

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8 Nenana, Alaska  
9 October 14, 2008  
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11  
12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14  
15  
16 Sue Entsminger, Chair  
17 Andrew Bassich  
18 Richard Carroll  
19 Andrew Firmin  
20 William Glanz  
21 Virgil Umphenour  
22  
23 Regional Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
2 (Nenana - 10/14/2008)

3  
4 (On record)

5  
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call the  
7 meeting to order. Welcome everybody. I like to see  
8 all the faces. I guess opening remarks and I'd like to  
9 say welcome. We have a village elder that's going to  
10 bring us into prayer.

11  
12 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Actually, I'm the  
13 village chief. With that, I just want to bless this  
14 meeting and be thankful that all the people have  
15 arrived here safely and be mindful of those people that  
16 are still traveling here. We still have people in  
17 route that are going to be here and wish all of you a  
18 safe travel home. We don't like to worry about people,  
19 so let's take care of each other. I notice a fair  
20 amount of people, seven or eight people, traveling  
21 together. It's good to take care of each other while  
22 you're traveling. We're going to have something  
23 tonight and we just hope for the best that our cooks  
24 can perform during the day.

25  
26 Thank you, Lord, and we wish all the  
27 blessings for these meetings because of the impact that  
28 it has on all of our villages that we work for. So we  
29 need to make sure that we bless the participants in  
30 this meeting and we wish the best of luck. With that,  
31 amen.

32  
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

34  
35 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: And on behalf of the  
36 village, we want to welcome you here. As most of you  
37 know, we are still recovering from the flood, so people  
38 will be coming and going. I think we'll have a pretty  
39 good turnout this evening, but people are spending  
40 their days doing stuff. Myself, I know I have a grand  
41 total of three sticks of wood in my yard. I'm hoping  
42 to get my truck, which was also damaged in the flood,  
43 up and operating. Matter of fact, I'm going to go out  
44 and kick the mechanic's behind here shortly and get him  
45 moving because it's kind of getting late.

46  
47 So we are kind of a little bit behind  
48 around here. I think people will be coming and going,  
49 but you just have to know that people will be busy, but  
50 I think people will plan to be here tonight.

1                               Who are these North Pacific Fishery  
2 Management Council people?

3  
4                               MR. MATHEWS: They will be here  
5 tomorrow.

6  
7                               MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, they'll be here  
8 tomorrow. Oh, shucks, I was hoping they were going to  
9 be here for tonight. Those of you who know me know  
10 that I've kind of been around this fish and game stuff  
11 for a couple years and we have tried to build that  
12 relationship between our Advisory Councils, State,  
13 Federal, and the North Pacific Fishery Management  
14 Council. I think you guys will have an interesting  
15 challenge tomorrow to try to build that relationship.  
16 I think you have a unique opportunity that we've worked  
17 on for I think 20 years or so. Just do the best job  
18 you can with them and let's try to build a relationship  
19 between us and them.

20  
21                               With that, I just wish you luck on your  
22 meeting. We'll be around. Our people will be around  
23 to help with anything that we can.

24  
25                               MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mitch, I would  
26 like you to tell the people in Nenana that we like to  
27 keep an open meeting. If somebody comes in here and  
28 they aren't recognized and want to speak, that we have  
29 done this in Tok or other meetings where it works. We  
30 know people have busy schedules and if they have  
31 something they want to bring out, they need to  
32 recognize themselves through Vince or over here and we  
33 would like to have them come up and speak to us any  
34 time during the meeting.

35  
36                               MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, anytime during  
37 the meeting, but, you know, you just have to understand  
38 where people are at right now. But I know that we've  
39 been working on getting people here this evening.  
40 That's the open forum, right?

41  
42                               MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. But  
43 they're welcome any time is what I'm trying to say.

44  
45                               MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. So if I hear  
46 of anybody that wants to get up here. Thank you for  
47 indulging in my comments. We'll wish you luck.

48  
49                               MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
50 And, Mitch, I think it's more than a couple years.

1 That's why they call us elders now. Okay.  
2  
3 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: I'll still be the  
4 chief though.  
5  
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll  
7 introduce you as chief from now on. I got it.  
8  
9 Vince, roll call and establishment of a  
10 quorum.  
11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair. I  
13 apologize to people for the delay. We have technology  
14 problems, so we're going to work through them. Sue  
15 Entsminger.  
16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.  
18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Virgil Umphenour.  
20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.  
22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Andy Firmin.  
24  
25 MR. FIRMIN: Here.  
26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: Matt Gilbert we're going  
28 to have teleconferenced in in a little bit, so he's not  
29 present. Lester Erhart is not present and we're going  
30 to try to teleconference him in. William Glanz.  
31  
32 MR. GLANZ: Here.  
33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Andrew Bassich.  
35  
36 MR. BASSICH: Here.  
37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Richard Carroll.  
39  
40 MR. CARROLL: Here.  
41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mathew Frenzl, I did talk  
43 to him. He had a family conflict, so he's an excused  
44 absence, so he's not present. Madam Chair, present here  
45 you have six. You have an open seat, so you have nine,  
46 so you have a quorum with six. Thank you.  
47  
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
49 Vince. I have a question for the two Andrews. Which  
50 one is Andrew and which one is Andy?

1 MR. BASSICH: I'm Andy.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: I'm Andrew.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got  
6 that straight now. Now, introductions of Agency Staff  
7 and honored guests. It comes back to you again, huh.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. We're back to  
10 introducing Staff and honored guests, I assume.

11

12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you. When  
15 technology goes down, there's a lot of things going on,  
16 so I apologize for not hearing that. Let me start  
17 where my confidence are. There's some faces I'm not  
18 familiar with. For the Council members you have a pink  
19 sheet in there. This is your staffing sheet and all of  
20 these could be present here. Most of them may not be,  
21 but this is for ones that you could use in the future.

22

23 With that, I'll start with the Staff  
24 anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence  
25 Management, which is Liz Williams. She's in the front  
26 there. Next to her is Wennona Brown, who is the  
27 subsistence coordinator for Yukon Flats, Arctic Refuge  
28 and Kanuti. Next to her is Fred Bue, in-season manager  
29 for Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of  
30 Commercial Fisheries. I don't know your name, so you  
31 need to come up to the mike and that way we can get it  
32 recorded.

33

34 MR. HALE: My name is Jason Hale. I'm  
35 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: On that note, Brandy was  
38 going to try to teleconference in tomorrow, assuming we  
39 can get the teleconference system to work. Or not  
40 Brandy, I meant Becca. They both deal with the bycatch  
41 and that's what's on my mind right now. I forgot his  
42 name.

43

44 MR. POST: Good morning. I'm Jason  
45 Post. Eastern Interior fish biologist for the Bureau  
46 of Land Management in Fairbanks.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Behind him is Randy Brown  
49 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries. He's  
50 going to be making a presentation later. Behind him is

1 Nancy Hendrickson with the Alaska Department of Fish  
2 and Game. Next to her is George Pappas. You all  
3 pretty much know him from other meetings. These are  
4 excellent people to talk to. They deal with the  
5 liaison to the whole program with the State. Then  
6 there's Barbara Cellarius with Wrangell/St. Elias  
7 National Park. Connie Friend, refuge information  
8 technician for Tetlin Refuge. And then Peter, but I  
9 don't remember Peter's last name, biologist.

10

11 MR. KELLER: Keller.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Keller. And then you  
14 have Pat Petrivelli with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.  
15 Ann Wilkinson, Division Chief for Council Coordination,  
16 Office of Subsistence Management. And then a regular  
17 face that's been coming to your meeting is Warren  
18 Eastland with Bureau of Indian Affairs. He's on the  
19 InterAgency Staff Committee. For Andrew Firmin, we  
20 talked about the Staff Committee. This is one of the  
21 Staff Committee members. There's a couple of them  
22 here. And then we have Brandy Berkbigler with Tanana  
23 Chiefs. She's one of the Partner biologists. Again,  
24 Andy, we talked about that yesterday. Next to her is  
25 -- it's been a long day. I'm sorry, I work with him  
26 every day but I'm just drawing a complete blank.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That happens,  
29 Vince, whenever years go by.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: I got it before he gets  
32 up here. It's Jon Gerken, but he'll introduce himself  
33 anyway.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I missed that  
36 with all this fun. What's his name again?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Jon Gerken. He's  
39 representing Russ Holder, who is on detail to Spokane,  
40 Washington. And then for Andrew, the next InterAgency  
41 Staff Committee person is Steve Kessler with the Forest  
42 Service. The rest are going to have to introduce  
43 themselves because I do not recognize them.

44

45 MR. TAUBE: My name is Tom Taube with  
46 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish  
47 Division out of Fairbanks.

48

49 MR. SHARP: Good morning. I'm Dan  
50 Sharp with Bureau of Land Management. I'm the

1 subsistence coordinator and also on the InterAgency  
2 Staff Committee.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I apologize to Dan.  
5 I've only talked to him on the phone. I've never met  
6 him. But now you have three Staff Committee members.  
7 If you had one more, you'd have a quorum. I joke about  
8 that, but that shows you the importance that they're  
9 here to understand the process and also to talk to  
10 about issues.

11

12 Madame Chair, unless I missed somebody  
13 that's all. The rest we'll try and introduce as they  
14 come in.

15

16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Vince.  
17 I do like to laugh a little bit because it helps get  
18 over the rough edges. Andrew, my first meeting I found  
19 it very difficult to remember all these faces and then  
20 they change a great deal. If you have questions, just  
21 hop in and ask them. Don't be afraid to do so.

22

23 Moving along rapidly. We're going into  
24 our Regional Council member's concern and topics.  
25 Vince, I'm sure you went over that with Andrew. Andrew  
26 understands the topics that we'll talk about?

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, he does know that.  
29 The only thing he may not know about is this packet of  
30 information that each of you get. I don't think we  
31 covered that yesterday.

32

33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's start  
34 with Bill Glanz on our concerns as Council members..

35

36 MR. GLANZ: I don't really have a whole  
37 lot of concerns. Me and Andrew just talked a little  
38 bit here. We had a bunch of rangers in Yukon/Charley  
39 who thought they were SS Nazis or something. They were  
40 pulling boats over and demanding identification. They  
41 were stopping people with no cause. They were going  
42 around putting notes on fuel sites saying you're in  
43 violation of Federal statute such and such. You don't  
44 have secondary containment fields, which is pretty  
45 ridiculous for a five-gallon tank.

46

47 And then there was another fellow with  
48 me I took hunting up there and he was at the EPA and we  
49 stopped at Washington Creek and there was a steam  
50 engine there with asbestos falling out of it, so maybe

1 the Park Service should worry about their own stuff  
2 instead of the hunters and the people using the Park.

3  
4 And the moose harvest is going up a  
5 little bit in our district. I think it's due either to  
6 the predator control, which is a big part of it, and  
7 also I believe the fires have done a lot to boost the  
8 moose population up a bit.

9  
10 That's about all I have going right  
11 now, guys. Anyway, at least the Feds are getting more  
12 involved in the predator control. We have a lot of  
13 local pilots and shooter crews doing real well around  
14 our neighborhood, so I hope they keep up the good work.  
15 Anyway, I'll pass on.

16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

18  
19 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. It's nice to  
20 see everyone here again. I know I've been away for a  
21 couple meetings.....

22  
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Three.

24  
25 MR. BASSICH: Anyway. Hopefully I'll  
26 be able to attend a little bit better. The main  
27 concern, of course, is fisheries. King salmon  
28 fisheries in particular on the Yukon River. We're  
29 doing a lot of work in the Eagle area on age, sex,  
30 length and girth, fecundity and ichthyophonous this past  
31 summer and I'm sure you'll be seeing a lot more on the  
32 data that was collected and some of the insights that  
33 we hopefully will be able to pull from that. It's a  
34 very large concern and especially in that realm the  
35 lack of females and the size of females and the  
36 fecundity of those females that are making it into  
37 Canada to spawn, which is approximately 50 percent of  
38 the entire Yukon River escapement or production I  
39 should say is up in Canada.

40  
41 In our opinion, we are not passing the  
42 salmon up into the spawning grounds that we need to to  
43 make this a long-term, sustainable resource, which is  
44 so important to so many of the people on the Yukon  
45 River. Not only in Alaska but in Canada as well. So  
46 that's a major topic of a concern. I'm sure we're talk  
47 about it a lot at this meeting and I promise you you  
48 will see some very interesting data later on. We  
49 haven't had time to tease out everything and put it all  
50 together, but there's some pretty interesting data that

1 should come forth later on in the winter for you.

2

3                   As far as game issues, as I've stated  
4 for many years, I have a lot of concerns about the  
5 impacts on locals due to the increasing pressure from  
6 urban hunters coming out and competing for the  
7 resource. I'm not opposed to that happening, but I  
8 think that both the State and the Federal agencies,  
9 OSM, needs to put together a program to begin to  
10 educate urban hunters and users of the impacts they  
11 have when they come into rural users and hunt and fish  
12 in those areas. When there's areas where there's low  
13 abundance of a resource, the impacts are dramatically  
14 increased on the local people there when we have these  
15 heavy influxes from the urban areas.

16

17                   So I think it's long overdue for OSM  
18 and the State of Alaska to begin to do some public  
19 outreach, some public education on that so that people  
20 understand a little bit better what they're doing or  
21 how they're affecting local resource users out in the  
22 rural areas. I think that's very important and I've  
23 spoken to that in the past.

24

25                   My feeling is, as the economy begins to  
26 turn down, as fuel prices begin to go up, the areas  
27 that are road accessible are going to get much greater  
28 impacts to them. People stay close to their home.  
29 They go to places that are much more accessible and the  
30 road system communities that rely on the resources are  
31 going to feel the strain from that. I would be very  
32 happy to be involved in trying to get some kind of  
33 programs going along the lines of public education like  
34 that. I hope we can move in that direction because I  
35 think long-term that's going to be a very big issue for  
36 rural users. Thank you.

37

38                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

39 Virgil.

40

41                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
42 I share a lot of the same concerns or the same concerns  
43 that Andy has about our chinook salmon resource in the  
44 Yukon River.

45

46                   I think this is probably the  
47 appropriate time to give kind of a report on the Board  
48 of Fish meeting that took place last week in Fairbanks.  
49 They had the work session there, the Fairbanks Advisory  
50 Committee and Stan Zuray, who is chairman of the

1 Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee, put in a  
2 petition to the State Board of Fisheries to change the  
3 classification of the chinook salmon in the Yukon River  
4 from a yield concern to a management concern. What  
5 this would have done would have required the Department  
6 of Fish and Game to come up with an action plan and to  
7 address all the potential effects of the poor runs and  
8 what could be done about it.

9

10                   However, what the Attorney General's  
11 Office determined it was, that the Sustainable Salmon  
12 Policy, which is a regulation of the Board of  
13 Fisheries, the way it was written that it did not give  
14 the Board authority to designate a stock of concern or  
15 change the status of a stock of concern unless it was  
16 in the three-year regulatory cycle. So what the Board  
17 basically did is they had generated quite a lot of  
18 discussion and they had a lot of concern about the  
19 stock status of the Yukon River chinook, so they tabled  
20 the proposal until the next day. They brought it back  
21 up on the table the next day, had a discussion, and  
22 even though they couldn't change the stock status as  
23 far as the type of concern it is, what they did do is  
24 the director of Commercial Fisheries Division promised  
25 to do basically what the proposers wanted in the first  
26 place, was have the department report to the Board at  
27 the meeting and their meeting this coming March on the  
28 latest stock status and how they planned to address it  
29 in the upcoming season.

30

31                   So that, to me, is a real major  
32 concern, as Andy said, and which our RAC has been  
33 submitting proposals addressing this issue for the past  
34 -- well, ever since I've been on the RAC, which is  
35 2001. We've been addressing this issue because it's  
36 probably the most important issue in our region. So  
37 that's my main concern, is the stock status of the  
38 chinook salmon and how it's going to get addressed by  
39 both the Federal and the State Boards.

40

41                   And then, of course, lack of predator  
42 management. Of course, we can't do anything about it  
43 in the parks, but we sure can in the refuges and the  
44 lack of predator management in the refuge is the hoops  
45 that have to be jumped through in order to do anything  
46 about it. That's my second major concern. Thank you,  
47 Madam Chair.

48

49                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
50 Virgil. Andrew.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Excuse me, I have a bit of  
2 a sore throat. One of my concerns are with our moose  
3 population and it's fairly low on Fort Yukon, but I  
4 know recently we've been doing well with like the black  
5 bears and their predator control around Fort Yukon. I  
6 didn't get to see any exact numbers, but I knew there  
7 was a survey going around Fort Yukon that will probably  
8 be available later from CTG.

9  
10 One of my other concerns is with our  
11 fish population that is very low around Fort Yukon. I  
12 know we're at the upper end of things, so it's  
13 something we've got to live with. Another one of my  
14 concerns, and I agree with Andrew, about the influx of  
15 urban hunters or people from out of state and they have  
16 no boating etiquette. They need at least some basic  
17 hunter education before they go to somebody else's area  
18 and just decide to do whatever they want. I'm tired of  
19 picking up beer cans that are somebody else's. Who  
20 knows where they're from.

21  
22 That's pretty much all I have to say.

23  
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
25 Andrew. Go ahead, Richard.

26  
27 MR. CARROLL: Well, I'm glad to be here  
28 in Nenana. I think the Chief has exited the building.  
29 I appreciate the hospitality here given by the Tribe of  
30 Nenana. They've got a very beautiful hall here. Edna,  
31 good to see you. Appreciate your hospitality here.

32  
33 One of our real concerns in the Yukon  
34 Flats area is still what you've heard from all the  
35 members here, the salmon stock. Law enforcement, it  
36 sounds like it got a little bit out of hand up there on  
37 the Yukon/Charley Reserve, but I welcome law  
38 enforcement myself and I encourage it. It was good to  
39 see law enforcement people in the Yukon Flats area.  
40 I've seen wildlife Refuge people from the Yukon Flats  
41 and I actually seen the Refuge manager out there too.  
42 I think he was using Uncle Sam's boat for a weekend  
43 trip though, but he had a good time. I teased him.  
44 But it was good to see him and there were actually  
45 citations given out, which is good. It's part of  
46 education.

47  
48 It's coming to the point where I think  
49 we're going to have to have a plan in effect where  
50 people from urban areas should be, will be, may have to

1 be restricted to access and use of local resources  
2 because of the impact on local people. We see it in  
3 the Yukon Flats area. It's coming to the point where  
4 only people who have a large income and can afford to  
5 fish big time, they can afford the cost of so-called  
6 subsistence fishing on their part. Local people --  
7 actually, not too many disgruntled fishermen this  
8 summer along the Yukon River in the flats there. We're  
9 beginning to learn to live with what's available and  
10 that's a very good attitude.

11  
12 We had a little dispute and staged a  
13 little protest there in the Yukon Flats for a while,  
14 but Fish and Wildlife Service and State people came out  
15 and had a sit-down meeting with our local tribal  
16 leaders and it was good, face to face, and they  
17 expressed some concerns. I was glad to see the folks  
18 out there. That was real good to see them respond to  
19 that kind of concern. One of those concerns, of  
20 course, was commercial fishing in lower Yukon and shut  
21 down in the upper Yukon subsistence fisheries. That's  
22 a major no-no and it's getting to the point where it's  
23 very upsetting even for myself.

24  
25 Mitch did hit on how we should learn to  
26 get along and build relationships. I believe  
27 relationship building is very important because we can  
28 understand each other's livelihood. We hear a lot of  
29 concerns about the commercial fisheries and its  
30 economic importance and livelihood in the lower Yukon  
31 and that's fine, but I really feel that the Federal and  
32 State agencies are ignoring the law that provides for  
33 subsistence fishery and we're going to have to reach a  
34 middle ground here and get an understanding and I  
35 believe it will come by building relationships.

36  
37 Once again, I thank the law enforcement  
38 people for showing up and I think people are becoming  
39 more aware, hunters and fishermen, that, yes, we have  
40 to abide and respect our resources. It's going to be a  
41 limited resource and therefore we must manage it and  
42 make sure it is sustainable.

43  
44 I'd like to pass it on. Thank you for  
45 your comments.

46  
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
48 Richard. Coming back to the Chair for my concerns. I  
49 think you guys have hit most of it, but one of my  
50 biggest concerns is not just like the RACs on the Yukon

1 trying to build these working relationships, but us as  
2 non-Natives and Natives and rural and non-rural  
3 building working relationships too. I think that  
4 there's a lot of misconception out there and if we are  
5 out there working together in some fashion, but it's  
6 hard.

7  
8 I think this is one of my frustrations,  
9 is that it's hard as a volunteer and you have these two  
10 meetings a year and then I'm asked to go for our  
11 Council as Chair to the Federal Board, so you end up  
12 getting involved in quite a bit of travel. Actually  
13 you start losing your whole purpose of the subsistence  
14 lifestyle because you're doing more work trying to  
15 protect it than you are out living it and that becomes  
16 a little difficult.

17  
18 Sometimes it's hard for me -- and this  
19 is no reflection on anyone that has a Federal position,  
20 but it's hard for us to -- and I probably say this  
21 1,000 times so forgive me, that it's hard for us to  
22 constantly be asked to take time to talk on the phone  
23 and deal with all these issues. We're just volunteers  
24 with a per diem. We look in the audience and don't see  
25 any public, so sometimes it's a little tough on me  
26 personally and I apologize for bringing it up every  
27 time, but I just feel like it's important somehow or  
28 another to figure out how to get more public involved.

29  
30 That takes us down to the Chair's  
31 report. As a report, I want you to know when I went to  
32 the last meeting in the spring with the Federal Board  
33 each Chair or representative of the Chair of the  
34 Councils gets to give their topics and concerns.

35  
36 Bert Adams from Southeast was first and  
37 he immediately spoke that he'd like to see the State  
38 and Federal work more to comply with ANILCA. In that  
39 effort, several of us chimed in and we requested that  
40 we move forward on such a thing. I have a letter here  
41 that says they're considering at the January meeting to  
42 have a discussion at the end of the meeting. To me,  
43 this is great because what we tried to tell them was,  
44 yeah, you know, we are just Advisory Councils, but  
45 maybe we can come up with new and wonderful ideas that  
46 might make this complicated two systems -- you know,  
47 Andy and I were just talking about this last night. If  
48 you're going hunting on Federal land, first you have to  
49 find out where in the heck the Federal land is, where  
50 it's checker-boarded and then you have to have your

1 land surveyor on this whole side and then you've got to  
2 have your attorney to interpret the regulations, then  
3 you've got to wonder which book I should be picking up.  
4 That's very difficult for the user. So I wanted to let  
5 you know that at the meeting.

6  
7 And then also Vince has said I need to  
8 mention this .805c where the Federal Board does not go  
9 with what the Advisory Council's recommendations are,  
10 they need to explain to us why. And then I asked him  
11 what happened at the last meeting that differed. I  
12 know you're very organized and you put it in front of  
13 me, but my scatter brain doesn't have it right in  
14 front. Was it the statewide one, Vince, that was the  
15 only one I saw that was different?

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: I'm trying to find it.  
18 The statewide one the Board didn't agree with and I'm  
19 not finding my copy, so I'll have to go to another  
20 file. There should be one in your packet that I  
21 highlighted.

22  
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Proposal 1. I  
24 see it highlighted here.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: For Mr. Firmin, this is  
27 what we talked about where the Board gets back to you.  
28 We apologized yesterday and again today we throw these  
29 acronyms around, but it's part of that that the Board  
30 needs to respond when they don't agree with your  
31 recommendation and why. We've expanded since day one  
32 to give a summary of all proposals. The ones that the  
33 Board didn't align, as I explained to Sue, it's my  
34 interpretation on aligning if the Board added an  
35 amendment or did not go with your amendment, then I  
36 consider that non-alignment. That's up to you to  
37 decide. It was proposals 01, 05 and 14. So in your  
38 packet of materials should be a letter that's addressed  
39 to Susan Entsminger June 17th.

40  
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you  
42 highlight only mine or all of them, Vince? Do you have  
43 it? Go ahead, Richard.

44  
45 MR. CARROLL: Madame Chair. May I ask  
46 for an introduction and recognition of the lady in the  
47 back just for the record.

48  
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You bet.  
50 Could you come up and introduce yourself. Thank you.

1 Thanks, Richard.

2

3 MS. HANCOCK: Good morning. My name is  
4 Edna Hancock. I'm the executive director of the Nenana  
5 Native Council and I'm just here to sit in and listen  
6 and find out what's going on with your committee.

7

8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Welcome.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: And for you there is a  
11 packet of materials if you want to track along that we  
12 can get you a copy of and a meeting booklet. That way  
13 you could track along. For Staff, there's those green  
14 folders. They say extra 1 and 2. She could have one of  
15 those extra ones.

16

17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Going  
18 on with my report. I don't know how many of you got  
19 copies of the Chistochina court decision, but I think  
20 most of you are aware about how the State sued and then  
21 it took it to a higher court. I asked Ann if she  
22 wouldn't mind reading -- there's a short, two paragraph  
23 press release that actually I didn't get a copy of but  
24 I requested that be sent to all the members. She's  
25 just going to give us a quick report here.

26

27 MS. WILKINSON: Ann Wilkinson, OSM.  
28 This came out October 1st, so possibly you didn't get  
29 it yet in the mail. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals  
30 upheld the U.S. District Court ruling in favor of the  
31 Federal Subsistence Board's approach to making  
32 customary and traditional use determinations. The  
33 opinion was issued September 23rd, 2008 and it affirms  
34 the Board's decision to recognize the customary and  
35 traditional use of moose throughout Unit 12 by  
36 residents of the village of Chistochina.

37

38 The State of Alaska filed a lawsuit in  
39 2006 challenging the Board's decision, arguing that  
40 evidence showed that residents of Chistochina hunted  
41 moose in only a portion of Unit 12. The State said the  
42 Board violated Title VIII of ANILCA by making a  
43 customary and traditional use determination that was  
44 too broad in scope and could cause unnecessary  
45 restrictions on non-subsistence uses. The State also  
46 said that the Board violated the Administrative  
47 Procedure Act by making a decision that was not  
48 supported by the record.

49

50 In most cases, the practice of the

1 Board is to adopt customary and traditional use  
2 determinations for Federal lands within specific units  
3 or subunits. This approach is intended to avoid the  
4 regulatory patchwork that would evolve if customary and  
5 traditional use findings were individually linked to  
6 each discreet parcel of land traditionally used by  
7 rural Alaskans.

8

9 The Ninth Circuit decision of support  
10 and approach that the Board uses. The court noted that  
11 if the Board had to restrict every customary and  
12 traditional use determination to the precise area in  
13 which a rural community had demonstrated use of that  
14 population, and this is a quote, the C&T determination  
15 would quickly become unmanageable, end quote.

16

17 The court also said that a customary  
18 and traditional use determination by the Board does not  
19 limit non-subsistence uses but simply recognizes the  
20 subsistence uses by qualified rural residents.

21

22 That is the entire news release. Thank  
23 you.

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Ann.  
26 I just thought this was a pretty instrumental case and  
27 we should probably have a little bit of information,  
28 but if you've got a non-attorney brain like I do, it's  
29 sometimes very difficult to understand. I'm sure that  
30 as we move along with C&T's we're going to have input  
31 from the legal people so that we understand more what's  
32 going on here.

33

34 MS. WILKINSON: We'll just volunteer  
35 one thing else. The Board has begun developing a  
36 policy regarding C&T procedure that that policy was  
37 drafted and finalized and sent to the Secretary for  
38 approval and it was held until after this decision. We  
39 will hear from the Secretary on what they plan to do,  
40 but that drafted policy is basically what we do now, so  
41 it wouldn't be any different operating procedure than  
42 what we have been doing.

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,  
45 that's good information. Thank you. Unless anyone has  
46 any questions. Ann informs me that she probably  
47 couldn't answer them. We'll be looking at this closely  
48 in the future.

49

50 I also wanted to say I do support

1 dialogue between the RACs and the drainages and I did  
2 make a call to YK and I had requested that we send  
3 somebody to their meeting and we were denied. I  
4 actually spoke to Pete through email about how you  
5 build a bridge if you don't get somebody there and then  
6 Pete gave me Lester's fax number, so I tried to get a  
7 hold of a fax for about six weeks. At any rate, I  
8 finally got to talk to him and he thanked me for the  
9 call and I guess it's an open door. It's a start.  
10 What happens from there we're all going to have to  
11 figure out how to work on it.

12

13                   Also, just a brief report. It came to  
14 my attention in a local area that there's a need for  
15 local hire in Wrangell-St. Elias Park and I talked to  
16 Vince about how you deal with that and I would ask  
17 later we come up with some -- we can talk about it on  
18 the agenda somewhere along the line, but I think we  
19 need to push for more local hire.

20

21                   I think that's it. Virgil has  
22 something he wants to add to the agenda later. I  
23 believe we've covered it. We're going to review and  
24 adopt the agenda. I'm going to add into the agenda  
25 Board of Game Proposals 49 through 55, which will be  
26 under wildlife, number 8. I think there's several of  
27 them we might be concerned about in our region, so I'm  
28 looking at it under wildlife issues. If you guys want  
29 to add that there. Vince, you're going to have to help  
30 me if I forget it. I wrote it in here.

31

32                   MR. MATHEWS: I've noted it on my  
33 agenda and you have copies of those proposals in your  
34 green folder.

35

36                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just going  
37 to say on the record that BLM asked to make sure -- she  
38 has her report by the end of today, was it?

39

40                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Ruth Gronquist will  
41 be coming here and by the end of the day if at all  
42 possible.

43

44                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And she  
45 wants to be able to get her report in by the end of the  
46 day.

47

48                   MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

49

50                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, you

1 had something to add to the agenda. We need to figure  
2 out where to put it.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's part of Andy's  
5 concern about communications and this has been a  
6 concern of mine for a long time. I think the State and  
7 the Federal system should both work together on, of  
8 course, educating the public on methods of preserving  
9 their harvest, whether it be fish or wildlife.

10

11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you want  
12 to add that to the agenda?

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I'd like to add  
15 that to the agenda somewhere. Better and more  
16 efficient measures of preservation is what I'd like to  
17 see addressed and I'm not sure where the best place to  
18 put it.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Both fish and  
21 game, huh?

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: It should cover  
24 everything, whether it's berries, fish, wildlife,  
25 whatever it is.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess I  
28 would request that it goes in under wildlife issues  
29 maybe or just before.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: We can put it right  
32 after the Board of Game proposals that you just added  
33 if you want.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Okay.  
36 We can probably make that short because what we're  
37 going to do is probably want to do a letter, right?  
38 It's an action thing.

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. We need to  
41 start somewhere and that's probably the best way to  
42 start it.

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
45 else have anything to add or delete on the agenda?

46

47 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair. I was just on  
48 my way in and I got to thinking about the Yukon/Charley  
49 area and you can hunt in 25D, 25B and 20E. There's a  
50 big chunk of 25C that's not included in there that you

1 can't hunt in, so you have to go up the Charley River  
2 from Circle to Sam Creek and then you can start  
3 hunting. So I wonder if there's a way we can get 25C  
4 included in the Yukon/Charley.

5  
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is this C&T  
7 you're talking about?

8  
9 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

10  
11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: C&Ts come up  
12 how often on the Federal Board? I think that's  
13 wildlife and I think it wouldn't come up until.....

14  
15 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I didn't know.

16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you  
18 brought it up. Vince, I think it's on there, wildlife  
19 proposals.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Right now the call for  
22 wildlife proposals is not up. I wanted to give you the  
23 date when that is up. We're in the two-year cycle now.

24  
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What he's  
26 asking is he wants to add that, so I would say that  
27 needs to be one of those items and that's what we're  
28 going to have more of from now on because of this two-  
29 year cycle. He's bringing up an issue that we want on  
30 the plate when it comes up. Can you help me out? We  
31 don't need to discuss it right now, we just want to  
32 make sure when that comes up. I believe it would be  
33 this time '09, right?

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Right. You can bring it  
36 up now or later. The next meeting is when you actually  
37 submit proposals, but I can note it and Staff can work  
38 with Bill to draft a proposal and that could be before  
39 you for approval for the winter 2009 meeting.

40  
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So Bill  
42 is going to -- I'm appointing him to do that.

43  
44 MR. GLANZ: Sure, that sounds fine.

45  
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we won't  
47 need to bring it into the agenda.

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. You have  
50 that chart I just went by in your book that shows you

1 when different things are up since we're just now  
2 really getting in the two year. I don't want you to  
3 spend a lot of time on it, but when you get back home  
4 and you want to know when the call for proposals, this  
5 is the only thing I was able to find.

6

7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's in our  
8 packet? Oh, great, I've lost it already.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: It was really colorful,  
11 so I thought it would spruce up the book. Seriously,  
12 you need to know that. For Staff, it's a major change  
13 for us, so I always carry it with me.

14

15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
16 Vince. That's very important. We're going to move  
17 along. The approval of the minutes at the Tok meeting.  
18 Has everyone read them that was there? Do you want to  
19 read them before we approve them?

20

21 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion we approve  
22 the minutes.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Second.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
27 opposed.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
32 they're approved. Fisheries issues. Starting with  
33 Yukon River subsistence fisheries post season review.  
34 Joint Federal/State presentation. Do we need a break  
35 or are you guys ready to pop in there.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair. I need  
38 to get the two people on line you want to  
39 teleconference, so I have to call them and get them  
40 plugged in.

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Vince  
43 will try to make that really quickly. We're going to  
44 call for a break and as soon as we're ready we're  
45 coming back.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: I've been with the  
2 operator in Atlanta and they said to try it again. If  
3 not, then what we'll do is just get Matt Gilbert  
4 online. I don't have the capacity to do multiple lines  
5 on my cell.

6  
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But your cell  
8 has a speaker?

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It's RAC approved.

11  
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great. So now  
13 we're moving rapidly along. Thank you. Go ahead.

14  
15 MR. GERKEN: My name is Jon Gerken. I  
16 work for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.  
17 I'm here on behalf of Russ Holder. Madam Chair, I'm  
18 just going to give an overview of the 2008 Yukon River  
19 salmon fishing season. I just gave out a handout and  
20 I'll try to paraphrase the majority of this to make it  
21 as easy as possible.

22  
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I  
24 just want to reiterate to everyone in the audience I  
25 had asked him if it's possible not to read every word  
26 and consolidate, that Council members was wanting to  
27 hear the high points. So thank you. If you could work  
28 on that for us, Staff in the audience, we'd appreciate  
29 it. Thank you.

30  
31 MR. BUE: Madam Chair. My name is Fred  
32 Bue, Commercial Fisheries Division. I don't really  
33 have much prepared, but I was just going to be up here  
34 to help answer questions. Thank you.

35  
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fred is with  
37 the State. Go ahead.

38  
39 MR. GERKEN: I'll just touch base on  
40 the pre-season, how we entered the fishing season, the  
41 summer season, fall season and then just a few  
42 sentences on kind of what's going to go on next season  
43 for 2009.

44  
45 The managers entered the season  
46 anticipating that the four primary Yukon River salmon  
47 runs would return with sufficient abundance to meet  
48 escapement objectives, provide for normal subsistence  
49 harvest and maybe provide for additional harvest  
50 opportunities.

1                   The chinook salmon run was anticipated  
2 to be below average, similar to the 2007 run.

3  
4                   The summer and fall chum salmon runs  
5 were projected to be average while coho salmon were  
6 anticipated to be average to above average.

7  
8                   For the summer season, the run strength  
9 assessment of the in-season abundance of chinook and  
10 summer chum salmon was based on the lower river test  
11 fishery, Pilot Station sonar and subsistence fishermen  
12 catch reports.

13  
14                   Chinook salmon entry timing was about  
15 four days later than average and finished with a near  
16 average cumulative CPUE as measured by the ADF&G lower  
17 river test net project. The preliminary end of the  
18 season Pilot Station sonar estimate was approximately  
19 130,000 chinook salmon as compared to the 2007 passage  
20 of 125,000 fish. The summer chum salmon run strength  
21 of 1.6 million fish was near average.

22  
23                   Subsistence salmon in-season harvest  
24 information is collected by the Fish and Wildlife  
25 Service in partnership with YRDFA and ADF&G. They  
26 indicated that some fishermen were able to obtain their  
27 subsistence harvest goals if they had started fishing  
28 early, although many fishers did not meet their harvest  
29 goals. Many fishermen reported fishing one to two  
30 weeks longer than average and suspending their fishing  
31 efforts until the fall when the fall chum was more  
32 prevalent.

33  
34                   After over 80 percent of the chinook  
35 salmon run had passed through the lower river fishing  
36 district, summer chum salmon commercial opportunities  
37 were pursued if there was a processing interest and the  
38 subsistence salmon fishing schedule was liberalized to  
39 seven or five days per week.

40  
41                   Based on the pre-season outlook, no  
42 directed chinook salmon commercial periods occurred.  
43 Eleven summer chum commercial periods occurred at the  
44 end of the summer season with 150,000 summer chum  
45 salmon and 4,300 chinook salmon harvested in bycatch.

46  
47                   Post-season evaluation of the chinook  
48 and summer chum salmon escapement numbers confirmed  
49 that most Alaskan escapement goals were near the low  
50 end of the desired escapement goal ranges. The

1 escapement for chinook salmon that passed the Eagle  
2 sonar was around 39,000, which was much less than the  
3 45,000 US/Canada Panel escapement goal for this year.

4  
5                   In December of 2004, the Federal  
6 Subsistence Board adopted a regulation providing  
7 Federally-qualified subsistence fishermen the  
8 opportunity to use drift gillnets no greater than 150  
9 feet in length and no more than 35 meshes deep to  
10 harvest chinook salmon in Subdistricts 4B and 4C. In  
11 2008, 25 permits were issued and of these permits 24  
12 permittees have reported their activity. Ten reported  
13 fishing with a total of 44 chinook salmon harvested in  
14 approximately 82 hours of fishing.

15  
16                   I'm going to the fall season. The 2008  
17 fall season run timing was near average for the quarter  
18 and three-quarter points of the run, but the mid-point  
19 was delayed until almost the three-quarter point,  
20 which means that the run was much weaker in middle  
21 portion of the run than expected. Based on sonar  
22 cumulative passage estimates and the cumulative  
23 commercial harvest, the 2008 fall chum salmon run was  
24 estimated to be 730,000 fish. The coho salmon run  
25 appeared to have average timing and a slightly below  
26 average run size for the season, the lowest since 2002.

27  
28                   Based on the pre-season outlook, fall  
29 chum salmon commercial fishing occurred during the  
30 early portion of the run, was suspended during the  
31 middle portion of the run due to a less than expected  
32 run size, and resumed under the Coho Salmon Management  
33 Plan during the late portion of the season. The total  
34 Yukon commercial harvest was approximately 120,000 fall  
35 chum salmon and 36,500 coho salmon.

36  
37                   Just a quick summary. Management of  
38 the summer salmon season was challenging due to the  
39 chinook salmon run size returning later and in less  
40 numbers than expected. The near average abundance of  
41 summer chum and the late return of the pink salmon also  
42 complicated this. The fall chum salmon run was late  
43 and not as strong as projected while the coho salmon  
44 run was near average in timing and abundance.

45 Subsistence fishers stated that they had to work harder  
46 than usual to achieve subsistence harvest goals for  
47 chinook and in many cases did not achieve these goals  
48 at all.

49  
50                   Overall, 2008 was a difficult fishing

1 season in terms of managing for escapement objectives,  
2 providing reduced chinook salmon subsistence fishing  
3 opportunities and for ADF&G to provide limited  
4 commercial opportunities for summer and fall chum  
5 salmon.

6

7 I just have a few sentences to add for  
8 the 2009 pre-season. The outlook for 2009 will be  
9 prepared by ADF&G after escapement information and age  
10 composition analysis are completed over the next  
11 several months. Should the trend of poor productivity  
12 continue into 2009, management staff are discussing  
13 options for altering subsistence fishing to ensure  
14 enough fish get to the spawning grounds.

15

16 That's all I have.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Fred has something to  
23 add.

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

26

27 MR. BUE: Thank you, Madam Chairman.  
28 Jon did a good job taking this and paraphrasing it.  
29 One thing I wanted to make sure was on the record is  
30 that we entered the season -- for management and  
31 conservative approach, our strategy was to hold off on  
32 commercial fishing until we knew for sure there were  
33 fish available.

34

35 With that, we start out the subsistence  
36 fishing in the lower river on the windowed schedule and  
37 once we realized that the run was pretty weak, then we  
38 did take actions to reduce the subsistence fishing  
39 schedule and that was throughout the drainage. We  
40 initiated that during the middle portion of the run  
41 where most of the fish were.

42

43 We tried to protect individual pulses  
44 up the river. Those restrictions were sequentially on  
45 up the river and what we did was reduce fishing time by  
46 half. We have a difficult time allocating harvest, but  
47 what we do have is the authority to reduce is fishing  
48 time, so we tried to treat everybody equally.

49

50 5D fishes seven days a week and Y1, 2

1 and 3 fish two 36-hour periods a week, so we cut each  
2 area in half all the way up the river. The middle  
3 river is two 48's. So what we did is try to implement  
4 that sequentially and that's just what I wanted to add.  
5 We tried to take that during the middle portion of the  
6 run, spread the harvest out and by that means we tried  
7 to share the harvest, what was available throughout the  
8 drainage.

9

10 I know it was really stressful for a  
11 lot people, price of gas and all sorts of factors were  
12 involved. Fishing is really important, especially when  
13 price of fuel and things are up. We also had high  
14 water to deal with during that portion of time. So it  
15 was difficult for people, but I appreciate people's  
16 sacrifices and we did pretty good actually getting fish  
17 through, but it was at the expense of harvest. To  
18 people, that's a really important resource for them.  
19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fred, did you  
22 have a report you were going to summarize?

23

24 MR. BUE: Madam Chair. No, I didn't,  
25 but I did hand out a couple -- this is really quick  
26 following our season, so we don't have very much  
27 finalized. I just have some of the papers. You've  
28 seen most of these, many of you have, on our weekly  
29 updates, so it's not very much new material but it is  
30 something for people to look at and summarize a little  
31 bit of our projects and such.

32

33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't mean  
34 to overlook you. I thought we were going to have two  
35 reports. Are you ready, Andy?

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Sure. Thank you, Madam  
38 Chair. I have a couple questions and then a couple  
39 comments. The first question I have is in the 4,300  
40 chinook salmon that were caught as bycatch in the chum  
41 fisheries. Can you give me some idea of the amount of  
42 time that was fished and how many fall chum were taken  
43 and how much bycatch there was from that fishery? Am I  
44 clear on that? I guess what I'm asking for is I'd like  
45 to have some numbers during that chum commercial  
46 fishery. How many commercial fish were caught of the  
47 chums and I guess I'd like to know what kind of  
48 percentage the chinook bycatch was of that. That's  
49 what I'm trying to tease out.

50

1 MR. BUE: Madam Chair. Andy. In Jon's  
2 report we have that to some extent. The 4,300 was  
3 caught during the tail end of the summer season and the  
4 beginning of the fall season. Just like everything,  
5 the fish just don't stop by a calendar date. They  
6 trickle through and I think we still had some chinook  
7 harvest in August, so we continued adding those up.  
8 But the total harvest 4,300 chinook, with that was  
9 about 150,000 summer chum and 120,000 fall chum and  
10 36,000 coho salmon.

11  
12 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. Do you look  
13 at percentages every year when you do the openings? Do  
14 you look at percentages of bycatch of king salmon? I  
15 guess my concern is on years when we have very low  
16 abundance of king salmon and we're having kind of a  
17 hard time moving those fish up the river, I just have a  
18 lot of concerns about opening up anything that would  
19 inadvertently take king salmon out of the river.

20  
21 I realize we're trying to open up and  
22 give the people in the lower river commercial  
23 opportunities. I'm not opposed to that but it becomes  
24 more and more important the poorer the king salmon run  
25 in making those decisions what those impacts will be.  
26 So I think it's important to look at what kind of  
27 percentages you can expect for bycatch of those king  
28 salmon and I guess that's more of a comment than a  
29 question.

30  
31 The other thing I wanted to point out  
32 is that one of the things I've always been a little  
33 leery of when I listen to these reports is when we hear  
34 the term average, year's average catches, if that falls  
35 within the average harvest. I'd like to remind out  
36 Council here that basically it's my understanding that  
37 most averages are done over a 10-year period and since  
38 1998 we haven't been reaching even the averages of pre-  
39 '98. So our averages are going down and we're not even  
40 in the high end of our averages after they've been  
41 reduced. I hope I'm clear on that.

42  
43 So managers and people giving us this  
44 information are saying we're in the middle or the low  
45 range of the averages, but our averages have been  
46 dropping over the last decade, the numbers presented.  
47 So it's a little bit misleading how the health of the  
48 stocks are compared to stocks in the '80s or '90s. So  
49 I'd like to remind the Council to keep that in mind.  
50 It's an easy way to kind of wash that the run is -- the

1 stocks are healthier than they really are for long-term  
2 purposes.

3

4                   Then the last comment I'd like to make  
5 is that it kind of gives me heartburn and I don't know  
6 the way around it right now, but escapement in numbers  
7 is great and it's a tool we use and it's a tool we've  
8 been using, but we've got to start thinking beyond  
9 that. We've got to start thinking outside the box  
10 because what counts is females to the spawning grounds  
11 and what we're seeing in the upper river is the  
12 abundance of females for escapement is declining. I'm  
13 speaking in terms of king salmon. I hope that in the  
14 future managers and biologists can start working on  
15 different methods of creating escapement goals that  
16 will better reflect the fecundity getting across to  
17 escapement, not just the numbers of fish. That is one  
18 of the big issues right now, is that we are not getting  
19 large numbers of females up to the spawning grounds.  
20 Thank you, Madam Chair.

21

22                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wanted  
23 to ask, Andy, are you suggesting these managers look at  
24 a different average and give a more thorough report on  
25 a long-term average?

26

27                   MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I think  
28 what would be really nice at some of these meetings --  
29 I'm fine with them giving the averages over 10 years.  
30 I don't have a problem with that. But I wouldn't mind  
31 also hearing how that compares with a 25 or a 30-year  
32 average. I guess that's the point I'm trying to make.

33

34                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you're  
35 making a point. I just want to make sure it's heard.

36

37                   MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

38

39                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
40 Fred.

41

42                   MR. BUE: Yeah, there were a lot of  
43 questions or statements there. I'll try to touch on  
44 them. I'm trying to point out, again, with the  
45 paraphrasing or trying to condense these reports, it  
46 wasn't very obvious, but our bycatch was also -- most  
47 of you are aware that during those chum directed  
48 fisheries we did have a six-inch mesh size restriction.  
49 So that was if there was incidental harvest of  
50 chinook, those would have been typically the smaller

1 fish. We also had a mesh size restriction during the  
2 subsistence restricted periods in the lower river. We  
3 didn't do that up river, but we did do that in the  
4 lower river when we were concerned with chinook.

5  
6 Also the bycatch, those summer chum  
7 periods, there was a lot of frustration that people  
8 were missing the opportunity to harvest summer chum.  
9 It was a pretty good run and we did wait until way late  
10 in the season just for that reason, to allow good  
11 quantities of the chinook by. We did harvest late and  
12 there was bycatch. I'm not trying to argue with  
13 anybody, but I'm just trying to point that out, was  
14 that when we opened it was approximately 85 percent of  
15 the chinook had passed by that date when we did open  
16 the chum directed fishery.

17  
18 Typically we think of the late run fish  
19 as lower river stocks and that's not for absolutely  
20 sure. We do know that Canadian fish run throughout the  
21 entire run, but late in the season is when the lower  
22 river chinook stocks come in in larger quantities. I  
23 think proportionately those fish were probably more  
24 bound for lower river systems than upriver systems. We  
25 do have a genetic MSA study going on and then we'll  
26 probably get some information later, maybe by the  
27 spring JTC, possibly with that information on what fish  
28 we actually did harvest. Just for verification to see  
29 what was in that composition. And those lower river  
30 stocks did pretty well on escapement for chinook.

31  
32 There's a lot of different averages and  
33 I recognize your point. It is confusing and I get  
34 frustrated myself all the time. Sometimes we use  
35 different averages for different points to point out a  
36 regime shift where you have a previous 10-year average  
37 and then a more recent 10-year average. Sometimes we  
38 have a wide spanning average, but it doesn't  
39 necessarily show a trend. Lots of times it depends on  
40 what our main item is that we're trying to show.  
41 Again, a lot of the data that we have, there's  
42 escapement and there's harvest and there's a lot of  
43 different things.

44  
45 In the fall summary packet, I do have  
46 some historical information that graphically shows by  
47 year the subsistence and commercial trends and we also  
48 have the escapement by project over long term. So you  
49 can look at those and judge for yourself what averages  
50 you'd like to look at. We have information. If

1 there's something in particular you want, we can try  
2 and get it for you and provide it for you.

3

4                   Escapement in numbers versus females.  
5 We are aware of that and it has been a concern at many  
6 of these meeting and we've talked about it many times.  
7 Right now we are going through escapement goal review  
8 and we are looking at those to see if we can pull  
9 something out of that in terms of female, in terms of  
10 large versus small chinook. But we're looking at the  
11 datasets now and hopefully we can bring something to  
12 the public and hopefully we'll have it before the next  
13 Board of Fish and their escapement goal review and  
14 possibly earlier with our stock status reports. Thank  
15 you.

16

17                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More  
18 questions. Virgil.

19

20                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
21 At the Board of Fish meeting last week they went over  
22 the stock status and made recommendations for stocks of  
23 concern for Southeast and one of the things that really  
24 irritates me is that in Southeast if the fish isn't  
25 over 660 millimeters it doesn't even count as  
26 escapement. So my question is, in this BEG review that  
27 the Department is doing, are they considering adopting  
28 the same policy that they have in Southeast where only  
29 the larger fish count as escapement, they don't even  
30 count the jacks?

31

32                   MR. BUE: I'm sorry, I don't know that.  
33 I couldn't answer that off the top of my head. I'd  
34 have to question that.

35

36                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have  
37 other questions?

38

39                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, I have another  
40 question or maybe a comment. The Department has  
41 switched over at Pilot Station to using the DIDSON  
42 sonar and I guess still the Bendix Sonar, so they're  
43 using both of them. In speaking with Larry Engle,  
44 former Board of Fish member that I know very well and  
45 former chairman and an actual biologist with years of  
46 experience, he's frustrated kind of the same way I am  
47 that on the Yetna River they've switched over and  
48 they're using the DIDSON, so they're counting 30  
49 percent more fish than they used to. Whenever they do,  
50 what Andy just brought up, the issue of the averages,

1 average return and average escapements, they're not  
2 doing any kind of adjustment for the DIDSON sonar  
3 counting 30 percent more fish than what the Bendix did.

4  
5

6                   So they give these averages, like  
7 three-year average or five-year average and just like  
8 this report we just received it said chinook salmon  
9 passage was 136,000 this year at Pilot Station, 125,500  
10 fish in 2007. Correct me if I'm wrong, what that tells  
11 me is with the DIDSON sonar, which counts 30 percent  
12 more fish than what the Bendix did, that's what the  
13 number was, but if we want to compare that to pre-  
14 DIDSON, which was only about four years ago,  
15 really.....

16  
17

18                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The numbers  
19 are worse.

20  
21

22                   MR. UMPHENOUR: .....the numbers are 30  
23 percent less. Am I correct or am I not correct?

24  
25

26                   MR. BUE: I think we have a little  
27 confusion there. The way I read this was 130,000  
28 chinook in 2008 compares to 125,000 in 2007 was an  
29 average. The reason it's there is to look at a shadow  
30 or a portion of the river that's -- it is insonified  
31 with the regular equipment, but sometimes because  
32 there's reverberation band a lot of silt moves through  
33 that area, so that gives us an idea what's going  
34 through there. If the regular counter can't count into  
35 there, then we are monitoring with the DIDSON. It  
36 gives us a better idea. So the people there monitoring  
37 the sonar are aware of that and are watching that daily  
38 in their sampling and trying to account for which sonar  
39 is working better at the time. So they make their  
40 daily passage estimates based on the quality of the  
41 count that day.

42  
43

44                   But I think, yeah, DIDSON probably does  
45 count more fish. The Pilot Station sonar for chinook,  
46 we use it more as an index than an actual estimate of  
47 population run strength because there are 1.6 million  
48 summer chum. It makes it difficult to pick out the  
49 130,000 chinook in the middle there, so there is a  
50 sampling problem in trying to estimate that, but that  
51 gives us a feeling, just like our test net at Emmonak  
52 gives us a feeling what's going by there, we use it as  
53 an index.

54

1                   So, yeah, it looks like a run similar  
2 to 2007 and we knew that 2007 we wanted to be more  
3 conservative than we were, so we ratcheted things back  
4 ahead of time. I think that's what the result was, is  
5 that we did get fish up river, but it's not a perfect  
6 distribution. So some places did better than others.

7  
8                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But, Fred,  
9 that whole thing he just brought out of the 30 percent  
10 more, are you saying the numbers do not reflect that  
11 there's possibly 30 percent more fish?

12  
13                   MR. BUE: I'm saying it's still an  
14 index, so there's quite a bit of wall around that  
15 number. So, yes, we use an index in relationship to  
16 what we see up river in the escapement. We use  
17 commercial harvest catch rates as an index. We use  
18 Emmonak test fish as an index. So we're trying to  
19 judge what's going by.

20  
21                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you  
22 wouldn't agree with what he said. Is that what you're  
23 telling me?

24  
25                   MR. BUE: I'm saying it's not just cut  
26 and dried. It's an index. It's not an absolute  
27 number. 130,000 fish is not what we're saying was the  
28 total run strength this year.

29  
30                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's what you  
31 counted.

32  
33                   MR. BUE: Right. It's what the counter  
34 counted and so this was comparable to 2007. When we  
35 use that in-season, it's a management tool for trying  
36 to get fish up river and trying to hit our target  
37 escapement goals up river.

38  
39                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is what's  
40 hard about the Yukon fish. I can't wrap my head around  
41 it sometimes. Do you understand it because you guys  
42 live it and eat it and breathe it more than I.

43  
44                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Maybe I can help Sue  
45 and I'd like you to correct me if I'm wrong, Fred.  
46 Basically what you're saying is it's imprecise and  
47 because of the difficulty with all the other stocks  
48 that are mixed in, in order to apportion and get an  
49 accurate number of kings, that that's an impossibility,  
50 but in a place like Eagle, where there's only kings

1 going by, they can get a good count. So it's just  
2 basically an index that gets verified by other projects  
3 up river later on. So that gives you an idea how to  
4 manage. But as far as really having a real handle and  
5 a real number that we can compare from year to year  
6 other than an index, that sonar is not really designed  
7 to give a precise number. So when people start  
8 comparing those numbers, at Pilot Station on chinook  
9 salmon especially, that that's not really that  
10 accurate. It's just merely a tool to be used in  
11 management as far as chinook goes so that you have a  
12 general idea whether the run is really poor, average or  
13 above average.

14

15 MR. BUE: Madam Chair. I think that's  
16 pretty close. It's not absolute. It's probably one of  
17 the best tools we have in the lower river.  
18 Historically we use our test nets at Emmonak and that's  
19 really good for timing. This year our problem was that  
20 fishing effort around our test nets was so cut back  
21 that our catch rate was high, is what we feel. We  
22 weren't being corked off, so our catch rate was high,  
23 so the test net showed a good run. But we thought  
24 otherwise, we looked at these other parameters and  
25 indicators that were out there. So, going by the sonar  
26 and test nets the run wasn't that bad, but we were  
27 looking at taking all this information in together and  
28 that's what managers have to do, is look at these and  
29 hedge one way or the other.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
32 questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now is  
37 the strategic plan for research of whitefish species in  
38 the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages. Thank you.  
39 Sorry if I can't wrap my head around it, Fred.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Matt, let us know if you  
42 can hear well. If you can't, then we'll adjust.

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We've  
45 got Matthew on there?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Matthew,  
50 welcome.

1 MR. GILBERT: Thank you.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
4 Good to have you online. Right now, Matthew, if you  
5 have your book with you, we're on fisheries issues  
6 number 7 and we're on strategic plan, B. We have in  
7 front of us speaking.....

8

9 MR. BROWN: Madam Chair. Members of  
10 the Council. I'm Randy Brown and I work with the U.S.  
11 Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks and over the  
12 past 12 years or so I've devoted most of my time to  
13 whitefish species, which there are six in the Yukon.  
14 Three or four of which are reasonably heavily harvested  
15 throughout the range. We have gotten funding for much  
16 of this work through the Fishery Information Service,  
17 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. There have  
18 been a number of other individuals that have applied  
19 for funding through this plan, through this program.  
20 Folks at the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
21 decided they didn't really have the background to  
22 understand the value of many of these projects because  
23 the whitefish are really different in their life  
24 history than salmon, yet they are harvested in huge  
25 numbers in places.

26

27 So they wanted some guidelines  
28 developed, essentially a plan developed. Not for  
29 management, but for actual research so that we could  
30 have a guideline for what kind of research should we do  
31 to give information to the managers that would be  
32 effective in being able to monitor populations,  
33 identify populations and understand whether there were  
34 problems with harvest levels or not. As it is right  
35 now, we know a lot of places we can go to harvest  
36 whitefish species, but we don't know where they came  
37 from in many cases or where they're going to or whether  
38 somebody harvesting fish in Allakaket are harvesting  
39 the same stocks as somebody down in the Yukon Delta or  
40 Emmonak or Kotlik. Essentially they decided they  
41 needed a plan developed before they fund any additional  
42 research on whitefish species.

43

44 So Caroline Brown with the Department  
45 of Fish and Game, she's an anthropologist there and has  
46 worked in a lot of subsistence harvest -- more  
47 anthropology-related things. For example, what's your  
48 annual routine, how much do you depend on this resource  
49 and that resource type studies where they dealt with  
50 whitefish species both in the Yukon and in the

1 Kuskokwim River. She's involved with me in developing  
2 this plan. As part of it we wanted to include many of  
3 the users and biologists that have worked in the field  
4 with whitefish, people that have a political interest  
5 in these fisheries and subsistence users and such.

6  
7 So what I'm doing here is trying to  
8 appeal to the Council to delegate or seek a volunteer  
9 to come and join us in a couple meetings we're going to  
10 have. The first one will be November 18th and 19th in  
11 Anchorage. At this meeting we'll gather these folks  
12 together and discuss many of the issues that come up;  
13 major fisheries, fishery being a place where people  
14 harvest these fish in a big way, the biology of the  
15 species, what we know about it to this point, how  
16 people elsewhere have been able to deal with whitefish  
17 fisheries, management or study of them, and figure out  
18 where we go from there. How do we organize ourselves  
19 in the Yukon and the Kuskokwim to gain enough  
20 information to be able to monitor and manage, if it's  
21 required, these whitefish stocks.

22  
23 One of the reasons why we're really  
24 behind the eight ball as far as whitefish research  
25 compared to other places around the world, the Canadian  
26 Arctic, Russian Arctic, Norway and Finland, is because  
27 we have big runs of salmon and the salmon have actually  
28 distracted from any attention to the whitefish. So we  
29 know they're here, we harvest them, they're good food  
30 fish, dog food and all, but we haven't put any energy  
31 or not very much energy into understanding how the  
32 populations behave or what sort of harvest levels would  
33 be tolerated and things like that. Our goal is to set  
34 up -- summarize all the data we have and come up with a  
35 plan for study that will allow us to do these things,  
36 to monitor and then manage if necessary.

37  
38 I guess I should allow somebody to ask  
39 questions or whatever at this point.

40  
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
42 Any questions. Andy.

43  
44 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
45 Randy. I'm just trying to get in my head what's going  
46 on here. Basically what you're trying to do right now  
47 is take all the past research that all the different  
48 entities have done and try and put it into one location  
49 and one forum through which you hope to then develop a  
50 monitoring plan for human harvest and for the viability

1 or the health of these particular runs. I guess in my  
2 mind probably the most important thing since we don't  
3 know much about them is trying to understand what you  
4 have for a baseline right now and then it's going to  
5 take long-term monitoring of that to see whether or not  
6 you have changes due to human harvest or environmental  
7 impacts or whatever.

8

9 I guess what I'm asking here is what's  
10 the timeframe for trying to get to the point where you  
11 feel like you have the information you need to create  
12 harvest plans for the fish?

13

14 MR. BROWN: Thanks for the question,  
15 Andy. I guess the timeframe is something we would be  
16 addressing in the research plan. It's a little bit of  
17 a difficult concept. I mean imagine where we were back  
18 in 1920 with regards to salmon management or salmon  
19 monitoring where we didn't understand where they went  
20 in the drainage. You had fisheries that were  
21 relatively isolated from each other without  
22 understanding how connected they were. That's really  
23 where we are with an understanding of whitefish in the  
24 two drainages right now.

25

26 The plan, as we have it identified,  
27 will be completed in about a year and a half, a year  
28 from next May. We're going to have two meetings in  
29 this interim with people who fish, people who manage,  
30 biologists, anthropologists. There's three Regional  
31 Advisory Councils that we're requesting participation  
32 from. We'll discuss these issues and come out with  
33 some concepts for directing management -- or directing  
34 research, not management.

35

36 For example, if we have a population of  
37 fish that people are catching on the Yukon River, say a  
38 fishwheel operator out in Nenana catching a whole bunch  
39 of sheefish, we may be questioning is this one  
40 population or many. Like with salmon, it's many. With  
41 whitefish, with sheefish in particular, we think there  
42 are very few actual populations in the drainage.  
43 There's very few places where they go to spawn. So we  
44 might say of immediate importance is identifying these  
45 populations, where they go to spawn. If we find that,  
46 say, there's five places in the drainage that sheefish  
47 go to spawn, then these five places become the  
48 populations we have to work with. Once we understand  
49 where the populations originate, we may then look to  
50 counting operations similar to salmon spawning

1 escapements like the weirs or what have you and get an  
2 idea of harvest goals that would be sustainable.

3  
4                   So it's a little bit of a long-term  
5 process, but as of right now we could lose fisheries  
6 and we wouldn't even know it. For example, in the  
7 Kuskokwim, they're very concerned about broad whitefish  
8 only because of some recent work that they started  
9 doing, funded through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
10 Program, and they were able to determine that people  
11 remember catching a lot more broad whitefish than  
12 they're catching now. It's not real strong data to go  
13 on to make management recommendations, but there's a  
14 pretty strong belief down there that broad whitefish  
15 are much rarer than they used to be. We could  
16 potentially lose them completely, right, and then we  
17 would just have, oh, yeah, I remember catching those  
18 here. That's about where we are right now throughout  
19 the drainage with whitefish.

20  
21                   MR. BASSICH: A follow-up question  
22 then. Can you briefly give me an idea where you are on  
23 your genetic baselines of the populations and is there  
24 any genetic studies or any genetic collection of the  
25 harvest to try and help you determine what stocks right  
26 now -- and that's probably directed more towards  
27 management, but I guess I'm trying to get my head  
28 wrapped around where are we in a baseline for the  
29 genetics of these different species and what are we  
30 doing right now to monitor the harvest through genetics  
31 if, in fact, we are at all?

32  
33                   MR. BROWN: This is a really  
34 interesting question because we have thought that  
35 genetics is going to play a big role in management  
36 eventually with the whitefish. Right now we have no  
37 baseline information. We have some collections, but  
38 they haven't been acted upon in the Yukon and the  
39 Kuskokwim Rivers. We have specifically identified four  
40 different spawning areas in the Yukon River and  
41 possibly two in the Kuskokwim River for sheefish. We  
42 have more information on sheefish than any of the other  
43 species right now.

44  
45                   We have been collecting genetic samples  
46 and the Fish and Wildlife Service genetics lab is  
47 interested in doing work with them. We've done some  
48 preliminary work actually to identify species  
49 characteristics in the genetic analysis. More for  
50 juvenile work. Down at the mouth of the Yukon you can

1 catch bucket loads of juvenile whitefish, but it's very  
2 difficult to identify them to species, so we thought  
3 this would give us a tool if we actually did want to do  
4 that.

5  
6 So they've done some preliminary work,  
7 but we don't have any baseline, so it's a little  
8 preliminary to go and sample the harvest because  
9 essentially you'd be doing a mixed stock analysis,  
10 similar to the chinook and chum salmon work the State  
11 and Fish and Wildlife Service does right now in the  
12 lower drainage. We'd need to establish those baselines  
13 and we're working on that because we think that's a  
14 potential way to identify the major populations. This  
15 is one thing that we'll be bringing up in the meetings  
16 and discussing as potentials and we would then make a  
17 recommendation that this sort of research might be  
18 something that would be valuable to fund.

19  
20 The other whitefish species are more  
21 challenging at this point mostly because we haven't  
22 done very much work with them, although my efforts have  
23 mostly been associated with identifying these spawning  
24 areas for different species, so we've increased our  
25 understanding of where these are, at least some of them  
26 are, but it's a long process. These sorts of things  
27 would be addressed in the planning stages for this  
28 strategic plan. Essentially the strategic plan would  
29 identify these possible avenues of research that would  
30 lead to a management plan.

31  
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
33 questions. Virgil. He's so quick. Go.

34  
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: So you said three or  
36 four have been harvested extensively, so I assume  
37 that's sheefish, broad whitefish and ciscos, is that  
38 what it is?

39  
40 MR. BROWN: Yes, it's definitely  
41 sheefish, broad whitefish, humpback whitefish and it's  
42 more Bering cisco than least cisco. There are two  
43 cisco species in the region. Bering ciscos are, for  
44 the most part, harvested out in the coastal  
45 environment. They're the fully anadromous species that  
46 we have there. They're harvested by fishwheel fishers  
47 in the rivers, but most of the food fishery is coastal.

48  
49  
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: So these that are

1 harvested in Interior in fishwheels, are those Bering  
2 ciscos or least ciscos?

3

4 MR. BROWN: They're both actually. The  
5 Bering cisco is pretty much all the mainstem Yukon  
6 right up into the Yukon Flats. They actually will go  
7 all the way up into Canada. They've been harvested in  
8 Dawson anyway. A few get harvested in Eagle. Huge  
9 numbers get harvested in Circle when people are running  
10 fishwheels. The least ciscos are present up in the  
11 Yukon Flats, but we don't see major migrations along  
12 the river into the Yukon Flats. They are harvested,  
13 for example, in Allakaket. They go up the Alatna River  
14 and beach seine and they pull out sheefish, humpback  
15 whitefish, broad whitefish and least ciscos and use  
16 them all.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
19 members, any other questions. Go ahead, Richard.

20

21 MR. CARROLL: Madam Chair. I'm glad to  
22 hear it. Just a little note in history here. I just  
23 got through reading a journal of Alexander Murray, who  
24 came into the Yukon Flats in 1846, '47, who established  
25 the trading post called Fort Yukon and there were two  
26 big fisheries established there. One of them was on a  
27 river known as the Porcupine. It's about 15 miles  
28 below the Coleen River. I forget the Native name of  
29 that river. I used to know it, but it's called where  
30 the whitefish run on this river. It's all dried up  
31 right now. And the lake is 15 miles back.

32

33 In his journal, on this trip, there was  
34 two of his guides that stopped there because they had  
35 family members back at that lake fishing for whitefish.  
36 It was a 15 mile hike and that was far as they were  
37 going to go with him. That was on his return trip out  
38 the following year.

39

40 South of Fort Yukon, where the present  
41 village of Birch Creek is right now, there was a big  
42 camp over there and actually Birch Creek Village had an  
43 established weir for the purpose of supplying the  
44 Hudson Bay Fort with whitefish in the winter months,  
45 fall months, spring months, fishing underneath the ice.

46

47 Twelvemile Lake in the Yukon Flats there, my mother  
48 tells me that she's heard stories when there's no place  
49 else there's fish, the entire population of Native  
50 people at that time period would all go to this certain

1 lake and there was always whitefish guaranteed in that  
2 lake. It was a very important source and one that I'd  
3 like to see get established with historical use and  
4 research and monitoring or whatever it takes to keep  
5 it.

6  
7 The last time I've actually seen people  
8 specifically target whitefish in the Fort Yukon area  
9 was down near the mouth of the Chandalar River,  
10 Christian River, Marten Creek. People either from Ft.  
11 Yukon or Venetie would come down there in the early  
12 spring time. People that had no job opportunities or  
13 no cash income and passing the time and they used to  
14 smoke and dry whitefish, all whitefish, lots of them,  
15 but nobody targets it anymore. It's a bycatch.

16  
17 Now in the fall time, my friend and I,  
18 we've got a net in the Yukon right now. It's a little  
19 whitefish net, but we're not getting very -- it's a bum  
20 spot there. But I fish underneath the ice lots of  
21 times specifically for whitefish, but I don't think  
22 there's more than four or five people in the village of  
23 Fort Yukon of 500 people that actually target  
24 whitefish. I've seen them up there 10 and a half  
25 pounds. I mean nice. I have pictures and they are  
26 excellent eating.

27  
28 I thank you, Randy, for heading up  
29 something. I'd take the opportunity to volunteer, if  
30 you're looking for a representative from this Council,  
31 to participate in setting up your guidelines for  
32 research.

33  
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we have a  
35 volunteer.

36  
37 MR. CARROLL: I'd be glad to if you'd  
38 accept it.

39  
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I love  
41 volunteers. I was just reminded that we need to do  
42 that. Also, Andy said he'd be an alternate. So you're  
43 willing to do this?

44  
45 MR. CARROLL: Oh, yes.

46  
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wanted  
48 to ask you, Mentasta has a whitefish run that they're  
49 doing it right now as we speak, they spear them, but  
50 that's the Southcentral in the Copper River drainage.

1 Is there someone working on that?

2

3 MR. BROWN: Madam Chair. We're focused  
4 on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon right now.

5

6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But what I'm  
7 asking is anybody focused on any other area?

8

9 MR. BROWN: There's a fellow out of  
10 Cordova that is dealing with some of the humpback  
11 whitefish down in that region and they may be the same  
12 ones that go way up to Mentasta because the whitefish  
13 populations in the Yukon, some of them, rear down in  
14 the ocean and migrate all the way up to the Yukon  
15 Flats, between Fort Yukon and Circle, to spawn. So  
16 that distance on the Copper River is a short distance  
17 for what they're capable of.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

20

21 MR. BROWN: I would be glad to have  
22 Richard in the meetings and we'd appreciate it if that  
23 would happen.

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you need to  
26 coordinate that, and we don't need to work on it here  
27 on the record, for whatever it takes for his travel.

28

29 MR. BROWN: We'll deal with that.  
30 We'll contact you and arrange for travel and  
31 everything. Appreciate it.

32

33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have  
34 another quick question here.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Just a quick question.  
37 How many people are going to be serving on this  
38 committee for the strategic planning of this?

39

40 MR. BROWN: I believe on Page 31 there's  
41 a list of our potential delegates. We've sent letters  
42 to some people and gotten responses. Of course, we  
43 didn't know who would be the representatives from the  
44 RACs. There would be about 20 people, maybe 22 people  
45 all together.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: I guess what I'm  
50 wondering, is that number going to be pared down in the

1 future as you make more progress? Is this like a  
2 preliminary informational type thing and then will the  
3 group be pared down a little bit? It just seems like  
4 -- I mean I love that you're out here looking for the  
5 public's participation, but also in my experience in  
6 some of these planning type sessions is once you get  
7 too many people involved it becomes very convoluted and  
8 somewhat unproductive. So I'm wondering if there's  
9 plans in the future to try to pare that down a little  
10 bit to your knowledge.

11  
12 MR. BROWN: We're actually going to  
13 keep this group together. We're hoping that this group  
14 will come to the fall meeting in November and also  
15 we'll be having a subsequent meeting in April with  
16 essentially a more refined plan. Also, we're going to  
17 be trying to prioritize species or fisheries as far as  
18 how to guide research in this area to fisheries that  
19 might be targeted heavier than others or species that  
20 are more favored than others. For example, round  
21 whitefish are targeted in a number of fisheries and  
22 mostly they live where the grayling live, in the fast,  
23 clear water streams. My initial thought is that  
24 they're going to probably be a low priority research  
25 species while broad whitefish or sheefish that cover a  
26 lot of ground and are targeted in many fisheries might  
27 become a higher priority for research.

28  
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
30 Appreciate it.

31  
32 MR. BROWN: Thank you very much for the  
33 opportunity.

34  
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Is  
36 there any other agency or organization reports relating  
37 to fisheries? Come forward.

38  
39 MR. POST: My name is Jason Post with  
40 the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks and I think  
41 this is probably as good a time as any to present some  
42 information that I've been involved with in Eastern  
43 Interior. I might just give a handout here to the  
44 Council members.

45  
46 Madam Chair. Council members. Again,  
47 I'm Jason Post. I represent the Bureau of Land  
48 Management. I'm the fisheries biologist there. I'm  
49 very new to the Eastern Interior. This is basically my  
50 first day on the job for the area. I have worked with

1 BLM for about five years now on different projects.

2

3 I was involved with an aerial survey in  
4 the Black River drainage this fall. We were looking  
5 for fall chum and possibly coho. The project was  
6 basically to gather some baseline population data and  
7 identify some key spawning areas for those fall run  
8 salmon. That data would be useful in assessing  
9 potential subsistence resources in the area and also to  
10 provide useful fisheries information for the Eastern  
11 Interior Resource Management Plan, which was begun in  
12 fiscal year '08 and will continue to be written.

13

14 So basically we flew the mainstem Black  
15 River, the Salmon Fork, the Grayling Fork and Kevinjik  
16 Creek looking for these fish. In the handout, you can  
17 see basically we flew the mainstem of the Black River.  
18 We started the survey approximately five miles up the  
19 Grayling Fork and that was based on -- well, what we  
20 found was the Black River was simply too tannin to  
21 really count fish from a helicopter, so we flew from  
22 about five miles upstream of Grayling Fork and  
23 continued upstream about 25 miles and we saw zero fish.  
24 That's not to say there's no fall chum there. It's  
25 just that you can't survey them really from a  
26 helicopter. At least this year it was too tannin  
27 colored to see the fish.

28

29 We also flew the Salmon Fork, which is  
30 more of a clear water stream and we had very good  
31 success on that survey. We found a little over 3,000  
32 fall chum spawning in the mainstem Salmon Fork. It was  
33 a good survey.

34

35 Kevinjik Creek is a small tributary to  
36 the Salmon Fork. We also flew up that approximately 20  
37 miles upstream. We found 54 fall chum in lower  
38 Kevinjik Creek, which I think is kind of on par with  
39 past surveys in Kevinjik Creek.

40

41 We also flew the Grayling Fork, but  
42 survey conditions were just simply poor. The water is  
43 pretty tannin colored, so we just simply could not see  
44 any fish. I saw one fish but I couldn't identify it  
45 positively as a fall chum.

46

47 I see on the map that the Tozitna River  
48 is on the very western border of the Eastern Interior.  
49 I run the Tozitna River Escapement Project, the fish  
50 weir on the Tozi, and usually I present that

1 information to the Western Interior RAC, but I see it's  
2 kind of right on the border. I wasn't really prepared  
3 to give much information on the Tozi, but I will  
4 because I did run the project for the last four years.

5  
6 Just to give you a quick rundown of  
7 what happened on the Tozitna River this summer. To  
8 start with, our chinook escapement numbers were very  
9 accurate because we were fish tight most all of the  
10 summer. We were only flooded out a few days, so we did  
11 get very accurate counts. This is off the top of my  
12 head. I wasn't prepared to give this information  
13 today, but we had approximately 750 chinook return.  
14 The eight-year average was somewhere around 1,200, so  
15 we were below average for chinook escapement. We were  
16 definitely below average for female chinook, which was  
17 probably no surprise. I think it was somewhere around  
18 only 10 to 15 percent female return for that run.

19  
20 For summer chum, it was also lower than  
21 average. It was I want to say somewhere around 12,000  
22 fish returned, where our average is somewhere around  
23 18-20,000.

24  
25 We also performed an aerial survey in  
26 July and that's basically to identify key spawning  
27 locations on the Tozitna River and we've begun mapping  
28 those areas the last couple years to identify where the  
29 chinook and chum do spawn. This year we had a  
30 successful survey. The river conditions were very  
31 good, we could see the fish well. We determined that  
32 approximately 15 to 20 percent of the chinook spawn  
33 below the weir, so they spawn before we even see them  
34 pass our weir. If I remember correctly, about half of  
35 the chum run actually spawns below the weir, so we  
36 don't see those fish. The weir's main focus is on the  
37 chinook and so we do see the vast majority of the  
38 chinook escapement through the weir.

39  
40 So that's really all I have right now  
41 as I'm new to the area. If there's any questions, I'll  
42 do my best to answer them now.

43  
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
45 Richard, then Virgil.

46  
47 MR. CARROLL: Thank you, Jason.  
48 Unfortunately, your timing was just a little off, those  
49 dates that you went up there that was the peak of the  
50 high water.

1 MR. POST: Oh, on the Black River?

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, it was at that same  
4 time. The Black River had been low about a week before  
5 that, really low, and then it surged up a little over  
6 two feet, two and a half feet. But that's just a very  
7 unfortunate time because it's been that way all over on  
8 the eastern drainage there. The fall rains came. But  
9 that Kevinjik is a historical place for catching  
10 salmon. That area right there lays between Rampart and  
11 Salmon Village and there's actually a cross-country  
12 foot trail there that still exists and is visible from  
13 the air.

14

15 I just want to make a comment. We were  
16 wondering what those helicopters were doing flying  
17 around. A lot of times we thought you were State  
18 troopers coming in and dropping in on somebody.

19

20 MR. POST: No.

21

22 MR. CARROLL: There's a radio station  
23 in the Yukon Flats there based in Fort Yukon.  
24 Everybody listens to it. If you go up there and fly  
25 around in your helicopter, tell the people what you're  
26 doing. Maybe they'll help you out too.

27

28 MR. POST: We did stop actually. There  
29 was one subsistence user on the Salmon Fork, apparently  
30 they live out there year round, and we saw their net  
31 out in the water and I'm sure they thought what the  
32 heck is going on, they see this helicopter flying up  
33 and down and kind of hovering, we looked at their fish  
34 net and their cabin there. I thought what a great  
35 opportunity to land and speak with that individual to  
36 see what they're catching and we did. She was catching  
37 a decent number of fall chum but no coho and hadn't  
38 seen coho in the mainstem in the Salmon Fork for quite  
39 some time. So that was really good information, so we  
40 did make a good contact there.

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: When will the ASL data  
45 be available for the Tozitna weir this year? The  
46 second question is did you notice any difference in the  
47 size of the chinook? What was the biggest one you saw?

48

49 MR. POST: Member Umphenour. The ASL  
50 data has been sent off to Fish and Game in Anchorage to

1 be analyzed, the scales read. We usually get that data  
2 back sometime in December or January and in the past  
3 it's been my job to put together the annual report for  
4 the Tozitna River. The report is usually finalized by  
5 the first of June. That's the best I can tell you on  
6 that. I may have some preliminary data for you more  
7 than what I presented today maybe within a month. I  
8 think you know how to contact me. If you want to get  
9 that information, I'd be happy to give it to you.

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)

12

13 MR. POST: The size of the chinook on  
14 the Tozi, I would say since I've been there about six  
15 summers, has gone down a little bit. The biggest  
16 chinook this year was a female and I want to say she  
17 was around 900 millimeters at most, maybe a little  
18 smaller, maybe 870, but not much bigger than 900  
19 millimeters, and that was just one fish. She was  
20 significantly larger than the others that we saw. From  
21 what I've seen out there is, yeah, the size maybe  
22 getting a little smaller. This was our lowest  
23 percentage of females in eight years out there on the  
24 Tozi, which is kind of alarming. It was somewhere  
25 around 10 or 15 percent, where the eight-years average  
26 was around 20 percent.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Another  
29 question. Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
32 When you're doing your ASL collection, are you able to  
33 get weight and girth on these fish at all?

34

35 MR. POST: I don't have a formula for  
36 it. I imagine Fish and Game probably does.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: I guess what I'm asking  
39 are you physically taking a girth and weight  
40 measurement when you do your ASL?

41

42 MR. POST: No.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Is that a possibility in  
45 the future?

46

47 MR. POST: We have just one more year  
48 on the Tozitna of funding. I guess it's always  
49 possible. I'm not sure at this point if that  
50 information would buy us a lot just to do it the last

1 season. There again, my guess is Fish and Game may  
2 have a comparison chart, you know, say a 800 millimeter  
3 fish would generally weight this much. We haven't  
4 looked into that.

5  
6 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I guess the  
7 reason I'm asking, it was my understanding, correct me  
8 if I'm wrong, Virgil, but aren't all projects required  
9 where possible to collect weight and girth now through  
10 ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife? I know through the Yukon  
11 River Panel any funding through them they require that  
12 wherever possible.

13  
14 I was under the assumption it was the  
15 policy for ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife. Maybe someone  
16 can clarify that for me. I just think that's  
17 incredibly valuable information no matter what  
18 timeframe it comes from because one of the main reasons  
19 we're having the problem on the Yukon with chinook is  
20 that we haven't had the girth and weight measurements  
21 in the past. We only have length measurements from the  
22 past and we have been able to recognize that fish  
23 aren't really changing in length so much but they're  
24 changing in girth and weight, which effects fecundity  
25 at a much greater rate.

26  
27 So any data that can be collected at  
28 any site is important data at any time. If you don't  
29 want to use it for biasing, you can adjust for any  
30 bias, but it is important raw data to get into database  
31 throughout the drainage on all species of fish in my  
32 opinion and we're finding that that's where we're  
33 really lacking right now in answering some of our  
34 questions. So just something maybe to carry through  
35 and think about. Thank you.

36  
37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
38 Virgil.

39  
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think the answer to  
41 Andy's question, and maybe Fred can verify this, they  
42 were going to do it if possible like in projects where  
43 the fish were being killed, but in projects such as  
44 weirs where they don't want to cause additional  
45 mortality on fish, they wouldn't be able to do it. But  
46 I believe that's the answer to that as far as the  
47 weight and the girth. So they're doing it in the test  
48 fisheries in the lower Yukon where they were going to  
49 give the fish away to subsistence users. In the rapids  
50 or any project where the fish were going to be killed,

1 they could do it, but in the weirs they wouldn't be  
2 able to do it.

3

4 MR. BUE: Yeah, I don't have a definite  
5 answer, but since you asked me, that sounds pretty  
6 reasonable. I think that's what we try to do wherever  
7 we have mortality, whether it's sampling or whatever,  
8 try to physically verify the sex of the fish. But we  
9 cut the fish and we sample and get as much information  
10 off of those fish since we have them in our hand as we  
11 can. The same with the commercial fishery, it's  
12 difficult to cut the fish. It devalues the product.

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
15 discussion or questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank  
20 you. A lot of biologists out here. Now we're moving  
21 into the proposals and recommendations. The  
22 Yukon/Northern Area proposals were deferred. Yes, I  
23 see the time. I think this would only take a minute.  
24 I want the Council to discuss this with me just  
25 briefly. Richard, we wanted to have the meeting here in  
26 Nenana so we could hear from Nenana people about these  
27 two proposals. Do you feel we don't really need to  
28 talk about them now, we just want to hear from the  
29 people and that would be tonight.

30

31 MR. CARROLL: I agree with you, Madam  
32 Chair. Just to get interaction with the local people.  
33 I would table this until some local people actually  
34 show up. Everybody here in this room has heard us go  
35 over this the last three meetings just about.

36

37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's  
38 my feeling. That's how I feel we should handle that.  
39 We're going to talk about it tonight and hear from the  
40 people on this because this is deferred until the  
41 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in April and then  
42 we're going to be taking it up again in March, but I  
43 want to hear from the people in Nenana now because this  
44 is why we're here. I just want to make that clear.  
45 I'm hoping the people you've talked to, Richard, will  
46 be out tonight and we can discuss this.

47

48 Virgil.

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: I talked to Karen, the

1 lady that was here this morning. She works with the  
2 village council, I believe. Anyway, she's passing the  
3 word out to get the fishermen to come this evening to  
4 discuss the two proposals.

5  
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Someone wants  
7 my attention.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: I thought the phone was  
10 dead, but Matthew is on and we're going to try to see  
11 if he can share something with you on that.

12  
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
14 Matthew. Do you hear us?

15  
16 MR. GILBERT: Yeah, I do.

17  
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Boy, we don't  
19 hear you very good. Go ahead, Matthew. Let's see how  
20 this works.

21  
22 MR. GILBERT: Hi. Is this better? Can  
23 you hear me okay?

24  
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There we can.

26  
27 MR. GILBERT: Okay. Cool. Yeah, I  
28 just wanted to really encourage everyone there to  
29 involve the community because in Tok there was like  
30 nobody from the community there.

31  
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. Did you  
33 have more, Matthew?

34  
35 MR. GILBERT: What was that?

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Matt, we're expecting a  
38 large turnout tonight at the evening session at 7:00,  
39 so there will be a lot of local fishers here tonight.

40  
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Matt, how much  
42 participation can you do?

43  
44 MR. GILBERT: Yeah, Mitch said that  
45 there's people driving back from Fairbanks to Nenana  
46 that will get there in time for the forum. I could  
47 catch a ride with one of them.

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: That's projected at 7:00  
50 o'clock.

1 MR. GILBERT: I'm going to stay in  
2 contact with Mitch to see if it works out or not.  
3  
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds great.  
5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.  
7  
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil is  
9 asking if Lester, if you've gotten a hold of him.  
10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: No. I left a message  
12 there and he probably had the same problem. There's a  
13 problem with the phones that it won't take that number  
14 and now it does, so I have to get back to him at lunch.  
15  
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you haven't  
17 talked to him yet.  
18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: No. I left a message. I  
20 haven't been able to get a hold of him.  
21  
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
23 We'll hope that he gets back to us. It's noon, folks.  
24 Vince, are you going to give us a little report on  
25 where we can have something to eat.  
26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, all I know of is  
28 the place that you're staying at, the Moocher's Bar and  
29 then the A-Frame. There may be someone else who knows  
30 of other locations in town. Of course, I think  
31 Coghill's is open, the store on the main drag. And  
32 then, of course, there's Ponderosa, but that's a bit of  
33 a drive north of town.  
34  
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
36 members, when do you think we should get back here.  
37 I'm assuming we're ready for a break. What do you  
38 think we need here timewise?  
39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, there's quite a few  
41 people. I would say 1:15.  
42  
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, 1:15.  
44 Let's adjourn until then and if it doesn't work out,  
45 we'll just go from there.  
46  
47 (Off record)  
48  
49 (On record)  
50

1                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're calling  
2 it back to order. It's the Alaska Board of Fisheries  
3 proposals in the Prince William Sound area. The reason  
4 we take these up is what we call cross-over proposals  
5 and my region qualifies for the Copper River. In our  
6 packet we should have the Board of Fish proposals, the  
7 blue one. Virgil informs me that he can make this  
8 short. I'm going to let him try.

9  
10                   MR. UMPHENOUR: I think all these  
11 proposals were put forward by the Fairbanks Advisory  
12 Committee that we're going to address. Before I start  
13 I would like to point out they're not just cross-over  
14 proposals, they are proposals that affect people in a  
15 good part of our region, such as in the Tok area, the  
16 Delta area, that are determined to be non-subsistence  
17 areas. So it affects a lot of the people that are in  
18 the non-subsistence areas plus the people that are in  
19 the subsistence area -- the people with positive C&Ts  
20 or the non-subsistence areas, it affects people there  
21 as well as the people that are in the non-subsistence  
22 areas. It affects people from Nenana all the way over  
23 to Mentasta, where Sue lives, which is in our area,  
24 because people go down there to get their fish.

25  
26                   So Proposal 1 would be to re-examine  
27 the Chitina subdistrict to be a subsistence fishery, to  
28 make a positive C&T. There was a positive C&T made for  
29 that area in 1999 and then it was rescinded in January  
30 of 2003. At the time it was rescinded, the Board  
31 examined the users, not the uses, which it was in  
32 violation of the State law when they did that. That  
33 was discussed by one of the Board members at the time  
34 that was on there. Larry Engle pointed that out, but  
35 the Board ignored it and took away the positive C&T  
36 finding for subsistence. The Board again, three years  
37 ago, said we had to find something new that had changed  
38 and, of course, nothing had changed, so they didn't  
39 even take it up.

40  
41                   So the Fairbanks Advisory Committee has  
42 put this forward. For those of you who don't know, I  
43 am the chairman of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee.  
44 The more support we have, then the more likely the  
45 Board will take it up. I think the Board is much more  
46 receptive now to our issues than what they have been in  
47 the past because we've had some new Board members get  
48 on the Board of Fisheries and I think they're much more  
49 receptive to our issues rather than being primarily for  
50 the larger commercial fishery issues, what benefits

1 them over the people of the state of Alaska, than what  
2 the Board has been for the past six years.

3

4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry. To  
5 speed this up, are we going to do these one at a time?

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: To speed it up, we can  
8 do this two ways. We can go through all the proposals  
9 and vote on all of them at once unless someone objects  
10 to one of them, which would speed things up, or we can  
11 vote on them individually, which would slow things  
12 down.

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So summarize  
15 to me your position. Are you suggesting that we, as a  
16 Council, support them all or do you have some you don't  
17 support and some you do?

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's a couple of  
20 either/ors in here. I can explain those real fast when  
21 we get to them. I'm recommending the Council support  
22 the ones that I say that I think you should support.  
23 That's going to be my recommendation.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: And I'll just tell you  
28 the brief history and why I do think that.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're  
31 going to go through each one of them and give a brief  
32 history. We just finished number one.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. But we should  
35 see if any Council members have any questions before we  
36 go on to the next.

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Council  
39 members, I'm going to let you know now, this is the  
40 State Board of Fish meeting and when we talk about  
41 subsistence there everybody in the State of Alaska  
42 that's a resident qualifies for subsistence.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: For notekeeping and to  
45 get this to the Board of Fish, my recommendation would  
46 be to take up each one individually because most of the  
47 Council members have not seen these until just now. So  
48 it might be easier to take up each one when you get to  
49 voting and I appreciate you bringing up that the  
50 subsistence priority under the State is all Alaskans so

1 that's clear to all Council members.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. What I  
4 want Council members to know, and you can help me out  
5 here, Vince, that we can take up these proposals  
6 because it's in our region and it affects us as users.  
7 Council members, do you want to take them up one at a  
8 time? I'm seeing nodding in agreement.

9

10 We're on number 1 and it's to take the  
11 Chitina dipnet fishery and make it subsistence. It  
12 used to be personal use, correct?

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's currently personal  
15 use. It has switched back and forth several times.  
16 The last time it was reverted from subsistence to  
17 personal use was in 2003.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do you see  
20 this changing anything?

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's simple the way it  
23 changes something. In times of shortage, subsistence  
24 has priority over commercial. The way it is currently,  
25 personal use does not have priority over commercial and  
26 the commercial gets the fish first and if there's not  
27 enough fish, oops, we screwed up, we caught too many  
28 commercial so you guys get cut off.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So how does it  
31 affect -- the Federal program is rural? Do we see a  
32 lot more use?

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: The use has actually  
35 declined.....

36

37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Competition is  
38 what I'm saying.

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: The use has actually  
41 declined in the last 10 years. We have Staff in the  
42 audience here that can answer these questions. Maybe  
43 we should have Tom Taube come up because he's the  
44 manager of this fishery.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This person is  
47 coming to the mike. See, this is where I live and I'm  
48 a lot more familiar with this than the Yukon. If you'd  
49 indulge me just another question to Virgil here. I  
50 think the people in my area would be concerned we'd

1 have more competition with subsistence if every person  
2 in the State was using this fishery as subsistence.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: One thing that would  
5 happen. Making it subsistence does not increase the  
6 number of fish that a household can harvest. Any  
7 household that wants to in the state can go there  
8 currently, so it's not going to increase the usage.  
9 The only thing it's going to do is give them a higher  
10 priority in times of shortage. You could maybe have  
11 Tom verify what I said.

12

13 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council.  
14 What Virgil said is correct. Basically this is a  
15 change in priority when in '99 it became a subsistence  
16 fishery and then in 2002 went back to personal use.  
17 The management of the fishery stayed the same. The  
18 management plan that was in place was just adopted as a  
19 subsistence management plan as opposed to personal use  
20 management plan.

21

22 Right now in the Glennallen  
23 subdistrict, which is above the Chitina subdistrict,  
24 that is a State subsistence fishery and all Alaska  
25 residents are eligible to participate in that fishery  
26 as well. They have to decide whether or not they want  
27 to participate in the Glennallen or Chitina  
28 subdistrict.

29

30 One thing Virgil did mention is that  
31 the participation has declined the last 10 years. It  
32 did peak at about 10,000 permits or households back in  
33 '98 and it's down to about 8,500 permit holders right  
34 now. Harvest is about 125,000 a year from a peak of  
35 about 150,000, but that's all within the Copper River  
36 District Management Plan. That allocation is set for  
37 that Chitina subdistrict and there's amounts necessary  
38 for subsistence for the Glennallen subdistrict. That  
39 includes both State and Federal users in that  
40 management plan.

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you don't  
43 see this as any change in harvest is what you're  
44 telling me.

45

46 MR. TAUBE: It does open the plan to  
47 amendment at the Board meeting. Right now there are a  
48 couple other proposals, and I don't know if they're on  
49 the list you'll be looking at, that are to increase the  
50 bag limits. In reality, this is just a name change and

1 making a subsistence priority for the current personal  
2 use fishery.

3

4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
5 Andy.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. Why did it  
8 switch back over in 2002?

9

10 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council. It  
11 was more just the makeup of the Board. In '99, they  
12 went through the eight criteria and determined at that  
13 point that it did meet a subsistence fishery. In 2002,  
14 there was a different makeup of the Board and they  
15 determined that it did not.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

18

19 MR. TAUBE: So it's a very political  
20 fishery. There's allocations issues between the  
21 commercial fishery in Cordova and the upper river  
22 personal use, subsistence and sport users. So the  
23 makeup of the Board can really dictate how the vote  
24 goes with these.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Richard.

27

28 MR. CARROLL: Thank you. What other  
29 fisheries besides dipnetting is going on in this Copper  
30 River? The wording down here says the dipnet fishery  
31 would have a higher priority in times of shortage or  
32 allocation.

33

34 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council. The  
35 priority would be basically for the entire Copper  
36 River, which right now there's a commercial fishery  
37 that fishes down at the Delta, out of Cordova. There's  
38 the personal use fishery that occurs around Chitina.  
39 There's also a subsistence fishery that occurs on the  
40 Delta and then there's the subsistence fishery that's  
41 done with a fishwheel and dipnet just above the Chitina  
42 subdistrict and then there's sport fisheries that occur  
43 in the upper Copper, Klutina, Gulkana River drainages,  
44 rod and reel sport fisheries. So those would be the  
45 five fisheries that are all vying for a piece of the  
46 Copper River salmon pie so to speak.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, do you  
49 have another question.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't really have a  
2 question. The makeup of the Board that caused it to go  
3 back to personal use was that the chairman of the  
4 Board's parents were commercial fishermen in Cordova  
5 and that's what caused it to happen and he got other  
6 Board members to go along with him and to change it  
7 back to a personal use fishery. Plus the director of  
8 the Subsistence Division at that time was adamant that  
9 it should go back to a personal use fishery and not be  
10 a subsistence fishery. That's why it happened,  
11 straight politics.

12  
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any  
14 other ones.

15  
16 MR. BASSICH: Question.

17  
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy has  
19 called for the question. All in favor of supporting  
20 this proposal as written say aye.

21  
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23  
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

25  
26 (No opposing votes)

27  
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next.  
29 Proposal 22, Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon  
30 Fishery Management Plan. Virgil is going to speak to  
31 it.

32  
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: What Proposal 22 seeks  
34 to do -- currently in the Chitina dipnet fishery you're  
35 allowed 15 salmon per person a year, one of which may  
36 be a king salmon. A married person or a household,  
37 regardless of how many people are in it, is allowed 30  
38 salmon a year and no more than one can be a king  
39 salmon. What this is requesting to do is increase the  
40 limit for household that have more than two people in  
41 the household. Say it's you and your husband and your  
42 son, then you would get an extra 10 fish a year for the  
43 third person. If you had four people, you would get an  
44 extra 20 fish. Add 10 fish per additional person and  
45 this is the way the allocation is in the Kenai  
46 Peninsula and I was one of the Board members that  
47 actually wrote that management plan there that  
48 allocated a basic number for a couple and then 10 fish  
49 extra for each additional household member.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that's what that  
4 proposal is asking to do.  
5  
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to ask  
7 myself, are there any numbers you can hand me that  
8 would change how that would increase the harvest?  
9  
10 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. This  
11 regulation, if adopted, would increase the harvest by  
12 some level. It would be up to the Board to determine  
13 what's being allocated since it would increase the  
14 harvest of this fishery to take that amount from some  
15 other fishery. Generally the commercial fishery.  
16  
17 Just for some background information,  
18 for the Chitina fishery, the average harvest per  
19 permit, which includes both the household of one and  
20 household of two or greater has averaged between 14 and  
21 17 fish per permit. So not everybody takes their full  
22 limit. This would provide for households that have  
23 larger families to take an increase of fish. Right now  
24 the only option they have under the regulations for  
25 that fishery are weeks when there are surplus of 50,000  
26 fish or more passing the Miles Lake Sonar, they can  
27 take 10 additional sockeye salmon on their permit. So  
28 this would provide for larger households than what the  
29 regulations currently do.  
30  
31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a  
32 couple other questions. Who is allowed to subsistence  
33 take? There's no limitation for Anchorage, Fairbanks?  
34  
35 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. No, all  
36 Alaskan residents can get a permit.  
37  
38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there  
39 amounts necessary for subsistence for that?  
40  
41 MR. TAUBE: Currently this fishery is a  
42 personal use fishery. Proposal 1 would make this a  
43 subsistence fishery. Right now the allocation is 100  
44 to 150,000 salmon for the Chitina subdistrict and that  
45 was at that same level when it was a subsistence.....  
46  
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For the dipnet  
48 fishery.  
49  
50 MR. TAUBE: For the dipnet fishery,

1 yes. It was at that same level when it was a  
2 subsistence fishery from 2000 to 2003.

3  
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you see  
5 that staying the same?

6  
7 MR. TAUBE: I expect the Board will ask  
8 us that and we may recommend a slight increase, but  
9 we'll do some analysis based on household size. We do  
10 get that information from the permits and we haven't  
11 completed that totally, but I would expect that would  
12 probably increase to the upper end of that range. So  
13 it may stay within the range, but it may be something  
14 that three years from now if this proposal is adopted  
15 we'd have to come to the Board to try to increase that  
16 range, but I would not expect it would exceed 175-  
17 200,000 total.

18  
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the  
20 commercial take right now?

21  
22 MR. TAUBE: This year was the lowest  
23 it's been in a long time. It was 300,000, but  
24 generally it's around 1.5 million, and as high as 3  
25 million.

26  
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
28 have any questions. Vince.

29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: I'm getting a lot of  
31 questions on this. It would be nice for the record not  
32 to follow exactly the procedure behind your name tag  
33 but to at least open it up. There may be other  
34 agencies that have comments on these proposals. It's  
35 possible there's a local advisory committee or a local  
36 that would like to comment on these. Just so we have a  
37 clean record.

38  
39 Mr. Firmin, this is the one on Federal  
40 proposals. Sue would adapt it to State proposals, so  
41 if someone else has a comment or additional information  
42 on these proposals, they could get up there.

43  
44 Finally, I would assume you'd like me  
45 to work with maybe Virgil on the letter that would go  
46 with this, your actions on these proposals as to the  
47 reasons why you're for or against them.

48  
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're  
50 taking up proposals one at a time and now you're

1 telling me to use this format even though it's State  
2 proposals.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Basically there is some  
5 other information that's coming in from Staff in the  
6 room and there's not an opportunity for them to get up  
7 to the mike because it's not in your sequence right  
8 now.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I would  
11 like to not bog us down. Anyone in this room, if you  
12 have information to add to this, you raise your hand  
13 and come forward because I don't think we need to go  
14 through this whole thing here. Would you guys agree  
15 with me?

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, would  
20 you like to speak to some of this?

21

22 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm planning to. I  
23 have some Park Service comments.

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Would  
26 you come up, please. Any questions right now of Tom.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Barbara  
31 would like to add.

32

33 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
34 The Park Service has some comments on some of these  
35 proposals and Number 22 is one of the ones we do have  
36 some comments on.

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's not in  
39 our book, right?

40

41 MS. CELLARIUS: Right, it's not in your  
42 book. I got these from our Staff in Anchorage. I've  
43 been working and involved in developing the comments.  
44 For Andrew, let me just mention that the Park Service  
45 is the Federal. The Wrangell-St. Elias superintendent  
46 is involved in the in-season management of the Federal  
47 fishery on the Copper River, so we have kind of an  
48 interest in this particular fishery.

49

50 I'm just going to summarize two of the

1 questions I have on this piece of paper. We believe  
2 that there will be an impact to Federal subsistence  
3 users. A significant harvest increase in the Chitina  
4 subdistrict personal use fishery could reduce the  
5 number of salmon available for Federally-qualified  
6 subsistence users in the subdistrict. It could also  
7 reduce the number of salmon available for both  
8 Federally-qualified subsistence and State subsistence  
9 users in the Glennallen subdistrict.

10

11 The Park Service position would be to  
12 oppose adoption of this proposal, would reduce the  
13 number of salmon available to Federally-qualified  
14 subsistence users in the Chitina and Glennallen  
15 subdistricts. A reduction in salmon abundance could  
16 result in Federally-qualified users not meeting their  
17 subsistence needs or having to work harder to achieve  
18 those needs. This would be contrary to the basic  
19 tenant of ANILCA that provides a subsistence priority  
20 to rural residents having customary and traditional use  
21 of Copper River salmon in the aforementioned  
22 subdistricts. That's the comment.

23

24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to  
25 make a comment real quick. This is a prime example of  
26 State and Federal being different and why it's so  
27 difficult for users. I don't know if you guys are  
28 sitting here wondering what the heck we're doing here,  
29 but it happens to me with the Yukon, you know.  
30 Actually, Virgil, I'd like to just tell you from my  
31 information and my input, as a volunteer you don't get  
32 to absorb all this all the time. Here it is right in  
33 front of us and I don't know that I'm even ready to  
34 make a decision here.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, let me speak.  
37 I'm definitely ready to make a decision because I'm the  
38 proposer of this proposal.

39

40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wouldn't  
41 expect anything else, Virgil.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And this is what  
44 I have to say. Even if Proposal 1 does not pass and  
45 Proposal 22 does pass, I don't think the National Park  
46 Service's position is valid. If they pass, the Board  
47 of Fisheries is required to allocate from the  
48 commercial fishery to whatever it is, personal use or  
49 subsistence fishery, they are required to allocate to  
50 those fisheries. So instead of the commercial

1 fishermen down in Cordova catching 1.5 million salmon,  
2 they might get to catch maybe 10, 15 or 20,000 salmon  
3 less, which is a drop in the bucket, especially when  
4 you consider that 45 percent of them don't even live or  
5 vote in this state. So, to me, it's much more  
6 important for an Alaskan family to be able to feed  
7 their children than it is for commercial fishermen from  
8 Bellingham, Washington to make a six-digit income.  
9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil has  
12 informed me that he likes to get his point across with  
13 inflection. Not to be offended. And I'm not as good  
14 at it as you, this inflection business. But I  
15 understand where you're coming from, Virgil. We got  
16 some proposals changed for the amount of time that the  
17 commercial fishery is fishing, which probably had a  
18 pretty significant impact on what came upriver and more  
19 fish available, to kind of reiterate what he's saying a  
20 little bit here, for people upriver to use because  
21 there was less taken. What were those figures, 1.5  
22 million to 300,000?

23

24 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Yes, it was  
25 300,000 and generally it averages around 1.5 million,  
26 but that was due to an overall weak return.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've just got  
29 to tell you all, too, you know, our job on this RAC is  
30 try to put yourself in everyone's shoes and I've been  
31 around this state a while and I have a lot of personal  
32 friends who fish in Cordova. When I told the advisory  
33 committee that in Slana, they said, well, then your  
34 vote doesn't count. I have to say there are people in  
35 Cordova that would look at this slightly different than  
36 what you're portraying. I just have to say it. I just  
37 have to bring it out. You're giving an example of a guy  
38 in Bellingham, Washington that's making this six-digit  
39 figure. I know people in Cordova, their expenses, what  
40 it costs to live in Cordova costs a heck of a lot more  
41 than this guy in Bellingham and they rely on some of  
42 these fisheries. I just want to say that it has to be  
43 said here. At the same time, the people upriver, if I  
44 was to go down to Slana and Tok and start talking about  
45 these two proposals, I'm not sure how they'd feel about  
46 it.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, if they're a  
49 person that dipnets, they would be happy.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But they're  
2 not. They're people that have fishwheels.

3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. If they're a  
5 person that dipnets, they would be happy. If they're a  
6 person that has a fishwheel, it shouldn't make any  
7 difference to them. Because if you're a fishwheel  
8 fisherman and you can't go catch the number of fish you  
9 want to in a fishwheel, then something's wrong with  
10 you. I know that when I run a fishwheel, that we have  
11 caught.....

12  
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The people  
14 there, Virgil, let me tell you, we take turns on a  
15 fishwheel, so we only get a day here and there. We  
16 don't get to fish that fishwheel all year long.

17  
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Something that --  
19 and I hate things to get so complicated, but what the  
20 Board of Fisheries does is go by what they call the  
21 allocation criteria, which is a policy that they have  
22 that they go by. One of the allocation criteria,  
23 there's seven of them, is the availability of  
24 alternative resources for the participants to  
25 participate in.

26  
27 So what we're talking about here is a  
28 commercial fishery that owes the State approximately  
29 \$35 million for their hatcheries that they own that the  
30 State gave them the money to build. So, when they get  
31 done fishing for Copper River salmon, then they have a  
32 choice to make. They can go fish chum salmon, which is  
33 the next salmon they can go fish, which is produced by  
34 the hatcheries and they're not paying their bill, by  
35 the way. Then after they get done fishing chum salmon,  
36 then they can go fish pink salmon if they want. They  
37 can go fish halibut. They can go fish herring.  
38 There's all kinds of other things they can go fish.

39  
40 What we're talking about here is people  
41 that merely want to get maybe 10 more fish to put in  
42 their freezer for their family to eat during winter.

43  
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this is  
45 every state resident, including people that.....

46  
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, but as Staff  
48 just got through saying -- let me finish and then I'll  
49 turn the floor back over to you. As the Staff just  
50 stated, the number of additional fish that may be taken

1 is going to be basically insignificant compared to the  
2 number of fish that would have to be taken out of the  
3 commercial fishery. The average household that goes  
4 down there to fish does not catch their 30 fish limit.  
5 Some people do, some people don't. I know one lady  
6 sitting in the back of the room there, her and her  
7 husband went down there hoping to get 30 fish and got  
8 one fish. Sometimes you go down there and you might  
9 catch your 30 fish in two or three hours. It just  
10 depends on how lucky you are when you get there and how  
11 diligent you are at dipping because dipping is not easy  
12 to do. It's very hard work. I used to do it back in  
13 the '70s and early '80s.

14

15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: People drown  
16 doing it.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's right. But this  
19 isn't a big deal as far as the commercial fishermen are  
20 concerned. They will oppose it, but as far as it  
21 really affecting them monetarily, it would really be a  
22 stretch to say that this is going to affect those guys'  
23 bottom line as a commercial fisherman to let a family  
24 get 10 more fish. That would really be a stretch, but  
25 I'm fully, 100 percent in favor of this proposal to  
26 allow people to get fish to feed their family.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
31 I guess I'd like to get a little better insight on how  
32 the fisheries is managed. If the previous one was to  
33 pass and this was to pass, how is it that the  
34 management would handle the reallocation of fish to the  
35 upper river. I'm seeing here it says what will happen  
36 if nothing is done, you have to wait to see if another  
37 50,000 fish have passed. I guess I'm looking for a  
38 little more insight as to how the fishery is managed to  
39 accommodate this.

40

41 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council. The  
42 Copper River District Management Plan is kind of the  
43 overlaying plan for the entire Copper River. It  
44 mandates that the commercial fishery will be managed  
45 such to provide for spawning escapement, the Gulkana  
46 hatchery brood stock, the subsistence fishery,  
47 Glennallen subdistrict, both State and Federal users,  
48 the Chitina subdistrict, State personal use and Federal  
49 subsistence users and the sport fishery. That's all  
50 within that plan.

1                   So the commercial fishery is managed  
2 such that those fish will be spread out through the  
3 duration of the run throughout the season and provide  
4 for spawning escapement to all the different stocks and  
5 for those upper fisheries. So if this proposal is  
6 adopted, where we anticipate an increase in the Chitina  
7 subdistrict harvest, the commercial fishery would be  
8 managed in such a way to allow for more fish to pass  
9 the Miles Lake Sonar, which would then in turn be  
10 harvested by the Chitina subdistrict.

11  
12                   For example, this year the sonar goal  
13 was around 650,000 and the sonar passed 770,000, so  
14 that was 120,000 surplus to the needs for the upriver  
15 fisheries, spawning escapement and the hatchery brood  
16 stock. So it would not create a burden on the  
17 Glennallen subdistrict users because there would be  
18 additional fish that would be put into the river to  
19 accommodate this proposal if it were adopted.

20  
21                   Does that answer your question?

22  
23                   MR. BASSICH: Yes, in part. Give me  
24 the scenario of what happens when you have a really  
25 weak run year. What happens to the commercial  
26 fishermen and then what happens for trying to pass fish  
27 upriver to the upriver folks?

28  
29                   MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council. For  
30 example, this year the sonar numbers were weak early  
31 on. The commercial fishery was restricted. They were  
32 closed for approximately 16 days. In the Chitina  
33 Subdistrict Personal Use Management Plan, if the  
34 commercial fishery is closed for more than 13 days, the  
35 allocation to the dipnet fishery goes from  
36 approximately 125,000 fish to 50,000 fish, so their  
37 fishing time is reduced accordingly. Also, the Chitina  
38 subdistrict, the way the management plan is set up is  
39 that duration of fishing openings on a weekly basis are  
40 set by the actual numbers of fish passing the sonar.  
41 There's a pre-season schedule that's put out based upon  
42 the projections past the sonar and if those are less  
43 than what's anticipated, fishing time is cut in the  
44 Chitina subdistrict.

45  
46                   Now the Glennallen subdistrict, being a  
47 subsistence fishery, opens June 1st and closes  
48 September 30th under State regs, opens May 15th and  
49 closes September 30th under Federal regulations. That  
50 fishery would be the last fishery impacted. Depending

1 upon how weak the run, if we didn't look like we're  
2 going to make spawning escapement, then there may be  
3 some restrictions placed on the subsistence fishery.  
4 Otherwise the commercial fishery, personal use fishery,  
5 sport fishery, would all take restrictions prior to the  
6 subsistence fishery being restricted.

7  
8                   The commercial fishery obviously takes  
9 the biggest hit sometimes because they have the most  
10 fishing power. I mean one opening for them could be  
11 100-200,000 sockeye salmon, where one opening for the  
12 dipnet fishery, what I recall in probably 15 years, 20  
13 years of harvest information, is maybe 30,000 fish  
14 could be harvested by that fishery in one week's time  
15 and that was when we had nearly a million fish past the  
16 sonar in that year.

17  
18                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
19 questions here. I guess in short, the way I'd  
20 summarize it, Virgil, is you're proposing that more  
21 fish be given to -- first taken from personal use, put  
22 them into subsistence and then give them more  
23 opportunity. And this is for every state resident.  
24 And you're not anticipating a large amount necessary  
25 for subsistence over what is already there, 100-  
26 150,000.

27  
28                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Like Tom said, it might  
29 increase by 25,000, the upper end of the guideline  
30 harvest may be 50,000, but realistically I seriously  
31 doubt if more than 25,000 fish a year would be taken.

32  
33                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I still don't  
34 know what to think about all this.

35  
36                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Tom's got his hand up.

37  
38                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go  
39 ahead.

40  
41                   MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Just one more  
42 thing to add was that this year the State Chitina  
43 subdistrict was restricted, whereas the Federal Chitina  
44 subdistrict fishery was not at the same time the State  
45 was. They did not take the 125,000 to 50,000  
46 allocation reduction. They remained open when the  
47 State was closed.

48  
49                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did that  
50 change the amount that was taken?

1                   MR. TAUBE: The Federal participation  
2 in the Chitina subdistrict is relatively small, so it  
3 was probably less than a thousand fish would be my  
4 guess. But Federal opportunity was not reduced when  
5 the State fishery was.

6  
7                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have a  
8 handle what is Federal take and what is State take?

9  
10                  MR. TAUBE: Federal take in the Chitina  
11 subdistrict, and I don't know if Barbara can answer any  
12 better than I can, I recall not being much more than  
13 1,000 fish in a season, whereas the State is 100,000 to  
14 150,000. In the Glennallen subdistrict, the Federal  
15 harvest is generally around 20,000, where the State  
16 take is 50-70,000. I mean you're looking at about 250  
17 permit holders on the Federal side total and they can  
18 participate in both the Glennallen and Chitina  
19 subdistrict, whereas the State Chitina subdistrict is  
20 about 8,500 permit holders and in the Glennallen  
21 subdistrict is about 1,200.

22  
23                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have  
24 the figures?

25  
26                  MS. CELLARIUS: I have the figures for  
27 2007. We don't have all the harvest reports in for  
28 2008. They're not actually totaled up by species, but  
29 it looks like for the Glennallen subdistrict the  
30 Federal harvest was somewhere around 16,000 fish, with  
31 15,225 sockeyes, and I can give you a copy of this  
32 report. in the Chitina subdistrict, it looks like it  
33 was right around 1,000 Federal fish harvested, 929  
34 sockeye and a handful of chinook and coho.

35  
36                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this  
37 proposal, Virgil, does not affect the take upriver  
38 beyond Chitina because there is no Chitina dipnet.  
39 It's just down there in that district, right? The  
40 dipnet fishery is only in Glennallen and Chitina?

41  
42                  MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. In the  
43 Glennallen subdistrict, both State and Federal users  
44 can use either fishwheel or dipnet. On the State side  
45 they have to choose between fishwheel or dipnet. On  
46 the Federal side they can use fishwheel, dipnet or rod  
47 and reel. In the Chitina subdistrict, for the State  
48 side, it's strictly dipnet. So you're looking at more  
49 of a separation not so much by gear but by subsistence  
50 versus personal use.

1                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What do you  
2 want to do, guys.  
3  
4                   MR. CARROLL: Call for the question.  
5  
6                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need a  
7 motion. Did we do it last time?  
8  
9                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt.  
10  
11                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just to  
12 correct the record, in the last one we will have a  
13 motion to adopt and second. I'm out of practice. Just  
14 for the record, we're on Proposal 1. You second or  
15 make the motion to accept 1.  
16  
17                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
18 Number 1.  
19  
20                  MR. CARROLL: Second.  
21  
22                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The vote is  
23 the same, correct?  
24  
25                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.  
26  
27                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now 22.  
28  
29                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
30 Number 22.  
31  
32                  MR. CARROLL: I second.  
33  
34                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And  
35 then you called for the question. Everybody ready.  
36 Anyone opposed.  
37  
38                  (No opposing votes)  
39  
40                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going with  
41 what you're saying here today, Virgil. I'm trusting  
42 your judgment. I hope I still have a head when I get  
43 home. Now, Virgil, make a motion.  
44  
45                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
46 23.  
47  
48                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a  
49 second.  
50

1 MR. BASSICH: I'll second for  
2 discussion.  
3  
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, go  
5 ahead.  
6  
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Proposal 23 -- I said  
8 there was some if/or proposals in here. Proposal 23  
9 was actually written by the Chitina Dipnetters  
10 Association and it's really complicated to explain  
11 this, so I'm just going to briefly go over it. If  
12 there was 50,000 or more fish past the Miles Lake  
13 Sonar, that's where they count fish for the Copper  
14 River, in a week, then 10 days later or whatever it was  
15 they would get to harvest an additional 10 fish. What  
16 that requires, like if you live in Delta Junction say,  
17 you can go back down to Chitina if you've caught your  
18 30 fish for your family to catch 10 fish.  
19  
20 Especially with the price of gas  
21 nowadays, that's not really that feasible. It's a long  
22 ways to go to only have the opportunity to get 10 more  
23 fish. That's why Proposal 22 was put in. In case  
24 Proposal 22 didn't pass, then they wanted to support  
25 Proposal 23, but I think the best strategy is to just  
26 take no action on Proposal 23 and fully support  
27 Proposal 22. That's my opinion and recommendation.  
28  
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that the  
30 form of your motion?  
31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. So moved.  
33  
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The second  
35 concurs?  
36  
37 MR. BASSICH: (Nods affirmatively)  
38  
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear any  
40 other discussion.  
41  
42 MR. CARROLL: Just for clarification,  
43 you are withdrawing your proposal to adopt Number 23,  
44 right? Is that what you're doing?  
45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: In favor of Proposal  
47 22.  
48  
49 MR. CARROLL: So you're still asking  
50 for a vote. Is that what you're doing?

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. I'm  
4 asking for a vote that we prefer Proposal 22 over  
5 Proposal 23, so we would take no action on Proposal 23.  
6 So I move we take no action on Proposal 23.  
7  
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you okay  
9 there?  
10  
11 MR. CARROLL: Now I understand, yes.  
12  
13 MR. BASSICH: And the second agrees.  
14  
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the second  
16 would agree, Andy. Anyone opposed to taking no action  
17 on Proposal 23.  
18  
19 (No action taken)  
20  
21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving  
22 on. It's now 24.  
23  
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
25 24.  
26  
27 MR. BASSICH: Second.  
28  
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
30  
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Proposal 24 was put in  
32 by a commercial fisherman and he didn't like what we  
33 just got through taking no action on. He doesn't like  
34 that when it goes over 50,000 on the sonar, then they  
35 will get an extra 10 fish later. That's just a  
36 commercial fisherman trying to limit -- and also what  
37 he wanted to do was reduce that 13 days to eight days.  
38 Maybe that's all this one is.  
39  
40 I'm definitely opposed to that. A lot  
41 of times what happens when you don't have enough fish  
42 going past the sonar is because the commercial  
43 fishermen caught all of them and they didn't get to go  
44 up the river. People new to this process.....  
45  
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
47  
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: I just want to explain  
49 one thing so you understand this. Salmon, when they  
50 get ready to go up a river, they don't just swim out of

1 the ocean and charge up the river. Their body has to  
2 switch over from saltwater mode to freshwater mode, so  
3 they get to where it's mixing. Especially with the  
4 Copper River, they have what they call the Barrier  
5 Islands that go across the mouth of the Copper River.  
6 So inside there an estuary the water is kind of mixing,  
7 part salt and part freshwater. So what the salmon do  
8 is they come in and out with the tide and no one knows  
9 for sure how long, but there are management plans that  
10 accommodate these fish getting accustomed to that.

11  
12                   So they have windows to allow where  
13 there's no fishing say in the sockeye fishery, for  
14 instance inside the Barrier Islands of the Copper  
15 River, they only let them have one opening per week and  
16 that's to allow the fish that are milling to get done  
17 milling and actually start their journey up the river.  
18 So when these fish are in there milling and if there's  
19 a whole bunch of them in there milling and they have a  
20 commercial opening, they figure in those type of  
21 commercial openings and those type fisheries that the  
22 commercial fishery has the ability to harvest basically  
23 98 percent or so of the salmon present in the district  
24 when it opens, so they basically just write off all  
25 those salmon that are there.

26  
27                   So if there's a big gob of them there  
28 and all of a sudden they have a commercial opening,  
29 they catch every one of them. Then they don't get the  
30 number of fish past the sonar because the commercial  
31 fishery caught too many. So the commercial fishermen  
32 are wanting -- or this guy is wanting the upriver  
33 users, the personal use users, which hopefully it will  
34 go back to subsistence, they're wanting them to take  
35 the hit because the commercial fishermen overharvested  
36 the fish and that's not right.

37  
38                   So I'm definitely opposed to this  
39 proposal and I would request that the rest of the  
40 Council members agree with me and vote it down because  
41 this is a commercial fisherman that whenever they catch  
42 too many fish wants the people upriver to get  
43 restricted.

44  
45                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right, okay.  
46 So does he live in Bellingham?

47  
48                   (Laughter)

49  
50                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy's got a

1 question.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: As a manager do you view  
4 this proposal as something that would tie your hands a  
5 little bit more in the management scheme in season?

6

7 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council.  
8 This would prevent us from allowing opportunity to  
9 harvest surplus fish. Later in the season if we had a  
10 large number of fish come in, we would not be able to  
11 provide additional harvest opportunity. This year was  
12 a good example of that where that restriction was put  
13 in place in the dipnet fishery, but we did have a large  
14 push of fish coming in later in the season where two  
15 supplemental periods were opened even with that lower  
16 allocation amount set, so this would take that away  
17 from us.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

20

21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any  
22 other agency comments here, anyone want to speak to  
23 this. Yes, come forward.

24

25 MR. SUCKLING: I'm Ted Suckling. I  
26 live here in Nenana. I'm a Yukon River Drainage  
27 Fisheries Association board member alternate. I was  
28 just wondering if the fish are milling around out there  
29 and the subsistence users haven't used it yet or  
30 haven't had a chance, don't they get first dibs on that  
31 when the fish do start running? So I just wondered. A  
32 little clarification here.

33

34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to  
35 have Tom answer that question.

36

37 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council. I  
38 think I might be able to answer that. I'm not quite  
39 certain what the question was. The subsistence fishery  
40 in the lower river will open up May 15th, so generally  
41 that allows a day or two before the first commercial  
42 opening, depending upon when that first commercial  
43 opening is. The upriver Glennallen subdistrict opens  
44 June 1st. The Chitina subdistrict will open between  
45 June 1st and June 11th generally because the early  
46 portion of the run has been either late or a little  
47 weak. In recent years, it's been later, after the  
48 Glennallen subdistrict has opened. It's generally been  
49 the 6th of June to the 10th of June. So the  
50 subsistence users do have first harvest opportunity in

1 general for those stocks.  
2  
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that  
4 help?  
5  
6 MR. SUCKLING: If the commercial get  
7 the first dibs on it, then the subsistence upriver just  
8 don't.....  
9  
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
11 Unfortunately, these fisheries are interesting because  
12 the fish, if there is going to be a harvest of  
13 commercial, it's done first because that's where they  
14 are. They can't go back upriver and get them. So we  
15 have to keep that in our minds too. I know the  
16 managers are strapped with some tough decisions here  
17 how you manage these fisheries if a commercial take has  
18 to take place before the fish go upriver.  
19  
20 MR. SUCKLING: I was just thinking the  
21 subsistence upriver has the priority like you were  
22 discussing earlier. I was just wondering. That's all.  
23 Thank you.  
24  
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're  
26 welcome.  
27  
28 MR. CARROLL: Call for the question.  
29  
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil,  
31 we're going to leave it as it is. You asked for  
32 support, but you're against it. It's a nay vote if  
33 you're against it. The question has been called for.  
34 Anyone in favor of this proposal, Number 24.  
35  
36 (No aye votes)  
37  
38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All against  
39 say aye.  
40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.  
42  
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's  
44 unanimous. We're moving on to 25.  
45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
47 25.  
48  
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a  
50 second.

1 MR. BASSICH: Second.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Seconded by  
4 Andy. Virgil is going to speak to the motion.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: What Proposal 25 seeks  
7 to do is increase the annual limit of king salmon for a  
8 household in the Chitina fishery from one to four.  
9 Currently the household limit for a Cordova fisherman  
10 that lives in the Cordova subdistrict is five king  
11 salmon. So what we would like to do is have the king  
12 salmon harvest limit for the year be increased from one  
13 to four in the Chitina subdistrict.

14

15 In addition to doing that, what ended  
16 up getting put in the proposal, as far accountability,  
17 how would you account for those, because in the  
18 personal use fishery you have to have a State sport  
19 fish license. On that license there's a place where  
20 you enter the king salmon you catch. The king salmon  
21 you caught in the Chitina subdistrict fishery, you  
22 would not be able to go anywhere else in the Copper  
23 River and sport fish and catch them.

24

25 So it basically would combine the sport  
26 fish bag limit with the personal use bag limit, is what  
27 it would do. So that's basically making -- we should  
28 have left it at five, but it's written at four, to  
29 increase the harvest limit to one less than they get in  
30 Cordova for subsistence for a household. It's  
31 ridiculous to only have a family be allowed one king  
32 salmon a year, a family of Alaskans. Thank you.

33

34 Oh, I have one final thing to say on  
35 that. I don't know if you remember this, but when we  
36 were at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting and John  
37 Hilsinger, the director of Commercial Fisheries from  
38 the State, when he was addressing our two proposals  
39 before the Federal Subsistence Board, where he took  
40 about an hour doing it, he made the statement, and I'm  
41 going to quote him, and I might have one or two words  
42 off, but that's all I'm going to have, but he made the  
43 statement that in the Kuskokwim, Cook Inlet and the  
44 Copper River Flats, the king salmon resource is very  
45 important to the subsistence personal use and  
46 recreational users, so no large mesh gillnets and  
47 directed commercial king salmon fishery are allowed in  
48 those areas.

49

50 That's the statement he made because  
those fish are allocated to the personal use,

1 subsistence and recreational users. So there is no  
2 allocation of king salmon to the commercial fishery at  
3 Cordova. Thank you.

4  
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that  
6 correct?

7  
8 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. There is a  
9 sockeye fishery with six-inch mesh that occurs there.  
10 The king salmon are a bycatch.

11  
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Incidental.

13  
14 MR. TAUBE: Incidental catch.

15  
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have  
17 numbers on that?

18  
19 MR. TAUBE: The numbers of commercial  
20 catch?

21  
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's  
23 incidental take.

24  
25 MR. TAUBE: Well, it's still overall  
26 harvest. It's Copper River District gillnet harvest.

27  
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you don't  
29 have the king numbers.

30  
31 MR. TAUBE: The king numbers have  
32 averaged 38,000 the last five years. This past year it  
33 was 11,000 because of the weak return, reduced fishing  
34 time.

35  
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm having to  
37 remind myself that this proposal affects everybody in  
38 the state of Alaska. Do you foresee an increase in  
39 harvest?

40  
41 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council.  
42 There would be some level of increased harvest. We  
43 don't know how many people would not participate in the  
44 sport fishery if they took their four kings. The  
45 permit for the Chitina subdistrict is a household  
46 permit where a sport license is individual. So if  
47 there was a family that had, for example, four  
48 household members, they could take four king salmon  
49 under their household permit for the Chitina  
50 subdistrict, but potentially they could take 16 salmon

1 under the sport license, so you would end up with a  
2 potential increase of king salmon.

3  
4 In general, most people don't take  
5 their full limit of king salmon. I mean part of this  
6 proposal is that they believe there's people stopping  
7 on their way back from Chitina and sport fishing for  
8 king salmon in the Gulkana or Klutina Rivers. So, by  
9 being able to harvest those additional king salmon the  
10 dipnet fishery, they would not sport fish on their way  
11 back. There still is potential, so that's where I'm  
12 saying it would be some increase in the harvest. We  
13 just would not be able to measure that amount.

14  
15 If you looked at the total harvest of  
16 the personal use fishery and the sport fishery  
17 combined, there would probably be some level of  
18 increase.

19  
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

21  
22 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. What is the  
23 health of the king salmon run there? Would you  
24 perceive an additional harvest to be a hardship on that  
25 run at all?

26  
27 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Council.  
28 Again, this would be an allocative proposal. The Board  
29 would need to address that by either some reduction in  
30 the sport fishery or the commercial fishery. Right now  
31 in the last five years we've met our escapement goal  
32 for king salmon in the Copper River four out of five  
33 years. So overall it's considered healthy, but this  
34 would be considered an allocative proposal.

35  
36 MR. BASSICH: When you say four out of  
37 the five years, can you go back a little farther?  
38 What's it like the last 10 or 15 years?

39  
40 MR. TAUBE: I can go back 10 years  
41 because that's the data we have. The escapement goal  
42 has changed in those early 10 years, but we've made it  
43 five of the last eight years.

44  
45 MR. BASSICH: Have those escapement  
46 goals been continually reduced or have they been  
47 increasing?

48  
49 MR. TAUBE: They've been modified  
50 slightly based upon additional information. From 2000

1 through 2002, the escapement goal was 28-55,000 king  
2 salmon. In 2003, that was modified to 24,000 salmon or  
3 greater. So part of the information was we didn't  
4 really have enough information to set an upper range  
5 for that escapement goal, so there was what you'd call  
6 almost a threshold level of 24,000. It's a sustainable  
7 escapement goal, not a biological escapement goal, an  
8 SEG.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

11

12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
13 questions from the Council. Barbara.

14

15 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
16 For the record, Barbara Cellarius from Wrangell-St.  
17 Elias National Park and Preserve. The Park Service  
18 does have a comment on Proposal 5.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 25.

21

22 MS. CELLARIUS: Proposal 25. I don't  
23 know where that came from. We believe there would be  
24 an impact to Federal users. That this proposal would  
25 increase the harvest of chinook salmon in the Chitina  
26 subdistrict. There would be fewer chinook salmon  
27 available to support the subsistence harvest in the  
28 Glennallen subdistrict. Increased harvest could also  
29 negatively affect the sustainability of some of the  
30 smaller unmonitored chinook salmon stocks.

31

32 So our recommendation is to oppose the  
33 proposal. As I said, it would decrease the number of  
34 chinook available for both the State and Federal  
35 subsistence users, which would be contrary to the  
36 subsistence priority.

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal  
39 subsistence priority, yeah, or the State when you say  
40 that?

41

42 MR. CELLARIUS: When I said the  
43 subsistence priority, it would be contrary to the  
44 Federal and the State subsistence priorities.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, I'm  
47 looking at this report and it says the Federal harvest.  
48 Is that an average, 709 at the bottom here?

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: You need to direct this

1 question to Tom. He wrote this report.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But then I do  
4 want to ask how the Park Service comes to that  
5 conclusion. At Table 7 there's a CRA, includes Federal  
6 and State harvest from the Copper River District And  
7 I'm seeing both the State and the Federal subsistence  
8 harvest being 709, Chitina subdistrict harvest 2,377.  
9 I'm just wondering why Park Service thinks it would be  
10 less available.

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: Madam Chair. I'm not  
13 the biologist, but my understanding is that if there  
14 were more -- a certain number of fish has gone into the  
15 river. If more chinook salmon are harvested in  
16 personal use fishery, there would be fewer chinook  
17 salmon available for harvest further upriver.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. Just to  
22 clarify that table, that data point, that is actually  
23 the subsistence harvest in the Copper River District,  
24 the lower, down on the delta. That includes both State  
25 harvest and I believe there's some minimal Federal  
26 harvest down in the mainstem Copper River at the mouth  
27 because the Federal jurisdiction does not go out onto  
28 the delta.

29

30 I believe the Glennallen subdistrict  
31 harvest and Chitina subdistrict harvest data includes  
32 both Federal and State harvest numbers.

33

34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you were to  
35 separate those out of those numbers, how many is  
36 Federal?

37

38 MR. TAUBE: Barbara previously  
39 mentioned that in the Chitina subdistrict for king  
40 salmon it's probably two dozen. For the Glennallen  
41 subdistrict, I believe it was probably around 1,000,  
42 what I recall.

43

44 MS. CELLARIUS: So for 2007 the Federal  
45 harvest in the Chitina subdistrict of chinook or king  
46 salmon was 26 and in the Glennallen subdistrict it was  
47 569.

48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What would the  
50 projected increase be if this proposal passed?

1 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. We can't  
2 really know that because we don't really know how many  
3 people would not harvest fish in the sport fishery if  
4 they were able to take four fish in the dipnet fishery.  
5 When the limit was four fish prior to 1999, the harvest  
6 had increased to around 5-6,000 king salmon, but we  
7 were also seeing some very high king salmon returns in  
8 those three years prior to that. So we may anticipate  
9 another 1,000 kings harvested if we had to come up with  
10 a number.

11  
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
13 Virgil.

14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's totally irrelevant  
16 how many they would harvest anyway because there's no  
17 allocation to the commercial fishery. The management  
18 plan would be changed that directs the manager to  
19 provide king salmon up the river to meet the needs.  
20 Whatever the Staff recommends to the Board is what it's  
21 more than likely going to be. Between now and then  
22 they're going to do some calculations to figure out how  
23 many more that would be.

24  
25 All that means is if the commercial  
26 fishery doesn't get to catch maybe a couple thousand  
27 more fish, and they have no allocation anyway.  
28 Remember, their annual harvest average currently from  
29 2003 to 2007 is 38,638 in the commercial fishery with  
30 no allocation. The 10-year average is 43,888. Whereas  
31 you're looking at a fishery that in the five-year  
32 average, instead of catching 38,500 is catching 2,300.  
33 Then in the 10-year average, instead of catching 4,000  
34 they're only catching 3,000.

35  
36 So, for someone that doesn't have an  
37 allocation and they're catching 10 times as many as the  
38 dipnet fishery is anyway. It doesn't make any  
39 difference. It's totally irrelevant and we have the  
40 director of commercial fisheries saying that we have  
41 the priority. The family user, the people that want to  
42 put a king salmon in the freezer and feed to their  
43 children has priority over the commercial fishery, so  
44 we shouldn't even worry about it.

45  
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're always  
47 going to have incidental take no matter what.

48  
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. They're always  
50 going to have bycatch no matter what, but what they're

1 going to have to do is they're going to have to hold  
2 off because the king salmon and the early run wild  
3 sockeyes that go way up the Copper River are the very  
4 first ones that come into the river. All they're going  
5 to have to do is not let them fish one opening and  
6 that's going to more than put additional fish up the  
7 river. On those early openings is when they're  
8 catching sometimes five to ten thousand king salmon in  
9 one 24-hour opening inside the Barrier Islands. Check  
10 with Tom.

11  
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
13 Council members have any input.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No input.  
18 That must mean you're silently calling for the  
19 question.

20  
21 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.

22  
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It looked like  
24 you had something to say, Bill.

25  
26 MR. GLANZ: I just feel like this has  
27 nothing to do with us, but that's just my opinion.

28  
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's my home  
30 territory. That's why it's hard for us because.....

31  
32 MR. GLANZ: Well, no, I'm talking about  
33 -- yes, it is, because this is a subsistence board and  
34 I know all subsistence are qualified. This just opens  
35 up -- it could be a potential -- what if 2,000 people  
36 go? We're talking about 8,000 fish. I mean, you know,  
37 that's the thing. Just my opinion.

38  
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's a  
40 valid opinion. How does it make you feel about the  
41 proposal?

42  
43 MR. GLANZ: I'm going to vote against  
44 it myself.

45  
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do you  
47 guys feel in Fort Yukon? I want to hear how you feel.

48  
49 MR. CARROLL: There's some confusion.  
50 I hear Tom saying it's going to cause more fish to be

1 harvested and Virgil says he doesn't think so.

2

3                   It seems to me if you're only required  
4 to catch so many fish and you're limiting your sport  
5 fishing by catching fish no matter how you catch it  
6 apparently. It just seems to me it's not going to  
7 increase the number of fish being caught. Yeah, I'm in  
8 favor of it myself. I'm going to vote in favor of this  
9 proposal if that's what you want to know.

10

11                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

12

13                   MR. FIRMIN: I kind of feel the same  
14 way because, like you said, the numbers shouldn't  
15 change. If they're still catching four, they're  
16 catching four. It doesn't matter where they catch  
17 them. As long as the little guy's got his freezer  
18 full, the boat's got plenty of gas to idle out there,  
19 wait for the next tide. I'm for it myself.

20

21                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

22

23                   MR. UMPHENOUR: What we have to  
24 remember is that a lot of the people we represent  
25 participate in this fishery that don't necessarily live  
26 on the Copper River. People that live all the way from  
27 Nenana to Tok are in our RAC and probably at least 50  
28 percent or more of the participants in this fishery  
29 live between Nenana and Tok and they're in our RAC and  
30 they're people we represent. That's who I'm speaking  
31 for. I'm also speaking for the non-Federally  
32 subsistence users because I'm a commercial seat and  
33 that's the people I'm supposed to really be  
34 representing, but I try to represent what's best for  
35 all the people. All it's doing is taking a very small  
36 amount of fish maybe from the commercial fishery, which  
37 really is not supposed to have an allocation. King  
38 salmon are a bycatch. They're not even supposed to be  
39 catching them really.

40

41                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is  
42 reiterating. So just for Bill, I know it's hard for us  
43 because we're doing State proposals and we're supposed  
44 to be doing -- but we are allowed the prerogative to  
45 take up State proposals when it affects our areas.

46

47                   MR. GLANZ: Right. As well as it  
48 should be, yes.

49

50                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 Somebody call for the question.  
2  
3 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.  
4  
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
6 has been called for. All in favor of Proposal 25 say  
7 aye.  
8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.  
10  
11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Opposed.  
12  
13 MR. GLANZ: Aye.  
14  
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One opposed.  
16 Proposal 28.  
17  
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: 81.  
19  
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have 28.  
21 What's that one?  
22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair. I  
24 don't know why I don't have it on your chart, but it is  
25 28.  
26  
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 28 is in the  
28 blue book but it's not in your agenda, is that what  
29 you're saying?  
30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's not on the easy  
32 chart. Virgil and I weren't able to connect on which  
33 proposals to bring forward, so I selected proposals and  
34 I didn't capture.....  
35  
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, this is by  
37 ADF&G for fishing seasons and periods for Prince  
38 William Sound.  
39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: I think it's a mistake on  
41 my part. 28 is dealing with herring.  
42  
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this has  
44 to do with commercial harvest, doesn't it?  
45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair. Could I  
47 speak, please.  
48  
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which one are  
50 you speaking to?

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I'd like to speak  
2 to Proposal 81 because I don't think these other  
3 proposals really have much to do with our RAC.

4  
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's  
6 go to 81.

7  
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: I see Tom has his hand  
9 up.

10  
11 MR. TAUBE: Madam Chair. This proposal  
12 would be directed at waters that are not under Federal  
13 jurisdiction, Proposal 28. It's dealing with saltwater  
14 marine fish.

15  
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: It's probably a mistake  
19 on my part when I was printing these out. 28 and 29  
20 got mixed in there somehow. I don't know how.

21  
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're  
23 on 81.

24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
26 81.

27  
28 MR. BASSICH: Second.

29  
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Proposal 81 is the same  
33 proposal that this RAC put forward three years ago. We  
34 didn't put it forward this year. The Fairbanks  
35 Advisory Committee put this proposal forward. What  
36 it's doing is addressing overproduction of chum salmon  
37 by the hatcheries in Prince William Sound.

38  
39 Just a little bit of background  
40 information. The hatcheries promised the Governor, the  
41 Commissioner of Fish and Game, and the Board of  
42 Fisheries in January of 2001 that if the Board would  
43 not take action on a proposal that was put forward by  
44 the Elfin Cove Advisory Committee in Southeast Alaska  
45 to reduce hatchery production, they would automatically  
46 -- they promised to reduce their hatchery production by  
47 24 percent. Well, they didn't do that. In fact, what  
48 they've done instead.....

49  
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've already

1 put this in before.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: We actually put this  
4 same proposal in before three years ago and it didn't  
5 go anywhere.

6

7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now you're  
8 asking us to support it.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm asking the RAC to  
11 support the proposal they put in three years ago but  
12 they didn't put in this year because the Fairbanks AC  
13 put it in instead. That's all I'm asking.

14

15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: But we should have a  
18 little bit more discussion on this. We did put that in  
19 and I've got a document that I got at the Board of Fish  
20 meeting Friday. What happened is the Board passed this  
21 protocol in 2002 dealing with hatcheries and hatchery  
22 production. So we had this protocol meeting. Can I  
23 make copies of all this?

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's ask the  
26 Council members how much do you want to deal with here.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: I've got copies of the  
29 protocols, the egg takes and a letter from YRDFA. How  
30 much time do you want to spend on it? I can really  
31 explain it well or if you don't want to spend much  
32 time, this is the exact same proposal we put in. All we  
33 want to do is hold the liar's feet to the fire. What  
34 they've done in 2000, they were supposed to reduce  
35 their harvest and so what they did.....

36

37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we could  
38 refer to our last record, huh?

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: We could refer to our  
41 last record, but on chum salmon in Prince William Sound  
42 they went from a production of 81,000 to last year  
43 170,000. That's not a reduction, that's an increase of  
44 110,000 fish -- million, I mean, eggs.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Question.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've got  
49 someone calling for the question.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Good.  
2  
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He'd also like  
4 to make a quick comment.  
5  
6 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Since I  
7 didn't do that officially  
8 on the record, I just want to make a quick comment. I  
9 feel very strongly and have for a long time that  
10 hatchery production continues to need to be addressed.  
11 Not only in the state of Alaska but in Canada, Russia,  
12 Japan, Korea. This is a major issue that's impacting  
13 our wild salmon stocks out in the marine environment.  
14 It has a very dramatic effect on what's happening to  
15 the in-river fish throughout the entire western coast  
16 of North America. So I feel very strongly. I would  
17 hope that the Federal Subsistence Board would look at  
18 this and support this very strongly and put pressure on  
19 the State to do the same. With that, I call the  
20 question.  
21  
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The  
23 question has been called for. I just want to let you  
24 guys know I know people that are on this -- I wear a  
25 lot of hats here. I've got a lot of friends that  
26 probably are part of this hatchery business. At this  
27 point I understand -- I think you've done a good job,  
28 Andy, of speaking to the wild stocks and their  
29 viability. I think we need to continue to remember  
30 that.  
31  
32 The question has been called for. All  
33 those in favor of the proposal say aye.  
34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.  
36  
37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
38 opposed.  
39  
40 (No opposing votes)  
41  
42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It passes  
43 unanimous. Vince.  
44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Was part of the  
46 discussion from Andy Bassich directing that to the  
47 Federal Board or was that just a statement in the  
48 record? And then was the motion passed to re-issue the  
49 earlier letter on your hatchery production to be  
50 attached to your recommendations to the Board of

1 Fisheries?

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that  
4 would be fine.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: (Nods affirmatively)

7

8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we always  
9 do a letter to the State Board?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: The State coordinator is  
12 here, but it's best to do some kind of summary so the  
13 Board has more than that you voted up or down on a  
14 proposal because the Board doesn't know and I'll just  
15 leave it at that.

16

17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that letter  
18 goes forward. Andy.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to clarify my  
21 views and my points. Whenever we're dealing with  
22 hatchery or production and we're letting forth a  
23 proposal, giving a proposal here to address that, I  
24 would like to see all supporting documents to go into  
25 the record with our vote. Therefore, any documentation  
26 that Virgil has right there in his hand and any letters  
27 that we've written in the past that are in support of  
28 regulating hatcheries and holding them to the promises  
29 made be included to support that.

30

31 One of the problems that I see often is  
32 that there's a lot of turnover in the agencies,  
33 throughout the Boards and a lot of times people just  
34 don't have the history. So I think it's important to  
35 include, especially on this very important issue, all  
36 the history we possible can so that people can be up to  
37 date on that. Thank you.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That takes  
40 care of everything.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I understand that  
43 correctly. I apologize, I did have a copy of the  
44 letter you sent in, but it's in a file. If I find it  
45 before the end of the meeting, I'll pass it out, and  
46 understand the directives. Thank you.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

49

50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How important

1 is it, Virgil?

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. This issue  
4 has been before the State Board of Fisheries since  
5 1995. What I'm handing out here is just some  
6 documentation on it that should go forward with our  
7 recommendation. The first thing was a joint protocol  
8 between the Board of Fish and the Commissioner. The  
9 second thing is the egg takes from the year 2000  
10 through 2007 that shows what happened after they made  
11 that promise. Then I've got a letter from YRDFA that  
12 they turned into the Board of Fisheries that also  
13 references them making that deal with the Governor and  
14 the Board in 2001.

15

16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, let's  
17 not go crazy here.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, we're building the  
20 record. This is what Andy and Vince and I discussed.  
21 We're building the record here for the Board of Fish.  
22 If it's going to be successful before the Board of  
23 Fish, you have to have an iron-clad record that's  
24 defensible in court.

25

26 So I'm handing out this other one page  
27 and we can take a vote while I'm doing that.

28

29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We voted on  
30 81, Virgil. What are you asking us to do?

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, we voted on it.  
33 We've got one more proposal and we're done. You're  
34 getting me upset and confusing me, Sue.

35

36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Do we  
37 need a break? I wouldn't want to confuse you.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, we can finish this.

40

41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're done on  
42 81.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: We're done on 81. We  
45 have one other proposal to take a look at and that's  
46 it.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that is  
49 number.....

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Vince overlooked this  
2 one. It's Proposal 128.

3  
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is not  
5 on here?

6  
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Which is not on here.  
8 So I'll just read it to you. It's a very short  
9 proposal. Proposal 128. Delay commercial fishing  
10 until after 5,000 fish are counted at Miles Lake Sonar.  
11 Basically what that one would do -- what happens is the  
12 Department -- the commercial fish manager opens up the  
13 commercial fishery many times before any salmon have  
14 been counted at the sonar. The travel time from the  
15 commercial fishing district to the sonar is two to  
16 three days, I believe is what it is. If I say  
17 something wrong, raise your hand, Tom.

18  
19 In 2000, the Board of Fisheries  
20 accepted an agenda change request to address the Copper  
21 River sonar passage at Miles Lake. It was submitted by  
22 a guy named Stan Bloom. He put in an agenda change  
23 request to not allow the commercial fishery to start  
24 until after 100,000 fish went through.

25  
26 Well, no one thought that the Board  
27 would accept that agenda change request, but I  
28 convinced the Board to accept it. What ended up  
29 happening when we had the Board meeting in January of  
30 2001 is the Department made several promises. When I  
31 say the Department, the Commercial Fisheries Division's  
32 regional director made several promises.

33  
34 The first promise was he was going to  
35 do a milling study as to how long the sockeye and the  
36 king salmon both milled inside the Barrier Islands  
37 before they started up the Copper River. Well, they  
38 didn't even attempt to do a milling study. They did  
39 kind of attempt to do some kind of a test fishery  
40 though and they did it with fishwheels and contracted  
41 out with the Native Village of Eyak to try to determine  
42 how long the travel time was and they did figure out  
43 what the travel time was, but they still haven't  
44 instituted a commercial fishery so they can know when  
45 fish are going up the river. Some of them have quit  
46 milling and started going up the river before they open  
47 up the commercial fishery inside the Barrier Islands.  
48 They never have done that even though they promised the  
49 Board to do it so the Board wouldn't take a vote on  
50 that. I could have amended that proposal and made it

1 something like 5,000 past the sonar. Well, I didn't do  
2 that.

3

4                   The Department never lived up to their  
5 promise. The Commercial Fish Division did not live up  
6 to their promise. So what this proposal is doing --  
7 beings they didn't live up to their promise and we've  
8 had really poor front end of the runs sometimes, like  
9 this year for instance and a couple years ago. So what  
10 this in essence would do is ensure that some of the  
11 early run fish for the subsistence users and for  
12 escapement upriver would be getting up the river before  
13 they open the commercial fishery. You've got to bear  
14 in mind that once they open that commercial fishery  
15 inside the Barrier Islands, within six to eight hours  
16 over 95 percent of those fish are dead. They're  
17 already caught because the water is two to 10 feet deep  
18 there and they're using nets that are 30-feet deep and  
19 they're just dragging the damn things along, calling  
20 them drift gillnets. They're not drift gillnets,  
21 they're drag gillnets.

22

23                   So this is a conservation. It's for  
24 two purposes; conservation of the resource to protect  
25 those early run wild stocks because there's no hatchery  
26 fish in the early run. The hatchery fish don't show up  
27 until the middle of June. So the sockeye are all wild,  
28 early run fish that are headed to the upper reaches of  
29 the drainage and they're chinook or king salmon. So  
30 it's for conservation of those early run stocks that  
31 have had conservation problems, both chinook and  
32 sockeye, and it's to give the subsistence users upriver  
33 an opportunity to get fish.

34

35                   Thank you.

36

37                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're  
38 confusing me also.

39

40                   MR. UMPHENOUR: It's not clear as mud?

41

42                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I'm just  
43 saying -- I know you have some pretty passionate  
44 feelings about fish and you have a head full of  
45 knowledge there and I appreciate that. I've got to  
46 hear from the other Council members. Do we have any  
47 more input or questions here.

48

49                   (No comments)

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
2 vote on it?  
3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, let's just vote  
5 on it.  
6  
7 MR. CARROLL: Call for the question.  
8  
9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
10 has been called for. All in favor.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
15 opposed.  
16  
17 (No opposing votes)  
18  
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. It  
20 passes.  
21  
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair. That's  
23 all the State Board of Fisheries reports that I think  
24 affect our region.  
25  
26 MR. CARROLL: Madam Chair. Point of  
27 privilege. Can I ask from now on if any proposals are  
28 made, let's have it in writing for everybody to see.  
29 It's just easier for me to follow. Even though I  
30 followed this time, but if there's a proposal to be  
31 voted on, I'd like to see it in printed form, my own  
32 copy. Thank you.  
33  
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we should  
35 call a break and get a printed form before we act on it  
36 in the future.  
37  
38 MR. CARROLL: In the future.  
39  
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sometimes you  
41 guys have to help me out and we can stop and do that,  
42 okay.  
43  
44 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.  
45  
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll tell you,  
47 chairing a meeting, sometimes there's a lot of stuff  
48 that you try really hard to do and I need your help on  
49 some of these things. Just remind me if I overlook it.  
50

1 Do you want to call for a break or go  
2 into the next agenda item?

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's go for a break.

5

6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's go for a  
7 10-minute break and that puts us back in at 10 after  
8 3:00.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling us  
15 back to order. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
16 It's not Rich Cannon.

17

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you for noticing.  
19 Thank you, Madam Chair. Members of the Council. I'm  
20 Liz Williams and I'm probably a new face for most of  
21 you. I've been at OSM for a couple years. For now, we  
22 want to switch gears for just a minute. I probably  
23 should have done this right before we broke for lunch  
24 because we had sort of been on that topic a little bit.  
25 So if you can switch back to what we were talking  
26 about, the whitefish and Tozitna Weir, that type of  
27 thing, is sort of what I'm going to bring up with you  
28 today.

29

30 For those of you new to the Council,  
31 we're going to talk about another aspect of this  
32 program, the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Monitoring  
33 Program, in addition to the regulatory program that we  
34 work with a lot too.

35

36 The Fisheries Monitoring Program funds  
37 projects that provide information for subsistence  
38 fisheries management. So a lot of the topics that we  
39 discussed this morning have been funded by the  
40 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and that's what  
41 we do. We try to provide information to the Councils,  
42 to the Board and to managers. We need this information  
43 from local users, scientists, from people in the region  
44 to better inform subsistence fisheries management  
45 throughout the state.

46

47 If you turn to Page 36 in your book,  
48 it's the beginning of what we call our priority  
49 information needs because soon we're going to send out  
50 a request for research proposals. On Page 36 are the

1 currently listed priority information needs for the  
2 Yukon Region area. What we're doing now, we're not  
3 asking for a vote on anything, we're asking for input  
4 from you about what sort of information requests,  
5 research requests you would like to see in your area.

6

7 As you can see on Page 36 and 37, we  
8 have several listed. The ones that are here now have  
9 come from the three Councils, from local users in the  
10 past and the present, and I'll just briefly skim over  
11 those.

12

13 Estimate or index in-season run  
14 abundance of chinook, summer chum, fall chum and coho  
15 salmon.

16

17 Estimate stock contributions and run  
18 timing for chinook and chum salmon with an emphasis on  
19 lower Yukon River mainstem fisheries.

20

21 Obtain reliable estimates of chinook  
22 and chum salmon escapements.

23

24 Evaluate effects on salmon stocks and  
25 users of fishery management practices implemented to  
26 conserve chinook salmon.

27

28 Evaluate long-term management  
29 applications, such as escapement goal development and  
30 run reconstruction of existing Yukon River chinook and  
31 chum salmon escapement projects.

32

33 Develop and evaluate methods for  
34 including quality of escapement measures in  
35 establishing chinook salmon spawning goals and  
36 determining the reproductive potential of spawning  
37 escapements.

38

39 Examine long-term trends in age, sex  
40 and length composition of chinook salmon harvests and  
41 escapements in relation to environmental changes and  
42 harvest practices.

43

44 So those are some of the boundaries of  
45 what we have now, but we are asking for more  
46 information on that. These projects will begin in  
47 2010. There's about \$6 million for those projects.  
48 The projects I just mentioned you can look for  
49 biological stock status and trends, ASL, age, sex and  
50 length projects, that provide information on population

1 structure and genetics. The second part is harvest  
2 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge  
3 projects.

4  
5                   There are a lot of projects on these  
6 topics that have already happened in the Yukon and that  
7 are ongoing in the Yukon area. I have a list of those.  
8 Somehow that didn't make it into the book and I think  
9 that would have been a little bit helpful. If you want  
10 those lists, I can send them to you and all our reports  
11 are on the internet, which doesn't always mean they're  
12 available to everybody, so I can send them to you and  
13 if there's a report from a previous project you would  
14 like I can send that to you as well.

15  
16                   We also have an inter-regional category  
17 that calls for addressing climate change and its effect  
18 on subsistence fisheries. So, again, multiple regions  
19 can be researched in one project.

20  
21                   We need to sort of have climate change  
22 in the back of our mind. The projects don't have to be  
23 on climate change, but the Fish and Wildlife Service  
24 has prioritized this as an aspect of our projects that  
25 we would look at, but it's not all we're going to look  
26 at.

27  
28                   The other thing that some of the  
29 biologists in our office talk about who do this  
30 research, we have a lot of baseline data, we funded a  
31 lot of weirs, they're looking for projects that will  
32 take a lot of this data and begin to analyze it. We  
33 would like to fund some of the weirs with ongoing  
34 research in places that are strategically important,  
35 but they're also looking for application of a lot of  
36 the data that's been collected through the years and  
37 looking back at harvest reconstructions, run  
38 reconstructions and things like that to start creating  
39 pictures from the data and not just charts and tables.

40  
41                   So those are just some of the  
42 highlights of the things we're looking for. I heard  
43 some really good questions this morning. The whitefish  
44 project that Randy Brown spoke about is a good example  
45 of -- for example, when Mr. Carroll shared information,  
46 how these projects really are important because we talk  
47 to and the local people talk to the managers. They're  
48 the ones who know what's out there. So much whitefish,  
49 because it hasn't been a commercial fishery until  
50 recently, hasn't been researched and people that

1 harvest that for subsistence know about bunches of  
2 different types and bunches of different areas where  
3 they spawn, life cycle habits and all that.

4

5                   At this point, we're not asking you for  
6 a vote or anything. We're just asking you to look over  
7 the priority information needs and to get back to us  
8 with ideas.

9

10                   MR. BASSICH: Are you looking for that  
11 now?

12

13                   MS. WILLIAMS: Now or later. This is  
14 the first you've heard. I want to know right now. No,  
15 think of some stuff and you can contact our office. I  
16 can leave my name and number. These are just some  
17 points of departure for you to consider.

18

19                   I know, Mr. Bassich, that you mentioned  
20 this morning about girth and weight studies. I checked  
21 with our office and that's not something we normally  
22 do. I guess, according to the biologists, I'm an  
23 anthropologist, they're super labor intensive and they  
24 do tend to harm fish in some people's perspective. I  
25 don't know if there were harvesters who were interested  
26 in participating or something. That may be something  
27 somebody can propose.

28

29                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

30

31                   MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
32 One of the most important things I think we need to  
33 look back at and there is very good records of this  
34 through DFO in Canada. They've been running fishwheels  
35 at White Rock and Sheep Rock for well over 25 years now  
36 collecting ASL there. What I would like to see, and  
37 I've asked for this for many years, is some biologists  
38 go back and begin to reconstruct the male/female ratios  
39 in those runs. By the time you're able to start in  
40 2010, they should be able to get an estimation of  
41 fecundity at size or at age of those fish. I would like  
42 to see what the fecundity to the spawning grounds were  
43 20 years ago, 10 years ago, and what we're putting  
44 across the board now. I think that's going to show us  
45 a very big picture of what's happening to our run.

46

47                   I think all that data is there. It's a  
48 matter of getting it from DFO, which I would hope they  
49 would cooperate. They have said that they would  
50 cooperate with ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife. I think

1 that would take us the furthest we could go as far as  
2 truly understanding what's happening to our run as far  
3 as the Canadian component of the run. I know it's  
4 daunting work to do, but I really feel like that's the  
5 best step we could take to begin to understand what's  
6 happening in our run right now.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: I just need to ask Liz a  
13 question on that. Your Council has spent a lot of time  
14 with this information and needs in the past. Over time  
15 it's changed to just being focused on salmon. Can they  
16 bring in any information needs on non-salmon species?  
17 And does that mean that, to use fish terms, it's fully  
18 allocated money so that if they push for a whitefish or  
19 a pike, that's going to take away money from salmon or  
20 does that even factor into their concerns at all?

21

22 MS. WILLIAMS: That's a good question,  
23 Vince. The first thing is it has to be related to a  
24 Federal subsistence fishery. If it's a non-salmon  
25 fishery and it's of importance and there's an  
26 information need, I don't see why not. We have a  
27 Technical Review Committee that reviews all of the  
28 proposals that are submitted according to the strategic  
29 need and this says Yukon River salmon, but there are  
30 all kinds of things that people depend on from the  
31 Yukon River, especially if salmon declines. There may  
32 be increases in other fish, which would lead to effects  
33 on other fish.

34

35 So, absolutely, I would say people  
36 should submit proposals on other fish if they feel that  
37 there's a strategic importance there. The one thing I  
38 would hold off on, because we are planning our  
39 whitefish approach, I think right now they don't want  
40 to see a lot of whitefish proposals until the proposed  
41 research plan gets developed just because they're  
42 trying to focus it, which should be in a year and a  
43 half. If there is a big whitefish issue, then perhaps  
44 they should submit it, but I think for now they might  
45 want to put those on hold until that research plan is  
46 developed just so it's a coordinated effort.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything else  
49 from the Council. Virgil.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Department takes  
2 ASL data every year in just about all the commercial  
3 fisheries I think and I know they've been doing it in  
4 District 5 and 6. District 5, the majority of those  
5 fish are Canadian-bound. District 6 are Tanana River  
6 stocks. But they've been doing that at my fish plant  
7 since '85, so they've got 23 years worth of data. I  
8 don't think it's ever been analyzed. I would like it  
9 analyzed and see a copy of it.

10  
11 When I say analyzed, I want to know  
12 what the ages were by percent, like on the weir  
13 projects where they do a certain percent was age five  
14 and the mean size was 700 millimeters or whatever it is  
15 long and so many percent females. I'd like to see that  
16 done from 1985 until the current time. Of course, we  
17 had no chinook fishery this year, so they didn't sample  
18 any. However, I'd like to see that data. I've  
19 requested it before and they sent me an email that I  
20 couldn't get off the computer. Anyway, I'd like to see  
21 that done. I don't know why they take the samples if  
22 they're never going to analyze it.

23  
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I see a lot  
25 of heads nodding and Vince's hand.

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: Liz, straighten me out.  
28 When it's call for proposals, it means it's call for  
29 research proposals that your researcher that's willing  
30 to put together a project and go out and do it. What  
31 Virgil and Andy brought up would be information needs  
32 from the Council. So Virgil's request would be an  
33 information need that would be somehow told to  
34 researchers and then some researcher somewhere would  
35 say I can do that and then submits a proposal to do  
36 that. That's my understanding of the process.

37  
38 Just so it's clear to the Council, your  
39 role in this is to submit information needs and then  
40 those needs sets the sideboards for people to submit  
41 projects and then you're given a plan and in that plans  
42 are all those projects that link to those needs. I  
43 hope I've got everybody on the same sheet of music  
44 here.

45  
46 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, Vince, I think  
47 you're talking about whether or not someone would  
48 analyze previously collected data versus going out and  
49 collecting new information. I think a research project  
50 that involved the analysis of historic information that

1 has not been analyzed for the purpose of reconstructing  
2 and documenting the history of Yukon River species  
3 would be an appropriate project.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a  
6 project, yeah. Andy's hand was up first and then  
7 Virgil.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: I'll just say over the  
10 mike that is in my mind a project that is a proposal,  
11 what I just asked for. It is an informational need,  
12 but it is a daunting project to go back and do that  
13 work, but I think it's essential for answering a lot of  
14 our questions and I think that's what you're looking  
15 for. That's very high on the priority list for the  
16 entire Yukon drainage, including Canada.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: If I look on Page 37,  
21 the last bullet for the Yukon River, the 2010 request  
22 for proposals, is examine long-term trends in age, sex  
23 and length composition of chinook salmon harvests and  
24 escapements. Andy and I both, that's what we were  
25 addressing. That's a way to do that.

26

27 MS. WILLIAMS: I agree. And we're  
28 waiting for George to submit a proposal. I'm just  
29 kidding. You said the Department has the data. I mean  
30 the Department theoretically could submit a proposal to  
31 analyze that data. I mean I'm not speaking for the  
32 Department, but if they've collected the data, that  
33 would be within -- I mean a lot of the department  
34 projects are funded by Federal dollars, so it's not out  
35 of the realm of possibility. And I'm just teasing,  
36 George.

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: His head was  
39 nodding earlier. Andy.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: I have a point of  
42 clarification. You've heard what our requests are for  
43 an information need. I'm understanding that that could  
44 very easily be turned into a proposal and a project to  
45 do. Then what's the next step and how can we assure  
46 that that does, in fact, become a project or a  
47 proposal?

48

49 MS. WILLIAMS: That's an excellent  
50 question. We need a proposer. We have to get the

1 request for proposals out. We have a huge  
2 distribution. It could be an agency that replies, a  
3 university. It just depends on the type of agency that  
4 would like to do that type of work. The Technical  
5 Review Committee is comprised of biologists, scientists  
6 from a lot of different agencies. Often those are the  
7 agencies that are funded by this process. A lot of  
8 them are Park Service, Fish and Game, BLM, also tribal  
9 entities.

10  
11 So this is a huge project. I'm not  
12 sure who would do it. It wouldn't necessarily be OSM.  
13 But if we had this listed, as we do, as a strategic  
14 information need, proposers, and there are many, are  
15 going to read that and there may be somebody that is  
16 appropriate to do that type of work.

17  
18 MR. BASSICH: So it's my understanding  
19 then that you're basically going to be putting out a  
20 call for proposals then.

21  
22 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct. Oh, I'm sorry.  
23 That's the question you were asking me, a simple  
24 question. Yeah.

25  
26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the  
27 timeframe.

28  
29 MS. WILLIAMS: That goes out in January  
30 and then the proposals will come in, they'll be  
31 reviewed by the TRC sometime next fall and then the  
32 Councils will vote to approve which projects the TRC  
33 has forwarded for their recommendation.

34  
35 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I guess  
36 what I'm wondering is it appropriate for our Council to  
37 form either a subcommittee or a couple of individuals  
38 that would sit down and work with you  
39 or someone else to craft some kind of an outline of  
40 specific informational needs that will go into that  
41 call.

42  
43 MS. WILLIAMS: That's what we want to  
44 do right now. I mean not this minute, but this is the  
45 skeleton on Pages 36 or 37 and then anything the  
46 Council would like to add or elaborate on or maybe  
47 there's something on this list that you no longer find  
48 as important as you once did, you could modify that  
49 too. We'd probably have to do it during the meeting,  
50 but we're here tomorrow as well and we can also just

1 look at things later. We can adjust it.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we don't  
4 have a copy of that list.

5

6 MS. WILLIAMS: You do. It's on Page 36  
7 and 37 in your book. This is stuff that OSM Staff has  
8 culled from previous meetings of all three Councils  
9 that are in the Yukon area.

10

11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not  
12 following you. Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Not to muddy the waters.  
15 To get this written, we had to go through three  
16 Councils, at least two to three meetings. I applaud  
17 Andy's suggestion, but realize that this is the Yukon  
18 Region. So if you add or subtract from this list,  
19 Western Interior has to agree to add or subtract,  
20 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta has to add or subtract. So I  
21 think it's good that you guys are looking at how this  
22 needs to be updated or changed or made better, but  
23 they'll have to go in front of the other two Councils  
24 before they actually go into effect because this covers  
25 the whole Yukon River.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we not  
28 agreeing?

29

30 MS. WILLIAMS: We agree. Each Council  
31 gets to comment and make recommendations. I misspoke.  
32 You don't necessarily get to scratch one off the list,  
33 but we're going before each Council throughout the  
34 state to get their precise information on what is  
35 strategically important to them. Each aspect of the  
36 river has different priorities. So we just want to  
37 hear from you what the priorities of this Council are.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: I guess the point to be  
42 made is this covers a pretty broad spectrum here and I  
43 think what Virgil and I are asking for and I think what  
44 you're asking for is you want more detailed specific  
45 ideas for a proposal.

46

47 MS. WILLIAMS: Right.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Okay. We're all on the  
50 same page.

1                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we've put  
2 proposals before.  
3  
4                   MR. MATHEWS: No.  
5  
6                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ever? Our RAC  
7 has never put proposals.....  
8  
9                   MR. MATHEWS: You've put together  
10 information needs. You've not put together research  
11 proposals. That's why I wish we had a different term  
12 for this.  
13  
14                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds  
15 like.....  
16  
17                   MR. MATHEWS: The proposals are a  
18 response to information needs. For example, examine  
19 long-term trends in age, sex and length. TCC would  
20 then possibly put in a proposal to say we will do that  
21 on such and such rivers and we have such and such  
22 expertise. Then that goes to the TRC and then the TRC  
23 decides on a plan and comes back to you.  
24  
25                   Obviously they're hearing these  
26 requests for your projects. The scientists are in the  
27 room and the agencies.  
28  
29                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy had a  
30 request.  
31  
32                   MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
33 I think what I would like to see on this Council at  
34 this point in time is one or two or three individuals  
35 that would be willing to sit down as a subcommittee and  
36 just work with you during this meeting time, later  
37 tonight or tomorrow, and hammer out a detailed outline  
38 of what it is we would like to request to put into a  
39 proposal. I think that would be the most effective way  
40 to do it.  
41  
42                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that is  
43 agreeable with the Council and our Staff?  
44  
45                   MS. WILLIAMS: (Nods affirmatively)  
46  
47                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we want  
48 volunteers right now.  
49  
50                   MR. CARROLL: I'll volunteer.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's one.  
2 I could read your lips, Richard.  
3  
4 MR. CARROLL: I said Virgil.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I read  
9 your lips. Anyone else want to be on this committee  
10 and work on.....  
11  
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: (raises hand)  
13  
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The name is  
15 Virgil. Did you hear him?  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think that  
20 will take care of that. Anything else, guys. Richard.  
21  
22 MR. CARROLL: At this time could I ask  
23 for recognition and introduction of the new additions  
24 to the meeting over here.  
25  
26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
27  
28 MR. BERTRAM: I'm Mark Bertram,  
29 wildlife biologist for Yukon Flats Refuge.  
30  
31 MS. WOOD: I'm Rose Wood, originally  
32 from Fort Yukon. I'm really interested in this meeting  
33 and here I am.  
34  
35 MS. SAVAGE: My name is Marilyn Savage  
36 from Fort Yukon and I live in Fairbanks. I'm just  
37 keeping tabs on what's happening.  
38  
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Welcome. If  
40 you want to speak or have anything to say while we're  
41 discussing this, feel free to raise your hand and we'll  
42 bring you up to the mike. We've covered everything on  
43 Fisheries Monitoring Program. No? There's more. Oh,  
44 it's the Partners. I see that smiling face coming  
45 forward. Thank you. The Partners for Fisheries  
46 Monitoring Program presentation.  
47  
48 MS. BERKBIGLER: Good afternoon, Madam  
49 Chair. Council members. My name is Brandy Berkbigler  
50 and I'm the Yukon River Partners fisheries biologist.

1 While Vince comes up and puts his secret password in  
2 the computer, I'll just start out by -- some of you  
3 have probably seen me at a few of these meetings. I've  
4 been with TCC since June of 2006 and been doing a  
5 couple of the FRMP projects and letting you know how  
6 they're going and trying to develop our program a  
7 little bit more at TCC.

8  
9 This previous June we did get funding  
10 for another fisheries biologist through the AYKSSI,  
11 which is the Alaska Yukon Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon  
12 Initiative, to work with me, which is really good news.  
13 Basically she'll cover non-Federal lands and I'm pretty  
14 much regulated to the Federal lands through the  
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, but I have  
16 delved out into other areas.

17  
18 To start out, I'll cover Henshaw Creek  
19 Weir Project, which is funded through the Fisheries  
20 Resource Monitoring Program, FIS 08-201. In the blue  
21 circle there is the region. It's just out of sight of  
22 the Eastern Interior's region, but it is an FRMP  
23 project, so I'd like to give you an update on this past  
24 season since TCC operated it solely on their own. This  
25 is one of the proposals that was before you last  
26 spring, I believe, when you voted to support it.

27  
28 This year our preliminary data has been  
29 779 chinook past the weir and our chum were 97,281,  
30 which is about average, and the chinook is right around  
31 there too. So we actually had a good escapement year  
32 for Henshaw. Our male/female ratio. Our chinook male  
33 were 308 and female 109. The chum 406 to 365. So I  
34 can anticipate some of Virgil's questions.

35  
36 And we saw our first fish come through  
37 the weir on July 3rd and we stopped counting on August  
38 8th, which was our last day. We could have probably  
39 counted a little later than August 8th. We were still  
40 getting about 500 chum salmon through. Our chinook  
41 were mostly passed by that point. I had a science camp  
42 to run in Allakaket on the 11th, so due to that timing  
43 I had to dismantle the weir a little early.

44  
45 Our females, I looked over our  
46 preliminary data and I had about four over 900  
47 millimeters and 940 was our largest, so that's a little  
48 lower than the past, but I can't really give you any  
49 detailed information until I look more clearly at it.  
50 This information was just imported into Excel two days

1 ago, so it's a little behind due to my crazy field  
2 schedule this year.

3  
4                   Because Henshaw Creek was funded and I  
5 like to try to do a little bit of outreach and involve  
6 a lot of the local community and students into  
7 fisheries, we were able to secure funding through the  
8 Challenge Cost Share Grant through the Fish and  
9 Wildlife Service and Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge to  
10 host a second year for the Traditional Knowledge and  
11 Science Camp at Henshaw Creek and also we secured  
12 additional funding to do a small camp in Allakaket. So  
13 we could curtail a little bit more to the community and  
14 the younger students that weren't of high school age to  
15 go out to Henshaw.

16  
17                   So this year we decided to have the  
18 students participate in actually setting a net with the  
19 elders and then we caught the chum salmon that we used  
20 for dissection, so they were able to learn the  
21 internal/external parts of the salmon and look at the  
22 anatomy and do traditional fish cutting, which then  
23 they helped the elders build a drying fish rack and  
24 where we dried the salmon each student got to take the  
25 salmon home with them. We did net mending.

26  
27                   We also had the refuge manager there  
28 and refuge outreach personnel to discuss wildlife  
29 topics and management issues. And then we also were  
30 able to get all the students out on the weir. We did  
31 shifts of three where we took them out and they were  
32 able to help with the counting process and seeing the  
33 salmon come through the weir, how the weir operates,  
34 what we use the data for. As well as taking the data,  
35 they were able to net the fish and take the scales and  
36 do the lengths and call the fish male or female. This  
37 year we had 13 participants and last year we had only  
38 five, so we doubled our numbers.

39  
40                   The next project that is in your region  
41 is the handout that I gave you, which is AYKSSI for  
42 fall chum radio tagging on the Tanana River. About 30  
43 percent of the Tanana fall chum are believed to be  
44 spawning in the mainstem, so in order to protect the  
45 habitat we decided to do a radio telemetry project and  
46 this is in cooperation with the State and the  
47 university and USGS.

48  
49                   The blue circle is the area where we're  
50 talking about now. Last year was our pilot study where

1 we tested the different tags we were going to use. We  
2 had a small, medium and large tag and we wanted to see  
3 which one was going to be the best sized tag for the  
4 project. We deployed 30 tags over a couple day period  
5 and tracked where they went. Unfortunately last year  
6 we were on the front end of the run, so we didn't get  
7 the peak, so our fish didn't go as far as we wanted to  
8 see them go up towards Delta.

9

10 So this year we deployed 372 tags and  
11 those are regular radio tags that just emit a signal,  
12 so when we have nine towers located along the Tanana  
13 River drainage above the Kantishna River and as the  
14 fish pass those towers it records their signal that's  
15 given off by the radio tag and then that's uploaded to  
16 the satellite and then we can download that data as  
17 they pass those tower points.

18

19 We also do flight surveys and this year  
20 we put in 35 archival tags, which when we retrieve  
21 these tags we'll be able to see the water temperature  
22 that the fish are milling or moving through. And we  
23 did habitat data as well. Once we located those 30  
24 tags last year, we put in some tidbits to monitor what  
25 those fish are looking for in that mainstem. This  
26 year, when we were still ongoing with flight surveys  
27 once a week and probably about the first to later end  
28 of November we'll find out where some of these salmon  
29 are spawning and go put the habitat data in and then we  
30 map ice flow as part of the university's project with a  
31 grad student.

32

33 The information on this sheet is the  
34 most current and the last flight was on October 10th.  
35 This year I was out there from September 13th to  
36 September 30th tagging. Our last day of tagging was  
37 the 28th and we made it back to Nenana on the 30th. So  
38 we used a fishwheel in order to capture the fish,  
39 netted them, took their lengths, inserted the archival  
40 tags or radio tags and then released the fish. So  
41 here's a map off of Google Earth that displays where  
42 the towers are in conjunction with the Tanana River.  
43 So you're kind of looking at down by the Kantishna up  
44 towards the Gerstle River bridge.

45

46 With 412 tags total, this is what the  
47 map looks like now. It's a little crazy and jumbled.  
48 Tanana Chiefs Conference on our website has a link to  
49 the GIS maps and there you can pick a particular fish  
50 and it will show you its movement throughout the

1 drainage through the dates or you can see where all the  
2 fish are to a particular date. So there's a map there  
3 if you go to the website, which is displayed on the  
4 back side of this sheet and you can track the fish.

5  
6 With that, I'd just like to thank all  
7 my funding agencies, the US Fish and Wildlife Service,  
8 Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource  
9 Monitoring Program, Fisheries Information Services and  
10 the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, AYKSSI,  
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fish, the  
12 Challenge Cost Share Grant and the Kanuti National  
13 Wildlife Refuge for all their funding and logistical  
14 support they've provided with these projects.

15  
16 I'd also like to say a big thank you to  
17 all the fishermen and women and buyers along the Tanana  
18 River who have returned their radio tags. I'll be here  
19 this evening with envelopes if they have more tags to  
20 return. There were some reported in Tanana because  
21 whenever we do the flight surveys you can see where the  
22 tags are, so there are a couple in Nenana that probably  
23 just haven't been returned yet. Any questions.

24  
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

26  
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Are you going to do any  
28 more flights?

29  
30 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yes. About once a  
31 week they're doing flights through November.

32  
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Through the end of  
34 November?

35  
36 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yes. And then that  
37 will be in conjunction with foot surveys too here  
38 pretty soon.

39  
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. When do you  
41 think the report will be ready?

42  
43 MS. BERKBIGLER: For the radio  
44 telemetry project?

45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)

47  
48 MS. BERKBIGLER: Not until 2010.

49  
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Thanks. I think this is  
4 a great program. I was just curious. I know you've  
5 been doing this for a number of years. Have any of the  
6 former students gone on to become biologists or work in  
7 the AYK region to your knowledge?

8

9 MS. BERKBIGLER: As far as the  
10 technicians, most of my local hires for Henshaw Creek  
11 in the past couple years have been out of Allakaket and  
12 they primarily just stayed in Allakaket and looked  
13 forward to the summer work, so they haven't moved on,  
14 but my fisheries intern, Lisa Kangas, is graduating in  
15 December and I have her working part time right now  
16 helping me with doing data entry and trying to get some  
17 outreach out and help me with reports. I'm hoping to  
18 get her into TCC or into a fisheries biologist position  
19 for sure. That's where her interest is and the only  
20 thing preventing her from applying for a job is the  
21 fact that she wants to graduate first, which will  
22 happen in December. Then I know she's looking at her  
23 master's.

24

25 The program itself, as far as starting  
26 in 2002 with the Fisheries Monitoring Program and  
27 having the funding for the interns through the  
28 different Native entities in the state of Alaska,  
29 they're starting to get that route. At BBNA, Bristol  
30 Bay Native Association, just this year took over the  
31 Partners fisheries scientist position. So Courtenay  
32 Carty, she's one of the locals from Bristol Bay area  
33 who went through the program as an intern, graduated  
34 and now she's actually working as their fisheries  
35 scientist.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Thanks.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job.  
40 Anything else, guys.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

45

46 MR. CARROLL: Thank you, Brandy.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now, we're  
49 under wildlife issues. I need your help on this  
50 agenda. We had talked about putting in the Board of

1 Game proposals. Do you want to take this up first or  
2 do you guys want to hear these agency reports. I'm  
3 hearing reports first.

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: Madam Chair. George  
6 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game. If you're  
7 interested in having Roy Nowlin, the regional wildlife  
8 biologist for Fish and Game, he's available right now  
9 on the phone. I can get him on the speaker here. He  
10 might not be available in an hour or so if you go  
11 through the reports and some other information.

12

13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we'll have  
14 to do Board of Game stuff is what he's saying.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. You have  
17 those proposals in your book or the folder. It's kind  
18 of the one you can't read the copies, but those are all  
19 the bear proposals and I assume that's what Roy Nowlin  
20 wants to participate in. They start out with Proposal  
21 49 from the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee. I know  
22 Rita is here.

23

24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did everybody  
25 find their copy? George is trying to get Roy on the  
26 phone as we speak. I guess we'll just take them up as  
27 on this list here. For your information, what do we  
28 have, five or six. Six, huh. Are we ready to go?

29

30 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

31

32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Taking up the  
33 Board of Game proposals, starting with Proposal 49.  
34 This one regarding unlawful methods of taking big game;  
35 exceptions, taking cub bears and female bears with cubs  
36 is prohibited. This is put in by the Yukon Flats  
37 Advisory Committee. Roy, can you hear me?

38

39 MR. NOWLIN: Yes, I can. You'll  
40 probably have to speak up pretty loudly. It's a little  
41 bit faint.

42

43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is faint,  
44 me?

45

46 MR. NOWLIN: That's better.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're on a  
49 cell phone, Roy, and he's holding it to the mike, so  
50 feel free to let us know if things aren't going well.

1 We'll just take up these proposals. Are you aware  
2 which ones they are, Roy?

3

4 MR. NOWLIN: Yes.

5

6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
7 We're starting with 49. Can you address that for us.

8

9 MR. NOWLIN: Proposal 49 was put in by  
10 the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee and CATG out there.  
11 Since they put this in, they've given us an amendment  
12 that they've submitted to the Board that states this  
13 proposal slightly differently, but the amendment was  
14 more their justification for the proposal. They  
15 changed the emphasis on their justification to more  
16 customary and traditional methods of taking black bears  
17 in the Flats. So that's primarily the difference.

18

19 What they would like to do with  
20 Proposal 49 is to be able to harvest black bears in  
21 Unit 25D using customary and traditional bag limit,  
22 which is any bear. Currently, of course, you can't  
23 take a sow with cubs or cubs. They would also like to  
24 use customary and traditional methods, which include  
25 denning, getting bears out of the den in the winter  
26 time, and also use snaring. They would also like to  
27 take bears that are swimming in the river from a boat.  
28 I presume that means a boat under power.

29

30 I don't know what the Department of  
31 Fish and Game's position right now is going to be on  
32 this proposal. I can say that the Board of Game when  
33 they first heard this -- this is a deferred proposal  
34 from last March meeting in Fairbanks and the Board of  
35 Game was interested in this proposal and they invited  
36 the advisory committee to resubmit it for this November  
37 meeting in Juneau.

38

39 Just a few things with this. The  
40 taking of bears in dens is currently allowed under  
41 State of Alaska hunting seasons and bag limits or  
42 hunting regulations rather. So that is allowed, but,  
43 of course, taking any bear is not and the snaring is  
44 not allowed and also taking bears from a boat while  
45 they're swimming is not allowed under these  
46 regulations.

47

48 Further on this, of course, they're  
49 concerned in the Flats with low moose densities and  
50 we're actually working with CATG and the advisory

1 committees out there to try a bit different approach on  
2 that, but I won't go into that right now. So they are  
3 concerned about their low moose densities out there and  
4 we know from a study that the Yukon Flats National  
5 Wildlife Refuge did that certainly black bear predation  
6 is an important source of mortality for moose calves.

7  
8 We've estimated black bear numbers in  
9 the Yukon Flats and we feel there's about 3,000 to  
10 6,800 out there. Actually CATG did the estimate from  
11 their household surveys on the number of bears that are  
12 being taken annually in the Yukon Flats. It figures  
13 out to be about 100 per year. If you put those two  
14 numbers together, what you find out is that there's  
15 only about a 2 to 3 percent harvest rate out there.  
16 These numbers from CATG were from regulatory years 2004  
17 through 2006.

18  
19 If this proposal were to pass, it's  
20 likely the increase in harvest out there would probably  
21 not have a significant effect on the population of  
22 black bears in the Flats. However, there could be some  
23 local reductions in black bear numbers because I  
24 believe the committee and CATG are looking at focusing  
25 whatever additional harvest may occur from passing this  
26 regulation in traditional hunting areas. So there  
27 could be some declines in black numbers in those  
28 traditional hunting areas if this were to pass.

29  
30 With that outline -- oh, one other  
31 thing. CATG and our Division of Subsistence are  
32 working on getting some additional household surveys  
33 done. If this proposal were to pass, what we would  
34 expect is we would continue to monitor harvest or  
35 continue to get some harvest numbers from these  
36 household surveys that would be done so we would have  
37 some information on numbers of bear taken is what we'd  
38 expect. With that, I would attempt to answer any  
39 questions anyone has.

40  
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

42  
43 MR. BASSICH: Yes, thank you for that.  
44 This is Andy Bassich. If this is passed, does this  
45 mean that bag limits -- how would this affect bag  
46 limits? Are people still allowed only one grizzly bear  
47 every four years or every year?

48  
49 MR. CARROLL: One every year.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Every three years?  
2  
3 MR. FIRMIN: Every year.  
4  
5 MR. BASSICH: Every year. Okay. One  
6 grizzly every year and then three black bears?  
7  
8 MR. NOWLIN: Right.  
9  
10 MR. BASSICH: So you still have to stay  
11 within those harvest guidelines.  
12  
13 MR. NOWLIN: There's some implications  
14 here that I probably should have covered too in my  
15 overview. If we have snaring, of course, if the Board  
16 were to approve snaring out there, then grizzly bears  
17 would have to be part of this. That's going to be  
18 problematical and only one grizzly bear a year is the  
19 bag limit. This is just my evaluation, but I think this  
20 is going to face some real hurdles here in terms of  
21 allowing grizzly bears to be taken. Of course, this  
22 proposal, the way I understand it, is for black bears  
23 only, but because there's snaring in here, then you  
24 would have, if you want to call it that, grizzly bear  
25 bycatch.  
26  
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Catch and  
28 release is what Virgil suggested.  
29  
30 (Laughter)  
31  
32 MR. NOWLIN: My comments that I had  
33 made earlier about populations and whatnot only apply  
34 to black bears.  
35  
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, did you  
37 have a further question there?  
38  
39 MR. BASSICH: No.  
40  
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. What's  
42 the wishes. Any more questions. I guess we're forced  
43 to vote on each one at a time because they're very  
44 different.  
45  
46 MR. CARROLL: Madam Chair. Can I make  
47 a motion to adopt Proposal 49.  
48  
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, you can.  
50

1 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's been  
4 seconded by Bill. Do you want to speak to your motion.

5

6 MR. CARROLL: Yes. The harvest of the  
7 black bear, and that's just the way it's written, I  
8 don't feel I'm free to change any wording in this  
9 proposal, and the emphasis is on black bear. Believe  
10 it or not, illegal activity as far as harvesting black  
11 bears goes on and I believe if it's accepted and made  
12 into law it will quit making criminals out of half the  
13 people I know. It's too bad. Two to three percent  
14 harvest of the total population just isn't cutting it.  
15 There's no other way. We've got incentives up there  
16 right now on black bear skull size, \$1,000 offered the  
17 last couple years. They usually harvest 60 bears that  
18 I know of. Hey, in that 100 mile stretch my son seen  
19 over 30 black bears in a 100 mile stretch of river. So  
20 I fully support this proposal.

21

22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As written.

23

24 MR. CARROLL: As written.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rita has  
27 joined us at the table here. She's the coordinator for  
28 the AC's in this region.

29

30 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
31 For the record, I'm Rita St. Louis. I just went to a  
32 Yukon Flats Advisory Committee meeting a week ago when  
33 they discussed this proposal, including the amendment  
34 that Roy Nowlin was speaking to. I'm not speaking  
35 about the merits of the proposal, biological merits and  
36 so forth, but I do want to tell the committee that at  
37 the meeting the amendment that the committee put in  
38 wanted to emphasize the tradition in taking bears more  
39 than the predator control part of  
40 taking bears. They realized it would be taking away  
41 predators that take away their moose, but they  
42 emphasized the traditional part. They also emphasized  
43 a lot of this goes on anyway and they would just like  
44 to make it legal. I really appreciate the remarks that  
45 Roy Nowlin made from the Department point of view, but  
46 I did want to let you know sort of the flavor of what  
47 the Committee wanted to do. Thank you.

48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I appreciate  
50 that, Rita. Thank you. Feel free to come up.

1 Anything else for discussion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

6

7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody  
8 ready. The question has been called for. Anyone  
9 opposed to the motion.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unanimously in  
14 favor. We're going to go to the next one, Number 50.  
15 Roy. I guess if the Council members want to have  
16 anyone else address it, but I'm just going to let him  
17 bring them up one at a time. Number 50, Roy.

18

19 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah. This is a proposal  
20 for allowing wolf denning and this is out in Unit 19.  
21 The way I read this is to allow folks to pursue  
22 customary and traditional predator management methods.

23

24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roy, before  
25 you go on, I want to ask the Council, 19 is not our  
26 region, so do you guys want to take this proposal up.  
27 We probably have C&Ts there. Is that why we put it in  
28 there, Vince?

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: I put it in there because  
31 of your past emphasis on predator management, but  
32 you're correct, 19 is not your jurisdiction.

33

34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
35 take it up? Anybody have any strong feelings to take  
36 it up.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Let's pass.

39

40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going to  
41 pass that one, Roy, and go to the next one. It's also  
42 in 19. Do we want to pass it again, Council.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Yes, pass it.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm hearing  
47 that we're going to pass it here. Any opposition.

48

49 (No opposition)

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next one  
2 is ours. Okay, Roy, 52.

3  
4 MR. NOWLIN: Okay. 52 is for Units 21  
5 and 24 and this one would allow for taking black bears  
6 from dens again. It's similar to what has been  
7 proposed for Unit 25D in the Yukon Flats. That one  
8 would again be a situation where folks would like to  
9 pursue their customary and traditional practices for  
10 taking black bears. So they would like to, once again,  
11 take any bear. Of course, the bag limit out there  
12 currently is for -- you can't take sows with cubs or  
13 cubs, same situation as I described for the Yukon  
14 Flats.

15  
16 Once again out there we have an  
17 abundance of black bears and they're lightly harvested.  
18 The estimates for these Units 21B, 21C, 21D and 24, is  
19 about 2,000 to 4,000 bears. We estimate that the take  
20 could be 50 to 180 bears. That's a wide range of bears  
21 in that harvest because we don't require a ceiling out  
22 there and we don't have any current household surveys  
23 like those that were done by CATG in the Yukon Flats.  
24 So this is definitely an estimate there, but it figures  
25 out to be a harvest rate of about five to six percent,  
26 which once again is quite low.

27  
28 This proposal is being justified here  
29 entirely in terms of pursuing customary and traditional  
30 practices and I know our Division of Subsistence has a  
31 lot of information from those units about people's  
32 customary and traditional practices in taking bears  
33 from dens and taking any bear as well. We feel, once  
34 again, biologically that pursuing this practice would  
35 not have a significant impact on the bear population.

36  
37 What we would expect, and we're  
38 planning during the coming year, to do some additional  
39 household surveys out there. The Division of  
40 Subsistence is planning to do that. So we would have  
41 some harvest monitoring. We can't guarantee, of  
42 course, out in that country that the household surveys  
43 are going to be done every year. I think we can say  
44 with confidence that it probably would not be done  
45 every year, but we feel the impact on the bear  
46 population would be minimal.

47  
48 Also, one of the things I didn't  
49 mention that applies here and to the Yukon Flats is  
50 both of these areas the Board of Game has determined --

1 they've made a formal finding that black bears are a  
2 customary and traditional species for subsistence  
3 users. What that does is carry legal weight with the  
4 State and with the Board of Game deliberations. So  
5 it's just another piece of information for you folks.

6

7 Also in this proposal they have -- when  
8 they would like to den, they have a season that they're  
9 proposing for denning and that goes from September 25th  
10 to May 1st. The next proposal, 53, is the same as  
11 Proposal 52 except 53 would allow, in addition to  
12 taking any bear, in addition to denning, using  
13 artificial lights.

14

15 So we have two proposals here actually  
16 for the same area. The only difference between them is  
17 that one would propose using artificial lights. My  
18 understanding from testimony to the Board of Game last  
19 March was that using lights is a safety issue for them,  
20 so I can readily see where you start messing around in  
21 bear dens it would be important to do that.

22

23 Also, once again here, under State of  
24 Alaska hunting seasons, taking bears out of dens is  
25 currently legal. You can do that, but, of course, you  
26 can't take any bear, you can't use lights. So that  
27 would be the changes that would happen if this proposal  
28 were to pass.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Roy, I  
31 was just looking at our map again and 21 and 24 are  
32 bordering regions. Go ahead, Vince.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, but Unit 24, Stevens  
35 Village, has a positive C&T and the residents of the  
36 Dalton Highway on the Federal side, so you do have  
37 jurisdiction in Unit 24 and then Unit 21 is all rural  
38 residents. Again, it's a judgment call if you want to.  
39 Western Interior will be taking up these same  
40 proposals.

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the  
43 wishes of our Council on these two proposals.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Let's go ahead and do it.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
48 52.

49

50 MR. BASSICH: Seconded.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
2 Discussion.  
3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Speak to the motion.  
5  
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speak to the  
7 motion.  
8  
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm in favor of this  
10 proposal, I guide in this area and the guys that  
11 actually do that I know. There's not really that many  
12 people that do it. It's a customary and traditional  
13 method of harvesting black bear and black bears that  
14 are harvested are used primarily by the elder men.  
15 Madam Chair.  
16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
18 discussion to the proposal.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 MR. BASSICH: Question.  
23  
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
25 has been called for. All those in favor aye.  
26  
27 IN UNISON: Aye.  
28  
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.  
30  
31 (No opposing votes)  
32  
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
34  
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal  
36 53.  
37  
38 MR. BASSICH: Second.  
39  
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moved and  
41 second. Virgil wants to speak to it.  
42  
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's a safety issue.  
44 You need to be able to see the bear to make a well in  
45 shot and you need to see whether the bear is trying to  
46 come out and beat you up. Thank you, Madam Chair.  
47  
48 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.  
49  
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question

1 has been called for. All in favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone

6 opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The

11 next proposal is 54. Go ahead, Roy, on 54 to 20E.

12

13 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, this is to change  
14 the predation control program that currently exists in  
15 Unit 20E for grizzly bears. This is a program that's  
16 been ongoing for several years, I think since our  
17 regulatory year '04 is when it began. The program is  
18 now in its fifth year. This proposal would add  
19 additional methods for taking brown and black bears in  
20 that program.

21

22 Now, it's important to understand that  
23 this program was set up for brown bears only and I  
24 understand why they'd want to add black bears here  
25 because one of the methods that they're proposing to  
26 add here would be use of snares. If you're going to  
27 add snares to this program, as we talked about for the  
28 Yukon Flats, you're going to be getting both black  
29 bears and grizzly bears.

30

31 I'll just go through these real quick,  
32 the things they want to add. As I said, they want to  
33 add black bears to this. Also, if you're going to  
34 snare, you have to be able to take any bear, either  
35 blacks or browns. They're also proposing not only to  
36 take any bear, use snares for taking bears, but would  
37 also like to take bears same day airborne and they  
38 would also like to have sale of tanned or untanned  
39 hides from bears taken in the control program. So  
40 those are the changes that are being proposed.

41

42 This program has been ineffective. The  
43 years it's been going on, I'm looking at the numbers  
44 here, the black bears that have been taken under this  
45 program, the highest number of bears in any given year  
46 is six. This is all under permits, of course, because  
47 this is a predation control program, so it's not  
48 hunting. The people that kill grizzly bears currently  
49 under this program can sell raw hides but they can't  
50 sell tanned. That's just happened in the last year or

1 two, but it has not made any difference in the total  
2 number of bears that have been taken. So it just has  
3 not been effective.

4  
5 We've got an estimate of the total  
6 number of bears in the control area and we feel it's  
7 150. This control area is entirely in Unit 20E. In  
8 order to really do some good here, we're going to need  
9 to reduce that bear population in the control area from  
10 150 to 68. We have made no progress really in doing  
11 that. So this proposal really is to try and change  
12 that situation by encouraging people to take more bears  
13 and making it easier for them. Of course, with the  
14 sale of tanned hides, perhaps there would be a monetary  
15 incentive there for people to do that.

16  
17 That's all I have for this. Like I  
18 said, this has been ineffective and this proposal  
19 proposes to try some additional techniques to turn that  
20 around.

21  
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Go  
23 ahead, Andy.

24  
25 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to move to  
26 support this proposal.

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

29  
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been  
31 moved and seconded.

32  
33 MR. BASSICH: I'm in support of this.  
34 The area that this program is dedicated to is extremely  
35 difficult country to get around in. It's not country  
36 that you can just drive into. You can't access it  
37 easily with a four-wheeler. There can be some limited  
38 snowmachine access, but it's extremely difficult  
39 country to access, even with an aircraft. So I think  
40 any incentive we can provide for the people in the  
41 region or anybody who wants to come in and be a part of  
42 this program is a good thing.

43  
44 As far as some of the traditional  
45 aspects of it, when I first came to Alaska I was  
46 befriended by an old trapper in this region and he was  
47 well known in the area for being a bear snarer and was  
48 quite effective at it and I think it's kind of a lost  
49 art at this point in time in that region, but it has  
50 occurred and had occurred quite a bit in the past and I

1 think any incentive we can have to reduce predators in  
2 this region is important because our moose densities  
3 are very low in this area and our caribou are  
4 struggling to get above the curve in this area.

5  
6 Thank you, Madam Chair.

7  
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything else  
9 speaking to the proposal.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

14  
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
16 has been called for. All in favor say aye.

17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19  
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No opposed, I  
21 assume. Okay. Proposal 55. Let's make sure we're  
22 taking this up. Oh, yeah. This is statewide, I  
23 believe. Greg Roczicka is very passionate about this  
24 one. Can you speak to that one also, 55?

25  
26 MR. NOWLIN: Yes. This is a very broad  
27 proposal and this one was deferred from the statewide  
28 meeting the Board of Game had last January. This one  
29 would allow for -- and there's several regulations in  
30 here that would have to be amended, but to allow for  
31 taking wolves from dens. I really don't have any  
32 biological information because this is so widespread.  
33 This is more of a policy call, I guess, on the part of  
34 folks. We have a large number of areas around the  
35 state that have been identified for intensive  
36 management. These are places that the Board of Game  
37 identified that consumptive uses were the highest  
38 priority or had priority there rather.

39  
40 I really don't have much more to say on  
41 this. It's certainly controversial. I just don't have  
42 much more on this one. This is something that I have  
43 not been working on producing a rationale or a position  
44 for the Department because it's likely something our  
45 headquarters will be taking care of.

46  
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's quite  
48 lengthy. I will say there was a lot of discussion at  
49 the Federal Board at the last meeting. Greg was trying  
50 to push them pretty hard to do some things. I don't

1 know if I could even delineate how well Greg was trying  
2 to make a point. He was trying to force the Feds into  
3 realizing that they have an obligation and I tell you I  
4 can't delineate it like he had, but he definitely got  
5 them thinking, from what I could see, about the  
6 obligations of the Federal system to think about  
7 harvesting wolves regarding predator control. He was  
8 holding their feet to the fire that they had that  
9 responsibility.

10

11 I'm not sure what's going on here  
12 behind this one, if it's the same, and I don't want to  
13 speak for Greg, but I just had to mention that this  
14 came up and had a long discussion at the Federal Board.  
15 Because he's talking about wolves and bears in here,  
16 right?

17

18 MR. NOWLIN: Madam Chair. I think this  
19 is only for wolves.

20

21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that D  
22 portion of it then, delete, or create exemption for,  
23 prohibition of taking a sow with cubs.

24

25 MR. NOWLIN: Oh, well, maybe it's --  
26 perhaps I'm wrong then. I apologize there.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought it  
29 was wolves and then I read that and I got confused.  
30 This is pretty long, so I haven't read it thoroughly.  
31 Have any of you?

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And is he  
36 talking bears here?

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the only place  
39 he mentions bears is where he's got his a, b, c, d.  
40 He's mainly talking about what has happened in history.

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
43 looked at this proposal tightly and can speak to that?

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the only thing  
46 it's suggested, is a, b, c and d, and then he goes into  
47 explanations. So in order for us to be in proper  
48 procedure, I move to adopt Proposal 55.

49

50 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now is your  
2 chance.  
3  
4 MR. FIRMIN: Under the part there where  
5 it says intensive management area, does that mean Fish  
6 and Wildlife declares a place that needs management,  
7 that that's the only place it's going to be effective,  
8 or is that going to be statewide permanently.  
9  
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: From my understanding,  
11 there's five intensive management areas currently in  
12 the state that has an intensive management program for  
13 active predator control, but there's more than that for  
14 intensive management areas.  
15  
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's let Roy  
17 speak to that, okay.  
18  
19 MR. NOWLIN: I'm sorry, I couldn't  
20 quite hear the question.  
21  
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you go  
23 through that again.  
24  
25 MR. FIRMIN: In the beginning it says  
26 intensive management areas. Does that mean only the  
27 places that right now are declared they need management  
28 or is this the only place it's going to be effective or  
29 will this be year round permanently?  
30  
31 MR. NOWLIN: My understanding, if this  
32 is -- in the introduction to this proposal it says  
33 intensive management areas only, so I'm going to assume  
34 that it's these areas that the Board of Game had  
35 identified as important for consumptive uses of moose  
36 and caribou. There's a lot of units in the Interior,  
37 not just where we're doing predator control. So it  
38 wouldn't apply everywhere, only in those units that  
39 have been identified as being important for consumptive  
40 uses.  
41  
42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Roy.  
43 What's the wishes of the Council on this proposal. The  
44 motion on the floor is adopt the proposal as written.  
45  
46 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for the question.  
47  
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there's no  
49 more discussion.  
50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
4 has been called for. All in favor of the proposal say  
5 aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amazing.  
10 Anyone opposed.  
11  
12 (No opposing votes)  
13  
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it  
15 passes. Thank you, Roy, for taking the time to do  
16 this. Is there another one?  
17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: 56 is just a page deal.  
19 If you want to take it up, you can.  
20  
21 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to take it up  
22 myself.  
23  
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Special hunts  
25 for disabled vets. We don't have all of it there is  
26 why he's saying that.  
27  
28 MR. GLANZ: I'll withdraw that.  
29  
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
31 take it up?  
32  
33 MR. GLANZ: Just the fact that I don't  
34 know if they were thinking of Purple Heart vet or a vet  
35 with only 10 percent because he's got high blood  
36 pressure and he never went overseas. I'm not an anti-  
37 veteran, I'm a vet with 32 months overseas duty, but I  
38 know how the system works and so many guys get out of  
39 there with bad knees and high blood pressure. I'd say  
40 if it's for 100 percent or a Purple Heart vet, then, by  
41 golly, that would be perfect, but other than that, no,  
42 I'm not in favor of that at all. Of course, we're  
43 surrounded with GI's up by us there in Central and  
44 Circle area anyhow, so that's another reason I'd  
45 probably be against it.  
46  
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
48 take it up?  
49  
50 MR. GLANZ: We really don't have it all

1 there, so.....

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here's the  
4 rest of it. Just take a look at it real quickly and  
5 tell me if you want to take it up.

6

7 MR. GLANZ: Oh, it says here 100  
8 percent disabled veterans or returning active duty  
9 wounded. Okay. I withdraw all my complaints. Never  
10 mind. I seen the rest of it. Never mind.

11

12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What do you  
13 want to do.

14

15 MR. GLANZ: I'll make a motion to  
16 support.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that our  
21 understanding, that this proposal is for 100 percent.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: Yes, disabled and wounded.

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear  
26 anymore discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: Question.

31

32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in  
33 favor.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
38 opposed.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got  
43 through it. Thank you again, Roy.

44

45 MR. NOWLIN: You're welcome. Happy to  
46 help.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. Randy  
49 Rogers is not here. I think he's showing up tomorrow.  
50 That's all I know for that part under wildlife.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one  
2 thing I penciled in here, preservation methods. I  
3 think it's an action item for a letter. Oh, sorry.

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: Madam Chair. George  
6 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game. Yes, we do have  
7 two pieces of information about the wildlife planning  
8 efforts.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: Madam Chair. George  
13 Pappas, for the record. The first planning effort that  
14 is in draft form we've been talking about last year is  
15 the Marking Bear Parts Work Group. The Office of  
16 Subsistence Management and the Department of Fish and  
17 Game will be meeting soon to develop a similar work  
18 group process to address conservation and enforcement  
19 issues created by the Federal Subsistence Board's  
20 regulations that authorize the sale of bear parts,  
21 particularly bear claws.

22

23 In the interim, consultation is under  
24 way to acquire known techniques for discreetly marking  
25 animal parts that are used to track trade of legal  
26 parts in order to distinguish illegal take of animals  
27 listed under the Endangered Species Act. The  
28 feasibility and cost of such marking would be necessary  
29 information for the work group to evaluate.

30

31 When OSM and the Department have agreed  
32 to the work group's process, representatives of the  
33 Regional Advisory Councils, local fish and game  
34 advisory committees, Federal and State law enforcement,  
35 Federal and State Staff will be invited to participate.  
36 The work group will review existing Federal, State and  
37 SITES regulations involving trade in traffic of animal  
38 parts, enforcement issues, conservation issues, marking  
39 techniques and possible actions to resolve these  
40 issues.

41

42 This work group is expected to initiate  
43 in the next few months so that the solutions will be  
44 available for the upcoming Federal and State regulatory  
45 cycles.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have a  
48 copy of that?

49

50 MS. HENDRICKSON: This is in draft

1 format. That's really all we have at this point. It's  
2 exactly what we just read into the record.

3  
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm  
5 having a hard time keeping everything in my head right  
6 now. Forgive me. Does anyone have any questions here  
7 on this. Vince.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: George, not to put you on  
10 the spot, but your understanding of that working group,  
11 do you need nominations from this Council to be on that  
12 working group at this time?

13  
14 MR. PAPPAS: Madam Chair. Vince. Not  
15 at this time. We're still in the fishery cycle. The  
16 wildlife cycle is up next, so I would expect it would  
17 be coming forth fairly soon. But a very good point  
18 though. If you're interested in preemptively being  
19 forward with this and come up with somebody who's  
20 interested in working on this, that will be on the  
21 record and we'll have somebody available this spring to  
22 contact. Thank you, Madam Chair.

23  
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm definitely  
25 interested because I've already sat in on a meeting.  
26 Is anyone else?

27  
28 MR. GLANZ: I'd be your alternate, Sue,  
29 if nothing else.

30  
31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Then Bill is  
32 an alternate or if he can sit in even.

33  
34 MR. GLANZ: Whatever works.

35  
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I appreciate  
37 that report, thank you. Go ahead.

38  
39 MS. HENDRICKSON: Madam Chair. I'm  
40 Nancy Hendrickson. I'm the Chair of the Federal  
41 Subsistence Liaison Team for Fish and Game. The status  
42 report of the proposed Unit 9 Moose Working Group,  
43 Office of Subsistence Management and the Department of  
44 Fish and Game agreed in May of '08 Federal Subsistence  
45 Board meeting to cooperatively establish a working  
46 group to address moose management in Game Management  
47 Unit 9B and portions of 9C.

48  
49 That moose population is considered a  
50 low density moose population and in recent years local

1 residents have reported that moose are harder to find  
2 in traditional hunting areas. Several recent proposals  
3 to the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board to  
4 change moose management regulations included shortening  
5 the season and excluding non-local hunters. The Board  
6 of Game considered but did not adopt such proposals,  
7 which were numbered 110 and 112 in March of '07. The  
8 Federal Subsistence Board deferred similar proposals  
9 WP08-30 and 31 at the May of '08 meeting.

10

11 At the May Federal Subsistence Board  
12 meeting, the Department of Fish and Game presented an  
13 overview of the population status and harvest  
14 information, which OSM Staff disagreed with and a long  
15 discussion followed. The National Park Service,  
16 Federal Subsistence Board member motion to defer the  
17 proposals to a later meeting was supported by the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board in order to allow State and  
19 Federal Staff the opportunity to meet with stakeholders  
20 and potentially craft a workable solution. Ideally,  
21 prior to the deadline for submitting Board of Game  
22 proposals December 5th of '08.

23

24 The Federal Subsistence Board deferred  
25 action on the two proposals until an unspecified later  
26 date, which could be the next regulatory meeting, but  
27 may occur after that time. OSM and the Department is  
28 proposing the following strategy to gather further  
29 information and involve the public in assessing the  
30 issue while staying within the existing calendar of  
31 events. All parties will be best served with a single  
32 public summit where representatives or organizations,  
33 regulatory bodies and affected communities meet at a  
34 centralized location, preferably within one of the  
35 effected communities.

36

37 The goal for this summit will be to  
38 arrive at common understandings of the issues and how  
39 the situation may be improved. Participants will delve  
40 into the population status of Unit 9B and portions of  
41 Unit 9C moose, including harvest statistics and  
42 surveys. If a potential change in either Federal  
43 regulations or State regulations is identified, then  
44 the respective agency will shepherd the change through  
45 their prospective processes.

46

47 Participants will include Bristol Bay  
48 RAC, Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee,  
49 Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Lake  
50 Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission,

1 Bristol Bay Native Association, representatives from  
2 guiding industry and a representative from the  
3 transport industry. These will all be representatives  
4 of affected communities and hunters and there will be  
5 no agency representation for these groups. Members of  
6 the Federal Subsistence Board and Board of Game will be  
7 notified that this process will be taking place and  
8 encouraged to attend to observe.

9 One to two-day work sessions will  
10 address issue assessment, review agency roles in  
11 managing the problem, moose population status and  
12 outlook, habitat, predation and harvest and subsistence  
13 household surveys information. Potential solutions  
14 will be reviewed, including such options such as  
15 changing harvest structure, protect cows, predator  
16 management and habitat management.

17  
18 That concludes the report, Madam Chair.  
19

20  
21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
22 have any questions. That's just 9B, right?  
23

24 MS. HENDRICKSON: 9B and portions of  
25 9C.  
26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, which  
28 isn't in our region. I just remembered that.  
29

30 (No comments)  
31

32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's it from  
33 the State. Randy Rogers isn't here. You said he's  
34 coming tomorrow?  
35

36 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know. Rita may  
37 have an update, but I believe Randy is coming tomorrow.  
38

39 MS. ST. LOUIS: Madam Chair. He will  
40 not be here tonight, but he will be here tomorrow.  
41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So the  
43 next thing on the agenda is discussion and information.  
44 I'm not missing anything, am I?  
45

46 MR. MATHEWS: No. We can do the video  
47 later.  
48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did everyone  
50 get a copy of that video?

1 MR. MATHEWS: No.  
2  
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a six-  
4 minute video.  
5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't send it to  
7 everyone. I sent it to the Chairs and the Forest  
8 Service.  
9  
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can we put  
11 that on just before dinner.  
12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.  
14  
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Or  
16 after we kind of quit for the night we just put it on  
17 and those who want to can watch it. It's an Interior  
18 Alaska moose management DVD video. Okay. It looks  
19 like I'm up to discussion and information exchange on  
20 the fall moose season effort and success. Nothing?  
21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: It's just a spot if  
23 someone wanted to bring up how well the season went, if  
24 there's any concerns. You do have the management staff  
25 here from the different units as well as Fish and Game.  
26  
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anybody want  
28 to speak to any of this.  
29  
30 (No comments)  
31  
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say in  
33 our area that the wolf control a lot of the locals are  
34 saying they're getting moose in that Unit 13 area which  
35 we have C&T for, because of the wolf control program,  
36 and they're real happy about it.  
37  
38 Next is follow up on classifying black  
39 bears as furbearers. We brought this up in Tok and  
40 Vince is going to speak to that.  
41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. You should have a  
43 handout in your packet and I circled it in red.  
44 Classifying bears as furbearers. I contacted the  
45 executive director for the Alaska Board of Game on this  
46 and basically to reclassify black bear as a furbearer  
47 would fall under two regulations. I didn't want to  
48 bore you with going over the regulations. I copied  
49 them for you. If you want to classify them as  
50 furbearers, then the call for proposals is winter 2010.

1  
2                   So you could empower me or other Staff  
3 to monitor that and make sure we meet the deadline to  
4 submit proposals for you or proposal, depending on how  
5 you write it, to reclassify black bear. So it's just  
6 kind of a follow up to your discussion at your meeting.  
7

8  
9                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.  
10

11                   MR. MATHEWS: And if you do want to  
12 take action in the future or wait until the next  
13 meeting, that's your call.  
14

15                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What we did at  
16 the last meeting, if you guys remember that was there,  
17 anything that we want -- I'm trusting Vince is going to  
18 keep us on track so we don't lose track of things  
19 because it's not up for this next meeting. If you guys  
20 have any other ideas how to do this. He's just giving  
21 us a heads-up. Yeah, we either write a proposal now or  
22 wait for the proposal deadline.  
23

24                   MR. MATHEWS: The advantage of doing it  
25 now is I would draft it with Sue's review and it would  
26 come back before you next spring unless I got the  
27 schedule wrong. Then at spring you would adopt it, if  
28 so be. I don't have when the proposals can be  
29 submitted for the Board of Game for their winter 2010,  
30 but maybe Rita. It's under the statewide one.  
31

32                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the  
33 wishes of the Council on this.  
34

35                   MR. BASSICH: I just feel it's probably  
36 better to address that now and have our document, then  
37 we have time to fine tune it a little bit and think  
38 about it. It just seems like putting things off until  
39 the last minute is not thought out real well.  
40

41                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our process  
42 for writing proposals is we need a motion on the floor  
43 and then someone drafts it and then we look at it.  
44

45                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's pretty much  
46 it. And then run it by the Chair for final approval  
47 and if you want it to come back to the full Council,  
48 you can. But the motion can lay it out that way or you  
49 just empower a person or persons to be the reviewer of  
50 them and they're also the approver, so you can do it

1 either way.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: I think it's fine to  
6 draft it right now, but I think it's appropriate to  
7 bring it before the Council at the next meeting.

8

9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we need a  
10 motion?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: It would help to have a  
13 motion so it's tracked.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: I move to write a  
16 proposal for the reclassifying black bear as a  
17 furbearer and that would be for the winter of 2010  
18 meeting. Is that correct?

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But  
21 we'll look at it next meeting. Is that what you're  
22 telling me?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, correct. Unless the  
25 statewide proposals come up before then, but I don't  
26 think so. I don't have the Board of Game schedule for  
27 statewide in front of me.

28

29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30

31 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

32

33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill seconds  
34 it. Any discussion on it.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor  
39 of the motion to write the proposal say aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone  
44 opposed.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
49 Andy and I have volunteered to help you. Okay. Oh,  
50 this is my written in one. We added in the agenda

1 preservation methods for fish and game. We wanted to  
2 write a letter, Virgil, is that what you were  
3 suggesting?

4  
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't know the exact  
6 best way to address this, but I think that we should  
7 try to get a working group or maybe Subsistence  
8 Division from the State to work with the Office of  
9 Subsistence Management and I think they ought to take a  
10 good look at modern and efficient methods of  
11 preservation and come up with a program to maybe  
12 educate the public on better methods of preservation of  
13 their fish and game resources. Some methods of  
14 preservation are extremely inefficient and wasteful, so  
15 I think we should take a look at that. I don't know  
16 the best way to do that, but maybe Vince has a  
17 suggestion.

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if I understand  
20 what you're saying, you want a cooperative effort  
21 between Fish and Game Division of Subsistence and OSM  
22 Staff to look at modern ways of methods of preservation  
23 of harvested resources. That would probably be a  
24 letter to the Board as one way of doing that,  
25 requesting that and laying out why you want it. The  
26 other way is through the annual report.

27  
28 Since this is more of a science-based  
29 issue, you know, looking into the methods and that, it  
30 would probably be best just to submit a letter to the  
31 Federal Subsistence Board on this. Then, of course, we  
32 would copy appropriate levels of Fish and Game.

33  
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That sounds  
35 good, Vince.

36  
37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That sounds  
38 good. That sounds like a motion. I see another hand.

39  
40 MR. BASSICH: I guess I'd like a little  
41 bit more clarification from Virgil and also from Vince.  
42 I guess what I would envision in something like that is  
43 putting together a program that can be put out to all  
44 hunters and fishermen in the state of Alaska. For this  
45 to be effective, it's not a matter of just putting up a  
46 pamphlet and saying this is what you should do to take  
47 care of your harvested meats. There are a lot of  
48 people out there that need some real education on how  
49 to take care of their resources after they've harvested  
50 it. There's an awful lot of wanton waste out there and

1 instances when things spoil and they just go out and  
2 get some more. I don't feel it's right for them to be  
3 able to do that.

4

5 I think this is something that's very  
6 much needed in this state across the board and it  
7 warrants more than a feeble attempt at a letter or a  
8 little poster or a program like that. This is  
9 something that kills me as a subsistence fisherman or a  
10 hunter, to see meat rotting in a field, useable meat  
11 rotting in a field and I see it a lot and that really,  
12 really irritates me. I don't think a person should  
13 have the right to hunt and fish if they don't take care  
14 of and remove as much as possible and utilize what they  
15 use.

16

17 We're spending hundreds of millions of  
18 dollars a year on regulating things and making  
19 regulations on harvest and it's a precious resource out  
20 there and I think it warrants the attention that people  
21 take care of it. If a program was put in place like  
22 that, not only would it educate people a little bit, it  
23 would also make them realize what a precious resource  
24 it is. A lot of people take it for granted. So I  
25 think it requires a little more effort than just a  
26 publication.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like  
29 to give you a little report. I attend the Big Game  
30 Commercial Services Board meetings and the Board of  
31 Game and there was a huge outcry by the people of  
32 Kotzebue on the Arctic caribou in their area where the  
33 transporters were coming in and transporting -- I think  
34 that's what I was hearing here, was more of out of  
35 state and probably new Alaskans where there's this  
36 abuse. They don't know how to take care of meat, you  
37 see them hanging it sometimes in the hot sun when they  
38 could have done something differently. We tend to bury  
39 ours in the tundra. It gets way colder underneath the  
40 tundra.

41

42 What happened in the course of this --  
43 I mean they saw immense amounts of caribou come into  
44 the airports there and the Native people saw it being  
45 wasted, the people that live in Kotzebue saw it being  
46 wasted and hauled to the dump and there was a huge  
47 outcry. There was probably a two-year period where the  
48 Department of Fish and Game and the Park Service, I  
49 believe, came up with ways to educate the public. They  
50 worked at it pretty strong and intensively and they

1 said it made a huge impact.

2

3                   So I hear what you're saying and I mean  
4 this is something that came up a lot when I was on the  
5 Board of Game. There was a lot of issues where there  
6 was waste. I think Fish and Game did put together some  
7 pamphlets. I think what you're saying is maybe we need  
8 to do something just like what happened in the Arctic.

9

10                   You might be able to speak to this,  
11 George. Is anyone from Fish and Game here that can  
12 speak to it? Virgil and I listened to a lot of it at  
13 the meetings we went to. Ah, Rita, yes. She's been to  
14 all those meetings. She knows.

15

16                   MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
17 Fish and Game has done pamphlets, as you mentioned. It  
18 was kind of spurred by the problem in Kotzebue. One of  
19 the things they realized is that what one person calls  
20 wanton waste the other person says they have sanitized  
21 it and call it incomplete salvage, which is take all  
22 the meat off the bones, is what they really want to do.

23

24                   My suggestion is -- Fish and Game has  
25 done some. Not a lot, but some, and I would suggest  
26 dove-tailing with them instead of reinventing the wheel  
27 all over again. Find out what they've done. Sue  
28 Steinecker out in Nome does wonderful pamphlets and  
29 education things. Dove-tail with them and spread the  
30 word elsewhere. Enhance what's already started. So  
31 that's my comment. Thank you.

32

33                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

34

35                   MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I agree with that.  
36 I think a big part of the problem is a lot of people  
37 have just never been taught. It takes money to dove-  
38 tail with these and other entities and to expand on a  
39 program. So obviously the first thing is committing to  
40 it and the second thing is finding the money to do  
41 that. In my opinion, it's money very well spent.

42

43                   I'll tell you, it's common knowledge in  
44 Fairbanks if you're a dog musher in the fall time you  
45 can feed your dog team, your kennel, by just going to  
46 the dumps and the dumpsters around town. That's  
47 despicable in my opinion.

48

49                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I agree.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: And people have known  
2 this for years and I have friends that don't have a lot  
3 of money and that's exactly what they do. They go  
4 dumpster diving to feed their dog teams and they come  
5 up with truckloads of meat every week during hunting  
6 season and that's inexcusable.

7  
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

9  
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I don't know  
11 about the stuff at the dumpsters because I'm out  
12 hunting during hunting season because I'm a guide. But  
13 I do know that from my business, because we're in the  
14 business of custom processing fish, game and domestic  
15 livestock, that some of the stuff that people bring in  
16 and they want us to process it, some of the meat, the  
17 majority of the people take reasonably good care of  
18 their meat and don't waste much of it. But some people  
19 do not take good care of their meat and they bring  
20 their meat in and they get sand on it, dirt, mud, get  
21 it really dirty, don't take care of it.

22  
23 Then other people, like Sue mentioned,  
24 they might take care not to get it in the mud and the  
25 sand, but then they don't take care of it as far as  
26 getting it to where it can get cut up if they're not  
27 going to cut it up themselves in time, so it's going to  
28 get bad. Then a lot of people think if you get a good,  
29 hard crust on it that that's going to protect it. It  
30 does protect it, but then you lose that amount of meat.  
31 On the moose, that's not such a big deal on the leg  
32 part of it, but when you do say the ribs, you lose  
33 almost all the meat if you do that to ribs on some  
34 animals.

35  
36 Fish needs to be addressed as well. On  
37 the YR DFA teleconferences that I listen in on and to  
38 hear what I heard this year concerning king salmon,  
39 when we have such a shortage of king salmon, that  
40 someone down in St. Mary's said all their king salmon  
41 spoiled because it was too rainy, so they had to go out  
42 and harvest more king salmon. That just aggravates me  
43 to no end to hear that because it's laziness that  
44 causes things like that.

45  
46 The wanton waste law has been changed  
47 and I don't know if it's being enforced properly or  
48 not, but I do know that it's been changed. You have to  
49 take appropriate care of your meat now. Although those  
50 cases are hard to prove in court because people can

1 say, well, that's how I like to eat it, with the  
2 maggots in it and et cetera. I'm serious. But it has  
3 been changed so that it's supposed -- before, all you  
4 had to do was remove it from the field. Well, they  
5 went a little bit further than that now.

6

7                   Anyway, we do need to address this and  
8 the fish part needs to be addressed too.

9

10                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So how are we  
11 going to do this?

12

13                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I think what was  
14 just suggested by Rita as part of it is the State has  
15 done some of it. I think it needs to be a coordinated  
16 effort between the two entities to do more on the  
17 wildlife part of it and also do some on the fish part  
18 of it.

19

20                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we need to  
21 take an action here. How are we going to take our  
22 action? We know the problem. We need to come up with  
23 our solution.

24

25                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Maybe we should send a  
26 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board and request  
27 they coordinate with the State Department of Wildlife  
28 Conservation and Subsistence Division.

29

30                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a  
31 maybe. I didn't hear a motion.

32

33                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Then I make a  
34 motion to send a letter to the Federal Subsistence  
35 Board expressing our problems that we've addressed here  
36 in our discussion and we would like them to approach  
37 the State and address this issue.

38

39                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In a working  
40 relationship. We could probably mention what happened  
41 in the Arctic.

42

43                   MR. UMPHENOUR: We could mention that.

44

45                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because it was  
46 a concerted effort to work on that. Vince is waiving  
47 his hand.

48

49                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I think what you  
50 also want to incorporate in there the Board with the

1 Federal agencies so the Federal agencies, like the  
2 refuges and parks and that, have an effort so you're  
3 not limiting it just to OSM.

4  
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roger. Did I  
6 hear a second.

7  
8 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

9  
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I don't  
11 think we need anymore discussion. Andy.

12  
13 MR. BASSICH: I guess something I'd  
14 like to hear from some of you out there is what is  
15 available through OSM and ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife  
16 and the Refuges. What's in place for this to take  
17 place? I guess I'm very ignorant about what programs  
18 are in place because I really haven't seen anything.

19  
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see your  
21 hand, Barbara, and I'm looking at the clock and I'm  
22 thinking.....

23  
24 MR. BASSICH: We can talk when the  
25 meeting is over, but I'd like to hear from some people  
26 about that.

27  
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have to  
29 come up, Barbara.

30  
31 MS. CELLARIUS: For the record, Barbara  
32 Cellarius with Wrangell-St. Elias. What I actually  
33 want to say is something that I experienced as a new  
34 resident in Alaska that's been going on in the Copper  
35 River Basin area. We have a cooperative extension  
36 agent tied with UAF and they've organized some  
37 seminars. I learned how to can fish by going to one of  
38 these seminars that was put on by UAF and they had a  
39 similar thing about making jam and I believe they had a  
40 butchering class. So I would encourage you to think of  
41 that as a resource as well.

42  
43 We don't have a local government in the  
44 Copper Basin, but there are a variety of sort of  
45 government agencies and organizations that get together  
46 and organize things. I also went to a class to learn  
47 how to fix my boiler and that class was sponsored by  
48 someone, so they brought somebody in. They saw that  
49 there was a need in the community, some organizations  
50 found the money how to do it. So it seems like that's

1 a possibility just as I said from my experience.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But from my  
4 experience in serving on boards and seeing what's going  
5 on, it looks like you need to make regulations to say  
6 somebody has to have a certain class and more  
7 requirements on the people that we feel are abusing it.  
8 So it comes down to we can write our letter and all  
9 that, but we're also going to have to think about  
10 requirements that you would put on people that you  
11 think is doing that and that's in the form of a  
12 proposal. It's going to be in the form of a proposal  
13 to the State because it's more of a non-resident issue  
14 than inside the State. I don't want to get wrapped  
15 around this.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Let's move on.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, let's  
20 move on. We have the motion and we had a second.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.

23

24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's good we  
29 talk about this. And there's no one opposed.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because this  
34 is very important, this non-waste. I've seen a lot of  
35 it myself. Ruth Gronquist requested to speak today.  
36 Is that still your request because you couldn't be here  
37 tomorrow?

38

39 I just realized that we're really  
40 behind. A lot of people are here to give these  
41 reports, which is a lot on the agenda yet. Do you guys  
42 want to go for another hour?

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Let's do it.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's take a short  
47 break first.

48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil is  
50 saying short break, but our short breaks end up too

1 long.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Take a 10-minute break.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How about five

6 minutes.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ruth is giving

13 us a report from BLM. Go ahead, Ruth.

14

15 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 Council members. I'm sure there are other folks here

17 that are eager to give their reports too. For the

18 record, my name is Ruth Gronquist. I'm with the Bureau

19 of Land Management and I'm a wildlife biologist in our

20 Fairbanks district office in the Eastern Interior field

21 office. I'm giving you this report under the agenda

22 item for Agency reports.

23

24 I identified six issues that I thought

25 would be interesting to the Council. Just flag me down

26 if you find they're not pertinent to you and you want

27 me to move on. Vince is handing out a couple of

28 handouts to give you more information and some contact

29 information and maybe I'll just go directly to those,

30 starting with the Doyon land conveyances and the 17B

31 easements.

32

33 I copied maps off of the website or I

34 should say these maps are on the website, perhaps not

35 in this full format, but they're basically quads and I

36 set them on the table over here to my left, your right,

37 and they show what lands Doyon has selected. Well,

38 Doyon selected a lot of lands, but now that they've

39 done their final prioritization of which lands they'd

40 like to have conveyed, these maps show that.

41

42 We've had a lot of concerns from folks,

43 especially in the Eastern Interior, about what these

44 conveyances mean to subsistence users. So lands across

45 the Eastern Interior have been selected by Doyon and

46 the State of Alaska for several years and recently

47 Doyon made their final prioritizations on which lands

48 they want. These lands may be conveyed to Doyon as

49 early as January of 2009 but hopefully before December

50 2009. So sometime in the next year if everything goes

1 well.

2

3 BLM is taking information from the  
4 public on trails and sites used on these lands to be  
5 conveyed so that we can designate additional public  
6 access routes across the lands. The public has until  
7 October 31st to send this information to BLM and the  
8 address is in the handout. BLM held an open house in  
9 Fairbanks and Eagle and will hold one in Tok at the  
10 school from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 21st of  
11 October.

12

13 As I've already stated, there's more  
14 information and copies of the maps are available at the  
15 website listed in the handout. I'll leave these maps  
16 here for folks to look at.

17

18 These conveyances are being made to  
19 fulfill promises made to the Native people of Alaska at  
20 the time of purchase in 1867, as reaffirmed by the  
21 Statehood Act of 1959.

22

23 So I can take questions on that now or  
24 I can continue on to an update on our Eastern Interior  
25 Resource Management Plans.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Move on.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy's  
32 saying to move on.

33

34 MS. GRONQUIST: Okay. So, again  
35 referring to the handout I gave you on our Eastern  
36 Interior Resource Management Plans, there are just a  
37 few things I'd like to highlight or add. We finished  
38 the scoping period for this plan on August 15th and  
39 during the scoping period we contacted all the  
40 communities, villages and tribal councils and some  
41 adjacent to the planning area, announcing the scoping  
42 meeting locations and dates and offering to schedule  
43 additional meetings at village or council request and  
44 inviting the tribes to be cooperating agencies.

45

46 Our planning coordinator was invited to  
47 and attended a CATG meeting in Fort Yukon and briefed  
48 the chiefs, again offering to have scoping meetings in  
49 each village and inviting them to be cooperating  
50 agencies. Chalkyitsik was the only tribal council to

1 request additional meetings and we did hold meetings  
2 there. No tribes have opted to become cooperating  
3 agencies at this point.

4  
5                   The scoping meetings were held in Tok,  
6 Central, Eagle, Chalkyitsik, Delta, Chicken, Fairbanks  
7 and Anchorage. Out of these meetings we've developed a  
8 scoping report and, as the handout highlights, there  
9 are several things we learned that we'll specifically  
10 address in our plans.

11  
12                   The report from the meetings and other  
13 comments received are going to be available on the  
14 website listed on the handout hopefully by the end of  
15 October. Those without web access can contact our  
16 planning coordinator at the address and numbers on the  
17 handout and she'll make sure copies are sent to you.

18  
19                   At this point we've moved on to actual  
20 plan development and development of the associated  
21 environmental impact statement. We hope to release the  
22 draft plans and the EIS by fall of 2009. The draft  
23 plans will be sent to all tribes and villages and will  
24 be available on the website. The draft will be  
25 available for a 90-day public comment period during  
26 which time we will meet with tribal council and/or hold  
27 hearings in any villages that request them. At a  
28 minimum, we expect to hold public hearings in all the  
29 communities that we held scoping meetings with the  
30 possible exception of Delta. Our planning coordinator  
31 has also offered to give a presentation to this Council  
32 next fall if you so desire.

33  
34                   I just wanted to update you real  
35 quickly on a few wildlife issues. BLM continues to be  
36 a partner with Fish and Game on monitoring the  
37 Fortymile Caribou Herd. Because of budgets, we're  
38 unsure if we'll continue to fund that project this  
39 fiscal year.

40  
41                   As you probably all noticed, at least  
42 those of you who are in the Fortymile country, the hunt  
43 was again closed early this year. Fish and Game closed  
44 the zone that's accessible by the Steese Highway and  
45 Chena Hot Springs Road on August 14th and followed that  
46 with a closure on August 16th of the area accessible by  
47 the Taylor Highway. We left both areas open to Federal  
48 subsistence hunters when the State closed it to sport  
49 hunting.

50

1 Fish and Game decided to close the  
2 roadless portions on the 22nd of September, which was  
3 just a few days before the fall season would normally  
4 close. At that time, it appears that the fall quota  
5 was going to be met and exceeded. There was also  
6 caribou that were poised to be accessible to quite a  
7 number of hunters at that time. We didn't want the  
8 fall harvest to impact the winter quota. At that time  
9 there had been at least 44 caribou harvested by local  
10 rural residents. Note I said local rural residents, so  
11 those are the folks that live basically either right  
12 next to or within 20E and 25C. That doesn't include  
13 all the other rural residents who also qualify to  
14 harvest under the Federal subsistence season in those  
15 areas.

16  
17 So I talked with Bill Glanz and I  
18 talked with Steve Hamilton in Eagle and Andy and I  
19 passed some email messages back and forth and  
20 ultimately the Park Service and BLM decided that they  
21 would also close the Federal subsistence seasons on the  
22 22nd of September. Normally the season ends on  
23 September 30th.

24  
25 So the exclusive Federal season will  
26 open again on November 1st and the permits will be  
27 available starting next week, the 20th of October, and  
28 those permits are available in Eagle at the Eagle  
29 Trading Post, Tok Fish and Game and the Bull Shooter in  
30 Tok, Central at the Steese Roadhouse and at the  
31 Fairbanks office of Fish and Game beginning next week  
32 on the 20th of October. The middle of November Fish  
33 and Game will start allowing those permits to be issued  
34 on the internet if that's desired by anyone. However,  
35 if you want to get a permit for the beginning half of  
36 November, you need to do it at one of these locations.

37  
38 I also wanted to give you a quick  
39 update on White Mountains Caribou monitoring and census  
40 work. Fish and Game and BLM conducted a census of the  
41 White Mountain Caribou Herd this year with a relatively  
42 high number of functioning radio collars and good  
43 aggregations of caribou post-calving. We obtained the  
44 best census in recent years. The population estimate  
45 from this survey is 762 caribou. From this estimate,  
46 it appears that that herd is increasing from a decline  
47 that occurred in the late 1990s and early 2000.

48  
49 I also wanted to update you quickly on  
50 the White Mountains Sheep population. Extended poor

1 weather prevented a complete survey for sheep this  
2 year, but in the units that were surveyed lamb  
3 production was higher than in the previous few years.  
4 Combined with low mortality of radio-collared adults,  
5 this probably indicates an increase in population, but  
6 take that with caution.

7  
8                   A four-year study of the sheep movement  
9 routes and seasonally important habitats with the Yukon  
10 Flats National Wildlife Refuge and Fish and Game just  
11 concluded this year. The collars were removed and  
12 we'll begin analyzing the data this fiscal year.

13  
14                   Weights of ewes are generally high;  
15 however, we're seeing some broken horns in rams, low  
16 bone densities and a high susceptibility to capture  
17 stress, which indicates that there are some unusual  
18 physical characteristics in this population. It may be  
19 that Yukon Flats will have more of a report on this  
20 project in their own agency report.

21  
22                   The last thing I wanted to share with  
23 you is about a moose census that we did in 2007 in the  
24 White Mountains that I don't think you have been  
25 updated on yet. This census was conducted in  
26 cooperation with Fish and Game and it included all of  
27 25C except that part which is in Yukon-Charley. The  
28 preliminary results indicate the population has  
29 increased since 1997 when the last survey was done.  
30 The resulting population estimate was 3,019 in that  
31 2007 survey, which is a 33 percent increase over the  
32 survey in 1997. However, variability in this survey  
33 was very high, resulting in a difference that isn't  
34 statistically significant. That population in 1997,  
35 the estimate was 2,270.

36  
37                   So a lot of this area was burned in  
38 those big fires of 2004 and 2005 and is changing the  
39 distribution of the moose, but, as I said, the  
40 resulting population estimate was higher.

41  
42                   So that's what I prepared for you  
43 folks. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to try  
44 to answer them.

45  
46                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

47  
48                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you have any ideas  
49 why those sheep over there break their horns off the  
50 way they do?

1 MS. GRONQUIST: In 25C. You're just  
2 referring specifically to the sheep I was talking about  
3 in 25C in the White Mountains?

4  
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct, the ones in  
6 the White Mountains.

7  
8 MS. GRONQUIST: I can't answer that  
9 question. Maybe Mark can or I can get more information  
10 for you.

11  
12 MR. BERTRAM: Very quickly. Mark  
13 Bertram, Yukon Flats. Probably a mineral deficiency,  
14 selenium for sure and maybe copper. Those are two  
15 minerals that we've identified they're deficient in.  
16 The rams and the ewes are both susceptible to breaking  
17 horns and other bones.

18  
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: When you see sheep  
20 eating the dirt in these mineral licks, is that what  
21 they're eating it for?

22  
23 MR. BERTRAM: Yes.

24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

26  
27 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Ruth. I just  
28 wanted to make a quick comment. I think the Fortymile  
29 Harvest Plan has been a pretty successful plan and I  
30 think it's a really good example that should be carried  
31 around the state as far as bringing all the user groups  
32 together and working out a plan that works for  
33 everyone.

34  
35 What I'd really like to say is that I'm  
36 very impressed with the level of communication that's  
37 gone on in the fall time with this plan. All the  
38 agencies contacting not only each other but making the  
39 effort to get the word out to the communities and the  
40 people that are relying on the resource. They've done  
41 a very good job of that. It really has helped to  
42 foster really good working relations between the people  
43 and the agencies. So I just wanted to put that on the  
44 record because the effort is noticed and it's been very  
45 successful. So thanks.

46  
47 MR. GLANZ: I, myself, would like to  
48 echo the same thing that he stated. It's wonderful to  
49 work with Federal agencies the way you've worked with  
50 our groups in the Interior. So thank you very much.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ditto. Thank  
2 you, Ruth.

3  
4 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you.  
5

6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any of the  
7 agency reports -- I mean she had requested this days  
8 ago -- that need to give their report tonight. Do you  
9 think we can do that and get through these in the next  
10 30 minutes, gang? Let's give it a shot, okay.

11  
12 If it's okay with the Council, we're  
13 going to move 9 until tomorrow morning and take these  
14 agency reports. Barbara, if we don't get through it,  
15 I'm going to get you, okay.

16  
17 Native corporations, village , tribal  
18 councils. I'm sure we're going to hear from the local  
19 people here today. Then the Office of Subsistence  
20 Management, the status of rural/non-rural. This is a  
21 read only.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Right. It's in your book  
24 for reference.

25  
26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's on Page  
27 40. Does Fish and Game have any additional comments.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This says BLM,  
32 Daniel Sharp and others. The Delta River Management  
33 Plan. He's coming to the table. I see three issues  
34 with BLM. Does one person give all of those reports?

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Dan's been assigned that  
37 because of your request earlier. The Management Plan  
38 and he's involved with the draft subsistence use of  
39 timber and other vegetative resources.

40  
41 MR. SHARP: Madam Chair. Members of  
42 the Council. Thank you very much for putting in the  
43 time to be here. My name is Dan Sharp. I'm the  
44 subsistence coordinator for Bureau of Land Management,  
45 based out of Anchorage. I've been with BLM all of two  
46 months, having spent 25 years with Department of Fish  
47 and Game, 12 in Cordova, 7 as area manager. I want to  
48 say to Virgil I'm very glad to speak to you about  
49 timber today.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SHARP: I guess the reason this  
4 policy is in front of you is there's a request from the  
5 Western Interior RAC, Mr. Reakoff, asked for the  
6 various Federal agencies to better define their  
7 subsistence use of timber policies and this is BLM's  
8 draft policy that we'd like to put in front of RACs and  
9 various affected constituents primarily for their  
10 comment and to see if it can address their subsistence  
11 needs.

12

13 This is bringing a policy, the Non-Sale  
14 Disposal Act of 1878, it's trying to bring that up to a  
15 little more recent terms and put it in terms of ANILCA.  
16 We're seeking comments. We're not requesting that the  
17 RAC take action.

18

19 I'll briefly try to summarize as best  
20 as I can in the shortest amount of time possible what  
21 this policy puts forth. There are three parts, for  
22 firewood, for timber and for special forest products.  
23 The firewood portion of this policy proposes to allow a  
24 non-commercial harvest of up to 15 cords of wood per  
25 calendar year without requiring a letter of  
26 authorization or a permit on BLM lands that are not  
27 otherwise designated for special uses, such as the Wild  
28 and Scenic River and such. In general, it is  
29 liberalizing what is current regulation requiring a  
30 permit. It does have some specifics with respect to  
31 encouraging non-wasteful practices. A little bit about  
32 how we like to see trees harvested. Again, it's up to  
33 15 cords without a permit.

34

35 The next section, subsistence harvest  
36 of timber resources is for folks requiring timber in  
37 excess of 15 cords for harvest of house logs or for  
38 standing green timber, we're asking for folks to submit  
39 an application and get a letter of authorization so we  
40 have some indication of where harvest may be occurring.  
41 There may be some stipulations with respect to how that  
42 harvest occurs and such depending upon the manager and  
43 how the request is posed.

44

45 There is the cutting rule and  
46 restrictions. It basically references that harvest be  
47 removed in accordance with approved State of Alaska  
48 Department of Forestry conservation practices to  
49 protect what may be sensitive habitat, riparian habitat  
50 and such that we'd like to see be afforded some

1 protection.

2

3                   The last section, special forest  
4 products, which includes berries, folks who want to do  
5 birching, mushrooms, and whatever other vegetative  
6 resource gathering. Again, that does not require a  
7 permit or letter of authorization.

8

9                   The other point, although a letter of  
10 authorization is not required for the 15 cords, BLM is  
11 certainly encouraging if we can subsistence users help  
12 us document their use. One reason is, as land  
13 designations change, having that history of use will  
14 certainly help preserve that status if, in fact, it is  
15 potentially being subjected to change.

16

17                   Also, the way my understanding is, how  
18 BLM measures their performance and such and how we  
19 compete with money for area offices nation wide is the  
20 documented use would help us bring in money for  
21 forestry issues. Without that recordkeeping, we  
22 basically can't prove to the Washington office that  
23 there's need for any monies to address forestry issues.

24

25                   I can leave it at that with respect to  
26 the timber forestry policy there. I guess my intent is  
27 to distribute this policy to Native corporations. I've  
28 presented this in front of the Nome RAC, Bristol Bay  
29 RAC and the Southcentral RAC. My understanding is  
30 we're going to try to formalize this policy over the  
31 course of the winter depending upon the number and the  
32 breadth of the comments we receive. But my intent is  
33 to try to confirm with RAC chairs if they've had any  
34 feedback and again sort of look for one more round of  
35 comments and just try to see if this is addressing  
36 folks' needs.

37

38                   I'll pause here if there are any  
39 questions with regard to the timber policy.

40

41                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

42

43                   MR. BASSICH: I just wonder if there's  
44 been much discussion on the part of the people in your  
45 division on how you deal with people who live in  
46 extremely remote areas and this issue. There are  
47 people living all around the state that live not near  
48 telephones, not near post offices. They may get their  
49 mail once or twice a year. They're not going to  
50 certainly apply for a permit to go cut trees to build

1 an addition onto their cabin or something like that.  
2 So I'm just wondering how you deal with someone like  
3 that because it's out there. I don't want to see  
4 someone prosecuted for just trying to be a subsistence  
5 liver out there doing a minimal amount of what he needs  
6 to do to make his living out there. I just wonder if  
7 anybody has had any discussion about that and what's  
8 been talked about.

9

10 MR. SHARP: Madam Chair. I certainly  
11 understand that remoteness certainly lends a logistic  
12 difficulty to be compliant with regulations and  
13 applying for permits. In truth, most of the permitted  
14 use that I believe offices are dealing with are folks  
15 in urban areas going out to BLM lands out of Valdez.  
16 They'll go up towards Glennallen. There's a logging  
17 area and such for folks to collect firewood.

18

19 I think we all recognize that that goes  
20 on when you're out there. The thought of stopping what  
21 you're doing to go apply for a permit in Fairbanks or  
22 so isn't first and foremost when folks are tackling a  
23 project. In truth, it hasn't been discussed. I don't  
24 know of any enforcement activities that have taken  
25 place. What this policy is doing though is certainly  
26 liberalizing how the regulation currently stands. So  
27 they're trying to address the needs for folks as best  
28 they can with the caveat that we are land management  
29 agencies and have some responsibility to make sure that  
30 it's a harvest that's done responsibly.

31

32 I don't know how enforcement would take  
33 it, but I guess I will say the way BLM lands are  
34 scattered, there are a lot of areas where folks can't  
35 take advantage of this liberal policy simply because  
36 the remoteness of BLM lands. The reason this came out  
37 of the Western Interior RAC was simply because the  
38 Dalton Highway runs right down the middle of it and  
39 folks have excellent access to BLM lands with usable  
40 timber.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Is there a fee required  
43 when you apply for this permit?

44

45 MR. SHARP: No.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have  
50 probably not a quick question. You know, as a user,

1 BLM, under this proposal, would not need a permit for  
2 firewood?

3

4 MR. SHARP: Correct.

5

6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But each  
7 agency is doing their own, yeah.

8

9 MR. SHARP: Each agency has their own  
10 policy. BLM is putting forth theirs. If you're going  
11 on Refuge lands, Park lands, Forest Service lands,  
12 they've all got their own policy. They have some  
13 differences, but I think they're all trying to address  
14 subsistence needs. They just have their own nuances.

15

16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

17

18 MR. SHARP: The Refuges generally have  
19 language to the effect if it is compatible with the  
20 purposes and the intent for which the Refuge was  
21 created, so that gives a fair amount of discretion to  
22 the Refuge manager.

23

24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. It  
25 can't go all Federal land the same for all these  
26 policies because of all this.

27

28 MR. SHARP: That's correct.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I just  
31 want to reiterate what I said earlier. If you go to  
32 all these meetings and some of us live a long way from  
33 a place to go to a meeting, my gosh, you are challenged  
34 to be able to subsist anymore. But go ahead.

35

36 MR. SHARP: The other issue I guess I  
37 can make an attempt to address is the Management Plan  
38 or the amendment to the Delta River Special Recreation  
39 Management Area. On Page 45 through 47 it was the --  
40 I'm not familiar with these plans. Vince called and  
41 asked if I could look up what the status was.  
42 Basically it gives planning updates. On Page 47  
43 there's a little matrix that has a milestone summary.  
44 As Ruth just gave her update, you can see some of those  
45 dates have slipped.

46

47 I think the question that was on the  
48 agenda was with respect to the Delta River Management  
49 Plan and that's briefly addressed on Page 46 under the  
50 East Alaska topic. It says a land use plan amendment

1 was initiated for the Delta River Management Plan,  
2 including the Delta River Special Recreation Management  
3 Area in 2008. Notice of intent was published on April  
4 10, 2008.

5  
6 That's about as much as I know about it  
7 other than in looking at the time table on the matrices  
8 from the notice of intent to record of decision is  
9 commonly up to two years. I suspect we're probably in  
10 that time window if notice of intent was published in  
11 April. I'm sorry, I can't address any specifics. I've  
12 never put my hand on the plan.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. This is in  
15 response to this Council, as well as other Councils,  
16 wanted to be kept up to date on management plans. Is  
17 this effective or did you want to have they would  
18 contact key Council members. You already have that,  
19 but do you want that as the sole source? The challenge  
20 with that second one is that person may not be re-  
21 appointed or may not re-apply. So I need to know and I  
22 think Dan needs to know is does something like this  
23 chart that shows all the different plans meet your  
24 request from your last meeting and I think the meeting  
25 before.

26  
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need help  
28 from Council members on this.

29  
30 MR. CARROLL: If I recall, I think we  
31 had a bunch of unknowns and it kind of was a surprise  
32 to me at that time. All of a sudden a whole big area  
33 of Alaska is going to be managed by BLM. I mean that's  
34 a big hunk of land that runs all the way from the  
35 Porcupine River clean down to St. Elias mountains  
36 there. Oh, the Yukon River. I'm sorry.

37  
38 I appreciate your presentation and your  
39 report. It makes me feel a little bit better that  
40 you're actually looking out for subsistence users. I  
41 sure appreciate that. Thank you very much.

42  
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe  
44 Vince was asking us a question. The question was, is  
45 this enough for us as a Council member just having this  
46 report, this update, in our meeting agenda or do you  
47 think they should contact us? Richard, are you happy  
48 with it this way or do you want more involvement?

49  
50 MR. CARROLL: Right now I don't know

1 what involvement, but the reports are sure nice. If  
2 you get reports, I mean that's fine if you think  
3 there's an area of concern for us.

4  
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That answers  
6 your concern, Vince.

7  
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And that gives  
9 direction to Dan to make sure he gives me these updates  
10 on a periodic level. Thank you.

11  
12 MR. SHARP: One more topic, I guess. I  
13 suspect it may come up, but it was with respect to  
14 Federal subsistence regulations apply to Federal mining  
15 claims. There's a draft letter in place right now  
16 that's being sent around for comments within agencies.  
17 I did speak with Vince and I informally contacted a  
18 couple solicitors. I had unanimous response from all  
19 of the Federal solicitors that I contacted that, yes,  
20 Federal subsistence regulations do apply to Federal  
21 mining claims as long as they're not patented claims.

22  
23 There is a legal case that they're  
24 citing. It's Curtis Mines in Nevada versus United  
25 States that basically that's the legal precedent that  
26 they're citing. All I can say is that I think the  
27 draft comments were due back to the solicitor, to OSM,  
28 on the 22nd of October. I don't know if comments  
29 received will change much with respect to that, but I  
30 will say that was a fairly unanimous agreement with  
31 respect on the Federal side. I did contact Tina  
32 Cunning and asked her what's the State's take on that  
33 and the State will probably come back with an opposite  
34 interpretation again. It will be one of those  
35 differences where Federal and State don't agree. But  
36 that response from OSM I believe will be forthcoming.

37  
38 MR. GLANZ: Thank you for getting that  
39 because I feel that they're administered by the Federal  
40 government. The Federal mining inspector goes on those  
41 claims. I mean the State mining inspector doesn't go  
42 on them and so on.

43  
44 While we're getting these cleared up,  
45 I'd like to know the -- I got all confused the last  
46 meeting. The high water mark is State land, but when  
47 you're on the high water you belong to the Federal.  
48 This is totally confusing to me what they were trying  
49 to explain in the last meeting. Yukon River is  
50 international waters that goes to Canada. Does that

1 apply there also on that? Who has enforcement on the  
2 Yukon River if the low water -- say you're standing on  
3 the beach. Do the Feds or the State?

4  
5 MR. SHARP: I'd like the question in  
6 writing and I'd like about a week to confirm that.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 MR. SHARP: I've heard those  
11 discussions. It's sort of like if a tree falls in the  
12 forest, if a moose is shot in navigable waters and  
13 falls on the land, are you going to get a citation.  
14 There are numerous variations of those sorts of issues  
15 and I wouldn't shoot from the hip in giving any  
16 response clearly with my relatively new tenure with  
17 BLM. I know there are those issues and the  
18 interpretation depends upon the trooper that's standing  
19 next to you, I guess, when something like that happens.  
20 But there are navigability issues. Each river may be  
21 different. It may be high water, but it depends on the  
22 river you're looking at. There are nuances throughout  
23 and it would be nice if the State and the Feds could  
24 agree on all of these issues, but I think there are  
25 those points where they agree to disagree. It will  
26 take a citation or an agency willing to put that forth  
27 and have it adjudicated.

28  
29 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.

30  
31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Carrying that  
32 thought forward, let's write the letter I would  
33 suggest.

34  
35 MR. GLANZ: I would like to write that  
36 letter, yes.

37  
38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that a  
39 motion?

40  
41 MR. GLANZ: I would like to make a  
42 motion that we write a letter requesting clarification  
43 of the high water mark and the enforcement procedures,  
44 et cetera, et cetera.

45  
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I would  
47 suggest it goes to the State also.

48  
49 MR. GLANZ: Yes, there to.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Seconded.  
2  
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
4 Second. Anymore discussion.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.  
9  
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
11 has been called for. All in favor.  
12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.  
14  
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great. Maybe  
16 we'll get to talk about that and understand if it's  
17 swimming or not swimming or whatever.  
18  
19 (No opposing votes)  
20  
21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's it.  
22 Thank you, Daniel. We're moving along. I think we're  
23 going to try to do this, try and finish this by 6:00  
24 p.m., and if you need to get a sandwich then get one.  
25 But I think we're going to get there.  
26  
27 Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon Flats.  
28 Go ahead.  
29  
30 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
31 For the record, Wennona Brown, Yukon Flats National  
32 Wildlife Refuge. I'm going to sort of present the  
33 update on the Doyon Land Exchange EIS and then Mark  
34 will go over the biological issues and reports.  
35  
36 The status on the EIS is that we  
37 completed the public comment period in May. We  
38 received over 104,000 comments on the draft EIS. Over  
39 103,000 came from organizations, 1,300 from  
40 individuals, 29 from businesses, 15 from Native  
41 corporations, 12 from travel, governments,  
42 organizations, 6 from other Federal agencies and  
43 entities, and 3 from State agencies. We received  
44 comments from 121 Alaskan communities, 53 U.S. states  
45 and territories, and 103 foreign countries.  
46  
47 For those that expressed a preference  
48 among the alternatives for the proposed action, which  
49 was the land exchange, .6 of those were in favor of  
50 alternative 1, which is the exchange with the non-

1 development easements, .3 percent was in favor of  
2 alternative 2, which was the exchange excluding the  
3 Black Crazy Mountains, .01 percent favored that  
4 alternative. For the no action alternative, 90 percent  
5 of the comments favored that alternative and 9 percent  
6 expressed no preference amongst the alternatives.

7  
8 We've been in the process of  
9 incorporating and addressing responses to those  
10 comments and we are still awaiting the land appraisals.  
11 We put out a press release I think in September, but  
12 those have been delayed. We don't expect to see those  
13 in to our office until sometime in the spring, which  
14 has probably pushed the decision back to next summer or  
15 sometime.

16  
17 That's kind of where we are with the  
18 EIS at the present time. Are there any questions  
19 there?

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 MS. BROWN: Vince passed out a fire  
24 season synopsis for Yukon Flats for 2008. As you can  
25 see, probably close to half of the acreage that burned  
26 in 2008 in the state of Alaska was in Yukon Flats. So  
27 just a quick update of kind of what the fire status was  
28 for this past year. It's one of the lowest fire years  
29 we've had in probably over 10 years.

30  
31 With that, I'll turn it over to Mark.

32  
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

34  
35 MR. BERTRAM: Madam Chair. Council  
36 members. Mark Bertram with Yukon Flats Refuge.

37  
38 If you open up that first handout that  
39 was sent out to you, it shows you a couple graphs of  
40 moose survey information I don't believe you've seen  
41 yet. This was a late winter survey conducted last  
42 March on the western Yukon Flats. Both the moose  
43 densities on the eastern and western Yukon Flats appear  
44 to be declining. More so on the western side. The  
45 figure up on top shows you the declining trend for  
46 March surveys that have been done over the last 10  
47 years. The table on the bottom shows you the declining  
48 trend for the fall surveys. So those surveys done in  
49 the fall or in late winter in March showed a declining  
50 trend. So we have an obvious, as everybody knows, low

1 density moose population out on the Yukon Flats.

2

3 I'd like to go over some projects that  
4 we're getting ready to implement that dove-tail in with  
5 the low moose density on the Yukon Flats. First one is  
6 a wolf study that we'll be conducting. Starting next  
7 month we'll be radio collaring six or seven packs of  
8 wolves, deploying about 20 radio collars out. The  
9 purpose of that study is to estimate how many moose  
10 wolves are consuming during the year up on the Yukon  
11 Flats, particularly on the western half of the Yukon  
12 Flats. This study will be conducted out of the village  
13 of Beaver.

14

15 The following spring, in May of '09, we  
16 will be putting radio collars out on black bears. The  
17 purpose of that study is to estimate how many black  
18 bears are in the western Yukon Flats and, more  
19 specifically, in a 500 square mile area centered around  
20 Beaver.

21

22 So those two studies are basically  
23 trying to answer a couple predation questions. We're  
24 trying to get an estimate of how many black bears are  
25 out there. I think that black bear information will  
26 provide some much needed information. Really right now  
27 as far as bear densities go we're just best guessing on  
28 how many grizzly bears or black bears are out there.  
29 So we think the density information we get from the  
30 black bear study is really going to help us manage  
31 moose and predators better. We can answer some of  
32 those questions with more confidence. How big of an  
33 impact are we going to have on black bear populations  
34 if we're implementing some of the proposals that you  
35 were discussing earlier today.

36

37 Moving on. I'll just mention two or  
38 three other projects. It was the third year of avian  
39 influenza testing around the state of Alaska. The  
40 bottom line is there's been tens of thousands of birds  
41 of 30-plus different species tested in Alaska. There's  
42 no known cases of H5N1 avian influenza as of yet. So  
43 positive news there.

44

45 A couple of other things that I wanted  
46 to mention. We have a program implemented right now  
47 and we're actively taking moose meat into the villages.  
48 Moose that's confiscated from illegal kills or from  
49 roadkills here in Fairbanks. Thus far we've taken 500  
50 pounds of moose meat up to Fort Yukon, 700 pounds to

1 Stevens Village, 200 pounds to Birch Creek and we took  
2 a sheep up to Beaver Village. We're trying to do  
3 something that we think is positive and it's affordable  
4 for us to go out and do that.

5  
6 We've also had, I think, a viable law  
7 enforcement presence this past fall. We've had two  
8 instances, one in August and in September, where we've  
9 had a patrol out on the Yukon and on the Porcupine and  
10 Sheenjack Rivers. There were cases made. I don't have  
11 any of the details on those, but there were plenty of  
12 contacts made and several cases made, but, again, I  
13 don't have the details on that.

14  
15 The last thing I'd like to mention is  
16 that we also conducted two outreach programs this  
17 summer, one in Chalkyitsik, one up in Venetie and it's  
18 basically geared towards teaching kids about resources  
19 on lakes near their village, so we targeted Ohtig Lake  
20 at Chalkyitsik and Venetie Lake at Venetie and took  
21 eight kids out on the lake for three days and taught  
22 them how to count ducks, how to sample bugs in the  
23 water, how to operate radio telemetry gear, GPS's and  
24 things like that.

25  
26 On last item is we do have a new  
27 biologist on our Staff. His name is Bryce Lake. He's  
28 not here tonight, but we've just got a little more  
29 biological capacity with his addition. That's all I  
30 have.

31  
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

33  
34 MR. CARROLL: I have a comment. Mark,  
35 I sure appreciate the presence of the Refuge people  
36 this fall. In my opening remarks I made at the  
37 beginning of the meeting this morning was that I  
38 appreciate the stepped-up law enforcement and the  
39 presence of wildlife Refuge people. Thank you very  
40 much. It's good to see you guys out there.

41  
42  
43 MR. BERTRAM: One last thing if I could  
44 mention is just a plug. We have a biological review  
45 coming up this next March which is basically a planning  
46 effort on our part. We're going to basically set a 5  
47 to 10 year plan for what we're going to do from a  
48 biological standpoint different projects. It will be a  
49 large panel of scientists from across Alaska. We'll  
50 also include local people. We've got one person

1 identified from Fort Yukon and we'll be selecting a  
2 second individual. That goes on this next spring, then  
3 the following fall we have a comprehensive conservation  
4 planning effort, which is kind of like an EIS, for the  
5 Refuge to kind of set the plan. It will be a guiding  
6 plan for Refuge management for the next 10 to 15 years.

7

8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, yeah. Thanks also for  
11 the meat. It was 534 pounds. Two officers in the Sky  
12 Hawk gave me 34 pounds of caribou meat that they  
13 retrieved off a carcass somebody didn't skin or bone  
14 out properly.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Was that meat well taken  
17 care of?

18

19 MR. BERTRAM: From our end it was very  
20 well taken care of. I wasn't the guy doing the  
21 butchering. I think most of the meat was in pretty  
22 good shape. It was fresh stuff.

23

24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
25 Arctic Refuge.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No one is  
30 present from the Arctic Refuge. Oh, I'm sorry. Double  
31 duty.

32

33 MS. BROWN: Wennona Brown for the  
34 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge did  
35 submit a written report that pretty well covers their  
36 activities for this past year. It's a summary and they  
37 do anticipate having the full reports of their summer  
38 activities available for the winter meeting.

39

40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's in our  
41 booklet, yeah.

42

43 MS. BROWN: I think it starts on Page  
44 48.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
47 Does anyone have anything.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
2 Wenona. Tetlin.

3  
4 MR. KELLER: I'm Peter Keller from the  
5 Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. You've got this report in your  
6 books on Page 57 and I'll just skim through it.

7  
8 The Tetlin Refuge recently completed  
9 the comprehensive conservation plan, which is going to  
10 guide management for the Refuge during the next 15  
11 years. Mark referred to that about the Yukon Flats  
12 Refuge. We managed to complete ours, which is a huge  
13 deal.

14  
15 Some of the changes are the fisheries  
16 management is going to be managed to maintain natural  
17 diversity and stability of ecosystems, except for the  
18 fact we're going to allow Fish and Game to continue  
19 stocking one lake on the Refuge with rainbow trout,  
20 which is not native to the Refuge.

21  
22 Fire management is going to shift an  
23 emphasis to a more natural fire regime and more  
24 intensive suppression and treatments around residential  
25 areas.

26  
27 Public use management is going to  
28 increase public use opportunities compatible with  
29 Refuge purposes. Some facilities are going to be  
30 upgraded, there's going to be more opportunities for  
31 access on trails and streams, particularly along the  
32 Alaska Highway, to have more day-use and back-country  
33 opportunities, and there's going to be more  
34 environmental ed and interpretation efforts as well.

35  
36 We recently acquired seven acres of  
37 property in Tok to be used for a new Alaska public  
38 lands information center. Our new deputy Refuge  
39 manager was recently appointed I think on Friday. We  
40 got the news Greg Risdahl from OSM is going to be our  
41 new deputy manager. I'm not sure when he's going to  
42 appear in Tok, but he'll be there soon. He's got a  
43 good biology background. He was an endangered species  
44 biologist in Montana. Anyway, we're going to welcome  
45 him.

46  
47 The Upper Tanana subsistence fisheries  
48 TEK study is at the OSM for final review. Recently  
49 Tetlin Tribal Council is developing a moose management  
50 plan from a grant they got from Fish and Wildlife

1 Service. They've been asking all the local agencies to  
2 help them with that.

3

4 The biology program, basically the most  
5 relevant thing, was the moose study, which I'm not  
6 going to read all this stuff. It's the same radio  
7 telemetry study we've been doing since 2004. We have  
8 14 cows left out there with collars on and we're  
9 monitoring them monthly until the collars either drop  
10 off or the batteries run out and we can't find them  
11 anymore. Currently there's about the same parturition  
12 rate as previous years. Twinning rate was up a bit and  
13 at least somewhat decent survival until now.

14

15 Anyway, that's all I need to say. Any  
16 questions.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you  
23 enjoying your new job?

24

25 MR. KELLER: I love it.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great.

28

29 MR. KELLER: It's great.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
32 Peter. I think we're down to the Parks, right. How  
33 many are here? There we go. I apologize for taking us  
34 through this long night, but I think it's going to help  
35 us out in the long term. This is the Denali.

36

37 MS. CRAVER: Madam Chair. Council  
38 members. For the record, my name is Amy Craver and I'm  
39 Denali National Park and Preserve. For the interest of  
40 time, I'm just going to go ahead and give you just the  
41 high points and you'll see I passed out a detailed  
42 update on sort of the wildlife issues and then my  
43 subsistence update.

44

45 This fall Denali reinstated a Federal  
46 subsistence moose permit hunt in 16B for the preserve  
47 area. We had eight people from Skwentna apply for  
48 permits.

49

50 This winter we will begin a project in

1 Denali documenting traplines trails and this is going  
2 to be in the northern parts of the Preserve, focused  
3 mostly on folks from the Minchumina area. Drawing on  
4 key informant interviews, ethnographic fieldwork, and  
5 aerial surveys this study will document the historic  
6 and current active traplines trails associated with  
7 activities at Denali National Park. The second year of  
8 the project we will be focusing on Wrangell.

9  
10 ADF&G completed a report on the fall  
11 chum salmon mark recapture abundance estimate on the  
12 Tanana and Kantishna Rivers for 2007. Abundance  
13 estimates for the Tanana River were approximately  
14 321,000 chum and for the Kantishna it was approximately  
15 82,000 chum.

16  
17 Denali will soon be conducting a timber  
18 inventory of the ANILCA additions to Denali National  
19 Park in the Windy Creek area. The end results of this  
20 project will be to develop a comprehensive Windy Creek  
21 firewood/log management plan for qualified subsistence  
22 users that would be implemented at Denali. This is in  
23 response to just recently, in the last three years,  
24 we've been getting a lot of requests for timber permits  
25 and we really at this point don't have a good idea what  
26 a sustainable harvest is in that area.

27  
28 In terms of the wildlife updates, bear  
29 captures were conducted on May 24 and 25, 2007.  
30 Collars were replaced on six female grizzly bears.  
31 Three new three-year-old females were captured and  
32 collared. Captures were conducted from helicopter with  
33 fixed wing support. The number of collared bears in  
34 this study is 13 and all of them are female. The  
35 oldest study bear is 19 years old.

36  
37 At den emergence, two sows each had two  
38 spring cubs. By the end of September one cub could not  
39 be accounted for and was presumed dead. One sow had a  
40 single two year old that could not be accounted for at  
41 the season's end.

42  
43 Plans for 2008 include replacing the  
44 bear's radio collars where necessary and to increase  
45 the sample size by collaring some new bears or locating  
46 those with failed collars and investigating the  
47 mortalities and dropped collars.

48  
49 Our current wolf study consists of  
50 maintaining two to three radio-collared wolves in each

1 known pack inhabiting the Park north of the Alaska  
2 Range. Radio-collared wolves are located every two  
3 weeks with additional locations during late September,  
4 early October to determine fall pack size and to count  
5 pups and the locations during March and April to  
6 determine the late winter pack sizes.

7  
8 As of April 1st, 30 wolves and 16 packs  
9 in Denali wore conventional VHF radio collars that are  
10 located from antenna-equipped airplanes. Another nine  
11 wolves carry GPS collars that determine the animal's  
12 location once per day and store the data and upload it  
13 through a satellite system. In April 2007 there were  
14 approximately 83 wolves in the 16 packs being monitored  
15 by Park biologists.

16  
17 The tentative estimate for the Denali  
18 Caribou Herd size was 2,150 in late September of 2006.  
19 The herd size has increased during 2005 and 2006  
20 primarily as a result of increased calf recruitment.

21  
22 As part of a long-term monitoring  
23 effort through the Central Alaska Monitoring Network, a  
24 10,000 square kilometers of park north of the Alaska  
25 Range is being surveyed for moose. November 2008 is  
26 going to be the time when they're scheduling to do the  
27 next survey. It looks like with a good snow cover that  
28 weather is on our side to do the survey next month.

29  
30 Just a couple outreach projects that  
31 the Subsistence Program has been involved in. Last  
32 March we invited two elders from Nicholai to come to  
33 Cantwell School and help the kids build a moose hide  
34 boat. It was a really cool project. The Cantwell  
35 Tribal Council partnered with us, Denali School  
36 District and AHTNA all sort of worked together to make  
37 this project happen and we had a really great community  
38 potluck. What was neat too about the project was that  
39 it was one of our local kids and his family, who is  
40 very involved in subsistence, they went out and got the  
41 three moose hides to build the boat.

42  
43 Now the big challenge is we're trying  
44 to figure out how we're going to preserve the boat  
45 because it is a traditional moose hide boat and kind of  
46 a smelly boat, so we're trying to work with maybe the  
47 Anchorage Museum to figure out how we can preserve it.  
48 Right now it's in somebody's garage until we figure out  
49 a way.

50

1                   We also developed a short DVD on kind  
2 of Denali subsistence and this moose hide boat was  
3 featured and that DVD is being streamed through our  
4 website so the visitors can check it out and see what  
5 subsistence at Denali is about.

6  
7                   So that's all I have for now. Are  
8 there any questions?

9  
10                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

11  
12                  MR. BASSICH: How many subsistence  
13 users are currently living within the Park and Preserve  
14 area?

15  
16                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean in it  
17 or around it?

18  
19                  MR. BASSICH: Well, within the  
20 boundaries of the Park and Preserve.

21  
22                  MS. CRAVER: Well, I don't know the  
23 exact population of Cantwell, because Cantwell is one  
24 of the resident zone communities and the boundary is  
25 three miles from the post office. I would say this past  
26 hunting season I probably issued moose and caribou  
27 permits approximately to 30 different people. Then  
28 you've got Minchumina. I would say there's probably 15  
29 active subsistence users, which is mostly the whole  
30 community. Then Nicholai, I think there's only about  
31 90 people. Nicholai people generally to their hunting  
32 and fishing on State land. I haven't seen since I've  
33 been working there a lot of evidence of them going into  
34 the Park. I know traditionally they talked about they  
35 would go sheep hunting within the additions, but right  
36 now we don't have a lot of evidence of them actually  
37 using the Park.

38  
39                  MR. BASSICH: So using the Park, it  
40 would be safe to say maybe about 150 people or less?

41  
42                  MS. CRAVER: Or less.

43  
44                  MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
45 else.

46  
47                  (No comments)

48  
49                  MS. CRAVER: Okay. Then I'm just going  
50 to move into the next report. This is from Yukon-

1 Charley National Preserve. Dave Krupa unfortunately  
2 wasn't able to make this meeting, but I can hand you  
3 his updates. I'm going to just highlight sort of a few  
4 of his updates and you can read more in detail.

5  
6 He says the draft final report on the  
7 FIS funded Traditional and Local Knowledge Study of the  
8 Upper Yukon River was submitted to Fish and Wildlife  
9 and project participants for review and comments in the  
10 spring of 2008. He's now finalizing that project  
11 report.

12  
13 Initial scoping has begun in Circle,  
14 Central, Eagle and Eagle Village for an updated Park  
15 Service ethnographic overview assessment of the  
16 communities to document their historical and  
17 contemporary ties to the land and resources of Yukon-  
18 Charley.

19  
20 A related effort is underway regionally  
21 to develop a Park Service proposal to fund updated  
22 subsistence harvest surveys for all Park and Preserve-  
23 related communities.

24  
25 Then finally a prospectus for the Sport  
26 Hunting Guide Service Concession is undergoing final  
27 revision for Yukon-Charley National Preserve and will  
28 be available in the coming months. This is something  
29 that all guides that have previously inquired about  
30 this Concession contract are on a mailing list and will  
31 receive immediate notification of availability.

32  
33 That's all I have for Yukon-Charley.

34  
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank  
40 you. Barbara says she's always last. Last but not  
41 least.

42  
43 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
44 It seems like I'm always last on the agenda, but that's  
45 okay. I want to mention briefly a couple of news items  
46 from the Alaska Region. Marsha Blaszak, who was the  
47 regional director, retired this spring and we now have  
48 a new regional director on board. Her name is Sue  
49 Masicka and she came to us from the Park Service in  
50 Washington, D.C. And then I have a few items from

1 Wrangell-St. Elias. I gave Vince and Tina some things  
2 to pass around. I'm going to talk about them fairly  
3 quickly, but if you want me to talk more about things,  
4 you can let me know.

5  
6 The Park Service and the Eastern  
7 Interior RAC have been having this kind of discussion  
8 over the last several years about the subsistence use  
9 of shed and discarded horns and antlers that you might  
10 find out on the landscape. Current Park Service  
11 regulations prohibit their collection. We are starting  
12 to work on an environmental assessment on the  
13 collection of horns and antlers as a subsistence  
14 activity. So we're sort of in the scoping phase,  
15 looking at alternatives that subsistence users might be  
16 interested in. At the point we have something like a  
17 draft environmental assessment we'll make sure this RAC  
18 is informed about where things are going. I'll stop  
19 there on that topic unless you want me to say more.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 Okay. I have been tasked with  
24 developing an environmental assessment looking at our  
25 management of firewood and other timber resources, so  
26 this is something we're just getting started on. We  
27 expect to have some scoping meetings later this year.  
28 I'll make sure the information on that gets to Vince so  
29 he can distribute it to the Council.

30  
31 In one of the handouts, I put together  
32 a summary of our subsistence permitting of the hunting  
33 permits. I think it's pretty self-explanatory. We  
34 have hired a new wildlife biologist to replace our  
35 former wildlife biologist. Judy Putera came to us from  
36 Lake Clark National Park. She's put together a  
37 wildlife report, so that's something else we just  
38 passed out.

39  
40 There's some information on the  
41 Mentasta Caribou and she wanted me to tell you that on  
42 the top table the figures are a minimum count. They  
43 haven't been adjusted so apparently they have a formula  
44 that calculates how many animals are their best  
45 estimate of the actual population rather than the raw  
46 count. The figures that you have here for 2007 and  
47 2008 are the raw count.

48  
49 On the Chisana caribou, you'll see that  
50 Judy has written in some figures. I think they quite

1 recently did that census and the numbers she has there  
2 are from the survey done by the State of Alaska. The  
3 Canadians are also doing a survey but is not included  
4 in those figures.

5  
6 On the next page is some information  
7 from the 2007 moose survey. Amy mentioned they're  
8 getting ready at Denali to do a moose survey. We were  
9 able to do a survey last fall. This is something we're  
10 going to try to do every three years. There's some  
11 results from the survey there.

12  
13 The last thing I wanted to talk about  
14 was the environmental impact statement we're doing on  
15 permitting of recreational ORVs in the Nabesna Road  
16 area. You should have a copy of our planning  
17 newsletters. This is fairly hot off the presses.

18  
19 Just a little background on this. The  
20 EIS is a result of the 2006 lawsuit that challenged the  
21 authority of the Park Service to issue permits for  
22 recreational ORVs, so the lawsuit is focusing on  
23 recreational use. There wasn't a challenge to the  
24 subsistence use. Last fall they did public scoping  
25 with five public meetings. There were meetings with  
26 various stakeholders and they've put out a couple of  
27 newsletters. We received more than 100 comments and  
28 they're being used to develop a set of draft  
29 alternatives. We expect to have a packet in early  
30 November and we'll get information out to the Council  
31 on those when they're available.

32  
33 We also did a lot of field work this  
34 summer, finished up a cultural resource survey, did  
35 some fish habitat and stream crossing work, also  
36 vegetation and wetlands mapping. They've looked at the  
37 feasibility of rerouting some of the trails that go  
38 through some of the more boggy areas. Some of the  
39 trails were developed as winter trails and have gone  
40 into summer use and weren't necessarily designed for  
41 summer use.

42  
43 They've put some trail counters out to  
44 look at how many people are using the trails. The next  
45 thing is, as I've said, we'll be getting a package of  
46 draft management alternatives in a month or so and we  
47 expect to see a draft EIS in about a year. I'll stop  
48 there.

49  
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council

1 members, any questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We made  
6 it. Thank you, guys, for hanging in there with us. I  
7 just wanted to say a lot of these agency reports that  
8 we're going through here, if you look at the maps and  
9 look at where we all live, some of the areas are  
10 specific to different places and you probably get kind  
11 of bored when you have to look at one you don't know  
12 anything about. But thanks for going through all of  
13 this with us.

14

15 Okay. Let's have something to eat and  
16 hopefully we'll have a nice show here.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: I'll be putting out a  
19 can. The tribe is putting forth this on their own tab,  
20 so please kick in on that. I'll need some help  
21 carrying out the big pot of soup that's in the back  
22 room, otherwise it will be spilled if I do it. And  
23 then I didn't know if you wanted to talk about local  
24 hire or wait for that until tomorrow.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's talk  
27 of doing that tomorrow. I'm going to talk to Barbara  
28 and I'll report what she had told me. Okay. Let's go  
29 ahead and eat.

30

31 (Off record)

32

33 (On record - Evening Session)

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Welcome, the  
36 folks from Nenana that are here and offer you the  
37 opportunity to come up and talk to us about fisheries  
38 or any other issue that concerns you. Just feel free  
39 to come up to the mike. I have one ready to go.

40

41 I also want to say that we chose Nenana  
42 for this meeting to take up those two proposals on the  
43 Yukon that was dealing with fish, the size of web --  
44 help me out, Virgil. Anyway, you're probably aware of  
45 it and we're real interested in that. When we take  
46 those two proposals up that are deferred currently,  
47 they will come back to us in March to go to the Federal  
48 Board in April, so this is the people of Nenana's  
49 opportunity to give us your opinions on that and any  
50 other issues that concern you.

1                   Go ahead, state your name.

2

3                   MR. SUCKLING: My name is Ted Suckling.  
4 I live here in Nenana. I'm a commercial fisherman,  
5 subsistence fisherman. I've been living here all my  
6 life. I run a wheel. I'm an alternate member on the  
7 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. I was just  
8 going to mention that bycatch is a topic that I'm  
9 really interested in and really concerned about. The  
10 pollock fishery is a billion dollars or more and if  
11 they can't figure out a way to reduce the bycatch of  
12 chinook, we're going to lose our chinook fishery, plus  
13 the chum. There's a lot more chum, of course.

14

15                   I'd like to mention my concerns about  
16 the chinook because they're getting smaller, fewer and  
17 the quality is going down. I'd like to have a hard cap  
18 put on with the pollock fishery. With all the money  
19 they're making, it seems like they can figure out some  
20 way to at least reduce it to nil ideally. I'd like to  
21 see that they're going to put more effort into what it  
22 takes to reduce the bycatch. That's my main concern.

23

24                   As far as the net size and everything,  
25 I'm not that up on the subject, but I know that bycatch  
26 -- you know, it's not only bycatch, it's probably  
27 global warming or climate change, the acidity in the  
28 ocean maybe, but there are all kinds of things that  
29 could be done. Right now, between global warming or  
30 Arctic change, there's something we can do with the  
31 pollock fishery that can be addressed that we can do  
32 something about. I think the pollock fishery should be  
33 more willing to help us out. Once the salmon are gone,  
34 they're gone, and they're getting smaller and smaller  
35 and fewer. I think something can and should be done.

36

37                   Anyway, that's all. Thank you.

38

39                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Before he  
40 goes, any questions from the group here. He might have  
41 some knowledge that you have in your head you'd like to  
42 hear about. Virgil.

43

44                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
45 Ted, what I'd like to ask you, you've been fishing here  
46 a long time and you said the king salmon are getting  
47 smaller. Well, I know they're getting smaller and  
48 there's a number of reasons for that. My question to  
49 you is, I know years ago when I first got involved in  
50 the commercial fishery here on the Tanana River and up

1 on the Yukon, we used to catch fish that were 50 and 60  
2 pounds. I think I've seen one 50-pound fish in the  
3 last 10 years. That was caught by Henry Weils up in  
4 Rampart in 2002, a 51-pound king salmon.

5  
6 So my question is, can you remember  
7 catching king salmon here that weighed 40, 50 and maybe  
8 60 pounds?

9  
10 MR. SUCKLING: Back in 1982 I caught a  
11 42-pounder and four years ago there was about a 42-  
12 pounder caught here and other than that it's always  
13 been fish that were 20, 21, you know, 26 maybe, and  
14 they're all small to me. I remember those big fish and  
15 it just hasn't been around. I think there's definitely  
16 something going on and I think bycatch is part of it.  
17 We should think about somehow curtailing that bycatch  
18 somehow.

19  
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I have one  
21 other question. You fish with a fishwheel, right?

22  
23 MR. SUCKLING: Yes.

24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you catch salmon  
26 with net marks on them that got caught in nets and then  
27 got loose and come up sometimes?

28  
29 MR. SUCKLING: No, I haven't. No.

30  
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

32  
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

34  
35 MR. BASSICH: Hi, Ted. I was wondering  
36 if you pay much attention to male/female ratios in your  
37 commercial harvest or if they keep track of any of  
38 those records.

39  
40 MR. SUCKLING: No, I don't have any. I  
41 really don't have -- it seems like there's more males  
42 in my -- just off, you know.

43  
44 MR. BASSICH: And when you sell your  
45 fish, are you selling them in the whole?

46  
47 MR. SUCKLING: No, they're all  
48 subsistence for kings and we didn't have a commercial  
49 buyer this year for kings. I wasn't able to  
50 participate anyway. I did manage to get one fish

1 ticket, but that's it.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: For the record, how many  
4 years have you been fishing here?

5

6 MR. SUCKLING: '74 is when I started,  
7 '75. I was fishing in Manley in the early '80s. The  
8 late '70s I fished here and then early '80s I was  
9 fishing just downriver 16 miles. I've been around.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

12

13 MR. SUCKLING: Yeah, I do have a  
14 limited entry.

15

16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
17 questions.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Ted, did you lose your  
20 fishwheel this year in the flood?

21

22 MR. SUCKLING: No, I didn't. I was  
23 lucky. It wasn't set yet and I managed to pull it out  
24 before the flood came. So I was one of the lucky ones.  
25 That's another deal when you have to deal with drift  
26 and high water and everything. It's just hard to fish  
27 when you've got no way to protect your wheel. There's  
28 drift that comes down that just impossible to do  
29 anything about except pull your wheel out and drift it  
30 down to where it's good.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: My son lost his.

33

34 MR. SUCKLING: Yeah, we did lose two  
35 wheels here, but we managed to get them back. Victor's  
36 is one of them.

37

38 I appreciate you guys meeting here with  
39 us and thank you.

40

41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ted, I have a  
42 question for you. You mentioned about the size of the  
43 fish, you said 20-pounders. Is that recent?

44

45 MR. SUCKLING: Oh, yeah.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What were they  
48 back.....

49

50 MR. SUCKLING: Oh, lots of 30's, lots

1 of 40's. I never did myself, I was always late getting  
2 my wheel in for the big fish, but when I was fishing  
3 they were just routine, you know, 30 or 40 pounds all  
4 the time. I can't exactly -- I never weighed one, I  
5 guess, but I know they're just smaller.

6  
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you aware  
8 at tomorrow's meeting we're going to have this.....

9  
10 MR. SUCKLING: North Pacific.

11  
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

13  
14 MR. SUCKLING: Right. I'd like to be  
15 here for that.

16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be  
18 great. And if you have any comments during that time,  
19 feel free to ask questions too.

20  
21 MR. SUCKLING: All right.

22  
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah,  
24 raise your hand.

25  
26 MR. SUCKLING: I'll raise it.

27  
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 MR. LORD: Hi, Madam Chair. My name is  
32 Victor Lord and I'd like to thank you guys for coming  
33 here to our village. Our chief is here. My mother and  
34 father is Edmund and Nora Lord. There's Edmund right  
35 there looking at you guys. He's on the wall. He was  
36 kind of a great chief. I think Mr. Umphenour knows  
37 him. He always watches over us. He was a great  
38 provider for the whole village. Every potlatch he'd  
39 get moose. He even fought against Fish and Game. Went  
40 to jail a couple times because our differences was  
41 different from the State of Alaska and he proved them  
42 wrong a few times.

43  
44 It was a fishing deal, you know. The  
45 fishing was abundant and somebody would pass away and  
46 he'd go out there and kill a moose for that poor family  
47 because that's how we do it. Five hundred people in  
48 this hall. He'd provide the moose for them and he'd  
49 make a potlatch. So it's a cultural thing. How are  
50 you going to tell us -- well, not you people, but how

1 can they change our ways. He wouldn't accept it. That  
2 was Edmund, right there. That's the way he was. He  
3 stuck up for our rights or what we believed our rights  
4 were. We weren't being uppity.

5  
6 My mom, Nora Thomas, she was a great-  
7 granddaughter of Chief Thomas, and he told us we're  
8 always going to stick to our ways and that's still the  
9 way that we believe in as far as the moose stuff goes,  
10 you know. Finally the State agreed we're allowed  
11 potlatch moose, so hat's off to them.

12  
13 As far as fishing, I grew up in a fish  
14 camp back in the '50s. I learned to cut fish, we had  
15 smoked fish, and we had to eat fish everyday. Maybe  
16 moose meat once in a while. We had a four-story  
17 smokehouse and that was our life, fish camp, and we  
18 caught a lot of fish. And then before limited entry we  
19 used to bale fish. I don't know how many people  
20 remember about baling fish. We used to pack them in.  
21 Smoke/dry fish in the summertime, then pack them and  
22 tie them up and sell it to dog mushers. There was no  
23 racing dog mushers back then. There was no  
24 snowmachines either. So there was a commercial market  
25 before commercial started and that's how we lived  
26 because fish was here and available to us and that's  
27 how we had to live.

28  
29 Then all the rules came around, game  
30 wardens and everything. We fought back. We didn't  
31 win, but at least let them know our dissent, you know.  
32 I'm still a commercial fishermen and subsistence. We  
33 provide for the village around here. We put a lot of  
34 fish away for our potlatches and stuff. Not  
35 anticipating somebody's going to pass away, we just do  
36 it because stuff happens, you know. We put food away  
37 for the winter. We're a community, we're a village and  
38 that's what we do. Once again, thank you, guys. Thank  
39 you, Richard.

40  
41 MR. CARROLL: You're welcome.

42  
43 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Victor. How  
44 many commercial fishermen are in the Nenana area?

45  
46 MR. LORD: Approximately 27, quite a  
47 few. Not everybody fishes anymore because it's not  
48 viable, I guess.

49  
50 MR. BASSICH: When you fish, are you a

1 fishwheel fisherman or a net fisherman?

2

3 MR. LORD: I'm a fishwheel fisherman.  
4 A few times right in June I use a net, me and my  
5 subsistence buddy, Edgar Monroe. He's not here right  
6 now, but we set a net together. It's kind of  
7 interesting. And then I put the wheel in.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: And I'm just curious of  
10 any of the people here, do you have any photos of your  
11 fishing activities from the '60s, '70s, '80s? I'd be  
12 really interested in seeing some of that.

13

14 MR. LORD: I probably do. I'd have to  
15 go look for them. During the flood I had to put all my  
16 stuff away. If you're really interested, my sister-in-  
17 law has a picture of my wheel going down the river  
18 during the flood this year. It was pretty bad. Drift  
19 piled about four times bigger than this building came  
20 down and hit it and took it away, but we got it back  
21 together with the help of the tribal members. They  
22 came and helped me out. It's just amazing the support  
23 you get.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: I guess something I'd  
26 like to really encourage from the community members  
27 here in our efforts to try and document changing fish  
28 sizes, a picture is worth 1,000 words. It's very  
29 difficult for people to envision things when we start  
30 talking about millimeters and inches and that sort of  
31 thing, but when people can actually see what we used to  
32 catch and see what we're catching now, I think it will  
33 go a long way in telling the true story of what's going  
34 on. So I would encourage if you could get people in  
35 the community to get some pictures together and somehow  
36 maybe get them scanned or copied or something like that  
37 and get them to us. I would really appreciate that.

38

39 MR. LORD: Sure.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

42

43 MR. LORD: On the fish size, I just  
44 gave you a history myself, but it's a true story. The  
45 fish are getting smaller and I can't figure it out, but  
46 they are. They're just not the size they used to be.  
47 I grew up in a fish camp and been doing it all my life  
48 and it's true, the fish are getting smaller and I don't  
49 know where to point the finger.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil has a  
2 question.

3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Victor, I've been  
5 buying fish down here for quite a while and the last  
6 time we had a king fishery where got the fish early  
7 enough or we caught any kings, I think, was either four  
8 or five years ago and I remember you and I weighing the  
9 fish and I weigh them on a certified scale and we weigh  
10 them one fish at a time on the kings so we get an exact  
11 weight, but I think the last time we had a king fishery  
12 was either four or five years ago and I believe the  
13 biggest fish caught in Nenana that year commercially  
14 was only 28 pounds.

15  
16 Can you remember how big some of the  
17 fish were back in the '80s or the '70s? A 20-pound  
18 fish now caught here is actually way bigger than  
19 average. So can you remember how big some of the fish  
20 were that you know got weighed years ago?

21  
22 MR. LORD: Yes, I can, Virgil. Back in  
23 the early '80s I actually caught a 74-pound king  
24 salmon. It was huge and I had a bunch of 60-pounders  
25 in my freezer and I showed Fred Andersen, who was in  
26 charge of Fish and Game at the time. He and his  
27 entourage came down and I said, look, look what I got.  
28 I'll show you fish. I ain't hiding nothing. It was 74  
29 pound, 68, to the 50's, so that's how big the fish  
30 were. All good, big king salmon.

31  
32 MR. FIRMIN: When did it flood here?  
33 Just last month, didn't it, beginning of September?

34  
35 MR. LORD: End of July through the 4th  
36 of August.

37  
38 MR. FIRMIN: Has it ever flooded here  
39 in July before?

40  
41 MR. LORD: In '67, August 14th, it  
42 rained. No, I really can't tell you that. In '64, I  
43 believe, I was a pretty young boy, but it flooded then.  
44 I don't remember the dates. But the flood did affect  
45 our fishery and it affected our livelihood. It  
46 affected everybody in Nenana whether they fished or  
47 not. I think the river people really kind of got hurt.  
48 Like Ted told you, my wheel went down the river. It  
49 took a strain out of my pocketbook to get it back  
50 together, but through friends it sure helped out. A

1 community effort to help out each other, and my brother  
2 too, Gopher. They call him Gopher. He's Edmund, Jr.  
3 We went down and helped him out too and we got it back  
4 together. But, yeah, it hurt a little bit.

5  
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
7 have questions of Victor. Victor, I have to ask you,  
8 Nita was a relative of yours?

9  
10 MR. LORD: My grandmother.

11  
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Then Edith  
13 Smith was your.....

14  
15 MR. LORD: My auntie.

16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She was a  
18 personal friend of mine and my neighbor.

19  
20 MR. LORD: Pretty cool, Sue.

21  
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So we  
23 have ties. Spent a lot of time together, she and I.

24  
25 MR. LORD: Thank all you guys for just  
26 being here and hearing us.

27  
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. If  
29 you have something to add, go ahead.

30  
31 MR. SUCKLING: I'd just like to comment  
32 on a couple things. The pictures, maybe tomorrow I'll  
33 bring some over. I'd like to have them back. But as  
34 far as fish size pictures, I've just got mainly the  
35 wheel operations, this and that, but I do have some  
36 pictures of fish in the boat, mainly chum, and I can  
37 bring those. I was wondering, you know, like on the  
38 Kenai River, the fish down there, the kings are a lot  
39 bigger and I'm just wondering what they're doing right.  
40 And I'd like to just comment that something is funny on  
41 the Yukon that they're getting smaller. So I was just  
42 wondering what the difference is or if somebody can  
43 comment on that or has knowledge of it or whatnot.

44  
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know  
46 Virgil has a head full of knowledge and he's wanting to  
47 share some of that with you now.

48  
49 MR. SUCKLING: So, anyway, I was just  
50 wondering if it's net size at the bottom of the river

1 or whatever. I don't want to point fingers or  
2 anything. But if kings are bigger down there, they're  
3 doing something right. I'm just wondering if we  
4 couldn't apply the same techniques on the Yukon. Once  
5 the genetic blueprint or whatever they call it is gone,  
6 can it ever come back?

7

8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's beginning  
9 to sound like a biologist question. Fred Bue said to  
10 me earlier I don't know if I should leave or stay and I  
11 said, well, we can call you. We'll let Virgil handle  
12 this, but if the State feels that Fred could answer  
13 something a little -- well, that's not his fishery.  
14 Let's see how much information Virgil has. Go ahead.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. They have  
17 not used a net in the commercial fishery or the  
18 subsistence fishery in Cook Inlet larger than six  
19 inches since '81 for sure. Maybe earlier than that.  
20 The reason why is because the larger the net, the  
21 larger the fish it targets. You can still catch a big  
22 fish in a smaller mesh net, but it's not going to fit  
23 around his head, so it'll get tangled up in them, but  
24 you're not going to catch them. So when you catch the  
25 larger fish, what happens is -- fish are just like  
26 humans. I don't have any kids or grandkids that play  
27 professional basketball. Salmon are the same way.

28

29 There's a new report that just came out  
30 and I'm going to give this to you. If you read the  
31 conclusions, and I'll just read this to you real quick  
32 because no one has had time to read this report. We  
33 just got it today.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I ask you  
36 a question real quick, Virgil? I know you have this  
37 head full of knowledge.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's really short, Sue.  
40 See this?

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know, but I  
43 want to ask you something. Do they fish the Kenai in  
44 the river or do they fish it out?

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: They do not fish inside  
47 the river, but they fish for three miles straight out.  
48 They have solid nets, setnets, for three miles out end  
49 to end. Plus they have drift gillnets. They have over  
50 1,000 commercial fishermen trying to catch those fish.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can they reach  
2 the bottom when they do that?

3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: The ones close to shore  
5 can reach the bottom, but the ones further out can't.

6  
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, you  
8 answered it.

9  
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Now this study  
11 is an investigation of the potential effects of  
12 selective exploitation on the demographic and  
13 productivity of Yukon River chinook salmon.

14  
15 Conclusions and recommendation. Many  
16 phenotypic traits such as size and age at maturation  
17 are heritable seems irrefutable. Notwithstanding that  
18 important influence that environmental factors have on  
19 some phenotypic traits. That's all this science talk.  
20 I'll translate that. Phenotypic just means the  
21 different traits that different animals have, their  
22 outside appearance, their size and stuff like that.

23  
24 Conclusion three. This makes more  
25 sense or easier to understand. Size selective  
26 exploitation, that means catching them, particularly  
27 directional selection for the largest and most fecund  
28 individuals, that means the most eggs in the big  
29 females, has the potential to rapidly reduce fish size  
30 and age at maturity. At maturity means when they come  
31 back up the river to spawn. As well as population  
32 productivity. That means how many fish come back  
33 compared to how many spawned. So the conclusion of  
34 this whole works is, is to reduce or eliminate  
35 directional selection for larger and more fecund  
36 individuals to maintain genetic and phenotypic  
37 diversity, capacity to utilize diverse habitat, you  
38 know, like when you have a flood and stuff like that,  
39 and population productivity.

40  
41 So this report is finally, finally out.  
42 What really aggravates me though is this scientist, the  
43 most famous salmon scientist that's ever lived, by the  
44 name of Ricker said the same thing and it was reported  
45 to the State Board of Fisheries in January of 1981.  
46 And that, after they got the report from him in  
47 1981.....

48  
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's not angry  
50 at you.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....is when they said  
2 no more nets in Cook Inlet will be larger than six  
3 inches because they'll catch all the large king salmon  
4 and they won't get to go spawn and pretty soon all  
5 you'll have is a bunch of real small king salmon. That  
6 was presented to them 27 years ago. But now we had to  
7 redo the study, reinvent the wheel, and now another  
8 leading scientist has said the same thing.

9  
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's because  
11 somebody retired.

12  
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that is the main  
14 problem. Sure, the bycatch is bad, but even with the  
15 bycatch at 139,000 last year and we've got the young  
16 scientist lady that's sitting in the back there that  
17 works for Tanana Chiefs, she can tell you that when  
18 they calculate it out with the best science available  
19 how many of those king salmon was actually headed to  
20 the Yukon River. It was 23,000 out of the 139,000.  
21 And when they catch those as bycatch, what happens is  
22 they're not selecting out just the largest fish,  
23 they're getting a cross section of all the fish, so  
24 that won't cause the fish to get smaller, it will just  
25 make it so less fish come back is all.

26  
27 I'm not sure that helps you any or not,  
28 but now I'd like to invite George to say if anything I  
29 said was wrong or not. Or if he agrees, maybe he has  
30 some other answers as to why. Plus, one other thing,  
31 the Kenai River, the natural genes for them is to be  
32 the largest king salmon on earth.

33  
34 MR. SUCKLING: I'd like to say thank  
35 you, Virgil. I'm not sure I'm going to be welcome  
36 downriver anymore or not.

37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a copy of this.

39  
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not sure I  
41 heard what you just said.

42  
43 MR. SUCKLING: Stuff comes out.

44  
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I wanted  
46 you to know he's so passionate that he feels like if he  
47 shows his inflection he's getting his point across, but  
48 he wasn't angry at you.

49  
50 MR. SUCKLING: Thank you. See you

1 later.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't chase  
6 him off, Virgil.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
11 Ted. Don't be afraid of all of this process. Go  
12 ahead.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: To help the audience  
15 understand, that report just came out last week. It's  
16 a very technical report. Virgil did point out some  
17 stuff in the conclusion. There will be a full analysis  
18 of that for the public. The reasons the proposals that  
19 have been talked about here that were deferred, net  
20 depth and size, were to wait to see this report. The  
21 Council will get a full analysis of it. If the  
22 representatives of Nenana would like a full analysis,  
23 that would be fine. I'm going to try to pass to the  
24 Chair on another option for you to get involved with  
25 the process. But I just want it on the record that  
26 it's a modeling study and it's very technical. We and  
27 everyone need time to digest it. If you'd like a copy,  
28 we can get copies to you, but give time for people to  
29 review it is what I'm asking for. Thank you.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
32 Council members, do we need to hear from George? Or  
33 the public, do you want to hear anymore on this?

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Ask Ted.

36

37 MR. SUCKLING: No.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
40 ahead, Mitch.

41

42 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Mitch  
43 Demientieff here. I'm the chief here. I guess Duke  
44 and I, my brother Duke and I, Victor, served probably  
45 over a quarter a century on Fish and Game Advisory  
46 Committees, so we've been around this stuff a little  
47 bit, amongst other things. But prior to us, when we  
48 were kids, his dad and my dad were partners, fishing,  
49 hunting, trapping, everything, and they partnered up  
50 real good.

1                   It was just not uncommon for us, 50,  
2 60, 70-pound kings in the freezers for the wintertime  
3 and they kept the big males for us to eat. I think  
4 probably some people may be lucky enough to have some  
5 pictures of those fish, but there's a lot of people  
6 that lost a lot of history in the '67 flood, so I want  
7 to point that out. It's not like we can just go to the  
8 shelf and pull the pictures off the wall. Which was,  
9 of course, the worst flood that we had, '48 being the  
10 second worst, and '08 being the third worst flood that  
11 we've had in our history.

12  
13                   You have to trust us as far as the  
14 people that have lived that life and, you know, the  
15 smaller size of the kings there's just no way we can  
16 dispute that, that they are smaller. This year for the  
17 first time we noticed that the big humpback whitefish  
18 were bigger than the fall chum. I'm serious. It  
19 doesn't only affect the king salmon. I don't know if  
20 we have pictures, but I'm just telling you that's the  
21 fact of the matter. Those big ol' whitefish, it's just  
22 incredible. So we do have serious kinds of concerns  
23 about the size of the fish and we don't know why. I  
24 mean everybody has theories.

25  
26                   I was really honestly hoping that the  
27 North Pacific people were going to be here tonight  
28 because that's something we've been working on for at  
29 least 20 years, to meld their process into our  
30 processes, which is through the Federal system, the RAC  
31 and State system, the Fish and Game Advisory Boards and  
32 I think they would really benefit.

33  
34                   Again, I apologize. I thought there  
35 would be a lot more people here this evening, but  
36 people are -- they've authorized us a flood relief and  
37 it has nothing to do with your Board, but there's a lot  
38 of people that haven't got their flood relief check, so  
39 we're all scrambling around. I can safely tell you  
40 I've got about three sticks of wood in front of my  
41 house. So people are busy trying to get things  
42 buttoned up for winter. Otherwise, I'm sure there'd be  
43 a lot more people here this evening to talk to you.

44  
45                   I think you've got a real strong  
46 representation. Victor and Teddy, now that I'm not on,  
47 they're two out of the three people that we have that  
48 are directly participating with that. By the way, I've  
49 been a lifelong participant in the fisheries. Right  
50 now I don't run a wheel, but then that doesn't mean I

1 don't participate.

2

3 My dad and my mom, I distinctly  
4 remember the first time they went to sell fish on the  
5 open market and they put a sign out by the highway, 35  
6 cents a pound. I guess that kind of dates me a little  
7 bit, but that's what I remember. So we've all been  
8 there and we've all done that all our life and we all  
9 participate in that fishery to this day.

10

11 Anyway, those are my comments. I'll  
12 answer any questions.

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions  
15 of Mitch. Virgil.

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: I really don't have a  
18 question. I just want to thank Mitch for being here  
19 and giving us a historical perspective of the fish you  
20 used to catch here and the flooding and stuff too. I  
21 know that this year the flood was devastating and I  
22 know Victor's brother told me that Victor was parking  
23 his boat and tying it to the porch. He couldn't drive,  
24 his vehicle wasn't there, but he was using his boat to  
25 get back and forth to the house. Thank you, Mitch.

26

27 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, I think that  
28 speaks to the subsistence aspect of our fishery, and  
29 that is that we all -- what Victor was talking about,  
30 Duke, my brother, was talking about, that we all  
31 couldn't participate, so everybody just kind of helped  
32 each other out to put a little bit of grub away for the  
33 wintertime. That's what really speaks about this  
34 fishery.

35

36 But I was here in the heyday too,  
37 fishing commercially. We all were. We were all  
38 walking around with big wads of \$100 bills in our  
39 pockets. Nowadays, we're just lucky to get enough grub  
40 to share with each other. For that we're grateful.  
41 Virgil, you're right, this year with that flood we're  
42 not really flush with fish, but I think we have enough  
43 to maybe struggle by and wait for whitefish in the  
44 spring, I guess. Thank you.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
47 have anything for Mitch.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mitch, I want  
2 to thank you for the service you spent as the Chair of  
3 the Federal Board. You put, what was it, 16, 17 years  
4 in there.

5  
6                   MR. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

7  
8                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I want to  
9 thank you for that. I know that you don't want to be  
10 called we're elders anymore, but you put some years in  
11 and you earned it.

12  
13                   MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, I put my time  
14 in there, but probably I think over the quarter century  
15 service that I served with my brother Duke and others  
16 that served as long in the State advisory system was  
17 just as important to me because we -- well, we  
18 conspired a lot. We did our homework and we came  
19 prepared. I mean you can't just go -- because there is  
20 a Federal process and there is a State process. You  
21 have to be active in both arenas. I know you have been  
22 active also in both arenas.

23  
24                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Pretty  
25 challenging.

26  
27                   MR. DEMIENTIEFF: But I thank you very  
28 much, Sue, that you recognize that. It's not like I'm  
29 really out of the service anyway.

30  
31                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
32 Mitch.

33  
34                   Do we have any other public members  
35 that would like to talk to us tonight.

36  
37                   MR. STEVENS: I'm Charlie Stevens,  
38 Nenana. I'm a fisherman, commercial and subsistence.  
39 I missed most of the meeting there, so I don't know  
40 what's been talked about.

41  
42                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's all  
43 right. I'm sure you can talk to us about fish size  
44 here in Nenana, correct?

45  
46                   MR. STEVENS: Mitch pretty well sized  
47 it up there. I started fishing there in 1971. A  
48 friend of mine had a net in the water and he couldn't  
49 be there to check it the next day and asked me to check  
50 it for him. I said sure, no problem. When I got done

1 checking that net I swore I would never use another  
2 net. I was pulling out 80, 90, 100-pound kings and I  
3 had 80 of them. That will always stick in my mind  
4 because the only time I ever checked a net or even used  
5 a net.

6  
7 The fish size is definitely changed.  
8 We never heard of jack fish in them days. Right now it  
9 seems this year was a little better. I think it was  
10 maybe 50. King size were a little bit bigger that I  
11 seen. I didn't fish myself, but I did see a few  
12 fishermen with fish. The ones that did save fish lost  
13 it in the flood anyway, the king salmon.

14  
15 Mitch was saying his folks put a sign  
16 up for 35 cents a pound for fish back in the '40s,  
17 '50s, whenever it was. You're lucky to get 35 cents  
18 today. That's no lie. That's truth right there in  
19 Nenana. I couldn't pay my \$700 entry fee to open my  
20 fish plant. I did last year and I lost money on it, so  
21 this year I didn't do it. I ran a fish plant there for  
22 30 years.

23  
24 The regulation that we get upon us here  
25 on the Tanana River doesn't support a fish plant  
26 anymore that deals only with fish. I think Virgil will  
27 vouch on that. If you deal with fish alone, you will  
28 not make it.

29  
30 Last two years I see fish come back,  
31 which is great. The fish are looking good this year.  
32 This fall I just looked at it from the bank. I don't  
33 know the meat color. Maybe Virgil will answer that  
34 later. See if the fish color was better than in the  
35 past or what.

36  
37 I know this is a subsistence Board I'm  
38 talking commercial on, but basically I do both. So  
39 right now I couldn't afford to commercial fish anyway.  
40 As long as they don't take our subsistence, I guess  
41 we'll be all right. That's all I've got to say.

42  
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When was the  
44 last time you did well at your fish plant when you had  
45 it?

46  
47 MR. STEVENS: Oh, man, probably late  
48 '80s.

49  
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lots of

1 numbers of fish then and there aren't anymore.

2

3 MR. STEVENS: Right. Well, the fish  
4 price was halfway decent then. Right now it's the same  
5 or lower than the '80s and that's because of the farmed  
6 fish. I used to sell to the smokers and that's what  
7 they bought, the wild fish. They came up here and  
8 bought the chums off the Tanana River for smoking.  
9 When the farm fish came about and the hatcheries, they  
10 didn't need us no more because they could call the  
11 farmers and say I need a thousand pounds tomorrow and  
12 get it fresh rather than storing it themselves.

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's tough.

15

16 MR. STEVENS: Anyway, I got my blood  
17 circulating.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a good  
22 thing. That means you're alive and well. I want to  
23 ask the Council if they have any questions. They might  
24 want to pull out of you some history here.

25

26 Virgil would like to ask a question.

27

28 MR. STEVENS: Sure.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Charlie, do you  
31 remember -- because you had a scale. Do you remember  
32 the biggest king salmon you ever weighed caught here at  
33 Nenana?

34

35 MR. STEVENS: 78 pounds that I pulled  
36 out of my wheel.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: That was 78 pounds?

39

40 MR. STEVENS: Yes.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: And you saw lots of  
43 them over 50 pounds.

44

45 MR. STEVENS: That 78 pounds, I just  
46 happened to weigh it, that was the average fish in my  
47 mind that I could see that I got, but I weighed that  
48 one because there was a person on the bank that wanted  
49 to buy it, so I weighed it. But, yes, I've seen bigger  
50 but never actually weighed them.

1                   In the '70s, late '70s, you know, maybe  
2 it was abused a little bit by us and everybody else on  
3 the river, but there was no problem putting 500 big  
4 kings away. I did that myself many times in the '70s.  
5 So, yes, to answer your question, yes, I did see a lot  
6 more, but that one number sticks in my mind because I  
7 weighed it on the river bank.

8

9                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

10

11                   MR. STEVENS: Uh-huh.

12

13                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else  
14 have questions.

15

16                   (No comments)

17

18                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
19 Charlie. It's nice to meet you.

20

21                   MR. STEVENS: Thank you.

22

23                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see two  
24 other faces that probably we could draw into this.  
25 Would you like to come up? There's a young fellow in  
26 the back there. Don't be shy. I was handed a note  
27 here from Vince. I wanted to offer Mitch -- we'll have  
28 that meeting in March and we'll be taking up these two  
29 fish proposals that we were talking about. Would you  
30 like to teleconference in?

31

32                   MR. SUCKLING: What's it about?

33

34                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's two fish  
35 proposals that this RAC has put in to the Federal  
36 Board. Things are pretty complicated, but I think  
37 Mitch can help you out.

38

39                   MR. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Federal  
42 Board can restrict certain things on commercial take  
43 and these proposals are restricting net depth and net  
44 size. If you feel -- whenever you sat down he was  
45 getting a little excited there, he was alluding to some  
46 of the things that can change the size. I must be  
47 getting tired because I'm not saying it so you can  
48 understand it. But basically these two proposals are to  
49 help get more fish coming upriver and it's larger fish.  
50 They will restrict commercial take on the lower Yukon,

1 these two proposals. So you're welcome to  
2 teleconference in, Mitch, on that meeting we have in  
3 March.

4  
5 MR. SUCKLING: I'd like to have  
6 background material and everything.

7  
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. What  
9 happens is we get an analysis from our Federal Staff,  
10 so we need to get -- would you give your name to Vince  
11 and he will get you a booklet so you can see it. Do  
12 you want one also, Mitch?

13  
14 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: I was just going to  
15 add one more little.....

16  
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tidbit?

18  
19 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah. My brother's  
20 dad and my dad, I was going to say years ago when they  
21 first invented commercial fishing, it was actually a  
22 long time before that, but when they first started  
23 bringing it to that suburb of Nenana, Fairbanks, they  
24 used to run fish up from Nenana, fishwheel fresh fish  
25 right from Nenana, right down to Cushman Street bridge.  
26 There was an old guy by the name of Danny Maxum. That  
27 was before DEC and all that stuff. It's just kind of  
28 like a humorous little thing, you know. And he'd run  
29 down there and see them and start picking up their fish  
30 out of the boat. They'd sit there and wait for him and  
31 ran around to all the restaurants on First Street and  
32 Second Street, whatever they brought up there he'd sell  
33 it all. It didn't take no three days either. The fish  
34 was gone just like that. But that's kind of like where  
35 a modern version of commercial fishing came from. I  
36 just wanted to just pass that along, you know. That's  
37 how far back we go in this stuff. Thank you.

38  
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks for  
40 sharing that, Mitch. Yes, you bet.

41  
42 MR. LORD: You know, me and Ted, we sit  
43 on this board called YRDFA and we started in 1990. Why  
44 it was started was upriver and downriver and coastal,  
45 all the way up into Canada we were kind of fighting  
46 over the fish and it wasn't getting us nowhere. So we  
47 started this coalition kind of to -- it's better to get  
48 along than fight because you're only hurting each  
49 other. So we've got to consider that thought, you  
50 know, like sticking ink in your eye or something like

1 that.

2

3 We can talk straightforward to each  
4 other, you know, about, oh, you're catching my bigger  
5 fish because of your net size and this and that, but  
6 there has to be some kind of diplomatic way to handle  
7 this. I'd like this board to consider that, you know.  
8 Because I never even met those people before downriver  
9 and they're good people, too, and they depend on the  
10 fish just as much as we do up here. We've been kind of  
11 getting along, but I just want you guys to consider  
12 that, what I just said. Do you understand what I'm  
13 talking about, Virgil?

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)

16

17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I greatly  
18 appreciate those words, Victor, because I share them  
19 also. We try really hard and sometimes I just want to  
20 throw my hands up and say, oh, let's go home. But,  
21 you're right, we've got to try. I guess as the Chair  
22 person I'm trying. Maybe I need a bigger club.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just  
27 kidding. Virgil needs a little teasing once in a  
28 while. But it's true, we need to be pretty diplomatic  
29 and join hands and work together for the fish.

30

31 MR. LORD: For all of us.

32

33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I appreciate those  
36 words, too, Victor. I think a lot of us have been  
37 heavily involved with YRDFA and trying to work through  
38 YRDFA to get some consensus on the river on some of  
39 these issues. We've made some progress and there's  
40 some areas where we just can't seem to agree on things,  
41 but everyone needs to understand what we're trying to  
42 do is take the long-term viability of these salmon and  
43 make sure it's a long-term viability because if we lose  
44 these salmon, we not only lose subsistence fisheries,  
45 but we lose commercial fisheries and we lose commercial  
46 fisheries first.

47

48 So if we don't take care of these  
49 salmon, the very first people to suffer are going to be  
50 the lower river people because they're going to lose a

1 very valuable fishery that they depend on.

2

3                   So, in essence, the things that we're  
4 trying to do is  
5 save the salmon fisheries for everyone. It's not  
6 trying to take fish away from anyone, it's trying to  
7 make sure that everyone has the opportunity to  
8 participate in the salmon fisheries the way they are  
9 right now.

10

11                   I'd just like to bring that up because  
12 I think a lot of people, when there's controversy, they  
13 immediately just say there's upriver/downriver  
14 confrontation. My personal view is, if we take care  
15 of the fish, we can take care of everyone on the river.  
16 I think that needs to be said because that's the  
17 ultimate goal. Take care of the resource and then  
18 everyone will be happy.

19

20                   I do appreciate you saying that, too.  
21 I think that's something that needs to be brought up  
22 consistently so that people do work together and try  
23 and do it in a respectful manner. Thanks.

24

25                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have  
26 something else to add?

27

28                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Amen.

29

30                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
31 maybe that's a good place to leave it. If we don't  
32 have any other input from the public here, I'm going to  
33 ask the Council -- Randy Rogers showed up and he  
34 brought with him the Bison Planning and he'd like to  
35 show it to us. Do you want to see that tonight? It's  
36 also for the people here. How long is it?

37

38                   MR. ROGERS: I've got a short version  
39 and I've got a long version.

40

41                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Randy, you've  
42 got to come up. Randy just informed us he has a short  
43 and long version. What's the short version?

44

45                   MR. ROGERS: Well, I have a little film  
46 clip and I also have a PowerPoint. The film clip is  
47 about two minutes. That's the real short version.

48

49                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the long  
50 version?

1 MR. ROGERS: The long version is  
2 probably a half hour and it goes through a whole  
3 explanation of the Wood Bison Project.

4  
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd like to ask a  
6 question. Of the people from Nenana and the RAC, how  
7 many people have seen -- I've seen it three or four  
8 times. How many people have seen.....

9  
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which version?  
11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: The long version.  
13 Unless there's a new long version, an updated long  
14 version. So how many people have not seen any of it?  
15 So everyone has seen it at least once or maybe a couple  
16 of times. I know the guys on the Nenana AC have.

17  
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All I need to  
19 know then -- he came all the way from Fairbanks. Do  
20 you want to see the short version? The short version,  
21 Randy. We'll take a short break.

22  
23 (Off record)

24  
25 (On record)

26  
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
28 Randy.

29  
30 MR. ROGERS: My name is Randy Rogers.  
31 I'm the wildlife planner for Debarment of Fish and  
32 Game. I know you folks have heard about wood bison  
33 before and the project. The Eastern Interior Council  
34 endorsed this years ago, but I wanted to just offer to  
35 give you an update. There's never time during the  
36 regular meeting, so I asked Sue if I could come down in  
37 case you still had energy and I know everybody is  
38 tired, so I will whip through this pretty quickly.

39  
40 This is an update I put together for  
41 the Minto/Nenana Advisory Committee meeting, which  
42 will be Thursday.

43  
44 A picture of a calf that was born this  
45 spring. We started with 13 wood bison at the Wildlife  
46 Conservation Center in Portage. They've been breeding.  
47 We now have 32 that came from this original group.

48  
49 As you all know, we've got Athabaskan  
50 oral history about wood bison from Reverend David

1 Salmon, Mary Sam and others for both Yukon Flats and  
2 Minto Flats. I won't go through the details. As we've  
3 told before, bison and moose can co-exist together just  
4 fine. The bison are grazers and the moose are  
5 browsers. A good advantage of wood bison is predation  
6 is low.

7

8 This is actually cheating. This is a  
9 picture of a plains bison in Yellowstone chasing a  
10 grizzly. But much less predation problems than moose  
11 or caribou.

12

13 Wood bison were reintroduced in Yukon  
14 between 1988 and 1992 and there's now about 1,000 west  
15 of Whitehorse. They're doing great over there. They  
16 don't have a single documented case of predation in the  
17 herd yet.

18

19 As you all know, the project originated  
20 up on Yukon Flats. There's a really good habitat  
21 there. About 2000 we went ahead and did a habitat  
22 study for other areas in Interior Alaska and had to  
23 have the right forage for food, had to be away from  
24 livestock so there wouldn't be a source of disease,  
25 away from plains bison we don't want them to interbreed  
26 with, and have at least enough habitat for 400 animals.

27

28 So the three areas we've been  
29 considering are Yukon Flats, which could have 2,000 or  
30 more wood bison easily, Minto Flats we estimate about  
31 500 and the Lower Innoko/Yukon River area, with the  
32 study area we looked at, about 400, but there's  
33 probably habitat that continues all the way up through  
34 near Nulato and Galena.

35

36 In 2005, we had the Wood Bison  
37 Restoration Advisory Group with local villages, Fish  
38 and Game Advisory Committees, sportsman organizations,  
39 environmental groups, Native groups, animal welfare  
40 interests. We all unanimously agreed we should  
41 continue to work on this project and look at all three  
42 sites.

43

44 Last year we did an environmental  
45 review and had it open for public comment. We got  
46 about 100 comments on it and almost every one of them  
47 was in favor of the Wood Bison Restoration Project. We  
48 had a lot of comments that supported restoring wood  
49 bison first in the Minto Flats State Game Refuge. We  
50 did have Doyon, who expressed concerns about wood bison

1 and implications on oil development from the Endangered  
2 Species Act.

3

4                   The decision we issued December, almost  
5 a year ago, was to establish Minto Flats as the first  
6 priority for wood bison restoration. We still hope to  
7 follow up on Yukon Flats and the Lower Innoko/Yukon as  
8 soon as possible.

9

10                   One issue that's come up is harvest  
11 allocation and the basic premise of the Department of  
12 Fish and Game is we want to make sure benefits of wood  
13 bison are shared by both local residents and non-local  
14 residents. During site-specific planning we hope to  
15 work with local and non-local folks and develop  
16 recommendations to the Board of Game for principals of  
17 harvest and we would do the same for wood bison  
18 established on Federal lands, we'd work through the  
19 Federal subsistence process.

20

21                   With regard to the Endangered Species  
22 Act, for years the Fish and Wildlife Service had the  
23 position that they would not be considered endangered  
24 in Alaska. December a year ago they changed that  
25 position, so they will now be considered as an  
26 endangered species.

27

28                   The Department is committed to working  
29 with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Doyon and others to  
30 try to resolve the ESA issues and the main strategy  
31 we're looking at is developing a special rule to  
32 designate wood bison as a non-essential experimental  
33 population. This reduces the constraints on oil  
34 industry and other development and is a mechanism to  
35 provide for future harvest. This is the same rule they  
36 used to re-establish wolves in Yellowstone National  
37 Park.

38

39                   At the most fundamental level, we think  
40 if we manage it right that wood bison can be compatible  
41 with oil and gas development. They don't have to be  
42 exclusive of each other.

43

44                   Last January I traveled to Elk Island  
45 National Park, which is outside of Edmonton, Canada to  
46 participate in their -- every two to three years they  
47 have a wood bison handling. They operate this park as  
48 a place to provide source stock for re-establishing  
49 wood bison herds. So we handled over 300 wood bison,  
50 did disease and genetic testing and sorted out animals

1 for possible transport to Alaska. We had 62 separated  
2 out originally from the herd.

3

4                   At this point I want to mention a key  
5 partner in this effort, the Alaska Wildlife  
6 Conservation Center down at Portage. They're providing  
7 a temporary handling facility where we can keep the  
8 bison and conduct further disease testing until we're  
9 ready to release to the wild. This November 4 to 6  
10 we're going to begin using these corrals at the bottom  
11 and doing additional disease testing on the bison.

12

13                   The big event that took place this  
14 summer was after years and years of work and just a  
15 horrendous bureaucratic process to obtain all the  
16 permits, we managed to import 53 bison from Elk Island  
17 Park to the Wildlife Conservation Center. This is kind  
18 of a collage of pictures that's a little hard to see,  
19 but we trucked them up here to Alaska. Everything went  
20 pretty smooth.

21

22                   So now we've got 84 wood bison at the  
23 Wildlife Conservation Center. More calves will be born  
24 next spring. We could easily go over 100 next spring.  
25 We're hoping to continue work so the first release can  
26 take place on Minto Flats in spring 2010.

27

28                   This summer, to commemorate the  
29 progress that we made and the fact that we brought  
30 these wood bison into Alaska, we had a ceremony. We  
31 had our commissioner, a superintendent of Elk Island  
32 Park, a representative of the Department of Interior,  
33 the Secretary's Office out of Washington, D.C., Safari  
34 Club International, Arnold Hamilton came to speak for  
35 the interest down in the GASH AC area out of Shageluk.  
36 It was really a nice event.

37

38                   So what comes next? We're going to  
39 continue this disease testing, health monitoring  
40 program, we're going to complete the special regulation  
41 under the Endangered Species Act, and we hope to begin  
42 cooperative planning for wood bison restoration on  
43 Minto Flats this winter sometime, as soon as possible.  
44 We need to work on continuing to secure additional  
45 funding and find a little bit more pasture space down  
46 at the Wildlife Conservation Center. This herd is  
47 potentially going to be growing fast and we're going to  
48 have to get them out in the wild as quickly as  
49 possible.

50

1                   So the take-home message. Now that  
2 we've really got wood bison stock here, this project is  
3 real. We've been talking about it for almost 15 years  
4 and now it's ready to happen on Minto Flats first,  
5 Yukon Flats and hopefully the Lower Innoko/Yukon soon  
6 thereafter. We could conceivably do all three sites  
7 within the next five to six years.

8  
9                   This is a poster we're going to be  
10 producing here sometime, hopefully in time for  
11 Christmas. We'll pass those out to some of the village  
12 councils involved in this effort too.

13  
14                   That's the quick update and I do have  
15 one other thing. I have a short video clip I want to  
16 show you so you can see what these animals really look  
17 like. It's inspiring.

18  
19                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the two  
20 minutes.

21  
22                   MR. ROGERS: Unfortunately the sound  
23 isn't working. This was made just last week. This is  
24 us arriving with the wood bison at the Wildlife  
25 Conservation Center in June. Two of these big trucks  
26 hauled them up. Here they are offloading into their  
27 new pasture. Two thousand miles straight trip. This  
28 is our herd. It's hard to see. They're coming across  
29 this open field here.

30  
31                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How old are  
32 they?

33  
34                   MR. ROGERS: This is mixed ages, from  
35 big bulls approaching 2,000 pounds to calves that were  
36 born last year. This was last week. They're in rut.  
37 Outside of rutting season I've been right in the pen,  
38 within 20 feet of those bulls, and they don't mind you,  
39 but wouldn't go in there now.

40  
41                   MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is this down  
42 there?

43  
44                   MR. ROGERS: This is all from the  
45 Wildlife Conservation Center.

46  
47                   MR. BASSICH: (Question away from  
48 microphone)

49  
50                   MR. ROGERS: Are you talking about when

1 they're released to the wild?

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Well, here we  
4 obviously don't have the volume of grazing ground. It  
5 looks like it's high-quality grazing as compared to  
6 what's in the wild. Is that what they're going to have  
7 in the wild?

8

9 MR. ROGERS: You know, actually they  
10 will be much better off out in the wild. There's  
11 limited space there. They can fertilize some of those  
12 fields they're in down there and they get lots of  
13 rainfall, so they really do have good grass growing for  
14 them, but with the new ones we've got there we're  
15 basically supplementally feeding them. We're getting a  
16 discounted hay deal from the University of Alaska  
17 Fairbanks down in Palmer and Carlisle Transportation is  
18 donating the cost of transporting the hay down there.

19

20 We've got all kinds of entities that  
21 are donating different things to the project. The  
22 basic funding source, we had \$100,000 given to us by  
23 Turner Endangered Species Fund, Safari Club  
24 International and the Alaska Kenai Chapters have put in  
25 about \$100,000 worth between our support and support at  
26 the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. Anchorage  
27 Soil and Water Conservation Districts chipped in.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: How do they deal with  
30 grazing when they get into deep snow cover?

31

32 MR. ROGERS: They sweep snow from side  
33 to side with their heads, but that's one of the  
34 criteria that we looked at in the habitat assessment.  
35 One area that had good grass but also potentially has  
36 deep snow is the Hogatza River up off the Koyukuk  
37 River, so we ruled that out as an initial site.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: The other question I have  
40 is that given that your herd is fairly small and it's  
41 being grown from a small genetic group, how do you  
42 handle the genetic diversity or do you need to?

43

44 MR. ROGERS: Actually, that is a major  
45 aspect of the program that we consider. We had the  
46 original animals here. We wanted to bring more in from  
47 Elk Island Park to enhance the genetic diversity. I  
48 think we have enough wood bison stock now, so that's  
49 really not a problem.

50

1                   Originally, when we started this, the  
2 recommendation was for maintaining genetic diversity to  
3 have a herd of at least 400. Now the people doing  
4 research on bison genetics at Texas A&M University are  
5 saying that to keep genetic diversity over the long run  
6 you should have a herd of 1,000 or 2,000. So that's  
7 one of the reasons why, in addition to Minto Flats, for  
8 long-term conservation of bison, we want to establish  
9 a larger herd on Yukon Flats because there's more  
10 habitat there.

11  
12                   You know, we're being real conservative  
13 when we talk about 2,000 on Yukon Flats. Six thousand  
14 is a very reasonable number to estimate. When we took  
15 the acres of wood bison habitat on Yukon Flats and  
16 compared it to Elk Island National Park, it's like  
17 25,000 acres, but they have to cull their herd.  
18 There's no natural predators. So every few years they  
19 have to remove some animals. But the density they keep  
20 there at the park to keep from any habitat degradation,  
21 if you applied that density of animals to Yukon Flats,  
22 it's 44,000-plus bison.

23  
24                   So 2-5,000 bison is easily within the  
25 carrying capacity of the habitat. What we would do as  
26 we move forward is intend to start small with this and  
27 do biological monitoring programs so we can test this.  
28 If down the line we decide it's appropriate to have  
29 larger herds or something, we can think about that, but  
30 that's not the initial objective.

31  
32                   MR. BASSICH: Are there other genetic  
33 stocks within North America that you could pull from  
34 too?

35  
36                   MR. ROGERS: There are some other  
37 sources of genetic stock. One of the problems they  
38 were having with wood bison restoration in Canada is  
39 they've got a couple herds that are diseased. Some of  
40 those herds do have good, pure, wood bison genetic  
41 material.

42  
43                   MR. SUCKLING: Traditional bison were  
44 here. David Salmon said you're trying to bring back a  
45 tradition.

46  
47                   MR. ROGERS: That's true. That's part  
48 of the presentation I kind of cut out with the real  
49 short version here. Even the State of Alaska has a  
50 transplant policy. We don't reintroduce or introduce

1 exotic species to the state. They did that in the  
2 past, but it's against our rules now. We've done a lot  
3 of research between Bob Stevenson, Buffalo Bob as he's  
4 known as up on Yukon Flats, working with David Salmon  
5 and other Native elders there, as well as on Minto  
6 Flats. Chief Peter John had stories about wood bison  
7 also.

8

9  
10 But working with Dale Guthrie, an  
11 anthropologist at the university to trace the history  
12 of wood bison, collect all the bones and samples, do  
13 radio-carbon dating. The most recent radio-carbon date  
14 we have is 160 years old. Most of them go back into  
15 1,000, a couple thousand years, but basically the  
16 fossil record shows that bison were present in Alaska  
17 for 400,000 years and originally it was the large-  
18 horned Pleistocene bison. Over time they evolved about  
19 10,000 years ago into the small horned bison that are  
20 now the wood bison. They've been present in the state  
21 for 10,000 years or so up until just the last few 100  
22 years to 1,000 years.

23

24 So we are talking about returning an  
25 animal that was here before, thrived before, we've done  
26 habitat studies, and we have every reason to think that  
27 they will do really well. We're taking a super  
28 cautious approach in terms of this disease testing  
29 program. Some might argue it's overkill, but we're not  
30 taking any chance of a disease that could affect our  
31 moose or livestock industry or anything else.

32

33 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm Liz Williams with  
34 OSM. Who are the anthropologists that you worked with  
35 on those oral histories and where are those oral  
36 histories kept? That's interesting.

37

38 MR. ROGERS: There was a paper  
39 published with Bob Stevenson, Dale Guthrie and Craig  
40 Gerlach, who is a professor up at the university. He's  
41 the main one that worked on the oral history aspect of  
42 that. I can get you a copy of that paper. It's posted  
43 on our website, too.

44

45 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know  
48 what's interesting, you have a good way of drawing out  
49 questions. The one I saw red flag the biggest was the  
50 Endangered Species Act. After what happened on  
Yellowstone with wolves and they used to be there, they

1 re-introduced them, now the Feds won't allow the State  
2 to take over to harvest them and it makes me wonder if  
3 that's going to happen here on Federal land.

4

5 MR. ROGERS: Well, you know, I can't  
6 predict the future. We've been mulling this Endangered  
7 Species Act over with the Fish and Wildlife Service.  
8 Actually, we have been waiting since last May. We were  
9 promised a letter from the Regional Director to the  
10 Commissioner. It's been tied up in the Interior  
11 Solicitor's Office.

12

13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't like  
14 this tied up business.

15

16 MR. ROGERS: I got a phone call today  
17 and it looks like the Fish and Wildlife Service has  
18 basically reached the decision that, yes, they will be  
19 listed, but the best mechanism to manage them is  
20 through one of these Section .10(j) rules.

21

22 Canada's wood bison recovery team has  
23 already submitted a petition to down-list them in the  
24 U.S. They were already down-listed to threatened in  
25 Canada. Canada is rewriting the standards for recovery  
26 right now under their Species at Risk Act. With the  
27 growth in the Yukon herd there, it's very possible that  
28 they be completely de-listed in Canada here in the next  
29 five years or so.

30

31 If we have continued growth of  
32 populations here in Alaska as we expect, there's no  
33 reason for them to be listed. Quite frankly, the  
34 biggest challenge has been wood bison, because they  
35 were here before but they've been gone for a long time  
36 and it wasn't something that was recently caused by  
37 European men, habitat degradation or other causes, it  
38 doesn't really fit the mold of the Endangered Species  
39 Act.

40

41 Everybody agrees that this Alaska Wood  
42 Bison Project is going to help the species. They're  
43 well on their way to recovery. It's just a matter of  
44 bureaucratically how do we apply the law correctly. We  
45 want to be absolutely certain because we want to be  
46 immune to petitions for listing and litigation over  
47 listing and those kind of things.

48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. It's  
50 just a red flag. I don't think we're going to solve it

1 tonight.

2

3 MR. ROGERS: No, we won't.

4

5 MR. LORD: If you can come back, I'd  
6 like to extend this tomorrow.

7

8 MR. ROGERS: I don't know if Council  
9 has time tomorrow, but, Victor, as you know, we've been  
10 intending to do a wood bison presentation in Nenana and  
11 when we get into our planning for it, we're going to  
12 have more meetings here and have lots of opportunities  
13 for people to come talk about it.

14

15 MR. LORD: It sounds like a great idea,  
16 especially with the price of oil and beef going up and  
17 food going up. Buffalo sounds good. Sitting Bull  
18 couldn't have been wrong. The only concern we had  
19 though, Randy, they won't stampede will they?

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. ROGERS: I appreciate you taking a  
24 few minutes to hear an update on this and all the  
25 patience of folks. I know it's a late night, so thank  
26 you very much.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

29

30 MR. LORD: I think Edna's getting tired  
31 and she has to lock up.

32

33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I see  
34 her yawning.

35

36 MR. LORD: You can keep everything here  
37 and we'll lock up.

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39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that  
40 sounds great.

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42 (Off record)

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44 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 193 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 14th day of October 2008, at Nenana, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th day of October 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/12