

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

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6  
7 Egan Convention Center  
8 Anchorage, Alaska  
9 March 10, 2016  
10 8:30 a.m.

11  
12  
13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15  
16 Speridon Simeonoff, Chairman  
17 Melissa Berns  
18 Coral Chernoff  
19 Patrick Holmes  
20 Richard Koso  
21 Sam Rohrer  
22 Thomas Schwantes  
23 Antone Shelikoff  
24 Rebecca Skinner  
25 Della Trumble  
26  
27  
28 Regional Advisory Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/10/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's go ahead and call this meeting to order. It's 8:37. May we have the roll call, please.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Antone Shelikoff.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Richard Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Samuel Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Schwantes.

MR. SCHWANTES: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Coral Chernoff.

MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Skinner.

MS. SKINNER: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Della Trumble.

MS. TRUMBLE: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mitch Simeonoff.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: And Melissa Berns.

MS. BERNS: Here.

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd also like to make  
2 a correction to this list of members. Apparently it  
3 has Patrick Holmes listed as secretary and the current  
4 secretary is Melissa Berns.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
7 I'd like to ask Della Trumble to do the invocation,  
8 please.

9  
10 MS. TRUMBLE: Please stand.

11  
12 (Invocation)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.  
15 I'd like to welcome everyone to our RAC meeting in  
16 Anchorage. Maybe we should have a round of  
17 introductions. I guess you've all heard the names of  
18 the RAC members from the roll call. Can we have  
19 introduction from the audience.

20  
21 MS. KRUEGER: I'm Kelly Krueger, Sun'aq  
22 Tribe of Kodiak.

23  
24 MS. HOWARD: Good morning. I'm Amy  
25 Howard with Office of Subsistence Management. Thank  
26 you for having me. I'm happy to be here.

27  
28 MR. SANCHEZ: Good morning. My name is  
29 Ronnie Sanchez. I'm a Refuge Supervisor for the  
30 Southern Zone in refuges here in Alaska. Thanks for  
31 having me here.

32  
33 MR. EVANS: Good morning. My name is  
34 Tom Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist for  
35 Kodiak/Aleutians as well as the North Slope and  
36 Southcentral.

37  
38 MR. POE: Good morning, everybody. My  
39 name is Aaron Poe. I'm with the Aleutian and Bering  
40 Sea Islands LCC. I'm a science coordinator.

41  
42 MR. BURN: Good morning. My name is  
43 Douglas Burn. I'm a coordinator for the Aleutian and  
44 Bering Sea Islands LCC.

45  
46 MR. DEL FRATE: Good morning. My name  
47 is Gino Del Frate. I'm the Acting Regional Supervisor  
48 for Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation.  
49 You guys have had Nate Svoboda talk to you before. I'm  
50 his supervisor. And it's good to be here.

1 DR. CHEN: Aloha. My name is Glenn  
2 Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm a  
3 fisheries biologist and subsistence branch chief.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.  
6

7 REPORTER: My name is Penny Reagle-  
8 Smith with Computer Matrix.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for  
11 that. And our new coordinator.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: My name is Karen  
14 Deatherage. I am the Council Coordinator for this  
15 amazing Regional Advisory Council and I work for the  
16 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm glad to be here.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.

19  
20 Go ahead, Della.

21  
22 MS. TRUMBLE: I just had a comment.  
23 Are we on a conference call at all? Do we have anybody  
24 from Izembek available today?

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is there anybody on  
27 the phone who would like to introduce themselves?

28  
29 MR. PYLE: This is Bill Pyle with the  
30 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kodiak National  
31 Wildlife Refuge. Good morning.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Later  
34 on we're going to see if we can get a hold of Karluk.  
35 They have some issues. I seen that in our minutes.

36  
37 Yes, George.

38  
39 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management, State  
41 Subsistence Liaison, Board of Fish, Board of Game. I  
42 just spoke with Ron Lind, who is I believe a leader in  
43 Karluk. He is in town. He has an appointment at 9:30  
44 somewhere and he's going to do everything he can to get  
45 down here by noon to testify to you. He doesn't know  
46 yet. I'll be in contact with him and give you an  
47 update.

48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll just  
2 work around that. I think we're supposed to be done by  
3 noon. Okay. With that then a motion will be in order  
4 to adopt our agenda.

5  
6 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

9  
10 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I'd like to add  
11 an item to the agenda.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Would you make a  
14 motion first, please.

15  
16 MR. SCHWANTES: I make a motion we  
17 adopt it then.

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Second.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
22 seconded. Now you can have your additions.

23  
24 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd like to under new  
25 business add an item, predator control, and that will  
26 be a quick item.

27  
28 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
29 add an item that's been circulated around, joint  
30 comments between the RACs on summarizing things.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Where do you want  
33 to put that?

34  
35 MR. HOLMES: Anywhere. Probably after  
36 predator/prey because that's one of the things all the  
37 Councils have been discussing. When we have reports,  
38 I'll give a report on sitting on the Western Arctic  
39 Council I attended.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. There was  
42 one other change to the agenda on old business. We  
43 added rural determination update.

44  
45 Rebecca.

46  
47 MS. SKINNER: I would like to add a  
48 short agenda item to have a discussion about the  
49 Emperor Goose issue before we go into the meeting  
50 tomorrow. I don't care if that goes under old business

1 or new business, but just so that we're all on the same  
2 page. It doesn't have to be a long discussion, but I  
3 would like to have some discussion today.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll see  
6 if we can find someone to come in for that. Go ahead.

7  
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. There was  
9 a representative here, but it wasn't on the agenda, so  
10 I told him that we didn't need to have him here, but at  
11 the meeting on Friday. We'll try to track him down to  
12 see if he can come in and update you. They will be  
13 updating you on Friday with the Yukon-Kuskokwim RAC.

14  
15 MR. HOLMES: I believe that was Dan  
16 Rosenberg. I don't know if he's retired, but he was a  
17 State guy that's helped us out on opening the goose  
18 season before for the south end and on the Migratory  
19 Birds Council. So he's been a big help for our  
20 Council.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

23  
24 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Pete Probasco also  
25 spoke on the Emperor Geese in one of the classes here.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Dan  
28 Rosenberg from Fish and Game, Kelly Krueger from the  
29 Sun'aq Tribe and Eric Taylor will all be on hand on  
30 Friday at that joint meeting. I think what the plan  
31 was was for them to go ahead and update everybody on  
32 the most recent movements in that regard and then have  
33 a discussion between the two RACs about where they want  
34 to go from there.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that good?

37  
38 MS. SKINNER: No. I want to have some  
39 discussion in this group today before we go into the  
40 joint group tomorrow. Again, it doesn't have to be a  
41 long discussion, but I do think we should have a little  
42 bit of discussion before that joint meeting to make it  
43 productive.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll see  
46 if we can find someone to come in. Anything else?

47  
48 MR. SCHWANTES: Do we add that under  
49 old business then?

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. On the  
2 teleconference before I left town I phoned and emailed  
3 three Kodiak tribes, Kodiak area Natives, with the  
4 teleconference numbers and asked them to contact their  
5 members and let them know about the meeting and to also  
6 contact the villages. So hopefully we'll be able to  
7 get somebody to tune in as we go along.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Their CEO Patty  
10 Schwalenberg is here, so maybe we can get her.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Patty will  
13 also be at that meeting on Friday.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anything  
16 else.

17  
18 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Sam.

21  
22 MR. ROHRER: Thank you. I know we're  
23 filling up our agenda here, but I really think we need  
24 to have a little bit of time to discuss the proposed  
25 rule. It very well will fall under the joint comments,  
26 but I just want to make sure we have that. Probably  
27 under old business as we've discussed it before.

28  
29 MS. SKINNER: Is it that predator  
30 control?

31  
32 MR. ROHRER: It's part of it. As Ms.  
33 Skinner just said, we can maybe discuss that under the  
34 predator control topic as well. Was that your  
35 intention for the predator control to discuss that?

36  
37 MR. SCHWANTES: Not really, but we  
38 could certainly include it.

39  
40 MR. ROHRER: I don't care where it  
41 goes. I just want to make sure we discuss it.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Rebecca,  
44 did you have something?

45  
46 MS. SKINNER: No. I just assumed that  
47 predator control had to do with the proposed rule. I  
48 support Sam's request that we do talk about the  
49 proposed rule if that was not your intent.

50

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any further  
4 amendments to our agenda.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none. Is  
9 there any opposition to the motion.  
10  
11 (No opposing votes)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no  
14 opposition, the motion carries. Karen, would you keep  
15 us on track with all the additions on our agenda.  
16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Yes, I  
18 certainly will. Another amendment, my understanding,  
19 is under old business, WP16-21 Section 804 analysis, is  
20 going to be addressed today at the Bristol Bay meeting  
21 at the end of the discussion on FRMP. So we could,  
22 unless there's anything you want to discuss within the  
23 Council, we could remove that from the agenda and have  
24 that discussed at 1:30 this afternoon in conjunction  
25 with the Bristol Bay Council.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We have election  
28 of officers. Before we do that, can we have approval  
29 of the minutes.  
30  
31 MR. HOLMES: Move to approve.  
32  
33 MR. SCHWANTES: Second it.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any discussion.  
36 There was one change to the minutes. One was remove  
37 Sun'ag Tribe from the name of Pam Bumstead. And change  
38 the Saltwater Conservation District to Kodiak Soil and  
39 Water Conservation District. Those were the only two I  
40 had.  
41  
42 Anything else.  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All those in favor  
47 say aye.  
48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.  
50

1 (No opposing votes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
4 I'll turn it over to Karen for elections.  
5  
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 My name is Karen Deatherage. I'm the Council  
8 Coordinator from the Office of Subsistence Management.  
9 I'm now going to ask if there are any nominations from  
10 the floor for the Chair position of the Kodiak RAC.  
11  
12 MR. SCHWANTES: I would nominate Mitch  
13 Simeonoff.  
14  
15 MR. KOSO: Second.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are there any  
18 additional nominations from the floor.  
19  
20 MS. TRUMBLE: I'd like to make a motion  
21 that nominations cease.  
22  
23 MR. KOSO: Second.  
24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: It appears we have a  
26 potential nomination from Coral. Coral, would you like  
27 to make an additional nomination before we cease  
28 nominations?  
29  
30 MS. CHERNOFF: I would like to nominate  
31 Rebecca Skinner for Chair.  
32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: At this point I'd like  
34 to ask for another nomination to cease nominations  
35 given that we had an additional one.  
36  
37 MR. SCHWANTES: I move we close  
38 nominations.  
39  
40 MR. KOSO: Second.  
41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Given that we have two  
43 nominations on the floor, we will have to have a ballot  
44 vote. In front of you are the yellow 3M pads. If you  
45 would like to go ahead and indicate Mitch Simeonoff or  
46 Rebecca Skinner as your choice for Chair of the Kodiak  
47 Council. We'll go ahead and tabulate those and release  
48 the results.  
49  
50 Thank you.

1 MR. KOSO: Did we have a second on  
2 Coral's nomination?  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I was just looking  
5 at that. Is there a second for the nomination of  
6 Rebecca Skinner?  
7  
8 MS. BERNS: I'll second that.  
9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Melissa  
11 Berns has seconded that.  
12  
13 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.  
16  
17 MR. ROHRER: Since we have a lull, I'll  
18 call a point of order. I don't think you need seconds  
19 for nominations. I'm sure you don't.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, you don't.  
22  
23 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I was  
24 thinking, as we have a pause to count ballots, maybe we  
25 could kind of go down the line and do a report or two  
26 and that will speed things up.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We have all the  
29 time in the world.  
30  
31 (Laughter)  
32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: For Chair. I'm new at  
34 this as well, so my assumption is I'm going to go ahead  
35 and read the results from the election. For Chair,  
36 Mitch Simeonoff received six votes and Rebecca Skinner  
37 received four votes, so the Chair has been selected as  
38 Mitch Simeonoff..  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
41 Continue on with Secretary and Vice-Chair.  
42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd like to turn that  
44 over to you as Chair to go ahead and proceed with the  
45 two other officer positions.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then  
48 nominations will be open for Vice-Chair.  
49  
50 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman, I would

1 nominate Della Trumble for Vice-Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della Trumble has  
4 been nominated. Coral, do you have something.  
5  
6 MS. BERNS: Move to close.  
7  
8 MR. SHELIKOFF: I second the motion.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Nominations are  
11 closed. Della Trumble is Vice-Chair.  
12  
13 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Nominations are  
16 now open for Secretary/Treasurer.  
17  
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. I nominate  
19 Melissa Berns.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Melissa Berns has  
22 been nominated. Is there any other nominations.  
23  
24 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
25 motion nominations cease -- nominations close.  
26  
27 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That was quick and  
30 easy. Melissa Berns is Secretary/Treasurer. Okay.  
31 Thank you all for the vote of confidence.  
32  
33 We'll get right into reports of the  
34 Council.  
35  
36 We'll just start with Sam.  
37  
38 MR. ROHRER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 don't have a lot to report. I'll say I'm sure everyone  
40 on Kodiak already knows the winter is really mild in  
41 Kodiak. Our deer population is looking really good.  
42 It's bouncing back on the south end, I think. You can  
43 speak more to that, but from what I've heard the east  
44 side and the south end, which were hit really hard a  
45 few years ago, are starting to bounce back. The north  
46 side is doing real well, so that's good news.  
47  
48 The big hubbub everyone is talked  
49 about, of course, is the proposed rule. Everyone I've  
50 talked to, if the subject comes up, everyone is

1 opposed, so there's pretty strong feelings about that.  
2 Certainly the folks in Kodiak are looking to us to make  
3 a pretty strong statement in opposition to it. At  
4 least that's my take on it from what I've been hearing.

5  
6 That's about it for me.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Sam.

9  
10 Rebecca.

11  
12 MS. SKINNER: Just two short things.  
13 One fairly big announcement is a reminder that the  
14 North Pacific Fishery Management Council will be  
15 holding its June meeting in Kodiak, so this is a really  
16 good opportunity for people in the area to attend a  
17 North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting.

18  
19 The other thing, I just wanted to give  
20 a quick update on the Chiniak area. We had a fire  
21 there late August, early September, and it looks like  
22 the Borough is on track to go ahead and salvage the  
23 trees in that area. There's basically an estimated  
24 90 percent mortality rate for the trees. They are not  
25 likely to survive. To avoid a situation of having a  
26 lot of dead fall potential, insect infestation, we, at  
27 the Borough level, probably are looking at going in to  
28 salvage. So that will probably be about 700 acres out  
29 in the Chiniak area.

30  
31 That's it. Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,

34 Rebecca.

35  
36 Melissa.

37  
38 MS. BERNS: I just have a few things,  
39 so just kind of go off of what Sam was talking about it  
40 being a mild winter in Old Harbor with one storm after  
41 another. We have continued our water temperature  
42 monitoring program in Big Creek, which is a subsistence  
43 stream in Old Harbor. This is with the U.S. Fish and  
44 Wildlife Service and the tribe. It will be interesting  
45 to see the outcomes of the data collected over the  
46 five-year period because we have seen a lot of changes.  
47 It's quite interesting to see green grass growing in my  
48 yard throughout the whole winter. It's just not  
49 normal.

50

1                   We're also looking at tribal grants for  
2 monitoring erosion control as we've seen a lot of big  
3 changes in our beach fronts around the village in the  
4 recent years.

5  
6                   Our deer population has had a big  
7 increase from previous years. In fact, my nine-year-  
8 old son was able to harvest all the deer for my  
9 household and his grandparents, so that was nice. We  
10 are surrounded by Federal lands, so a lot of the  
11 community members were able to take advantage of the  
12 Federal season this year.

13  
14                   Goat hunting has also been on the rise  
15 for our community as well as for the sports guys, the  
16 commercial guys, so this is a great addition for us and  
17 our diets. Hopefully I'm able to get out of here  
18 tomorrow evening and make it home by Saturday morning  
19 to go out on a hunt with my family as well.

20  
21                   Let's see here. There has been a  
22 decline in harvesting clams in and around Old Harbor  
23 with concern for PSP due to the warmer temperatures and  
24 a lot of news of marine mammal die-off. We see it all  
25 the time with the whales and other animals. There was  
26 just a study put out and posted around our community  
27 with other marine mammals that have been tested and  
28 have died from PSP. So, with that, we do see a lot  
29 less people harvesting.

30  
31                   Our tribe participated in a shellfish  
32 study with the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program  
33 at UAF along with using other communities down the  
34 Aleutian Chain. We recently submitted another grant  
35 for a five-year study in and around Old Harbor. Our  
36 beaches where our collection sites were did report that  
37 they were of higher levels of toxins. We did continue  
38 to harvest there and continued to eat them. So far we  
39 haven't seen any negative impact, but it is a big  
40 concern for our community.

41  
42                   We did draw for our three subsistence  
43 bear permits in our community and we're hopeful that  
44 our hunters are successful this spring as we're getting  
45 low on bear meat. It goes a long way. I think we  
46 haven't had a harvest in two years for our community.  
47 We did draw those permits, but the hunters weren't  
48 successful. The meat that was harvested we are able to  
49 vacuum seal up and we keep it in a tribal freezer,  
50 which we're able to pass out to community members as

1 they like it and we also cook it up for all of our  
2 community potlucks, which is nice.

3  
4                   Recently I coordinated a carving  
5 workshop and in conjunction with that provided  
6 subsistence foods for all the participants. This  
7 included the bear, deer, goat, salmon, halibut, clams,  
8 goose, ducks, seal, sea lion. All promoting healthy  
9 eating of our traditional foods and responsible  
10 harvesting practices as well as using a lot of the  
11 materials collected for our arts and traditional  
12 activities.

13  
14                   I just want to say that I appreciate  
15 the all-Council meeting this week. It was very  
16 insightful to meet with all the other regional RACs and  
17 I sure wish that this type of event happened three  
18 years ago when I got on board because it was helpful  
19 for me to learn and understand a lot of the programs  
20 that are out there as well as the laws and regulations.

21  
22                   I think that is about all that I have.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,  
25 Melissa.

26  
27                   Della.

28  
29                   MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
30 think as Melissa and prior members have spoken, it  
31 definitely has been a mild winter. It's more mild than  
32 the prior year. I think one of the things we noticed  
33 this year is the gray whales November 15th were still  
34 in the bay. Usually by the end of August, early  
35 September they're gone. So we had a very continued  
36 show of them. We always enjoy watching them. They're  
37 always on both sides and on the points in King Cove, so  
38 it was really good, but interesting that they had  
39 stayed as long as they have.

40  
41                   This year I think both the Fed and the  
42 State caribou permits were issued. I am aware of  
43 people that have harvested caribou and also that the  
44 State will be opening the season up this next year and  
45 not by any tier drawing. The tribe in King Cove worked  
46 with Izembek Refuge. There was some confusion about  
47 process, as I may have explained to some of you in the  
48 past, because we were limited to the amount of caribou  
49 we could harvest. I think five for each community of  
50 the six communities in Aleutians East.

1 All the communities got together on a  
2 conference call with Izembek and everyone agreed that  
3 you can only have one per household to be draw. They  
4 set up some guidelines as to how, you know, you had to  
5 be a resident, of course. Actually, in conflict to  
6 what Fish and Wildlife does have, is you had to have  
7 been in the community at least nine months. Part of it  
8 had to do with having to wait for so long to be able  
9 to, number one, legally get a caribou and especially  
10 recognizing, I think, a lot of the elders and hopefully  
11 they would be able to get drawn.

12  
13 Bird die-off. A lot of Murres. We saw  
14 that this year and it continues. When I left, we were  
15 still seeing that. Culture Camp. The tribe did have a  
16 Culture Camp. I believe it was in September. The  
17 staff from Izembek did go over for that week.  
18 Everybody seemed to have enjoyed themselves and had a  
19 good time.

20  
21 Other than that, I think I was told by  
22 a couple people from Cold Bay, residents of Cold Bay,  
23 that it appears the Brant are --- more Brant are  
24 wintering there as in the past. Those numbers appear  
25 to be up. I believe that they continue to try to do  
26 some of these bird counts, including the geese, that  
27 involved the State, Federal and a local person so we  
28 can kind of look at those numbers collectively.

29  
30 Other than that I don't think I have  
31 anything else.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

36  
37 Rick.

38  
39 MR. KOSO: Good afternoon -- or good  
40 morning, I guess. I'm from Adak and we have a little  
41 different situation in the weather there. It's not so  
42 nice as the rest of the world. We had some storms that  
43 I think they hadn't seen in 200 years out there.  
44 There's been a lot of damage. We've had winds in  
45 excess of 137 miles an hour for two hours straight and  
46 it was over 100 for nine hours straight. It did  
47 tremendous damage out there. The fish plant had over  
48 \$5 million worth of damage alone. So we've been trying  
49 to clean up the mess and trying to get back online  
50 there,, so it kind of put a damper in our processing in

1 Adak, but they're still doing live crab out there  
2 today. It's still working, but it set us back on the  
3 cod.

4

5 As far as the caribou go on Adak, you  
6 know, it's been kind of strange because I've always  
7 seen caribou when we had snow because Adak had a lot of  
8 snow and a lot of wind this year and the temperature  
9 has been a lot colder than normal, but caribou normally  
10 come to the north end of the island. This year I  
11 hadn't seen that. But we've been getting hunters,  
12 anywhere from five to 20 to 30 per airplane, so we've  
13 been getting a lot of people coming to Adak twice a  
14 week. So I think that has a little bit to do with it.  
15 I'd certainly like to see Fish and Wildlife do a survey  
16 on them to see where we stand.

17

18 I think they're going to do a clean-up  
19 in Adak and the next island over, so they're supposed  
20 to have a helicopter, I think, this next year stationed  
21 in Adak. So if the Fish and Wildlife could maybe get a  
22 hold of them and do some kind of coordination to do a  
23 survey on the island.

24

25 It really peeved me to see I guess it  
26 was May of last year when they killed the 10 caribou  
27 off of Kagalaska. I think they spent in excess of  
28 300,000 to kill them 10 caribou. I think it was a  
29 waste of money. I don't think it was necessary and I  
30 think it was just a bad decision on the Fish and  
31 Wildlife's part in my mind. I don't know what they did  
32 with the meat. I agreed to get something together and  
33 go do it myself for probably a couple thousand, but,  
34 you know, they spent in excess of 300,000 on that  
35 little gig. It kind of really teed me because we can't  
36 even find enough money to go travel to a village to  
37 have a meeting.

38

39 Anyway, that's about the size of it  
40 there. All of our fisheries there since Adak is such a  
41 small population and we don't get too many people  
42 outside of the few locals that actually go out and do  
43 the halibut subsistence and the salmon and whatnot.

44

45 I'll leave it there. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.

48

49 Tom.

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'm  
2 not going to touch on the weather other than to say  
3 that I recently spoke with Rick Mackintosh, who's one  
4 of the bird people there, and from my observations and  
5 from talking to him we had a tremendous amount of birds  
6 overwintering in Kodiak this year. Lake Rose Tead had  
7 up to several thousand ducks, also had a group of 30 to  
8 50 swans overwinter there this year.

9  
10 One thing that was mentioned in one of  
11 our meeting last year, Johnny Reft was concerned about  
12 the ducks and the geese intermingling. I tried to pay  
13 attention to that this year and what I found is that  
14 they were intermingling quite a bit. But we found that  
15 the Emperor Geese didn't spend nearly as much time in  
16 Womens Bay this year as they did in the past, but they  
17 actually moved up along the beach between Womens Bay  
18 and Kodiak, with a lot of them being out in front of  
19 the Buskin and Gibson Cove.

20  
21 A couple items of concern that I heard  
22 from the resident was we had a good run of salmon on  
23 the Buskin, so those that fished the Buskin for  
24 subsistence did well. Those who have come to rely on  
25 Pasagshak didn't do anything this year because that was  
26 shut down again.

27  
28 That's all I have. Thank you, Mr.  
29 Chair.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.

32  
33 Coral.

34  
35 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. This year I  
36 think we all know it was very, very warm in Kodiak for  
37 the last couple years, so it seems to me that in all my  
38 hunting and fishing that I've done in the last year the  
39 land populations of animals seem to be really, really  
40 strong.

41  
42 I'm extremely concerned about what's  
43 happening in our oceans. We've had a lot of Murres.  
44 It seems like I think I heard thousands more Murres  
45 showed up in the springtime on Afognak than normal, but  
46 the die-off has been incredibly disturbing.  
47 Personally, I've probably seen 80 dead Murres in  
48 fishing, having people see if I want birds for bird  
49 processing and bird feathers, the stuff that got caught  
50 in their fishing nets. I heard a story from someone

1 that in a setnet 800 dead Murres they picked out of  
2 their net, but they buried them because they didn't --  
3 you know, setnetters, they don't want to be shut down.  
4 But after hearing all about the Murres, the Murres were  
5 probably dead or dying anyways.

6  
7 This is the first year I didn't go clam  
8 digging. I've never been scared of PSP, but this year  
9 I'm a little bit afraid. I think there's been at least  
10 15 dead whales that were sighted just around Kodiak and  
11 I think there was others in other places. So I don't  
12 know what kind of studies can be done about that. I  
13 would hope that some bird biologist could do more  
14 studies. I know that we've been hearing that the  
15 Murres are dying of starvation, but that's the end  
16 product. You know, it's more than that. They're dying  
17 of something. They're not being able to eat, they're  
18 not being able to process the food, they're not being  
19 able to find the food. It's something else.

20  
21 I also did not eat a single king crab  
22 this year. I think we had crab pots out in the fall  
23 for a month and then in the winter, in December or  
24 November, there was a king crab pot out we had for two  
25 weeks. Usually the pot is half full and we throw out  
26 the little ones and take our king crab and eat it, but  
27 I had zero king crab this year.

28  
29 Last time I reported on migratory  
30 birds. They're changing the regulations so that  
31 Natives could do Native handicraft with nonedible bird  
32 parts, so that's exciting. The population was limited  
33 to I think about 20 or 26 birds last time. Now it's  
34 the full list of migratory birds; ducks, cormorants,  
35 puffins. It's not? I thought there was like 90-  
36 something birds on there, 91 birds.

37  
38 DR. ROSENBERG: 27 out of 92.

39  
40 MS. CHERNOFF: Last meeting we were  
41 told it was up to -- is it back down to the 27 list?

42  
43 DR. ROSENBERG: If you want me to talk  
44 about it, I will, but we can do it later.

45  
46 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, because last  
47 meeting we were told that it was up to almost the full  
48 list, the 90-something. But that's the end of my  
49 report. I -- well, I was excited about that. Now I  
50 may not be.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: So that's all I have.

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Coral.

7 Antone has submitted a written report. Do you have

8 anything more to add to that?

9

10 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah, the bird die-off

11 this summer or this spring, Murres too. We seen a lot

12 of dead Murres on the beach. In the past, I have done

13 PSP. That was in the past, but mostly the numbers got

14 from ADF&G website. I'm sure that was in 2008, the

15 subsistence surveys. I usually contribute to the 36

16 numbers on the 2008 numbers. This March actually

17 they're going to -- well, they plan on doing another

18 survey to update the numbers and those numbers will be

19 inputted to the ADF&G website, which has a lot of

20 information on subsistence.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Antone.

25

26 Pat.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I'll try and

29 touch on things other people haven't mentioned. Tonya

30 Lee at the refuge in response to our RACs' concern and

31 the folks in Larson Bay on the potential reduction of

32 availability of soup ducks over there because of trophy

33 hunters from Europe. She started an outreach program

34 with the school to try and start documenting that. The

35 Fish and Wildlife Service did not survey that area in

36 the last cycle, so that's a point of concern for folks

37 in Larsen Bay.

38

39 The proposed rule was an item of big

40 concern in town. We'll touch on later. The king crab

41 decline in Womens Bay. Johnny Reft and most of the

42 Native folks feel that's a function of sea otter

43 predation. Some of the hunters went in and took a few,

44 but they went back a couple days later and the otters

45 heard them coming and knew the boats and went and hid

46 with the cutters.

47

48 I've been chatting with the Southeast

49 RAC on the sea otter thing, so I'll try and establish a

50 stronger link with them and our Council on trying to

1 develop some solutions on that. And talking to some  
2 old retired geezers at Fish and Game that worked at  
3 Amchitka, I think there might be something that tribes  
4 and folks at Southeast can perhaps utilize to try to  
5 find some balance with those critters.

6  
7                   The PSP problem, and I'm not repeating  
8 it, but there's some real concern of the potential of  
9 domoic acid poisoning and that's a different type of  
10 shellfish poisoning, particularly nasty for mammals.  
11 It may have happened to the whales, nobody knows, but  
12 basically in consuming that type, forage fish or clams  
13 that have ingested it, basically it causes the  
14 hypothalamus, the memory part of the brain in mammals,  
15 to basically rot. They've had some folks in British  
16 Columbia eat clams and like one meal of clams and go  
17 straight to dementia. So it's frightening, very  
18 frightening.

19  
20                   Some other items. I have a question  
21 for Rick on the Kagalaska caribou. Did they salvage  
22 the meat and bring it in to the people to use that  
23 couldn't hunt? I know the first time they did they  
24 just shot the critter and left it lay and took a couple  
25 tenderloins for themselves, was the gossip I heard, but  
26 did they salvage the meat?

27  
28                   MR. KOSO: You know, they did that in  
29 May and I talked to them about it and they said they  
30 were going to do everything in their power to get it to  
31 the community for consumption, but I was commercial  
32 fishing out of King Cove there in that time, so I  
33 wasn't able to be there.

34  
35                   MR. HOLMES: And then I also attended  
36 the Northwestern Arctic Council and listened to their  
37 discussions on predator/prey and on the regulation  
38 proposals for the refuges and passed on a few things I  
39 found. I did share some of those with you folks.

40  
41                   I did a little tidepooling with the  
42 kids. My subsistence harvest, other than intertidal  
43 stuff, has dropped down quite a bit. I gave away half  
44 of the salmon that I caught and basically the marine  
45 mammals there got their share and Patty and I ate half  
46 of a red that I caught from my whole catch and then my  
47 kicker died, so I'm more on the receiving end.

48  
49                   I'd like to report that, unfortunately,  
50 the Native gentleman that used to give me seal meat has

1 disappeared, but my dear friend Melissa Berns has  
2 brought in some liver and meat for me and has it in the  
3 freezer in Kodiak, so I'm looking forward to that with  
4 great joy, even exceeding the joy that I had with this  
5 joint meeting that we had with the other councils. I  
6 was ready to quit, but I'm really re-energized by  
7 seeing so many people in our state that are really  
8 actively trying to do the right thing for folks and  
9 subsistence.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

14

15 Della.

16

17 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If  
18 I can add one more to my report. Doug Damberg, the  
19 Refuge Manager for Izembek, is he gone?

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Gone.

22

23 MS. TRUMBLE: He's gone. We have a big  
24 concern with the continued turnover with the Refuge  
25 Managers and staff in Cold Bay. There's some rumors  
26 that maybe Stacey is leaving to. Both Stacey and Doug  
27 have done wonderful jobs, I think, in reaching out to  
28 the community and trying to work with the people in the  
29 region. I think, as a RAC, I'd like a message be sent  
30 to the Board and to Fish and Wildlife that this  
31 turnover has a big effect on trying to create positive  
32 relationships within the communities in the region.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

35

36 Pat.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to second that.  
39 Part of this I'd like to compliment Carl on finding a  
40 way to finagle for us to get to King Cove last year.  
41 That was the first time I've been to King Cove in 30  
42 years. I was really impressed. The thing that really  
43 impressed me about Dan was that he's the first manager  
44 I have met in 50 years down there that has gone out  
45 when he first got to Cold Bay and went to villages and  
46 talked to people. And then he talked to us on the RAC  
47 and he says, here's who I've talked to, who should I  
48 see that I've missed.

49

50 So here is a person that came in with

1 some real respect for culture. He didn't go out in his  
2 uniform saying, hi, I'm Dan, here's what you're going  
3 to do. He didn't come in and close all the roads and  
4 easements like his predecessor did, and he really tried  
5 to do some outreach and talk to folks. I think his  
6 being there for that year gave me so much more  
7 confidence in the refuge process, but some of the  
8 others, I think, had some definite professional  
9 problems.

10

11 I really think that anybody in the  
12 Refuge System that's an area biologist in their first  
13 month on the job, regardless of the weather, should go  
14 out to every single village that's in their area and go  
15 to the folks and say, hi, I'm Dan, what do I need to  
16 know. I think that would help so much in improving  
17 communications with folks rather than the standard  
18 method of every year there's a new guy or new gal and  
19 they trot out and just stir things up before they try  
20 to solve things for subsistence.

21

22 I'd like to really hope -- if maybe  
23 Karen could put that in bold in our report, I think  
24 that would be really good because if you look at the  
25 State area biologists are on the job in the same place  
26 for 25, 30 years. The only time they really change is  
27 for an assistant to become an area person. I'd really  
28 like to see that type of model develop with the Fish  
29 and Wildlife Service where we don't see people popping  
30 in and out every two or three years or every year to an  
31 area.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, Pat.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: .....because they don't --  
36 I'm sorry. I'll cut off and I'll ask Antone to grab me  
37 by the beard when I talk too much. Excuse me, sir.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, thank you for  
40 all that. As far as Akiak goes, in Akiak we had a very  
41 good return of deer. I personally think that deer were  
42 there. It's just been such a mild winter they've been  
43 back inland and up high. The hunters that come out to  
44 Deadman Bay they said they see a lot of deer, but  
45 they're way back there. For people that like to hike,  
46 that's probably a good thing, but for people like me  
47 it's kind of hard.

48

49 The goats are in a good population. We  
50 still have two goats per person. The place the goats

1 come to is an area that's hit very hard with hunters.  
2 By the time the subsistence hunters get to go in there  
3 they're so spooky. You can cruise into a bay and they  
4 hear your motor and they're gone. You've got to time  
5 it just right and you've got to cruise in slow and you  
6 kind of sneak up on them.

7

8                   We also have a worry about the PSP.  
9 Not very many people eat the clams. We have an  
10 increasing population of sea otters and it's very  
11 disturbing because they're coming into our clam beds.  
12 Whenever we see one in our clam beds -- we have one  
13 person that's harvesting sea otter out there and he's  
14 hard pressed to keep up on sea otter population. We  
15 tell him, you know, there's sea otter over here. Well,  
16 I've got -- you know, I'm cleaning.

17

18                   We have a healthy population of sea  
19 lions. It used to be that we had to go over to Two  
20 Headed and now we can drive up into Deadman Bay and  
21 find some. We also had a big die-off of Murre. This  
22 summer was terrible. I setnet and you'd go through the  
23 setnet and you'd have hundreds of dead Murre up  
24 against the net. It was terrible. This winter we also  
25 saw whales in the bay. Sometimes we never see whales  
26 out there in the wintertime because they've gone by,  
27 but I guess it's global warming.

28

29                   We have a healthy population of Emperor  
30 Geese on the south end of Kodiak Island because I get  
31 to go out on the skiff every now and then. You know,  
32 we have sandbars and sand beaches and when we get there  
33 -- there was a time last winter when we saw Emperor  
34 Geese with their young on a sand beach and there was a  
35 big flock. That wasn't the only one. There was more  
36 of them too. We'd see them in Moser Bay, Portage Bay  
37 and right in the village. So we have a healthy  
38 population of geese there.

39

40                   We're also going to have a Culture Camp  
41 in August. If I can, I'd say that's a camp that's put  
42 on by my wife and I and we started that back in '94.  
43 It's a rustic camp, a tent camp and it's all  
44 subsistence. The kids just love it. Sven Haakanson  
45 from the Alutiiq Museum, now working in Washington,  
46 comes out every year.

47

48                   Last year we made an angyaq out at  
49 camp. Since then he's made another one. It's a  
50 traditional boat that was the biggest boat, I guess,

1 that Sugpiaq people made and it carried up to 40  
2 people. We made a smaller model. We're finishing it  
3 up. We're trying to harvest sea lions so that we can  
4 use the skin for the cover. It's kind of difficult  
5 because we don't want to take a sea lion -- you know, a  
6 sea lion is a big animal. You don't want to waste the  
7 meat. Over time it will happen.

8

9 I don't know if it's because of the  
10 warmer weather or what, but we have a shortage of Surf  
11 Scoters. There used to be thousands of them in the  
12 Olga Bay Narrows area. We go there now and it's just a  
13 small flock of them.

14

15 That's it. Pat.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: A question, Mitch. In  
18 town, when I chatted with residents from down in your  
19 area over the last several years, I've heard the  
20 concern expressed about non-locals, guides, outfitters,  
21 tenders, taking king crab illegally. I was wondering,  
22 with that combined with the increase in sea otters,  
23 what's your feeling on king crab? Because that's the  
24 last viable population on the island.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: King crab is kind  
27 of a problematic thing because it happens every summer.  
28 Every summer we go out and the people from the  
29 canneries, who come from Oregon and California,  
30 Washington state, they say they're subsisting. No,  
31 you're not. You've got to pull your pot. We get that  
32 Camai that comes out there, the trooper boat, and they  
33 check crab pots. If it doesn't have a name and number  
34 of a resident that's there, they'll take it. Most of  
35 the people that set a crab pot from the cannery use  
36 unmarked buoys. So I guess something is being done,  
37 but it's still not enough.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: One brief footnote. I had  
40 a long talk with Shane Duran, the sergeant for the game  
41 wardens, and I think that everybody on our Council  
42 should give him a call and urge them to do some serious  
43 enforcement and maybe even do some -- I don't know,  
44 where you have somebody go down and pose to be a  
45 non-resident or something and -- I suggested he chat  
46 with the cannery manager and with his permission just  
47 take a walk through the cannery freezer there because I  
48 know when I was working down there in the '80s  
49 everybody put their name on there and you'd know Joe  
50 Blow was not from Kodiak, but there would be boxes of

1 crabs in the freezer.

2

3 I think that would make the best -- oh,  
4 sting. That would make the best sting and I think we  
5 should all encourage the game wardens to really do  
6 something because I think if they went down and tapped  
7 a whole bunch of people and some tender captains had to  
8 go to town in the middle of the season to go to court,  
9 I think that might ring a few bells.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

14

15 Tom.

16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: I just want to comment  
18 on enforcement. I would just tell you that you're  
19 going to see less enforcement in the future than you  
20 have in the past. The reason that is is because the  
21 number of Fish and Wildlife officers in the state has  
22 dwindled from 120 15 years ago to 85 now. When I was  
23 running the Kodiak Detachment, we had an area that  
24 covered, and they still do, from Cape Douglas all the  
25 way out the Chain and up to Norton Sound. If we  
26 divided it up, each one of the guys that worked for me  
27 had 58,000 square miles to cover. So that just gives  
28 you an idea of what kind of enforcement you're going to  
29 have and it's way worse now. I was just talking to the  
30 lieutenant there in Kodiak a couple days ago and he's  
31 tearing his hair out trying to get enough people to do  
32 the job. So it's a problem, it really is.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for that,  
35 Tom. That concludes the board's reports. We have  
36 public comments. The first one I have is Kelly  
37 Krueger.

38

39 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. Thank you.  
40 This is just some public comments and updates on Sun'aq  
41 Tribe of Kodiak, the things that we've been up to.

42

43 We're still really concerned, as Pat  
44 said, about the sea otters and the crab in Womens Bay,  
45 especially the derelict crab pots. We were looking at  
46 getting funding for that and that's still something  
47 we're looking into. It will just be a very extensive  
48 project.

49

50 Another thing that we have been really

1 impacted and concerned about the past year is the Navy  
2 operations in the Gulf of Alaska and all the activities  
3 that have been unaccounted for. They're not willing to  
4 release a lot of information and we're very concerned  
5 about that. They were supposed to release an offshore  
6 EIS earlier this winter and we still haven't seen  
7 anything from that.

8

9 In other concerns, the Pacific  
10 Spaceport Complex, which is the Kodiak Launch Complex  
11 renamed. The footprint on their cape, especially the  
12 area that was impacted by the rocket explosion, there's  
13 been a real lack of public notice and involvement and  
14 tribal involvement with the Pacific Spaceport Complex.  
15 Last year they posted that there would be no more need  
16 to clean up and explosion and we found out last week  
17 that more cleanup was necessary. They only gave the  
18 public a few days' notice to say that they were going  
19 to be closing the area around Pasagshak. We don't  
20 think the area should be closed to residents and for  
21 subsistence gathering.

22

23 Some of the grants that we've been  
24 applying for include youth involvement in natural  
25 resources and we are trying to work with other  
26 agencies, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association,  
27 Department of Fish and Game, ADF&G, Kodiak Soil and  
28 Water Conservation District and others. We're also  
29 looking into invasive species. We gave an update at  
30 the last RAC meeting that we have applied for grants on  
31 signal crayfish in the Buskin Watershed. We applied  
32 for that one in October and we're still waiting to hear  
33 back. We also applied for another one to do some work  
34 on the same thing, signal crayfish electrofishing, and  
35 trying to remove them from the Buskin Watershed before  
36 they become an issue.

37

38 We're thinking with shrinking budgets  
39 the tribes could work together cooperatively on more  
40 projects in order to see more things get done.

41

42 The last thing, the AMBCC, we are going  
43 to be holding a meeting on March 21st in Kodiak at  
44 Sun'ag Tribe. The agenda was outside. That meeting is  
45 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. So if anyone is interested,  
46 please come.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Kelly.

1                   Next we have Tom Robertson.

2

3                   MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Ladies and gentlemen of the RAC board. A little bit of  
5 history. I'm the president of the Qawalangin Tribe of  
6 Unalaska. We are in the fight of our life for  
7 subsistence on all species in our bay. Currently we're  
8 at the Board of Fish with yet another proposal,  
9 Proposal 194, to get the trawlers out of Unalaska Bay.

10

11                   You know, I really had to take a good  
12 look at why we're where we're at in the situation in  
13 Unalaska. If we look at the consistency and the  
14 structure of our AC to our local advisory board and we  
15 know and I'm sure you know of local politics. We feel  
16 the Board is stacked and has been, so it begins there.  
17 The testimony that we feel of the indigenous people  
18 that I represent, our subsistence needs aren't being  
19 met. Our traditional knowledge is not being  
20 recognized. It goes beyond that. It goes to our  
21 municipality. We look at the structure of our city  
22 council. Our community is run by industry.

23

24                   You know, I think there's a lot of  
25 communities that would love to have our problem. We're  
26 the number one volume fish producers in the world, but  
27 when it comes to our traditional way of life, it is  
28 scary. We can't catch halibut in the bay, we have  
29 pollution from industry outfall, we have impaired  
30 bodies of water, we have sediment problems from the  
31 road runoff.

32

33                   So when we factor everything in to the  
34 demise of our coho streams -- and that's particularly  
35 what we're really concerned about is the coho run, the  
36 fall fishery. Of the seven rivers that used to produce  
37 coho, three still do, but the numbers are very low.  
38 The rivers that were accessible to the indigenous  
39 people, to the elders and single mothers, they can no  
40 longer drive their vehicle to harvest coho.

41

42                   We have an influx of cannery workers.  
43 It only takes 30 days for anybody coming to our island  
44 to become a resident. We end up with a combat fishing  
45 scenario where 90 cannery workers will line up on a  
46 beach and get their bag limit of two fish a day. We do  
47 not have enforcement. We have our local police asking  
48 for either a fishing license or a subsistence license.  
49 If they can't produce one, they're asked to leave. The  
50 local police department doesn't have the jurisdictional

1 authority to enforce any kind of enforcement. You  
2 know, it's almost as if we don't exist. This is our  
3 third attempt: Proposal 111, Proposal 162 and now we're  
4 on Proposal 194.

5  
6 I guess my suggestion and I want to  
7 inquire that maybe your board make a motion to appoint  
8 a member to the North Pacific Management Council on  
9 subsistence. Where is this effort going? The  
10 indigenous people that you represent, the Alaskans, we  
11 would like to see that. We are plagued with no data.  
12 Do you know what our data is, what the stacked board  
13 presents and bycatch records. So it's rather  
14 frustrating to see one of the richest bays I have ever  
15 seen -- I grew up in Dutch. I grew up there. I was an  
16 Area M fisherman. Those 10 rivers in that bay produced  
17 good. It would not even sustain one salmon seiner. I  
18 think you, Mr. Koso, can probably testify how good it  
19 used to be back in the day. Antone, you could probably  
20 remember when you were growing up in Unalaska how rich  
21 it was. Right now I'm fighting for a dead bay. I'm  
22 fighting for the memories of how it used to be.

23  
24 I've got to cut it short. I've got a  
25 meeting with the EPA. You know, these five discharge  
26 lines that were issued by the EPA against their own  
27 knowledge, but the Federal government exercised  
28 overreach and gave it to ADEC. They've been polluting  
29 in our bay since 1997.

30  
31 Well, I really hope that the  
32 communities that you represent don't have to go through  
33 what we have to go through or try to pick up the pieces  
34 of what we're trying to gain back. This has been very  
35 frustrating. We know there's process, due process.  
36 Meanwhile the damage keeps going. This three-billion-  
37 pound extraction of pollock from the Bering Sea in a  
38 million-square-mile area. All we're fighting for is  
39 one square mile of a nursery of all species that they  
40 leave alone. They harvest one quarter of one percent  
41 of the total allocated catch of walleye pollock in  
42 Unalaska Bay. Just a fraction.

43  
44 You know, they won through  
45 rationalization, but it doesn't give them a right to  
46 drive their trawlers into our refrigerator. That's what  
47 they're doing. So I hope you hear me and I hope you  
48 make a motion to at least go through due process and  
49 appoint somebody to the North Pacific Management  
50 Council on subsistence representation.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for  
4 that.

5

6 MR. KOSO: Mitch, question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Just a second.  
9 The Kodiak/Aleutians is looking at the possibility of  
10 having a meeting in Dutch Harbor during the Life Forum  
11 in August. That would be a good opportunity for us to  
12 meet with villages out in that area. Karen Deatherage  
13 is working on that. Hopefully we can make it work.

14

15 MR. ROBERTSON: My daughter is  
16 coordinating that. She's on our environmental team.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're hoping we  
19 can get out there.

20

21 MR. ROBERTSON: That would be great.  
22 I'm not involved in the nuts and bolts of the  
23 coordination, but certainly between the 16th of August  
24 and the 20th we're hosting the Aleutian Life Forum.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We saw an  
27 opportunity to get out there and the Life Forum and  
28 meeting in villages out in the Chain. Make it easier  
29 and closer for them to travel instead of coming to  
30 Anchorage or Kodiak.

31

32 MR. ROBERTSON: That would be good.  
33 That would be good and we welcome. There's many other  
34 topics that I could go on, but I think you get the crux  
35 of what I'm getting at. Our subsistence way of life.  
36 You know, we have to risk our lives going down to  
37 Makushin 50 miles away. We have to risk our lives to  
38 go out into the Akutan Pass for halibut in skiffs. So  
39 I think you know what I'm talking about, Mr. Koso and  
40 Antone, what we have to do just to subsist.

41

42 Those that can't afford it, you know,  
43 the effort of proxy fishing and hunting has escalated  
44 to where it really doesn't make it that much fun when  
45 you really have to supply the whole village. The  
46 demographic of the median income of under \$14,000. We  
47 have 200 tribal members on the island, that's it, of  
48 1,200. So we are the minority. We are the people on  
49 the outside looking in and it's pretty sad to what it's  
50 become. Thanks.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks. Rick.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Thanks for your  
4 presentation. I did bring that up yesterday, as a  
5 matter of fact, to one of the NPFMC ladies of why we  
6 don't have a subsistence representative on the North  
7 Pacific Council. I know it's been pushed the last year  
8 to try to create a position on that board, but they  
9 kind of threw that out. They told me yesterday that  
10 the only way we can get someone on there is we'd have  
11 to appoint them through a government representation and  
12 get picked through a government process like they  
13 normally do on a regular basis.

14

15 I asked them if we can't get a  
16 subsistence position on the board. You go through the  
17 governor to pick a subsistence person, but that would  
18 be separate from the 11-member board they have now. We  
19 would add another subsistence person to that board.  
20 But they said they can't do it. We would have to go  
21 through almost an Act of Congress to change that.

22

23 So it could be changed, but it's going  
24 to take a long process. I didn't get much of an answer  
25 out of that deal there, but I know they don't want it.  
26 I asked for a voting representative, not an advisory  
27 capacity. An advisory capacity you really don't get  
28 very far, but as a voting capacity you can change  
29 things.

30

31 So we'll work on it. I'll keep doing  
32 what I could on this side and try to see what we can do  
33 to try to get that going. I know you guys were able to  
34 get half of the bay a few years back. Vince Tutiakoff  
35 was working on that and you were able to get half of  
36 that bay closed down to commercial fishing. I don't  
37 know what the process was on that, but I know Vince  
38 Tutiakoff is very familiar with it and that he was  
39 working on it at the time and I know he came through  
40 the Subsistence Board back, I don't know, seven, eight  
41 years ago.

42

43 Now, if we could get the same process  
44 going of how he did that -- you know, I know you're  
45 going to have to go through North Pacific Council  
46 eventually to have it done, but there's certainly a  
47 process that takes place and we definitely need  
48 representation from Dutch to attend those meetings to  
49 get that done. And it's not a quick deal. We worked  
50 on a deal for seven years for Adak and this last year

1 we finally got it. It's persistence. Thanks.

2

3 MR. ROBERTSON: I was involved with  
4 those negotiations and we couldn't get past the month  
5 of September, but what's concerning here is the fall  
6 fishery of the coho. When they migrate, of course,  
7 they're intercepted by the trawlers.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

10

11 MR. SCHWANTES: I too appreciate your  
12 comments. One thing I would encourage is that you  
13 encourage members of your community to apply for a seat  
14 on this Council.

15

16 MR. ROBERTSON: Yes.

17

18 MR. SCHWANTES: Get a member from your  
19 area on this Council. A question. I know you lost the  
20 patrol boats. They've moved out of there. But did you  
21 lose all of your enforcement people?

22

23 MR. ROBERTSON: Yes. The summer  
24 months, and it's always happened. Of course, we all  
25 know the Stimson was moored in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor  
26 and they moved that to Kodiak. Even when it was parked  
27 there during the summer everybody would leave to go up  
28 to enforce Bristol Bay. So we just don't have  
29 enforcement, you know.

30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. One other  
32 comment. You mentioned that the canneries are bringing  
33 all these people in, cannery workers and according to  
34 city council or whatever they become residents within  
35 30 days?

36

37 MR. ROBERTSON: Yes.

38

39 MR. SCHWANTES: Are these people from  
40 out of state that are coming in?

41

42 MR. ROBERTSON: Yes. They're foreign  
43 nationals.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: So by state law they  
46 are not residents until they have been in the state for  
47 one year.

48

49 MR. ROBERTSON: But I think for the  
50 voting process they're allowed 30 days. So they're

1 bussed in to wherever seats and whoever wants to fill  
2 the seats or stack a council.

3

4 MR. SCHWANTES: But what I'm saying is  
5 for fishing and hunting privileges they have to be in  
6 the state for one year before they're allowed to have a  
7 resident license.

8

9 MR. ROBERTSON: Well, I'm sure they get  
10 the non-resident, but these are fishers -- we don't  
11 have enforcement to even question these people if  
12 they've ever gone to attempt to buy a fishing license.  
13 We watched the police inquire if they had one and they  
14 didn't, so they were asked to leave the beach in  
15 droves.

16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: Another recommendation  
18 on that regard. If you've actually lost your  
19 enforcement people, then I would recommend that your  
20 representative go to the Governor's Office and they can  
21 deputize your local law enforcement officer and give  
22 them state authority to issue citations. That can be  
23 done.

24

25 MR. ROBERTSON: Well, we brought up  
26 Article VIII, paragraph 3 of the State's Constitution  
27 and hopefully they hear us.

28

29 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We've got Della,  
32 Tom and Rebecca. Go ahead, Della.

33

34 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you. Tom, I'm  
35 Della Trumble from King Cove. Have you worked with  
36 APIA and Aleut Corp at all on trying to work with the  
37 tribe on collaborating the efforts that your tribe is  
38 trying to do?

39

40 MR. ROBERTSON: It isn't the tribe's  
41 proposal before the Board of Fish. It's always come  
42 through the Unalaska Native Fisherman's Association,  
43 which I also serve on that board as well. The  
44 consistency of that board is right about 50/50  
45 Native/non-Native, but we all have a consensus that the  
46 practices have to stop in the bay. You know, I just  
47 met a marine biologist that works for the Aleut  
48 Enterprise and I just met a marine biologist that works  
49 for the St. Paul Tribe.

50

1                   So this fight is just in another  
2 inception of a direction on what to do next. We failed  
3 the last -- we look at it as a failure. We'd like them  
4 out of the bay. But we shouldn't have to negotiate the  
5 right to subsist and that seems to be what's happening  
6 here. We have to negotiate to subsist and to a biomass  
7 of all species that's been decimated. So we are  
8 reaching out and I think we're starting to build those  
9 relationships now.

10  
11                   MS. TRUMBLE: My recommendation is to  
12 take all those steps. Have your tribe submit a strong  
13 resolution asking regional support from the Aleut  
14 Corporation. APIA should be helping you develop a  
15 draft of whatever you need. That's their  
16 responsibility and should be doing it.

17  
18                   The other thing I think is -- and this  
19 gives us more reason now to have this meeting in  
20 Unalaska. That's our fight, but we're going to win it.

21  
22                   MR. ROBERTSON: Good. We welcome you.

23  
24                   MS. TRUMBLE: But to gather as much  
25 information and documentation I think that you can.  
26 I'd recommend we do add this to the agenda. But if  
27 there's a staff member within the Fish and Wildlife  
28 that can look at the documentation and make  
29 recommendation to this board, our Council, I think that  
30 can help move it along.

31  
32                   There's been a number of occasions --  
33 migratory birds are a good example and we fought it.  
34 We fought for seven, eight years to just try to get a  
35 subsistence hunt. Keep fighting it until you can get  
36 the right pieces and the groups and the agencies  
37 together hopefully to come to some resolution that  
38 people can live with and that would be my  
39 recommendation. I'm not sure if Karen can get a card  
40 to you. So if you can email her whatever you have that  
41 she can get to us and then we can maybe continue to  
42 work with you on it, but that would be my  
43 recommendation.

44  
45                   MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you, Della.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

48  
49                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Tom. I was  
50 the last Aleutian salmon guy and when they cut my

1 budget, I retired. I'm afraid a lot of my friends,  
2 Amel and Mr. Golodoff and all the folks my age seemed  
3 to have all passed the bar. But I would strongly  
4 encourage, as Della mentioned, to get everybody in town  
5 to lobby OSM for us to go there.

6  
7 Two, the subsistence rep on the  
8 Fisheries Management Council, while they don't have  
9 power, the advisory panel is a place to start. Item  
10 two on that, Rebecca Skinner from our RAC and from the  
11 Kodiak Island Borough has got her hat tossed in the  
12 ring to the governor.....

13  
14 MS. SKINNER: (Shakes head negatively)

15  
16 MR. HOLMES: No? Oh, okay. I was  
17 hoping you would.

18  
19 MS. SKINNER: There are two names that  
20 have been forwarded to the Secretary.

21  
22 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Anyway, if that  
23 works out, she is a very good advocate. On the  
24 enforcement problems, when I was out there doing shrimp  
25 in early '70s, mid '70s, I think there may have been a  
26 situation before computers where they did deputize some  
27 of the city folks, and it might have been one of the  
28 Dirks brothers or a couple of them that were actually  
29 going down and busting people for snagging in Unalaska  
30 River. I know they were just flat running them right  
31 to the magistrate. So that's a good place to check.  
32 Anyway, I'll be quiet and I'll talk to you later.

33  
34 MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you, Pat.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

37  
38 Rebecca.

39  
40 MS. SKINNER: So I have two comments.  
41 One, with your Fish and Game Advisory Committee, the  
42 way those elections for seats work, everyone in the  
43 room gets to vote and not just the council. So if you  
44 show up with 20 tribal members -- and your particular  
45 council has undesignated seats, so Kodiak the seats are  
46 designated, you know, trawl seat, crab seat, west side  
47 setnet seat, so there's a little bit more limitation,  
48 but for your council out there they're undesignated.

49  
50 So if you show up with 20 tribal

1 members to the meeting, I'm assuming you're going to  
2 get voted on. Because our meetings don't have a lot of  
3 public that show up, I'm assuming yours is also the  
4 same case. So I think that's a really easy place to  
5 start to get onto your local Fish and Game Advisory  
6 Committee. It's probably much quicker than getting  
7 onto this board, which literally takes like three years  
8 to go through that process.

9

10 My second comment has to do with  
11 getting a subsistence seat on the North Pacific  
12 Council. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is what would need  
13 to be amended to get a subsistence seat and that's  
14 currently going through the reauthorization process, so  
15 now is a really good time. Maybe this comment isn't so  
16 much specifically for you as for everyone that this is  
17 the time to really lobby whatever DC congressional  
18 delegates you have and try to get that put into the  
19 Magnuson-Stevens Act. So actually right now is the  
20 opportune time to make this happen.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you, Rebecca.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,

27 Rebecca.

28

29 Antone.

30

31 MR. SHELIKOFF: It was enlivening to  
32 hear Tom. That's the first thing I would say. But on  
33 the second, this is an Advisory Council. My advisory  
34 to you would be to testify again before any council  
35 with this issue. Without public testimony, this issue  
36 would probably be ignored, so keep it up.

37

38 MR. ROBERTSON: Yeah, I just wanted to  
39 go on record to make sure that I was on record. But  
40 thank you for all your testimony. I'm hearing a lot of  
41 similarities regarding the dead Murres and what we're  
42 experiencing in Unalaska is the Eagles won't even eat  
43 the dead Murre.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.

46 Della.

47

48 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
49 recommend that we add this to the agenda under new  
50 business if we may.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll put it on  
2 there.  
3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair,  
5 Della. Add which issue to the agenda?  
6  
7 MS. TRUMBLE: Under new business we'll  
8 add Unalaska, Tom Robertson's request.  
9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.  
11  
12 MR. HOLMES: Question, Della, to  
13 clarify. Would that be to support the Board of Fish  
14 Proposal 194 and that discussion?  
15  
16 MR. ROBERTSON: No, a voting seat on  
17 the North Pacific Management Council representing  
18 subsistence.  
19  
20 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Mr. Chair, I wonder  
21 if we could do at the same time a discussion of  
22 Proposal 194 to close Unalaska Bay for trawling. We  
23 did take a position before. I wonder if we can -- or  
24 can I just make a motion, Karen, and then we can  
25 develop the language afterwards?  
26  
27  
28 MR. PAPPAS: I've got a point of order.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hold on. Go  
31 ahead.  
32  
33 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 That Proposal 194 is in deliberations this morning at  
35 the Board of Fish. This team has been working very  
36 hard for a long time to get here. All what we can do  
37 has been done with Proposal 194. So the Board of Fish  
38 is actively deliberating on it probably right now.  
39  
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41  
42 MR. ROBERTSON: Pray for us, please.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Under new  
45 business.  
46  
47 Karen.  
48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: This issue can also  
50 be, Mr. Chair, brought up through the letter that's

1 been handed out to everybody from the joint Council  
2 meeting that we had. One of the items in that letter  
3 that is going to hopefully be signed on by all our  
4 Councils is, in fact, to have a designated subsistence  
5 seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
6 and this letter is going to be going to our Federal  
7 Subsistence Board from as many Councils that want to  
8 sign on to it and then from the Board it will go to the  
9 Secretaries. So there's a big voice potential coming  
10 in to move this process forward.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

13

14 MR. KOSO: Tom, since it's just coming  
15 up today, I didn't realize they were having the Board  
16 of Fish meeting on this, I think it might be a little  
17 early for us to make any decisions until we find out  
18 what the final outcome is on the Board. They may go  
19 ahead and approve your 194 that you're requesting. I  
20 never had a chance to read the proposal, but if that's  
21 the case, we probably won't need to do anything, but if  
22 it's not the case, then I would suggest that maybe we  
23 get a resolution or something from you guys and present  
24 it to us so that we can act on your resolution on  
25 behalf of you guys. I think that may be an easier way  
26 to do this.

27

28 MR. ROBERTSON: It was my  
29 recommendation that at least I go on record  
30 recommending that there be a subsistence presence on  
31 the North Pacific Management Council. Just to go on  
32 your record to recommend that and that's what I would  
33 like to see. I'm not asking for your support on 194.  
34 We've taken it as far as we can. At least I want to go  
35 on record recommending that your board support any kind  
36 of effort to get a voting seat on the North Pacific  
37 Management Council.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.  
42 If there are no other public comments, then that  
43 concludes our reports. At this time I would like to  
44 ask the board if we can -- I see Patty Schwalenberg is  
45 here from the Migratory Birds. If we can have that  
46 AMBCC discussion now. I'm sure they have other  
47 meetings to go to. Under old business we'll take AMBCC  
48 if your discussion with AMBCC would happen now.

49

50 Go ahead, Rebecca.

1 MS. SKINNER: So my intent in  
2 requesting that our Council talk about the goose today  
3 is not to make you present all the information you're  
4 going to present tomorrow today, but so that our group  
5 could have some discussion before we go into a joint  
6 meeting with another RAC tomorrow. So I guess if you  
7 have kind of a summary/synopsis of information that you  
8 could present to us and that would launch us into  
9 discussion, but I'm not asking for your entire report  
10 that I know you're planning on doing tomorrow as well.

11  
12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Chair. Council members. I've asked Dan Rosenberg from  
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to join me. He's  
15 one of the technical staff for the AMBCC for the State  
16 of Alaska.

17  
18 I'm sorry I was late this morning. I  
19 had another engagement. Are we specifically talking  
20 Emperor Geese or are we going into handicrafts or what  
21 is the wish of the Council?

22  
23 MS. SKINNER: I'll comment. My  
24 specific request was Emperor Goose to prepare us for  
25 the meeting tomorrow, but in the meantime, when we did  
26 Council reports, I think we had a question about the  
27 handicraft updates. So maybe if that were a short  
28 update, that would be very helpful.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Do you want  
33 to start with Emperor Geese.

34  
35 DR. ROSENBERG: Mr. Chair. Members of  
36 the Committee. I'm Dan Rosenberg with the Alaska  
37 Department of Fish and Game. If you'd like, I can  
38 start with Emperor Geese. I'll try to be brief.

39  
40 As most of you know, I think I talked  
41 to this -- I know I talked to this Committee in Kodiak,  
42 I believe it was a year or so ago, on Emperor Geese.  
43 That was in response to a letter from this RAC that was  
44 encouraging us to look into the Emperor Goose issue you  
45 presented. I think it was three concerns; that we  
46 weren't counting all the Emperor Geese, that the survey  
47 was missing birds, that the population index that we  
48 used had hovered below the 80,000 threshold, that we  
49 needed to reopen it for a long time and there was  
50 concern about that. Then there was concern about the

1 ongoing subsistence harvest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
2 Delta in spite of the fact that it was closed since  
3 1987.

4  
5           Regardless of your three concerns, the  
6 real value I think of that letter was that it triggered  
7 the need to look more closely into the whole Emperor  
8 Goose management that was going on. So in September of  
9 2013 the Emperor Goose Committee of the Alaska  
10 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council convened. I'm the  
11 Chair of that Committee and we started to address a  
12 whole host of Emperor Goose issues. You know, go back  
13 and review things, including those that you had brought  
14 up. That process is still ongoing.

15  
16           There is a subcommittee of the AMBCC  
17 that is the Emperor Goose Subcommittee. From this  
18 region it's represented by Sonny Squartsoff and Peter  
19 Devine. Karen Pletnikoff has also been involved at  
20 times from the Aleutians and John Reft has often filled  
21 in when Sonny Squartsoff hasn't been available. Kelly  
22 Krueger was at our last meeting, which was just  
23 February 23rd, I believe.

24  
25           What's happening now is that we are --  
26 well, first of all there are two plans that we have  
27 that address Emperor Geese. The first plan is the  
28 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan, which  
29 started in 1984 as the Hooper Bay Agreement and then  
30 became the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan  
31 shortly after that and Emperor Geese were added to that  
32 plan a couple years later, right before the closure.

33  
34           Under that Plan, Emperor Geese were  
35 closed until the population index exceeded 80,000  
36 birds. That's in sync with the Pacific Flyway  
37 Management Plan for Emperor Geese, which was last  
38 updated in 2006, which also Peter Devine was on that  
39 and several other members of the Alaska Native  
40 community were on that team. That also has similar  
41 thresholds for when we can reopen Emperor Geese. The  
42 reopening is based on a population index of a survey  
43 that's flown in late April from Kuskokwim Bay all the  
44 way down south through Bristol Bay and along the north  
45 side the Alaska Peninsula and out past Izembek, Cold  
46 Bay and then takes in part of the southern side of the  
47 Alaska Peninsula as well.

48  
49           Again, that's a survey that we were  
50 basing our management goals and objectives on and it's

1 an index. It doesn't count every bird. The idea is  
2 that during that period in late April most of the  
3 population of Emperor Geese are migrating through that  
4 area and then the attempt is to count them there and we  
5 use that index as a guide to when we can open or close  
6 the season. That, of course, has created a lot of  
7 frustration.

8

9  
10 Moving forward, we've had several  
11 proposals to open the Emperor Goose season and the  
12 reaction has always been, well, it hasn't reached a  
13 steady 80,000 threshold. Last April, the AMBCC meets  
14 in April for its regulatory meetings. Of course, there  
15 were proposals that have been on the table from this  
16 RAC and from Dillingham, Bristol Bay Native Association  
17 and others have expressed interest to open the Emperor  
18 Goose season and the answer has always been no, no,  
19 because it hasn't reached 80,000.

20

21 Two weeks after the meeting last April  
22 or three weeks, whatever it was, the Fish and Wildlife  
23 flew that annual survey that I just mentioned and  
24 counted 98,000 birds in the index, which brought the  
25 three-year average up to 81,000 plus change, so greater  
26 than the 80,000. So last July at the Pacific Flyway  
27 meeting when the AMBCC consent agenda and proposals get  
28 reviewed by the Pacific Flyway Council, working with  
29 Patty, myself Fish and Wildlife Service and some other  
30 AMBCC representatives, we added an opening, a limited  
31 harvest of Emperor Geese to that proposal. The intent  
32 was to open it in the spring of 2016 for a limited  
33 harvest because it had exceeded that 80,000 threshold.

34

35 Subsequent to that, the AMBCC  
36 regulations have to be approved by the Service  
37 Regulations Committee, which is a group of regional  
38 directors from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and  
39 they met in September in Washington, D.C. and they have  
40 to approve the AMBCC proposals in the consent agenda,  
41 which they normally approve much of it, but not always  
42 all of it. So they approved this limited harvest of  
43 Emperor Geese, but they put caveats on it. They  
44 conditioned it. The harvest couldn't exceed 3,500  
45 birds throughout the range of Emperor Geese and we had  
46 to have a harvest reporting system and by the following  
47 year, by 2016 to continue this, we had to revise the  
48 management plan.

49

50 So last August and last September both  
the Native caucus of the AMBCC and the AMBCC with the

1 Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish and Game, we all met  
2 to try to see if we could meet these conditions so we  
3 could open up the hunt in the spring of 2016, this next  
4 April 2nd. We couldn't come to consensus and agree to  
5 meet those conditions, so it was decided the hunt would  
6 be foregone for now. We would skip it in spring of  
7 2016, status quo, and try and get this management plan  
8 updated in time to have a hunt in 2017. So April 2nd  
9 of 2017 roughly.

10

11 So that's where we are right now. In  
12 that process of revising the management plan, we are  
13 looking at a brand new way, a very different way to  
14 access the population and we are also looking at a  
15 separate flyway plan that would be geared toward the  
16 fall harvest and a separate AMBCC plan that will be  
17 toward the spring/summer harvest.

18

19 You might have questions and I can stop  
20 now or I can just say one more thing about this is that  
21 that sort of leaves this RAC in the dark in a sense  
22 because you don't have birds for the most part in the  
23 spring and the summer and there is no mechanism --  
24 there's options that I don't think anybody would find  
25 especially gratifying, but there are some options. As  
26 far as spring/summer, most of the Emperor Geese are  
27 gone during that time period and lots of people don't  
28 even like the taste anyway in the spring supposedly.

29

30 So I'll leave it at that and see if you  
31 have questions and I can go on from there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

34

35 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 The question I have is you mentioned that you couldn't  
37 come to consensus. What were the main issues that  
38 caused that?

39

40 DR. ROSENBERG: Patty would like to  
41 address that, so please do.

42

43 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The main concern was  
44 the fact that the Service Regulations Committee, which  
45 approves our proposals in Washington, D.C., put these  
46 caveats on for a limited Emperor Goose harvest. What  
47 we were requesting is that the Native Caucus, the 10  
48 regional management bodies that make up the Native  
49 Caucus, wanted to meet and determine those parameters  
50 for themselves. The Service Regulations Committee came

1 down with these caveats to have a hunt and they said  
2 limited to 3,500 birds.

3  
4                   We didn't even really know how many  
5 birds were out there in the first place and to have  
6 this body in Washington, D.C. tell us how many birds  
7 can be safely taken and we had to restrict it to that.  
8 So we had 3,500 birds to spread out amongst all the  
9 areas where the Emperor Goose occur and it became more  
10 of a discussion about this is supposed to be co-  
11 management and we should be able to come up with these  
12 numbers with our scientific technical expertise from  
13 the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Fish and Game and  
14 come to the Service Regulations Committee and say this  
15 is what we want our harvest to look like and this is  
16 how many birds we think we can take.

17  
18                   So the Native Caucus kind of got stuck  
19 on that part of it initially and it still is a bone of  
20 contention, but then the other thing was then how does  
21 each region set up their monitoring program, their  
22 harvest program, because it is a limited harvest and  
23 there's a specific number of birds. Do we want to do  
24 permits, do we want people to report to the village  
25 councils, do they report to their regional management  
26 body.

27  
28                   It became so cumbersome and we only had  
29 like three months to try and figure this all out. The  
30 Native Caucus decided we needed to take a step back and  
31 look at the management plan. Once we get some real  
32 numbers and the management plan is kind of on its way  
33 to being revised, then we can sit back down again and  
34 start looking at what the harvest strategy will look  
35 like.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

38  
39                   MR. KOSO: I keep hearing you say you  
40 don't know what the numbers and stuff are. I mean  
41 you've been doing the surveys for years and the numbers  
42 seem to come to our benefit finally and you're telling  
43 me that you don't know what the numbers are and that's  
44 part of the reason you can't make this happen. Is that  
45 what I'm hearing? It sounds like it, but maybe I'm  
46 wrong.

47  
48                   DR. ROSENBERG: I can't tell you what  
49 you're hearing with all due respect, but I don't  
50 believe I said that. The numbers of birds in the

1 population, exactly how many birds are out there, I  
2 can't tell you that number. No one knows that number.  
3 These are birds that migrate to a big area. So what we  
4 do is we do surveys and those surveys never pick up all  
5 the birds, so we have a minimum estimate from that  
6 spring survey, all right, and that's what we have based  
7 Emperor Goose management on since 1982 roughly, is that  
8 spring index.

9

10                   So it's an index to the population.  
11 What it tells us is it tells us trends, if the  
12 population is going up or down, with a lot of variation  
13 on any given year, but it doesn't give us an exact  
14 number. So if you heard that I said that we don't know  
15 the exact number, that is correct. We use the trend  
16 following a consistent monitoring strategy, a  
17 monitoring method year after year.

18

19                   Now there have been lots of questions  
20 about that method and, as I said, we're changing it  
21 because there are five surveys that are used to assess  
22 the demographic parameters of Emperor Geese populations  
23 and things like that.

24

25                   Did you want me to stop?

26

27                   MS. SKINNER: No. I'm just trying to  
28 get a list of speakers.

29

30                   DR. ROSENBERG: Okay. Excuse me.  
31 Anyway, what we're trying to do is come up with what's  
32 known as a Bayesian integrated state-space model that  
33 takes all of the survey data -- this is sort of modern,  
34 highfalutin statistics, okay, that a lot of people,  
35 including myself, don't fully understand, that  
36 integrates all of the data and gives us a better  
37 estimate of what the population is because it sort of  
38 throws out the outliers, throws out the odd -- if  
39 there's an odd survey among those five, it goes back  
40 and it looks at everything and says this doesn't make  
41 sense or this does make sense. So maybe one of your  
42 surveys in a given year wasn't good, the timing wasn't  
43 right, the weather was bad, who knows what, and it  
44 gives us a better idea of what the population is. What  
45 we never had before and what this gives us is this  
46 allows us to scale that index to a number, to a  
47 population estimate.

48

49                   So how many birds does that 80,000 say  
50 that we counted on the spring survey really represent.

1 We never knew that before. So now we have an idea that  
2 that roughly 80,000 might represent -- and there's a  
3 range of numbers here, but the mid point might be  
4 150,000 Emperor Geese. This is information we had not  
5 had before, so as part of this planning process I  
6 wanted to go through and explore this way of doing it  
7 and that's what we are doing now. The ink is not dry  
8 yet on the report or anything like that. We're still  
9 reviewing it, still going through it, but this is what  
10 we want to use now as a basis going forward.

11  
12 MR. KOSO: That's all well and fine,  
13 but we've been looking at you guys giving us a deal  
14 that says we will do a three-year average on those  
15 birds. When we hit a threshold, which was the 80,000  
16 mark, and we were pushing you guys for years on this to  
17 try to get that opening when we hit that 80,000 mark.  
18 Well, couldn't you use the 80,000 mark and go from that  
19 point instead of worrying whether we got 150,000 birds  
20 out there? I mean we could use the 80,000 that we more  
21 or less was told that we would be able to use. That's  
22 what we assumed we would be able to use to do a  
23 subsistence hunt. That's what I'm having a problem  
24 with you guys. It's like you're changing your train of  
25 thought there of how you're going about this. So maybe  
26 I'm wrong. I don't know.

27  
28 DR. ROSENBERG: So, when it was 79,000,  
29 people weren't very happy with it. Now that it's  
30 80,000, you're very happy with it. I understand that.  
31 But I don't think -- what we're trying to do is find a  
32 better way. The index was criticized over and over and  
33 over again. We were told we weren't counting all the  
34 birds, we weren't -- and there was some validity to  
35 that. So what we're trying to do is come up with a  
36 better way, not change the rules. I do think that what  
37 happens now, because we're doing a new plan, we review  
38 all of those closure thresholds.

39  
40 So we're not going to use -- we don't  
41 have to use -- if the 80,000 represents 150,000 birds,  
42 we can come up -- everything will be adjusted around  
43 the new methods that we use. If you want us to go back  
44 to the old method, it very easily could go down below  
45 80,000 next spring. I don't know. This is a hard  
46 thing for me to explain, I guess, but we're not -- you  
47 know, I'm certainly -- I don't think anybody is trying  
48 to pull the wool over anybody's eyes and we're just  
49 trying to find out a better way because we've gotten so  
50 much criticism.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The Native Caucus,  
4 every time we got a report on the Emperor Geese  
5 population, nobody believed it. It was like you're not  
6 counting over here, they're missing places, so it  
7 became very frustrating for the Native Caucus to look  
8 at this population index that was based on what. We've  
9 never reached it in 50 years, so maybe it's erroneous.  
10 So that's when we started pushing to get the management  
11 plan changed and change those numbers, lower them so  
12 that they're more realistic. So then it became how  
13 many birds are out there? Is it 150, is it 120.

14

15 So not knowing the exact population  
16 made it hard to say we should reduce the population  
17 objective because we really didn't know what it was.  
18 So that's when kind of two things going on at the same  
19 time. We still wanted to change the management plan  
20 and look at it and maybe reduce those objectives, but  
21 then, at the same time, all of a sudden we reached the  
22 80,000 threshold, so we were like, okay, I think we  
23 still need to change the management plan, but we have  
24 this 80,000 threshold we've met, so let's have a  
25 harvest. So that's what we tried to do, but, like I  
26 explained, you know, just because of the short period  
27 of time we weren't able to do it, but we still are  
28 working with the Native Caucus to try and get a harvest  
29 in 2017.

30

31 DR. ROSENBERG: Let me just.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

34

35 DR. ROSENBERG: So there are five  
36 surveys that have been conducted for Emperor Geese  
37 since 1982 and we're only using one of them and that  
38 was that spring survey that I mentioned and that got a  
39 lot of criticism. So the idea was we've got all this  
40 other information out there. Let's see if we can use  
41 it all and give us a better estimate. So we have the  
42 spring survey during migration, we have an aerial  
43 survey on the nesting grounds on the Y-K Delta. Over  
44 90 percent of the birds nest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
45 Delta. So we have that survey. We said why don't we  
46 use that as well. We have a ground nest survey on the  
47 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta where they actually go out and  
48 find nests and actually count eggs. And then we have a  
49 fall survey during fall migration on the Alaska  
50 Peninsula again, the Delta South along the Alaska

1 Peninsula, and on that they also do a photographic  
2 survey where they look at the number of young in the  
3 population versus the number of adults.

4  
5                   So this model combines all this data  
6 and it's giving us for the first time a much better  
7 estimate of the number of Emperor Geese. So rather  
8 than just say to you they've gone up by 2.8 percent on  
9 average per year for the last 10 years, it seems to me  
10 that people prefer to have a number that they can talk  
11 about and discuss. So we could go back and we could  
12 just use that spring survey if you want and just say,  
13 well, we're going to just base it on trend. The trend  
14 goes up, we can open it. The trend goes down for so  
15 long, we can close it or we could try to go back and  
16 say, okay, how many Emperor Geese do we think are out  
17 there.

18  
19                   Again, our numbers are not accurate. I  
20 cannot tell you they're at 147,210 Emperor Geese this  
21 year. I can tell you that they're probably between 120  
22 and 170,000 and we use that mid point in our  
23 management. And that was no different with the index.  
24 The index just gave you something to compare from year  
25 to year, but not an actual estimate and it has a lot of  
26 variability in it because those birds don't always  
27 migrate on the same day every year. Some years the  
28 weather is different every year, the observer might  
29 have a bad day. There's lots of factors that can  
30 affect how many they see.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The number 3,500  
33 interjected by D.C., what number is the Native Caucus  
34 looking at? Would that number be divided by the  
35 regions or does it have to be statewide?

36  
37                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: The way we were  
38 looking at it when we got the number of 3,500 was the  
39 populations of hunters or subsistence users I should  
40 say where the Emperor Geese occur. So there were five  
41 regions, so then it would have been divided between the  
42 five regions. We were basing that on the populations  
43 of the people and the number of birds in that area and  
44 what time of year. I think there was one other factor.  
45 I can't remember what it was, sorry.

46  
47                   DR. ROSENBERG: Yes. Well, we did base  
48 it on the harvest surveys, the subsistence harvest  
49 surveys, the data that we had from those from 2004 to  
50 2011 and the number of birds and the timing through

1 those areas. However, I think the proposal that I'm  
2 pushing and I'm trying to get buy-in from on the plan  
3 now, now that we have this model and now that we have  
4 this scale, we can figure out that we maybe have  
5 150,000 Emperor Geese. What I'm trying to push forward  
6 now is we go to a self-regulated hunt. A customary and  
7 traditional hunt like we've had in the past.

8

9 So that's an option now that's on the  
10 table and trying to get away from this quota system  
11 that no one understandably liked because it was only  
12 3,500 bird divided among -- and I recall when John Reft  
13 heard that he said 150 birds for Kodiak, this is a  
14 joke. And that's what it was under that allocation  
15 scenario.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

18 Rebecca.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: I don't know if you said  
21 self-regulated or the traditionally regulated hunt. Do  
22 you anticipate that that would be in place for the 2017  
23 subsistence hunt, is that what you're thinking, or  
24 would that take more time or are we looking more 2018  
25 or 2019?

26

27 DR. ROSENBERG: I'm looking at 2017,  
28 but it's not just up to me.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Okay. That's helpful.  
31 So going back to the reason why I had asked to have  
32 this added to the agenda, going into our meeting  
33 tomorrow then with the other RAC, now I'm really not  
34 clear what we're talking to them about or is it more  
35 just to get basically this update? Because at this  
36 point if there is no hunt in 2016, the first hunt will  
37 be in 2017. If things line up right, that may be a  
38 self-regulated hunt without the 3,500 threshold, which  
39 I think was causing a lot of the hold up and the  
40 consternation. So we may not need to have the kind of  
41 tough conversation or tough negotiation that maybe  
42 otherwise would have happened.

43

44 So I'm not sure if my question is to  
45 you or this Council. Is this more of an information  
46 update or are we really trying to dialogue with them to  
47 come up with some agreement on something?

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Karen.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Rebecca and the Council.  
2 First off, I'd like to give you folks salutations and  
3 if my knees would bend, I'd get down and do a kowtow  
4 because Dan and the Council here work really hard and  
5 Dan has helped our Council in the past other questions  
6 where we were totally blocked by the Fish and Wildlife  
7 Service on trying to do some openings and he's done a  
8 spectacular job.

9  
10 I'm really glad to see things moving  
11 ahead. I would like us all to go and grab Dan's arm  
12 and tell him, please, please, please don't retire until  
13 this thing gets done because he's got enough years in  
14 to become an Ameritas grandpa with the Department.

15  
16 Because, you know, you think back of  
17 when this was all taken as a literal index and all of  
18 our communities report, gee, the distribution is  
19 changing, global warming, whatever. Part of the thing  
20 I think we need to discuss tomorrow, Rebecca, is just  
21 some chats with the Council on how to work out this  
22 allocation because timing -- they're available on  
23 Kodiak Island at an entirely different time than up in  
24 the bay and out in the Aleutians is a little different.  
25 So we need to have some rapport and discussion and  
26 understanding between their Council because timing of  
27 an opening could be quite variable.

28  
29 I think this was such a step ahead from  
30 listening to Dan -- he found a volunteer number-  
31 cruncher to look at the surveys and found that the  
32 variability in the surveys was like up to 100 percent.  
33 What does that mean? It means nothing. But they found  
34 a way to look at these things and model them and I  
35 think that is absolutely incredible to be able to go in  
36 and try to develop a better interpretation from these  
37 surveys. I know Rick reports Emperor Geese out in the  
38 Aleutians. We see hundred and hundreds of them right  
39 near town in Kodiak. See lots of them in south end.  
40 How does that fit into the index?

41  
42 I wanted to ask you folks will your  
43 model look at some kind of sub-study and have some way  
44 to compensate for changes in distribution and look at  
45 the direction during your survey of whether the wind is  
46 blowing onshore or offshore? Because I've been  
47 crucified for survey design on trawls because things  
48 change and that's such a critical thing in the analysis  
49 is figuring out what's happening, how's it changing and  
50 how do you come up with some kind of a reasonable index

1 number.

2

3

4 But I think one of the areas where we  
5 need to work with folks up in AYK is how do we get a  
6 reasonable allocation so we can get a small harvest.  
7 Some of our members in the past have talked about a  
8 total opening and then others have suggested maybe we  
9 could have a stratified threshold where you'd have  
10 enough to just have a potluck in a village, you know,  
11 and that probably falls way below the confidence  
12 interval or your accuracy in your survey as well as the  
13 3,500 number. I mean that in relation to what the  
14 surveys is is nothing. It just isn't.

14

15 I promised to be short, so I'll cut it  
16 off there.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Karen.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen  
21 Deatherage. I just wanted to clarify. The original  
22 intent of bringing the two Councils together was to  
23 look at the allocation issue as well as the illegal  
24 hunt because that has been impacting that allocation  
25 issue over the overall opportunity to hunt based on the  
26 original proposal for a 3,500-bird harvest which was,  
27 ironically, at the time the estimated number of birds  
28 that were hunted illegally.

29

30 What I would suggest Friday is when you  
31 speak to them, is to look at both of these issues. As  
32 Dan said, his objective of looking at a self-regulated  
33 hunt based on the 150,000 bird threshold has not been  
34 signed, sealed and delivered at this point. So I think  
35 it would be good to discuss with the Y-K Delta RAC both  
36 prospects. If we only had 3,500 birds, how would those  
37 be allocated and how can these two Councils work  
38 together to reduce the illegal hunts that are going on  
39 in those areas. Then also look at the possibility of a  
40 self-regulated if that's where this ultimately ends up.  
41 This would be my recommendation for that meeting on  
42 Friday.

43

44 Thank you for that opportunity to  
45 speak.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Karen.

48 Della.

49

50 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

1 agree with what Karen said and I think that was -- as  
2 long as I've been on this Council, at one point nine  
3 years and then I was off for five and now I'm back I  
4 think my sixth year maybe. We've been looking at this  
5 issue, the numbers and the surveys -- you know, Butch  
6 Gundersen from Nelson Lagoon swore to God they came  
7 under that 80,000 threshold just so you couldn't have a  
8 hunt and I believed him, but I also agree that -- I  
9 really support the idea that what you're doing now in  
10 trying to create some sort of system to look at those  
11 numbers because they are spread and people are seeing  
12 good numbers in a lot of areas.

13

14 I also had questioned many years  
15 because we've been put in the position of not being  
16 able to have a hunt of how does the issue of the taking  
17 of the eggs affect this and what are those numbers and  
18 are they true. I strongly support meeting with the  
19 Councils to try to understand each other's regions and  
20 use and how we can work together so that we all benefit  
21 and it may be little steps, but at some point in time I  
22 think if we continue to work together and support each  
23 other on being able to create what we want to do, at  
24 some point I think it will be realistic and we can work  
25 together to protect that too.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.  
28 Rebecca.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: I just have a clarifying  
31 question to make sure I understand. If things go as  
32 planned and there is kind of the self-regulated hunt,  
33 is there a number attached to that? So will we need to  
34 talk about allocation? The way I understood it was  
35 that at that point we wouldn't be trying to divide up a  
36 certain number of birds, but in subsequent conversation  
37 I wasn't sure if that was correct.

38

39 DR. ROSENBERG: If I may, Mr. Chair.  
40 There will be a number. As I said, the model is still  
41 going through review. The 150 is a preliminary number.  
42 I don't think it will change, you know. It could  
43 change 10, 20,000 here. It also depends at what time  
44 of the year we decide to take that number from and  
45 that's part of the model. As you know, throughout the  
46 year the population doesn't stay the same. You add  
47 birds in the fall, birds die in the winter, so we can  
48 actually look at any period we want, but it still  
49 integrates all the data and come up with that number  
50 and then base it around that.

1                   So the initial plan is that we think  
2 there should be enough birds that we can have this  
3 self-regulated hunt, if you want to call it that,  
4 whatever you want to call it, just unrestricted hunt,  
5 what have you, in the spring and summer. Not in the  
6 fall or the winter. But the plan also needs to address  
7 what happens if the population starts to go down,  
8 right, because the idea is we try this for several  
9 years, maybe three years say, and we continue to  
10 monitor, of course, and we have to decide when we're  
11 going to put the brakes on and how were going to put  
12 the brakes on.

13  
14                   So part of this discussion should be  
15 around that question. Do we just go to a threshold  
16 where the population drops to X number of birds and say  
17 closed or do we try to -- if it's going down, do we try  
18 to slow it down, but still allow a hunt with  
19 regulations, say a two-bird limit or what have you, a  
20 community limit, shorten the season. Lots of different  
21 options there. But that's something else I think that  
22 should be discussed.

23  
24                   And as far as eggs, just a short answer  
25 to eggs is, no, I don't think it's a problem at all. I  
26 can go into that more if you want, but just to tell you  
27 that.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: When this all  
30 comes about, are you going to have an allocation for  
31 sport hunters and subsistence users? Because they're  
32 two different seasons.

33  
34                   DR. ROSENBERG: Correct.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The sport hunters  
37 go in September and subsistence is in March.

38  
39                   DR. ROSENBERG: Yes is the short  
40 answer. When it will be exactly, I don't know. Right  
41 now I'm looking at options for a drawing hunt, a permit  
42 hunt, a set number of permits either through a lottery  
43 system or what have you. I'd like to be able to keep  
44 it locally as possible, but, of course, under State law  
45 I can't really do that per se.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.  
48 Della.

49  
50                   MS. TRUMBLE: I'm going to throw this

1 out there before we close this discussion, but I just  
2 happened to be talking to a guide in Cold Bay on my way  
3 prior to coming here and he said they had actually  
4 presented the possibility of saying my hunter wants to  
5 get an Emperor Goose. He'll pay 1,000 bucks to get it.  
6 I'm going no, no, no. I mean you can't do that. But  
7 I've been chuckling ever since then every time I hear  
8 Emperor Geese. I was like, no, I don't think so. We  
9 can't afford \$1,000 a bird.

10

11 DR. ROSENBERG: No. You know, I have  
12 heard talk of a governor's permit for people to bid on.  
13 Anyway, that's all I'll say. But not overall for  
14 everybody, yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

17

18 MR. SCHWANTES: I think from listening  
19 to everybody all my questions have been answered. I  
20 just want to express my appreciation for all the hard  
21 work you guys are doing. We've been working on this  
22 for a long time and we really do. It looks like we're  
23 to the point where it's going to happen soon. So thank  
24 you again.

25

26 MR. ROSENBERG: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'd just like to thank  
31 you guys too. I've been dealing with this with this  
32 board for three, four years and I think this is the  
33 first time I was able to listen to the real McCoy here.  
34 So I really appreciate that and thank you guys and gals  
35 for your hard work and look forward to working more  
36 with you. Thanks.

37

38 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you. Can I  
43 just give a brief update on the handicraft. I did send  
44 the written update to Councilwoman Chernoff a couple  
45 weeks ago I think it was that I had received from the  
46 Region 7 Migratory Bird Management Office. Basically  
47 the regulatory language that's been drafted is in  
48 Washington, D.C. being deliberated between two  
49 solicitors. One is from the Office of Law Enforcement  
50 and the other one is from the Migratory Bird Division.

1 So they're having issues with international transport  
2 and some other things.

3

4                   Regarding the number of species, the  
5 current draft language only includes the 28 species  
6 that were identified by cross-referencing the list of  
7 birds on the Japan treaty and the list of birds that  
8 can be harvested in Alaska for subsistence. So we came  
9 up with these 29 species and that's what's in the  
10 current draft language. I think I did tell  
11 Councilwoman Chernoff this that the people in  
12 Washington, D.C. at Fish and Wildlife Service met with  
13 Japan and Japan has agreed to include all 92 species.

14

15                   What I was told the other day is that  
16 they're not in there yet. They have to exchange these  
17 diplomatic letters between the two countries and so I'm  
18 not sure how long that's going to take. So it's all  
19 moving in the right direction. It's all kind of going  
20 where we want it to go as the Native Caucus, but it's  
21 not in law yet. So we're hoping that by the end of the  
22 summer all this will be resolved, but who knows.

23

24                   That's kind of where we're at.

25

26                   Thank you.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. I can  
29 remember 15 years ago when I got on the board, Iver  
30 Malutin, bless his soul, came up to me and said, you  
31 know, it would be nice if we could harvest Emperor  
32 Geese again. It's been a time coming. I'm thinking  
33 maybe a first goose should go to his family. That's  
34 how much respect I have for him. Thank you two for all  
35 the hard work you've done.

36

37                   Thank you.

38

39                   Coral.

40

41                   MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. This is not  
42 about Emperors or -- well, kind of the handicraft. I  
43 was at a regional Fish and Game Board meeting. There  
44 was a proposal that came up about cormorants being able  
45 to be hunted in the fall season. I was just curious if  
46 you had an answer about are cormorant populations  
47 studied or were they not on there before because of  
48 their populations? Have their populations increased  
49 and so, therefore, now they're on the fall hunt? Our  
50 local Fish and Game representatives at the meeting

1 didn't have an answer about why that was on the hunt.

2

3 DR. ROSENBERG: May I?

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

6

7 DR. ROSENBERG: I am the instigator of  
8 the cormorant thing. You came to the right place. So  
9 back in 1997 when the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was  
10 amended to allow the spring/summer subsistence harvest  
11 of birds, that created a conflict with the existing  
12 State regulation that allowed for a year-round opening  
13 to residents to hunt Cormorants and Snowy Owls. It had  
14 to be only hunted for food or traditional uses of the  
15 birds.

16

17 So the State on the State books was any  
18 state resident could hunt Cormorants and Snowy Owls --  
19 this is what's still on the books right now -- year  
20 round in Units 10, 22, 23 -- it must have been 10, 17,  
21 22 and 23, I believe is what it is. It was not in  
22 Kodiak or the Aleutians. Well, I should look. But  
23 regardless of that, the Federal law was changed after  
24 the 1997 amendments to allow subsistence hunting that  
25 you could only hunt Cormorants -- that Alaskans could  
26 only hunt Cormorants from September 1 until April 2nd.  
27 Within included areas, subsistence areas, it was open  
28 of course to hunting.

29

30 So under subsistence regulations you  
31 could hunt Cormorants after we started this in 2003.  
32 You could hunt Cormorants from April 2nd to August  
33 31st. But an Alaskan, me, who lives in Anchorage, I  
34 could not go to Northwest Alaska in a subsistence area  
35 and legally hunt Cormorants, but the State law said I  
36 could, but the Federal law said I couldn't. So the two  
37 laws were not in compliance and that just got  
38 overlooked at the time back in 2003. Just got  
39 overlooked and no one paid much attention to it.  
40 Somewhere down the line I picked up on this and have  
41 been working actually for several years now to try and  
42 get the two laws to be in compliance, which means  
43 changing the State law.

44

45 So that's what this is all about. This  
46 is changing the State law. Now in doing so, the old  
47 law just had those four regions where you could hunt  
48 Cormorants as a state resident. So we were suggesting  
49 now that Kodiak should be included and I believe 9, if  
50 it wasn't, be included and that Prince William Sound

1 Unit 6 be included. How the Board is going to react to  
2 that I don't know because there was no customary and  
3 traditional finding that we've been able to come across  
4 in the first place for how they decided those four  
5 units that I just mentioned. Anyway, that's all going  
6 to happen at this March Board meeting.

7

8 Did I answer that? It's easy to get  
9 confused in this whole thing when you start to try to  
10 -- you know.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, thank you. There  
13 was just no -- nobody knew where that came from.

14

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, that's where it  
16 came from.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: One question.  
19 Where do you look for customary and traditional on  
20 Kodiak? We have a history of making clothing out of  
21 Cormorants.

22

23 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, interestingly  
24 enough -- I mean part of what got this started was  
25 there was a woman in Kodiak that wanted to make a parka  
26 for the museum a few years ago and Kodiak wasn't  
27 included initially. Game Management Unit 8 wasn't part  
28 of that year-round thing. It was included for  
29 spring/summer subsistence, but not year round in the  
30 winter. Anyway, so we gave her a scientific and  
31 education permit so she could do that, but it pointed  
32 out that it should have been included. Anyway, that  
33 kind of got me going on this actually and trying to get  
34 Kodiak included as well.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If you get  
37 somebody to do that, you should point them to the  
38 tribes.

39

40 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We have ancient  
43 history of Cormorant use.

44

45 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, I don't think  
46 anybody is arguing with that. I think for whatever  
47 reason it wasn't included the first time in the State  
48 regulation and I couldn't tell you why.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: Dan, I was wondering  
2 should we be providing some encouragement, either to  
3 OSM or the State, to do a C&T process on Cormorants for  
4 our region?

5  
6 DR. ROSENBERG: No. The Subsistence  
7 Division provided one to the Board of Game. I just  
8 don't know what the Board of Game is -- if they're just  
9 going to try to bring the two in compliance in the  
10 simplest way or they're going to add those on at this  
11 meeting because this meeting is not a statewide -- I  
12 forget. This meeting is not statewide I don't think.  
13 I'm not sure what they're going to do.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Coral.

16  
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. So, to  
18 clarify, when we're talking about Native handicraft use  
19 of birds and feathers, does that only come under  
20 subsistence?

21  
22 DR. ROSENBERG: (Shakes head  
23 negatively)

24  
25 MS. CHERNOFF: So that doesn't cover  
26 the State hunting season.

27  
28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No. Only birds  
29 caught during the subsistence season, those nonedible  
30 parts from those birds can be used for handicrafts for  
31 sale and only by Alaska Natives.

32  
33 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. So it seems like  
34 then -- there will be a period for public comment  
35 because how do we identify what's been subsistence  
36 caught and then what's been gathered in the State  
37 season? I ask this because I've been concerned about  
38 it for a while. I, myself, do bird skins, but I know  
39 of somebody who got bird skins for someone else and  
40 went out and shot 90 Cormorants, which to me is -- like  
41 I've been gathering my Cormorants over five years or  
42 six years or so and tanning them. It takes like 50 to  
43 90 birds to make a parka depending on if you're using  
44 the necks or whatever. So I'm very concerned about the  
45 waste of birds. Very concerned.

46  
47 Also Puffins, I think, might end up on  
48 that list. We also have a tradition of Puffin and  
49 Murre and Loon jackets and Swan. So I'm concerned about  
50 how that gets documented. You know, so if I -- I know

1 now -- like I don't know how that gets documented, so  
2 I'm concerned that someone is going to go out and shoot  
3 a bunch of birds and waste them because a lot of money  
4 can be made making Native handicraft.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That was one of the  
9 reasons it took so long to get the handicraft language  
10 even into some type of a draft regulation because of  
11 the concern of overharvest of specific species. The  
12 Auklet coat was one of the examples that the Fish and  
13 Wildlife Service were bringing up. So even now with us  
14 saying it has to be a bird caught during the  
15 subsistence harvest season spring and summer, there  
16 really is no way to tell. I mean if you came along with  
17 your coat, there's no biologist in the world that can  
18 say, oh, that was caught in September or it was caught  
19 in July. So it really is almost like an unenforceable  
20 part of the regulation, but once it does get into  
21 regulation, then there's going to be a whole process  
22 with the Fish and Wildlife Service and law enforcement  
23 how they're going to implement that regulation and  
24 that's where we, you, the artists that you know can  
25 weigh in and say this is how we think that this should  
26 be regulated.

27

28 DR. ROSENBERG: There's just one more  
29 thing you should be aware of in this because we've been  
30 talking about Murres and all the dead Murres. If you  
31 find a dead bird on the beach, technically you can't  
32 use it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Pat,  
35 if you have something, make it quick because we're  
36 running out of time.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Yes, sir. Dan, on the  
39 proposal you're talking about for the Board of Game, is  
40 that still open for comment and could we write a letter  
41 of support and encourage that through tribes and AC, et  
42 cetera, or is that a done deal right now?

43

44 DR. ROSENBERG: I can't remember when  
45 the comment period closes on that. The meeting is in  
46 March. It's pretty soon. I think it's too late.  
47 Yeah, I don't know. You can go to the meeting.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca.

50

1 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I just wanted to  
2 thank you guys for coming in and thank the Council for  
3 your indulgence on my short agenda item. And then I  
4 did just want to note that it's 11:00 o'clock and this  
5 was kind of our first substantive agenda item. I guess  
6 we've got a lot of ground to make up. Thanks.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you very  
9 much for presenting today.

10  
11 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you.

12  
13 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

16  
17 MS. TRUMBLE: Can we take a five-minute  
18 break and then we're just going to have to move through  
19 this.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Five  
22 minutes.

23  
24 (Off record)

25  
26 (On record)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call back to  
29 order. At this time I'd like to ask Karen do we have a  
30 bunch of action items on our agenda that we need to do?

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We have  
33 one more item under old business. It is a very quick  
34 update on the rural determination process, largely a  
35 timeline, and this will be presented by Amy Howard from  
36 the Office of Subsistence Management.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Go  
39 ahead, Amy.

40  
41 MS. HOWARD: Hi. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 Members of the Council, I will be brief. I know you  
43 have to get to proposals and priority information  
44 needs. Karen handed out a timeline that looks like an  
45 arrow. You should all have it. I'm just going to walk  
46 through it real quickly.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Amy. That  
49 timeline is in the pocket of your notebook and it looks  
50 like an organization chart.

1 MS. HOWARD: So on January 12th the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board had a work session where the  
3 Federal Subsistence Board decided on the best strategy  
4 for next steps to create a nonrural determination  
5 policy. That policy will outline the process for which  
6 nonrural determinations will be addressed and how  
7 basically if someone comes in and wants to have a  
8 nonrural determination considered or a proposal entered  
9 for the Board's consideration, this policy will cover  
10 that process.

11  
12 So, as you can see on the timeline for  
13 winter 2016, which is now, we're letting the RACs know  
14 and giving a brief update. Spring and summer of 2016  
15 staff will develop a draft policy and develop what that  
16 language looks like. After that's complete, then the  
17 Interagency Staff Committee will review and provide  
18 feedback on the draft policy.

19  
20 At the Board work session, which will  
21 be this summer, it hasn't been scheduled yet, it will  
22 be scheduled at the April Board meeting, the draft  
23 policy will be presented to the Board for review and  
24 feedback. Then we'll also work with the OSM Native  
25 liaison for tribal consultation. Once we have gathered  
26 all that information, we will have a draft ready to  
27 present to the Councils at your fall meeting cycle.  
28 That's where we'll want to spend some time with each  
29 Council to review the policy, the language, ask for  
30 your edits and your feedbacks so that those can be  
31 incorporated.

32  
33 After that we'll be incorporating Board  
34 and Council edits into the draft policy and we're  
35 hoping and shooting for winter 2017 to have a final  
36 policy so that we can start moving forward and taking  
37 action on nonrural determinations.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Amy.  
42 Do we have action items we need to get done before our  
43 hour is up?

44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. There are  
46 two action items under new business. One is a call for  
47 Federal fish and shellfish regulatory proposals. The  
48 second one is identify priority information needs for  
49 the FRMP. It looks like our fisheries person has not  
50 returned yet from the break, so you might consider

1 moving on to the third action item, which is to approve  
2 the FY2015 annual report, which is in your notebook.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt the annual  
5 report.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Did you make a  
10 motion, Pat?

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yes, sir. I made a motion  
13 to adopt the annual report.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seconded by  
16 Rebecca. Questions or additions to our annual report.  
17 Rebecca.

18

19 MS. SKINNER: I guess I had requested a  
20 wording change under number three, which is the Kodiak  
21 National Wildlife Refuge staffing. At the bottom it  
22 says KA18. So I think what I would like at the end of  
23 the last sentence of the first paragraph where it says  
24 we believe the refuge is no longer able to provide that  
25 caliber of information and that the lack of such  
26 information is detrimental to the Council and the  
27 Kodiak subsistence community. I'd also like something  
28 referencing the management of wildlife resources. That  
29 it's detrimental to the effective management of  
30 wildlife resources.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any others.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
39 others, may I have a vote to approve the annual report  
40 with the addition.

41

42 MS. TRUMBLE: So move.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's already  
45 moved. We're just.....

46

47 MS. TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All those in favor  
50 of the annual report with the changes say aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.  
4  
5 (No opposing votes)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
8 Karen.  
9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Stewart  
11 Cogswell, our fisheries chief is now in the room and  
12 would be happy to present the FRMP and perhaps the call  
13 for fisheries proposals. Oh, George Pappas is also  
14 here. So they will be presenting the call for  
15 fisheries proposals for the next cycle as well as the  
16 priority information needs for the FRMP program.  
17  
18 Thank you.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.  
21  
22 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 George Pappas for the record. The call for proposals  
24 to change the Federal subsistence fish and shellfish  
25 regulations is currently out. The Federal Subsistence  
26 Board will be accepting proposals through April 1st,  
27 2016 to change the Federal regulations for subsistence  
28 harvest of fish and shellfish on Federal public lands  
29 for the next regulatory year. If you do have a  
30 proposal you'd like to submit to the Federal  
31 Subsistence Board as a RAC or individual, we can  
32 discuss that right now, but you can submit proposals  
33 through Karen to OSM that we can assist with the  
34 crafting if you're looking for assistance with that.  
35  
36 I don't have anything in front of me or  
37 been requested except for the folks in Karluk and it  
38 looks like Mr. Lind might not make it here in time.  
39 OSM will contact him next week to ask him if his group  
40 and community is seeking a proposal to be submitted to  
41 the Federal Subsistence Board or not. So that's what  
42 I'm here for.  
43  
44 The second half is this is the cycle  
45 for the Board of Fish process for fisheries proposals  
46 for both shellfish or finfish proposals for the Kodiak  
47 area. The deadline for that is April 10th. If you do  
48 have some Board of Fish proposals you'd like assistance  
49 with, you can work with me. I'll be at the Board next  
50 year, it's my job. So if you have any questions or any

1 ideas for proposals we can assist with, you can capture  
2 the intent here and we can hammer them out in full  
3 detail between now and the deadlines.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, George.  
8 Were you able to get a hold of Karluk?

9

10 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Yes, I spoke  
11 with Ron Lind this morning. He had a 9:30 medical  
12 appointment and he did not know if he could make it  
13 over. He said he would call me and as of three minutes  
14 ago I had not received a call. I told him that this  
15 meeting will end at noon and he said he didn't know if  
16 he'll make it or not. I said plan B, Orville Lind from  
17 our office, Native Liaison for OSM, will contact him  
18 next week to find out if they do want to submit a  
19 proposal to either the Federal Subsistence Board or the  
20 Board of Fish. If a proposal does go in, we'll have an  
21 analysis. We'll have something for you at the fall  
22 meeting to comment on if a proposal comes in.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Pat.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. In chatting  
29 with some of the other RACs, I think we could help  
30 expedite this. Some of them have standing committees  
31 to deal with this sort of thing so that they can have  
32 someone within the RAC to coordinate or if they hear  
33 things from the tribal council or something, kind of  
34 summarize things and work on preparing proposals with  
35 the various OSM folks. If the Council would approve  
36 it, I would be glad to try and work in that kind of a  
37 role because that's sort of what I do when I get called  
38 in to the other committees or our joint study group.  
39 So I would be willing to work on that with your  
40 permission. If you give me an assignment to do that,  
41 then I can kind of put it together and then email it  
42 through Karen.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If they  
45 call us up and want some assistance with it, then you  
46 can -- do you need a prime directive from the Council?

47

48 MR. HOLMES: I missed that. I'm sorry,  
49 sir.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you need a  
2 directive to -- the board will okay if you -- their  
3 contact will be Karen and she can contact you if she  
4 needs to work on that process.

5  
6 MR. HOLMES: Yes, sir. That's a good  
7 idea.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Question for  
10 Della. What was this?

11  
12 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. Sorry we weren't  
13 paying attention, but what she brought to my attention,  
14 which is the issue from Unalaska that Tom brought up in  
15 regard to his proposal that's going to the Board of  
16 Fish today, is we did table it in our minutes because  
17 the request from Tom was to have more information. So  
18 it has been before us before.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Karen.

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
23 Della, the Council did table that proposal at the last  
24 Council meeting and then it was brought back after we  
25 presented the actual proposal and an opportunity for  
26 the Council to review it. That proposal did, in fact,  
27 fail on a split vote between Council members at that  
28 time.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's what I  
31 read. After information was presented, it was brought  
32 back and failed. Go ahead, Melissa.

33  
34 MS. BERNS: I just think that this goes  
35 to show that it's really important to have the people  
36 that are directly affected by these proposals present  
37 them to us or have them available to share their  
38 information about why they're putting it forward. Just  
39 hearing the gentleman today made me have a different  
40 perspective on it. I haven't had time to look through  
41 the complete proposal to kind of see whether or not it  
42 was a language issue or not, but it is important that  
43 those people are able to present them so that we're  
44 able to have a clear understanding when we are voting.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, it is.  
47 Rebecca.

48  
49 MS. SKINNER: And also the importance  
50 of having those proposals to us ahead of time because I

1 do remember the discussion of that proposal before. It  
2 started off we were basically being asked to vote on  
3 something that we hadn't seen. I think Pat's  
4 suggestion of having a working group that will keep an  
5 eye on Board of Fish process and potential proposal, I  
6 think that's how I understood it, I do think that will  
7 help to make sure that if there are proposals impacting  
8 our region that somebody wants us to take action on or  
9 that we want to take action on, that those materials  
10 and those actual proposals do get to us ahead of time  
11 so that we can actually read it and be prepared to take  
12 action on whatever the proposal is.

13

14 So I do think that having public  
15 testimony about a proposal, either in support of it or  
16 against it, is very important, but for us to have a  
17 good process we really have to have the proposal in  
18 front of us and we should have information about it  
19 before we try to take action because that's our  
20 responsibility. So I just want to emphasize the  
21 importance of getting that information to us ahead of  
22 time.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tom.

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. That is  
27 correct. One of the things that I recall from that  
28 discussion is that because we didn't have the input  
29 from Dutch Harbor we didn't look at it as a subsistence  
30 issue, we looked at it as an allocation issue, and  
31 that's why we felt as a subsistence board that we  
32 shouldn't be involved in an allocation issue.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I could  
35 refer us back to the notes from that meeting, but I  
36 think it was almost a 4 to 4 vote. Tom projected the  
37 perspective of an allocation issue, I prospected it on  
38 the fact that it was subsistence based on my long work  
39 out there and my conversations with people that lived  
40 there. Rebecca's point of having the proposal before  
41 us is probably a germane thing to answer both points.  
42 But I would object to saying it was an allocation issue  
43 because we were split on the vote. There's always two  
44 perspectives on things.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. George.

47

48 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 Good point, but that is my job as a liaison to the  
50 Board of Fish is to bring proposals in front of you

1 that are within Federal subsistence fisheries  
2 jurisdiction that will impact Federal subsistence  
3 users. This Proposal 194 to the Board of Fish does not  
4 address waters under Federal subsistence fisheries  
5 jurisdiction nor do the freshwaters around Unalaska Bay  
6 and the anadromous streams there. Those fall outside  
7 of the CSU border of the Federal public lands. So that  
8 was not elevated to you for this go around.

9

10 But when there is an issue in waters  
11 under Federal subsistence fisheries jurisdiction or if  
12 it is elevated to OSM to assist with a process to put a  
13 proposal in to the Board of Fish or Board of Game where  
14 Federally qualified folks feel like they were impacted,  
15 we do assist. But this particular issue was not  
16 elevated because it is a marine waters fishery. Unlike  
17 Kodiak, which has a lot of marine waters under Federal  
18 subsistence fisheries jurisdiction. That's the reason  
19 this was not elevated to you.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Karen.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 The only other point I wanted to make from the minutes  
27 was that Mr. Stichert from Fish and Game indicated at  
28 our last meeting that they did consider this an  
29 allocation issue.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

32

33 MS. TRUMBLE: I understand that it's an  
34 issue of allocation. I understand it's an issue of  
35 State waters. However, I do feel the concern that it's  
36 something that the indigenous people in Alaska waters  
37 that they have used for their subsistence. I  
38 understand there's times that we are going to and  
39 probably -- we're going to have crossed lines in  
40 probably 9 out of 10 we're going to have this issue.  
41 But I think it's important that we respectfully take it  
42 -- I take this to heart. This I think in my mind is  
43 something -- I know what they're up against. We're  
44 fortunate in King Cove to have strong enforcement. We  
45 have four policemen in our community. If I have a  
46 concern, I take it right to the chief, you know.

47

48 This is, I feel an issue of the people  
49 in this community, whether you're Native or non-Native,  
50 living there year round and they use these waters to

1 subsist. I just feel like there's something -- you  
2 know, it's one of those issues that's going to cross  
3 many different agencies, but I feel we should help them  
4 and support them is what I'd like to say.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

7

8 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. Just for  
9 clarification purposes, I certainly believe that had we  
10 had any input from the folks in Dutch Harbor that they  
11 considered this a subsistence issue, that we probably  
12 would have voted in favor of it, but we had no  
13 indication whatsoever other than Board Member Holmes  
14 saying we think this is a subsistence issue, but we  
15 didn't have any other information to base that on. For  
16 the rest of us, it looked like and we were told that  
17 basically this is an allocation issue. So that's why I  
18 voted the way I did.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Melissa.

21

22 MS. BERNS: I think just from what I'd  
23 gotten from the gentleman today, because we do have so  
24 many crossed lines, he didn't ask us because it's  
25 beyond the point of supporting it. He asked us because  
26 of the crossed lines and the fisheries issues to be in  
27 favor of having -- pushing towards having a subsistence  
28 seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.  
29 I think that's the bigger issue that we're looking at.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll deal  
32 with that.

33

34 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
35 take-home message here is you'll have someone appointed  
36 to review the proposal process. I take home that I  
37 will work closely with whoever you appoint. Because  
38 you do have a Kodiak fisheries Board of Fish cycle  
39 coming up. So I will work very closely with whoever  
40 you select on that.

41

42 The most important part of my  
43 presentation here is to request any Federal subsistence  
44 fisheries proposals. We have a couple, two and a half,  
45 three weeks to get them in. The Fisheries Division  
46 Chief is here to ensure that it is expedited.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What is the status

1 of Akalura and Upper Station on Kodiak? Are they still  
2 doing something with that?

3

4 MR. PAPPAS: I don't have that  
5 information, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

8

9 MR. PAPPAS: We can get back to you  
10 with some investigation and get you the biological  
11 status of those systems right now.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Antone.

14

15 MR. SHELIKOFF: Back in September, the  
16 last meeting, it was concerning subsistence. Tom  
17 provided public testimony. We didn't have that at the  
18 last meeting in Kodiak. That's all I have.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

21

22 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Members of  
23 the Council. My name is Stewart Cogswell. I'm the  
24 Fisheries Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence  
25 Management. I have a cold, so I'm going to try to get  
26 through this. I'm a little scared because I just  
27 finished my last cough drop, so I'll try to make it  
28 through this. It's been three weeks.

29

30 This is my first time addressing you.  
31 I know time is short, but I just want to introduce  
32 myself a little bit so you know who I am. You've  
33 probably heard about me. (Pat gives him a cough drop)  
34 Oh, those are the best. Thank you. Saved by the  
35 Fisherman's Friend.

36

37 Thank you so much.

38

39 I was born in Michigan and I've lived  
40 most of my life in Wisconsin. I grew up in a  
41 subsistence lifestyle. I am part Native American. My  
42 grandfather is a member of the Little River Band of  
43 Ottawa. He's full-blooded. My dad is half and I am a  
44 quarter. I am a member of the tribe.

45

46 So all my life I wanted to work with  
47 tribes and I was fortunate enough to get a job with the  
48 Fish and Wildlife Service. I've been working in the  
49 Great Lakes for 23 years before I came up here. Then I  
50 did a detail in Alaska up at Yukon Delta and Gene

1 Peltola was the boss up there at that time and I kind  
2 of fell in love with Alaska. I didn't really know  
3 there was a Subsistence Division in the Fish and  
4 Wildlife Service until that time, so I really wanted to  
5 work with subsistence, so I jumped at the opportunity  
6 to come up here. My whole life I've worked with  
7 different tribes in the Great Lakes building capacity,  
8 building up their biological programs. I've been here  
9 for about a year and a half now. So that's a brief  
10 statement about myself.

11  
12 I want to talk about a letter you wrote  
13 to me. I want to address that. I appreciate you  
14 sending the letter. That is great. I love to hear  
15 back from folks. As long as I'm with fisheries at OSM,  
16 I want to have an open dialogue and have an open door.  
17 You can always come and see me. Please come and see me  
18 when you're in Anchorage. Knock on my door, I'll give  
19 you a tour. I usually have treats, so stop in. Not  
20 for Karen, but for anyone else. No.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 MR. COGSWELL: So there's a few points  
25 in the letter. I want to be cognizant of your time. I  
26 don't want to belabor anything, but I want to answer  
27 the specific questions in the letter that you asked.

28  
29 The first one, I kind of outlined it,  
30 is why FRMP regions are inconsistent with subsistence  
31 regions. That's a good question. I don't have a great  
32 answer for that, but when the FRMP was set up they used  
33 different regions and different subsistence needs to  
34 set up those regions and that happened right around  
35 2000. That's the way it's been since 2000. That's  
36 something we may be able to look at in the future,  
37 align them. I'm not sure that will happen. That's a  
38 Federal Subsistence Board action. I'll look at  
39 anything you have concerns about. But it was set up  
40 when the program was initiated in 2000.

41  
42 The next question you had was the  
43 Council would like to consult with principal  
44 investigators during proposal development. I agree. I  
45 think that we need to do a better job of communicating  
46 to get folks involved in FRMP. The FRMP isn't just a  
47 one-time thing, when you get an announcement it's open.  
48 It's an ongoing thing throughout the years. Projects  
49 take time to develop. You may have an idea. It's  
50 going to take time. You have an idea. It could be --

1 I don't know the streams down there, but a stream in  
2 Kodiak you may have a shortage of fish or fish haven't  
3 come back. You need to talk to someone, talk to  
4 investigators.

5  
6 OSM doesn't write proposals. We try  
7 our best to put you in contact and give you ideas on  
8 how to write proposals with partners if someone else is  
9 working on it. We can put you in contact with those  
10 folks. So it's a great idea, but it's an ongoing  
11 process. Some of you were in my FRMP training.  
12 Learned all about that and we talked about that.

13  
14 The next question you had was the  
15 Council would like to review proposals prior to the  
16 Technical Review Committee to ensure those needs are  
17 correctly assessed. The time to get the project in is  
18 when it's submitted. Right now the next open period is  
19 November, so you have now until November to talk that  
20 through and it closes in February. So once that  
21 project is submitted we can't help you with it anymore.  
22 We can't help anybody.

23  
24 What I told in the FRMP training, we  
25 would like it to be a fair process. So you've got to  
26 work hard to get your proposal right. You have six to  
27 eight months right now to get one in, but once it's  
28 closed we want to be fair, so it's closed. We don't  
29 allow you a month after it's put it to -- oh, we found  
30 something new, to add something new to it. That  
31 wouldn't be fair to everyone. When we were in the big  
32 room, all those people in there, I'd have to give the  
33 same option to everyone. In most funding, like if  
34 you're familiar with the tribal wildlife grants, once  
35 you submit it it's done. You don't hear back until the  
36 people have ranked it and you know if you got an award  
37 or not.

38  
39 But there's ample time to get it right  
40 beforehand. So that's what we want to encourage and  
41 that's sort of our message, is we're going to try to  
42 help you and work with you and have better  
43 communication to get it right on that proposal. Once  
44 it's in, it's done. If you have questions, please jump  
45 in here.

46  
47 The next one is an opportunity to  
48 discuss priority information needs. This is huge. The  
49 RACs really determine the course of the FRMP program.  
50 Your priorities are what drives it.

1 After this letter I'm going to talk about priority  
2 information needs in a minute, so I will hold off on  
3 that talking more in depth.

4  
5 The next question was about  
6 understanding -- the RACs getting together and maybe  
7 understanding, especially Bristol Bay in your case, to  
8 avoid unnecessary competition. That's going to have to  
9 be through increased competition. I was talking to  
10 Rebecca at the training and she has some really cool  
11 ideas into the future, some options. For right now  
12 it's going to have to be better communication between  
13 the two RACs. I know that's going to start today  
14 because you guys are meeting jointly after this, so  
15 that's a great start.

16  
17 The last question you had was you  
18 voiced the discouragement with two projects that were  
19 ranked real low. One was Project 16-401, Kodiak Lakes  
20 ecological assessment and Project 16-402 Kodiak Akalura  
21 sockeye salmon camera system. I know a few of you I  
22 saw in the FRMP training. Funding levels in the FRMP --  
23 we're in a lower budget climate, so funding is going  
24 down. And we want this process to be transparent, the  
25 FRMP. We want it to be open. We want people to know  
26 how their projects are being ranked. The whole  
27 process. That's why we're doing the FRMP training, to  
28 let people know exactly how their projects are being  
29 ranked so it's not some sort of mystery or very  
30 nebulous about what's happening to the projects.

31  
32 We have a Technical Review Committee  
33 that ranks the projects. The Technical Review  
34 Committee is made up of individuals from BIA, BLM,  
35 National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and  
36 the State of Alaska. So we have five criteria that are  
37 used to rank projects and that Technical Review  
38 Committee is using those five criteria.

39  
40 I don't want to get into a whole FRMP  
41 discussion now, but these two projects didn't address  
42 those five criteria very well. They weren't ready to be  
43 funded at this time. I think some of them are good  
44 projects. They just need to be sort of fleshed out a  
45 little more. For instance, on 16-402, the Akalura  
46 sockeye camera system, I think it wasn't very costly  
47 but the technology was old. When we have limited  
48 dollars to do projects, we need to get the best bang  
49 for our buck because you're competing against all the  
50 other RACs. Those RACs are putting in projects too and

1 they have important things in their region. We have to  
2 fund those that we're going to get the best data from  
3 to help the subsistence user.

4  
5                   So that Akalura one, if we updated the  
6 camera system and some of the technical things of that  
7 project, it possibly could get funded. I can't  
8 guarantee any project. I remember that one distinctly.  
9 The Technical Review Committee had some issues with  
10 that and the Interagency Staff Committee. They're  
11 using an overhead camera, it shines into the water,  
12 it's not effective at all times.

13  
14                   Those are some of the things. For  
15 instance, another one, a project was put in. It met  
16 most of the criteria. It built capacity, it was a  
17 tribal run project, so it hit a home run for capacity,  
18 but they were using the wrong type of weir. The  
19 information said to use one type of weir and they were  
20 proposing a different type of weir. The Technical  
21 Review Committee caught that and that project did not  
22 move forward.

23  
24                   So those are the things the Technical  
25 Review Committee targets and budgets are tight. If  
26 your project takes one boat and you're asking for three  
27 boats, you're probably not going to rank very high. If  
28 you have a weir and you need someone for six months,  
29 but you have in the budget for a year and a half, you  
30 know, we have to be fair to all the RACs and all the  
31 land managers with this fund, so we're just funding  
32 those projects that are sort of tight and getting the  
33 most bang for the buck during this declining budget  
34 cycle.

35  
36                   So that is the questions you had in  
37 there and that is how I was going to answer those. If  
38 there's any questions.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you have other  
41 programs where you are using overhead cameras?

42  
43                   MR. COGSWELL: I'm not aware of any. I  
44 think most of the cameras are now underwater, you know.  
45 When I visited Alaska, they use expensive cameras up  
46 here. I bought a camera -- some of their cameras are  
47 \$3,000. I bought a camera for, I think, \$800 and it  
48 worked just fine. I had no issues with it. But, yeah,  
49 underwater cameras are kind of the way to go. You  
50 eliminate all the sunlight, the reflection, all that.

1 It's a better way to go. It's more accurate.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And the older  
4 cameras, are they cameras that don't work no more or  
5 are they -- what's wrong with them?

6

7 MR. COGSWELL: I'm not exactly sure  
8 what's wrong with the older cameras. The newer ones --  
9 I mean newer everything works better. The new cameras  
10 are coming down in price and I think there's options  
11 other than what are recommended. I think folks in the  
12 Kenai Field Office for the Fish and Wildlife Service  
13 are some of the experts. I'm sure there's State folks  
14 that use the same underwater cameras.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We've been asking  
17 for help in the Upper Station and Akalura Lakes for a  
18 long time. Funding problems. Hopefully it will come  
19 about. Pat.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I appreciate your  
22 comments and they're validly taken, particularly from a  
23 bureaucratic point of view. No offense.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Keep it to the  
26 point, please.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Okay. That's the point.  
29 The thing is is our concern and we will be talking with  
30 the Bristol Bay RAC, but when OSM was developed we  
31 ended up being lumped into Bristol Bay for funding.  
32 Those two areas have always competed in commercial  
33 fisheries and other use. We've seen through time,  
34 because the vast number of people in OSM came from Fish  
35 and Game and they were based in Bristol Bay and Central  
36 Region. So throughout this whole process our region we  
37 feel comes up short.

38

39 At one point, and you probably don't  
40 know this, there was input from the RACs on a  
41 conceptual level on proposals that came in and I would  
42 suggest that there be an appointed person and have some  
43 feedback on the validity of the projects. I think on  
44 some of these things when they've been identified in  
45 the Council's comments time after time, particularly  
46 the folks in the south end of our island concerned with  
47 Akalura/Upper Station for subsistence, that there's  
48 difficulties there because part of it's State waters,  
49 part of it's State managed, but some of that could be  
50 worked out in some partnerships.

1                   If there's a little glitch in the  
2 application and you throw it out because you need to be  
3 moving on with the other ones, perhaps there could be  
4 some pre-screening so that there could be a better  
5 allocation. So that if you said, gee, there's this  
6 little glitch on the camera and bumped it back to our  
7 RAC, we'd trot on down to the refuge and give Bill Pyle  
8 a kick in the tush and get it right.

9

10                   I'll cut it at that.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca.

13

14                   MS. SKINNER: I did go to the FRMP  
15 training and actually I think built into the process  
16 there's a lot of feedback opportunities. I think  
17 particularly for us in our region that hasn't worked.  
18 For some reason, the people proposing the projects,  
19 that information is not coming before the RAC. So I  
20 think some of the projects we heard about in the fall I  
21 don't think any of us had ever heard about them before  
22 we actually had -- before we read about them in the  
23 materials and that's a problem.

24

25                   So part of, I think, the focus of the  
26 program is to really try to get the people developing  
27 the proposals to get them linked better into the  
28 communities and also to get a better linkage with the  
29 RACs, probably through our coordinator, is what kept  
30 coming up, that the coordinator would be the linkage.

31

32                   And then also the importance of these  
33 priority needs. So part of the scoring process for the  
34 projects is how well they meet these priority needs.  
35 If you look at the sheet of paper that went around,  
36 these were the 2016 priority information needs, I think  
37 the only thing for our RAC are the last two bullets.  
38 So we have an entire page of priorities that are from,  
39 I think, the Bristol Bay region. That's great for  
40 Bristol Bay, they've really done their homework, but I  
41 think we have a real opportunity here as a RAC to make  
42 sure that we better document our priority information  
43 needs because that is part of the scoring criteria when  
44 the actual funding is awarded.

45

46                   Thank you.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

49

50                   MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Just a

1 couple comments and I want to talk about that list in a  
2 second. To answer Councilman Holmes' question, we are  
3 going to talk about that, the two RACs competing for  
4 funds, after lunch. I think that's great. I'm so glad  
5 that's happening. And then the pre-screening. You  
6 know, if you're working with OSM and the principal  
7 investigators beforehand, I think a lot of that will be  
8 done. If you get in a situation where you're  
9 submitting a project on the due date or scrambling  
10 around the last two weeks before it's due, it probably  
11 won't be as good a project if you've talked all summer,  
12 talked to them, submitted an example to OSM and say,  
13 hey, what do you think about this.

14  
15 We can help you with it right up until  
16 you submit it. So I mean the Technical Review  
17 Committee is an expert panel. They'll find some things  
18 and that's how they create spread. All projects, they  
19 weigh them out. You should eliminate that. It's just  
20 better communication.

21  
22 Now, Mr. Chair, I want to talk about  
23 priority information needs. Could I talk about that  
24 and how many minutes do I have? I can do it in two. I  
25 would like to take about three hours, but I don't have  
26 that.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We, ourselves, are  
29 limited by time. As it looks now, we're going to  
30 forego a lot of our agenda.

31  
32 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. Then I'll just  
33 talk about priority information needs then. Rebecca  
34 talked about this list. If you look at this list, you  
35 can see that in 2010 -- and, again, this may be Bristol  
36 Bay's, most of it, but there's more priority needs,  
37 which is good. That tells me that there's probably  
38 more thought going into this.

39  
40 Priority information needs. I just  
41 want to say they're very important. They drive the  
42 whole program and you guys have a big role in that.  
43 There's a lot going on and I'll just mention some  
44 options at the end. If you just talk about it now and  
45 then talk about it in the fall, I mean there needs to  
46 be dialogue going on to get these where they need to  
47 be.

48  
49 The number of them. I would say, for  
50 instance, I think each region should have -- a good

1 number is probably five. There's more concerns than  
2 that, but let's say those top 10 or whatever that are  
3 Bristol Bay's, there's just not enough money to cover  
4 all those. So if you narrow it down a little bit,  
5 that's probably a good thing. I mean you don't have  
6 to, but I think that five or six is probably a good  
7 number for the amount of funding that's available and  
8 it helps you focus so you get a good project on those.  
9 So they're very important.

10

11 We can open up now to talk about it.  
12 These last two are the only ones from Kodiak/Aleutians.  
13 We can talk about those. Do they need to stay on  
14 there, do they need to be removed, what additional ones  
15 do you have. What we'll do now is kind of get a draft  
16 priority information needs now if we can, maybe we  
17 can't, and then those will need to be developed. And  
18 then in the fall what will happen is you'll finalize  
19 those in the fall meeting and those will accompany the  
20 FRMP proposals. So your priority needs that you've  
21 developed will accompany that and that's what, based on  
22 the ranking, will supply the investigators with --  
23 point them in the direction they need.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: I guess I'm curious on how  
28 the priority needs are done. I would like to toss out  
29 three items that we've discussed at least two or three  
30 previous Council meetings. One is Tom and I's concern  
31 about the crab populations in Womens Bay. I did go and  
32 talk to the Fish and Game and to NOAA and asked them to  
33 submit proposals. Obviously they didn't. I don't  
34 know. I need to give them a prod. But I think Womens  
35 Bay crab is a concern. But I think also maybe as high  
36 are the concerns that our Chairman has raised a couple  
37 of times on the south end on Akalura and Upper Station.  
38 So that adds three in my mind unless some of my  
39 colleagues have something else that would go higher  
40 than that. So I'll cut it there and we can talk more  
41 later.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca.

44

45 MS. SKINNER: So I have another  
46 suggestion and then a question. I guess I'll direct  
47 this toward Mitch. The concern with Akalura, is that  
48 captured in the last bullet or are there additional  
49 concerns that we would need to add. Then I guess we  
50 need to add Upper Station.

1 My suggestion for additional items  
2 would have to do with Unalaska Bay and I can't speak to  
3 that at all except that we heard a little bit about it.  
4 So if somebody wanted to flesh that suggestion out a  
5 little more, I would welcome that.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We do have one  
8 public comment from Kay Larson from the Aleut  
9 Corporation.

10  
11 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Hi, Mr. Chair.  
12 Council members. So I could talk about what I had put  
13 in to talk about or I could address Ms. Skinner's  
14 concerns on Unalaska Bay. Well, they kind of go hand  
15 in hand.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

18  
19 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: The Federal  
20 Subsistence Board just voted on Proposal 194, which was  
21 to close Unalaska Bay to trawling, and they voted in  
22 favor of the proposal 6 to 1, so it is closed to  
23 trawling now, which is great. One of the concerns for  
24 the residents of Unalaska Bay and myself -- I'm sorry,  
25 let me introduce myself. I'm Kay Larson-Blair. I'm  
26 the Aleut Corporation fisheries resource specialist. I  
27 worked in OSM in the Fisheries Division since 2005.

28  
29 One of the concerns by the Board  
30 members was that there was a lack of information on  
31 subsistence harvest and a lack of information to show  
32 possible changes in harvest trends and abundance. Then  
33 there's also a lack of information on escapement  
34 numbers and fish within the bay. So a lot of the  
35 information that they heard was anecdotal information.

36  
37 There were two studies that were  
38 completed, but those two studies had different  
39 methodologies and they're non-comparable. One study  
40 was completed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
41 in 1994 and that was a comprehensive survey for the  
42 community, so they were able to expand those  
43 subsistence harvest estimate numbers and they looked at  
44 fish, shellfish, marine invertebrates, marine mammals  
45 and land mammals.

46  
47 There was a study completed by, I  
48 think, Ms. Reed from Idaho State University and the  
49 community of Unalaska and I believe it may have been  
50 funded by the Office of Subsistence Management. That

1 study was structured differently. She had gone to the  
2 community and surveyed 45 known subsistence harvesters.  
3 Because she went out and targeted people and they  
4 weren't randomly selected and there were no interviews  
5 of people who either didn't harvest or were  
6 unsuccessful for harvesting, she wasn't able to expand  
7 those numbers to a community-wide estimate for harvest.  
8

9

10 So we, myself and the Unalaska Tribe,  
11 weren't able to say that in 1994 and 2013 there was a  
12 change in harvest, we have that information. The only  
13 thing we had was anecdotal information. I know the  
14 Federal Subsistence Board is in charge of managing  
15 subsistence on Federal public lands, but a lot of our  
16 subsistence users do harvest subsistence resources in  
17 State waters and on State lands and rural users, like  
18 the individuals from Unalaska, are Federally qualified  
19 subsistence users. It just so happens that the areas  
20 that they do harvest are in State waters. But those  
21 resources are just as important to them as somebody who  
22 lives on a refuge or harvests directly on a refuge.  
23

24 Because the Board had voted in favor of  
25 it, they did close Unalaska Bay to trawling, but there  
26 is still an information need out there. My suggestion  
27 for the priority information needs would be to do a  
28 comprehensive household survey in Unalaska to get those  
29 numbers so we can look at possible changes in harvest  
30 patterns and harvest estimates for the residents of  
31 Unalaska. Because I'm sure this will come up at the  
32 next Board cycle possibly because the pollock fishery  
33 and the trawl fishery is pretty large and the fleet has  
34 a lot of money.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

37

38 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you. And thank you  
39 for that. I recall Kate doing that study. I think at  
40 the time she was doing that in a lot of the communities  
41 in the region and targeting basically the Native  
42 population. What they were doing was, I think, trying  
43 to develop what -- you know, trying to get some  
44 documentation as to what we've used as subsistence  
45 users. If you look on this list on this priority  
46 information needs, it has harvest of salmon for  
47 subsistence by residents in a community. You know,  
48 Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point and then other species.  
49

50

The reason for this is the very reason

1 that you stated. We subsist out of State waters  
2 technically and for the most part, but this helps  
3 document where and how we subsist and what species we  
4 target as subsistence users, but I don't know -- was  
5 there a study or there was a lake that they did in  
6 Unalaska for a number of years. What lake was it?

7

8 MR. HOLMES: McLees Lake.

9

10 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah. And that funding  
11 is no longer being -- is that being continued? I can't  
12 recall, I'm sorry.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: It was originally funded  
15 by the Feds. We asked every single year for a report.  
16 We never got a report on it from OSM. Then I think the  
17 State took it over and I don't know if it's funded by  
18 anybody now. It's the system for reds.

19

20 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. I  
21 couldn't recall if that was still there or not. I  
22 think more and more, and it may not be just us in our  
23 region but Kodiak, when you're looking at climate  
24 change and all the changes and things that are going on  
25 right now, the more information we can document to  
26 utilize in the future is going to become very  
27 important.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

30

31 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Mr. Chair. So I  
32 worked in OSM for about eight years and during that  
33 time I worked on the FRMP. I helped to analyze the  
34 different projects that came forward, develop priority  
35 information needs, and I'd really stress to the Council  
36 that you guys either possibly work with OSM, develop a  
37 committee to work on these priority information needs.  
38 Because I'm working with Aleut Corporation my big  
39 concern is what happens in the Aleutian region.  
40 Looking at the list of 2016 priority information needs,  
41 these are not really reflective of what's going on just  
42 in our region. Most of the projects that are listed  
43 for priority information needs are for Bristol Bay.

44

45 I'm available if you guys want help, if  
46 you want to talk about different things and I can reach  
47 out to other people within our region.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

50

1 MS. TRUMBLE: One more. I just want to  
2 add I'm so pleased that you're working with the Aleut  
3 Corporation and there's a go-to person. I think that  
4 what you've expressed as the Aleut region as a whole --  
5 it's been a struggle for, I know, me working sometime  
6 and trying to figure out how do I get the information  
7 that I need from different communities or who is the  
8 go-to person. Trust me, I'm going to be knocking on  
9 your door all the time.

10

11 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: It's open and  
12 everybody is welcome.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. COGSWELL: I just want to echo, Mr.  
17 Chair. Kay would be an awesome resource. I had the  
18 pleasure of working with her for a little over a year  
19 and she's an awesome resource. She understands OSM  
20 very much. She's worked there a long time and she  
21 understands the resource and I'm so happy for her. She  
22 is going to be an awesome resource. And OSM is going  
23 to work with her too, so she has that support. And  
24 she's stealing my talking points, so she's that good,  
25 and she didn't even see them.

26

27 I want to echo what Kay said. I've  
28 just got two more things and then I'll be done. It's  
29 important -- I would hope -- some of the Councils are  
30 appointing people to work on these priority information  
31 needs between now and the next meeting. I was just in  
32 Southcentral and they had three volunteers that said,  
33 yeah, I'll be the point. They're going to work on  
34 that. I have the two existing ones and I have four  
35 more. If the Chair would like to appoint someone or  
36 someone to volunteer, it would be great to work with  
37 folks between now and the next RAC meeting. So that's  
38 my first point.

39

40 I guess I have another one. The  
41 harvest of salmon for subsistence by residents of  
42 communities of Cold Bay, King Cove and Sand Point. I  
43 believe that project was submitted and it is  
44 recommended for funding. So, depending on funding  
45 levels, that will be funded this year, so I'm excited  
46 about that.

47

48 Sort of my last point is I want to  
49 apologize. I know there was some consternation about  
50 the FRMP at your last RAC meeting. We implemented a new

1 system. I came here in October of 2014 and the notice  
2 for proposals went out in November, so I had about a  
3 month and Gene Peltola, my boss, said it's your  
4 decision. It's a good idea to change this. We need  
5 some changes. I told him if we change it, there's  
6 going to be a little bit of -- people aren't going to  
7 know, we're not going to be able to get our message out  
8 completely.

9  
10 But I thought it very important that we  
11 make these changes to make it a better process and a  
12 fair and transparent process for all the RACs and land  
13 managers. I didn't want to wait another two years for  
14 the next cycle. So we decided at OSM that we need to  
15 make these change. There will be a little bit of  
16 clunkiness and I apologize for that. But we want to  
17 have better communication in the future and work  
18 through these things, you know. We want to be open.  
19 As long as I'm there, we're going to be open, we're  
20 going to be listening. We work for the government and  
21 we have some restrictions there, but if we can say yes  
22 and modify things, I'll do my best to do that any way I  
23 can.

24  
25 Anyway, thanks for bearing with us.  
26 OSM and fisheries, for instance, we're down like four  
27 positions right now. My ideal is to have a fish  
28 biologist assigned to your RAC so you can talk to them  
29 at any time and working with Karen. So you'll have a  
30 one, two punch with a Council Coordinator and a  
31 fisheries biologist. We're going to get there and we  
32 want open communication.

33  
34 So I just wanted to let you guys know  
35 that. I know that Don Rivard was at your meeting and  
36 he had nothing but good to say about everyone, but it  
37 was a good discussion. I know it was a long discussion  
38 and hopefully with the training now and at every RAC  
39 meeting we want to talk about FRMP. So, Karen, put me  
40 on the agenda from now until forever. We want to talk  
41 about the FRMP. It's got to be a process. We've got  
42 to get your priority needs and your concerns addressed,  
43 so we want that to be an ongoing discussion. So thank  
44 you for your time.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,  
47 Stewart. Karen.

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
50 I do want to also echo his appreciation to this

1 Council. I said it at the last meeting with the time  
2 that was spent on FRMP a lot of really good  
3 recommendations were made from this Council that our  
4 office is acting on. So that kind of makes me a big  
5 deal in the office as a coordinator working with the  
6 Councils. I just wanted to thank you for that.

7

8 The second thing is Stewart did ask and  
9 I'd like to see if there's some volunteer and we can  
10 get that on record here for anybody who would like to  
11 be a representative to help make sure we get the  
12 correct information out to the Council on FRMP projects  
13 and I am certainly willing to work to assist that  
14 person as well.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Sam.

19

20 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
21 make a proposal that we have a standing subcommittee to  
22 evaluate and make recommendations back to the RAC for  
23 programs that would be put on our priority list. I'm  
24 not volunteering being on it. I'm just making the  
25 proposal that we have the standing subcommittee.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: I'll volunteer.

28

29 MS. SKINNER: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Please state your  
32 names.

33

34 MS. TRUMBLE: Della Trumble. I'll do  
35 whatever I can for the Aleutians part of this  
36 committee.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Pat. I was the one that  
39 said I'll volunteer.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: How many people do we  
42 want?

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Three.

45

46 MS. CHERNOFF: Can I volunteer Rebecca?

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MS. CHERNOFF: Well, she's an attorney,

1 she's super organized, I think she's well-spoken.  
2  
3 MS. SKINNER: I just seconded the  
4 motion. That's fine.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that okay with  
7 you? Okay. Della, Pat and Rebecca.  
8  
9 MR. KOSO: One thing if I might.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.  
12  
13 MR. KOSO: Kay, I was just thinking, he  
14 just mentioned that he had another job opening for a  
15 biologist. I was just wondering if you were looking  
16 for a second job.  
17  
18 (Laughter)  
19  
20 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: I'm working with the  
21 Aleut Corporation.  
22  
23 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll help out on that  
24 committee too.  
25  
26 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay, Tom.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Stewart.  
29  
30 MR. COGSWELL: For the record, that is  
31 awesome. I'm so happy to hear that, that subcommittee.  
32 I mean we're going to try. Just so you know, Northwest  
33 Arctic and North Slope, it was on their agenda to form  
34 this subcommittee and we're going to see how that goes  
35 and then we're going to bring it to all the other RACs.  
36 But Southcentral did it on their own and you guys did  
37 it too, so I think this is going to be a great way to  
38 stay informed and have a maximum effect for the FRMP  
39 and the development of your priority needs, so awesome.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Questions,  
42 comments.  
43  
44 MR. ROHRER: Do we need to vote on it?  
45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. A motion  
47 was made by Sam and seconded by Ms. Skinner and we have  
48 volunteers, so I think it would be a good time to vote  
49 on that motion.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. The motion  
2 would read.....  
3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. The motion  
5 would read to establish a subcommittee to work with the  
6 FRMP program. Volunteers would include Pat Holmes,  
7 Della Trumble, Rebecca Skinner and Tom Schwantes.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Would  
10 someone like to make a motion to that effect.  
11  
12 MS. SKINNER: We already made the  
13 motion.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You already did.  
16 Was there a second?  
17  
18 MS. SKINNER: I seconded the motion.  
19  
20 MS. TRUMBLE: Call for the question.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, moved and  
23 seconded. Any discussion.  
24  
25 MS. TRUMBLE: I called for the  
26 question.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, called for the  
29 question. Okay. Those in favor say aye.  
30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.  
34  
35 (No opposing votes)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
38 We have a subcommittee.  
39  
40 MS. SKINNER: Mr. Chair.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca.  
43  
44 MS. SKINNER: I was hoping before we  
45 run out of time -- I could make a motion, but I'd like  
46 to support the joint letter from all the RACs and then  
47 I'd also like to support the concept of a letter  
48 responding to the Fish and Wildlife regulations. I see  
49 it's quarter after 12:00. I just wanted to make sure  
50 that we as a group have time to take action to respond

1 to those specific two items. So if I need to make  
2 motions for each, I will.

3

4 MS. HOLMES: I'll second that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: A motion to  
7 support that RAC letter?

8

9 MS. SKINNER: I'll move to support the  
10 all-Council joint letter.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Second.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: I second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat seconded.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Discussion.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Question called.

25 All those in favor.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry. Did  
32 you have a question or comment?

33

34 MS. SKINNER: No. Just for the record  
35 I did want to note that the joint letter addresses the  
36 request we heard today encouraging the Federal  
37 Subsistence Board to support having a designated  
38 subsistence seat on the North Pacific Fisheries  
39 Management Council. I just also want to note in the  
40 letter there is a reference to the priority information  
41 needs. That's what we just talked about. But I do  
42 think that that's really important for our RAC to do a  
43 really good job on identifying those needs. I just  
44 wanted to note those two for the record.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any further  
49 discussion.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If no further  
4 discussion, all those in favor say aye.  
5  
6 IN UNISON: Aye.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.  
9  
10 (No opposing votes)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
13 This board supports the RAC letter. Rebecca.  
14  
15 MS. SKINNER: I'd also like to move  
16 that we support the letter, I believe it was prepared  
17 by Pat, and handed out with the yellow highlights on it  
18 opposing the Fish and Wildlife regulations. In the  
19 letter, it says disallowing State of Alaska predator  
20 harvest regulations on refuge lands. I guess with a  
21 second we could discuss that more.  
22  
23 MR. ROHRER: Second.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
26 seconded. Discussion. Sam.  
27  
28 MR. ROHRER: I have a couple comments.  
29 I think the letter is a good start. I think there's a  
30 couple items we need to add on there specifically in  
31 reference to closure lengths and notification for those  
32 closures, public hearing, public meetings, some of  
33 those things. It gets a little bit in depth.  
34  
35 I also want to make sure that -- I  
36 think we need to submit these comments to the  
37 Subsistence Board, but just as important if not more  
38 important we need to submit them to the actual comment  
39 section for the proposed reg and we don't have very  
40 much time to do that. Our comment period is running  
41 low on that, so we'd really need to -- we probably need  
42 to maybe form another subcommittee to get those  
43 comments fleshed out a little bit more.  
44  
45 Thank you.  
46  
47 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I think if the  
48 motion-maker would like to change that to a friendly  
49 amendment to approve it in concept, then you can assign  
50 folks to work on it and I'd be glad to work with

1 whoever else wants to modify the thing because I just  
2 tossed it out as a conceptual approach on trying to  
3 answer some of the questions from the Fish and Wildlife  
4 people as well as the passion of all the other RACs if  
5 that would be okay.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and actually I  
8 thought my motion was to approve it in concept, but,  
9 yes, I do agree with that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Karen.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. On page  
14 KA-52 of your meeting book, at the last meeting in the  
15 fall, the Council asked me to draft a letter to Mitch  
16 Ellis, who is the Regional Refuge Chief, stating the  
17 Council's position on the proposed rule relative to  
18 predator management on Fish and Wildlife Service lands.  
19 This letter has been sent to Mr. Ellis; however, it has  
20 not been formally submitted as a written comment.  
21 There was an intent to do so because we couldn't submit  
22 it until after the written comment period was open.  
23 Are you implying at this point that we're going to add  
24 to this letter the comments that were brought up by  
25 Pat.....

26

27 MR. ROHRER: (Nods affirmatively)

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....or that you are  
30 going to re-author a new letter? I think that needs to  
31 be clarified so that we can understand what we need to  
32 do from our end to make sure your comments are  
33 recorded.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca.

38

39 MS. SKINNER: I'll answer in two parts.  
40 If we somehow run out of time without completing a new  
41 letter, I absolutely support submitting the existing  
42 letter so that we submit something, but I do agree with  
43 adding to that letter. For the record, I would like to  
44 incorporate what Pat has put together, the sheet with  
45 yellow highlighting, Sam's comments, and then I would  
46 like us to also consider using some of the language or  
47 concepts that are in the letter from the Koyukuk  
48 Advisory Committee. I think they had a lot of good  
49 concepts in there that were actually similar to those  
50 brought up by the Southcentral RAC, which I sat in on

1 yesterday afternoon. They discussed this issue to some  
2 length.

3

4 So, in concept, if everyone has had a  
5 chance to look at those and if we can give leeway to  
6 whoever is working on the final letter to kind of be  
7 inspired by those four sets of information to get the  
8 letter drafted.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'll work with  
13 Karen, get the letter, and then I'll contact you folks  
14 and Monday, whenever Becky has five seconds free, I'll  
15 try and -- maybe what I'll do is I'll get together with  
16 Sam, we'll draft something, put it together, bounce it  
17 off Becky and then back to Karen.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. There's a  
20 motion on the floor.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Call for the question on  
23 Rebecca's.....

24

25 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

28

29 MS. TRUMBLE: I fully support what was  
30 said and I think that all the regions -- as we heard in  
31 the main part of the meeting, I'll express the same  
32 thing. But taking, I think, a step farther, and  
33 whether or not we're able to do it, asking the Federal  
34 Subsistence Board as a whole to direct the Secretary of  
35 Interior to copy our delegation and our governor on  
36 this to make sure that this is strongly not supported  
37 statewide. It would be what I recommend to add to our  
38 process.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Sam.

41

42 MR. ROHRER: I'd just like to add one  
43 more quick thing briefly. For those who aren't aware --  
44 and I completely agree with you, we do need to copy  
45 them on that. For those who aren't aware,  
46 congressional delegation has introduced amendments to  
47 two current bills that are moving through the House and  
48 the Senate to specifically not allow the Fish and  
49 Wildlife Service to implement this rule. So it's  
50 actually passed out of the House and it's in the

1 Senate. Will most likely pass the Senate. Who knows  
2 if the President will sign it. Anyway, so that's a  
3 good thing.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Could we also send copies  
8 of that to the Secretaries and also to the President?  
9 Heaven knows it will ever reach his shop or his  
10 handler, but let's go for it, you know. And  
11 particularly if that's going to the President from the  
12 tribes. That would be a real score, I think, because  
13 his handler might listen to that.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. The letter  
16 can go to the Federal Subsistence Board with a  
17 direction to send that letter to the Secretary. With  
18 respect to the President, that may be considered a  
19 lobbying effort because he is going to be responsible  
20 for signing the legislation from the House. So my  
21 recommendation would be, no, that you would not be  
22 allowed to send a letter to the President as a Council.  
23 As individuals, you're certainly welcome to do that as  
24 long as you're not representing the Council.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: So the tribal folks could  
29 do that, Sam and I could send it in, Sam and I could go  
30 to the local fish and game AC, say this is what we've  
31 done, do you want to endorse it and send it off. So  
32 this is something I think we can all do as individuals  
33 to really get it rolling, but we can also go through  
34 the formal process at OSM and the Federal Board, right?

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Further  
37 discussion. Melissa.

38

39 MS. BERNS: Yeah, I agree with  
40 everything that everybody has been talking about and it  
41 is very important, once we get this letter completed  
42 and drafted, to take it back to our respective  
43 communities and region and get it out to as many  
44 people. As Sam indicated, the deadline date is  
45 nearing. April 7th is the deadline date for comments.  
46 So if that letter can get out as early as possible and  
47 circulated so that we can go above and beyond what our  
48 authority is here and have our tribes and communities  
49 and organizations go ahead and send that forward as  
50 well, that would be beneficial to us.

1 I serve with Alaska Federation of  
2 Natives, Subsistence Advisory Board, and we'll be  
3 meeting on the 21st with Governor Murkowski and this is  
4 an item on our agenda as well. Senator Murkowski, not  
5 Governor.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is it possible to  
8 get that letter by the end of the day tomorrow?

9  
10 MR. HOLMES: I've got a draft. I don't  
11 know if I can do it tonight because I spent half the  
12 night arguing with somebody, tree-huggers, but I can  
13 work on it Saturday and Sunday and I can bounce it to  
14 Sam and then we can take what we compile there to  
15 Rebecca and get it back to you hopefully on Monday or  
16 Tuesday. I don't know. We'll give it a shot.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

19  
20 MS. TRUMBLE: I just have a question  
21 about process. Right now this is in the process of  
22 public comments, the EA. Now is this one of those  
23 things that's nationwide, Karen?

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, I'm sorry.

26  
27 MS. TRUMBLE: The process we're in now  
28 and coming up to the deadline in April on this EA, it  
29 involves public lands in Alaska, so this is an issue  
30 that's nationwide. This is the point I've been trying  
31 to make. Is it nationwide?

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, this is a proposed  
34 rule for sport hunting in Alaska.

35  
36 MS. TRUMBLE: So it doesn't involve the  
37 Lower 48.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: It doesn't involve  
40 implementation of the rule on public lands in the Lower  
41 48, but it does involve the constituency of the Lower  
42 48 because they are public lands in Alaska.

43  
44 MS. TRUMBLE: That's kind of where I'm  
45 headed. What my concern is that you're going to get  
46 250,000 comments from the Lower 48 saying we support  
47 Fish and Wildlife doing this and you've got a handful,  
48 a thousand comments from the state of Alaska. I know  
49 the comment from the attorney basically says, no, we  
50 don't necessarily outweigh that. But, trust me, I've

1 seen it to many times being weighed and favored and the  
2 decision made in favor of the large comments from the  
3 Lower 48 that don't have a clue about Alaska.

4

5 The other concern that I have with this  
6 is sometimes these things happen and they can only be  
7 done by an Act of Congress, like you said. Senator  
8 Murkowski and Congressman Young have added language to  
9 the bill. I just want it on record this is frightening  
10 stuff when this is done.

11

12 The other piece, I guess, that I still  
13 haven't fully understood at this point is who initiated  
14 this?

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What?

17

18 MS. TRUMBLE: Who started wanting to --  
19 is it staff that put this together for Fish and  
20 Wildlife? Where did this come from?

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair,  
23 Della. This entire issue was brought forth as a result  
24 of continuing years of conflict between the State of  
25 Alaska and the National Park Service and Fish and  
26 Wildlife Service over management, particularly of  
27 predators, on Federal public lands because they were at  
28 conflict with Federal laws and mandates and the Board  
29 of Game would not allow for the Federal government to  
30 withdraw their lands from Board of Game proposals  
31 designed to reduce predators and change diversity. The  
32 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park  
33 Service felt this was the way to go about doing this.

34

35 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Karen, for  
36 refreshing my mind.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca.

39

40 MS. SKINNER: I just wanted to restate  
41 the motion. It seems like we've had enough discussion  
42 on this. My motion is supporting a preparation of a  
43 letter covering the concepts that are addressed in the  
44 document that Pat put together, which is the one with  
45 the yellow highlights, the letter we have from the  
46 Koyukuk Advisory Council February 24th, and the  
47 discussion we've had so far today, and then referencing  
48 back also to the discussion we had at our September  
49 meeting when we had a shorter letter that we put  
50 together.

1                   This wasn't part of the motion, but  
2 recognizing that once this motion passes we'll have a  
3 subgroup working on this letter led by Pat Holmes, who  
4 will actually take all of this information and put it  
5 together into a longer letter that reflects what we've  
6 discussed so far on this subject.

7  
8                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry to complicate  
9 this, Mr. Chair. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta also put in  
10 a short request to all the Councils, and it was time  
11 permitting, to consider asking the Secretary of -- the  
12 Federal Subsistence Board to ask the Secretary of  
13 Interior to withdraw this proposal. So that is another  
14 thing you can either include in this letter or, if you  
15 feel like you have sufficient points in the three  
16 groups that you're looking at right now, that's fine,  
17 but I did want to make sure you were aware of that.

18  
19                   MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
20 amend the motion to add that.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: She's the motion-  
23 maker.

24  
25                   MS. SKINNER: Yes.

26  
27                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I will  
28 certainly do that and then I'll touch bases with Jack  
29 and Greg, the two big movers up in the Arctic on what  
30 they're putting together and then I'll relay that also  
31 through our committee in case there's some new sound  
32 bites that will be appropriate to help us in that  
33 argument. And I did go to their meeting and I did  
34 provide some input from our perspective on the  
35 Peninsula Herd and they were quite amazed as to what we  
36 went through and how little got accomplished, but at  
37 least now the whole state knows about Lem Butler's  
38 experiment about doing surgical removals on the calving  
39 grounds and hopefully that type of strategy would be a  
40 little more easier sell than killing everything point  
41 of view that most stateside tree-huggers have. Anyway,  
42 it's a place to start and I'll do my best to put it  
43 together.

44  
45                   Oh, one of the handouts I gave you  
46 folks that I gave the Northwest Council was this one  
47 Congressional Record because we have folks in our  
48 community -- unfortunately, Alice Petrivelli passed  
49 away, but there's lots of folks that participated in  
50 creating ANILCA. This one here, please read it because

1 it says natural diversity does not disallow predator  
2 control and that's something we've been told they can't  
3 do it, but it's right here in the Congressional Record.

4

5 Thank you. I'm done.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

8

9 MR. SCHWANTES: Just a question. Would  
10 it be wise for us to support the letter that the other  
11 group has circulated for all the Councils to support as  
12 a separate issue and then go ahead and write the  
13 letter. I think that's the way to go.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair,  
18 Council Member Schwantes, I think the confusing part  
19 potentially that could come up here that the Council  
20 needs to be aware of is that at this point in time  
21 neither the Park Service or the Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service considered the proposed rule a banishment or a  
23 prohibition on predator control. Okay.

24

25 So if you're going to talk about Unimak  
26 Island and the capacity of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
27 Service to perform predator control on Unimak Island,  
28 that is a very separate issue than the proposed rule.  
29 That requires an EIS and everything else that they went  
30 through. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is going  
31 to respond, in my humble opinion, that, yes, they will  
32 consider predator control, but it has to meet criteria.

33

34

35 That's a very different issue than the  
36 proposed rule. I know it doesn't seem like it's a  
37 different issue because you've got kind of a defacto  
38 predator control coming in under proposed rule and a  
39 real predator control program, a formal program coming  
40 in, for example, that was proposed for Unimak. They're  
41 very separate issues and I don't know how you want to  
42 compile them so that your comments aren't disregarded  
43 as something separate. So it's something to really  
44 take into consideration.

45

46 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair, I can speak to  
47 that. I am aware of that issue and was going to talk  
48 to Pat about that with him and his letter. The key  
49 point is natural diversity. The Service uses natural  
50 diversity through the EIS process or the EA process.

1 They use that explaining why it's super challenging for  
2 them to do predator control. Unfortunately for the  
3 Service and fortunately for us, the Congressional  
4 Record clearly shows that that was never the intention  
5 for natural diversity argument to be able to be used.

6

7 So that's the point we'll make. Unimak  
8 is a good example of that, but the bigger point is the  
9 Service is misusing the concept of natural diversity  
10 and that's what we'll point out in the letter, as a lot  
11 of other people are pointing out.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: And the one point I raised  
16 and we'll discuss it in our committee is that I see the  
17 one benefit of us getting the short end of the stick on  
18 the South Peninsula Herd is that it has allowed some  
19 science to be done. I'm trying to see if it's been  
20 published. The science is there. They say the science  
21 isn't, but the science is there where a surgical  
22 removal of a few animals can make a big difference.  
23 So, in my mind, there's a step-wise process for the  
24 predator control. I'd like to get them to drop it, but  
25 what I'm doing when I did that draft was tossing out an  
26 idea some point that's midway between their perspective  
27 and the folks from Arkansas that live in Fairbanks.

28

29 So that's all. We can be careful on  
30 how it's worded and we have our wordsmith Rebecca here  
31 to whip us in line with a yardstick.

32

33 MS. SKINNER: Call the question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question is  
36 called. All those in favor say aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
45 We've got 25 minutes. Do we have any more action items  
46 that we need to get done? Tom.

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. Under  
49 new business under predator control. One of the things  
50 that I've learned sitting in these meetings is that the

1 Board of Game -- I'm sorry, the Federal Subsistence  
2 Board has no authority to deal with predator control.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: They do. Oh, I'm sorry.  
5 I will be quiet.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: You're shaking your  
8 head no.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: They do not.

11

12 MR. SCHWANTES: Right.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: For the record, the  
15 Federal Subsistence Board has a Federal predator  
16 control policy that does not allow the Board to  
17 participate in predator control, so it is left up to  
18 the land managers to determine whether or not predator  
19 control can occur on those lands.

20

21 MR. SCHWANTES: So I am told that the  
22 reason that is is because ANILCA does not allow the  
23 Federal Subsistence Board to get involved in predator  
24 control.

25

26 MR. ROHRER: Can I respond to that?

27

28 MR. SCHWANTES: Sure.

29

30 MR. ROHRER: Because I was in the same  
31 -- I know where you're going with this. It's not  
32 ANILCA that says that. It's a policy put in place by  
33 the -- the policy is made by the Secretaries. So the  
34 request that you're going to ask for needs to go to the  
35 Secretaries, but I'll let you finish that.

36

37 MR. SCHWANTES: Correct. So what I  
38 would propose is that we, as a Council, write a letter  
39 through the Board to the Secretary of Interior and  
40 Agriculture requesting that they allow the Board to get  
41 involved in predator control based on the information  
42 that we've received in the meetings we've been at this  
43 week where it's obvious that lack of predator control  
44 is having a significant impact on subsistence uses.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Karen.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair. If  
49 I may response, Mr. Schwantes, my understanding of the  
50 reasoning for the predator control policy for the

1 Federal Subsistence Board is that the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board is to work with regulations that  
3 provide subsistence opportunities as defined under  
4 ANILCA and the removal of predators to augment other  
5 wildlife populations is not considered a subsistence  
6 activity. This is what I've been told. So it is, in  
7 fact, in some fashion attached to ANILCA and the  
8 directions of ANILCA whether we want to accept it or  
9 not. So it wasn't just a random document that was  
10 created by the Federal Subsistence Board. It was based  
11 on a rule of law under ANILCA.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Karen, could you get that  
16 point to our committee because we've had folks that  
17 were involved in that legislation that live in Kodiak  
18 that said that was not the case, that was the  
19 objective. So that's quite a difference between OSM or  
20 whoever made that interpretation. I'd like to know who  
21 made the interpretation and why and precisely their  
22 definition and then we can address it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Amy.

25

26 MS. HOWARD: Hi. Through the Chair.  
27 So Ken Lord from the Solicitor's Office who gave the  
28 Title VIII of ANILCA training, and I think most of you  
29 have been in it, he went over this particular very  
30 specific topic and Karen is right in saying that ANILCA  
31 allows for the Board to have authority over the taking  
32 of fish and wildlife for subsistence uses. So where  
33 the area of predator control comes in, and I think this  
34 has been a longstanding discussion for many, many  
35 years, is not covered by ANILCA through various courts,  
36 through various interpretations. The most current  
37 interpretation that we are at though is from the  
38 Solicitor's Office from Ken Lord about predator  
39 control.

40

41 Now the Board's policy on predator  
42 control came in because this discussion has been going  
43 on for so long that the Board felt, okay, then we will  
44 put a policy in place to try and -- not end the  
45 discussion, but to have at least a caption. Like the  
46 Board has to leave predator control up to the land  
47 management agencies. I know it's not a satisfying  
48 answer, but it's where we're at now as far as the  
49 interpretations go.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Could you please  
2 email me that interpretation that is restricted to the  
3 subsistence opportunity and does not address predator  
4 control, whatever Ken Lord's last thing was on it.  
5 Because I understand he's the one that made the big  
6 suggestion to staff to put forth this regulatory  
7 process rather than raise the question of scientific  
8 validity on predator/prey to the courts. That's just  
9 hearsay, but I would really like to know precisely  
10 that. I mean you gave a nice summary, but if you could  
11 give me the summary and that statement on what it's  
12 based, I would really like to read that myself because  
13 I sometimes get old and I don't process well verbally.  
14 I'd appreciate that.

15  
16 MS. HOWARD: Through the Chair, sorry.  
17 I'm not sure what that is at this moment, Pat, but I'm  
18 happy to look into it and ask Ken further for something  
19 to substantiate those things and maybe even a timeline.  
20 So I'll look into it for you and see what I can dig up  
21 and find for you.

22  
23 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

24  
25 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. I'll  
26 just make this really quick. It was either Ken Lord  
27 who said it or it was Carl and I can't remember which  
28 one because we were pressing him about this subject,  
29 and their response was, well, there's not much we can  
30 do, but the one thing you could do would be, as a RAC,  
31 to petition the Secretaries to change the policy. So  
32 that came through -- I'm sure it was through Ken. It  
33 was either through Ken or it was through Carl. It's a  
34 longshot, but it's something. I think we should do it.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rebecca.

37  
38 MS. SKINNER: Is this something that we  
39 can put on our fall meeting agenda? I think this is  
40 important. It's come up several times. I just feel  
41 like today we don't have the time to really discuss it  
42 and I think there's some foundational information, some  
43 of which Pat has just requested, that we should  
44 probably have in front of us before we attempt to draft  
45 a petition or a letter to the Secretaries. But if we  
46 can get that on our fall meeting agenda, that seems  
47 like a better way to handle this.

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair. I  
50 think that's a really good idea and it goes back to my

1 earlier recommendation that for this April 7th deadline  
2 for the comments on the proposed rule that we kind of  
3 stay away from the predator management policy. We stay  
4 away from predator control with the exception of what  
5 you would like to include about natural diversity.  
6 They're two different animals here.

7

8 I think that having more time to look  
9 at the predator management policy, what it means, how  
10 it was developed, what it's based on, would be an  
11 excellent thing to do at the fall meeting. Because  
12 there's no deadline on that, you have plenty of time to  
13 put together something substantive to the Secretaries.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

18

19 MS. TRUMBLE: I agree with all that's  
20 been said and the issue of it is two animals and one of  
21 those animals is going to be totally gone because the  
22 wolves are going to eat them all. But maybe as a  
23 suggestion, Pat and everyone that's going to be on this  
24 letter-writing committee, that we look at trying to  
25 draft something prior to our fall meeting and that we  
26 can easily try to get this information out possibly to  
27 the other RACs.

28

29 Kodiak/Aleutian is considering this  
30 based on our statewide regional meeting in Anchorage  
31 and the concern by all the RACs within the state, to  
32 consider that you also look to adding to or something.  
33 So it moves a little faster instead of waiting another  
34 year to have something actually being done.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So it would be a  
37 second letter that we'll work on long term to the  
38 Secretaries and then the short-term one will be to OSM  
39 paralleling the comments of the other RACs on not  
40 having this legislation.

41

42 Please, anybody, send me emails on your  
43 thoughts.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca, you have  
46 something?

47

48 MS. SKINNER: I did. So when we meet  
49 in the fall in Dutch Harbor, I look forward to  
50 discussing this more. I note that on the meeting

1 schedule it looks like we are the first RAC in the  
2 meeting schedule, so I think that's a really good  
3 opportunity if we come out with some sort of a mostly  
4 finalized draft out of our meeting, maybe we could get  
5 that forwarded to the other RACs to consider as well  
6 since we're first in the lineup.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. What  
13 I'll try and do is find out who is the main mover on  
14 the other RACs on this issue so that we can have an  
15 email tree.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

18

19 MR. SCHWANTES: I would just say it's a  
20 long shot, but the squeaky wheel gets the grease. If  
21 we do nothing, we can expect nothing. If we go for it,  
22 who knows.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Refresh my memory.

27 Do we have a motion on the floor?

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. The motion  
30 to have a joint letter, a support letter carried, which  
31 would include the letter that's already written to  
32 Mitch Ellis, the Koyukuk comments and Sam's comments  
33 and resubmit this letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
34 Service for a consideration of written comments for the  
35 proposed rule. It was put forth by Skinner, seconded  
36 by Sam and it was also amended to allow for the Yukon-  
37 Kuskokwim Delta language to request that the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board ask the Secretary to remove the rule  
39 and it carried.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: So we need a motion, Mr.  
42 Chair, to have a second motion to be developing for the  
43 committee to develop and a longer-term way for the fall  
44 meeting comments on predator control to the Secretary.  
45 No, we don't need that? I mean we'll just put it  
46 together and then we'll bring it up then.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rebecca.

49

50 MS. SKINNER: My suggestion was to have

1 it be a fall agenda item primarily so that we could get  
2 some of the requested information in front of us before  
3 we start trying to draft something. That being said, I  
4 don't mean if people want to put drafts together ahead  
5 of time, I absolutely support that, but my intent was  
6 not to have this group start drafting something on  
7 predator control right now. My intent was for us to  
8 have more discussion time in the fall meeting because  
9 we don't have the time today to really have the  
10 discussion.

11  
12 MR. HOLMES: I still think it's  
13 important for us to have a letter that goes along with  
14 the other Councils on withdrawing the rule because  
15 that's just not kosher.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: We're doing that.  
18 You're doing that.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Are we done  
21 with this discussion?

22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I think  
24 you could ask anybody on the phone or anybody in the  
25 room if they have any agency reports. If not, we can  
26 move into the confirmation and selection of dates for  
27 the upcoming RAC meetings.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. It looks  
30 like we've got one coming up. Do we have any agency  
31 reports.

32  
33 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I stopped by  
34 Fish and Game before I came and they apologized. They  
35 just finished a massive Fish Board meeting. I think  
36 the staff wanted to come to this meeting and give us an  
37 update on Akalura and other things. I'll try and get  
38 that for you and send it out to you and other RAC  
39 members. But they've had such drastic cuts that they  
40 don't have travel money and they were required to burn  
41 it on the Board meeting. They're looking at some  
42 really radical cuts to operations for next year, the  
43 Kodiak staff and the Peninsula on reducing weir times  
44 on the major systems, closing more weirs period.

45  
46 So I'd like to toss out a thought of  
47 just drafting a letter to the governor on support of  
48 Fish and Game staff to continue monitoring of fish and  
49 wildlife resources and to appeal to not doing such  
50 radical cuts to such an important function to the state

1 of Alaska.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If we don't  
4 have anymore action items then we're -- Rebecca.

5

6 MS. SKINNER: So Sam just pointed out --

7 I guess I was missing the distinction. So my motion  
8 earlier was for this RAC to develop a letter opposing  
9 the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed rule, but we  
10 also -- and part of that motion was to incorporate the  
11 language of this joint statement from all the RACs  
12 asking for withdrawal of the rule. My assumption is  
13 that if we wanted to sign on to a joint statement, if  
14 Mitch were to sign off, there's enough on the record to  
15 support him just signing off on a joint statement or do  
16 we need a separate motion to be part of a joint  
17 statement from all of the RACs?

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.

20 Rebecca, there's no joint statement coming from the  
21 RACs. What it is is the RACs are asking the other RACs  
22 to ask the Board to withdraw the proposed rule. I can  
23 read it to you. Oh, they actually are. Develop a  
24 joint statement with other Federal Subsistence Regional  
25 Advisory Councils with similar concerns of opposition  
26 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed rule  
27 for predator management on refuges that includes a  
28 request that the Federal Subsistence Board advocate on  
29 behalf of the Councils for the withdrawal of the  
30 proposed rule.

31

32 So my bad. We can either -- the  
33 Council can either put that in their letter or you can  
34 make a motion that you would sign on to this type of  
35 joint statement. I don't know if they're going to  
36 elaborate on this statement. It was quickly done. You  
37 can make it quick and easy for yourselves by just  
38 putting it in your written comments. You can also make  
39 a motion to go ahead and join a joint statement.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: So I guess my assumption  
42 was we're going to have a pretty detailed letter, but  
43 if a joint statement was developed, I think there's  
44 enough on the record to show that we support Mitch  
45 signing off on a joint statement if one is developed  
46 sometime between now and our next meeting.

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. I make a  
49 motion that we approve Mitch signing off on that  
50 letter.

1 MR. ROHRER: I'll second that.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that your  
4 motion?  
5  
6 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
9 seconded.  
10  
11 MR. HOLMES: Once we get a second,  
12 could we have discussion.  
13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: It was seconded by Sam  
15 Rohrer.  
16  
17 MR. HOLMES: I went to the Northwest --  
18 Jack Reakoff's group. I forget which one that was.  
19 They're working on this joint comment, but each one of  
20 the RACs that is against this proposal is writing a  
21 detailed letter. They took the Koyukuk letter and  
22 submitted that. Literally, they said these are points  
23 you should consider. They also took the document that  
24 I was able to get from one of our elders, Dick Rohrer,  
25 who participated in that on the definition of diversity  
26 and they borrowed that and included it. They also  
27 included some of -- they were going to be including  
28 some of the comments that I made on our experiences.  
29  
30 So I think the easy way is to just  
31 endorse that, but, quite frankly, if you just do that,  
32 I'm writing a personal letter with lots of detail and  
33 incorporating those concepts because we need to do it  
34 now and we need to keep hammering them. We can come  
35 back in the fall with another letter dealing with  
36 things in depth, but we've been going on in this so  
37 long. You know, people in False Pass have not had a  
38 caribou to eat in, what, eight or ten years.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Isn't that what  
41 we're doing?  
42  
43 MR. HOLMES: Anyway, I think we should  
44 go for it.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Isn't that what  
47 we're doing? I can get the board's permission to sign  
48 off on that letter and then what you guys are doing is  
49 writing a detailed letter for this board. That is what  
50 we're doing, isn't it?

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I thought the  
2 detailed letter was going in ASAP to support these  
3 other actions. I thought that was the whole idea of  
4 what we're doing.

5  
6 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. That's  
7 the case. There's two letters. We're writing a  
8 detailed letter that will be submitted ASAP, as soon as  
9 it's done and reviewed, but we're also giving Mitch the  
10 authority to sign off on a joint statement, which I'm  
11 assuming it's going to be developed, so we're doing  
12 them both. We're doing a joint statement, all the  
13 RACs, to the Subsistence Board and a detailed  
14 individual letter.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry. I'm just a  
19 geezer and I'll be quiet.

20  
21 MR. KOSO: I'll call for the question  
22 on that.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. The  
25 question is called. All those in favor say aye.

26  
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed same  
30 sign.

31  
32 (No opposing comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries. I  
35 can sign off on the thing. I can sign off on your  
36 letter too. Okay. Where are we at?

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Date of next meeting.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Date of next  
41 meeting. Dutch Harbor in August. Della.

42  
43 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. I'm going to make  
44 this nice and easy and painless.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 MS. TRUMBLE: For the record, I've  
49 stated it in the meeting with all the RACs, but I think  
50 it's important that we do have the opportunity to meet

1 farther out west in our region. I think it's  
2 important. I don't know that we've ever had a meeting  
3 out west and today is a good example having Tom in  
4 front of us. I mentioned it's hard to get information  
5 from people when we just don't get to see people face  
6 to face. There's a lot going on. I think it's a good  
7 opportunity for us during what they have going on out  
8 there.

9  
10 I just would like to say that I'll make  
11 a motion that we request for the Kodiak/Aleutian  
12 meeting to be in Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, and that  
13 anything that can be done -- I mean I'd be willing --  
14 so that we can do that. It's very important, I think,  
15 that we have this meeting within the region.

16  
17 MR. KOSO: I'd like to second that  
18 motion and use Adak as an alternate.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Discussion.

21  
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, through the  
23 Chair. Rick, right now we had Sand Point as the  
24 alternate for the fall meeting and that was also  
25 rejected based on cost. We are tentatively scheduled  
26 for Kodiak for the fall meeting.

27  
28 Della, I appreciate your comments on  
29 that. I do want to say that we are seeking funding. I  
30 think I'm also going to be in touch with each one of  
31 you to gauge flexibility. Like one of the things we're  
32 looking at is to have double up of rooms so that we can  
33 save on room costs and anything else you might be able  
34 to think of. I need to bring those costs down to get  
35 this approved.

36  
37 I've been working with some folks at  
38 Fish and Wildlife Service to get additional funding.  
39 We've got some ideas that we may be able to push on  
40 that end. We're just going to keep at it. We've got  
41 BIA here who provided the funding for at least four  
42 forums that are going to be going on throughout the  
43 state. Mostly Western Alaska. They're going to be  
44 talking about this coastal erosion, bringing together  
45 the LCCs and the tribes. I mean this is critical for  
46 our region.

47  
48 So we're hoping that we can pull  
49 together some additional funds and we can justify  
50 getting everybody out there. I've looked at ferry

1 schedules. Those aren't going to work. It won't get  
2 anybody back and it's almost going to cost as much,  
3 unless you all want to sleep on deck like I do. I've  
4 looked at airfare in different ways.

5  
6 If you can come up with any creative  
7 ways, please bring them to me because if we can keep  
8 bringing these costs down, we've got a better chance of  
9 getting this approved. I support it 100 percent and  
10 I'm doing the best I can to try to get you all there.

11  
12 Thanks.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: At the general  
15 session, probably Tuesday, a RAC was saying that in  
16 order for them to meet in villages they stayed in  
17 schools. That cut costs.

18  
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We would  
20 look at -- like they have a hatchery out there, but I  
21 think one of the challenges we have with that is  
22 getting people to the meetings and back and forth. And  
23 Dutch Harbor is a little bit bigger than like Buckland  
24 and these places, so it's a little harder to get people  
25 across town or across island when you stay in private  
26 homes, but it's certainly an option that we can look  
27 at.

28  
29 I don't have the connections out there.  
30 I don't know if people do, but if they do -- what we're  
31 looking at is actually putting staff in either private  
32 homes or out at the hatchery and having you guys stay  
33 at the Grand Aleutian, which is where the meeting is  
34 going to be held. That's what we're looking at right  
35 now financially, but it's \$1,400 to get the Kodiak  
36 folks to Dutch Harbor round trip because you've got to  
37 come to Anchorage and that's part of the issue.

38  
39 MR. KOSO: Excuse me. You know, out in  
40 Adak we've been trying to get that there and we had  
41 everybody pretty much in consent to do that, but I  
42 guess your costs were too high, but I know the housing  
43 we could have got that for free. The travel out there  
44 wouldn't cost you anything. The Federal people out  
45 there said they'd put all their Federal people up.  
46 They have a big bunkhouse and stuff there that they can  
47 use.

48  
49 I've talked to the Aleut Corporation.  
50 I've got apartments there and stuff that I know we

1 could get the folks there and we could probably have  
2 very minima charge on housing. As far as  
3 transportation goes, that wouldn't be a problem either.  
4 The only cost I could see for you guys would be  
5 airfare. The airfare -- as far as setting up the  
6 meeting place, that wouldn't be a cost.  
7 So all of the housing and the meeting area and the  
8 transportation when you're there, there's no cost to  
9 that. The only cost I see is the Alaska Airlines  
10 ticket.

11  
12 If there was a way to work out mileage  
13 of some sort because Alaska Airlines -- the flights are  
14 never full and you can use Alaska Airline mileages and  
15 you could probably pick up a ticket for 600 bucks round  
16 trip. So there's a way of doing it to get there. I  
17 know you can't do it going to Dutch Harbor or any of  
18 the other places because you don't have Alaska Airlines  
19 yet. I see it as a lot less expense going there. I  
20 know everybody was excited about it and it kind of just  
21 went away and I never heard any more on it. I know we  
22 could do it on a very cost-effective way.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Melissa.

25  
26 MS. BERNES: I work with one of the  
27 airlines out on Kodiak frequently and have done  
28 charters with King Air from Old Harbor to Anchorage  
29 throughout the summer months for the military crew that  
30 flies in on a weekly basis. I know that you can work  
31 with chartering a plane directly from Kodiak. It seats  
32 nine. You can go directly from Kodiak to wherever the  
33 location may be just to reduce the cost. I mean  
34 they're pretty flexible with having a pilot wait there  
35 and stay there if it's a couple days meeting. That's  
36 another option to look at.

37  
38 MR. HOLMES: Another option is -- does  
39 PenAir still fly to Dutch or they don't?

40  
41 MS. BERNES: Uh-huh (affirmative).

42  
43 MR. HOLMES: I wish Mr. Lind was here  
44 because his uncle is Denny, who inherited PenAir from  
45 his dad. I used to know his dad a long time ago at  
46 PenAir, but that would be another option to explore, is  
47 to see if Mr. Lind could go through his family  
48 connections to PenAir and get us a deal on an air  
49 charter to Dutch. You know, that's the Alaska way of  
50 doing things, you know.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: If I may speak to  
4 that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rebecca.

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Oh, I was just going to  
9 say earlier in the week I was talking to Karen about  
10 this. I mean you can get a mileage ticket to Dutch  
11 Harbor through I guess Alaska Airlines and PenAir must  
12 be partners, but I was looking at mileage tickets, but  
13 it sounds like there's some sort of Federal  
14 restrictions on the ability for us to contribute to the  
15 travel process in creative ways. So I guess I would  
16 just ask whatever can be done to make this happen  
17 because I think we've heard in other regions they  
18 exercised flexibility to make the meetings happen in  
19 rural areas.

20

21 I think everyone on this board has  
22 expressed great support and desire to hold a meeting  
23 out on the Chain and I think we're willing to be as  
24 creative as we can. I would just hate to see Federal  
25 restrictions keep us from being able to really try to  
26 help the Federal government to make this happen because  
27 it is important for our work and our process to be out  
28 in those areas. I don't want to say that they're  
29 arbitrary restrictions because I understand they're  
30 not, but sometimes they do feel kind of arbitrary.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

33

34 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. I have to  
35 totally agree. We need to get out to those areas and I  
36 think this testimony we had this morning from Dutch  
37 Harbor was a classic example of why we need to be  
38 there. Last fall we took up this issue Proposal 194  
39 and because we didn't have the information that we  
40 should have had, we were told by Fish and Game that  
41 this was an allocation issue, when in fact it really  
42 was, from what we heard this morning, a truly  
43 subsistence issue. I think had we had that

44 information, we would have certainly gone the other way  
45 on that vote last fall. So it's very important that we  
46 get out to those areas so that we can have the input  
47 from those people. We're supposed to be representing  
48 those people and we certainly can't do it from Kodiak.

49

50 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. Adding on to

1 what Tom was saying, I think it's a perfect opportunity  
2 because you'll have people from all the communities  
3 there.

4

5 Karen, what I would suggest you do is --  
6 Tom, did he say he was the president of the tribe?

7

8 MR. KOSO: He's on the advisory  
9 council.

10

11 MS. TRUMBLE: The tribe has an elders  
12 van that they use that seats about 20 people easily.  
13 Give them a call. And they may have suggestions also.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: I just want to  
16 quickly, through the Chair, address a lot of the issues  
17 that you all brought up. We do not have a lot of time  
18 here unfortunately because we've got another meeting  
19 coming in and you've got to be somewhere. Number one,  
20 you all take the award for being the most expensive  
21 Council for travel. Even though five of the members  
22 are in Kodiak, we have very high travel expenses. I  
23 did look at charters for Adak and they were more  
24 expensive for a charter than the commercial air to get  
25 to Adak.

26

27 We have a liability issue with respect  
28 to using personal mileage. When you are on government  
29 travel for the government, we need to have you under  
30 our system because if something happens to you, we need  
31 to be able to justify being able to take care of you as  
32 a result of that.

33

34 The other issue that our -- and I'm  
35 giving you the negatives with the caveat to know that I  
36 am going to do my best to get creative about this. But  
37 one consideration is we need to be able to make sure  
38 some of the agency people can get there. So while we  
39 want to go to these other places there's restrictions  
40 on agency people being able to attend these meetings.  
41 That was a big deal with Adak because they just simply  
42 couldn't get out there and they don't have anybody out  
43 there to begin with really compared to some of the  
44 other locations.

45

46 So just things to keep in mind. We're  
47 not giving up. We're keeping on trying, but keep the  
48 ideas coming and I'll let you know what we can and  
49 cannot do. How's that?

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Fifteen years ago or when  
4 I first started we met in Cold Bay and the whole group  
5 said, hey, just let us get there. I can stay with  
6 friends and I'm willing to do anything to get out  
7 there. It sounds like Carl is finding some innovative  
8 ways to get around things, but the point at Cold Bay  
9 was -- and at that meeting there was twice as many  
10 staff people there as there was RAC members. We had  
11 four people from the public, we had the Fish and Game  
12 biologist break a survey and come in and give us a  
13 briefing, but, to me, the only person that really  
14 needed to be there was our coordinator and Glenn. The  
15 rest of them don't have to go. They can  
16 teleconference. That's why we have computers.

17

18 So leave them in Anchorage in their  
19 office where they want to be and let us go out and talk  
20 to the people. That reduces the cost by half. If we  
21 have the same kind of turnout, it's August in the fall,  
22 the fishing is good in Captains Bay, I can see we'd  
23 have 30 Feds. Stay here, so you can make an adjustment  
24 to say that we can reduce the cost by two-thirds by  
25 just having us go.

26 Anyway, there's some verbs, thoughts.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Coral.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: But let Glenn come because  
31 he can finagle things.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I would just  
36 like to express on your comment about not being able to  
37 get these heads of departments out there and stuff like  
38 that. I think we get to see them a lot and we can hear  
39 from them and we can contact them. We cannot make  
40 contact with these other people ever. Rarely, rarely,  
41 rarely. If we can go -- I know we were talking about  
42 going at a time when they're having all their tribal  
43 meetings. That's like the heavens opening up. Like it  
44 never happens. I think it's so important. I don't  
45 even think we should look at it as not an option. We  
46 just need to figure out how to get there. As a matter  
47 of fact, I'm already going to be there.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Let's just fly there.

50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: We're just going to be  
2 there. We'll teleconference from there.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MS. CHERNOFF: And I was talking to --  
7 well, you just addressed the issue of us using mileage.  
8 Because I was saying, you know, it's so important to me  
9 that I don't mind. Like I will use all my mileage to  
10 get there. I know there's other people too that would  
11 fund their own way through mileage.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 MR. KOSO: PenAir only allows like two  
16 seats per airplane on a mileage plan.

17  
18 MR. HOLMES: Schedule early, girls.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

21  
22 MR. SCHWANTES: I think we need to come  
23 to a conclusion here. Yeah, we want to have that  
24 meeting in Dutch Harbor, but if that fails, then what's  
25 the.....

26  
27 MR. KOSO: Kodiak they said.

28  
29 MR. HOLMES: Probably Sand Point is  
30 what we're stuck with.

31  
32 MR. SCHWANTES: Oh, Kodiak on the 28th  
33 and 29th of September.

34  
35 MR. HOLMES: But Dutch Harbor in  
36 August.

37  
38 MR. SCHWANTES: What were the dates for  
39 that Dutch Harbor meeting?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: August.

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
44 The dates for the Dutch Harbor meeting are the week of  
45 August 16th through 20th, but we haven't defined any  
46 actual days that the RAC meeting would be held. I've  
47 been working with Aaron Poe, who was in here earlier,  
48 who's with the ABSI, Aleutian/Bering Sea Island LCC, to  
49 see what else is happening that week because I want  
50 their people to be able to come to our RAC meeting and

1 then you all to be able to attend some of the sessions  
2 that are going on with the Aleutian Life Forum.

3

4 If it's a no, Kodiak was selected  
5 instead of Sand Point and that would be the end of  
6 September. We still have two things on the table for  
7 that. We do need to select a date and a location for  
8 the winter 2017 meeting by the way.

9

10 MR. KOSO: That August date would  
11 really be bad for most people are still fishing out in  
12 that region, so if it's any time in August, it's not  
13 going to be good for Dutch Harbor through the region.  
14 They're all still salmon fishing.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: It's to coincide with the  
17 Aleutian Life Forum.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's actually better  
20 because they're all gone, so there's rooms.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: One thing on Dutch Harbor  
23 in August and no negative reflection on culture, but  
24 knowing most of the families out there, the women are  
25 the ones that run the whole show and the men go out and  
26 work. The women are the ones who make the decisions  
27 and sometimes they're the ones you need to talk to and  
28 listen to. I know that's the case at home for me if I  
29 don't listen.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Spoken like a true  
34 elder.

35

36 MR. KOSO: That might have been true 30  
37 years ago.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We hashed  
40 it out quite a bit. Let's deal with February.

41

42 MS. SKINNER: So are you entertaining  
43 proposals for location or are we just assuming we're  
44 meeting in Kodiak?

45

46 MR. HOLMES: If I could suggest on dates. If  
47 we try to avoid the third week in September,  
48 God knows with what current weather patterns  
49 are.....

50

1 MS. SKINNER: We're in February now.  
2 We're talking about the February meeting.  
3  
4 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay. Whenever.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: February 7th, 8th  
7 and 9th, the first week.  
8  
9 MS. SKINNER: So that's usually the  
10 week of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council,  
11 the first week in February. So just putting that out  
12 there as a potential conflict.  
13  
14 MR. HOLMES: It would be nice if we  
15 could have it a little bit later because I'm usually  
16 down with my grandkids around that time.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Where are they  
19 having it, Rebecca?  
20  
21 MS. SKINNER: In February, it might be  
22 back in Seattle. February is usually it's either  
23 Portland or Seattle or Juneau, I think. It's somewhere  
24 down in that area.  
25  
26 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering about late  
27 February or early March or something that wouldn't  
28 conflict with Sam's deer hunt.  
29  
30 MR. SCHWANTES: We've got to get out of  
31 here.  
32  
33 MR. ROHRER: My only conflict in  
34 February is the 17th through the 20th.  
35  
36 MR. KOSO: I say let's have it after  
37 the 24th. Anytime after the 20th. The 22nd, what is  
38 that on?  
39  
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Wednesday. Perfect.  
41 The 22nd through 24th?  
42  
43 MR. KOSO: Sounds good. I second that.  
44  
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
46 February 22nd through 24th. I would go ahead and make  
47 a first selection and a second selection. So if we  
48 don't get to Dutch Harbor and you wanted to go  
49 somewhere else in February, go ahead and put that  
50 forth. Like King Cove, Cold Bay, Sand Point. Knowing

1 that we may end up back in Kodiak.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. SCHWANTES: I think our winter  
6 meeting should be Old Harbor.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to make another  
9 shot for Old Harbor.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is anybody open in Old  
12 Harbor? That's the problem.

13

14 MS. BERNS: We can make something open.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: She can make it open. She  
17 can make it certified if it needs to be certified. I  
18 think Old Harbor would be really good because there's  
19 so much knowledge there and I really want to stop and  
20 have a chat with Larry Matfay and his wife, who are  
21 both deceased, but.....

22

23 MS. BERNS: I was going to say, I  
24 thought they were.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. SCHWANTES: So Old Harbor with  
29 Kodiak as a back up.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: So our first choice is  
32 February 22nd in Old Harbor. What was our back-up  
33 location, Kodiak?

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Kodiak.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: I've already done the  
40 numbers on Old Harbor, so I'm ready.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry we  
43 didn't get through all of our agenda.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: We didn't? We didn't?

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's what  
48 happens when we get.....

49

50 MR. KOSO: I'll make a motion to

1 adjourn.  
2  
3 MS. SKINNER: Second.  
4  
5 MR. SCHWANTES: I second.  
6  
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Who motioned?  
8  
9 MR. KOSO: I did.  
10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Koso. And it was  
12 seconded by?  
13  
14 MS. TRUMBLE: Rebecca.  
15  
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: It carries.  
17  
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes, it carries.  
19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, guys. We  
21 did it.  
22  
23 (Off record)  
24  
25 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)  
26

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, 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 the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of March 2016.

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18