

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Pike's Landing
9 Fairbanks, Alaska
10 February 29, 2012
11 8:00 a.m.

12
13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Sue Entsminger, Chair
18 Andrew Bassich
19 Lester Erhart
20 Andrew Firmin
21 William Glanz
22 Isaac A. Juneby
23 Joseph Matesi
24 Virgil Umphenour
25 Larry Williams
26
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 2/29/2012)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a pretty good sound system there. We want to get started here.

I want to call the meeting to order. And the next thing on the agenda is a roll call, Andrew.

MR. FIRMIN: Roll call. The meeting's called to order? I'll take a roll call. Sue Entsminger.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Larry Williams here?

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: Isaac Juneby.

MR. JUNEBY: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Joseph Matesi.

MR. MATESI: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff. He's absent. And Virgil Umphenour.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: And we have a quorum.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. There's a quorum. Nine people present, one absent. Okay.

1 I'll bet Larry's really good to do
2 something at short notice. The next thing on the agenda
3 if invocation. If we could all stand, I'm sure Larry
4 would comply.

5
6 MR. WILLIAMS: (Invocation)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
9 Larry.

10
11 I want to welcome everyone and actually
12 would like to go around the room and ask the staff and
13 people to introduce themselves if they can.

14
15 MR. BUE: I'm Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife
16 Service. fisheries scientist.

17
18 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch,
19 National Park Service.

20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: Barbara Cellarius,
22 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

23
24 MR. KESSLER: Good morning, Steve Kessler
25 with the U.S. Forest Service. I'm on the InterAgency
26 Staff Committee.

27
28 MS. COOPER: Deb Cooper, Park Service.

29
30 MR. JAMES: David James, Fort Yukon, I'm
31 a former board member there, recreation user.

32
33 MR. LIEBSCHOR: Tom Liebschor. I'm the
34 chief for natural, cultural, fire and subsistence for the
35 Park Service in Fairbanks.

36
37 MS. THOMAS: Mimi Thomas, law enforcement
38 for Yukon Flats.

39
40 MR. THOMAS: Jesse Thomas, Fort Yukon.

41
42 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Alyssa Frothingham,
43 Tanana Chiefs Conference.

44
45 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Don Rivard,
46 fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

47
48 MS. YUHAS: Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska
49 Department of Fish and Game, liaison team leader.

50

1 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Looks like we
4 got everyone. I'm sure there's a lot outside there, too.
5
6
7 Okay. We'll start with the Council.
8 Bill.
9
10 MR. GLANZ: Are we doing introductions,
11 our concerns or what?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just
14 introductions.
15
16 MR. GLANZ: Okay. My name is Bill Glanz.
17 I'm from Central.
18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm Larry Williams,
20 Venetie.
21
22 MR. ERHART: Lester Erhart, Tanana.
23
24 MR. BASSICH: Andy Bassich, Eagle.
25
26 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin, Fort Yukon.
27
28 MR. JOHNSON: Carl Johnson, OSM. I'll be
29 the acting Council coordinator for this meeting.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sue Entsminger,
32 Chair, from Mentasta Pass.
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm Virgil Umphenour,
35 North Pole.
36
37 MR. MATESI: Joe Matesi, Porcupine River.
38
39 MR. JUNEBY: Isaac Juneby, Eagle, Alaska.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Isaac,
42 you'll have to get used to using the mic every time you
43 speak.
44
45 MR. JUNEBY: Isaac Juneby, Eagle Village.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And
48 welcome to our new member, Isaac Juneby.
49
50 MR. JUNEBY: Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We are friends
2 from way back already. Okay.
3
4 The next thing on the agenda is the
5 review and adopt the agenda. Andy.
6
7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
8 would like to make a motion to adopt the agenda as
9 presented, but as always we generally leave it up to the
10 Chair to make additions during the meeting of the agenda,
11 so kind of a floating agenda per se.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
14 second.
15
16 MR. MATESI: I'll second.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
19 Discussion. Joe.
20
21 MR. MATESI: We talked with Mr. Bue about
22 changing the agenda so that we could have fisheries
23 presentation prior to discussing fishery issues. Should
24 we talk about that?
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. So we
27 were looking at this before we started here. And the
28 regulatory proposals is nine and in front of that is
29 tribal consultation, so we thought it would be good to
30 have the fisheries stuff under 7.G. So this would be
31 other fisheries reports, because we do have another one
32 in front of that. Okay. That's one.
33
34 Anyone else have any that they'd like to
35 -- Joe, did you have another one? Okay. Virgil.
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The call for
38 proposals for AYK for the Board of Fisheries closes on
39 the 10th of April, so if we want any proposals to the
40 State Board of Fisheries, then we have to do it at this
41 meeting. So then we should address that somewhere in
42 here.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let's put it
45 underneath the call for proposals, under Federal
46 Subsistence.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sounds good.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just so

1 you guys know, we did some Board of Game proposals last
2 meeting and we did it rather quickly at the end of our
3 meeting. If you had anything else you wanted to discuss,
4 we could do it at this meeting under old business. Okay.

5

6

7 Any others. Yes, I see some -- oh, yeah,
8 Sandy didn't get in there. Go ahead, Sandy.

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. I'm
11 Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park Service.

12

13 And if item 12.C.1., which is on Page 2
14 of your agenda, could occur anytime today, that would be
15 much appreciated. I simply won't be here tomorrow. So
16 item 12.C.1.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sandy, is that
19 -- you talked about the EA for collection of antlers?

20

21 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm sorry?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have you
24 under reports.

25

26 MR. RABINOWITCH: It appears there's a
27 new agenda that I didn't grab yet this morning.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
30 Yeah.

31

32 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thanks.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We just talked
35 last night and got some things changed here.

36

37 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. Thank you very
38 much.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there copies
41 for the public out there?

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: There were on the table,
44 yes.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. You guys
47 might pick some up, but there's.....

48

49 MR. RABINOWITCH: I have it now. Barb
50 gave me a copy, so thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Sounds
2 good. All right. I saw another hand.
3
4 MR. JAMES: Yes. David James for.....
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Come on up,
7 David. Did you say David?
8
9 MR. JAMES: Yes.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: David James?
12
13 MR. JAMES: David James.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I now know
16 three David James. Okay.
17
18 MR. JAMES: I'm the real one.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're the real
21 one.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good for you.
26 See the button on the front?
27
28 MR. JAMES: Oh, okay. I'd like to hear
29 on this agenda, I just glanced through it, but your
30 moose, Yukon Flats moose management plan, and it's just
31 the -- we had the Feds and the State and the working
32 group, the tribe, with part of it there.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you guys met
35 again?
36
37 MR. JAMES:15 years ago, and I'd
38 like to.....
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you guys
41 meet again?
42
43 MR. JAMES:know more about that,
44 what's going on, since 15 since last I'd been on this one
45 here.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
48 see now, that actually could come under what's on the
49 agenda here, and we'll just add it, and that would be --
50 where did I see tribal. Oh, that's consultation.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: 10.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: Number 8.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but
6 that's tribal consultations. 10. Yeah. Okay. That
7 will be under 10.C., and we'll just make a point --
8 Andrew might be able to give a report on that, because
9 he's on the committee.
10
11 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
12
13 MR. JAMES: And the other issue I would
14 like to talk more about is the Yukon River salmon
15 management plan, and mainly the.....
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's probably
18 going to come up under fisheries, but let's.....
19
20 MR. JAMES: Under fisheries.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:make sure
23 that we ask. I'm sure that comes up.
24
25 MR. JAMES: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Thank
28 you.
29
30 MR. JOHNSON: I'm not sure that the moose
31 management plan will fit in with the draft tribal
32 consultation policy discussion. That's just an overview
33 of the current status of the Fish and Wildlife and
34 Department of Interior consultation policy.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What is in
37 here?
38
39 MR. JOHNSON: So this would actually be,
40 if there's an opportunity for tribal governments to
41 consult with the Council on issues and concerns, that
42 would be where it would go.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that's
45 public testimony on 8?
46
47 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, that would make sense.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. C is
50 again a review of the tribal consultation policy. That

1 moose management plan might not fit in there. We've
2 always had a place for this kind of thing. Why don't we
3 just move it to agency reports and have it as the first
4 item there.

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: Why don't we put it under
7 Yukon Flats Refuge?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we can do
10 that, under the Yukon Flats Refuge. Okay. So that would
11 happen tomorrow, David.

12

13 Any others.

14

15 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.

18

19 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair. We
20 talked about the fact that there will be a number of
21 people who have traveled into town to give testimony on
22 the BLM issue, and it's slated for tomorrow. My request
23 would be that we could make sure that we do that in the
24 morning tomorrow rather than have it fall towards the end
25 of the day when people are tired and probably not as
26 willing to give it their full attention.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
29 good. Will you remind me if we get a little forgetful?
30 I call it senioritis. Okay. Tomorrow morning, and your
31 interest is Black River.

32

33 MR. MATESI: That's correct.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Sounds
36 good.

37

38 Anything else.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I want
43 to ask for unanimous consent on approving the agenda.
44 All in favor.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
49 you. Next is the election of officers. And I will turn
50 the Chair over to Carl Johnson, our acting coordinator.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. At this time I will call -- open nominations for
3 the position of Chair of the Eastern Interior Regional
4 Advisory Council. Mr. Bassich.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I would
7 like to nominate Sue Entsminger.
8
9 MR. MATESI: I'd like to second that.
10
11 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Nomination and
12 seconded for Sue as Chair for Eastern Interior Council.
13
14 Any other nominations.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move that nominations be
17 closed.
18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. There's a motion for
20 nominations to be closed for the position of Chair.
21
22 MR. ERHART: I'll second that.
23
24 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. The motion is
25 second. At this point in time then we'll just call --
26 we'll just do a voice vote here. All those in favor of
27 the motion for Chair of Sue Entsminger respond favorably
28 by saying aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Those opposed nay.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 MR. JOHNSON: Motion carries unanimously.
37 I will then turn the Chair back over to the new Chair.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
40 your support.
41
42 Okay. Now, the next is the Vice Chair.
43 The floor is open for nominations. Andy.
44
45 MR. BASSICH: I nominate Virgil
46 Umphenour.
47
48 MR. MATESI: And I will second that.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other

1 nominations.
2
3 MR. ERHART: I move that the nominations
4 be closed.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
7 second.
8
9 MR. BASSICH: Second.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
12 favor of the motion.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Virgil is
17 now the vice chair.
18
19 And now secretary.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to nominate Andrew
22 for another term as secretary.
23
24 MR. ERHART: Second.
25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move that nominations be
27 closed.
28
29 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
32
33 MR. BASSICH: Point of clarification.
34 Andrew Firmin.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: Oh, yes. Sorry.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MR. GLANZ: We have an Andy and an
41 Andrew.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought I
44 heard Andrew. Okay. All in favor.
45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. We
49 must be doing a good job. Welcome everyone. Okay.
50

1 Review of the minutes. I'm getting
2 tongue tied.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: I have something I'd like
5 to do real quickly before we go onto our minutes, if we
6 could. Just take a minute.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: As our new Chair, I have
11 something to help you with the meeting here.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I don't have
14 to do this.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Check it out.
19 It even has an eagle.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: You didn't pick that up
22 on the Federal ground, did you?
23
24 MR. BASSICH: So this is kind of a little
25 item to help Sue conduct business during our meeting here
26 and keep order.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There are times
29 you need that.
30
31 MR. BASSICH: And then also it reflects
32 on item 8.D, in our agenda. And the item that you have
33 there as a gavel is completely made up of, well, moose
34 antler carved as an eagle head, leg bone of a wolf,
35 capped with a caribou.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's cool.
38
39 MR. BASSICH: It's got lynx, bear, raven
40 claws, king salmon shell -- or backbone I should say, and
41 some bison horn. So that's to be carried from Chair to
42 Chair to Chair over the next few years.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It must be a
45 fake raven claw.
46
47 MR. BASSICH: No, that's real.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wouldn't
50 admit to that.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. BASSICH: They do die and they do lay
4 in the woods.
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
8 right. We won't go into that. Thank you so much. That
9 is precious. I'll cherish that the rest of my life. I
10 love it. Thank you. And that is the kind of thing that
11 we should be allowed to do.
12
13 All right. We'll go into approving the
14 minutes. Has anyone had a chance to review them. Andy.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: Yes, I did review the
17 minutes, and I think they are acceptable as presented to
18 us. I didn't find any glaring omissions. So I move to
19 accept the minutes as presented to us.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second, do I
22 hear. Was that you? Did you second?
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I wasn't really
25 paying attention, because I was looking at.....
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second the
28 minutes, please.
29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: To accept the minutes?
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. He made
33 a motion and I need a second.
34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll second it.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
38 have a question.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. Well, on Page 14
41 I think there's a mistake, and it would be the second
42 paragraph, the fourth line down, it says Nebesna and
43 Tanana.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. It's
46 Tanacross.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. That's the only
49 thing I found in the minutes, because I read them real
50 good this morning early, that I think was maybe an error.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Spell check
2 error. Yes, that's important. Did anyone see anything
3 else. Okay.

4
5 Are you going to call for the questions
6 or do you want me to.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Question,

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
11 favor.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the
16 amendment of Tanacross. Okay. Thank you.

17
18 Next. First, Council member reports and
19 concerns. Let's go around the table and we'll start so
20 you can see how this works. You get to speak to your
21 concerns in your area. And we'll start with Bill.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: The main concern I have is I
24 still haven't got my per diem from the last meeting in
25 October.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. GLANZ: I'm not kidding. Anyway,
30 well, we tried to have a couple of meetings with the Park
31 Service, Yukon-Charley this last winter. So far we still
32 haven't made it. Had two set up and they canceled both
33 due to the road conditions. It says hazardous. It's
34 hazardous, but like yesterday, I get through. You just
35 have to suck up right behind a blower and follow them
36 across the two mountains. Anyhow, that.

37
38 And we did have one incident with Jim
39 Wildes. He was fined 2,000, but he was having breakfast
40 at Slater's (ph) with some rangers, and there's a
41 Hispanic ranger. She insisted that he show his fishing
42 license while he was having breakfast, and she's, I want
43 to see it now. And he's, well, it's in my wallet. And,
44 well, the funny part of it is, is Federal subsistence on
45 Federal waters do not have to have a fishing license. So
46 she was trying to -- I wish it -- I told Jim, I would
47 have shown her my driver's license, so when they arrest
48 me, when I get in front of the Federal magistrate and
49 say, excuse me, here's the law, Your Honor, and make them
50 look like a fool. But we'll see.

1 And also we had quite a few meetings on
2 this Fortymile Caribou Herd that we have this paperwork
3 on. We put a lot of work into this. There's five
4 coalitions that surround the Fortymile herd, so I sure
5 would appreciate you guys' support of that while we're
6 here at this.

7
8 And then Joe showed me yesterday a big
9 thing with the BLM paperwork, and I thought our position
10 here was to manage fish and wildlife for the harvest.
11 Well, how are we involved with properties, which I, you
12 know, support totally what he wants to do with it. But
13 I fail to see where we have anything to do with it.
14 Anyway. So maybe we can get those questions answered as
15 we go along. Am I the only one that feels that we really
16 should not get involved with me making decisions for the
17 whole area around Central. There's Circle, Circle Hot
18 Springs, almost all the way to Chatanika. So that's one
19 of my main concerns.

20
21 Thank you all.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'd like
24 to put that as to be addressed. Okay.

25
26 Go ahead, Larry.

27
28 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 The main concern that I have is I support the whole --
30 the area that I represent, is what David James, Mr. James
31 brought up about the lack of fish in the Upper Yukon.
32 Recently the Yukon Flats advisory meeting in Fort Yukon,
33 which I'm the chairman on, and that was our main topic of
34 concern, that there was a lack of fish up there, and that
35 people are not getting their fair share. Right now I
36 don't know what their fair share is, but the fish is not
37 being managed for the people, which it should be. And
38 people are quite -- getting quite upset in Upper Yukon.
39 And that's one of the main concerns that was brought out.

40
41 And there's going to be a meeting this
42 coming Saturday, correct me if I'm wrong, Andrew, about
43 that for the Board of Fish. And if I'm here this
44 Saturday, I think I probably will be, but I'm going to
45 attend that and see what comes down. We have a
46 representative which we appointed from Yukon Flats
47 Advisory, and he's going to be there, but we need more
48 voices from the Upper Yukon to speak up and voice their
49 concerns. And I'll -- I'm sure Mr. James will be there
50 and voice her concerns about the fish.

1 And there's another concern about -- that
2 Mr. James also brought out, about the lack of action on
3 the moose management. It's been 15 years. I was in on
4 the ground floor on that, too, and I haven't been -- done
5 anything, just having meetings, but I'm sure that will be
6 addressed.

7
8 And there's other -- it's not a concern
9 really, just something that I'm glad about, this large
10 caribou in Venetie and Arctic Village. People are living
11 off the fat of our land so to speak.

12
13 Thank you very much.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Lester.

16
17 MR. ERHART: I don't really have
18 anything, but we'll take some of them caribou in Tanana.

19
20 (Laughter.)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 A couple of different concerns, and a lot of them are
26 repeats from many, many years.

27
28 Chinook salmon on the Yukon River
29 concerns me greatly, and I know there's a lot of work
30 being done in a lot of different areas. And I think
31 we're starting to make some progress on that, but
32 sometimes it's a little frustrating to read back over
33 some of the history and realize that we've been working
34 on this issue for well over 10 years, almost 12 year.
35 And in some respects we're making a lot of progress, but
36 in others we're not. And I really think it's important
37 for Council members to go back to their regions and
38 encourage people to be involved, and also to make sure
39 that because of the restrictions that are in place with
40 fishing these days, people have to be a lot more diligent
41 about being ready to fish when the openings are
42 happening. And it's kind of new to people in the upper
43 river to have to deal -- do that, but I think that's what
44 they're going to have to do to be able to make it in the
45 new world of fishing on the Yukon River for Chinook
46 salmon.

47
48 Also, as far as fisheries go, I'm more
49 and more frustrated and concerned about hatchery
50 production. I think we've been talking about this for

1 well over a decade as well. I know Virgil brings it up
2 all the time, too, and I think that it has far-reaching
3 implications as to why all the stocks in Alaska and
4 Western Alaska are not doing very well. And I really
5 think some resources needs to be put towards trying to
6 understand the implications and the impacts of hatchery
7 productions on wild stocks -- or, I'm sorry, out in the
8 marine environment. I really think that this is an
9 underlying issue that's causing some of our problems. So
10 I really would like to discuss this as a Council at some
11 point in time, and I'd really like to see OSM put some
12 time and energy in -- into trying to do some research or
13 at least do a search for any research that's been done on
14 that, because I think it's not only affecting the Yukon
15 River, but I think it's fish -- affecting all the
16 fisheries that subsistence people and commercial people
17 are dependent upon in Alaska.

18
19 And like Bill, I want everybody to
20 support the Fortymile plan. A lot of work's been done on
21 this. It's a very good document, and I think it's a very
22 fair document for all involved.

23
24 And I think that's about it. Thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

27
28 MR. FIRMIN: A few. I got to travel to
29 Galena with Lester for the YRDFA's annual meeting. And
30 that was pretty interesting and a good turn out. One of
31 the resolutions passed that addressed our area was going
32 to the Goldrich, the mining companies that are mining in
33 the upper Chandalar, and I think it wasn't like anything
34 against them. It was just don't ruin our habitat, and
35 we're watching you kind of thing. So I think that was a
36 step in the right direction on that forum.

37
38 Some of our other concerns would be our
39 upcoming Board of Game meeting. They have -- and our
40 proposals that are going there. I think all the ones
41 that we put forth at our last meeting got passed at the
42 Federal Subsistence Board, and now they're before the
43 Board of Game. And I think we may have to review some of
44 those, but some of those proposals also stem from the
45 Yukon Flats moose management meeting and that forum. And
46 that was where some of them addressed the trespass issues
47 and, you know, just the moose management issues. And
48 hopefully some of those get passed through the Board of
49 Game also in that forum.

50

1 I think this upcoming fishing season,
2 hopefully it will be another successful one for
3 everybody, and we get to meet our escapement again.

4
5 And I also agree with Andy on the
6 hatchery production, and there's always -- as soon as we
7 tackle one issue, there's always another one right behind
8 it that needs more research or more study and there's --
9 the coffers only so big and there's only so many
10 researchers to go around for each issue, but hopefully we
11 can tackle the next one.

12
13 And also, with the upcoming Board of Fish
14 proposals open, I don't know, I'm open to suggestions
15 from any other outside sources if they have anything that
16 they want to bring up that we could think of and try to
17 get together before the end of the meeting.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, three of us
24 attended that king salmon meeting, so we were well
25 represented. Andy, myself and Andrew. But -- so when
26 the -- we come up to the call for proposals for the
27 State, I've got several proposals or issues I would like
28 for us to discuss.

29
30 And that hatchery competition, it's
31 really frustrating to me, because the promise was made in
32 the late 90s, whenever, there was a proposal before the
33 Board of Fisheries to reduce hatchery production in
34 Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound. A number of
35 promises were made about research that was going to be
36 done, and that never did get done, or never got
37 completed. And part of it was on the Federal side of the
38 house that made promises to analyze, and they said it was
39 going to take about 10 years. Well, it's way past 10
40 years now, to analyze what the effects of that hatchery
41 salmon were on the wild stocks in the marine environment
42 as far as overgrazing and all the overgrazing issues.
43 Well, that never got done. And that really aggravates
44 me.

45
46 And you read these books, two books he
47 wrote, this professor out of the University of
48 Washington. He wrote the one, Salmon, King of Fish, and
49 then he wrote this one called Dirt. I don't know how
50 many people have read it. Montgomery. But you read

1 about the history of what's happened with salmon
2 throughout the world since man has been harvesting salmon
3 commercially, and it just is really frustrating to see us
4 just repeat history time after time again and never learn
5 from history. If generals acted like that, we'd really
6 be in trouble. So that's really a big concern of mine.

7
8

9 Something maybe on the positive note, I
10 don't know how the money's going to be used or anything,
11 but I know that there was over \$100,000 raised and --
12 through Governor -- the Governor's tag process that the
13 State has where they auction off hunts. They're special
14 tags. And the money is supposed to go -- this coming
15 year it was supposed to go to predator management. I
16 know I'm going to take a guy hunting and the State's --
17 or Wildlife Conservation Division's getting 22,000 for
18 that hunt that I'm going to donate for free for moose,
19 but I'm going to keep track of exactly what happens
20 there, because I want that money to be spent in a
21 meaningful manner for predator management. And maybe
22 some of that can help the Yukon Flats predator issue.

23
24

 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25
26

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.

27
28

 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 One of my concerns that I'm hoping we can look at little
30 bit this meeting is on the issue of tribal consultation.
31 I've actually been cheered with some of the developments
32 that have happened recently. The appointment of two
33 public members to the Board. And I thought the
34 discussion and the vote during the last Board meeting on
35 the Red Sheep Creek issue was a real good step in the
36 right direction, especially some of the comments made by
37 the director of Fish and Wildlife Service.

38
39

 However, I think that we still have a
40 long ways to go on that. I noticed that there still is
41 no tribal -- there's nobody filling the position of
42 tribal liaison. I'm wondering why and when they will
43 start to even advertise for that position.

44
45

 Another concern I have that I'm pretty
46 sure we'll end up addressing is this recent release from
47 BLM of a draft management plan for four subunits, all of
48 them in our area. It has the effect -- it's going to
49 affect subsistence users and subsistence resources
50 potentially profoundly over the life of the plan, which

1 is at least 20 years. And I feel that at least my role
2 on this Council is to represent subsistence users and to
3 look out for and in fact advocate for the interests of
4 subsistence users. So I'm looking forward to having some
5 discussion on that issue and seeing what we can do to
6 support the people that we're here representing.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
11 Isaac.

12

13 MR. JUNEBY: I -- since this is my first
14 meeting, and just now getting into the roles of board
15 members, I would just like to say that I have worked on
16 different organizations within the Fortymile, the Alaska
17 Department of Fish and Game, and other resource areas
18 that I think are similar to some of the tasks that we do.
19 And I have served on a couple committees with Andy there,
20 too, so he can keep a close -- close call on me. But I
21 just wanted to say that I believe that I know the roles
22 and duties of officers, and that I will adhere to the
23 betterment of the non-subsistence and the subsistence
24 users in the rural areas.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank Isaac.
29 What we try to do at this point then is to -- if you have
30 concerns in your communities or in your area, you would
31 try to identify them, so if -- did you have anything, a
32 concern at all for your area?

33

34 MR. JUNEBY: Not, not -- not at the time.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So this
37 is the kind of thing that we try to do at this time. So
38 appreciate it.

39

40 Let me take a look at this. I just think
41 it might be wise when something comes up -- Bill, your
42 concern. What was your concern about land status and not
43 taking up stuff?

44

45 MR. GLANZ: No, it's just what Joe was
46 talking about there, that the BLM -- there's a book about
47 that thick, the reduction paper at, and it's -- it has to
48 do with -- okay. they came in there in '08 in Central
49 and they said, so what would you guys like to see done
50 around here, stuff like that. And we said, oh, we'd like

1 to have this done or that done. And what it is, there's
2 going to be four -- I should have Joe explain this.
3 There's four different things.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I think
6 what I was getting at is were -- were you concerned that
7 we should not take up some of these issues, but.....

8
9 MR. GLANZ: No. No, I was -- I agree we
10 should take them up, but we -- I thought we was just in
11 here for the subsistence fish and wildlife. I don't know
12 anything about properties, and I don't know how I can
13 make a decision for what I might believe in. In other
14 words, we've got until June to make all the comments on
15 this program.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's a
18 frustration you have, or you are saying.....

19
20 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, but I don't even know
21 what -- what the program is. I mean, Joe tried to
22 explain it to me last night, and we're going to be -- are
23 you following me? I hope I'm not confusing everybody.

24
25 Joe, will you take over from here?

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we don't
30 need to get into the subject matter.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What we are --
35 what we're talking about is what we as a Council should
36 be taking up, and.....

37
38 MR. GLANZ: Well.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I thought
41 I heard you say that there's things that we should not be
42 taking up. That.....

43
44 MR. GLANZ: Well, I would assume.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:was what
47 I thought.....

48
49 MR. GLANZ: I would assume that land
50 management is -- is what I was talking about.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you don't
2 think we should be taking up land management?
3
4 MR. GLANZ: Well, we -- we're going to
5 have. We're the only comment we're to get on the
6 program. That -- to me, that should be a referendum
7 vote, doing election if people can vote in their area as
8 to what they would to see. It would be like being Fort
9 -- North Star Borough annexing Fort Yukon. People at
10 Fort Yukon should have a vote in that I would assume, or
11 what -- you know.....
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But
14 what I wanted to explain to you is how I think we've
15 always done it as a Council is if we feel something's
16 happening on Federal land that affects subsistence, if
17 it's -- has something to do with, you know, land
18 management, then we end up taking it up and giving an
19 opinion on it.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: I would agree with that, and
22 I understand that.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
25
26 MR. GLANZ: But it just.....
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
29 That's what I was confused.....
30
31 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. But throwing it all on
32 just individual, Eastern and Western Interior and stuff
33 like that is the only.....
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
36
37 MR. GLANZ:one's that's going to
38 comment, my goodness. Of course, you know.....
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that.....
41
42 MR. GLANZ:what we're going to
43 vote. We want more fish, we want more wildlife, you
44 know.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that
47 leads into my concerns as -- There -- it just seems to me
48 that the Federal Government has taken on all kinds of
49 projects all at once right now. They're doing EAs,
50 EIS's, everything under the sun, plan this and plan that,

1 and they're all, like you said, thick things, and, you
2 know, you just wonder if it's job security for someone
3 some days, because -- but right now, as a public
4 volunteer to try to keep up on what's going on that
5 affects our lives is almost two full-time jobs. And I
6 find myself having to prioritize what I work on, and it
7 becomes extremely frustrating. And it just -- to me, I
8 mean, there's -- every time you ask to do something that
9 seems simple, it has to be an EIS or an EA or something
10 like that, so it becomes very, very frustrating to try to
11 keep up on things.

12
13 And so -- and, you know, and you look at
14 the two systems that we have, I find that very
15 frustrating, too, because if you're living in an area
16 that's all federal land, then you kind of get a handle on
17 what's going on. But if you live in an area like in my
18 area where it's -- it's checker boarded, and there's
19 Federal land here and State land here, and then it's
20 checker boarded here and there, you find yourself
21 wondering -- again prioritizing your time and trying to
22 figure out what you can and can't do with all the
23 regulations. This is just the book from the Federal
24 Subsistence Board meeting. So it.....

25
26 MR. GLANZ: I -- you know, like I say,
27 mean it's just frustrating not knowing what I'm even
28 voting on. I mean, not having a chance to study it, or
29 -- like Joe said the other day, he got that three days
30 before the meeting or something, the whole big box of
31 stuff.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you have
34 to appreciate somebody that takes the time to read it all
35 very much. And that's what we have to rely on. If
36 you're uncomfortable voting on something, you have to say
37 so. And if you feel that we shouldn't be taking up, we
38 can take it up whenever we get to that subject.

39
40 But, you know, as the Chair, you know,
41 it's difficult. You have so much that comes down on your
42 back, decisions to make like the agenda and everybody
43 wants to talk to you about this and that and the other
44 thing, and then you're constantly looking at things every
45 day, and I believe you guys are, too, that's coming in
46 your email or whatever.

47
48 But, anyway, getting on, these are the
49 types of concerns that we all have and we -- if our
50 government can help us, that would be wonderful, but I

1 feel like we've got so many rules and regulations any
2 more, it's hard to simplify things.

3

4 Okay. I'm going to go into the Chair's
5 report. I kind of told you a little bit.

6

7 I've been to several meetings. I went to
8 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in January. I've
9 been to the SRC for the Wrangell Park, met on Monday, an
10 all day meeting in Slana, and we took up something like
11 we're -- you're talking about. It's the environmental
12 assessment on shed horns and antlers. And -- well, we
13 can get into that later, but the Wrangell-St. Elias
14 Resource Commission ended up voting on the least amount
15 of paperwork.

16

17 So -- and then I'm going to go into the
18 .805(c) report. It's what the Federal Board did, and my
19 coordinator has a handy-dandy cheat sheet, but I -- most
20 of you probably know, or did you guys -- Andy, you sat on
21 line for quite a while, yeah, and listening to the
22 Federal Board. I don't know if you guys all know that,
23 but you can do that.

24

25 MR. MATEESI: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Go ahead,
28 Joe.

29

30 MR. MATEESI: Thank you for the
31 interruption, but now that you brought that up, I have a
32 question on that, because I went on line and listened.
33 And then I called some people in Arctic Village, and they
34 were going to call in, and every time that they called
35 in, they wanted to testify, the operator would answer and
36 say, okay, you are listen only, click. And they weren't
37 able to testify.

38

39 So I notice on this meeting there is a
40 number and a pass code, and how exactly is that going to
41 work? When people call in, will they be able to testify,
42 or are they going to be listening in only?

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. It's up
45 to 20 participants, and it's a slightly different system
46 than the Federal Board. It's not managed by an operator,
47 so it's completely open. So if there's somebody on line,
48 typically all we're going to do is just ask if someone is
49 on line and then they can respond immediately.

50

1 MR. MATESI: When you say on.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we get a
4 bell.....
5
6 MR. MATESI:line, you mean on the
7 phone?
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We get a little
10 bell that somebody comes on line.
11
12 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, actually there was
13 just a little beep just a second ago indicating somebody
14 came on line.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't hear
17 it.
18
19 MR. MATESI: You mean the phone
20 (indiscernible, mic not on).....
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't hear
23 it.
24
25 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, it's -- the phone's
26 right over there. It's open, the speaker's on,
27 conference is open, so we should be able to, if
28 somebody's on line, we'll be able to speak directly with
29 them, and they can respond.
30
31 MR. MATESI: Okay. Thank you.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So on the
34 Federal side, is it really listen only then? I mean if
35 it were Board?
36
37 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I do know that there
38 were people who did speak through the teleconference line
39 at the Board meeting, so I don't know why some people
40 would have dialed in and been told that they were listen
41 only. I'll have to inquire about that and make sure that
42 we don't have that problem next time.
43
44 MR. MATESI: Thank you, I.....
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
47 think.....
48
49 MR. MATESI:appreciate that.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:what might
2 have happened is that's just a recording from the
3 teleconference system, and they're listen on and then
4 they get called on. The -- this -- the people, because
5 when I called in, they -- they said, yeah, well, just
6 keep listening, and then they might call on you, and
7 that's what happened. So I don't know how it works, but
8 that's how it worked for you, wasn't it? Yeah. But
9 we're Council people, so I don't know if they have -- if
10 public gets it differently.

11
12 Go ahead.

13
14 MR. FIRMIN: I got kicked off line a few
15 times and I ended up doing on the phone and online at --
16 both there for a while, and like when something was
17 coming up that I wanted to speak to or -- I would call
18 in, and then I think after you left, they asked me to
19 talk to something while you were gone.....

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN:between -- between
24 phones there -- between the meeting and the phone. So
25 that was another -- I think they were having some
26 technical issues there, because they did the same thing
27 to me, too, for a while. And then I think it just goes
28 back to where you have to sit there long enough to say,
29 does anybody else have public comments.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

32
33 MR. FIRMIN: And then they'll call on
34 people that are on -- on the teleconference.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then I
37 think somebody in Anchorage knows who's on. They're
38 always checking it.

39
40 Any rate, to continue the report, I ended
41 up going down to the meeting and Eastern Interior
42 proposals were second after statewide. So I had the
43 chance to get our, all of our stuff finished except the
44 cross-over proposals, and then Andrew was -- I didn't
45 even realize he was on, but then I found out he was on.
46 I had left after like two days and this was scheduled for
47 five, or three or four, I can't remember, but it was more
48 time than I could stay in Anchorage for to wait for the
49 two cross-over proposals that we had.

50

1 But I'm looking at mine, and, see, I have
2 most of our proposals passed I'm pretty sure. Yeah.
3 Let's see. The brown bear in 25D was a four to one
4 modified, two bear.

5
6 The 12 25 caribou I have -- well, let's
7 see now. That would probably by the Fortymile. It was
8 passed by five-zero. The Chair couldn't get in for that
9 first day, because of weather, flying out of Kotzebue, so
10 there was only five voting at that time.

11
12 The 68 was the C&T for Chistochina. That
13 passed five-zero.

14
15 And the 69, I want to see what you have
16 there on 69. that was the Chisana Caribou?

17
18 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, they didn't even vote
19 on it, they just moved it to the consensus agenda. So
20 that was approved.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
23 not the one then.

24
25 MR. JOHNSON: 12-69? Yeah. 25, C&T for
26 caribou.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
29 the one I.....

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 25D. What did
34 we do in 25D, you guys. That one also -- oh, it was on
35 the consent event -- agenda, so it passed.

36
37 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the Unit 12
40 moose, the Unit 20E moose, the 25A sheep, that was the --
41 yeah. All of those passed six-zero. There were
42 modifications on the two moose proposals.

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So -- and then
47 there was two caribou proposals in 11 and 13 to open the
48 Mentasta caribou. They -- those failed.

49
50 And then there was an elders' sheep hunt.

1 Both of those passed the way we had voted for them.
2
3 So we did pretty good. I've been to
4 Federal Board meetings where we never did that well, so
5 we did really good getting things passed.
6
7 So any questions.
8
9 MR. GLANZ: I have one. I have one.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.
12
13 MR. GLANZ: That Red Sheep hunt, that was
14 closed by the State, not by us, the -- it wasn't -- it
15 was closed by us?
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, the Federal
18 Board had a proposal, and it was closed on the Federal
19 Board to the -- just subsistence use.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: Well, I.....
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It had been
24 opened, but.....
25
26 MR. GLANZ: It.....
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:it had
29 been opened, what, four years ago? Something like that.
30
31 MR. GLANZ: Yes. And then it was
32 closed.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Then it came up
35 again and it fail -- it's now closed again to.....
36
37 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:non-
40 subsistence.
41
42 MR. GLANZ: So it's -- OSM closed the
43 sheep hunt, not -- I thought the State has closed that
44 over the years. No, we had closed it. Or not we, I
45 never voted on it. Yeah.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Federal
48 Board closed it to non-subsistence. It's open to
49 subsistence.
50

1 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay. Yeah. Okay.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
4
5 MR. GLANZ: All right. I was under the
6 wrong impression on that.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Andrew.
9
10 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you. It was closed to
11 -- it was closed back to now it's only open to residents
12 of Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Birch -- or Arctic and
13 Venetie I believe, and Kaktovik. And those are the
14 residents, immediate residents. So it's open to the --
15 on the Federal side, and the State -- there's a State
16 proposal into the Board of Game starting Friday.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
19 other questions.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: I've got two.....
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
24 one? Go ahead.
25
26 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
29
30 MR. FIRMIN: The two moose proposals that
31 you said were modified, those were the -- which two were
32 those?
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They usually --
35 one of them was modified just on the permit and how --
36 what permit you had to get, but it was I think 12 and
37 25D. Let me look again. Yeah, 20E. 12 and 20E.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. It was
42 just minor changes and it -- that they had to do. I
43 think it had all to do with if it was going to be a
44 Federal permit or a State permit or a joint
45 State/Federal.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: I have one more, Madame
48 Chair. It was 25 -- Fortymile Caribou Herd, is that the
49 one they put two modifications in or not?
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That thing went
2 on the consent agenda I believe, so whatever -- nothing
3 was changed. Everybody agreed on the same language.
4
5 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Thank you.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-huh.
8 It's kind of a neat way they do it, you know, like a
9 State board takes up every proposal, but everybody
10 agrees, they put it on the consent agenda and all of
11 those pass under one lump and it gets the job done pretty
12 fast.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Good. All right.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
17 Next on the agenda is a report on the Park Service
18 environmental assessment on collection of horns and
19 antlers. Sandy.
20
21 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. Point of
22 order.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question. Just
25 one second. Yes. Point of order.
26
27 MR. MATESI: That may be the wrong thing
28 to say.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a pretty
33 good one.
34
35 MR. MATESI: It sounded fancy, so I.....
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
38
39 MR. MATESI: But I notice that we have
40 some members of the public that are waiting to testify.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yes. I --
43 that's something I always try to do. If there's people
44 here from the public that don't have time to stay all
45 day, I -- we are open for public testimony, and if we
46 fail to do that, I apologize. Just raise your hand.
47 And I have two here now. Marilyn Savage,
48
49 MS. SAVAGE: Yes.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Marilyn, would
2 you like to testify now?

3

4 MS. SAVAGE: Yeah.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Come on
7 up and push the button and tell us who you are and go
8 ahead.

9

10 MS. SAVAGE: This one. Uh-huh. I have
11 a granddaughter waiting at home for me. I'm babysitting.

12

13 My name is Marilyn Savage and I'm born
14 and raised in Fort Yukon. I live in Fairbanks during the
15 winter school months for my four grandchildren I'm
16 raising. I adopted. Several of them have health issues
17 that need to -- that's why we live in Fairbanks. But my
18 home and heart is in Fort Yukon where I was raised, and
19 I go back for fishing and hunting. That's my home.

20

21 The reason I wanted to testify was this
22 BLM fat book you're talking about that you're supposed to
23 read overnight. I'm opposed to that, and -- because my
24 people are not all well read, especially the elders that
25 need to know what's happening with their land and their
26 culture, their food chain.

27

28 And I want to support alternative B on
29 the Black River. That's the -- that's our basin of food
30 supply that begins there, the salmon, the fish, all kinds
31 of different fish. And my mother was born in
32 Chalkyitsik, and she grew up in the trapline around there
33 with her father and my grandfather.

34

35 I wanted to explain to you why I think
36 this is important to keep it protected, is because I have
37 four grandchildren, and I was brought up on the land, and
38 I really have great respect for my culture, my elders.
39 And also to bring up the fact that my elders taught me
40 the basics, how to live off the land, and it was always
41 about getting on the river, of get up, make fish camp, go
42 hunting, make moose skins, tan them, and we used to do
43 all of that a lot. And now it's only as money and time
44 and now we have regulations against us.

45

46 And last summer our fishing was very
47 poor. I was very sad that -- to spend all that money to
48 go fishing and my brothers would put in the fish net and
49 they only -- we only got four king salmon in -- for the
50 whole entire summer. Year. And when my brother sat down

1 after he took the net out, it's his -- he said, what now?
2 I mean, that's very sad, that we have a large family. I
3 mean, there's 13 of us in the family and we all have kids
4 and grandkids.

5
6 And so that really bothers me that we
7 have to just take whatever little four fish, and to be
8 regulated like that. And I have grandkids that only eat
9 moose meat and fish. This one I have -- I'm babysitting
10 now is a moose eater, and she doesn't like any other
11 meat.

12
13 So I'm concerned that nobody -- I mean,
14 I'm fighting for my grandkids when it comes to hearings
15 and when it comes to being regulated, and I want to give
16 them a culture that they can always rely on. They can't
17 always rely on food stamps or always rely on a job, but
18 they can always live off the land. And that's what's
19 important to me.

20
21 My late uncle, Jonathon Solomon, worked
22 hard for our people in Washington and in Fort Yukon and
23 in the State to always respect the land where animals
24 will always come back and feed us.

25
26 So with that, I would like to say protect
27 Black River. I don't want to see any oil drilling or
28 mining or anything that will disturb the habitat of that
29 area. So I want my grandkids to drive up the -- those
30 rivers in a boat and do their camping and hunting and
31 eating.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Any
36 questions. Andy.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you for that
39 testimony, Marilyn. I think she drives home the point of
40 how important subsistence resources is to people out --
41 especially the more remote you are. It's vital to the
42 existence.

43
44 And I really want to thank you for
45 bringing the point up that we have to teach the young
46 people how do to this, because economic times are
47 changing, and I think in the future the dependence on the
48 resource is going to be even greater than it is now for
49 the survivability of rural -- remote rural residence.
50 We're losing that very quickly.

1 I did have a question for you on your
2 fishing. Do you do that up on the Black River or is that
3 what -- done on the Yukon River for king salmon?

4
5 MS. SAVAGE: On the Yukon, and then we
6 went up the river. We get whitefish and different kind
7 of fish up the Porcupine and Black River.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. And.....

10
11 MS. SAVAGE: My brothers did.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: And if I can follow up, do
14 you do any fall chum fishing for human consumption at
15 all?

16
17 MS. SAVAGE: Yes.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you.

20
21 MS. SAVAGE: Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
24 you, Marilyn.

25
26 Next is Julia, I don't know if I can
27 pronounce it, Mahler. Mahler. Julia.

28
29 MS. MAHLER: Hi. I'm not used to this.
30 But anyway I.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But that's
33 good.

34
35 MS. MAHLER: I live on the Black River,
36 Salmon River, where they're talking about, you know,
37 opening this up. And I don't think that's a good idea,
38 because I take children up there, you know, boatload.
39 You know, and that's going to ruin a lot of fish, a lot
40 of -- the water is clean there. It's adventurous, it's
41 beautiful. And why would they want to destroy it? You
42 know, it's something I live. You know, we -- that's
43 where -- that's where I live, an that's where I take my
44 family. And there's a lot of friends that do go up there
45 and spend time up there and use that land. And it's, you
46 know -- and I do fish, and there is fish up there.

47
48 And it's -- you know, it's something that
49 I would like for you guys to not -- you know, to support
50 this subsistence, because there's a lot of people do go

1 up there and use that land for good.
2
3 I don't know what else to say, but, you
4 know, I just ask you guys to, you know, support it for
5 subsistence.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hold on. Any
8 questions. Bill.
9
10 MR. GLANZ: Okay. So you vote -- vote
11 like Marilyn voted and in favor of maintaining it
12 pristine like that?
13
14 MS. MAHLER: Yes. Yes.
15
16 MR. GLANZ: Okay. That's -- you said
17 opposed; I didn't understand what you were -- okay. No
18 problem.
19
20 MS. MAHLER: No, I -- oh, did I? I'm
21 sorry. All right.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, did you
24 have a question.
25
26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I did. Could you
27 elaborate maybe a little more specifically on how you
28 think opening up would impact the people that.....
29
30 MS. MAHLER: Well, the very.....
31
32 MR. BASSICH: that rely on it?
33
34 MS. MAHLER: I live up there, okey, and
35 there's a lot of family that come up there, hunt, and
36 they do fish on the Black River. They do get fish out of
37 there. And there's salmon, there's whitefish, sheefish,
38 you know, pike, all kind of grayling. And it's, you know
39 -- and it's all something we use. And there are family
40 that go up there to do their hunting and use that
41 resource. Fur. I trap.....
42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. So what.....
44
45 MS. MAHLER:and that's my income.
46
47 MR. BASSICH: Are you saying that then
48 you feel by opening this up, it's going to have an
49 ad.....
50

1 MS. MAHLER: It's going to ruin.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: It's going to.....
4
5 MS. MAHLER: It's.....
6
7 MR. BASSICH:affect the resources
8 to the point where they won't be available for the people
9 that are going up there?
10
11 MS. MAHLER: Yeah, it will.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Okay. That's what I wanted
14 to get on the record. Madame Chair.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
17 questions.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I have one.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.
22
23 MR. GLANZ: Are you living on the Salmon
24 Fork?
25
26 MS. MAHLER: Yes.
27
28 MR. GLANZ: I thought I recognize you.
29 Okay.
30
31 MS. MAHLER: I live there year round.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One more. Joe.
34 Actually two more. I have one.
35
36 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 Yeah. Hi, Julie.
38
39 MS. MAHLER: Hi.
40
41 MR. MATESI: Thank you for showing up
42 today. I know that you live there year around, because
43 I know you grow a garden that everybody else is really
44 jealous of. I know my wife is jealous of your garden.
45
46 So that means you're there in July. Do
47 you see king salmon in the river? Do you see them
48 spawning?
49
50 MS. MAHLER: Yeah. Reds.

1 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
2
3 MS. MAHLER: Reds. Uh-huh. King.
4
5 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
6
7 MS. MAHLER: Very few, but we do get them
8 up in there.
9
10 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
11
12 MS. MAHLER: Nice spawn up in there,
13 so.....
14
15 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh. Okay. Thank you.
16 That's very, very important that.....
17
18 MS. MAHLER: Okay.
19
20 MR. MATESI:we should know that.
21 Thank you for that.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I have
24 one. My Eskimo grandma, Eddie Smith, she spent a lot of
25 her days on the Black River. She told me many, many
26 stories. She settled near where I live in Mentasta Pass.
27 Did you know her?
28
29 MS. MAHLER: No.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.
32
33 MS. MAHLER: I don't know too many
34 people, especially when you live out in the woods.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But she's --
37 she lived in Wiseman, and she traveled and trapped and
38 hunted on the Black River probably in the 30s I think.
39
40 MS. MAHLER: Maybe my mom and.....
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
43
44 MS. MAHLER:dad knew her.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
47 All right. Well, thank you.
48
49 MS. MAHLER: Thank you.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
2 questions of Julia.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
7 Julia.

8
9 Okay. Now it's your turn, Sandy. Sorry
10 about forgetting.

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning, Madame
13 Chair. My name is Sandy Rabinowitch. I'm with the
14 National Park Service. Some of you I've known for a long
15 time and others of you I haven't. So for those that are
16 new, good morning. New to me, good morning.

17
18 I sit at this table in a couple of
19 capacities over time. One of them is that I serve as a
20 Staff Committee member for the Park Service to the
21 Federal Board. But today I'm really just here
22 representing the Park Service.f

23
24 All of you should have gotten in the mail
25 some number of weeks ago a plump document. I don't know
26 if this one gets up to fat, because I haven't seen the
27 other one there, but this one's plump for sure. But it
28 looks like this, and I -- and if anyone hasn't gotten one
29 of these, if you'll let me know, and I'll make sure that
30 you do get it if you want it. So that's what I'm here to
31 talk about today,

32
33 And in your Council books, if you turn to
34 Page 48, I'm going to walk you through what's in your
35 Council book. And often these reports are pretty short.
36 This report's going to be kind of plump, a little -- a
37 little longer than usual, but I'll try to keep it to
38 about 10 or 15 minutes, and then see what questions you
39 have. So again Page 48 in your book will get us to the
40 right place.

41
42 So the reason I'm sitting here today is
43 because a number of years ago this Council and the Gates
44 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission made a
45 couple of requests to the National Park Service. So
46 we're not exactly quick at getting back to you, but here
47 I am. We're back. Okay. So that's the good part.

48
49 The simplest way to summarize what I'm
50 going to talk about is a goal to liberalize regulations

1 on Park Service land.

2

3 And, Madame Chairman, I don't know if --
4 I just heard the phone beep, so someone came in there,
5 just to point that out to you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just -- we
8 heard the phone beep. Who is on line?

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: They may not be able to
11 hear you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Is someone
14 on line? On the teleconference?

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Maybe if you could ask,
17 Sandy, since you're the closest.

18

19 MR. RABINOWITCH: Is there someone who
20 just came on line, please.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It also beeps
23 when people go off line, so -- all right. I didn't hear
24 the first one. That might have been an in and out.
25 Okay. You're going to check on that? What's that.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Let's just let him do his
28 report. If someone needs to be on line, then we'll
29 address it when we address it.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
32 moving along.

33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. So again I'm
35 here to talk about potentially liberalizing Park Service
36 regulations, and I will walk you through a number of
37 pages in your book here.

38

39 The environmental assessment that we've
40 done, a couple specific things I'll point out. The
41 public comment period opened on February 7th. It will
42 close on April 7th. So it's a 60-day public comment
43 period. There's information here. If you as an
44 individual want to follow up, you can call us, write us,
45 email us. You can get to us any way that you would like
46 to do that.

47

48 I'm going to jump over a couple pages to
49 Page 50. And on this page I'm going to slow down a
50 little bit, because there's a lot of information here

1 that I want to make sure you hear.

2

3 So you've already heard me say that the
4 Eastern Interior Council a number of years ago and the
5 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission made
6 a request to the Park Service to liberalize regulations.
7 Put simply, the Park Service has a regulation that makes
8 it illegal to gather shed horns and antl -- excuse me,
9 shed horns and antlers. And I'm going to try to touch on
10 things like that, but not go into lots of detail unless
11 you have some questions.

12

13 So our current regulation does not allow
14 collecting an antler you might see in the field. We're
15 talking about liberalizing regulations so that you could
16 do that. Take it home, make a handicraft and sell it.
17 And those are kind of the key pieces.

18

19 There's two steps to accomplishing this.
20 The first is the completion of this environmental
21 assessment. You're going to hear me call it an EA. And
22 the second step would be to actually write and publish
23 regulations in the Federal Register. Step one, step two.

24

25 The Park Service, when these requests
26 came in, we took them around to the National Park Service
27 Subsistence Resource Commissions. I think, Sue, you're
28 the only person on this Council that's on an SRC, just
29 looking around. So Sue's.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
32 there's only seven SRCs, so.....

33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. So.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:in the
37 state.

38

39 MR. RABINOWITCH: So Sue's a little more
40 familiar than some of you, but there are groups like this
41 that are specific to either National Park Service parks
42 or National Park Service monuments. And so when I say
43 SRCs, I'm referring to those groups. And Sue's on the
44 Wrangell-St. Elias one.

45

46 So we took his to those groups a couple
47 of times. And we also consulted with various people in
48 the state of Alaska and a number of environmental groups
49 were also interested, so we had some face-to-face
50 meetings with them. And that led to the document that

1 you have in front of you.

2

3

4 Now, one thing to point out, and I'll
5 come back to this in a minute, our regional director's
6 picked alternative D, D as in dog, as a preferred
7 alternative. Okay. That doesn't mean it's the final
8 decision. It's just that's the choice that has been made
9 at this step in the process. So it's important that you
10 know that.

11

12 What we're after from you today, and
13 really the choice is up to you, is you are quite welcome,
14 we're happy to hear an opinion if you have one, that you
15 may choose to make a motion when I'm done and you're done
16 discussing this, and tell us as this group what your
17 recommendation is. You don't have to do that, but it's
18 an option and I'm guessing that a number of you are going
19 to be interested to do that.

20

21 Now after you do that, how does the whole
22 thing conclude. Kind of an obvious question, so I'll try
23 to answer it. After we're -- after April 7th, we've gone
24 to every RAC meeting, every SRC meeting around the state.
25 We will take all of the comments, summarize them, put
26 them back in front of our regional director, and she will
27 make a final decision. So again her preliminary choice
28 is D, but that could change.

29

30 We'll write a document that's called a
31 finding of no significant impact. It's just one of
32 technical pieces of an EA. And when that's done and
33 signed, then the EA process is done. That's step one.

34

35 The step 2 would then be to publish a
36 proposed regulation that would probably go out again for
37 about a 60-day review period in the Federal Register, and
38 another comment period occurs when that's done, the final
39 decision's made, and either a final rule is published or
40 not. And that would bring this whole thing to a
41 conclusion and could result in liberalized regs. Okay.
42 It doesn't have to result in liberalized regs, but it
43 certainly can.

44

45 So that's the whole process from
46 beginning to end.

47

48 I'm going to move, pick up speed here a
49 little bit now and move you through the pages. So this
50 colored page, it just looks like this, that's just the

1 cover of this document.

2

3 And if you keep flipping a couple of more
4 pages, you'll get to a map that looks -- State of Alaska
5 map you'll all recognize. And this simply shows you at
6 a glance all the areas in the state that we're talking
7 about. So, you know, you can, I'm sure, find yourself on
8 the map and see which areas are close to you. But it's
9 one of the challenges we've had is that we've gone after
10 this on a statewide basis, so it's made it a bit more of
11 a chore, but our hope is to tackle all the areas in the
12 state and not have to do this, you know, again and again,
13 or in any kind of piecemeal fashion.

14

15 Then if you look at Page 55, you'll see
16 the original letter that this Council sent in with your
17 letterhead. That's -- it's Page 55 and 56. On Page 57
18 -- and I'm not going to drag you through all these
19 things. I just want to point out they're here. On Page
20 57 and 58 you have the initial response from our regional
21 director back to this Council.

22

23 On Page 59 and 60 you have the Gates of
24 the Arctic requests. And then on -- or, I'm sorry, on
25 Page 59. Then on Page 60 and 61 you have a similar
26 response back from our regional director to the Gates of
27 the Arctic Council.

28

29 So let me take you up to Page 62. And 62
30 is a chart with a lot of boxes on it. And I want to
31 spend a few minutes -- actually this -- if I had to pick
32 one page in this whole package, this is -- I would tell
33 you this is the most important page to pay attention to,
34 because it lays out the alternatives and attempts to
35 articulate the differences.

36

37 Did you have a question, Sue? Or
38 comment?

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. Well, I
41 just got a note from I think the Western Interior Chair
42 about this. And I want you to go through this, and then
43 I would like to take a short break and see what's going
44 on, because it sounds like there's some interesting
45 information.

46

47 So go ahead.

48

49 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. And I would
50 mention that whenever you would like, I have notes here

1 on a fancy note card of all the.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's concise.
4
5 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah. You know that
6 I try.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good.
9
10 MR. RABINOWITCH: Of the comments that
11 have come in from Regional Councils and SRCs so far. So
12 I was planning just -- at the end of this to sort of.....
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Good.
15
16 MR. RABINOWITCH:share, but I can
17 to that at any time you'd like.
18
19 Okay. So Page 62, this chart with all
20 these boxes, I'm going to try to walk you through this a
21 little bit slowly and hopefully this will help you think
22 about where you want to find yourself on this chart as a
23 group.
24
25 So it's Table 2.1, it's called Summary
26 Comparison of the alternatives. So in a nutshell we have
27 four choices, A, B, C and D.
28
29 Alternative A is required in the NEPA
30 process, and it's basically no action. And in this case
31 it's no change. And what that would mean is that the
32 existing Park Service regulation that says you can't pick
33 up a horn or an antler, can't take it home, can't make it
34 into a handicraft, et cetera, would just stay in place.
35 And I repeat, we're required to have a no action
36 alternative, so that's why that one's here.
37
38 The next alternative is alternative B as
39 in boy. We've labeled it -- and we've really worked and
40 changed actually again and again how we've labeled these
41 alternatives, but we've landed on calling it Broad
42 Eligibility and No Permits. So if you think about the
43 most -- the largest number of people would be allowed to
44 collect and there would be no requirement of any kind of
45 permits. Okay.
46
47 And I'm going to move down from top to
48 bottom. I'm going to move down alternative B in these
49 boxes. So NPS has three kinds of areas. Parks and
50 monuments, and they're treated in one way. And

1 preserves, like Yukon-Charley, is treated just a little
2 bit different. And there's -- and there's legal reasons
3 that we have to do that.

4
5 So for the park and the monument, in
6 alternative B, the person who collect would be anybody
7 who lives in a resident zone community or has what we
8 call a 1344, more recently called a 13440, permit. And
9 those resident zone communities are all written out in
10 our regulation. People who are on our SRCs typically
11 live in those communities. And some of you may live in
12 those communities and some of you probably don't.
13 There's probably kind of a mix here.

14
15 Then for a preserve in alternative B, it
16 would be any person that has a C&T use determination,
17 customary and traditional use determination for any
18 wildlife species. So if you had a C&T determination for
19 just one species, okay, because there might, you know, be
20 more than one -- I mean, there probably are more than one
21 animal who would have horns and antlers. So you just
22 have C&T say for moose or for caribou, then you could
23 collect horns, antlers, bones, et cetera from any animal.
24 Okay So you need one thing to kind of get in the gate.

25
26 Would there -- then dropping down a
27 couple boxes, we talk about conditions places on
28 collection. Would there be conditions, you see the word
29 no. So there would be no conditions.

30
31 And then the very bottom of alternative
32 B on the chart, would there be a permit required, you see
33 the word no.

34
35 Okay. So this results again in the
36 largest number of people able to collect, the least
37 amount of paperwork is probably the way to summarize it.

38
39 Alternative C, the next one over.....

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, a
44 question, Andy.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Can I interrupt and ask a
47 question.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we can
50 ask questions as we go. That.....

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:makes it
4 a little more understandable.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah, when you
7 get to the column there that says conditions placed on
8 collection of plant materials to make handicrafts and to
9 sell, as you go across it changes. That's one of the few
10 areas that changes. And I'm just wondering, when you get
11 to the point where it says discretionary, pending
12 consultation with appropriate SRCs and decision by the
13 superintendent, how timely of a process is that going to
14 be? Is that something that a person would only have to
15 fill out once, and they'd have it for their lifetime, or
16 is that going to have to be a yearly things? What -- you
17 know, because that doesn't seem like -- if that has to be
18 done year after year after year, that seems incredibly
19 inefficient and not beneficial to the subsistence user.
20 So maybe if you could speak to the process of that and
21 how timely it would be, I'd really like to hear that.

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. It's a good
24 question. It fits -- it fits under alternative C that
25 I'm going to get to, not under alternative B.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Right.

28

29 MR. RABINOWITCH: And, you know, the
30 simplest answer is -- would be to say that we really
31 don't have all those details worked out yet. We have
32 thought about them, we've kicked them around, we've
33 talked with particularly our SRC groups about them.
34 We've talked about you might have an annual permit, like
35 you were just saying. It doesn't sound very appealing,
36 you know, kind of read your mind. We've talked about
37 possible three-year permits, possible five-year permits.
38 So we've talked about all those different kinds of
39 things.

40

41 We've also even talked about the concept
42 of sort of a blanket permit for a community, that, you
43 know, the superintendent might do something through a
44 thing we call a compendium regulations, and we might
45 establish a permit for a community. So if you lived in
46 the community, the regulation sort of took care of you
47 and you didn't have to go get a permit, but we had
48 something in place.

49

50 So we've talked about a whole variety of

1 things, but definitely have not made any decisions. Our
2 goal is to try to do it in consultation with communities.
3 We recognize we have tremendous differences in parks,
4 access to parks, where communities are relative to the
5 parks, whether they're inside, near, or far away, and how
6 people get there. Drive, boat, airplane, et cetera. So
7 we just have tremendous variability. And in this
8 alternative C, I'm kind of morphing -- I'm just kind of
9 finishing answering your question and morphing into
10 talking about the alternative C, is one that gives the
11 Park Service a little more flexibility, if it's chosen,
12 so that we might do one thing in one park and something
13 different in another, because of all those differences.

14
15 So I'll stop there and check in and see
16 if I've sastifi -- you know, satisfied you or if I need
17 to go.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy. He was
20 going through B and then you went over to C. And I --
21 and it does have merit. I think I would like to.....

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess -- I guess
24 the other point I was going to make is this chart is
25 pretty explanatory, just looking at it. I mean, it's
26 really clear looking at it, and I'm just wondering
27 whether we need to go through every single option,
28 because I see this as a pretty straight forward chart on
29 what's going to happen under each one of these
30 conditions. I was just trying to get a little bit more
31 specific on certain areas there, and mainly what I'm
32 concerned about is the timeliness of some of these
33 processes. And what I'm hearing is this hasn't really
34 been worked out yet.

35
36 The other question that I was going to
37 ask though, which I think you're leading into a little
38 bit, is in our region we basically are only affecting --
39 affected by Wrangell-St. Elias and Yukon-Charley
40 Preserve.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the Denali.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
47 Preserve.

48
49 MR. BASSICH:we are. I guess are
50 in Denali.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: And I'm -- when you start
4 saying about writing regulations, is it possible for
5 regulations to be written specifically for each one or is
6 that something that has to be -- has to be done
7 individually after you write a regulation? Because it
8 seems like if you were to write that into the main
9 regulation, recognizing that preserves have one set of
10 rules and so on and so forth, you might be able to save
11 a lot of time and actually better address subsistence use
12 differences in those area.
13
14 MR. RABINOWITCH: The short answer to how
15 we ultimately write regulations is that we currently do
16 both of those things you just said. That is, some of
17 Park Service regulations cover all the parks statewide,
18 and we have other regulations that are park by park. So
19 we can do either. And, you know, our goal here is to
20 write the fewest regs with the fewest words that get the
21 job done.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't believe
24 you.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I.....
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
31
32 MR. RABINOWITCH: I could make a joke and
33 say I'm from the government and you should trust me,
34 right?
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Trust you,
37 yeah. Okay.
38
39 MR. RABINOWITCH: But, you know,
40 seriously that is what we're -- that really is our goal,
41 but which approach is the best one, we can't figure that
42 out until the final decision on which of these
43 alternatives.
44
45 And that said, Madame Chairman, Barbara
46 Cellarius.....
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know, I
49 hate to interrupt, Sandy, but I.....
50

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Uh-huh.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:think that
4 keeping it simple here, I believe we're all kind of --
5 know where we're going, and maybe -- unless -- maybe
6 going through all three of these and taking up our time
7 that way is probably maybe a waste of our time. And I'm
8 going to ask the Council members.

9

10 What the SRC did in Wrangell-St. Elias,
11 and there was discussion on this, and this has been
12 ongoing for how -- what's -- how long, three or four
13 years now? Four. Four years, and this is how fast
14 things happen in government. So I -- and I would say --
15 report to you that the Wrangell-St. Elias took the
16 alternative B, which is the least restrictive and the
17 least amount of paperwork. No permits and we noted
18 clearly that when you look at the Wrangell specifically,
19 there's only 5,185 people that qualify to pick anything
20 up under that. So -- and there's very little opportunity
21 to pick up things like horns and antlers. Might see
22 some, or they're only there sometimes two to four years
23 and they're gone, so if you do see something, it's an
24 opportunity. There might be places they'd come and said
25 where -- if caribou all were in one area and lost their
26 antlers in one area, there might be high concentrations
27 of places like that, but we voted to go with alternative
28 B.

29

30 So I'm going to ask you guys if you want
31 to go through process here or how you want to do it.
32 Andy.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. If it pleases you,
35 I'm ready to make a motion and then maybe we can speak
36 more specifically to the motion and avoid a lot of
37 redundant talk.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Barbara,
40 did you have something to add?

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, I just -- Madame
43 Chair, Barbara Cellarius, subsistence coordinator for
44 Wrangell-St. Elias.

45

46 I did want to respond to one of the
47 questions that Andy had that I don't think has been
48 addressed, which was kind of is this going to have some
49 -- in terms of the conditions, is this something that
50 would have to be done every year. I think what would

1 happen -- I mean, one place the conditions could occur is
2 in the compendium. One place the conditions could occur
3 is a set of permit stipulations.

4
5 I think what would happen is we would
6 have an initial discussion with the SRCs about what
7 conditions would be appropriate. And that list would
8 basically stand until there was a need to modify it in
9 response to say a resource concern. So I think it's a
10 matter of we put it together once; if there's a need to
11 change it, we change it, but otherwise it just would
12 continue.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did that answer
15 your question. Okay. Go ahead.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Yes. Would you like a
18 motion?

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd love it.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: All right. Whatever I can
23 do to please you, Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's all of us.
26 I want all of you to be following along here.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: But I'd like to make a
29 motion to support alternative B as presented to us, and
30 then I'd speak to it after it's seconded.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to second that, just
33 move us -- so we can move it along.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now,
36 discussion. And -- did you have something right now?

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I'll.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You'll
41 speak to it now.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll speak to the motion,
44 yeah.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil,
47 then Andy.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't know if the
50 Service has considered that the majority of these items

1 are biodegradable, and so they're going to be just more
2 or less dissolved into the dirt in a -- and it depends on
3 what they are as to how long this time period takes or
4 get ate up by porcupines and other rodents, you know,
5 citrus (ph) antlers. And so I don't really know how
6 they've considered. Some things might last longer, like
7 a tooth, say, out of a bear or a wolf or something. But
8 to me it seems like such a trivial thing to just leave
9 things to rot basically or get, you know -- decompose.

10

11 And so I have a -- that leads me to a
12 question. And has anyone given any thought to the fact
13 that most of this stuff is in the process of
14 decomposition to begin with, and so if it could be used
15 for something meaningful, has anyone thought that it
16 might be better to use something -- to put something to
17 use, meaningful use rather than just let it set and rot.

18

19 MR. RABINOWITCh: Yes, and that's why
20 we're here. That's why we've done this.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We asked you to
23 do it.

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCh: And you asked us to do
26 it, yes.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-huh.

29

30

31 MR. RABINOWITCh: And by the way, if I
32 might add, I've read Dirt and I thought it was a great
33 book, too.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
38 Chair. I have quite a few comments on this. I'll try
39 and keep them as brief as I can, but I want to speak to
40 just supporting my motion.

41

42 Since people have been around, we've been
43 -- people who live out in rural areas and live
44 subsistence have been collecting items like this and
45 using them, and oftentimes it's just personal adornment
46 or maybe something, part of a ceremony or whatever, but
47 it's a very important part of the culture. and I really
48 want to congratulate Park Service for moving towards
49 recognizing that and putting the effort into trying to
50 make it legal. And it's kind of crazy that it was ever

1 illegal in my opinion, but I really want to applaud the
2 effort that's being done. I think it's one of this
3 things that, although it may take a long time to get
4 through the process, it's kind of the direction we need
5 to go on a lot of these different issues regarding
6 subsistence uses and cultural uses here in Alaska.

7
8 I think one of the most important things
9 about alternative B is, as it was stated earlier, there's
10 -- by the Chair, there's a very small group of people
11 that are really qualified if you have to put it to a C&T
12 determination, so it really lessens the amount of people
13 that will be allowed to go out and do this. And so the
14 impact is not going to be great, simply because of who's
15 qualified to do it.

16
17 In reading this plump document, which I
18 did read, I found that probably the biggest concern is
19 people that do it on a commercial level. And I think
20 that can be addressed even if alternative B is selected.
21 I think that's something that can be addressed park by
22 park or preserve by preserve through other means.

23
24 I think it's really important to keep in
25 mind that many people who live out in really rural areas
26 don't have access to come into town and fill out permits
27 and that sort of thing. And so I definitely do not want
28 to see that a part of it. I like the idea of just doing
29 a broad blanket. If you live within the area, if you
30 have a C&T determination for the area, then you are
31 qualified to do this.

32
33 It's not like there's a tremendous
34 abundance of it out there. It's usually something that's
35 picked up while you're hunting, while you're fishing,
36 while you're berry picking, while you're doing other
37 subsistence activities. And to my knowledge, I don't
38 know of too many people that specifically go out looking
39 for antlers and that sort of thing unless it was done on
40 a commercial level. And as I said, I think that can be
41 addressed.

42
43 Is there a conservation concern? I don't
44 see any kind of a conservation concern on this. As I
45 stated earlier here, I think it's so infrequently done
46 and the resources aren't that abundant. It's not like a
47 live resource that people are eating. It's more
48 ceremonial or personal adornment.

49
50 It's very traditional to do. All you

1 have to do it go in a museum anywhere in the State of
2 Alaska or anywhere in the country, and that's what you're
3 going to see in there is things that are made of antlers,
4 skins, teeth, and that sort of thing. Horn. So it's
5 very tradition, it's very important.

6
7 It's very important to people who live
8 out in remote area to be able to do this, because for
9 many of them, it's one of the few things that they can
10 make a few bucks doing. And it is very time consuming to
11 do it. It takes a lot of time to go out and collect it.
12 It takes a lot of time to sit down and make something
13 like what I presented to the Chair earlier, and it's not
14 something that you really make a lot of money doing if
15 you do it. If you really look at it at a dollar per
16 hour, you're probably down to about four or five bucks an
17 hour for the time that you put into it. So it's not a
18 highly profitable thing yet. Although it's not highly
19 profitable, it's extremely important to people who live
20 out in rally remote areas, but they'd have no other means
21 for economic gain out there oftentimes. And a little bit
22 of money goes a long way when you live a -- the closer
23 you live to a really truly traditional subsistence
24 lifestyle, you don't need a lot of money, but what money
25 you do make gets -- goes a long ways.

26
27 And as far as the final point here, it's
28 not restrictive to other people. Under alternative B,
29 those people that are -- have a C&T determination in the
30 area will have access to it. It does, in my opinion,
31 keep the commercial use or collection down.

32
33 And I think that we don't need -- the
34 reason I don't like C and D is simply the access of
35 trying to go in and get all these permits. You know,
36 when you live out in a remote area, you don't think about
37 those kinds of things. You don't have the access. I
38 know a lot of people that only come into town once a
39 year, and they come into town just to buy a few groceries
40 and buy some bullets and ammo or whatever. And they
41 don't want to go sit around in a National Park Service
42 office and fill out a silly permit just so that they can
43 pick up an occasional antler or whatever. It just
44 doesn't go with the lifestyle, and we need to recognize
45 that.

46
47 And so I think I've spoken enough to
48 support the motion, and I hope that we'll pass this. And
49 I really hope -- I understand the desire for the National
50 Park Service to try and maintain as much control over

1 this as they can through these alternatives C and D, and
2 especially D, they're giving an awful lot to the
3 superintendents. And I understand that, but I don't
4 think it's warranted, because I just don't think that if
5 you limit it to C&T determinations that you're going to
6 have an issue with over-abuse of it. And if there is an
7 abuse, I think you have the means within the parks and
8 preserves to address those abuses even with alternative
9 B.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

14

15 MR. FIRMIN: I just had a question for
16 you, Sandy, the -- you said earlier that like if you had
17 a C&T determination on one species, that was kind of a
18 gateway to let you collect all species; is that correct?

19

20 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

21

22 MR. FIRMIN: So like.....

23

24 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: So like me being from Fort
27 Yukon, because I have a wolf determination in Yukon-
28 Charley's, that means I can still pick up anything else
29 as long as I'm just visiting?

30

31 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes. Exactly correct.

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: And another thing then would
34 be a lot of the permitting requirements are basically --
35 so I guess then just one of the villages listed better be
36 on your ID when the Park Service asks you, where did you
37 get that? And I better not say I'm from California or
38 something. Is that kind of going to be the standing way
39 they're going to determine who's picking up what? You
40 know, if they ask you, where did you get that horn, and
41 I answer right over there on the ground, I mean basically
42 the difference between me being able to take it or not
43 would be whether I had a California driver's license or
44 an Alaska one pretty much.

45

46 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right, or if you had my
47 driver's license, because my address is Anchorage.

48

49 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

50

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: And so I wouldn't
2 qualify under this.....
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, that's what I meant,
5 like you.....
6
7 MR. RABINOWITCH:where you -- where
8 you would.
9
10 MR. FIRMIN: You'd have to be coming from
11 one of the villages listed.
12
13 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah.
14
15 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Well, and the -- then
16 I would agree with alternative B as stated.
17
18 Thank you.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Joe.
21
22 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
23 just have a question. This is not just antlers and
24 horns, right? This is also spruce roots and birch bark?
25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Correct.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is
29 correct.
30
31 MR. MATESI: Okay.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because
34 whenever -- I'll let Barbara describe it. She'd probably
35 articulate it better than I, but whenever.....
36
37 MR. MATESI: No, I'm fine.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
40
41 MR. MATESI: I don't need the long
42 answer.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
45 But, yeah, they had to do that -- they suggested we do
46 that, because people are doing birch bark baskets and all
47 kinds of things that you wouldn't be able to do.
48
49 Barbara.
50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: The one thing that I
2 would say is under the current regulations you can use
3 plant materials for personal or family consumption as the
4 first part of the definition of subsistence. What's not
5 currently authorized is the harvest of plant materials
6 used in the production of handicrafts that are then sold.
7 So if you made a basket and you used it at home, that is
8 currently allowed, but you can't sell the basket. And so
9 this would authorize selling the handicraft.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
12 Other questions. Andrew.

13
14 MR. FIRMIN: I just had another quick
15 one. I would like artifacts are -- would be affected, or
16 like mammoth tusks or, you know, petrified remains or
17 something like that, along -- along those lines, like
18 bison or ancient horses or something?

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean that
21 -- that can be picked up or not picked up?

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, or would that be
24 covered under this as can be allowed to be picked up.....

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. We went
27 through.....

28
29 MR. FIRMIN:or would that be.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that at
32 the SRC meeting, and.....

33
34 MR. FIRMIN: That is.....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that's a
37 different law.

38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. Okay. That's what I
40 just wanted to clarify.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Totally
43 different law. Okay.

44
45 Okay. I have a question if anyone else
46 doesn't have any.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My little note

1 that came to me says that nothing under ANILCA 13 and 14
2 mandates a closure of collection. Collection is allowed
3 on State land and could have been recognized all along by
4 the Park Service, especially on preserves. This is a
5 cumbersome plan. Oh, without a cumbersome plan. Okay.
6 They don't actually need all the NPS reg write up. They
7 could simplify it by lift the prohibition. Has this been
8 discussed?

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, it's been
11 discussed at great length four years ago when your
12 request came in.

13

14 (Teleconference announcement)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

17

18 MR. RABINOWITCH: And the answer that we
19 got from our lawyers was we can't quite go there given
20 the existing Park Service regulations. Some of you know
21 that I carry this around, the existing Park Service.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it.....

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCH:regulations.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:changes
28 yearly.

29

30 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah. Probably.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: But the sticking point
35 is, the way I explain it, is a regulation that applies to
36 all national parks. So in this book there's all the
37 National Park Service regs for the whole country, and
38 then section 13, some of you have heard us talk about
39 section 13 of the Park Service regs, applies to Alaska.
40 So we have this regulation that applies nationwide that
41 basically forced us, according to our attorneys, to do
42 this EA, to overcome that national reg. And by doing
43 this, we have the ability to then write -- and you've
44 heard me talking about writing a reg in the Federal
45 Register. We have the ability to write an Alaska-
46 specific regulation that would allow this, you know, the
47 very thing we're talking about.

48

49 So we talked about it for hours and hours
50 and hours and hours, and the answer was, no, that we got

1 from our lawyers. So that's why we've done all this. It
2 would have been much simpler to say we can accomplish it
3 with ANILCA and the regulations that we have, but that's
4 just not the answer that we got.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's what
7 scares everybody. But.....

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Question on the motion.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
12 has been called for. Everybody ready. All in favor.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

17
18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes
22 unanimously.

23
24 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you very much.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's job security for
29 the lawyers.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know if
34 anyone heard that, but I did. Okay.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Could we take a break?

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. We
39 have a request for a short break. Ten minutes, which
40 turns into 15, but that's okay.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I hurt your
47 ears, Nathan? Okay.

48
49 Calling the meeting back to order.

50

1 Whoever brought the strawberries and the
2 goodies on the side, thank you. They're awesome.

3
4 (Off record conversation regarding the
5 snacks)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
8 Everybody back. I don't see Larry. Where's Larry. Oh,
9 he'll be in hopefully.

10
11 Go ahead, Barbara. This is the Chisana
12 Caribou Herd permits.

13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 So Sue mentioned, at the January 2012 meeting -- so there
16 -- actually there's a handout that I gave to Carl, which
17 hopefully you have. It's a one-pager that's hole-
18 punched. There's words on the front and a map on the
19 back.

20
21 So at the January Federal Subsistence
22 Board meeting, the Board established a Federal
23 subsistence harvest opportunity for Chisana caribou
24 beginning in fall of 2012. The key thing here, I sort of
25 summarized the hunt on this page, that in accordance with
26 the management plan for the herd and based on the 2010
27 census, the quota for the hunt is anticipated to be seven
28 animals.

29
30 Now, the hunt area is a remote area with
31 no direct road access, and overland access is not easy,
32 so a lot of people who have hunted in this area in the
33 past have used aircraft.

34
35 The -- there was an .804 analysis that
36 was done in association with this proposal, and so six
37 communities were identified as being eligible for this
38 hunt. And I've got those listed on the sheet.

39
40 There was a delegation of authority to
41 the superintendent of -- the park superintendent to
42 manage the hunt. If you look on the map on the back, you
43 can see both that it's a remote area and that in the
44 United States it falls entirely within Wrangell-St. Elias
45 National Park and Preserve. So consistent with this
46 RAC's recommendation, there's a delegation of authority
47 for the hunt to the park superintendent.

48
49 As part of the action on the proposal at
50 the Federal Board meeting, the regional director offered

1 that NPS Staff would seek out -- seek input from eligible
2 communities about how the limited number of permits may
3 be allocated. We haven't -- we haven't made a final
4 decision on how many permits will be issued, but given
5 that there's a hunt quota of seven, we anticipate that we
6 may limit the number of permits.

7
8 And so what I'm doing is I'm -- I've gone
9 -- I'm going to the communities that are eligible for the
10 hunt and local advisory bodies like the fish and game
11 advisory committees and the SRC and asking for input so
12 that when we -- we make a decision about how the hunt
13 will be managed, we've -- we've gathered some input from
14 the communities.

15
16 I did a little research with other hunts
17 that had limited -- limited harvest quotas or at least
18 harvest quotas that were less than the interest in
19 participating in the hunt, and so at the bottom of the
20 page you'll see there's a bulleted list, and those are
21 some of the options that I have learned about in talking
22 to other folks. One is simply give out the permits on a
23 first come, first served basis.

24
25 Another is a random drawing open to
26 Federally-qualified residents of all eligible
27 communities. There's a moose hunt down in Cordova that
28 uses that approach.

29
30 And then another approach is allocation
31 of permits among communities. So -- then with a
32 community-level decision about how the permits are
33 allocated within the community. With the last hunt on
34 the Mentasta Caribou Herd, there was one permit allocated
35 to each of the eligible villages, and then each village
36 decided that the permit would be allocated to an elder.

37
38
39 So those are some examples. So I'm here
40 today before you to ask if you want to give me any input
41 on ideas about how to do this.

42
43 Just to tell you what I've done so far,
44 I've been to two tribal councils, an AC meeting and an
45 SRC meeting. The two tribal councils liked the idea of
46 allocating permits out to the communities with a
47 community decision about how to allocate the permits.
48 The AC liked the idea of first come, first served without
49 a limit on the number of permits, and a short reporting
50 period. And we had quite a bit of discussion about this

1 at the SRC meeting. There were a number of ideas that
2 were discussed from on this list. The one thing that the
3 SRC agreed upon was that however the allocation occurred,
4 that no more 50 percent of the permits should go to any
5 one community.

6

7 And I'll stop there and see if you have
8 any questions. And like I said, if you want to provide
9 me with input, that's great. I'm trying to do the
10 outreach, but that's up to you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
13 members, this is probably kind of remote to most of you,
14 because of where you live, but it is in my region, and
15 I'm hearing.....

16

17 I'm seeing your hand, Andrew. Do you
18 have a question.

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: I was just wondering if this
21 was the one that we talked about last time that I
22 remember the gentleman from -- he was an RIT from Tok or
23 somewhere?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. That's
26 the one.

27

28 MR. FIRMIN: It was the same area and
29 the.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
32 same.....

33

34 MR. FIRMIN:same herd?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:herd, yes.

37

38 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And if
41 you look at the map there, you see the range of the
42 caribou and you see where Chisana is. And she -- Barbara
43 still has some SRCs and communities to go to, so I'm
44 wondering from the Council, do you guys want to take this
45 up?

46

47 (Heads nodding)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see an
50 agreement here, so -- and as she said, at the SRC one of

1 the things that came up was 50 percent, no more than 50
2 percent go to one community.

3
4 It is a remote herd, and it's -- even if
5 you got to Chisana, you still have a long ways to go to
6 get to the caribou, so it's -- Fish and Game believes
7 that it's likely there wouldn't be a concern of over-
8 harvest, or a big interest in getting into it.

9
10 So, Joe, you have a question.

11
12 MR. MATESI: A question -- well, no, a
13 comment.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. MATESI: Okay. I -- yeah, it looks
18 to me like this is an action item that we need to take
19 up. Ought to take up. And to make it quick and dirty,
20 among these three choices here, I think the third is --
21 to me appears to be the most equitable. It shows the
22 greatest amount of respect to the tribal communities and
23 to the elders. I would advocate for allocation of
24 permits among the communities as our -- what we would go
25 for.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So -- and when
28 you said third, did you mean the SRC's?

29
30 MR. MATESI: The options on how to
31 allocate.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

34
35 MR. MATESI: Okay. There's three options
36 listed here by bullet points on -- yeah, on that page.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. MATESI: Okay. First come, first
41 served is one, random drawing, and then allocation of
42 permits.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

45
46 MR. MATESI: And that strikes me as being
47 most respectful of the communities themselves and
48 especially the elders involved.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that a

1 motion.
2
3 MR. MATESI: No.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
6 Virgil, did you have a question.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll make a motion. I
9 like number 2, random drawing among the communities with
10 the community.....
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we have two
13 likes here. Did you say that's a motion? You're
14 making.....
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:a motion?
19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want the second one,
21 random drawing, open to Federally-qualified residents of
22 all eligible communities. That's how I think it should
23 be done.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil made a
26 motion for number 2.
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: If I get a second, I'll
29 address the reason why.
30
31 MR. ERHART: I'll second it.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just heard a
34 second.
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll address my
37 reasoning. I think a random drawing is the fairest thing
38 to do, because all that the Board has done is put a
39 subsistence trophy hunt on the books. No elders are
40 going to go out there and hunt those caribou. They have
41 to fly over there in a small aircraft, then they're going
42 to have to hike, or they're going to have to have some
43 type of expensive infrastructure over there in order to
44 participate in the hunt. And maybe a guy like me might
45 do it, but very few are going to spend the money to do
46 it.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And a girl like
49 me.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so that's why I think
2 it should just be a random drawing. The people that want
3 to spend the money and the energy to go get a trophy
4 Chisana Mountain caribou can go do it. Otherwise I don't
5 -- that's -- that's how I think it should be done.

6
7 Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will bring
10 out the concern that the SRC brought out, and that was
11 that when you look at the population of the people, they
12 didn't think it would be fair with the population of Tok
13 of 1250 people for the other smaller communities to ever
14 get a permit, so they -- that's why there was a 50
15 percent, no more than 50 percent to one community was one
16 of their stipulations.

17
18 So, Mr. Umphenour, would you like to
19 address that.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: To get a permit of that
22 type, regardless of what you want to classify yourself as
23 a hunter, is -- the odds are against it. It's like me
24 getting a Delta bison permit. The odds are against it.
25 If you get it, it's just because you were super, super
26 lucky, and that's how I look at that caribou herd over
27 there. If they're going to allocate half to the
28 Canadians, half to us, and they're estimating that will
29 be seven to Alaska, then I think it should just be luck
30 of the draw myself.

31
32 Because if you could walk there from
33 where you live, that's one thing. You can't walk there
34 from where you live. You can't drive anything there from
35 where you live. You have to go in an aircraft. So once
36 you put the aircraft in there, and you put all that
37 expense to it, it de -- it makes a mockery of the
38 definition of subsistence, which is the most.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, I would
41 like to.....

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR:economical way
44 to.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:address
47 that.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR:obtain food for
50 human personal consumption.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like to
2 address that. There's been a countless amount of study
3 done in the Wrangell-St. Elias on access. And aircraft
4 access was, because of the remoteness of that -- the
5 entire park, is a key for getting into a lot of the
6 areas. And in the past people have traded gas -- they'd
7 pay for the gas to a guy with an airplane, and then he
8 would take them out and drop them off, or that person
9 could be a she, but they -- we're always really cleverly
10 figuring out ways to get in and go hunting.

11
12 So it's -- I don't look at it 100 percent
13 the way you look at it. I look at it a little bit
14 differently, because of the people that I live around and
15 people that do fly airplanes do help each other out all
16 the time. And I'll bet it's the same way in some of the
17 other communities out there. You know somebody that --
18 like Bill, somebody might ask you, hey, can you drop me
19 off at such and such, and you would do that. So I just
20 feel like hanging your hat just on that isn't clear
21 exactly how it's going on out there.

22
23 So -- and for me personally, I guess I am
24 not in favor of a random draw. I would be more inclined
25 to see her go through all the communities and have them
26 look at things a little more closely, because I think
27 that -- I remember the RIT from Northway saying let's go
28 through a hunt and see what happens when he was at our
29 meeting. And I think that's probably something that we
30 should consider. But I'm just trying to do the best I
31 can for our area here.

32
33 Joe.

34
35 MR. MATESE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
36 think Virgil brought up a really good point, that a
37 random drawing is probably going to be just kind of sort
38 of like the buffalo hunts, you know, whereas with the
39 community level decision, I think if there's an
40 allocation between all of the communities, each community
41 is going to be free to make its decision -- I can easily
42 see a situation where one of the villages might decide,
43 well, we have this permit, and we're going to have our
44 village super hunter go out there and harvest for this
45 community one of these caribou. And I'm sure, you know,
46 the elders aren't going to be out there chasing through
47 the mountains, although who knows. I know some elders
48 who can out walk me. But younger people hunt for the
49 elders, and that's often a community decision.

50

1 So I'm sure each community is likely to
2 come up with some slight variation of how they assign
3 their permits, but I would like to see each per -- each
4 community definitely have that opportunity.

5
6 With a random drawing, there could easily
7 be, and most likely will be, communities that don't get
8 a permit at all.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are you
11 arguing against number 2 then? Or the motion on the
12 floor?

13
14 MR. MATESI: Well, I -- based on that,
15 I think I will vote no on that motion.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Others.
18 Andy.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd like to call
21 question on the motion on the floor right now.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
24 objection.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor of
29 the motion.....

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Can we --
32 can we clarify exactly what we're voting on, too, so that
33 people aren't confused?

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was about to
36 do that. The motion is to have a random draw open to
37 Federally-qualified residents of all eligible communities
38 with no amendments.

39
40 All in favor.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: We'll need a roll call
49 vote.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's do a roll
2 call vote.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Sue Entsminger.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin, yes. Larry
9 Williams.
10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: No.
12
13 REPORTER: Microphone.
14
15 MR. FIRMIN: Oops, sorry. Lester Erhart.
16
17 MR. ERHART: No.
18
19 MR. FIRMIN: Bill Glanz.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: No.
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Andy Bassich.
24
25 MR. BASSICH: No.
26
27 MR. FIRMIN: Isaac Juneby.
28
29 MR. JUNEBY: No.
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: Joseph Matesi.
32
33 MR. MATESI: No.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: That's -- and Virgil
36 Umphenour.
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
39
40 MR. FIRMIN: That motion failed.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion fails.
43 Was it seven/two?
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
48
49 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. I'd like to
50 make a motion to adopt the third one there for the

1 villages to do -- to make their own mind up or, you know,
2 control the drawing hunt.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. A motion
5 for the allocation of permits among communities with
6 community level decision about how to allocate permits
7 within the community.
8
9 MR. BASSICH: Second that.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hear a
12 second. Discussion.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: I think we've had the
15 discussion. If all are ready, I'll just call question on
16 the.....
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any objection.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's
23 been called for. All in favor.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
28 opposed.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion carries
33 unanimously.
34
35 Okay. Thank you, Barbara.
36
37 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next. Now, she
40 may not be here I was told. King salmon management plan
41 revision process by Jill Klein. She's on -- en route,
42 should be here by 11 I'm told.
43
44 So I think it -- we could go into the
45 other fisheries re port at this time. Fred Bue. And
46 then we'll get back when she shows up.
47
48 You can give it to the coordinator next
49 time, Fred. That will help things out.
50

1 MR. BUE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
2 should know that by now. Thank you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We all go
5 backwards once in a while. It gets worse, too.

6
7 MR. BUE: I guess this is -- again, my
8 name is Fred Bue with the Fish and Wildlife Service, in-
9 season manager for the Yukon River fisheries.

10
11 This is really is a joint presentation.
12 I'm just taking the lead. Steve Hayes with Fish and Game
13 and Jeff Estensen also with Fish and Game, fisheries
14 managers. Most of you know us. Pretty familiar.

15
16 The information I have is really pretty
17 general at this time. There's still a lot of planning
18 and thing that are going into this coming season.

19
20 What I handed out, some of you have
21 already seen. And again it's really brief, and -- and so
22 if you have -- if you want to go into more depth, we can,
23 but just to give you a general sense.

24
25 If you look at the figure number 2, the
26 second one on the bottom of the page, I guess the -- just
27 the general census, historical trends. Everybody's
28 pretty familiar with it. And so you see essentially a
29 regime shift in '98. There's been a dramatic decline and
30 that's the total reconstructed run of Chinook salmon in
31 the Yukon. And so you can see that the last -- since '98
32 the runs been pretty much half of what it's been in the
33 past.

34
35 Looking -- the figure right above is the
36 harvest. And -- and you can see that essentially that's
37 where management becomes involved. The time scale is a
38 little bit different, but -- but again that same time
39 frame from '98 through to the present, because the run
40 has been bad in the lower graph, we've reduced harvest.
41 You see Alaska catches stacked on top of Canadian
42 catches. Both -- in both cases, the harvest has been
43 reduced.

44
45 The other side of the page is -- we don't
46 have complete escapement for everywhere on the river, and
47 so what we have here is the Canadian escapement. It
48 makes up approximately 50 percent of the run, or the
49 contribution to the stock. And so it gives you a general
50 census. This is our report card on how we've done in

1 management. But again I'd point out that this is in
2 numbers of fish. It looks like we've made escapement and
3 we're making escapement, continue to. And in fact some
4 of those poor years we still had some pretty high level
5 escapements, and part of that was erring on the side of
6 conservation.

7
8 And I know some of you -- well, it's
9 obvious, it is -- isn't just simply numbers. The -- you
10 know, a lot of you've talked about quality of escapement
11 and other conditions and things that have changed,
12 production, hatcheries, or climate or whatever.

13
14 But anyways, this is the scale that we
15 can measure easily and that's why I included it here.

16
17 So with that, really again you can see
18 the productivity has changed, declined. And our 2012, if
19 we look at what the escapement was, it suggests we should
20 -- we should expect reasonable returns, but that has --
21 isn't the character of the run in the last few years.
22 And so with that, we're again expecting a poor production
23 in 2012, and probably for several years into the future.

24
25 So therefore, looking at again the 2012
26 season, we're looking at a run that probably isn't going
27 to fully support subsistence needs, similar to the last
28 few years. We've -- commercial is pretty much cut out of
29 the equation, but -- and we've been restricting
30 subsistence, and so we expect that to again be the case
31 in 2012.

32
33 With this, we know more than half the
34 Chinook are harvested -- harvested in Alaska are bound
35 for Canada, and so it makes it important to keep those
36 Canadian stocks healthy as well. We're -- Canadian
37 stocks is as important for us as it is for Canada. We
38 rely on those fish for harvesting, and a lot of us agree
39 that we use those, but Canada always -- also uses those.

40
41 So with this coming season, during these
42 low runs, we hope fishermen will evaluate their salmon
43 use to find ways that can reduce their harvest to help
44 ensure adequate Chinook escapement again.

45
46 I was going to speak to -- a little bit
47 to the Chinook management plan, but it sounds like YRDFA
48 will be here to speak to that, so I'll skip over that.

49
50 Over the next couple months,

1 State/Federal managers are attending several meetings to
2 inform fishermen, user groups of the 2012 outlook, and
3 receive input on management options for the coming
4 season. We're looking for practical ideas on reducing
5 Chinook salmon harvest from the resource users. And we
6 need the public support in carrying out management
7 strategies and options.

8

9 In 2011 our combined efforts as users and
10 fisheries managers allowed us to get enough fish to the
11 spawning grounds even with a poor run, which was a good
12 thing. It showed a lot of cooperation of fishermen up
13 and down the river.

14

15 The current trend again of low
16 productivity indicates to us that conservative management
17 will be required in the next several years. A few years
18 at least.

19

20 So at this RAC meeting you have the
21 opportunity to formulate and submit regulatory proposals
22 as you see fit. In addition, I'm encouraging you as
23 leaders to go back to your communities and discuss
24 management options that not only work for you, but will
25 work for people living in other places up and down the
26 river. We all share the resource, and so there's things
27 that we need to work out and cooperate with each other to
28 share the conservation effort.

29

30 These ideas could then be discussed
31 during the spring preparedness meeting, similar to what
32 we've had in the last couple years. We'd come back as a
33 group and discuss these, and community people have an
34 opportunity to provide managers input on what they'd like
35 to see.

36

37 We know pulse protection was an option
38 that was favored by many. How to -- other options are
39 like in 2009 we had things like how do people feel about
40 windows fishing, reduced or limiting to six-inch nets,
41 and such as that.

42

43 One thing in 2009, and for me as a
44 Federal manager, I'd be curious -- well, I'd like to hear
45 what the RAC thinks about a special action to restrict
46 participation to Federally-qualified users if the run is
47 poor. As you know, the Yukon is a patchwork of land
48 ownership, and the State manages throughout the system,
49 but the Federal managers can extend jurisdiction into
50 water adjacent to Federal management units if it seems as

1 if we're not fulfilling our subsistence requirements.
2 And so that's something that we didn't do last year, and
3 we don't necessarily have to do it, but I'm -- as a RAC
4 and as a Federal RAC member, you know, I'm -- I really
5 value what this RAC has to say, and all three RACS, what
6 sort of input -- at what level do we provide a Federal
7 priority over other users on the river, so.....

8

9 With that, I think I'd turn it over to
10 Steve or Jeff to add anything else. Thanks.

11

12 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. I guess just
13 to add, looking at the outlook that we have this year,
14 which is -- well, last year our outlook was 130,000 to
15 178,000. We're looking at an outlook this year that's
16 quite a bit lower than that, which means the run
17 potentially is going to be worse than last year.

18

19 We had severe restrictions last year.
20 And as Fred said, we still have a process that we have to
21 go through over the next couple of months to come up with
22 our management strategies, but I think it's pretty clear
23 with the outlook that at the very least we know that it's
24 unlikely there will be directed king fishing and that
25 we're going to have to go into the season with
26 conservation measures. And, of course, we'll work those
27 out over the next couple of months.

28

29 As far as summer chum go, I think we tend
30 to focus on king all the time and forget about summer
31 chum, but the summer chum run, we're looking at 1.5 to 2
32 million summer chums, so an average run. Unfortunately
33 -- well, that leaves a surplus for commercial harvest of
34 500 to a million, but unfortunately it's always affected
35 by the king run. So if the king run ends up being as
36 poor as we're projecting, that will affect commercial
37 fishing on summer chum.

38

39 That's all I had to add.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
42 anything else?

43

44 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Madame Chair. Jeff
45 Estensen here.

46

47 I don't know if you want to open
48 questions for the summer season before I go into the
49 fall, or do you just want to do them all at once and then
50 ask questions or.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can have
2 questions on the -- now. Any questions from the Council.
3 Virgil.

4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Steve, do you foresee
6 with this poor outlook, maybe going into the season using
7 six-inch mesh rather than seven-and-a-half-inch, or are
8 you going to go in with seven-inch -- seven-and-a-half
9 for the subsistence fishery?

10
11 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. Virgil.
12 That's something that, like I said, I don't want to jump
13 ahead of ourselves before we have the preseason meeting
14 and get input from fishermen, but that's something that
15 we can talk to fishermen about and see, because every
16 area is different on using that mesh size. So that is
17 something that we'll discuss. But it's always a
18 possibility.

19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Something I've
21 given quite a bit of thought to lately, and I was
22 wondering if the managers have thought about this, and
23 that is we always have this big controversy once they
24 open when we're going to be like we're going to be this
25 year, and it was last year, where there's going to be a
26 substantial summer chum fishery targeting the summer
27 chum, but there's going to be a certain amount of king
28 salmon caught incidently. And then the people say they
29 have their subsistence needs met, they don't want those
30 king salmon, they want to sell them. So has there been
31 any thought given to encouraging the fishermen to not get
32 all their subsistence needs for king salmon met right up
33 front and save some of those needs so they can take some
34 of those incidental kings and let some of those earlier
35 kings get on up the river?

36
37 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. Virgil. I
38 can't speak for Fred, but, you know, myself when I go to
39 meetings, I do speak with fishermen and suggest ways that
40 they could potentially reduce that harvest up front so
41 that we could potentially have more chum fishing, so that
42 they're not harvesting their kings up front. That's up
43 to the fishermen whether or not they choose to do that
44 though. We can't control that.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Thanks, Madame Chair.

4

5 Looking at the graph on the front page
6 there on escapements over the years, I just kind of
7 roughly drew a line across and one thing that becomes
8 apparent to me is that out of the 30 years there, we were
9 below the IMG for -- I'm sorry, IMEG for 13 out of the 30
10 years, so almost 50 percent of the years we didn't get
11 Canadian escapement to the levels that we wanted. And
12 I'm just wondering if there's been discussion at both
13 Fish and Game and through the JTC on what the potential
14 impacts may have been to spawning grounds, not just in
15 numbers of fish, but also viability of spawning grounds
16 due to the lack of biomass and nutrients to maintain
17 those spawning grounds. Has that been discussed much and
18 what those impacts might have been?

19

20 MR. HAYES: It does come up, and actually
21 it did come up at this last JTC on the missing escapement
22 basically 50 percent of the time since 1982. We didn't
23 discuss the affect, the potential affect that it could
24 have had on the spawning grounds. I mean, people are
25 looking into more habitat work now and how it affects the
26 stocks. So it is a subject that they discuss at the JTC
27 and other meetings, and I think looking at potentially
28 doing more work in that area.

29

30 MR. BUE: Yeah, Madam Chair. I just
31 wanted to add to that.

32

33 Yeah, what you're looking at, Andy, is
34 the interim management escapement goal, and so I think if
35 you look at that chart number 2 on the other side, we see
36 productivity is different over the years. And escapement
37 goals are reviewed and updated periodically as new
38 information becomes available. We see production changes
39 over time, and so, you know, it -- I think the discussion
40 that you're alluding to is -- I'm not sure where or how
41 we've had it in the past, but the escapement goal at that
42 time seemed to be working. Now, if -- with production
43 changing, that -- that's a different variable in the
44 equation. And so I think by -- right now, in fact, with
45 the lower productivity, we're trying to get more fish
46 onto the spawning grounds, and that's why you see the
47 higher goal at this point.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Follow up.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, follow
2 up.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. No, I realize that,
5 and that's -- that's normally the process of management,
6 and it's hard to predict into the future. The point I'm
7 trying to make is that deterioration of productivity can
8 be caused by under-escapement, and it can also be the
9 productivity of the spawning grounds that are affected by
10 not being kept as viable due to the amount of biomass and
11 nutrients that were needed to sustain those spawning
12 grounds. And that's what I'm asking, if anybody's really
13 done any studies on what's needed, because it may be that
14 it's a contributing factor in the low productivity now,
15 because of a long term lack of getting up there what we
16 needed to get up there. And I'm not putting the blame on
17 anybody. I think it's a -- it's a learning curve, and --
18 but it's just an indicator to me that possibly for many,
19 many years we just haven't been putting enough fish on
20 the spawning grounds to keep them healthy is I guess the
21 point.

22
23 And one final comment I'd like to make.
24 If there is any research or analysis done on this, I'd
25 really like to see it brought to the Council, because I
26 think it's really important not only for decision-making,
27 but I think it's really important for public outreach.
28 If that in fact has been happening, it's another case for
29 making people understand the importance of the Canadian
30 component of the run to the overall fisheries on the
31 Yukon River. And that's the main point.

32
33 I'm not trying to point any fingers and
34 say we're doing a lousy job. I think quite frankly we
35 always try and do the best job we can with the available
36 information and research we have. I'm just trying to
37 point out that this is something that also may be
38 affecting our productivity.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fred, did you
41 want to follow up?

42
43 MR. BUE: I think so. And I -- well, and
44 really to expand on that. And I think that it was
45 recognized by the Board of Fish in 2000, Virgil was part
46 of it, about the sustainable salmon fisheries policy.
47 And so it's not just the fresh water environment, it
48 takes into account the whole -- the life cycle and the
49 requirements of those fish throughout the area. And so
50 marine, there's a lot of research in all sorts of places

1 and it's pretty complex, but I think that's -- there's a
2 lot of money being spent, but I think -- I agree, I'd
3 like to consolidate of what we do know and bring
4 everybody up to speed on things.

5
6 Thanks.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: The point -- the main point
9 is we really can't control what's going on in the marine
10 environment unless -- well, maybe what we talked about,
11 hatchery production, but there's only so many human
12 factors that we can control. One of the factors that we
13 can try and control as humans and managers is to get the
14 appropriate amount of fish up onto the spawning grounds,
15 both in quantity and in quality. So that's the main
16 point I wanted.....

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Yeah.

19
20 MR. BASSICH:to make and have on
21 the record here. And I would encourage some research to
22 be done in that. And I believe the Canadians are maybe
23 a little bit more into putting the efforts into that,
24 because it's their home territory and they seem to have
25 really focused on spawning habitats. But if there is any
26 of that from Canadians or whatever, I think it would be
27 really important to get that out to the Alaskan's side of
28 the river as public outreach.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

31
32 MR. FIRMIN: I just -- when you mentioned
33 earlier restricting Chinook fishing to Federally-
34 qualified users only, that -- you were referring to like
35 State waters like in certain places where a lot of people
36 from like say Fairbanks go and fish on the Yukon?

37
38 MR. BUE: Yes. It's essentially people
39 with a C&T finding, a Federal C&T finding for fish. And
40 so Fairbanks is a non-rural area, and so if we restricted
41 it, people from Fairbanks may not be able to go there.
42 Also, you know, in other parts of the river, there's
43 people, say, Bethel maybe, couldn't go -- come over. And
44 a lot of people have family both sides, and so it's -- it
45 gets really touchy. People rely on their family to help
46 them fish, but it's also, you know, when push comes to
47 shove, who's standing in line and who gets to the front
48 of the line.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Steve.

1 MR. HAYES: Just to add for Fred. They
2 did this in 2009.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And how did it
5 work?
6
7 MR. BUE: It was -- We had mixed
8 comments. Some people were really offended that it
9 wasn't -- it cut them out. And other people -- some of
10 those people are probably -- are pretty good fishermen,
11 that's why they go there. That's why they help, and --
12 and it's -- it helps those people on the river, but it
13 also helps bring fish back off the river. And so it is
14 -- that's why I'm asking the Council what their feelings
15 are, being a bunch of fishing experts here.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Steve,
18 did you have something to add.
19
20 MR. HAYES: Just one more thing, that I
21 think these actions, and what Fred just said with the
22 Federally-qualified users only, points to how poor we
23 think the outlook is. We don't like taking these actions
24 if they're not necessary.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the
27 State's position.
28
29 MR. HAYES: Well, not on that action.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Sue.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Andrew.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. Thank you.. I fully
40 agree with that, because that's how the fishing is in the
41 5D area and that's -- but only if it's -- the fishing,
42 the Chinooks can't feed the people that live on the
43 Yukon, then there's no reason other people from other
44 parts of the area should be under the guise of
45 subsistence fishing along that river either. There's
46 plenty of other places there -- to go help somebody kind
47 of thing. And I think that goes along with our -- that
48 Tri-RAC customary trade proposals and findings that we
49 put forth through there. And I fully support that.
50

1 But I'd also like -- this is kind of
2 against -- almost against the conservation side of it,
3 but also to keep the fishing ratios the same as the pulse
4 protection when pulse protection is implemented, that --
5 recently it's been the same amount of closure days along
6 the whole river, but I'd like to see the State's -- as
7 the State law as it reads now you know, you have the two
8 36-hour openers in Y1, so that equals five days of a
9 total closure. But I'd like to see that ratio be the
10 same on the -- say in the Y5D area to where, you know,
11 that ratio shouldn't be we get 5 days of closure on the
12 upper end when it should stay fair that they get their
13 two 36-hour openers because that -- those two 36-hour
14 openers equals 7 days of fishing in the 5D area, so why
15 close us the same amount of days. The ratio should be
16 reflected on both ends of the river, because as you se,
17 like what Marilyn was saying earlier, she's caught four
18 fish. And I believe -- I know she did have some
19 mechanical problems, but her and her brothers I think had
20 two and three nets out. And, you know, they've had
21 issues trying to get them to move around to find where
22 the fish were and they were -- you know, that's a lot of
23 work for four fish. And that's one of the things that
24 I'd like to point out that happens with -- it's a pretty
25 common problem with people in the 5D area. And I'd just
26 like to see that ratio that's written in the State regs
27 now stay the same with pulse protection as it rolls up
28 the river. And I think maybe one exception could be like
29 with the first pulse, you know, stay the same closure
30 there, but have that ratio be reflected on the second and
31 third pulse, because we always end up with an extra
32 closure it seems like.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Virgil's
37 next and then I just wanted to -- Andrew, do you want to
38 -- I mean, how do you guys look at what he said? Do you
39 want us to have a motion on the floor or do you want to
40 consider that as input from the Council.

41

42 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. It's whatever
43 message you want to send, but I certainly listen to
44 everybody.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

47

48 MR. BUE:and I'm not just listening
49 to this RAC. I'm listening to three RACs and.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
2
3 MR. BUE:I'm listening to the
4 public, so.....
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
7
8 MR. BUE:thank you.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there's no
11 new report from the -- your Tri-RAC meetings, right? You
12 haven't met since our last meeting. Okay.
13
14 Virgil, and then the Council think about
15 where we're going. I heard an action item about should
16 -- would we agree to the Federal managers restricting it
17 to just subsistence only. And that would be on Federal
18 waters only, correct. Yeah.
19
20 MR. BUE: Correct.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. That issue Andrew
25 brought up, that's an issue that the Board in 2001 when
26 they first came up with the window schedule.....
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which Board?
29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Board of Fish.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Really spent a lot
35 of time discussing that, and I should have never caved in
36 back then and agreed to the two-36-hour periods for
37 District 1, 2, and 3. I should have stuck to my guns
38 with two 18. That's what it really should be, or maybe
39 even less than that, to have parity base -- basically so
40 that there can be parity, which is what the issue that
41 Andrew's talking about.
42
43 We have a place in our agenda for
44 proposals to the Board of Fisheries. That's an
45 appropriate time for us to bring that up for the future.
46
47 However, to give the managers input right
48 now, it's good for us to discuss this issue, I think.
49 And as I said, in 2001 when I chaired the committee that
50 addressed the Yukon River on the Board of Fisheries, I

1 wanted to have parity throughout the river in the
2 subsistence fishery as far as catch per unit effort so
3 that people would have reasonable opportunity to get
4 their subsistence needs met. And when you're in a
5 situation like we were in in 2001 where we wanted to
6 reduce the subsistence harvest so that not -- so that you
7 would not get what you were accustomed to as far to as
8 far as amount necessary for subsistence, but reduce that
9 to put fish on the spawning grounds, that was the reason
10 for coming up with that window schedule, to -- in an
11 attempt to put more fish on the spawning grounds and try
12 to share out -- or to share the reduction in subsistence
13 opportunity.

14
15 And so part of the kind of behind the
16 scenes talk at that meeting between Dr. John White and
17 myself and a guy named Larry Ingle that was on the Board
18 was that a lot of the users in the lower river, and maybe
19 other places as well, would actually for subsistence
20 harvest maybe 25, 30 percent or so more than what they
21 really needed. And normally if you go to the dumps in
22 the lower villages in the spring, you see that extra
23 harvest that they harvested and did not need in the dump
24 getting eaten by the ravens.

25
26 And so we discussed that as well, but we
27 didn't do it right out in public. Maybe we violated our
28 -- we didn't really violate our ethics act, but we
29 discussed that and considered it at the time.

30
31 But that maybe needs to be brought --
32 maybe now is the time for that to be brought out into the
33 open. And I've even seen pictures of this with some
34 people's names on boxes that were actually in the
35 legislature before.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How long ago?

38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: It got put on the
40 internet. Yeah.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How long ago
43 was that?

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: That wasn't very long
46 ago, five or six years ago. Someone from Aniak that was
47 in the House of Representatives.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR:that family. The
2 same individual that was chair of the AC at Aniak that
3 said.....
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going --
6 that's enough.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR:the reason why the
9 salmon don't go up the Kuskokwim River any more is
10 because white women that go sport fishing, you take birth
11 control pills and urinate in the river. That's why
12 there's no salmon in the river. The same guy that said
13 that.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So anyway, what
18 I'm saying.....
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR:is that.....
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait, I can
25 turn this off.....
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR:no, this issue.....
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How come it
30 didn't work.
31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm getting to the point.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Make it quick.
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: We can make proposals
37 later on in the meeting, but if we want -- I think we
38 should have a frank discussion about parity, which is
39 what Andrew brought up in fishing time for the
40 subsistence users so that the people in the.....
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR:because the people
45 on the Lower Yukon every year they're getting their
46 subsistence needs met for king salmon. The people at
47 Fort Yukon and a lot of other places are not getting
48 their sub -- not even coming close. We heard testimony
49 today one family got four king salmon for the whole year
50 last year, and that's it, period. Four fish. I've heard

1 people say down on the Lower Yukon on the
2 teleconferences, fished four hours and got their whole
3 year's subsistence needs met, 30 or 40 big 20-pound plus
4 king salmon caught with large mesh gill nets.
5
6 So we don't have parity. We need to.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
9 need to.....
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR:discuss parity.
12 That's what Andrew.....
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:work --
15 work on that. Yeah.
16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR:brought up, that's
18 why it may seem like I'm kind of beating around the bush
19 about this. I'm just trying to give a little bit of
20 background information. We need to be frank. We need to
21 be able to pass the mirror test. Look in the mirror and
22 say, did I really address this? Was I honest and
23 forthright, or am I beating around the bush and afraid to
24 say something that might offend someone, because I'm
25 afraid.....
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That -- comes
28 under the.....
29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR:they might get
31 offended by what I say.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:sergeant
34 of the military.
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's -- that's called
37 moral courage.....
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I
40 understand.....
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR:making a
43 decision.....
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:moral
46 courage.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR:when you know people
49 are going to get mad at you over what you did.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: But we -- that's our job
4 to do that as the RAC. And so Andy wants to discuss the
5 issue a little bit. Madame Chair.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, thank
8 you, Virgil, for letting us go on.
9
10 Andy.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Virgil, you can always look in the mirror.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. BASSICH: I don't think you ever have
18 to worry about feeling like you're not bringing the
19 issues out.
20
21 I think one of the things, one of the
22 tools that managers have, and we've discussed this quite
23 a bit in a lot of these pre-season management meetings,
24 and that is the area of using statistical areas to set
25 your fishing times. And I have always felt that Fort
26 Yukon is probably the hardest place in the entire river
27 to catch fish. They have to spend a lot of time just
28 going out and finding where the fish are. They have to
29 move around. Water levels change fishing conditions
30 there much more dramatically than they do in other 5D
31 areas. And so I guess what I would offer is maybe what
32 you should look at as managers is when you do have your
33 openings, take that into strong consideration, allow
34 fishing on a much more liberal basis in the Fort Yukon
35 region through the use of the statistical areas.
36
37 And other areas within 5D, you can --
38 yeah, I think you've been doing a really good job. And
39 I'm going to speak as far as my experience around Eagle.
40 People have voluntarily been reducing their harvest even
41 though times have been curtailed through public outreach
42 and the understanding of conservation there. They've
43 reduced their harvest, but we have little bit different
44 conditions there. We have a single channel for the most
45 part, and fishing changes some with water level, but not
46 nearly as much.
47
48 And so I would strongly support what you
49 can do to help the people in the Fort Yukon area with
50 more liberal fishing times. And I know sometimes this

1 gets a little bit touchy up and down the river, saying so
2 and so gets more time than us, and, I mean, I've heard
3 that for 10 years, but I think it's very well known that
4 Fort Yukon is probably the toughest place on the Yukon
5 River to fish for Chinook salmon, because that time of
6 the year is extremely challenging. Usually the water is
7 fluctuating dramatically. There's a lot of debris that
8 comes down that time of year, which is hard both for
9 fishwheels and for especially setnets, and so.....

10

11 I'll make it short. Support that area
12 through that tool.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to ask
15 the Council, do you guys want to send a message, you
16 know, that we all vote on, or do you want to just say
17 these things that have been brought up as what we are
18 going to do.

19

20 I see Larry and then Joe.

21

22 MR. ERHART: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 This subject has been pretty well discussed, has been
24 practically beat to death in all the meetings that I've
25 been to. Tanana Chiefs and up and down the Yukon River.

26

27 And we've been talking quite a bit about
28 tribal consultation and tribal involvement in our
29 proceedings, especially in the fish and game area.

30

31 Has any study, or whatever you want to
32 call it, taken any -- taken in any of these villages
33 that's affected, like Fort Yukon or Steven's Village, and
34 those -- especially those villages on the Yukon Flats
35 where it's pretty hard to fish, to allow more control to
36 the tribal government in controlling -- or this can also
37 apply to a downriver portion of the Yukon River, to have
38 the tribal government to have more control over the
39 harvest, maybe limit their own people. Was any study
40 being done on that or have they been working together?
41 What's being done in that area?

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fred.

46

47 MR. BUE: Yeah, Madame Chair. I'm not
48 certain on studies when we talk about fishing time. What
49 we're getting into is an allocation, where the harvest
50 goes up and down the river. And as managers, we take our

1 direction from our Boards. The State of Alaska was
2 probably the one -- well, they were the ones who worked
3 out the fishing schedules and allocation of two 36-hour
4 periods in the lower river equates to seven days a week
5 up in District 5D or Subdistrict 5D. The Federal program
6 adopted those initially rather than go through a whole
7 new process.

8

9 And so I think if that's where you're
10 headed on fishing time, and if you're thinking about
11 community harvest quotas or other things like that, you
12 could certainly submit those as proposals to either the
13 Federal Subsistence Board or the State Board, if that's
14 what you're looking for is to change fishing time
15 allocations.

16

17 A lot of times as managers we look at
18 water level and flood events and things and so we adjust
19 fishing time to some extent there to take into -- some of
20 those unusual factors. But, for instance, you know, 5D
21 is a big area, and so the last few years we've tried to
22 break it into smaller units so that we can manage them a
23 little bit separately. But to go beyond that and say one
24 person in 5D should have more fishing time than somebody
25 else in 5 D, one would -- there's already a regulation
26 that says you're all treated the same.

27

28 That's up to the -- to you as a RAC to
29 submit proposals and take that forward to the Federal
30 Subsistence Board and work through that process.

31

32 Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
35 members. Let's see, have we had Joe yet. Okay.

36

37 MR. MATESI: Yeah. Basically, Madame
38 Chair -- thank you, Madame Chair. I think more than
39 anything else I have a question.

40

41 I mean, Andrew has identified an issue
42 that definitely has legitimacy, and he has suggested a
43 way to address that. And it sounds like this -- my
44 question is, what tools do we have as a Council in our
45 toolbox that we can have an effect on this issue with
46 somewhat more immediacy than go through the process of
47 the whole submitting a proposal to the Board of
48 Fisheries? This isn't a question for them so much, as
49 for Council members right here. Because I would really
50 like to -- for us to follow up on what Andrew has brought

1 up.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right, and
4 that's what I'm trying to get at here. You guys can't
5 answer that?

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Special action request is
8 the only thing you can do.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil's
11 next and then Andy. You said you had a question.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, I have a question,
14 but I can answer his question first. Basically the only
15 thing we can do is a special action request if we have an
16 idea that we think will work. That's -- other than that,
17 we have to go through the Board process, both Federal and
18 State to accomplish anything. Like Fred just said,
19 they have to follow the management plan and the
20 regulations that are in the -- you know, the codified
21 regulations. They're bound to do that by law. So they
22 can't -- you know, that's what they have to do.

23

24 But my question is this, Fred. I thought
25 about this a little bit. When the Federal manager, which
26 is you, gets -- and I'm not sure whether the Board has to
27 approve this or not, there's a special action request
28 whenever you decide there's not enough fish and so you're
29 going to limit it to only Federally-qualified users, but
30 whenever that takes place, then can the Federally-
31 qualified user say that's got a big extended family in
32 Fairbanks or Anchorage, go catch the fish and then ship
33 them off to -- or his buddy even in Anchorage, or share
34 with his buddies that are in -- that are not Federally-
35 qualified users say that live in Fairbanks or Anchorage
36 or even Seattle?

37

38 MR. BUE: That -- I think we're talking
39 about the harvesting of fish. Once it's harvested and
40 prepared, then I believe you can -- you share as usual.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. As managers, aren't
47 you given the discretion to a certain extent on how long
48 these openings can be in specific areas? Like when you
49 break down 5YD, are you bound by statute to only allow a
50 certain amount? If you've -- if you've restricted the

1 lower river at a certain amount, are you bound by
2 statutes to do the exact same ratio upriver, or how does
3 that work as far as your discretion, because --
4 discretion, because it seems as though in the past that
5 you have had the discretion to be able to keep an area
6 open a little bit longer due to high water or whatever.
7 It seems like we've done that in the past.

8
9 So to get to answer Joe's question, it
10 seems like the most effective tool is to convince you
11 managers of the need that we have in the Fort Yukon area
12 to liberalize fishing during these closure periods to
13 protect pulses or whatever it is, and then allow you to
14 make those decisions and then, you know, we may have to
15 do this for a few years to really realize what works, but
16 -- so I guess the question I'm asking is, don't you have
17 that discussion already as your -- in your toolbox?

18
19 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. We do have
20 what -- for the State EO authority to adjust time, and we
21 do it for two rea -- several reasons, is you want to
22 reduce our risk, so you can reduce a subsistence period,
23 or you can actually increase time to, you know, maybe
24 give fishermen more time at the -- at high water issues.
25 And we've done that in the past, too. We did it last
26 year in Subdistrict 4. So, yes, we do have that
27 authority.

28
29 I think providing more time though to one
30 area to potentially try to increase their harvest when
31 you're restricting other people is where the issue lies.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: If I may follow up? The
34 issue here isn't that they're going to try and catch more
35 salmon. The issue is that they're chronically not meeting
36 subsistence needs, not even to the level that other
37 people in the river aren't meeting their subsistence
38 needs. So if other people have reduced their subsistence
39 harvest by 50 percent, Fort Yukon is, you know, as an
40 example, is maybe only mak -- reaching 10 or 20 percent
41 of their normal subsistence harvest. And so you're not
42 actually increasing harvest; you're just trying to keep
43 it equitable as far as the reduction of subsistence
44 fishing up and down the river.

45
46 I hope I made myself clear on that. I
47 feel like I was talking in circles, but the issue isn't
48 to try and allow them to fish more to catch more fish.
49 The issue is it's -- they're chronically not meeting
50 subsistence, not even close to the level that other

1 people are due to the difficult fishing conditions in the
2 region. And so by allowing greater fishing time there,
3 you're not increasing the harvest overall; you're just
4 trying to make it a little bit more equitable as far as
5 them having the opportunity to at least meet a certain
6 percentage of their subsistence harvest. And I think I
7 was able to make that clear.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

10

11 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. That was kind of the
12 point i was trying to make is when you're in Fort Yukon,
13 you can't really even begin to think of a conservation
14 measure when you can't even catch enough fish to eat, let
15 alone say, okay, now I've got enough. That's never the
16 case. And I think that's kind of -- to go back there
17 again, it's not when you're closing like say Y1 for 36
18 hours, how does that -- it doesn't make sense to me how
19 that equates to five days on the other end of the river
20 and say, oh, well, that's fair; they got the same
21 closures. No, they only got closed 36 hours, so why
22 aren't we closed 36 hours? Or, you know, 48 hours or
23 something along those lines in the middle of the river,
24 because that's the way the State law is set up now. The
25 community -- the catch per unit effort is different, and
26 that's what I mean, like Y1 gets one-third -- when they
27 get a window pulled, they don't get to fish for 36 hours,
28 that one opener. So how -- I just don't see how that
29 could equate to five whole days on the upper river. Why
30 don't we just get 36 hours. I mean, I see it -- I see
31 how you're -- you know, to keep it fair, but that's still
32 -- from the other end of the river, it's not that fair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

35

36 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Steve, did you
39 want to respond?

40

41 MR. HAYES: Yeah, just to clarify. In
42 Districts 1, 2, and 3, they have the 36-hour periods
43 twice a week. When we pull a 36-hour period, there's
44 time that they're closed before and after that period.
45 They're actually closed for five days, not 36 hours. So
46 we were trying to protect the pulses, and at the same
47 time be fair throughout the river on the fishing time.
48 But they are closed for five days, too.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

1 MR. FIRMIN: I understand that part, but
2 in all fairness for the way the State -- you know, the
3 AAC is written, it's fair for them to have two 36-hour
4 openers and it's equally fair for us to have seven days
5 of fishing. So if that's fair, then why -- you know,
6 that's -- I see where you're pointing, and I see where
7 your five days comes from, but I'm just saying that
8 doesn't work logistically.....

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

11
12 MR. FIRMIN:and when you're on the
13 river on the other end, it's -- it doesn't work.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Council
16 members, how do you want to proceed for giving advice on
17 the question that he asked. Andy.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: I think Virgil hit it. I
20 think when it comes times for us to make proposals, we
21 can do that. And I think at the same time we could pass
22 maybe -- or write up a resolution and have that as an
23 official document to hand over to managers and through
24 both State and Federal Board.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that sound
27 good. Okay. I see a lot of nodding of heads, and you
28 can give information to the coordinator. He says he's
29 really fast at typing so we might be able to get some
30 things done.

31
32 Okay. Moving on, you had another report.

33
34 MR. ESTENSEN: Yes. Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. For the record Jeff Estensen with Fish and Game.

36
37 And looking on the lighter side of things
38 here, this is the fall chum forecast, and for -- and for
39 coho as well. What we're looking at for 2012 is similar
40 to what we saw last year, if you recall, that, you know,
41 we did well. We had a run size of about 1.1 million fall
42 chum. We took -- no, there was no subsistence
43 restrictions at all last year. As a matter of fact, we
44 were liberalized as the season went on. We had some of
45 the highest commercial fisheries that we've had since the
46 early and mid 90s. So last year went well. We made
47 escapement or exceeded escapement in all of our goals
48 except for one, except for one, which was the Fishing
49 Branch.

50

1 What we're looking at for 2012 is a
2 forecast, and this is for fall chum, of a point estimate
3 of 1.1 million fish, with a range of 986,000 to 1.2
4 million fish. And if this holds true, if we do see this,
5 this will -- this will be adequate to meet our escapement
6 and subsistence priorities and also potentially allow for
7 some commercial harvest of anywhere between 500 and
8 700,000 fish.

9
10 So that's what we're looking at right
11 now, and if you recall, that we've been kind of in these
12 decadal cycles since the -- since 1990 where we've had at
13 the beginning of a decade we've had -- been in these
14 troughs and low periods or abundance, which have kind of
15 get -- or led to periods of high abundances. And if you
16 recall in '09, '10 we were kind of in low abundance years
17 for fall chum.

18
19 During those times, looking at production
20 of fall of chum, we were having productions for the four
21 and five-year olds, those are the age classes that fall
22 chum predominantly come back in, we were looking at
23 production of about .25, which means that per spawner we
24 got about a quarter of a fish back. And it was just the
25 sheer number of escapement during those parent years for
26 those age classes that we were seeing, you know, that in
27 the tank more or less. But what we're seeing now is
28 increased production, and, you know, looking at this
29 year, for the five-year-olds, it will be the 2007 brood
30 year, for the four years it's 2008, and we're looking at
31 production of 1.5 to 1.6. that means we're going to get
32 a fish and a half roughly back per spawner. And that's
33 actually projected to increase as we start looking at '09
34 and '10, fish coming back from those years, to a point
35 where we might reach where the averages for --
36 historically, which is about 2. fish.

37
38 So what I'm getting at is that our
39 production appears to be increasing and just with what we
40 saw last year and what we saw -- what we expect to see
41 this year, that we may be on an upward trend for
42 abundance similar to what we've seen in the last 20
43 years in these decadal cycles. So that just remains to
44 be seen, what we see there.

45
46 But as you all know, is that this is our
47 forecast for fall chum, but we do base our initial
48 management on our preseason projection, and this is based
49 on a relationship between summer chum and fall chum. We
50 have the ability to look at how the summer chum perform,

1 and to some extent we can look around the rest of the
2 AYK, Norton Sound and the Kuskokwim, and see how their
3 chum are doing as well. But our initial pre-season
4 projection, which is what we'll base our management on,
5 will be -- will be based on this relationship.

6
7 If you heard Steve earlier, he mentioned
8 that the summer chum projection was 1.5 to 2 million
9 summer chum. If that's indeed the case, and if you plug
10 that into this -- into this model here, that gives us
11 similar to what we saw last year as our pre-season
12 projection, anywhere from 800 to 1 million fish. So it
13 remains to be seen, but that's what we're looking at
14 right now for our forecast.

15
16 For coho salmon we're looking at an
17 average year again. The 2007 year was the brood year for
18 this year's class coming back. That was an average
19 escapement in that year, and assuming average mortality
20 from now -- from then until now, that's where we're
21 getting that outlook for.

22
23 It's too early to tell, to get specifics
24 on management, but just, you know, if this -- if the
25 projection supports what we're seeing with our forecast
26 for fall chum, you know, we would enter -- you know, we
27 would enter the 2012 season on the subsistence schedules
28 and would not have to take any restrictions. And we
29 would certainly look at having some commercial harvest.

30
31
32 Last year we kind of took a conservative
33 approach. We fished a little bit at the transition from
34 summer to fall. There's certainly summer chum in there
35 that are left over that are largely harvest for the first
36 week or so, maybe two weeks. We kind of eased back a
37 little bit as we started reaching the quarter point.

38
39 But this year we may see ourselves
40 fishing all the way through on a schedule with
41 commercial. This is if the projection supports what our
42 forecast is for fall chum. If we see that the summer
43 chum don't do as well as expected or forecasted here, and
44 we -- our projection is not supporting our forecast, then
45 we will most likely take a more conservative approach.
46 Maybe fish a little bit at the transition period and then
47 wait until we hit the quarter point to reassess where
48 we're at.

49
50 So nothing's been determined yet. That's

1 just some of the stuff that we're throwing out there for
2 scenarios.

3

4 And that's all I have.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

7 Andy.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

10 Thank you, Jeff. I bet Steve Hayes would love to switch
11 seats with you.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. ESTENSEN: I'm sure my day will come,

16 Andy.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. ESTENSEN: Let's hope not, but maybe.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's hope not.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: I often think that, but I
25 was too afraid to say anything out loud.

26

27 One of the things that I do want to
28 emphasize, and that is that one of the reasons why we
29 have been successful in our community to reduce our king
30 harvest is that we're convincing people to fish the early
31 chum that come up. We do have human quality chums that
32 come up in the early part of the run.

33

34 And I think you've done a great job of
35 managing the fisheries, but I just want to also remind
36 you that with that in mind, if too much pressure is put
37 on those early fall chum, and they don't make it up to
38 the Yukon as far as Eagle early on in sufficient numbers,
39 then that really impacts the people, because once we
40 start getting into September, the fall chum are not very
41 good quality for human consumption, so please keep that
42 in mind in your management actions early on. And it's
43 not a huge amount of numbers, but if you kind of take it
44 easy at the beginning of the run, and we can pass some of
45 those fall chum up into the upper 5YD area, it really
46 makes the case for more people to try and catch a few
47 more chum and lay off the Chinook, which I think we've
48 been trying to advocate throughout the entire river.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
2 questions. Andrew.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: I just have a quick follow
5 up with what Andy said, and that's the same -- it goes
6 with, like because a lot of people aren't catching a lot
7 of Chinooks, and they are eating a lot more chums, if,
8 you know, any kind of vast error was made in some of
9 those chums, that would mean a lot of people that are now
10 depending on them to eat aren't going to get to eat them
11 at all. But I see that's just another way of looking at
12 it I guess.
13
14 But other than that, you've been doing a
15 good job also, Jeff.
16
17 Thank you.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Any
20 one else.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
25 Thank you. Okay. I see that Jill Klein just arrived.
26 Let's -- for the king salmon management plan revision.
27 Are you ready, Jill?
28
29 MS. KLEIN: (Indiscernible, away from
30 mic)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: I see where it's time to
35 eat.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Virgil
38 must -- his belly is talking to him.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
43 want to break now or do you want to -- I'm -- okay.
44 Let's break for lunch and be back at 1:00. And then
45 we'll get you, Jill. Okay.
46
47 (Off record)
48
49 (On record)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I wanted
2 to first make a report. I learned we have some people
3 from Fish and Game here, from Commercial Fish that are
4 going -- would like to do a -- oh, an inform -- I don't
5 know what you call it. But could you come up and just
6 explain it, too. You'll probably do a better job than
7 what I am. They want to hold something after the meeting
8 for information.

9
10 HEATHER: Thanks Madame Chairwoman. So
11 my name is Heather and I work on the Yukon with the
12 Commercial Fish Division for -- and also part of the
13 Yukon River Panel and the JTC committee, and Andy Bassich
14 and Andrew Firmin and Virgil have all worked with me.

15
16 And we received a grant from the
17 Restoration and Enhancement Fund to do a few science and
18 salmon education workshops at different regional meetings
19 this spring. And we just presented one at the annual
20 YRDFA meeting, which went very well. And we had hoped to
21 present one here for you guys today, if you're
22 interested, this evening after the meeting adjourns.
23 Basically we have a couple of demonstrations, we have
24 some PowerPoint slides, but if we don't -- we don't
25 necessarily need the PowerPoint. We just brought that in
26 case there was a need for that.

27
28 We just want to talk about some life
29 history information, what environmental effects affect
30 salmon, and just kind of address and get a discussion
31 going about, you know, your knowledge of salmon and more
32 kind of.....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

35
36 HEATHER: Yeah.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. She's
39 wanting to do a workshop tonight after the -- our -- we
40 adjourn, so we just wanted to give you a report of that.
41 And what would -- Council members, when would you like to
42 do that? Would you like to do it immediately when we
43 adjourn or have a break and go into it.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: It's a presentation?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, a
48 presentation. She said about an hour when I asked.

49
50 HEATHER: It's more of like an

1 interactive discussion, but with everybody.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You could do it
4 with -- at dinner and plan to go somewhere; would you
5 like to do something like that, or what do you think.
6 How many are interested in going. I've got at least
7 three here. Okay. Did you want to -- and Lester. Okay.
8 Four.
9
10 MR. FIRMIN: Why doesn't she have it here
11 right after we adjourn.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just have it
14 right here at the end. Okay. That's what.....
15
16 MR. FIRMIN: That would be good.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
19 That will be what we do. You guys will -- as soon as we
20 leave the meeting, you can have it right here.
21
22 HEATHER: And everyone is invited, so
23 it's not just for Council members, but everybody.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
26 Sounds good. Okay. Thank you.
27
28 And I had one other report. At lunch I
29 talked to the BLM Staff for the Black River plan and they
30 can come on line -- or they're coming over around 4:00
31 o'clock, and they can answer our questions to the
32 process. Okay. Joe.
33
34 MR. MATESI: Should I call up to
35 Chalkyitsik then and tell them that it's been
36 rescheduled?
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If they want to
39 listen -- no, it's not being rescheduled, because I
40 thought maybe that wouldn't work for you, but they're
41 going to just give.....
42
43 MR. MATESI: They're going.....
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
46information.....
47
48 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:about the

1 whole process. If you want them to listen in, that's
2 when it would be.
3
4 MR. MATESI: Will we be.....
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because they
7 cannot be here tomorrow. They both have something else
8 going on.
9
10 MR. MATESI: Sure.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
13
14 MR. MATESI: So what does the Council
15 want to do, does -- immediately after that do they --
16 does the Council want to continue on discussing that
17 issue, or.....
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was thinking
20 we.....
21
22 MR. MATESI:hold off until the next
23 day?
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I think
26 we'll take it up in the morning. Is that okay with the
27 Council.
28
29 MR. MATESI: Yeah, that would work.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
32 right. Now, I think -- I don't think I've missed
33 anything. But I did see this in the back. Is this.....
34
35 MR. JOHNSON: It was turned in over
36 lunch.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. At any
39 time. So we could take -- we could -- David James, are
40 you going to be here tomorrow?
41
42 MR. JAMES: Yeah.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So can
45 you have your public comment tomorrow when we get to
46 Black River?
47
48 MR. JAMES: Yeah.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

1 Thank you. But you did want to talk to moose management
2 plan. So if we end up talking about that, you can let me
3 know if I missed you. And I'm going to have help from
4 the coordinator not to forget.

5
6 All right. Now Jill.

7
8 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Good afternoon
9 everyone and Madame Chair. Thank you. And, members of
10 the Council, it's nice to see all of you. My name is
11 Jill Klein. I'm with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
12 Association, also known as YRDFA.

13
14 And I had a couple of items to talk to
15 you about. And you have some handouts that should have
16 been given to you as you sat down after the break. So
17 there's three handouts that you have. One is titled
18 Potential Changes to the Yukon River King Salmon
19 Management Plan. And then there's a second stapled
20 document that is called the King Salmon Management Plan
21 Revision Questionnaire. And then there's also a Salmon
22 Bycatch Update.

23
24 So I was thinking I would start with the
25 King Salmon Management Plan and then if there's time, I
26 could just really for a minute just tell you something
27 about the bycatch sheet, but I wanted to make sure that
28 you had that. And there should have been extras of these
29 documents for people in the audience to look at.

30
31 And I know some of you are pretty
32 familiar with the process that YRDFA has started to
33 undertake as your RAC has participated in this process to
34 date. But for everybody, I thought I would just give a
35 really brief update, and then go through -- or a really
36 brief background and then go through on where we are
37 today in the process.

38
39 So the YRDFA Board passed a resolution
40 two years ago at their annual meeting in Mountain
41 Village, and that was to work on a unified king salmon
42 conservation plan. And following that resolution, we
43 were able to secure funding through the State of Alaska
44 legislative process and funds came down through the
45 Department of Commerce, Community and Economic
46 Development. And the purpose of the funding is to bring
47 stakeholders together to work on how to address low
48 salmon runs, in particular the king salmon, how to manage
49 kind salmon in times of low returns, and in specific how
50 to try to balance the rebuilding and sustaining of the

1 king salmon with the harvests that also need to take
2 place.

3
4 We also are hoping to build trust and
5 confidence among people on the river and also with State
6 and Federal management agencies, and to incorporate some
7 of the new management measures that have been taking
8 place the past four years.

9
10 So we had an initial stakeholder meeting
11 in Anchorage and we invited the Inter-Tribal Consortia,
12 like AVCP, from the lower river, TCC and CATG. If you
13 can let me know if you need me to not use acronyms. So
14 the Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana
15 Chiefs Conference, and Council of Athabaskan Tribal
16 Governments. We also invited all three Regional Advisory
17 Councils, including yours, members of the Yukon River
18 Panel, the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association,
19 which is the CDQ group, the fish processors. We included
20 YRDFA and the State and Federal, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
21 Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

22
23 And at that meeting we spent two days
24 together kind of talking about the king salmon management
25 plan, some of the more recent in-season fisheries
26 management tools that have been used, and what possible
27 plan components we might like to see in the king salmon
28 management plan.

29
30 And just to back up a little bit, our
31 goal was to try to work on creating a Board of Fish
32 proposal. So that's what we're working towards, is come
33 April 10th there will be Board of Fish proposals due, and
34 even as a Federal RAC, I think you've submitted and
35 participated in that process. And so our goal is to try
36 to get a placeholder agreement in a proposal format to
37 submit. And so we're working with groups to try to get
38 as much input as we can for this proposal. And then the
39 Board of Fish will be meeting next January 2013.

40
41 So we've been presenting our work to date
42 at lots of different forums, including this one. And
43 we've also -- it's been at the YRDFA annual meeting, most
44 recently in Galena in February. All of our staff are
45 going out to the Regional Advisory Council meetings.
46 We'll be talking about it next week at the Association of
47 Village Council Presidents State of the Salmon meeting,
48 the Yukon River Panel, also the Yukon Delta CDQ group
49 board meeting, and then the summer season preparedness
50 meeting which Steve Hayes mentioned. That will be taking

1 place on April 4th.

2

3 So does anyone have any questions on the
4 process? Otherwise I can jump into the update on where
5 we're up.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
8 members, any questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13

14 MS. KLEIN: Okay. So the two documents
15 that you have, I'm not going to go through the lengthier
16 document which gives -- it gives you an overview and a
17 background and context for the proposal. And then you'll
18 see actual components, actual language that might go into
19 the proposal. And then some rationale.

20

21 And basically the main area that the
22 stakeholder group worked on was pulse protection. And so
23 as you were maybe spoke about earlier, and we've been
24 talking about the pulse closures along the Yukon River.
25 And that was the main area that the group found some
26 agreement on generally supporting pulse protection. And
27 it's kind of the details now of when those pulse closures
28 happen and how long they might be, and how many pulses
29 they're on that are kind of the details that need to get
30 worked out. So that's what the first three pages go
31 through.

32

33 And then you'll see starting on Page 4
34 there were a lot of additional areas that the group
35 talked about, and there was not really consensus on any
36 of those areas. But it was -- they were brought up and
37 they are areas that are important and related to fishing
38 Chinook salmon on the Yukon River. So some of those
39 topics were for protection of the early fish which come
40 through before the windows take -- before they kick in.
41 Also the sale of incidentally-caught kings. The
42 reporting of subsistence and personal use harvests.
43 Concurrent subsistence and commercial periods happening
44 together. The king salmon management plan also includes
45 something about selling king salmon roe in Subdistrict
46 4A. Mesh depth of net. And the windows. So we talked
47 about all of those and we give you a little bit of detail
48 on the conversation that took place. So that's what that
49 document is.

50

1 And then the questionnaire is where we
2 were hoping for some input from you all today. And you
3 don't have to -- we don't have to go through and kind of
4 answer these all right now. If you feel comfortable, you
5 could answer these questions on your own and give it to
6 Carl, and he could get them from you, or you could mail
7 these in directly to YRDFA or just get in touch with us
8 and we can get some information from you. and you could
9 either decide as a RAC if you'd like to give input or
10 you'd like to do this as individuals as well from the
11 RAC.

12
13 So I could go through this depending on
14 timing. If you'd I could kind of walk through some of
15 these questions and what -- I guess what they are and
16 what kind of information we're hoping to get, or any
17 background on them, if you'd like.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
20 members, ideas? Would you like to do this individually,
21 or would you like to do this as a Council. Virgil.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, three of us Council
24 members were at this meeting, so we spent two full days
25 on this. The three of us did.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the three
28 were you.....

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Myself, Andrew and Andy.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so what we could do,
35 I don't know how the two of them feel, but -- so I'm
36 throwing this out to them, what we could do is briefly
37 the three of us maybe go through these -- well, we could
38 go through all of them. We could go through the pulse
39 protection, what our thoughts are on that as individuals
40 from participating in the meeting and having a lot of
41 experience in this issue, and then go through the
42 additional items for consideration to try to get the rest
43 of the Council maybe a little bit more up to speed and
44 maybe between all of us we might come up with something
45 that we -- recommendations that we might want to make as
46 a Council. So I pass that off onto andrew and Andy to
47 see what their thoughts are.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I --
50 what's the deadline for the comments on this.

1 MS. KLEIN: Well our main deadline is
2 April 10th that we're trying to get a proposal in. And
3 again it might just be a placeholder proposal, so some of
4 these -- if we don't have consensus along the river on
5 what everyone's recommendations are, April 10th, you
6 know, may not be even the deadline that it's needed, but
7 we will be compiling information as we get it. And there
8 will be more work that will take place after April 10th.
9 So.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew, what's
12 your thoughts.

13
14 MR. FIRMIN: I think we can get together
15 and do it as Virgil suggested.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would you guys
18 want to do it to -- like this meeting and get it out, or
19 do you want to do it later and it just comes from our --
20 a subcommittee of -- or whatever we call this working
21 group, sub the RAC. Andy.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Sorry. I had to
24 stop out for a minute. Could you repeat what you said or
25 your suggestion, Virgil, briefly?

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. What I said was
28 the three of us went to this meeting. We spent two full
29 days on this issue, and these points that are brought out
30 in this handout that Jill gave out, the overview,
31 addresses the pulse protection and then it addresses some
32 of the other issues that we addressed, which is
33 protection for the early fish, you know, before the first
34 pulse, the sale of incidental-caught kings in the
35 commercial fishery, harvest reporting, and subsistence
36 use permit, concurrent subsistence and commercial
37 fishing, you know, closing the -- and she's got a handout
38 here where we can actually more or less vote on it act --
39 on all these issues. I -- we don't really have as much
40 on our agenda at this meeting as we normally do at a
41 meeting, and the three of us have spent more time than
42 the rest of our RAC addressing these issues, and so maybe
43 we could just go through these things, maybe spend an
44 hour, if we wanted to, or so, or however long it takes.
45 Maybe it wouldn't take that long, go through these issues
46 and try to inform the rest of our RAC exactly what they
47 are and our feelings, being as we've been much more
48 involved in it, and our recommendations, and we may want
49 to vote on some of these things as a RAC. I don't know
50 whether we do or not, but there's only one way to find

1 out, and that's if we go through the issues and see if we
2 feel strong enough about something to actually vote on it
3 and make a recommendation, because the proposals to the
4 Board of Fish, the deadline is the 10th.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And so.....

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR:of April.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:let's
11 stick to does the Council want to -- our choice, Andy,
12 was to send this in individually or send our vote as a
13 RAC. So I'm asking, you guys are the three that have
14 been to the meetings, and I would -- out of here. You
15 guys have the most information and it would be really
16 helpful.

17

18 So I asked the rest of the RAC also, what
19 are your feelings on this. Do you want to -- and Virgil
20 is right. We have a two-day meeting and we don't have as
21 much on our plate, and then these issues are very
22 important, and I -- I guess I personally think it might
23 be great for you guys to -- us all to look at this and
24 vote on it. And I'm hearing -- seeing a nodding of the
25 head there, so, yeah.

26

27 You've got -- Andy.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I agree, this is a
30 really important issue that has some really strong impacts
31 on subsistence fisheries and everybody up and down the
32 river. And I think that if we maybe just allocated a
33 certain amount of time to it.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. BASSICH:just say one hour or
38 something like that, and use the gavel to keep dis -- or
39 very effectively to keep us on track, I think we could
40 probably do that. But I think it's a stronger.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
43 have to.....

44

45 MR. BASSICH:message if it
46 comes.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:get used
49 to that gavel.

50

1 MR. BASSICH:from the RAC than as
2 individuals.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And how
5 about the rest of you guys; do you agree that -- so, do
6 you want to take it up now or do you want to have a time
7 certain where we bring it up.
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: No time better than the
10 present.
11
12 MR. GLANZ: I concur with Virgil.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
15 can do that right now, and then, Jill, did you have
16 anything else that based -- that's important to this
17 issue that we need to discuss or hear from you.
18
19 MS. KLEIN: No, just I could go through
20 it or as Virgil said, you know, him, Andrew and Andy, or
21 two Andrews, were at the -- they were all at the meeting
22 together, so if one of them would like to take the lead
23 and go through this, that's fine, but I could also just
24 give kind of an intro to each topic and then turn it over
25 to them if you'd like as well.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council, how do
28 you want to proceed.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: Let's let Jill just
31 introduce it, but a real brief summary. And I think it's
32 pretty self-explanatory on each one of these questions,
33 so I think we could probably get through quite a few of
34 them.....
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
37
38 MR. BASSICH:pretty darn quickly.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everyone agree?
41 All right. Go ahead, Jill.
42
43 MS. KLEIN: Okay. So the first item is
44 pulse protection. And again because that one is where we
45 had more -- more agreement among the group and most
46 discussion, if people did want to use the other handout,
47 you'll see some more language and rationale about that
48 specific topic in the first three pages. So that's just
49 a resource for you.
50

1 But basically as many of you know, the
2 first pulse of king salmon has been protected in recent
3 years. And this topic here was to discuss again to -- I
4 guess what pulse protection is. You know, the questions
5 were should we have pulse protection, and if so, on which
6 pulses, and in this case we're talking about the first
7 pulse, which mainly is comprised of a higher percentage
8 of Canadian-bound fish, and our efforts have been aimed
9 at trying to make border passage so that we can get these
10 Canadian-bound fish to the spawning grounds, not just
11 only for Canadian harvest, but to sustain the salmon runs
12 for Alaskan harvest.

13

14 And the first one is to not allow any
15 harvest from this first pulse regardless of the pre-
16 season run size projection. So what this would do is
17 always pre-season in regulation this full first pulse
18 would be closed from fishing. And so this one is a
19 stronger conservation tool. The flip side is that it's
20 less flexible and that it's also harder on people,
21 because people all along the river target those first
22 pulse fish. So those are just a few points about that.

23

24 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, then Andy.

27

28 MR. MATESI: Yeah. As we go though
29 these, I'd really like to hear what the three Council
30 members.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

33

34 MR. MATESI:have and then maybe --
35 and then the rest of us can ask them questions or put in
36 our comments.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

39

40 MR. MATESI: But, I mean, if we can keep
41 the explanations kind of brief, too, that would help. It
42 looks like there's a lot there.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll try my
45 button here that shuts it off.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to hold
50 it I found out.

1 At any rate, I would suggest, too, that
2 we don't have to go through the whole Robert's Rules of
3 motion and a second, and we'll just look on support and
4 oppose.

5
6 So first the people on the -- that were
7 at the meeting. Andy.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I was a very strong
10 proponent for this, because for years we've been talking
11 about quality of escapement, and it has become very clear
12 in the years where we have had protection, whether it be
13 through windows or pulse protection, that the quality of
14 escapement into Canada was increased dramatically.

15
16 And just first-hand experience, this year
17 was the first year that I ever realized that there was
18 actually females in the first pulse, that's how heavily
19 fished this first pulse has been over the years. And up
20 in Eagle we always felt that it doesn't do any harm to
21 fish early, because it's all males. And we were wrong.
22 There are normally a lot of females in that run; it's
23 just they were always fished out by the time they got to
24 us.

25
26 The -- so I think as far as getting
27 quality of escapement and teaching people about
28 conservation, that's really what we need to do.

29
30 And I don't feel, personally, that we're
31 going to turn this king salmon around in probably even
32 two life cycles. We're in this for quite a long time,
33 and I think I feel that -- and I think many people feel,
34 that the -- some of these measures that we need to put
35 into place, we just need to write them into regulation so
36 that we don't have to keep arguing every year.

37
38 And to -- in my opinion, it takes a lot
39 of the pressure off the managers if something like this
40 is in place and in regulation, people learn how to work
41 around it with their fisheries. It makes their job
42 easier in that respect. And it's better for the
43 resource.

44
45 So I'm in support.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew and then
48 Virgil.

49
50 MR. FIRMIN: I also agree, but I just --

1 I wanted to see if Steve had anything to add as you were
2 at the other meeting, if this would take tools away from
3 you, or you as being the manager would feel, but I'm also
4 in support of it. I just can't quite nail down which
5 options I'm for yet, but.....

6

7 MR. HAYES: Well, Madame Chair, because
8 this will be coming in as a proposal, I can't comment on
9 whether we would support it or not at this time.
10 Currently we're doing the pulse protections based on, you
11 know, below average poor runs. We have that in
12 regulation, excuse me, already. But, yeah, I can't
13 comment on whether I would support, or the Department
14 would, any of these.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I didn't mean support
17 or oppose. I meant, do you think t his would take tools
18 away from you or.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

21

22 MR. FIRMIN:would this help you or
23 -- I mean, it's like one less decision you'd have to make
24 in-season.

25

26 MR. HAYES: We currently have that tool
27 to use at this point. So if the pre-season projection is
28 for like the projection we have for this year, we're
29 obviously going to be looking at using that right off the
30 back to protect the first pulse. So my answer would be,
31 we already have the tool.

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Okay. Did
36 you have anything else, Andrew?

37

38 MR. FIRMIN: No, not necessarily. I'm
39 all for pulse protection, but like I said, I'm just not
40 sure -- I haven't made a solid decision on which one of
41 the three options here that I would like to fully.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But he's
44 answered.....

45

46 MR. FIRMIN:support as.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:your
49 question. He -- that.....

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:is a tool
4 they have in their toolbox.....
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: It's a tool they've
7 already.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so it
10 wouldn't
11
12 MR. FIRMIN:got in place.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All
15 right. So now Joe and then Isaac.
16
17 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. I'm not sure,
18 Steve, if you really answered the question, because you
19 have the tool to implement a closure, but as I read this,
20 if this becomes -- if this proposal becomes part of the
21 plan, then the first pulse closure will have to occur
22 even if fish are coming out of our ears. And so to me,
23 I mean, I interpret that as that is one tool less that
24 you would have in your management.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
27
28 MR. HAYES: It would be. If -- if we
29 had run sizes that we were able to fish full subsistence,
30 full escapement, commercial opportunity, it would
31 actually take away opportunity for people to fish, for ex
32 -- like subsistence if this were in effect.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But just to go
35 on for my mind to understand, by just going through this
36 and support or not supporting, allowing or to not allow
37 any harvest of the first pulse, if that -- would that go
38 in -- you -- is that going to go in regulation; that's
39 what you're proposing? That goes into regulation, it
40 stays in regulation until it gets changed. But without
41 putting it in there, you have the tool in your toolbox.
42
43 MR. HAYES: That's correct.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see your
46 confusion, yeah, Andrew.
47
48 Isaac.
49
50 MR. JUNEBY: I'd just like.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic.
2
3 MR. JUNEBY:clarification -- I just
4 need some clarification. Would somebody run through
5 this? Andy, would you -- what this means right now as I
6 look at it is that when you get the first pulse, there's
7 no harvest of anything on that; you just let it go by?
8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Isaac. What -- what
10 was done this -- in this previous season is as the first
11 pulse was recognized.....
12
13 MR. JUNEBY: Yeah.
14
15 MR. BASSICH:coming in the river,
16 they closed fishing in Y1 when the first pulse was there.
17 When it was in Y2, they closed it when it was there.
18 They basically followed the pulse all the way up the
19 river and protected it from any harvest all the way until
20 it made it into the Canadian waters. And in this case I
21 believe the Canadians protected it, too, on their side of
22 the river. So it's a conservation tool.
23
24 MR. JUNEBY: Okay. Thank you.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil
27 and then Joe.
28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm in favor of
30 this. And what people have to bear in mind is the fish
31 don't just turn off and on with the pulses. There's
32 going to be stragglers coming. Some people say they come
33 in under the ice. I don't know whether they come in
34 under the ice or not. But I know they normally catch
35 them in Tanana by the 20th of June usually.
36
37 And so -- but the thing that we have to
38 bear in mind, and this comes up later in this paper, is
39 that we -- the thing we do not want to do, and that
40 happened this last year, is we -- you let the first pulse
41 go, and then just -- people just really hammer the heck
42 out of later fish. And so they get over-harvested. So
43 what you end up doing is switching this really heavy
44 harvest onto a different component of the run. Because
45 the ideal way to manage the fishery or any fishery is to
46 attempt to harvest all components of the run, and not
47 harvest one component of the run too heavily, and
48 especially when you have a lot of discrete stocks like we
49 have in the Yukon River.
50

1 And something I want to say is that I'll
2 never see the king salmon run rebuilt. Most of us at
3 this table won't. the Columbia River is just now getting
4 large fish back after they went and did away with their
5 large mesh gear 40 years ago.

6
7 And I don't know how many of you remember
8 Dr. Bromaghin's report, but his report coincides with the
9 report given to the State Board of Fisheries in January
10 of 1981 when they went to six-inch mesh in Cook Inlet.
11 In that report there were 11 different reports in the one
12 big report. The last sentence of the report was, this is
13 a quote, no Chinook salmon fish -- no directed Chinook
14 salmon fishery is sustainable with any gillnets larger
15 than six-inch mesh. That's a quote.....

16
17 (Cell phone)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: \$5.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR:at the conclusion of
22 that report. And so.....

23
24 But I am in favor of doing this, but in
25 conjunction with some of the other stuff we'll address in
26 a little while.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, were you
29 next? I already forgot.

30
31 MR. MATESI: Well, I guess I -- we're
32 kind of having to make some snap decisions on these
33 things, but I agree with everybody else on this Council.
34 I think we've seen real good success with closures on the
35 -- on the first pulse. It's been very effective, and I'm
36 glad to see that the agencies are continuing to look at
37 that as a management tool. They do have it in their
38 management tool, and they use it -- in their management
39 plan, and they've been using it very effectively. It's
40 remarkable how quickly the turn-around is that we see
41 good results from that. I mean, in -- within the very
42 season that it's implemented in terms of escapement
43 across the border, for example.

44
45 We have to be careful when we encode
46 something into a regulation though. We might be painting
47 ourselves into a corner. I see that the agencies have
48 the ability to implement these closures, but if we lock
49 it -- lock it into a regulation, we may be finding
50 ourselves in a situation where we're denying opportunity

1 to fisher perp -- to subsistence fisher people.
2
3 I'm not sure if I'm making myself clear.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I think
6 you're very clear, yeah. Yeah, because, you know, I
7 think it's a three-year cycle for Board of Fish, right?
8
9 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So if something
12 happened where, you know, you could have an opening
13 somewhere upriver that year, you're hampered until
14 there's another.....
15
16 MR. MATESI: I guess I'm.....
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:Board
19 meeting.
20
21 MR. MATESI:trusting the agencies
22 to continue the good management. I mean, from the very
23 first year you guys did this, it was great. And I'm
24 trusting them to continue this skillful management
25 without having to encode it in a regulation.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So as I
28 personally -- did you have something, Bill?
29
30 MR. GLANZ: Yes, none of these
31 regulations are in stone. It can always be changed.
32 That's the way I look at it. And the pulse protection
33 that was initiated is the best thing that happened in a
34 lot of years.
35
36 And I'm like Virgil. I'll never see the
37 fish again like they were in the 80s, you know, where you
38 have to pull your net, you were so tired with cleaning
39 fish. I'd like to see that again, but this is the only
40 way we're going to get them out there I think myself.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Isaac.
43
44 MR. JUNEBY: I'd just like to.....
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Isaac, you'll
47 have to get accustomed to pushing that button. There you
48 go.
49
50 MR. JUNEBY: I'd just like to make a

1 statement. About a year ago, if you put this question
2 before me, I would probably went the other way. But like
3 Andy says earlier today that the people in Eagle as a
4 whole usually respect what the stock's going to mean in
5 our future years. So if it's going to be for the
6 betterment, I think that that's one of the ways to look
7 at it, you know. And I realize there's going to be a few
8 people there that are going to be, you know -- but I do
9 believe in furthering and the enhancement of the
10 fisheries, and I think it's a good deal.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Who
13 did I miss. Larry.

14
15 MR. ERHART: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 With all due respect to all the people who are supporting
17 this first pulse protection, when we had that meeting in
18 Fort Yukon, the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee, people
19 from the Yukon Flats got together and -- and like I said,
20 we discussed extensively fish or a lack of fish. And the
21 feeling I got from that meeting was that the people from
22 the Flats, expec -- I heard most people, from Fort Yukon
23 people, and they wanted to fish the first pulse on a
24 limited basis. And I concurred with them as the
25 chairman. So for me to be supporting this would be
26 contrary to what I -- what I said in that meeting, so I'm
27 just going to -- I'm just going to abstain from
28 supporting or not support this.

29
30 But I would concur with the majority of
31 the Board, you know. I mean, what -- I'm sure this --
32 this august group will come to a good decision.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: A question for you, Steve,
39 and I guess Fred might have the answer as well. And that
40 is, even if this was put into codified regulation, it's
41 my understanding and correct me if I'm wrong, that the
42 commissioner still has the ability to allow you to allow
43 you to lift something like this under a special order;
44 does he not?

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it's
47 just.....

48
49 MR. BASSICH: So if you.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:an EO.
2
3 MR. BASSICH:did have a year where
4 you had a tremendous amount of fish coming, I think the
5 commissioner is given the power that he's allowed to give
6 you the tool to fish on the pulse.
7
8 The other thing, the other quick comment
9 I wanted to make is that there's a way we would like to
10 see this fishery prosecuted ideally, philosophically, and
11 then there's the reality of it. The reality of it is if
12 this is something that managers have to make a decision
13 on every year, every single year there's an incredible
14 amount of pressure put on them by the lower river and by
15 everybody on the river to open up the fisheries. An
16 incredible amount of pressure that they have to fight
17 year after year after year. These runs are not going to
18 return to where they were in the 80s and 90s overnight.
19 And if we do have a year where we get a flush of salmon
20 up the river and maybe we miss harvesting a few, you know
21 what, that's probably a good thing, because that's what
22 nature does naturally.
23
24 So I'm not worried about us not being
25 able to manage the fisheries. I think the managers do a
26 good job. And I think if things turn around miraculously
27 overnight, we have the ability through the process that
28 we're involved in to make adjustments to it.
29
30 But we need some conservation on this
31 river, and people need to learn to change. We can't
32 fish this run the way we have in the past.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
35
36 MR. BASSICH:in the future. And if
37 we continue to think we will, then we're all wasting our
38 time.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you -- I
41 would say the commissioner would have to do an EO,
42 emergency order.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: Yes.
45
46 MR. HAYES: It would -- I can't remember
47 the exact definition, but it's like an unforeseen
48 emergency.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

1 MR. HAYES: There's two factors that --
2 like if you're not providing opportunity to people. And
3 another thing, that, yeah, you could do it that season,
4 like not.....
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What is it?
7
8 MR. HAYES:have the pulse
9 protection. I know that they don't like us to do it
10 every year though, you know, so eventually the regulation
11 would have to be changed.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. That
14 wouldn't be a standard operating procedure to open it all
15 the time that there would be a few extra fish. So it's
16 pretty -- it's pretty strong that you wouldn't be opening
17 it is the way I look at it. And.....
18
19 Andrew.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: Just going back to this
22 thing, and the pulse protection, and kind of addressing
23 what Larry was mentioning, is that's why there was -- the
24 one option on here was the not to exceed 50 percent
25 option, which would be -- of course, then that would be
26 up to managers to say, well, we're closing it 100 percent
27 as they have been. And then -- but that's -- so it would
28 only be set in stone is that 50 percent of the run, which
29 would kind of.....
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you're
32 bringing.....
33
34 MR. FIRMIN:go back to what Larry
35 was saying.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're bringing
38 something out in my mind that I hadn't even thought
39 about. We're under pulse protection, and then -- and I
40 thought.....
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Well, that.....
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:each one
45 of these was separate, but.....
46
47 MR. FIRMIN: I'm looking at this one.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:they're
50 not? They're -- they can be -- there -- you can do one

1 or the other?

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: On two.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That really
6 takes it different.

7

8 MR. FIRMIN: I was looking at this one
9 here where there's a pulse protection proposal and
10 there's three options listed on there.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But let
13 me -- let's get this clear.

14

15 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On this pulse
18 protection and these four, support/oppose, are they
19 different options doing this, and one of them would
20 apply?

21

22 MR. WILLIAMS: I see.

23

24 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. There
27 -- yeah, so only one of them would apply of these four.

28

29 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So looking at
32 them one at a time was not the way to go about it. I'm
33 sorry, guys. Yeah, so actually did you do that to us and
34 we failed to put it in our brain.

35

36 MS. KLEIN: If I could just address that.
37 So what Andrew's looking at and what you're looking at
38 are pretty much the same. They're just worded
39 differently. What Andrew's looking at is the same, they
40 -- they're listed as four options, and those are the same
41 that you're looking at here, one through four. And as
42 you can see how your conversation kind of migrated
43 towards number 2 and so.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

46

47 MS. KLEIN:they are in order of
48 kind of the most stringent option up top, and then the
49 least stringent is number 4, and 2 and 3 are a little bit
50 more in the middle. And so you can see your conversation

1 kind of gravitated towards the -- talking about some of
2 the other options, so it might be best to look at them
3 all together.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So did you tell
6 us that up front and.....
7
8 MS. KLEIN: No, I didn't.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I missed
11 it?
12
13 MS. KLEIN: I just did the.....
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
16 That's.....
17
18 MS. KLEIN:the first one.....
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:really
21 important.
22
23 MS. KLEIN:and then you were
24 discussing it.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, the
27 coordinator has some input before you.
28
29 MR. JOHNSON: A suggestion, Madame Chair,
30 since you're operating under relaxed rules, you can carry
31 on a discussion. And my suggestion would be to discuss
32 in general and come to a conclusion which pulse
33 protection option you wish to support, and then you can
34 make a formal motion that the Council could vote on on
35 that particular action. And then you could move on to
36 the next issues.
37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
41
42 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I want
43 to share some of the discussion that we had at our -- at
44 our meeting, and this was brought up there, and it was
45 brought up kind of a little bit later in the discussion
46 about pulse protection as a possible option, kind of
47 because of the comments like what Larry made.
48
49 And although it's an interesting option,
50 I think the reality of how to prosecute it totally

1 dilutes the process. There's no way that fisheries
2 managers can try and do a partial fisheries on the pulse
3 all the way up the river without having a pretty dramatic
4 impulse on that pulse by the time it travels 1300 miles
5 up the river. Okay. That's what I was trying to get to
6 say -- get to earlier. There's a way we think we can
7 manage the fisheries, but he surgicalmatic ability to go
8 in and say we're only going to take this amount here and
9 we're only going to take this amount there, you can't do
10 that in the fisheries. I just doesn't work. They don't
11 have that kind of precision. You don't know what the
12 conditions are on the river. You don't know how many
13 people are out there are going to be fishing. You don't
14 know how efficient the gear is going to be reacting. So
15 there's no way that you can start taking pieces out of
16 the pulse and still attain what that pulse protection
17 really means, and that is trying to get quality of
18 escapement of Canadian-bound fish up to the river.

19
20 That's the reality of it. And that's
21 what we have to start getting over. We have to start
22 realizing we have to make some sacrifices and we have to
23 start thinking about how are we going to manage ourselves
24 as fishermen, what are we willing to give up.....

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

27
28 MR. BASSICH:for the long-term
29 future of the fisheries.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We just
32 got our head into something that now it's changed. So --
33 and that's going -- I mean, that's important that -- this
34 is new to me, because I'm not on the Yukon River and I --
35 it's not that it's new to me, it's that it's hard to know
36 how to feel and be smart about it. And I want you guys
37 to guide me here.

38
39 The three of you must have talked about
40 this extensively already, and you're giving us your views
41 you have. And did the three of you come up with one of
42 these alternatives already. Virgil.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I just want to say
45 something else maybe some people here don't know. Okay.
46 We've had the first pulse protected in 2009 and 2011. I
47 don't know how many people have seen the size data
48 produced at the rapids by Stan Zuray, but the average
49 weight of the king salmon in that first pulse that's been
50 protected has been over 14 pounds, up to 14 and a half or

1 somewhere in that size, whereas the ones that were not
2 protected, it's been down as low as 10 pounds something.
3 So the size difference is tremendous.
4
5 And then what Andy said about not knowing
6 there were females in the first part of the run, because
7 they all got caught downriver is why they didn't know it.
8
9 And so I think it's very important to
10 protect this first pulse. But we're still -- I think
11 what we should do is -- we don't necessarily have to vote
12 on this right now. I think we should go through the rest
13 of this stuff before we make any motions and vote on
14 anything so that we can try to understand the whole issue
15 a little bit better before we actually vote on any of it,
16 and then we can just go -- zip right through it. That's
17 what I think we can do.
18
19 I don't know, maybe -- I'd like to hear
20 what Andy and Andrew's thoughts are as -- in that
21 direction.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: And I would concur with
24 Virgil's recommendation there. And I think it's going to
25 take a lot of control by you, Sue, to just keep us
26 moving, but maybe what we need to do is -- we've had
27 quite a bit of discussion on pulse protection here.
28 You've kind of heard some of the views, and let -- maybe
29 we can move on to some of these other topics and.....
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andrew.
32
33 MR. BASSICH:come back, because
34 they're very.....
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you.....
37
38 MR. BASSICH:interrelated.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You feel
41 the same?
42
43 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. Yes, let's just roll
44 through them here and not.....
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
47
48 MR. FIRMIN:try to get wrapped
49 around any one discussion.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need help
2 from all of you here, because I'm not as up on it as
3 everyone. I'm trying just to chair the meeting, so it's
4 hard.
5
6 Virgil, are you -- maybe you should chair
7 the meeting.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: We can go in order and
10 discuss each one.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
13 did the pulse protection and then.....
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: We did first pulse only.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What about this
18 pulse protection windows. That's next. Okay. Jill.
19
20 MS. KLEIN: Okay. So just starting at
21 the top, I read the first one. You discussed it. Then
22 you sort of got into the other aspects of pulse
23 protection, so that would take us down through number 4,
24 and the next item was the pulse protection win -- and how
25 it relates to windows, and so that would be another
26 discussion to have at the RAC level.
27
28 We discussed it at length, the aspect of
29 can we have pulse protection and windows together, or do
30 you just have one or the other. And there were some
31 strong feelings about that. And also we discussed with
32 Subsistence Division, and Carolyn Brown is here and could
33 speak to it also, just discussing -- we're trying to
34 balance harvest and conservation, and this will go before
35 the Board of Fish. We'll have to talk about how much
36 conservation needs to happen, but then the flip side of
37 that is how much opportunity is there for people to reach
38 their available harvest. And these two items going
39 together could start getting us closer to those
40 conversations about Tier 2 and amounts necessary for
41 subsistence.
42
43 So that's the next topic, is pulse
44 protection and windows, or one or the other.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
47
48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. One of the things
49 I'd like to share. I asked the question during the
50 meeting, how everyone in the -- in the room felt about

1 how the fisheries was managed this past summer. And
2 there was not one person that said that they felt that
3 the managers did a poor job, that it wasn't managed
4 properly.

5
6 Everybody felt that the use of protection
7 of pulses in addition to our normal windows fishing
8 schedules was successful in achieving what we needed to
9 do to get passage across the boarder. And we realized
10 that, you know, you're not going to get full subsistence
11 needs met when you start putting restrictions in place.
12 That's just a given.

13
14 So that's just something I wanted to
15 bring out, that everybody felt that everybody felt that
16 the way managers managed this year was effective and did
17 the job.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, that led
20 to a question.

21
22 MR. MATESE: Yeah, I have a question. So
23 what -- my understanding is then that currently, like
24 this last year, what we have is windows, the use of
25 windows in order to implement pulse protection. So we
26 have right now a combination of the two; is that how you
27 would describe the current situation?

28
29 MR. HAYES: Well, Madame Chair, last year
30 we implemented the subsistence windows, which are in
31 regulation. We began pulling -- protecting the first
32 pulse in District Y1. And what that means is we pulled
33 one 36-hour subsistence period, which, as I said earlier,
34 equates to five days. So the windows are in place, and
35 then we just pull a period to protect the pulse.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that's key
38 to remember, windows are already in regulation. And
39 listening to you say that the -- they're doing a great
40 job currently leads me to wonder why we're going to
41 change anything.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: If you're asking me to.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. To.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For you guys
50 that are on the.....

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:group.
4 Yeah.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: The.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or all of us.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: The purpose of asking that
11 question is in my mind I wanted to find out up and down
12 the river if other people felt that the fisheries was --
13 management practices this summer were effective and did
14 what they were supposed to do, and everybody agreed to
15 that. That's really important. It did incorporate using
16 our normal windows fishing schedule.
17
18 Windows is a process of setting the times
19 that each district can fish. That's in regulation.
20
21 So in my mind, the important thing we've
22 got to remember is that we're probably looking at
23 forecasts that are very similar to last year. And in
24 fact this year just listening to what Steve had to say,
25 it's actually -- the projection is actually worse than it
26 was last year. And chances are we're probably going to
27 be doing this for the next three or four life cycles, or
28 at least two life cycles of salmon, that we're going to
29 have these poor projections.
30
31 And the emphasis is on getting that
32 border escapement of 50 percent of the run. The Canadian
33 component is absolutely essential to rebuilding this run.
34 If we don't take care of it, we're just shooting
35 ourselves in the foot.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: All the windows are is a
40 fishing schedule. And so if you did -- took the windows
41 out of regulation, then basically you would have no
42 fishing schedule, and so the Department would have to --
43 all the openings would have to be by emergency order.
44 And so you would still -- they would still have to do it.
45 It's just that it would not be in regulation. And they
46 have the emergency order authority to vary the schedule
47 as it is, but if things are normal, they're supposed to
48 go by the schedule.
49
50 And so you can't really have pulse

1 protection without having to have emergency orders anyway
2 if you didn't have the schedule. You know, the windows
3 schedule. They would have to have an emergency order,
4 and then in order to protect that pulse, they would still
5 have to close when that normal fishing period would have
6 been, because you would have no schedule if you did away
7 with the windows. It's just a schedule is basically all
8 it is.

9
10 It's just that when we formed that
11 previously, when the Board formed that in 2001, a lot of
12 the fisheries, they could subsistence fish -- or in the
13 lower river seven days a week. And so the upper river
14 never could fish seven days a week, only the lower river.
15 And so what that did is just put a schedule for the lower
16 river for subsistence fishing when there wasn't a
17 commercial fishery going on. That's what that did.

18
19 So I think we could move on to the other
20 pulses now, Madame Chair. And then we can kind of recap
21 at the end, and if we want to make a motion and vote on
22 some of these things, we can after we go through the rest
23 of it.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

26
27 MS. KLEIN: Okay. So the next item was
28 the second and third pulses, and that goes back to what
29 Virgil was saying earlier. This one is based on the in-
30 season run assessment. The Department will restrict
31 harvest opportunities on the second and third pulses of
32 Yukon River king salmon as necessary to provide for
33 escapements and treaty obligations.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil. Andy.
36 Next.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. As the run
39 progresses, the Department, through experience and
40 records, they project -- they attempt to start projecting
41 after about the quarter point of the run or so what the
42 total run's going to be. And they do this based on
43 historical records, that by a certain date a certain
44 percent of the run is by and it takes so long for the run
45 to go by. And so they calculate all this out
46 mathematically. And so they -- and that's, of course,
47 based on averages, and then they have an early, you know,
48 average and a late average and a regular average. And so
49 they -- they try to calculate all that out.

50

1 And so what they -- they know how many
2 fish are past the sonar. Or what the sonar count is.
3 And that's one of their baseline datas. And then, of
4 course, they have their CPUEs and all this other stuff
5 for the test fisheries that they've had going for years.
6 And so they know whether they're kind of ahead or behind,
7 whether it's coming in as anticipated, maybe a little
8 better or maybe a little worse.

9
10 And so that's when they say in-season --
11 it says, based on in-season run assessment. That's what
12 -- that's what run assessment means, how they're trying
13 to figure out whether they're keeping track of what they
14 think, the way it was projected or whether it's better or
15 worse or whatever. Then they may need to, or want to
16 restrict, or need to restrict if they're going to get
17 escapement and get border passage into Canada, more of
18 the pulses.

19
20 But one thing we have to be careful of is
21 what happened last year. They had restrictions on the
22 first two pulses and then the third pulse they didn't
23 have any restrictions. That third pulse was not detected
24 at the rapids. It got caught. It was not detected. And
25 even when it comes time for the third pulse, still a lot
26 of those fish are Canadian origin. Of course, a lot of
27 Tanana River origin at well, or maybe Tozitna or some of
28 these other tributaries.

29
30 So what we don't want to happen is to
31 protect the first couple of pulses a certain amount, like
32 the first pulse is really protected, and then the second
33 pulse last year was partially protected, and then the
34 third pulse everyone fished on it, is wipe one discrete
35 pulse of fish.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Virgil covered what.....

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

44
45 MR. BASSICH:I wanted to.....

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do we have
48 more to cover here so we can hear the whole picture?

49
50 MS. KLEIN: Okay. The next point we

1 discussed was equity, and that the Department shall
2 distribute reductions in subsistence harvest
3 opportunities equitably among users. And this would
4 include different gear types, fishing time and parts of
5 the river.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we need any
8 more explanation. Andy.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: That just goes to what
11 Andrew was trying to speak to earlier in the meeting, and
12 that is that -- that, you know, we really need to look
13 hard as managers to manage the fisheries as they move up
14 the river to make sure that people in areas where their
15 CPUs are much lower, in other words they have a hard time
16 catching fish there, are given great -- greater
17 opportunity so that equity amongst the ability to catch
18 fish is equally distributed.

19
20 One of the main issues that we've been
21 fighting for 10 years is how do we make these changes for
22 conservation to the Yukon River that are fair to all
23 users in the river. And one of the important things is
24 the ability to catch fish has to be equal as well, not
25 just mesh size or whatever.

26
27 So I don't think we need to spend a lot
28 of time talking about this one. It's just, you know,
29 everything we're trying to do on the river, we're trying
30 to do as fairly as possible to everyone on the river, not
31 single out a particular gear type, a particular person,
32 a particular area and put -- impose the greatest
33 restrictions on them.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. CPU,
36 what's that mean?

37
38 MR. BASSICH: CPUE -- I'm sorry. CPUE is
39 catch per unit effort, so that.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

42
43 MR. BASSICH:that's an indicator of
44 how easy it is to catch fish given the time.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't go by
47 all those acronyms sometimes.

48
49 Okay. Fred.

50

1 MR. BUE: I apologize. I don't mean to
2 add much, but the equity thing is something that really
3 needs to come from you. It's difficult for managers to
4 decide what's fair and equitable. I think it comes best
5 from the public.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
10 have more to go through before we start getting into a
11 view from the Council. I see all these additional items
12 for consideration and each have a support/oppose.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. We should go
15 through all these items I think and then we can maybe
16 made a couple of motions.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, so you
19 think it would be easier to go through all of this and
20 then go back to

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
25 Would everyone agree to this.

26
27 (Affirmative nods)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Number 1,
30 protection for early fish. Do you want to address that,
31 Virgil.

32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. This was brought
34 up at our meeting. Well, all these things were discussed
35 at the meeting we had.

36
37 But anyway, the protection for the early
38 fish I feel is very important. Those early fish normally
39 -- there's a better chance that they're going to be the
40 ones going the furthest. That means all the way to
41 Teslin. And I believe -- I could be wrong, I think
42 there's five rivers that run into Teslin Lake that king
43 salmon and some fall chums also spawn in, like the Wolf
44 River I believe runs into it.

45
46 Anyway, so the -- it's super important
47 that we don't just wipe out those fish. I know the
48 people at Teslin, when we had the panel meeting this year
49 -- or this last year in the first week of December in
50 Whitehorse, that some of them really were happy, some of

1 the elders there that were at the meeting in Whitehorse,
2 that they saw salmon in Teslin Lake go right past the
3 village this year. And they haven't really seen very
4 many salmon up there in years, but they did see fish this
5 past year.

6
7 And so I think we need the windows
8 schedule in place to protect those early fish. We do not
9 want to wipe out those stocks. They're the ones that are
10 most susceptible to over-harvest.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Steve.

13
14 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. Just to give
15 you a little history. Prior to 2009, we would implement
16 the windowed schedule towards the end of May. Since 2009
17 -- well, in 2009 when we had the pulse protection of the
18 first pulse, in the pre-season meeting that we had,
19 fishermen were interested in fishing those earlier fish,
20 which are the fish prior to the first pulse, as a way to
21 get some catch before we actually restricted the fishery.
22 So, for example, last year the windows were implemented
23 June 6 in District 1, which is later than we typically
24 implement those windows. Does that make sense?

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Steve, you just
27 said something that brought a question to my mind. You
28 -- in 2009 windows was in place, and then so was the
29 pulse protection, so they're both in place then?

30
31 MR. HAYES: Correct.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they're now
34 still in place or not?

35
36 MR. HAYES: The windows are -- yeah, we
37 have.....

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Both.

40
41 MR. HAYES:to do it by EO, so this
42 coming summer by EO authority we will implement the
43 subsistence schedule. And then based on the outlook,
44 we're going to have to protect the first pulse. So the
45 windows will be in place when we do that.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe my brain
48 isn't comprehending well, but how does that different
49 than this -- what you guys are discussing? What's in
50 place now and this pulse protection, all these four.....

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's when they start the
2 windows, Sue.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe I don't
5 need to know this, but it's -- I'm having.....
6
7 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:a hard
10 time. Yeah.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: I think -- I think what
13 Steve is trying to explain is that there is a windows
14 opening early in the year prior to the first pulses
15 coming in, and they have the ability to open and close
16 that at various times. They can start having the windows
17 start earlier or have the window start later in the
18 season. What they have done some years is actually have
19 that first set of windows in the lower river happen a
20 little bit later to allow some people to harvest more
21 fish early in the run. But they have the discretion as
22 to when to open up that first set of windows in the lower
23 river. So is it.....
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they have
26 to.....
27
28 MR. BASSICH:is that correct?
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:determine
31 when the windows are going to be set up, and that's done
32 by an EO.
33
34 MR. BASSICH: Right.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
37 where I was having trouble. I thought it was just in
38 place and you just do it.
39
40 MR. MATESE: Could I ask some questions.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.
43
44 MR. MATESE: Let me tell me how I just
45 assumed you guys were doing it, and then you can tell me
46 how you really do do it, okay? I assumed that fish
47 moving into the river, you could graph it in probably a
48 very typical bell-shaped curve. And that you would
49 probably just cut out the hump of that curve, like one
50 standard deviation or something like that, one and a half

1 standard deviation, and say, okay, this is the bulk of
2 that pulse, so we're going to do the first pulse closure
3 to cover that hump of the bell-shaped curve. Okay. And
4 -- am I close? Now, can you kind of like flesh that out
5 and tell me how you actually do do it?
6
7 MR. BUE: Yeah, I think that's pretty
8 close, but we're looking at maybe there's more. Three
9 pulses is pretty common, and so instead of just.....
10
11 MR. MATESI: Per pulse, that same -- the
12 thing is.....
13
14 MR. BUE:so what we're trying to do
15 is.....
16
17 MR. MATESI: Yeah.
18
19 MR. BUE:protect the bulk of those
20 fish.
21
22 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
23
24 MR. BUE: That's the pulse protection,
25 where -- where you have a very narrow window, but the
26 majority of the fish are going through.....
27
28 MR. MATESI: Right. Right.
29
30 MR. BUE:in that time slot.
31
32 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
33
34 MR. BUE: What we're talking about the
35 earlier fishing windows, maybe Sue can relate to it, it's
36 more scratch fishing. It's a little bit of opportunity
37 to catch some good quality fish, but it's kind of low
38 risk. There's not many fish out there.
39
40 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
41
42 MR. BUE: What Virgil is saying with
43 this, the -- to protect the early fish in addition, he
44 says, well, they're early fish, it's scratch fishing, but
45 some of those fish are important to the -- to various
46 stocks because all the stocks go to different places.
47
48 And so pulse protection interrupts
49 fishing activity for the least amount of time with the
50 greatest amount of savings and protection of fish. And

1 so we're disrupting fishermen the least amount and trying
2 to balance it with saving and conserving as many fish in
3 a narrow time period.

4

5 MR. MATESI: Yeah. That makes sense. I
6 mean, it makes such good sense, it -- I even just kind of
7 suspected that's what it was. So essentially whenever
8 one of those bell-shaped curves moves through past the
9 sonar, that's, oh, we got a pulse, and then you implement
10 it like that.

11

12 MR. BUE: It is -- that's kind of what we
13 -- we refine it as we go. The sonar is 150 miles
14 upstream, and so a lot of our fishing power is down below
15 that, and so we watch the weather and tides and things
16 and so we try and anticipate those. But our management
17 is more precise the further upriver it gets. So it's not
18 perfect below the sonar.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, two -- Bill, two --
23 or, I'm worry, Joe, two things happen in reality to all
24 of this. And one is that we -- they do the best job they
25 can to protect that top of the bell curve, but you have
26 to understand that different sized fish swim at different
27 speeds. And so as a pulse moves upriver, that bell curve
28 gets flatter and flatter and flatter. So you basically
29 protect a little bit less the farther up the river you
30 go.

31

32 The other thing, the reason this point of
33 discussion came up is that it's the evolutionary process
34 of fishermen that once they're given a restriction or
35 once a typical action starts taking place, they learn and
36 figure out ways to either get around it or maximize their
37 fishing effort. And the concern was that if we were to
38 start protecting the early pulses every single year,
39 people will start fishing earlier and that they may
40 actually hammer some of these stocks, like Virgil
41 mentioned that are going a long ways up the river that
42 aren't really recognized as part of the first pulse. So
43 this is a conservation effort to some extent to try and
44 protect some of those -- those fish that may be given a
45 greater amount of pressure, fishing harvest pressure in
46 the future due to fishermen just adapting to the new sets
47 of regulations.

48

49 And so that -- that's the reality. The
50 reality is fishermen are always going to be adapting and

1 maximizing their fishing effort given whatever
2 regulations are placed upon them or restrictions are
3 placed upon them. That's what we have to learn to do as
4 fishermen.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're on number
7 one, protection for early fish. And we're saying -- and
8 this is a support/oppose. Establish greater protection
9 for the earliest returning king salmon prior to window
10 schedules or pulse protection. So the recommendation
11 from the Council would be support or oppose.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I think this is going
14 to be kind of a hard one, because I don't even think that
15 we really know exactly how we're going to afford that
16 protection. I mean, I don't know that that's really
17 been, you know, hashed out as to -- you know, we're
18 saying afford greater protection, but the tool of how
19 we're going to do that -- are we just going to start
20 windows earlier and protect them that way, or, you know,
21 that -- I don't think that -- this was just kind of a
22 general.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was wondering
25 if it's just a concept that you're asking.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Yes, that's what I'm
28 getting to. It's -- at this point this is more -- some
29 of these are more of a concept rather than an actual.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
32 okay.

33
34 MR. BASSICH:action.

35
36 MR. MATESI: Yeah, Andy. I was going to
37 -- I mean, I was actually going to ask you that, but it
38 was so confusing to me, I couldn't even figure out how to
39 word a question, you know. What do you do? I mean, I
40 can -- I can graph it then just move one of those lines
41 over to the -- but in -- from a management standpoint, I
42 can't imagine how you would -- I mean, it's tough enough
43 when you're down there looking at the waves and the wind
44 and the weather and tides and stuff. This -- it's.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I think
47 what they are asking us is just kind of like our concept
48 of things, and then.....

49
50 MR. MATESI: Yeah.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that might
2 develop into a proposal.
3
4 MR. MATESI: And I would like to give my
5 gut reaction to this to the Council.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right now.
8
9 MR. MATESI: Well, it's.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go for it.
12
13 MR. MATESI: Okay. Here it comes.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. MATESI: Ever since in 2009 when we
18 first started doing the full -- well, actually we've
19 always fished this way. We always try to get our net in
20 really early, and get, you know, the very first fish that
21 show up. We never catch females. We always catch males.
22 In fact, when we catch the first female, that's when we
23 know it's time to pull the net for the season, because we
24 end up getting all our fish real early in the season, and
25 they're just dribbling in. Sometimes only one or four or
26 six fish a day. And that's a few number, and I can
27 handle them all easily. I'm not swamped with a whole lot
28 of fish. And then, by golly, these last few years,
29 whenever the -- that closure shows up, we pull our net
30 and we're actually done for the season.
31
32 And I guess just speaking personally, I
33 really like that. I really like getting it done, out of
34 the way, and then pulling the net and knowing that, okay,
35 there's going to be this rush of fish going upriver now
36 and I'm just going to watch the little rivles -- rivulets
37 out in the river and know that they're going up to their
38 spawning grounds and our -- our smokehouse is full and
39 the freezer's full and everything's good.
40
41 So it looks to me like this just, you
42 know, in theory, like you're talking about, would take
43 that away from me. So personally I don't like this. And
44 I guess if I could, you know, extrapolate from how it
45 would affect me to how it would affect other fisher
46 people, I guess it would be the same for them, too.
47
48 Well, that's my gut feeling.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got

1 your gut feeling, and I understand.
2
3 Okay. Others. Comments on this
4 support/oppose. And again, I just look at it as a
5 concept to work through what's going to happen later.
6
7 Is that your hand up? Go for it, Virgil.
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I'm for the windows
10 going into effect when the ice goes out. I've always
11 been for that. In fact, when the Board passed it, I
12 thought that's what was going to happen, and it didn't
13 happen, which upset me. Because that was my intent when
14 the Board passed it.
15
16 But I'm in favor of the windows going in
17 when the ice goes out. That affords some protection to
18 the early fish. That was the purpose of the Board doing
19 it in the first place.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Others. Andy.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. And by doing that,
24 it still allows fish up the river, because once windows
25 are in place, there are times when there is fishing and
26 there isn't fishing. So those fish will still trickle
27 up, Joe, to the areas that you fish in. And you've got
28 to remember, as I said, the fish get more and more
29 protracted, more and more spread out, so other fish will
30 catch up and so on and so forth. So the reality of what
31 happens is a little better protection, because some of
32 those small stocks that go all the way up to the Teslin
33 River and -- and -- yeah, we're still going to be
34 allowing some fishing to take place.
35
36 And the thing we have to keep in mind is
37 in the lower river they like to fish early, because they
38 have a window of weather that's good. Once they get into
39 later in the season, it's very hard for them to dry fish
40 without it spoiling, so there is a delicate balance
41 there.....
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. But
44 what.....
45
46 MR. BASSICH:between
47 restricting.....
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I'm seeing
50 here is this protection of early fish, you're either

1 opposed to it or you're supporting it, but the -- the
2 complexity of how you do it would come back under this
3 proposal. So let's just go through this concept.

4
5 I would think that most of us would want
6 to protect the early fish. I hear what you're saying,
7 Joe, but -- so do -- how does the rest of you feel.

8
9 MR. MATESE: Do you want that in the form
10 of a motion to get this moving along or.....

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I think
13 these we can just go support/oppose, and then we've got
14 to go back and come up with, you know, what -- because
15 that's what we said earlier.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Maybe when we get to
18 this point on additional items, maybe the thing to do is
19 just have a brief discussion, then just go through
20 oppose/support, oppose/ support, oppose/support, all the
21 way around rather than just going through the whole
22 motions or whatever. Just survey the -- each member real
23 quickly and just say support/oppose and then.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, after
26 we.....

27
28 MR. BASSICH:move on.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:understand
31 what we're voting on. Yeah.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
36 Larry.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Going through these, looking through these proposals,
40 I've actually been glancing through them, and I for one
41 personally, and with the fishers I've been talking to,
42 the fishermen I've been talking to in the various
43 villages, I don't think that I can support any of these.
44 I mean, not -- not in good conscience anyway.

45
46 I mean, how -- with all due respect to
47 the knowledge of how to manage the fish with Steve and
48 Fred, I mean, I just don't get it. Maybe I'm kind of
49 dense here, but I don't see how we can manage the fish,
50 you know. I mean.....

1 So I don't know how I can support any of
2 these at all I guess. You know, with -- like I said,
3 with all due respect with all the work that went into it,
4 and a lot of good minds worked on it, but I'm just going
5 to have to abstain or just -- from voting on any of
6 these.

7

8 Thank you very much.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're
11 talking specifically, Larry to these additional items in
12 consideration?

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: No, the whole thing.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, the whole
17 thing. Not even having a proposal? Everything's good
18 the way it is is what you're kind of thinking on the
19 fishing -- the way they manage the fishery now and what's
20 in place now.

21

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I'm not really --
23 I'm not really sure how it's managed now, you know, but
24 like I said, you know, I got the feeling of the -- from
25 the fishermen in Fort Yukon that it's not working out
26 very well for them, and they -- they have very strong
27 feelings about the closure of the first pulse, being not
28 -- not being able to fish on that, so, you know, I can't
29 support any of this -- any of these.

30

31 As the chairman of that Yukon Flats
32 Advisory Committee, you know, I -- just like I said, I
33 hate to repeat myself, but I concur with them
34 wholeheartedly, so I just can't vote on any of this.

35

36 Thank you very much.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester, I saw
39 you nodding your head. Do you have something. No?

40

41 MR. ERHART: I kind of feel the same way
42 he does. I don't think I can vote no it and look at
43 myself in the mirror.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Kind of a
48 delayed reaction there.

49

50 Andrew, did you have something.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Do we even need to discuss
2 number 2?
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we even need
5 to?
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Before we move
10 that. What's -- is there -- I see two that oppose on
11 number one. Is there any support.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
14
15 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, I'm in.....
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. How
18 many.....
19
20 MR. FIRMIN:support of it.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
23support.....
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I support it.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I'm
28 saying,
29
30 MR. BASSICH: That's what I'm saying,
31 just go through and ask people.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
34 All right.
35
36 MR. BASSICH: Instead of raising hands.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
39 have two noes on -- opposed. How many others are
40 opposed.
41
42 MR. MATESE: Protection of early fish?
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. On
45 number 1, protect.....
46
47 MR. MATESE: I'm..... not on)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're opposed.
50 And so is Isaac.

1 MR. JUNEBY: No, I'm not.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry,
4 Isaac. I saw you raise your hand when he said that, so
5 I -- so I have three opposed on the protection for early
6 fish.
7
8 And now who's in favor.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Aye.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Four, five.
13 Okay. You know what? I don't think I'm at all a very
14 good vote here, because I don't think I understand it as
15 much as you guys.
16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Is that an abstention?
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm -- yeah,
20 I'm going to just abstain, because I just -- it's too
21 much. My gut says, yes, I would protect them, but I
22 don't live there and I don't fish there. so it's hard for
23 me.
24
25 So number 2. What did I just hear.
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: You heard us say we
28 wanted to discuss it.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Someone
31 said that it was a no brainer or something. All right.
32 Let's discuss it.
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Sue, it really
35 aggravates subsistence fishermen upriver when commercial
36 fishermen downriver are selling king salmon and they've
37 been restricted in their subsistence fishing to put king
38 salmon on the spawning grounds. It just flies in the
39 face and just infuriates some people. I have a lot of
40 friends on the river that live in the villages and I know
41 that if they sell king salmon that are incidentally
42 caught in a chum salmon fishery, and they can't even get
43 enough to feed their children or to share with their
44 grandparents, that it makes them mad.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now I
47 understand what Andrew said. Do we even need to -- I
48 would I say, is there anyone that supports this on
49 this Council. All opposed, and I can vote on that. I
50 oppose that also.

1 Next, subsistence and personal use
2 harvest reporting. Require improved harvest reporting
3 perhaps through harvest report forms issued by the
4 Department.

5
6 Now -- Andy.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair. This
9 has been coming up in a lot of different discussions. It
10 came up and was discussed quite heavily during our
11 customary trade subcommittee and it's a feeling that we
12 really need to start getting better in-season harvest
13 reporting and/or just harvest reporting up and down the
14 river of what's being caught in the river every year.
15 And I think if any -- if any of the other Council members
16 took the time to read the report by George Pappas on the
17 history of customary trade on the Yukon River, it's very,
18 very clear in there that it is a strong recommendation
19 that to have a good managed fisheries, you have to have
20 good reporting of harvest of that fisheries. Without it,
21 it's very difficult to do long-term management of that
22 resource.

23
24 So I am in -- very much in support of
25 getting some harvest reporting put in place.

26
27 And there was quite a bit of.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30
31 MR. BASSICH:concurrence up and
32 down the river on that at this meeting. There was one or
33 two that were unsure or opposed.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil's not
36 waving his hand, but he's anxious. Go ahead.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. If everyone would
39 get out our meeting book and turn to page 17.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Continue.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. When you turn to
44 Page 17, motion, Mr. Bassich moved that the Council
45 respond to the recommendation of the Tri-RAC subcommittee
46 that a Chinook salmon harvest calendar be required for
47 Federally-qualified subsistence users. The motion was
48 seconded by Mr. Firmin. The Chair requested a roll call
49 vote. We voted one, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
50 eight to one to pass it. That's number 3.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Has anyone
2 changed their mind. What are you asking? Oh, Chinook
3 salmon harvest calendar be required for Federally-
4 qualified subsistence users. Yes, I would say that's a
5 means of coming up with reporting.
6
7 MR. GLANZ: And that also.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unless someone
10 else.....
11
12 MR. GLANZ: That also, Madame Chair, was
13 at our Tri-RAC salmon meeting, and all the lower river
14 and the middle river went along with that. They -- they
15 voted for that also.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Council
18 members, discussion on reporting. Support or oppose.
19 Andrew.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: I'm in support of it. As
22 Virgil pointed out, we were last meeting, and as Bill
23 pointed out, we were at the Tri-RAC meeting with Western
24 Interior and the Y-K region RACs also.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Others.
27
28 MR. MATESEI: Yeah.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.
31
32 MR. MATESEI: Probably just for the
33 record, because I'm the only person on record that as
34 previously opposing, and I'm going to continue to oppose.
35 Not that I don't believe that knowledge is power. I
36 mean, data is good and it's necessary. I just don't --
37 I'm opposed to putting the onus on the subsistence user.
38 I feel that that's the job of management, that they
39 should be out there gathering that data, and I'm -- it's
40 just a philosophical thing. So it's not going to affect
41 the way everything's going to go. I'll probably just
42 stay with the no vote.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a question.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, then
47 Andy.
48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Something that the
50 Boards have to do, the Board of Game and Board of Fish

1 both, in conjunction, working with Subsistence Division,
2 is they have to establish amount necessary for
3 subsistence. And they try to do that with the best data
4 -- well, they do it with the best data that's available.
5 And if you don't have -- and so the Subsistence Division
6 strives to have the best data available, but if their
7 hands are kind of died on it, then they're not going to
8 have as good of data as if they had better assets to
9 actually determine it. And so it's -- it puts.....

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

11

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR:the Boards in a bad
14 position, they and the Subsistence Division, both, when
15 they're trying to establish amounts necessary for
16 subsistence.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is there
19 some.....

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: And what happens.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:other
24 reporting.....

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR:a lot of times --
27 no, I'm just pointing this out. What has to happen a lot
28 of times is they may have some data from one little
29 village or one spot, and then they have to expand that to
30 a whole region, because they don't have any data in the
31 whole region.

32

33 And so to me, this is just being able to
34 better.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR:scientifically
39 manage the fishery in a more responsible manner.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
42 question.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR:is all it is.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
47 reporting required now?

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

50

1 SEVERAL: Yes.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: It's not fair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where -- I fish
6 in the Copper River, and we have to get a permit either
7 from the State or the Federal depending on if it's on
8 Federal waters or State waters. And we have to send in
9 a report of how many fish we took. Do you guys have to
10 do that?
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Some places. Madame Chair.
13 Some places. If you live along the roadside, such as in
14 Eagle and certain other areas that are road accessible,
15 you have to fill out a calendar every year and turn in
16 how many fish you caught. In other -- most -- the
17 majority of the river, you do not. And the way the
18 Subsistence.....
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there's
21 places there's no reporting.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: There are -- the majority
24 of the river has no mandatory reporting. Can I -- can I
25 read something here?
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I ask one
28 more question.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: Yes. You're the Chair.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew, do you
33 do -- does CATG do any work on this one?
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: We do the weekly in-season
36 surveys for YRDFA.....
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there is
39 that reporting.
40
41 MR. FIRMIN:but they're -- but
42 these are limited in number.....
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
45
46 MR. FIRMIN:because we only do 10
47 or 15 or however many people we can run and do on a
48 weekend.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MR. FIRMIN: It's not like we're out
2 getting a specific number of people every day. We just
3 have a target goal, and if we hit that, we're good.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. I
6 don't think we need to spend a lot of time on this,
7 because we already voted on it, and -- unless somebody's
8 changed, that they don't want to have reporting. And one
9 of them is -- and we -- has anybody changed their mind
10 from the last vote. Joe has not changed his mind, so it
11 would be eight to one.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: I have a question for Joe.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And now Andy
16 has a question for Joe. Relating to this?
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Yes, absolutely. Joe, you
19 just said that you think the onus is on the State to
20 gather the harvest reporting and not on the onus of the
21 subsistence fishermen. But how can you get any kind of
22 data if you don't interview or get the data from the
23 person who's doing the harvesting? So I don't quite
24 understand, how do you expect them to collect that data
25 from subsistence fishermen if they don't interview, talk
26 to, or gather that information from them directly? I
27 don't understand the logic of.....
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
30 expensive.
31
32 MR. BASSICH:why you're opposing
33 this.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's very
36 expensive. They don't always have funding to do it.
37
38 MR. BASSICH: You can't get report -- you
39 can't get data if you don't.....
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
42
43 MR. BASSICH:go to the people who
44 are harvesting.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let him answer
47 the question.
48
49 MR. MATESE: Well, I don't believe I did
50 say that. I don't know where you got that from. Fish

1 and Game does do subsistence fishery surveys. In fact,
2 I know, I worked as a fisheries tech for Fish and Game
3 doing those surveys. So, you know, I would say.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does the State
6 have data?

7
8 MR. HAYES: Let me see if I can wade my
9 way through this.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see
12 nodding of heads. The State does have data.

13
14 MR. HAYES: Okay. We do a post-season
15 subsistence survey where we send Staff out to communities
16 and they interview folks to figure out how many fish they
17 catch.

18
19 Now, as Andy said, the areas that have
20 road systems, like Fairbanks and Eagle, we issue permits
21 to those folks, because they have people that are coming
22 in and out all the time, so we need to keep better track
23 of the fish, of what's being taken.

24
25 I think what this, and maybe I'm wrong,
26 is trying to get to is that they want everybody to have
27 to fill out a calendar. Currently we send out calendars,
28 but I think we get like a very small percentage of them
29 back. And it's not required to send them back or fill
30 them in. So this is trying to get at that everybody on
31 the river would have to keep track of their fish.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
34 that's fine as long as you don't prosecute somebody
35 because they didn't turn it in, because it's definitely
36 a paperless society as you guys have always pointed out.
37 But if it helped to get more data, I think it would be
38 great.

39
40 So I don't think we need to spend a lot
41 more time on it, unless you guys feel you have more to
42 say on this issue. Did you, Andrew?

43
44 MR. FIRMIN: Only that to reiterate what
45 Joe was saying was it shouldn't be the fisherman's
46 responsibility to tell everybody how much fish they got.
47 It should be Fish and Game's responsibility to come ask
48 me how much fish I caught. That's what I was getting
49 from Joe, and -- but I think it's kind of a moot.....

50

1 MR. MATESI: Yeah, I can.....
2
3 MR. FIRMIN:moot point.
4
5 MR. MATESI:think of elders I know
6 that -- I mean, they hardly speak a word of English.
7 And, you know, like Simon, he might go upriver and put a
8 net in the river, and he's going to catch some salmon,
9 and weeks later when he's back in Fort Yukon, is he a
10 criminal now because he didn't.....
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, and that's
13 -- I think that's.....
14
15 MR. MATESI: Uh-huh.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:important
18 for us to know. We do not want anybody prosecuted for
19 not reporting. And that's -- that happened in Mentasta.
20 Katie John didn't send her harvest report in for a moose,
21 and they wouldn't let her put in for the permit the next
22 year. So -- and she -- and that was their way of pushing
23 to get people prosecuted, so it's just something to take
24 note that it would be important.
25
26 So I've got two hands here. I mean, do
27 we want to move along or do we want to continue on this?
28
29 SEVERAL: Move along.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: This will take.....
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're moving
34 along.
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR:10 seconds.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ten seconds.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go for 10
43 seconds, Virgil.
44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I have a fairly
46 good memory, but I know that when I'm out fishing and
47 doing different things, especially fishing, you ask me
48 how many fish I caught 10 days ago, if I'm buying fish
49 or.....
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ten seconds are
2 up.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR:commercial fishing,
5 hell, I can't remember. This is just so people
6 aren't.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
9 done.
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR:having to remember.
12 It's a record then.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving on.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to put something
17 in the record.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy. Ten
20 seconds.
21
22 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I'd just like
23 to briefly enter this in the record and then I'll shut
24 up. This blue book, really important for Council members
25 to read this blue book. This is the history of customary
26 trade on the river. In the back, on Page 39, under
27 discussions and options for future policy development, on
28 the second paragraph, at the bottom, it says, although
29 those subsistence users contribute -- contribute to
30 overall exploitation on -- of a stock may be small, in an
31 activity-managed fishery, generating accurate estimates
32 for all components of exploitation on stock is one of the
33 foundational building blocks for sound fisheries
34 principles. That's really important, and that's what
35 this is all about.
36
37 And I'll just shut up now.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is in the
40 record. Okay.
41
42 I know it's a sensitive issue with this
43 reporting, and it does get a little annoying at times,
44 but I think when you have a stock as -- for me, on the
45 record, I would like to say is when there's a stock
46 that's in trouble and it takes 40 years to see it return,
47 it might be really important to think about that for the
48 future of reporting. It does become important when it's
49 that important, up to the fisheries to respond.
50

1 Okay. We're down to -- or the next one
2 is.....
3
4 MR. MATESI: The vote. Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The vote? It's
7 one to eight as it was. No one's changed their vote.
8
9 So subsistence use permit. Households
10 must obtain a subsistence permit to participate in
11 subsistence fishing. We have to in my region. I don't
12 understand why you don't where you're at. Is it that
13 difficult to get a permit where people live?
14
15 MR. BASSICH: No.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I live on
18 the road system and sometimes it is a pain in the butt to
19 get somewhere to get the permit, but I make sure that I
20 try to get the permit before I go collect the fish. We
21 happen to have a -- they're sometimes closed whenever I
22 want to get there, and sometimes it is a difficult thing,
23 but as long as the -- to me, as long as they would put
24 out the ability to get a permit, actually 24/7. That's
25 the part that doesn't work so well where we are, because
26 sometimes you can't get it whenever you're ready. The
27 fish are coming up the river and you want to go get your
28 fish off the wheel, and you've got to get permission from
29 the guy that has the wheel if you don't have a wheel, and
30 the you have to get the permit from the government. And
31 they'll call you and say, the fish are in, come get your
32 fish. So you have -- I think that the government needs
33 to be more flexible in a situation like this.
34
35 The rest of you guys, do you have any
36 comments.
37
38 MR. MATESI: What's the situation up and
39 down the river? You guys need to get a permit in Tanana?
40
41 MR. ERHART: No.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, you need
44 to raise your hand.
45
46 MR. ERHART: But we have a fish calendar
47 and we keep count of our fish.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
50

1 MR. BASSICH: In our region you have to
2 have a fish permit. You have to fill out how many fish
3 you caught. You have to turn that in, and if you don't
4 turn it in, you're not issued one the following year.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's what
7 they did to Katie.
8
9 MR. GLANZ: That's what we're trying to
10 eliminate.
11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: The 14th amendment to the
17 United States Constitution says that all citizens shall
18 have fair and equal treatment under the law.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So get your
21 permit. Or make the government have.....
22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: What's good for the goose
24 is good for the gander in other words.
25
26 MR. GLANZ: I myself, I kind of feel if
27 you have a harvest report that you have to fill out,
28 that's -- that will take care of that problem. It will
29 just be one thing.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. So
32 this is what it's come down to. Do we support or oppose
33 it.
34
35 MR. BASSICH: Support it.
36
37 MR. GLANZ: I'm opposed.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're opposed
40 to having a permit.
41
42 MR. GLANZ: If the other one goes in
43 where you have a harvest reports I call it, or catch
44 report, to begin with.
45
46 MR. BASSICH: It's the same thing.
47
48 MR. GLANZ: Yes, it's -- in other words,
49 if -- one report should cover both issues I would assume.
50 We voted yes on 3 and we're just duplicating 3 on number

1 4.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Take no action on number
4 4.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil
7 says take no action on 4, because it's the same thing.
8 All agree.
9
10 (Affirmative nods)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
13
14 MR. JOHNSON: They're different.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you guys
17 think they're different, but these guys don't.
18
19 MR. JOHNSON: That's just the lawyer in
20 me.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He made the
25 mistake of telling me he was a lawyer first.
26
27 But what they're saying -- I mean, I hear
28 you guys clearly that it should -- it's all on one
29 report. All agree.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: We agree, but.....
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR:she wants to say
36 something.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Jill.
39
40 MS. KLEIN: I was just going to clarify
41 that 3 is just improving harvest reporting, so it's -- it
42 could be the calendars, it could be the post-season
43 subsistence survey harvest. It could be in-season
44 harvest monitoring. It could be all sorts of different
45 methods. And one of those methods could actually be 4,
46 which is requiring a permit. So 4 is a little bit more
47 stringent I think than 3, so they.....
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jill went to
50 the same.....

1 MS. KLEIN:could be different.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:school you
4 did.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: So is somebody going to up
7 see Julie up there at the King Salmon and give her her
8 permit? I mean, how is she going to get it if she lives
9 up there in the bush, and how is Joe going to get his
10 without the expense of trying to get to Fort Yukon.
11 That's what -- that's what I'm opposed to there. Where
12 Joe could put.....
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Trying to be
15 practical.....
16
17 MR. GLANZ:it on a piece of
18 paper.....
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:is the
21 hard part when these places are so remote.
22
23 MR. GLANZ: That's right. Yeah.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
26
27 MR. GLANZ: This is -- this is not like
28 we're in the Kuskokwim down there or somewhere. Bethel.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I feel sorry
31 for the people that put in for their permanent fund check
32 by -- required by the internet now, that they may not
33 have that opportunity.
34
35 But any rate, off the subject.
36
37 Virgil.
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Lester gets a
40 cache calendar. They -- do they send those to you
41 personally, or do you get it at the post office? Where
42 do you get it?
43
44 MR. ERHART: Well, the post office. I
45 mean, it -- they send it to me personally.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because you had
48 one last year.
49
50 MR. ERHART: Yeah.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Most people
2 would probably get one.
3
4 MR. ERHART: And I wanted to say
5 something. You know, they want this catch. Everybody
6 wants to know the count. Okay. You take some of these
7 fishermen, they have a girlfriend in this village and
8 they drop off three fish. When they go home to put it on
9 their calendar, they can't write it in front of their
10 wife, unless they got a big argument.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MR. ERHART: And, let me tell you, it
15 happens in a lot of villages. So you're never going to
16 get a perfect count.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we just
19 missed three fish there.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know if
24 Peg (ph) liked that argument.
25
26 MR. BASSICH: Lester, are you speaking
27 from personal experience?
28
29 MR. ERHART: No, I'm not.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think you're
34 reaching for all kinds of ways not to do this. Okay.
35
36 I understand, Joe, that you're saying
37 that it's just a way -- another means.
38
39 So I want to know, Larry, do you guys
40 have to get a same thing as Tanana.
41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Madame Chair. That's
43 Department of Fish and Game I guess, they mail us one,
44 and we don't go down to fish camp. But I'd also like to
45 add that I'm doing my own small part and not fishing at
46 all for the last seven, eight years. Ever since the
47 stocks gone way down, so we don't -- I don't even bother
48 to go to fish camp no more. So I'm trying to do my own
49 small part. But I still get those calendars and.....
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And
2 then you guys have to send them in; is that how you do
3 it?
4
5 MR. WILLIAMS: We have to send them in at
6 the end of the season.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
9
10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and Game,
13 is everybody getting a calendar?
14
15 MR. HAYES: We were just talking about
16 that. No. I think we sent out about 1200 to people that
17 are frequently fishing. But as I said, they're not
18 required to return them, and we get a very small
19 percentage of them back. That's why we also.....
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you
22 give.....
23
24 MR. HAYES:go out.....
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:them
27 reminders?
28
29 MR. HAYES: I think they do, and that's
30 why they go back out. They do the post-season survey as
31 well.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you think
34 the data you're getting now is good?
35
36 MR. HAYES: I think it's the data that we
37 have, that we get.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to know
42 if you think you're getting -- if it's -- do you think
43 it's 10 percent of what's harvested? Do you think it's
44 pretty close to what's harvested?
45
46 MR. HAYES: You know, I'm not involved
47 with the subsistence program, so I don't have an idea of
48 what they would think the difference is.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is this

1 Subsistence Division? Okay. I think this is a good
2 person to answer. And your name.

3
4 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair. My name -- for
5 the record my name.....

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Button.

8
9 MR. SIMON: Sorry. For the record, my
10 name is Jim Simon. I'm the regional supervisor for the
11 Division of Subsistence for the Arctic, Yukon and
12 Kuskokwim region.

13
14 The Division of Subsistence is not
15 involved in doing any post-season subsistence salmon
16 surveys any longer since Commercial Fisheries took over
17 the Kuskokwim monitoring program. However, originally in
18 about 1988 we worked with Commercial Fisheries on the
19 Yukon to develop a post-season subsistence salmon survey
20 program that was based on community households. The
21 total number of households in a community being defined,
22 and then a stratified random sample of those hous -- of
23 different levels of harvesters being affected, such that
24 then those estimates, those reported harvests are
25 expanded to estimate harvest by households where there
26 was no contact during the post-season household
27 interviews. So the estimates that are developed in -- by
28 Commercial Fisheries for the Yukon in each year
29 represents an estimated harvest of all fish by all users
30 on the river. That's bounded by 95 percent confidence
31 intervals.

32
33 So I think in that regard we can -- we're
34 not just dealing with reported harvest. We're dealing
35 with expanded estimates of total harvest.

36
37 I think that you will -- if you were to
38 look at some of the permit data from the Yukon and Tanana
39 -- for example, the Tanana River upstream from Fairbanks,
40 you have to have a subsistence fishing permit for any
41 kind of subsistence fishery. So if you're in the Upper
42 Tanana, for example. Those permits are distributed in
43 about a two-day time period each year by Staff from
44 Commercial Fisheries traveling to the region.

45
46 You may recall, Madame Chair, yourself
47 when Mentasta Lake had some issues with some harvest that
48 took place without any subsistence fishing permits. And
49 what we found out at that point is that Mentasta Lake was
50 never visited to distribute subsistence fishing permits.

1 So that has now been fixed. There is a visit to that
2 community to issue subsistence fishing permits.

3
4 But when we did some household surveys in
5 2004 and 2005 in the Upper Tanana area, we found that the
6 permit system was not capturing all harvest, that there
7 were households that were not obtaining permits for
8 whatever reason, whether it be a reasonable opportunity
9 to receive a permit or whether or not there was just
10 people who choose not to get a permit. But the -- what
11 the result was is that we missed about 10,000 whitefish
12 being harvested that -- in the permit system that we
13 didn't capture until we did post -- did household
14 surveys.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

17
18 MR. SIMON: So what we see in this case
19 is that we've got the permits on the Yukon salmon
20 fisheries in the roaded areas, because of the concerns
21 about easy access and the numbers of fishers that might
22 partake in the fisheries because of that easy access.
23 And supplementing that with the rest of the river, the
24 post-season salmon surveys, adding those two data sources
25 together gives us a complete perspective on what total
26 salmon -- subsistence harvests are.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the short
29 answer is you have pretty good data?

30
31 MR. SIMON: We have.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because you
34 estimate.....

35
36 MR. SIMON:we have consistent data
37 that -- since from the late 80s that is -- was also the
38 basis upon which the amounts necessary for subsistence
39 finding were established in 2001, which was based on the
40 harvest history from 1990 to 1999. So any change to the
41 harvest documentation program would likely require some
42 reevaluation of the amount necessary for subsistence
43 findings so that we could be sure that we were comparing
44 king salmon with king salmon and not apples and oranges.
45 You know, evaluating an ANS based on a different method
46 of estimating harvest.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does everybody
49 know what they -- I'm sorry. It's a lot of information,
50 but do we -- does that change you guys' mind about

1 households, that they must obtain a subsistence fishing
2 permit? Andy.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: It doesn't change my mind.
5 Quite frankly I think if we want to manage this fisheries
6 properly in the future, a harvest report and a permit,
7 which is one document, is a necessity to manage this
8 fisheries properly. If we don't do that, we're not
9 getting yearly accurate data.

10

11 I think the data sets that you have are
12 very useful for long-term trends.

13

14 MR. SIMON: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: And I think that's what
17 they were developed for, is to see if there are changes.
18 And I think it's extremely effective in that. But it is
19 not very effective in my mind in what we are harvesting
20 on a yearly basis. It does not have -- help managers on
21 a yearly basis knowing where the harvest strengths and
22 weakness is, where the heavy pressure is and where it's
23 not at on a yearly basis. And I think given this low
24 productivity and low abundance of Chinook salmon, if we
25 want to really manage that to the level that we're hoping
26 to manage it to, we have to have better in-season harvest
27 reporting. It's fundamental. If you don't do it, we're
28 just going to be taking our best guesses.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
31 members. Support or oppose.

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible, mic
34 not on) support.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is on
37 concept, and -- as I said earlier. So we can develop how
38 you feel on a proposal later.

39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you want a vote?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

43

44 MR. MATESI: Oppose.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one
47 oppose. Anyone else oppose this.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: I oppose.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's two.
2 Three. Four. Anyone in favor. Oh, we have a trap up
3 here. One, two, three, four. Somebody didn't vote. Oh,
4 five. No, I did. Support. Five. Well, it's pretty
5 even. Okay.

6
7 Break?

8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: That was a fast hour.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know. The
12 hour is an hour and a half. I've been looking at my
13 time.

14
15 Did you have one thing you wanted to add
16 before we break here for 10 minutes.

17
18 MR. SIMON: Thank you. Thank you, Madame
19 Chair. I would just like to just add one more thing with
20 respect to the harvest calendars that Steve mentioned
21 briefly. They're -- when the Subsistence Division was
22 still conducting the post-season salmon surveys on the
23 Kuskokwim, we also tried to increase the number of
24 harvest calendars that were returned, because we
25 recognized that that provides a level of quality in-
26 season fishing information that we don't capture in the
27 post-season salmon surveys. So as a result of trying to
28 increase the return rates, we sent out thousands of them,
29 and in an effort to try to see if we couldn't get the
30 return rates to increase. And unfortunately we didn't
31 see any response to blanketing the Kuskokwim River with
32 these harvest calendars.

33
34 I think that what the Division of
35 Subsistence would recommend is that an educational effort
36 to really explain the importance of the harvest calendars
37 and the kind of in -- you know, catch timing information
38 that can also be obtained from those calendars, that that
39 might be an effective strategy to increase those returns.
40 The -- especially if the Council is not interested in
41 seeing those become mandatory regulatory requirements
42 such that then someone who didn't return a calendar would
43 be open to citation.

44
45 So I just think the -- the importance of
46 an educational outreach effort on the -- on trying to get
47 more calendars returned is something that I'd like to
48 leave the Council with in developing strategies that
49 might help make that happen.

50

1 Thanks.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Sue, I have a question.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I just
6 want to say that as I'm -- we're going through this, this
7 is a concept that we're looking at, and it's not a
8 proposal, what we're saying. We're just looking at this,
9 we think this is a good idea, and how the government puts
10 it in place is up to them, not us. So.....
11
12 MR. BASSICH: A quick question.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I just
15 wanted to put -- yeah, go ahead, Andy. Or.....
16
17 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Jim.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and we
20 need to.....
21
22 MR. BASSICH: I think that's a really
23 good comment. I'm just curious, what's your rate of
24 return where it's mandatory for people to fill out their
25 fish calendars along the road system? What's the rate of
26 return there?
27
28 MR. SIMON: Through the Chair. Andy. I
29 -- that's not something that I know off the top of my
30 head. The -- there -- the permits in the Yukon I don't
31 believe are actually associated with a calendar. It's
32 just a reporting requirement on the calendar -- or on the
33 permit. That's.....
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fred must know.
36
37 MR. SIMON: I'd defer to him.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fred, do you
40 know the answer to that. Or.....
41
42 MR. BUE: Yeah. I know Jeff has it for
43 sure, but on the Yukon/Tanana River it's close -- between
44 85 and 95 percent, because it's required. There's a
45 follow-up phone call, multiple calls. Actually Jeff may
46 have it here, but.....
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 85 to 95.
49 Yeah.
50

1 MR. BUE: On the Tanana. Other
2 locations, such as Eagle, may be 100 percent. Other
3 places I've been, in Nome it's 100 percent when it's
4 required.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 It.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a good
10 point.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: The point I'm trying to
13 make is.....
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
16
17 MR. BASSICH:unless you make it
18 mandatory, you're not going to get compliance with it.
19 That's just the nature of humans, the nature of
20 fishermen. And quite frankly, it might be hard to
21 swallow for a year or two, but you adapt very quickly.
22
23 The other thing I was going to say, if
24 you want to get really good turns on voluntary stuff,
25 have an incentive. Give away a snow machine. If you
26 turn in your calendar, then a snow machine gets
27 given.....
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or an iPod.
30
31 MR. BASSICH:out to somebody. You
32 know, quite.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a little
35 less expensive.
36
37 MR. BASSICH:frankly, if you put
38 the incentive out there, people will do it.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
41
42 MR. BASSICH: If you don't, you're not
43 going to get returns, so you can't expect that.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we've
46 already voted on it, but did you have something to add,
47 Jeff.
48
49 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair, I'm looking
50 -- trying to look it up right now, so if you keep

1 talking, which is.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
4 we'll.....
5
6 MR. ESTENSEN:I might find it here,
7 but.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:let's just
10 take a break and you can tell us. Okay?
11
12 MR. BUE: They do give out.....
13
14 MR. ESTENSEN: Maybe I'll have it
15 before.....
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
18
19 MR. BUE:they do give out awards
20 for returned calendars. It's a lottery.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
23
24 (Off record)
25
26 (On record)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's call the
29 meeting back to order.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: And the Department wishes
32 to address this. They want us to get that change.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I
35 want us -- everyone to know that Don Rivard wanted to
36 speak before Black River with the BLM stuff. So they'll
37 just have to wait, Don.
38
39 All right. We're on number 5. Is Joe in
40 the room?
41
42 MR. MATESEI: Yes.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Concurrent
45 subsistence and commercial periods. Delete 5 AAC
46 01.210(e)(1)(A) requiring a waiting period between
47 subsistence and commercial periods in Districts 1, 2, and
48 3. We have a -- Virgil.
49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: That was put in in 1993

1 due to people selling -- getting their buddies or
2 relatives to take their subsistence-caught fish and then
3 selling them. And that was primarily king salmon. What
4 that does, if we don't take that out, that makes it so
5 you can't really have windows is what it does, because
6 you can't conduct a commercial fishery and then restrict
7 the subsistence fishermen and then that forces you to
8 have to let the commerc -- or the subsistence fishery
9 then fish when they're not commercial fishing, so you
10 can't have unmolested fish going up the river. They need
11 to fish concurrently, that means at the same time so you
12 can have real windows of pulse protection, whatever you
13 want to all it. Because if you don't do that, then you
14 can't have it, because you can't have a commercial
15 fishery and not have a subsistence fishery, too. they
16 need to do it like they do in the Upper Yukon where you
17 commercial fish and you subsistence fish at the same
18 exact time. A dead fish is a dead fish, whether it's
19 caught commercial or subsistence, whether it gets sold or
20 doesn't get sold. When you want fish on the spawning
21 grounds, you have to have periods of time where they're
22 not fishing. That's why it needs to go away.

23

24 And the last -- very last thing to say
25 about that is basically having two sets -- or two
26 standards, one for the upper river and one for the lower
27 river is basically saying, well, the guys in the lower
28 river are a bunch of damn crooks, so we can't let them
29 subsistence fish at the same time as the commercial
30 fishermen, because their buddies will sell their fish.
31 Where in the upper river they're saying basically, well,
32 those guys are honest. They're not going to do that, so
33 we'll let them fish together. It's ridiculous. It's a
34 double standard, and it makes it impossible to properly
35 manage a fishery. So.....

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR:we need to be in
40 favor of that.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Input from the
43 Council. Andrew.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: I kind of agree with Virgil,
46 and maybe Virgil -- wasn't this also so the commercial
47 and subsistence fishermen a long time back in the back
48 then weren't competing with each other for the same
49 fishing spots or something like that? And since there
50 isn't a commercial fishery on king salmon any more, it's

1 kind of unnecessary.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: That basically didn't
4 really have anything to do with it. I was down there
5 when they had the big giant bust, the troopers did. And
6 what caused this was sub -- because you have District 1
7 would fish and then District 2 would fish. And so you
8 would have people that would fish subsistence in District
9 2 while District 1's open, and then go downriver and give
10 their fish to their buddy that has a commercial permit in
11 District -- in the other district that it was commercial
12 fishing. He would take that guy's subsistence fish and
13 would sell them along with his commercial fish. That's
14 what they were doing. And.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not likely
17 happening any more, is it.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, that's not
20 happening any more. There's no more king salmon fishery.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: But this screws it up so
25 that we can't really have real windows and pro -- and
26 pulse protection is what it does.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that
29 answer your question. Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah, and I'd
32 like to add one more thing. In -- this will only really
33 work as long as you also make it to where incidentally,
34 or as I call them, by-caught, Chinook salmon in the chum
35 fisheries cannot be sold, because people up and down the
36 river, especially drift fishermen, know where to go to
37 fish to get king salmon in their chum nets, and so if
38 you're going to do this, and you're going to have
39 commercial fall chum or summer chum fisheries concurrent
40 with subsistence, you have to also make it illegal to
41 sell any incidentally caught Chinook salmon. That's
42 really critical.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not in the
45 regulation now?

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, this is in the
48 regulation. We need to take it out.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Anyone

1 else?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are you guys
6 ready to support or oppose.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Support.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How many
11 support. One, two, three, four, five.....

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: You've got Bill, to.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:six.
16 Okay. Well, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. So
17 opposed. So I have two abstentions. Okay.

18

19 All right. Six is prohibit -- or
20 prohibition on selling king salmon roe in Subdistricts
21 4A. Expand the prohibition on selling king salmon roe in
22 4A to the entire drainage. Change the regulation to
23 read, a harvester may not sell king salmon roe. Only
24 whole king salmon may be sold.

25

26 Is there much discussion on this. Andy,
27 then.....

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Virgil, if I
30 remember at this meeting, we basically came to the
31 conclusion just not to even further this, just to leave
32 it as it is, was my recollection where we were on this
33 one, but maybe you have a different perception.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. It -- this is
36 people -- this is commercial fishermen in the Lower Yukon
37 that want to say the reason why there's no king salmon is
38 because people were roe stripping king salmon upriver.
39 People were never roe stripping king salmon upriver. I
40 mean, whenever you process a king salmon, when we had a
41 king salmon commercial fishery, we would do something
42 with the roe, just like they would in the Lower Yukon,
43 but there was never ever a fishery where you were out
44 there targeting king salmon for the eggs, to sell the
45 eggs. there never was one like that. There was for chum
46 salmon in District 4A, but that's the only place it was.
47 The rest of the places, we always bought all the fish in
48 the round. We never did that. It's a ridiculous
49 proposal. There's no king salmon being caught
50 commercially in the Yukon drainage, hasn't been for four

1 years I believe, so how the hell could you sell the roe
2 if you weren't buying the fish.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the fish is
5 worth more than the roe, isn't it?
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.
8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's a lot better
10 eating.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I see
13 the hands here. Jill, did you have something?
14
15 MS. KLEIN: Well, yes. I wanted to ask
16 Virgil if you suggest then removing this from the king
17 salmon management plan entirely.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: You mean remove the
20 prohibition? It doesn't make.....
21
22 MS. KLEIN: Because it's in there now.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR:one difference -- it
25 doesn't make a difference one way or the other actually,
26 because right now you can't sell any king salmon.
27 There's no commercial king salmon fishery. Don't see one
28 in the foreseeable future, so it doesn't make any
29 difference. You can either take it our or leave it in.
30 But I don't see any reason to add to it like this says to
31 do.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So leave -- so
34 would everybody understand that if we were opposed to
35 this, that it's just leaving regulations the way they
36 are? Is that how the managers would look at it? Yeah.
37
38 MR. HAYES: Well, this one just -- excuse
39 me. Madame Chair. This would just get pulled out of the
40 plan. The proposed plan.
41
42 MS. KLEIN: Any revisions.
43
44 MR. HAYES: Any revisions, yeah.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any revisions,
47 because it's already in regulation, right? So -- all
48 right.
49
50 MR. BASSICH: No action.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No action.
2 Every -- anyone opposed to no action. In everyone in
3 favor of no action.
4
5 (Affirmative nods)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Mesh
8 depth of net. Mesh depth of net. Reduce the allowable
9 mesh depth. Is that your hand?
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Uh-huh.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
14 Virgil.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I actually am in
17 favor of this. And that was -- has been one of our RAC's
18 proposals for the last 10 years at least. The average
19 depth of nets in 84/85 in District Y1 was only 25 meshes
20 deep. They're 45 meshes deep now. Prior to them getting
21 deep nets, we didn't have the problem we've got now. And
22 everyone that's fished knows that the larger king salmon
23 swim farther out and in deeper water. So if you want to
24 target the larger ones, have a net that goes all the way
25 to the bottom. If they can swim under the net, they'll
26 swim under the net. But that's how they kept them --
27 catch them in the Copper River flats, too, they just roll
28 them up in that water, only 10 feet deep with a 30-foot
29 deep net. So that would put more larger fish on the
30 spawning grounds.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
33 members.
34
35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. We -- as Virgil
36 stated, as a council we've put in actually proposals to
37 do this so I'm in support of this.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So does
44 everyone support this, number 7.
45
46 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I do.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.
49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2 Nine/zero.
3
4 Windows. If pulse protection is adopted
5 for management of king salmon in the Yukon River,
6 consider how the subsistence fishery periods -- windows
7 should be applied during the times of conservation. One,
8 keep windows, support or oppose. Two, if pulse
9 protection is adopted, eliminate windows. And, three, if
10 the pulse -- first pulse if protected, eliminate windows
11 after the first pulse.
12
13 All right. Andy, then Virgil.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Yeah. I kind of
16 brought this up at the meeting, but it really was not --
17 we were having a lot of discussion about the interaction
18 of pulse protections and maybe protecting all three
19 pulses or just one or whatever. And we just threw this
20 out that, you know, maybe we could have pulse protection
21 on all three pulses, and get rid of windows altogether
22 and everybody were -- kind of discussed that briefly, but
23 I think we all pretty much came to the conclusion that it
24 would be an absolute nightmare and would do nothing for
25 conservation of Chinook salmon if you had pulse
26 protection and re -- and got rid of windows.
27
28 So from my recollection of the meeting,
29 most of us were in agreement that it's really not a
30 viable option to get rid of windows in lieu of just pulse
31 protection, because it would open up the fisheries 24/7
32 when you're not doing pulse protection, and there's no
33 way to control harvest at that point. So I don't even
34 know that -- I mean, I would say you have to keep windows
35 in there no matter what you do.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew. I'm
38 sorry, Virgil. I see him nodding his head, so in
39 agreement, yeah.
40
41 Virgil.
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: I concur.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
46 need any more discussion.
47
48 MR. MATESI: Yes.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we?

1 MR. MATESI: No, it's just too easy.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, one --
4 that's what we're looking for, something that's easy.
5 Everyone support keeping window.
6
7 IN UNISON: Yes.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So the
10 other two we oppose.
11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Uh-huh.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All oppose the
15 pulse protection -- anyway, you understand. All right.
16
17 So now we go back to a proposal. Where
18 are we at.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: With pulse.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So what
23 we were hearing was number 1 and number 2 discussed as
24 options. Any more discussion. Andy.
25
26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. During the break I
27 was just chatting a little bit, and, you know, it's hard
28 for us to swallow the fact that we have to change the way
29 we've been doing things, but the numbers are the facts,
30 and the numbers are we're only getting half the amount of
31 fish we used to get. We can't do what we used to do in
32 the past and continue to have a viable fisheries in the
33 future. So the fact is the numbers dictate that we have
34 to reduce our harvest. It's a hard thing for all of us
35 to swallow. It's a real hardship for everybody living
36 subsistence to try and reduce their harvest. However,
37 there are other tools, there are other fish in the river
38 that people can target instead of Chinook salmon.
39
40 So I am in -- very much in strong favor
41 of first pulse protection. I believe it should be done
42 every year irregardless, and if there is a year of bumper
43 crop, then let the Department figure out how they're
44 going to open it up through the commissioner or whatever.
45 But until we start developing better stewardship on the
46 Alaskan side of the river, where people are responsible
47 for how much they harvest and realize that every fish
48 they take out of the river is important to the future of
49 the fisheries, until we get people practicing that, we
50 don't have a chance of rebuilding the run. So.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: This business of number 2,
4 as I said earlier, it won't work. It's a great idea. It
5 makes us sound like we're going to all be able to fish a
6 little bit. It's just physically not possible to manage
7 in my opinion, and still have an effective conservation
8 tool.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
11 discussion. Joe.

12

13 MR. MATESI: Yeah. I guess I'm -- I'm
14 sorry. Madame Chair. I think just so everybody has an
15 anchor, I'll go ahead and speak out in favor of number 4,
16 which is not to formalize pulse protection. We have --
17 I agree with Mr. Bassich. It's good, it's been
18 effective, and I'm glad that the agencies have learned
19 how to implement it. I am going to -- I would support 4
20 there. Well, support -- yeah, I would support not
21 formalizing it as a regulation. I don't think -- you
22 know, I don't like to throw out regulations just to have
23 regulations when we don't necessarily need them, and it
24 could have the effect of micro managing the micro -- the
25 managers, and in the end even potentially taking away
26 opportunity for subsistence users.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Board looks at these
31 regulations every three years. If some -- by some
32 miracle happened and we had a gigantic bunch of king
33 salmon come up, and the first pulse went up the river,
34 then there's always a second and third pulse. And if it
35 continued that way for a cycle of fish, or, you know, a
36 Board cycle, then someone can always put a proposal
37 forward. And there's always the emergency regulation
38 avenue that can take place as well. So even though you
39 put something in regulation, that doesn't mean that it
40 can't be changed actually pretty darn fast if unusual
41 circumstances warrant that it should be changed.

42

43 I kind of seriously doubt if we're going
44 to have that unusual circumstance come up, so I'm in
45 favor of it.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

48

49 MR. FIRMIN: In favor of one or two or
50 three or four? One I believe, right?

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're in favor
2 of one.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I have two
7 in favor of one and one in favor of four, which I think
8 is fine to put forth. Unless -- I don't think we have to
9 necessarily be unanimous on our thoughts here.
10
11 So would anyone else like to speak.
12 Bill, or how do you guys want to go about this. Just
13 each one of you just tell where you're at on it or do you
14 need any more discussion.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: Suggestion.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to suggest that
21 just let each Council member speak their piece of mind,
22 yeah, nay on whatever one and whatever we come up with,
23 that's what we come up with as far as support, and.....
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
26
27 MR. BASSICH:I think that will be
28 the quickest, and that allows every Council member to
29 speak their mind about where they feel.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who would like
32 to go first. Bill.
33
34 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'm in favor of number
35 1 myself actually. I'm in favor of four and one, but
36 number 1 has -- seems to have the most teeth .
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Larry.
39
40 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 I would like to abstain on this question.....
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
44
45 MR. WILLIAMS:because of what I
46 said earlier.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I'm
49 sorry. I remember now.
50

1 MR. ERHART: I'll have to abstain, too.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Two
4 abstentions. Would you mind -- you told why, but do you
5 have any feel -- like if you could just speak for
6 yourself, would you do that?
7
8 MR. ERHART: Well, there's quite a few
9 old people at home and -- there's quite a few old people
10 at home and it's hard for me to explain it to them
11 what's, you know, so -- going to happen.
12
13 But while I'm talking here, I was going
14 to ask these guys a question, you know, about those
15 calendars. You catch a little jack this big. Do you have
16 to put it down as a king salmon? Because, you know, a
17 lot of those old people ask me, they say, does it count
18 as a king salmon? It's just a little jack this big. Do
19 you have to? You have to.
20
21 MR. HAYES: Madame Chair. Yes, you do.
22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: They count as children.
24
25 MR. ERHART: Thank you.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil just
28 said they count as children.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. So
33 -- Andrew. I think Andy's -- yeah.
34
35 MR. BASSICH: I spoke.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: I kind of agree with all of
40 them except number 3. I'm not really for or against any
41 of them, but I think three is kind of a -- it doesn't
42 really help in any way. I think the managers do a good
43 enough job as it is now that -- where you don't need to
44 formalize it, but I also think that it wouldn't hurt to
45 write it in stone. And feeling -- from the feelings from
46 other meetings, like I said with the emergency orders,
47 that kind of makes number 2 a moot point. But I'm pretty
48 much for number 1, because -- I'd not only say that
49 because I could -- I guess I have some knowledge of the
50 Board process to where it connects, put it back the other

1 way if need be.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you spoke
4 -- yeah. Isaac.
5
6 MR. JUNEBY: I believe I agree with all
7 of them -- I believe I agree with all of them except that
8 number 2.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you actually
11 agree with number 3.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: He said he did.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep. Okay. If
16 you were to prioritize, could you do that.
17
18 MR. JUNEBY: I guess the number one up
19 there is my prioritized right there. But I -- so.....
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
22 more to add?
23
24 MR. JUNEBY: No.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
27 right. Let me see if I can't consolidate that.
28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's two little things
30 to say.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It looks like
33 there's two abstentions and one for number 4, and the
34 remainder, do my math.
35
36 And myself, I think -- I hear the
37 compelling importance on a stock of fish that's in
38 trouble. I can see that, so I would go, if I had a
39 preference, it would be number 1 also.
40
41 So six, if they were to prioritize, would
42 be number 1. One number 4 and 2 abstentions.
43
44 Did you have something to add, Virgil?
45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Not on that. I said two
47 things left quick.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We have
50 two things left quick. And you want to go on it?

1 MR. BUE: Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Fred.
4
5 MR BUE: Yeah. Just a comment, and it
6 doesn't need explanation or further discussion, but this
7 is a management plan to the State Board of Fish. As far
8 as we're concerned at this point right now, everything in
9 here, nothing is new, and so I think a the Federal
10 manager, I have delegated authority to act on these, to
11 stay in line with the plan or not if this does not make
12 it to the Federal process in the time. So if they're out
13 of synch. I -- it doesn't tie my hands that I'm aware of
14 at this point.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
19 on to the windows. Virgil.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Second and third
22 pulses. Based on the in-season run assessment, the
23 Department will restrict harvest opportunities on the
24 second and third pulses.
25
26 We discussed that earlier. I'm 100
27 percent in favor of it. That's in-season management is
28 responding to whatever returns and managing accordingly.
29
30 Madame Chair
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I miss
33 something, the pulse protection and windows, or you're
34 speaking to the third item here?
35
36 Jill.
37
38 MS. KLEIN: We ended up covering that
39 under number 8.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. I'm
42 sorry.
43
44 MS. KLEIN: So you all supported.....
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
47
48 MS. KLEIN:windows in addition to
49 pulse protection.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And,
2 Andy, you had -- go ahead.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Talk -- building on
5 what Virgil said, basically all this saying is that we
6 support the way the fisheries was managed this year. And
7 as I stated earlier, pretty much everybody in the room
8 during our meeting agreed that this year's management
9 actions were appropriate and achieved their goal. So I'm
10 in strong support of second and third pulse protection,
11 if it's warranted.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are we ready
18 to support or not.
19
20 MR. MATESE: Madame Chair.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
23
24 MR. MATESE: Is this any different than
25 what's happening right now?
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is what's happening
28 right now.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The answer is
31 no. Right?
32
33 MR. HAYES: That's correct.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
36 asking us that for what reason, to put in regulation and
37 it's not?
38
39 MS. KLEIN: Yeah. I guess the purpose of
40 all of this was that we could put some of this into
41 regulation so managers have this -- the EO authority to
42 do a lot of what they're doing in-season now. And we
43 wanted to run by the public, the people on the Yukon
44 River, if you want to put any of this in regulation so
45 that it's not a year-to-year question of what's going to
46 happen and when is it going to happen, and what might
47 they do. There would be kind of set thresholds of when
48 there are closures. And I don't know if using thresholds
49 is the right word, because that relates to numbers of
50 fish, and we're not there yet, according to the managers,

1 but this would just help dictate that certain things
2 happen at certain times, and you know when they're going
3 to happen. So it's formalizing it a bit.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: All this does is puts
8 into regulation a narrative description of how the
9 fishery will be managed so that anyone that wants to can
10 read it and they can show this is what -- how -- what
11 they're going to do. Basically that's all it is. So the
12 normal everyday person can look at the regulation and
13 know how the fisheries going to be managed. That's the
14 purpose for something like that, like a preamble to the
15 management plan.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil sounds
18 like an attorney.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is there
23 any more.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: One more equity.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we need to
28 -- are we ready to vote. Is -- does everybody support.

29

30 (Affirmative nods)

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Support.

33

34 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

37

38 MR. MATESE: Yes.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So am I --
41 eight to one. Or, you guys, you're -- are you
42 abstaining, Larry.

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Abstaining.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And you,
47 you voted?

48

49 MR. ERHART: I voted.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So one
2 abstention. Seven, one, one.

3
4 Equity. Go ahead, Virgil.

5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I discussed this
7 a little bit earlier, equity. I've given this a lot of
8 thought over the last 20 years or so. When it comes time
9 for our Board of Fish proposals, I am going to make a
10 motion for that, that is, that the windows in Districts
11 2, 3, and 3 should be no longer than 18 hours.

12
13 Another way to -- that this could be
14 addressed, partially through the depth of gillnets, which
15 we already talked about that. Partially, if we really
16 got serious about conserving those large king salmon,
17 would be to ban drift net fishing on the entire Yukon
18 River. It didn't even start drift fishing really until
19 the very late 70s, early 80s. They were all setnet
20 fishermen and fishwheel fishermen. And so if we really
21 were serious, that's what we would do.

22
23 But if you look at the -- if you want to
24 look at equity, we -- in the upper river we get two 48-
25 hour periods in Districts 4 and 5, and then in 5D you get
26 7 days a week. The Koyukuk, Innoko River, and the
27 coastal district gets 7 days a week. District 6 gets two
28 42-hour periods a week. Districts 1, 2 and 3, two 36-
29 hour periods a week.

30
31 Thirty-six hours for a driftnet
32 fisherman, when I -- you know, I can remember -- I've
33 been on the teleconferences since we started them,
34 however long that's been. And before the commercial
35 fishery finally ended for Chinook salmon, you're on the
36 teleconference and people are talking about.....

37
38 I can remember one individual saying,
39 well, I caught 124 king salmon last night. Fish and Game
40 doesn't know how to run the test nets, they don't know
41 how to run the sonar. There's lots and lots of king
42 salmon. We need a commercial fishery.

43
44 I don't know how many times I've heard
45 words to that effect, trying to get the Department to
46 open up the commercial fishery. Well, now they finally
47 gave up.

48
49 But anyway, to let someone that can go
50 out and in one night catch 124 fish, I've heard someone

1 say, I caught my whole year's subsistence needs in four
2 hours, and this is just in the last three years, even
3 with these bad returns, with a driftnet. And what we're
4 talking about here is we're not talking about a drift net
5 like in the Upper Yukon. That's -- the driftnets in the
6 Lower Yukon are their commercial gear. They're 300 feet
7 long. In the Upper Yukon a subsistence drift gillnet,
8 because that's the only ones allowed, and they're in
9 District 4A, they're 150 feet long. And then in the
10 Federal fishery, they're no more than 35 meshes deep in
11 our Federal fishery in District 4. But down there,
12 they're 300 feet long and 45 meshes deep.

13

14 So if we really want equity, and really
15 want to re -- and we're going to equally reduce
16 subsistence harvest or -- the only way you can do it is
17 to reduce subsistence opportunity. To reduce subsistence
18 opportunity, then it needs to be done in an equitable
19 manner if we're going to have equity. I think two 18-
20 hour periods in the lower river is still too much, but we
21 might be able to sell that to the Board of Fisheries.

22

23 That's how I feel about equity.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Those were a
26 lot of examples, Virgil, but in short this goes back to
27 what Andrew was saying earlier clearly.

28

29 Anyone else. The Department shall
30 distribute reductions in subsistence harvest
31 opportunities equitably among users. Support or oppose.

32

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Let's vote.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is everybody
37 ready to vote.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
42 favor raise your hand. Anyone opposed. And one
43 abstention, Larry.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: I abstain.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Okay.
48 Again same vote. Seven-one-one. All right.

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: We're done.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we got
2 through that. So next would be Don Rivard.
3
4 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. If I may,
5 Madame Chair. When the fisheries meet, Virgil, I've seen
6 it happen, there's -- he's outnumbered 20 to 1 from
7 upriver versus the middle and the downriver. There's
8 very few people that attend the meetings from Upper Yukon
9 zone and 5A and all that stuff there. It's.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, at the
12 Board of Fish.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Yes, at the.....
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
17
18 MR. GLANZ:Board of Fisheries
19 meetings, yes.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
22
23 MR. GLANZ: Virg -- yeah. So maybe
24 everybody ought to think about going to the Board of
25 Fisheries meeting and testifying.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it all
28 comes down to money. Can you -- do you have the money to
29 go.....
30
31 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:because I
34 think they have the money to send their people.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: Oh, that's a -- that's a
37 gimme.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-huh.
40 Yeah, it's really hard to compete against.
41
42 Jill, you had something else.
43
44 MS. KLEIN: Yeah, just speaking of
45 meetings, I just wanted to ask your Coun -- your -- the
46 Regional Advisory Council to appoint someone to go to the
47 summer preparation meeting in April. If one of you would
48 like to attend, we do have funding to bring someone from
49 the RAC, and we will be bringing somebody from every
50 community along the Yukon River into Anchorage of a one-

1 day meeting to talk about basically the -- a lot of the
2 same aspects of the fisheries.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Got a date?

5

6 MS. KLEIN: April 4th.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: April 4th. So
9 who is going there anyway from -- on our RAC. Are there
10 people that are going from our -- that are on this RAC.

11

12 MS. KLEIN: Only if they would be sent by
13 their community, and/or their tribal consortia, or some
14 other entity they work with.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone
17 know if they're appointed to go yet. Okay.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Question.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Jill, are you going
24 to have -- this is to bring everyone together. Are you
25 going to have regional meetings as well like you did last
26 year, or are you trying to consolidate into just one big
27 riverwide meeting?

28

29 MS. KLEIN: Right now we're just hosting
30 one riverwide meeting, but there might be other entities
31 we've heard that want to do more regional meetings, so
32 those might still pop up as we get closer to the season,
33 but not through this same process.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is
36 interested in representing the Council. Andrew.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: We nominate Andrew.

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: I could probably do that,
41 and wear four or five hats while I'm there.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because you'll
44 probably be there?

45

46 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I don't know about
47 probably, but in one way or another I could probably
48 swing going down there.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: well, let me

1 ask you this. If you think you're going to be there for
2 whatever hat you're wearing anyway, would it be important
3 to have someone else from the -- here?

4
5 MR. GLANZ: Well, it's just -- for
6 me.....

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not?

9
10 MR. GLANZ:it's a matter of like
11 this whole month is full of meetings for me and my
12 supervisor is like, where are you going next? You know,
13 that's his only complaint with me, so I don't -- I don't
14 foresee me not going, but I'd have to clear it with him
15 or take time off from work to go.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18
19 MR. GLANZ: But I'm sure if I wear -- if
20 I wear his hat, he probably won't mind.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So should we
23 have an alternate in case.....

24
25 MR. GLANZ: Possibly, yes.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
28 Any.....

29
30 MR. GLANZ: But right now I'd say I'd --
31 I'll give it a whirl.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Assign Andrew
34 as first and then have an alternate if he isn't going.
35 Who else would -- who?

36
37 MR. GLANZ: Virgil.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil. Is
40 there anyone else interested in going. Are you?

41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, one of the three of
43 us should go.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because of all
46 the time you've put in on this, yeah.

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: We've put lots of time in
49 on this.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So does that
2 work for you as an alternate in case.....

3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I can be an
5 alternate.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. So
8 that's the way it will be. All right. Thank you.

9
10 All right. Donald.

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

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
15 Jill.

16
17 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office
18 of Subsistence Management. I just have a couple of
19 announcements to -- for your Council.

20
21 The first one is that there will be a
22 request for proposals for the 2014 Fisheries Resource
23 Monitoring Program, and that will be issued probably late
24 fall this year. Most -- we usually do it in mid
25 November. That will be issued by the Office of
26 Subsistence Management.

27
28 I'm going to read a prepared statement
29 here, because of some of your newer members that are on
30 the Council now may have not heard this before.

31
32 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
33 funds technically sound projects that gather, analyze and
34 report information needed to manage and conserve
35 subsistence fisheries resources on Federal public lands
36 in Alaska. These include the national wildlife refuges,
37 the national forests, national parks and preserves,
38 national conservation areas, national wild and scenic
39 river systems, the national petroleum reserves and the
40 national recreation areas.

41
42 To accomplish this, the program seeks to
43 provide meaningful involvement in fisheries management by
44 Alaska Native and rural organizations, and to promote
45 collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native, and
46 local organizations. While capacity building and
47 partnerships are encouraged as an important part of
48 project, any project for which the main objective is
49 capacity building, for example, science camps, technician
50 training or intern programs, will not be considered for

1 funding.

2

3 Part of the request for proposals will be
4 a list of priority information needs for each of the six
5 geographic regions: the northern, the Yukon, the
6 Kuskokwim, Southwest, Southcentral, and Southeast Alaska.

7

8 Investigators will be asked to consider
9 examining or discussing climate change effects as part of
10 their project; to participate in a standardized air and
11 water temperature monitoring program for which they will
12 be provided calibrated temperature loggers and associated
13 equipment, analysis and reporting services and access to
14 a temperature database; or to submit proposals that focus
15 on effects of climate change on subsistence fisheries
16 resources and uses, and that describe management
17 implications. Although investigators are strongly
18 encouraged to address these priority needs, all proposals
19 addressing Federal fisheries subsistence fisheries will
20 be considered for funding as long as a compelling
21 rationale for conducting the proposed work is provided.

22

23 And just as a reminder, activities that
24 will not be considered for funding include habitat
25 protection, mitigation, restoration and enhancement;
26 hatchery propagation, restoration, enhancement and
27 supplementation; and contaminant assessment, evaluation,
28 and monitoring. These are all important activities, but
29 are more appropriately addressed for the -- by the
30 responsible land management or regulatory agency.

31

32 So for your fall meeting, we'll have this
33 on the agenda -- as an agenda item so that your Council
34 can provide us with any priority information needs. We
35 talked about this last fall a little bit. I know Andy
36 had a couple of suggestions, but next all we'll have it
37 as an agenda item, and you can provide your priority
38 information needs that you see for your region.

39

40 And that's all I have on that particular
41 subject.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.
44 Joe.

45

46 MR. MATESI: Is this call for proposals
47 available for the OSM website?

48

49 MR. RIVARD: It will be on there as well,
50 yes.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
7 more, Donald?

8
9 MR. RIVARD: I have two other short
10 announcements. Jill said -- gave you a handout as well
11 on chum salmon bycatch. I just want to bring that to
12 your attention.

13
14 North Pacific Fisheries Management
15 Council will be meeting again late March. And during
16 that meeting they're scheduled to take up chum salmon
17 bycatch again in the Bering Sea. Just as a reminder, the
18 last time they met and took up this topic was in June of
19 2011 in Nome. And that -- before that letter, the
20 Federal Subsistence Board submitted a letter to the North
21 Pacific Fisheries Management Council in which they
22 recommended a hard cap of 50,000 chum salmon with a
23 25,000 trigger cap. And the trigger cap would -- once
24 they had reached 25,000, that there would be additional
25 management and conservation measures that would go into
26 effect to avoid even getting close to that 50,000 hard
27 cap.

28
29 Just for your information, you've got the
30 graph. It just shows that the bycatch was pretty low in
31 2010 at 13 -- about 13,000, and it's -- was 200,000 in
32 2011. So it's got an upward trend going again.

33
34 So I'll be at that meeting in Anchorage
35 in March, and so if there's any additional comments or
36 letter you want to send as a Council to the North Pacific
37 Fisheries Management Council on this topic, now would be
38 the time to provide that in time for this late March
39 meeting.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's pretty
44 significant. Did you say 13,000 it was in 2010?

45
46 MR. RIVARD: Yes. If you look on
47 that.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
50

1 MR. RIVARD:there's a graph.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And how it's
4 200,000?
5
6 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, it's -- you can see an
7 upward trend now, and who know where.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's more
10 than.....
11
12 MR. RIVARD:that's going to go this
13 year.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:an upward
16 trend.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. RIVARD: Just -- the 50,000 that the
21 Board, the Federal Subsistence Board recommended, that's
22 the lowest of the four alternatives that they're
23 analyzing right now.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And see -- we
26 can also comment on that?
27
28 MR. RIVARD: Yes, if you choose to do so,
29 you can have a letter sent again.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Board members.
32 I think it would be great to reiterate. That's wild that
33 that does that in one year.
34
35 Board members, would you agree that we
36 send our letter in for that 50,000 cap. The Board, the
37 Federal Board has already done so?
38
39 MR. RIVARD: Yes, you may recall, I guess
40 it's been a little over a year ago, they had a discussion
41 on this. You were present. And they came up with that.
42 It was -- three of the Councils out of four supported
43 that; your Council is one of them. And I'm planning on
44 recommending that the Federal Subsistence Board send
45 another letter by the end of March, just reiterating
46 their position, due to the time that has passed.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Council
49 Members, would you agree that we need to reiterate and
50 get our letter out, too.

1 (Affirmative nods.)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hearing
4 no objection, that we would do the same.
5
6 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
7 will draft that letter for you and -- for your signature
8 at some point.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds great.
11
12 MR. RIVARD: Okay.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Try not to use
19 upward trend. Try to use something a little more
20 stronger. Yeah.
21
22 All right. Yes, Andy.
23
24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Don, when you compose
25 that letter, if you could reference some of the comments
26 made earlier about the importance of chum salmon to the
27 Yukon River during these -- especially during these times
28 of low Chinook, that we're depending on summer and fall
29 chums at a much greater rate as subsistence users. I
30 think that's a really important key issue for the upper
31 river.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And,
34 Donald, I'd like to say it's real important that our
35 Staff bring all this stuff to our attention, because it's
36 hard to follow all this stuff. And I really appreciate
37 that.
38
39 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40
41 Yes, Andy, I will -- you're saying refer
42 to the importance of chum salmon at times -- especially
43 in times of low Chinook runs? I will put that in there.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
50

1 MR. RIVARD: And then, Madame Chair, just
2 another quick one. This was mentioned briefly by
3 someone, I forget who now, but the AVCP is having a
4 special convention next week on the state of the salmon.
5 It's taking place in Bethel. And it's the 6th, 7th and
6 8th. I say this, because KYUK, the radio -- local radio
7 station, will be broadcasting this live, and for people
8 that are not in the Bethel area that can't pick it up by
9 the airways, they can also get on line if that service
10 and listen to it through the KYUK website. So it might
11 be worthwhile if you're unable to attend to listen in,
12 which I plan to do.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
17 questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks,
22 Donald.

23
24 And I think I'm at 4:00 o'clock. That's
25 amazing.

26
27 So the BLM folks that I talked to
28 earlier, are they both here? All right. Could you come
29 up and give us that report. Please give your name and
30 position.

31
32 MS. HEPLER: My name is Lenore Hepler.
33 I'm the field manager for the Eastern Interior field
34 office of BLM.

35
36 MS. COLE: My name's Jeannie Cole. I'm
37 the planning and environmental coordinator for the
38 Fairbanks district office in BLM.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
41 coming.

42
43 MS. HEPLER: Thank you for inviting us.
44 Kind of a tight time frame.

45
46 I want to talk a little bit about -- how
47 much time do we have?

48
49 MR. GLANZ: Thirty seconds.

50

1 MS. HEPLER: Thirty seconds?
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MS. HEPLER: Oops. I guess the plane's
6 big.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He jokes.
9
10 MS. HEPLER: We can get you a copy.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I
13 think.....
14
15 MS. HEPLER: Ten minutes?
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah, 10,
18 15 minutes. Uh-huh.
19
20 MS. HEPLER: Okay. We're passing out
21 handouts that have kind of the schedule for the plan, and
22 then a couple of pages with maps. And I'm going to kind
23 of wait until everybody gets -- do you want to take
24 those, put them around this side. Okay.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He'll get them
27 for us.
28
29 MS. HEPLER: Okay.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. You can
32 go ahead and start.
33
34 MS. HEPLER: Okay. The Eastern Interior
35 Resource Management Plan covers all the BLM-managed lands
36 and selected lands, both State-selected and Native-
37 selected, until they are conveyed or interim conveyed or
38 tentatively approved in the eastern interior portion of
39 the State. If you look at the first map on there, you
40 can see what lands are included.
41
42 It's basically from the Porcupine River
43 south. It comes into the Yukon River all the way to the
44 Dalton Highway, and then kind of follows the highways
45 down and east of there. And it's all of the yellow lands
46 on that map, and any of the light brown or light blue,
47 which are selected lands.
48
49 And a resource management plan kind of
50 outlines how we're going to manage the resources on those

1 lands and the lands themselves for the next 15 to 20
2 years.

3
4 So this plan has been a long time coming.
5 We've been working on it for four years. We kind of got
6 held up by some issues in the Washington office, but
7 we're finally ready to release the draft RMP.

8
9 We've also included a map of the upper
10 Black River subunit, because it's an area I know that
11 this group and other groups are very much interested, and
12 so you can see the land status on that map. Yes. So we
13 manage the yellow lands and the light blue and the light
14 brown on that map.

15
16 The resource management plans, the
17 process that we have to go through in drafting the plans
18 is we have to look at the current condition and then we
19 develop three alternatives on different ways to manage
20 these lands. In this plan we have one alternative that's
21 very a protection oriented alternative, and then we also
22 have an alternative that's very a development oriented
23 alternative. In between those two, we have an
24 alternative that is our preferred alternative, how we're
25 intending to manage these lands. And then we also have
26 to go through and look at each of those alternatives and
27 what are the impacts of those decisions for each of the
28 alternatives. We also look at the impacts of managing it
29 as we currently are right now. It's called the no action
30 alternative.

31
32 So right now we've developed those
33 alternatives and written our impact analysis for each of
34 those alternatives, and we've put it out to the public
35 for comment.

36
37 Then go on to the first page of this to
38 talk a little bit about the schedule here. The plan was
39 just released February 24th, so that was last Friday,
40 Thursday, something like -- Friday. We are going to have
41 a 150-day comment period. That's quite a bit longer than
42 most -- than usual. And we are going to be having public
43 meetings in multiple locations. We also are going to be
44 having ANILCA .810 hearings. Now, the people can --
45 public can comment at these meetings or in hearings or
46 submit written comments by July 23rd.

47
48 And we are planning to have meetings in
49 Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Fairbanks.
50

1 MS. COLE: Circle.
2
3 MS. HEPLER: Circle, Central, Tok,
4 Chicken, Eagle, Eagle Village. Those are ones that
5 people have already expressed an interest, and we're also
6 going to be talking to the people of Birch Creek, Beaver,
7 Fort Yukon.
8
9 MS. COLE: Stevens.
10
11 MS. HEPLER: Stevens Village, Tanacross,
12 Northway.....
13
14 MS. COLE: Tetlin.
15
16 MS. HEPLER:to -- Tetlin, to see if
17 they are interested in having public meetings.
18
19 For those ones that we've talked to
20 already we've also committed to doing two public
21 meetings.
22
23 It's a big plan. It weighs 12 pounds.
24 It's a lot of paper. And that's because we're required
25 to look at all these different things. It's like this
26 thick.
27
28 So we've made a commitment to out to
29 these communities twice, to go out one time and kind of
30 explain what's in the plan. We'll take any public
31 comment that people have then, but then we'll go away for
32 a while and give people a chance to digest it and we'll
33 come back a second time for public comment.
34
35 We're also working on executive
36 summaries. The planning area, we've broken it into four
37 subunits. I think that first map has the subunits on it.
38 Yes. You can see the upper -- the White Mountain
39 subunit is mostly the White Mountains National Recreation
40 Area. We have the Steese Subunit. The Upper Black River
41 Subunit and the Fortymile Subunit. So these executive
42 summaries focus particularly on those subunits, so if
43 somebody doesn't want to wade through the 12 pounds, they
44 can focus on those areas.
45
46 So we're going to have these public
47 comment for 150 days, and that will end July 23rd. And
48 then we take the public comments and we incorporate any
49 changes we need to and address anything that the public
50 has brought up that we missed and we need to incorporate.

1 That will happen in the fall. And then we'll publish the
2 proposed resource management plan.

3
4 Then we have to send it off to the
5 Governor's Office, and they do a consistency review. And
6 at that same time is the protest period. Anyone who has
7 participated in the planning process by attending a
8 meeting or making comments can protest the plan. And so
9 we'll resolve those protests and then we'll develop the
10 final approved RMP. And that only includes the chosen
11 alternative.

12
13 One thing I want to make -- a point I
14 want to make about alternatives is it's not just
15 alternative C or alternative D, that you could pick
16 between different parts from different alternatives. So
17 it's not just all of C and anything in C, or all of D.
18 It could be bits and pieces. Sometimes people don't
19 realize that that can change a little bit.

20
21 So that is what we're planning to do.
22 What we're looking for in comments is -- particularly
23 from this group, is anything we've missed. You know, we
24 were looking at the different actions and how does it
25 affect subsistence resources, and so did we miss
26 anything? Is there something that we should be
27 considering that we haven't? Those will be of particular
28 interest to us.

29
30 Any questions.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.
33 Any questions. Andrew.

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: I have one, is just I don't
36 see anything that specifically says how alternative A,
37 the no action alternative, compares with B, C, or D,
38 like, you know -- unless you go down and read through 12
39 pounds of it, I don't see how else you would know. You
40 know what I mean, like how -- what -- how does D, being
41 the most -- you know, the -- being the most -- or the
42 least conservation minded, how would that compare to the
43 current status or the current management practice. That
44 was my only thing that I missed.

45
46 MS. HEPLER: If you get into the RMP and
47 -- there's not anything that kind of -- I don't think
48 there's anything that's an overview, but for each type of
49 decision, say it has to do with -- oh, go ahead. Sure.
50

1 MS. COLE: There is a summary table in
2 the RMP at the end of chapter 2 which summarizes the
3 alternatives. But basically in the Black River, there is
4 no existing land use plan right now, so, you know, we
5 just address -- if we get an application for some action
6 out there, we just address it on a case-by-case basis.
7 And the new RMP would make some decisions, like off-road
8 vehicle designations and some decisions on wetlands we
9 would recommend to be opened to mining or closed to
10 mining, things like that.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.

13
14 MR. MATESE: Well, following up with
15 Andrew's question, alternative A, if I'm -- alternative
16 A means no action, so like it is now. So D1 withdrawals
17 are in place right now. Alternative A let's -- it won't
18 be selected. But if alternative A were selected, then the
19 D1 withdrawals would remain in place, and so therefore
20 there would be a significant and profound difference
21 between A and D, right?

22
23 MS. COLE: The D1 withdrawals would be in
24 place unless we later did an EIS or something to say --
25 you know, we could theoretically recommend to the
26 Secretary to lift them and do an environmental impact
27 statement probably to do that.

28
29 MR. MATESE: So then with -- oh, I'm
30 sorry.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's fine. Go
33 ahead.

34
35 MR. MATESE: Okay. Alternative -- what
36 is the difference between the three alternatives then in
37 terms of opening areas to mining, for example?

38
39 MS. COLE: Speaking just for the Black
40 River Subunit?

41
42 MR. MATESE: Just the Black River.

43
44 MS. COLE: Alternative B would keep the
45 entire Black River Sub -- well, first of all, the D1
46 withdrawals that Joe has mentioned are secretarial level
47 withdrawals that are in place on the lands right now to
48 close them to mining and mineral leasing. The plan would
49 either recommend keeping them or recommend removing them.
50 But we don't actually make the decision. The Secretary

1 of the Interior does. The plan just recommends. So even
2 if the plan recommends opening them, they wouldn't be
3 opened unless the Secretary of the Interior took that
4 action and opened them.

5
6 So alternative B has everything -- would
7 keep everything closed to mining and mineral leasing.
8 Alternative C would open everything to mining, but keep
9 the -- what we call the Salmon River environmental --
10 area of environmental concern closed to leasing. And
11 alternative D would open all the lands in the Black River
12 to both leasing and mining.

13
14 Alternative A doesn't really meet our
15 purpose and need, because we are required to have land
16 use plans for our lands. So we're not likely to adopt
17 alternative A, because it doesn't help us meet our
18 requirement to have a land use plan in place.

19
20 MR. MATESE: Madame Chair. I have read
21 the report and -- the draft, rather, and I do have a
22 question that I just couldn't figure out. Well, actually
23 quite a few. But one looming issue are these riparian
24 conservation units. I've never come across that before,
25 and it was rather vague to me. But I do notice there's
26 a huge difference from alternative to alternative. Could
27 you explain those to the Council and the differences in
28 the different alternatives?

29
30 MS. COLE: Okay. Those are rip -- what
31 we're calling riparian conservation areas, we looked at
32 all of the watersheds in the planning area that have BLM
33 land, and it was basically a process for -- to help us
34 identify what we thought were the highest value
35 watersheds in the planning area. And we had about nine
36 criteria that we ranked the watersheds on, a certain
37 number of points for each criteria. That included like
38 whether it was used for subsistence, whether it was an
39 important sport fishery, if there was any T&E fish
40 species.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: T&E?

43
44 MS. COLE: T&E are special status, yeah.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Threatened?

47
48 MS. COLE: Threatened and endangered,
49 sorry.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MS. COLE: Or if it had important
4 habitats that we knew of, like spawning areas. So each
5 of the watersheds got points for that. And then in the
6 al -- alternative B, the watersheds that had -- we set a
7 point value that would make it an RCA, a riparian
8 conservation area, in each alternative. So in
9 alternative B, for example -- I don't remember the exact
10 numbers, but like in alternative B, any watershed that
11 got five points would be a riparian conservation area.
12 In alternative C, any watershed that got seven or more
13 points would be a riparian conservation area. In
14 alternative D, any watershed that got 10 or more points
15 would be a riparian conservation area. And that was to
16 provide us with a range of alternatives in our riparian
17 conservation areas for analysis purposes, because we are
18 supposed to look at a range of alternatives in our EIS.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's kind of
21 a good question. Does that make sense? Does it?

22

23 MR. MATESI: Well, so you've identified
24 watershed areas that are -- that have high value for,
25 say, subsistence or fisheries habitat or something like
26 that, but then in alternative C and more so in
27 alternative D, you don't recognize those values, or
28 they're not important? I would think that if you've
29 analyzed all those areas and you said, well, they have
30 these characteristics and these values, and that's it
31 throughout all three alternatives.

32

33 MS. COLE: I guess we could have done it
34 that way, but for some reason we vary the values by
35 alternatives to get a different number of riparian
36 conservation areas in each alternative. And there is --
37 the riparian conservation areas would have a little
38 higher bar for like mining. If somebody had a mining
39 claim in there and they filed a mining plan, they would
40 have a little -- they would have to gather some baseline
41 hydrological information for us before they did surface
42 disturbance, and there would be a higher bar for
43 reclamation. So we're trying to -- in those areas,
44 trying to enhance reclamation from any type of
45 disturbance that might occur.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.

48

49 MR. MATESI: By the way, Jeannie, I want
50 to thank you for letting me get your copy of the book.

1 You managed to ruin six days that I'm -- of my life.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. MATESI:by making that book --
6 this book available to me. My wife really wants to thank
7 you as well.

8

9 Can you confirm, are we going to have
10 four separate records of decision, one independently for
11 each of the four areas?

12

13 MS. COLE: Yes, that's correct.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

16

17 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to clarify
18 that you guys are going to have -- so you guys could
19 potentially adopt a different alternative for each area,
20 each subunit?

21

22 MS. HEPLER: Yes. It could be bits and
23 pieces, too. It could be, you know, for the minerals we
24 might check -- take, you know, this decision in this area
25 from this alternative and move it to the preferred
26 alternative. Or we might take something from a different
27 one and move it to the preferred alternative. So it's
28 just bits and pieces. Right now we think we're going to
29 go with that alternative that's the preferred
30 alternative, but we're waiting to get public comment.

31

32 If I may, one thing I didn't address in
33 the introduction was getting this information out. What
34 happened is that we sent this to the printers and we gave
35 them a mailing list of some of the people who have
36 already interested -- said, I want a copy. And they
37 mailed those out, and we got two copies, and some other
38 people got copies. And that's where Joe called and we
39 gave you one of those two. We now have the full set.
40 We've got 70 copies in the office. And we haven't got
41 them, but we're about to get the CD ROMs of it. So we'll
42 have CDs so people -- it's a lot lighter, and, you know,
43 you can look at it there. It's also available online.

44

45 So what we've done is we've developed
46 this newsletter that kind of talks about the general
47 process. And we're going to send this out, it's out
48 tomorrow I think, for anybody whose expressed any kind of
49 interest in the plan. And on it, it says, if you want a
50 paper copy or a CD ROM copy, let us know and we'll send

1 you one. Or you can look at it online. So that's.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you say
4 paper or pay for?
5
6 MS. HEPLER: Paper. Paper.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
9
10 MS. HEPLER: Yeah. So, you know, it's
11 like we're at the very beginning of this process, and
12 it's not widely distributed yet, but it's about to be
13 widely distributed.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, did you
16 have another one?
17
18 And, others, does -- Andrew, did you have
19 something more?
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I just had a quick
22 follow up. Though like I know how you said C was your
23 preferred, but, I mean, that's for all four subunits, and
24 I was asking like would you, say, like take A in one
25 subunit and D in another, and B in another, and kind of
26 piecemeal all the subunits, had to have to have a
27 completely different management altogether? for each of
28 these subunits, instead of one alternative for all the
29 whole area?
30
31 MS. HEPLER: I think it would be unlikely
32 that we would take A for this subunit, D for this
33 subunit. It's probably going to be something close to C
34 with bits and pieces changed for different subunits. Or
35 maybe something would be the same across all subunits.
36 There are some decisions that are the same across all
37 subunits. A lot of them are different, but vary by the
38 subunit.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.
41
42 MR. MATESI: I know that one of the items
43 that we're going to be discussing are areas of critical
44 environmental concern. Could you explain that for the
45 Council, please.
46
47 MS. COLE: An area of critical
48 environmental concern is a BLM designation that we do
49 through our land use planning process. It's an area that
50 has what we call a relevant or important value. It could

1 be a fish and wildlife resource, or a natural system.
2 And it's an area that we feel requires special management
3 to protect those relevant and important values.

4
5 And so in the Black River we have
6 identified the Salmon Fork watershed as a proposed area
7 of environmental concern, what we call it an ACEC for
8 short. And some of the values up there are fisheries,
9 nesting bald eagles, and some rare plant species. And so
10 we have -- the ACEC or the -- is the same in all
11 alternatives. It's 621,000 acres. It's based on the
12 watershed, but the management varies by alternative.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we have any
15 other questions. Virgil.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. I know that a lot
18 of land got conveyed to Doyon two years ago. We got a
19 briefing on that. How much more land is there to
20 conveyed?

21
22 MS. HEPLER: I don't know. I don't know
23 the number of acres. Doyon -- I can find out. I was
24 going to go meet with the State office tomorrow about
25 what's going on, but I don't know.

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you. Did
28 they convey a bunch of land to the State at the same time
29 or that's all in limbo still?

30
31 MS. HEPLER: To my knowledge, they have
32 not done a big conveyance to the State lately in this
33 area.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
38 questions.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one. In
43 looking at that Fortymile Subunit, it's pretty
44 checkerboarded, the BLM land, and then there's just tiny
45 little pieces. And there's even a tiny little piece way
46 down there near Mentasta Lake. How does that happen?

47
48 MS. HEPLER: Nobody selects it, so the
49 Native corporation did not select it, the State did not
50 select it, and so we're left with it. There's a lot of

1 those parcels that don't even show up on this map,
2 because they're too small. This one's actually pretty
3 big compared to some of the ones that we have.

4
5 That's another kind of decision that
6 we'll make in the plan, is like we own -- we manage a
7 number of small parcels along the Alaska Highway. And so
8 in the plan we've kind of identified areas where we might
9 want to dispose of land. Those small parcels that are
10 hard to manage, we'll either try and trade them or sell
11 them or something like that. Something that size,
12 probably not, but that's one of the decisions in the
13 plan.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sell them to
16 who? The public?

17
18 MS. HEPLER: Uh-huh.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm seeing
21 little pieces over -- also around Northway. Is that
22 yellow there also, kind of north of the highway?

23
24 MS. HEPLER: We're going to have to pull
25 out the big map. We've got one here. Hang on.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But, well, I
28 guess my concern is, if you guys are doing all these
29 management plans, and you foresee this all to be A, B, C
30 or whatever portions of each for the whole four areas, it
31 might not apply to some of this stuff.

32
33 MS. HEPLER: I'm sorry, I don't
34 understand.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's these
37 little chunks that are here and there and everywhere. If
38 you're going to come up with one plan that's for the
39 whole region, it might not apply to any of these places.

40
41 MS. HEPLER: It will to any BLM-managed
42 lands, even if they're a small parcel. These decisions
43 will apply to those lands.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I guess
46 what I'm trying to say is that your alternative might not
47 work in these little managed lands. There might be a
48 need for it to be different.

49
50 MS. HEPLER: Uh-huh.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're
2 saying it's not an option.....
3
4 MS. HEPLER: It is.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:roughly.
7
8 MS. HEPLER: It is. We could do that.
9 Like if somebody came up and -- forward and said, you
10 know, this parcel, you really -- you know, it's got this
11 resource on it, and you need to protect it, and we didn't
12 -- weren't aware of it, that's something we would look
13 at. That would be the kind of comment we would want in
14 this plan to help us make good decisions on it.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that
17 information is open for now until July?
18
19 MS. HEPLER: July 23rd.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know, just
22 off the top of my head and the gut feeling, I like that
23 approach. I can see that these little tiny little pieces
24 -- I don't now, especially the areas that I know around
25 this Mentasta/Northway area, I think they should be
26 protected. I can't believe the State didn't pick up
27 those, or the Native people didn't pick up those little
28 tiny pieces. And could they still be selected?
29
30 MS. COLE: I think some of those lands
31 are selected, and I think some of them are actually
32 military, too. They're a.....
33
34 MS. HEPLER: It's kind of hard to
35 see.....
36
37 MS. COLE: military withdrawal.
38
39 MS. HEPLER: You'll have to look at a
40 bigger map.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Even than this
43 one?
44
45 MS. HEPLER: Oh, sorry. It looks in here
46 like they're pink on this map, and pink is private land
47 or military land.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You.....
50

1 MS. HEPLER: So some of those may not be
2 -- right around Northway.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See those tiny
5 two little ones at Northway? That looks yellow on my
6 map.
7
8 MS. COLE: Just north of Northway
9 and.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
12
13 MS. COLE:north of Dot?
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
16
17 MS. COLE: Yeah, I think they're actually
18 -- I think they're either pink or light brown, which
19 would be Native selected or military.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. What
22 about the -- right at that boundary there above Mentasta
23 Lake, there's a little yellow by number 12.
24
25 MS. COLE: The upper part, the yellow
26 part, is BLM, then the lower part of that township it
27 looks light brown, which means it's selected by a Native
28 corporation, so it could get conveyed or it could stay
29 with BLM.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you going
32 to leave that map? Yeah, it would be good to look at
33 later for me anyway. I don't know about the rest of you.
34 That would be great. Thanks.
35
36 Andy.
37
38 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Maybe in an effort to move this along a little bit, too,
40 you know, I think they're going to be meeting with people
41 in their various regions, and it seems to me that's the
42 appropriate time to really hash out with the big map some
43 of these areas of concern and make comments and
44 everything. And I really appreciate the -- bringing this
45 to our attention, and doing kind of a basic overview, but
46 really until this Council -- until the people in the
47 different regions represented by this Council have a
48 chance to really fully review this with their Staff on a
49 community basis, I don't see the point to really spend
50 too much time at this particular meeting on this. I

1 think in the falltime when things are a little bit more
2 determined and after community public comment has taken
3 place would be a more appropriate time to spend time with
4 the Council here talking about this.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, this was
7 for our information, Andy.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yep, I agree.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: That's what I'm saying.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And we
16 were going to take up -- there's a request to take up in
17 their region, the Black -- the upper Black River, which
18 in doing so has brought to my attention that it affects
19 our region also.

20
21 So, thank you, Joe, for pushing for
22 having this done.

23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: She wants to say
25 something.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

28
29 MS. HEPLER: I'd just point out that the
30 public comment period -- oh. The public comment period
31 runs through July 23rd.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And
34 that's what I was getting at, that I wanted to say, that
35 we need to be thinking about it. If the Council makes
36 any action, we have to be doing it before, at this
37 meeting, because we won't meet again.

38
39 MR. FIRMIN: That was going to be my
40 question. Would we be able to weigh in again at our fall
41 meeting in say October after you've come to a conclusion
42 from other input.

43
44 MS. COLE: Well, we could come to the
45 meeting and give you an update on what the public
46 comments and how we responded to them, but we probably
47 will be past the point of making a lot of changes to the
48 plan by then.

49
50 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I was thinking more

1 along the lines where we would be able to weigh in on one
2 alternative or another as opposed to -- I mean, how great
3 of changes do you foresee from the next month or two of
4 public meetings?

5
6 MS. HEPLER: Well, we don't -- we're not
7 sure, you know, it really depends on what kind of
8 feedback we get. And it will be through July, but we
9 really need those comments before July 23rd.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Well.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I'm
16 hearing is, the alternatives, the most bang for your buck
17 is before July, not after in the fall.

18
19 When do you expect to release that final
20 EIS?

21
22 MS. COLE: Sometime in the late fall
23 we're hoping to release the final EIS, and then as
24 Lenore said, it could be protested. And then if we -- if
25 it gets protested, then we have to address all the
26 protests, which usually takes a few months. And then we
27 issue a record of decision. So that record of decision
28 would be sometime in calendar year of 2013, probably like
29 at least a year from now, maybe longer.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The protest
32 period, how likely is that, the -- a protest to change
33 anything?

34
35 MS. COLE: It's very likely that we're
36 going to get protested on things.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But how likely
39 would it be to change?

40
41 MS. COLE: It -- we -- they just evaluate
42 each protest. We don't actually do that here. Our
43 Washington office does that, but they evaluate each
44 protest on its merits. And sometimes we do change things
45 based on protests.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it rare?

48
49 MS. COLE: I'd say it's rare for big
50 changes based on protest, but sometimes there's smaller

1 changes based on protests.

2

3 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And see, that's
6 why I think is important for us to take a look on what we
7 be -- if it's -- if you guys have anything that you want
8 to put out there, to do it at this meeting.

9

10 Yes, and then Isaac. Joe.

11

12 MR. MATESI: Maybe you can clarify for us
13 the issue of standing when it comes to protest. My
14 understanding is -- well, I won't -- go ahead and
15 just.....

16

17 MS. COLE: In order to protest, you have
18 to have participated in the process, the planning
19 process. So you can't protest unless you have standing,
20 and to get standing, you have to participate. So if the
21 Council did decide to submit a letter or something from
22 the Council as comments, then the Council would have
23 standing to protest the RMP. If Joe made comments on his
24 own as an individual, he would also have standing to
25 protest the RMP, you know. And anybody in the villages,
26 if the tribe makes comments, they would have standing to
27 protest.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But anyone that
30 didn't, has no standing?

31

32 MS. COLE: They're pretty lenient on the
33 standing, but, I mean, you'd at least probably have to
34 show up to a meeting or send us some kind of comment to
35 show that you at least had some level of interest in
36 participation.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Isaac, then
39 Andy.

40

41 MR. JUNEBY: I have a question, Lenore.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll get you
44 used to it yet.

45

46 MR. JUNEBY: I have a question, Lenore.
47 I realize that in -- within this planning section, you do
48 have Native lands, and one of the things I was interested
49 in is that I know the conveyance of all Native lands,
50 they keep getting set back. I mean, at one time we were

1 supposed to do that probably 10, 15 years ago. How is it
2 going? Are they pretty well on their -- it's -- the
3 Native lands, all the selections, the over-selections,
4 under-selections, whatever you call it, the final
5 conveyance that.....

6
7 MS. HEPLER: Well, we're chipping away at
8 it. You know, it's based on how much funding we get how
9 much we can do. I don't know the numbers off the top of
10 my head, but, you know, this past budget year we did not
11 get a lot of money we had originally planned, but then we
12 did get a line item that added money. And so they're
13 processing through it. And I know they are working on
14 this section in the Fortymile country. A lot of those
15 conveyances in there, they're working on those.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. There's no way
20 I'm going to be able to read this document and make any
21 comment during the Eastern RAC meeting, but what I'm
22 wondering is if in my -- when you come to my community to
23 do your presentation and get public comment, if I come to
24 you saying I'm representing the Eastern RAC, would that
25 constitute public participation by the Eastern RAC in the
26 comment and development of the plan?

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can tell you
29 what our superiors in OSM would say. The answer would be
30 no.

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: I believe that would be
33 correct, Madame Chair. And most likely in order for it
34 to be a comment from the Council, the specific language
35 and the content of the comment would have to be
36 approved.....

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By us.

39
40 MR. JOHNSON:by the Council.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: So it couldn't just be Andy
45 representing himself as a member of the Council. Madame
46 Chair.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. It just seems like
49 many times where we're given the responsibility to go
50 speak on behalf of the Council, and there's a lot of

1 times I've been appointed to go talk on fishery issues,
2 and I have the general consensus of what people at our
3 Regional Council are feeling on a particular issue, and
4 I forward that.

5
6 And it seems to me that this is such a
7 diverse plan and has such changing implications depending
8 on the region that you're in, that if there's a way for
9 each one of us to go back to our region and speak on
10 behalf of the concerns of subsistence users by these
11 particular regulations, then we should be counted as
12 participating as a RAC per se. Because there's no way
13 that what Joe's concerns are up on the Black River is
14 going to mirror what my concerns might be on the
15 Fortymile, which may be what the concerns of Denali Park
16 or whatever is. It's just not going to happen that way.
17 I mean, we all know that subsistence is very different in
18 different regions in the interior here.

19
20 So I'm just throwing that out there as a
21 way for us to do a better job of making a comment and
22 still have the right to participate and maybe protest a
23 decision in the future if we're not happy.

24
25 And the other question, if I may, have
26 for you, Lenore, is who makes the final decisions? Is
27 this all done within BLM Staff? Who are the panel that
28 make the final decisions, or is this done in Washington,
29 D.C.? We get a public comment period, but it doesn't
30 seem like there's a public board or anything that
31 actually approves this, so I'm just wondering what the
32 process is for who decides what alternative is accepted.

33
34 MS. COLE: The local field manager, like
35 Lenore, and the district manager come up with what they
36 feel should be the final RMP, and then it goes through
37 review by our state office of BLM, and it may get
38 changed. And it also goes through review of the
39 Washington office, and it may get changed there. And in
40 some cases the director of the BLM may even look at it
41 and suggest changes. But the actual record of decision
42 is signed by the BLM state director. And, you know, BLM
43 considers all the public comments, but in the end it's
44 BLM land and it's the BLM plan, so we're the ones that
45 have to make the decision.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: So it's all in-house.

48
49 MS. COLE: Yeah. But other than we take
50 all the public comments into account.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: I have a suggestion and
4 possibly a motion to entertain. And I think part of that
5 suggestion would be that we make a motion to support
6 alternative B and draft a letter to BLM as such, and at
7 the same time when all of our Council members return back
8 to your home towns, that if you go to attend these
9 meetings and find something that alternative B does not
10 jive with you, like say that maybe you're -- you cross
11 BLM land to get to your homestead or something, or your
12 Native allotment, and that will impede you in doing so,
13 then possibly we could rescind our letter at such a date
14 maybe by roll call over the phone, through email or such.
15 And then I think that would be a good alternative. And
16 I think as Andy said, part of our comment period and
17 drafting a letter in support of alternative B would also
18 be to only support that -- or that we have a different
19 alternative in each one of these subunits, because that's
20 a vast area, and there's no way that one alternative will
21 address everybody's concerns in this, what, seven million
22 acres? Six. Yeah, there's no way that one little --
23 maybe you need more than 12 pounds of paperwork to
24 address all the needs there, but -- or, you know, that's
25 what I think, that's a way that we can move ahead with
26 this.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I
29 think.....

30

31 MR. FIRMIN:if everybody else
32 agrees.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we're
35 probably going to have to do that in the morning, because
36 we had already talked about dealing with it in the
37 morning as a time certain. So.....

38

39 MR. GLANZ: I have one.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Bill has a
42 question.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: I notice that on this wild
45 and scenic river on the alternative B, would that be
46 enforced with like some of the people that live at the
47 Salmon Fork not being able to ride a fourwheeler in the
48 summertime within one mile of the river? Or would they
49 be displaced? There's some -- out of their home --
50 people that own the properties, or do they just go burn

1 the cabins like they did on the Birch Creek when they
2 made that into a wild and scenic river?

3
4 MS. HEPLER: (Indiscernible, mic not on)
5 designated (indiscernible).

6
7 MS. COLE: Salmon Fork.

8
9 MS. HEPLER: Salmon Fork, what is
10 (indiscernible).

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need you on
13 the record. Or are you debating the answer.

14
15 MS. HEPLER: Yeah. Yeah, we're trying --
16 I'm trying to remember what we put down for our
17 management prescription for -- if that were selected.
18 You know, if -- first off, let me back up and talk a
19 little bit about the wild and scenic river process.

20
21 There's -- it's a two -- it's three-step
22 process. The first thing we have to do is look at
23 eligibility, and there's certain criteria. And we looked
24 through the planning area, and we found that there was
25 five rivers that we felt met the criteria and was
26 eligible. And then we have to look and see whether it's
27 suitable, they call it. And there's a whole bunch of
28 criteria for that, including whether the State supports
29 it or not. And then we go through the planning process
30 and we have a range of alternatives. In alternative B
31 all five rivers were determined to be suitable. In
32 alternative D none were. In alternative C none were.

33
34 If we selected alternative B, we cannot
35 -- BLM cannot make a wild scenic river. It has to -- it
36 would be a recommendation to the Secretary who would take
37 it to Congress, because only Congress can make a wild
38 scenic river.

39
40 I don't recall that we had any kind of
41 restrictions on fourwheelers or.....

42
43 MS. COLE: Access.

44
45 MS. HEPLER: Yeah, access in that
46 alternative.

47
48 MR. GLANZ: Because Howie (ph) cited one
49 of our locals for using our fourwheeler to go down to
50 Birch Creek to get water out for our garden.

1 MS. HEPLER: I believe Birch Creek is
2 that you have to stay on existing trails.....
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Currently?
5
6 MS. HEPLER:in -- is that what it
7 is in Birch Creek? I know that's.....
8
9 MR. GLANZ: That it was within -- it
10 upset her so much, she left the country.
11
12 MS. HEPLER: I recall that issue.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. So was that upheld
15 while we think on that issue? I can't recall what
16 happened to her.
17
18 MS. HEPLER: I don't think any action was
19 taken.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: I didn't think it would be
22 but that's.....
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, and then
25 we've got to move on here. Uh-huh.
26
27 MR. MATESI: I believe we have a motion.
28 Andrew might want to rescind it, I don't know.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
31 want to take that up now or do you -- you.....
32
33 MR. MATESI: Well, I.....
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:told me
36 that you had people that want to this.....
37
38 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
39
40 MR. MATESI: A bunch of people.....
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:tomorrow
43 morning, and.....
44
45 MR. MATESI:are planning on being
46 here tomorrow to, you know, give public.....
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It seems
49 like.....
50

1 MR. MATESI:testimony on it.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:you should
4 take it up after public testimony. So if that's okay
5 with the Council, that's what we would do.
6
7 MR. GLANZ: Okay. So I'll call those
8 people that wants to make the uranium mine not to come
9 then.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that?
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 MR. FIRMIN: And I do have a question for
16 the -- if I could.....
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
19 something else, and then Joe. Andrew.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: I was just asking if the
22 council would entertain me making a motion at this time,
23 not -- most -- informally making a -- I just wanted the
24 thoughts of the rest of the Council. Should we do
25 that.....
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think
28 we.....
29
30 MR. FIRMIN:now or do it tomorrow
31 morning, either way is fine with me.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Tomorrow morning.....
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN:sounds good.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
42
43 MR. MATESI: During this comment period,
44 the -- you said you -- of course, you'll receive comments
45 from the public and the State will weigh in, and also the
46 tribal government as Fort Yukon also has government-to-
47 government relationship. So do Fort Yukon and the State,
48 do their comments weigh more than those of the rest of
49 the public?
50

1 And if this RAC should weigh in, what
2 weight would this RAC's comments have?

3
4 MS. COLE: Well, the State and the tribal
5 government are governments, so, yeah, generally their
6 comments are going to carry a little bit more weight than
7 the individual from the public. I don't know about the
8 RAC. I mean, we're -- we try to look at everybody's
9 comments, and we're going to get a lot of comments on
10 this side of the issue and we're going to get a lot of
11 comments on the opposite side of the issue. And it's a
12 -- you know, we're going to have to just make a decision
13 on what's the best decision for the BLM lands, and what
14 fits the BLM's mandate and mission, you know. So I don't
15 really know how to answer that I guess.

16
17 But generally, you know, the State is the
18 State, so they -- we have to be as consistent as possible
19 with State laws and the State. The governor gets a
20 chance -- gets a 60-day governor's consistency review to
21 determine whether the plan is consistent with government
22 poli -- State policies or not. It doesn't have to be 100
23 percent consistent. We can disagree with the State on
24 things, but, you know, they do have a little more weight.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything else.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was just
31 discussing with the coordinator here. It's -- he's
32 saying -- and I'm going to let you do it. You might do
33 a better job than myself. Another suggestion of what we
34 an do by appointing a working work. I was told to never
35 call it a subcommittee; you're supposed to call it a
36 working group. But, go ahead.

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Whatever language you want
39 to give it. My suggestion to the Council members, and
40 obviously you can still entertain this any way you want
41 to, so long a matter is discussed on the record and the
42 Council has expressed a clear intention of its wish to
43 have a letter drafted on its behalf, we can at OSM draft
44 a letter. It's within the letter-writing policy.

45
46 And what could happen is a working group
47 could be formed among the committee of members who
48 represent the different.....

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Council. Members who
2 represent the different districts that are within the
3 RMP. They could come up with specific recommendations
4 that could either be, (a) universal, or (b) particular to
5 each separate district, and then request that a letter be
6 written reflecting those recommendations, and then that
7 letter can then be sent around to the Council members for
8 their approval, and then for final action in sending out
9 that letter.

10
11 That would allow you the opportunity to
12 more reflectively address the issues. And you do have
13 until July 23rd to submit a written comment on the draft
14 EIS.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
17 guys want to sleep on that.

18
19 (Affirmative nods)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: Now, that would just be with
24 this -- of the upper -- with the Salmon Fork?

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This will be
27 for all of it. The whole thing, because there's
28 different.....

29
30 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I couldn't do that,
31 because I don't know how many -- you know, on the local
32 people would even be in -- I know it's not going to go
33 well down in Central with all the miners. This is not
34 going to be a good plan for those, where they've got to
35 -- what do they call us there? Whatever. Anyway.

36
37 MR. MATESE: Madame Chair. My primary
38 concern is the upper Black. It is my hope that the
39 Council will address the issue of the upper Black with a
40 letter to BLM. I really don't care if the Council
41 addresses the other planning area. I certainly defer to
42 residents of those other planning areas, if they want to
43 address those sub units.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, like
46 everything, when you go through this stuff, you find out
47 you really do care about certain things. So let's just
48 sleep on it.

49
50 I think we that we need to take into

1 consideration, Joe, that this is the region that we
2 represent, not just Black River, and we should be
3 thinking about the whole area. So -- and we have to
4 depend on the people that live in their areas to bring
5 the information to us.

6
7 So I think we should listen to our public
8 testimony tomorrow, and then hopefully we don't spend too
9 much time on this, but yet we need to come up with
10 something.

11
12 I do like your approach, Andy, and maybe
13 going through this way. Or, Andrew, I'm sorry. And
14 would you guys agree to that and then we'll work on this
15 in the morning.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

20
21 MS. HEPLER: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I'm
24 sorry.

25
26 MS. HEPLER: I just want to -- we brought
27 four copies of the plan. Each box is one copy of the
28 plan. Some -- there's a box open already. Somebody
29 might have taken one, and thinking that was the whole
30 plan, but they only got one volume of it.

31
32 But we are supposed to get the CDs
33 tomorrow, and so Jeannie's offered to run some over, if
34 that would help. If people -- more than those few or the
35 CDs, just get -- send us an email or give Ruth an email,
36 or, you know, your address, and we'll make sure that you
37 get a copy of whatever format you want.

38
39 Also if you do put together a subgroup
40 and you want us to come and do a presentation or talk --
41 you know, answer questions about particular parts of the
42 plan, we'd be more than happy to do that.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You see how
45 hard it is for us volunteers to stay on top of things?
46 I mean, I cannot believe our government doesn't this to
47 us. It's -- how much does it cost? Do you guys have to
48 put an estimate out what you paid for all that paper? Do
49 you?

50

1 MS. HEPLER: I don't know. Do you know
2 the printing cost, Jeannie? It's the requirements that
3 we're -- you know, they tell us we have to do -- the
4 policies and the laws tell us that we have to address
5 these issues, and so that's right now. Our last plan was
6 a lot shorter, and now it's new laws.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
9
10 MS. HEPLER:new regulations.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean, it's
13 just mind boggling that.....
14
15 Andrew.
16
17 MR. FIRMIN: I would like a few copies on
18 the CD. If not, I'd have to send you a bill for my
19 excess baggage to take a copy home.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Exactly.
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: But I'd like a few to take
24 home for.....
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So would I.
27
28 MR. FIRMIN:other people.....
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would anyone
31 else?
32
33 MR. FIRMIN:or other entities that
34 I work and represent in.....
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
37
38 MR. FIRMIN:Fort Yukon area.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
41 interested.....
42
43 MR. FIRMIN: That would be helpful.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:in the
46 CDs?
47
48 MR. BASSICH: Bring a bunch of them.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It

1 sounds like maybe all of us.
2
3 MS. HEPLER: That's assuming they come in
4 tomorrow. They're -- we were supposed to get them on
5 Monday I think, but they haven't come in yet. So if we
6 get a name and address, we can mail them out.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We -- you can
9 talk to the coordinator.
10
11 MS. HEPLER: Okay.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-huh.
14
15 MR. JOHNSON: That'd be me.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
18 Thank you.
19
20 Now that we took all this time on all
21 this stuff, do we have anything that we can do here?
22
23 We have tribal consultation. How long is
24 that one going to take you guys?
25
26 MR. MATESI: A five-minute break?
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, the next
29 thing on the agenda -- I don't know, are we scheduled
30 until five or however long.....
31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we want to
35 go.
36
37 MR. JOHNSON: 5:00 o'clock.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then you
40 guys were going to listen to that workshop.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Let's take a break.
43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Evening sessions are at the
45 call of the Chair.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you want
48 to take a break?
49
50 (Affirmative responses)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
2 Take a five-minute break.

3
4 (Off record)

5
6 (On record)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I was
9 reminded at break, whenever I talked earlier about a
10 consent agenda, that it didn't mean that they consented
11 positive. It could mean that they were negative or
12 positive. But on one proposal they could have disagreed
13 and they -- the consent was they all disagreed. Or they
14 agreed. For those who might have thought it was all
15 affirmative, it was not.

16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Right.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Don,
20 you're going to give a short report on the tribal
21 consultation, and then we're going to go into the work
22 session.

23
24 MR. JOHNSON: Tom.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom, sorry.

27
28 MR. KRON: Yes. Tom Kron with OSM.

29
30 I think the first -- you've got tribal
31 consultation on your agenda twice. The first place, the
32 idea was that you would ask if any of the tribes in this
33 room have anything that they would like to comment on.
34 So ask them to come forward.

35
36 Later on, you know, we still have to get
37 input on the draft policy. So we want to hear that from
38 you. And I've got some real basic, simple questions to
39 ask you along those lines.

40
41 But again, you know, now might be a good
42 time ask if there any tribes or representatives in the
43 room if they have any comments on any of the business
44 before you.

45
46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is the
49 place on the agenda that the tribes would come forth and
50 give their opinion on any -- how this consultation is to

1 work or not to work.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I might
6 have called this to order too quickly.

7

8 Those of you that heard that, is there
9 any tribal public testimony or something from the tribes
10 regarding the consultation here at the meeting.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
15 so. All right. So then we'll go into it again later on
16 in the meeting.

17

18 All right. So do you guys -- we've taken
19 care of that, and then the next thing on the agenda is
20 regulatory proposals, and I think we should take that up
21 tomorrow unless people want to have something after this
22 work session tonight.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
27 Now, I've -- we don't need to be in session for the work
28 session.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: You should, since the next
31 portion is not neces -- since the next portion is not nec
32 -- is not part of the actual Council meeting, I would
33 suggest that Madame Chair adjourn the meeting for the
34 day. Say again?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was working
37 towards that.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Well, recess, so.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Recess, yeah.

42 Not adjourn.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Recess the meeting.
45 Adjournment would be the actual final conclusion.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: So recess the meeting and
50 then we'll go off record. But then everybody who is

1 interested in the presentation can remain, just so we set
2 up a clear boundary between what is part of the actual
3 Council meeting.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

6
7 MR. JOHNSON:and the public record,
8 and what is off record.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was trying to
11 do that. Okay. So we are recessing for the night, and
12 then we're going into a work session. And you guys can
13 decide if you want to use microphone or just sit around
14 a table, or do whatever you want.

15
16 MR. JOHNSON: And we'll resume.....

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And.....

19
20 MR. JOHNSON: We'll resume at what time
21 tomorrow, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 8:30 in the
24 morning.

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

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
29 you, guys.

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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