

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Delta Junction, Alaska
9 October 17, 2006
10 10:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Gerald Nicholia, Chairman
16 Andrew Bassich
17 Sue Entsminger
18 William Glanz
19 James Nathaniel, Sr.
20 Virgil Umphenour
21 Amy Wright
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24 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Delta Junction - 10/17/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd like to call this meeting to order, the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council in Delta, October 17th, whatever time it is. I'd like to welcome everybody here. Thank you for making it. I'd like to thank my Council members for making it. I'd like to request Paul Williams to say the invocation for our meeting here and then we'll get underway.

MR. WILLIAMS: (Invocation)

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: The next thing on the agenda is roll call and establishment of a quorum.

MR. MATHEWS: Sue Entsminger.

MS. ENTSMINGER: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Donald Woodruff is absent.
James Nathaniel.

MR. NATHANIEL: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Gerald Nicholia.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Andrew Bassich.

MR. BASSICH: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Bill Glanz.

MR. GLANZ: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Amy Wright.

MS. WRIGHT: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Larry Williams is absent.
Craig Fleener is absent. Virgil Umphenour.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have
2 seven of your 10 members, so you have a quorum.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Next thing on the
5 list is introduction of Agency Staff and honored guests.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: You want me to try that, so
8 this is a challenge. There's a lot of new faces here
9 that I don't know, so I'll do my best. We have Michael
10 Smith from Tanana Chiefs, Natural Resources and Parks,
11 Executive Director. Next to him is Gerald Maschmann,
12 fisheries biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service. Continuing down the line is Tom Kron, the
14 Division Chief within Office of Subsistence Management.
15 Next to him is Don Rivard, Division Chief for Interior
16 Division. Starting in the next row I don't know the
17 gentleman on the end there.

18
19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a local
20 sandpiper.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Just a local sandpiper.
23 When he gets up to the mike he'll give his full name.
24 Next to him is Greg Bos, Interagency Staff Committee
25 person with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm drawing a
26 blank.

27
28 MR. KARLEN: My name is Bob Karlen. I
29 work for BLM. I'm a fisheries biologist.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Next to him is Cliff
32 Schleusner, a Fisheries Information Services biologist
33 with OSM. Next to him is Brandy Berkbigler with Tanana
34 Chiefs and she'll be presenting a program that explains
35 her duties within TCC. Sandy Rabinowitch is next. He's
36 the National Park Service Interagency Staff Committee
37 member. Next to him is Barbara Cellarius, who is the
38 anthropologist and subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-
39 St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Paul Williams, who
40 gave the invocation this morning is a refuge information
41 technician for Yukon Flats and I believe you're the chief
42 of the village of Beaver. Yes. In the next row back is
43 Tony Booth, refuge manager for Tetlin National Wildlife
44 Refuge. Connie Friend, who you know very well is the
45 subsistence coordinator for that same refuge, Tetlin
46 Refuge. Going across the way is Fred Bue, In-season
47 Manager for Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the
48 Yukon. I do know the gentlemen next to him but I forgot
49 his last name.

50

1 MR. RADER: Derek Rader.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Derek Rader. He's also
4 part of the program that Brandy is involved with and
5 they'll explain that when they get up to the mike. He's
6 with Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments. Then we
7 have.....
8
9 MR. KOSKEY: Mike Koskey.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS:Mike. I always forget
12 Mike. Mike Koskey, the Division of Subsistence, Alaska
13 Department of Fish and Game. Now we get to the back.
14 Next row we have Rita St. Louis, who is the state
15 regional coordinator for local advisory committees.
16 Local advisory committee members you need to meet with
17 her real quick on some different issues. I used to be in
18 that position, so capitalize on the moment to clear up
19 anything you need while she's here. Then we go across
20 the row and we have Dave Waltemyer. We have a whole
21 bunch of people from way down river coming up here. He's
22 with Association of Village Council Presidents and I
23 believe you're out of Bethel. Then we have Steve Hayes.
24 Steve follows us all over the place. He is the in-season
25 manager for the Yukon River for chinook and summer chum.
26 I don't know the woman next to him.
27
28 MS. EVENSON: My name is Dani Evenson. I
29 work for Fish and Game and I'm the area research
30 biologist for summer chum.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Then I don't know the
33 gentleman.
34
35 MR. VOKE: I'm Eric Voke, the regional
36 research coordinator for AYK comm fish.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: This will be a good cross-
39 section of the management on the Yukon, so you guys will
40 need to capitalize on that. In the back we have the
41 honored guest that we've worked with many years, those
42 that have been on this Council, is Lester Wilde from
43 Hooper Bay, who is here in kind of a joint purpose. He's
44 here as part of the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage
45 Association, but he's a very long-term member of the
46 Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council. Again, we'll
47 have a good cross-section across the river here. So
48 Lester is here for -- are you going to be here both days?
49 Both days. So I would capitalize talking to him.
50 Lester, it would be very interesting for you to listen in

1 on the teleconference tonight in comparison to the moose
2 issues in your area. I don't know.....

3

4 MR. ILLENBERG: Mike Illenberg with Yukon
5 River Drainage Fisheries Association.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Next to him is Fred
8 Andersen, National Park Service, fishery biologist, in
9 your area for Yukon/Charlie Rivers National Preserve for
10 Western Interior for Gates of the Arctic National Park
11 and Preserve. I'm drawing a blank again. I'm getting
12 nervous.

13

14 MS. ROBBINS: Becca Robbins.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, she was all week last
17 week in Ruby. How could I forget. Anyway, it's Becca
18 with the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association. I
19 don't know the lady next to her.

20

21 MS. MULL: I'm Kristin Mull also with
22 YRDFA, a fisheries biologist.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: So, Mr. Chairman, we have a
25 good cross-section of YRDFA. Did I miss somebody? Oh,
26 Wennona is back there by the coffee machine, not to make
27 coffee. She takes excellent notes, so she needs to be
28 plugged in. She's the subsistence coordinator for
29 Arctic, Yukon Flats and Kanuti Refuges. When others come
30 I'll try to note them, but everyone that comes to the
31 mike please give your name and who you're associated with
32 so we get it on the record.

33

34 Also Mr. Chair, if need be, there's a
35 good cross-section here. We can always use smaller
36 little meetings to discuss different things. This
37 building is quite conducive for that and we do have
38 access to the city hall. Mr. Chair, that's all the
39 guests. The Council members will probably introduce
40 themselves during Council member concerns.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Vince.
43 For the Chair's report, I just don't really have nothing
44 much. I've been pretty inactive through the whole summer
45 because of moving to Fairbanks from Tanana. I've never
46 been that active in commercial fishery, so let's go to
47 Council member concerns and start with Sue.

48

49 MS. ENTSMINGER: Sue Entsminger from
50 Mentasta Pass. Are we into our concerns here also.

1 Yeah, I think I'm going to just reiterate this as I
2 always do. We're the volunteers of the public and we get
3 bombarded with a lot of paper from people that have paid
4 positions and I don't know how many people in the
5 audience that doesn't have a paid position, but sometimes
6 it gets really hard for volunteers to work in this
7 process and try and stay up on things. There's a lot of
8 things I think we could work a little better on.

9
10 MS. WRIGHT: Hello. I'm Amy Wright. I'm
11 from Tok. My concerns is there might be some
12 misunderstanding on the petition for predator control. I
13 think we were petitioning strictly for Yukon Flats and it
14 seems it came out across the board for all the different
15 refuges. I also want to bring up at a later date
16 different kinds of predator control. I imagine we're
17 going to get there at some point and that's my concern.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Good morning. My name is
20 Andy Bassich. I'm from the Eagle area. I have a number
21 of concerns. Probably foremost on my mind, I'm sure
22 we'll be talking about this a lot at this meeting and
23 throughout this winter, but the changing salmon size.
24 It's a real issue in my opinion and my observations and
25 it's something that needs to be addressed. We've been
26 calling for this to be addressed for a number of years.
27 I hope that this year can be productive and actually
28 started to address this problem on the ground. I don't
29 think we can continue to keep pushing this issue and hope
30 it's going to go away. We really need to address this.

31
32 Second, this is maybe a little more
33 philosophical, but I really feel the State and the Feds
34 need to begin to take a step in educating urban hunters
35 and urban users of the resources when they come out into
36 remote areas. I think we're going to see a lot of
37 changes in the future, especially if the gas pipeline
38 comes through; increases in population, increases in use
39 of fish and wildlife in remote areas and this is heavily
40 impacting people that are subsistence users.

41
42 I think this is going to be a very big
43 issue in the future and I think now is the time to start
44 putting our heads together and start educating people and
45 addressing this issue before it becomes one of a lot of
46 contention. Maybe during this meeting we can have a
47 little discussion about that. If not during the meeting,
48 I'd really like to talk with agency people when we're not
49 at the table here to try and put our heads together and
50 see what we can do to start addressing this. Thank you.

1 MR. GLANZ: My name is Bill Glanz. I'm
2 from Central area. My only concern was last year the
3 State dropped the ball and we didn't get any State duck
4 stamps in there for a spring subsistence hunt. So this
5 year we got them in there real fine, except the Feds
6 didn't send theirs in, so everybody in Central and Circle
7 that was duck hunting was doing it illegally. Paul
8 Williams came to Central trying to get a subsistence
9 report and nobody would talk to him because everybody was
10 illegal. So that's one of the few things.

11
12 Something else that upset me there too,
13 in our area, more State than Feds, we've seen a lot of
14 GI's up there hunting caribou and moose and we see them
15 pull them into Wainwright. They eat in the mess hall, so
16 I know as soon as they get to Wainwright they cut the
17 horns off and throw the meat in the dumpster, it seems to
18 me by working there so many years. Those are my concerns
19 for our area.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: My name is Virgil
22 Umphenour. I live in North Pole. One of my main
23 concerns is our proposals that got deferred by the
24 Federal Subsistence Board. They're also the same ones
25 that are before the State Board of Fisheries. I'd like
26 to discuss that when we get to that.

27
28 Another concern I have is competition in
29 marine environment with hatchery fish. There's a
30 proposal for information purposes only because the
31 Commissioner of Fish and Game can adopt its own
32 regulations. I think we need to comment on it and that
33 is on the Commissioner having the statutory approval to
34 waive the State's wanton waste statute and allow
35 hatcheries, processors and catcher processors when
36 they're harvesting hatchery-produced chum and pink salmon
37 to remove the roe and pitch the fish back in the water.
38 So we need to comment on that.

39
40 This last spring the State Board of Game
41 passed several regulations, some submitted by myself as a
42 person and some as the RAC, to allow hunters and trappers
43 both to position themselves when hunting wolves with
44 snowmachine. So I think it's time now to make a Federal
45 proposal to allow this on wildlife refuges. Now we have
46 regulations like in the Yukon Flats where the State
47 allows you to use a snowmachine to position yourself when
48 hunting and trapping wolves, but the Federal Subsistence
49 Board does not. So we need to get the regulations so they
50 conform to each other.

1 Another concern I have is the Fisheries
2 Monitoring Program and that ties in with the size of the
3 king salmon in the Yukon River, the declining size. I
4 see some of the proposals for funding where that's been
5 recommended that they be funded actually don't really
6 address subsistence users. They address commercial users
7 more than subsistence users and I'll speak to those when
8 they come up.

9
10 That's all I have right now. Thank you.

11
12 MR. NATHANIEL: My name is James
13 Nathaniel, Sr. I'm from Chalkyitsik, Alaska, about 70
14 miles northeast of Fort Yukon on Black River. My concern
15 today, not only mine but others in Yukon Flats area, our
16 concern is lack of moose, rather bull moose I would call
17 it. Everybody is concerned about our declining moose
18 population in our area. A lot of Fort Yukon hunters go
19 up in our hunting area way above our village close to the
20 border and that's where they get all the bull moose. I
21 believe all the bull moose is up that way and none in our
22 area. A lot of cow moose.

23
24 We have different options that we
25 discuss, I discuss with a few hunters and they have the
26 same concern, moose declining. I guess we're going to
27 have to do something to save our moose some way or
28 another. We're even thinking about issue out harvest
29 tickets in our community. I don't know if that will help
30 out. Another concern from a hunter was take only three-
31 year-old or older bulls and let the one and two-year-old
32 grow up.

33
34 Another problem we have with the moose is
35 the predator, like wolves and brown bear killing the
36 calves. A lot of these cow moose, some with calves, some
37 don't have calves, so I believe wolves and brown and
38 black bear even are taking those calves.

39
40 There's a concerned hunter from my home
41 town that will be on the teleconference tonight at 6:00
42 to say his concerns about the moose population in our
43 home town.

44
45 The fish salmon run was pretty good in
46 Fort Yukon I understand. What we call a dog salmon. I
47 don't know how they call it in English. We had plenty of
48 those run up our river. We don't get no king salmon in
49 Chalkyitsik. The only place we pick up king salmon is in
50 Fort Yukon. I understand they had a pretty good run this

1 summer.

2

3 I have more on this, but I'd like to wait
4 until probably tomorrow's session under wildlife issues.
5 Thank you very much.

6

7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. I've been
8 on this Council about 11 years and we're always getting
9 to the fact that the Yukon Flats has low moose
10 population. I'm been hearing about it quite extensively,
11 even living in Fairbanks. It seems like we ask for
12 everything and it always gets turned around by upper
13 management. It always comes back to us. It seems like
14 what Sue said, is it our fault that we ask for it wrong.
15 We're just asking for help for the Yukon Flats people. I
16 know it's going to be very contentious issues. What we
17 asked for at the last meeting is not presented here. I
18 don't see nothing in the way of steps of asking for it,
19 like step one, step two. All I see here is excuses and
20 stuff. What we ask for has got to come across from the
21 Department of Subsistence, a better way to us or
22 explaining, not more confusion or more misleading or more
23 blame. I could go on about this.

24

25 Some of us have been here for a very long
26 time or I have and it seems like we're beating a dead
27 horse but we're not. What we're asking for is for those
28 people in Yukon Flats to be able to put a moose,
29 something on their table to feed their families. It's
30 not a big issue that's being blown out of proportion.
31 It's something we could deal with. If we have to go
32 through public testimony and public process, we have to
33 do something for them. We're here to represent the
34 people of the Eastern Interior Region. It seems like
35 every time we ask for something or request something it's
36 not all there, we always get a roundabout route. That's
37 enough of that.

38

39 What I'm really concerned about is that
40 we've been beating another thing to death, is the size of
41 the Yukon kings. It's the same old story, same old deal,
42 same paper-pushing and this, that. What we're requesting
43 is not really happening. It seems like we're given
44 another new avenue, another new deal thrown at us. It
45 feels like we're not really protecting the subsistence
46 person's livelihood of living in a remote area trying to
47 provide for their family with all these regulations and
48 dual management. We have to work together all of us,
49 Federal and State. We have to go to the ground level and
50 my feeling is we're not doing that. It seems we've

1 always got to go to Washington, D.C., got to go to
2 Legislature. We have to get on the ground and start
3 doing something. Otherwise, by the time we get something
4 done 10 years down the line it will be too late to help
5 those people out there. That's my biggest concern. Thank
6 you.

7
8 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 You kind of got me quickly there, so I thought as we went
10 down the line. If I could add an additional concern.
11 One of the concerns that we ran into when we did wildlife
12 proposals last meeting, my understanding in talking at
13 great length to OSM office is that the State system, if
14 it's not specifically said that you -- it goes in there
15 that you can't do something. So if it's not specific
16 that you can't do something, then you can do it.

17
18 Under the Federal system, it has to be
19 specifically said that you can do it or you can't do it.
20 Here's an example of a bunch of hogwash, I'm sorry, I
21 don't know how else to say it, why does the subsistence
22 user have to go through this menagerie of regulations and
23 because of that we come up -- the last time the Federal
24 Staff came up with a proposal to allow handicraft use of
25 other ungulates besides bears, because there was a use of
26 bear handicraft, and in the process of that made it
27 illegal to do something that's always been done under
28 State law and that's to sell hides and horns and
29 whatever. We didn't know that it was illegal until we
30 saw the ramifications of the proposal. This is an
31 example of -- I call it job security. It's just very
32 discouraging in the field having to figure out what you
33 can and can't do from these two regulation books which
34 work the system opposite.

35
36 I'm going to have a proposal, I've asked
37 Federal Staff to help me because I don't know how to
38 write the proposal to meet their demands, to allow the
39 same thing that's done on State law on Federal law that
40 we made illegal last time by trying to make something
41 else legal. These are the kind of frustrations that we
42 live with in our communities. It just blows my mind
43 sometimes that it gets so confusing. There's probably
44 some other things that will come up that I'll see it on
45 the agenda that I'd like to bring concerns forward, but
46 right now that's what I can think of that I failed to
47 say. Thank you very much.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Real quickly
50 here, there's one other housekeeping thing we need to go

1 through. Each of you have a green packet. I'll walk you
2 through that. As the meeting goes along, you're going to
3 be searching for them. I don't know if the order will be
4 the same. You have in there very thick stapled pieces of
5 paper. Those are all the Board of Fisheries proposals
6 for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim finfish. If you want to
7 look at those, we'll encourage the State Staff to assist
8 you with that and we'll help provide comments to the
9 Board of Fish if you so desire.

10

11 I also threw in there copies of the
12 deferred proposals that Virgil talked about just in case
13 you want to look at those. We are now starting the 2007
14 nomination cycle, so the seats that are open for Eastern
15 Interior are Sue's seat, James Nathaniel's seat, Donald
16 Woodruff's seat and Gerald Nicholia. In your packet it's
17 green is an application to fill out and the due date is
18 January 10th, but just thought I'd get it to you early.
19 For the public there's other copies back there if you
20 would like to apply also.

21

22 I gave you a copy of the letter you were
23 going to send to the honorable State senators and
24 representatives in Juneau and we can talk about that
25 later, the status of that. When you get to your agenda,
26 I'll ask if you want it on your agenda, the Joint Board
27 of Fisheries and Game, both Boards together, have a call
28 for proposals on Advisory Committee regulations. You
29 guys have worked very closely with Advisory Committees,
30 so I thought you might want to look at those. Also the
31 non-subsistence area regulations are open. If you add
32 that to the agenda we can talk more about that or
33 possibly Rita can.

34

35 The pink sheet there is a thing that you
36 guys have requested in the last year or so. I'm sure
37 it's not covering everybody in the room out there, but
38 this is a staffing sheet that would help you. You'd say
39 who is this Greg Bos guy and you'd look down here and see
40 he's under Fish and Wildlife Service and all the other
41 people's phone numbers there. Again, I did not know who
42 would all be here, so it's not complete compared to the
43 public in front of you.

44

45 I also added a copy of the Yukon River
46 Drainage Fisheries Association invitation to their size
47 of Yukon king salmon meeting, which is on Monday, October
48 30th, and I'm sure they're going to talk more about it.

49

50 The next colored thing in there is just

1 an announcement that AFN will have a subsistence forum on
2 October 25th. It's just informational for you. It's
3 been your policy to have updates on the avian flu and
4 it's also on your agenda, but these are the most current
5 handouts. There are some extra copies back on the table
6 on avian flu. If you have any questions on that, I
7 believe Wennona and others would have current information
8 on that.

9
10 Then I threw in a couple sheets of
11 writing paper if you so desire. When I hit the office
12 Monday morning, various letters have come from the
13 refuges. I have not had a chance to read any of them,
14 but you're blessed to have the refuge staff here. This
15 is in response to your petition, I believe, to the
16 Federal agencies to start a predator control program on
17 their Federal lands. That one was allowed to go forward
18 on the Fish and Wildlife Service side. It was decided
19 that each refuge would respond to you, so you have a
20 letter in response from Yukon Flats, Arctic National
21 Wildlife Refuge and Tetlin. I just received them
22 yesterday, but there's staff here.

23
24 That's all the copies I put in the
25 folders there. As you get additional copies you can just
26 stick them in the folder and then you would have them.
27 With that, Mr. Chair, that's the only other housekeeping
28 thing unless some other Staff have some housekeeping item
29 that needs to be covered.

30
31 For travel, most of you have received a
32 packet like this. I can help you fill out this section
33 here or you can do it when you return and mail it in. We
34 got approval last year for you just to sign it somewhere
35 and say travel as laid out by OSM Staff and then I would
36 just fill it out and submit it. The only risk with that
37 is if you get weathered in somewhere, that you'd have to
38 call me so we can continue the clock. So that's your
39 option there on this blue sheet.

40
41 Finally, those that need to stay in
42 Fairbanks to connect with their flight back to their home
43 village, you'll be staying at Pike's Waterfront Lodge in
44 case we get split up. If there's any question on that,
45 then call my 800 number and we'll work it out. So just
46 stay there and we'll sort out the bills later if there's
47 any problems at all.

48
49 Mr. Chairman, that's all the housekeeping
50 items I have. I don't know if Staff have any. It looks

1 like not. Thank you. That brings you up to Chair's
2 report and then review and adoption of the agenda.

3

4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Vince. As
5 I said, I didn't have much to report. The only thing
6 I've been active in is to petition for the Yukon Flats.
7 I think we've heard enough about that. The review and
8 adoption, number 7, I don't think we need to develop
9 consent agenda items. There aren't enough proposals out
10 here to develop one, so we'll just go through that. I
11 think we'll just exclude that. If there's any additions
12 or deletions to the agenda, we can do that now.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: The only other things that
15 you may want to add just for record keeping is you may
16 want to review the Joint Board's call for proposals or
17 not. We could add that to the agenda. And the agenda
18 does not have the Yukon Flats teleconference on it, which
19 is tonight from 6:00 to 7:00. By consensus, if you want
20 to be part of it, we can go that way.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, if there are any
23 emergencies, they can notify me or Vince and we can work
24 it into our agenda, but I'd like to see a motion to
25 approve this agenda so we can move on.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Move to approve the agenda
28 with the additions.

29

30 MS. WRIGHT: Second.

31

32 MS. ENTSMINGER: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved,
35 seconded. The question has been called. All those in
36 favor of the agenda for October 17-18, 2006 of Eastern
37 Interior Regional Advisory Council signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Has everybody read
46 the minutes of our meeting at Pike's Waterfront Lodge in
47 Fairbanks. I read through it and there's a few typos in
48 there that could be corrected. If we could approve that,
49 we could just go on down to the fisheries issues.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the minutes
2 have been approved by consensus then, just for the
3 record?

4
5 (Council nods affirmatively)

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Let the record show they're
8 all nodding their heads in the affirmative. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sue.

11
12 MS. ENTSMINGER: I think I should report
13 that I went to the Federal Board to represent us on the
14 wildlife issues. Big meeting again. If you ever want to
15 get a big education, somebody needs to go to that.
16 That's interesting. There was a lot of Southcentral
17 stuff that was crossover proposals that we in Unit 12 are
18 interested in, but I can't remember without going back.
19 I was there for you guys. Oh, yeah, the big issue was
20 the sheep up in that Arctic area that was closed. I
21 guess we all know that it ended up getting opened. Thank
22 you.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That brings
25 us up to subsistence fisheries post season review. I
26 believe Steve Hayes and Fred Bue and Gerald Maschmann and
27 whoever else I'm forgetting would be post season review.
28 I believe Steve would want this handed out, different
29 materials, but they're here to answer your questions.
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

33
34 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
35 Council members. My name is Gerald Maschmann and I work
36 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks and
37 my supervisor is Russ Holder, who is the Federal manager
38 on the Yukon River. He asked me to apologize. He's the
39 acting project leader today and there were some things he
40 couldn't get away from, so he sent me down here.

41
42 I'm going to review the 2006 Yukon River
43 salmon season, both in-season and post-season assessment
44 projects. The summer and fall season subsistence fishers
45 were provided a meaningful preference to fish on adequate
46 numbers of salmon for the 2006 season. The U.S. Fish and
47 Wildlife Service in-season salmon catch interview project
48 and the weekly YRDFA teleconferences indicated that most
49 Lower Yukon River fishermen were able to meet their
50 subsistence salmon needs this year but that subsistence

1 fishermen above Grayling had to work harder than in 2005
2 to fulfill their chinook salmon needs.

3
4 Overall the 2006 season was successful in
5 meeting escapement objectives, providing preferential
6 subsistence opportunities and ADF&G providing commercial
7 and other harvest opportunities.

8
9 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff
10 worked with ADF&G Staff to develop the pre-season and in-
11 season management approaches which were distributed in
12 May as this light purple colored information sheet. This
13 sheet was mailed by ADF&G to all Yukon River subsistence
14 households and commercial fishing permit holders.

15
16 Managers entered the season anticipating
17 that all four Yukon River salmon runs would return with
18 sufficient abundance to meet escapement objectives,
19 provide for normal subsistence harvest and provide for
20 additional harvest opportunities.

21
22 The chinook salmon run was anticipated to
23 be average to below average and similar to the 2005 run.

24
25 The summer chum, fall chum and coho
26 salmon runs were anticipated to be average to above
27 average.

28
29 The summer season began with ice breakup
30 in the Lower River on May 28th, approximately one week
31 later than average. Most subsistence salmon fishermen
32 delayed their fishing effort due to the late ice breakup,
33 high water, high gas prices and low fish numbers early in
34 the season. As fish abundance improved, subsistence
35 fishing effort increased, although chinook salmon entry
36 timing was about five days later than average. When
37 adjusted for run timing, the run appeared near average
38 and the summer chum salmon run appeared above average.

39
40 Subsistence salmon in-season harvest
41 information collected by both U.S. Fish and Wildlife
42 Service and ADF&G indicated that lower Yukon subsistence
43 fishing households were about one week behind in
44 harvesting their subsistence salmon needs. Run strength
45 assessment of the in-season abundance of chinook and
46 summer chum salmon was based on the Lower River Test
47 Fishery, Pilot Station Sonar and subsistence fishermen
48 catch reports. A DIDSON sonar was used at Pilot Station
49 throughout the 2006 season for estimating left bank near
50 shore fish passage due to the difficulties with the bank

1 profile identified during the 2005 season. A larger than
2 anticipated return of summer chum salmon was thought to
3 be causing conservative Pilot Station chinook salmon
4 sonar passage estimates.

5
6 Subsistence fishing was liberalized in
7 District 3 to seven days per week after the six hour
8 commercial opening on June 21st. Consistent with pre-
9 2001 subsistence fishing regulations, Subdistrict 4(A)
10 subsistence fishing was liberalized to five days per week
11 on June 28th and Subdistricts 4(B) and (C) were
12 liberalized to five days per week on July 2nd.

13
14 Upriver fishermen reported the following
15 as some of the reasons they were having to work harder to
16 catch chinook salmon.

17
18 One, that chinook salmon were migrating
19 in different portions of the river possibly due to the
20 record abundance of summer chum salmon pushing the
21 chinook salmon further off shore.

22
23 The second pulse appeared smaller in size
24 and more compressed than anticipated.

25
26 Three, higher water.

27
28 Four, debris.

29
30 And, five, the window schedule was not
31 allowing fishermen to fish when chinook salmon were most
32 abundant.

33
34 To address the difficulties, local
35 fishermen described harvesting their subsistence chinook
36 salmon. All of District 4 was liberalized to seven days
37 per week on July 6th, and the subsistence driftnet season
38 was extended by an additional week in Subdistrict 4(A).
39 Subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5(A), (B) and (C) was
40 liberalized to five days per week on July 18th.

41
42 In December of 2004, the Federal
43 Subsistence Board adopted a regulation that provided
44 Federally-qualified subsistence fishermen the opportunity
45 to use drift gillnets to harvest chinook salmon in
46 Subdistricts 4(B) and 4(C). In 2006, a total of 18
47 permits were issued by the Koyukuk/Nowitna National
48 Wildlife Refuge Complex Staff to rural residents, mostly
49 from Galena. Of the four permittees who reported their
50 fishing activity, all four reported not fishing. And it

1 appears that there remains an interest in this fishing
2 opportunity but Subdistricts 4(B) and 4(C) fishermen have
3 not reported finding any productive drifting spots within
4 Federal waters.

5
6 The summer chum salmon run strength was
7 improved over the abundance experienced in 2003, 2004,
8 and 2005 with a season passage greater than 3.7 million
9 fish. Although the abundance of summer chum salmon would
10 have allowed a directed commercial periods, the summer
11 chum salmon harvest was taken largely incidental to the
12 chinook salmon fishery except in District 6 due to the
13 depressed chum salmon market.

14
15 Post-season evaluation of chinook and
16 summer chum salmon escapement numbers confirmed that most
17 tributary goals were achieved or exceeded and that the
18 chinook salmon passage into Canada was estimated to be
19 between 43,000 to 49,000 fish.

20
21 For the fall season, the pre-season ADF&G
22 fall chum salmon outlook was updated entering the fall
23 fishing season in mid-July by incorporating this year's
24 summer chum salmon run performance resulting in an
25 outlook for a return of near 1.2 million fish.
26 Consistent with an above average outlook, the windowed
27 subsistence salmon fishing was not reinstated following
28 the summer fishing season. The pre-2001 subsistence
29 fishing schedule of seven or five days per week, which
30 was in place at the end of the summer season, was
31 continued into the fall fishing season. Commercial
32 fishing was initiated in District 1 on July 30th.

33
34 In-season run indicators near the mid-
35 point confirmed an above average fall chum salmon run
36 with a run size projection of near 1 million fish. At
37 the end of the season approximately 800,000 fall chum
38 salmon had entered the river in four distinct pulses with
39 61 percent being five year olds and 38 percent being four
40 year olds.

41
42 This is the third fall season the U.S.
43 Fish and Wildlife Genetics Lab in cooperation with ADF&G
44 and Canadian Staff provided in-season genetic assessment
45 information of fall chum salmon samples collected at
46 Pilot Station Sonar. The in-season data will be compared
47 to the post-season results this winter.

48
49 Yukon River coho salmon return this
50 season was closer to average production with 123,000 fish

1 passed Pilot Station Sonar by the end of August
2 discontinuing the above average production experienced
3 the previous three years.

4
5 The fall season salmon runs continue to
6 be monitored as fish are still migrating to spawning
7 areas. Based on information collected to date, it
8 appears that all fall chum and coho salmon escapement
9 objectives will be achieved and that the Yukon River
10 Panel Interim fall chum salmon border and escapement
11 commitments will be exceeded.

12
13 The outlook for 2007 will be prepared by
14 ADF&G after escapement information and age composition
15 analysis are completed over the next several months.

16
17 Unless there's any specific subsistence
18 questions I think Steve Hayes would like to address some
19 commercial fishing information and any other info.

20
21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Don't look like it.

22
23 MR. HAYES: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council
24 members. My name is Steve Hayes. I'm the summer season
25 manager for the chinook and summer chum salmon on the
26 Yukon River.

27
28 I'm going to cover mostly commercial
29 activities that happened in 2006 and I'll try not to be
30 redundant on some of the things that Mr. Maschmann might
31 have covered. As he said, early run assessment indicated
32 the chinook and summer salmon runs were of adequate
33 strength to allow further uses.

34
35 Typically once it's projected there is a
36 surplus beyond escapement needs and subsistence uses, the
37 schedule reverts to the pre-2001 Board of Fish
38 subsistence fishing regulations and the commercial season
39 is opened. However, with the June 15th opening in
40 District 2 occurring earlier in the run, the subsistence
41 schedule was not terminated until about a week after the
42 opening of the commercial season in that district and on
43 June 19 in District 1.

44
45 The 2006 chinook salmon run was
46 anticipated to be similar to the 2005 run, and below
47 average. The pre-season outlook anticipated a commercial
48 harvest of 30-60,000 chinook salmon.

49
50 In meetings this past winter, fishers,

1 processors and the Department discussed having a set
2 commercial opening in the Lower River around the
3 historical first quarter point of the run, which is on
4 June 15th. The objective was to harvest a small amount
5 of fish to maintain the Yukon king name in the market
6 place, which would hopefully improve the economic value
7 throughout the drainage. During the 2006 YRDFA annual
8 meeting in Ruby a motion was made to have a short
9 commercial opening at the historical first quarter point
10 in District 1 or 2.

11
12 The 2006 run was late and the Department
13 estimated the run to be five days later than average
14 according to comparative test fish CPUE data. Because of
15 late run timing, it was determined that a short
16 commercial opening on the pre-selected date of June 15 to
17 assist in salmon marketing efforts would not harvest a
18 lot of fish at that time. So a small, early commercial
19 harvest would not impact the run based on the pre-season
20 run outlook. District 2 was opened to commercial fishing
21 for three hours on June 15th, which was the shortest
22 commercial opening targeting chinook salmon on record.
23 Although this commercial period was controversial, it
24 appears to have worked out well with a small harvest of
25 900 chinook salmon, of which 63 percent were males.

26
27 We then delayed opening the next
28 commercial period until June 19th in District 1. On June
29 17th, the Department estimated the first quarter point of
30 the run for the Lower River test fishing project to be
31 around June 19th, and based on this run timing projected
32 the Pilot Station sonar passage for chinook salmon would
33 be near 170,000 for the year and the cumulative test fish
34 CPUE would reach 22 to 24 CPUE. At the end of the
35 season, an estimated 168,000 chinook salmon did pass the
36 Pilot Station sonar site. The cumulative test fish CPUE
37 was 21.81 and the first quarter point of the Lower River
38 test fishery was June 20th.

39
40 commercial fishing was again delayed
41 until the start of the second chinook pulse identified by
42 the Lower River test fish project on June 23rd to the
43 26th with a total CPUE of 7.62 and Pilot Station sonar on
44 June 25th to the 27th had a passage estimate of
45 approximately 44,400 chinook salmon.

46
47 The total commercial harvest was 45,800
48 chinook salmon for the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River
49 drainage and the chinook salmon harvest was the sixth
50 lowest commercial harvest since Statehood and 14 percent

1 below the 1996 to 2005 average harvest of 53,000 chinook
2 salmon.

3

4 The summer chum salmon runs have
5 exhibited steady improvement since 2001 with harvestable
6 surpluses in each of the last four years, from 2002 to
7 2005. The 2006 run outlook was for an average to above
8 average run, which would provide for escapement, support
9 a normal subsistence harvest and a surplus for commercial
10 harvest. The commercial harvest in Alaska was projected
11 to be from 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon
12 depending on salmon market conditions.

13

14 Because of the lack of the summer chum
15 salmon market, the summer chum harvest was taken
16 incidentally to fishing directed to king salmon in the
17 lower river, except for one short directed chum salmon
18 period in District 2 and six directed chum salmon periods
19 in District 6.

20

21 The total commercial harvest was
22 approximately 92,116 summer chum salmon for the Yukon
23 River drainage and the summer chum salmon harvest was the
24 10th lowest since 1967 and 22 percent below the 1996 to
25 2005 average harvest of approximately 118,500.

26

27 Yukon River fishermen in Alaska received
28 an estimated \$3.4 million for their chinook and summer
29 chum salmon harvest in 2006. That was approximately 4
30 percent above the 1996 to 2005 average of \$3.2 million.
31 Fishers received an estimated average price per pound of
32 \$3.94 for chinook and \$.05 for summer chum salmon. The
33 average price paid for chinook salmon in the Lower River
34 area was 36 percent above the 1996 to 2005 average of
35 \$2.89 per pound. Prices paid for summer chum salmon in
36 the round continued to be low as observed since 1995.

37

38 As Mr. Maschmann said, Yukon River
39 chinook salmon escapements in 2006 in most tributaries
40 either were within or exceeded their goals.

41

42 We do have biological escapement goals
43 established for the Chena and Salcha Rivers. We had an
44 estimated 2,936 chinook salmon counted by the Chena River
45 Tower Project and we have a BEG range of 2,800 to 5,700.
46 So we did meet the lower end of the goal. The Salcha
47 River Tower Project estimated an escapement of 10,400
48 chinook salmon and our BEG range was 3,300 to 6,500. Of
49 course, the much lower escapement in the Chena River
50 compared to the Salcha River was very unusual and we're

1 not sure why it happened this year.

2

3 Preliminary post-season analysis of
4 escapement data indicates the 2006 summer chum salmon
5 escapement levels were above average in most tributaries.

6

7

8 For Canadian fisheries, preliminary
9 information indicates a harvest of approximately 5,900
10 chinook salmon, of which that includes 2,040 in the
11 commercial fishery and 3,920 in their aboriginal fishery
12 and 0 in the test fishery. Of course, these estimates
13 are conservative as their harvest reports are incomplete.
14 We should have more complete harvest information at the
15 Joint Technical Committee meeting.

16

17 If there's any questions, I'll answer
18 them.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
21 have a couple different questions here. Maybe start out
22 a little bit with a little bit of the history of how
23 you've gotten your numbers for early commercial openings
24 in the past. It's my understanding in the past you used
25 a lot of the subsistence fisheries harvest data to try
26 and establish the run strength early in the season, is
27 that correct?

28

29 MR. HAYES: That is correct.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: I'm also beginning to hear
32 that in the last two years now there's been a fairly
33 dramatic decrease in subsistence fisheries early in the
34 season, maybe partly due to the cost of fuel or
35 demographic changes within the Lower River. So I guess
36 what I'm getting at is how is this long-term trend of you
37 tracking subsistence fisheries, how are you trying to
38 readjust for when you make your openings? I guess what
39 I'm trying to ask you is if the fisheries have been
40 managed in a certain way for the last 10 or 15 years or
41 longer and now we're seeing a change in the patterns of
42 subsistence use down there, how are you adjusting to that
43 so you can make your predictions for your openings for
44 commercial fisheries?

45

46 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chair, Council Member
47 Bassich. I guess, to start with, first we don't just use
48 one tool to manage the fishery or decide when to open the
49 fishery. We use the Lower River Test Fish Project,
50 subsistence fisheries reports, Pilot Station Sonar Test

1 Fishery and Marshall Test Fishery. So we realize that at
2 any given year, as you said, subsistence high water, high
3 gas prices, it does cause a problem. I mean the effort
4 early in the run is lower. So that's where we have to
5 use our other projects to make our decisions. Typically,
6 once the fish reach District 2 we have a pretty good idea
7 of what the pulse sizes look like at that point. So it's
8 not just one item that we're using to make our decisions
9 with.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: I guess another point I'm
12 trying to make is it seems like the pattern of
13 subsistence harvest is changing since I've been involved
14 and learning a lot about the fisheries in the Lower
15 River. In my mind we need to make adjustments to that.
16 And this very controversial quarter point opening, I
17 didn't see it as a big problem. I think it's something
18 that managers need to know is going on in the river and
19 the directed fisheries where they get very good reporting
20 from commercial fisheries on run strength and I assume
21 you're getting data on male/female ratios during this
22 time, too, which is very critical in my mind as an
23 upriver fisherman. I see this as a very effective test
24 fishery early on and I just want to make that statement.
25 I think it's a very important tool and gives you very
26 good data in my mind and it seemed to work very well this
27 year.

28

29 I'd also like to know, I didn't see any
30 numbers or hear any numbers on what the total commercial
31 ratio was between male and females. It's been stated a
32 couple times that the effort to spread the harvest out is
33 hopefully going to take some of the impact off the female
34 chinook and I'm wondering if that was in case happening
35 this year if you have any kind of long-term track on
36 that. Thank you.

37

38 MS. EVENSON: I don't have long-term data
39 with me. Sorry. Mr. Chair, Council Members. I'm Dani
40 Evenson. I'm the area research biologist for the summer
41 season chinook and summer chum for Fish and Game. This
42 year in the commercial catch in Y1 we had a proportionate
43 female harvested at 49 percent. In St. Mary's, the drift
44 gillnet harvest was 46 percent female. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virgil.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
49 Page 3 in your report you say there were 168,351 chinook
50 salmon pass Pilot Station sonar. Is that including the

1 additional fish that the DIDSON sonar counts?

2

3 MR. HAYES: I'm sorry, I don't quite
4 understand the question. Can you repeat it.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's my understanding
7 that the DIDSON sonar counts fish that previously had not
8 been counted and I think it's somewhere around 30 percent
9 more fish it counts than what the old type sonar did. So
10 my question is this, what is the percent more that it
11 counts? Number two, is this 168,351 chinook salmon that
12 pass the sonar then that is with this additional fish
13 being counted with the new technology?

14

15 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chair, Mr. Umphenour.
16 The DIDSON sonar counts include the total number, so
17 those are included. The roughly 30 percent increase was
18 for 2005. I don't know at this time what the percentage
19 was for '06 of the counts that were counted from the
20 DIDSON.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. So do you
23 have the average number of the way they would have been
24 counted -- or what the average passage is under the old
25 system? So if we assume this year the sonar counts are
26 similar to 2005, the 168,000 we had multiplied 30 percent
27 times 168,000 and subtract it and then we could correlate
28 that to what it used to be. Because we're comparing
29 apples and oranges to me. We're comparing these new
30 sonar numbers, which may be as high as 30 percent higher
31 than what we've always based management on. So in order
32 to compare apples to apples, we need to know what that
33 number is. So my question is what is the average under
34 the old system of chinook past the sonar and I don't mean
35 from 1996 to -- because I'm going to have another
36 question, is why are we using the averages from '96 to
37 2005, which are time sharing both depressed fish runs and
38 depressed prices which cause little effort of fishing.

39

40 MS. EVENSON: Mr. Chair, Council member
41 Umphenour. We need to run the DIDSON simultaneously with
42 the current sonar program for a number of years before we
43 can develop an index and take it and apply it to previous
44 years. At this point we only have two years of data on
45 the comparison and we don't know if the ratio remains the
46 same over years. So we plan on running the two
47 simultaneously for a number of years before we can take
48 it back to previous data and expand out based on those
49 numbers.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That leads me
2 to another question. When they're operating the sonar,
3 they still have the old type operating and then you have
4 this new DIDSON operating. So my question is do you add
5 the two numbers together, is that what you do and kind of
6 subtract the extra ones you think the DIDSON -- like say
7 the DIDSON counts the fish closest to shore from what I
8 understand and there was a dead point there where the old
9 type sonar didn't count fish from say the bank to 20 feet
10 as an example. It counted from 20 feet out to 150 yards
11 or something in the middle of the river. So now this new
12 one counts the fish closer to shore. My question is,
13 when you figure this number of fish, this passage, you're
14 adding the two together but some place you might have
15 both sonars counting the same fish. Is there an attempt
16 made so that you're not counting fish double?

17
18 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Umphenour.
19 No, they're not counting the same areas with both units,
20 the DIDSON and the old equipment. The DIDSON is covering
21 a certain area that they feel they're missing with the
22 other equipment, so that's not being added with the
23 DIDSON. I guess the answer to your question is there's
24 not double counting going on in that area.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Okay, I'll
27 quit talking about that. I guide big game hunters. I
28 guide for bears in August on the Dakli River, which is
29 one of the spawning tributaries of the Koyukuk and it's
30 up from Huslia. Now this past year I was anticipating
31 large, large numbers of chum salmon there attracting lots
32 of bears and so I started my hunt as soon -- I was there
33 the day before the season opened, which is the 9th of
34 August. The year previous I was there on the 15th of
35 August, which is six days later. In 2005 I counted
36 thousands and thousands and thousands of chum salmon
37 carcasses. You couldn't believe it. The place stunk.
38 And I saw several thousand live chum salmon and this was
39 starting on the 14th and 15th of August.

40
41 This year I got there six days earlier.
42 I think I saw maybe in 12 days up there and I get way up
43 past the forks of Dakli River and Wheeler Creek, so I go
44 through the majority of the spawning area, I go above
45 where most of the salmon spawn. I saw a grand total
46 maybe 15 live chum salmon instead of in excess of 1,000
47 like in 2005. Then I didn't see very many carcasses, so
48 I know that didn't get surveyed. They normally do that
49 by aerial survey. So my next question was what was the
50 escapement on the Chena River for chum salmon.

1 Then the other thing is my son commercial
2 fishes with the fishwheel on the Tanana River right at
3 Rosey Creek and that's been my fishwheel site since 1984.
4 We fish there every year. Now last year in 2005 at the
5 peak of the run when we quit fishing, our catch rate was
6 in the neighborhood of 250 chum salmon an hour. This
7 year we never got to 200 chum salmon an hour. There was
8 a lot of fish coming up the river, but nothing like it
9 was in 2005. So that leads me to believe that either
10 when you compare those two rivers, the Koyukuk and then
11 the Tanana River, I think there were more chum salmon in
12 2005. My direct question is what was the escapement of
13 the Chena River.

14
15 MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Umphenour.
16 The Chena River had approximately 35,000 summer chum
17 salmon in '06 and the average of course is about 7,500
18 for that system. The Salcha River was approximately
19 112,000 summer chums.

20
21 I guess one point to make, the Gisasa
22 River we had a record escapement in there of 225,000 this
23 year and the average is around 60. So why one system may
24 not have done as well, it could have been high water four
25 or five years ago creating a problem in the stream
26 itself. We've seen that in the Andreafsky River where
27 last year the chums weren't that well and we had a pretty
28 good chum run, but this year we did really well on summer
29 chums in the Andreafsky River.

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. You wouldn't
32 offhand know what the run was in 2005 on the Chena and
33 the Salcha, do you, what the count was and whether they
34 had good counts or not? I think maybe there was high
35 water and they couldn't count good then.

36
37 MR. HAYES: The Chena didn't count
38 throughout most of the season. I don't have them
39 available in front of me.

40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That's all I
42 have, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more questions
45 for you guys.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. Fred, I
50 almost forgot about you.

1 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name
2 is Fred Bue. I'm fall season area manager. I'll try to
3 keep this brief. I have a handout. I won't go through
4 the whole thing, but it's just for your information.
5 We're still counting fish is the bottom line. We don't
6 have a full season summary for everybody to look at.
7 Even as you're driving into town here, if you go by the
8 pipeline crossing you can just go around behind the
9 Tanana River sports office and you can see fall chum in
10 there. It's an accessible place where you can see
11 spawning and it's just barely starting there. We've
12 still got another month of monitoring to do here to get a
13 full assessment.

14
15 As Gerald said, we've seen improvements
16 in the fall chum run over the past few years. Our pre-
17 season projection was for a surplus of fall chum, coho
18 salmon above escapement for subsistence uses with some --
19 we're anticipating some for commercial harvest. Our fall
20 chum projection was for a run of 1 million to 1.4 million
21 and our coho run, we don't have a real number formulated
22 in a projection, but our trend has been for above average
23 runs and that's what we're expecting this coming season.

24
25 Page 2 is -- we have a lot of projects.
26 This is the Pilot Station sonar and it kind of
27 characterizes what a lot of the other projects are
28 showing, although they're not identical. But this is a
29 trend. The left-hand side is the fall chum daily passage
30 in the upper left. You can see the pulse characteristic
31 of the run as it comes in and the lower one is the
32 accumulative passage. There were really three
33 significant pulses and a fourth one towards the end of
34 the run that wasn't very strong. Based on our
35 assessments so far, we're estimating the total fall chum
36 run size was around 900,000, but we're still working on
37 it.

38
39 What was unusual about this year's run
40 was that the five-year-olds dominated the fall chum
41 portion. Normally the four-year-olds dominate that run.
42 We're not sure why, but we know that the five year olds
43 should have been strong based on the last couple years
44 because that same brood year or age cohort has been
45 coming in and has been strong. Last year the four-year-
46 olds were exceptionally strong. This year the five-year-
47 olds were from the same spawning class, so they were
48 strong, but the four-year-olds weren't quite what we
49 expected and, therefore, I think that's why we fell a
50 little short of our projection. It's not to say it was a

1 bad run. The 900,000 is a really good total run for fall
2 chum and we're not too disappointed.

3

4 The coho run, as you can see on the
5 right-hand side is that they did start out earlier than
6 we expected, earlier than usual, thinking that it was
7 going to really be another good run. We're watching the
8 Kuskokwim and the Norton Sound, our neighbors to both
9 sides, and they were showing exceptional runs of coho,
10 particularly in Norton Sound.

11

12 As you can see, it started off fairly
13 strong but it didn't ramp up and increase like we would
14 have thought. Overall, we ended up near average. As
15 coho go, they had a trend of above average, so we
16 shouldn't be too disappointed with that. What was
17 unusual is that we heard from a lot of people the size of
18 the coho were smaller this year. Some of you may have
19 noticed that. We're not certain what that means at this
20 point.

21

22 Page 3 is just kind of characterizing how
23 we compared to averages in our subsistence commercial
24 harvest. As Gerald said, the performance of the summer
25 chum run was really pretty good, so we started out the
26 fall season with relaxed subsistence fishing schedules
27 just as a continuation with the idea that summer chum did
28 good, so we also anticipate the similar factors for fall
29 chum where they would also be good.

30

31 Also with the big summer run there were
32 still a lot of summer chum entering the river after the
33 normal start date of the fall season, which suggested the
34 summer chum were contributing to the fall chum Pilot
35 sonar estimate and that's why when we're doing our
36 assessment we need to look further upstream to see how
37 those runs split out and get a better idea what the total
38 run of fall chum were.

39

40 Commercial fishing began in the Lower
41 River near the first quarter point in the run July 30th.
42 There was increased market this year. Prices were down,
43 but there was more market interest to a few more
44 locations, which was good. Gave some people more
45 opportunity. We worked with the fishermen, tried to
46 improve quality, tried to take most of the harvest out of
47 the middle portion of the run. The last few years we've
48 been in this conservative management and harvesting off
49 the backside. Consequently the fish were a little bit
50 lesser quality. Trying to focus our harvest in the

1 middle of the run was important now that we're getting
2 more confident the run is fairly stable. We had 28
3 openings in the Lower River. Worked extensively with the
4 buyers. The harvest in both fall chum and coho in the
5 lower river this year were a little bit larger than the
6 last year.

7
8 In the upriver, District 4 was open for
9 commercial fishing most of the season, but they didn't do
10 any commercial fishing. We've been working year after
11 year trying to attract a market, working with the
12 fishermen, and the fishermen in turn are working with
13 potential buyers trying to develop something and be
14 creative in our management, but we still weren't able to
15 bring a market there.

16
17 Subdistricts 5(B) and (C) did fish, did
18 have a commercial market, which there hasn't been one for
19 10 years in the fall season. Unfortunately, when the
20 bulk of the fish were passing there, they had
21 exceptionally high water. That combined with low effort,
22 because it's difficult to maintain gear there, the buyer
23 wasn't very successful. He took 10,000 fall chum out of
24 there, but it wasn't profitable for him to operate, so he
25 moved back to the Tanana River, which did have a pretty
26 good run. 6(A) and 6(B) did have a market. We had five
27 commercial periods and nine fishermen participated there.

28
29 I should back up. The Lower River
30 district we did keep them to below their guideline
31 harvest range down there with the anticipation we were
32 going to move some fish up to subdistricts 5(B) and (C)
33 near the bridge, expecting some harvest there and trying
34 to spread out the allocation according to the management
35 guideline harvest ranges. Unfortunately, they weren't
36 able to take those. So there were additional fish that
37 moved on up.

38
39 In the Tanana River, we slightly exceeded
40 the guideline harvest range by 3,000 fish or so. They
41 did take their full guideline harvest range there with
42 nine fishermen. The total harvest for the fall season
43 was around 170,000 fall chum and 63,000 coho salmon. You
44 can see how they compare there for the commercial. I
45 should also add that the upper graph for the subsistence
46 harvest is just estimated. You maybe have a better idea,
47 but what we're doing right now is still going through our
48 communities estimating the harvest and we think for
49 purposes right now subsistence is probably similar to
50 last year. Maybe it's slightly more, but last year was a

1 larger fall chum run, so I'm not sure where the balance
2 is.

3

4 Page 4 doesn't specifically speak to
5 escapement, but it's a stacked graph. We have harvest
6 stacked on top of escapement assessment. The darker bar,
7 that lower portion is what we're considering to be our
8 escapement. This year, as I said, the fall run is still
9 very preliminary, but based on our harvest below Pilot
10 plus Pilot and then our confidence in how the projects
11 upriver are doing, that's ballpark where we think our
12 escapement is, in that slash line there. Keep in mind
13 there was that summer chum component with the overlap of
14 fall season, which made it difficult. Possibly we saw
15 that the upper tributaries had higher production rates
16 than the Tanana River.

17

18 One of the things Gerald mentioned was
19 the genetics study that we're doing. It's three years
20 now. Indicated that maybe the Tanana River production
21 wasn't quite as good proportionately as the upper
22 mainstem. We're not certain. That's still a very
23 preliminary project and we're not sure what to make of it
24 because we're getting conflicting sort of numbers out of
25 our Tanana River tagging estimate. It looks like the
26 Tanana River did better than maybe the genetics might
27 have indicated. But that's still an evolving project and
28 it's something that we're certainly looking into.

29

30 The Delta Clearwater River is one of our
31 few coho salmon streams that actually has an escapement
32 goal. I haven't actually heard of a count. The sport
33 fish manager does the counts here. He's said that
34 there's been some fishermen reports that the coho are
35 arriving there, but at this time I don't have a sense of
36 how well they did. Based on what we saw past the Nenana
37 fishery and the subsistence fishermen, we have pretty
38 good confidence that there are plenty of coho, at least
39 in the Tanana River.

40

41 I guess essentially the rest of this
42 packet is for your information unless there is other
43 questions, Mr. Chairman.

44

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 Fred, this is more of a comment instead of a question.
49 Up in our region we had a pretty good fall chum fishing
50 effort. I think everyone in our community did quite well

1 in obtaining what they needed. One of the observations
2 that has been made in our area and I witness this quite a
3 bit was an increase in some sort of a fungus on the fall
4 chum and I'm not really sure what it is. I'm not a
5 biologist. I was just wondering if it was noticed in
6 other tributaries or farther down the river or if it's
7 something more prevalent in our area. It's something I
8 wanted to point out and maybe keep an eye on.

9
10 I think from year to year I've seen
11 various qualities of fish and it's not something I'm
12 tremendously worried about, but I'm just kind of curious
13 to see if other communities in the upper river saw this.
14 I saw it in a much greater percentage in the chum this
15 year. A lot of the fish were basically blinded on one
16 side of the head the fungus was so prevalent. Quite a
17 few of them the entire tail fin was basically gone. I
18 actually witnessed a number of fall chum just floundering
19 about in the middle of the river totally lost and unable
20 to navigate. So it was just something I wanted to point
21 out. I'd like to hear if anybody had reported this.

22
23 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. I guess I
24 haven't, but I'm certainly interested. Was that early or
25 late in the run?

26
27 MR. BASSICH: I'd say it was definitely
28 in the latter part of the run. I think waters were a
29 little bit warmer this year than what I've witnessed in
30 the past. I don't know if that's a contributing factor.
31 It was definitely a much higher percentage. I'd say
32 normally out of 100 fish I might see four or five fish
33 that have some incidence of this and this year I was
34 probably seeing upwards of 20, 25 percent with some form
35 of this fungus or growth. I'm not sure what it is on
36 them.

37
38 MR. BUE: Yeah, the reason I ask is I got
39 a lot of reports the summer chum run was exceptionally
40 large and there were quite a few more summer chum moving
41 up into Canada. Typically I'd think that those would
42 probably be decayed more. Like you say, there may have
43 been warmer water temperatures. It was unusual. The
44 Tanana River was exceptionally high, a portion of the
45 run. The Porcupine, Sheenjek, Chandalar were
46 exceptionally high, but the mainstem stayed low, so there
47 could have been certainly different climate.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Virgil.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Fred, maybe I missed it, but there was a much higher
3 percentage of five year old fall chum than four year old.
4 Do you have the figures of what the percentages were?

5
6 MR. BUE: I think Gerald mentioned
7 earlier it was like 61 percent five-year-olds and 38
8 percent four-year-olds. Normally the average we think of
9 between 60 to 70 percent four-year-olds, so it's
10 essentially flip-flopped this year.

11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: I've noticed throughout
13 the drainage in the commercial harvest average weight was
14 only 7.1 pounds and my recollection when we used to have
15 a market for these chum salmon was they averaged up in
16 District 5 and 6 around 8 pounds when we caught them up
17 there. Do you know what the historical average weight
18 is?

19
20 MR. BUE: I have it in a book back here.
21 Last year was exceptionally large fish. They were close
22 to 8 pounds at least averaging at the mouth of the river.
23 The middle District 5, I don't recollect what that was
24 because it's been so many years since we've had a
25 fishery. This year in the Lower River they were around
26 7.1. Average is probably 7.5, 7.7. Last year was
27 higher, this year was lower.

28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I've read a
30 little bit and talked with a number of scientists that
31 say that one of the things that happens when there's
32 over-grazing in the marine environment is the fish come
33 back older and smaller. Has anyone given any thought to
34 that?

35
36 MR. BUE: I guess I haven't. There's a
37 lot of talk about those sorts of things. I don't know
38 where -- I haven't been able to tease it out very well.
39 I know that sockeye, they think about them a lot, and
40 sockeye certainly have a different life history than
41 chum, so I don't know how those relationships are. A lot
42 of times with other fisheries or when you have large
43 numbers of fish, a lot of times they'll be bigger and
44 heavier, as if there's better condition and better
45 survival when you have pretty good numbers of fish, but
46 they're smaller. I don't know what mechanism or what
47 factors are working on that.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Department is
50 supposed to be doing some type of a study. They've been

1 doing this for a long time. Also the Auke Bay lab out of
2 Juneau of the impact of all this hatchery production in
3 the marine environment and how it relates to the wild
4 stocks and whether there really is overgrazing and
5 whether these fish coming back at older ages and smaller
6 sizes is a result of too many fish in the ocean pasture.
7 Is anything going on or did that -- since the Board of
8 Fisheries changed and no one is pushing the issue, is all
9 that forgotten? Does anyone in the room know the answer
10 to that question? To me, looking at the return of fall
11 chum, it's just what guys like Dr. Phil Mundy and Dr.
12 Cossan and all these other guys that are scientists say
13 happens. So I'm wondering, is anyone doing anything,
14 looking at anything or they just said the hell with it,
15 Dr. White and Dummy Umphenour off the Board of Fisheries,
16 no one is going to be pestering us anymore.

17
18 MR. SMITH: I think that's what they
19 said, Virgil.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. VOKE: Eric Voke, Alaska Fish and
24 Game. Just a brief comment. I can't actually speak to
25 activities that are currently going on specifically
26 related to that topic, though I would be very surprised
27 if people had forgotten about this. I can tell you in
28 the last decade or so the Japanese, who you know depend a
29 great deal on their hatchery production because they have
30 no wild stocks left, have found out that a lot of their
31 fish are returning much smaller than they used to and
32 they have become very aware of either the near shore or
33 ocean competition problem and have reduced their hatchery
34 production a great deal in the last decade or so. There
35 are people that are aware of these issues and I believe
36 that folks in our neck of the woods are aware of them
37 too, but I can't speak to exactly what's going on in
38 terms of research. Thank you.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I knew the
41 Japanese figured it out. It's just that these guys in
42 Prince William Sound have increased their production of
43 chum salmon by over 100 percent since they made a promise
44 to the Board of Fisheries in January 2001 they would
45 reduce it by 23 percent. So I'm just wondering what's
46 happening and whether there was anyone in the room that
47 knew what was happening. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: A quick comment.
50

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
4 I've stated many times before, this isn't an issue of
5 numbers. I think we've got the numbers in the river and
6 in my view we can feed the people and have some
7 commercial harvest and provide for escapement. The
8 quality of the fish is the issue and this is what we need
9 to be addressing. I think what Virgil is talking about
10 is a serious issue and could very well be impacting it
11 and that's something that we have human control over.
12 There are certain things we don't, but there are some
13 that we do and those are the areas we should be looking
14 at. What are we as users, human users of the resource
15 able to control and then work in those directions.
16 That's just a statement I wanted to make, but I think
17 it's very important.
18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd like to chime in
20 on this. The Eastern Interior is always getting after
21 you guys that you have to recognize that the hatchery
22 fish do impact our fishery here. No matter what you
23 throw at us today or tomorrow, I'd like you to realize we
24 need more -- what Virgil is always asking is that -- the
25 hatcheries got loans and stuff. There's laws that it's
26 not supposed to impact the wild stocks. If we have to
27 hear like what Japan has found out -- we're the ones that
28 helped Japan out. Too many agencies working against each
29 other. We should have known this stuff about 10 years
30 ago.
31
32 Is there any more questions for these
33 guys.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That brings
40 us up to a quick discussion on deferral of fishery
41 proposals. Then it would be crossover proposals. Right
42 now it's 10 after 12:00. I don't know if you want to
43 continue and then take a break or take a break now. It's
44 your call.
45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Are you guys hungry?
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: So you need to set a time
49 for people to return. For those that are presenting
50 here, we're having a hard time hearing, so we're going to

1 be working on the sound system.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We'll recess until
4 1:00.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd like to call this
11 meeting back to order. Please find your seats.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. We have one
14 other housekeeping thing. I'll pass it out and then it
15 will be laid out on the public table. All of you
16 received a letter earlier this summer that Mitch
17 Demientieff was replaced on the Federal Subsistence
18 Board. I put together a little extended card that you
19 might want to write some notes on it and then I'll try
20 and get a composite done and ship it to Mitch.

21

22 That would bring us up to the deferral of
23 the Yukon River proposals. These agendas are created
24 months in advance, so I don't know if YRDFA wants to at
25 this point talk about the working group on size of
26 salmon. Then we'll be on the crossover proposals with
27 Southcentral.

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yes, I'd like to hear
30 from YRDFA.

31

32 MS. ROBBINS: Mr. Chairman, Members of
33 the Council. My name is Becca Robbins Gisclair. I'm
34 with YRDFA and I'll let my colleagues introduce
35 themselves as they go along. I just wanted to take a few
36 minutes right now to make sure everyone knows about the
37 fish size meeting that's already been mentioned and
38 there's an invitation in your packets there. It's
39 planned for October 30th and it's going to be held in
40 Anchorage.

41

42 The general idea of the meeting is to get
43 Agency Staff and people from the length of the river
44 together to talk about the issue and talk about people's
45 experiences and what they've seen on the river and then
46 get some scientific data on the issue and then really
47 spend a good part of the day talking about what we can do
48 about it and where we go from there.

49

50 So we have a three presentations lined up

1 for the day. One will be kind of a general presentation
2 about what we know about the changing size of chinook
3 salmon on the Yukon River and that's going to be based on
4 the work of the Joint Technical Committee of the Yukon
5 River Panel. They're putting together a white paper on
6 the issue and Kristin is going to give you more
7 information on that. Then we're going to have two more
8 presentations. One on the marine environment component
9 and what might be going on out in the ocean that impacts
10 the size of fish. The other is genetic impacts from
11 diminishing size in a fish population and exploring what
12 that means for the future of the stock.

13

14 So that will be the general layout of the
15 day. I understand that each of the RAC's is going to be
16 sending someone and we'd also encourage people to attend
17 as private individuals, too. With that I'm going to let
18 Kristin explain a little bit about the JTC subcommittee
19 and how that fits into this.

20

21 MS. MULL: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 Council members. My name is Kristin Mull. I'm a
23 fisheries biologist for YRDFA and I represent YRDFA on
24 the JTC. At our spring 2006 meeting, the JTC formed a
25 salmon size subcommittee and our primary job is to review
26 studies done to date on Yukon River salmon size trends,
27 but we're also looking into all North Pacific salmon
28 stocks.

29

30 Secondly, we're going to determine what
31 data are available and conduct further analyses that are
32 appropriate. Finally, we will recommend further research
33 to address any information gaps that we find. We are
34 encouraging people to collect girth and weight data on
35 different projects on the river. In June and July this
36 year in the Lower River test fishery they did collect
37 weight and girth.

38

39 So the first step in our job is to
40 summarize existing literature relevant to Yukon River
41 chinook salmon and we're working on an information
42 summary and it has five basic sections. Those are
43 harvest in the Lower River fishery, ASL trends, gillnet
44 selectivity, ocean environment and the fifth is on
45 inheritability, which means the degree to which size and
46 maturity can be inherited across generations.

47

48 Our goal is to have a draft of this done
49 in time for the YRDFA fish size meeting on October 30th
50 so we can give that to the public. I don't foresee any

1 reason that won't happen. We're formatting the document
2 this week and we'll need formal approval from the JTC co-
3 chairs before we release it. Any questions on that?

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
6 applaud that you're looking at all existing data on the
7 Yukon River, but it's come to my attention that a lot of
8 data just was never collected that would have been useful
9 as far as creating a long-term database on changing size.
10 So I wonder if there's any effort being made to look at
11 other fisheries that have suffered this same type of
12 impact, whether it be the United States or other parts of
13 the world, to try and collect any data or any insights
14 from what happened in their fisheries that might pertain
15 to the Yukon River.

16

17 I would hate to see us just limit all
18 data to just what we've collected through Fish and Game
19 and Fish and Wildlife Services. I would like to see that
20 expanded to take advantage of past history in other parts
21 of the world where this has taken place. So I'm
22 wondering if there's any effort being made to look for
23 some of this archived data or research.

24

25 MS. MULL: Thank you for that comment. I
26 think that's a really important component and we are
27 looking into -- there have been several studies in North
28 Pacific salmon stocks from California, Washington, and
29 we're also looking at other fisheries, even cod
30 fisheries. So we're trying to find all the relevant
31 literature that's available.

32

33 Do you have any other questions about the
34 meeting?

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Just one day?

37

38 MS. ROBBINS: Yes, this meeting is one
39 day. We're hoping to use this as a first meeting to get
40 people together and talking about the issue and then
41 we'll see how things go, but we're hoping to hold another
42 meeting in December to continue the discussion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Now let me
47 see if I understand the whole process here. The
48 executive director of YRDFA promised the Board of
49 Fisheries this January, will make three years ago, that
50 YRDFA would get a group together and do a study or

1 analysis and bring a recommendation to the Board of
2 Fisheries. So is YRDFA planning on bringing something to
3 the Board of Fisheries for the meeting that starts the
4 31st of January?

5
6 MS. ROBBINS: Our hope for the best
7 outcome that this group is able to come to some
8 agreement. I think we might be a little optimistic in
9 thinking that's going to happen in two meetings. There
10 is another thing I believe YRDFA promised the Board of
11 Fish and that was a gear study and that might be part of
12 this, too. That's going to be ready for this meeting as
13 well.

14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: YRDFA did a gear study
16 that will be ready for the meeting.

17
18 MS. MULL: Yeah, we've had a gear study
19 on subsistence fisheries and commercial fisheries
20 starting in 2004 and 2005 and I believe data were also
21 collected in 2006. So that report will be ready in time
22 for this fish size meeting October 30th.

23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: You're going to have this
25 gear study ready to be presented at this meeting on
26 October 30th?

27
28 MS. MULL: I don't believe that the gear
29 study will be presented, but it will be available in a
30 paper format.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me ask another
33 question. You said that you might be able to reach
34 consensus on something. When you say reaching consensus,
35 does that mean with the YRDFA Board of Directors or the
36 participants of this public forum on October 30th?

37
38 MS. ROBBINS: The fish size meeting we're
39 talking about is not the YRDFA board. It's a group of
40 people from up and down the river outside the YRDFA
41 board. So that's the group we're referring to. The
42 YRDFA board is independently going to be considering the
43 Board of Fish proposals at its next board meeting, which
44 is the first week of November, so just after this fish
45 size meeting, and we'll be voting on the proposals at
46 that time.

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: So independent of
49 whatever the YRDFA board does, then you're hoping to
50 maybe reach some recommendation to take to the Board of

1 Fisheries as a result of the meeting on the 30th and a
2 potential meeting again in December?

3

4 MS. ROBBINS: That's the hope, yeah.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: You want to reach
7 consensus or what the majority of the people feel?

8

9 MS. ROBBINS: I think we're hoping that
10 we can come up with something that the majority of the
11 people from the Upper River and the Lower River can
12 support.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Because
15 consensus is nothing more than an excuse to do nothing.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 MR. L. WILDE: My name is Lester Wilde.
22 I've been involved with YRDFA and with the RAC for a
23 number of years and I've been an employee of Mr.
24 Umphenour for a couple years while he was down in the
25 Lower River. And concerning fish size and the proposals
26 that come out from any one of the RAC Committees or the
27 people in the Upper River on the effect of mesh size and
28 net depth on the Lower River, I just had a couple
29 comments I wanted to make that I observed over the years
30 as a tender boat operator on the Yukon River.

31

32 As some of you may know, prior to the
33 1900s we were allowed to fish on the Lower River with
34 meshes up to nine inches and over if they were available
35 and prior to those years we were allowed to fish mesh
36 sizes in depths of 90 meshes and up to 100 meshes deep.
37 Since then we've been restricted to 45 mesh deep nets for
38 the commercial fishing that is done on the Lower River
39 and the main mesh size equipment that's used on the Lower
40 River is eight inch. During the years as a boat operator
41 I've paid a lot of attention to what the fish does in
42 different depths of the river because I tendered fish
43 from the beginning of Y3 right above Russian Mission all
44 the way down to the coast, to the mouths of the Yukon,
45 and I've always observed that as soon as fishing season
46 starts the salmon have a tendency to go and hit that
47 deeper water and you can see in some areas where the
48 eddies are, some of that water goes down to 100 to 200
49 feet. There's fish all the way down to the bottom of
50 those deep wells at the bottom of the river. We feel

1 that since the mesh size and the depth of gear that are
2 being proposed in some of the proposal in this day and
3 age state that because of the mesh size that we use on
4 the river it may have an effect on the length or the
5 girth or the width and the weight of the fish and we feel
6 that is not necessarily so.

7

8 I think what we need to do is work
9 together in the RACS and YRDFA to find the real answer as
10 to why the change of the salmon sizes are being noticed.
11 We notice that all over. We even notice the size change
12 of the salmon out on the coast in Hooper Bay. That's
13 just one thing I wanted to say, that maybe we need to
14 rely on more scientific fact on what's causing the
15 reduction in size of the salmon and we also need to work
16 together on what kind of remedy we might have for the
17 problem that is prevalent throughout the salmon fishing
18 area.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 Lester, I'm just curious when you say you've noticed a
26 change in the coastal areas. What are the changes you're
27 seeing there? Are they the same that we're seeing in the
28 Upper River? Are the fish getting smaller in length or
29 is it mainly just the mass of the fish is changing?

30

31 MR. L. WILDE: We've noticed that the
32 girth and the overall size is getting smaller. We've
33 been noticing that for a number of years now. And this
34 is mainly subsistence. We don't have any commercial on
35 the coastal areas. In Hooper Bay we have nothing but
36 subsistence fisheries and the only salmon that we target
37 is beginning of the summer chum.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. And I guess
40 you've been one of the people that I've known that's been
41 in the fisheries longer than anybody I know. The
42 changing size of the salmon, this is in the mind of a
43 commercial fisherman now, what are the impacts of that
44 long term for them? As a subsistence fisherman myself, I
45 can eat an eight-pound salmon or I can eat a 20-pound
46 salmon. It all tastes the same to me and it doesn't
47 really affect me. But what are going to be the impacts
48 in 10 years from now to the commercial markets if,
49 indeed, the size of the king salmon gets smaller?

50

1 MR. L. WILDE: The size of the king
2 salmon isn't really what you buy, what the processors
3 buy. They buy it by the pound. The fishermen are
4 selling by the pound, so they're not selling by the size
5 of the fish. As far as I've noticed, I've never seen any
6 complaints. We're just like you, they taste the same and
7 they look the same, but they might be a little bit
8 smaller.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. If that's the
11 case, if commercial fishermen are buying by the pound, I
12 guess what I'm not understanding in some of the debate is
13 why, as a commercial fisherman, would you not be more
14 inclined to use a smaller mesh net and catch more fish,
15 sell more poundage, and maybe not target larger fish. It
16 seems if I was a commercial fisherman, I would much
17 rather use a slightly smaller mesh, target the smaller
18 fish, and catch more poundage to sell, than to catch one
19 or two really big fish. So I'm just trying to get into
20 the mind of a commercial fisherman here.

21
22 MR. L. WILDE: Not being a commercial
23 fishermen, I couldn't really answer you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It seems like what
26 we're trying to do, we've got to work together, like you
27 said, but what we're really worried about is the genetic
28 diversity. The genetic of the fish overall is changing
29 over time. I grew up on the Yukon and what I seen when I
30 was kid when I was fishing with my dad I don't see that
31 anymore. That's just what we're worried about. We want
32 to keep the genetic diversity of the fish.

33
34 MR. L. WILDE: I might have an answer for
35 you on that. The most prevalent equipment as far as I
36 know of commercial fishing is a 45 mesh deep net. As you
37 know, it doesn't necessarily mean if you're going to cut
38 that mesh size down that you're going to have to buy new
39 equipment. It's just a matter of having to rehang that
40 net to get within the requirements of the law. The
41 people that I've talked to and the people that I've
42 associated with have that 45 mesh equipment and they're
43 used to that equipment. Truthfully, I can't tell you why
44 is there a reason for not wanting to cut down to 35 mesh
45 deep net.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Lester, you were in here
50 when I was asking the Staff questions about the size of

1 the chum salmon, so I want to ask you this because I know
2 you live at Hooper Bay, I know you catch summer chums, I
3 don't know if you catch fall chums and cohos or not, but
4 have you noticed the size of the chum seems to be smaller
5 to you or not?
6

7 MR. L. WILDE: Not this last year. This
8 last year it seemed like we were getting nothing by fall
9 chum. Actually, the summer chums we've noticed that they
10 are getting smaller, but this last year was really
11 surprising because all the chums we were getting were
12 huge as opposed to the salmon that we've gotten before.
13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. But those
15 were summer chums that seemed larger than normal then.
16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.
18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Oh, and good to see you here in the north country,
21 Lester.
22

23 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.
24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That brings
26 us up to review of the pending Federal proposals.
27 There's two of them. You have a positive C&T
28 determination for the upper Prince William Sound area and
29 Copper River area and that's why these two proposals are
30 in front of you. Don Rivard will be covering Proposal 15
31 and 16.
32

33 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
34 afternoon to you and the Council members. My name is Don
35 Rivard. I'll be doing these two fishery proposal
36 analyses for you. The first one is FP07-15. It begins
37 on Page 23 in your book.
38

39 This proposal was submitted by the Ahtna
40 Tene Nene Subsistence Committee, requests that fish
41 wheels in the Upper Copper River District (Glennallen and
42 Chitina Subdistricts) of the Prince William Sound Area
43 must be removed from the water and stored above the high
44 water mark at the end of the permit period.
45

46 The proponent requests this regulatory
47 change because people carelessly store fish wheels in the
48 water or adjacent to the bank. At the end of the season
49 most fish wheel owners pull their fish wheels at least
50 partially out of the river to prevent damage from debris

1 and ice. Because fish wheels are such great size and
2 weight, and the related difficulties in hauling them up
3 the steep river banks, many fish wheels are left in the
4 river or on the bank, commonly on a log rack, partially
5 dismantled or locked. During the winter these fish
6 wheels can become jammed by ice floes and during the
7 spring break loose from their moorings and float down
8 river.

9
10 The fish wheels are sometimes damaged
11 during their journey and debris and/or entire fish wheels
12 ground on sandbars downriver near Chitina. The result is
13 an unsightly mess, which requires considerable time and
14 effort by down river residents to clean up.

15
16 These were all the points made by the
17 proponent.

18
19 Your existing fish regulations for this
20 is on Page 23. I won't read that. As far as the fish
21 wheel permit activity in that part of the river, in 2006
22 there were 44 registered Federal fish wheels and a total
23 of 121, Federal and State combined, registered fish
24 wheels in the Upper Copper River District. The majority
25 of subsistence permits issued and salmon harvests in the
26 Glennallen Subdistrict occur under State regulations.
27 You can see that on Table 1 on Page 27.

28
29 In addition to the State issued permits,
30 Federal subsistence fishing permits have been available
31 for the Upper Copper River District since 2002. That's
32 shown on Page 27 in Tables 2 and 3. Local Copper River
33 basin residents primarily fish in the Glennallen
34 Subdistrict with fish wheels while a few people have
35 chosen to use a fish wheel under Federal regulations in
36 the Chitina Subdistrict. In 2005, there was no reported
37 fish wheel harvest in the Chitina Subdistrict and that's
38 on Page 27 as well.

39
40 The effects of this proposal if adopted,
41 this proposal would prohibit the owner of a fish wheel
42 who operates a fish wheel under Federal regulations in
43 the Upper Copper River District from storing it below the
44 high water mark when they remove the fish wheel from the
45 water at the end of the fishing permit period. This
46 proposal would increase the effort required to move and
47 store fish wheels at the end of the season because of
48 their size and weight and the related difficulties in
49 hauling them up the steep river banks.

50

1 This action should reduce the clean up
2 time currently required because of careless storage
3 procedures. However, there is no evidence to indicate
4 that fish wheels lost in the Copper River pose a risk to
5 the river s fishery resources. If this proposal was
6 adopted, it would create a divergence between State and
7 Federal regulations which could cause confusion and
8 enforcement problems because of the multiple land
9 ownership.

10
11 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose
12 this proposal. The reasons for that are that prohibiting
13 subsistence users from storing their fish wheels below
14 the high water mark to preclude loss of the wheel to high
15 water events is a social issue, not a fisheries or a
16 conservation issue. This social concern could preferably
17 be resolved by the participants themselves without
18 implementing additional regulation. There is no evidence
19 to indicate that fish wheels lost in the Copper River
20 pose a risk to the river s fishery resources. Hopefully,
21 fish wheel owners can educate other owners on the
22 benefits of storing fish wheels above the high water mark
23 to reduce the number and adverse social impacts of lost
24 wheels in the future.

25
26 In addition, this proposed regulation
27 does not appear to be necessary because the Federal land
28 managers currently have the authority to regulate the
29 storage or removal of fish wheels on Federal public
30 lands. Finally, the requirements to remove fish wheels
31 from Federal public lands should be addressed to the
32 respective land management agencies and not through the
33 Federal Subsistence Board regulatory process.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. To get you
38 guys back into the mode of reviewing proposals because we
39 haven't done it in a while, on the back of your name
40 plate is the steps you take. You can try to follow
41 those. It creates a clean record.

42
43 The next thing would be Agency comments
44 and I did see Terry Haynes walk in, but I don't know if
45 he's going to present the Alaska Department of Fish and
46 Game's comments on these proposals. That's the next step
47 on your list there. Maybe he stepped out already. He
48 did. I'm sure he will correct if I get it wrong. It's
49 on Page 29, the State comments on Proposal 15. I think
50 I'll give Terry a second or two. I don't know if he's

1 going to cover it.

2

3 Anyway, on Page 29 they basically go over
4 an introduction where this proposal would be in effect.
5 They discuss opportunity is provided by the State for
6 persons using both dip nets and fish wheels. As noted in
7 the draft federal staff analysis, the state management
8 plan sets aside 160,000 to 225,000 salmon for subsistence
9 and personal use harvest. Upon request, subsistence
10 fishers will be issued permits allowing up to 200 salmon
11 for a single person household and 500 salmon for a
12 household with two or more people. The basic line there
13 is, there are sufficient opportunities for harvest of
14 salmon for subsistence
15 purposes in this area.

16

17 They go on to discuss conservation
18 Issues. Adoption of this proposal is not necessary to
19 address a conservation or management concern because no
20 salmon stocks in this area have been determined by the
21 Alaska Board of Fisheries to be either a stock of
22 conservation or management concern. There are no
23 conservation issues associated with this proposal. It is
24 doubtful that derelict fish wheels would create
25 sufficient blockage in the Copper River to impede fish
26 passage.

27

28 They discuss jurisdiction issues and
29 we've requested a map of where the Federal lands are.
30 This is way out of my territory, so I don't know the land
31 makeup there, but basically they've asked for a map and
32 that has not been provided to them.

33

34 The Department also questions whether the
35 Federal Subsistence Board has the authority to adopt this
36 proposal since it does not involve the taking of fish and
37 wildlife. In most cases, maybe all, the land below the
38 high water mark is state land, and any regulation of
39 equipment storage on this land falls under the
40 jurisdiction of the Alaska Department of Natural
41 Resources. They specifically disagree with the statement
42 under the Discussion section that states if fish wheels
43 are stored on non-Federal public lands Federal
44 jurisdiction would only apply below the high water mark.

45

46 It is up to the state to decide whether
47 fishing gear can be stored on its lands or not. You can
48 see the other comments there, so basically they're in
49 opposition.

50

1 Based on their conclusion, Fish and Game
2 agrees with the draft federal Staff analysis that Don
3 just presented, that this is a social issue, not a
4 biological or conservation issue. The proposal is not
5 supported by substantial evidence to show that
6 prohibiting storage of fish wheels below high water is
7 necessary to provide for continued subsistence uses or to
8 provide a meaningful preference for subsistence uses or
9 is consistent with sound management principles or the
10 conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

11
12 Again, they question Federal authority to
13 adopt such a proposal and pretty much that's it for that
14 for the State. If I summarized over key points, I
15 apologize. I apologize to Terry for doing this, but I
16 don't know if he was coming here to present these
17 comments or not.

18
19 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Terry
20 Haynes, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Thank you,
21 Vince, for reading those comments into the record. I can
22 try to answer questions if Council members have them.
23 I'm not a fishery expert and I'm not here to deal with
24 fisheries issues, but I can try to answer them here or
25 get back to you tomorrow.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: That brings us up to other
30 Federal agencies. They're more welcome to come to the
31 microphone at this time. I'm not sure the Park Service
32 has a position on this.

33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: (Shaking head
35 negatively)

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: They're shaking their head
38 no. We did get some written public comments on this.
39 They're on Page 31. They're from the Ahtna Tene Nene'
40 Subsistence Committee. They support this proposal to
41 require that fish wheels be removed to above the high
42 water mark. By above high water mark, our definition
43 means that line where the water is at its highest point,
44 during the summer months; when flooding occurs due to
45 glacier melt.

46
47 Too many fish wheels have broken off its
48 moorings and have floated down the Copper River, and land
49 on sand bars near Chitina, Alaska. It leaves an unsightly
50 mess; too many fish wheels left on the sand bars to rot

1 and decay.

2

3 If people were required to take fish
4 wheels out of river to above the high water mark, then
5 there may not be as many fish wheels floating down the
6 Copper River, and affecting the beauty of the
7 environment.

8

9 That's all the written comments I know
10 of. Your counterpart on the Park Service side, the
11 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission looked
12 at these proposals, 15 and 16, as well as 14, which is
13 not before you. My understanding, and Barbara correct
14 me, they made no recommendations on Proposals 15 and 16.

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: That's right.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: So there's nothing from
19 them. I have not gotten any input from the affected
20 Advisory Committees.

21

22 Mr. Chairman, Southcentral is meeting as
23 we speak or has completed, I don't know which, but we
24 don't have any input from them.

25

26 With that, that brings us down to public
27 testimony. This would be the time to testify on Proposal
28 15.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Seeing none. It comes up
33 to where you guys do your work, which is Regional Council
34 deliberation.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
37 FP07-15.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Second it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved to
42 adopt and seconded. Discussion.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: I have one quick comment.
45 At the beginning of the meeting I stated a concern about
46 how things are changing in rural areas, how people are
47 becoming increasingly impacted and I think this is one of
48 those types of things. It doesn't need to be solved
49 maybe through a regulation, but it's an indicator of
50 what's starting to happen or has been happening and what

1 I think will continue to happen. It's a question of
2 respect. It's a question of being responsible for your
3 actions in your means and methods of harvesting fish and
4 game. Although I will vote to not approve this, I think
5 it's very important for people to realize that this is
6 what we're going to see more and more of, people having
7 these complaints and not knowing how to deal with these
8 types of complaints. We need more education out there,
9 more public participation and education in what are the
10 right ways of doing things, what are the responsible ways
11 of doings things, or we're going to be inundated with
12 this in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

15

16 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 That's close to home to me and I wanted to report that
18 the high water has now changed in the Copper River
19 because of some serious flooding that happened in that
20 area. It would make it very difficult to determine where
21 the high water mark is when it's probably in the history
22 of recorded records that the Copper is higher than it's
23 ever been. The Chairman of Southcentral lost his house
24 in a river where he's located. I travel downriver on the
25 Copper and if I had been on the river at that time I
26 would have probably lost something, myself or a boat. So
27 these are the kind of things I don't think you have any
28 control over. It's more of an act of God and I would be
29 voting against it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I would like to say
32 that I was hinting at just to move to defer to the home
33 region. More or less, I don't see this as a regulation
34 and how either State or Federal could help these people
35 out, whereas they could just get together themselves and
36 work amongst themselves. I'm going to vote against this.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: I agree with the Staff
39 analysis. This doesn't affect conservation in any way.
40 It's a social issue. Like Sue just brought up, the
41 Copper River goes up and down like a yo-yo. The majority
42 of the fish wheels, according to Staff reports, are lost
43 due to high water events. It would also make the
44 regulations more restrictive to Federal subsistence users
45 and State subsistence users, so I'm in opposition to this
46 motion.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved to

1 adopt this proposal and a second has been called and the
2 question has been called. All those in favor signify by
3 saying aye.

4

5 (No aye votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed
8 signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It fails.

13

14 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
15 Rivard again. We'll go now to FP07-16, which starts in
16 your book on Page 33. This proposal was also submitted
17 by the Ahtna Tene Nene Subsistence Committee and the
18 analysis was written by Rod Campbell in our office. This
19 proposal requests that fish wheels in the Upper Copper
20 River District, both the Glennallen and Chitina
21 Subdistricts of the Prince William Sound area, may not be
22 set or operated within 200 feet of another fish wheel.

23

24 The proponent is requesting this change
25 because they believe there are too many fish wheels in
26 the Copper River that are too close together. The
27 proponent further claims that this crowding not only
28 causes conflicts among users, but also creates a
29 potential conservation concern as fewer fish will reach
30 the spawning grounds. The issue of overcrowding and
31 associated conflicts are not new in this area. This is
32 documented back to the '60s and '70s.

33

34 The existing regulation you can find on
35 Page 34. The biological background is in 2001 the Alaska
36 Board of Fisheries adopted a Sustainable Salmon Fisheries
37 Policy for the State of
38 Alaska. In part, this policy established criteria to
39 identify those salmon stocks for which there is a yield,
40 management or conservation concern under the general
41 heading stock of concern. No Copper River salmon stocks
42 are currently designated as a stock of concern by the
43 Alaska Board of Fisheries. The Copper River salmon are
44 being maintained at relatively high levels of abundance.

45

46 Again, the fish wheel permit activity I
47 talked about that in the last one. Those can be found in
48 the tables on Page 37. Local Copper River Basin
49 residents primarily fish in the Glennallen Subdistrict
50 with fish wheels. There are a few that fish as well in

1 the Chitina Subdistrict. In 2005, there was no reported
2 fish wheel harvest in the Chitina Subdistrict.

3
4 The effects of this proposal if adopted
5 would increase the distance between fish wheels from 75
6 to 200 feet and potentially
7 reduce the number of fish wheels in the Upper Copper
8 River District and thereby reduce overcrowding. It may
9 allow more salmon to move up river to meet spawning
10 requirements, and may increase the opportunity for upper
11 river subsistence users to catch more fish. No
12 documentation was found to substantiate the proponent s
13 concern that more fish wheels operating in a given area
14 substantially increase the overall harvest of salmon and
15 create a conservation concern. There are no Copper River
16 salmon stocks listed as a stock of concern by the State
17 Board of Fisheries. The Copper River Chinook and sockeye
18 salmon stocks
19 regularly achieve their escapement goal and support
20 significant subsistence, personal use, sport, and
21 commercial fisheries.

22
23 Adopting this proposal would make Federal
24 regulations more restrictive than State regulations. If
25 Federally qualified subsistence users are required to
26 remain 200 feet from another fish wheel, the potential
27 exists for a State user to place a fish wheel between
28 those two fish wheels operated by Federally qualified
29 subsistence users, so it wouldn't really address the
30 problem.

31
32 This action would require the Federally
33 qualified subsistence users to relocate their fish wheels
34 in order to maintain the 200 feet of separation required
35 under Federal regulation if it were adopted. Since the
36 district/subdistrict has set boundaries, if this proposal
37 is adopted it would displace an unspecified number of
38 subsistence users operating fish wheels in the area and
39 thereby reduce their fishing opportunities.

40
41 The proponent also states that adoption
42 of this proposal would help to reduce bank erosion on the
43 Copper River by lowering the number of fish wheels being
44 utilized in the Upper Copper River District. If adopted,
45 this proposal may just disperse fish wheels to other
46 areas of the river which would reduce competition in one
47 area but not necessarily provide any river-wide relief
48 for bank erosion concerns. No documentation was found to
49 substantiate that a significant amount of bank erosion
50 would be reduced if the number of fish wheels being

1 operated in the Upper Copper River District were reduced.

2

3 This proposal would also create a
4 divergence between Federal and State regulations, which
5 could cause confusion, conflicts and enforcement
6 problems. Therefore, with all those reasons, the
7 preliminary conclusion is to oppose the proposal.

8

9 The proposal requiring subsistence users
10 to maintain a minimum of 200 feet between fish wheels
11 appears to primarily address social and allocation
12 issues. No evidence was found indicating that the
13 current minimum distance between fish wheels is having a
14 negative affect on the fishery resources of the Copper
15 River. This proposal would likely benefit some users but
16 be detrimental to others potentially causing more
17 conflicts.

18

19 Adopting this proposal would restrict
20 Federally qualified subsistence users more than
21 subsistence users fishing under State regulations. In
22 order to be effective, this proposal would need to be
23 adopted by both the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the
24 Federal Subsistence Board in the same year to reduce
25 confusion and not unnecessarily restrict Federally
26 qualified subsistence users.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That brings
31 us up to Agency comments. Terry will cover that. The
32 printed copy of that is on Page 41. Thank you.

33

34 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I'll just go
35 right to the conclusion of the State's comments. This
36 proposal is not supported by substantial evidence to show
37 that increasing the distance between fish wheels is
38 necessary to provide for continued subsistence uses,
39 provide a meaningful preference for subsistence uses, or
40 is consistent with sound management principles or the
41 conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

42

43 Most of our other comments are consistent
44 with the assessment made by Federal Staff in the Staff
45 analysis. Some of our comments are consistent with our
46 comments on the previous proposal, that this is really a
47 social issue, not a biological or conservation issue.

48

49 I should add that the Board of Fisheries
50 last week -- these two proposals were before the Board of

1 Fisheries as potential items or agenda change request for
2 Board of Fisheries meeting and neither one was accepted,
3 so these will not be on an upcoming Board of Fisheries
4 agenda. However, they could be submitted to the Board of
5 Fisheries through the normal regulatory cycle when that
6 area comes around again.

7

8 Anyway, the Department supports the Staff
9 recommendation to reject this proposal.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. To my
12 knowledge, none of the Federal agencies have any comment
13 on this. I don't believe the Park Service does. As far
14 as Native, Tribal, Village and others, yes. Page 41, the
15 Ahtna Subsistence Committee supports the proposal for the
16 reasons laid out in the proposal. We also just received
17 while Terry was speaking a written comment from Angus
18 DeWitt of Slana, Alaska, and this has also been presented
19 to the Southcentral Council. He opposes Proposal 16
20 which would require fish wheels on the Copper River be
21 placed at least 200 feet apart. You have to have your
22 fish wheel in a good spot in order to successfully catch
23 fish. If I had to move my wheel to a different spot, I
24 might not get any fish. The regulation should be kept as
25 it is, 75 feet apart. It isn't hurting anyone, and there
26 is no reason to change it.

27

28 As I said earlier, the Wrangell-St. Elias
29 Subsistence Resource Commission took up this proposal but
30 passed no formal recommendation. To my knowledge, that's
31 all the written comments we have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33

34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Public testimony.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if there's
37 anyone here to testify on Proposal 16.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Seeing none, Mr. Chair,
42 that brings you up to deliberation.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
45 FP07-16. I'll rescind that and move to defer to the home
46 region.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Second.

49

50 MS. ENTSMINGER: I would like to report I

1 attended that Subsistence Resource Commission and Gloria
2 Stickwan had reported that there was contention within
3 the Ahtna Committee about this. It wasn't a unanimous
4 decision. That's why the SRC took no action. Again, the
5 problem with making a Federal law more restrictive than
6 State and it took in the whole unit. Angus DeWitt is a
7 good friend of mine. I get fish off of his wheel down
8 there. In that area is a completely different scenario
9 than it would be downriver. So I just wanted to report
10 that. I guess I would go for no action.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved to
13 defer Proposal 16 to the home region, seconded and the
14 question has been called. All those in favor signify by
15 saying aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: That's it for crossover
20 proposals. Mr. Chairman, that brings us up to another
21 topic I highly encourage the State, since these are Board
22 of Fish proposals, will assist you as much as we can. In
23 your packet is that handout of proposals. We have
24 generated a list of proposals that you might be
25 interested in looking at.

26
27 Again, I will forward your comments to
28 the Board of Fisheries. I'll find out the due date for
29 that. I think it's December 10th or 20th, but we'll make
30 them within the due date. This is just an opportunity
31 for you to comment. You do not have to comment on these
32 proposals, but we wanted to have them in front of you.

33
34 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I just want to
35 point out that Becca Robbins of YRDFA told me this
36 morning that State Proposal 168 which said it was
37 proposed by YRDFA and that was incorrect. It has been
38 withdrawn, so it's not even going in front of the State
39 Board of Fisheries.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The other
42 reason we put these in front of you is you have four
43 proposals submitted to Board of Fisheries.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I would sure like to
46 see something that really affects us and put out outlines
47 instead of just throw this at us and have us try to read
48 through it in like 10 seconds and make a decision what
49 affects us or not. It would be a better setup here.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I can
2 respond to that. I did send out a letter to you guys
3 with a cover letter with these proposals and I believe it
4 had a chart in there. This is a jurisdictional question.
5 I went as far as I could with giving you the opportunity
6 to comment on these. I'm sure there's other Staff here
7 that could help you weed through which ones might be the
8 best to look at, but we'll leave it at that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virgil.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At
13 our meeting where we made our proposals we had a pretty
14 good discussion on it and what we did is put forward four
15 proposals and they address the different options of what
16 action the Board of Fisheries could take to address the
17 declining size of king salmon, but we weren't the only
18 ones that did that.

19

20 Our first proposal is Proposal 161. If
21 you look at Proposal 160, that's by the
22 Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee and then you
23 look at Proposal 159 by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee.
24 They submitted similar proposals to ours. I think we can
25 start at Proposal 159 and all of these are addressing one
26 issue, the size of the king salmon and the genetic
27 integrity of the king salmon. That's what this meeting
28 is about on the 30th that YRDFA is having.

29

30 I think we should continue to support our
31 four proposals that we made. What we discussed at our
32 meeting when we made the proposals was we need to put all
33 options on the table so the Board of Fisheries will take
34 a look at all the options available to do something about
35 passing more unmolested king salmon onto the spawning
36 grounds to maintain the genetic integrity and hopefully
37 rebuild some of the chains that are almost extirpated
38 because we already know that the eight-year-old age class
39 is extirpated and we know that on the Tozitna River Weir
40 the last two or three years that only 4/10ths to 6/10ths
41 of 1 percent of the spawning king salmon were seven-year-
42 old and we know that approximately 80 percent of the king
43 salmon that get on the spawning grounds are five-year-old
44 and younger and the size of these king salmon are
45 considered small. They're less than 655 millimeters,
46 roughly 80 percent of them are. So that translates to
47 somewhere between a 6.5 and 7.5 pound king salmon, that
48 they're smaller than that, but that is what's going past
49 the weir. That is the only weir from the Middle to the
50 Upper River that actually measures the king salmon.

1 I do know what gets caught in fish wheels
2 on the Tanana River and I know what gets caught in
3 District 5. What gets caught in both those places, I
4 know that Stan Zurey and the kids this summer weighed and
5 measure approximately 700 king salmon and I forgot his
6 chart that I got off the computer. But out of the 700
7 king salmon I believe only 38 of 700 weighed 20 pounds or
8 more and no more than five weighed over 30 pounds. I do
9 know that commercially I got over 1,700 king salmon in
10 District 5 this year and less than 10 weighed 30 pounds
11 or more.

12
13 I know the average weight of the king
14 salmon was just a little bit over 11 pounds except for
15 what we call Yukon trout, which are the 12-14 ounce king
16 salmon that we catch, up to maybe 2.5 pounds. I've got
17 two of them froze that I'm going to take to the meeting
18 on the 30th so they can see what I'm talking about.
19 Those were thrown out in Stan Zurey's calculations. When
20 he has these high school kids weighing these fish and
21 measuring them, they do not do a batch of fish that's
22 been hydrated. It has to be every fish that was caught
23 in that fish wheel during that time frame, except they
24 didn't count the ones that weighed less than a couple
25 pounds.

26
27 Anyway, there's proposals by us. There's
28 Proposal 159 by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee
29 addressing windows. Then Proposal 160 by
30 Tanana/Rampart/Manley is addressing windows. Proposal
31 161 by us is addressing the windows. Then I think it
32 starts addressing mesh probably.

33
34 Proposal 162 is our proposal and it's
35 also addressing another option to windows. Proposal 163
36 is ours and that's make no mesh larger than six inches.
37 By the way, in 2001, if one of the Board members would
38 have realized that the fishermen wouldn't have to go buy
39 new nets, that would have got passed by the Board of
40 Fisheries because it was a 3/4 vote.

41
42 Proposal 164 is Fairbanks Advisory
43 Committee and that's the same proposal basically that we
44 put in addressing the mesh size. Proposal 165 is our
45 proposal and that addresses the depth of the net if they
46 maintain the large mesh nets. Vince did a real good job
47 on the narrative with mine and Gerald's coaching a little
48 bit.

49
50 Proposal 166 is Fairbanks Advisory

1 Committee and that's addressing the same issue. The
2 Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee put in more
3 proposals. One of them is a CDQ bycatch for king salmon
4 and their proposal is to change the boundary of District
5 Y1 and Y2 to the boundaries of the CDQ group and then
6 take the harvest of king salmon that's caught by the CDQ
7 group as bycatch out of District Y1's allocation.
8

9 Proposal 171 was put in by the Fairbanks
10 Advisory Committee to do basically the same thing, change
11 boundaries between Y1 and Y2 to Mountain Village, divide
12 the guideline harvest ranges for Y1 and Y2 for chinook,
13 chum and coho salmon equally between the new districts,
14 subtract the previous year's bycatch for chinook from the
15 guideline harvest ranges and the bycatch of other salmon
16 from the fall chum and coho salmon from the Y1 guideline
17 harvest for the current year. So we've got two Advisory
18 Committees addressing that issue.
19

20 The bycatch for chinook salmon this year,
21 I don't know if it went over 100,000 or not, but it was
22 anticipated it would. There has been an analysis done of
23 how much Yukon River king salmon was by-caught by the
24 trawl fisheries in 1998, '99 and 2000. One of the years
25 they figured there was at least 18,000 Yukon River kings
26 caught as bycatch in the trawl fishery. Well, the trawl
27 fishery is catching over twice as many king salmon now as
28 they were then, so they're maybe going to catch 30 or
29 40,000 king salmon this year in the trawl fishery if they
30 caught over 100,000 because they figure roughly 40
31 percent of the fish are Yukon River bound king salmon
32 getting by-caught in the trawl fishery.
33

34 Anyway, what these proposals are directed
35 at is why should a CDQ group that owns a trawler, that
36 even brought a lawsuit against the Board of Fisheries for
37 a Board of Fisheries action that they took to keep their
38 factory trawler from being able to prospect for Bristol
39 Bay king crab, why should they have a double allocation
40 of king salmon, one that they just pitch overboard.
41

42 I don't know if anyone else wants to
43 discuss that issue or not. I think we should stop right
44 here, discuss those issues and then I have two other
45 proposals we need to address. All these proposals, even
46 the bycatch one, is directed at conservation of the king
47 salmon and making sure that the Federal subsistence users
48 have enough king salmon.
49

50 It's possible that the trawl fisheries

1 bycatch this year is going to be more than the whole
2 subsistence harvest of king salmon for the whole Yukon
3 River. It's going to be approaching it. I mean
4 approaching 40,000 or more.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair. Also, the last
11 time we had the Board of Fisheries take up AYK region
12 they agreed that each of the three Councils on the Yukon
13 would have a seat on their subcommittees. Some of you
14 have not been involved with Board of Fisheries, but they
15 are run by subcommittees. So not to say you have to
16 review these proposals, but if you decide to send a
17 Council members and if that member serves on that
18 committee, then he or she would be empowered by whatever
19 actions you do today.

20
21 For Amy and the others, that's where all
22 different people can get up to the subcommittee across
23 the spectrum on the issue. There's usually one or two
24 Board members assigned to the committee and they kind of
25 chair the subcommittee and then that subcommittee tries
26 to come up with options, consensus, solutions, majority,
27 etcetera, and that's reported back to the full Board. My
28 understanding is that generally the Board goes with that
29 recommendation, but I've not attended many Board of Fish
30 meetings.

31
32 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman. I think
33 you should give us the numbers and then I'd like to see
34 the ones that Vince is saying we should take up and then
35 determine which ones we're going to take up and then take
36 them up instead of having discussion as we go through
37 them, which ones.

38
39 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. This is Don
40 Rivard again. At the Y-K Council meeting and also last
41 week in Ruby with the Western Interior Becca Robbins and
42 Jill Klein gave an update on the bycatch issue that
43 Virgil is talking about and for some reason, I think it
44 was an oversight, it should have gone on your agenda as
45 well. Becca Robbins is here and has that presentation to
46 give you. I've seen it twice. I think it would be worth
47 your time to see it. There's lots of good numbers there
48 for even this fishing season and it would help you
49 probably with your deliberations of the State proposals
50 if you so choose to go through them. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: If I recall
2 correctly, any time we have something like this before us
3 we requested all related information. This was three
4 years ago. We requested everything related to hatchery,
5 bycatch and everything and I don't see that here. I know
6 this Eastern Interior Regional Council has been pissing
7 off this whole river, the other three RAC's. It seems
8 like every time the fish comes in the river we're the
9 last ones to get anything. That's why we're always
10 pushing for these proposals. We're the most restricted
11 in this river. It's called equal opportunity by the
12 State of Alaska. It's not equal to us. We're the last
13 ones to be able to put our nets, last ones to turn our
14 fish wheels on, yet we're restricted. There's got to be
15 some way where it's going to be equal or otherwise we're
16 going to keep supporting these proposals, work group or
17 not, riverwide or not. You've got to realize we're
18 trying to have equal opportunity for the people that we
19 represent in Eastern Interior to be able to provide for
20 their families through fishing. That's just the bottom
21 line. We're trying to do something to protect that
22 resource and we're getting stonewalled by everybody.
23 We're going to keep doing it.

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me just go through a
26 little bit of procedure of what will happen at the Board
27 of Fish meeting. They'll form all these committees.
28 There will be a committee that addresses all Yukon River
29 issues that will more than likely have two Board members.
30 They will pick people to be on these committees. Each AC
31 gets a seat and each RAC gets a seat and then they'll try
32 to have one or two stakeholders from each group of
33 stakeholders and they will limit how many people can be
34 on the committee. They don't usually like to have over
35 12 people.

36
37 What the two Board members will do is let
38 each person that's representing some group get up and
39 give their opinion and then ask if there's anything new
40 they haven't heard. If you don't have anything new,
41 they're not going to want to listen to you. Usually
42 you'll have the opportunity to question Staff and then
43 that committee will make up a report, put it out in
44 writing the next day so you can see if it's accurate.
45 The committee may or may not reach consensus. The
46 committee of Board members may make a recommendation or
47 they may not to the full Board. Then it will be up to
48 individual Board members to persuade the other Board
49 members to vote one way or another.
50

1 What we did when we made up this suite of
2 proposals and the Fairbanks AC, and the
3 Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC did is address the basic same
4 issues. We're putting forward options. So all the
5 options can be discussed by the Board of Fisheries and
6 they can make a decision on what they think is best to do
7 to address the problem of the declining king salmon.

8
9 I just wanted to point this out so
10 everyone kind of understands the procedure of what is
11 going to happen. So we need to empower whoever our
12 member is when they get in this committee meeting, the
13 Board members may want to change the management plans,
14 that's what we want them to do, as far as doing something
15 to put more of these large king salmon on the spawning
16 grounds and make more opportunity for subsistence users
17 upriver. We need our representative to have the okay
18 from the rest of our RAC to negotiate with the Board
19 members to do what they think is going to be the best
20 thing for the resource.

21
22 MS. ENTSMINGER: That was really good for
23 me actually to understand the procedures. I'd like to
24 take us back a little bit and maybe get back on board
25 with the proposals so we can knock them off one at a
26 time. You said there was a lady with a presentation that
27 could give us some numbers before we address the
28 proposals?

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What Virgil is
31 hinting at, these proposals already have caused a lot of
32 contention and I don't like to take them one at a time.
33 I'd like for this RAC to appoint somebody and I'd like to
34 see Virgil go because he's the most experienced. If we
35 take these one at a time, I've been dealing with these
36 for a long time, it will be more stressful on us. For
37 those of us who don't understand may unwittingly support
38 something they don't want to support.

39
40 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Someone asks
45 questions about these proposals. I think we should hear
46 that presentation on the bycatch of the trawlers so
47 everyone understands that. Trawling is the most
48 irresponsible method for harvesting fish devised by man
49 and the guys that do it are multi-billionaires and
50 contribute lots of money to politicians and that's why

1 they get to keep doing it.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Virgil, just give us a
4 little outline of what we're doing here, please.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Basically saying that we
7 support the proposals that we made because we spent about
8 half a day discussing them when we made them. We spent a
9 lot of time writing them, Gerald and Vince and I.

10

11 MS. ENTSMINGER: What about the ones we
12 did not write, how do we deal with those?

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Those we need to deal
15 with, but what we need to do first -- there's just a
16 couple other ones that I think we need to deal with for
17 sure and one of them is to oppose the United Fishermen of
18 Alaska, who the majority of the members live in Seattle
19 and their president lives in Seattle, a proposal to do
20 away with the sustainable salmon policy. Number two is
21 this allowing the hatcheries to take out all the eggs of
22 the fish, throw the fish back in the water and sell the
23 eggs. We need to address those two things, which are
24 totally separate issues.

25

26 MS. ENTSMINGER: I would request you give
27 us a synopsis of the ones we're taking up. Give us a
28 heads up on what they all are. Okay? Then we definitely
29 want to hear the report.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. If we're
32 going to go to the presentation by Becca, we need to set
33 up some equipment. I highly advise that Gerald and
34 Virgil talk through these procedures here. I think we
35 could come to a good strategy if you guys could talk
36 during break.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I was having a good
39 day until this came up, Vince.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Can we get back to our
50 seats so we can give due respect to Becca's presentation.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MS. ROBBINS: Mr. Chair, members of the
4 Council. Again, my name is Becca Robbins Gisclair with
5 YRDFA. Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you
6 about salmon bycatch today. What I wanted to do was just
7 give you an update on the current numbers for this year
8 and last year of salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock
9 fishery and talk about the management measures that are
10 currently in place in the North Pacific Fishery
11 Management Council, which has jurisdiction over the
12 pollock fleet and those that are coming up for
13 consideration and opportunities to influence that. When
14 I'm done, I'm happy to take your general questions on the
15 issue, too.

16

17 Just a second. It looks like I'll be
18 doing it without the PowerPoint. Sorry about that. It's
19 not cooperating. Just to go over the salmon bycatch this
20 year 2006, as of October 1st the pollock fleet had caught
21 over 69,000 chinook salmon and 268,000 chum salmon and
22 normally the pollock fishery ends at the end of October,
23 although they're a little behind schedule in catching
24 their full allocation, so those numbers will likely still
25 go up at least a bit.

26

27 Looking at that in comparison to the
28 trends over past years, if you look at the handouts on
29 your table there, you'll see a graph of the trends of
30 salmon bycatch from 1990 through 2006 and you can see
31 there's been some real spikes over the past three years.
32 These graphs show the total salmon bycatch for the
33 groundfish fishery. Most of it is from the pollock
34 fishery, over 90 percent, so that's a fair assumption
35 that using those numbers is close to what the pollock
36 fleet is catching.

37

38 Using last year's numbers since that's
39 the last full year that we have data for, at the end of
40 the year over 76,000 chinook and 700,000 chum salmon were
41 caught as bycatch in the pollock fleet. Just to clarify,
42 since they're listed as prohibited species, the pollock
43 fleet are not allowed to keep any of the salmon caught.
44 Some of them were given to food banks, but now they're
45 all thrown overboard, dead, after spending hours in the
46 trawl nets.

47

48 This is of particular concern, as Virgil
49 has already referred to, because we do have some data
50 showing that a large portion of these salmon are from

1 western Alaska and many from the Yukon River. YRDFA had
2 Kate Myers, who is a scientist at the University of
3 Washington, look at the samples from 1997 through 1999
4 and those are now a little outdated but it's the best we
5 have at this point and those showed that over 56 percent
6 of chinook salmon caught as bycatch were from Western
7 Alaska and of that over 40 percent were from the Yukon
8 River. So that's close to 25 percent of the total
9 number.

10
11 Just to put that into perspective,
12 applying that to the 2005 season, that would have been
13 over 13,400 fish that would have returned to the Yukon
14 River were caught as bycatch. In 2005, that was 42
15 percent of the commercial catch, 27 percent of the
16 subsistence catch and 47 percent of the Board of Passage
17 goal with Canada. So, as you can see, those are no small
18 numbers in comparison to what's going on in river.

19
20 So looking at those numbers, the North
21 Pacific Fishery Management Council has adopted some
22 measures over the years to try and deal with this issue.
23 Back in the mid-'90s the Council adopted this system
24 called the salmon savings areas, which was essentially a
25 system where they designated some specific areas where
26 they knew they were catching high amounts of bycatch and
27 where chinook and chum salmon often were at certain times
28 of the year. When the pollock fleet hit a trigger number
29 of salmon, then those areas would close to pollock
30 fishing for a set period of time. Basically over the
31 past few years those areas were no longer working as
32 areas to close and there were still extremely high
33 bycatch, as you can see by the numbers. So the council
34 started looking at new ways to try to reduce bycatch.

35
36 What they've most recently adopted is
37 what's called the voluntary rolling hot spot system. It
38 was designed by the pollock fleet and it's basically a
39 voluntary system. They started using it in 2001 for chum
40 salmon and 2003 for chinook salmon. The basic idea is to
41 move the pollock fleet away from areas of high salmon
42 bycatch on a continuous basis. Basically the pollock
43 boats report their bycatch numbers and location to a
44 central administrator called Sea State and they basically
45 process that information and twice a week send out
46 notices to the pollock fleet closing specific areas and
47 moving the pollock fleet away from those areas.

48
49 In theory, it was a great idea. In
50 practice, the way they've designed the system doesn't

1 actually end up reducing bycatch that much, as you can
2 see from the numbers we're seeing again this year.
3 Probably the biggest problem is that the whole system is
4 based on a rate of salmon bycatch and the number of
5 salmon that are caught as bycatch as compared to the
6 total pollock catch. Within the system there's no actual
7 limit on how many salmon can be caught. As long as the
8 pollock fleet is making an effort to move away from the
9 salmon, they could still catch as many as they'd like to.
10

11 Just real briefly there's some other
12 problems with the system and I'm happy to talk in more
13 detail with people individually, but the whole system is
14 based on a bycatch rate which they set up at the
15 beginning of the season and that essentially determines
16 when areas are closed and when boats have to move out of
17 an area and that can be set very high, which means again
18 they have limited closure areas.
19

20 Finally, probably one of the biggest
21 problems is that this whole thing is set up as a private
22 contract outside of agency control. For Western and
23 Interior Alaskans as stakeholders, there's little say in
24 this because it is the pollock fleet that's running this.
25 Aside from exemptions that the agency issues, there's not
26 a whole lot of control over that.
27

28 Despite all the bad news, there is some
29 good news. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council
30 is taking this up again. I was just at a meeting out in
31 Dutch Harbor a couple weeks ago where the council agreed
32 to look at the idea of setting a precautionary cap on the
33 number of salmon which could be caught. They've been
34 talking for years about setting a cap for the pollock
35 fleet based on salmon biomass and, of course, the answer
36 there is that there's never quite enough science to
37 support this biomass based cap. So the council is having
38 a discussion paper for their meeting in April where
39 they'll be looking at setting a precautionary cap on the
40 number of salmon which can be caught.
41

42 Along with that there's this whole what
43 they're calling the amendment Package B analysis where
44 they're looking at redesigning the salmon savings areas,
45 which I started explaining were the old way of regulating
46 bycatch and those haven't been working in the past few
47 years and were thrown out, but in all likelihood that's
48 probably still a good idea, it's just that salmon
49 migration patterns have changed since the mid-'90s. So,
50 to make those work, you'd have to redesign the area, so

1 that's something the council is looking at.

2

3 As I mentioned, they are looking at caps,
4 both the precautionary and short-term and one long-term
5 that could be indexed as salmon abundance and maybe more
6 accurately try to protect salmon stocks. They're also
7 looking at individual vessel bycatch accountability
8 program, which probably doesn't offer too much better
9 than the current system, but it's another option they're
10 looking at.

11

12 What I wanted to do today is just make
13 sure everyone is aware of where we stand with the issue
14 of salmon bycatch. I think it's a disturbing one to all
15 of us and disturbing that the numbers are this high.
16 I've left information on the back of your sheet on how to
17 contact the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
18 They will be taking this issue up at their next three
19 meetings, in December, February and April, so letters
20 encouraging them to take action are always helpful in
21 getting this moving.

22

23 I'm continually monitoring, working on
24 the issue, so I'm always happy to help people and keep
25 you informed as well. I've got a sign up sheet on the
26 back table if you're interested in getting updates. Feel
27 free to talk to me afterwards, too. Thank you. I can
28 take any questions you have at this time.

29

30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It doesn't have a
31 date for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

32

33 MS. ROBBINS: The next council meeting I
34 believe is December 4th. If you want to leave me your e-
35 mail address or phone number, I can let you know. They
36 have a seven-day-long meeting and publish an agenda ahead
37 of time and I'm happy to share that with people.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more questions.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

44

45 MS. ROBBINS: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50 I'd like to make the record a little more clear on what

1 we kind of decided we wanted to do. I'm going to go
2 through the proposals. Proposal 159, 160 and 161
3 submitted by the Fairbanks AC, Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC,
4 and Eastern Interior RAC all address windows as well as
5 another windows option that we put in, which is Proposal
6 162, they all address the issues of windows.

7
8 Proposal 163, which Eastern Interior RAC
9 put in and Proposal 164, which the Fairbanks AC put in
10 address mesh, which says size no nets larger than 6-inch
11 stretch mesh would be used in the Yukon River.

12
13 Proposal 165, which the Eastern Interior
14 RAC put in and Proposal 166, which the Fairbanks Advisory
15 Committee put in addressed the depth of nets if they're
16 larger than 6-inch mesh. If they're larger, they would
17 be no deeper than 35 meshes deep.

18
19 Proposal 170 was put in by
20 Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC. Proposal 171 was put in by the
21 Fairbanks AC and they address bycatch in the trawl
22 fishery that we just got the report on. What those
23 proposals would do is subtract the actual bycatch that
24 the Lower Yukon CDQ catches of chinook salmon and other
25 salmon from their allocation the following year, but in
26 order to do that the boundaries between District 1 and
27 District 2 in the commercial fishery would have to be
28 changed to coincide with the boundary of the CDQ group.
29 For instance, Mountain Village is part of this CDQ group,
30 but the next village up, which is St. Mary's, is not part
31 of the CDQ group, so the fishermen that live in St.
32 Mary's shouldn't be penalized for Mountain Village's
33 trawler killing a bunch of king salmon and pitching them
34 overboard. So the boundaries need to be changed if that
35 proposal is done.

36
37 So those are the four sets of proposals
38 that our representative needs to have the flexibility to
39 negotiate while he or she is in the committee process to
40 do whatever is going to move in the direction that these
41 proposals -- to address the problem that these proposals
42 are addressing.

43
44 Do we want a motion?

45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yes.

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that's what the motion
49 would be, for our person that represents the Eastern
50 Interior RAC to represent the best interest of the RAC in

1 negotiating during the committee process at the Board of
2 Fish meeting, to make positive steps in those directions
3 addressing the problems that are expressed in these suite
4 of proposals. Mr. Chair.

5

6 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved and
9 seconded to discuss the proposals and have the leeway to
10 deal with the subcommittee. Is there any more discussion
11 on it.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Question.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think Vince had a
16 question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I just have
21 to get it on the record that your jurisdiction, I
22 believe, does not cover CDQ, but you, as an advisor
23 group, have the option to comment on those proposals.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved,
26 seconded and the question has been called. All those in
27 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion passes. Virg.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a couple other
38 fishery proposals that would affect us. The first one is
39 Proposal 228, which is put in by United Fishermen of
40 Alaska. They're a commercial fishing group and their
41 president lives in Seattle. Their proposal would
42 eliminate -- I'll just read it. Amend this regulation as
43 follows. Repeal the policy for the management of
44 sustainable salmon fisheries. That's what they would
45 like to have happen is get rid of the sustainable salmon
46 policy, which I was one of the people that helped make
47 that policy and it took five years to do it. We had
48 hearings all over the state and a lot of work went into
49 it. This would be a gigantic step backwards.

50

1 In fact, the Board of Fisheries was
2 awarded an award by the Western Association of Fish and
3 Wildlife Agencies for being the first state in the United
4 States to come up with a sustainable fisheries policy.

5
6 I move that we vehemently oppose this
7 proposal to do away with the sustainable salmon policy.
8 Mr. Chair.

9
10 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.

13
14 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I know you can
15 do this any way you want, but we try to put motions in
16 the positive and then either vote it down or don't vote
17 for it.

18
19 MS. ENTSMINGER: Withdraw my second.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
22 228.

23
24 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved to
27 adopt Proposal 228 and seconded. The question has been
28 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

29
30 (No aye votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed
33 same sign.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.

38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: The next proposal,
40 there's three of them. Proposal 188 put in by the
41 Chignik Seiners, Proposal 189 put in by the Nushagak
42 Advisory Committee, and Proposal 190 put in by me. What
43 these proposals ask the Board to do is go back to the
44 management plan for the June fishery in Area M that was
45 put into place by the Board of Fisheries in 2001 and then
46 repealed in 2004, I think.

47
48 Anyway, the June fishery in Area M,
49 commonly known as False Pass, takes place in two places,
50 the Shumigan Islands and the South Peninsula. In this

1 fishery there are no local stocks at this time. They're
2 migrating stocks. What they are are primarily Western
3 Alaska chum salmon, Bristol Bay sockeye salmon and
4 Chignik sockeye salmon. Prior to 2001 this fishery has
5 been addressed numerous times by the Board of Fisheries
6 and there were a number of special meetings addressing
7 that fishery and what we did in 2001 is we gave them a
8 regular fishing schedule like the rest of the state had
9 instead of letting them just go fishing. What the Board
10 did in 2003 or 4, whenever they changed it, is they
11 tripled their fishing time.

12

13 You have to remember they're fishing on
14 migrating stocks, not local stocks and many of the stocks
15 they're fishing on -- and there's been a number of
16 studies done on this, genetic stock identification, and
17 some of the genetic stock identification work done I know
18 in one year in the test fishery that on the 11th of June
19 that approximately 15 percent of the fish they caught in
20 that test fishery were Yukon River fall chum salmon.
21 There's been tagging studies that go back to the '20s
22 that show the majority of the fish they catch are as high
23 as 25 percent are Yukon River stocks, sometimes as high
24 as 25 percent are Kuskokwim stocks, and a high percentage
25 are Norton Sound stocks, which have been severely
26 depressed in recent years.

27

28 So, with these three proposals, all want
29 the management plan to go back to what it was in 2001 to
30 protect migrating stocks.

31

32 Move to adopt Proposal 188, 189 and 190.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: I am speaking to my
39 motion. I support all three of these proposals because
40 what they do is put forth a fishing schedule so there'll
41 be windows so that some of those migrating fish, some of
42 them headed to very depressed systems in Western Alaska,
43 to include Bristol Bay and the Kvichak River, which
44 sockeye is really depressed as well, so that some of
45 those fish can move through that super modern efficient
46 fishery where the seine nets can be 2,400 feet long and
47 118 feet deep. Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Does everyone
50 understand that.

1 (Council nods affirmatively)
2
3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Call for the question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved to
6 support the three proposals, seconded, the question has
7 been called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Those opposed.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's two other
16 proposals that are absurd proposals. I don't think they
17 have a chance to pass, so I move to adopt Proposals 245
18 and 246. They're not in your book. I've got them in the
19 regular Board of Fisheries book, but I'll read them to
20 you real quick.
21
22 Amend this regulation as follows. The
23 bag limit for dipnetting in any stream will be the same
24 as the bag limit for the hook and line sport fishery in
25 the same stream. In other words, you would have an
26 annual limit of two king salmon a year or five sockeye
27 salmon. Would you like that? No, you wouldn't like
28 that.
29
30 Proposal 246, personal use dipnetting
31 will not begin on any stream until the biological
32 escapement goal has been met where there is a biological
33 escapement goal. We have a biological escapement goal on
34 the Copper River for king salmon. They don't have one
35 for sockeye salmon. Out of the last four years it's only
36 been met one year out of four and the reason why is
37 because management by the commercial fish manager. He
38 let the commercial fishery fish too much and catch too
39 many king salmon, so they never met the biological
40 escapement goal and they did restrict the sport fishery.
41 What that means is you would never get to dip in the
42 Copper River if this were to pass.
43
44 Therefore, I'm opposed to these two
45 proposals because they would really put an unfair burden
46 on our subsistence users that want to use dipnets in the
47 Copper River. This is a statewide proposal. It would be
48 effective throughout the state. Mr. Chair.
49
50 Move to adopt Proposal 245 and 246.

1 MR. GLANZ: Second.
2
3 MS. WRIGHT: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved to
6 adopt Alaska Board of Fish Proposals 245 and 246,
7 seconded, and the question has been called. All those in
8 favor signify by saying aye.
9
10 (No aye votes)
11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed
13 same sign.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: One final issue to talk
20 about. It's listed in the proposal book as Proposal 247.
21 It's only listed in the proposal book so the Commissioner
22 of Fish and Game, who has authority to do this on his
23 own, wants to get public input, then the Commissioner
24 will decide what he's going to do. This is a very long
25 proposal. It's addressing whenever the hatcheries have
26 more fish coming back to them than the processors that
27 the hatcheries work with can process and handle.
28
29 So what the Commissioner has done -- in
30 this state we have what they call a wanton waste statute.
31 The statute says you can't go shoot a moose and chop the
32 antlers off and leave the meat there for the maggots. It
33 also has a section called use of salmon. You have to use
34 the salmon. You can't take the eggs out, make them into
35 caviar and sell the caviar and throw the fish back in the
36 water or dump them on the bank.
37
38 So what the Commissioner has authority to
39 do under this statute is to make exceptions to this for
40 the wisest use of the resource. So because these
41 hatcheries owe the state about \$110-115 million and some
42 of them not even attempting to pay their bill, they let
43 them keep operating, hoping they'll pay their bill, so
44 the Commissioner has been browbeat by the Division of
45 Investments, look, we've got to let these guys roe strip
46 all these millions of salmon coming back so they can make
47 a couple bucks and pay on their bill. Well, the
48 Commissioner, I guess, has been getting -- you know,
49 people have been bitching at the Commissioner about
50 letting these Prince William Sound, Aquaculture

1 Association and DYPACK and some of these other places,
2 when they raise too many salmon, and I know people who
3 have been to Valdez when there's just thousands or
4 millions of dead pink salmon all over the place, stinking
5 the place up, because they raised too many fish at the
6 hatchery and the fish all come back to where they were
7 released and that's where they're going to die.

8

9 So what the Commissioner has the
10 authority to do under this wanton waste statute is to
11 make a decision to allow the hatcheries, because this is
12 the wisest use of the resource, to take the eggs out,
13 then haul the fish back outside and dump them in the
14 water or let the processors run them through the grinder
15 and pump the ground-up fish back out into the ocean and
16 then they make caviar out of the eggs and sell them.

17

18 Does anyone have one of these Board
19 books? It's Page 247 and it has two options there. In
20 option two, the part I like about option two, there's two
21 parts, if the permit holder first documents milt and roe
22 extraction and carcasses disposal information on a form
23 provided by the Department, then the eggs that are not
24 used for fertilization are removed from no more than 10
25 percent of the permit holder's brood stock goal during
26 milt and egg extraction. The Department is immediately
27 notified in writing of any extractions of eggs that will
28 not be used for fertilization that exceeds the limits
29 established in paragraph one of this section. All
30 proceeds from sale of eggs, excluding the limits
31 established in paragraph one, are immediately forfeited
32 to the State.

33

34 That means if they have all these fish
35 coming back and they're taking the eggs out of them and
36 selling them, the money has to go to the State. They
37 don't get to keep the money. That's on the brood stock.

38

39 Now on the hatchery themselves, and this
40 only applies to pink and chum salmon, they have to take X
41 number of eggs for brood stock to raise fish for however
42 many fish they want to come back. If they're ordered to
43 harvest all these fish because they could stray and get
44 where the wild fish go and cause a big mess from all
45 these dead fish, then they have to go out and harvest all
46 the fish, take the eggs out of them and give the money to
47 the State. Somewhere it says that in here.

48

49 I'll just read it. During years of
50 unexpectedly large salmon returns to various hatcheries

1 the continued use of an emergency regulation has been
2 necessary to prevent wandering of returning salmon and to
3 prevent public nuisances from arising due to the
4 accumulation of dead and dying salmon on the beaches and
5 in the streams and surrounding areas. Because this issue
6 has continued to arise and it is difficult to provide
7 adequate incentives for maximum and wise use of the
8 resource through last minute emergency regulations,
9 permit regulations are needed.

10

11 Anyway, I think we should send a letter
12 to the Commissioner that there shouldn't be any roe
13 stripping allowed, but if there is we prefer option
14 number two because hatcheries should not have an
15 incentive to over-produce and be allowed to make a
16 profit. If they over-produce, they should be penalized
17 in option two where they should be required to harvest
18 the fish, remove the roe, sell the roe and the proceeds
19 should go to the State.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: The short version,
22 Virgil we're saying that for Alaska Board of Fish 247 we
23 support the proposal with option 2.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct. And that's my
26 motion.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: I'll second the motion.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: To me, that's a lesser of
31 two evils and I would like a really strong letter to come
32 saying we don't support the abundance of hatchery spawned
33 fish at current levels. This kind of bothers me. Even
34 option 2 is basically getting the State of Alaska into
35 the commercial fisheries market because they're going to
36 benefit from these hatcheries from these seized funds.
37 That's wrong. I'm all for penalizing that kind of
38 behavior, but at the same time you're rewarding the
39 State. Ethically, I really resent that. I have a
40 problem with that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (nods affirmatively)

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think we should put
45 something in there that says the money that the State
46 gets from this should go to Fish and Game Fund for
47 scientific research in the management of depressed fish
48 stocks in Western Alaska. Because Western Alaska has
49 been hurt more by the irresponsible actions of these
50 hatcheries and the stocks are coming back at an older age

1 and smaller weights and that many of the salmon are
2 diseased. The money should go to research of the effects
3 of overgrazing the ocean and the diseases caused by
4 overgrazing.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Got that Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and I'll
9 work with Virgil on that letter. Virgil, please correct
10 me. The Board is going to take this up at the meeting,
11 so that would have to be an option to go to the Board,
12 correct?

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. And an
17 additional letter to the Commissioner, which we're still
18 evolving what's going in there.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved.....

21
22 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sue.

25
26 MS. ENTSMINGER: I'd just like to say in
27 response to what you said, Andy -- I mean if there's fish
28 over there and it can be harvested and used and there's
29 finances that go to the State, at least the commercial
30 fisherman could put some money into the State coffers
31 that can do some good, is how I'd look at it, instead of
32 taxes on us. It makes me think that way. I would call
33 for the question unless you guys have more discussion.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: I still feel uncomfortable.
36 Virgil, your comments on asking for the monies being
37 directed to research, I feel a lot more comfortable with
38 something like that, although I would question the checks
39 and balances of how you make sure that money makes it to
40 a specific entity that's going to benefit Western Alaska.
41 I just have a real problem with any kind of rewards for
42 that behavior. In the first place, they shouldn't be
43 doing that because of the agreement made a number of
44 years ago to the Board of Fish. Clearly, if they're
45 gaining money from these eggs or not, if they're
46 producing this, they're stripping the roe, they're
47 selling them, they're making brownie points with the
48 people they're selling them to, so they're benefitting
49 from it irregardless. They may give up the funds, but
50 it's funds they're not making now, so they're not really

1 being penalized by this at all. They're not being
2 penalized financially for it. All they're doing is
3 having to forego making more profit, but they're still
4 going to benefit from the relationship with the people
5 they're selling to, which could mean more money for them
6 down the line. I have a problem with this whole
7 business. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think maybe we should
12 say in the letter that when roe stripping is required for
13 the reasons listed in the issue part, that whenever that
14 takes place and they're directed by the Commissioner to
15 harvest these fish, then the money should be paid
16 directly to the State and it should go into the Fish and
17 Game Fund, and the money should not be paid to the
18 processor or the hatchery operator. It should go to the
19 State and straight to the Fish and Game Fund. They would
20 be tasked with the cost of harvesting the fish, removing
21 the roe and then they would not get one penny. That
22 would be the penalty for raising too many fish.

23

24 I don't know if I said this earlier or
25 not, but hatchery production in Southeast Alaska -- or
26 harvest of chum salmon in Southeast Alaska from 1960 to
27 1989 was 1.6 million fish, average. From 1980 on they
28 were slowly starting to get more and more hatchery chum
29 salmon that they were harvesting. This is in the
30 commercial harvest. In 1996 they harvested in excess of
31 16 million chum salmon. They produced in excess of 2.5
32 million pounds of finished product caviar that they
33 dumped on the market at once in Southeast alone. Prince
34 William Sound produces both chums and pinks. The wild
35 harvest of chum salmon in Prince William Sound runs
36 between 200-400,000 a year. They've been harvesting over
37 5 million chums a year in Prince William Sound in the
38 recent five years or so.

39

40 There was a report or a study done by Dr.
41 Hillborne and Dr. Eggers on pink salmon hatcheries in
42 Prince William Sound and what they basically said is that
43 the hatcheries have replaced the wild pink salmon in
44 Prince William Sound. When I was on the Board of
45 Fisheries, the last meeting when Prince William Sound was
46 addressed, one of the Staff got me a report that wasn't
47 presented to the Board but he gave it to me and I made it
48 available to all of the Board members that showed the
49 Department had done an analysis of strain in five streams
50 in Prince William Sound that was supposed to be all wild

1 pink salmon and all these pink salmon had been thermo-
2 otolith marked, which means they put little rings in the
3 ear bones of the fish so they can look at them and tell
4 if the fish was a hatchery fish or not and which hatchery
5 it came from.

6

7 When they did this analysis, one of the
8 streams they were counting these wild fish, over 90
9 percent of the fish in it were direct strays from the
10 hatchery with thermal marked otoliths. The average was
11 67 or 68 percent of the fish in these five streams that
12 were being counted as wild fish escapement were all
13 direct hatchery strays.

14

15 Anyway, Dr. Hillborne from the University
16 of Washington and Dr. Eggers, who used to be the head
17 fisheries scientist for the State of Alaska, Department
18 of Fish and Game, wrote this paper and they said what's
19 happening in Prince William Sound is that the hatchery
20 fish have replaced the wild fish, which violates State
21 law, but these people are totally irresponsible. PSWAC
22 owes the State of Alaska over \$35 million. They're not
23 paying a damn dime unless they have to. They are still
24 overproducing and they have roe stripped two out of the
25 last three years in Valdez.

26

27 Anyway, I just wanted to demonstrate the
28 irresponsibility of some of these hatchery operators.
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Okay. Our
32 motion here is that Proposal 247 we support option 2 with
33 the funds going directly to the State Department of Fish
34 and Game. Along with the letter.

35

36 MS. ENTSMINGER: The question has been
37 called.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved,
40 seconded, the question called. All those in favor of
41 Proposal 247 and option 2 with the funds going directly
42 to the Department of Fish and Game with a letter signify
43 by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Just so it's
4 clear to the Council, when I talked earlier about a seat
5 on the subcommittee, I have no idea if you would have a
6 seat on the Chignik and those areas.
7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I already made my
9 appointment.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: I know you have a seat on
12 the AYK portion. Just so that's clear. Because that was
13 negotiated through Pete Probasco and I haven't had time
14 to check on the other. I'm sure Virgil can move between
15 these committees, but I just want to make it clear I
16 don't know if there's a set seat on there.
17
18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.
19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: When they have that Area
21 M meeting, there will always be a seat for Yukon River
22 representatives.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
25
26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: With that, let's move
27 on.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That brings
30 us up to Fisheries Monitoring Program and the plan
31 review, I talked with you in private off the record that
32 in order to maintain your schedule you need to kind of
33 break around 4:30, 4:45.
34
35 With that, that brings us up to Cliff
36 Schleusner. Polly is away on advanced leadership
37 training. I'm sure she'd love to be here, but she's off
38 to extensive training during the next 10 months.
39
40 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman, Council.
41 Polly wanted to make sure I said hi. Like Vince said,
42 she's not able to make it, so I'll be presenting the
43 Fisheries Monitoring Program, the draft 2007 plan. My
44 name is Cliff Schleusner. I'm a fisheries biologist with
45 the Office of Subsistence Management. There's a
46 tremendous amount of material in your book. Hopefully
47 you've had a chance to go over it. I'm going to provide
48 a brief summary just to help you get a handle on what the
49 program is and where we're going.
50

1 The material in the book starts on Page
2 42. It has a brief introduction. It talks about when
3 the program was initiated, some of the legislation that
4 created it. The goal of the program has always been to
5 address the highest priority of subsistence issues, to
6 fund technically sound research projects that address
7 these issues and to provide that information to the
8 managers of the Federal subsistence fisheries.

9
10 On Page 44 you have a brief section
11 summarizing the evaluation process. You've heard the
12 Federal and State managers give you an update on the
13 fisheries. A lot of the monitoring projects they talked
14 about are actually funded through this program, the
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. This process
16 began last November with the call for proposals. There's
17 a Technical Review Committee made of senior scientists of
18 fisheries and social scientists from the Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game, BLM, ADF&G, U.S. Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, Park Service and
21 BIA. This group reviews these proposals and makes
22 recommendations. Those recommendations are what's going
23 to be presented to you today.

24
25 The next step of the process is the
26 Regional Advisory Council review and recommendations.
27 I'll present the draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring
28 Plan, get your recommendations and those will be
29 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board in January.
30 They're the decision-making body. They make the funding
31 recommendation for the plan. At which time it stops
32 being the draft plan and becomes the 2007 Fisheries
33 Monitoring Plan.

34
35 There's four factors the TRC uses to
36 evaluate each project. That's strategic priority,
37 technical and scientific merit, the investigator ability
38 and resources, and partnership and capacity building.

39
40 On Page 45, the Federal Subsistence Board
41 has provided some funding guidelines for our program,
42 some sideboards. The majority of the Monitoring Program
43 funding is dedicated to non-Federal sources. They didn't
44 want to build a huge bureaucracy. They've also
45 identified some activities not eligible for funding under
46 the Monitoring Program, which include habitat protection,
47 hatchery propagation, contaminant assessment, and
48 projects where the primary objective is capacity
49 building. That's the latest one they added on. The
50 Federal Subsistence Board has allowed us to fund projects

1 for up to three years.

2

3 Underneath that you have the guideline
4 model for funding. For 2007 statewide there's \$3.97
5 million available to fund research in Alaska. This
6 breaks down for the Yukon River to \$778,000 available in
7 2007.

8

9 On Page 46 of your book is Table 1, which
10 shows you all the investigation plans that were received
11 and the Technical Review Committee recommended. In the
12 bottom center of that Table 1 37 investigation plans were
13 submitted statewide and the TRC is recommending funding
14 35 of the 37.

15

16 Figure 1 on Page 47 shows you the
17 breakdown of the funding in the 2007 Draft Monitoring
18 Plan. This is statewide. So 33 percent of the funds
19 would be going to the State, 35 percent to Alaska Native
20 organizations, 4 percent to other individuals and 28
21 percent to the Federal agencies.

22

23 So that's kind of a broad overview of the
24 statewide plan and the process. If you'd flip to Page 48
25 to get to the meat of the discussion and the action items
26 before you today, which is the Yukon region draft
27 monitoring plan. Since the inception of the program in
28 2000, 70 projects have been funded in the Yukon. Table 1
29 on Pages 49 through 51 is a list of all those projects
30 and the budgets and the years for which they were funded.
31 Fifty-four of the projects have been directed to salmon,
32 16 at non-salmon. If you look through that list on Table
33 1, it's a testament to the quality of the monitoring
34 program, the projects that have been funded through the
35 years here. A lot of these projects are core monitoring
36 projects for the region and have done some pretty seminal
37 work on non-salmon species.

38

39 Continuing on to Page 53, at the top of
40 that page there's a list of eight investigation plans
41 that were submitted for funding. The TRC has recommended
42 funding seven of these projects. The list on the top of
43 Page 53 is a prioritized list, so the highest priority
44 would be the first one. With that I'd like to just
45 briefly touch on each one of these projects and give you
46 a brief description of what work is being proposed.

47

48 Project 07-253, the continuity and change
49 in Yukon River salmon harvest patterns. This project
50 will examine changes and trends in the subsistence salmon

1 fishing in the Yukon River drainage. This through key
2 informant interviews and household surveys and they're
3 looking to do this in the lower, middle, and upper Yukon.
4 So this is focused on the period from 1994 coinciding
5 with the decline of the Western salmon stocks, looking at
6 how the Federal subsistence program changes in the
7 demographics of these communities have affected
8 subsistence harvest patterns during that period.

9
10 Project 07-202, the East Fork Andreafsky
11 River salmon weir. This is in the Lower Yukon River.
12 This project supports a 12-year data set and provides
13 escapement counts for chinook and chum salmon in the
14 Lower Yukon.

15
16 07-207, the Gisasa River salmon weir,
17 again supports a 12-year data set for the Lower Koyukuk
18 River and provides escapement counts for chinook and chum
19 salmon.

20
21 I should mention four of these projects
22 before you are continuation projects, the East Fork
23 Andreafsky River, the Gisasa, and all the weir projects
24 and the Lower Yukon Drift Fishing Projects have come
25 before the Council before and have been funded previously
26 but they're past their three-year funding cycle, so
27 they're up for renewal.

28
29 07-204, the Lower Yukon River Drift Test
30 Fishing Project. This is a project that is a test
31 fishery in the Lower Yukon River and provides the first
32 indication of run strength for fall chum and coho salmon
33 returning to the Yukon.

34
35 07-252, Non-Salmon Fishing Practices and
36 TEK in the Northern Yukon Flats. This project
37 compliments some previously funded studies in the
38 northern Yukon region and it would provide an
39 understanding of non-salmon harvest in the villages of
40 Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon and Venetie.

41
42 07-206, the Innoko River Inconnu Radio
43 Telemetry project. This is a project that's looking at
44 tagging 50 sheefish a year from the Innoko River and
45 tracking them throughout the year to identify spawning,
46 feeding and overwintering habits. One of the issues that
47 hasn't been discussed here today but is happening on the
48 Yukon is the commercial fishery for whitefish in the
49 Lower Yukon. Very little is known about these species
50 and this is an attempt to identify some of the life

1 history traits of the sheefish from the Innoko Region.

2

3 07-208, the Tozitna River weir. This one
4 supports five-year data set for the Tozitna providing
5 escapement counts for chinook and chum salmon.

6

7 Then 07-251 is the only project the TRC
8 is not recommending for funding. This project is
9 proposing to document the TEK of natural indicators
10 pertaining to chinook, summer chum and fall chum
11 abundance and timing in six Yukon River communities.
12 That's Nulato, Huslia, Galena, Fort Yukon, Nenana and
13 Eagle. The TRC had some concerns about this project,
14 primarily the application of this information to
15 management, how this would actually help the management
16 of the Yukon River salmon stocks. AYKSSI is currently
17 funding a project in the Lower Yukon that is using this
18 methodology and the TRC recommended waiting until that
19 project actually was completed and reviewing that
20 information before they would entertain funding something
21 similar to this. They were also concerned about some of
22 the methods of analysis and the cost of this project,
23 which increased significantly from the proposal to the
24 investigation plan stage..

25

26 On Table 4 you have the funding
27 recommendations from the TRC and the three-year budgets
28 and the executive summaries are provided on Page 56
29 through 72. I've also provided you -- well, Vince is
30 passing out a summary of the recommendations to date on it
31 this. This is a table that has all of the projects on it
32 that are before you today and included in this are the
33 TRC recommendations. There have been two Council
34 meetings on the Yukon prior to yours, so it has the
35 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council recommendations and the
36 Western Council recommendations from last week for you to
37 review as well.

38

39 With that I'd certainly entertain any
40 questions.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: So by consensus we
43 support the Technical Review Committee on these projects?

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

46

47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Everybody?

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: I spoke with Cliff
6 earlier today and one of the things that really concerns
7 me and it's our proposals that we put in to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board and the Board of Fisheries and we spent
9 a lot of time talking about them and one of the things
10 that was being done in the rapids where they were
11 measuring and weighing the fish and they had high school
12 kids doing this with the science teacher from Huslia and
13 that got cut out and I was speaking with Cliff about that
14 and it got cut out because the Office of Subsistence
15 Management doesn't want to do any more of this training
16 kids to do stuff. Is that basically what it is, Cliff?

17

18 MR. SCHLEUSNER: It's not the Office of
19 Subsistence Management. Stan Zurey's Tanana Conservation
20 Outreach Project, which has been supported through our
21 process in the past, is not eligible for funding anymore
22 and that goes back to those Board sidelines where a
23 project that is solely for the purpose of building
24 capacity is no longer eligible for funding. Basically
25 what the Federal Board decided is that the main purpose
26 of the Monitoring Program is to provide information to
27 manage Federal subsistence fisheries.

28

29 So they support outreach, which every
30 project has to pass that test and is rated on, but they
31 wanted the outreach to be focused around projects that
32 provide information to Federal subsistence management.
33 There's perfect examples on the Kuskokwim. KNA is doing
34 some weir projects in which they have an intern program
35 and they have kids that actually come out and work the
36 weir. They run like 15 interns through that project
37 every year.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, we're running
40 out of time.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The information
43 they were inquiring, to me, is more important for
44 management and more important to what's the biggest
45 concern of this RAC is the loss of genetic integrity of
46 our king salmon because they physically were weighing the
47 fish and measuring how long they were, splitting the
48 stomach open to sex them for absolute sure and doing it
49 through an entire catch each time, so we knew exactly
50 what the size and weight and length and sex of this fish

1 are so we know what is going up the Yukon River past the
2 rapids.

3

4 So we got rid of that, but the one
5 project, the Andraefsky River weir, which is good as an
6 example of an unexploited salmon resource, but I don't
7 know how in the hell that helps manage the fishery. It
8 just shows something where someone can say, look, if you
9 don't fish on a stock of fish, this is what it's going to
10 look like. But look at the Tozitna River weir. That
11 gives you a good example of what happens to a heavily
12 exploited stock, but then you take what these high school
13 kids are helping and Stan Zurey and teach are
14 supervising, they were actually finding out what really
15 is getting up the river. To me, that's a lot more
16 important than the Andraefsky River weir.

17

18 I think we should tell whoever it is,
19 Fish and Wildlife Service, that said you can't do this,
20 that we totally disagree and we think you should shut
21 down the Gisasa River weir and put the damn money where
22 it's going to do some good because we don't care what
23 goes up the Gisasa River. Those fish are not exploited.
24 Commercially, the processors do not want them. That
25 doesn't have anything to do with the management of the
26 fisheries upriver, zero.

27

28 So I make a motion that we send a letter
29 to whoever it is, where the buck stops here on his desk
30 and makes the decision, we send that guy a letter saying
31 we don't care what happens on the Andraefsky River
32 because it doesn't do a darn thing to help fish
33 management, but we do care what's going up the Yukon and
34 getting on the spawning grounds and we want the program
35 reinstated that's going to do age, size, sex and they can
36 throw in the age and make them take scale samples at the
37 same time and give them a little bit of money, a couple
38 bucks to do that, because that project is a lot cheaper
39 to run and will give us more useful information for
40 management. Mr. Chair. I make that motion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is there a second.

43

44 MR. NATHANIEL: I'll second.

45

46 MR. GLANZ: Question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Come on, let's get
49 this over with.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Wait. It's been
4 moved and second. Where's the question. Come on.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those in favor of
9 the motion signify by saying aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion carried.
14
15 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Just for clarification,
16 you're making a motion to.....
17
18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No, it's done with.
19 Let's move on.
20
21 MR. SCHLEUSNER: I need to understand
22 what you're actually doing here because what's before the
23 Council is this suite of projects.
24
25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I know. We already
26 passed that. You're going to get your recommendation
27 now.
28
29 MR. SCHLEUSNER: That's fine, but I still
30 need clarification, Gerald, on what exactly is going
31 forward because the Tanana Conservation Outreach Project
32 isn't before you. I mean that isn't an option. You can
33 send a letter there, but that isn't an option to fund
34 under this cycle. The suite of projects that are
35 presented before you for your recommendation are these.
36
37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You got your support
38 for the seven recommendations by the Technical Review
39 Committee.
40
41 MR. SCHLEUSNER: In addition to that you
42 want a letter sent that talks about.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, that's
45 separate.
46
47 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Separate from that.
48 Okay, thank you.
49
50 MR. BASSICH: Looking at the future

1 budget of this and given some of the concerns about the
2 whitefish commercial fisheries in the Lower Yukon, do you
3 envision in the future there being some funds available
4 to survey, sample and understand more about whitefish in
5 the Upper Yukon River through your programs?
6

7 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman, Andy.
8 That's a great question. One of the things we're
9 talking next is strategic planning on the Yukon River in
10 which the JTC has completed a salmon management plan but
11 one of the things that OSM hopes to do is actually do a
12 whitefish, non-salmon management plan and include the
13 Yukon and the Kuskokwim Rivers and try to prioritize the
14 research that needs to be done on that so we can carve
15 out a portion of that. The future of the Fisheries
16 Monitoring Program is certainly going to be impacted by
17 world events. I mean we're fighting a war overseas and
18 budgets are being cut, but we're hoping to make sure that
19 whitefish continue to be a part of our program.
20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.
22

23 MR. SCHLEUSNER: With that, the next item
24 on the agenda is the update on the strategic planning
25 processes. I briefly touched on the JTC technical plan.
26 The U.S. and Canada Yukon River Joint Technical Committee
27 Plan was completed in 2005 and in November of 2005, the
28 Yukon River Joint Technical Committee Alaska Escapement
29 Monitoring Plan Working Group, held a meeting to apply
30 the plan and help prioritize the monitoring and salmon
31 assessment projects on the Alaskan portion of the Yukon
32 River Drainage.
33

34 The group of agencies and NGO's develop
35 geographic units as a framework to prioritize monitoring
36 projects and use standardized criteria to actually
37 prioritize the existing projects and some proposed
38 projects in each geographical unit for each salmon
39 species.
40

41 So in the Yukon River this is one of the
42 things that the TRC is using to help prioritize, hit that
43 strategic priority for these projects. Again, in the
44 Lower Yukon River, the Andraefsky River was identified as
45 one of the key monitoring projects because it does have a
46 long data set and it supports an escapement goal in the
47 Lower Yukon River.
48

49 That was the only update I had other than
50 we are hoping by 2008 to initiate a non-salmon planning

1 process. Again, some of these decisions are out of our
2 hands as far as the budget and what's available to do
3 this kind of work in the future, but right now that is
4 certainly the direction we're trying to head.
5 Any question.

6

7

(No comments)

8

9

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

10

11

MR. SCHLEUSNER: The next item on your
12 agenda is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
13 This is a program that's part of the FIS which provides
14 money to rural organizations to hire professionals to
15 participate in the Monitoring Program. Today we have two
16 presentations, one by TCC, and Brandy is working to get
17 her presentation loaded for you. Brandy is our newest
18 partner. She comes to us from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
19 Service where she worked four years here in Fairbanks.
20 She's a lifelong Alaska resident. Got her BS in biology
21 from UAF. She was hired by TCC in June of 2006.

22

23

(Long pause)

24

25

MS. BERKBIGLER: Hello, Mr. Chair and
26 Council members. My name is Brandy Berkbigler. I'm the
27 Partners fisheries biologist for Tanana Chiefs
28 Conference. As Cliff said, I was hired in June.
29 Particularly June 19th and I left for the field June
30 23rd. So I had about a four-day crash course in TCC and
31 getting the project up and going.

32

33

So I'm with the Fisheries Resource
34 Monitoring Program just to give you a little overview so
35 you kind of understand where I'm coming from with the
36 organization, it provides funding for fisheries projects,
37 addressing Federal fish subsistence management issues.
38 The FRMP has funded projects gathering information on
39 fish and stock status trends and subsistence harvest
40 patterns and traditional ecological knowledge. This is
41 to help Alaska Native and rural organizations participate
42 in the various fisheries research. The Partners for
43 Fisheries Monitoring Program was implemented in 2002.

44

45

So the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
46 Program places fisheries biologists and social scientists
47 within Alaska Native and rural organizations and the
48 Partners, as we are termed, are there to help identify
49 subsistence fishery issues by attending community
50 meetings, listening to local concerns. We also develop

1 research projects in collaboration with Federal, State,
2 university and private professionals to address
3 subsistence resource issues. We're also there to provide
4 educational opportunities through fisheries, technician
5 training, science camps and internships.

6
7 The TCC Partners Program is funded
8 through the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm
9 employed through TCC and I'm here to work with the 42
10 villages in TCC's region, hopefully. That's one of my
11 goals. This is to promote understanding and knowledge of
12 fisheries through outreach, local hire and internships.
13 Also cooperatively work on research projects with various
14 entities and organizations.

15
16 The department I work out of in TCC is
17 Cultural and Natural Resources Department. Within that
18 department is forestry, archaeology, realty and wildlife
19 and fisheries. Within my little section is one
20 subsistence resource director, which is Mike Smith. I am
21 the Partners fisheries biologist and then I have funding
22 for two temporary interns throughout the summer to help
23 with projects.

24
25 So an overview of our 2006 fisheries
26 projects that we were involved in. The first one was the
27 Henshaw Creek weir, the Goodpaster River chinook salmon
28 enumeration, and then Fort Yukon Science Camp.

29
30 The Henshaw Creek weir was first
31 installed in the year 2000 with the Fish and Wildlife
32 Service, Fairbanks Field Office. In 2005 we entered into
33 a cooperative agreement with the Fish and Wildlife
34 Service to partner up for three years to run the weir
35 with the future hope that TCC would take over the weir in
36 2008. So this was the second year as a cooperative
37 project. I was not the Partners biologist last year. I
38 was actually the crew leader out at Henshaw, so I was
39 pretty familiar with the project coming on as the
40 fisheries biologist this year. The Fish and Wildlife
41 Service provides a project investigator and a crew leader
42 and then TCC is responsible for myself, the fisheries
43 biologist, an intern to learn about the weir and
44 operation of the weir and also provide them training in
45 fisheries and then technicians to work on the weir.

46
47 This project is funded through 2007 and
48 after next summer, unless we get approved from putting a
49 proposal in this December when the call goes out, the
50 weir will not be operating anymore.

1 The objectives of the study are to
2 determine daily escapement and run timing of adult
3 salmon. We gather age, sex and size composition of adult
4 salmon and we monitor the non-salmon species presence in
5 migrating.

6
7 In 2006, unfortunately we installed the
8 weir on June 29th. It was fish tight, meaning the entire
9 river was closed off except for the entrance into the
10 trap so nothing can pass through the weir unless we're on
11 the weir counting them, so that's what we mean by fish
12 tight. We had two local technicians from Allakaket
13 working on the weir. On June 30th we counted four summer
14 chum salmon and at midnight the weir flooded and it
15 stayed flooded the entire season. On the 26th we went
16 out to start pulling the weir and the water eventually
17 got low enough that by August 1st we were able to get the
18 entire weir out of the water and it was still higher. If
19 we would have waited one day, we would have never got the
20 weir in this year.

21
22 Our second project was the Goodpaster
23 counting tower. It was established in 2004 and it's
24 privately funded project through the Tech Pogo Mine and
25 we jointly operate with the Bering Sea Fishermen's
26 Association. This project we hire two local technicians
27 out of Dot Lake, one of which was returning from the
28 previous year. The counting tower was installed on July
29 7th and they were counting by July 9th. There's a
30 preliminary escapement count of 2,400 chinook salmon and
31 it was pulled the first week of August. The object of
32 this is to enumerate the salmon population for the mine
33 and monitor any population changes that might be
34 affecting it from having the mine upriver. This tower is
35 located 58 river miles upstream from the mouth of the
36 Goodpaster.

37
38 The third project we were involved in was
39 the traditional ecological knowledge camp in Fort Yukon.
40 This camp was a cooperative project through TCC, Council
41 of Athabaskan Tribal Governments and Fort Yukon and
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division.
43 This was funded for 2005 and 2006.

44
45 The objectives of the camp were to
46 provide a forum for youth, elders, fisheries biologists
47 and social scientists and managers to all interact and
48 hear each other's views and opinions and hopefully come
49 to concurrence on the issues. Also providing training in
50 fisheries science by incorporating traditional and

1 western science. So I had my intern teach a fish
2 dissection course and then we had elders doing
3 traditional fish cutting and then she taught dissection
4 cutting in a sense and then pointed out all the internal
5 organs. The other objective was to collect biological
6 and anthropological data that could be used in future
7 fisheries management.

8

9 I'm going to keep this brief because
10 Derek, who is presenting next, has a little bit more
11 elaborate slides on the science camp, so we're kind of
12 cutting up the presentation here.

13

14 So just to end here with the Partners
15 Program, the goals that I'm going to try to abide by for
16 this next year and hope to promote cooperation between
17 Alaska Native and rural organizations, State and Federal
18 agencies and academe and others, putting in proposals and
19 research and hiring locals from different villages to
20 help with those, facilitate participation in the
21 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and support
22 community outreach and education, and encourage future
23 scientists through the mentoring of college students.

24

25 With that, are there any questions.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: One quick one. On the
28 Goodpaster River, the mine is above the weir, is that
29 correct?

30

31 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yes.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: So how is monitoring at the
34 weir checking what's going on at the mine? If the fish
35 have already passed you, are you doing any checks up
36 above the mine or where the fish are spawning? It seems
37 like they could only be affecting the out-migration of
38 juveniles, not the spawning activities of the adults.

39

40 MS. BERKBIGLER: This project just barely
41 meets the EIS statement. They need to have some type of
42 project monitoring the chinook salmon. We do go up to
43 the spawning grounds just to check and see if we're
44 seeing a bunch of fish spawning. Also, one problem this
45 year is there was a log jam a couple miles upriver from
46 the site, so it was preventing any boats from going up
47 there and really looking.

48

49 One thing is YRDFA, Kristin Mull, the
50 YRDFA biologist, was doing a juvenile study and she was

1 up on the upper tributaries of the Goodpaster River and
2 she did a juvenile study this past season. So there's
3 other projects starting to go on, but mainly the project
4 that we were doing was just the counting tower to
5 enumerate chinook salmon coming back because that will
6 give an idea of escapement coming back into the river.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess the point I
9 would make is that if you have a mining operation in the
10 proximity of a spawning grounds, what they're going to be
11 affecting is the out-migration of juveniles or the
12 success of that spawned adults coming up, not necessary
13 the numbers coming up. I understand what you're trying
14 to do counting the numbers, but you're really not able to
15 monitor what's going on or the effects of that mine
16 because they would be affecting juveniles, not adults.
17 Just something to think about in a project like that. If
18 you really want to monitor what the mine is doing, you've
19 got to monitor what the out-migration or what their
20 potential impacts on spawning grounds might be.

21

22 MS. BERKBIGLER: Just a comment on that.
23 We did have a cooperative meeting with the Fish and
24 Wildlife Service and BSFA and looking at other projects
25 that we can do possibly on the Goodpaster River. The
26 problem is it's a privately funded project through the
27 Tech Pogo Mine, so we'd have to look for other sources in
28 order to monitor the out-migration and then we'd have to
29 talk to the mine as far as trying to get more funding
30 from them to do basically a more elaborate monitoring
31 study that would benefit better.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: It's just the fox guarding
34 the hen house again. We see a lot of that unfortunately.
35 So it's just something in my mind that ought to be
36 thought about and maybe a little bit of leverage applied
37 to the mine to police themselves a little bit better or
38 at least cough up some money to improve monitoring. If
39 they're doing everything all right, they shouldn't be
40 afraid of that.

41

42 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
43 Mike Smith, Tanana Chiefs Conference. If I might just
44 elaborate a little bit on Andy's concerns. We appreciate
45 what you're saying there, Andy. Like Brandy mentioned,
46 the whole enumeration project is a result of the lawsuit
47 brought by the Alaska Northern Environmental Center to
48 stop that mine in the beginning, so part of their consent
49 decree in that lawsuit was that they monitor the king
50 salmon on the Goodpaster River. To what extent they

1 monitor that is the questionable part. Currently the
2 consent agreement talks about 20,000 to \$40,000 to
3 conduct that project. The mine currently is only
4 providing \$20,000 to do that enumeration project.

5
6 I agree with you, Andy, though, there's a
7 couple of incidents that happened this year that really
8 brought what you've said to light and one was a high
9 water event at the beginning of the year. We're not sure
10 of the effect of that, but we do know the mine was busy
11 running all over town with their checkbook trying to get
12 all the pumps they could find to pump out the mine.
13 Shortly after I know the DEC did go down the Goodpaster
14 River to do water sampling analysis to see what effect
15 the high water mark had. Now whether that information
16 provides us any insight into what happened with the
17 mine's affluent they pumped out, we don't know yet, but
18 we do know that very few juveniles were seen on the
19 Goodpaster this year when Kristin did her float trip,
20 which causes us lots of concerns.

21
22 My effort for the Goodpaster in the
23 future is kind of broad-based. I think what's going on
24 there now is interesting for a variety of reasons. One
25 is it's one of the few streams that we have a very kind
26 of comprehensive look at what's happening with that
27 stream. Part of the consent decree is that they're doing
28 water quality on a continuous basis. We have a USGS
29 station on that river that gives us water volume and flow
30 rates. We have studies being conducted by other programs
31 about the fauna, stuff like that along the river. So all
32 those things brought together -- personally, I think the
33 only thing missing out of the Goodpaster right now is a
34 juvenile study. Like Brandy indicated, we've been in
35 contact with Fish and Wildlife Service about possibly
36 doing some work in that regard. If we bring that all
37 together, I think we'd have a very wonderful little index
38 stream that while may not be applicable to every
39 tributary in the Yukon River, at least certainly could
40 give us an idea as to all those comprehensive things that
41 don't ever seem to be together in one research area.
42 There's some benefit to doing it at that scale. It's a
43 lot smaller, more manageable, workable and so on. Maybe
44 we could just extrapolate what we learn out of that to
45 other streams. Thank you.

46
47 MR. SCHLEUSNER: If there's no further
48 questions, I'd like to introduce our next Partner. This
49 is Derek Rader from CATG. Derek is another life-long
50 Alaskan who received an undergraduate degree in biology

1 and a master's degree in fisheries biology from
2 Washington State University. He was hired in 2006 by
3 CATG and is their Partners biologist.

4
5 MR. RADER: Good afternoon, everyone. As
6 Cliff said, my name is Derek Rader. I'm the Partners
7 biologist working for the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
8 Government out of Fort Yukon.

9
10 I was going to give a brief introduction
11 to the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, but I
12 think Cliff and Brandy both summed that up pretty well
13 for you guys.

14
15 I'll start out by giving an introduction
16 to the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments and
17 basically who they are. CATG is a consortia of ten
18 Gwich'in and Koyukon Athabaskan villages along the Yukon
19 Flats of the Upper Yukon River. CATG represents a
20 traditional area that encompasses 55,000 square miles and
21 has a population of approximately 1,800 people.

22
23 Some of the villages in the Yukon Flats
24 that CATG represents includes Beaver, Stevens Village,
25 Rampart, Birch Creek, Venetie, Circle, Arctic Village,
26 Canyon Village, Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon. Some of the
27 main water bodies that CATG has the opportunity to
28 research in the Yukon Flats include the Upper Yukon
29 River, the Chandalar River, Marten Creek, the Christian
30 River, Porcupine River, Sheenjek River, Coleen River,
31 Black River, Birch Creek and Beaver Creek.

32
33 Okay. So now you all have a good idea
34 what the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program is and
35 what CATG represents, I would like to go into detail
36 about the 2006 field season projects.

37
38 The first project I worked on in 2006 was
39 a traditional and ecological knowledge or TEK science
40 camp. This camp was designed to provide youth with the
41 opportunity to learn about fisheries science from both
42 traditional and western perspectives and to learn more
43 about the how-to perspectives can and should inform one
44 another. This camp was put together by the cooperative
45 efforts of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the ADF&G and
46 CATG.

47
48 The second project I worked on this
49 summer was the Sheenjek chinook genetic sampling study.
50 The objectives of this project was to collect between 50

1 and 250 biopsy samples or fin clips from chinook salmon
2 for genetic stock identification and baseline data. This
3 project was originally part of the 2004 Fort Yukon
4 subsistence catch monitoring project and was contracted
5 under the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.
6

7
8 A third study that I worked on was a non-
9 salmon traditional ecological knowledge harvest survey in
10 the Yukon Flats. This project was designed to expand the
11 available subsistence harvest information for non-salmon
12 fish species in the Yukon Flats region and to collect
13 baseline biological information on northern pike in Birch
14 Creek. This study is still being conducted through the
15 cooperative efforts of the ADF&G, US Fish and Wildlife,
16 the BLM and CATG.
17

18 With that said, I will now go into a
19 little more detail about each project and what we
20 actually did for each project individually. The TEK
21 youth science camp was held at the Gwich'in Tribal
22 Government Youth Camp six miles below Fort Yukon on July
23 20-24. A total of 12 students attended this camp and
24 were administered by five Yukon Flats elders, four
25 fisheries biologists and two social scientists. This
26 camp provided students with exposure to fisheries science
27 in a hands-on way where students had the opportunity to
28 discuss and take part in both western science and
29 traditional ecological knowledge.
30

31 Some of the TEK activities that took
32 place at this camp included such activities as building a
33 fish trap. That's Simon Francis right there working with
34 three students where they actually went out, collected
35 birch trees, cut them, stripped them and actually put
36 together this fish trap. We then were able to set the
37 trap; however, we didn't catch any fish because the area
38 around the camp site wasn't conducive to this type of
39 trap setting.
40

41 Another activity we did, Trimble Gilbert
42 made a traditional fish spear with a lot of the students.
43 The spear was made out of caribou antler, as you can see.
44 I think this one was designed for northern pike where you
45 kind of come down on them like that and it locks them in.
46 We didn't actually use this for any pike because there
47 was none around the area and it was a pretty valuable
48 spear.
49

50 Another activity in terms of TEK at the
science camp was traditional fish cutting. That's Doris

1 Ward, my neighbor from Fort Yukon, demonstrating to the
2 students the different ways you can cut fish. This was
3 really good for the students and they seemed to enjoy it.
4 Any time you stick a knife in a kid's hand they seem to
5 be having a good time. We ended up drying the fish and
6 they got to take half dry fish home to their family.

7

8 That's also a traditional style fish hook
9 that Trimble Gilbert also made and that's also used for
10 caribou and I believe that one is also used for northern
11 pike.

12

13 A couple other activities that aren't
14 seen here that took place in terms of TEK at the science
15 camp included -- Margaret Tritt from Arctic Village
16 actually took the bark from birch and was building a
17 gillnet out of it, which wasn't done in time to actually
18 set. She also made rabbit snares out of the same birch
19 bark and actually caught a rabbit.

20

21 Some of the western science aspects of
22 the TEK science camp. This is Michael Koskey from the
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He was giving a
24 demonstration on traditional fish use mapping. He
25 actually had students come up and point out different
26 areas that they, themselves, their parents or
27 grandparents caught fish and then after he was done with
28 that later on explained to them the importance of this
29 for subsistence management reasons.

30

31 This is Caroline Brown also from ADF&G
32 giving a demonstration on fish identification. She used
33 a game called Fish on a Stick where she actually had each
34 individual fish species in the Yukon Flats up on these
35 sticks, had the students come up, pick a species, partner
36 up, explain to their partner all the life cycle
37 characteristics and morphological aspects of that fish
38 and then they had to go back up in front of the crowd and
39 explain their partner's fish to the crowd, so it was kind
40 of cool.

41

42 Fish pathology. That was a big one.
43 This is a couple of students. I believe they're looking
44 for Ichthyophonous in the gills, as well as the white
45 spots on the heart.

46

47 Aside from that we also looked at some of
48 the Diphyllbothrium Latum, a tape worm that's in a lot
49 of salmon. We examined those under the microscope. That
50 was pretty good, except for it kind of had its backdraws

1 because a lot of the elders and kids were grossed out
2 about it and it made them a little hesitant and worried
3 about the way they cook their fish, but in the long run
4 it also educated them and it's important to take care of
5 their food.

6
7 The second project I worked on this
8 summer was the Sheenjek River Chinook Genetic Sampling
9 Study. The first thing we did starting this project was
10 travel approximately 35 miles up the river and set up a
11 base camp. This camp was selected because of its easy
12 accessibility to setting gillnets. The reason we
13 traveled so far up the river was to prevent the
14 collection of milling non-Sheenjek chinook salmon.

15
16 Once the base camp was set, we began
17 strategically setting gillnets in five different
18 locations within one river mile of the camp. Gillnets
19 were generally placed in eddies or sloughs that fish were
20 thought to reside in. Once all gillnets were set, they
21 were checked approximately five times a day as to prevent
22 fish from being left in the gillnets too long and then
23 dying.

24
25 Upon capture the sex of each fish was
26 identified. Each fish was measured to the nearest
27 millimeter and a scale sample was taken from each fish
28 for age analysis. Biopsy samples were then taken from
29 the axillary process, the coddle fin -- excuse me, the
30 ventral fin. We took that from each fish and sent them
31 both to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
32 genetic lab and the ADF&G lab. The reason we send them
33 to two separate labs is the US Fish and Wildlife lab ran
34 micro-satellite DNA analysis and ADF&G ran snips.

35
36 The third project that I'm going to talk
37 about today was the TEK Birch Creek non-salmon study.
38 The intent of this project is to, one, document TEK of
39 non-salmon fish species in the Birch Creek area of the
40 communities of Fort Yukon, Circle, Central, Beaver and
41 Birch Creek. Two, to estimate harvest levels and use
42 patterns of non-salmon fish species by village residents
43 through
44 door to door household surveys. Three, to collect
45 baseline biological information to estimate age, sex,
46 length composition of northern pike populations from
47 upper and lower Birch Creek.

48
49 The only portion of this study we worked
50 on this year was a door to door harvest study in Fort

1 Yukon. What we basically did was go around to
2 approximately 100 or one-half of the households in Fort
3 Yukon and asked questions about their last year's harvest
4 of non-salmon fish species in the Yukon Flats. This
5 worked out pretty well; however, as many of you may know
6 who have conducted any type of survey, a lot of people
7 are hesitant to answer those kinds of questions and it
8 made it a little difficult.

9

10 There was a few other projects that I was
11 involved with this summer, like an Arctic Village
12 traditional science camp, the Salmon Gathering
13 Conference, the Sheenjok River sonar station, helped a
14 little with the breakdown of the Chandalar sonar station
15 and I'm working on a baseline fishery survey of the
16 Sucker River, but I haven't really put in enough time and
17 don't really have any pictures to talk about it.

18

19 So, with that I'll take questions. I
20 would like to take this opportunity to thank the Office
21 of Subsistence Management for letting me work on the
22 Yukon River and the fisheries.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Derek, can you bring up
25 your first slide. Maybe your second. Keep going. Keep
26 going. That one right there. Can you send one of those
27 fish up to Eagle for me?

28

(Laughter)

29

30
31 MR. BASSICH: I haven't seen one of those
32 since I first moved to Eagle in 1980, so I'd really like
33 to see something like that up there again.

34

35 I just wanted to say I think these are
36 good programs. I like seeing the kids involved in them.
37 From what I've seen of these types of programs that we've
38 done in our community the kids really benefit. One
39 recommendation I'd like to make is the one picture that
40 you had of all the whitefish species in the Yukon River,
41 that one needs to be made into a poster and that needs to
42 go into every school along the Yukon River to start
43 educating kids about what other species are there. What
44 most people hear about is salmon. And that's an
45 important resource to the people. Thanks.

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I have one question
48 for you, Derek. Craig Fleener is with CATG and I was
49 just wondering if he asked you to get any TEK on wood
50 bison.

1 MR. RADER: I'm going to plead the Fifth.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. This would
6 be a good time to take a dinner break because the Council
7 needs to meet across the way over in the City Hall, first
8 conference room to the left at 6:00. I don't know how
9 many people will call in from the Flats. We do know that
10 one representative will be online to discuss some
11 proposals. There may be others. I don't know.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Who?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Paul Edwin, I believe, and
16 I don't know what others. Then at 7:00 we'll move back
17 over to here. I do see people from the area coming in
18 and listening in.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 (TELEPHONE CONFERENCE)

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: I'll introduce myself
27 again. I'm Vince Mathews, Office of Subsistence
28 Management. In the room here we have the court recorder,
29 Salena Hile. She's going to record this because it is
30 part of the actions of the Council. Next to me is the
31 Chair of the Council, which is Gerald Nicholia of
32 Fairbanks, formerly of Tanana. Then James Nathaniel is
33 next to the phone there, he's from Chalkyitsik. Sue
34 Entsminger from Mentasta Pass/Tok area. Amy Wright from
35 Tok. Bill Glanz from Central. Virgil Umphenour from
36 North Pole. Other Staff that are present here, we have
37 Wennona Brown from Yukon Flats Refuge as well as Paul
38 Williams, Mike Koskey from Fish and Game, Don Rivard with
39 Office of Subsistence Management, Sandy Rabinowitch with
40 National Park Service Interagency Staff Committee, and
41 Fred Andersen with the National Park Service with
42 Yukon/Charley Rivers. And Tom Kron with Office of
43 Subsistence Management.

44

45 I won't introduce others unless it's
46 really necessary because we're in the chamber next to the
47 City Council. It's possible they'd come in here. Did I
48 miss anybody else?

49

50 Marjorie, you may want to start first.

1 This is a teleconference for the Council to hear of
2 concerns and issues on Yukon Flats. If you're just to
3 listen in, that's fine. You just need to let us know
4 that. Marjorie, are you still there?

5
6 MS. GIMMELL: Yeah, I'm here. I'm just
7 here to listen. Just interested in what you guys are
8 going to have a meeting about.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: That's fine. Another
11 Regional Council member just walked in, which would be
12 Andy Bassich from Eagle. Gary is also, I assume, to
13 listen, too. I assume you're here to listen.

14
15 MR. WHEELER: Yes, that's correct. I'm
16 planning on being there tomorrow, but I did want to
17 listen in tonight if there were some issues being brought
18 out.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: James may want to talk
21 about -- hello, who just joined us? Is that Chalkyitsik?

22
23
24 MR. GILBERT: My name is Matthew Gilbert.
25 I'm from Arctic Village. I just joined out of curiosity.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: So you want to listen in
28 then?

29
30 MR. GILBERT: Yeah, is this for our
31 region or the Yukon Flats Region?

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Who else just joined us?

34
35 MR. DEMATTEO: This is Pete DeMatteo.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Hi, Pete. Right now we
38 have Gary Wheeler on line, Marjorie from Arctic Village
39 and Matthew Gilbert from Arctic Village.

40
41 The purpose of this teleconference was to
42 hear of concerns on the flats. James expressed one that
43 we may want to reiterate now since we have other people
44 online and we'll just go from there. For those online we
45 do have a time limitation because the Council has to move
46 to another building at 7:00 to get set up for the open
47 mike for the Delta Junction area.

48
49 James, maybe you want to explain the
50 issue you talked to me about over the phone.

1 MR. NATHANIEL: Thank you, Vince. I
2 think the Yukon Flats area, the whole area has a problem
3 with lack of moose in that area, mainly the lack of bull
4 moose during fall season. The reason I wanted to bring
5 this up is the subsistence families not getting their
6 moose to meet their needs for the winter. We have no
7 problem with fish because there were plenty of fish this
8 summer.

9
10 We talked about this problem in
11 Chalkyitsik, both Paul and I. Paul is our chief of
12 Chalkyitsik. We discussed this problem with other
13 hunters also and we came up with three different options
14 that might work for us to save our moose population.

15
16 One, issue harvest ticket. Two, we also
17 talk about taking three-year-old and older bull moose and
18 let the one and two-year-old to -- how would I say it.

19
20 MS. ENTSMINGER: Get bigger.

21
22 MR. NATHANIEL: Get bigger or older.
23 Anyway, the third problem we have is the predators. Like
24 we have a lot of wolves in our area, a lot of brown
25 bears, even black bears. We also have a lot of cow moose
26 in our area with no bulls. The cow moose some have
27 calves and some don't. The ones without calves we
28 believe that either the brown bear or wolves killing
29 them. That's the problem we have. Maybe one or two
30 people in our village got bull moose because they went
31 further upriver, almost to the Canadian border to get
32 their moose. That's a lot of gas they used going that
33 far. The hunters that hunted around Chalkyitsik area
34 every one of them came back with nothing. They saw the
35 cow moose, but you can't shoot no cow moose. I was just
36 wondering what will happen with all the cow moose and no
37 bull.

38
39 So that's the problem we have in
40 Chalkyitsik and maybe other villages have similar
41 problems. I don't know. I haven't talked to any other
42 person in other villages except Venetie. I know they
43 have the same problem in Venetie. I talked to Abraham
44 Henry in Venetie, most of you know him. He said he went
45 out hunting and he never got nothing. There's others in
46 Venetie that went out hunting and they didn't get
47 anything. That's the problem within the Yukon Flats. I
48 guess that's all.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Who joined online when

1 James was speaking there. I think it beeped twice. Were
2 there some other people that came online that haven't
3 identified themselves? Okay. Must not have.

4

5 What I talked to James about is I'm
6 hoping to get a couple people to help James work through
7 the options. I did a sheet on one of the options,
8 actually two of the options, but I'd like to sit down
9 with some of the Staff so we can go with James and then
10 he can present some proposal options to the Council to
11 see if the Council wants to sponsor any proposals or have
12 them come up from the village or the villages of the
13 area. So that's where that's at.

14

15 I don't know, Gerald or James, if it's
16 good at this time to talk about the pros and cons of
17 those three options. We can on those three. That's up
18 to you guys. I think, James, correct me if I'm wrong, on
19 the harvest ticket. What you're talking about is the
20 harvest in the Chalkyitsik area would be limited to only
21 hunters around Chalkyitsik. That others coming from
22 elsewhere would not.

23

24 MR. NATHANIEL: Right.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That one on the
27 Federal side is considered an .804, like a Tier II
28 situation. We'll have to discuss that later what that
29 all means. That's that option. Your second option was
30 to limit to taking the older moose, three years or older
31 and we can discuss that further. It may put more
32 restrictions on the subsistence users to find those age
33 moose out there. So that might be concern. I didn't
34 catch your third option.

35

36 MR. NATHANIEL: Predators.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Predator control. When we
39 talked on the phone a month or so ago you mentioned
40 about possibly extending the season later into fall.

41

42 MR. NATHANIEL: Right.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if you talked
45 to Paul about that and the other hunters.

46

47 MR. NATHANIEL: Yeah, I talked to Paul
48 about it. The extension, that's not the thing we talked
49 about. We want to move the hunting season, move it up.

50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: To what date?
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Into October?
4
5 MR. NATHANIEL: September 10th. I don't
6 know how long the season is open. Maybe 20 days, I don't
7 know.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Wennona might know. I
10 didn't bring my reg books.
11
12 MR. GLANZ: I think it closes the 20th up
13 there by you.
14
15 MR. NATHANIEL: 20th of September.
16 Anyway, they'd like to have it open until September 30
17 because of global warming. That might be part of the
18 problem.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Did someone just join us.
21 This is a teleconference with.....
22
23 MR. GILBERT: This is Matthew Gilbert. I
24 got cut off there. I apologize for that.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: That's fine. Appreciate
27 you acknowledging yourself. Again, we'll try to get
28 James connected with a couple Staff to draft up proposals
29 or ideas and run them by the Council and see if you guys
30 want to author them or let them come up other ways. I
31 think he's basically signalling they're not getting their
32 moose. They weren't moving as much and they're not
33 seeing bull moose. So that is recurring on the Flats.
34
35 MS. ENTSMINGER: I want to know if
36 there's more talk about how you -- what type of predator
37 control. Did you guys talk at any length of what you
38 would do with your bear seasons and what you would do
39 with -- did you want to see some type of control by
40 government or did you want to see more regulations that
41 we could pass that would liberalize seasons more?
42
43 MR. NATHANIEL: Well, I don't know how to
44 put it. Spring time is the time to get the bears because
45 all the cows have calves. We notice that some cows don't
46 have a calf and that's why I put down predator control.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: I think, if my memory is
49 correct, I think it's pretty wide open for black bear. I
50 think it's three black bear year round. We'll have to

1 look into that.
2
3 MS. BROWN: That's what it is in Bethel.
4
5 MS. ENTSMINGER: And the grizzly?
6
7 MR. NATHANIEL: Was it one?
8
9 MS. ENTSMINGER: One a year?
10
11 MR. NATHANIEL: One grizzly or one brown
12 bear.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: But I don't know the
15 season. What Sue is getting at, James, is you can look
16 at other seasons and that and harvest for those
17 predators. On black bear it's as wide open as you can
18 go. Brown bear I'm not sure of.
19
20 MR. NATHANIEL: The only time you can
21 take black bear is in the summertime. Usually people
22 back home don't kill them. I don't know the reason for
23 that. A few people use it for dogs, whoever got dogs.
24
25 MS. ENTSMINGER: It's good eating where I
26 live.
27
28 MR. NATHANIEL: Well, I know there's a
29 lot of people that like bear meat.
30
31 MS. ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
32
33 MR. NATHANIEL: But my people back home,
34 they don't hardly eat bear meat. Once in awhile. Mainly
35 moose meat.
36
37 MS. ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
38
39 MR. NATHANIEL: So we got a big problem
40 there. Not only there but other villages, too.
41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: This is Gerald
43 Nicholia. What I'd like to hear from you guys, Marjorie
44 or Gilbert, the problems you're having getting your moose
45 for your moose hunting season. I hear a lot of it from
46 other people, but there's a bunch of agency people here,
47 if you could speak up and say something about it, it
48 would be good for them to hear along with us.
49
50 MR. GILBERT: This is Matthew Gilbert.

1 My grandpa is a traditional Chief. If you want him to
2 say something about the moose hunting, he's agreed.
3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah.
5
6 MR. GILBERT: Okay, it's Trimble Gilbert
7 from Arctic Village.
8
9 MR. NATHANIEL: Put him on.
10
11 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: Hello?
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Is that Trimble?
14
15 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: Uh-huh.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Trimble, this is Vince
18 Mathews, Office of Subsistence Management. It's an open
19 mike, which is fine to talk about issues. Right now
20 James just gave a summary of concerns in Chalkyitsik on
21 moose there and then Gerald just asked Marjorie and
22 Gilbert to give some thoughts about how the moose hunt
23 and time and effort went in this fall and that's when you
24 came online, Trimble.
25
26 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: Do you want me to
27 say something right now?
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, if you'd like.
30
31 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: Thank you very much
32 for accepting me to say something about the moose and
33 other animals. Since the last few years we know we have
34 problem with moose and look like we're getting worse and
35 worse every year because they're killing too many bull
36 moose, so we never see bull moose very much on Yukon
37 Flats and up this way, so it kind of worries me. I know
38 the people talk about predator, too, but I don't -- I
39 think hunters is the one that's killing all the animals.
40 So we have to do something for the future generations
41 because even the next two years we don't know what's
42 going to happen to our animals. So we have to work
43 together, like we have to work on the issue, work
44 together. Like many other hard issue, we've been
45 fighting it before, so we have to hold each other hand
46 and we can work on it.
47 Also not only the moose but many other
48 animals are hurting too, like porcupine hurt and the
49 sheep. So it's going to be there forever if we protect
50 them. I'm the elder, so I know what's going on. I'd

1 appreciate if you work together and fight together, stand
2 together. Please work together and work on this issue
3 and save the whole animal we have in the Yukon Flats. We
4 can't survive without that animals. That's what I want
5 to say, so thank you.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Trimble. Did
8 anyone else on line, because there was a couple people
9 that wanted to share thoughts about the moose and other
10 animals in the Flats area.

11

12 MS. GIMMELL: Hi, this is Marjorie. Can
13 you guys hear me good?

14

15 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes.

16

17 MS. GIMMELL: I wanted to say that we
18 have noticed a decrease in moose population, especially
19 around Venetie. I think it's from all those acres that
20 burned north of there. It's pretty close to Venetie. I
21 just see all the environmental changes that's going on
22 within the Yukon Flats and around here. Could you guys
23 close it off for sport hunters or something so maybe
24 moose population will increase again. You know, hunters
25 that go in, fly in and then take off. That would be one
26 suggestion, I think.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Marjorie. We
29 captured those. When we're on a teleconference it's not
30 a normal dialogue, but we did capture those comments and
31 we will be working with James on proposals with the moose
32 and maybe other issues. Your village or other villages
33 online can also submit proposals, this is the Federal
34 side though, and that would be due by October 20th. When
35 I get back to the office or refuge staff can help you if
36 you're trying to draft some proposals. If this Council
37 or others submit proposals, they will be in the proposal
38 book and then I'll put it on my to do list to ship you
39 copies of those proposals that affect your particular
40 village.

41

42 MS. GIMMELL: Thank you, Vince.

43

44 MS. BROWN: Let them know what the due
45 date is.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, it is Friday. That's
48 right. I've been traveling too much. The proposal due
49 date is this Friday. I'll be back in the office
50 Thursday. We can work on it. You can probably get a

1 hold of somebody in the office in Fairbanks. We will
2 ship you the proposals that are submitted, but if you
3 want to draft some proposals we can help you on this
4 short date.

5
6 Marjorie, since you're online and Matthew
7 Gilbert, you had a special action in your area opening up
8 some parts north of you to sheep hunting. Any thoughts
9 on that? This Council was involved with that special
10 action and was involved with the proposal that was before
11 that. So any comments you want to share on that?

12
13 MS. GIMMELL: As you guys probably know,
14 we went to the Federal Subsistence Board and we tried to
15 stop them from opening it. Regardless of what we said
16 and what we know from being up here, they went ahead and
17 opened it temporarily this year and we want to work on
18 keeping it closed because I don't think there's enough
19 sheep up there for outsiders to go up there and hunt.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Most likely
22 there will be a proposal submitted to make that special
23 action that opened up portions of your closed area will
24 most likely be submitted. That will be one proposal,
25 Marjorie, and others you may want to look at and send
26 comments in or whatever. There's been no proposals
27 submitted to date, but I'm fairly sure there will be
28 proposals submitted to make that special action put into
29 regulation.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, this is Gerald
32 Nicholia again and I was just wondering -- what me and
33 Craig Fleener have been shooting for is predator control
34 on the Yukon Flats of wolves and bears against the moose
35 and stuff. I was just wondering how you guys feel about
36 that. Would you support it?

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Pete, are you still online?

39
40 (No response)

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Gary, are you still online?

43
44 MR. WHEELER: I'm still here.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Pete DeMatteo, are
47 you still there?

48
49 (No response)

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Is Marjorie and Gilbert
2 still there -- Matthew, I mean.

3
4 MR. GILBERT: Gilbert is still here. We
5 have a question regarding the sheep area, the sheep up
6 here. Grandpa would like to make a statement.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Gerald is telling me it's
9 okay. That's fine. That would be great.

10
11 MR. GILBERT: Here's Trimble Gilbert.

12
13 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: Okay, this is
14 Trimble again. I do have a little complaint about the
15 sport hunter and probably not only me, but all over. Our
16 people have a problem with them. This year they opened
17 red sheep Creek and we know a lot of hunters went up
18 there and 1st of September we got on the plane with
19 somebody and we keep asking them about what you guys
20 doing up there and they said they are floaters and hikers
21 and they lied to us. When we landed in Fairbanks,
22 Matthew was with me and a trooper was there to
23 investigate them and two or three ram heads and they took
24 them out from the back and check on it. We didn't see
25 any meat like that. It's happened many times.

26
27 Also I heard another one from Fort Yukon
28 upriver. They found a carcass of the moose and the horns
29 is missing. They just cut the horns off and all the
30 carcass is there. It's stuff like that that's really
31 demeaning to the Native people. So I just wanted to
32 mention it, so people should think about it, too.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Trimble.

35
36 MR. DEMATTEO: Vince.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Pete.

39
40 MR. DEMATTEO: This is Pete. Sorry. I
41 had the speaker button on before, but I'm still online.

42
43 MS. ENTSMINGER: I have a question.
44 Trimble, this is Sue Entsminger. I'm curious, did
45 someone report to the protection officers about this
46 waste of sheep meat?

47
48 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: No. Matthew was
49 there with me in Fairbanks, Wright Air Service. That
50 officer was there. I don't know why he was there

1 checking on two or three different heads, but we didn't
2 see any meat at all, they just got backpacks, and they
3 probably left the meat up there. Matthew and I would
4 talk about it and then we called our tribal officer, but
5 they didn't say nothing about it too much. Those kind of
6 things going on a lot of times.

7

8 MS. ENTSMINGER: But did you say someone
9 actually saw a carcass, they didn't even take any piece
10 of meat off it.

11

12 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: No, no meat with
13 it, just the head.

14

15 MS. ENTSMINGER: I guess I'm not
16 understanding. You're saying that someone saw a carcass
17 out in the field, that they didn't take it, or you're not
18 saying that? I must have misunderstood you.

19

20 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: Well, they came
21 back from the north with that bush plane and then they
22 land at our airport and we ask them what you're doing up
23 there and they said they're just floaters and I didn't
24 know those people, I never see them before, and then they
25 got on the plane with us. When we land in Fairbanks, we
26 found out they are hunters. All we see are heads and
27 then Matthew and I, where's all the meat, and we never
28 asked because the trooper was investigating the three
29 sheep horns.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: I have a question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: I'm wondering if you could
36 tell us if you know, is a lot of the hunting pressure,
37 outside hunting pressure, is it coming from private
38 individuals that are transporting themselves or is it
39 something where transporters are flying hunters in and
40 dropping them off. I'm saying non-guided hunters are
41 coming in through transporters. I guess what I'm asking,
42 is this mainly outside hunters being transported in by
43 commercial operations or are they private individuals
44 coming up to hunt?

45

46 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: I think Wright is
47 probably the one that brought them in up that way and
48 dropped them off. A lot of times there's a lot of hikers
49 and floaters going up every summer, so it's pretty hard
50 to keep track of them. The 1st of September they're

1 coming back and I don't know what they're doing up there
2 and that's why we asked them what are you guys doing up
3 there and are you hunters. They said they're just
4 floaters and hikers and then they just lie and then we
5 found out when we got to Fairbanks the three harvest and
6 the rams.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. And I would ask
9 anybody who is online from the Flats area the same
10 question, if those are private hunters or transported in.

11
12 MS. GIMMELL: I think for Arctic Village
13 it's both. It's both private and guided hunters.

14
15 MR. GLANZ: This is Bill Glanz from
16 Central. Did anybody harvest sheep in Arctic Village
17 this fall? Because you remember that's the reason they
18 were trying to take your rights away from you and put it
19 into a general hunt because nobody there tagged a sheep
20 in years.

21
22 MS. GIMMELL: Actually, yeah, there was a
23 few of them and I know quite a few of them applied for
24 sheep hunting license, but I don't know if they received
25 it or not. There was a few of them up at Red Sheep Creek
26 this fall.

27
28 MR. GLANZ: Did they turn the tag in,
29 that was my question, to show usage?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Did you catch that,
32 Marjorie? Did they turn in their harvest ticket?

33
34 MS. GIMMELL: I'm not sure. I did not
35 ask them, but I know they went out sheep hunting.

36
37 MR. GLANZ: That's how come we have the
38 main problem to begin with, because you guys didn't
39 report.

40
41 MS. GIMMELL: What's that?

42
43 MR. GLANZ: That's how you got in trouble
44 to begin with when the State wanted to put that into the
45 general hunt because you folks showed no usage of the
46 resources.

47
48 MS. GIMMELL: I could ask them about it
49 if they turned in their harvest ticket.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: Okay. That's fine.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. Yeah, it's
4 important that they turn in harvest tickets to show use.
5 Even turn them in even if you didn't harvest anything.
6 What Bill is trying to get at, when different Boards have
7 to look at this, Federal Board as well as State Board,
8 they look at what's been reported harvested and when
9 there's no show of people harvesting there, then the
10 Board could say there's really not a problem and it
11 should be opened or whatever. So harvest ticket
12 reporting is important.

13

14 MS. GIMMELL: Okay, thank you.

15

16 MR. WHEELER: Vince, this is Gary
17 Wheeler. Could I comment?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you're more than
20 welcome to, Gary.

21

22 MR. WHEELER: Okay. I wanted to try to
23 respond a little bit to the question about whether mostly
24 we had hunters flying their own planes into the Arctic
25 Village sheep management area or whether they were
26 commercial air taxi drop-offs. Let me say that the
27 Arctic Refuge had personnel at the Red Sheep Creek
28 landing strip from about August 6th through about August
29 25th or so. You know, there was a mix of private planes
30 as well as commercial drop-offs, but I think what we
31 recorded at the Red Sheep Creek landing strip four
32 different hunting parties, totaling 13 individuals. From
33 my knowledge, there were like four rams that were
34 harvested up in that area. There was one party still in
35 the field when we pulled out, so we don't know if they
36 were successful or not. Let's see, two parties we know
37 for sure were unsuccessful. So that's about all I can
38 say. There were probably more air taxi drop-offs than
39 private planes being flown in the area, at least at the
40 Red Sheep Creek airstrip.

41

42 MS. ENTSMINGER: I would like to ask a
43 question. This is Sue Entsminger. The unsuccessful,
44 were they the drop off or the private planes?

45

46 MR. WHEELER: I know that one group that
47 was dropped off was unsuccessful. That was a party of
48 three hunters. I believe there was either one or two
49 private planes that were unsuccessful as well.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Gary. I don't
2 know where else we want to go with this, Gerald. It's
3 kind of just a listening session, to borrow the
4 governor's term, or whoever. Is there any other comments
5 from the Flats villages or others online there?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Hearing none, I don't know.
10 Do the Council members have any other comments to say on
11 this? Go ahead.

12
13 MS. GIMMELL: This is Marjorie. Gerald,
14 did you have a question earlier?

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah. This is Gerald
17 Nicholia. I was just wondering if there's low moose
18 population or caribou are affected by predators, wolves
19 and bears, and we've been pushing for a long time through
20 Craig Fleener from Fort Yukon to support a predator
21 management program up there and I was just wondering how
22 supportive you guys were of that idea.

23
24 MS. GIMMELL: I think I heard of that not
25 too long ago. As for me, yeah, I think it would increase
26 the moose and caribou population. Even up here there's a
27 lot of bears. There's been nothing but grizzly bears
28 this summer. We didn't even see caribou. I think
29 Arctic Village would probably go for that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Any other comments from
34 anyone on line.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Any comments from people
39 here in Delta Junction.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Seeing none. Oh, Sue has
44 one.

45
46 MS. ENTSMINGER: I have one question. As
47 Gerald said, would you approve of predator control, do
48 you guys have any ideas of any proposals at all or could
49 you come up with any that would help in that light as far
50 as seasons and bag limits or would you like to see

1 something -- I mean maybe you didn't even think about it.
2 Have you thought about it?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Can you tell us, Marjorie
5 or Trimble, about the villagers thinking of any proposals
6 to change seasons on brown bears or wolves?

7

8 MR. TRIMBLE GILBERT: This is Trimble
9 again. A few years back the caribou were around our
10 region and my son and other guy, Charlie Sweeney, they
11 were hunting all the time and they found quite a few
12 carcasses upriver and up west around this area because
13 there's hundreds of wolves and they're killing a lot of
14 caribou and also the grizzly bear is increasing, so the
15 population is too much in this area. So I support that
16 and should try to do something about those predators.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Trimble. With
19 that, we'll just thank everybody again for calling in. I
20 know it was a challenge to do that, but I appreciate it
21 and the Council appreciates you doing that. With that,
22 we will close the teleconference. The Council members
23 need to go across to address Delta Junction concerns.
24 Yes, James.

25

26 MR. NATHANIEL: I'd like to thank
27 everybody that came out to the teleconference because
28 this is a problem we have and hopefully we'll work
29 together and solve something, some problems.

30

31 I also want to thank the Fish and Game
32 for putting us up in this big hotel. Thank you.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you again to all and
35 we'll be signing off.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 (EVENING SESSION)

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's 7:00 o'clock and
44 I'd like to call this evening session listening thing --
45 we're here to listen to the Delta area residents about
46 their local subsistence issues and their knowledge of
47 subsistence issues. Don't be afraid to come up here and
48 state your name and the issues you're dealing with around
49 here. You have to come up to the table and state your
50 name and the issues you guys are facing around here.

1 Why we're asking this, we're going to be
2 developing proposals tomorrow and if we could develop a
3 proposal that could help your area out from Eastern
4 Interior Region, it will be more for our help -- for you
5 to help us is what I'm trying to say here.
6

7 MR. BECK: Lee Beck. One of the prime
8 issues that I'm worried about is us, as a Delta
9 community, being grouped with Fort Greely. Fort Greely
10 is a military reservation. Most of the people that are
11 in the military are not Alaska residents anyhow, but in
12 the grouping the numbers kind of go against the Delta
13 community because all of those numbers that are there are
14 added to it. In time, it's probably going to be more
15 garrison personnel out there than there was in the hey-
16 day of Fort Greely as an Army base was because of the
17 missile events and everything else.
18

19 The other thing is the subsistence
20 issues, there's a lot of us longtime residents up here
21 that used to fish and hunt up in areas now that there
22 isn't very many caribou, like the Taylor Highway area and
23 even the Denali Highway area. I used to hunt there in
24 the early '60s and there was a lot of caribou.
25

26 So, that's mostly what I've got to say to
27 help you guys out so you can help us. Okay. Thank you.
28

29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.
30

31 MR. WINDSOR: My name is Jack Windsor.
32 I've lived in Delta for over 30 years. I agree with Lee
33 and I just wanted to state that Fort Greely -- I mean to
34 group that with -- I don't live in Delta Junction itself,
35 I live on the other side of Big D, but I can't even get
36 on that post. They have their own post office, gas
37 station, PX. I can't even get a clearance to get on
38 there unless I'm working there or something. There's
39 very few local people that are actually working there.
40 So I don't see how it can be grouped with our community
41 if you can't even have access to it. Right now it's
42 eliminated for subsistence hunting. I'd hate to see that
43 grouped in our area with us, which would almost
44 automatically eliminate us as being eligible if we're
45 part of them. You're part of them and you're ineligible.
46 But I don't see a real reason to group anything.
47

48 All we have is one city limit, which
49 would be Delta Junction itself. I don't even know the
50 population, seven or 800. Big Delta isn't even a

1 community. There's no stores, there's no nothing out
2 there, just a bunch of scattered people. I live on the
3 other side of the Tanana and it's people of the
4 Goodpaster River that would be classed into the Deltana
5 that are 30 miles from anyone else. And as far as
6 grouping it into one population, it's such a big area.
7 There's so many people who live -- like me, we live
8 pretty much a subsistence lifestyle. We wouldn't know
9 what -- there's a real high percentage of the population
10 around here that don't live an urban lifestyle. They
11 live rurally. Heat source is wood and there's a lot of
12 people without plumbing and things. It just seems weird
13 to put this huge area just so they can get a large
14 population and maybe crowd the limits within four or five
15 years of the 7,000 people. I don't know. The whole
16 grouping doesn't make any sense to me.

17
18 There was one other issue I did want to
19 ask about. A number of years ago when Nat Good was on
20 the board, at least he told me that we were going to be
21 given subsistence rights at Chitina. I know Healy Lake
22 was given them that year. It wasn't printed up in the
23 book that we were able to fish above and below the bridge
24 with the different means, the gaff or dipnet, fishwheel,
25 so we could use any means. We called and asked and they
26 said it was a misprint.

27
28 The next year when we called and asked
29 they said it was never intended that Delta Junction would
30 have these subsistence rights. I've fished down there
31 with guys when I first came to this country that had been
32 fishing there for 20 years before me and we had old
33 wooden boats with props. We'd go down with the old 28
34 Evinrudes. I mean they'd been doing it for years. Old
35 Newby and different guys they'd take a flatbed down to
36 Copper Center to buy gas because it was so much cheaper
37 and they could pay for their whole trip by coming back
38 with these drums of gas and fish. I just would maybe
39 like to be considered for the same subsistence rights in
40 the Copper River fishery rather than be limited to only
41 fishing above the McCarthy bridge with either a single
42 means, a dipnet or a fishwheel.

43
44 I've fished with fishwheels down around
45 Cable Crossing and we even had a wheel one time got away
46 and we ended up tying it up in the canyon and we used it
47 there the rest of the season before it washed out and it
48 was all legal at that time. Now it's above the bridge
49 and then either select a dipnet or a fishwheel or not
50 subsistence at all. You know, you go down and take a

1 personal use card and take a charter. I'd just like to
2 see if we couldn't be considered again for what was kind
3 of promised to us at one time. Of course, it was all
4 just verbal. If you guys -- I don't know how to answer
5 any questions on this. Nat could be the only one that
6 could answer any questions. I don't know if you knew Nat
7 when he was on the board.

8

9 But as far as the grouping, I just don't
10 see any reason to put Greely in. It's a total different
11 entity than the rest of the whole area. It's just a
12 construction site is kind of what it amounts to with all
13 temporary, transient people. There's a few
14 local residents working there, but if that job wasn't
15 there, the local residents would be working somewhere
16 else. Thanks.

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Virg.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd like to ask you a
21 couple questions. So you're in favor of Chitina being
22 reclassified as subsistence like it was at one time?

23

24 MR. WINDSOR: Yes. We were promised --
25 well, at the time, it was the same year that Healy Lake
26 was given the rights and was put in the book and at that
27 time we were promised to have the same rights, regular
28 subsistence rights down there with the different means
29 and the area, including all the way from Haley Creek all
30 the way up.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Now, what I think I
33 understood you to say is Fort Greely is a closed post,
34 that unless you're working there you're not allowed to go
35 on post, and that the majority of the people there are
36 not military, they're out of state construction workers
37 -- government workers, I guess.

38

39 MR. WINDSOR: That's almost right. If
40 you have a kid in the school, you can travel to the
41 school. You can get clearance at the gate to go to the
42 school and back. The workers, the majority of them are
43 from out of state and they're Bechtel, the big companies,
44 but the military are staying right there. I don't know
45 the population of the military guys, but most of those
46 have been transferred down from Wainwright and they have
47 housing. All their facilities are supplied out there.
48 I'm not positive on that. Maybe some families are living
49 off post, but I don't know of any.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Maybe we have to check
2 with someone else, but I don't think there's many
3 military there, is there, or not? I don't think the
4 military has a mission other than securing the post.
5 Does anyone have any idea about that?

6
7 MR. MCDONALD: Yeah, there's a lot more
8 than that.

9
10 MR. WINDSOR: I know they have all their
11 recreational things and everything all set up. They have
12 enough there to keep -- they have trap things set up for
13 them, they have swimming pools, they have snowmachines,
14 boat. I'm not sure of the numbers. There might be
15 someone here that knows more. There's a large number of
16 military. Some of them might be National Guard, too.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

19
20 MR. MCDONALD: My name is Richard
21 McDonald. As far as listing or including the residents
22 of Greely in the Delta area for determining subsistence
23 rights, that would even go against the subsistence
24 regulations. On caribou they talk about your eligible if
25 you're from Delta and I'm reading, I quote, except for
26 Fort Greely. So if you include residents of Fort Greely
27 in determining whether we are rural or not, it's bogus.
28 They can't hunt. Why should they be included in
29 determining whether we're rural or not.

30
31 Okay. There are two military
32 installations -- actually three. One is Fort Greely
33 itself and they handle things like the co-regions weapons
34 testing center. Two is the missile base, independent of
35 Fort Greely. And the third is Donnelly training area,
36 which is controlled from Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright.
37 Three different military organizations. It's a lot more
38 complex than just Fort Greely.

39
40 As far as just for a personal statement,
41 I've only been here -- this is my 11th year and I've been
42 hunting subsistence caribou every year since I legally
43 could do it. I don't work for Alyeska. I don't have one
44 of the Federal jobs at Greely. I don't have one of the
45 really nice construction jobs. When I go out, I'm not
46 looking for caribou, I'm looking for meat. I take the
47 first legal animal that crosses my sights. It goes into
48 the freezer. It doesn't go onto the wall. It doesn't go
49 to a taxidermist. So traditional, I know I haven't been
50 here as long as a lot of people, but I use it. It's not

1 a sport. I go out there for food.

2

3 I guess probably the most valuable thing
4 I have to say, I talked about Greely first, even with the
5 subsistence regulations, they cannot legally hunt
6 subsistence caribou in Unit 13. If they can't hunt
7 there, their population should not be included in
8 determining whether Delta is rural or not. If it is, I
9 think somebody would have a really good position to
10 legally say, hey, I will see you in court. Thank you.

11

12 MR. CROWSON: Good evening. My name is
13 Wayne Crowson and I have -- first came to Delta Junction
14 in the United States Army in 1965. I met and married a
15 girl who is the granddaughter of the people who came over
16 the Chilkoot Pass. Her dad was born in Flat, Alaska in a
17 gold camp. She was born in Fairbanks. When she was four
18 years old her family homesteaded here in Delta Junction.
19 The big joke is they were going to leave Alaska, but by
20 the time they got to Delta Junction they'd run out of
21 money.

22

23 My wife's family was raised on moose and
24 caribou. A majority of them come from Unit 13. I
25 married this lady in 1967. I've lived here in Alaska and
26 I've hunted the Unit 13 Nelchina Herd since 1974 missing
27 two years only. I've raised my children on the game meat
28 and the wild berries and fish that come from the Unit 13
29 in the Nelchina area.

30

31 I think I want to just lay that
32 groundwork out that states my history here and the amount
33 of years and eligibility that I've hunted and depended on
34 the game from the Nelchina Caribou Herd in Unit 13.

35

36 Speaking of Fort Greely and the missile
37 site, total different subject, but I'd like to add here
38 that there are two man camps here in Delta Junction.
39 There's a man camp two miles down the Alaska Highway at
40 the Trophy Lodge. That man camp is owned by Bechtel.
41 Bechtel is one of the big operators who's building the
42 United States missile defense system out here. They're
43 housing employees and workers whose homes are in the
44 Lower 48, their families are in the Lower 48 going to
45 school in the Lower 48, their wives are soccer moms
46 taking the kids to and from their sporting events and
47 these people are here building a missile defense being
48 housed in a man camp sending their paychecks from Alaska
49 to the Lower 48 and those people are going to be
50 considered residents of the Delta community? Excuse me,

1 I think something is very wrong here.

2

3 The second man camp is four miles down
4 the Richardson Highway, just past Pump Station 9 on the
5 right hand side going south. That man camp is operated
6 by Boeing. Boeing is the people who are furnishing the
7 missile components and who are the people who are
8 inspecting the silos, who are controlling the amount of
9 concrete, the type of concrete, the grade of concrete in
10 these silos. They're the ones who are bringing these
11 missile components here to this community and putting
12 them in and installing them out there.

13

14 They have a huge man camp down here.
15 They're people, their employees, are from the Lower 48,
16 whose families are going to school in the Lower 48, whose
17 wives are in the Lower 48 and they take a break every six
18 weeks and get a chance to go home and say hi to them all,
19 and they take their money back there and spend it. Their
20 dollars do not stay in our community. Our community
21 isn't any more wealthy than the community of Glennallen,
22 yet you would like to say -- or there's talk that you
23 would like to say -- you want to count these bodies and
24 that's what you have, bodies who are not even residents
25 in our area, as people being in our area. To that I can
26 only say the comparison would be like Glennallen saying
27 the population of Valdez belongs to them. How many
28 people would have an issue with that. I think a whole
29 lot of people would.

30

31 I have a history. I have a history of
32 feeding my family off game from Unit 13, I picked over
33 four gallons of berries myself personally this year out
34 in Unit 13. I am a hunter. I am a user of our resources
35 and I feel some injustice would be made if people from
36 Pogo Mine, which is a long ways from Delta Junction --
37 just the way the raven flies it's several miles away, and
38 I know that if the contractors and their people from the
39 Lower 48 would be ballparked in with the community of
40 Delta Junction, that would be an atrocity.

41

42 I thank you very much for this
43 opportunity to speak.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I worked at Pump Station
46 9 when it was built and also Pump Station 10 and that was
47 in '73, I think. Anyway, basically what's going on at
48 the Pogo Mine and out at Fort Greely is the same thing
49 that went on when they brought all the goat rovers from
50 Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana up here.

1 MR. CROWSON: Yes, sir.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Took all the good jobs,
4 all the money went south and then they went south, so you
5 basically don't think any of these people should be
6 counted as residents of Delta Junction when the Federal
7 Subsistence Board takes a look at Delta Junction and
8 someone wants to count all these people as people from
9 here when they review whether or not to leave Delta
10 Junction with a positive customary and traditional use
11 for subsistence. That's what your point is, correct?

12

13 MR. CROWSON: That is correct.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

16

17 MR. CROWSON: Thank you very much.

18

19 MR. LEE: My name is Robert Lee and I've
20 been here 25 years. I also use the subsistence caribou
21 hunting and like Wayne we use a lot of berries and things
22 from that area. There's one thing Richard mentioned that
23 he missed in terms of the military coming here. We're
24 also getting a striker unit here in the near future, so
25 that's going to be more military people. Fort Greely
26 even has its own zip code. It is a good thing for the
27 businesses in town, but if you don't own a business, and
28 I'm not knocking it, I'm glad they're here because I use
29 them too, but if you don't own a business or have one of
30 the lesser jobs out there, there's very little impact
31 economically for us from Fort Greely for the same reason
32 they're mentioning. Most of that money goes outside and
33 most of the people go with it in the winter.

34

35 So it's not right that we should give up
36 our subsistence and include those people in our numbers
37 for those reasons. I just back up those guys and that's
38 all I've got to say. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. I'd just
41 like to say something. I was at the Federal Subsistence
42 Board meeting when the rural determination came up and
43 they were including Delta. They tried to put Deltana,
44 Delta and Big Delta all together there. I was speaking
45 up and down against them not to do that because there's
46 three different communities and I really spoke against
47 them, they can't include Fort Greely because that's a
48 military establishment. I spoke out against them. You
49 guys know Rick Johnson, he was there with me at that
50 time. It's good to hear these comments. When you're out

1 there alone and facing the Federal Subsistence Board and
2 you don't hear comments like you guys said, you're really
3 out there alone trying to do something for people that I
4 don't even know. I'd just like to thank you for all your
5 comments.

6

7 MR. LEEDY: My name is Dick Leedy. My
8 wife and I have been here 33 years and we've hunted
9 Nelchina Herd. I'm 74, she's 78. I think it's a real
10 pleasure to go down there and be 70 years old and be able
11 to hunt. We both like to hunt and we spend as much time
12 in the field as we can, possibly more than anyone in
13 Delta Junction if I must say. We spend 40 days bear
14 hunting in the spring down in Unit 13. The two of us
15 have taken 25 black bears in the last five years. I feel
16 I've done my part, along with Wayne Crowson, who has
17 trapped wolves, and Jack Windsor. I think we've done our
18 share in this area to help preserve the game. I think we
19 should have the opportunity to hunt the game in this area
20 in 13 as a subsistence hunter. My wife and I have lived
21 off wild game all our life. I don't think we've bought a
22 half a beef in our lifetime. I think it's a privilege
23 being able to hunt the Federal hunt.

24

25 Being 70 years old it's not like you're
26 16, running up and down the mountains and hunt. In fact,
27 right here in Delta Junction we've had most of our
28 hunting taken away from us. We have this whole Delta
29 closed area here. They issue 10 bull permits. This year
30 they decided to go 75 cow permits for moose. We have to
31 get in on a drawing to hunt sheep. They've taken our
32 registration caribou hunt right here below town and moved
33 it across Jarvis Creek. It's a walk-in area. Hell, a 74
34 year old man and 78 year old woman is not going to walk
35 across there. We've got all this closed area, the bison
36 range here. Hardly anyone from Delta Junction gets a
37 bison permit.

38

39 All the people from Fairbanks, Wasilla,
40 they come in here and they see 200 moose in one day, they
41 go back to Anchorage, back to Fairbanks, they tell their
42 buddy they saw 200, he tells two of his buddies, he tells
43 four of his and we have all of Fairbanks, all of
44 Anchorage and you've got to fight for a place to park
45 your truck.

46

47 This subsistence, I think we're entitled
48 to it. I really do. There's no way we can get any of
49 these permits around here. All the closed areas we have,
50 including Fort Greely, they've taken the bison range away

1 from us out here, we used to have the whole bison range
2 to hunt for moose, they closed it and made a youth hunt
3 out of it and I think we're pretty much entitled to a
4 subsistence hunt because we're getting a raw deal out of
5 the whole thing. That's all I've got to say. I'd be
6 glad to answer any questions.

7

8

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

9

10

MR. DARLAND: My name is Darrell Darland.
11 I'm here tonight to represent the Delta Junction Advisory
12 Committee. The Advisory Committee has been very active
13 on this issue with Rick Johnson kind of representing the
14 Advisory Committee. So I think you guys have heard from
15 us, you know our concerns, but just for public record I'd
16 like to state that we're really against the grouping
17 issue with Fort Greely. It is a separate community.
18 There's a good share of the people that are non-
19 residents. There are some military who would qualify as
20 residents, but especially for Tier II, if you live in
21 Fort Greely you don't qualify. I'm not understanding how
22 if you don't live at Fort Greely you now can't qualify,
23 how you could say now we want to qualify those people as
24 part of Delta. Then you would have to make them eligible
25 for a Tier II permit. There's no way under the present
26 criteria they could ever qualify.

27

28

But I think you've heard enough of that
29 issue and I thank you all for being here tonight.

30

31

MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman.

32

33

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sue.

34

35

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MS. ENTSMINGER: You're saying Tier II,

1 but you don't mean that. You mean Federal land.

2

3 MR. DARLAND: That's correct. I'll
4 answer any questions.

5

6 MS. ENTSMINGER: I wanted to continue
7 this. We are members of this Eastern Interior Advisory
8 Board and we were asked to have the meeting in Delta
9 because you were going to be part of the review.

10

11 MR. DARLAND: Right.

12

13 MS. ENTSMINGER: And then I didn't learn
14 until two weeks before this meeting that you were now not
15 part of the review and I was just curious how many people
16 here from Delta are aware of that or even our Council. I
17 found it kind of disconcerting that here you are on a
18 Council and we're having a meeting in Delta and we're not
19 really -- I mean I really appreciate everything you guys
20 have said and if people have more to contribute I'd
21 appreciate that you continue to do so, but it's kind of
22 -- I wish we had heard more of this earlier. It seems
23 the way the ball is bouncing has gotten kind of behind on
24 information to us also.

25

26 MR. DARLAND: It was our understanding
27 that the review could possibly be made as early as this
28 fall, which I guess would be now. Our understanding was
29 that the grouping question was coming up and a decision
30 would be made soon, not four years out.

31

32 MS. ENTSMINGER: Vince, am I wrong in
33 understanding what I had heard you say two weeks ago?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: I've been trying to consult
36 with some other Staff here and hopefully they'll get to
37 the mike when I get this wrong. The Board has proposed
38 areas they're looking for changes, but since it's a
39 proposed rule anybody could suggest that Delta Junction
40 still be grouped. So I think I've got that correct. So,
41 from the Board's perspective and review, this is where
42 I'm getting into lack of knowledge, they didn't see a
43 need to continue to analyze the Delta Junction area, but
44 anybody on this proposed rule could say, yeah, we want
45 them to be considered. So Sue is correct, you only found
46 out two weeks ago that the Board didn't keep it on its
47 kind of work list, but for the public it's still
48 available to add in Delta Junction or add in the
49 Fairbanks North Star Borough, et cetera.

50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: So, as a resident, these
2 people still need to be concerned.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And they need to be
5 concerned -- again, I'm going by my memory. Each time
6 the census comes up, which will be 2010, we're bound by
7 law to review all the communities based on the criteria
8 of 2,500 still to evaluate if they're rural or nonrural.
9 I don't want to hoodwink you. When the census is done,
10 we don't get the data for two to three years after that.
11 So the real issue starts hitting the road about 2013 if I
12 can speculate that far in advance. What I'm hearing from
13 Delta Junction testimony is they don't even like the
14 concept of being grouped with Fort Greely.

15
16 MR. DARLAND: That's true, but what drove
17 this issue was we had a -- Rick Johnson, I wish he was
18 here tonight because Rick attended a meeting in December
19 in Anchorage and I think that was your meeting and at
20 that point in time he said that was an agenda item and
21 that it was on the table and that's what drove our
22 interest in getting you folks here and our comments back
23 to the board through Rick Johnson. I'll have him get a
24 hold of you folks.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: You are correct, in
27 December the Board took a decision on that, but then that
28 was re-evaluated. Sandy may be able to fill in the
29 points on that.

30
31 MR. DARLAND: So was any decision made at
32 that time or was a decision made to just look at that
33 grouping?

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: There was a decision
36 at that time when they grouped Deltana, Big Delta and
37 Delta together to make that number to be reviewed. They
38 didn't include Fort Greely, but they grouped all these
39 three places together and that's how it came up.

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr.
42 Chairman. My name is Sandy Rabinowitch. I happen to
43 work for the National Park Service, which is part of the
44 Federal Subsistence Board. I work for the Board member
45 Judy Gottlieb. It is the Interagency Staff Committee. I
46 think you all have it pretty close to right. Let me, in
47 my words, very shortly summarize it. I'll just say it
48 maybe slightly different, but I think you've all got it.
49 The Federal Board had a meeting, it's last meeting on
50 this topic, in December 2005 was the last meeting. At

1 that meeting, as a couple of you said, they kind of went
2 down their work list, which communities do we need to
3 look at more, which ones kind of look okay and so on.
4 All the things you're talking about were what they were
5 talking about.

6
7 Everything in this area is pretty much as
8 you have said it. There's a similar comparison to Sitka.
9 Sitka was sort of put into a category and they kind of
10 made a decision and that's what's written in the Federal
11 Register notice that explains this program. But you
12 correctly understand that the final decision hasn't been
13 made yet. That's the important point. It's kind of like
14 a preliminary decision has been made. That's probably
15 too strong a term. But the final decision hasn't been
16 made. That will be made this December. I think it's the
17 12th and 13th, Federal Subsistence Board meeting in
18 Anchorage on the topic of rural determinations. So they
19 will take up this proposed rule. Currently, if I'm not
20 mistaken, Fort Greely is grouped with the other
21 communities here. We can check that out and clarify that
22 tomorrow if that would help. But all the areas are still
23 recommended to be rural. That would translate to no
24 change in the rural status. That's what's on the table
25 in the Federal Register notice.

26
27 At the Federal Board meeting in December,
28 everything is open. The Board can continue on that path,
29 leave it all rural, or somebody could raise their hand
30 and make an amendment to a motion. That's possible.
31 Sitka is in the same situation that you're in. I was in
32 Sitka last week at a meeting held there because they were
33 concerned just like you are. I think over 100 people
34 came out that stated they wanted to remain rural. They
35 delivered that message to the Federal Subsistence Board
36 just like all of you are.

37
38 So I would say you're doing a good job
39 here tonight. These are very useful comments. There's
40 many of us here listening and taking notes. My Board
41 member will hear this directly from me on Thursday when I
42 get back to Anchorage. I'm sure other people here will
43 be telling their Board members. So I think you're doing
44 exactly the right thing. Your comments are very helpful.

45
46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: One thing I want you
48 to take back to your boss or whoever that you plainly
49 heard from these residents that they've got a different
50 zip code, they're military and they're mostly non-

1 residents, military and outside and they don't want to be
2 included with them. It's like two different communities
3 and from my own personal view I don't think they should
4 be included with them. That's coming from me.

5
6 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I'll just follow
7 up. This issue has been before your Council a number of
8 times. I think a year ago. Mr. Chair, you were very
9 clear and the Council was very clear that you did not
10 believe it was appropriate to apply the grouping and look
11 at nonrural status for these communities, but it was
12 still on the table at that time. That was the rationale
13 for having the meeting here to get this public input.
14 But subsequent, I think in response to what you told the
15 Board, what this Council told the Board, they removed
16 that from consideration. The proposed rule says no
17 change is recommended for rural status for Delta
18 Junction. It would remain rural.

19
20 So I think the Board listened to you when
21 they made that change, but they've been having a number
22 of meetings. They need to look at this issue statewide
23 and they are. They have a meeting in December to make a
24 final decision, but, again, Sandy is correct. It could
25 come back again. It could resurface. But the Board has
26 been listening to you and I recall that you said
27 specifically leave the Fairbanks North Star Borough as
28 nonrural, but these other areas and this area in
29 particular should be rural.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman. I would
34 like these people here to know that our Council is very
35 interested in this information Sandy just brought forward
36 that we want to pull out Fort Greely from this grouping.
37 What I'm hearing is they're in it right now as far as
38 your Staff is concerned, is that correct? But I want the
39 people here to know that we're going to be taking this
40 up. Just so you guys feel a little more comfortable
41 about coming to these meetings and it being important to
42 you to get your point across that you got across to us.
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I think this
46 issue is on the agenda tomorrow and I think that would be
47 the appropriate time based on all this public comment to
48 send a clear signal back to the Board as to what your
49 opinion is relative to possible groupings and the Fort
50 Greely issue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Mr. Chairman. Just to
2 bring absolute clarity to this point, let me just read
3 out of this Federal Register notice. I thank Don for
4 having it with him and bringing it up. It says Delta
5 Junction, no changes were recommended for the rural
6 status of Delta Junction or the communities in the
7 immediate vicinity in applying the grouping criteria, the
8 point you were all talking back, as indicators of
9 economic, social and communal integration, the Board
10 believes that the four Delta Junction vicinity CDP,
11 census designated places is what that means, assigned for
12 the analysis Delta Junction, Big Delta, Deltana and Fort
13 Greely should be grouped as an area for purposes... So
14 what I said a moment ago is correct, that correctly Fort
15 Greely is grouped with the communities. Of course, we've
16 heard you say you don't think that's a good idea. We've
17 heard that loud and clear. Anyway, I just wanted to read
18 that to make sure it was loud and clear. Thank you.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: I thank you for that
21 clarification and maybe one more point you could clarify
22 for me is what's the process for removing Fort Greely
23 from being in that grouping through the Federal
24 Subsistence Board.

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: My two sense, there
27 might be some other opinions, but what you're doing
28 tonight is exactly the right thing to do. Voice your
29 opinions, get them on the record. It's all being
30 transcribed. That's a good thing. The second thing is
31 when I'm assuming that representatives from each of the
32 councils will be invited to participate in the Board
33 meeting in December.

34
35 MR. KRON: Yes.

36
37 MR. RABINOWITCH: Make sure whoever that
38 is is very clear on this point that you're hammering on
39 and that's obviously pretty easy to do. That's the
40 second thing I'd recommend.

41
42 MR. KRON: I guess the third thing that
43 leads into the second thing Sandy was just mentioning is
44 when this comes up on the agenda tomorrow basically the
45 Council can express very clearly what your perspectives
46 are relative to including Fort Greely and maintaining
47 rural status here in this area.

48
49 I think it is correct that wherever
50 things are left after that Board meeting in December will

1 be where they start again after the next set of census
2 data comes in. So that will be something to look at
3 tomorrow. Thank you.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: If there's no more public
6 comments, I do have one other topic to bring up tonight,
7 but I'll see if there's any more public testimony.

8

9 MR. QUARBERG: My name is Don Quarberg.
10 I've lived here for a little over 30 years. I don't know
11 what I can add to what's already been said. If you drive
12 through town and look at the new businesses that have
13 been put in, primarily all of those are servicing the
14 construction of missile defense, the big airport rental
15 out there. We've even got a little drive-in. If you
16 notice, it's closed. It's here to service the tourists
17 and the summertime tourists and that sort of thing.

18

19 I sometimes talk best about something I
20 know nothing about and that may be the case here tonight.
21 I came to one of these meetings here that was in this
22 very building, it was oriented in the reverse, I don't
23 know how many years ago, a long time. I don't see any
24 faces here that were on the committee at that time and I
25 think that's great. I came in here and I had some
26 misconceptions -- I hope they're misconceptions -- about
27 this whole subsistence issue. My personal feeling is
28 it's kind of a scam. It violates the State Constitution,
29 but I guess there's nothing we can do about that. Our
30 governor wouldn't challenge it. I'd be the last one to
31 begrudge anybody that needs the resource from getting it.

32

33 However, we're sitting here fighting for
34 our subsistence rights and Healy over here, that little
35 village about 20 miles away, they had a representative at
36 that last meeting. The issue they were confronting at
37 that time is whether or not they should be eligible for
38 customary and traditional use of the game resources on
39 Mt. Sanford. Anybody know how far away that is? It's
40 about 140 air miles. And that person said that for
41 hundreds of thousands of years they have been going over
42 onto Mt. Sanford and harvesting moose, caribou, sheep,
43 goat and bear. Unfortunately, the Federal government is
44 seeing fit to accept just strictly public testimony. The
45 thing that appalled me in that meeting was there wasn't a
46 member on the committee that raised a question.

47

48 So we've got a system here that's based
49 on rumors, hearsay and maybe even outright lies. I don't
50 know how to fix it. That's kind of what you folks are

1 doing. As was said before, I really appreciate you
2 coming down here and I don't envy you your job, but I
3 wish you the best of luck in what you do.

4
5 It just seems ironic that if Healy is
6 entitled to customary and traditional use over there on
7 Unit 11 and 12 and they borrowed local students to move
8 over into their village so we could build them a school
9 and when the school got built they sent the kids home.
10 How come we can't have permission to go hunt down there,
11 too? That might have been part of our tradition, too.
12 Again, I don't know if that's very constructive.

13
14 We don't want Greely included and the
15 reason is it's always been sort of a self-contained,
16 exclusive community. I would hate to have them come and
17 take the census during the summer when we've got all the
18 construction workers here because I don't know what that
19 would do to us.

20
21 Don't loiter on the Alaska Highway right
22 about now because you'll get run over. They're all
23 leaving. Thank God for that. Thank for coming folks.

24
25 MR. SHIELDS: I'm Glen Shields and I
26 would like to make a comment that Greely is not
27 permanent. You might count those people now, but two
28 years from now they might not be down there. They might
29 close that base. It depends on how the next
30 administration looks at it. Nothing is permanent at
31 Greely. They don't want to be a part of us. They want
32 to be left out there. They have a totally different zip
33 code. They don't want to be a part of Delta. I would
34 not like to see them included.

35
36 Another thing, if you take away our
37 subsistence hunting here in Delta, the majority of us
38 won't be able to hunt caribou or moose. We can't afford
39 to fly into where they are. The Tier II program in the
40 State stinks and I've written the State about it and they
41 think it's a fair system. It's not a fair system.
42 Unless you've been in Alaska 100 years you don't get a
43 permit. They base it on points and I've got a total of 18
44 years in and I can't even get close to getting a Tier II
45 permit.

46
47 And putting your money into this little
48 drawing they have every year for a permit is a joke.
49 We're just feeding the State money. I've been putting in
50 permit money for a long time. I've never got drawn as a

1 majority of the people here have. So this is the only
2 thing we really have and I look forward to caribou
3 hunting. I'm at that age, that gentleman up here said
4 when you get 70 you don't want to climb the mountains.
5 Well, I'm 70 and I don't want to climb the mountain, but
6 I do enjoy going down and I hunt every year and I've been
7 very fortunate to get a caribou and my family uses it.

8
9 So I would hope that whenever they look
10 at this thing and they'd say, well, Greely really doesn't
11 want to be a part of Delta and Delta really don't want a
12 part of Greely. And as far as those workers out there,
13 as soon as this thing is finished, the majority of them
14 are gone. You'll be counting heads that's not going to
15 be here. The military is very transient. As far as the
16 military goes, I'm retired military. Most of those guys,
17 99 percent of those guys out there are National Guard and
18 they're on the missile site. They have nothing to do
19 with Greely as far as administrative site. As far as I
20 know, the only two active duty people out there that
21 serve the Army would be the post commander and his
22 executive officer. The rest of them are National Guard.
23 Not all of them from Alaska. Other parts of the states
24 and they're here for a short time, two years, and they're
25 gone, if they even last that long.

26
27 Thank you much.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Without any
30 other testimony here, we will be covering this same topic
31 here on the regular agenda tomorrow. I realize most of
32 you work regular schedules and we can get you the minutes
33 of the meeting as well as the transcripts. So you'll be
34 discussing that tomorrow. But building on the
35 gentleman's point of being 70 years old, there's another
36 gentleman who just stepped out that it's his birthday
37 today at 70 years old and I was hoping to surprise him
38 but he snuck out on us unless he's still here. But he
39 has served with you for quite a few years. He's the
40 current chief of Beaver and he's employed by the Fish and
41 Wildlife Service, Paul Williams. So today is his 70th
42 birthday and we'll have to tease him tomorrow. That's
43 the only other thing I had.

44
45 If possible, those that testified, if you
46 could sign on the sign-in sheets. She spells better than
47 I do, but many times we both misspell your names, so if
48 you can sign in. That will help the record. Darrell, do
49 you want us to still work through Rick Johnson to keep
50 the committee or do we have another contact person. Let

1 me know. We can keep you informed on that.

2

3 MR. DARLAND: In response to your
4 question, we'd like Rick to continue working this issue.
5 Rick has the background information. He spent a lot of
6 time researching the issues. He's probably better
7 informed than anybody else that I know about at the
8 present time. Rick would have been here tonight but he's
9 out of town, job related. But he's not here because he
10 didn't want to be. What time tomorrow are you taking up
11 the issue?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Not looking at the Chair,
14 it's hard to tell when we'll be taking that up, exactly
15 what time. Tomorrow they have some other issues to deal
16 with, drafting some proposals. They have a presentation
17 that they've been really wanting to hear on predator
18 management, which will take some time. My guess is it
19 will come up possibly right after lunch, but it all
20 depends on how things flow.

21

22 There is an option for the Chair if you
23 want to make it time certain. We can work around it
24 especially since some of the other topics are just
25 presentations.

26

27 MS. ENTSMINGER: Vince, you can call the
28 person.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know who I'd call.

31

32 MR. DARLAND: I don't think Rick will be
33 back tomorrow. He may be. I can find out later this
34 evening. If I could leave my cell phone number and you
35 could call me tomorrow, I wouldn't mind sitting in. I
36 can't be here probably before lunch, but in the afternoon
37 possible. If myself or some other Advisory Committee
38 member could be here, I'd appreciate it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'd really like
41 one of you guys to be here. You could leave your number
42 with Vince right there. I really appreciate hearing from
43 you guys. It helps us a lot. Whoever goes to the
44 December meeting from this Advisory Committee, it really
45 helps us to hear from you, see what we really have to
46 shoot for to back you up to retain your subsistence
47 rights to go subsistence hunting in this area. It really
48 helps us a lot. A deep thank you.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. We could

1 recess until tomorrow at 9:00 unless you wanted to change
2 that to 7:00.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (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:

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of November 2006.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08