and Game, and
43 I see what the harvest was in the commercial fishery.
44 One of the things that kind of got to me a little bit
45 at the end was the amount of coho caught in the
46 commercial fishery in the Lower Yukon, because the coho
47 is basically -- it's a chum-directed fishery, and there
48 towards the middle of August the commercial fishery
49 actually caught more coho than fall chums in some of
50 the openings. And I believe Y1 actually caught more

1 coho than fall chums for the season. And so I believe
2 in regulation it says that you shouldn't harvest more
3 than 20 percent bycatch. That's non -- the species of
4 fish that are the non-targeted fish, because the
5 fishery is normally a targeted fishery. It's targeting
6 chum salmon or fall chum salmon. And so when they
7 catch more of the non-targeted than the targeted, then
8 I believe we're actually in violation of the regulation
9 where no more than 20 percent should be bycatch.

10

11 And so that -- I worry about the --
12 when I look at what the total passage was at Pilot
13 Station of fall chum, I believe it was only about
14 650,000, and I can remember 20 years ago that we
15 couldn't even have a commercial fishery unless the
16 Department projected more than 670,000 I believe is
17 what it was.

18

19 So anyway I think we need to be really
20 conservation conscious of especially the fall chums
21 with the pressure put on them by the people that want
22 to participate in the commercial fishery. The fish
23 this year seemed to be larger than what they've been in
24 past years, and the ones that I saw were very good
25 quality that were caught in Nenana and at the rapids
26 both.

27

28 And another thing, of course, that's
29 going to come up on our agenda later is the National
30 Park Service and it looks like the Fish and Wildlife
31 Service wanting to implement these regulations that
32 circumvent a number of things, but the main thing is
33 the cooperation between the various agencies, I'm
34 talking about State agencies, and with the Federal
35 subsistence users. Because circumventing the process
36 like that to me demonstrates very serious lack of
37 integrity on the part of the agencies to circumvent the
38 public process, but we'll discuss that later.

39

40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you and
43 amen.

44

45 Will.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: No, my concerns can be
48 brought out during the meeting.

49

50 I'm good.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we're all
4 supposed to be some reporting here.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Well, I can -- what I would
7 -- I think the thing that has become most apparent in
8 our area, in our region, is we're very concerned, and
9 the people that I talk with are concerned with what
10 Virgil was saying in his final comment, the two -- the
11 agencies' lack of cooperation, the agencies -- and in
12 my area it's a very small amount of people working and
13 living in my area, and we're concerned tat we're going
14 to be kind of caught in the middle of kind of an ego
15 trip between the two agencies that can't get along.
16 And we're concerned that right now a lot of these
17 regulations that are being proposed don't necessarily
18 directly affect us, but if this pattern continues,
19 we're going to have regulations put on us and
20 restrictions put on us that don't really make any
21 practical sense, but just kind of the two agencies, the
22 State and the Federal agency in this case kind of
23 seeming to be poking at each other, and jabbing at each
24 other, and just trying to put out a message -- what we
25 would like to do is we'd really like to put out a
26 message to both agencies that their responsibility is
27 for the resource and to serve the people that are
28 living in the area. That would be -- that's what I
29 would like to bring out during the meeting.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

34

35 Will, go ahead.

36

37 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. I kind of go along
38 with Andy. Up in Central I got my butt jumped from so
39 many people, because two guys came in that have -- by
40 me there, and they said, we understand you're on the
41 harvest board. I said, yeah. They said, you SOB, we
42 came all the way from North Carolina. We bought our
43 licenses, we got all ready to go, and you shut it down
44 in two days. And I said, well, I kind of feel for you.
45 I said, we've got 60 people in this community spread
46 out over 10 miles around. I said, right now we've got
47 like 5 or 600 of you people hanging around here. We've
48 got four troopers. We've got two helicopters. Yep,
49 yep, I really feel sorry for you B's anyway.

50

1 Something's going to have to be a
2 handle on this. This is just goofy. I was on the
3 Yukon River, 10 miles from the nearest person. A guy
4 come up, I won't say his name. He said, man, Bill,
5 you're kind of like camping right on top of this. And
6 I said, huh? He said, well, it's like eight, nine
7 miles between me and your house. Well, yeah, I know
8 it's just kind of bad. And I said, Dan, I feel real
9 sorry for you. I've got SOBs coming in my driveway
10 with a motorhome, fourwheelers on the back, stuck in my
11 yard. I was, yeah, I really feel bad for you guys.
12 But something's got to be done with this nutty -- it's
13 like combat fishing, only everybody's got rifles. And
14 even the locals won't go out hunting when they're
15 around. Moose season or what.

16
17 I've lived there 29 years in Central.
18 The last three years is the only time I've never got a
19 moose. Not that it's a gimme that you should have one
20 every year, but it's just I don't even see one. Don't
21 even see a cow or a calf.

22
23 There's got to be something done, and I
24 hope I can be part of it.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: I share a lot of the other
31 Council members concerns that they've already voiced,
32 but one thing I wanted to add to their concerns was in
33 the -- maybe this would be more appropriate for our
34 spring meeting, or maybe we could discuss it somewhat
35 this meeting, to have Staff ready, is more discussion
36 on caribou, because I know the caribou, their migration
37 patterns have been somewhat altered, and you can blame
38 it on a lot of different things, but I know that it's
39 happened in more than one herd in the State, is where
40 you get people out shooting all the frontrunners and
41 trailbreakers, and it scatters the rest of the herd, so
42 the rest of the herd doesn't migrate in their natural
43 pathways. And then it makes it harder like you said on
44 the local users when they have to go an extra 50 or 100
45 miles or hunt them two weeks later than normal when,
46 you know, if they let the first trailbreakers go, then
47 the rest of them follow the frontrunners instead of
48 shooting them all, then maybe everybody would have more
49 of a chance to hunt them in another sense.

50

1 And I know that's a pretty common
2 concern across more than one herd across the State, and
3 I think -- I didn't get a chance to read any reports on
4 the international Porcupine Caribou Herd. And I think
5 they have an international board that met in September
6 here in Fairbanks, like in the middle of moose season.
7 So I don't think I know of one person that actually
8 attended that, so I don't know if maybe some of those
9 reports could be shared with us at some time during
10 this meeting or in our spring meeting.

11
12 It would be interesting to have more
13 discussion on that topic also, so maybe we can come to
14 some to some kind of solution or, you know, brainstorm
15 on how you don't shoot the lead caribou in every bunch
16 because then the other nine that were following him are
17 going to scattered everywhere else. It's kind of like
18 shooting ducks. It's kind of the same mentality. You
19 shoot the front one, all the other nine are going to
20 swerve around him, and don't know which way to go any
21 more, because they weren't paying attention.

22
23 But I think that's kind of the same --
24 the same goes with some of the caribou, and I'd like to
25 see that brought up later on in this meeting or at our
26 spring meeting for sure.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James.

31
32 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. I did have one
33 concern over the summer that kind of really got me. It
34 was the 5A shutdown of four-inch mesh. They gave us no
35 warning. You know, it's up to Fish and Game to enforce
36 these rules. I'm not going to tell on my neighbor, you
37 know, it's just bad business. And when there's no
38 fish, they want us to call on the YAG once a week, and
39 talk about it, but in a year of over-abundance, I
40 didn't hear nothing from the YAG. There's nowhere for
41 us to say anything about it. They just cut us off,
42 just straight cold cut us off, and we suffered for
43 about two or three weeks there, and it really put a
44 hardship on all of us.

45
46 And what I have to say about this is
47 some people fish in a traditional spot. They've fished
48 there for 100 years, and they're going to catch king
49 salmon. That's just where they fish, but that's their
50 spot, and that's the only spot they can go to, because

1 we're not allowed to driftnet, and there's just only a
2 limited amount of setnet spots. And I just didn't like
3 how the Fish and Game tried to penalize 100 people for
4 one person's actions, and they shouldn't ask us to
5 enforce that.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I hear a
8 lot of things that we probably ought to make sure is in
9 our annual report. So you guys want to look at that
10 throughout the meeting and give me a head's up as we
11 work through this. I'm highlighting them myself so we
12 can talk about it later.

13

14 .805c report, what is that, I don't
15 remember.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
18 The .805c report is under ANILCA the Board reports back
19 to the Council on the actions that the Board took and
20 what the results are of those actions. On Page 18
21 you'll find that report.

22

23 As you may recall, the Board did concur
24 with all of the Eastern Interior Council's
25 recommendations.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The report is
28 on Page 18. And then the Federal Subsistence Board
29 annual report reply is on Page 23 it says here in our
30 book.

31

32 Yeah.

33

34 Which gets down to my Chair report.

35

36 I attended the Federal Subsistence
37 Board meeting in the spring, and most of our proposals
38 were on the consent agenda. All but one, and that was
39 the bear baiting one, as you guys remember. I had a
40 lot of discussion with the Board, and it went five to
41 three. And if it would have been four/four, we would
42 have lost. But that proposal did pass, to allow
43 grizzly being taken while black bear baiting. Maybe
44 that's why we're coming up with all this other stuff
45 here.

46

47 So I was really pleased that it passed,
48 but it was not with all of the Board members.

49

50 And then I attended the Subsistence

1 Resource Commission meeting just recently in early
2 October. And this proposed rule that's in our
3 supplemental material, we took that up, and I asked Eva
4 to put the SRC's letter in our packet.

5
6 I don't know if that's here yet.

7
8 MS. PATTON: I've got it, yeah.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I'd hand
11 it out right now, please, so they have it to look at,
12 because this is going to come up in the agenda. This
13 will be an action thing, that we have to comment on
14 that proposed rule. And I can talk more about the SRC
15 was concerned, a lot of talk about how the press
16 release was written, making it sound like when things
17 are illegal. It's just -- it was very inflammatory,
18 and a lot of the SRC members were very upset about how
19 the press release was read, and how things are written
20 to inflame the public.

21
22 At any rate, that's my report for the
23 meetings that I've attended.

24
25 I could give a real long one, but the
26 end result is what occurs.

27
28 So any questions, guys.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No questions.
33 Okay.

34
35 We have a presentation of service
36 awards.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Sue.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I don't want
43 to move on. I'm not really sure where to address this
44 in our agenda, but I just want to bring everybody's
45 attention to Page 26, bullet point 4, which refers to
46 what I was talking about earlier in my statements. The
47 hunter ethics education/outreach to generate better
48 understanding, reduce conflicts between users.

49
50 That was in the annual report, and if

1 you look on the next page under the response, OSM seems
2 to be interested in promoting this and to continue
3 this. We were working with -- was it Andrea Mederios;
4 is that her name.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Andrea Mederios was the
7 previous outreach coordinator, yes.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Andrea Mederios. Yeah,
10 she was our previous outreach coordinator, and I
11 believe Will and I and her and a number of other people
12 were starting the process, and I think what I'd like to
13 do is, if the Council's interested, is try and reopen
14 that, and work with OSM and the State of Alaska. And I
15 think this is something that has to be done with both
16 agencies. Well, actually with all agencies, even
17 tribal representation. And so I think what I would
18 like to do at this meeting, if the Councils behind it
19 and supporting it, would be to write a letter to OSM,
20 the State of Alaska, and some of the regional tribal
21 entities and see if we can't form a working group to
22 begin some discussion on these topics of hunter
23 outreach and education, and just get the ball rolling.

24

25 I think we had a pretty good start in
26 the past with this, and then the king salmon crash
27 came, and we all became -- at least myself and a number
28 of other people became very involved in that, and had
29 to prioritize, and this kind of fell to the wayside,
30 but hearing some of the Council members in our opening
31 statements, I think this is something that needs to be
32 addressed. I think it's really important for our
33 future for people living out in remote areas. And the
34 sooner we get a start on it, it's going to take some
35 time to work out some of these issues and make
36 recommendations and come up with plans.

37

38 And we need to get a lot of different
39 people involve, not just Regional Council members, but
40 tribal entities, outdoor guides and outfitters
41 organizations, the State of Alaska, and the Federal
42 government, OSM, to do some education out there and let
43 people understand what their impacts are to rural
44 people when they come out and hunt in these areas.

45

46 And I don't believe we're ever going to
47 fix the problem 100 percent, but if we can at least
48 make people aware of what their impacts are, that's
49 going to go a long ways towards starting it. And I
50 want it to be done in a very positive manner.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
2 respectful.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. We need people
5 involved in a positive way. I don't want this to turn
6 into a battle, and that's where we're going right now
7 if we don't start addressing this.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So, Andy, is
10 that a motion for a letter.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair, that
13 would be. That's what I'm saying. I'm not really sure
14 how we address this at this point in time as an action
15 item, but.....
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm open
18 to have a motion on it now so it doesn't get forgotten.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Well, then I'll
21 craft one very quickly here, and off the cuff. I make
22 a motion that we write a letter to OSM, the State of
23 Alaska, and local Native tribal organizations to begin
24 a process of forming a committee or a council or group
25 to look into some of the issues regarding hunter
26 conflict and hunter education in our region.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will.
29
30 MR. KOEHLER: I'm going to add to that
31 within this.....
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is that a
34 second.
35
36 MR. KOEHLER: No, could I add something
37 to that that we can add a couple more people.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sure.
40
41 MR. KOEHLER: I think that within the
42 State of Alaska we should -- that letter should be sent
43 to the Department of Fish and Game, and then the Big
44 Game Commercial Services Board.
45
46 And I'll second that.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Agreed?
49
50 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I agree.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
2 other discussion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All in favor of
9 sending the letter.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
18 have more discussion.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: No, just a brief request
21 here, just so it doesn't get kind of filed away and
22 lost in the shuffle, because we go through so many
23 things, if we could get a written response from OSM
24 from this letter.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We will.
27
28 MR. BASSICH: I just would hate for us
29 to go for another two or three meetings before we ever
30 start. I'd really love to be able to maybe at our next
31 meeting have someone in the public outreach come and
32 maybe help us start to coordinate something like that
33 again if that's possible.
34
35 That's all I have.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
40 we get all our letters answered.
41
42 All right. Are there any other
43 questions on the reports or action items you'd like to
44 take.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
49 along on the agenda.
50

1 Presentations of awards.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
4 So every time we have a Council member who has reached
5 five years of service or 10 years of services, or 15 or
6 20 years of service, we like to present an award and
7 recognizing the time and dedication to the Council and
8 the region.

9

10 We do have a five-year service award
11 for Donald Woodruff, so perhaps when he arrives we
12 could take that up and present him with that award.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.

17 Thank you.

18

19 Now, public and tribal comments on non-
20 agenda items. This is available each morning. Do we
21 have any.

22

23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
24 We do have a representative from Northway.

25

26 MS. MARUNDE: Yes. Do you want me
27 (Indiscernible - away from microphones).

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, and turn
30 on the mic, and introduce yourself.

31

32 MS. MARUNDE: All right. Okay. My
33 name is Jamie Marunde and I'm representing Northway
34 Natives, Incorporated, Northway Village Council, and
35 just the Community of Northway.

36

37 We have an issue that we want to bring
38 to your attention. It's included -- or it's part of a
39 proposed land sale by the Department of Natural
40 Resources included in the State's eastern Tanana area
41 plan. This is a proposal that is open for public
42 comment until November 14th.

43

44 So what we wanted to bring to your
45 attention was that this is -- the landfill is right on
46 our main moose hunting and caribou land. We talked to
47 the Department of Natural Resources and asked them why
48 they picked this area, and they stated they picked it
49 because it was in high request by urban hunters from
50 Fairbanks and Anchorage. Anywhere east of Tok is what

1 -- was one reason. And those specific areas were
2 requested as well. Another reason why they chose this
3 area is because it had favorable geographical features,
4 which is basically road access.

5
6 So some of the reasons that we're
7 worried about this include, again, it's our primary
8 moose and caribou hunting area for Northway. And
9 basically for as long as Northway has been there we've
10 relied on these two areas. Northway has -- about 12
11 percent of the population not even has full-time
12 employment, so you can see that everybody in our whole
13 village really relies on the moose hunting.

14
15 DNR wants to open this without any type
16 of current land use or game analysis study, so how do
17 they know what adding 10 hunters is going to do the
18 moose population there.

19
20 Another reason is it creates
21 competition by people who can finance, own and seal
22 (ph) new cabin build and buy other advantageous hunting
23 gear against Northway people who have limited
24 resources.

25
26 There will be additional interest in
27 our other resources. We're located right on a
28 waterfowl migration route near Tetlin National Wildlife
29 Refuge, so we know that, you know, that's something
30 that's going to attract everybody as well, and be
31 another problem for our village.

32
33 And, let's see, the other thing is that
34 it would increase word of mouth, and like you were
35 talking about earlier, we're already experiencing the
36 influx of moose hunters as well, and this is just
37 destroying what resources that we have.

38
39 So we've been reaching out to a lot of
40 people like Doyon, TCC, our representatives, Don
41 Wilson, Neal Foster. We're hoping that maybe you guys
42 can help us in some way, maybe even give us suggestions
43 on what we can do. I mean, if you can write a letter
44 or whatever, please let me know.

45
46 And that's all I have for you.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
49 Jamie. I think I know your parents, but I don't think
50 I've ever met you. It's a sign of age I think. Yeah.

1 MS. MARUNDE: (Indiscernible - away
2 from microphones)

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Go ahead
5 and turn the mic on. And just wait, we probably have a
6 few questions here.

7
8 I'd like to remind you guys, that's
9 another meeting I went to. This Eastern Interior area
10 plan by DNR, they went around the community, and they
11 were in Mentasta. They have a book about this thick on
12 this. In Mentasta area, there wasn't many. And I was
13 aware of that problem over there.

14
15 Andy, did you have a question.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

18
19 I was just wondering when is this land
20 sale supposed to take place, and what's been the --
21 obviously they've had these meetings, but have they
22 only -- how long has this been going on, and when is
23 this land sale supposed to take place likewise.

24
25 MS. MARUNDE: You know, the funny thing
26 about it is that our village only found out about this
27 really, you know, around October 3rd. They came to our
28 village, but not many people even showed up to the
29 meeting, because they didn't kind of express that there
30 was a land sale wrapped into it. They just said they
31 were going to talk about the eastern Tanana area plan.
32 So we were kind of shocked, and actually the Tok
33 community was the community that alerted Northway to
34 the issue. And so I don't really -- you know, I've
35 tried to talk to them a little bit, and basically what
36 they've told me was the comment period is open until
37 November 13th, so if our community comes out with a
38 strong stance against it, then that is something that
39 they'll take into consideration, and they can
40 reconsider that. And I followed that up with, okay, so
41 if you take these two areas out, what are your next
42 areas you're going to pick, and they said that that's
43 not on the table right now.

44
45 So as far as we know, you know, we
46 really don't have -- know much of what would happen
47 beyond the comment period.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Excuse me. And so do you
50 know when the land -- if they go through with this

1 plan, when is this supposed to go into effect?

2

3 MS. MARUNDE: They told us that it's a
4 15 to 20-year plan, so they couldn't tell us when it
5 would go into effect. They would -- you know, one site
6 is a remote cabin site which would be at Deadman Lake,
7 and the other site would be a subdivision which they
8 acknowledge would be geared towards hunters, highly
9 recreational use. So that process would take a long
10 time, because they have to open it up, and if there's
11 too many people, they'll do a lottery, and basically
12 they'll go out there -- I don't know if you guys are
13 all familiar with this, maybe I'm, you know, preaching
14 to the choir, but you have to go out there and kind of
15 pick your spot, and then they survey and lease it, so
16 that's a long process.

17

18 And I understand that would take a lot
19 longer than the remote cabin site part. So, no, we
20 don't really know how long it would take, or when it
21 would go into effect.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I tried
24 to ask the guy some questions, because I didn't have
25 time to sit at the whole meeting. And this is from
26 legislative that they have to give so much land out for
27 public. And I said, well, is this an infinite plan, or
28 when's the legislature going to stop having land sales.
29 But I don't -- I mean, I think unless the legislators
30 say, hey, we gave enough land out in Alaska for land
31 sales, this is going to continue. Which was a big
32 concern of my own.

33

34 So this is not on our agenda, but I'm
35 glad you showed up to remind us what's going on. I'd
36 like to take this up as an action item actually and
37 write a letter that I don't think we would support --
38 when -- do it in your own area, so I don't know if I
39 would support this land sale at all. And we could
40 write a letter to that effect.

41

42 Virgil.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I have a question
45 to ask, because this has been going on for years. I
46 believe this is mandated by the State constitution,
47 isn't it, that the State provide land for people
48 basically.

49

50 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah. And we also had

1 that discussion. They said that it is within the State
2 constitution to allow what they said is the best -- or
3 utilize the State land in the best way, and so whether
4 that be to open it up for people to use that make that
5 request, you know, that if that's something the State
6 wants or the people of the State want, then they have
7 to react to that. And they've had enough requests for
8 t that they feel they need to include it in this 15 to
9 20-year long-term plan.

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I know that
12 they've been doing it for a long time. I know the
13 first one -- they used to have outcry auctions for
14 State land. I don't know if they still do that. But I
15 know that I participated in the first one in 1971. And
16 so I know this has been going on for a long time, and
17 basically it's mandated in the constitution, and so I
18 don't know how many of our members are aware of that,
19 but it's probably been going on since we became a
20 state.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right, Virgil,
25 but what's happening is, this is an area plan, and this
26 is a time to comment on is that the right use of that
27 land or not for the people in the area.

28

29 Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah, this
32 goes to the very crux of the topic that I've been
33 bringing up, and that is that there's -- basically
34 we're getting into a greater divide within the State of
35 Alaska between those that live in urban areas and want
36 use for recreational hunting and all that, and then
37 those people that live out in remote areas that depend
38 directly on those resources for their very existence.
39 And so this gets right at the very core of that
40 potential conflict that's brewing. And I think this is
41 really critical. As a person who's been on the Forty-
42 Mile Coalition since its inception and been involved in
43 the caribou, Forty-Mile Caribou Herd, this is a really,
44 really bad thing in this area for that herd. It's
45 going to bring more people in, it's going to create
46 more conflict, more pressure. It's going to be harder
47 to rebuild the herd. So just under the grounds of
48 that, it's an issue.

49

50 I really feel for people in the

1 Interior. We don't have a lot of moose in the
2 Interior, and people really rely on that if you live
3 out in these villages. We don't have an income. We
4 don't have jobs. We rely on these resources, and this
5 goes right to the point that it's taking the very
6 ability to exist and live a traditional lifestyle away
7 from people if we allow this kind of land use opened up
8 to the public. I'm adamantly opposed to that. There
9 are plenty of places in the state that they can open up
10 land, that maybe the access isn't quite as good, but
11 it's not going to have the impact on the local rural
12 populations. And as a Council member here, in my view,
13 I'm here to protect people's way of existence living
14 that rural lifestyle.

15

16 And I'm really concerned about this,
17 because this is not just the beginning. this is
18 something that's been going on for a while, and it's
19 just seeming to gain more and more momentum. And our
20 voice is very small. And so I think we need a really
21 strong voice to be opposed to this type of land use.
22 It goes very much against the way all of us in this
23 room live.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, and the
26 other thing about that land is, like you brought out,
27 it's a prime hunting area. It's where the moose live,
28 so it doesn't -- if we're concerned about the resource,
29 I don't see how we would be in favor of giving out land
30 where the moose live, where everybody else likes to go
31 hunting.

32

33 I mean, let them do what everybody else
34 does.

35

36 Did you have something to add.

37

38 MS. MARUNDE: No, and that's just the
39 biggest deal or the reason why we really are addressing
40 this so much is because it really is our main hunting
41 area. I mean, we couldn't believe when they came up
42 with these two areas. We're like, wow, they picked the
43 perfect spots, because that's where everyone is.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, it was
46 brought to my attention by Fish and Game, you know, so
47 that -- take a look at this. But I'm telling you as a
48 volunteer, and then being the Chair of this RAC, you
49 get bombarded with so bloody many issues, and each
50 agency has a book that thick for you to read when you

1 go to the meetings, and I'm glad you're here to remind
2 us of it. Even though this on State land, I know we
3 ran into this before, what can we comment on. And I
4 think we have written letters, but on lands that are
5 State lands that affect what's going on for Federal
6 subsistence. So can we write that letter?

7
8 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. My
9 understanding is that the Council has the authority to
10 comment on aspects that affect Federal subsistence
11 management and fish and wildlife resources.

12
13 We have had other.....

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And fish and
16 wildlife resources, yeah.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Yeah, so even if the lands
19 are on non-Federal areas, if it's resources for Federal
20 subsistence, there's an opportunity to comment.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James.

23
24 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I had a question for
25 you. How many permits they wanted to sell, or parcels
26 they had in mind, and how many caribou and moose are
27 being taken out of this area by non-residents.

28
29 MS. MARUNDE: They wouldn't specify how
30 many lots they want to sell there. It's really up in
31 the air for them. You know, he told me that -- or one
32 of the guys there told me that for the subdivision
33 area, you know, once it -- I believe it hits like 40
34 people, it becomes a lottery, and he only expected 12
35 percent of full, you know, max a lot, you know, sell
36 scenario would be. So that's still quite a few people
37 in that one area. And Deadman, I'm not even sure. I
38 don't have the numbers on how many moose are shoot
39 there by nonresidents, but it's been growing quite a
40 bit.

41
42 MR. ROBERTS: So once these permits are
43 sold or parcelled out, you guys will lose all access to
44 this land, right?

45
46 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah. And that's the big
47 thing, is -- so in the Paradise area, we have a trail
48 and that's where everybody's hunting off of. And you
49 guys know, everybody from the village, we have our own
50 self-management, so we know where everybody's spot it,

1 where they've been forever, and if there's too many
2 moose getting shot, then everyone's going to go do
3 something else, or go to a different spot that they
4 might have. So we do self-manage it. And that land
5 sale incorporates I think the first three miles of that
6 trail.

7

8 That trail is also trapped by the
9 village, you know, forever.

10

11 So that's another issue is the access
12 to the traplines.

13

14 And, so, yeah, absolutely.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So to expedite
17 this, I'm one to, if there's an action item, we do it
18 right away, and so we -- if you want more information,
19 we can get it, but I think it's kind of a simple cut
20 and dry situation where this might not be the perfect
21 land choice for them, and we could write that letter to
22 DNR.

23

24 Andrew, did you have a question.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: Do you want that in a
27 motion.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I do.

30

31 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I'd like to propose
32 a motion to draft a letter in opposition to the land
33 sale, and refer to our previous discussion as to the
34 body of the letter. And if any other Council members
35 would want to help draft the letter, it would be
36 appreciated.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Seconded.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moved
41 and second. Any other discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
48 been called for. All in favor say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
6
7 Thank you for bringing that.
8
9 MS. MARUNDE: Thank you so much for
10 listening to me. Appreciate.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You bet.
13
14 Is there anyone on teleconference that
15 would like to speak at this time regarding public,
16 tribal and non-agenda items. And I think, what is it,
17 star something that you've got to push if you have
18 muted. You would have to re-do that.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hearing
23 none, we'll move along.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Maybe we could just
26 introduce.....
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I need reminded
29 sometimes.
30
31 On teleconference land, could you guys
32 please introduce yourself.
33
34 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 This is Pippa Kenner with the Office of Subsistence
36 Management, and I'm sitting at my desk in Anchorage.
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Welcome, Pippa.
39
40 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford
41 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
42 Anchorage.
43
44 MS. MONCRIEFF: And this is Catherine
45 Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
46 Association.
47
48 MR. JENKINS: Madame Chair. Wayne
49 Jenkins with Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
50 is also on the line.

1 MS. GARCIA: Hi, Madame Chair. This is
2 Sabrina Garcia with the Alaska Department of Fish and
3 Game. I am the new summer season assistant manager on
4 the Yukon River.

5
6 MR. SHARP: Yeah. Good morning. This
7 is Dan Sharp with Bureau of Land Management in
8 Anchorage.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

11
12 MS. TONESON: Good morning, Madame
13 Chair. This is Heather Toneson with the U.S. Fish and
14 Wildlife Service in the Anchorage Regional Office.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Welcome
21 everyone.

22
23 Okay. Old business. Customary and
24 traditional use determination. That would be Pippa.

25
26 MS. KENNER: Hello, Madame Chair. Yes,
27 it is Pippa. And you caught me a little off guard.
28 I'm scrambling here, looking for my stuff. I'll be
29 just a minute.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Pippa, do you
32 need some time?

33
34 MS. KENNER: Nope, I've got it now.
35 Thank you very much, Madame Chair. Again, my name is
36 Pippa Kenner, and I'm an anthropologist with the Office
37 of Subsistence Management, and I'm talking to you from
38 Anchorage.

39
40 And I'm going to present the customary
41 and traditional use determination update. This is not
42 an action item. The presentation is to tell you where
43 the Federal Subsistence Management Program is in its
44 review of the customary and traditional use
45 determination process.

46
47 How am I coming across?

48
49 Too loud?

50

1 Too soft?

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just right.

4

5 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Okay.

6

7 In 2010 the Secretary of the Interior
8 asked the Federal Subsistence Board to review Regional
9 Council input the customary and traditional use
10 determination process, and present recommendations for
11 regulatory changes. And in 2011 all 10 Regional
12 Advisory Councils reviewed the process, and 9 of the 10
13 Councils recommended no changes to the process. But
14 the Southeast Council asked the other nine Councils to
15 review the process again, which they did in 2013 and
16 2014.

17

18 And the Eastern Interior Council at its
19 fall 2013 meeting said that the existing process worked
20 well in most cases and recommended no changes to the
21 customary and traditional use determination process at
22 that time.

23

24 At its last meeting, at its winter 2014
25 meeting, the Southeast Council submitted its proposal
26 to the Federal Subsistence Board to make changes to the
27 customary and traditional use determination process.
28 And that letter begins on Page 33 of your Council book.

29

30 So at your next meeting in winter 2015,
31 Staff from the Office of Subsistence Management is
32 planning to present an analysis of the Southeast
33 Council's proposal to all 10 Councils for their review
34 and recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board.
35 And then in the future the Federal Subsistence Board
36 may decide to make a recommendation to the Secretary of
37 the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture.

38

39 Thank you, Council members.

40

41 And that's the end of my presentation.

42

43 I'm available to answer questions.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
46 members. Do you have any questions.

47

48 Andy.

49

50 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Not so much a

1 thought, I was just pondering this topic. I've often
2 thought that really the best way to have customary use
3 determinations is by area. And what I mean by that is
4 instead of allowing people to come all the way across
5 the state to use a resource, it seems to be most
6 studies have shown that most subsistence activities
7 take place between 20 and not much more than 100 miles
8 of an area. And it seems to me like the easiest and
9 best way to protect Federally-qualified users would be
10 to have it set up so customary and traditional use is
11 set up by a boundary of -- well, I'll just throw
12 something out there, 200 miles within your home. And
13 if you want to try and get that beyond that, it
14 wouldn't be available to you, because it kind of goes
15 against all known studies of subsistence use.

16

17 And so I just wanted to throw that out
18 there, because I just -- I know it's not a topic for us
19 to change, but I just want to put that idea out there,
20 because really quite frankly I think that's the long-
21 term solution for this dilemma.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, she just
24 gave us a report on how this is going to come down, so
25 you'll have plenty of time whenever it comes before the
26 meeting to discuss it, so right now probably isn't the
27 time to be in a big discussion about that.

28

29 But on the process, what was that date?
30 It will come up at our next meetings, right, Pippa?

31

32 MS. KENNER: That's correct, Madame
33 Chair. And exactly what the Council.....

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So
36 spring meeting.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Yes, the spring meeting,
39 and the Council, of course, will have another chance to
40 comment on it.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. That's
43 when we can have lots of discussion, so there's no
44 action item going on right now.

45

46 But any questions about the process to
47 Pippa, Council members

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
2 you, Pippa.

3
4 So now rural determination process
5 review.

6
7 An update from OSM.

8
9 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Members of
10 the Council. I am Tom Kron with OSM, and I'll give a
11 short overview of the rural determination process
12 review.

13
14 There's a summary provided in your
15 Council books on Page 40 and 41. The rural
16 determination issue runs from Page 40 to 66. And again
17 this is just a briefing. But there's been a fair
18 amount of information that's been compiled, and I'll go
19 ahead and start, and I'll just hit the high points of
20 the briefing that's presented there on Page 40 and 41.

21
22 In October 2009 Secretary of Interior
23 Salazar announced a review of the Federal Subsistence
24 Program. The review was intended to ensure that the
25 program is best serving rural Alaskans, and that the
26 letter and the spirit of Title VIII of ANILCA are being
27 met. Secretary Salazar, with the concurrence of he
28 Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, requested that the
29 Federal Subsistence Board initiate a number of actions,
30 one of which was to develop recommendations for
31 regulatory changes to the process of making rural/non-
32 rural determinations in Alaska.

33
34 At its January 2012 public meeting, the
35 Federal Subsistence Board elected to conduct a global
36 review of the rural/non-rural determination process,
37 starting with public and Subsistence Regional Advisory
38 Council input. The conclusions of that review and the
39 determinations of rural status were completed in -- are
40 to be completed in March 2017.

41
42 Two areas in Alaska, the Community of
43 Saxman and the Kenai Peninsula, have proven difficult
44 for the Board to categorize under current rural
45 determination process.

46
47 The Board decided to engage in a year-
48 long public review of the current process. On December
49 31st, 2012 the Board identified five elements and they
50 were population threshold, rural characteristics,

1 aggregation of communities, time lines, and information
2 sources for review. The Board posed eight general
3 questions for public input concerning these five
4 elements, one question requesting any additional
5 information.

6

7 The Subsistence Regional Advisory
8 Councils across the state were briefed on the Federal
9 Register notice during the winter 2013 meetings. At
10 their fall 2013 meetings, the Councils provided a
11 public forum to hear from residents from their region.

12

13 In aggregation, the Board received 475
14 substantive comments from various sources, including
15 individual citizens, members of the Regional Advisory
16 Councils, and other entities or organizations such as
17 non-profit Native corporations and borough governments.

18

19 The Board developed a recommendation
20 that simplifies the process of rural/non-rural
21 determinations as shown on Page 41.

22

23 Two months ago on August 15th, 2014, a
24 letter was sent to the Secretaries of Interior and
25 Agriculture, and again that letter is enclosed in your
26 Council books on Page 42 through 47. The Board
27 recommended that a number of changes be made in the
28 process and the regulations, basically with the Board
29 making determinations of which areas are rural and non-
30 rural, and then all other communities and areas are
31 therefore rural.

32

33 The Board also recommended eliminating
34 the Secretarial regulation that specifies criteria
35 previously relied upon by the Board in making
36 determinations: population thresholds and population
37 data sources, rural characteristics, community
38 aggregation, and the 10-year review.

39

40 The next steps in the process through
41 March 2017 are included there at the bottom of Page 41,
42 and I'll stop there, but again there's a fair amount of
43 material here, but you can look at the letter that sent
44 to the Secretaries based on all the comments that came
45 in.

46

47 And again this Council has been very
48 involved in the process throughout the years, and there
49 were public hearings a year ago on this very issue.

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
4 members. Any questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I might have
9 one. Whenever I see, on Page 45, Federal Subsistence
10 Board recommendations, all the strikeouts, it kind of
11 scares me a little bit. So what is actually ending up
12 happening is the Board shall determine which
13 communities in Alaska are non-rural.

14

15 Discretionary?

16

17 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Again we
18 received a lot of comments about every one of the items
19 there that is struck out. A lot of negative comments.
20 And the conclusion was it's best to just let the Board
21 make the decision based on the input from the Councils
22 and the public.

23

24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Yeah. I have a lot of concerns about the way this has
30 been conducted and the determination that the Board
31 had. It goes to the very heart of some of these other
32 topics that we've been discussing, and that is people
33 out in rural areas are being squeezed out. And when
34 you start changing some of these populations, it's --
35 if you look at the long history, it's no different than
36 the expansion in the west. It's happening here in
37 Alaska. And we're just like the people that relied on
38 buffalo there. We're going to get squeezed out, and
39 our lands are going to be taken away, our rights and
40 the resources are going to be shot up by other people,
41 and there's nothing left.

42

43 And these numbers were put there, and I
44 think, you know -- and I'm referring to population,
45 population numbers were put there for a reason, and now
46 the populations are changing, and it's unpopular, it
47 doesn't suit some of these more urban lifestyles. They
48 want to change the population. So it seems like an end
49 run, and it's just opening the door for more and more
50 of the pressure to go from these urban areas out into

1 the rural areas, and it's taking away the lifestyle.
2 And I'm really concerned about that. I don't think
3 it's -- this decision is not protecting Federal-
4 qualified subsistence traditional living. It is not
5 doing that, and I thought that's what this whole
6 program's all about is ensuring that this way of life
7 can continue.

8

9 So I'm really concerned about the way
10 this is taking place.

11

12 I think things need to be put in place.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

15

16 Tom.

17

18 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair. Andy.

19 I think, you know, that ANILCA is there to protect
20 rural subsistence users. It's there to protect you.
21 It's there to protect the Council process and provide
22 for input through the Council process.

23

24 And on the population threshold
25 information, look on Page 47, and again we received 101
26 comments relative to population threshold, but you'll
27 see there that, you know, 51 percent are saying, do not
28 use population thresholds. But, you know, while the
29 thinking was to not go into the detail in the analysis
30 that was being reported earlier, which was so
31 problematic, the thinking was to essentially rely on
32 input from the Councils, from the rural users, for
33 example, in making these determinations.

34

35 So I don't think we're losing that, but
36 again just based on the comments that were received,
37 and a lot of these comments were coming in from
38 Councils, from tribes in the area.

39

40 But, again, people were concerned about
41 the numbers that were written down in the regulations.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Andy,
46 and then Virgil.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Just a quick response.
49 Fifty-one percent of the comments received, but how
50 many of the comments were received from rural people.

1 That's the whole point that I'm making. We're more and
2 more of a minority, so even if every single person in a
3 rural area spoke up, we're still outnumbered by other
4 people.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So that's the
7 question.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: And so you can't go by
10 these.....

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How many is 51
13 percent?

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Well, how many of
16 these people are from what we would -- what are now
17 considered -- or would have been considered to be non-
18 rural areas making these comments as compared to those
19 of rural areas. And that's the problem. You can't use
20 these kind of percentages in your analysis, because
21 it's apples and oranges.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's the
24 question. Do you understand the question.

25
26 MR. KRON: I understand the question,
27 and to be right up front, I don't know the answer
28 relative to the specific determination, but I do know
29 that we went to all of the Regional Advisory Councils
30 for comments. When this was being done a year ago, I
31 attended the Bristol Bay and the Kodiak Council
32 meetings, and we were getting comments for a lot of
33 rural people in both of those locations.

34
35 I know that we've received non-rural
36 comments, but I would guess that the vast, vast
37 majority of the comments incorporated into this process
38 were from rural users.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair [sic].

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: This has been going on
45 for a long time. When I was on the Board of Fisheries,
46 we addressed whether Sitka should have a positive C&T
47 for fishing.

48
49 And what Tom just brought up, Kodiak.
50 There's Kodiak City and then there's all the little

1 small villages around Kodiak. Everyone is considered a
2 subsistence user on Kodiak. And, of course, the people
3 in the village have a different idea about -- no --
4 about the people that live in Kodiak City.

5
6 So this is just a giant, big bag of
7 worms, this whole issue, and I don't think there's a
8 solution that's going to make everyone happy.

9
10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This is a
13 report of what's going on. And I just passed Virgil a
14 note, is this a question, and he said, no. This is the
15 process. What we're looking at is the process.

16
17 Okay.

18
19 Do we have any questions about the
20 process, because this will come up and we'll get to
21 talk about it again.

22
23 Yes.

24
25 Okay.

26
27 MR. KRON: Multiple times.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes. No
30 questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Tom.

35
36 Okay. The signed Federal Subsistence
37 Board letter to Secretaries on the rural process on 42.
38 Are we -- is there going to be a report on that, or are
39 we done.

40
41 MS. PATTON: It's part of the.....

42
43 MR. KRON: Yeah. Madame Chair.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's two
46 things?

47
48 MR. KRON: Again, a bunch of the
49 material, about 30 pages there, in your Council
50 notebooks concerns the rural process, and it's briefing

1 material. We just wanted to keep you informed. And
2 you're going to see this multiple times in the future.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair [sic].

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Before
7 you leave, I do have a question. So this is your
8 recommendation to both Secretaries, and now what they
9 do could be something different.

10

11 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. It's not my
12 recommendation, it's the Board's recommendation based
13 on all of the comments that came in.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, sorry.

16

17 MR. KRON: And again it is a
18 recommendation, and again the hope is to get feedback
19 so decisions can be made and public notices can be
20 handled between now and 2017. So it's a long process.
21 You'll be involved in that, and again there's about 30
22 pages in the Council book that talks about the rural
23 issue.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But right now,
28 as far as us and action items, there is not anything we
29 can do but wait through this process.

30

31 Okay.

32

33 MR. KRON: That is correct. Madame
34 Chair.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
37 To clarify, on Page 42 is a letter from the Federal
38 Subsistence Board to the Secretary of Interior and
39 Secretary of Agriculture informing them of the
40 recommendation the Board has made on rural
41 determination process. And so now the Secretaries
42 consider this. And there is no response back yet.

43

44 And that process will be ongoing, and
45 public and RAC participation in that process.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. This is
48 Pippa Kenner.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes. I tried

1 to multi-task here. Go ahead, Pippa.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Thank you. I was able to
4 consult with the author of the briefing, and the person
5 who wrote the report that we are now calling Appendix A
6 in your book, starting on Page 56. He was able to say
7 that the majority of the comments that came in were
8 from rural residents of the public comments. However,
9 we don't ask for residency at a public meeting when
10 people are giving public comments, but most of the
11 public comments came from meetings in rural areas,
12 although there were a couple of meetings held in non-
13 rural areas.

14

15 So it's a combination of those comments
16 from the public and from other organizations and
17 tribes. Then in addition that, there was tribal
18 consultation.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
23 you, Pippa.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Can I clarify a point.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Clarify a
28 point.

29

30 Andy.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I just wanted to
33 clarify the point that I was trying to make earlier.
34 When they say that the comments are made by rural
35 places, the concern that I have is that what's
36 happening is a lot of these places may lose their rural
37 determination and become non-rural, and so they're
38 concerned about losing that, because of their
39 population growth. Under the old process, they would
40 lose that determination. That's why they're speaking
41 up and there are large populations there trying to
42 protect what they once had, even though their
43 communities are changing, and they don't meet the old
44 criteria. That's the point I'm trying to make. It's
45 not that they weren't rural. It's that they're going
46 to probably lose that rural.

47

48 Thank you. That's all I wanted to say
49 to clarify that point, and make sure that's on the
50 record.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Loud and clear.
2 Thank you.
3
4 Okay. I had a request for a short
5 break, so let's take a break here for 10, 15, and we'll
6 come back.
7
8 (Off record)
9
10 (On record)
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: While people
13 are coming back to their seats, there was a few new
14 people that arrived that might want to introduce
15 themselves. I saw new faces out there.
16
17 MR. BERTRAM: Mark Bertram with the US
18 Fish and Wildlife Service.
19
20 MR. LORD: Yeah, this is -- if you guys
21 can hear me, this is Victor Lord in Nenana. I just
22 checked in at 10:00 o'clock.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Good morning,
27 Victor.
28
29 MR. LOUDAN: Good morning.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is anyone new
32 out there.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I've got
37 a couple hands in the audience. Go ahead.
38
39 MR. BERENDZEN: Steve Berendzen with
40 the Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon Flats Refuge.
41
42 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann with
43 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
44
45 MR. STEVENS: My name's Ben Stevens.
46 I'm helping the Tanana Chiefs implement the hunting and
47 fishing strategy.
48
49 MS. FOX: Joanna Fox. I'm the deputy
50 refuge manager for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

1 MR. GLASPELL: Brian Glaspell,
2 fisheries biologist.
3
4 MR. BERTRAM: Mark Bertram, wildlife
5 biologist with Yukon Flats Refuge.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A bunch of new
8 faces. We know you.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I have many titles,
11 but I have a new title. I'm acting deputy refuge
12 manager for Kanuti, but I'm also serving in my other
13 duties as subsistence coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti,
14 and Yukon Flats.
15
16 MR. BURR: And I'm John Burr,
17 sportsfish biologist for Yukon issues. Fish and Game.
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Fish and Game.
20
21 MR. JUSTIN: Good morning. Wilson
22 Justin from Unit 12.
23
24 And just like to note for your
25 edification the first meeting that I attended having to
26 do with fish and game was 1977.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think I was
29 there.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
34 right. Now I've got to put my eyeballs back on.
35
36 Next is new business, the Yukon River
37 2014 salmon season review. Federal and State in-season
38 managers.
39
40 MR. MEARS: Good morning, Madame Chair,
41 members of the Council. My name is Jeremy Mears with
42 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm going to read
43 the 2014 Yukon summer area -- salmon summary.
44
45 But with me is Jeff Estensen with the
46 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and he'd like to
47 introduced some new staff before we get going.
48
49 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Madame Chair. If
50 I may real quickly. Jeff Estensen, Alaska Department

1 of Fish and Game.

2

3 The Yukon fall season for Fish and Game
4 has a new assistant manager, Christine Gleason. I'd
5 just like to take this time to introduce her if she
6 wants to stand up.

7

8 Thank you very much.

9

10 MR. MEARS: There were a few handouts
11 you should have received from Ava prior to this
12 presentation. One is the Federal summary, the other is
13 a packet of graphs that I'll refer to at the end of the
14 presentation.

15

16 The 2014 Chinook run experienced the
17 seventh consecutive season of below average to poor run
18 size. Conversely, both summer and fall chum runs
19 performed as expected with average runs. The coho run
20 was well above average based on the Pilot Station sonar
21 index, which was the highest estimate recorded since
22 the project began in 1995.

23

24 Management of the 2014 summer season
25 was challenged again with the wide disparity in run
26 strength between the overlapping Chinook and summer
27 chum mixed stock fisheries. Efforts to conserve
28 Chinook were initiated at the beginning of the season
29 in the lower river and implemented chronologically in
30 upriver districts as the run progressed. Essentially
31 fishing for Chinook was closed throughout the entire
32 summer season in most districts, and fishing gear
33 restrictions were applied to target harvest of other
34 species. Sport and personal use salmon fisheries were
35 closed, and a large amount of commercial fishing
36 opportunity for summer chum was foregone.
37 Consequently, the management actions significantly
38 limited subsistence access to the abundant summer chum
39 and other fish species.

40

41 Because Chinook have performed below
42 expectations in recent years, there was a great deal of
43 public involvement this past winter with the fishing
44 public and stakeholder groups, including fishermen in
45 Canada.

46

47 During the summer season, in-season run
48 strength assessment of Chinook and summer chum was
49 primarily based on the lower river test fisheries at
50 Emmonak, the Yukon River sonar near Pilot Station, and

1 subsistence fishermen catch reports. Since the Chinook
2 outlook was for an extremely poor run, potentially the
3 worse on record, managers worked on the assumption that
4 there would be little to no Chinook available for
5 subsistence harvest.

6
7 Restrictions to conserve Chinook were
8 initiated early and stayed in effect through the entire
9 run. No commercial or subsistence fishing was allowed
10 to target Chinook throughout the Yukon River.

11
12 Subsistence fishermen were allowed to
13 target other fish species during the early season in
14 most districts, utilizing six-inch or less mesh gillnet
15 gear, before Chinook showed up. Once Chinook began
16 arriving, subsistence salmon fishing for the
17 overlapping summer chum run was allowed, where chum
18 were abundant -- excuse me, when chum were abundant
19 with selective gear such as dipnets, beach seines, and
20 fishwheels. These gear options required Chinook to be
21 released alive back into the river.

22
23 In addition, fishing for non-salmon
24 species was allowed in most districts with four-inch or
25 less mesh gillnet gear during closed salmon fishing
26 periods. At the end of the summer season when managers
27 assessed that the majority of Chinook had passed
28 through a district, subsistence salmon fishing was
29 relaxed back to allow six-inch or less mesh gillnet
30 year.

31
32 Under new commercial fishing
33 regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in
34 January 2013, ADF&G implemented the use of specially
35 equipped fishwheels, dipnets, and beach seines to
36 target summer chum while conserving Chinook. These
37 commercial gear types were employed during most of the
38 summer season in Districts 1 and 2 when Chinook could
39 not have been avoided with traditional gillnet gear.
40 Later in the summer season when most Chinook had moved
41 out of the area, commercial fishing periods were opened
42 to six-inch or less mesh gillnets to provide harvest
43 opportunity on the remaining summer chum. Further
44 upriver in Districts 4 and 6, special commercial
45 periods were opened for only fish-friendly wheel gear
46 to target summer chum, with the requirement to
47 immediately release all Chinook alive.

48
49 Those Chinook caught later in the
50 commercial gillnets could not be sold, but were allowed

1 to be kept for subsistence use.

2

3 Preliminary commercial harvest for the
4 summer season fishery were approximately 510,000 summer
5 chum with 5,800 Chinook caught and released, and 443
6 Chinook caught, but not sold. This was the highest
7 commercial harvest of summer chum since 1989 even with
8 selective gear.

9

10 Due to the conservation efforts of the
11 Yukon River fishermen, the estimated U.S. Canada border
12 passage of 65,000 Chinook ended above the interim
13 management escapement goal of between 42,500 and 55,000
14 with additional surplus available for Canadian harvest
15 share as stipulated in the Yukon River Salmon
16 Agreement.

17

18 Unfortunately, high water hampered
19 several escapement projects this year, yet the data
20 that was collected at the weirs and subsequent aerial
21 surveys indicated that Chinook salmon escapements were
22 strong.

23

24 Based on the summer to fall chum salmon
25 relationship, managers revised the 2014 fall season
26 outlook to a run size greater than 850,000 fall chum,
27 which is considered adequate for escapement needs, full
28 subsistence use, and provide a surplus for commercial
29 harvest and other uses. At the beginning of the fall
30 season in Districts 1, 2, and 3 subsistence salmon
31 fishing reverted to the standard fishing gear and
32 schedule. Since little or no commercial fishing effort
33 was anticipated in upriver Districts 4, 5, and 6,
34 subsistence fishing began on relaxed schedules and
35 remained relaxed through the fall season. Many
36 subsistence fishermen indicated to managers that they
37 intended to make up for low Chinook harvest with good
38 quality fall chum from the front of the run.

39

40 Commercial salmon fishing was initiated
41 in the low river at the start of the fall season to
42 take advantage of the overlap in summer and fall chum
43 runs. Through the front half of the fall season, chum
44 entered the river in average to below average run
45 strength, so managers were cautious, being sure to pass
46 fish upriver for subsistence fishermen who were looking
47 to harvest the early fall chum to make up for the lack
48 of Chinook. During the second half of the season, two
49 large pulses of approximately 100,000 and 250,000 fall
50 chum entered the river. These pulses brought the run

1 projection back in line with the preseason
2 expectations.

3
4 Commercial fishing continued in the
5 lower river throughout the season with attempts made to
6 align commercial openings with pulses as each passed
7 through the districts.

8
9 Meanwhile, the later coho run appeared
10 to be developing above average with passage at the
11 mainstem sonar near Pilot Station being the second
12 highest on record. The fall chum commercial fishing
13 season closed by regulation on September 1st.
14 Immediately following, a coho-directed commercial
15 fishery was allowed as stipulated in the Yukon River
16 Coho Salmon Management Plan from September 1st through
17 September 10th, because there was high abundance of
18 coho and an adequate fall chum salmon passage.
19 Additionally, a small fall commercial harvest occurred
20 in Subdistricts 5B and 5C, and in District 6.

21
22 The combined fall season commercial
23 harvest through September 28th was 115,000 fall chum,
24 and 104,000 coho salmon. The fall chum commercial
25 harvest was below the most recent five-year, 2009 to
26 2013 average, while the coho commercial harvest was the
27 second highest on record.

28
29 Most fall chum escapement project ended
30 above average with escapement goals being met or
31 exceeded. The Eagle sonar ended operation on October
32 6th with a preliminary final escapement passage of
33 170,000 fall chum, which is adequate to provide
34 Canadian escapement goals and harvest sharing
35 agreements.

36
37 Escapement monitoring within the Tanana
38 drainage will continue through November, but
39 indications at this time are that all fall chum
40 escapements are expected and within or above most
41 escapement objectives for the 2000 [sic] season with
42 the exception of the Fishing Branch River on the Upper
43 Porcupine River, which consistently fails to reach its
44 agreement goal.

45
46 Coho may end near the high end of the
47 Delta/Clearwater escapement goal, which is the only
48 established goal in the drainage for coho.

49
50 Subsistence salmon harvest information

1 collected in-season indicated that no fisherman met
2 their Chinook subsistence harvest goals. Generally
3 fishermen reported a lack of fishing opportunity,
4 having to fish later into the season, or having to fish
5 their fishing efforts to other species. This was
6 expected in light of the current trend in low Chinook
7 abundance, and the most conservative management effort
8 taken in the history of the fishery.

9
10 On the other hand, fishermen have done
11 well to shift their subsistence harvest to other
12 species. They are learning to use new selective gear
13 options and are shifting their harvest patterns to
14 other times and locations to target other fishes.

15
16 It is apparent that while the lack of
17 Chinook is a real hardship, fishermen recognize that
18 the Chinook run is not as strong as it used to be, and
19 that we all need to take care of what we have.

20
21 That concludes the summary.

22
23 Additionally we've provided this packet
24 of graphs. If you look on Page 1, what you're seeing
25 is the Chinook harvest since 1982. And what you can
26 see is since 2008 there has been essentially no
27 commercial Chinook harvest on the Yukon River.

28
29 The second graph is showing subsistence
30 harvest since '82. And what's important here is that
31 you can see until about 2012 numbers stayed fairly
32 consistent up until we had to start reducing harvest to
33 preserve Chinook salmon.

34
35 The graph on the bottom is total
36 Chinook salmon run construction with escapement in
37 black and total harvest being commercial and
38 subsistence combined on the top. Unfortunately, 2014
39 numbers are still preliminary, so we're still waiting
40 for subsistence numbers to get an idea of what the
41 reconstruction will look like for 2014.

42
43 I'm not going to speak directly to the
44 next three pages. They're just basically to give you
45 an idea of how escapement projects went this season.
46 So we've got Pilot, Eagle, East Fork, Gisasa/Henshaw.
47 And I think what's really of value is if you look on
48 the last page -- actually, on Page 5 there's also three
49 graphs that show how -- kind of historically how the
50 chum runs and the coho runs have panned out. Again,

1 2014 numbers are preliminary.

2

3 But on the last page, on Page 6, the
4 upper graph, if you look at that, that really shows you
5 what we have to deal with in terms of the complexity of
6 the summer management. The red portion of the graph is
7 that strong summer chum component, and the blue is the
8 Chinook component, and you can see that the overlap
9 there makes it difficult to allow opportunity on summer
10 chum while avoiding the Chinook salmon.

11

12 Jeff, do you have anything to add?

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I think
15 that covered it. Thank you.

16

17 MR. MEARS: Okay. So that concludes my
18 presentation.

19

20 Are there any questions, concerns.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
23 members. Any questions.

24

25 Virgil.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: In talking with
28 fishermen, the fishermen at Kaltag noticed a fair
29 number of sockeye being caught and also pink salmon.
30 And I know that pink salmon were even caught at Tanana.
31 And so I don't think the Department has any idea where
32 these fish are headed, do they?

33

34 MR. MEARS: No. I mean, at the project
35 down in the lower river, I know we have significant run
36 -- we have a fairly small run of sockeye in the
37 Andraefsky, and a large component of pinks, but upper
38 river we really don't have a good idea of where those
39 fish are going.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is anyone attempting to
42 try to figure this out or anything about it, about
43 where they're headed or why this is happening.

44

45 MR. MEARS: Currently I don't know of
46 any projects specifically looking at that. So, no, but
47 I mean, it's certainly something we'll take note of and
48 look at in the future to see if they're shifting use of
49 the river and the drainage.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James.

4

5 MR. ROBERTS: Yea. I was fishing this
6 fall and I noticed there was a big drop off in the
7 numbers after that one major pulse that came in. Is it
8 possible that they over-fished it commercially on the
9 lower end? Because it shut us out in the Eastern
10 Interior district. A lot of us didn't meet our goals.

11

12 And another thing I think that really
13 hurt us, too, is they let us start fishing so late.
14 And if they gave us two extra weeks, we might have made
15 it a lot easier than we did.

16

17 But I'm concerned about the commercial
18 harvest as you guys don't really know the numbers and
19 don't know what's coming behind it, but you guys let
20 them fish it anyway.

21

22 MR. ESTENSEN: Well, what species are
23 we talking? I'm sorry, I missed what you were talking.

24

25 MR. ROBERTS: Fall.

26

27 MR. ESTENSEN: Oh, for the fall chum.

28

29 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. Right after that
30 last pulse you guys got in, you guys got all excited
31 and let everybody fish and fish and fish. But on the
32 upper end, there wasn't nothing left after that
33 commercial season is what I'm trying to say.

34

35 And another thing, another point that I
36 was trying to make was if you guys let us fish a couple
37 weeks earlier on that summer chum run, it would have
38 made it a lot easier for every one of us fishermen.

39

40 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Madame Chair.
41 Jeff Estensen, Fish and Game here.

42

43 For the fall chum, after the first
44 pulse, are you talking about later -- I mean, what
45 first pulse are you referring to?

46

47 MR. ROBERTS: Well, I'm talking about
48 the fall chum run, and you guys got your numbers and
49 you guys opened your season. But what I'm saying is,
50 it just dropped right off. I mean, I'm talking about

1 catching maybe 100 fish to catch, and maybe 10. And
2 what I'm saying is, did you guys over-fish it on the
3 commercial season.

4

5 MR. ESTENSEN: No, James. Madame
6 Chair. Through the Chair. The way that the fall chum
7 have been -- that the entry pattern has been in the
8 last couple years, we've seen where, you know, go
9 through the transition period, there's a mix of summer
10 and fall chum coming in there. And it drops off. This
11 year we didn't really have any big pulses in fall chum
12 in the month of July.

13

14 I think we got around maybe the end of
15 July or so, and what we've been seeing is these really
16 extended periods at the mouth of very hot and calm
17 weather. As a matter of fact, we've seen some of the
18 highest water temperatures at the mouth in our Yukon
19 test fishery. As a result of that, and just to let you
20 know, that fall chum like to enter the river, the Yukon
21 River, with southwest winds blowing pretty good.
22 Definitely fall weather typically is very, you know,
23 cool, cloudy.

24

25 We've seen these periods the last two
26 years of where we've seen this really hot weather like
27 I was just mentioning. And as a result of that, we've
28 gone through what we call these doldrums. And that's
29 where we basically see nothing coming into the river
30 for the most part of fall chum. And it's a big gap.
31 And that occurred -- I think it started this year
32 around the end of July and went all the way through the
33 18th of August I think is before we got the big pulse
34 coming in. And then that sent another group of fish up
35 river. So, you know, because of that gap -- I mean,
36 there was literally, you know -- and we heard it on the
37 teleconferences, talking to people, you know, when I
38 was making phone calls, you know, we haven't seen a
39 fish in, you know, whatever, and it's like, well,
40 that's to be expected, because we have this big gap
41 coming in. And then after that when we had a big pulse
42 come through then another group came in. And we've
43 seen that the last two years.

44

45 And just as a result, it wasn't a
46 matter of over-fishing commercially. As a matter of
47 fact, I would say that, you know, we probably took one
48 of the most cautious approaches this year in the
49 commercial fishery early on, to the point where I was
50 actually adjusting periods not to get on top of fish,

1 but to actually let more fish get by.

2

3 And during these lull periods, you
4 know, we're certainly falling behind on what we need to
5 get upriver for subsistence, and also for escapement.
6 And during that time, there is no commercial fishing.
7 I think we went almost two weeks without having a
8 commercial opening in the lower river until we started
9 seeing that big pulse come in. And it was really the
10 big first pulse which was about maybe the 18th of
11 August or so, I don't have the exact dates in front of
12 me, which was -- the first one I think was 150,000 fish
13 or something like that. And that definitely put us
14 back to where we needed to be, we resumed commercial
15 fishing.

16

17 But what I suspect you're talking about
18 is that lull period which is just basically a big chunk
19 of time, all the way up the river where there was
20 really no fish coming in the river at all.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 Yeah, looking at the bottom graph on
27 Page 6, it breaks down the different contributions of
28 Chinook salmon as far as drainages, and given the
29 weather patterns and the heavy flooding that we've had
30 on the Chena and Salcha in the last couple of years
31 where data wasn't collected, I'm just curious how the
32 Department's going to adjust for that in their
33 predictions for future runs, if you could kind of give
34 me some kind of an idea of what you're thinking or
35 talking about, because the Tanana River is 24 percent
36 of the run. It's the second biggest contribution to
37 the king salmon run on the Alaska portion -- well, in
38 the whole drainage, and so it's a very large component.
39 And not getting that data, it seems like it might be
40 very difficult to make future predictions, not knowing
41 what the escapements are and certainly not knowing what
42 the effects of that flooding was on spawning grounds.

43

44 If you could maybe give me a little bit
45 of insight about that, I'd appreciate it.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Madame Chair.

50 Jeff Estensen here.

1 Yeah, Andy, unfortunately we don't -- I
2 don't know if anybody on line, Anchorage Staff,
3 specifically Stephanie Schmidt who's the research
4 biologist for the summer season.

5
6 I mean, I understand what you're
7 saying. It certainly, you know -- it's a big piece of
8 the puzzle when allowing us to make -- you know,
9 looking at forecasts for the next years and whatnot. I
10 know we're having the same problem with the fall
11 season, too, and we're having to use things like
12 genetics to try to fill in that a little bit without
13 actually having the project there. And, you know,
14 using other information that we might have to be able
15 to try to piece that together.

16
17 But I really can't answer that question
18 directly.

19
20 I don't know if anybody from the summer
21 season is on listening, they might be able to give it a
22 shot.

23
24 DR. SCHMIDT: Hey, Jeff, yeah. This is
25 Stephanie Schmidt. I just happened to be sitting next
26 to Sabrina Garcia here when Andy asked his question, so
27 good timing, Andy.

28
29 That's a question that's come up a
30 couple of times, and like Jeff, I don't have a clear
31 answer for you. I don't really have good research on
32 understanding and documenting how floods do impact
33 production and recruitment. It is something that, you
34 know, when we put together those run reconstruction and
35 then pre-season forecast models, we do take it into
36 consideration. It's kind of, you know, one of those
37 things that's always in the back of our mind when we're
38 putting together that Ricker model, and then we make
39 those adjustments to the numbers, because the Ricker
40 model doesn't necessarily perform perfectly. But
41 exactly quantifying it, you know, we don't have the
42 exact research or the numbers to say definitively this
43 is the percent impact that it's going to have on
44 production. It's just one of those qualitative
45 assessments that we do.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Andy.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And the Virgil.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to switch over
4 to fall chum. Thank you, Stephanie. I think it's --
5 the reason I'm bringing that up is I think it's
6 something that has to keep being reminded of managers,
7 and when they do their projections for future runs,
8 because there's a pretty unknown quantity for the next
9 probably life cycle anyway of what's going to be coming
10 up, so I'm just hoping that they remember. And I'm
11 sure they will for cautious points.

12

13 Regarding fall chum, one of the
14 concerns I have that I'd like to bring up and I'm going
15 to start addressing through maybe some proposals
16 through this Council in the future is fall chum is
17 absolutely essential to the livelihood of people in our
18 regions, the whole Interior district here from Tanana
19 all the way up to the Canadian border. Without fall
20 chum, our way of life goes away. And it is fortunately
21 right now very abundant, but it has a long track record
22 of abundance and then crash. And what I would like to
23 start doing is getting some proposals and some
24 discussion in place to set up safety nets so that we
25 can have pulse protections in the future if run
26 strengths aren't good. I think it's going to be really
27 critical to the people in the upper river that fall
28 chum do not end up being impacted the way Chinook have.
29 We have nothing left to fish up there. It's essential
30 to our lifestyle.

31

32 I've done quite a bit of work in the
33 last two summers trying to supplement king salmon with
34 non-salmon species. Whitefish, pike, sheefish. And
35 what I'm finding is they're not abundant enough to make
36 a replacement, not even close. You have to work --
37 under my estimates, you have to work about 20 to 25
38 percent harder just to try and get about half the
39 amount of human consumption flesh. And I have that
40 information that I'll share later on with the Federal
41 Subsistence Board.

42

43 But the point I'm trying to make is
44 that fall chum are very, very important to us, and in
45 the future I'd really like to work with Jeff Estensen
46 and managers to get some regulations and proposals in
47 to protect fall chum on years when they will decline,
48 because it's going to happen. It's just the way they
49 happen. It's not the fault of managers when it
50 happens, it's just something that happens through

1 climate or changing conditions, so I want to be
2 prepared. I want to get the discussion out, the debate
3 out, so that the Federal Subsistence Board and the
4 Board of Fish have already heard that so that it
5 doesn't take three years to react to it. So I'm just
6 kind of giving a head's up to the Council that this is
7 something that's really high on my priority list.

8
9 And it's very important to the people
10 of the.....

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So the next
13 call for proposals then.

14
15 Yeah.

16
17 Okay.

18
19 Virgil.

20
21 (Loud noise on teleconference)

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did we lose
24 everybody out there. It sounded like it.

25
26 MS. MONCRIEFF: I'm still on, Catherine
27 Moncrieff with YRDFA.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
30 everybody else on out there.

31
32 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yeah. This is
33 Becca with YRDFA. I'm still on.

34
35 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa. I'm still
36 on.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It
39 sounded like you guys all went away.

40
41 All right, we're moving on.

42
43 Virgil.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. My question is
46 for Dr. Schmidt. Are you on still.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Dr. Schmidt,
49 are you still on. If you pushed your mute button, you
50 need to push it back.

1 (Off record conversation re getting
2 people back on)
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Stephanie, are
5 you on.
6
7 MR. ESTENSEN: Stephanie should be on.
8 Madame Chair. Stephanie should be on.
9
10 DR. SCHMIDT: Yeah, we're back on line.
11 We got disconnected.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. You had
14 to call back in. Okay. A question for you.
15
16 Virgil.
17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: My question is kind of
19 a follow up to Andy's question about the lack of
20 production and accounting for that due to the high
21 water events that we've had say in 2008. And with this
22 year, the age composition of the six-year-olds I
23 believe was the lowest on record of the Chinook salmon
24 run, and so I assume, and this is not really a good
25 question, but I assume that the department will be
26 analyzing the loss of fecundity due to the low number
27 of six-year-olds. And so my question is -- and the
28 high number of five-year-olds, which are smaller and
29 less fecund fish. And so is the department attempting
30 to analyze what the loss of fecundity would be in their
31 models to figure out how many fish they think are going
32 to come back in the future?
33
34 DR. SCHMIDT: Yeah. Virgil, thanks for
35 that question. And for everyone else who's on line or
36 at the meeting, Stephanie Schmidt. I'm the summer
37 research biologist on the Yukon.
38
39 That's a tough question to answer.
40 What you're really asking is, are we going to be taking
41 into account quality of escapement in our production
42 models, and in our pre-season forecast models. The
43 model that we use is the Ricker model. And the Ricker
44 model is actually very robust to differences in age
45 composition. And I have asked numerous salmon
46 scientist, academics, researchers, if there's any data,
47 any research showing a correlation between quality of
48 escapement and increased production. And
49 unfortunately, for salmon there's really no documented
50 cases where quality of escapement can be correlated to

1 better production.

2

3 The data are just all over the map.
4 It's like a shotgun shell blast, you know, on a two-
5 dimensional plot.

6

7 That said, looking at the Yukon River
8 data, you know, I've started to dig into it a bit
9 further and started to look at, okay, how does
10 increased number of six-year-olds on the spawning
11 grounds correspond to then, you know, fish coming back
12 from that particular brood year. What I've seen is
13 that it's not really a difference in six-year-olds, but
14 it's really a number of five-year-olds, the number of
15 seven-year-olds you have on the spawning grounds. And
16 so that's what I will be looking at when I do my pre-
17 season forecast, you know, if I'm still in this
18 position in five, six years. That's what I would be
19 considering, is what do we have on the spawning grounds
20 in terms of five-year-olds and seven-year-olds.

21

22 But, you're right. This year across
23 the board at most escapement projects, we had a lower
24 than average percentage of six-year-olds that made it
25 to the spawning grounds. It's not just the
26 Chena/Salcha, not just the Tanana drainage where we had
27 high water conditions.

28

29 It was a lot of places.

30

31 But it's like I answered with Andy,
32 it's one of those things that we can't quite quantify
33 right now, but we are keeping it in the back of our
34 minds. We are considering it. We know that these
35 models that we use aren't perfect, so we're trying to
36 incorporate some of that local knowledge about, you
37 know, years of high floods, knowing very well that we
38 have a lot of younger, smaller fish that got on the
39 spawning grounds in a particular year, just kind of
40 having that qualitative information helps us kind of I
41 guess proceed with caution when we put out those
42 preseason forecasts then.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame
45 Chair.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
48 questions.

49

50 Did you have your hand up, Fred? Come

1 on forward.

2

3 MR. BUE: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife Service.

5

6 I guess just to add to the discussion.
7 There's been a few questions, but this Page 1 on your
8 packet, the lower part of the graph, you have -- what
9 we're really talking about is escapement. And Virgil's
10 question about 2008, the flooded year, those would be
11 the six-year-old fish coming -- that we would have seen
12 this year. So the escapement is what we have there,
13 but then the flood followed the escapement, and so that
14 may have impacted it. But what we also see is in 2009
15 we had a pretty significant escapement. And so that
16 would bode or lead to the strong five-year-old age
17 class this year. So what you're seeing is that
18 proportion of six-year-olds from 2008 and the strong
19 component from 2009. And so that's where we're pretty
20 much -- you know, even with the production staying the
21 same, this reflects that proportion that we would
22 expect this year.

23

24 Now, 2009, the question will be what
25 happens next year. Do we see six-year-olds coming from
26 2009, from that brood year. You know, that's what
27 we're watching, and that's what -- maybe there's a
28 glimmer of hope. If there's that six-year-old age
29 component, tend to be a higher female proportion in
30 six-year-old age classes, so maybe we are going to get
31 a little bit better production potential next year.

32

33 So I'll add that for Mr. Umphenour.

34

35 Also, Andy's questions about the Tanana
36 River. We've had this problem for a while now. The
37 Chena, Salcha, we've been getting high water a number
38 of years. The Sportfish Division, the ones that
39 monitor the Chena River, have put in a DIDSON, and so
40 post season they do get some count from there, even
41 though the weir got washed out, and their counting
42 tower. And so there is some assessment there. It's
43 not perfect, but it is better than nothing, and it's
44 better than what they'd done in the past, the creel
45 census. They get other information, age data and stuff
46 off that, but it is filling in that gap.

47

48 Also, Fish and Game is going through
49 the process of a development project of a sonar at
50 Manley Hot Springs, the Manley area there. It's a new

1 project. It's been -- it's developmental, it's not up
2 to full speed, but they've been working with a
3 fishwheel, getting CPUE information and comparing that
4 with the sonar. And so hopefully that's going to help
5 fill in some of that information gap.

6
7 I think on top of that, of course,
8 we're relying more and more on the genetics, and that
9 gives us our information early in the season, lower
10 river, where there's quite a bit of harvest potential,
11 and we have an opportunity to affect it with
12 management.

13
14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
17 questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I have one.
22 After being on this Council 14 years, the Yukon River
23 Chinook has been probably the main topic that I hear.
24 And not being from that region, one of the things that
25 really blew me away was that North Pacific Fishery
26 Management Council not being able to change regulations
27 for four years, and the impact of that bycatch fishery
28 to the Yukon River fish. It seems to me it would be
29 really interesting to throw a graph on Page 1 of the
30 bycatch fishery, of what you have information on from
31 the same years that's in this graph, because it seems
32 like, I don't know, it would show -- I'm wondering
33 what's happening to these fish, and why they're not
34 responding.

35
36 Go ahead.

37
38 MR. BUE: Yeah. Madame Chair. I think
39 this would come up maybe following the presentation,
40 but Becca Robbins Gisclair with YRDFA I think will
41 speak to the bycatch. One of her handouts -- at least
42 I picked it up on the back table has a graph of the
43 bycatch by year. And so if you're just eyeballing it,
44 you can get an idea of where the Chinook and chum
45 bycatch spiked and.....

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It would be
48 interesting to see it just like this on this page to
49 me. It would be helpful for my brain which is too
50 small to understand this.

1 MR. BUE: Right. But you can see like
2 Chinook, there was a spike in 2007, that's what most
3 people are pretty familiar with. There was a pretty
4 good shoot there. And so if you look at that, compared
5 to the bottom graph on the run reconstruction on Page
6 1, 2007, you know, there was a drop. But it is very
7 complicated with the multiple age classes in the Bering
8 Sea, and so it is really difficult to align that with a
9 brood year on the Yukon -- or in an escapement year on
10 the Yukon.

11

12 Madame Chair.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Larry.

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

17 I don't know who to address this to, but in the past
18 I've been asking for a study to be done on the Tanana
19 River. In recent years we have Chinook going up the
20 Tanana River, and in speaking to the villagers that
21 live there, there's been quite an increase in the
22 Chinook salmon that migrates up that way. And I was
23 just wondering, who do I ask if there's going to be
24 study done or is there something in the works, because
25 we'd like to know how many is there -- I mean,
26 guesstimate how many is going up that way, and how many
27 is harvested. I think we can get that harvest study
28 done on our own, but we'd like to know further more
29 detail on how this thing is working out I think.

30

31 Like I said, is there a study being
32 done or one in the works or something. I don't know
33 who I address this two specifically, but if somebody
34 can answer that question.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Fred.

37

38 MR. BUE: Yes. Thank you, Madame

39 Chair.

40

41 Mr. Williams.

42

43 Yeah, we've heard this before. In
44 fact, I guess I don't know what year it was, mid
45 2000's, we did -- Fish and Wildlife Service has a sonar
46 project on the Chandalar River. They actually tried to
47 -- they went in early season, trying to estimate the
48 number of Chinook, and it was very difficult for the.
49 Their sonar doesn't differentiate between a Chinook and
50 a chum. And so they needed to do some test fishing,

1 and it was -- they were not very successful in
2 apportioning the catch there. And so it was really
3 difficult to estimate how many Chinook could work with
4 that project. It doesn't mean that there's not other
5 potential projects out there, but with the sonar there
6 was just such a small proportion of Chinook versus the
7 chum present, it was difficult to sort out a good
8 estimate there, and so they backed away from the
9 Chinook component of that project and just focused on
10 fall chum.

11
12 I think for your question of how to get
13 studies done, I believe in a couple more agenda items,
14 priority information needs for the fisheries funding
15 program, that would be from the Federal side, that is
16 one place where this Council can give input into your
17 priorities of where the OSM Federal money can support
18 projects like that. If that's a high priority for this
19 Council, you can certainly add to the list and it will
20 be considered in the priorities.

21
22 Madame Chair.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Larry.

25
26 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

27
28 I guess another question, is there
29 somebody that can work with a village in doing a study
30 on how many Chinook salmon were actually caught. Some
31 people put in nets and some don't, you know, so most of
32 the salmon that were caught were given out to the
33 elders and to the families. But we have no -- I
34 couldn't say precise, but we don't have no estimate of
35 how many were caught, actually caught and consumed by
36 the village, so I was just wondering how that can be
37 done. Maybe we can get -- from that study, we can get
38 an estimate of how many Chinook actually went by the
39 Village of Venetie.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. BUE: Yeah, I will -- I guess
44 speaking for ourselves, the Federal government, the
45 State of Alaska does a post-season subsistence salmon
46 survey, and we rely on that information to give us
47 assessment what individual harvests are, what community
48 harvests are, locations in the river where those
49 harvests take place. And so Venetie is captured in
50 that survey.

1 One of the problems is that it's a
2 pretty extensive survey post-season, and it takes -- we
3 have preliminary information by February or March of
4 what happened this season, and so it's not a very quick
5 survey. The analysis is pretty extensive. It's pretty
6 complicated, and then the actual final report doesn't
7 come out until maybe a year and a half, two years
8 later, and so by the time individual specific data gets
9 out to the communities, it's maybe two years down the
10 road.

11
12 But we can get those reports for you.
13 I don't imagine Venetie changes much until just in
14 recent years where we've made these really extensive
15 closures up there. But I think Fish and Game probably
16 has some of that information. Specific to this year,
17 it's going to be later on.

18
19 Madame Chair.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you have
22 anything else, Larry.

23
24 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I don't.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Larry.
29 I was just curious. Did you think your community would
30 be in favor of having permits or harvest reporting, in-
31 season reporting as a tool to gather that information?
32 There's been a lot of discussion at this Council over
33 the last three or four years about trying to initiate
34 in-season reporting requirements to people, and I'm
35 just curious where some of the villages now that we're
36 at this crash and everything, if people are starting to
37 change their minds, and maybe think that that might be
38 a more valuable tool for getting assessments of
39 harvest. It's something to think about.

40
41 I'm just curious what you think your
42 community would feel on that.

43
44 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I'll try to answer
45 your question, Andy. Yeah, we've been saying before
46 that that there's a small number of people who harvest
47 and actually hunt for the village, you know, so I would
48 think in my mind that the Council or whoever's in
49 charge of that particular village pass out the harvest
50 tickets that we could make up on our own, or with the

1 help of the Fish and Wildlife. Anyway, like I was
2 saying, you know, there's a small number, you can count
3 them on your fingers, that provide most of the meat and
4 most of the fish that we consume. So I would think
5 that it would be very simple to have something like
6 that in-season to these particular people that do fish,
7 and we can maybe get better data from what we gather.

8

9 I hope that answers your question,
10 Andy.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I see you come
15 to the table. You must have something to add.

16

17 MR. ESTENSEN: I don't know. Madame
18 Chair. Jeff Estensen, Fish and Game.

19

20 Maybe just a couple things that, you
21 know, the Department has been tossing around, and maybe
22 it would be good to get some, you know, feedback from
23 the folks here.

24

25 One of the things we've discussed is
26 potentially having, you know, like community
27 fishwheels, or something and trying to provide some
28 opportunity when warranted for folks to be able to
29 harvest some kings, and be able to control that
30 harvest, at the same time being able to get it out to
31 the folks that might need it. You know, something that
32 we thought about, and try to get it out to the folks.

33

34 We could also -- you know, there are
35 permits that are required in some areas of the Yukon,
36 and if it's possible, to be able to use that permitting
37 system, and maybe expand it if possible, and then being
38 able to limit harvest when warranted for king salmon
39 using these permits, and then be able to take that
40 information and maybe get more quicker information
41 about what the subsistence harvest is.

42

43 So I don't know if you folks have any
44 comments about that, but anyway I just thought that
45 it's a couple things the Department's been discussing.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Have you
48 discussed it with the villages, or just inside the
49 Department.

50

1 MR. ESTENSEN: Well, so far it's been
2 in the Department. We did talk about it at one of our
3 AC meetings, I just kind of threw it out there. We
4 don't have a definite plan or anything. I guess what
5 I'm doing right now is just seeing what folks out there
6 think about things like this. And, you know, this is
7 an opportunity -- and maybe this is our first time
8 talking with, you know, the public.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Throwing that
11 idea out there.

12
13 Virgil.

14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
16 Chair.

17
18 When I was on the Board of Fisheries,
19 this was brought up in the Copper River. And so the
20 Board at that time, we did pass a regulation so that
21 they could have a community fishwheel at Copper Center
22 or -- I guess it was Copper Center. Anyway, the
23 problem -- and then the tribe was going to be in charge
24 of it. And so we passed that regulation. And then
25 what ended up happening though is that they had a --
26 and then they were going to keep track of the harvest
27 and report it to the Department of Fish and Game. And
28 what ended up happening -- I don't think they have that
29 any more -- is they could not find people that wanted
30 to operate it.

31
32 And so I think that just -- I think
33 it's a good idea to have something like that. You just
34 have to make sure, and I know that under -- and this is
35 a really controversial thing, these community hunts
36 that the Board of Game passed in Unit 13 for moose,
37 that that -- they had the same problem there with the
38 people that were in charge at the tribal or village
39 office or whatever, did not keep very good records.

40
41 So I think that something like this is
42 a really good idea on a community fishwheel or a
43 community fisherman, you know, sharing, which is one of
44 the criteria for positive C&T, for the community. I
45 think it's a good idea. And a lot of communities do
46 this. I know Tanana does this. There's a few guys
47 there in the village that run fishwheels and share the
48 fish. And it would be a good vehicle to get
49 information like Larry's talking about, about how many
50 Chinook salmon are going up the Chandalar River. So I

1 think it's a good idea.

2

3 It's just that it's going to require
4 individual people accepting responsibility to do it.
5 And then the other thing is, what do you do if they
6 don't do it. So it's a good idea, and responsible
7 people will do what's responsible, and irresponsible
8 won't, so it's -- I think it would be a good tool.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
13 Lester.

14

15 MR. ERHART: I'd like to comment on
16 that. You know, when you run a fishwheel, it's not
17 just the fishwheel that you go to every day. There's
18 driftwood and everything coming down. Big trees and
19 everything. And pretty soon you wind up doing it
20 yourself. The other guys that you're going to
21 distribute to, they'll say, oh, that's okay, I've got
22 enough, or something like that. And I don't think it's
23 going to work.

24

25 In my village, I run a wheel. If I
26 have too much, I share it with everybody. They come
27 and get what they want, and that's the way it goes.

28

29 James runs a wheel and does the same
30 thing.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So what you're
33 saying, it's already being done?

34

35 MR. ERHART: Yeah, in Tanana anyway.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: In Tanana.

38 Yeah.

39

40 Larry, did you have something to add.
41 I can see the wheels running there.

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Well, I don't
44 know how to -- I mean, it's not something that I just
45 want to make a comment. Maybe related to my question
46 or my comments from before.

47

48 But, you know, for years and years, the
49 Village of Venetie and Arctic Village are both on the
50 same reserve, that's privately-owned lands, have been

1 pretty much running their own fish and game, you know.
2 They take harvest and try to regulate and limit the
3 harvest, you know. They're saying shooting a cow moose
4 in the fall, or at any time. If you want to harvest a
5 bull, well, fine and good, you can do that. And now
6 we're trying to manage our fisheries, you know.

7
8 An incident quite a few years ago where
9 a woman was, you know -- Fish and Game came in and she
10 was trying to harvest -- dry her meat for her kids so
11 they can eat, and there was quite an incident, written
12 up in the papers. So ever since that, people have been
13 kind of stand-offish when the Fish and
14 Game or any other official comes in and try to work
15 with them, you know. I myself know that they are
16 working with us, not against us, but a lot of people
17 are looking, you know -- they still remember that
18 incident.

19
20 So you're got to -- you know, whoever
21 comes in got to go to the right people. And by the
22 right people I mean not the village council. By the
23 right people I mean the village elders who actually
24 runs the village. They're not the chief, they're not
25 council or anything, but, you know, so you've got to
26 have the right approach when you go to Venetie or
27 Arctic Village.

28
29 So I'd just like to throw that in.

30
31 Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That works the
34 same where I'm at, too. Uh-huh.

35
36 Other questions. James.

37
38 MR. ROBERTS: I'm just curious as to
39 how many king salmon got thrown back in the river this
40 summer.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is that in the
43 report?

44
45 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Jeff
46 Estensen.

47
48 James, obviously you're asking in the
49 commercial fishery?

50

1 MR. ROBERTS: I'm just wondering how
2 many fish got thrown out of the fishwheels this summer,
3 and how many people stayed on their fishwheel all night
4 to do this.

5
6 MR. ESTENSEN: I don't know if we have
7 any information specific to.....

8
9 MR. BUE: Sabrina might.

10
11 MR. ESTENSEN: Sabrina, do you have any
12 information on that? I know I have it for the
13 commercial fishery in Districts 1 and 2. I don't know
14 if we have any information for District 4. I do
15 actually. But just so you know, for the number --
16 these are caught and released using the alternate gear,
17 like manning the wheel, or in this case using dipnets,
18 it was 5,451 kings, Districts 1 and 2, in the
19 commercial fishery down there. And then in District 4
20 where they had to man the wheels for the commercial, it
21 was 341.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I was just
24 curious, how accurate do you think it is? Do you think
25 you're missing a lot of stuff?

26
27 MR. ESTENSEN: You know, Madame Chair,
28 I don't think so. I mean, and maybe Fred can answer
29 this question better, but my understanding is that the
30 folks down there, you know, are very aware of, you
31 know, the importance of the kings. And the fact that
32 they're able to go out and commercial fish. And part
33 of the requisite -- you know, using this alternate gear
34 is to protect the kings. So -- and I know these are
35 self-reported on the fish tickets, so I would say that
36 I think they do a pretty good job of doing this,
37 because they understand the importance of knowing this,
38 and how important it is to maintain their fisheries.

39
40 I don't know if you have anything you
41 want to add, Fred.

42
43 MR. BUE: Yeah, I think that's pretty
44 much it. The Department does have observers on quite a
45 bit of the commercial operations. The beach seine,
46 it's a new gear type, and there's all kinds of video
47 and observations and stuff, and so they've got a fairly
48 good handle. It's not that every haul is observed, but
49 it indicates about the volume of what to expect in
50 those catches.

1 And this fall is pretty much in line.

2

3 The wheel is at Kaltag. It's a pretty
4 isolated fishery, you know. there's eight to nine
5 wheels or so there, and the Department has people there
6 pretty often observing, watching it. There's a wheel
7 at Nenana I guess. One wheel maybe.

8

9 And so I think the reporting is pretty
10 good there.

11

12 Madame Chair.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
17 chair.

18

19 As far as the people that run the
20 fishwheels, I think I know all of them, and I've talked
21 to them about this. And I think that the numbers are
22 actually pretty darn accurate. And I know the guy that
23 runs -- only one fisherman on the Tanana built a fish
24 friendly fishwheel, because that's something that maybe
25 everyone isn't aware of, is that the fishwheels that
26 are allowed to do this have to be a fish friendly
27 fishwheel. That means that they have a padded shoot.
28 There's no wire in the baskets. It's all cloth mesh.

29

30 And one of the things that happened
31 this year that a lot of people aren't really aware of,
32 there were lots of three-year-old king salmon came up
33 the river. And that hasn't been mentioned here, but
34 the grayling-size king salmon, that got caught in the
35 fishwheels, or they got caught in the fishwheel, but
36 then just got thrown back in the river, because they
37 have to have either a chute or a net to be able to do
38 that.

39

40 And I know that what most of the
41 fishermen -- like at Kaltag there, they, of course have
42 kids and grandkids, and so the kids and the grandkids
43 are out there on the fishwheel with one adult, and they
44 do actually stay there the whole time the fishwheel is
45 running and release the king salmon. And then, of
46 course, the guy in Nenana that does it, him and his
47 wife are out there, and they have a tent pitched right
48 there on the bank, and they take turns sitting on the
49 fishwheel. And so I think that those numbers are
50 actually pretty darn accurate myself, because I know

1 all the fishermen that do this, and there's no reason
2 for them to now be forthright when talking about it.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you.

9

10 I think what I'm hearing that's really
11 important out of this discussion is that it sounds like
12 in most cases, most communities, there's just a handful
13 of fishermen that provide for most of the village
14 needs. And what I take out of that is that it just
15 seems like it would be fairly simple given that
16 scenario to get fairly accurate numbers on subsistence
17 harvest in-season on that. And so I'll be really
18 interested to hear from the Division of Subsistence. I
19 know they've been doing some pilot programs to try and
20 collect data in a few communities and see how that
21 works. But I would be really curious to see where
22 they're at with that, and maybe further that, expand
23 that program so that we can get more accurate
24 subsistence harvest numbers, because that's always been
25 a real issue.

26

27 That's all I have to say.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Madame Chair.

34 Jeff Estensen.

35

36 Just quickly. Any thoughts on
37 potentially permits, and limiting and getting reporting
38 through permits. Not necessarily the community
39 fishwheels.

40

41 And some of the concerns I hear from
42 folks are definitely concerns that came up with the
43 Department, you know. Enforcement and, you know,
44 distribution. But anybody have any thoughts on using
45 permits.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will.

48

49 MR. KOEHLER: So could you please make
50 sure that I've got this right, that I understand what

1 you're saying. These are in-season permits, in-season
2 reporting?

3

4 MR. ESTENSEN: Correct. So
5 essentially, you know, and this is just an idea, but
6 what we could do potentially with the permits, if we
7 have a way that we could easily -- we could put harvest
8 limits on those permits. We certainly have the means
9 of using -- limiting gear, time and area, you know, if
10 we have to try to control harvest in any way
11 whatsoever. And, you know, you could say, permit, and
12 you get five kings, and you have this gear to do it,
13 you know, potentially when you can fish and whatever,
14 but at the same time, you know, having the permits,
15 then we get the in-season harvest potentially quicker.
16 And then people are reporting it quicker.

17

18 As it stands right now, we do the post
19 season surveys, and it's what we've got, but, you know,
20 we're talking, we're going to the communities and areas
21 where we do the surveys, and we're getting the
22 information in October when they were catching the
23 fish, you know -- So it serves multiple tools. You
24 know, one, we could use it to control harvest, and the
25 other one is that we can get the harvest reported. And
26 one could argue that maybe that it would be more
27 accurate, because you're recording it by regulation
28 when you're catching the fish, as opposed to try to
29 remember when you caught the fish.

30

31 MR. KOEHLER: I don't really know how
32 this would work in fisheries, but I do hear comments
33 from people in my area, and the basic summation of that
34 would be that the more paperwork that you give people
35 to fill out, the less accurate it becomes. The example
36 I think in our area would be since we started requiring
37 harvest permits on black bear in the last few years. I
38 know that very few of those are actually getting filled
39 out. And I think what I would see is that if you start
40 expanding this reporting, that it might backfire on
41 you, and you might get less accurate information,
42 people being -- if they have instead of one end of the
43 season report to fill, if they have multi reports, if
44 they have an end of season report to fill, and a report
45 to fill during the season, I don't know, I'm just
46 saying that that could be an unintended consequence is
47 your numbers might become less accurate, just because
48 more paperwork for more people to -- for people to fill
49 out, and so they get more lax in the accuracy that they
50 fill it out. And I just know that from experience

1 within my own family and the people that I know.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But I will say
6 one thing about black bear and the harvest, having
7 getting them myself, it's the regulatory year, which is
8 fall and spring, and who remembers, okay, did I fill
9 that out that I killed a black bear in the fall, and
10 now I have it to come up, oh, yeah, oh, yeah. This is
11 isn't even going to get reported to Fish and Game until
12 the end of June. So that to me -- they need to rethink
13 that one. It might not be as good an example about
14 permitting and reporting.

15

16 James, I see you had turned your light
17 on. Did you have a question.

18

19 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. Regarding permits,
20 you look at the districts, you know, Y1 may be 100
21 miles long. I don't know the population count there.
22 But you look at District 5, and it goes from Tanana all
23 the way to the border, which is really unfair to begin
24 with. I don't see -- you know, they should break it up
25 into more districts anyway, because we're covering over
26 half the state in five, and we get penalized the
27 heaviest. You let everybody down at the lower end
28 fish, fish, fish, and it's, oh, we're running out of
29 fish. Sorry, five, you guys are cut off. And I don't
30 think that's very fair. You've got a problem, and
31 you've got to figure it out. And we're all trying to
32 come up with a solution, and the longer we hold our
33 feet, the less fish we're going to have. This year I
34 was very disappointed with the Department of Fish and
35 Game for cutting us off and not having the foresight to
36 see a run drop out.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hands are going
39 up.

40

41 Andy, then Virgil.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I've been filling
44 out fish permits since the first day I had to fish, and
45 we've been doing it, we're required to, because we're
46 on the road system. And I think everybody does a
47 pretty accurate job of filling them out. It's like
48 anything when you first start as long as you have
49 people that are educating you about the importance of
50 it.

1 In thinking about it, expanding it down
2 the river, it seems to me what makes sense as far as
3 limited Chinook harvest, would be to have community
4 quotas. I think it's much easier to track that, and
5 have one or two fishermen fishing an area. If the
6 people really want it, they're going to have to
7 cooperate and participate. And if they don't, then
8 it's not going to happen. But it's a lot easier to
9 track one or two fishermen in each community than it is
10 to track multiple people everywhere given the state of
11 Chinook salmon during this low period and during times
12 of conservation. I think that's the best way, and
13 that's also very easy to report in-season. We already
14 have the mechanism with the YRDFA in-season
15 teleconferences, so it should be very easy to pull one
16 or two fishermen in each community and get weekly
17 assessments of what the harvest would be. And so that
18 in combination with a harvest limit for a community I
19 think is really ultimately the only way you're really
20 going to make it work efficiently.

21
22 But I'm not opposed to fishing permits.
23 I think somehow or another we have to get the data in-
24 season. I've always said there's no way you're going
25 to get an accurate report from anybody four months
26 after it happens.

27
28 I ask anybody in this room to tell me
29 what you had for dinner last Friday night.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy.

32
33 Virgil, then Lester.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. If I understood
36 what the Department said, is that they have been
37 considering that if having maybe a community fishwheel
38 or something, and then allowing a limited harvest of
39 king salmon, Chinook salmon, so that people would be
40 able to get some of them, that maybe that could be done
41 rather than just having an opening and everyone that
42 wants to can go fishing.

43
44 And so what I'd like to ask is we've
45 got two guys sitting here at the table right now that
46 already fish and give a lot of fish away, because
47 they're -- because not everyone has the time, the
48 energy, or the know how to build and operate a
49 fishwheel. It's a lot of work. And like was just said
50 a while ago, you've got to worry about trees coming

1 down the river, all kinds of different things. And
2 it's dangerous as well, because there's been a number
3 of people killed operating fishwheels. Lost their
4 life. So it's not an easy thing to do.

5
6 So what I would like to do is ask the
7 guys sitting at the table this question, and that is,
8 if you could -- if the Department figured, well, we
9 can't harvest a whole bunch of king salmon, but we
10 could maybe harvest, say, for the Village of Tanana,
11 500 king salmon. And we would have to have special
12 conditions, that is, that you would have to report each
13 day ow many king salmon you caught.

14
15 Now, we have in some villages, I'm kind
16 of -- it sounds like I'm getting off track, but I'm not
17 really. I listened almost every time, if I'm in town
18 on Tuesday at 1:00 o'clock in the summer, I listen in
19 on the YRDFA teleconference. I may not say anything,
20 but I'm listening in, either myself or my wife. The
21 only time I'm not listening in is if I'm off fishing.

22
23 And so a lot of villages, they have
24 someone in the village, Norma at Marshall does it,
25 every Tuesday she's on there, and she checks with X-
26 number of fishermen. Someone does it in Emmonak. A
27 woman does it in Galena. But there's villages where
28 someone goes around and checks with various subsistence
29 fishermen and asks them how many fish they caught. And
30 then they report that on the teleconference.

31
32 And so my question of Lester and James
33 is, if they were going to say, well, Tanana gets to
34 catch either 300, 400, 500 king salmon this week,
35 because we think maybe that could -- we could afford to
36 let that many get caught, would you -- how would you
37 feel about that, and then each day report how many king
38 salmon got caught and how many got distributed to
39 people in the village. Would something like that be
40 acceptable.

41
42 I think that's what the Department's
43 wanting to know.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Lester had his
46 hand up, so now he's got two things.

47
48 MR. ERHART: Yea. You know, they just
49 finished the road to Tanana. Anyway they punched it
50 in, so I imagine we'll have to go on a permit system,

1 too.

2

3 But on this permit, I wanted to say,
4 not every fish you catch is edible for human
5 consumption. There should be a place over there where,
6 you know, that says, I had to feed it to my dogs. It
7 wasn't fit for human consumption. Or I had to bury it
8 in my garden or something, you know.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Compost.

11

12 MR. ESTENSEN: It's on there.

13

14 MR. ERHART: It's on there? Okay. I
15 never did see one, so I don't know.

16

17 MR. ESTENSEN: I can bring them in and
18 show it to you.

19

20 MR. ERHART: Yeah. But that was my
21 concern.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And answering
24 Virgil's question, how do you.....

25

26 MR. ERHART: What was that?

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Would it work
29 to have a certain person's fishwheel be like a
30 community fishwheel. It is anyway you're telling us.

31

32 MR. ERHART: Yeah, I think.....

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But to take
35 king salmon, whatever limited number it is, and
36 distribute.

37

38 MR. ERHART: Okay. There we go again.
39 When you're fishing king salmon with a fishwheel,
40 you've got to be 12 feet in the water. Most of our
41 wheels that we run, they're eight-footers, because
42 we're catching fall chum. But if we're going to have a
43 king salmon wheel, we've got to be 12-foot in the
44 water, so it's a special-built wheel for king salmon.
45 I tried to tell that to the Department all the time,
46 you know. You can't run a wheel -- hey, the way you
47 run your little wheel, you'll never even catch one,
48 because they're in 12-foot of water when they get to
49 our place.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you don't
2 rarely -- do you ever catch a king salmon in that
3 wheel, the eight-foot?
4
5 MR. ERHART: Maybe one little small one
6 this big. That's it. You've got to be in 12-foot of
7 water.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Good
10 information.
11
12 James.
13
14 MR. ROBERTS: Well, you know, people
15 have a hard time filling out a moose permit, and it's
16 maybe about this big, you know, and Fish and Game
17 threatens you life and death for that little permit, so
18 I could see problems coming with this. We've just got
19 to think it out very carefully.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Life and death?
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. ROBERTS: Well, they told me I
26 can't hunt here and hunt there for two years, because I
27 didn't fill out this little extra this or that, and,
28 you know, they like to, you know, play cowboy all the
29 time, and it's tough for us, you know.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Did you
32 get a second notice?
33
34 MR. ROBERTS: I was threatened, told I
35 cannot hunt in the Novi, the National Wildlife Refuge
36 for X amount of years, because I didn't even bother to
37 go down there, and didn't fill it out.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
40 occasionally with all the paperwork we've all got to do
41 -- I put mine in one spot, and then I try to remember to
42 fill it out and send it in, and there's times I have to
43 be reminded, because I didn't get it filled out and
44 sent it. But I usually get a reminder. Oh, yeah, and
45 a phone call or something. It works out pretty good.
46 It's not horrible.
47
48 MR. ROBERTS: Well, after the reminder
49 comes different various threats. You've just got to let
50 the process play out, and you'll see what happens.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I've got to
2 let it play out.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7
8 Bill, then Andy.

9
10 MR. GLANZ: Well, that's half the
11 problem we had up there at Arctic Village with the Red
12 Creek sheep deal. They would never fill out a harvest
13 report, and so they ended up losing their use of it.
14 And then they opened it up to regular hunters. And now
15 we voted again to put it back in that way, and I
16 imagine they still haven't filled out a sheep report,
17 as we did it last meeting, the last winter meeting.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I
20 personally -- after hearing James, I think it's
21 important that -- you know, I remember when Richard
22 Carroll as on here, and he was adamant about reporting,
23 and it's important that we report. I don't think we
24 need to be threatened, but these -- I do know that
25 Katie John got a permit, and there was a regulation
26 that if she didn't fill that thing out and send it in,
27 that she wouldn't get the permit the next year, and
28 that was Unit 13 for moose or something. And it didn't
29 get filled out, so she was denied the permit the next
30 year. I don't think she was threatened, but they had a
31 regulation that you wouldn't get one if you didn't fill
32 it out.

33
34 Yeah.

35
36 Did you have something, James.

37
38 MR. ROBERTS: No.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

41
42 Andy.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
45 Chair.

46
47 Yeah. So, James, I'd like to hear from
48 you what your perspective would be on what Virgil was
49 talking about. If during the Chinook run, if you were
50 given the opportunity to catch X-amount of fish for you

1 or your community to pass out, but the requirements
2 would be that you report either daily or weekly, is
3 that something that you would want to participate in.

4

5 MR. ROBERTS: Financially I wouldn't be
6 able to participate in this, because I'd have to get
7 up, move 35 miles away from where I'm living, so, you
8 know, it's just not justifiable to spend \$10,000 to
9 catch X-amount of fish to give away to a bunch of
10 people that don't want to work for it.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Maybe just to follow up.
13 Are there people in the village of Tanana that fish
14 fairly close to Tanana that would participate in
15 something like that?

16

17 MR. ROBERTS: No.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: So they would rather
20 forego any Chinook harvest, because they don't want to
21 put the effort in than to make the effort to have the
22 opportunity to take some Chinook salmon.

23

24 MR. ROBERTS: They just simply can't
25 afford to do it, Andy. That's what it is.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You've got to
28 be profitable. And it's a wheel.

29

30 MR. ROBERTS: And gas is \$7 a gallon.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I was just
33 wondering if there were people that fished close to the
34 village. I know the primary fishing comes from the
35 Rampart area, but -- or the rapids area I mean, but are
36 there people that operate locally.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Lester.

39

40 MR. ERHART: The king salmon don't hit
41 the bank until maybe 20 miles above Tanana.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And that
44 requires a wheel that's 12 feet.

45

46 MR. ERHART: There you go.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I hear lots of
49 expenses here.

50

1 At the table. I'm sorry.

2

3 MR. ESTENSEN: Something to keep in
4 mind. Jeff Estensen, Fish and Game. Madame Chair.

5

6 You know, there's a lot of -- with this
7 community thing or whatever, it wouldn't necessarily
8 have to be a wheel. I mean, it could be any means of
9 getting the fish. So, you know, nobody says you have
10 to use a wheel. I mean, we have the ability, you know,
11 through -- if something like this were to happen, there
12 would certainly be a lot of stipulations, but I think
13 the idea is just being able to provide some harvest to
14 a group of folks when it's warranted, by any means, you
15 know, that we can do that's legal.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy -- or, I'm
18 having a conversation here that maybe should be shared.

19

20 Lester.

21

22 MR. ERHART: I think if we're going to
23 do that, we should be able to driftnet, and we don't
24 know how to driftnet. And I think we could look for a
25 place though, and try to find something, if we were
26 going to do this.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So it sounds
29 like there should be some strong communication between
30 the villages and the Department to figure it out.

31

32 Okay.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I just wanted to
35 make the statement that it's been my observation that
36 fishermen are really, really inventive, and really
37 creative, and learn very well how to make things happen
38 when they need to. And so methods and means will be
39 taken care of if opportunity is provided. That's the
40 point I wanted to make. And I applaud that the
41 Department of Fish and Game is thinking about limited
42 harvest. Given all the testimony we've heard over the
43 years of how everybody needs a Chinook salmon, it kind
44 of baffles me that people would suddenly say, well,
45 it's too much work, I don't want to go do it, because I
46 think for some people, they would go do it, because
47 it's important to them.

48

49 So I'm in favor of it, if that makes
50 any.....

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it has to
2 be practical. It has to be reasonable and practical.
3 If it's not reasonable and practicable, then their
4 argument's valid.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: But the point I wanted to
7 make is that fishermen are extremely adaptable, and
8 because we haven't done something in the past doesn't
9 mean we won't figure out a way to do it in the future.
10 That's the history.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Point
13 made.

14
15 Virgil.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's just like the
18 Lower Yukon fishermen. They didn't want nothing to do
19 with dipnets, but they caught more chum salmon in their
20 commercial fishery this last year, most of them with
21 dipnets, than they've caught since 1995 I believe it wa
22 said a while ago. So that speaks to fishermen adapting
23 to whatever the methods and means are.

24
25 MR. ERHART: One, more. Can I?

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Lester.

28
29 MR. ERHART: Years ago, this is a long
30 time ago, before the fishwheel and everything, in
31 Tanana they used to have long-poled dipnets, and they'd
32 line up with their canoes, and they'd drift like that.
33 And that's how they used to catch them.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sounds like a
36 plan. Yeah.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Canoes?

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, that's
43 the thing, I think it's a start, and that you're going
44 to have to try to figure out how to get together and
45 come up with a solution here.

46
47 I don't know if we're going to solve it
48 here.

49
50 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, just to be clear.

1 Madame Chair. Jeff Estensen.

2

3 Just to be clear I mean, you know, the
4 Department right now is just trying to feel what the
5 fishermen on the river think about this. And both the
6 permit -- which by the way we're doing right now on the
7 Tanana River. That's something I failed to mention
8 earlier, but right now we do issue permits for the 6A
9 and 6B that do have harvest limits on it. So we're
10 going it right now in one part of the river. But right
11 now we're just trying to get information, and we're
12 certainly hearing great things from everybody. This
13 isn't something that you can just implement and it's
14 going to work. There's a lot to it. There's a lot of
15 things to consider, but certainly, you know, something
16 that we'd like to hear more about from all the
17 fishermen along the river, and see what happens with
18 it.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

23

24 MR. FIRMIN: Actually I've worked with
25 the tribe in Fort Yukon, and Fred and Eric and Jeff on
26 this, and we've kind of been experimenting with a few
27 different ways, and we've had varying degrees of
28 success with the community harvest program. It's in a
29 small-scale, but I know that I could probably go into
30 detail with you guys another time, but there are --
31 it's pretty hard pressed to get people to adapt to new
32 things, but eventually they will, and I totally agree
33 with some of the permitting systems that are going to
34 eventually need to be in place for most of the river.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Changing times,
37 and we have to adapt sometimes.

38

39 Okay. Any other questions or input.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I have a hand
44 keeps coming up back there. Was there something you
45 wanted to add, Wilson? You'd have to come up to the
46 table and push a button.

47

48 MR. JUSTIN: Thank you. Wilson Justin,
49 Cheesh'na Tribal Council. I've been authorized to
50 speak on subsistence issues for the tribal Council

1 since 1995 by Council action.

2

3 I did not expect to make any comments
4 at this meeting.

5

6 I was primarily interested in
7 listening.

8

9 But there was a short discussion on
10 Copper River fishwheels and the permit system for
11 community fishwheels, and I thought I would add a
12 comment on that. That occurred in 1996 at Cordova, and
13 the rationale for community fishwheels was that the
14 river had gotten too wild and crazy and washed out too
15 many traditional fish sites. So we didn't want our
16 elders and our kids to go out on fishwheels in the
17 middle of these big river runs. So we thought that if
18 a community fishwheel came into being, we would be able
19 to control the use of those fishwheels.

20

21 I don't know about the other fishwheels
22 on the Copper River. Seven community fishwheels was
23 authorized in 1996, but Cheesh'na Tribal Council has
24 operated a fishwheel in Chistochina, actually two at
25 one time, for approximately 12 years without any
26 problems. We do the fishwheel, the catch, the take,
27 and give them out to the elders. We truck the fish to
28 the elders. We keep a count.

29

30 One of the interesting side issues on
31 that particular process is no one speaks about the fact
32 that when the high waters came through and changed the
33 riverbanks, it wiped out all the traditional sites.
34 That was one of the reasons why we moved into the issue
35 of having community sites. There was only -- when I
36 was in Chistochina in the 60's, there was something
37 like 15 different fishwheel sites in that little
38 community. By 1990 there was three left, all three of
39 them on one Native allotment. There were no other
40 locations available unless you chopped a road through
41 the forest and got a cat to run in and made an access
42 site. That was the reason why Mount Sanford Tribal
43 Consortium in 1996 proposed a community fishwheel site
44 on behalf of Chistochina, so that it could sidestep the
45 safety issue, deliver fish to the elders and the infirm
46 without them having to go out there and deal with the
47 river.

48

49 It worked extremely well until about --
50 from 2006 to 2009 we had extensive rains and again the

1 river went bad. And it was really difficult to
2 maintain a wheel. It kept getting knocked loose and
3 sent down the river. So very limited catch during
4 those years, during the high water years. But we have
5 good records of the catch in the earliest part of the
6 years, the first decade.

7
8 So, in summary, it worked very well in
9 one location for the reasons it was proposed. It
10 worked -- it made perfect sense, and it worked very
11 well. Nobody ever asked us if the original idea
12 worked. As a matter of fact, nobody even returned the
13 calls on the catch numbers. The expectations in the
14 beginning was that the tribal council would track the
15 numbers, but the individual who got the fish would
16 report, and that didn't happen, of course, because
17 we're talking primarily elders.

18
19 I wanted to put that on record, because
20 Cheesh'na Tribal Council is a very aggressive tribal
21 organization and works with not only the National Park
22 Service system, but all the Federal managers in terms
23 of subsistence activity.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
28 Wilson.

29
30 MR. KOEHLER: I have a question.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sure.

33
34 MR. KOEHLER: So when that works, is
35 there one person that is responsible, or a group of
36 people that are responsible for maintaining the wheel
37 and operating it? How does that work.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. JUSTIN: The authority begins with
42 the tribal council president, but the authority that he
43 has, he basically delegates it to the tribal
44 administrator. The tribal administrator authorizes the
45 pick up of the salmon, watching the wheel, and taking
46 care of the salmon. Out of the office, what happens is
47 we get either one or two of the youngsters from the
48 village in the summertime.

49
50 There's a separate question you really

1 need to be aware of. There's a tremendous difficulty
2 in getting people to drive young folks, because we have
3 an issue with driver's license. There's all kinds of
4 socio-economic stuff hanging in the background. That's
5 why we went to the tribal government approach and the
6 community fishwheel.

7

8 The original idea was tribal
9 governments only, but it turned into a community
10 fishwheel, sidestepping the question of having a tribal
11 government directly involved. The State was pretty
12 hostile to the idea of having tribal governments
13 involved in anything back then. And there's an open
14 question today if that's still the case.

15

16 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

17

18 MR. JUSTIN: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Wilson.

21

22 MR. JUSTIN: I appreciate the
23 opportunity to add to the record. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're welcome.

26

27 Okay. We're moving on to the Yukon
28 River Drainage Fisheries Association. Becca.

29

30 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yes, I am here.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.

33

34 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Hi. So this is
35 Becca Robbins Gisclair with the Yukon River Drainage
36 Fisheries Association. I think we have Wayne and
37 Catherine on as well.

38

39 And I was going to start with giving
40 you guys a brief update on bycatch, and then pass it
41 off to the other YRDFA Staff to talk about some more
42 general stuff.

43

44 And you should have a printout of an
45 updated bycatch handout that has the graph of the most
46 recent bycatch numbers on it. And I just wanted to
47 kind of go over the most recent numbers and update you
48 folks on what the current action of the North Pacific
49 Fishery Management Council is to try to reduce bycatch
50 and how you can weigh in. And I'll probably try to

1 keep things pretty general, and then feel free to ask
2 questions if you want to get more specific about any of
3 it.

4

5 So just starting off with some
6 background, I think most of you know, but in case there
7 are folks in the room that don't, salmon is caught as
8 bycatch primarily in the pollack fisheries in the
9 Bering Sea, and it's designated -- it's called a
10 prohibited species catch. And it has to first be
11 counted, and then it has to be discarded or donated to
12 food banks in the Sea Share Program. So none of the
13 salmon that's caught as bycatch can be sold for a
14 profit.

15

16 The current bycatch numbers in the
17 fishery, if you do have that handout, on the first
18 chart you can see that they have been significantly
19 lower in the past few years since that 2007 spike that
20 Fred mentioned when things went over 120,000. And you
21 can see that in -- if you do have that graph, the
22 dotted is the Chinook salmon numbers.

23

24 So in 2014 the pollack fishery caught
25 just about 15,000 Chinook salmon and about 218,500 chum
26 salmon as bycatch. Comparing that to 2013, it's a bit
27 higher. In 2013 it was about just over 13,000 Chinook
28 and 125,300 chum salmon. And about -- slightly higher
29 numbers of pollack, total allowable catch for the
30 pollack fishery itself is slightly higher in 2014 than
31 2013 by about 20,000 metric tons, although that doesn't
32 necessarily explain why the bycatch would be higher.
33 For 2014, that's pretty much the final number. It
34 might be adjusted by a few fish here or there, but
35 pollack fishing is now complete for the year. And it
36 ended early, they made an effort to get fishing down
37 early in part to avoid fishing into October when
38 Chinook salmon bycatch generally gets higher.

39

40 So just to tell you briefly about the
41 bycatch in the pollack fisheries and observer coverage,
42 since Amendment 91 which put the Chinook salmon bycatch
43 limits in place, which that started in 2011, all
44 participants in the pollack fishery have to have at
45 least 100% observer coverage, and mother ships and
46 catcher/processors, which are the bigger vessels, have
47 to carry 200 percent observer coverage, which basically
48 means two observers at all times. And those bigger
49 vessels are also required to have a series of cameras
50 to basically ensure that any salmon that are coming off

1 the processing lines when the observer's not present
2 are still being caught, and that there's not -- that
3 they're being counted, that basically that no salmon
4 goes unseen.

5
6 And the observer coverage, I wanted to
7 mention is important, because it also -- there's also
8 by having the observer coverage have also had new
9 sampling methods in place, which means basically it's a
10 genetic stock identification results which tell us
11 where that bycatch is coming from. It is much more
12 reliable since 2011 than anything that we had in the
13 past.

14
15 That that genetic stock identification
16 information, it's done every year to determine the
17 stock of origin of the bycatch, and, you know, that's
18 obviously one of the big questions is which salmon are
19 they catching as bycatch. And for Chinook salmon, the
20 most recent results are from 2010 through 2012. We
21 don't have anything more recent yet, but should have
22 2013 by the spring. But those results showed that from
23 67 to 73 percent of the Chinook salmon bycatch are
24 caught -- are of western Alaska origin. And when I say
25 western Alaska origin, that includes the entire Yukon
26 River, Bristol Bay, the Kuskokwim, and Norton Sound.

27
28 In chum salmon bycatch, the genetics
29 show a lower proportion of western Alaska stocks, from
30 20 to 25 percent in the most recent years.

31
32 The current management of bycatch in
33 the Bering Sea pollack fishery, I think many of you
34 have heard this before, but it's still being managed
35 under the Amendment 91 caps, and that system is where
36 there's an overall cap of 60,000 Chinook as the pollack
37 fishery is participating in incentive plans, or an
38 overall cap of 47,591 if they're not participating in
39 those incentive plans. And all of the pollack fishery
40 participants are currently in those incentive plans,
41 which means that that overall cap is the 60,000. And
42 there's kind of two caps, the 60,000 is the absolute
43 limit, but the pollack fishery is supposed to stay
44 under what they call a performance standard, and that's
45 also that 47,591 number, but allowed to exceed that in
46 two out of any seven year. But if they exceed it in
47 their third year, the cap drops to that 47,591
48 permanently.

49
50 And so those are the limits that are

1 currently imposed.

2

3 As you can see from this graph, the
4 actual bycatch has been well below their caps, so the
5 caps aren't limiting bycatch. It's more the systems
6 that are put in place through the incentive plans that
7 are keeping -- that are working to reduce bycatch at
8 this point.

9

10 So the North Pacific Fishery Management
11 Council as many of you know is the management body that
12 advises the Secretary of Commerce on management of the
13 pollack fishery, and that includes salmon bycatch. And
14 they've been looking at this issue for years. Since
15 Amendment 91 was put in place, obviously the western
16 Alaska Chinook salmon stocks have declined
17 dramatically, and the situation has really changed.
18 And in addition the better genetics that we have of
19 showing, you know, at the same time that western Alaska
20 stocks are declining, we also found out that a higher
21 proportion of the bycatch is from Western Alaska than
22 we previously thought.

23

24 So the Council's been reviewing
25 Amendment 91 for a few meetings now. The meeting --
26 they met in Nome this past June, June 2014, and decided
27 that even though there are measurements in place
28 through Amendment 91 to reduce bycatch, that given the
29 status of Chinook salmon officially in western Alaska,
30 that they needed to look at doing more to reduce
31 bycatch. And so they set out a series of options, and
32 I'll maybe just to them very generally, and if you want
33 more detail, I'm happy to get into it.

34

35 Basically the first one is combining
36 Chinook and chum bycatch measures to ensure that chum
37 bycatch reduction efforts don't increase Chinook salmon
38 bycatch. The second is requiring changes to the
39 incentive plan agreements through a variety of ideas of
40 how to require greater bycatch reduction within those
41 incentive plans. The third option is changing the
42 start or end dates of the pollack fishing season, so
43 either allowing the season to start earlier and/or
44 requiring it to end earlier to avoid that time in
45 October of high bycatch. And then the last option is
46 reducing that performance standard, which is that
47 47,591 number by either 25 percent, which would make
48 the performance standard 36,693, or reducing it by 60
49 percent, which would make it 19,036 when western Alaska
50 Chinook salmon abundance is low.

1 These options are sort of mix and
2 match. The Council can choose multiple options from
3 this list. And they're going to take this up at their
4 upcoming meeting in December in Anchorage, at the
5 beginning of December. And this is their first review
6 of these, so they'll take a look at the options. They
7 may select a preliminary preferred alternative.
8 They're really trying to move forward with this on a
9 relatively fast track, because of the urgency of the
10 situation in-river, and so it's possible they may even
11 take final action in this coming April, April 1015.
12 And my understanding is that they're trying to schedule
13 outreach meetings now and will be doing outreach
14 meetings in the spring where the Council Staff and
15 Council members come to meetings, and I think are
16 trying to include the Eastern Interior Regional
17 Advisory Council on that list.

18
19 So in terms of what the Regional
20 Advisory Council can do, comments are definitely -- can
21 be submitted for the December meeting about the need to
22 reduce bycatch. Those comments are due by December
23 2nd. The analysis that kind of looks at all those
24 options that I outlined and will kind of talk about how
25 each of those will or will not reduce bycatch won't be
26 out until November, so we unfortunately right now don't
27 have the advantage of looking at those specifics.

28
29 But I do want to just let you know for
30 background that at the June Council YRDFA along with
31 AVCP, TCC and Kawerak had asked for a reduction in the
32 overall cap to 25 and the performance standard to
33 15,000. In addition, AVCP and TCC recently filed an
34 emergency petition for the Council to limit bycatch to
35 15,000 in 2014. That petition was denied because the
36 pollack fishery this year was complete at that time.

37
38 And so there's definitely an
39 opportunity to submit letters for the December Council
40 meeting, and then there'll be another chance for final
41 action, which could be as early as April 2015, it may
42 be June, it may even be October. It just sort of
43 depends how their review goes at this meeting.

44
45 And I think that's all the information
46 I wanted to share, and I'm happy to answer questions or
47 go into greater detail on any of that as you wish.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
2 members, questions.
3
4 Andy.
5
6 MR. LORD: I guess you're all.....
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry?
9
10 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Hi, Victor.
11
12 MR. LORD: I wanted to let them Council
13 I think get to that.....
14
15 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: So you're on the
16 -- well, let the Chair add on that.
17
18 MR. LORD: Okay.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Victor, you
21 wanted to ask her a question?
22
23 MR. LORD: Yes. And to state that I am
24 the upriver chairman of the YRDFA organization, and
25 also Becca explained the highlights of our
26 organization, that I may have (indiscernible) to me.
27 She just answered a lot of questions that I have
28 concerned about North Pacific Fishery Management
29 Council (indiscernible) interact at this meeting. You
30 know, they should have at least one of their Staff or
31 have their biologist attending all of our fish
32 meetings, because 70 percent of the fish that come up
33 our river go out there, 70 percent, and is managed
34 under their system, and they don't even -- they have a
35 communication gap between the river system three miles
36 out from the mouth of the Yukon to the rest of the
37 ocean where the fish are being, you know, 70 percent of
38 their life exists. And in the king salmon and where
39 Andy said the fall chum sometimes it's just goes
40 (indiscernible), but it is managed by bycatch as you
41 just heard Becca say. And I heard her say from the
42 package (ph), and so that's real great.
43
44 And I just wanted to thank Becca for --
45 I could hear all the hard work that she's been doing, I
46 want to thank you and tell the rest of the board I'm
47 glad to hear their voices. I'd have been there, but
48 I've been kind of busy. And are you guys meeting up at
49 Pike's Landing?
50

1 Maybe I can make it this afternoon.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Victor.
6 We are at Pike's, and we're here through the rest of
7 today and tomorrow.
8
9 MR. LORD: Okay. Thank you.
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Great.
12
13 Andy.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Becca.
16 I had a question on your handout under the second
17 paragraph. It seemed like there was quite a bit of
18 variability from year to year on what the genetics is
19 showing for the Upper Yukon component. Is there any
20 kind of an explanation for that? Is that genetics are
21 getting a little bit more refined, or is that just a
22 function of abundance out in Yukon, maybe the lack
23 there of abundance from Upper Yukon stocks. Maybe if
24 you had any kind of insights you could fill us in on,
25 I'd be really interested in hearing that.
26
27 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Thanks, Andy. I
28 don't specifically know why, have an explanation for
29 why the Upper Yukon is so variable. The geneticist who
30 did this may be able to provide some more insight about
31 the different -- I'm not sure if it was from different
32 locations or what the differences in sampling. I guess
33 the one thing to note is that in 2010, which is when
34 the Upper Yukon component was really high, there was a
35 different sampling protocol in place that's not quite
36 as accurate as the one we have ow. So I think really
37 like from 2011 forward, I think we feel confident that
38 the stock composition estimates are probably pretty
39 accurate. I think 2010 are more accurate than previous
40 years, but not quite as good as 2011, so that may be a
41 factor, but that I'm not entirely sure.
42
43 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. And I had one
44 other question. Under the options, option No. 3 set
45 salmon credit expirations at three years. Can you just
46 give us a really, really brief summary of what that
47 would do to impact or make the change?
48
49 I haven't been able to wrap my head
50 around that.

1 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Yeah, I will do
2 my best. That is definitely one that I'm -- when the
3 analysis of these comes out in November to inform the
4 Council's discussion, a lot of what will be in there is
5 looking at what does that really mean, and what would
6 it do.

7
8 But that one is specific to the inshore
9 and mother ship sectors of the pollack fleet have
10 incentive plan agreements that involve saving credits
11 that if their bycatch is below their individual cap,
12 basically that's the conversion rate and some of that
13 gets sort of saved to allow them to catch more salmon
14 in a future year. And part of the concern was that
15 that system would basically allow for, if you have
16 multiple years of little bycatch and western Alaska
17 Chinook salmon stocks are still hurting, that you could
18 potentially have a higher bycatch under that system,
19 and so this was looking at ways to possibly change
20 that. And again we should have some more information
21 about how specifically that would impact bycatch with
22 that analysis that will come out in November.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
25 members, any questions.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: More questions.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Becca, I
34 see what we can do. And I see three things here. Ask
35 the Council and the Governor to further reduce Chinook
36 salmon bycatch, which would be an action item for us.
37 And then attend the Council meeting, and a letter.

38
39 In the past we have sent someone.

40
41 Is that an option.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
44 We have made the requests to OSM to send Council
45 members as have attended the meetings in the past. Due
46 to budgets, that request was declined the last time.
47 If the Council is interested, we'll make that request
48 again if we can send a representative from the Council
49 to a YRDFA meeting.

50

1 The Council has.....

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Not YRDFA.

4

5 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, to the North
6 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting.

7

8 The Council has drafted letters in the
9 past, including the most recent one from the last
10 meeting, on Page 67 in your meeting books. That letter
11 was delivered to the North Pacific Fishery Management
12 Council.

13

14 And then to draw to your attention
15 also, under the Secretaries' review, they have
16 requested OSM and the Federal Subsistence Board to
17 alert the Secretaries when there is management actions
18 that impact Federal subsistence, but are not under the
19 jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board, to bring
20 that to the attention of the Secretary of the Interior
21 and Secretary of Agriculture. There's a letter from
22 the Secretary of the Interior in your packet on Page 69
23 responding to a couple of those issues that were
24 brought forward, which includes concerns about impacts
25 to subsistence fisheries from the Bering Sea bycatch.
26 So that's on Page 69.

27

28 Again, we'll make the request if the
29 Council is interested to see if we can fund a member
30 attending, and.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Can we have the dates.
33 Do we have the dates for the next Council meeting,
34 Becca.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: December.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: 16th.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: She has it in
41 this information.

42

43 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: The next Council
44 meeting is on December 8th through 16th in Anchorage.
45 And it's likely that bycatch -- an agenda will come out
46 probably in couple weeks. It's likely that bycatch
47 would probably be at the beginning of that agenda.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Follow up.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. I think that coincides with when the Yukon
3 River Panel meeting is happening in Anchorage, so
4 Virgil, myself and possibly Andrew Firmin will be there
5 during that time, or maybe even James as well. So we
6 do have members that will be in Anchorage on the dime
7 of the Yukon River Panel that might be able to go and
8 testify during that meeting, or at least make comment
9 or listen in some.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That would be
12 great. Is that what you wanted to speak to, Andrew?
13 Yeah. Okay.

14

15 Yeah, so does it allow you the time to
16 go there as members. Can one of you get there? James?

17

18 MR. ROBERTS: Virgil seems to run away
19 every year to go to this meeting, so this is good.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You think he
24 needs some help?

25

26 MR. ROBERTS: No, he just leaves the
27 meeting, goes to another meeting, and comes back. He's
28 already to go again. He doesn't miss a beat.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. BASSICH: The Yukon River Panel has
33 very high stakes in this as well, and there have been
34 times when we would adjourn -- or not adjourn, but have
35 set down the meeting for a little bit so that both
36 Canadians and Alaskans can go there and be a part of
37 testimony or whatever. So I'll certainly bring that up
38 to our co-chair on our side, and maybe if we can get
39 the days of public testimony and the times for public
40 testimony, we might be able to build that into our
41 agenda. And then we can really hit them with both
42 Canadians and Alaskans on the whole Yukon River. So it
43 might be a very effective approach.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, what I'm
46 thinking is it would be nice -- does that letter need
47 any updates, you guys. And then Virgil or whoever you
48 guys assign to go to that meeting just testify for the
49 RAC is what I'm thinking. So can we all just agree
50 without a motion that -- first of all, you guys, is

1 everything in this letter, or is there new information
2 you want to add to this letter.

3

4 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I guess, if I
5 might, the only thing you may want to consider adding
6 to the letter is if you do have a specific amount that
7 you want to see bycatch reduced to, this would
8 certainly be a time to put that in. Right now the
9 options that the Council is looking at does not include
10 reductions to the overall bycatch limit. It's just a
11 reduction to that performance standard. So if that's
12 something that's concerning, you would definitely want
13 to include that in a letter.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Discussion,
16 Council members, on that. Andrew.

17

18 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I was just going to
19 say we could -- like Becca said, just update the
20 current letter and include what she mentioned there
21 with the performance standard reductions and resend it.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. And then
24 somebody could carry it. Maybe we can all agree that
25 somebody could carry that message to the -- testify at
26 the Council meeting between the four of you who are
27 there, or three, whoever is there. Work that out and
28 this Council approves. Can we just get a consensus
29 here that we approve that happening.

30

31 All right.

32

33 Anyone opposed.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
38 all agree then to add that amount.

39

40 We all agree. Okay.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Andy.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Maybe if one or two of us
47 could just volunteer to work with the Eva to readdress
48 that letter and update it and make the additions and
49 everything. If we have the approval of the Council for
50 one or two of us to sit in with Eva, I think that would

1 probably be the course of action.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And then bring
4 the letter at the end of the meeting. Okay.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So done.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: And with that, I'd
11 volunteer to help sit with you and do that.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: Maybe Andrew or Virgil
16 would do the same.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah.
19 All right. Do you guys want to pick a time at lunch.
20 Whatever work with Eva. You can get with these guys
21 and take care of that.
22
23 MS. PATTON: Yeah, maybe this evening.
24 I'm going to be setting up for the next presentations
25 over lunch, so we might have some more time to go
26 through the updated information.
27
28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I would say
29 whenever. Eva's much busier than we are here, so
30 whenever it works for her, I'll make myself available.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Dinner.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. And
37 he has a class.
38
39 Have we covered everything we need to,
40 Becca.
41
42 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: You have from my
43 perspective, and I can forward Eva a recent letter from
44 YR DFA that might be helpful as your craft your letter.
45 And I will -- we'll stay in touch in both Eva and Andy
46 about the scheduling for the meeting and when
47 specifically testimony may be.
48
49 And thank you very much for including
50 me on your agenda and giving me the opportunity to talk

1 with you about bycatch again.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You bet. Thank
4 you for all the work you do, too.
5
6 MR. LORD: One question for Becca from
7 Victor.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
10 Victor.
11
12 MR. LORD: Becca, what is that division
13 that you set on at the NPFMP? Are you like an
14 alternate or on the Board? I forget the title that you
15 have with them.
16
17 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: I serve on the
18 advisory panel to the Council, which is a group of
19 various industry representatives that advises the
20 Council, and I'm chair of that group right now.
21
22 MR. LORD: Okay. One more added to do.
23 Good job.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
26 Becca.
27
28 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: And that's all I
29 have for you today. Thank you very much.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
32 I'm looking in your suggestions on the back what you
33 can do. Ask the Council and Governor to further
34 reduce, so -- and i'm looking at this letter that we
35 set to the chairman. Those two were not cc'd, so I
36 guess I would recommend that they're cc'd also. That
37 would be something else we need to do. Okay. All
38 right.
39
40 MS. ROBBINS GISCLAIR: Okay. With
41 that, I think I'll turn it over to Wayne and Catherine.
42 I think there's some additional YRDFA reports that you
43 wanted to take care of at this time.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You guys want
46 to finish up on this before?
47
48 (Council nods affirmatively)
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's

1 go.

2

3 MR. JENKINS: Okay. Thank you, Becca.

4

5 Madame Chairman, can you hear me?

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, very well.

8

9 MR. JENKINS: Well, good morning. This
10 is Wayne Jenkins. Thank you, Madame Chair and Eastern
11 Interior Council members. I'm the deputy director of
12 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

13

14 We appreciate this opportunity to
15 provide information reports to you on some YRDFA
16 projects that were funded by the Fisheries Resources
17 Monitoring Program with your support, and also other
18 projects that may be of interest to you.

19

20 The first report I'd like to report on
21 is our pre-season prep meeting, the pre-season summer
22 Yukon River fishing season. On April 8, 2014 YRDFA
23 hosted a one-day Alaskan fisheries meeting, known as
24 the pre-season or summer prep meeting. Representatives
25 from Alaska Native tribal councils, management
26 agencies, and other fisheries stakeholders met together
27 and listened to presentations about the status of Yukon
28 River king salmon and anticipated in-season management
29 actions for the 2014 Chinook and chum salmon fisheries
30 along the Yukon River.

31

32 There are very detailed minutes that
33 were taken by Melinda Burke in your meeting booklet for
34 your review on Page 71. This meeting is a good
35 opportunity for a wide range of people from the
36 villages along the Yukon River to meet together with
37 each other and with fisheries managers and researchers
38 to discuss pre-season what to anticipate in the
39 upcoming fishing season.

40

41 Following the pre-season meeting, there
42 was a one-day Alaska meeting there, an international
43 salmon summit in Fairbanks with Canadians from Yukon
44 Territory, Canada, and Alaskans, the Council of Yukon
45 First Nations, and the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee hosted
46 this meeting, and the Yukon River Panel funded both
47 meetings.

48

49 OSM Coordinator Melinda Burke has also
50 included a very detailed report in your meeting book on

1 Page 79, and I hope you've had a chance to read that.
2 It was a very interesting and I think useful meeting
3 for everyone that attended.

4

5 The next report I'd like to share is
6 about the in-season salmon teleconferences that we've
7 done each year for quite some time now. YRDFA hosted
8 the in-season salmon management teleconferences this
9 past fishing season. Both the Fisheries Resources
10 Monitoring Program and also the Yukon River Panel fund
11 this project. This year YRDFA held 14 in-season
12 management teleconferences starting every Tuesday
13 beginning the last week of May, the season started
14 early, running through August. The calls followed an
15 agenda each week, opening with subsistence fishing
16 reports in Alaska and First National reports from
17 Yukon, hearing from State and Federal fisheries
18 managers on the fishery assessments and management
19 strategy, and also hearing from the Department of
20 Fisheries and Oceans in Canada.

21

22 The important issues addressed this
23 season during the teleconferences included the low
24 returns of Yukon River Chinook salmon and the
25 conservative management strategies that were used in-
26 season. Managers discussed how the run was coming in
27 according to their test fisheries, when pulse closures
28 would take place, what gear restrictions were in place.
29 And Yukon fishers up and down the river shared their
30 harvest experiences on the river, how they were
31 adapting to new gear, a very rainy summer with high
32 water, opener timings, and the challenges of complete
33 conservation of Chinook, and its effects.

34

35 Although king salmon is so very
36 important to them, fishers the length of the Yukon
37 understood the need to conserve king salmon this year,
38 to get them to the border and their spawning grounds to
39 ensure future returns of Chinook. Due to the
40 sacrifices made by subsistence fishers along the Yukon,
41 escapement goals in Canada were met. A greater number
42 of females made it onto the spawning beds.

43

44 I would like to thank you now for the
45 opportunity to share these reports, and would take any
46 questions that you might have.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
49 Council members, any questions.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't see any
4 hands up -- Andy.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. On
7 your in-season harvest survey program, for the
8 questions that you were asking on the bulleted
9 questions on the bottom of the first page and the top
10 of the back page, when will you have that available.
11 Is that being put together now and when will all that
12 information be correlated and then published for the
13 public.
14
15 MR. JENKINS: Andy, I think will see if
16 Catherine Moncrieff can answer that. She will be
17 reporting next on in-season harvest survey.
18
19 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yeah. This is
20 Catherine. I could go ahead, and, Andy, you're asking
21 when you see results on these questions on the back
22 side, with increase the chum harvest?
23
24 MR. BASSICH: Correct.
25
26 MS. MONCRIEFF: We usually put out an
27 annual report on this project that comes out sometime
28 between November and the spring. And we summarize that
29 in the report. And often I try to summarize this stuff
30 for you guys at your RACs. And this year I summarized
31 most of that, the number of households we reached out
32 to on the teleconferences that the surveyors were able
33 to participate in.
34
35 So maybe I should jump back and give
36 the report on the in-season harvest survey program, if
37 that would be all right, Madame Chair. Can you guys
38 hear me.
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm sorry,
41 I didn't have my mic on. I apologize. Yes. The
42 answer is yes.
43
44 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. All right.
45 Andy, do you mind if I go ahead then and give the
46 report.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess I said,
49 yes, I mind. But, no, I don't mind.
50

1 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Well, good
2 afternoon. I'd like to review the in-season harvest
3 survey program as well as another project funded by the
4 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and then I have
5 one other project that I was looking to update you on
6 that's in another part of the Yukon River.

7
8 So the first project, the in-season
9 harvest survey program, is associated with the
10 teleconferences that Wayne just reported. And since
11 2002 in-season harvest surveyors have been hired in
12 communities along the Yukon River to ensure consistent
13 participation and reporting on subsistence harvests and
14 perceived abundance in the YRDFA in-season salmon
15 teleconferences.

16
17 In 2014 10 communities participated,
18 including Alakanuk, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy
19 Cross, Kaltag, Galena, Huslia, Nenana, Fort Yukon, and
20 Eagle. They contacted a total of 121 households and
21 conducted a combined total of 330 interviews which
22 spanned all six fishing districts.

23
24 The program focuses on Chinook salmon
25 and took place from late May to early August, running
26 six weeks long in each community as the Chinook salmon
27 swam through. The surveyors reported the information
28 collected in the communities on 11 YRDFA
29 teleconferences and we submitted summaries to the State
30 and Federal managers weekly.

31
32 This program has a high retention rate
33 with 8 of 10 surveyors being rehired this year.

34
35 Since managers were anticipating no
36 Chinook salmon harvest this year, the survey questions
37 were changed to reflect -- the survey questions were
38 changed to collect information about what fishers were
39 doing instead of Chinook salmon fishing, and how the
40 alternative gear types were working to avoid Chinook
41 salmon.

42
43 If I can -- I'd like to go ahead and
44 tell you about the other projects.

45
46 The next one is customary trade in the
47 Upper Yukon River. This project is also funded by the
48 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and it's a
49 partnership between YRDFA and the Alaska Department of
50 Fish and Game, Subsistence Division. It just began

1 this July and goes through December of 2016.

2

3 The project will examine historic and
4 contemporary customary trade of salmon in the Upper
5 Yukon and Tanana Rivers. We hope to conduct our
6 research in the communities of Fort Yukon, Stevens
7 Village and Manley Hot Springs. We plan to use
8 ethnographic interviews to describe how customary trade
9 practices fit within the overall subsistence use of
10 salmon, and a survey on barter and exchange practices
11 to document the scope and local nature of customary
12 trade.

13

14 The final objective of this project is
15 to improve understanding of the role of customary trade
16 within a continuum of exchange practices, and to
17 describe any potential effects on customary trade from
18 declining salmon runs.

19

20 At this point in the project, we're
21 still in the start-up phase. We've drafted our
22 interview guides, survey and informed consent, and
23 we're working on community approvals. Once we receive
24 them, we'll begin the field work.

25

26 And then finally I wanted to tell you
27 about a project that I've been working on that's in the
28 Koyukuk River area. It's the Koyukuk traditional place
29 names project from Hughes to Koyukuk. And this summer
30 I had the opportunity to take part in a boat trip from
31 Koyukuk to Hughes along the Koyukuk River to map and
32 visit traditional place names. We brought youth and
33 elders from the communities to place signs in the
34 Koyukon -- with the Koyukon traditional place name on
35 them at the sites, and stories about the places were
36 recorded, and community meetings were held along the
37 way. This trip is part of an ongoing project with a
38 diverse partnership, including, of course, the elders
39 and tribal councils of Hughes, Huslia, and Koyukuk, the
40 Yukon/Koyukuk School District, the U.S. Fish and
41 Wildlife Service, Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, the
42 United States Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center,
43 and YRDFA. And additionally we received some funding
44 from the Alaska Humanities Forum, Gana-a'yoo, and
45 Doyon.

46

47 So that's it for my report, and I don't
48 know if Andy felt like I answered his question well
49 enough, or if there's other questions that I can answer
50 for the Council.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess,
4 Katherine, on that first question that I had on your
5 surveys, will there be details of what you came up with
6 from these questions that will be published.
7
8 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And when will that
11 be published again, November?
12
13 MS. MONCRIEFF: Well, I don't know if
14 we'll get it out as early as November. We usually get
15 it out by March. We don't really have a deadline.
16 They don't have an annual report required any more as a
17 performance report, but I like to summarize it
18 annually. And I could make a summary of that
19 information for you and get that to you and the Council
20 in the next -- I could look into that data.
21
22 MR. BASSICH: No, it's not a big hurry
23 for me. I just want to make sure it gets out. I think
24 they were great questions and I'd really like to see
25 that information.
26
27 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay.
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
30 members, any other questions.
31
32 One more, Andy.
33
34 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I
35 guess I had one question on your customary trade in the
36 Upper Yukon. I'm just kind of wondering why Tanana
37 wasn't included in that. They have a long tradition of
38 that, and it seems like the impacts to their community
39 would be pretty substantial, so I'm just curious why
40 they're not included in that program.
41
42 MS. MONCRIEFF: Well, I actually worked
43 on a customary trade project a few, quite a few years
44 -- well, a few years ago now, and Tanana was included
45 in that project as well as some communities in the
46 lower river. So this project we felt that the part of
47 the river that was missing research was the upper
48 river. So this project is focused just on the -- up in
49 the Yukon Flats and the very upper river above Tanana.
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you. Is
2 that - are your surveys or your programs that you did a
3 few years ago on the middle river, is that in print, or
4 is that something that can.....

5
6 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes, it is.
7

8 MR. BASSICH: Could that be either
9 forwarded to our coordinator electronically so that we
10 could be given that, please.

11
12 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes, I can do that.
13

14 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.
15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
17 members, anything else.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess it's
22 time to break for lunch.
23

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

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes. Was there
27 anyone else on line that had anything to add here, or
28 questions.
29

30 (No comments)
31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: None. 1:30 be
33 back. Okay. All right. See you then.
34

35 (Off record)
36

37 (On record)
38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And one Council
40 member I think. Missing one, and one added. Donald
41 showed up here. James, was Andrew outside?
42

43 MR. ROBERTS: He's around.
44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
46 Moving rapidly along as they say in our country. Where
47 am I here. TCC report. So the next thing on the
48 agenda is the TCC report. Brian, how do you say that?
49

50 MR. McKENNA: McKenna.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: McKenna.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Tanana Chiefs.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's great for
6 my eyes. We are getting our projector set up here.
7 There's Andrew. Pulling the shades.

8

9 (Off record conversation)

10

11 MR. McKENNA: All right. Good
12 afternoon, Madame Chair. Members of the Council. My
13 name is Brian McKenna. I'm the Partners Program
14 fisheries biologist with the Tanana Chiefs Conference.
15 And this presentation is just going to provide an
16 overview of current fisheries projects going on at TCC.

17

18 We currently have two projects that are
19 funded through OSM's FRMP program. That's the Henshaw
20 Creek weir and the Alatna River sheefish population
21 structure study. We also have two projects that are
22 currently funded through the Yukon River Panel. Both
23 projects are genetic stock identification projects.
24 One is for Chinook salmon on the Salmon Fork River, and
25 the other is for fall chum on the Black River. And we
26 also have the Henshaw Creek weir science camp, which is
27 funded through a challenge cost share grant with the
28 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

29

30 The first project I'd like to speak
31 about is the Henshaw Creek weir. Again this is funded
32 through OSM FRMP. I'll see if we can zoom this in
33 more. This weir is located in the Koyukuk drainage
34 above the village of Allakaket. It's been operated
35 annually for the last 15 years. The project goals are
36 to determine escapement and run timing of Chinook and
37 chum salmon, to describe the demographic composition of
38 the run, and also to provide a platform for the science
39 camp we have each summer.

40

41 To achieve our objectives, we partner
42 with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game, and then also the villages
44 along the river, such as Hughes, Huslia, Alatna, and
45 Allakaket.

46

47 Unfortunately, this year we were not
48 able to collect data. I have a couple photos here.
49 These are two aerial photos taken, one from last year,
50 one from this year. You can see where the camp is, and

1 where the weir should be and is not. The exposed
2 gravel bar there is typical in most years, and as you
3 can see, it's non-existent this year. The photos on the
4 right are from typical years. The top right photo is
5 our cook tent and then the sleeping quarters are below
6 that. Those platforms are about seven feet off the
7 ground, and you can see that the water elevated to
8 nearly those levels. We had crew stay out there
9 anticipating and hoping that the water would drop so we
10 could get the weir in and start collecting data.
11 However, we had to evacuate for safety reasons as you
12 can see there. So no data was collected this year in
13 2014.

14
15 Like I said, it's been an ongoing
16 project for the last 15 years, and only two of those 15
17 years, 2006 and again this year, the project did not
18 collect data due to flooding.

19
20 Also, in light of the high water this
21 summer, we had to cancel the science camp. You can see
22 from this photo here, that exposed gravel bar is where
23 the science camp takes place. The students and elders
24 camp out there, and some of the lessons and sessions we
25 have take place there as well. So just due to safety
26 concerns, we had to cancel that project.

27
28 Unfortunately, we had to cancel another
29 one of our summer projects. We had anticipated going
30 into the Salmon Fork River to collect and develop a
31 genetic baseline for king salmon up there. We were
32 originally going to do an aerial survey to locate where
33 there were populations and spawning activity of kings,
34 and then we were going to float the river and collect
35 genetic samples to help develop that baseline. But the
36 water was too high and murky. There was no exposed
37 gravel bars, so we wouldn't be able to utilize recently
38 dead carcasses, and we couldn't spot the fish in the
39 water either. So we decided that we would forego that.
40 We did put in for an extension, so we're hoping that
41 that will be granted by the Yukon River Panel, and
42 we'll be able to proceed with this project next summer.

43
44 Fortunately the water levels kind of
45 returned to workable condition in the fall, so we were
46 able to get out on the Alatna River. This is a
47 population structure study on spawning sheefish in the
48 Alatna River. It's funded through OSM FRMP. It was
49 originally a one-year project scheduled for 2012, but
50 due to high water in 2012 and early ice on the river

1 last year, it was postponed to this year.

2

3 Stanley Ned, Jaret Sand, Paige Durobny
4 and myself were able to get out on the water this year.
5 We traveled by jet boat to get to the spawning grounds,
6 which are about 50 miles upriver on the Alatna River,
7 which is located just above the Village of Allakaket,
8 as you can see here, in the Koyukuk drainage.

9

10 The objectives of the project were to
11 collect and sample 200 sheefish, to take their otoliths
12 so we can look at age structure of the population,
13 collect tissue samples to develop a genetic baseline
14 for this population, to record lengths and weights so
15 we can assess fish condition, and then also to examine
16 the ovary weights on the females to determine spawning
17 maturity.

18

19 We went up there between the 15th and
20 22nd of September. We had originally planned on
21 snagging fish and/or beach seiner, which is the
22 traditional method up there. However, the water level
23 was a bit too high, so again we couldn't see the fish
24 in the water, so sight-snagging was not -- we forewent
25 that. And then beach seining we attempted, but had a
26 really low catch per unit effort, so we tried
27 driftnetting, and we drifted a six-inch gillnet, and
28 this proved to be the most effective technique. In
29 just three days of fishing, we were able to capture 198
30 sheefish, 196 of which were caught via the driftnet.
31 So we added the two samples that were taken in 2012,
32 and that gives us our sample size of 200. And after
33 samples were collected, all the fish were donated to
34 the tribes of Alatna and Allakaket.

35

36 The otoliths are going to be aged this
37 winter. Randy Brown at the Fish and Wildlife Service
38 and myself will take that task. Tissue samples are
39 being sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service genetics
40 lab, and they'll be analyzing that this winter.

41

42 The average male length was 66.3
43 centimeters. Females were just a bit bigger, which is
44 to be expected, 74.5 centimeters. And you can note the
45 difference in weight there, almost 2,000 grams between
46 the males and females. 28 percent of the population of
47 the 200 that we caught was female, and the aver female
48 GSI was 21 percent, which pretty means that all the
49 fish up there, all the females that we sampled were in
50 a spawning phase.

1 I'd like to throw a thanks out there to
2 the Villages of Alatna and Allakaket. They were very
3 instrumental in helping us with this project,
4 especially Larry Edwards, Johnson Moses, and Warner
5 Bergman.

6
7 Another project that we had going this
8 fall and were able to go out in the water and operate
9 was another genetics stock identification program. It
10 was for black -- or fall chum on the Black River. The
11 project objectives were to collect 88 tissue samples,
12 and to combine them with the pre-existing 112 samples
13 that were collected in previous projects. With that
14 sample size of 200, we should be able to develop a
15 genetic baseline for this population.

16
17 And immediately following the Alatna
18 River project, on the 25th of September, Nichole Farmer
19 and myself flew to Chalkyitsik, and we met up with
20 Jonas Carroll, he's a local fisherman there. We
21 contracted him to help provide us travel and help with
22 the fishing. We set two gillnets, and they were
23 checked twice daily, and with that, between the 25th
24 and 1st of October, we were able to collect and sample
25 88 fall chum. Additionally we sampled eight coho. So
26 that gave us our 200 sample size, and all these tissue
27 samples are being -- or will be analyzed by Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game's gene conservation
29 laboratory. So with that sample size, the 200, we
30 should be able to develop a genetic stock
31 identification for this program. Or for this
32 population, sorry.

33
34 Looking to the future, we put in
35 recently for a few different proposals. Two more are
36 for genetic stock identification. The one is an
37 extension I spoke of earlier, and that's the Salmon
38 Fork Chinook. And then we're also partnering with
39 ADF&G and the Village of Chalkyitsik, and we put in a
40 proposal to collect samples for Chinook on the Black
41 River as well.

42
43 Another proposal we just submitted to
44 the Yukon River Panel is for a -- it's a feasibility
45 study to install a resistance board weir for fall chum
46 salmon maybe in the Black or Salmon Fork River. And in
47 that proposal we're partnering with CATG, and also the
48 Village of Chalkyitsik.

49
50 And then lastly we will be reapplying

1 for the Henshaw Creek science camp. It was unfortunate
2 we weren't able to hold that this year, so we're
3 looking forward to getting that back next year.

4

5 And then lastly, I'm not going to read
6 off all these names, but I just wanted to thank
7 everyone listed here. Our department at TCC is pretty
8 small, so a lot of these projects wouldn't be possible
9 without the help of, you know, different villages and
10 tribes, fishermen, Office of Subsistence Management,
11 Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife field office, Kanuti
12 National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game, and then also individuals within TCC.

14

15 And with that, I'll open it up for
16 questions and comments.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
19 members, questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Quiet here in
24 this afternoon.

25

26 Do I hear any questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That does it.

31

32 They're very quiet, so I don't hear any
33 questions.

34

35 MR. McKENNA: Does anyone on the
36 Council have suggestions for future research they'd
37 like to see done. I heard a couple good comments
38 earlier that have been duly noted, and I'd like to
39 speak with some of you.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

44

45 I have a question for you. On the
46 sheefish, about 10, 15 years ago I was working down at
47 Fort Yukon, and they were asking me to keep all the
48 sheefish heads and that for their biologists to
49 examine. Where do they winter at?

50

1 MR. McKENNA: That is a good question.
2 I wish Randy Brown were in the room. I'd defer to him.
3 Do either of you know the answer to that question. I
4 would have to get back to you with that.

5
6 MR. GLANZ: I appreciate that. Yeah,
7 because I know there is a question about where they
8 spend the winters at.

9
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: In the water.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: In the water you said,
13 okay.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Does any -- I
18 see your hand, Andy.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Does that mean you're
21 calling on me?

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

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

26
27 Yeah, as far as needs or other
28 projects, two that I can think of that are probably
29 more relevant in the area that I live in, is the first
30 being -- I think it would be really interesting to
31 conduct a few studies on non-salmon species up in the
32 upper Yukon from Circle to the Canadian border for
33 abundance. With the shift from no king salmon to
34 people trying to find other ways to make a living off
35 the Yukon, and chum salmon coming so late in the year,
36 I think it would be really interesting to get some
37 baseline data on populations, abundance in that area.

38
39 The other thing that I've talked about
40 for a long time, I don't know if anything's ever going
41 to be done, but Virgil spoke to it a little bit
42 earlier, and that is what I call king trouts, the
43 three-year-olds that come up in the run that get
44 counted as escapement, but don't really get quantified
45 in the test drift fisheries. And I'm not sure that
46 Fish and Game really wants to get into dealing with
47 that, so maybe a separate program in partnership with
48 them to run some four-inch mesh gear alongside with the
49 drifts that are taking place at Eagle sonar would at
50 least get some baseline information on numbers of those

1 fish. And I have a lot of concerns still about the
2 fact that some of the data gets skewed, because they're
3 not really catching these fish and quantifying them in
4 numbers, so that would go directly towards quality of
5 escapement and projections of run information for the
6 future.

7

8 So those are two suggestions I would
9 have that I think are important, one for the long-term
10 future of the fisheries, and, two, for how people are
11 trying to shift to other species, and whether the
12 abundance can support that, and whether it's enough to
13 even support the people in the region. Because in our
14 region I'm finding that if the king salmon aren't
15 there, it's pretty tough to make a living on the river.
16 And the fall chum comes so late that everybody's busy
17 hunting, fishing for fall chum for their dogs, and then
18 gardens, and getting ready for winter, so it's a pretty
19 tight season.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. MCKENNA: Yeah. Thanks for those
24 comments, Andy. I agree with those. I think with the
25 shift away from Chinook, with conservation, that other
26 species, you know, they're going to be relied more upon
27 moving forward. So that's a good comment. And then
28 also there's definitely the quality of escapement
29 versus just quantity is something that needs to be
30 looked at as well.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: When you're drift
35 gillnetting to catch sheefish, did you catch a bunch of
36 broad whitefish, too?

37

38 MR. MCKENNA: I forgot to mention that.
39 Actually we were quite impressed with the gear. Like I
40 said, three days of fishing. We caught 198 sheefish
41 and five whitefish. So bycatch was quite minimal.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: You were not catching a
44 bunch of broad whitefish then? They weren't up there?

45

46 MR. MCKENNA: No. Either the gear
47 wasn't catching them, or they weren't there.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else,
2 questions or suggestions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
7 Thank you very much.

8
9 MR. McKENNA: Thanks for this time.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Next on the
12 agenda is the priority information needs for FRMP.
13 Karen Hyer and Trent. So I assume Karen's on line.
14 Just you, Trent? Okay. So grab your water while
15 you're at it.

16
17 MR. LIEBICH: (Indiscernible - away
18 from microphones)

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks for the
21 head's up. Maybe I'll get my water, too.

22
23 MR. LIEBICH: Good afternoon, Madame
24 Chair and members of the Council. For the record, I'm
25 Trent Liebich. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
26 Management, and I work as a fisheries biologist.

27
28 You may remember last year I think
29 might have been the first meeting I had with you guys
30 in person, and we covered some of these same topic that
31 I'm going to go over, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
32 Program. And you just saw a good presentation from
33 Brian McKenna on some of the types of projects we fund.

34
35 So if you turn in your books to Page
36 93, we'll start there. There's a brief kind of a two-
37 page overview about the monitoring plan, and then it
38 goes into the draft call for proposals and priority
39 information needs, and that's what ultimately we're
40 going to get at.

41
42 I think most of you guys are probably
43 familiar with the monitoring program, having worked
44 with it in the past, but I'm going to cover it a little
45 bit anyway for anybody that may not be familiar with
46 the program. So the monitoring program is unique in
47 Alaska, and it was established in 1999 under Title VIII
48 of ANILCA, and it's run through the Office of
49 Subsistence Management. And it's set up, it's a
50 competitive funding source for studies on subsistence

1 fisheries, to expand the understanding of subsistence
2 harvest, which we call those typically harvest
3 monitoring projects; traditional knowledge of
4 subsistence resources, which we call traditional
5 ecological knowledge projects or TEK; and then
6 populations of subsistence fish resources, so stock,
7 status and trends.

8
9 This information we gather, we hope to
10 be able to improve the ability to manage subsistence
11 fisheries in a way that will ensure the continued
12 opportunity for sustainable subsistence use by rural
13 Alaskans on Federal public lands. So that's an
14 important part of this monitoring program. It is tied
15 -- it's a Federal program, and it's tied to Federal
16 public lands. So when we think about the types of
17 projects we do, typically we would see those occurring
18 on Federal lands and tied to the Federal subsistence
19 users.

20
21 The funding regions, it's similar to
22 the RACs in where the boundaries are with the Regional
23 Advisory Councils, except some of the Councils are
24 combined into the fundings. So where we have 10
25 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, we only have
26 six funding regions for this monitoring program. So in
27 this situation, the funding region that's relevant to
28 your Council would be the Yukon, and the Yukon funding
29 region includes the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
30 Advisory Council, the Western Interior Regional
31 Council, and also the Eastern Interior Regional
32 Council. So you have three different Councils
33 providing into these priority information needs, so we
34 had a similar discussion in the past year with Western
35 Interior and Yukon Delta, did a follow up last week
36 with the Yukon Delta RAC meeting in Bethel, and then
37 we're revisiting these priority information this year
38 at this meeting and will have next week also with
39 Western Interior in McGrath.

40
41 The funding cycle for this program is
42 on every two years. We do a request for proposals, and
43 those proposals and projects can last for up to four
44 years, so we have alternating years on funding cycles,
45 but those projects don't necessarily all last for that
46 full four-year span. So some projects we'll see ending
47 on even or odd years, some's going the entire time. So
48 a lot of times you might have a previous request on a
49 priority information needs where we'll have ongoing
50 projects that are addressing those issues. So some of

1 the past priority information needs might not show up
2 now.

3
4 So where we're at now in the funding
5 cycle, the last funding cycle was 2014 is what we're
6 calling it, and those project received funding this
7 past year, and that funding can last up to four years
8 as I mentioned. So now we're in the 2016 funding
9 cycle, which is actually occurring now, and that
10 announcement for the opportunity for funding and the
11 request for proposals will be coming out very shortly,
12 and then the decisions on those projects will be made
13 over the coming year through an evaluation process, and
14 then funding awarded to those projects in 2016. So
15 that's why we're calling it 2016 funding cycle, even
16 though it's 2014 now.

17
18 So we're also anticipating somewhere --
19 we have this in the book on Page 97 on the book, so I
20 just want to point it out. We're anticipating
21 approximately \$4 million available in 2016. So that's
22 -- in the history of the monitoring program, that's
23 kind of on the end of what's been available for
24 funding, but it's I believe a very slight -- well, I
25 guess depending on your frame of reference, a couple
26 hundred thousand dollar increase from last year, so a
27 significant amount of funding, but in the big picture
28 of the range of funding available in this monitoring
29 program, we're still kind of on that lower end.

30
31 And these projects -- I also anted to
32 point out, these projects, it's really important that
33 collaboration and cooperation with rural communities is
34 really encouraged in all stages of the research and
35 planning and the implementation of the projects, and
36 how they directly affect those communities. When we go
37 through that ranking decision, you know, collaboration
38 and capacity building in rural communities is a really
39 important factor when we look at the projects.

40
41 So where we're at now, as I mentioned,
42 we're coming into this next funding cycle. We have the
43 draft of the priority information needs. We worked a
44 lot over the past year. I spoke -- I think we had a
45 pretty lengthy discussion last year as I mentioned with
46 the other Councils. We talked with Refuges Staff,
47 Parks, other Federal agencies, other Federal land
48 managements, and then also with the fisheries Staff
49 with those Federal agencies as well. So we had several
50 pages of comments and recommendations, and we try to

1 summarize those and kind of hit some of the highlights
2 and main points, and try not to be duplicative with
3 other efforts that are ongoing as well.

4

5 So on Page 99 in your book, I'll just
6 read through these priority information needs, and if
7 anybody has comments, anything you want to add to the
8 priority information needs, or maybe something you
9 don't agree with how it's wording, some sort of
10 changes, now is a good time to make that, because we're
11 making that call for proposals and working through that
12 process. So I'm just going to read through them in a
13 list and, you know, if you guys have questions, feel
14 free to stop me.

15

16 So the first one, and this one's been
17 in there several years now, is reliable estimates of
18 salmon species escapements, and these examples would be
19 projects like weir projects, sonar projects for some of
20 the mark/recapture studies. Some of the more common
21 projects that we see funded through this monitoring
22 program.

23

24 The next one is the geographic
25 distribution of salmon and whitefish species in the
26 Nulato River, Salmon Fork of the Black River, the
27 Porcupine River, and the Chandalar River. And I think
28 this is a lot of the discussion we had over the past
29 year. And I know the Chandalar was brought up again
30 this morning, so we do have that currently into this
31 upcoming priority information needs.

32

33 The third one, indexing method for
34 estimating species-specific whitefish harvest on an
35 annual basis for the Yukon drainage. And there we'd
36 hope researches would be able to explore and evaluate
37 an approach where subregional clusters of community
38 harvest can be evaluated for regular surveying, with
39 the results being extrapolated to the rest of the
40 cluster, contributing to drainage-wide harvest
41 estimates. If you have any questions on that one,
42 hopefully Pippa's on line to answer, because I'm not
43 totally familiar with those methods.

44

45 The next one, methods for including
46 quality of escapement measures. For example, the
47 potential egg deposition, sex and size composition of
48 spawners, spawning habitat utilization. So you want
49 that quality of escapement measures in establishing
50 Chinook salmon spawning goals, and determining he

1 reproductive potential and genetic diversity of
2 spawning escapement. So there's again something that's
3 been coming up in discussion throughout the Yukon. So
4 we tried to integrate that into this call for proposals
5 to see if we can come up with some good projects and
6 maybe address some of those questions.

7
8 The next being a review of escapement
9 data collection methods throughout the Yukon drainage
10 to ensure that test fisheries are accurately accounting
11 for size distribution and abundance of fishes. And the
12 example of this being the issue of small Chinook and
13 whether or not they're being counted accurately. I
14 mean, we've had that discussion several times, too.
15 Some of those small Chinook are hard to separate out
16 from some of the other salmon species in-river without
17 actually getting a visual identification of them.

18
19 So moving down the list, harvest and
20 spawning escapement level changes through time in
21 relation to changes in gillnet construction and use.
22 An example of this might be set versus drift fishing or
23 changes in mesh sizes. And that's in relation to
24 Chinook salmon subsistence harvest in the mainstem of
25 the Yukon river.

26
27 Second to last, Bering cisco population
28 assessment and monitoring.

29
30 And the last one on there that was
31 brought up was Burbot population assessments in lakes
32 shown to support subsistence fisheries. And burbot --
33 just for the record, this came up last week. Burbot
34 also being referred to as lush is one of the common
35 names for people that aren't familiar with the term
36 burbot.

37
38 So that's all I have if anybody had
39 questions, maybe revisions to the language or any
40 additions they wanted to that list, I'd be happy to

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: I just had one, like with
43 the burbot population assessment, maybe it could be
44 included in rivers, because I've seen ones in a study I
45 think it was last year at one of the management
46 meeting. But anyway they had a good one on burbot in
47 the Kusko, and how they migrated throughout in the
48 river, and it was very interesting. And I know that's
49 been a request of the Council in the past, to get more
50 burbot studies than just doing them in a lake. It

1 seems kind of -- I would like to see it more in a
2 river, and a broader spectrum than just a couple of
3 lakes.

4
5 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
8 members.

9
10 Andy.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14 Yeah. One of the other things that I
15 just wanted to put out there is that UAF is doing a
16 study on the effects of predatory fish on Chinook
17 salmon, and since there seems to be a lot more effort
18 in studying sheefish and some of these non-salmon
19 species, I would encourage some collaboration between
20 people out in the field doing the sampling, and UAF.
21 They're trying to expand their sampling numbers, and so
22 if they can get ASL and stomachs from some of these
23 fish that are caught, whether it be through the TCC
24 program that they're doing, or through your program, it
25 would greatly enhance I think what they need to do,
26 expand. They did a little bit in the Upper Yukon this
27 year. This was the first year for it, but I think it
28 would be really helpful to be able to expand that into
29 the, you know, lower Y-5D and maybe even District 4 if
30 there's any projects going on in that area. And I
31 think it would greater -- get a better bang for the
32 buck for what this study's going to be able to show.
33 And relatively simple if you're killing fish anyway.
34 All you've got to do is send them the stomachs, and
35 give them the ASL on them. Just a way to hopefully get
36 more for our money out of some of these studies.

37
38 MR. LIEBICH: Thank you for that
39 comment. That's a very good one.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't think
46 it took an hour.

47
48 MR. LIEBICH: Well, that's just a
49 start.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
4 right. Moving rapidly along.

5

6 MR. LIEBICH: So the next item -- so
7 that's all I had for the priority information needs. I
8 guess we're moving into the -- you want me to get into
9 the fisheries regulatory analyses? Okay.

10

11 Okay. So continuing on. So I'll move
12 into the fisheries regulatory analyses.

13

14 And again for the record this is Trent
15 Liebich with the Office of Subsistence Management.

16

17 Starting on Page 105 in your book, we
18 can work through the first proposal, which is a
19 statewide proposal, and then I have three more
20 proposals to discuss at the regional level.

21

22 So this first statewide proposal was
23 submitted by the Southcentral Alaska Regional
24 Subsistence Advisory Council. It was a request that
25 the definition of hook be described in regulation as a
26 hook with or without a barb. So it's actually a pretty
27 -- hopefully pretty clear in regulation, although it
28 led to a lot of discussion with different Councils, and
29 we got into a lot of the technical aspects of what hook
30 is defined as, and also barb's become defined as. So
31 I'm going to actually get into some of the details on
32 this proposal and read through it. So I'll go through
33 that, and I'll give you the decisions from the various
34 other Councils, the meetings that we've had up to this
35 point, and then get into discussion, because there is
36 some alternate language in here as well. So if at any
37 point you have a question, please stop me and I'll try
38 to explain in more detail, because there is quite a bit
39 of history on this this fall with the Council meetings
40 that have been going.

41

42 So as I mentioned, this requests the
43 definition of hook be described as a hook with or
44 without a barb. And the proposed language would
45 clarify the type of fishing hook that could used under
46 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations where hooks
47 are an authorized methods and means to take fish.

48

49 So the proponent requested the changed
50 to the existing statewide Federal regulatory language

1 to eliminate the potential for adoption of default
2 methods and means restriction of a Federal subsistence
3 fishery to the use of barbless hooks.

4
5 The proposal was submitted in response
6 to a recent Alaska Board of Fisheries decision to
7 restrict the Kenai River Chinook salmon sportfishery
8 methods and means to the use of barbless hooks under
9 certain conditions. If the Kenai River Chinook salmon
10 sport fishery is restricted to the use of barbless
11 hooks, Federal subsistence rod and reel fishery might
12 also be restricted to the use of barbless hooks by
13 default.

14
15 And the reason is that in many parts of
16 Alaska, the stand-alone Federal subsistence fishery
17 regulations do not exist within regulation, so the
18 Federal subsistence fisheries methods and means
19 regulations are the same for taking fish under the
20 State of Alaska sportfishing regulations, unless
21 specifically modified in Federal regulation. So in the
22 areas where Federal subsistence fisheries regulations
23 are absent -- I'm sorry, I lost my spot. Okay. So in
24 areas where Federal subsistence fisheries regulations
25 are absent, regulations indicate that fisheries
26 regulations apply to public lands and are adopted as
27 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations to the extent
28 they're not inconsistent with or superseded by Federal
29 subsistence regulations.

30
31 So in other words, if the State of
32 Alaska adopts fisheries regulations, such as requiring
33 barbless hooks in a fishery where Federal subsistence
34 fisheries regulations do not exist or do not address
35 what type of hook is allowed, the Federal subsistence
36 regulations would default to State regulations,
37 resulting in Federal subsistence users being restricted
38 to barbless hooks.

39
40 So the way that this is proposed in the
41 Federal regulation would be under definitions. And
42 that definition would be for hook, and it would read:
43 hook means a single shanked fishhook with a single eye
44 constructed with one or more points with or without
45 barbs. So that's the key part of that definition is
46 with or without barbs.

47
48 There's a bit of regulatory history on
49 this issue. Over the years there's been numerous
50 proposals requesting the restriction of sportfisheries

1 methods and means to barbless hooks that have been
2 submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. In 2014 in
3 the upper Cook Inlet meeting the Alaska Board of
4 Fisheries deliberated on four different proposals
5 requesting restricting various Cook Inlet
6 sportfisheries to the use of barbless hooks.

7
8 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
9 opposed these proposals, because restricting anglers to
10 the use of barbless hooks would have a negative effect
11 on sportfishery opportunity without a measurable
12 biological benefit. The Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game also indicated the use of barbless hooks would
14 reduce angler efficiency by 9 to 24 percent according
15 to one study, resulting in anglers fishing longer in
16 order to achieve their bag limits and reducing their
17 harvest -- or reducing their harvest.

18
19 So the Alaska Board of Fisheries
20 adopted an amended proposal to the Kenai River Chinook
21 salmon sportfishery requiring barbless hooks as a
22 conservation measure when the fishery is restricted to
23 catch and release only. The discussions during the
24 Alaska Board of Fisheries deliberations focused on
25 reducing Chinook salmon handling mortality in the
26 sportfishery when restricted to catch and release
27 status.

28
29 The regulatory language defining
30 barbless hooks is the hook is manufactured without a
31 barb or the barb has been completely removed or
32 compressed so the barb is in complete contact with the
33 shaft of the hook.

34
35 The Kenai River Chinook salmon
36 sportfishery is the first fishery in Alaska with this
37 barbless hook regulation, so that's another important
38 part of this. This currently doesn't have much effect
39 throughout the State of Alaska, but as I mentioned,
40 that default regulation has potential future
41 implications if more of these types of decisions could
42 occur to go to barbless fisheries.

43
44 So at the March 2014 meeting the
45 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council was made aware
46 of the new State sportfishery regulation, and how it
47 could by default impact the Federal subsistence Chinook
48 salmon rod and reel fishery in the Kenai River. So in
49 response to the Alaska Board of Fisheries action, the
50 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council submitted this

1 proposal. So the State of Alaska regulatory definition
2 of a barbless hook was not available at the
3 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council meeting, and the
4 Southcentral RAC was not presented with language
5 contained in this proposal, the Federal regulatory
6 language section.

7

8 So with that -- so there's other
9 alternatives considered, too. So this initial proposal
10 as I read to you had that definition of hook. Since
11 the State of Alaska adopted that Kenai River Chinook
12 sportfishery regulations which define the barbless
13 hook, there's the following alternative, and this is on
14 Page 110. There's an alternative proposed regulatory
15 language reflecting this suggested modification that
16 would take that definition of hook which is that first
17 sentence I read to you, a hook means a single shanked
18 fishhook with a single eye constructed with one or more
19 points with or without barbs. And then this
20 alternative would add in a second sentence that further
21 defines a hook without a barb means the hook is
22 manufactured without a barb or the barb has been
23 completely removed or compressed so the barb is in
24 complete contact with the shaft of the hook.

25

26 So for the effects of this proposal, if
27 it's adopted, it would maintain Federally-qualified
28 subsistence users ability to select the type of fishing
29 hooks, with or without barbs, that they want to use.
30 Once a definition of hook is in Federal regulation,
31 Federally-qualified subsistence users would not have to
32 be concerned with the State of Alaska changes -- if the
33 State of Alaska changes the definition of a hook, or
34 restricts other fisheries to the use of barbless hooks
35 with that example we gave of the Kenai Chinook
36 sportfishery. So if you saw more barbless hook
37 restriction spreading across the State, if this
38 definition was in, the subsistence users would still
39 have that choice to use barb or barbless hook.

40

41 If the proposal's adopted, the
42 Federal/State regulations would be divergent in the
43 fisheries restricted to the use of barbless hooks under
44 State regulations. And adoption would establish
45 Federal subsistence regulatory definition of hook to
46 include both barbed and barbless hooks, which will
47 supersede both current and future State barbless hook
48 regulations.

49

50 If the proposal is not adopted, the

1 Federally-qualified users would be restricted to the
2 type of hook specified and defined by the State of
3 Alaska, since there is no Federal definition of hook.
4 And as I mentioned, that only -- right now that only --
5 currently the only place where there's that barbless
6 hook restriction is on that Kenai Chinook sportfishery.

7
8 So the preliminary conclusion from OSM
9 was to support the proposal as it was written, and that
10 justification was adding that definition of hook in
11 Federal regulations, that currently subsistence users
12 must comply with the State's methods and means when
13 fishing one or more hooks, even if the regulation is
14 for barbless hooks, which could reduce harvest
15 efficiency. Restricting subsistence users from
16 harvesting with barbless hooks -- with barbed hooks
17 would be an unnecessary restriction to existing fishing
18 practices statewide.

19
20 Adoption of the proposal would protect
21 Federal subsistence fishermen's choice to use barbed or
22 barbless hooks, and adoption of the proposal would not
23 result in any additional impacts to Alaska's fishery
24 resources by Federal subsistence fishermen.

25
26 So that was a preliminary conclusion to
27 support, and that was to support as it was written with
28 that -- just the first sentence of that definition of
29 hook.

30
31 The North Slope RAC, they wanted the
32 modified definition is what they had supported.
33 Kodiak/Aleutians had the modified language.
34 Southcentral went with just the first sentence of that
35 definition. Seward Peninsula supported the proposal as
36 it was written with the first sentence. Northwest
37 Arctic I believe went with support with the definition
38 as written with the first sentence. And then Yukon
39 Delta I think was support as was written. Either way,
40 from -- either definition would still allow the
41 subsistence user the choice. It's just a matter of how
42 it appears in the regulations.

43
44 So that's where I'm at, if you have any
45 questions, please feel free to ask.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Would you run
50 down those ones that support again. The RACs.

1 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, all the RACs
2 supported the proposal. It was whether or not they
3 supported kind of the short -- the first definition of
4 just the hook -- with just being the single shanked
5 hook with a single eye, constructed with one or more
6 points with or without barbs. So that first part of
7 the definition. I believe it was Southcentral, Seward
8 Peninsula, Northwest Arctic, and I'm pretty sure Yukon
9 Delta also supported it.

10
11 The expanded definition, that
12 alternative where it was then further defined that the
13 hook without a barb means manufactured without a barb,
14 or the barb has been completely removed or compressed
15 so the barb is in complete contact with the shaft of
16 the hook. That modified language was the North Slope
17 RAC and Kodiak/Aleutians RAC. And a lot of that
18 discussion came out of the North Slope and why that
19 modification was made, because they manufacture a lot
20 of their hooks. They actually prefer barbless hooks
21 sometimes in winter ice fishing situations, so they can
22 get the fish off easier. So that kind of led into that
23 discussion, to make sure that they were -- to make sure
24 it was very clear on what that definition was.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
27 And just to clarify, the modification that you're
28 speaking to is on Page 110, and it was actually a
29 recommendation or alternative brought forward by the
30 State of Alaska, that both the North Slope Council and
31 Kodiak/Aleutians supported. So it further defines what
32 a hook means. And the North Slope Council had
33 extensive discussion about all the different types of
34 hooks that they both create, utilize, modify to ensure
35 that those were all included in there as well. So when
36 they're talking about modification, it's inclusion of
37 this definition.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: At our SRC
40 meeting, safety in came up. It was pretty funny. They
41 said some kids -- or Bert said he used a safety pin
42 when he was a kid.

43
44 Okay.

45
46 Any questions.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's

1 the representa -- or the presentation. Any report on
2 the Board consultations with tribes and ANCSA.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
5 Before each set of Council meetings, OSM and
6 representatives of the Federal Subsistence Board
7 conducted opportunities for tribal consultation.

8
9 On this particular proposal, we had a
10 couple tribes from the North Slope call in. The Native
11 Village of Barrow and Inupiat Community of the Arctic
12 Slope. Both of those representatives and organizations
13 had, similar to the North Slope Council, extensive
14 discussion about the range of uses and differences and
15 utilization of hooks in different communities. They
16 wanted to assure that this proposal wouldn't have any
17 limitations on subsistence activities on the North
18 Slope, and felt assured that that was the case after
19 extensive discussion on it.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Agency
24 comments. ADF&G.

25
26 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair. Drew
27 Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
28 Anchorage.

29
30 I have the State position. Regarding
31 Fisheries Proposal 15-01, the State supports this
32 proposal with modification to adopt similar criteria
33 for hooks as defined in State regulation. Currently
34 the State has three definitions that applies to hook.
35 In our defini -- in our regs there's a single which is
36 a fishhook with one point, with or without a barb. We
37 have a definition for multiple hook, which is a
38 fishhook with two or more points, with or without a
39 barb. And then the recent definition that Trent
40 provided for you is for barbless, is the hook is
41 manufactured with -- without a barb, or the barb has
42 been completely removed or compressed so that the barb
43 is in complete contact with the shank of the hook.

44
45 Over.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
48 Over. Yeah. Short and sweet.

49
50 Any questions.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
4 you.
5
6 Federal agencies comments.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Native, tribal,
11 village or other comments.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
16 Staff.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Advisory
21 committee groups.
22
23 MS. CELLARIUS: (Indiscernible - away
24 from microphones) SRC submit?
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, it does.
27 We have the Fish and Game Advisory Committees. We
28 already got a report from the other Regional Councils.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We didn't
31 receive any.....
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And then the
34 SRCs.
35
36 MS. PATTON: We didn't receive any
37 written comment from the State ACs.
38
39 We do have the letter from the
40 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC.
41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
43 Chair. My name is Barbara Cellarius. I'm the
44 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
45 Park and Preserve.
46
47 And I have a comment letter from the
48 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
49 Commission, and they supported unanimously the
50 proposal. There are no conservation concerns

1 associated with the proposed change, and it would
2 benefit subsistence users. Clarifying the definition
3 of hook would allow Federal subsistence users to choose
4 whether to use a barbed or barbless hook.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
11 Barbara.

12
13 And summary of the written comments.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
16 We have two written comments that were submitted on
17 this proposal. And, excuse me, you'll find those
18 written comments beginning on 112 and 113.

19
20 Ahtna, Incorporated submitted a letter
21 in support of 15-01, and they note that Federally-
22 qualified subsistence users who fish with rod and reel
23 do not fish recreationally for salmon. Those who
24 choose to fish with rod and reel under Federal
25 subsistence program in the Upper Copper River District
26 fish keep harvested salmon. And they most likely do
27 not catch and release salmon that are caught with rod
28 and reel.

29
30 And they go on to note, the average 11-
31 year, 2002 to 13 reported Federal harvest with rod and
32 reel of sockeye and Chinook in the Glennallen
33 Subdistrict of Upper Copper River District was five
34 sockeye and nine Chinook. Damage to sockeye and
35 Chinook that would be caused by barbed hooks would be
36 minimal since the subsistence users would most likely
37 retain all hooked fish for consumption.

38
39 And they do note specifically to change
40 Federal regulation for the hook definition to allow
41 single shanked fishhook with a single eye with one,
42 two, three, with or without barbs.

43
44 And then we also had support of
45 Proposal 15-01 from Southeast Alaska Fishermen's
46 Alliance, and they're a multi-gear, multi-species
47 commercial fishing association with 300-plus members
48 involved in salmon, crab, and shrimp in Southeast
49 Alaska and longlining.

50

1 They note that many of their members
2 also participate in subsistence, personal use, and
3 sportfisheries.

4
5 Thank you for the opportunity to
6 comment.

7
8 And the Southeast Fishermen's
9 Association support define fishing with a hook.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Is
12 there any public testimony here or on line.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.
17 Go ahead, Virgil.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to adopt
20 Proposal FP15-01.

21
22 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
25 Discussion.

26
27 Andy.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 I'd like to support the modified version simply because
31 I think it's becoming apparent that there's some
32 regions that it's pretty important that there's further
33 definition of the hook. And so if we're going to pass
34 this, or if the Federal Subsistence Board is going to
35 pass this, I would hate to see them have to readdress
36 it later. So I think we'd be prudent to support the
37 modified version of this.

38
39 And then as far as justifications, I
40 would just say, for me, it would be the justification
41 as written by the analysis presented before us.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
44 want to amend, an amendment or do you want the maker of
45 the motion and the second to.....

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Well, I'll offer a
48 friendly amendment to the motion, Madame Chair.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a

1 second.

2

3 MR. KOEHLER: I'll second that.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
6 discussion on the amendment.

7

8 Virgil.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I support the
11 amendment. I very seldom fish myself personally with a
12 barbed hook that hasn't had the barb squashed down. I
13 always squash them down. And the reason I do that is
14 because if I don't want to keep the fish, it's a lot
15 easier to unhook the fish if the barb is squashed down,
16 especially with multiple hooks, because the fish are
17 flopping. You get one hook unhooked, and another hook
18 that wasn't hooked gets hooked, because the fish
19 flopped. And if you have a barb on it, it's twice as
20 hard to get it loose. That's why I support it. For
21 conservation purposes.

22

23 Madame Chair.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other
26 discussion.

27

28 MR. KOEHLER: I was kind thinking just
29 -- I kind of tend to just the opposite when I fish. I
30 always fish with as many hooks as possible, and as many
31 barbs as I can. If I'm in a situation where the
32 fishing is so bad that I can't use a net, I want a barb
33 on that hook. So I support this proposal.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
38 discussion.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to -- could we get
41 a clarification. What's the amendment? What does that
42 read as?

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you want to
45 read it, Andy.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. It's on Page 10,
48 about the middle of the page in bold.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 110.

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, 110. Middle of the
2 page, bold print. It says, hook means a single shanked
3 fishhook with a single eye constructed with one or more
4 points with or without barbs. A hook without a barb
5 means the hook is manufactured without a barb, or the
6 barb has been completely removed or compressed so the
7 barb is in complete contact with the shaft of the hook.

8

9 MR. GLANZ: So this -- I was under the
10 assumption 15-01, that's the same thing, but basically
11 we just already accept -- made a motion and seconded
12 it, correct?

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

15

16 Bill, what it's doing is it's just
17 adding more defined definition of what a barbed or a
18 barbless hook is. So it's -- they both have the
19 original wording, and this adds to it to further define
20 it.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This language.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: This language.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This language
27 is added.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: It's just added to
30 further define it. And as I stated before, it sounds
31 like the people in the upper regions of the State feel
32 it's really important to have that more defined
33 definition of what a barbless hook is.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. But he
36 was clarifying the motion.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Okay. I agree with
39 that. I understand what you're saying.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you
42 understand, Bill?

43

44 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I follow. I just
45 didn't know what the modification.....

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It wasn't in
48 the first motion, it's the amendment.....

49

50 MR. GLANZ: Right. That's what I'm

1 saying. Okay. That will work.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:to add
4 that language. Does everyone understand that motion.
5
6 (Council nods affirmatively)
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
9 other discussion on the amendment to the motion.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Call the question, Madame
14 Chair.
15
16 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.
17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Call the question on
19 the amendment.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
22 favor of adding that language.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
31 we're on the motion as amended. Any other discussion.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MR. GLANZ: Call the question on that.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
38 favor.
39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
43
44 (No opposing votes)
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The motion
47 passes.
48
49 The next one.
50

1 Introduction.

2

3 Yes.

4

5 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. So again for the
6 record, I'm Trent Liebich. I'm with the Office of
7 Subsistence Management.

8

9 So I'll move into the regional
10 regulatory analyses. And the first one is on Page 116
11 of your books.

12

13 And this proposal was submitted by the
14 Rampart Village Council, and it's requesting at least
15 two 48-hour fishing periods per week in the Yukon River
16 Subdistrict 5C.

17

18 The proponent states that the community
19 of Rampart, which is situated in Subdistrict 5C relies
20 year round on fish that's harvested for subsistence in
21 the summer. By allowing at least two 48-hour fishing
22 periods per week, there will be more food for Rampart
23 families and winter living will be easier because of
24 food security. Further, the proponent anticipates that
25 every subsistence user in the community would support
26 this proposal.

27

28 It should be noted that typically
29 there's never a complete closure to all subsistence
30 fishing in the area, and the State regulations
31 currently allow for two 48-hour fishing periods per
32 week for salmon in Subdistricts 5A, 5B, and 5C.
33 However, for salmon in recent years, the regular
34 fishing schedule consisting of two 48-hour weekly
35 periods was closed for long periods in June and July in
36 order to protect Chinook salmon. The majority of
37 Chinook salmon typically move upstream of Subdistrict
38 5C by late July.

39

40 And Federal public waters in
41 Subdistrict 5C are limited to about six miles of the
42 Yukon River, which are about 60 miles upriver of the
43 Village of Rampart. So this proposal is just talking
44 about those Federal public waters in 5C, which is that
45 small portion.

46

47 And I also wanted to note that this
48 past year, from June 30th to July 6th 5C was closed to
49 all gillnets, even below four-inch mesh size, which I
50 believe is the first time that's happened. Usually

1 four-inch is always open. So I also wanted to make
2 that note as well.

3

4 So in this proposed regulation, it
5 would go into the existing Federal regulations, and it
6 would be under the Yukon northern area, and it would
7 essentially state that in Subdistrict 5C there would be
8 a minimum of two 48-hour subsistence fishing periods
9 per week between June 1st and October 1st. So those
10 would be fixed periods is what's being proposed.

11

12 We heard a lot about regulatory history
13 this morning. I think I'll skip over that. If anyone
14 has questions or wants clarification, I can go back to
15 it.

16

17 And now I'll move into the harvest
18 history on Page 123. So in 2011, this is the most
19 recent harvest data I think that's available at the
20 time of this analysis. So in 2011 there's four Rampart
21 households that received State subsistence or personal
22 use permits and reported harvesting 201 Chinook, 67
23 summer chum, and 340 fall chum. For the Rampart area
24 in 2011, the State issued a total of 29 subsistence and
25 personal use permits. People reported harvesting 1586
26 Chinook, 429 summer chum, 768 fall chum, and one coho
27 salmon on those permits.

28

29 The Haul Road bridge is located 57
30 miles upriver from the Community of Rampart, and
31 approximately five miles downstream from the Federal
32 waters of Subdistrict 5C. In the Haul Road bridge area
33 in 2011, people obtained 74 permits, and reported
34 harvesting 1500 Chinook, 1139 summer chum, 1828 fall
35 chum, and one coho salmon.

36

37 Residents of Stevens Village obtained
38 five of the Haul Road bridge area permits in 2011.
39 Most of the Rampart area and the Haul Road bridge area
40 permits were issued to people from outside of the area.

41

42 So the effects of the proposal. If
43 this proposal is adopted, it would likely increase the
44 opportunity for subsistence users to harvest salmon
45 and/or other fish species during times of conservation.
46 Continued harvest of salmon or other fish during times
47 of conservation when restrictions are necessary could
48 result in the insufficient numbers of fish for spawning
49 and thereby threaten the continuance of subsistence
50 uses of over-harvested salmon or other fish species in

1 the future.

2

3

4 The preliminary conclusion from OSM is
5 to oppose this proposal, and the justification is that
6 for the Yukon area, the Federal subsistence fishing
7 schedules, openings, closings, and fishing methods are
8 the same as those issued for subsistence taking of fish
9 under State-issued emergency orders, unless superseded
10 by the Federal special action or regulation. State
11 regulations currently allow for two 48-hour fishing
12 periods per week in Subdistricts 5A, 5B, and 5C.
13 Beginning the first week of August in both 2013 and
14 2014 seasons, subsistence fishing schedules have been
15 liberalized to at least five days per week, allowing
16 the use of fishwheels or gillnets with a mesh size of
17 seven and a half inches or smaller. However, as cited
18 in regulation, the Commissioner may alter fishing
19 periods by emergency order if the Commissioner
20 determines that the pre-season or in-season run
21 indicators indicate it is necessary for conservation
22 purposes. Fishery managers have the ability to manage
23 both time and area and liberalize or restrict fishing
24 opportunities based on the abundance of salmon that
25 enter the river.

26

27 The proposed regulatory change would
28 likely increase the level of harvest of salmon or other
29 fishes during times of conservation, and thereby reduce
30 the likelihood of meeting spawning needs. Failure to
31 provide sufficient numbers of salmon or other fish
32 species for spawning could threaten the continuance of
33 subsistence uses of salmon or other fish in the Yukon
34 River in the future.

35

36 That is the end of my presentation on
37 that.

38

39 If you have questions, I'd be happy to
40 try to answer.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Questions,
45 Council members.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
50 we'll move on. Is there a report on consultations,
51 tribes and ANCSA corps.

1 MS. PATTON: Madam Chair and Counsel.
2 There was a consultation in advance of the Yukon
3 proposals. We did not have any tribes that commented
4 on this proposal.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Agency
9 comments. ADF&G.

10
11 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. Drew Crawford,
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

13
14 The Department opposes Proposal FP15-
15 02, which requests two 48-hour subsistence fishing
16 periods per week regardless of salmon conservation
17 needs. Managers need the flexibility to reduce fishing
18 time or close the fishery to sustain runs for future.
19 Over.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
22 Drew. Short and to the point. That's what we like.

23
24 Federal agencies, any comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess I
29 failed to ask you guys if you had any questions of
30 Drew, but I don't think we did.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Native,
35 tribal, village, other comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is anyone on
40 line.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
45 Staff.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Advisory group
50 comments, Regional Councils. Did we go through that?

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
2 We did not have any comments submitted from the ACs or
3 SRC for this proposal.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No ACs either?
6
7 MS. PATTON: No AC comments either.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
10 we're to the summary of the written.
11
12 MS. PATTON: And there were no written
13 public comments submitted for this proposal either.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
16 public testimony from here or on the conference.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 (Cell phone)
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I could
23 charge five bucks for that.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 MR. BASSICH: Make it 10.
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But I can't do
30 it to Lester. Okay.
31
32 (Laughter)
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Alrighty.
35 Ready for a motion.
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
38 FP15-02.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: Seconded.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
43 Discussion.
44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll speak to the
46 motion. The proposal was made by the Rampart Village
47 Council I believe it says. Anyway, if you look at the
48 top of Page 123, it says Community of Rampart consisted
49 of 68 people in 1990, 45 in 2000, 24 in 2010, and my
50 personal knowledge is 12 to 14 currently that live in

1 Rampart.

2

3 Even if this proposal were passed, it
4 would not benefit the people of Rampart. They don't
5 fish above the bridge on the Yukon River. They fish
6 right in front of Rampart, or up and down the river
7 just a little ways.

8

9 So I don't think they really understand
10 what they were asking for, that it would not affect
11 them. The only thing it would do is open the season up
12 for a whole bunch of people from Fairbanks that fish up
13 by the bridge. If you read the last part of that area,
14 or this paragraph, it says most Rampart area and Haul
15 Road bridge area permits were issued to people from
16 outside the area. It would benefit a bunch of personal
17 use and subsistence fishermen from Fairbanks. It would
18 not benefit those people, and it would be totally
19 counter-productive to conservation, and take the
20 flexibility away from the managers.

21

22 So I'm opposed to the proposal.

23

24 Madame Chair.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just for my
27 brain, this is a subsistence proposal, right. This
28 isn't for the people from Fairbanks.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct, but if
31 this proposal were to pass, then.....

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How does it
34 affect Fairbanks is all I wondered.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I'm saying is the
37 only people that even fish up there are people from
38 Fairbanks, not people from Rampart. A few people from
39 Stevens Village might fish in the area where this --
40 well, no one from Stevens Village fishes there either.
41 It's too far from Stevens Village. The only people
42 that fish there are people from Fairbanks currently. I
43 know that for a fact.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I get it
46 now.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. They don't
49 understand what they're asking for. It's not going to
50 do them any good whatsoever. Period.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy, you had
2 something.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that's art of why
5 I'm opposed to it. And what the Department of Fish and
6 Game said.
7
8 Madame Chair.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I got it.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 And I'm going to attempt to go down the bullets very
14 quickly and do the justification.
15
16 Is there a conservation concern. Yes,
17 this creates a conservation concern for depressed
18 Chinook salmon stocks.
19
20 Is the recommendation supported by
21 substantial evidence such as biological, traditional
22 ecological knowledge. Late run of large fecund Chinook
23 females could be caught in this, and that would impact
24 both escapement numbers and quality of escapement.
25
26 Will the recommendation be beneficial
27 or detrimental to subsistence needs and users. FP15-02
28 will be detrimental to further Chinook runs, and could
29 delay or derail all other users' efforts to rebuild
30 depressed Chinook stocks to historic levels.
31
32 And this proposal would not
33 unnecessarily restrict other uses.
34
35 Thank you, Madame Chair.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. And just
38 for my head when I look at that map on Page 119, and
39 then this map, you know, the map that shows all the
40 white areas around the village is the Native land
41 ownership. It is my understanding they would not --
42 that would be under State regs, right, those white
43 areas.
44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Uh-huh. Yep.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you wouldn't
48 really -- there's a lot of areas you wouldn't be able
49 to fish that's in that map.
50

1 MR. LIEBICH: Correct. This would just
2 apply to that six-mile stretch of water downstream of
3 Stevens Village on the Federal waters there.
4
5 Does that answer your question?
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, it does,
8 It's just something I wanted to point out. Okay.
9
10 Any other discussion.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did Andy hit it
15 good.
16
17 MR. BASSICH: Call question.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'm going to call the
20 question.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. The
23 question has been called for. All in favor say aye.
24
25 (No affirmative votes)
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All opposed
28 same sign.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Fails
33 unanimously.
34
35 Thank you, Andy, for a good job going
36 down through the bullets. We need to do that more.
37
38 Okay. The next one.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: It took us 15 years to
41 learn how to do that.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know.
44 I'm still learning.
45
46 All right. Virgil said this one's
47 probably going to take a while and we need a short
48 break. I agree. Okay. We'll give it 10 minutes.
49
50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
4 all here by Larry. But next proposal. Larry should be
5 here shortly.

6

7 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. So again for the
8 record my name is Trent Liebich. I'm with the Office
9 of Subsistence Management.

10

11 And I'm going to cover the next two
12 regulatory proposals which are addressing similar
13 issues, and that issue being gillnets and drift versus
14 set gillnets and gear type differentiation in the Yukon
15 River.

16

17 I'll start out, I'll go through 15-03
18 in quite a bit of detail, and then on 15-04 we'll
19 probably talk more just about the proposal itself, and
20 then the effects and the conclusion and justification,
21 because there's a lot of duplicative information
22 between the two as I said. They're addressing very
23 similar issues, but different requests.

24

25 So 15-03, this would be on Page 127 in
26 your books. I think it might be a paper copy added
27 into your book. So 15-03, this was -- these are both
28 your proposals also, as you guys recall from last
29 fall's discussions.

30

31 So 15-03, the first proposal, it was
32 submitted by your Council, the Eastern Interior
33 Regional Advisory Council, and this was a request to
34 eliminate the use of drift gillnet fishing gear for the
35 targeting of Chinook salmon in Yukon River Districts 1
36 through 4. As you know, in 5 and 6 drift gillnets
37 don't occur. So that would essentially eliminate drift
38 gillnets in the Yukon for the targeting of Chinook
39 salmon.

40

41 So there's some modifications there in
42 the proposed Federal regulations, the way that that
43 might look. There was existing regulations that said
44 in Districts 4, 5, and 6 you may not take salmon for
45 subsistence purposes. If this proposal were to go
46 through, the proposed regulation would -- instead it
47 would read, in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, so all
48 districts in the Yukon, and to say you may not take
49 Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes by drift
50 gillnets, and it would delete the remainder of that

1 language about the areas around Stink Creek and 4A
2 downstream of Stink Creek and 4B and 4C. So that would
3 be removed. And it would just eliminate the use of
4 drift gillnets for targeting Chinook salmon.

5
6 So I'm going to pass through the
7 regulatory history again, because we heard a lot
8 earlier today from presentations. If you have
9 questions on it, we can revisit some of the regulatory
10 history.

11
12 I'm going to cover the biological
13 background on the Chinook salmon, because I think it's
14 relevant to this discussion.

15
16 So in recent years the Yukon River
17 Chinook salmon stocks, they're in the seventh year of a
18 multi-year period of low productivity. It says sixth
19 year in the analysis, but I think we heard seven just a
20 little while ago. The stocks show that there's periods
21 of above average abundance from 1982 to 1997, and then
22 periods of below average abundance from '98 onwards.
23 And then also some periods of generally higher
24 productivity mixed with years of low productivity.

25
26 In 2013 the Chinook salmon escapement
27 goals for some of the tributaries of the Yukon River,
28 including the West Fork Andreafsky, Nulato, and Salcha
29 Rivers were achieved. However, escapement goals for
30 the East Fork Andreafsky, the Anvik and Chena Rivers
31 were not met. The cumulative count on the Gisasa River
32 was below average. And high water conditions on the
33 Chena precluded counting for much of the season.

34
35 Some preliminary Chinook salmon border
36 passage based on the Eagle sonar was estimated at
37 33,401, which is below the lower end border passage
38 goal of 42,500 Chinook. So that was 2013 that that
39 33,000 was met.

40
41 The Chinook salmon return for the Yukon
42 River, as we heard a lot of detail about this today,
43 2014, it started out as expected to be, extremely poor
44 and likely insufficient to meet all escapement goals.
45 And the outlook was for a run size ranging from 64 to
46 121,000. And the 2014 run estimated 137,000 based on
47 counts at Pilot Station as of June 30, 2014. So that
48 was the time when this analysis was written.

49
50 I think those numbers have been updated

1 since.

2

3

4 So I'm going to move forward to the
5 harvest history on the Chinook. The Chinook salmon
6 subsistence harvests have been approximately 50,000
7 fish annually in the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River
8 over the past 20 years. However, the subsistence
9 harvest levels of Chinook have declined since 2007 due
10 to declining run abundance and resultant harvest
11 restrictions. In recent years subsistence fishing has
12 increasingly targeted non-Chinook salmon, such as
13 whitefish. And in order to allow continued subsistence
14 opportunity throughout the season, subsistence fishing
15 activity has been managed to avoid Chinook and allow
16 for the harvest of other fish species.

16

17

18 Directed commercial fishing -- so I'm
19 moving forward into the current events section now.
20 The directed commercial fishing for the Yukon River
21 Chinook salmon has been discontinued since 2007, and
22 subsistence fishing opportunities are becoming
23 increasingly restrictive in an effort to conserve
24 Chinook.

24

25

26 In 2013 fishery managers reduced
27 subsistence fishing opportunity to limit harvest to
28 approximately 25 percent of historical levels.
29 However, even with those reduced subsistence harvests,
30 most escapement objectives were not met. The 2013
31 Chinook salmon run was one of the poorest on record,
32 and the Chinook salmon return to the Yukon in 2014, as
33 I mentioned, was expected to be extremely poor.
34 Fishermen throughout the drainage were advised ahead of
35 the season not to expect fishing opportunity to harvest
36 Chinook salmon, and to consider using other more
37 abundant fish resources available to them and to
38 supplement their -- to supplement their subsistence
39 needs.

39

40

41 The 2014 season began with no
42 subsistence, sport or commercial fisheries anticipated
43 for Chinook salmon in the U.S. portion of the Yukon
44 River drainage, and subsistence fishing opportunities
45 for species other than Chinook were available
46 throughout the 2014 season. And the majority of
47 subsistence fishing restrictions that occurred were
48 during June and July to protect the Chinook salmon as
49 they moved upriver to spawning areas.

49

50

50 So the effects of this proposal, and

1 again this a proposal to ban or eliminate the use of
2 drift gillnets for targeting of Chinook. So if this
3 proposal were adopted, it would remove drift gillnets
4 as a gear type for the Federal subsistence harvest of
5 Chinook salmon in the Yukon River Districts 1 through
6 4, and could reduce the fishing efficiency for
7 harvesting Chinook salmon in the U.S. portion of the
8 Yukon River in these districts.

9
10 Eliminating the use of driftnets for
11 targeting Chinook salmon in Yukon River Districts 1
12 through 4 could benefit Chinook salmon during times of
13 conservation concerns if it effectively reduced harvest
14 efficiency to the extent that it reduced the overall
15 harvest. However, the elimination of the gear type
16 could also be a detriment to subsistence users whose
17 harvest of Chinook salmon during years of strong
18 Chinook salmon runs may be more effective with the use
19 of driftnets.

20
21 State regulations allow the taking of
22 salmon with drift gillnets in State waters within
23 District 1 through 4; therefore Federally-qualified
24 users fishing under State regulations could still
25 utilize the gillnets.

26
27 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
28 oppose this proposal, and the justification for that is
29 that the proposal would remove a fishing gear option
30 that's currently relied upon by one segment of the
31 fishing community, and would not affect the fishing
32 practices of others. Additionally, if the intention is
33 to reduce the harvest of Chinook salmon during times of
34 conservation need, this can be achieved through
35 existing regulatory authorities that allow in-season
36 managers to open or close Federal subsistence fishing
37 periods or areas provided under the regulations, and
38 the ability to specify the methods and means.

39
40 And I have Appendix A cited there. So
41 there's a letter of delegated authority that should be
42 provided in your Council book if you want to look
43 through it, but it gets at the issue there that that
44 justification for the conclusion to oppose is really
45 centered around protecting the Chinook during the times
46 of conservation need is something that through that
47 delegated authority those gear types can already be
48 managed through that delegated authority by the in-
49 season manager. So putting it in regulation in times
50 of conservation would be beneficial to the Chinook, but

1 if those stocks recovered and the run size increased,
2 you would now have a regulation that eliminated that
3 gear type, so you might find yourself in kind of the
4 counter situation in potentially trying to get that
5 back.

6

7 So that's the end of the analysis I
8 have. I know I skipped over a lot of the regulatory
9 history, and if you have any questions, I'd be happy to
10 try to answer or further explain things.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 And I also -- one more comment, I'm
15 sorry. I also have the Seward Peninsula Regional
16 Advisory Council was -- there are some communities
17 there that have customary and traditional use
18 determinations for the Yukon. So the Seward Peninsula
19 Council, they had opposed the proposal, so they were in
20 line with the OSM's conclusion. And also the Yukon
21 Delta Regional Advisory Council last week voted to
22 oppose this proposal as well.

23

24 So that's all the information I have.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
29 members, questions.

30

31 Donald.

32

33 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madam Chair.

34

35 I have one question, and that's in the
36 past, since the Chinook have been in crisis, has the
37 in-season managers used this process of stopping the
38 drift gillnet and making them available for setnetting
39 or other gear types.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Fred.

44

45 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Fred Bue, Fish
46 and Wildlife Service.

47

48 For fisheries management, we have not
49 specifically closed drift gillnet fishing. We've
50 closed gillnet fishing.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The answer is
2 yes.

3
4 MR. BUE: Correct. We have not
5 selected out drift fishing from setnet fishing.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
8 other questions. Did you have one there, Lester. No
9 question. Okay.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. No
14 questions. We'll move on. We need a report on
15 consultation with tribes and ANCSA corps.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
18 OSM and members of the Federal Subsistence Board did
19 conduct tribal consultation on Yukon River proposals.
20 We did not receive any comments or recommendations from
21 tribes on this proposal.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Agency
24 comments. ADF&G.

25
26 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair. Drew
27 Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
28 Anchorage.

29
30 The State's recommendation for
31 Fisheries Proposal 15-03 is we oppose this proposal for
32 Districts 1 through 3 and Subdistrict 4A. We support
33 this proposal for Subdistricts 4B and 4C. State
34 regulations do not allow drift gillnets in Subdistricts
35 4B and 4C, and prohibiting drift gillnets in Yukon
36 River Subdistricts 4B and 4C in Federal regulation
37 would align State and Federal regulations.

38
39 Over.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
42 Drew. Any questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next is
47 Federal agencies. Any comments.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Native, tribal,
2 village or other.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone on line.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
11 Staff Committee.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
16 advisory groups. We got a report on the other Regional
17 Councils, so any Fish and Game ACs.
18
19 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
20 We did not get any comments from Fish and Game ACs or
21 SRCs.
22
23 Perhaps just to provide a little
24 additional clarification, so the Western Interior
25 Council will also take this up. They have not met yet.
26 And the Seward Pen Council and the Y-K Delta Council
27 both cited that the proposal would affect subsistence
28 fishers that utilize this gear type in order to fish.
29 Both opposing it as Trent had noted.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is there
32 any written public comments.
33
34 MS. PATTON: No written public comments
35 were submitted.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And do we have
38 any public testimony on 15-03 either here in the room
39 or on teleconference.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
44 FP15-03.
45
46 MR. KOEHLER: Second.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
49 Discussion.
50

1 Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is our proposal.
4 For, let's see, at least 13 years we've had this
5 discussion that I've been on this RAC. The discussion
6 is that the king salmon are shrinking in size, losing
7 fecundity. The population is going down. And we've
8 been having that discussion.

9

10 And the history of the regulatory
11 process that's in this handout thing here tells
12 basically what's happened. You can go back and look at
13 all the Federal fur and fisheries reports that go back
14 where they talk about the Yukon River to 1919 I
15 believe. And then you can read the transcripts from
16 when Hudson Stuck went back to Washington, D.C. and
17 appeared before the House. It was the White committee,
18 Congressman White was the chairman of that committee
19 for the Department of Commerce, because they at that
20 time managed the fur trade and the fisheries in Alaska.
21 A result of Hudson Stuck going back there was that they
22 closed the commercial fishery on the Yukon River. And
23 that was a couple years later in '22 or '23. Then they
24 reopened it in the early 30s. However, when they
25 reopened it, they had a harvest limit of 50,000 Chinook
26 salmon for the whole river. Commercial.

27

28 Then the State took over with
29 statehood, and then all of a sudden it jumped up to
30 what we're -- to over 100,000. We harvested that way.
31 In the late 70s some people from Norton Sound,
32 actually from St. Michael and Unalakleet, went over to
33 the Lower Yukon and taught those guys -- well, and they
34 drift fished, they were hard core fishermen. At the
35 time most of the fishermen fished with setnets in the
36 Lower Yukon. These guys, if they were going to leave
37 their home village, they were going to make hay while
38 the time was good. So they fished hard, drift
39 gillnetting. They did way, way better than the local
40 guys. And then the local guys says, well, if these
41 guys are doing that, we may as well do it, too.

42

43 And the Department did a study of the
44 depth to gillnets in '83 and then again in '85.
45 District 1 the average depth of gillnet was only 25
46 meshes deep. District 2, it was about 35 meshes deep.
47 This is in '83 and '85.

48

49 Then you come to '89 or '90, somewhere
50 in there, the Department comes up with the proposal

1 we've got to restrict the depth of gillnets. Any
2 gillnet over six inches mesh can't be more than 45
3 meshes deep. I got on the Board of Fish in '94. That
4 proposal was there. Maybe we did it in '94. I'm not
5 sure. But I do know that in '97 the Lower Yukon AC
6 wanted to get the gillnets deep again.

7
8 But I remember when I first got on the
9 salmon treaty -- well, they call it panel now, the
10 salmon treaty negotiating group in '88, one of the guys
11 on the group, he was a former navy officer, and he
12 lived at Marshall. He was a drift gillnet commercial
13 fisherman out of Marshall. I believe he had nets as
14 deep as 120 meshes, because the river's really deep up
15 there.

16
17 So what ended up happening was instead
18 of harvesting -- when they switched from setnets to
19 drift gillnets, instead of harvesting the fish that
20 were swimming closer to shore, which are going to be
21 the smaller fish, and the ones that aren't quite as
22 strong, or maybe going up a local stream, they were
23 harvesting the ones that were out in the middle, the
24 strong swimmers. And with the deep gillnets, because
25 the king salmon swims -- or it's what we would call
26 traditional ecological knowledge, that they swim deep.
27 And so then they were able to harvest these ones headed
28 the farthest up the river.

29
30 The size of the salmon, I started
31 noticing it going down in the late 80s. And in the
32 early 90s I used to -- because I'd buy fish. I started
33 buying king salmon in 1985. And I remember we used to
34 get like up at the bridge on the Yukon, fishermen from
35 Rampart with fishwheel would catch king salmon that
36 weighed over 60 pounds in the mid 80s. But I would
37 weigh the fish one fish at a time, the king salmon, and
38 write it down. And then my -- I fished on the Tanana
39 River with a fishwheel. And in the late 90s I started
40 figuring out the average weights of these fish and what
41 percent of the fish were small and what were large.

42
43 And then we had a RAC meeting in
44 Nenana, and BLM was -- had started the weir on the
45 Tozitna River, and I was really excited when I saw the
46 first results of this, because they were showing the
47 same thing that my catch figures were showing, that 80
48 percent of the fish -- now, I'm talking about the fish
49 in the Tanana River, and the fish on the Tozitna River,
50 they mirrored each other. Eighty percent of them were

1 five-year-olds and younger is what they were. And this
2 I attribute to result of two things: large mesh
3 gillnets and to drift gillnets. That's what happened.

4
5 And then I got ahold of a study, it was
6 reported to the Board of -- that was given to the Board
7 of Fish in January of 1981. It was a Staff report when
8 they had a proposal to restrict gillnet, commercial
9 gillnets in Cook Inlet to no larger than six-inch mesh.
10 The last sentence of the -- there were 11 different
11 scientific reports or studies in that report to the
12 Board of Fish. One of them was done by Ricker.

13
14 And in Ricker's study, it was a real
15 long study that he had done. He had concluded that the
16 Pacific Chinook salmon had decreased in size by over 50
17 percent in the last 50 years. And his study was
18 completed in the late 70s.

19
20 But the very last sentence of that
21 report to the Board of Fisheries was that no directed
22 Chinook salmon fishery is sustainable if gillnets of
23 six-inch or larger mesh are used. Period. That was
24 1981. That was the Staff report to the Board of
25 Fisheries. And they did close -- or they made it so
26 that in Cook Inlet no gillnet larger than six-inch mesh
27 could be used in a commercial king salmon fishery.

28
29 Now, the Kuskokwim River and the Yukon
30 River both have the same issue and the same problem.
31 They want to have the big slab king salmon, great big
32 ones, to smoke. That's customary and traditional.
33 Well, they both have the same problem now. There's
34 very little if any king salmon fishing, because people
35 have to have a prime rib instead of a pork chop or a
36 rib steak.

37
38 I still support our proposal, because
39 what has driven our king salmon population into the
40 ground is drift gillnets.

41
42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other Council
45 members, discussion.

46
47 Andy.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

50

1 Great history lesson, Virgil, as
2 always.

3
4 I'm going to not support this proposal.
5 I didn't support it the first time. I'm not going to
6 support it this time. The reason for that is that is
7 that I believe there is a conservation concern, but I
8 think it can be addressed through other means. As
9 identified in the analysis, managers do have the tool
10 to restrict gear, time and area for conservation, and
11 that's what they've been doing for the last couple
12 years in the king salmon crisis. So I think getting
13 rid of one gear type indefinitely really doesn't
14 accomplish anything, because they have the ability to
15 not allow that gear type or that methodology right now
16 anyway.

17
18 If king salmon do come back, the lower
19 river have been growing in population. Also, because
20 of the way the restrictions have been put on everyone
21 up and down the river, because the gillnet fisheries
22 has been -- the driftnet fisheries has been so
23 efficient down in the lower river, that's why their
24 time has been cut. So if you were to continue keeping
25 the times cut to one 24-hour or one 18-hour period, but
26 only allow people to setnet, subsistence fishermen
27 aren't going to be able to meet their needs at all in
28 that region. And so I don't think -- and if you get
29 rid of all drift fishing on the Yukon River, you're
30 going to have to start all over again about fishing
31 openings, who's allowed to fish for however long. And
32 then there's also -- talking with a lot of the people
33 down there, there's also very limited setnet sites.
34 The population is I think two or three-fold higher now,
35 it might even be higher than that, than what it was
36 back when they were only setnet fishing. So I don't
37 think setnet fishing would meet subsistence needs down
38 here, and under the Federal program, that's what we're
39 supposed to be supporting.

40
41 I do acknowledge, and I've always been
42 one of the strongest people to speak out towards
43 conservation of king salmon, but I don't think that
44 this is the proper tool to do that.

45
46 And will this recommendation
47 unnecessarily restrict other users. I'll just
48 reference what I just said. If the king salmon do come
49 back, it's going to make it really tough for people to
50 fish them down there.

1 So I think the tools are in place to do
2 the conservation we need to do. I think the managers
3 are learning how to use it and understand how they work
4 and what the effects are, and I think we should
5 continue down that path.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10
11 James.

12
13 MR. ROBERTS: I'm with Virgil. He
14 speaks wisdom, and, you know, these are the same groups
15 of people that threatened to banish fishwheels from us.
16 And they have no disregard for us in the upper
17 districts, and we're going through hard times up here,
18 too, and they just act like they're the only ones
19 that's not, you know, doing well.

20
21 So I think Virgil is right though. You
22 know, I had fished with Lester for years and years and
23 years, and they've just been getting smaller and
24 smaller and smaller. And we've got to make a stand.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I need to ask a
27 question. As you know, I'm on the road system and not
28 on the Yukon River system. And ADF&G come up with
29 opposing the 1 through 3 districts, and then supporting
30 4B and 4C, and I'm trying to get this through my head,
31 why not the rest of the river, if you're -- why are you
32 supporting -- ADF&G, I think you're still there, Drew.
33 If I understand this correctly, you're supporting a
34 drift gillnet for 4B and 4C, and why not the rest of
35 the river. And I think I understand why, that it can
36 all be -- if someone had -- these people had drift
37 gillnets, it could just be -- the argument that's using
38 for this proposal to oppose it would be the same.

39
40 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, go ahead.

43
44 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, this is Drew.

45
46 Yeah, currently State regulations do
47 not allow drift gillnets in Subdistricts 4B and 4C, and
48 Federal regulations do. And we support doing away with
49 drift gillnets in 4B and 4C to align State and Federal
50 regulations. Over.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Was that a
2 question or a statement.
3
4 MR. CRAWFORD: I was trying to answer
5 your question.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you're
8 saying to align seasons with the Federal and State.
9
10 MR. CRAWFORD: If the Federal does away
11 with drift gillnetting in Subdistricts 4B and 4C, like
12 this proposal advocates, then it would align State and
13 Federal regulations, because State regulations
14 currently prohibit drift gillnets in those districts.
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
17 still not real clear here, but I guess -- I mean, I
18 really rely on you guys, because this is all your
19 areas, so I rely heavily on what you're saying, and I
20 appreciate the history also, Virgil.
21
22 But, Fred, did you want to add to that.
23
24 Okay.
25
26 MR. BUE: Yeah. Madame Chair. I'm not
27 sure. I was just trying to get back to Drew's
28 response. Subdistricts 4B and 4C currently are allowed
29 to drift gillnet fish under Federal regulations. The
30 State does not allow it. The State does allow drift
31 fishing in 1, 2, and 3, and 4A. And so I have asked
32 Drew -- I believe what he means is that it's a split
33 position. That they support the proposal if it was
34 only for 4B and C, but they oppose it if it's to close
35 drift fishing in 1, 2, and 3.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That clears it
38 up better for me. Thank you.
39
40 And this is specific to subsistence
41 fishing, correct, this proposal?
42
43 MR. LIEBICH: Yes.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Federal
46 subsistence. Yeah. Okay.
47
48 MR. LIEBICH: Yes.
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.

1 Council members, other discussion.

2

3 Donald.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 I'm going to support this proposal.

8 And the reason for that is that I see that the Eastern

9 Interior is one of the primary Councils for

10 conservation on Chinook. We see the decline in the

11 size of the fish first I think, and it moves downriver

12 slowly. And so that's one reason I'm going to support

13 this proposal, because the decline in fish is just sad,

14 and it's a terrible situation, and the only way to get

15 out of it is to restrict the fishing to where we can

16 build the stock back up.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will.

21

22 MR. KOEHLER: As I look at this, and

23 I'm -- as I look at this, and I'm also from Sue's area,

24 so this is outside my area. I've worked on the Yukon

25 River, or on the king fisheries so I have a little bit

26 of experience with it, but not a lot. When I look at

27 this, I believe I'm going to oppose this proposal thus

28 far, mostly because I don't see how one regulation

29 change will make a difference in solving the whole

30 problem. This one -- if this proposal was to go

31 through, I don't think it would immediately solve all

32 our problems. And what I see is the only way I think

33 we're going to solve this problem long term is having

34 good working relations with our neighbors downriver and

35 all around. And this doesn't seem to be a -- this

36 seems to be a proposal of pointing fingers to our

37 neighbors, and trying to have them stop, just in the

38 same way where they tell us they're going shut down our

39 fishwheels, and I don't think that's a good working

40 relationship to try to start. So I don't think this

41 proposal offers a real good clear message of

42 cooperation to our neighbors. And I think that in the

43 long run that could be more harmful, especially when

44 there are already the tools in place to restrict the

45 fishing right now.

46

47 That's my understanding of it, and

48 that's why based upon that understanding of it, I will

49 oppose this proposal.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other
4 discussion. Quietness here from among some of us.

5

6 Virgil.

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
9 Chair.

10

11 A little bit more history here. About
12 eight years ago, I don't know for sure, maybe nine
13 years. I think it's eight years ago, Andy and I, Stan
14 Zuray, who's the chair of the Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC,
15 and Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs were at the Board of
16 Fish meeting in Anchorage. We were the only ones
17 representing the Upper Yukon. We were representing the
18 RAC and our ACs. And the Lower Yukon commercial fish
19 people flew in I believe 76, 77 people to testify about
20 how poor they are, and how they're going to go broke
21 and starve to death if they can't just fish on on the
22 king salmon. And Russ Holder was in the place that
23 Fred's in, he came up, tried like crazy to get a
24 compromise. We could get no compromise. We had had
25 four fish size meetings that YRDFA had organized.

26

27 And I can remember telling one of the
28 guys from the Lower Yukon -- he says, you just want to
29 shut down our commercial king salmon fishery. And I
30 says, no, that's not what I want to do. I want to make
31 sure that my grandkids can catch king salmon. I told
32 him, the only thing you're doing is cutting off your
33 nose to spite your face. If we don't do something,
34 there's not going to be a king salmon fishery, and it's
35 going to be pretty darn quick.

36

37 Anyway, there were four of us, 76 of
38 them. We didn't get nothing done. They didn't want to
39 compromise in any manner whatsoever. They wanted to
40 just keep on fishing the way they are with unrestricted
41 mesh drift gillnets. So now we're sitting here in the
42 position where there is absolutely no fishery, period.

43

44 And regulations get changed all the
45 time I don't know how many is in the Board of Fish
46 proposal book for this year, but it's probably 3 or
47 400. Hell, I remember when I was on the Board,
48 sometimes we had 500 proposals we were addressing a
49 year. They can get changed every three years. They
50 get addressed every three years. That's the schedule.

1 So if things change in the future, and they want to
2 allow drift gillnetting, they can put a proposal in.
3 And if the science is there and the supports there, the
4 Board will pass it.

5
6 I think we ought to just do away with
7 them right now. I'll be dead I'm positive before the
8 biological -- you know, the king salmon run gets to
9 where it is going to support a commercial fishery.

10
11 Ricker in that study I referenced a
12 while ago said it's going to take in the neighborhood
13 of 10 life cycles to rebuild the king salmon fishery,
14 you know, so you're getting back the genetics that you
15 had that you've destroyed by harvesting the large fish.

16
17 And then Bromigen, this guy Bromigen
18 that used to be the scientist for the State, and then
19 he went over to the Feds, and I think he works -- or he
20 went over to Office of -- I believe Office of
21 Subsistence Management, and now I think he's working
22 for U.S.G.S. Anyway, still in the science arena. So
23 he did a separate analysis that basically came up with
24 the same conclusion that Ricker had 30 or 40 years
25 earlier, that if you quit harvesting these fish, you
26 know, there's some genes still there for the large
27 fish, that maybe in 10 life cycles, we're talking 50,
28 60 years, the big ones are going to start coming back.

29
30 Then we had a meeting two to three
31 years ago, and there was just a few people on it. It
32 was mostly Yukon Panel members. Andy was there, I was
33 there. I can't remember who else was there. But we
34 had a facilitator from Oregon. And he had facilitated
35 and been involved in the treaties with the tribes on
36 the Columbia River. And so we had the same kind of
37 discussion we're having right this minute. But then
38 that evening that guy says, you know, you hit the nail
39 on the head. You've got to get rid of those large mesh
40 drift gillnets. He says, we did it on the Columbia
41 River and now after 40-something years, we're starting
42 to get a few of those big king salmon back. That's
43 what he told me in the evening.

44
45 But, he said, I can't publicly say
46 that.

47
48 So I'm sticking to my guns.

49
50 Madame Chair.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other
2 discussion from the rest of you guys.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: I have one comment.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I feel strongly for
9 both sides of the argument. I'm kind of with Virgil on
10 this one also, because going down Andy's bullet points
11 there, is there a conservation concern? There
12 definitely is.
13
14 And how will this recommendation
15 address the concern? Well, it's going to slow down
16 people fishing and their efficiency of fishing when
17 they've got all summer to do it, just like everybody
18 else.
19
20 Is this recommendation supported by
21 substantial evidence? It's right here in the book, in
22 your handout. It says possible increase in the use of
23 drift gillnets could seriously impact both conservation
24 and allocation of salmon stocks, which were being
25 harvested at maximum levels. And that's in 2001. It
26 also says, State comments suggested that at the time it
27 did not appear necessary to provide drift gillnets --
28 the need for drift gillnets to provide adequate
29 subsistence opportunity.
30
31 I mean, right there is your evidence.
32
33 And will the recommendation be
34 beneficial or detrimental? And I believe it's going to
35 be beneficial to users, because they'll have that much
36 more king salmon for future generations.
37
38 And will this recommendation
39 unnecessarily restrict other uses? No, it won't. You
40 can still use your commercial gear for chum salmon, and
41 there's dipnetting and beach seining, and every other
42 method of fishing they've come up with. And if they
43 can't use it now, they -- they're not able to use it
44 now anyway.
45
46 I mean, it's just a start in the right
47 direction. And whether it passes or fails, I think
48 it's a good way to drive conservation down their
49 throats if they're not doing to listen. I've been
50 sitting here for 10 years talking about it, and I think

1 it's finally drifting downriver to the extent of the
2 damage that's been done to the run, so I think it's
3 something necessary to push forward whether it's -- I
4 mean, it's something that we proposed, so we might as
5 well stick with it.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madame Chair.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill.

14

15 MR. GLANZ: Yes. About three years ago
16 we was in a tri-RAC Council, me and Andy and Andrew.
17 We went down, met with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta folk.
18 And the first thing they said, you know, for years you
19 guys have been bitching at us your salmon stocks are
20 going bad, and we didn't believe you. And then Western
21 started bitching. And now we see it. Well, they still
22 haven't put one of their driftnet fleets aside. They
23 kept using them, except this year, of course. Well, I
24 don't, they probably used them on their chum. So
25 they're well aware of the problem and they've taken no
26 action whatsoever downriver there to correct it.

27

28 So I'm voting along with Virgil.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just going to
35 vote.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Question.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
40 question has been called for, but I do want to say one
41 thing.

42

43 After serving on this Board since 2001,
44 I cannot believe the amount of time that we spend
45 talking about the Yukon fish, and it's -- and I try to
46 wrap my head around the proposals and understand it as
47 best as I can. And I have to say that I don't
48 understand why one group of fishermen have a different
49 technique. If they have driftnetting down there, it
50 seems like everybody should have it, or vice versa. It

1 should just -- everybody have the same type of fishing.
2 Maybe I don't know enough about it, but in the
3 conservation part of it, to me it seems like we should
4 be joining hands and being in this -- said, okay, if
5 they're going to let this guy -- it makes sense to me
6 that if you're going to drift where the fish first
7 come, that it probably isn't going to be that many fish
8 when they reach the border.

9

10 And so it doesn't make sense to me, and
11 I feel like I have a logical sensical mind, so I, too,
12 am going to support this proposal.

13

14 So the question has been called for.
15 Andrew, will you take a roll call, please.

16

17 MR. FIRMIN: Let's see, that's for --
18 so let me see where the.....

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The motion is
21 to support 15-03.

22

23 MR. FIRMIN: I was looking for the --
24 okay. I was going to look for the motion, actually
25 read it, but it's a motion to support 15-03 to request
26 the elimination of the use of drift gillnet fishing
27 gear for the targeting of Chinook salmon.

28

29 And I guess we'll start at the top of
30 the list with you, Sue.

31

32 So Susan Entsminger.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Support.

35

36 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin. Support.

37

38 Larry Williams, Sr.

39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: Support.

41

42 MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart.

43

44 MR. ERHART: Support.

45

46 MR. FIRMIN: William Glanz.

47

48 MR. GLANZ: Support.

49

50 MR. FIRMIN: Andy Bassich.

1 MR. BASSICH: Oppose.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: James Roberts.
4
5 MR. ROBERTS: Support.
6
7 MR. FIRMIN: William Koehler.
8
9 MR. KOEHLER: Oppose.
10
11 MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff.
12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Support.
14
15 MR. FIRMIN: And Virgil Umphenour.
16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Support.
18
19 MR. FIRMIN: And the motion carries
20 8/2.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Moving to 15-
23 04. Go ahead, Trent.
24
25 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. Thank you for that
26 thorough discussion there. I really appreciate it.
27
28 So for the record again, I'm Trent
29 Liebich. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
30 Management.
31
32 Proposal 15-04, I mean, we just had a
33 pretty lengthy discussion on 15-03, and again thank you
34 for that.
35
36 15-04 is addressing a similar issue
37 with concerns over the Chinook salmon conservation.
38 It's slightly different. 15-03 was elimination of the
39 drift gillnets. And 15-04 was also submitted by your
40 Council. This time it's seeking to allow the Federal
41 subsistence users to continue using set gillnets to
42 harvest salmon in the Yukon River drainage when drift
43 gillnet salmon fisheries are closed.
44
45 So the intent -- in this situation the
46 intent with the proposal is to give the Federal manager
47 the authority to independently differentiate between
48 gear types, allowing set and/or drift gillnets during
49 fishing periods in areas targeting summer chum salmon
50 while at the same time allowing only set gillnets

1 during fishing periods in areas targeting Chinook
2 salmon, or during times of Chinook salmon conservation.

3

4 This proposal would provide for some
5 subsistence harvest of chum salmon while reducing
6 impacts to Chinook salmon by fishing close to shore
7 where setnets -- with setnets where Chinook salmon are
8 less likely to be abundant, and, if present, are
9 usually smaller jacks. The use of the set nets in
10 place of drift nets may improve the quality of Chinook
11 salmon escapement due to the incidental harvest of
12 Chinook salmon being located closer to shore where
13 smaller Chinook salmon tend to run, avoiding the mid-
14 river deep drifts which the proponent states tend to
15 catch larger, more fecund Chinook salmon, should
16 improve escapement for larger, more fecund Chinook
17 salmon.

18

19 Also there's a note. The in-season
20 manager currently has the delegated authority to manage
21 gear types in a manner consistent with the proposed
22 actions. So that cites that same Appendix A that
23 delegated authority to the in-season manager which
24 allows for the differentiation of gear types, so the
25 methods and means, also the time and area.

26

27 I guess with the discussion on 15-03 in
28 mind, I'm going to move right to the effects of this
29 proposal and the OSM conclusion and justification since
30 a lot of the biological history and stuff is kind of
31 the same information. And Virgil has given us such a
32 great amount of information.

33

34 So the effects of this proposal. If
35 this proposal is adopted, it would be anticipated to
36 reduce the fishing efficiency for harvest salmon in the
37 Yukon River by allowing only set gillnets during
38 fishing periods in areas targeting Chinook salmon, or
39 during times of Chinook salmon conservation. This
40 proposal would remove a fishing gear option that is
41 currently relied upon by one segment of the fishing
42 community, and would not affect the fishing practice of
43 others. Without a shift in allocation, the fishery
44 manager would be required to judge how the new variable
45 combinations of time and area without use of drift
46 gillnets might offset previously observed harvest
47 performance when drift gillnets were utilized.

48

49 According to the proponent, this
50 proposal would provide for some subsistence harvest of

1 chum salmon while reducing the impacts to Chinook by
2 only fishing close to shore with setnets where the
3 Chinook salmon are less likely to be abundant, and are
4 usually the small jacks. Use of the setnets in place
5 of driftnets may improve the quality of Chinook salmon
6 escapement due to the incidental harvest of Chinook
7 salmon being located closer to shore where the smaller
8 Chinook salmon tend to run, and avoiding the mid-river
9 deep drafts which the proponent states tend to catch
10 larger more fecund Chinook salmon.

11
12 The preliminary conclusion on this
13 proposal was take no action. And the justification for
14 that is that this proposed action is not needed as the
15 delegated authority is granted to the Federal in-season
16 managers by the Board already allow what the proponent
17 is asking for. It applies to waters within the Yukon
18 River drainage and permits the opening or closing of
19 Federal subsistence fishing periods and areas, the
20 specification of methods and means, permit
21 requirements, and setting of harvest and possession
22 limits for Federal subsistence fisheries. This
23 delegation may be exercised only when it's necessary to
24 conserve fish stocks, or to continue subsistence uses.

25
26 That is the information I have for this
27 analysis.

28
29 So I'd be happy to try to help answer
30 any questions.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any questions,
35 Council members. Okay. You have a question. Question.

36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have something that I
38 would like to say. Okay. And that is that we've got
39 our big long process here, but I would like to deviate
40 from that. All right. The reason why is because based
41 on the action we took on the previous proposal, I think
42 we should take no action on this proposal and not take
43 all the time to go through this in the manner that this
44 card in front of me says to do it. To suspend the
45 normal process and the procedure for proposal.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm fine with
48 that, Virgil. The rest of the Council members.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: So I move to take no

1 action based on the action taken on the previous
2 proposal.

3

4 Madame Chair.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is there a
7 second.

8

9 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess I need
14 some clarification. Actually I was going to make the
15 same suggestion. I didn't know if we could deviate
16 from that process, but my suggestion was going to be to
17 withdraw the proposal, not take no action. And the
18 reason for that is as stated in the justification, and
19 also the fact that the recent changes in fishing
20 techniques with the addition of the dipnets and
21 everything has shown that that's equally -- that's
22 meeting the needs. So in an effort to maybe save a lot
23 of paperwork and analysis and the Board of Fisheries, I
24 don't know -- I'm sorry, the Federal Subsistence Board,
25 I don't know if it's better to just vote to take no
26 action or actually just withdraw the proposal since
27 it's our proposal.

28

29 I just wanted to put that out there.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, that's a
32 good question.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: And, Madame Chair, just
35 to clarify, I was the one who actually drafted this, so
36 I'm basically asking to withdraw my own proposal.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, it became
39 ours.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: I wrote it.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It became ours,
44 because we put it in.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Right. Right. But I'm
47 just the one that spent a lot of time working with the
48 OSM on this.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay. I

1 need some input from Staff.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What is better?
6
7 MS. PATTON: We do have to follow due
8 public process. This proposal has gone before the
9 public. The Council can decide, you know, how much
10 discussion you wish to have, or if you want to take no
11 action, but we still need to allow an opportunity for
12 the public who have weighed in on this to present their
13 information, which is also fairly brief.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So what you're
16 saying is we can't deviate for our -- what did you call
17 it, the car, that we're told to drive.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: We can't suspend from
20 the process is what she's saying.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We cannot.
23
24 MS. PATTON: No. It's part of the
25 public process.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well, we
28 have a motion on the floor.
29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. I withdraw my
31 motion.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And the second
34 concur.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I'll concur with that.
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We will
39 go through the process then. And it could be brief.
40 Consultations with tribes and corps -- or, I'm sorry,
41 ANCSA corporations.
42
43 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
44 OSM did consult with tribes, opened up an opportunity
45 for consultation on these proposals. There was no
46 comments from tribes or corporations.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
49 ADF&G comments.
50

1 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair. Drew
2 Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
3 Anchorage.

4
5 Regarding Fisheries Proposal 15-04, the
6 Department is neutral.

7
8 This may be a new fisheries management
9 tool for Yukon River salmon managers. During very poor
10 salmon runs, this regulation may be used as a method to
11 conserve Chinook salmon while allowing a limited
12 fishing opportunity with setnets only. But to be
13 effective, it would have to be approved and adopted by
14 the Alaska Board of Fisheries for the Yukon River area,
15 because currently State managers do not have authority
16 to manage set nets and drift gillnets separately.

17
18 Over.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
21 Drew. Okay. Any questions of him, Council members.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Federal
26 agencies, any comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Native, tribal,
31 village, or other.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone on line.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The InterAgency
40 Staff.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now the
45 advisory groups, other Regional Councils, and Fish and
46 Game, and SRC.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. There were
49 no comments from State ACs or SRC. Two Councils who
50 take action on Yukon area proposals are Seward

1 Peninsula. They opposed 15-03 -- I'm sorry, 15-04, and
2 state that they don't see a conservation concern
3 because of driftnets and that set gillnets also harvest
4 Chinook salmon. And if there's problems with
5 conservation concern, the in-season manager already has
6 the authority to make changes to harvest methods.

7
8 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
9 Advisory Council proposed to take no action, noting
10 that the in-season manager already has the ability to
11 do this if needed.

12
13 And again the Western Interior Regional
14 Advisory Council has not yet met.

15
16 And we have no public written comments
17 on this proposal.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is that true
20 that the in-season manager can create a setnet fishery?

21
22 MR. BUE: I've never tested it, but
23 it's my interpretation of the delegated authority that
24 it is allowable to adjust -- specify gear types,
25 methods, means, whereas the State is limited to time
26 and area.

27
28 The Federal manager can pick and choose
29 between.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you can
32 eliminate one, and you can add one,

33
34 MR. BUE: That's my interpretation,
35 ma'am.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Your
38 interpretation.

39
40 MR. BUE: That's what I was told after
41 a lot of consultation.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Trent.

44
45 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, so when this
46 proposal was initially brought forth and we started
47 working through it, that was also the same sort of
48 conclusion I came to. And that's in addition to
49 discussions with Fred and his interpretation of it as
50 well. And I talked with Ken Lord about this just to be

1 sure, to make sure.....

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So that's true
4 for State and Federal?

5

6 MR. LIEBICH: In the Federal.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just Federal.

9

10 MR. LIEBICH: I'm sorry. Just to
11 clarify, in the Federal, and that's that delegated --
12 that letter of delegated authority and what's allowed
13 in that. It seems to offer a lot more flexibility than
14 I first understood it to be. And I think, you know,
15 when we started in this conversation last fall at the
16 meeting, had I understood that better, I mean, maybe we
17 wouldn't have ended at this point. Yeah. So we
18 learned a lot thought this. I think several of us did.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we always
23 will learn a lot. Okay.

24

25 Now I've got myself off track.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Public testimony.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Now
30 we're at public testimony. Is there any public
31 testimony here or on teleconference.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hearing
36 none.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
39 FP15-04.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

44 Discussion.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll speak to my
47 proposal. I think we should take no action on it based
48 on the action that we took on the previous proposal.

49

50 Madam Chair.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Doesn't that
2 give us a little procedural problem here now?
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: And reference
5 everything I said previously.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.
8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Pardon me. I
10 think I'm a little confused. So the motion was to
11 adopt this, and I thought we were going to have a
12 motion to take no action. So I'm a little confused
13 about where we're at.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Virgil.
16 Did you intend to support and then vote oppose. What
17 was your intention, because I thought it was to take no
18 action, because that's how your discussion was.
19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: You're right. So what
21 I should have done after it was seconded was made
22 another motion. I move that we take no based on the
23 action taken on FP15-03.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Why don't you
26 make it simple Withdraw your first one. Withdraw your
27 first one, and go to the no action.
28
29 MR. GLANZ: I'll withdraw my second on
30 it. Go ahead and make the motion there, Virgil.
31 Withdraw yours and make the motion.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move we take
34 no action on Proposal FP15-04 based on the action taken
35 on FP15-03.
36
37 Madame Chair.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Good job.
40
41 MR. GLANZ: I'll support that, so I'll
42 second it.
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
45 been seconded. Discussion. Do we need any other
46 discussion on this. Virgil.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: I reference all the
49 discussion from Proposal FP15-03.
50

1 Madame Chair.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MR. KOEHLER: I'll call the question.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
10 been called for. All in favor of taking no action on
11 15-04 say aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It passes.
20 We're taking no action. Okay. We've gotten through
21 all of them, correct.
22
23 Okay.
24
25 We're up to the Partners for Fisheries
26 Monitoring Program briefing.
27
28 MS. PATTON: That's me.
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Eva says that's
31 her.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
34 I'll be presenting this one for you. This is an action
35 if the Council wishes to make recommendations on the
36 program. I'll give you a little bit of background on
37 the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program and some
38 of the sort of sort of guideline questions that have
39 come up based on other public and RAC input.
40
41 This is a program that's been in place
42 since 2002, and OSM is seeking recommendations and
43 input on changes or modifications to the program that
44 would better support Federal subsistence management,
45 research, and monitoring, and community-based work.
46
47 So the Partners for Fisheries
48 Monitoring Program, and this Council has been receiving
49 updates from the Tanana Chief's Partners Program.
50 Brian McKenna is funded through the program. OSM

1 currently funds five regional Native non-profits and
2 community organizations to host a biologist, an
3 anthropologist, or an educator for Federal subsistence
4 fisheries management.

5
6 And the origins of it comes from
7 ANILCA. ANILCA provided the guidance for Federal
8 subsistence priority for fish and wildlife management.
9 And then beginning in 2002, what Trent had provided to
10 the Council, an overview of the Fisheries Resource
11 Monitoring Program was developed to specifically do
12 research and monitoring on Federal subsistence
13 fisheries, subsistence harvest, fisheries stocks of
14 important subsistence species, harvest patterns,
15 traditional ecological and cultural knowledge. And the
16 five agencies within U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17 worked together along with ADF&G in collaborative
18 projects, the Regional Advisory Councils, Native
19 organizations, tribes, and communities parties, which
20 is a big focus of those FRMP projects.

21
22 The Partners Program was then developed
23 through OSM with fisheries funding to help support
24 local rural communities and regional Native
25 organizations to be able to fund staff, to increase the
26 capacity within the villages, within the rural
27 communities to both help direct and guide subsistence
28 fisheries research and monitoring in the region, offer
29 opportunities for youth to learn and work on projects
30 in conjunction with the FRMP or through science camp
31 programs, capacity building within the local
32 organizations to develop the skills to be able to lead
33 those research and monitoring projects, and to provide
34 the local expertise on where the research priorities
35 should be, what people in the rural communities are
36 seeing in terms of subsistence fishery stocks, changes
37 in patterns, and important aspects of subsistence
38 harvest.

39
40 So the Partners Program was developed
41 to help build that capacity at the ground up, provide
42 guidance from the communities with a direct conduit to
43 the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and also to
44 the Regional Advisory Councils, and develop local
45 biologists to managers or anthropologists or educators
46 in those communities to continue working on subsistence
47 fisheries issues and concerns.

48
49 So right now the program is going
50 through an evaluation phase to see both how it's been

1 working for, you know, in service to the communities,
2 to the Regional Advisory Councils, and recommendations
3 that you have of how it might be changed or modified,
4 what's working well, things you'd like to see happen,
5 outreach recommendations. So based on the feedback
6 from the Regional Advisory Councils, there's a vision
7 document that's being crafted that will then guide
8 changes to the program.

9

10 So currently the grants are through a
11 competitive cooperative agreement. And those
12 cooperative agreement fundings have been on five and
13 the now a four-year cycle. So each organization that
14 currently has a partners program receives funding for
15 that one staff biologist in most cases, or an
16 anthropologist, or an educator. And there's five
17 communities right now. You'll see a map on Page 160
18 that identifies those programs, or the regional Native
19 non-profits that currently have a program.

20

21 So TCC is one, a long-standing Partners
22 program, addressing subsistence fisheries issues for
23 all 47 TCC area tribes on the Yukon. Kuskokwim Native
24 Association, which is middle Kuskokwim River has had a
25 long-standing Partners program through KNA. Native
26 Village of Eyak on the Copper River. ONC, which is
27 Orutsararmiut Native Council based in Bethel, has a
28 Partners program currently. And also Bristol Bay
29 Native Association out of Dillingham.

30

31 So those are the current programs that
32 are in place.

33

34 Again it's a competitive grant process,
35 and that will be coming up for renewal next year, so
36 we're seeking feedback on how the programs working
37 before that next call goes out, how to modify it to
38 better address rural communities' subsistence needs.

39

40 So the Partners, like Brian -- I guess,
41 you know, Fairbanks is one of the more urban centers
42 where the programs are located. The others are based
43 out of Bethel, out of Aniak, out of Dillingham,
44 Cordova. And the program is open to applications from
45 throughout the State with Native non-profits or rural
46 communities. So generally the partners are based in he
47 community. They work to serve those local rural
48 organizations, and engage a high amount of engagement
49 in outreach both to and form the communities in their
50 region. So there's a conduit from those rural

1 communities to the Federal Subsistence Board through
2 the Regional Advisory Council process when there's
3 reports on the research being done. Many times there
4 are students that will present to the Regional Advisory
5 Councils as well.

6

7 So it's another mechanism to help
8 facilitate rural involvement, rural community
9 involvement in Federal subsistence fisheries
10 management.

11

12 So again the program is going through a
13 review, developing, you know, both a clear vision
14 statement, and then a strategic plan based on Councils'
15 feedback.

16

17 So there's a handful of questions that
18 -- sort of guiding questions that we're seeking. On
19 Page 162 there's some preliminary goals and questions
20 on 161. And then based on some of the feedback that
21 we've gotten so far from Regional Advisory Councils, I
22 can read a couple bullets here of guiding questions
23 that might help facilitate some of the feedback.

24

25 One of the questions is about how the
26 partners can facilitate better communication. For
27 example, the partners live in rural Alaska and interact
28 with the local people and communities.

29

30 How can the Partners Program provide
31 outreach and education so stakeholders can better
32 engage in the Federal subsistence program
33 decisionmaking process.

34

35 How can the Partners Program help
36 strengthen relationships between stakeholder. For
37 example, the partners work with both Federal, State,
38 and local organizations on cooperative projects, and
39 information and outreach.

40

41 How can partners promote opportunities
42 for youth and elders to engage in the Federal
43 Subsistence Management Program, and how can the
44 Partners Program work together to create opportunities
45 for local individuals to become involved.

46

47 And should the Partners Program be
48 expanded to include other resources. For example,
49 expand beyond subsistence fisheries to wildlife as
50 well.

1 And those were just some guiding
2 questions. But we've gotten some really great feedback
3 from several of the Councils that have met so far. If
4 you have any recommendations from your interaction with
5 the TCC Partners Program, or your own knowledge of
6 projects that have taken place in your communities,
7 ideas and suggestions.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10

11 Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I
14 think this is a really important program for the simple
15 fact that it's getting harder and harder to get young
16 people engaged. And, you know, you look around the
17 table at most of these advisory committees, and there's
18 a lot of gray hair. And we need to have some upcoming
19 young people to take the place.

20

21 And I think this is a really good
22 starting point.

23

24 I'm not so sure that I'm in favor of it
25 branching off into wildlife issues. I think it would
26 dilute the intended process. And as Sue said earlier
27 in the meeting, we spend so much time on fisheries
28 issues, it just goes to show how important the
29 fisheries along the Yukon River is to the communities
30 in these three RAC regions. It's actually essential.
31 It's kind of the foundation of the communities really.
32 So I would prefer not to see it move into wildlife
33 issues at this point in time.

34

35 The other thing I -- I think all the
36 programs and the reports that we've gotten have always
37 been good, but I think it's always a good idea to do a
38 review process every now and then for funding of
39 different entities. And so, you know, I think either
40 three or every four years there should be some sort of
41 a review of the performance of the partners, the
42 various partners to ensure that the money's being spend
43 well, and that we're getting what we want out of it.
44 It doesn't have to be, you know, a really deep rooted
45 review, but there needs to be some review process there
46 more than anything for transparency, and to make sure
47 that the monies are being spent appropriately.

48

49 You know, quite frankly I'd really love
50 to see a little bit more in our area. There aren't a

1 lot of kids there, but there's also not a lot for the
2 kids to do in our community. And I think with Eagle
3 sonar right there, there's some opportunity for some
4 programs to work with the sonar, to get people engaged.
5 They do have kind of a local hire preference when they
6 hire help for that, and there again, you know, getting
7 some youth involved in that, and going into the
8 fisheries field, there's a real opportunity there that
9 may not be too expensive, also working with the school.
10 We have a couple of really excellent teachers that are
11 really involved in the natural sciences that they might
12 be able to partner up with as well.

13

14 So I guess those would be my -- that
15 would be my input.

16

17 I really think the program's doing a
18 great job. I really like seeing the different projects
19 that have come up, and I think they have some great
20 people working for them. But we've got to keep those
21 kids engaged. In this computer age and with these damn
22 cell phones, we're losing them pretty quick right now,
23 and we've got to figure out a way to keep some of them
24 engaged in that.

25

26 That's all I have. Madame Chair.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
29 members. Others.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're hitting
34 us with a lot of stuff here that it's probably
35 overwhelming.

36

37 You know, all the years I've been on
38 this, this Partners Program and all of the studies
39 done, it's always been this Fisheries Monitoring
40 Program, right? And you're asking about should other
41 things be included. I don't know how I feel about
42 wildlife.

43

44 Andy, you said, no, but I know that in
45 our area, like the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge, they have
46 done some things that included youth. On moose
47 satellite image -- or in tracking moose and stuff like
48 that, and that was awesome. The kids in Mentasta even
49 were part of that program. For three years I think it
50 was.

1 So I'm not opposed to -- and I don't
2 know what it means is what my -- where I'm struggling,
3 because you guys have the funding to do all these
4 fisheries monitoring stuff, and I guess in these
5 refuges and other places they come up with their own
6 funding to do stuff like that. But including youth in
7 anything is important to me. Any way you can include
8 the youth is awesome, especially when they get from
9 behind an i-pod.

10

11 Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I
14 think you bring up a really good point. And it's not
15 that I'm opposed to them being involved in wildlife. I
16 don't want to see it shift in funding, the abundance of
17 the funding being shifted towards wildlife.

18

19 I recognize the fact that there are
20 quite a few communities around the state that aren't
21 tied real directly to the fisheries. And so I'm not
22 opposed to some wildlife. I think there would need to
23 be some -- in my view, there should be some sort of a
24 percentage, overall percentage of spending that would
25 be limiting wildlife.

26

27 I just would hate to see it shift
28 completely from what it was intended to do, the
29 fisheries, which is so important to so many of the
30 communities, and then suddenly just go on this wild
31 rampage of everything only being wildlife, so it would
32 lose its initial focus and everything.

33

34 So I'm not opposed to wildlife. I
35 think there should be some limits, recognizing the fact
36 that communities like where Sue lives, they're not tied
37 to a fisheries, but money would be very well spent to
38 keep the youth involved there in wildlife issues.

39

40 I just wanted to clarify what I was
41 thinking there.

42

43 Thank you for bringing that up though,
44 Sue.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I can see
47 a way to maybe try to put this in any place that you're
48 working -- like, for instance, the Copper River. Most
49 of the people where I live are involved in fishing the
50 Copper River, not going up to Eagle and fishing the

1 Yukon. And if Eyak's doing stuff, that kind of stuff
2 should be somehow or another provided to the schools so
3 they could have it in the schools in our area where
4 people use that fish, and understand it more. I don't
5 want it -- I mean, I'm just saying that's how to get
6 the information out and include more schools involved
7 in what's going on on the program.

8

9 Others.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madame Chair. I kind
12 of feel the same way, that some wildlife issues should
13 be involved in there, because as stated earlier in the
14 meeting today about shooting cow moose and so forth and
15 so on. You get a bunch of school kids involved with
16 wildlife conservation programs and that, it's almost
17 automatic that that's going to be ingrained in their
18 brain. And a lot of other ethical hunting things.

19

20 Either way with me.

21

22 I means it's beneficial I believe
23 having wildlife involved with it.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I might
28 just add for the Council, since you bring up the Copper
29 River and Native Village of Eyak, and we've had a lot
30 of discussion on fishwheels and detailed knowledge of
31 fishwheels, the Native Village of Eyak's primary
32 research project, which is a large FRMP project,
33 utilizes traditional fishwheel technology to monitor
34 Chinook on the Copper River. And their traditional
35 methodology was far more efficient and effective in
36 catching and enumerative Chinook on the Copper River.
37 It's been a very effective project utilizing that
38 traditional knowledge, and the direction and guidance
39 of the Native Village of Eyak to run that monitoring
40 program.

41

42 So that's just one example we haven't
43 brought before the Council, because we don't often
44 report on the Copper River, but one example of a
45 Partners Program project combined with an FRMP project
46 utilizing traditional knowledge and methods for
47 monitoring a fisheries.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I guess
2 what I was pointing out is I think it would be
3 important that to be brought to the schools all the way
4 up even to Tok, because of people in Tok end up going
5 to the Copper River for their fish, and not up to the
6 Yukon. So that's -- and that would be really cool
7 information to put in school curriculums.

8
9 MR. FIRMIN: I don't see why they
10 wouldn't have other places -- like you guys couldn't
11 have some of those Partners Program -- because when
12 they had the science camp with TCC in Fort Yukon, we
13 didn't hardly mess with big fish. We were only messing
14 with little small minnows and making fish traps. And I
15 think some of that included the -- we had a cultural
16 permit to harvest a moose and all kinds of other good
17 stuff. It wasn't just for fisheries though.

18
19 All you guys have good ideas, and I
20 think they could all be worked in. It's just how well
21 you sell it to the Staff to fund you.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So, Andy, is
24 that -- or Andrew, is that funded through Partners
25 where you get a moose as a permit?

26
27 MR. FIRMIN: No, we just had a permit
28 as part of the camp, but they had a science camp for
29 high school students and junior high, and part of that
30 was building like fish traps and I think we had a net
31 in the river, but it was -- we mostly messed with small
32 fish and bugs, and, you know, the ecosystem stuff, so
33 it was.....

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But is that
36 culture camp part of this Partners Program?

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Well, we had the Partners
39 Program was at the culture camp, so the tribe just
40 requested that along with it as separate.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That might be
43 something.....

44
45 MR. FIRMIN: It was more than just
46 fisheries stuff going on was what I mean.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. Because
49 at Batzulnetas they have the -- I've always been
50 invited to go there, and I'm not aware -- I mean, they

1 get a permit to shoot a moose, and then they can get
2 their fish in the fishwheel. They just have a culture
3 camp. But bringing the Partners Program in, I'm not
4 aware of it. Yeah.

5
6 Tom.

7
8 MR. KRON: Yeah. Madame Chair. Tom
9 Kron with OSM.

10
11 Fort Yukon did have a partner in the
12 early years. So, yes, there was a Partners Program
13 person there in Fort Yukon.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: For their
16 culture camp.

17
18 MR. KRON: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I was just
21 saying I'm not aware of it in our area. Yeah. Okay.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. And there
24 has been since this is, you know, a competitive cycling
25 program, so there have been Partners programs with
26 other organizations, so Fort Yukon used to have a
27 Partners program, AVCP used to have a Partners program.
28 And the current program with TCC, they do have an
29 ongoing science and culture camp which has been long-
30 standing and very successful. And I think Brian noted
31 unfortunately, because of the flooding this year, there
32 was nowhere to camp. But that has been a central part
33 of many of the Partners Program, specifically that
34 education and outreach component, and science and
35 culture based camps.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm just trying
38 to get this clear in my head. I know hat we go through
39 this process of coming up with what our priorities are
40 through this program, and now this is -- you're asking
41 for input now on this Partner Program, how to do it
42 differently than what has been done.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
45 If I can clarify.

46
47 So we just went through the Fisheries
48 Resource Monitoring Program's priority information
49 needs for the research and monitoring itself. The
50 Partner Program is a different program, but as been

1 integrally entwined with the FRMP. And previously the
2 Partners Program has been primarily focused on securing
3 FRMP research programs, collaborative FRMP research
4 projects. They've expanded into other fisheries
5 issues, but they're been greatly linked.

6

7 They are different though. This is
8 we're asking for feedback on the Partners Program
9 itself, that community engagement, that outreach
10 portion of it, what aspects of the program are
11 important.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Which is funded
14 by the same program.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Funded through OSM, yes.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You have your
19 Resource Monitoring, and then you have this Partners.
20 Are they funded the same, from the same.

21

22 MS. PATTON: It's two separate pots of
23 funding.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
26 Andy's comments might not have -- you know. Did I
27 understand you right, Andy, that you were talking to
28 the Fisheries Monitoring Program not going into
29 wildlife. Your mic.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, maybe I maybe
32 misunderstood.....

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Your mic.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Maybe I misunderstood
37 where the funding came from. But even in the Partners
38 Program, I think it's really important to keep it
39 focused on fishing as much as possible. In my view.
40 But like I said, I'm not opposed to wildlife issues,
41 but I just think the fisheries issues are really
42 important issues, because they're kind of the baseline
43 for the existence of most of these communities. Even
44 where you live, people go to the Copper.

45

46 They rely on fish.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but where
49 I live also I'd say that 80 percent of their concerns
50 would be wildlife over 20 percent on the fisheries. So

1 that's the way it is where we're at. And it might be
2 even in your area, too, Bill. Yeah.
3
4 So wildlife.
5
6 And that's different funding source. I
7 think if there's ways to work into the school system
8 and get kids involved in it like I see on this
9 fisheries thing, I see it as a good thing.
10
11 Okay. That's a pretty big yawn, James.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next on
16 the.....
17
18 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anything else
21 there. Anyone else have anything to add. If you
22 understand it as much as I do, I don't understand it as
23 well as I should I think.
24
25 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Could we
26 have five minutes.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Five minutes.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We can have
33 five minutes, but we only have about 30 minutes left to
34 meet. Do you want to take five minutes. Yeah, we go
35 to five, right. Do you want to take five minutes,
36 gang.
37
38 (Council nods affirmatively)
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Five
41 minutes. I'm going to hold you to that.
42
43 (Off record)
44
45 (On record)
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's go
48 back, guys.
49
50 All right. The next thing on the

1 agenda is the annual report.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: Annual report.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes. Am I

6 right here?

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yes. Okay. Madame Chair
9 and Council. So we visited this a little bit at the
10 beginning of the meeting, and it's really sort of an
11 ongoing discussion throughout the meeting, but a chance
12 to touch base right now. Both Sue and I have been
13 taking a running list of some of the topics of concern
14 that have come up throughout the meeting so far, and
15 maybe we can touch base on those, and anything else
16 that the Council has of interest and concern.

17

18 Again, the annual report is a report
19 from this -- from each of the Councils to the Federal
20 Subsistence Board to address subsistence fish and
21 wildlife concerns, management issues, bring awareness
22 to the Board Federal subsistence fish and wildlife
23 issues of concern for your community, or the local
24 knowledge.

25

26 And on 164 are guidelines for the
27 annual reports. It's established under ANILCA as a
28 formal mechanism for the Council to bring these issues
29 before the Federal Subsistence Board. Just some of the
30 content, you know, that can be addressed through the
31 annual report is the current and anticipated
32 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations; an
33 evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs
34 for fish and wildlife populations on the Federal public
35 lands in the region; a recommended strategy for the
36 management of fish and wildlife populations within the
37 region to accommodate subsistence uses and needs; an
38 any recommendations concerning policies, standards,
39 guidelines, and regulations.

40

41 So we try to make the report as clear
42 and concise so the Board understands what it you're
43 recommending, or what it is that you're requesting.
44 And again also to bring awareness so there's a lot of
45 local knowledge and collective information from the
46 Council from the region that you serve to help bring to
47 the attention of the Board if you think there's
48 something that's needed there.

49

50 So do you want to address your list so

1 far.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, when we
4 went around the table this morning about our concerns,
5 there was a lot of stuff that I -- and actually,
6 Donald, you didn't get to do that, which you will have
7 the opportunity, but I'd like to just run down what I
8 highlighted.

9

10 Andy, you brought up the hunter
11 education, so that's one. And hunting pressure. And
12 that ended up coming up by several of you. Larry asked
13 that he wants that one question answered, how is this
14 tribal consultation going. So these are things that I
15 think we should have in the annual report, and you guys
16 can expound on it. And, Lester, you brought up also
17 about the hunting pressure. Virgil, you brought up two
18 concerns, the 20 percent non-targeted for the fish, and
19 then the circumventing of regulation on that
20 cooperation between the State and the Federal, and
21 particularly this latest proposed rule from the
22 National Park Service.

23

24 Will, you brought up the same issue.

25

26 Now these are things I think should go
27 in the annual report, so if I'm not getting this
28 correctly, I would like to hear from you guys.

29

30 Bill, you brought up also the problems
31 with over-hunting in rural areas. Andrew, you brought
32 up the caribou, how can we protect the front-runners of
33 the caribou herds. And, James, your concern was the 5A
34 shutdown because of one guy.

35

36 That's what I wrote down here.

37

38 MR. ROBERTS: Well, it was just we were
39 completely shut out of every type of fishing. That was
40 my concern.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
43 needs to be. What I'm thinking, all of these are very
44 important concerns to put in our annual report.

45

46 Donald, did you have anything? What
47 would you have said this morning.

48

49 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 It goes along with what Andy was
2 talking about, and I think he addressed it maybe in the
3 AC meeting, which I missed, was that in the last
4 several Council meetings we've discussed the Red Sheep
5 Creek and 25 moose migration over in the Sheenjek and
6 stuff. And a lot of the testimony by the public was
7 about user conflict.

8
9 And I think that the Federal
10 Subsistence Board said that we had some excellent ideas
11 about that in one of the reports. They were answering
12 our annual report from last year. And so I wrote down
13 a couple ideas that maybe Fish and Game or the Federal
14 subsistence, OSM people have information that we could
15 put in like a village kiosk or a community center where
16 people could get information about what is traditional
17 use areas, and they may not want to go there if they
18 thought there was going to be user conflict, that kind
19 of stuff.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Educational
22 (Indiscernible - microphone not on).

23
24 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. And
25 communications even in the schools, because obviously
26 if we start with the kids, and the community centers,
27 and the communities, then we'll reach out and maybe
28 educate the younger people that are more adaptable to
29 change than us old guys.

30
31 So I was just going off on sort of that
32 whole interaction of people, and the resource
33 harvesting.

34
35 Thank you, Madame.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So bringing up
38 all those topics, do you guys have -- do you want to
39 expound on anything that we just went down the line.
40 Would you agree that those would be the topics to put
41 in our annual report.

42
43 Okay.

44
45 Andy.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd like to add one
48 more. I'm reading here that we can address policies,
49 and I think it goes back to our very early discussion
50 on the rural determination. I'm really concerned about

1 the policy set by the Federal Subsistence Board on how
2 they came to the conclusions to write the letter to the
3 Secretary.

4
5 As I stated before, there needs to be
6 some sort of a system whereby people who live in these
7 rural areas somehow their input can be weighted,
8 because we're basically just being outvoted, excuse me,
9 simply because of population. And so it's diluting the
10 ability for people out in the really rural areas of
11 Alaska to protect their subsistence uses and their
12 subsistence resources. So I'd really like to see some
13 analysis on how they're going to weight some of this
14 public input when they do this outreach to get public
15 comments, because the writing's on the wall, you know.
16 Rural users are getting smaller and smaller all the
17 time, because population centers are growing. And if
18 the bulk of the replies are coming from these high
19 population base areas, then the information is very
20 skewed.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
23 reading please avoid filler or fluff language.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. BASSICH: I don't know how to
28 really craft that, but I'm really concerned about how
29 that letter came into being that's going to the
30 Secretary, and actually I wanted to bring up that I
31 would really like to see this Council write our own
32 letter to the Secretaries of the Interior and the
33 Secretary of Agriculture voicing some of the concerns
34 about rural determination process and what's going on
35 up here.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
38 subject number 2. But let's finish up on this annual
39 report, and I'll let you take that up at that time.

40
41 Bill.

42
43 MR. GLANZ: I know, excuse me, the
44 Federal regulations read, was these people that hunt
45 subsistence, whether we go by their home address. I'd
46 like to see of the address on this. I know one person
47 for sure has three homes in Fairbanks, and he comes in
48 Central, and he said, well, I've got three addresses in
49 Missouri, Fairbanks, and here and one other place.
50 Four addresses. But I keep my -- I get my mail here so

1 I can hunt here subsistence. Okay. Another fellow
2 that lives in Texas nine months a year. He comes up
3 and hunts in Central, because he still keeps his
4 residence as Central, Alaska, even though he lives nine
5 months in Texas. Two other people live in Arizona all
6 winter long, and they come up to Central hunting. I've
7 got all their names up. I don't know if there's a way
8 to put their names in so they could just check into it
9 and see what kind of residency they keep. I mean, I
10 don't know.

11
12 There's got to be done about these
13 people.

14
15 Years ago Fort Yukon told me, and I was
16 stationed down there, 40 geese were harvested by
17 Anchorage people that still keep their address as
18 living in Fort Yukon, but they come up to Fort Yukon to
19 hunt geese.

20
21 So we need to have them do something --
22 address something about that to stop this from
23 happening.

24
25 That's all. I'm just wondering if
26 there's a way we can do. I don't know if that's fluff
27 or not, but, you know.....

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I'm not
30 going to call that one fluff. Yeah. But, no, I think
31 what your saying is the residency, how you identify the
32 residency of someone when they have multiple addresses.
33 That came up in our area, too.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: Would that be into an
36 annual report issue in that annual report, if we write
37 that down?

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's a
40 concern.

41
42 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Great. It's a major
43 concern for one of my AC members.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
46 Definitely. Any other topics that you want to put in
47 this annual report. Now, this one -- is this one going
48 to come up again next meeting, or is this the one
49 you're writing, because we just got an answer to one.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
2 In the past the process has been elongated, and perhaps
3 not as efficient for the Council, so typically the
4 Council would draft the report, and then revisit it at
5 the following meeting, and then it would talk quite a
6 bit of some time. So they are reviewed and edited
7 internally before they're finalized. So it's going to
8 be shortened now. So I'll be working with you guys
9 after the meeting to draft that report based on the
10 feedback and detail here, and working through
11 additional detail for the report.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But it's still
14 an annual report.

15
16 MS. PATTON: It's still an annual
17 report.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we only get
20 one a year.

21
22 MS. PATTON: However, this time it will
23 go through the OSM review process so that you get the
24 final edited version back to you, and that can be the
25 stamp of approval at the winter meeting. Before you
26 were getting a draft back, and then it was going
27 through another round of reviews within OSM. And so it
28 made it difficult for the Council to actually review
29 the final version and approve it. So it's just a
30 little bit shortened, that you'll be getting the final
31 and edited version after I work with you via email and
32 over the phone to finalize what you would like in
33 there. And then it will go through eternal edits and
34 come back to you at the winter meeting.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It doesn't
37 sound shortened to me, but, okay.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Because before, as you
40 recall, you were signing that report in July of this
41 year, and clearly that doesn't work well for folks.
42 It's drawn out, and then the final edits in-house come
43 back later, and then we're asking for your.....

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we're
46 putting something forward that we'll see again at the
47 next meeting.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. So I'll be
50 working with you over email and over the phone to

1 finalize that, and then your final draft will come back
2 to you for your review at the winter meeting.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did you
5 have a question, Bill?

6

7 MR. GLANZ: Well, no, I was just
8 reading (Indiscernible - microphone not on)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11

12 MS. PATTON: And you might be
13 interested, too, some of the reply from this year's
14 annual report, sometimes we work with the regional land
15 managers if the issue is specific to a conservation
16 unit. And so some of the reply was assisted by the
17 wildlife biologist or managers for refuges, for
18 example, on the question about moose. So if you have
19 an opportunity to review those replies again tonight,
20 you may have a chance, while we've got a lot of Staff
21 here, if you have any follow-up questions in particular
22 on the moose, there were questions on caribou. So it's
23 an opportunity to make sure you get the information
24 that you're looking for out of the report.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
27 could actually pull somebody up and say, hey, what do
28 you think about this at this meeting, and then they
29 someone respond to his responses.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Sure. Absolutely. We
32 have some of the Federal Staff who have assisted with
33 the reply.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
38 Chair.

39

40 I guess I'm thinking back to earlier
41 today, and I'm wondering if trying to get the
42 representative from DNR on the -- I believe there's a
43 seat on the Federal Subsistence Board, right? No? DNR
44 is not on? No. Okay. I'm just thinking back towards
45 the comments from the woman from Northway and the
46 concerns of that land sale, if that's something that
47 could be addressed through this as well, because that
48 really has some very, very strong implications on land
49 use, taking away traditional hunting grounds from
50 people in their area. That's a really, really

1 important issue for us to get addressed. That's has
2 some really bad long-term implications and precedence-
3 setting policies for land use.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you're
6 saying you'd like to see that in the annual report, and
7 you're wondering if.....

8
9 MR. BASSICH: If it's appropriate.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:a DNR
12 issue is appropriate for our report. Who can answer
13 that.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: But it says in the report
16 that they can go to other agencies, too, and get a
17 response from them, but it just seems like it would
18 have a little bit more clout coming -- some questioning
19 and that coming from the Federal Subsistence Board than
20 just our local Council. I'm just really concerned
21 about that. I just think that is really a dangerous
22 precedence.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I guess
25 I'm wondering if our letter doesn't do.....

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Letters don't carry any
28 weight. They get millions of letters.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, and I
31 feel like this is a letter, that maybe we're just
32 getting fluff back, but I don't know.

33
34 Council members.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. In 1990,
37 somewhere in that area, late 80s, they had a land deal
38 like that in Central going on. Well, we had about 30
39 new neighbors were going to move up. They all went out
40 staking properties and doing this and doing that. Out
41 of all of them that came there, within three years
42 there was none left. I'm sure there can be -- and
43 we're closer to Fairbanks than they are down there. So
44 I'm sure it's something that's going to be a -- it's
45 not going to be a major, major thrust what they may be
46 anticipating there. I understand that one is too many
47 for them.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, I think the
50 issue that they were saying is it's a major moose

1 hunting area.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: I understand that.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And so they're
6 concerned it's going to turn into a subdivision. And
7 actually in our area there were land disposals on Dry
8 Creek, which is a huge amount of people that moved in
9 there. And there were land disposals up on somewhere
10 around Sheep Creek there, and there's a bunch of house
11 up there. So it isn't like it ain't going to happen.
12 It does happen.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: I know it will happen, and
15 they done the same with Central. They wound up in the
16 Crazies, and they had homesteads in the Crazy Mountains
17 where you could hunt sheep and hunt. I mean, they took
18 some hunting areas away, but there was nothing ever
19 major came up of it after -- in all the way. And, of
20 course, a lot of them, they didn't pay for it and went
21 back and so forth and so on. but I'm sure this hunting
22 area is going to be.....

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There are some
25 areas that it made a major impact to the area. So I
26 kind of -- I'm just asking you guys, are we putting
27 that in the annual report.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: That's what I'm asking,
30 is that an appropriate place -- sorry. That's what I'm
31 asking, is that an appropriate place to get a little
32 bit more influence.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. Andy, I don't
37 think it's appropriate, because what that is is that's
38 a State agency doing that. It's basically mandated by
39 the State constitution that they have to do it. And so
40 I don't think it's something we should put in the
41 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I disagree
44 with you. That's what they're doing right now.
45 They're asking for comments, and our letter is a
46 comment, that's not a good place to do it. So they
47 either listen to you or they don't.

48

49 So I think we're doing what we need to
50 do there.

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. If I could,
2 just to clarify for the Council. The Federal
3 Subsistence Board can address management on Federal
4 lands, so this would fall outside of that, the Council
5 making recommendations on State management on State
6 lands. The Council can make recommendations through
7 the public process, because of.....

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Which is what
10 we're doing.

11
12 MS. PATTON:the understanding of
13 potential impacts to Federal subsistence activities.
14 So the letter -- is it appropriate to have it. No, the
15 Board would not be able to address this.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. Okay.
18 Do we have anything else.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
23 then that will go through this annual report process
24 maybe more quickly than in the past.

25
26 Andy, that last topic, you wanted to
27 send a letter to the Secretary of our previous comments
28 to OSM -- or the Federal Board.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I think we wrote a
31 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board about rural
32 determinations, and the process, when they were coming
33 and asking for.....

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, that
36 wasn't a letter, it was our comments. Correct. Yes.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Okay. But what I would
39 like to do is I would -- what concerns me, bottom line,
40 what concerns me is that that letter that we have in
41 this book that has everything crossed out, what they
42 are recommending not to consider for making rural
43 determinations, I don't think represents the views of a
44 lot of really rural people that are being impacted by
45 some of these rural determination findings.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I think we
48 all understand that. So your recommendation is to send
49 our comments.....

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Copy directly to the
2 Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of
3 Agriculture. And I would like to add an emphasis on
4 not changing the population thresholds. That's the key
5 element to rural determination originally, and they're
6 circumventing that now and saying that they don't want
7 that.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. We
10 already made -- we already spent a lot of time talking
11 about -- we went bullet by bullet, and we
12 come up with our comments, and our comments were sent
13 to the OSM, and he's requesting they be sent to these
14 two Secretaries.

15
16 Tom, you must have some input.

17
18 MR. KRON: Well, just, you know, maybe
19 some further clarification. The Federal Subsistence
20 Board looked at all the comments that they got. They
21 got over 400 comments, and there were over 100 comments
22 specifically on the population threshold issue. Based
23 on their review, their meetings, Chairman Tim Towarak
24 sent the letter. And, you know, I'd just ask the
25 question, wouldn't it be better to talk to Tim about
26 the issue that you're raising rather than to basically
27 send something to the Secretaries at this point.

28
29 I'm just asking the question.

30
31 I'm not sure.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
34 Pippa Kenner.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go ahead,
37 Pippa.

38
39 MS. KENNER: Hi. Unfortunately, the
40 person who probably worked most closely with the
41 comments is on line with a Council meeting. The
42 Southeast Council is meeting concurrently.

43
44 But I just wanted to tell the Council
45 member I understand his concerns. We were talking
46 about earlier, and he clarified for Staff and me what
47 he was talking about. I've looked through a comment
48 book. We have produced a book that documents all the
49 comments received and who they came from. And what I
50 would like to do is make sure that the Council gets a

1 copy of that to further inform them of what the
2 comments were. I think one of the questions that the
3 Council member had was what these comments were and who
4 they were from, and I can provide you that. I think it
5 -- I don't want to dissuade you from including it in
6 the annual report. I think it is appropriate there.

7
8 And that the Council member is well
9 advised in that just because the letter went and
10 Secretaries may use the Board's recommendation to
11 create their own recommendation. It will then go
12 through another full review process and go into the
13 Federal Register. All the Councils will comment. The
14 public will comment all over again.

15
16 So we're still kind of early -- well,
17 we're about midway through the process.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
20 ahead.

21
22 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi. This is Pat
23 Petrivelli with BIA.

24
25 And in just listening to this
26 discussion, I don't think it -- I mean, because we
27 shouldn't get onto the numbers of who said what or
28 when. What it is, is it's a concern that a Council
29 member has about losing those populations standards
30 when they feel it is important. Now if that's what you
31 want to express, if you think that it's important to
32 you, that the rural determination process should have a
33 number that they consider -- that you consider it
34 important in looking at who's rural and who's not rural
35 in order to protect rural users, then you should
36 express that either in your annual report or in the
37 letters to the Secretary. The letter to the Secretary
38 might be more -- Secretaries might be more direct,
39 because like Eva said, this letter is going to get
40 reviewed and you'll review the final in April, and by
41 then the proposed might already be out. And the
42 proposed rule could be in development now, because the
43 Federal Board submitted their letter in August, so
44 you're just hearing the result of the Board meeting in
45 May.

46
47 But if you do want to express our
48 opinion, that it's important to you to have some kind
49 of standards. Now, the way the standards existed
50 before, the numbers were there, and the Board had the

1 flexibility to use them or not use them, but, you know,
2 just -- but they could make exceptions. But now there
3 are no standards. And I think that's what Andy was
4 concerned about, there's no measure to say, look at
5 this, don't look at this when it gets to a certain
6 number.

7

8 And so rather than saying who commented
9 in the past -- because it's not a poll. It's about
10 exercising judgment. And if your Council feels
11 strongly that that's an important fact to get across to
12 somebody, you could write the letters to the
13 Secretaries and try to get some input on the proposed
14 rule, or you could write it in the annual report,
15 because you would be replying to the Board saying that
16 they took an action that you didn't like, and you could
17 state it that way.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Pat.
22 That's very helpful. I really appreciate it.

23

24 How do you want to proceed.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: I've spoken my view on
27 it. I think it's a really important issue, because it
28 has very long-term implications. So I want the
29 strongest message out there. I agree the issue isn't
30 who wrote what or what comment. The issue is these
31 standards need to be in place. We can't just drop
32 population estimates, otherwise pretty soon Wasilla
33 will be considered rural, because they vote that they
34 say, well, we used to hunt on the Taylor Highway for
35 caribou, so how come we aren't allowed to be qualified
36 as rural hunters now. That's where it could lead to.
37 This is really important. It's a lot more important
38 than I think that people realize.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So do you want
41 to put it in the annual report. If I were to go back
42 in memory without you pulling up, I believe we took the
43 population, and we didn't -- we just agreed to leave it
44 along is what I remember.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I think that's
47 what we decided.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we would
50 just add to our annual report that that population

1 standard, we want it left in there.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: As is (indiscernible -
4 microphone not on)

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, as it
7 was. Or as it is. So anyone have any objection to
8 throwing that back in our annual report? It's what we
9 agreed to the last time.

10

11 Will, you were shaking your head yes.

12

13 MR. KOEHLER: No objections.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
16 right. We got that added to the annual report.

17

18 And then if you wanted to send a letter
19 to the Secretaries, I'm getting that it's okay, we
20 could do that. Council members, is anyone opposed to
21 that. Andy -- or what's your name? Oh, yeah, Virgil.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: You know, I think we
26 should do it. They've just thrown the whole darn works
27 out if what they've done. The eight criteria is all
28 scratched through, and we voted against that.

29

30 We wanted to leave it the same.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So all of the
33 things that we voted on, if we could put that in a
34 letter to both Secretaries, we would all agree to just
35 reiterate what we've already agreed on and send it on
36 to both Secretaries. I have to agree myself.

37

38 Any opposition to that letter being
39 written.

40

41 (No opposition)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
44 easy to do. We're going to do it.

45

46 And before we go -- I have a request
47 here from Dorothy Shockley, and I saying it correctly?
48 She has to leave, and she had some concerns. She has
49 to leave and can't be here tomorrow. And I would like
50 to allow her to testify before us.

1 Okay.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, thank you very
6 much. My name is Dorothy Shockley. I grew up in
7 Manley Hot Spring.

8

9 A little bit of history. I worked for
10 Senator Kookesh for eight years, and so have been
11 keeping any eye on, excuse me, some of the management
12 issues. But I'm also running for State senate, and so
13 I've been traveling around talking to folks in regards
14 to our hunting and fishing rights. And, of course,
15 food security is very important, very important to us
16 as rural residents, but also as a whole in Alaska.

17

18 One of the things that I've noticed,
19 especially this year is the change in climate in
20 regards to moose hunting. A lot of people when they
21 went out hunting, you know, it was really warm. And
22 so, you know, it seems like the moose were, you know,
23 not rutting or whatever they do in the fall like they
24 usually do, early September. It was much later. And a
25 lot of folks that went out hunting said that even when
26 they did get a moose that, you know, they had to really
27 hurry home, so that it would keep. So that's one of
28 the concerns is climate change, but also not only for
29 our animals, but I think for our fish as well.

30

31 And in regards to the Chinook, of
32 course, you know, someone mentioned that, you know, if
33 we're going to make changes with -- or replenish our
34 Chinook salmon, we really need to have everybody at the
35 table. You know, let's bring, you know, everyone who
36 is managing and all of the fisheries, including the
37 pollack fishery fleets, the Feds, the State, the
38 Northwest Council. You know, let's all sit down and
39 talk about solutions for the run. And I think that's a
40 great idea if we can all come together.

41

42 And then the other thing is the treaty
43 with Canada. The number is fixed, and someone -- or
44 actually a few people suggested that instead of having
45 that fixed number every year, let's see what the
46 numbers are at the mouth at the beginning of the
47 season, and do a percentage of those numbers that are
48 in of the Chinook that are coming into the Yukon. So
49 have a flexible percentage depending on the amount of
50 run that's coming in. And so that, you know, we don't

1 have years where people aren't able to fish at all.

2

3 And then the other thing, of course, is
4 we really need to manage for personal use instead of
5 commercial use. Right now it seems that the fish -- or
6 the State and Feds. they manage for commercial use
7 instead of personal use. And, you know, as someone who
8 goes around and -- or, you know, talks about food
9 security, you know, it's I think easier for people to
10 understand, you know, when you talk -- when you say
11 personal use or food security versus subsistence. I
12 mean, the S word just kind of seems to scare people
13 off, so, you know, trying to talk -- or use I guess
14 other terms that would help in us securing our food
15 sources so that we have food for the next 10,000 years
16 as we've have the past 10,000 years

17

18 Thank you very much.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: I have a question.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I was just
23 going to ask, any questions.

24

25 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I have.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: Well, I'm Bill Glanz.

30

31 But we already have a treaty with
32 Canada for the amount that has to be across the border.
33 And by reducing or flexible as you insist, that would
34 be like saying, well, we don't have any moose, maybe we
35 could just take some cows out this year so everybody
36 could just have a food. What you're suggesting is not
37 going to work. The salmon are on the route to
38 extinction at this time. That's where political people
39 have to realize. I'll just put some of the people that
40 live up by me, I don't care what you guys do, I'm
41 getting salmon. I said, that's a damn good idea, but
42 you take a picture of the biggest you got. Thirty
43 years from now, you show your grandkid, because he'll
44 never see one, it will be all gone.

45

46 But that's all I have to say.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other

1 questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
6 Dorothy. Thank you.

7

8 All right. Do we want to wait for
9 tomorrow to take up anything else. Okay. Yeah. We're
10 done. 8:30. 8:30 tomorrow morning.

11

12 Thanks, everybody.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Thanks to everyone on
15 line. Have a good evening.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

