

1 BRISTOL BAY ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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9 VOLUME II

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12 Bristol Bay Native Association
13 Dillingham, Alaska
14 October 29, 2015
15 8:40 a.m.
16

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19 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

20

21 Molly Chythlook, Chair

22 Pete Abraham

23 Dan Dunaway

24 Nanci Morris Lyon

25 Daniel O'Hara

26 Senafont Shugak

27 Richard Wilson

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32 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Dillingham, Alaska - 10/29/2015)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:at --
what time is it?

MS. MORRIS LYON: 7:40.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: 7:40.

MS. MORRIS LYON: 8:40.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Sorry. 8:40.
Yeah, I knew it was kind of early. And this morning
we're -- before we get into the wildlife proposal --
the two wildlife proposals that were left to use or for
us to deal with this morning, while we're waiting for
one more Council member we'll deal -- we'll go into the
public testimonies. And I think we have one person
online that would like to do that and then anybody out
there that would like to.

MS. MORRIS LYON: Should we have people
online introduce themselves too so we know who's there?

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hmmm?

MS. MORRIS LYON: Should we have people
online introduce themselves too so we know who is
there.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And
then if there's anybody online that would like to
introduce themselves, that would be a good thing.

MR. MIKE: Folks on line, can you
please identify yourself and who you represent.

Thank you.

MR. NEMETH: This is Matt Nemeth, I'm
on the telephone from Anchorage.

MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford
with Fish and Game in Anchorage.

MR. MIKE: Anybody else?

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. MIKE: Anybody else online, we have
4 Matt Nemeth and Drew Crawford?
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. I've got a
9 request for public testimony. Mr. Matt Nemeth and
10 followed by.....
11
12 MR. LISAC: Mark.
13
14 MR. MIKE: Mark. Sorry.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So
17 we'll get the -- is it -- what's his name, Matt?
18
19 MR. MIKE: Matt Nemeth
20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, let's
22 start with Matt and then Mark.
23
24 MR. NEMETH: (Indiscernible - away from
25 microphone).....
26
27 MR. MIKE: Yes.
28
29 MR. NEMETH: And let me know when to
30 begin.
31
32 MR. MIKE: You have the floor.
33
34 MR. NEMETH: Okay. Madame Chair, and
35 members of the Council, thank you for the opportunity
36 comment this morning. My name is Matt Nemeth, I'm a
37 Senior Fisheries Biologist working for BBSRI which is
38 the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute
39 headquartered right here in Dillingham and I have 15
40 years professional experience designing and managing
41 fisheries projects throughout Alaska. I'm here today
42 to spend about three and a half minutes speaking in
43 support of FRMP proposal FIS16-403, that's 16-403 which
44 is a collaborative proposal from four local
45 organizations to revive escapement counts of chinook
46 salmon on the Togiak River. The reviews of this
47 proposal were not favorable mainly due to cost. And my
48 purpose here today is to reiterate our belief that it
49 is an important project and to explain a little bit
50 about it and keep everyone aware of our efforts to get

1 it off the ground.

2

3 So first about the project. It
4 proposes a tagging and aerial survey study to get firm
5 estimates of the abundance of Togiak River chinook
6 salmon in each of the next four years. (Indiscernible)
7 do that, we also propose to develop methods to allow
8 aerial surveys alone after year four. That's actually
9 to continue thereafter. So our vision here is that
10 after our four year project ends the region will be
11 left (indiscernible - distortion) surveys as a low cost
12 (indiscernible) chinook run and this will be the legacy
13 of our four year project.

14

15 Now we also recognize this is an
16 ambitious project that significantly expands on
17 recommendations from a prior study conducted from 2008
18 to 2011 also funded by the FRMP. Our project nearly
19 doubles the field crew, it adds helicopter serving time
20 and it adds significant analysis and evaluation time to
21 develop this long term, cost effective approach. We
22 knew going in that these recommendations would increase
23 the project cost, but we felt it important to capture
24 the true cost of a comprehensive approach and in doing
25 so we did examine the old study and its recommendations
26 very carefully and had many consultations with the
27 investigators from that 2008-2011 study. Our hope was
28 to come to this meeting having found additional sources
29 of funds to reduce the size of our request, but we
30 haven't done so yet. Summer is a tough time to do such
31 things and we intend to keep trying and if necessary to
32 resubmit next year having addressed the TRC's review
33 comments.

34

35 And I'll just close with a few reasons
36 why we think this project has merit. First there's
37 currently no assessment of Togiak chinook salmon and
38 this directly affects fishery conservation and
39 management including local opportunity for sockeye
40 harvest. The escapement goal for chinook salmon was
41 dropped after 2012 because of this lack of assessment
42 and we would like to see it returned and we would like
43 to see it done well enough to be useful for in season
44 management and escapement goals hereafter.

45

46 Second we have assembled an excellent
47 team entirely from within the region for this project.
48 First there's BBSRI which manages field projects
49 throughout the bay and who has tapped two scientists
50 that have led mark recapture studies elsewhere on adult

1 chinook salmon in Alaska including for the FRMP
2 program. And I think it was specifically the Copper
3 River chinook salmon. Second there's the Togiak
4 National Wildlife Refuge local staff who manage the
5 land on which most of this will be done and has
6 extensive local scientific expertise with this fish
7 stock. Third there's ADF&G local staff who are the
8 authority of salmon aerial surveys throughout the bay.
9 And fourth there's BBNA which represents local or
10 regional stakeholders and is outstandingly well suited
11 for outreach and helping to ensure capacity is filled
12 and kept within the region.

13

14 So in closing with the right team at
15 the right time on an important issue long identified as
16 high priority in the region we hope to build and
17 sustain the support for the project this winter as we
18 look for ways to help bring the cost down.

19

20 We thank you for your time this
21 morning.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Good
24 morning and thank you, Matt. Any of the Board members
25 have any questions for Matt?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. NEMETH: Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And then I
36 guess we're -- Mark.

37

38 MR. LISAC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Just wanted to follow-up on some things concerning this
40 project, follow-up on what Matt has said here. My name
41 is Mark Lisac, I'm the Fisheries Biologist at the
42 Togiak Refuge. This project -- the main goal of this
43 project is develop a long term method for monitoring
44 escapement in the Togiak Drainage of chinook salmon.
45 That -- the Togiak run is the second largest run in
46 Bristol Bay. And we wanted to establish a reliable
47 escapement method which is a priority of the Bristol
48 Bay RAC and the FRMP. It's also supported not only by
49 the Refuge, but Fish and Game as Matt mentioned, BBNA,
50 BBEDC, we have letters of support from the Togiak AC,

1 the Togiak Traditional Council, Twin Hills Traditional
2 Council and even Dillingham City. And there's also a
3 letter -- I think I asked Robbin to hand out those
4 letters to you yesterday, but there's also one from the
5 Curyung Tribe here in Dillingham. So there's been a
6 long history of trying to crack this nut on the Togiak
7 escapements, but specifically on king salmon that dates
8 back to the 1980s where sonar was tried and many other
9 methods were tried and failed. And in 2009 through '12
10 there was a pilot study that you guys and OSM had
11 funded to investigate using a different method, using
12 this mark recapture method and a weir to estimate the
13 chinook escapement in the Togiak. And it did prove
14 promising and we learned a lot from that, but it had
15 limitations in providing a accurate escapement estimate
16 and also in developing a long term feasible method for
17 monitoring that escapement.

18

19 So this project intends to deal with
20 all the recommendations that came out of that pilot
21 project and also from the TRC Committee. They
22 recognize the need for increased effort and sample size
23 of the fish and also the need to develop a long term
24 monitoring plan. So that's what this project is
25 intending to do and that's why the cost is so much
26 higher and I think that's mainly why the TRC had balked
27 at ranking this project any higher.

28

29 But that's all I have to say unless you
30 have any questions.

31

32 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

35

36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
37 Chair. Mark, so this project, the -- what is the issue
38 with the Togiak run, is it that it's up and down, it's
39 got highs and lows that are inexplicable, what's the
40 issue that initially brought this about, is it just
41 curiosity?

42

43 MR. LISAC: No, with all the, you know,
44 statewide with chinook runs, there has been an observed
45 decline, but there has been no reliable method for
46 estimating escapement in that drainage. And Fish and
47 Game as Matt mentioned had dropped their escapement
48 goal in 2012 just because they had no method of
49 monitoring that run. And this project would intend to
50 establish a program for a long term escapement effort.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: So -- well, we have
4 the same problem on the other side of the bay with our
5 Naknek run and our Alagnak run, our Egegik run. I
6 mean, all those runs up and down there, nobody has any
7 idea of what the viable enumeration could or should be
8 on them. So it would be beneficial perhaps to the
9 whole bay to figure out a study method that would give
10 us some numbers, but are you -- do you foresee this as
11 becoming a tool for future -- perhaps developing a
12 chinook management plan, what -- what's the end all
13 purpose other than just to end up with numbers?

14

15 MR. LISAC: Yes, Nanci, I believe that
16 would be the long term goal is to have a chinook
17 management plan for that drainage and to reestablish an
18 escapement goal. This method is -- it's not new, Matt
19 could address it even more there, it would be the SRI
20 and LGL who he works for as well have used this mark
21 recapture method in other areas of the State and in
22 Canada. So the intention in this project is to couple
23 with it helicopter surveys and so that in the future a
24 large crew and a weir would not be required to be out
25 there on the grounds, potentially an aerial survey
26 would improve that. In the past it's been done with
27 fixed wing aircraft sporadically and hadn't -- like I
28 said Fish and Game has dropped that escapement goal and
29 has dropped that effort really to try to get a handle
30 on the chinook escapement. And like I said it's the
31 second largest run in Bristol Bay so it's pretty
32 important. This method could probably be used in other
33 areas, but I'm not as familiar with those other
34 drainages.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: You're done, Nanci,
39 or.....

40

41 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes. I am.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY:I don't want to be
44 corking you. I'm glad you're bringing this to our
45 attention. I just -- we had our Advisory Committee
46 meeting last week here in Dillingham, Nushagak and
47 Department of Fish and Game announced that they're
48 cutting their funding for the Togiak sockeye salmon
49 tower and there's all kinds of cuts going on. Also
50 because of those kinds of cuts they're going to be

1 forced to manage the commercial fishery even more
2 conservatively, but these kings are a huge -- an
3 important subsistence resource as well. And so there's
4 been a long term practice of restricting the commercial
5 fishery in the last weeks of June to protect those
6 kings. There's been some other proposals that are
7 coming up the Board of Fish that want to change the
8 boundaries where -- at the outlet of the Togiak River
9 and my personal concern there is that could whack kings
10 because that -- if you're familiar with that it's
11 really shallow except for a narrow channel. And the
12 Togiak River is cloudy, it's not crystal clear like
13 Naknek and some of the other ones. So this has been an
14 ongoing concerning and like Mark said there's --
15 they've tried sonar, they've tried weirs, they've tried
16 video cameras, all kinds of stuff. But I know
17 subsistence and commercial access of fish in Togiak is
18 critically important and I'm just kind of feeling
19 panicky that the State can't fund any assessment
20 activities over there and that could impact all users.
21 So and I'm even curious if Fish and Game, I see Tim
22 Sands here, if he has anything to add, a comment about
23 this project or correct me if I've said anything out of
24 line or forgotten any -- I see him shaking his head,
25 but I'm eager to support this, but I have to -- as
26 Nanci says I know we used to through this program we
27 were funding weirs on Big Creek for a while and the
28 kings everywhere are highly sought.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald. I'll
35 have Donald.

36

37 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. We
38 have the FRMP agenda item on 10C so it's -- this is a
39 good discussion. In fairness of the other projects and
40 the process on FRMP I think we should hold off any
41 discussion further until we get into the FRMP and take
42 action on that, Madame Chair.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Mark.

47

48 MR. LISAC: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
49 was just going to add to what Dan said. They were
50 offering \$3 a pound for king salmon over there in

1 Togiak district here the last few years. So there's a
2 lot more interest in commercial harvest of king salmon
3 there as well.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

6
7 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

10
11 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Mark, what do -- do
12 they have a commercial fishery on kings over there and
13 the second question is what is the effort by the
14 recreational guides and that part of the fishery.

15
16 MR. LISAC: Yes, there is a commercial
17 fishery on kings, I think a lot of it is incidental to
18 sockeye fishery. Tim can address that way better than
19 I can. But the -- I think the harvests in the sport
20 fishery, again if Jason was here he could address that,
21 I think it might be 500 chinook are harvested there a
22 year, somewhere in that -- that area. Yeah, there is a
23 sport fishery over there and it all depends on how well
24 other rivers are doing, if there's -- if the Nushagak
25 run is low or restricted in the sport fishery then
26 folks will target the Togiak more.

27
28 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

31
32 MR. O'HARA: So they don't shut down
33 the -- they don't limit the red fishery due to the
34 kings then like they do in the Nushagak, and they'll
35 hold off and try to get the escapement up the Nushagak
36 and then, yeah, before -- while the reds are, you know,
37 gear restrictions and all, those type of things. And
38 the second thing is I went into Anchorage last year to
39 the North Pacific Council and it -- you know, it's the
40 first time that the -- that this Council was ever
41 represented in the bycatch fishery of the mid water
42 (indiscernible) bottom. And there's a -- they -- the
43 guys in the mid water (indiscernible) bottom are
44 running scared, I mean, they are really running scared.
45 There's a huge amount of pressure on those guys to get
46 off of the -- and we took it down from 125 to 66,000.
47 I think after 20 percent they took it down to 33,000.
48 So there's been a huge reduction and it needs to stay
49 at 33,000 bycatch, just -- you can't get above that.
50 And they do testify that there's a lot of three year

1 old or small kings out in the ocean. So we hope
2 they're coming back, but every effort needs to be made
3 to bring these kings back because they're a really,
4 really valuable fish.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
9 you. Mark, are you going to be here later on when we
10 deal with the -- this proposal.

11
12 MR. LISAC: In dealing with the
13 projects, the FRMP, yeah, I'll be here for that.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. At that
16 time we can probably deal more into it, you know, when
17 we get to that FRMP proposal that deals with this.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. LISAC: Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're -- we
24 have one more proposal to -- two, 34 and 35 that we'll
25 be dealing with that right now.

26
27 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair,
28 and good morning, everyone. This is Suzanne Worker
29 from the Office of Subsistence Management and I have
30 one more wildlife proposal to go over with you. This
31 is a crossover proposal so it doesn't affect
32 regulations in units 9 and 17, but users in units 9 and
33 17 may have C&T for these proposals.

34
35 WP16-34, it's actually not in your
36 book, I apologize for that, but I think you do have it
37 as a separate.....

38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, we got it
40 yesterday.

41
42 MS. WORKER: Okay. So this proposal
43 was submitted by Leonard Landlord of Mountain Village.
44 And he requests a closure of Federal lands in Mountain
45 -- west of Mountain Village to the harvest of all big
46 game by non-Federally-qualified users. And he cites
47 disruption of fall subsistence hunts by sports hunters.

48
49 So the analysis is for the area that
50 used to be called the Lower Yukon hunt area for moose

1 and it's basically the northwest portion of the Yukon
2 Delta so roughly north of the Kashunuk River up to the
3 old Village of Chakaktolik and then up to Mountain
4 Village. There are six big game species in unit 18,
5 caribou, musk ox, black bear, brown bear, wolves and
6 moose. Caribou are excluded from the analysis because
7 neither the Mulchatna Herd nor the Western Arctic Herd
8 ranges overlap the area that's proposed for closure.
9 And musk ox are similarly excluded because there's no
10 harvest allowed under State or Federal regulation in
11 the area that's proposed for closure.

12

13 So I'll just go through the remaining
14 four species one by one and tell you a little bit about
15 what we know about the population and harvest status.
16 And I'll start with bears. So there are bears along
17 the length of the Yukon River, both black bears and
18 brown bears. Like most of the other parts of the State
19 we don't really know a lot about what's going on with
20 the bear population, but the local managers haven't
21 expressed any concerns. As far as harvest goes we
22 don't know -- we don't have any harvest data for black
23 bears and the reported harvest for brown bears is quite
24 low, along the Yukon River corridor it's only been two
25 bears per year. And nearly all of those bears are
26 taken during the spring. So it stands to reason that
27 the proponent is not encountering bear hunters when
28 he's going out in the fall for his subsistence hunts.

29

30 And it's sort of a similar story with
31 wolves. Again we don't have a precise population
32 estimate, but they are common on the Yukon Kuskokwim
33 Delta and the resident packs appear to be growing
34 because there's more moose in the area. However nearly
35 all the wolf harvest occurs in the winter, it's like 80
36 percent or something like that occurs in the winter.
37 Harvest in September and October is quite rare. So
38 again the proponent isn't likely to be encountering
39 wolf hunters.

40

41 Almost certainly he's encountering
42 hunters who are targeting moose. And the moose
43 population along the Yukon has grown really
44 dramatically over the last 15 years or so and this has
45 created really good opportunities not only for
46 subsistence hunters, but also for sport hunters. In
47 the early 2000s the reported harvest of moose in unit
48 18 was like 200 a year and it's currently at like 600 a
49 year or something like that. And so a large proportion
50 of that increase we can attribute to sports hunters. I

1 think currently local take is less than half of the
2 reported harvest. So certainly there has been an
3 increase in non-local hunters in the area. But having
4 said that, there is concern among local managers about
5 the unchecked growth of this moose population. There
6 is still available habitat, but there's real concern
7 that if harvest doesn't keep pace with growth then, you
8 know, we're going to have a habitat problem and
9 ultimately we're going to have a much smaller moose
10 population in the area.

11
12 And so for this reason the OSM
13 preliminary conclusion is to oppose WP16-34.

14
15 And I'd be happy to answer questions
16 from the Council.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. A few things
23 here. First off you said unchecked growth of
24 population. Do you mean unchecked growth of hunter use
25 or when you say population I'm thinking of the moose so
26 I want to clarify what you mean.

27
28 MS. WORKER: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
29 Dunaway, through the Chair. If the moose population
30 continues to grow and the harvest doesn't keep pace
31 with that continued growth then we could run into a
32 habitat problem.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.
35 Through the Chair. Okay. Yeah, okay. That's
36 important because, yeah, we're looking at concerns for
37 excessive moose growth in the Togiak area and you don't
38 want to have them over graze their range. Another
39 thing, you know, it occurred to me I keep hearing the
40 reference of sport hunter. Under Alaska State law
41 there may -- you know, they're not necessarily sport
42 hunters, they may be considering themselves subsistence
43 hunters or hunters for whatever use, they're not
44 necessarily there for sport. And they might just not
45 be locally qualified. And I'm kind of concerned to
46 hear this reference of sport hunters a lot might be
47 drawing kind of an unfair pictures of these other
48 folks. We don't know why they're there, they're
49 hunters. And I'm cert -- you know, when it comes to
50 moose a lot of people are just viewing it as filling

1 their freezers and so that concerns me a little bit,
2 that reference, especially with the kind of ambiguous
3 or differing views on subsistence from the State and
4 subsistence from the Federal hunts. So we have a
5 growing population and understandably then we'd have a
6 growing competition, the word gets out, I knew a guy
7 that lived in Kenai and he would haul a boat to the
8 Yukon River and motor his boat way down, I don't know
9 where, way the heck and gone down to go moose hunting.
10 So people will go to every length to get moose and so
11 I'm -- it can be frustrating when you're out there
12 hunting in your favorite spot and all of a sudden
13 strangers are showing up. I mean, we deal with it
14 around here too and I'm one of the strangers around
15 here still. So anyway -- and then the final analysis
16 is that -- was a -- because I didn't read this very
17 well, the recommendation again is what on this?

18
19 MS. WORKER: The recommendation is to
20 oppose this proposal. And that's based purely on
21 biological concerns.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. And
24 that's real important. I appreciate it.

25
26 Thank you, Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
29 other questions?

30
31 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

34
35 MR. O'HARA: Susan, what is the numbers
36 of moose in this district and give us a little bit of a
37 geographical -- we're familiar with Togiak, we know
38 where the -- you said the bears along the Yukon or the
39 Kuskokwim?

40
41 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. O'Hara.

42
43 MR. O'HARA: Number of animals.

44
45 MS. WORKER: So this concerns moose
46 along the Yukon -- the Lower Yukon River. So I -- we
47 don't have a map of unit 18 hanging unfortunately, but
48 if you -- do you have a copy of that analysis?

49
50 MR. O'HARA: Yes.

1 MS. WORKER: There's a map on the back
2 of the fourth page I believe and there's a hatched area
3 that shows you the area that's proposed for closure.
4 And if you look on page -- it's -- the pages aren't
5 numbered, on figure on which is two pages past that
6 map, you can see that the moose population is growing.
7 Along the Yukon there hasn't been a survey done since
8 2008 and at that time the population was approaching
9 3,500 moose. More recent surveys in adjacent areas
10 indicate significant growth since that time period so
11 we can assume that the population is larger than that
12 at this time.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

15

16 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I did have time
17 to take a good look at this proposal and quite frankly
18 it looked to me like the problem -- there is a major
19 problem, the moose are exploding in that area. And I'm
20 tending at this point to agree with OSM's conclusion, I
21 think that we could do more damage to the subsistence
22 users in that area by agreeing with this proposal than
23 we could by opposing it because I think -- I was -- I
24 mean, to me it's almost unprecedented growth, it --
25 there's a huge number of increase, very, very rapidly
26 in that area even with the survey information that they
27 have that isn't consistent, it shows a very giant leap
28 from what it used to be. So.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
33 Susan, so in the last surveys, you know, the habitat
34 evidently is very good, good feed. Is there any
35 studies on the growth of the habitat, I mean, you know,
36 there's -- you know, like Togiak, you know, they're
37 having, you know, they're population is growing too and
38 I'm just curious to see what kind of -- you know, the
39 food source, is it -- you know, with all this global
40 warming and stuff, is this -- is there an indication of
41 growth of food source there too, is that what's
42 promoting all this?

43

44 MS. WORKER: Thank you for that
45 question, Mr. Wilson. Through the Chair. I'm not the
46 most familiar with what has been done in terms of
47 habitat assessment in that area. What I've learned
48 from various Fish and Game reports is that there is
49 still unexploited habitat along the Yukon River. So I
50 don't think that habitat quality at this point is dire,

1 but there are concerns that with that many moose on the
2 landscape this is something we need to be looking
3 forward to, looking ahead.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, just
8 -- you know, just trying to think of all the
9 possibilities here, I mean, the predators, possibly not
10 a whole lot of predators in that area, you know, the
11 bear and the wolf, you know, in relationship perhaps.

12

13 MS. WORKER: It appears that the wolf
14 population may be increasing in that area just because
15 there's more prey, but, you know, clearly predators
16 aren't doing a good job of solving population growth.

17

18 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

21

22 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Susan, this may not
23 be a good question to answer, but in -- on the east
24 side of Bristol Bay we know every guide and his
25 district although I did not know yesterday that Mr.
26 Klutch was in the northwest part of 9B. B?

27

28 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

29

30 MR. O'HARA: 9B?

31

32 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

33

34 MR. O'HARA: Okay. So we know that --
35 exactly the size of their four-wheeler, you know, we
36 keep really good track of all that area over there.
37 And they land at Naknek and get their fuel and we talk
38 to them and so where's your concentration of
39 recreational guided areas?

40

41 That may not be a good question.

42

43 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. O'Hara,
44 through the Chair. I don't have a good answer for
45 that, I don't know the answer and I don't know if
46 anyone knows the answer. And I don't honestly know how
47 much of this activity is guided activity. If you look
48 at the table on page -- it's figure three which is
49 moose harvest by residency, you can see that, you know,
50 in the last five years or so half more or less is by

1 local residents and maybe the same amount by non-local
2 Alaskans. Not too many out-of-Staters. So that might
3 give some clue about the degree to which guides are
4 used in that area although I don't know for sure.

5

6 MR. O'HARA: Madame -- Susan.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

9

10 MR. O'HARA: We've had a reduction in
11 nonresidents going with the guides just because of the
12 economy and the population of the guides who kill moose
13 now are very, very old people because they're the only
14 ones that have money I guess and so -- but the bear
15 thing has not stopped, I mean, those guys are doing
16 well.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Ms. Worker, I realize I didn't have this or if I have
26 it it's lost in my mess. So what constitutes a non-
27 local resident, somebody that doesn't live within that
28 cross hatched area or how?

29

30 MS. WORKER: That's a really great
31 question, Mr. Dunaway. Through the Chair. For this
32 analysis a local resident is someone who has a
33 customary and traditional use. So a Federally-
34 qualified subsistence user is a local user. Anyone
35 who's not Federally-qualified would be part of the non-
36 local resident pool. So they would be harvesting under
37 State regulation.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. And I'm trying to
40 catch up here because I didn't ever even read this. So
41 and the Federally-qualified people for this area, I
42 have friends in Bethel and Galena that they try to
43 drive a long ways to do hunts when the snow goes.
44 Would a Bethel person or somebody like that be
45 qualified or who is qualified or where can I get that
46 information?

47

48 MS. WORKER: Sure, I'd be happy to
49 clarify that for you. The customary and traditional
50 use determination is in your analysis on -- I'm sorry,

1 there's no page numbers here, it's on the front of the
2 fourth page so it's just so on the opposite side as the
3 map, on the back side of the map. And I can read that
4 for you, the customary and traditional uses. So for
5 moose residents of unit 18 remainder and Upper Kalskag
6 have a positive customary and traditional use
7 determination for moose in unit 18 remainder. So for
8 moose unit 18 remainder is the bulk of the YK-Delta,
9 certainly the northern and western probably three-
10 quarters of the delta or something like that, maybe
11 two-thirds of the delta. So it's essentially -- you
12 know, everyone who lives say the northeastern two-
13 thirds of the delta plus the Kalskags which are right
14 on the border of unit 18.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: So there's quite a few
17 folks have planes in places like Bethel and stuff that
18 are, you know, long term residents. And does --
19 Bethel's not qualified then, I'm just trying to figure
20 out who -- if they're close residents versus say
21 Anchorage or, you know, coming from really, really far
22 away?

23

24 MS. WORKER: I'm pretty sure that
25 Bethel is qualified because the only areas for moose
26 that are not part of unit 18 remainder are the areas in
27 the very southern part of the unit where there -- where
28 the populations aren't doing so well, the Goodnews
29 Drainage and the areas in the very southern portion.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
32 you, Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
35 questions for Susan?

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, we can
40 go through the process to deal with the proposal.

41

42 Consultation.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. There was no
45 tribes consulting -- consulted on this wildlife
46 proposal 34.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank

1 you.
2
3 Agency comments, ADF&G.
4
5 MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning, Madame
6 Chair. This is Drew Crawford with the Department of
7 Fish and Game in Anchorage. The Department's
8 preliminary recommendation is to oppose proposal WP16-
9 34. And we concur with OSM's justification.
10
11 Over.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
14 you.
15
16 Federal agencies.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Native tribal
21 village.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: InterAgency
26 Staff.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And Advisory
31 Group comments.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Regional
36 Council. Carl.
37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Good morning. Members of the Council. Carl Johnson
40 for the record. The YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council
41 voted to oppose this proposal.
42
43 Thank you, Madame Chair.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
46 Carl.
47
48 Fish and Game Advisory.
49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
2 Subsistence Resource Commission.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Summary of
7 written public.

8
9 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. There are no
10 written comments received on this proposal.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

15
16 Public testimony.

17
18 Frank.

19
20 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
21 RAC. This problem is going to be continuing on and on.
22 I attended both the State Joint Boards for rural
23 determination process and the whole issue is
24 allocation. As we all know the State has a
25 Congressional mandate that says we are to provide all
26 services for all Alaskans. That means this kind of
27 proposal eliminates that group. The Federal
28 Subsistence Board recognizes the rural residents as
29 primary users of all Federal lands.

30
31 The last census there was 730,000
32 people and 140,000 roughly -- I'm speaking on behalf of
33 subsistence users in the rural determination process,
34 was outlined last -- I think last fall we went through
35 this meeting and it's going to become more and more of
36 an issue and I applaud you on taking those measures to
37 help. I would support a proposal such as this to give
38 -- if the village and if the people that are presenting
39 or proposing this have a process to walk through this
40 without -- and I guess I'll leave it at that because in
41 my mind this public process is kind of -- if I'm the
42 only public speaker and I'm just explaining on a
43 general way what I'm -- what my observation is is
44 you're going to have more and more of these proposals
45 come before you. And I would -- you know, thank you
46 for walking through this process and I would support
47 any regulation that would not only help the villages
48 that are affected help feed themselves, not to exclude
49 the nonresidents in the urban areas for the
50 Congressional mandate of all Alaskans, but also, you

1 know, the -- providing subsistence opportunity to
2 villages directly affected, in holders and such.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
7 you, Frank.

8

9 Anybody else.

10

11 Pete.

12

13 MR. ABRAHAM: We're all kind of groggy
14 this morning. The wind this morning was slow. We had
15 a tragedy in Togiak last night, yesterday and then
16 couldn't sleep, hard to sleep last night. But I'm up,
17 here I am.

18

19 I just wanted to give a brief -- a
20 brief history of the brown bear and black bear hunting
21 because I'm from the Kuskokwim area and these wrap
22 around Kard Lake area. My (Indiscernible) go squirrel
23 hunting up there, I used to see him now and then. The
24 trading of the fat and seal oil were -- it was kind of
25 scarce. That's why the family in the Quinhagak area,
26 Yakutat, Akiak, used to rely on brown bear or black
27 bear fat for their food and stuff. But that has been
28 changed, that's been changing right now. There's only
29 a few left in that region that can rely on black bear
30 meat and fat because the transportation in that region
31 now everywhere is much easier to do some barter,
32 trading, for whatever they need. And the diet is
33 changing rapidly right now for the younger generation
34 don't really care for black bear meat like they used to
35 in the olden days. On this side of Kilbuck Mountains
36 when I first came around to Togiak area only just a few
37 of them were going after brown bear for the meat. Of
38 course I was going out too much. But that's the -- as
39 the time goes brown bears coming into the village now
40 and then, people open the stomach and find some unusual
41 stuff in their stomach, plastic and, I mean, anything
42 in their stomach. The people in Togiak only, I think
43 there's only two of us that goes after brown bear and
44 the rest of it don't want to go, don't want nothing to
45 do with a brown bear anymore. And so of course the
46 diet -- the diet is changing and in that Togiak area,
47 even Japan, even United States, younger generation I
48 can't never understand. You take younger generation
49 out camping you be surprised what they're taking with
50 them for overnight which I never eat.

1 So this proposal here it's not going to
2 hurt the population, it's not going to hurt anything
3 else. And I will leave it the way it is or accept it
4 the way it is just to make the people happy, the older
5 generation happy because in time I don't think only one
6 that's going to go after the black bear and brown bears
7 is sportsman. You take Chris, them people over there,
8 they take the meat and leave the skin behind. You go
9 to Togiak area, Yakutat, I'm in the Goodnews area in
10 springtime, you find the skin in the springtime out in
11 the snow, wherever they leave the skin behind, take the
12 meat. That's how it's been -- that's how they been
13 going. There's no value for the skin in both regions
14 there. WP16-35 and 34, I would leave the way they are
15 because it's not going to hurt anything, it's not going
16 to -- won't get anymore brown bears in Togiak area
17 because they're coming through the village because the
18 people are dumping -- taking edible stuff to the trash
19 up there and they're dumping it out so therefore the
20 ravens, foxes and brown bears, they're coming and
21 people are crying, wondering how come ADF&G and U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife don't do anything about it. It's
23 their problem, they started it. I didn't. Because
24 right now the black -- I mean, the ravens are cleaning
25 up the area as fast as they can, but there's not enough
26 raven to clean it up. If it wasn't for ravens you go
27 to Togiak every little breeze would stink because
28 people dump too many stuff out there. So I'm thankful
29 for ravens cleaning up behind me and it's happening
30 everywhere else.

31
32 (In Native).

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: (In Native).

35
36 I guess we're down to the Regional
37 Council regarding this proposal.

38
39 Nanci.

40
41 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
42 Chair. I'm going to make a motion to approve WP16-34,
43 but I'll preface it by saying I'm not going to be
44 voting in favor of it. And in deference to you, Pete,
45 I certainly understand that my worry about 16-34 is
46 that it includes the moose population. I see a huge
47 spike in growth in that moose population, I see in my
48 mind a huge burden on the biological structure it takes
49 to uphold a population that's exploding at the speed
50 and I fear for subsistence users having enough moose.

1 I fear a big crash could happen if it's not kept in
2 check. And because of the way this proposal's written
3 it would include eliminating I think a sharp harvest of
4 those moose that could backfire for the villagers. So
5 in deference to your wishes I won't be voting in favor
6 of this.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
13 been a motion to.....

14

15 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. We need a
16 second. Who seconded it? Oh.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:accept --
19 is it accept WP-16-34, seconded by Dan O'Hara.....

20

21 MR. O'HARA: No.

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:I mean,
23 Dan Dunaway. So is there a.....

24

25 Dan.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I too
28 am opposed to this. Number 1, OSM says it doesn't meet
29 muster and for much the same reasons as Nanci's
30 opposed, I was looking through the means of transport,
31 I can sympathize with their feelings, there's increased
32 airplane traffic, there's also a real increase in
33 snowmachine traffic and in my way of thinking that's
34 maybe semi local, but probably a lot of it's really --
35 is probably Federally-qualified. But, yeah, we saw
36 caribou crash around here when they ate themselves out
37 of house and home and it's taken forever to come back.
38 It could be a real mistake. And the other thing is
39 it's -- as the State changes and transportation
40 changes, we all live in the State and we have to
41 recognize that these resources is not private, it's for
42 everybody. Though in the case of if there's a problem
43 of somebody feeding themselves, of course we have a
44 priority to look after.

45

46 So thank you. I'm going to be opposed
47 to this.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
50 discussions. If not.....

1 Dan.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
4 think this is kind of -- it's nice to see our young
5 people here this morning and don't be a Costco Native,
6 okay, be sure and -- and I think you ought to think
7 about being up here in this Council one of these times,
8 okay, and doing the job that we're doing because the
9 hourglass for us is getting a little low on sand so you
10 might want to think about being up here.

11

12 I see this proposal as a protest just
13 as we did on the east side, it's been 2008 since they
14 did a survey, totally ignoring the system. And so I
15 would ask for a roll call vote on this, ma'am.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: For a roll
18 call?

19

20 MR. O'HARA: Yes.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So
23 there's been a motion and second and roll call vote.

24

25 Donald.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Roll call
28 vote for wildlife proposal 16-34 to close Federal lands
29 of big game animals in -- within unit 18 as described
30 in the analysis. Proposal 16-34 was made a motion by
31 Ms. Nanci Morris to adopt and the second by Mr. Dan
32 Dunaway.

33

34 Mr. Pete Abraham.

35

36 MR. ABRAHAM: (No response).....

37

38 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. The motion
39 was in the affirmative. If -- the maker of the motion
40 moved to adopt the proposal in the affirmative. So if
41 you're voting for the motion you are supporting the
42 proposal. If you are voting against the motion -- if
43 you're voting nay you are opposing the proposal.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What was --
48 are we.....

49

50 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. If we can Ms.

1 Nanci Morris restate her motion for the record and
2 explain.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. MORRIS LYON: Absolutely. I moved
7 to approve proposal WP16-34.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Abraham, this is a roll
10 call vote. If you oppose -- if you vote yes you're
11 supporting the proposal, if you vote no, you are
12 opposing the proposal. That's the way the motion is
13 read. So it's a roll call vote.

14

15 Maybe I'll start with Mr. Dan Dunaway.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Senafont Shugak.

20

21 MR. SHUGAK: Nay.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.

24

25 MR. WILSON: No.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Ms. Molly Chythlook.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No.

30

31 MR. MIKE: Ms. Nanci Morris.

32

33 MS. MORRIS LYON: No.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan O'Hara.

36

37 MR. O'HARA: No.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Mr. Pete Abraham.

40

41 MR. ABRAHAM: No.

42

43 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. It's
44 unanimous. The motion fails.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
47 you.

48

49 The next wildlife proposal is WP16-35.

50

1 MS. LA VINE: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair, members of the Council. I'm Robbin La Vine,
3 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
4 Management and I'll be presenting a summary of the
5 proposal analysis for wildlife proposal 16-35. And for
6 the benefit of our visiting students we're going over a
7 crossover wildlife proposal so they don't actually have
8 a direct impact on your region. We're addressing them
9 here though because we share boundaries and sometimes
10 we share mobile resources. And it's always good to be
11 up on what folks are doing, our neighbors are doing and
12 to be supportive if we want to be supportive. It's the
13 Council's will to decide.

14

15 Anyway, thank you.

16

17 Proposal WP16-35 was submitted by
18 Martin Nicolai of Kwethluk. If the proposal was
19 adopted people hunting black bears or brown bears in
20 unit 18 would be allowed to use an artificial light
21 such as a flashlight when hunting at a den site. When
22 he was young the proponent's family traveled to
23 squirrel camp close to the Kilbuck Mountains, they went
24 in April for about a month. Bears were harvested not
25 only for food, brown bear and moose hides were used to
26 make the skinboats that carried the family back to
27 Kwethluk. This activity is well documented in
28 ethnographic accounts. The proponent said that to his
29 knowledge only certain hunters go out and harvest bears
30 from dens. It is done when there is a lot of snow in
31 the springtime and some go up to the mountains behind
32 the village. But he noted there has not been much snow
33 for the past few years. He said it is a customary
34 practice for a hunter to use a flashlight so he can see
35 the bear in the den. Using an artificial light when
36 taking a brown bear or a black bear at a den site was
37 illegal in State and Federal regulations until 2008.
38 In 2008 the Alaska Board of Game allowed the use of an
39 artificial light to take black bear at a den site in an
40 area that included unit 19A, the middle Kuskokwim River
41 Drainage.

42

43 In unit 18 bear habitat is primarily in
44 the Kilbuck and Andreafsky Mountains and black bears
45 also stay in forested areas along the main Yukon and
46 Kuskokwim River corridors in the eastern portion of
47 unit 18. It has been documented in ethnographic
48 accounts that people hunt denning black bears during
49 the winter months in a traditional pattern and some
50 hunters continue this practice when meat is needed and

1 if the hunters have the experience necessary to
2 successfully hunt a dened bear. Black bears are
3 considered a source of food on par with moose, caribou
4 and other wild resources and they're harvested
5 accordingly especially in Aniak, Kwethluk, Kalskag,
6 black bear meat and fat continue to be a significant
7 component of the diet.

8
9 Brown bear harvest for food remain part
10 of the contemporary subsistence pattern in some of the
11 predominantly Yup'ik communities in and adjacent to
12 unit 18. Brown bear harvesting is a specialized
13 pursuit that is concentrated in certain villages and
14 certain families. Just as bearded seals and walrus
15 are coastal hunters' prized catches, bears are highly
16 valued by hunters living inland. People's
17 participation in house to house survey revealed that
18 communities that are situated adjacent to the Kilbuck
19 Mountains have the higher harvest of brown bears,
20 especially Akiachak, Eek, Kwethluk and Tuluksak.
21 Hunters prefer to harvest brown bears within a couple
22 of weeks after bears emerge from dens in spring. Brown
23 bears are sometimes hunted while they were still in
24 their dens, for example some Kwethluk hunters know the
25 location of brown bear dens and bear trails that have
26 been used year after year.

27
28 If this proposal was not adopted people
29 using artificial light or flashlight to harvest a bear
30 at a den site would be cited for using an illegal
31 method.

32
33 In summary, a few specialized hunters
34 harvest bears from den sites. Hunters consider the use
35 of artificial light such as a flashlight for hunting of
36 bear at a den site to be safe and efficient. It is
37 likely that hunters have used flashlights for this
38 purpose since flashlights became available. A census
39 of bears in unit 18 has not been conducted which is
40 true for many animals in rural areas of the State and
41 the biological affects of adopting the proposal cannot
42 be evaluated. Harvest limits or seasons can likely --
43 can be limited to conserve bear populations if
44 necessary. The use of artificial light for this
45 purpose is not likely to increase from what it is at
46 present.

47
48 For these reasons the OSM preliminary
49 conclusion is to support proposal 16-35 with
50 modification to include a headlamp or a hand held

1 artificial light.

2

3 And I'll take your questions.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Robbin, that's
12 really interesting and I've seen some videos of this
13 stuff and I've heard stories from people and I've read
14 it and, you know, it's -- they're daring. That's all I
15 can say. If they're going to do it, I'm not going to
16 argue with them. But I have a question. I see
17 reference to sows and cubs and stuff, are they allowed
18 to take sows and cubs in the den or do they have to
19 determine there's no cubs or what's the rule on that?

20

21 MS. LA VINE: Thank you. That's a good
22 question, Dan, and I am not the best person to answer
23 this.

24

25 Is there anyone here from our State or
26 Federal side that might be more familiar with these
27 regulations?

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
30 away from microphone).....

31

32 MS. LA VINE: I can see that.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: (Indiscernible - away
35 from microphone) go on, I guess because I'm leading up
36 to is that if they're not allowed to take sows with
37 cubs then if we provided them the opportunity to use a
38 light might help them stay in compliance with the law
39 and protect some animals. I'm also thinking that they
40 could probably do a better job of killing the bear if
41 they have a light than wounding a bear and getting hurt
42 themselves or have a wounded bear running around.

43

44 I'm really inclined to support this
45 from what I know today.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, these are really
4 brave people. I'll tell you, they -- unbelievable that
5 you'd look into a den and I think it's probably a lost
6 art. And I think I agree with you, Dan, I might -- I
7 probably will support this.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Andy.
10
11 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Madame Chair, in the
12 Federal subsistence regs in the general provisions, the
13 -- it says when taking wildlife for subsistence
14 purposes you may not take a bear cub or a sow
15 accompanied by cubs.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Does
18 that answer your question?
19
20 Okay. Any other comments, questions?
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not we can
25 go through the process.
26
27 Consultation.
28
29 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. For proposal
30 16-35 there was no tribal consultation regarding this
31 proposal.
32
33 Thank you.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
36 you.
37
38 Agency comments, ADF&G.
39
40 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair, this is
41 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and
42 Game in Anchorage. The Department's preliminary
43 recommendation is to support proposal WP16-35. However
44 the changes requested by proposal 16-35 are not
45 currently legal under State regulations, therefore a
46 similar proposal would have to be submitted to the
47 Board of Game. The Alaska Board of Game has not made a
48 customary and traditional use finding for black bear
49 and set an amount necessary for subsistence in game
50 management unit 18.

1 Current State regulations permit
2 resident hunters to take black bears under customary
3 and traditional use activities at den sites from
4 October 15 through April 30th in units 19A, that
5 portion of the Kuskokwim River Drainage between unit
6 19D upstream from the Selatna River Drainage and the
7 Black River Drainage in units 21B, 21C, 21D, 24 and
8 25D, applies only to black bears, not brown bears in
9 these specific game management units.

10

11 Over.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
14 questions for.....

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
19 thank you. We'll go on to, let's see, agencies,
20 Federal agencies.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Native tribal.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Interagencies.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Advisory
33 Groups Regional Council.

34

35 Carl.

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 The YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council voted to support
39 this proposal.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
44 Advisory -- Fish and Game Advisory, Subsistence
45 Resource.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Summary of
50 written.

1
2 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. There are no
3 summary written -- summary of written comments.
4
5 Thank you.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Public
8 testimony.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
13 to the Regional Council.
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan O'Hara.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Madame Chair. I
20 make a motion that we support, let's see, WP16-35. The
21 motion would say that we support the proposal, is that
22 right, Mr. Donald?
23
24 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. For process
25 wise it would be a lot easier if you moved to adopt
26 proposal 16-35.
27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair.
29
30 MR. O'HARA: I so move.
31
32 MR. WILSON: Second it.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
35 Seconded by Richard. Okay. There's been a motion.....
36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Discussion.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, question?
40
41 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, discussion.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
44
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, just real
46 quick, Madame Chair, thank you. I'm going to actually
47 be voting in favor of this proposal as well. I see a
48 lot of relevancy to it. But I would also just want to
49 put on record that I would also encourage the user
50 groups of this area to submit a proposal that was like

1 in kind at the next Board of Game cycle to ensure we
2 don't have issues if they end up on State land.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm going to be
11 supporting it. And like Nanci at first I thought maybe
12 we should submit a proposal, but really it would
13 probably be better to come from that area where this
14 practice is done. I'm really appreciative of the
15 information Andy provided us too that it's really
16 important to me to allow folks to be more compliant in
17 the regulations and by using a light they can avoid
18 getting in trouble, getting cubs. Also I'm thinking to
19 pass on to those folks who should make a proposal to
20 the Board of Game that as vigorous and eager as this
21 Board of Game is to whack predators every way they can,
22 I can't imagine them objecting to this because there's
23 other practices they do that Fish and Wildlife doesn't
24 like, but so we'll wish them luck on that.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
29 other comments?

30

31 MR. O'HARA: Call.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

34

35 MR. O'HARA:for the question.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been
38 -- the question's called. All in favor say aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
43 opposition?

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
48 Thank you, Robbin.

49

50 And at this time I'm going to have

1 somebody -- I think Jackie Wilson's class again.

2

3 MRS. WILSON: (Indiscernible - away
4 from microphone).....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Could we have
7 you come and introduce your class. We really
8 appreciate the -- these young people coming in to
9 listen to this.

10

11 MRS. WILSON: Yes, I'm Mrs. Wilson at
12 the high school and these are my U.S. History students
13 and I briefed them this morning that the discussions
14 that are being said here will affect them in some form
15 in their lifetime as we have subsistence hunters and
16 gatherers in our school too.

17

18 Thank you for allowing us to listen.
19 There will be another group coming down after this
20 class and then I will bring two more classes this
21 afternoon.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And if
26 you do we'll allow you to introduce your class again.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 Thank you, students. Let's give them a
31 hand.

32

33 (Applause)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Let's
36 take a five minute break and then we'll get into our
37 next agenda item which is delegation of authority.

38

39 But we'll take a little break before.

40

41 (Off record)

42

43 (On record)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm going to
46 call the meeting back to order. We need to break here
47 by 11:00. And then Donald's double checking to see
48 what time we can come back, but it'll probably be
49 between 11:00 and 1:00, returning by 1:00 o'clock. So
50 we'll start with our next agenda item, delegation of

1 authority.

2

3 And who's is -- who's our delegator?

4 Andy.

5

6 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
7 Council members. This is just informational for you.
8 I guess on -- starting on page 128 there's -- that's
9 the first delegation of authority letter to the Togiak
10 Refuge Manager and it deals with caribou. And in the
11 area of that under the scope of delegation where this
12 applies is basically north of the Nushagak Peninsula
13 over to Dillingham, right now it's -- we're in a closed
14 season status or may be announced season, Dillingham
15 over to Right Hand Point and this area's been closed I
16 guess because of the Nushagak Peninsula Herd going back
17 a long time ago there was few animals that would get in
18 there. And then the second part of that is west of
19 Right Hand Point and that we did initially I think back
20 in the mid '90s opened a hunt there when Mulchatna
21 Caribou come in just right about Twin Hills and east of
22 there. So that's what that delegation of authority
23 letter is.

24

25 If you go over to page 131 there's a
26 second letter that deals with moose in 17A and this is
27 sort of specific to the winter hunt. You'll see at the
28 bottom of page 131 it talks about opening up a season
29 of 31 days between December 1 and January 31. I
30 suspect that January 31 will get changed to the end of
31 February based on this Council's recommendation on
32 WP16-27 that you did yesterday. That allows that
33 window for that hunt to be opened. The other language
34 in there, it talks about the Refuge Manager
35 coordinating with Fish and Game, BLM in the case of
36 caribou, and the Chair of this RAC before implementing
37 any regulations. And that's everything that I'm aware
38 of since I've been here when one of these hunts have
39 been opened, it's been a joint State, Fish and Wildlife
40 announcement.

41

42 And I don't want to put words in
43 Susanna's mouth, but I suspect that will continue.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
48 questions for Andy?

49

50 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Just more
4 of a comment. I -- you know, this is, you know, what
5 I've -- since I've been sitting on this Council, you
6 know, the information that, you know, the Togiak
7 National Wildlife and their management team has brought
8 to this table, I've really been appreciated because
9 it's -- you know, they -- it seems like they go above
10 and beyond the, you know, some of the -- some of their
11 requirements. And very thankful for the information
12 and things they bring before us because it helps us to
13 make great decisions here, you know, complete decisions
14 and I have full confidence that this delegate would do
15 his part.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
18 other -- any other comments?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. This is
23 good information and I guess by using these -- using
24 this authority again the co-management process and
25 everything else that's been working really well with
26 your Department is probably going to further enhance
27 the program and process.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 Okay.

32

33 Our next item on the agenda is the FRMP
34 projects for Council recommendation. And I see Robbin
35 here getting ready for whatever.

36

37 MS. LA VINE: Good morning. Thank you,
38 Madame Chair, members of the Council. Again for the
39 record my name is Robbin La Vine with the Office of
40 Subsistence Management. I am an Anthropologist and
41 I've been tasked with presenting you today the overview
42 and update of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
43 briefing and also the 2016 project proposal rankings.
44 This is an action item. The action item will be that
45 we request for the process your comments. So we're
46 going to be requesting your comments after the briefing
47 for RAC consideration. And I'll give you a little bit
48 more detailed direction when we get there.

49

50 All right. Okay. The Fisheries

1 Resource Monitoring Program was first implemented in
2 the year 2000 and the mission of the Monitoring Program
3 is to identify and provide information needed to
4 sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands
5 for rural Alaskans through a multi disciplinary
6 collaborative program. Oh, and I forgot to mention the
7 full summary of this program and historical overview
8 begins on page 134 of your RAC books.

9
10 The Monitoring Program was first
11 implemented in 2000 with an initial allocation of about
12 5 million. Since 2001 a total of 103.6 million has
13 been allocated for the Monitoring Program to fund a
14 total of 431 projects. Total project funds through the
15 Monitoring Program from 2000 through 2014 are listed by
16 the organization of the principal investigator for
17 projects funded. So here you see on our -- on the --
18 the figure on our right side, these are the principal
19 investigators of the research that was conducted.
20 However what it doesn't demonstrate is that most of
21 these organizations partnered significantly as is
22 encouraged by the program with other agencies. So
23 despite the fact that let's say 169 projects were
24 approved for the State of Alaska, in many of those
25 instances they had partners for example like Bristol
26 Bay Native Association or the Park Service here in
27 southwest Alaska.

28
29 Okay. Budget guidelines are
30 established by geographic region. Your region is
31 southwest Alaska and just again as a reminder southwest
32 Alaska include Kodiak and Aleutians as well as Bristol
33 Bay. And they're also -- budget guidelines are
34 established by data type such as stock status trends
35 and harvest monitoring TEK. Budget guidelines provide
36 an initial target for planning however they are not
37 final -- however they are not final allocations and can
38 be adjusted annually as needed. For instance the
39 program is most interested in funding well designed
40 projects that meet the information needs of its region
41 than it is in adhering strictly to the allocation
42 guidelines.

43
44 So some of the major program guidelines
45 for funding projects include one, that projects of up
46 to four years duration can be considered in any year's
47 monitoring plan, studies should not duplicate existing
48 projects. A majority of Monitoring Program funding
49 will be dedicated to non-Federal agencies, in addition
50 however long term projects will be considered on a case

1 by case basis. A number of things the TRC did discuss
2 this year is understanding that let's say a weir type
3 project may be taken initial investment that can only
4 really be realized if it's extended over a long period
5 of time. Activities that are not eligible for funding
6 include habitat protection, mitigation, restoration and
7 enhancement, hatchery propagation, restoration,
8 enhancement and supplementation, contaminant
9 assessments, et cetera, projects where the primary or
10 only objective is outreach and education.

11
12 So the FRMP cycle is comprised of
13 several steps and it stretches over the course of
14 approximately two years give or take, but parts of them
15 of course can be ongoing regardless. So I'm going to
16 describe our -- about a six step process that takes
17 place over the course of two years.

18
19 The cycle starts with proposal
20 development. And this is one of the most significant
21 steps for you as the Regional Advisory Council. For
22 number 1, the Regional Advisory Council has a central
23 role in developing priority information needs for the
24 region and certainly that occurs prior to the call
25 going out. We ensure and vet those priority
26 information needs during the meeting cycle prior to the
27 call going out. We rely heavily on Council
28 recommendations in regards to this process. But again
29 as I said this can be something that is ongoing and the
30 RACs are the folks that are -- that have their fingers
31 on the pulse of what is most immediately needed in
32 their region. And their -- that's a really important
33 role for us.

34
35 Number 2, we want people to start
36 working with the Regional Advisory Councils on these
37 proposals early, like now for the 2018 call. We're
38 definitely interested in projects that demonstrate
39 communication between the principal investigators, the
40 Regional Advisory Councils and local organizations.
41 And preferably work begins before the notice of funding
42 availability is issued. Local people, local
43 organizations, local partnerships, working on issue of
44 long standing interest and need in a region are going
45 to only strengthen a proposal when it is forwarded to
46 the TRC.

47
48 Number 3, OSM wants to facilitate this
49 early collaboration through early reminders and also in
50 addition provide training. So reminders I believe for

1 the next cycle will start -- will go out this winter.

2

3 So step two, proposal submission.

4 Basically the most important thing is that you complete
5 a full proposal with all the check boxes marked because
6 we will not be accepting late submissions or any
7 proposal materials after the deadline. The project
8 should address all five specific criteria and this will
9 be listed in the call so that they -- it is addressed
10 -- that addresses the strategic, priority or priority
11 information needs and it has technical, scientific
12 merit. Investigator ability and resources are strong
13 and that they have a strong partnership and capacity
14 building component and that there is a cost benefit to
15 the proposal.

16

17 Step three, project evaluation. Goals

18 for the proposal evaluation process include
19 prioritizing high quality projects that address
20 critical subsistence questions, that they -- these
21 proposals enhance the Monitoring Program, assure
22 program transparency, identify and fund high quality
23 research projects that address priority information
24 subsistence needs and again maximize funding
25 opportunities.

26

27 So key modifications in the process.

28 The FRMP proposal I know has kind of gone through
29 various different cycles of requirements and process
30 over the course of my experience. As you all know I
31 started as the partners position for the Bristol Bay
32 Native Association and I know how we forwarded
33 proposals and how they were reviewed were different
34 than they are now. But criteria are described in the
35 notice of funding opportunity so people know how we are
36 evaluating the projects. That will occur this cycle.
37 And agency again -- so let's see, the specific
38 guidelines for assessing how and whether a proposed
39 project has addressed each of the five criteria. So
40 again we have the five criteria as I mentioned here.
41 Right now and for this cycle these five criteria were
42 given kind of a numeric value and for this particular
43 cycle they were 20 percent of the total points that a
44 proposal could rack up. When we go through or when the
45 program went through the evaluations of these five
46 criteria they -- each agency let's say that are
47 forwarding their recommendations, if there are two
48 people on the TRC from one agency that one agency only
49 gets one vote. Again what we're trying to do is make
50 sure that there's kind of no lobbying, no weightedness.

1 And if an agency has forwarded a proposal that one of
2 their associates or their branches are PI on, that
3 agency does not get to vote. They will recuse
4 themselves. Certainly they can remain in the room,
5 they can provide information to the remainder of the
6 TRC folks as far as what the proposal is about, what
7 the project is about, but they won't get that vote.
8 And again it was -- it was kind of -- it was expected
9 that this might actually be better for the process.
10 And again it ensures a more -- you know, opportunity
11 for bias to be kind of kept out in a way.

12
13 So I -- during this discussion I've
14 already kind of gone into the -- how the proposals are
15 ranked. So the responsibility of the TRC Committee is
16 to develop a draft Monitoring Plan for each region so
17 again we're not sure actually when the TRC is meeting
18 how much money is going to be available, but they want
19 to make sure that the best projects are going to be in
20 the chute ready to go once funding is released.
21 They're -- again they're evaluated and -- they evaluate
22 and score the proposals for these five criteria and the
23 final score determines the rankings of each proposal
24 within the region.

25
26 So step five, and this is where we are
27 right now. Step five, again then we return the
28 rankings, the TRC rankings, to their regions and have
29 the Councils provide their comments. When we ask for
30 your comments under these four criteria, do proposals
31 align with priority information needs or, you know,
32 their comments on proposal rankings, potentially a
33 review of the proposal summaries or the process. We --
34 again when we look at priority information needs, you
35 don't have to adhere to last year's priority
36 information needs, it could be that since the call, the
37 initial call there is something really significant that
38 has, you know, kind of come to the foreground that you
39 know of, that the folks back in Anchorage do not. It's
40 really important that you provide kind of your on the
41 ground reading of the meat of each proposal to the
42 Board when they make their final determinations on the
43 ranking.

44
45 So the final step then is the
46 InterAgency Staff Agency Committee reviews the process
47 and the comments and provides recommendations to the
48 Federal Subsistence Board. And the Federal Subsistence
49 Board reviews the process, the product, they synthesize
50 all the comments from the various different RACs in the

1 regions because again there's kind of general
2 guidelines as far as one pot of money going to
3 different regions of great need. And so they're kind
4 of weighing all of these things and they provide their
5 recommendations for the Monitoring Plan and then OSM
6 finally reviews all comments and finalizes the
7 Monitoring Plan. And at that point is when the
8 principal investigators would be notified that their
9 proposal was funded.

10

11 So really quickly I'm going to review
12 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for the
13 southwest region. And again to show you the southwest
14 region includes Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula,
15 Kodiak and the Aleutians. So that is the area that all
16 of your projects are going to fall into, whether
17 they're from Bristol Bay or Kodiak or way out in the
18 Aleutians. You guys are all competing for the same pot
19 of money.

20

21 So total monitoring funds received by
22 agency. In the southwest region you can see again 22
23 projects over the course of operation have gone to the
24 State of Alaska, only one to Alaska Native, the
25 Department of Interior, 27, but again remember that
26 these are also partnerships and the Monitoring Program
27 supports strongly those proposals that demonstrate
28 partnerships and working together with organizations,
29 local organization, from the region.

30

31 Where are we. Nope, I didn't bring up
32 my other -- my other book. Never mind.

33

34 So I think this year we received a
35 total of about 45 projects, and I can't be sure,
36 statewide that are being forwarded for consideration.
37 Somewhere -- the Department of the Interior approves
38 somewhere around between two to \$2.7 million for all of
39 these projects. Right now we have in the southwest
40 region seven projects for consideration and they're
41 listed here according to their TRC ranking. In your
42 RAC Council books you will have -- and I'll move this
43 just a tad. In your Council books you'll have a brief
44 summary of these proposals and a summary of the TRC
45 justification for how they were ranked, ranked one,
46 two, three, four, five, six and seven. Right now
47 they're -- the -- we've also added because one of them,
48 16-403 was ranked later in the process, you have
49 received a supplemental sheet that Donald I believe
50 just passed out to you that also has its summary and

1 summary justification.

2

3 So once again this is where we're at.
4 We're looking for your comments on these proposals,
5 your comments on the process so far, the FRMP Program
6 process. If you have any questions about the projects
7 or you want to forward your comments on the summaries
8 again and as their rankings and what your needs might
9 be because they may have shifted, they may have been
10 the same. We will then forward your comments on to the
11 Board, they can consider your comments as they approve
12 the projects for 2016.

13

14 Thank you. And I will take your
15 questions. We can probably turn on the light. I'm
16 going to leave this up again so the four criteria is
17 what we're looking for from you, your comments on what
18 you've been presented with today.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess I'll
21 start off with the question. The rankings here that
22 were in our book, Regional book, I guess we just
23 received the updated ranking sheet here. So I guess
24 we'll be working off this, the one that was passed out
25 to us.

26

27 MS. MORRIS LYON: I have just a
28 question real quick.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

31

32 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
33 Chair. Robbin, my question is more of curiosity than
34 anything, but I'm curious how the request for agencies
35 to recuse themselves if they're involved is working
36 because you only have a limited number of agencies
37 sitting on the Technical Review Committee and do you
38 find yourself lacking a decent number of votes because
39 of that or do you have enough individuals with all
40 committees involved that you're not finding that issue?

41

42 MS. LA VINE: I myself am not on the
43 TRC, however I was able to sit in and watch the
44 process. And I have not sat on the TRC before so I
45 can't say what it was like before. The recusing and
46 yet allowing folks to stay because I think there were
47 times in the past where if you had a project you
48 couldn't even be in the room, but the recusing,
49 allowing yourself to stay to answer questions if
50 needed, the kind of clear criteria required for each of

1 the five that people ranked on, the process went pretty
2 smoothly. And it seemed like there wasn't a lot of
3 rank or there wasn't a lot of agitated folks and
4 everyone seemed to feel -- well, I shouldn't say feel,
5 I witnessed a very calm and orderly process and it
6 seemed like most folks were quite satisfied with it at
7 the time, we didn't seem to run into any problems with
8 people recusing themselves.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. Well, I'm glad to hear that, Robbin. I guess
14 in my vision, in my mind in a perfect world we would
15 have all agencies working together and all pooling
16 funds together and hence there would be no votes going
17 on because everybody would be recusing themselves and
18 agreeing on things. So I'm just wondering if it was
19 getting a bit limited if you're feeling the need for
20 guidelines like that when it comes to your TRC process.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
23 other questions for Robbin?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not I've
28 got the -- I guess we'll get further information on it
29 when it comes to, but the ranking number 4, just after
30 you went through the criteria and after reading this I
31 guess proposal it appears like the majority of the
32 criteria doesn't fit into this one here. How then --
33 but it's ranked number 3. Excuse me, it's ranked
34 number 4.

35

36 MS. LA VINE: Madame Chair. I'll have
37 to look at the project specifically. At number 4,
38 utilization of time lapse camera -- oh, no, it's going
39 to be different now at this point. The prehistoric
40 salmon abundance in Lake Clark, that's ranked number 4.
41 I won't speak specifically to each project and right
42 now we do not have available until the principal
43 investigators are contacted the exact numerical values.
44 But I can say that when I was sitting in on the TRC, I
45 did not see one project statewide that received a full
46 100 percent vote. So again these numbers are going to
47 come out in various different levels. There may be --
48 when they have justifications they may express certain
49 concerns and areas in which a project could be
50 strengthened. And it may be that they'll list that

1 project or they will discuss a project and say it's
2 good in this area, it needs to be strengthened in this
3 area. That project may actually get funded, may or may
4 not get funded. It then -- you know, it moves through
5 the Councils and then it moves through the Board. If
6 it doesn't get funded those kind of justifications will
7 help strengthen the next -- that proposal and give
8 those principal investigators direction the next time
9 around.

10

Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12

MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

13

14

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

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MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. Thank
you, Robbin. We started talking or we were introduced
to the project Mr. Lisac brought up about king salmon
monitoring in Togiak. Is this the place to talk about
a project like that or are you just kind of -- because
we kind of suspended our discussion and with these
major State funding cuts, you know, we might see some
major reshuffling though I'm always torn because
they're all important, you know.

But anyway I just -- I'm wondering if
this is the place to talk about that.

Thank you.

MS. LA VINE: Madame Chair, through the
Chair. This is the place to talk about these projects.
And, you know, any and all of them, please keep in mind
again we're looking at somewhere around 2 million, 2
and a half million, statewide. And then again as I --
as you'll see broken into the different regions,
there's kind of general guidelines about how that money
will be divvied up among the region. If you look on
your new FRMP briefing for the southwest region and you
see our seven proposals here, you can also see the
average annual request. And that would -- that would
apply towards whatever is going to be allocated to your
region. Again I don't know exactly how all the
rankings came out. I believe the Board will be aware
of those rankings when they review your comments. And
so all of your comments are certainly going to help
them as they make their -- make up their minds about
the importance of each project that they look at
statewide.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. So basically what you're telling us is that you
5 expect us to glean approximately 10 percent of those --
6 the \$2 million because that's what we've received in
7 the past. So our budget that we're looking with we can
8 expect to have, how much of that money is going to be
9 allocated to ongoing projects already, so what are we
10 really whittled down to?

11

12 MS. LA VINE: Through the Chair.
13 That's a really good question and one I can't answer.
14 But I will take note of that.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, it's -- Madame
19 Chair, I just -- I'm going to say it again even though
20 I've gone on record before saying it, as a business
21 person myself I always find it extremely frustrating
22 that somebody would begin a project and not have it
23 funded through complete and instead continue to take
24 monies out of it each and every year and yet at the
25 same time ask us to look at funding new projects and
26 they're in the same boat without having them in my
27 opinion properly financially covered before they
28 initiate the search for new projects.

29

30 So I would be curious to know because I
31 also know the State budget and the situation it's in
32 and the project we currently have ongoing could very
33 well easily take three-quarters of that money up. So I
34 -- just leave that for everybody to think about too.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Pete.

37

38 MR. ABRAHAM: I guess the program they
39 had in Togiak area over there was a chinook study for a
40 couple of years. I have not seen the outcome of
41 analysis of what -- of that over there, but I think
42 with this over here they're thinking about why area of
43 Togiak, reason they're studying. But the question is
44 always come to my mind when they're doing something
45 like this here, what are we going to accomplish with
46 this study when the major problem is out there on the
47 high seas. What are they doing out there on the high
48 seas, that's where the major problem's at of especially
49 the chinook problem. Everything that spawned in the
50 rivers goes out there and then is captured out there on

1 the high seas. And the stock is getting smaller all
2 the time. And all the reason is this bay over here as
3 far as Yukon, headed up to Yukon, they're hurting.
4 That's the question, I mean, this funding over here has
5 come to my mind, you know, how -- what are going to --
6 what are we trying to accomplish and what's going to be
7 the outcome of what we're doing here.

8

9 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

12

13 MR. O'HARA: That's a very valid point,
14 that's one point I want to make this morning. We -- I
15 had the privilege of going to the Advisory Panel of the
16 North Pacific Management which is a 200 mile limit.
17 And the -- for the students here this morning the
18 bycatch of sockeye and silvers and pinks and chums,
19 that's the four, they are predators so they're mid
20 water -- they're in the mid water column catching the
21 pollack. And so the draggers in the mid water catch us
22 a huge by catch of sockeye, of also -- of those four
23 species mainly the chums and the sockeyes, I mean, and
24 the kings. Keep in mind the fact that the reds are not
25 a predator, they are a surface fish, there's no bycatch
26 anywhere on a sock -- on a sockeye because they're
27 eating plankton at the top of the water and then when
28 they get at the (indiscernible) they quit eating so
29 they're not a sports fish either. You might -- they
30 might strike a lure if they're getting angry so you
31 have to (indiscernible) pretty good. But we were
32 privileged to go to that. Now when these mid water
33 guys on hard on bottom, when I say hard on bottom, that
34 king salmon is a powerful fish and once he is in the
35 column and he hears that hard on bottom catching cod
36 and stuff down there dragging along he will dive
37 because he's a powerful swimmer and they'll get him
38 down there too. So the king gets it in both places,
39 mid water and hard on bottom. And we reduced the take
40 this last year fortunately from 125,000 kings that they
41 kill and throw overboard to 66,000. And once they
42 reached 25 percent of that, they went down to 33,000.
43 So there's been a good effort to start reducing. And
44 these guys in the mid water and hard on bottom they're
45 running scared because they'll get shut down if they
46 keep killing these kings. And when they see a king
47 salmon anywhere like on the Bering Sea they'll run 200
48 miles away to get away from that king. I'm kidding.
49 And there's a ton of kings out there that are scaring
50 these guys to death on the bycatch. So that's a very

1 valid thing and it's time that this Council started
2 getting involved in that because that -- that's really
3 important. I don't know how, Robbin, that we would put
4 money into the 200 mile limit offshore, but it's a good
5 thought.

6

7 Now the second thought which is a voice
8 crying in the wilderness which nobody listens to me and
9 it really hurts my feelings when you don't listen to
10 me, okay.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. O'HARA: One of the things that we
15 need to think about is for eight years the Kvichak did
16 not produce any sockeye at all, just only recruiting
17 stock or escapement. Okay. Lake Clark had their
18 escapement every year because they're the first fish to
19 come in. And area M doesn't catch those guys. That's
20 another issue. We'll just deal with that, won't even
21 mention -- just mention that. So the issue is that we
22 had no idea why we fished in the Egegik River, the
23 Naknek River and drew the lines for Ugashik and
24 Dillingham is far enough in where they weren't catching
25 very few Kvichak fish. But we've never even opened our
26 mouth about why the Kvichak failed for eight years.
27 And one of the things that we can do is take this money
28 from Lake Clark here and leave Togiak alone would be my
29 suggestion and you put some money into research on the
30 eelgrass from the Bristol Bay which starts at
31 Naknek/Dillingham and goes all the way down to Moller.
32 That's 208 miles by the GPS. No one's ever looked at
33 what that eelgrass is doing. All the smolt that comes
34 out of the river goes into that eelgrass and they feed
35 all the way down and that's -- then that -- they're two
36 years old. Then they go out in the ocean for three
37 years to become a one, two or three ocean fish. And I
38 think we need some research on that eelgrass because
39 everything in southwest Alaska regardless if it's a
40 chum or a king or a coho or a humpy, revolves around
41 the sockeye. Everything revolves around the sockeye.
42 Now the kings might be important, the chum might be
43 important, they're not going to exist without food that
44 they're going to be providing for carcasses in -- on
45 the predators whether they be fish or game.

46

47 So I think the eelgrass is something
48 that we -- they did the eelgrass research over in
49 Shelikof Strait over in the Chignik area to Kodiak and
50 (indiscernible) ran the boat and then somebody put it

1 in the harbor and forgot to put the plug in and it
2 swamped and they -- the boat went away. It was
3 supposed to come over here and do research. So
4 somebody needs to get a research vessel and go take a
5 look at that eelgrass.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
10 Anything.....

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, ma'am.
17 Couple things. I think that number 1 priority on both
18 lists here with the salmon subsistence network, I'm
19 feeling a little gratified that -- to see it there
20 because I think -- wasn't that on the chopping block at
21 one point and at our insistence we got it back in the
22 system. And just even this morning talking to Senafont
23 about other -- how some people get fish around the bay,
24 we were talking different species, but I think that
25 will -- I'm hopeful it provides some really important
26 and interesting information. I'm glad to see the
27 Togiak River subsistence harvest up there fairly high.
28 I'm -- but I'm really torn with like I said earlier,
29 these funding cuts to the State. Hearing a proposal
30 like what Mr. Lisac brought to us this morning I'm
31 eager to see that stay or raise in priority though I
32 see it would take a pretty big chunk out of all the
33 funds. With regards to Kvichak, I remember we were
34 pretty concerned, but I think isn't there some
35 difficulties with Federal nexus and where the money is
36 spent for -- the geography of where these animals are,
37 I'm not sure about that. But it's still kind of a
38 mystery, quite a bit of mystery. I remember being
39 around people and talking -- we talked a lot about what
40 was wrong. And then it came back while we were
41 talking.

42

43 So anyway, I don't know, do we need to
44 get into anymore details on a specific study here or
45 what, I'm still a little lost.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think once
50 this is -- I think Robbin -- what Robbin is doing is

1 she's introducing the FRMP Program and then we'll go to
2 all these I guess items here of -- aren't we going to
3 go through by order once you get -- are we going to be
4 dealing with this now just for clarification.

5

6 MS. LA VINE: Madame Chair, thank you.
7 You do not need to rank the projects yourself, you may
8 decide to do that. But you can provide comments and
9 that might be really most beneficial to the process,
10 comments on projects and issues that you think are most
11 relevant to your community and why. And also comments
12 on the process because things have been tweaked a
13 little bit if you want to. You can -- we can --
14 here's another idea. We can go through these things in
15 kind of like a working group. Once we break for lunch
16 at 11:00 and we can kind of forward a slightly more
17 official document for the Board that you guys sign off
18 on or I'll just keep taking notes of your comments
19 which I can then forward to Donald and you can review
20 later -- at a later date. It's really up to you and so
21 there's no one right way of doing this.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Courtenay.

26

27 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 For the record Courtenay Carty, Bristol Bay Native
29 Association.

30

31 I guess I had a question on process and
32 a comment following Mr. O'Hara's comments in regards to
33 bycatch. In the 2016 FRMP priority information needs
34 and the request for proposals there was a priority
35 information need on the multi region section to
36 understand the affects of Bering Sea pollack bycatch on
37 subsistence chinook and chum stocks in western Alaska.
38 And I see the way the OSM staff presented it in our RAC
39 books and then the ranking is just for the southwest
40 region. So I guess the question I pose for staff is
41 were there any proposals that addressed the multi
42 region needs and which RAC or only if it's for our
43 geographic area I guess, are we -- are the RACs able to
44 review those so maybe a proposal came in on that, I'm
45 not sure. I can tell you that BBNA is part of the
46 Western Alaska Salmon Coalition with AVCP and Kawerak
47 and Tanana Chief's Conference and we have a project
48 funded under a different set of funds to develop
49 genetic markers to better understand chum populations
50 throughout the whole entire western Alaska region. And

1 we thought that this fall when we were working on
2 proposals that our group would be the proper group to
3 submit a proposal to OSM in regards to that priority
4 information need however at the time our project's not
5 done, we don't have the genetic markers available and
6 that's cooperative between our Native organization, the
7 University of Washington, NOAA and ADF&G.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

12

13 MR. O'HARA: Did you write down my
14 comments?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, I just want to
19 know did you come up with an answer on the -- I'd be
20 curious to know that too because where's that money
21 coming from?

22

23 MS. LA VINE: There are two multi
24 regional proposals that -- and unfortunately I do not
25 have them here, I have them with one of the RACs and in
26 all of my travels they have been shuffled elsewhere.
27 But I believe they had to do with sharing networks, I
28 believe the were Yukon Kuskokwim region projects and so
29 they may not have met the priority information need
30 that Courtenay was discussing, but I'll need to check
31 on that.

32

33 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council
34 members.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 Well, you know, maybe at this point it still seems a
42 talk in process somewhat and not getting into real
43 details. But I'm really kind of gratified to hear that
44 the folks that have to recruit -- have had to recuse
45 themselves are allowed to stay in because I recall as
46 I'm listening to this there's been times where projects
47 dropped in priority because the people had to be
48 recused couldn't explain the project. And it was an
49 important project. So the process allows them to still
50 provide information and answer question is critical and

1 so I'm glad that -- that's a real improvement and I
2 hope it stays.

3
4 Also I was kind of just sitting here, I
5 hope we continue to have as much funding as possible
6 for these programs and I recall that capacity building
7 was one important aspect. And as I watched Courtenay
8 working today I think she's something of a product of
9 that very thing and it's what we want, local young
10 folks that are smart come in and fill in for us older
11 and older folks. And she's a great example. I want to
12 compliment her how she's on top of stuff. And we need
13 more folks aspiring to jobs like that.

14
15 So anyway those are a couple comments
16 just on process and the whole program.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

23
24 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. Did you
25 remember us saying that the hourglass -- sand in the
26 hourglass, we don't know how much longer it's going to
27 be around so we'd like -- nice to see the young people
28 and them doing their job.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anymore
33 comments on this?

34
35 Nanci.

36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, since you're
38 busy taking notes on comments, I'm going to offer some
39 up too, Robbin. I just feel like the projects that are
40 sitting here in front of us I think I would rank both
41 of the chinook studies at a higher level for reasons
42 because the chinook is such a focus right now and the
43 -- we may not be seeing or feeling the declines we're
44 seeing across the State, I fear they're imminent here
45 and I'd rather be proactive than reactive. And in
46 light of that I guess my comments would be I think, you
47 know, number 2 and number 7 should actually share the
48 number 1 ranking. I'm not saying that any of these
49 other projects are not worthwhile and not more than a
50 little bit needed because I feel they probably are, but

1 I just tend to feel like the subsistence for the --
2 especially those who depend on the chinook, could be in
3 trouble sooner than some of our stocks currently in the
4 bay.

5
6 That's my two cents I guess if that's
7 what you're looking for.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: My two cents
10 is going to be just looking through these projects here
11 that number 4 would be ranked down to the very bottom,
12 you know, as we look through these. Just quickly
13 reading through the project here it doesn't meet the
14 five criterias that are -- were listed for these. And
15 then within the study area, Lake Clark, I've never
16 heard of subsistence issues up there. And through
17 these projects subsistence resources are, you know, top
18 priority, you know, as far as the criterias are
19 concerned. So if we're going to be moving any of these
20 rankings down, number 4 would be down to the bottom for
21 me.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

28
29 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
30 Yeah, I'd like to make a comment or two and just kind
31 of reenforce what Mr. O'Hara and Pete over there has
32 said about our chinook. You know, we got studies going
33 on in these watersheds here and over on the east side
34 of the bay there in the Kvichak and the Alagnak and the
35 Naknek, you know, those river systems there are -- have
36 depleted enough to where we don't even have -- you
37 know, there's not much of a fishery left for chinook
38 over there anymore. And it's kind of like -- it almost
39 feels like we're kind of being left out because it's --
40 you know, the fishery's almost gone already. And I
41 think more strength needs to be put into the eelgrass
42 situation over there. I mean, you know, it's good to
43 get information, you know, when the kings are up in the
44 shallows and the spawning grounds and stuff, but to
45 actually, you know, see what's happening with them for
46 -- area wide here I think is an important issue. And
47 just want to emphasize that those systems over there
48 are struggling and, you know, it's -- and I hope these
49 systems on the west Nushagak and Togiak, you know, keep
50 strong because it's -- you know, the two that are left

1 in the bay here. And so any encouragement that we can
2 give or strength to the chinook, you know, studies out
3 of those systems before they enter into these
4 watersheds would be great.

5
6 Thanks.

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan. Dan
11 Dunaway.

12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Couple things and
14 Richard got me -- and Dan got me to thinking that early
15 I think in its life the BBSRI tried to do some near
16 shore smolt or out migrating salmon work. That
17 eelgrass project, you know, I'm -- you know, I'm
18 wondering if BB -- hopefully BBSRI's listening, might
19 be encouraged to -- they might -- I think they might be
20 an outfit that's kind of got the horsepower and the
21 kind of broader area connections that they might be
22 able to propose a program and even might be able to
23 conduct it. Because some of that early stuff, oh, I
24 can't -- I remember Rusenouski or something like that
25 was the guy's name, he kind of did some interesting
26 stuff doing near shore trawling during the real serious
27 downturns in Kvichak. So that's just kind of one idea
28 to kind of get that kind of thing perking.

29
30 Another thing that I'd kind of like to
31 see perking, but I know it's been a real difficult --
32 it's just really difficult to propose a program, but I
33 don't want to forget Port Heiden and the subsistence
34 needs there and the salmon escapement. And I think as
35 we come into this Board of Fish meeting here this fall,
36 there's some proposals, there more commercial fishery
37 related, but it's going to focus attention again in
38 that area. There's some perennial area M, area T
39 squabble, but there's some pretty dramatic proposals
40 for shifting the boundaries considerably and some of it
41 generates out of the concerns for subsistence as well
42 as commercial take in the Port Heiden and Ugashik areas
43 and the whole genetic information on salmon intercept
44 down there. So I know logistically and practically
45 every other way trying to come up with a workable
46 project on the Meshik River has stumped us, but I want
47 to still bring up that let's not forget them and it may
48 be some groups can get together and come up with some
49 sort of a viable or a project to even consider down
50 there.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, I think that message
8 needs to get sent to wherever you think we should send
9 it. And I'm really thankful that this year the
10 Nushagak got an honest escapement. They didn't have to
11 lower the numbers like they do in the Branch or the
12 Alakanuk, like they do in the Naknek. They don't have
13 much kings in Kvichak. So, yeah, I think -- I think
14 our kings are a pretty big priority and I'm glad to see
15 some -- a little more return.
16
17 Thank you, Madame Chair.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Pete.
20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Native) that's her
22 Yup'ik name. I didn't never used to worry too much
23 about Togiak bay because the fish over there trickles
24 in, you know, they don't rush there. But for the past
25 few years there has -- I have seen some changes over
26 there. The first change was when the jacks start
27 coming in. When they shouldn't be coming in, when they
28 should be out there getting big. And then -- and I
29 noticed like the medium king salmon comes in just
30 periodically and that's what we go after. But the huge
31 ones like in end of July we stop seeing those big kings
32 coming in. For past two years they quit coming in.
33 And then I have -- we -- I support four families over
34 there with king salmon. And I'm satisfied -- we're
35 satisfied with 60 kings and that's every -- because
36 there's a lot to eat besides king salmon. But this
37 year we only got 30 kings over there. And I see people
38 from Togiak Village drifting in the mouth of Togiak --
39 I mean, mouth of the river over there not catching
40 anything, hardly anything. It's a little scary. But
41 the sportsmen weren't complaining of what -- why they
42 can't keep any for themselves anyway. But it's
43 changing dramatically on these bays around here. And
44 no matter how careful we are we're going to see some
45 changes here.
46
47 (In Native)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anymore
50 -- anymore discussions on this?

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not with
4 these FRMP. So the comments that the Board has been
5 making.....
6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Wait. Just.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair. I
12 guess I'll direct this towards Donald. It shows as an
13 action item, was our comments the action or do we
14 actually need to take a vote?
15
16 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Your comments
17 were the action.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So anymore
20 comments?
21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Just to add support to
27 Molly's earlier comments on the importance of the
28 Togiak king projects, like I say I've struggled because
29 they all look important, but -- and that Lake Clark one
30 looks like it's fairly cheap and can get some
31 information, but I do definitely want to see Mr.
32 Lisac's project stay in the running and hopefully get
33 elevated. We also prioritized that networking earlier
34 and so I don't want to back off from our priority on
35 that.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
42
43 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. I don't see
44 where prehistoric history of Lake Clark puts any salmon
45 in anybody's freezer. So, you know, if I had a vote it
46 would be gone.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, so,
49 Robbin, from the comments that we've made it sounds
50 like all the chinook salmon projects are up on top and

1 then the rest are following. So that's our action item
2 process for this.

3
4 Anything else on this? Senafont is
5 saying yes.

6
7 MR. SHUGAK: No, it's just interesting
8 to be part of this whole process this year. This is my
9 first meeting so I'm kind of learning as I go, but, you
10 know, the -- we don't get chinook up there in Pedro
11 Bay, but, you know, as a -- as something that's out
12 there we -- we're aware of the bycatch out there, you
13 know, that's an issue that we hear about, you know,
14 when they were talking about the king river escapement
15 over in Kenai, you know, that issue of bycatch came up
16 there as well, you know, and it was affecting the
17 escapement over there. So it's a user that, you know,
18 subsistence, you know, something that we deal with
19 here, it comes all the way over here and then goes out
20 to the Bering Sea and, you know, all the trawlers out
21 there catching all the different fish. So it's -- it
22 -- I really am learning a lot from this first meeting
23 here and I'm looking forward to having more input in
24 future meetings there.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, we sure
27 appreciate having you with us and I'm sure that those
28 of us that are over here in the west side need to know
29 more about your area. And so we really appreciate --
30 and I've learned to say your name, Senafont.

31
32 I guess, you know, regarding the king
33 salmon that should be the priority. And I agree with
34 Pete Abraham regarding the large kings. We are missing
35 the large kings in the last two, three years and not
36 sure -- not being a biologist not sure where those
37 large kings are going. But on the flip side, you know,
38 regarding the health of our fish, it's been and it's
39 getting to be more prominent. Last 10, 15 years our
40 preservation of our resources not only salmon, but
41 preservation of our resources is getting so degraded to
42 where my personal subsistence take of especially
43 salmon, we've limited, you know, how much we put in the
44 freezer because if we don't finish the salmon that
45 we've placed in our freezer within 12 months they're
46 not -- they're not fresh and not really edible because
47 of the freezer burn. And doesn't matter if it's -- it
48 used to be if we vacuum packed the fish then they'd
49 keep a little bit longer, but even the vacuum packing
50 doesn't seem to preserve the resources anymore because

1 even the vacuum packed discolors and I don't know if
2 very many of you observe that. And then, you know,
3 Pete Abraham mentioned how the younger generations
4 taste of our resources is changed and I truly believe
5 that because the resources that we're dealing with now
6 are not like they used to be even the taste of them has
7 changed. And then the -- including the preservation
8 part. So I'm glad that we're going to be or I'm going
9 to be supporting any of these fish projects to be up at
10 the very top versus the other ones that aren't.

11

12 Pete.

13

14 MR. ABRAHAM: I often wonder why we
15 never have elders from the villages in these meetings
16 over here. Those are the people that know, they
17 observe and they watch. I'm going to be an example as
18 an elder, you translate for me how I think and how it
19 should be. Now if -- let's just -- let's see if I'm
20 just an elder from Togiak.

21

22 (In Native).

23

24 It don't all make sense to you, it's
25 like I'm talking Japanese and Russian and you don't
26 even understand what I'm talking about. But like I
27 said the elder may not be educated or have a --
28 something in the paper in back of his chair, but he
29 went up the creek and back and he observes and he knows
30 and he studies by observing what the resource is doing
31 out there.

32

33 (In Native).

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We have about
36 five more minutes before the lunch starts and I think
37 we need to wrap this segment of our agenda. Is it --
38 is that what needs to be done?

39

40 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. I was
41 advised that if the Council wish to do so is to make a
42 motion for the Federal Subsistence Board that these
43 comments that you developed are your collective
44 comments on FRMP projects. And we'll summarize those
45 comments for you.

46

47 Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'll quickly
50 -- I'll quickly summarize what Pete Abraham stated.

1 And the main point that he wanted to make was that the
2 elders, why we don't have any elders attending from the
3 affected areas here when we meet. These are the people
4 that -- although elders and not being able to hunt,
5 they have grandkids that go out and hunt for them and
6 when they come back they report to their respective
7 elders why certain resources are not harvested or
8 limited.

9

10 And one other point that he made
11 regarding the large king salmon not present anymore is
12 a -- that the -- you know, if -- the example that he
13 made was, you know, the seals in Togiak area eat
14 herring and so they're present, the seals are present
15 when the food resources is available. And his point
16 regarding why are the large king salmon are not
17 available is because, you know, the animals, be it fish
18 or land mammals, travel to where there's food
19 available.

20

21 And so that's kind of in a nutshell.

22

23 I just hit the points that he made that
24 are relevant to, you know, what he was trying to bring
25 out.

26

27 Thank you, Pete.

28

29 So I guess let's make or get ready
30 to.....

31

32 Dan, do you have?

33

34 MR. O'HARA: Did we recognize this
35 group of young people who came in or were they here
36 before, it's so nice to see them here at our meeting
37 and we want to give you a good hand of applause for
38 being here.

39

40 (Applause)

41

42 It's soon going to be lunch time so we
43 just want to thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So, Donald, we
46 will -- we should be recessing now.

47

48 Dan.

49

50 MR. DUNAWAY: I think Donald was

1 encouraging us to make a motion and I'll do so at this
2 time. Move that staff take our comments regarding FRMP
3 and summarize or collect them and provide them to the
4 other agencies that need them. And I have to say I'm
5 so grateful that they have staff because I'm staff at
6 our AC and it's a lot of work. So anyway, so I do
7 move.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
12 been a motion for Robbin take our comments and I guess
13 make them our action items regarding this.

14

15 MR. O'HARA: Second.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And Dan O'Hara
18 seconded Dan's motion.

19

20 MR. O'HARA: Question.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been
23 question called, all in favor say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
28 opposition?

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we're
33 -- we'll be recessed until.....

34

35 MR. MIKE: We can reconvene -- try to
36 reconvene by 12:30.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm sorry,
39 reconvene at 12:30. Okay. Have a good lunch.

40

41 (Off record)

42

43 (On record)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm going to
46 call the meeting to order at 12:00 -- looks like about
47 12:30.

48

49 We're going to continue with the FRMP
50 agenda item. We've got a couple of testimonies and

1 we'll start off with -- I guess it's Kate, Kate Gomez,
2 is she here?

3

4 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair. She'll be
5 right back. She's going to go check in with her class
6 and then she'll come back down to testify.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
9 wait. And then the second person that will be
10 testifying will -- is Courtenay. But we'll have Kate
11 go first, we'll wait a few minutes for her.

12

13 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, she was just here.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: She went to go
16 check in with the -- her class.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: I think there's another
19 class maybe coming in now.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: After the two
22 testimonies we'll get into the spring 2015 emperor
23 geese update by Gayla.

24

25 By the way when we broke for lunch
26 today Pete Abraham requested to be excused for the day.
27 He wanted to be feeling well enough to head home to
28 Togiak. Yesterday there was a tragic accident in the
29 Village of Togiak. There was a death and so anytime
30 there's a tragic accident like this within the
31 community it affects everybody including Pete. So he
32 wanted to be excused this afternoon so that he can get
33 home to be with the family members over there.

34

35 Is Courtenay going to be here?

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: She's on her way.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: She's on her
40 way.

41

42 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

45

46 MR. MIKE: While the Council waits we
47 can continue on with the other agenda items if that's
48 the wish of the Council. We can get into the emperor
49 geese update. I don't know how long that will take.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Gayla,
4 we'll get into the spring 2015 emperor geese.

5

6 MS. HOSETH: Good afternoon, Madame
7 Chair and members of the Council. For the record my
8 name is Gayla Hoseth and I work with Bristol Bay Native
9 Association here in Dillingham.

10

11 So our agenda item I believe is an
12 update on the emperor goose and I can give a brief
13 history. I'm the primary representative for the
14 Bristol Bay region for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
15 Management Council. And this is a report that came
16 from the -- what went to the Pacific Flyway Council and
17 also the Service Regulations Committee.

18

19 So since 2012 the Alaska Migratory Bird
20 Co-Management Council has received regulatory proposals
21 from the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. The Kodiak Aleutians
22 Regional Advisory Council, the Bristol Bay Native
23 Association and the Kawerak Regional Management Body to
24 open a harvest of emperor geese for the subsistence
25 season. Since the hunting season is closed on emperor
26 geese the AMBCC created a Emperor Goose Subcommittee to
27 address these proposals. Emperor goose harvest is
28 guided by the 2006 Pacific Flyway Management Plan and
29 the 2005 to 2006 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management
30 Plan. Over 95 percent of the emperor geese population
31 breeds on the YK-Delta of Alaska, winters in remote
32 locations in western Alaska with the remainder
33 occurring in Russia. There has been no open
34 subsistence hunting season for emperor goose since
35 1987. The Pacific Flyway Council recognizes the three
36 year average abundance estimate derived from the
37 emperor goose spring population survey on the Alaska
38 Peninsula as the management index to guide harvest
39 management decisions.

40

41 So the Pacific Flyway Council's Emperor
42 Goose Management Plan and the YK-Delta Goose Management
43 Plan indicate that a harvest can occur when a three
44 year average abundance is at least 80,000 birds. This
45 threshold has not been reached since 1984 and Alaska
46 Natives have questioned the survey methods used to
47 determine the population index. An AMBCC Emperor Goose
48 Subcommittee meeting was held in September, 2013 to
49 review current population status and trends of the
50 emperor goose. Discussions amending the Emperor Goose

1 Pacific Flyway Management Plan to change 80,000
2 population threshold to 70,000, review the U.S. Fish
3 and Wildlife Service Spring Emperor Goose Survey design
4 relative to potential changes in distribution and
5 migration and discuss other questions and concerns
6 regarding the management of emperor geese.

7
8 So on page 173 in your booklet you'll
9 find the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted the
10 Spring Emperor Goose Survey from April 25 to 28 of
11 2015. And the results indicated that the 2015 spring
12 index was 98,155 which was 23 percent above the 2014
13 count of 79,883 and 49 percent higher than the long
14 term 1981 to 2014 average of 65,923. The most recent
15 three year average count which included the years 2012,
16 2014, 2015, is 81,875 geese and the highest on record
17 since 1984. Further it is above the threshold for
18 consideration of an open hunting season on emperor
19 geese as specific in the Yukon Delta Goose Management
20 Plan and the Pacific Flyway Council Management Plan for
21 emperor geese. Survey data are released July 15th,
22 2015 prior to the Pacific Flyway Study Committee
23 meeting.

24
25 So that's kind of a history as to where
26 we are -- where we were today. As a result of the new
27 information the AMBCC amended their motion of the
28 consent agenda which included the emperor goose as a
29 closed species and proposed to add an allowance for a
30 limited harvest for 2016. In order for this to occur
31 the Native Caucus of the AMBCC along with State and
32 Federal representatives must work together to
33 determine the parameters of this limited harvest. We
34 had a meeting in August of 2015 to develop the
35 regulations that will govern the 2016 season. And with
36 that we met together in Anchorage and sat around the
37 table as to what the SRC has decided and I'll get that
38 -- get into that later on in my report, but we -- what
39 we felt was we didn't want to make any decisions at
40 that table in the meeting in Anchorage and we wanted to
41 come back to our Regional Councils to get information
42 as to how each region if we wanted to participate and
43 have a 2016 limited harvest or not. So we brought that
44 information back to our regions and the Emperor Goose
45 Management Plan needs to be revised so future seasons
46 will be governed by the Goose Management Plans once
47 they are revised and adopted by the Pacific Flyway
48 Council. Our revised Emperor Goose Management Plan
49 developed in conjunction with the AMBCC will guide
50 harvest in future years. So the AMBCC is committed to

1 developing a harvest strategy that conserves the
2 population of the emperor goose while allowing the
3 subsistence hunters to enjoy a cultural important
4 subsistence species that they haven't been able to
5 enjoy in over 30 years.

6
7 After attending the meetings of the
8 Pacific Flyway Council Study Meeting and Non-Game
9 Technical Committee and sharing information about the
10 above described proposals the regulations were
11 recommended for approval by the Pacific Flyway Council
12 at their meeting on the very last day. This came to a
13 surprise to the representatives of the AMBCC when they
14 were at the Pacific Flyway Council that we would even
15 have a potential chance to have a emperor goose harvest
16 for 2016. It was kind of -- caught everybody off guard
17 because we weren't thinking that we were going to have
18 this harvest for '16 and thought we would have it for
19 2017.

20
21 So with that being said the -- with the
22 SRC approved for limited harvest for 2016 and there was
23 conditions that we were going to have to meet and those
24 conditions were number 1, a limited harvest of 3,500
25 emperor geese to ensure that population growth
26 continues towards the Flyaway Management Plan
27 objective. And with that 3,500, that 3,500 was based
28 on harvest surveys that are conducted and they picked
29 that number based on the illegal of emperor geese. So
30 that was like 3,200 birds and so they came up with the
31 3,500 -- the 3,500 number and we were to the second
32 option or the second condition that we had to comply
33 with was a harvest allocation, ensure harvest does not
34 exceed the 3,500. And this is for all the regions that
35 have emperor geese. So 3,500 would have to be divided
36 amongst four different regions, that would be Kodiak,
37 Aleutian, Pribilofs, Bristol Bay, YK-Delta and the
38 Norton Sound area. So we had to -- we were going to go
39 through that and then we had all this information that
40 we had to kind of go with and we were going to go based
41 on population. Bristol Bay would have got like 500
42 emperor geese. And then we were sent the homework to
43 bring back to our Regional Councils as to how are we
44 going to divvy up the 500 birds within Bristol Bay.
45 And each region had a certain number based on
46 population. It was just kind of an example of what we
47 can do and we were given that number to work with. The
48 third condition that we had to comply with was an
49 agreement on a monitoring program to index the
50 abundance of the emperor geese population. And number

1 4, a revised Pacific Flyway Management Plan including
2 harvest allocation among all parties including spring
3 and summer and fall and winter population objective,
4 population monitoring and thresholds for season
5 restriction or closure.

6
7 So with that information and that
8 history of what we brought back, so we came back to our
9 Regional Councils and we had different options that we
10 could choose. Each region was to go back and figure
11 out do we want to do individual allocations, have
12 community meetings and figure out who our hunters are
13 going to be, do we want to have individual harvest
14 tags, do we want to give the responsibility and have a
15 local hunters' list. The Bristol Bay region decided
16 that we wanted to do a local hunters' list and to prove
17 that we can manage our own resources and to implement a
18 plan as to how are we going to monitor the birds, how
19 are we going to decide how -- you know, how many birds
20 Dillingham is going to get, how many birds Naknek,
21 Pilot Point, Togiak. And then the birds -- and then we
22 were trying to figure out where do the -- you know,
23 where's the most place that has the birds and most of
24 them are in Togiak and Twin Hills area, some of them
25 fly over Clark's Point. So we had all of these
26 discussions about that. And when I had our Yurkurlic
27 Calisti (ph) Council, I don't know if I'm pronouncing
28 that correctly, but it means Keeper of the Birds, what
29 we decided was we wanted to have the local hunters'
30 list and then I had them go through and choose what is
31 their top ranking, second, third and fourth so that
32 when I did bring it to the AMBCC we would have -- if we
33 all had to decide on one issue we would have our backup
34 plan so that we could all come in agreement with
35 everybody. So we did that.

36
37 And one of the main concerns that the
38 Native Caucus had at the AMBCC as far as spring and
39 summer hunt, we don't have allocations, we don't have
40 bag limits, we don't have harvest tags. We didn't want
41 to go that way with AMBCC especially for subsistence
42 because that's not what subsistence is about. And we
43 were really reluctant about that and not really -- and
44 we felt as though the information was just being given
45 to us, it wasn't really co-management, it was -- we
46 didn't have a voice at the table when the decision was
47 made on the 3,500 birds. And so then we traveled to
48 Fairbanks for the fall meeting to discuss the emperor
49 goose and how everybody -- what every region decided
50 on. Of course every region decided on something

1 different. So we -- there was a couple regions that
2 had the same options and another region had other
3 options. One region which was the YK-Delta chose no
4 option. They're -- and they have the most birds,
5 migratory birds in the State, where the birds go on the
6 YK-Delta. So with that being said, we had a lot -- we
7 went into -- we went into Native Caucus and we talked
8 about the issue. And this was one of the best meetings
9 that we attend -- that I have attended with AMBCC. Out
10 of that Native Caucus meeting we all came out and we
11 stood united and that was really, really good that we
12 came out of that meeting united and we chose to not --
13 to forego a harvest for 2016. We want to be at the
14 table, we want to be at the table when we are revising
15 the Emperor Goose Management Plan, we want it to be
16 true co-management. We want the State, the Feds and
17 the Native Caucus to be present and revise that plan so
18 we chose to not -- not to harvest for 2016, revise the
19 plan and we'll have a harvest for 2017.

20

21 So it was -- it was an amazing meeting,
22 it was stressful, we had a lot of discussions, but I
23 think that the main thing that came of it all was being
24 united together with the Native Caucus. And we do want
25 our voice at the table and we do want to show that we
26 can have co-management. And it was really a rewarding
27 meeting and a rewarding experience.

28

29 That is the update on the emperor
30 goose. I would like to -- if you have any questions.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, I'm
35 curious, you said 37,000 illegal?

36

37 MS. HOSETH: No, it was 3,200.

38

39 MR. WILSON: Oh, 3,200. Out of the
40 3,200 was that all Federally-qualified people or are
41 you talking about the incidental, you know, with State
42 -- with the State bird tags and things, I mean, the
43 stamp too or.....

44

45 MS. HOSETH: That would be for the
46 spring and summer harvest and that's the self reporting
47 when they do the harvest surveys. And Bristol Bay
48 hasn't been a part of the harvest surveys for a number
49 of years and it's been in the YK-Delta region for that
50 harvest survey for a while. So that information

1 basically came out of the harvest surveys that are
2 happening in the YK-Delta.

3

4 MR. SHUGAK: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Senafont.

7

8 MR. SHUGAK: Thank you. Madame Chair.
9 My question is about the south area villages of Bristol
10 Bay from Chignik, Ivanof, Perryville. I know in
11 Ivanof, I lived there 20 years, there have a really
12 robust emperor goose population there. I don't know if
13 that was part of the survey or not, but I was just kind
14 of interested to know who was the representative for
15 that area and, you know, if they're included in the
16 allocation of the emperor geese as well.

17

18 MS. HOSETH: I believe Ivanof Bay would
19 be in the Aleutian Pribilof's representative. The --
20 everybody is included with that and I guess if you
21 could rephrase your question because I got sidetracked
22 a little bit.

23

24 MR. SHUGAK: Well, no, it just -- you
25 know, just knowing that there's really nobody in
26 Ivanof, but there is surrounding communities there that
27 could, you know, go over there and harvest because
28 there are, you know, there's a really robust emperor
29 goose or any kind of duck over in Ivanof and I'm sure
30 there's people that go over and, you know, hunt
31 mallards and stuff like that because there's an
32 abundance there. But my question was, you know, about
33 the representation, you know, were they at the tables
34 to sit there and know that their -- this is going to
35 come available to them as well?

36

37 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, part of our --
38 whoever the -- and I'm not sure if Ivanof Bay is in the
39 Bristol Bay regional group, but each -- I have -- we
40 have noticed all of our YK-Delta Council -- I mean, our
41 YKC, we call it the YKC, the Yurkurlic Calisti, the
42 Keeper of the Birds Council, as to with our regional
43 reps that we have that come to our meeting, but just to
44 give a highlight of information, that's been something
45 that's been questionable for quite some time at the
46 AMBCC, it's how they conduct those surveys for the
47 emperor geese. And they -- they've been flying the
48 same pattern for a number of years and a lot of the
49 arguments have been year after year, time after time is
50 that they're not looking where the emperor geese are.

1 And that's always a topic of conversation at these
2 meetings. So that's something that we will be looking
3 at when we revised the Emperor Goose Management Plan.

4

5 MR. SHUGAK: Madame Chair. Just in
6 response, you know, when I was down there that the
7 emperor goose in that bay alone was between three and
8 5,000. That's how many emperor geese reside in Ivanof
9 during the winter.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

14

15 MR. O'HARA: Gayla, this is incredible.
16 I've not heard this report before, I must have been
17 absent or something, but this is a lot of -- a lot of
18 work, incredible report. You said that perhaps Bristol
19 Bay would have 500 geese for the taking. How do you
20 figure out when you've got 500 taken.....

21

22 MS. HOSETH: Well, that was.....

23

24 MR. O'HARA:how does the
25 reporting come back?

26

27 MS. HOSETH: How does the what?

28

29 MR. O'HARA: Reporting come back on the
30 number of birds taken.

31

32 MS. HOSETH: Well, that was kind of --
33 that was an example that we were going to use for the
34 pop -- based on the population of each community and
35 each region. We had different options as to how we
36 would allocate the 3,500 birds between all of the
37 regions. And Bristol Bay -- it was just an example and
38 it was something that we were going to use as a
39 template based on the population sizes of the
40 communities. So Bristol Bay I believe had 500 and I
41 forgot how many Kodiak had.

42

43 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, how do you determine
44 when you get the 500?

45

46 MS. HOSETH: Well, that's what we were
47 trying to figure out and that's what the.....

48

49 MR. O'HARA: Oh, I see.

50

1 MS. HOSETH:options that we were
2 to have. And we were going to have Tribal Councils
3 help gather the information.....

4
5 MR. O'HARA: Oh, okay.
6

7 MS. HOSETH:kind of like how you
8 get your caribou tags and then you would report that
9 way. We didn't -- and that's something that we want to
10 talk about too because we don't want to get into that
11 kind of a system for the subsistence harvest.

12
13 MR. O'HARA: Uh-huh. Question number
14 2, Madame Chair.....

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.
17

18 MR. O'HARA:is how did you arrive
19 at the 3,200 illegally taken birds?

20
21 MS. CARTY: Through the Chair. For the
22 record Courtenay Carty, BBNA. I'm also -- Gayla and I
23 worked together to coordinate our YKC Council here in
24 Bristol Bay and I'm Bristol Bay's alternate to the
25 AMBCC. I just want to quickly say that Gayla does a
26 remarkable job with the Native Caucus and the AMBCC,
27 she is now the Co-Chair of the Native Caucus for the
28 AMBCC and now the AMBCC hold the Chairmanship -- I'm
29 sorry, the Native Caucus holds the Chairmanship of the
30 AMBCC, she's really advanced her leadership throughout
31 this.

32
33 I just want to address the 3,200 issue
34 as well as Ivanof Bay to provide clarification for the
35 record. They are part of the Bristol Bay Regional
36 Management Body which is the YKC. 3,200 was a huge
37 issue. As Gayla mentioned it was based on reported
38 illegal harvests and as we know that work in
39 subsistence harvest survey work and Molly will also
40 attest to this I'm sure that many people have a hard
41 enough time reporting our harvest as it is especially
42 to agencies. It's one thing, you know, we hear on the
43 record all this information that comes from Pete and
44 from you, our other Council members, of what you hear
45 in your communities and oftentimes those conversations
46 are conversations that happen and are not data that are
47 incorporated into management. And that was a really
48 big problem that we had at the AMBCC with that number
49 in the Native Caucus given -- one being given a number
50 from Fish and Wildlife at the Service Regulations

1 Committee without being able to come back and engage in
2 the public process and run that through our Regional
3 Management Body to be able to present that to the RAC,
4 to the local ACs. Obviously migratory bird harvest is
5 regulated under a different set of statutory authority,
6 but we are all the same harvesters and so it's very
7 important that we have a huge information and outreach
8 component to this new Emperor Geese Harvest Management
9 Plan. And so that's part of the reason 3,200 came
10 based on what was reported in the YK-Delta. And a lot
11 of the conversation we had at the table was that we as
12 Native Caucus members think this is probably half of
13 what is actually being harvested. If you think -- I
14 mean, would I sit there and say on my thing -- my
15 survey that I illegally harvested and we really commend
16 those harvesters that are out there reporting their
17 harvest accurately even if they're reporting an illegal
18 harvest because at least that gave us a number.
19 Without that information we'd of had nothing to really
20 work with. So it's really important for the Native
21 Caucus to decide that we as a collective whole were
22 going to take the year to plan this 2017, we're coming
23 out with the Emperor Goose Management Plan, and be able
24 to incorporate these numbers, whatever they may be, as
25 well as the reporting strategy, how are we going to
26 regulate this harvest, how are we going to report it
27 and have time to really think that through and engage
28 with the harvesters and the different Regional
29 Management Bodies throughout the State to be able to
30 make sure that this -- you know, it's the first harvest
31 in almost 30 years and we're very excited that we have
32 the opportunity and that the population is back up
33 enough to be able to engage in that harvest, but it's
34 also very important that it's done properly and if it
35 just takes one more year to do that then that's what
36 we're ready to do.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

43

44 MR. O'HARA: My third question is I
45 notice in your report, Gayla, that -- and Courtenay,
46 that these birds come up the Alaska Peninsula. So one
47 of the things that this Council is really interested in
48 doing is sustainability through the food chain. So do
49 you look into that when these birds are coming by,
50 their condition, what they're -- you know, do they have

1 the necessary stuff to eat to be able to long distance
2 fly?

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Mr. O'Hara,
7 through the Chair. Courtenay Carty for the record.

8

9 That was another issue in regards to
10 the Alaska Peninsula and the -- getting locked into
11 this 3,200 harvest for 2016 was only going to be
12 eligible harvest for the spring and summer subsistence
13 harvest season. There would still be no fall harvest.
14 One of the major discussion items in the Native Caucus
15 meeting was that if the Native Caucus was to move
16 forward with allowing this harvest we would be in some
17 ways disenfranchising -- it wouldn't be a fair and
18 adequate harvest opportunity for all members of the
19 Native Caucus for all regions that receive this animal
20 to be able to harvest because of the time constraints
21 of April to September 1 or August 30 rather. Based on
22 the data provided from Fish and Wildlife and ADF&G the
23 locations of where those birds occur on the Alaska
24 Peninsula and in the Aleutian Islands, they're there in
25 the fall, in the early spring they would be
26 inaccessible for hunters to harvest those birds based
27 on that time frame and that was another big arguing
28 point as to why we would wait and be able to try to
29 incorporate this into the Management Plan to allow for
30 a fall harvest that would also allow those people to
31 harvest.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks for the report. I
38 was living in Sand Point when this closure happened as
39 -- like one of the very few Fish and Wildlife employees
40 anywhere between Kodiak and Dutch Harbor I ended up,
41 you know, posting signs and one thing it -- Sand Point
42 folks were not happy, they call them beach geese by the
43 way, and I think I've said that before here and there
44 was real confusion of what the heck's an emperor goose,
45 we shoot beach geese. And I'm kind of glad to hear, it
46 sounds like you're working with them and suspecting
47 that there was probably a fair amount taken even though
48 they know they weren't supposed to because it was a
49 strong tradition down there. But then, yeah, those
50 birds would show up down there I think about now in

1 November and then when I lived in Dutch we would hunt
2 them like I think it was December. And then we always
3 like to see them on the beaches. There weren't very
4 many in Dutch, but -- and for a few families there it
5 was really important. So this -- it's really nice to
6 hear that they're coming back and I think credit gets
7 to be that a lot of the villagers all over deserve
8 credit for restraining themselves.

9

10 And so I wish you well in the future
11 because I know there'll be some Sand Pointers
12 especially that they like their beach geese.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

19

20 MR. O'HARA: Question, how many times a
21 year does your Committee meeting?

22

23 MS. HOSETH: We meet twice a year and
24 then since we're going to be working on the Emperor
25 Goose Management Committee, that Subcommittee is going
26 to be getting together more frequently up until our
27 spring meeting in April.

28

29 And I just wanted to follow-up and say,
30 you know, these birds are Alaskan birds, you know, they
31 migrate north and then they winter in Alaska. And also
32 -- and they also travel to Russia. And some of the
33 questions that were brought is that we were -- we don't
34 know how many birds are harvested in Russia and we have
35 no harvest here in Alaska. And a lot of the huge areas
36 where the birds are are not being surveyed with that
37 aerial survey that has been the same route year after
38 year. And with climate change the birds are migrating
39 farther north than they have before and that's also
40 another issue that is brought up time and time again at
41 AMBCC is the reporting of the birds that are farther
42 north and that's out of the aerial survey area.

43

44 And, you know, one thing that we did
45 bring up during our meetings was that people would just
46 be happy with just a meal, you know, two or three
47 birds. If we are over the population threshold then
48 just allow us to have a harvest for a meal. So those
49 are things that we also did talk about where people
50 wouldn't go out and get, you know, a whole huge

1 abundance of geese, but we would just be happy with
2 just having a taste of the emperor goose.

3

4 And I really just want to state this on
5 the record that, you know, with the Native Caucus
6 coming out and we were -- we stood united for -- on
7 behalf of our customary and traditional way of
8 harvesting and that's when we decided that we will wait
9 and revise the Emperor Goose Management Plan for 2017.
10 And we'd rather -- we would rather like to take the
11 time to -- for -- to advise that harvest plan in line
12 with our customary and traditional practices instead of
13 trying to come up with a hurry up and let's get this
14 done just so that we can have this harvest and have
15 allocations and then reporting requirements and that's
16 what we wanted to stay away from.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

19

20 MR. O'HARA: And two things, just do
21 you have your meetings here in Dillingham, I know I see
22 you over in Naknek, do you have them other places
23 through -- in our region?

24

25 MS. HOSETH: For our -- for our
26 regional -- for our YKC regional meetings we have a
27 meeting in Naknek and a meeting in Dillingham. And for
28 the AMBCC we have -- we just had our meeting in
29 Fairbanks which was really nice to be outside of
30 Anchorage for that meeting. And then our spring AMBCC
31 meeting will be in Bethel.

32

33 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 MS. CARTY: Sorry, Mr. O'Hara, through
36 the Chair. Courtenay Carty. Our spring YKC meeting
37 will be our 20th anniversary meeting and we'll be
38 hosting it in Togiak this year. That was decided at
39 our last YKC meeting.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

42

43 MR. O'HARA: Closing remarks on that.
44 It's just pretty incredible and being a retired
45 biologist you appreciate this, Dan, but State of Alaska
46 does a good job of taking care of its resources, we've
47 got to give them credit for that. And you can drink
48 the water I think anywhere. And even on the 200 mile
49 limit, whether it's the Bering Sea or the Gulf, they
50 still have some good species. So along with all our

1 whining, you know, we got to give credit that things
2 like this is taking place where we're going to continue
3 to have these issues and we need to appreciate that.

4

5 Thank you very much.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 I had another question I meant to ask. Sometimes when
13 I buy my -- I think it's my Federal stamp and usually
14 I'm kind of in a hurry, rushing to the post office or
15 something, sometimes I have to fill out a survey of
16 what I caught last year. And it's invariably like wow.
17 And so I -- is that part of -- do you know if that's
18 one of what they call a survey because sometimes I've
19 wished that can't they give me just a score sheet I
20 could take home like my subsistence salmon permit
21 because hit me and I -- you know, sometimes I buy them
22 at odd times now with the spring hunting and it's just
23 not at all convenient. And maybe they'd get better
24 reporting with a better system.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. CARTY: Dan, through the Chair.
29 The survey that you filled out at the post office is
30 not the survey which led to the 3,200 number, if that
31 makes any sense. Molly serves on the survey -- Harvest
32 Survey Committee. AMBCC is looking at -- they've gone
33 through an analysis of their survey methodology and are
34 trying to revise the survey working with Colorado State
35 University on fine tuning that survey instrument and
36 maybe someday there will be money to implement that new
37 survey.

38

39 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yeah, I find
44 it amazing that, you know, that many people would, you
45 know, want to put down how many incidentals or, you
46 know, illegal birds caught. But that type of survey,
47 I'm assuming it's house to house kind of survey system
48 and you mentioned that, you know, possibly 500, you
49 know, get divvied up in Bristol Bay. Well, I think I
50 would -- that type of survey are you wondering how to

1 -- how to monitor this thing. Well, to stay on track
2 with that kind of survey you would want to -- if you
3 did open it up it would seem like it would be -- you'd
4 want to have that same train of survey so that you have
5 a, you know, a steady stream of data coming from the
6 same places, you know, it would -- it would probably be
7 more accurate. And along with that, you know, people
8 that really depend on emperor geese, that have bigger
9 populations, maybe they only got 10 people in the
10 village, but they have the biggest population of geese
11 coming there and that's a bigger source of food for
12 them to me would be greater need than myself having
13 other resources available around me and, you know, 500
14 people in my village. So I think I would be cautious
15 on how you challenge that, you know, because it's
16 subsistence, you know, it's people that need that
17 resource. And they may have the biggest population
18 coming through them. And if they're only allowed, you
19 know, one or two and they got the whole population,
20 what's the sense.

21

22 Thanks.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you have an
25 answer to that, just a comment I guess, anybody else?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. My
30 turn. If I wasn't so brown you'd probably see me
31 turning red here.

32

33 MR. WILSON: (Indiscernible - away from
34 microphone).....

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. O'HARA: What's that now?

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: To classify,
41 you know, when a survey project goes out and we ensure
42 the people that this is going to be, what is it.....

43

44 MS. MORRIS LYON: Confidential.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:
47confidential information and you could dot -- you
48 could tell us any harvest that you take and our
49 faithful and good harvesters in the villages, rural
50 villages faithfully consent to that and they tell you

1 the harvests and for geese or not. And to sit here and
2 to hear -- this is the first time I've ever heard it, I
3 haven't heard their technical survey except that I've
4 missed the last meeting that they had and but we're --
5 we are still working on that, a joint -- I guess it was
6 present -- the drafters presented it at the Fairbanks I
7 understand. And then going back to the survey projects
8 and the people faithfully giving their numbers to you.
9 And to sit here and to hear that these what 300 --
10 3,500 birds were illegally taken, sure they were
11 illegally taken, but to classify them as that is really
12 -- I'm still red. You know, they should have been a
13 respectful way of using another term for that. But it
14 makes -- it makes -- you know, these people that
15 traditionally and culturally use these birds to be
16 classified as illegal hunters or illegal -- yeah,
17 hunters. And if it was for me and I can relate to
18 others, if this gets back to the villages and to the
19 hunters that faithfully gave you or gave these numbers
20 out in good faith that it would help to -- you know,
21 help with conservation and to have them classified as
22 illegal hunters, I don't think is going to enhance
23 future survey programs. So if -- you know, if you get
24 back to your Native Caucus and I really appreciate --
25 I'm glad that the program is going well, it was a hard
26 process, you know, when I was involved, but it sounds
27 like the Feds, the State and the Native are finally
28 working together. So that's one issue that possibly
29 you can discuss with your Native Caucus so that it
30 wouldn't have a negative implication to the faithful
31 households, the faithful harvesters that gave these
32 numbers and thinking that if they did that it would
33 help with the conservation and not be classified as
34 illegal hunters.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. WILSON: That's a good point.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more

41 questions?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Gayla.

46

47 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

48 Did you want me to under -- when I was giving comment

49 yesterday morning I was giving it under public and

50 other tribal comments of non-agenda items, did you want

1 me to give an update on -- briefly about what else
2 happened at the AMBCC under this or under agency?

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, we told
5 you that we would let you continue. So.....

6

7 MS. HOSETH: Okay.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:you have
10 the floor.

11

12 MS. HOSETH: So I don't think that I
13 need to go through and go through the wanton waste and
14 I could just give an update on that. At the Board of
15 Game I believe it was in 2000 and -- do you
16 remember.....

17

18 MS. CARTY: It was the last cycle.

19

20 MS. HOSETH: The last cycle of Board of
21 Game, it -- wanton and waste language was defined for
22 swans, geese and cranes, that you must -- that you must
23 take the breast, thighs and legs. That was defined as
24 wanton waste. And then at AMBCC we didn't think that
25 that was restrictive enough and it wasn't really
26 classified as what was wanton waste for the spring and
27 summer subsistence harvest. And when all of those
28 swans were over in the Bethel dumpster is what created
29 this discussion. And it was our YKC Regional Council
30 that put in the proposal to the AMBCC to have more
31 restrictive language for wanton waste. And this got
32 passed at the Pacific Flyway and the SRC and there's
33 going to be time for people to comment on the proposed
34 rule in December. And we're really excited for this
35 language and it will be effective for 2016. But we
36 have defined edible meat meaning the meat the breast,
37 back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart. And we
38 said however the head, neck, feet, other internal
39 organs and skin are optional. That was unanimously
40 passed at the AMBCC. And that was really a moving step
41 forward for the wanton waste language and that will be
42 for all birds harvested. So it's not just limited to
43 the birds that are with the State of Alaska and that
44 information also needs to be shared and people educated
45 on that when they participate in the spring and summer
46 harvest so there'll be no breasting birds. And the
47 non-wasteful taking was defined as means making a
48 reasonable effort to retrieve all birds killed or
49 wounded and retaining the edible meat until the birds
50 have been transported to the location where they will

1 be consumed, processed or preserved for human food. So
2 that was really exciting, there's a lot of positive
3 things moving forward at AMBCC.

4
5 Another thing that also got passed was
6 handicraft language. I know that you guys probably
7 have heard in the media and news about migratory bird
8 feathers and parts being used and to be able to sell.
9 That also got passed at the Pacific Flyway and the SRC.
10 And that's under subsection 92.6, the use and
11 possession of migratory birds to allow sale of
12 handicrafts that contain the non-edible parts of birds
13 taken for food during the spring and summer migratory
14 bird subsistence harvest. And the recommended new
15 wording for the subsection shall read as follows. A,
16 giving or receiving migratory birds. Under this
17 section you may take migratory birds for human
18 consumption only. Harvest and possession of migratory
19 birds must be done using non-wasteful taking. Edible
20 meat of migratory birds may be given to others by
21 eligible persons. Inedible byproducts of migratory
22 birds taken for food may be used for purposes except
23 that taxidermy is prohibited. And these byproducts may
24 only be given to other edible -- eligible person or
25 Alaska Natives. Sorry. And the Native articles of
26 handicraft or clothing, only Alaska Natives may sell or
27 resale any authentic Native article of handicraft or
28 clothing that contains an inedible byproduct of
29 migratory birds that are taken for food during the
30 Alaska migratory bird subsistence harvest season. And
31 the sales by consignment are allowed. Each consignment
32 item must be accompanied by either a certificate signed
33 by the artist that includes the artist's tribal
34 enrollment information or silver hand documentation.
35 This documentation must be retained with each item by
36 all purchasers, consignees and sellers. Consistent
37 with this section Native articles of handicraft or
38 clothing may be produced for sale from the following
39 list of species. And there's 27 species that are
40 listed and I have that information here. And this was
41 requested by the -- by Kodiak in 2011. These
42 handicraft regulations were drafted in a process
43 involving a committee comprised of Alaska Native
44 representatives from eight rural regions in Alaska, the
45 YK-Delta, Bering Straits, North Slope, Kodiak, Bristol
46 Bay, Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Pribilof Islands and
47 Northwest Arctic. The list of migratory birds that can
48 be used in handicrafts for sale came from cross
49 referencing restricted from sale species listed in the
50 treaties with Russia, Canada and Mexico and Japan with

1 those allowed to be taken in the subsistence harvest.
2 And the migratory bird treaty with Japan is the most
3 restrictive and thus dictated which subsistence harvest
4 species of non-edible parts could be used in handicraft
5 for sale. Draft regulations allow the limited sale by
6 Alaska Natives of handicrafts, making -- made using
7 migratory bird parts including consignment sales. And
8 that's when we had a long discussion of what would be
9 -- that's how we came up with the tribal enrollment and
10 the silver hand seal. So that was passed. That's also
11 going to be in the proposed rule for December and then
12 that will be for 2016.

13

14 So there's a lot of -- and then with
15 the no longer having to have the Federal duck stamp
16 requirement, that was really huge, that was a
17 longstanding fight at AMBCC for a number of years. And
18 our next battle is going to be not having to have a
19 State required duck stamp.

20

21 So we're moving forward, a lot of
22 exciting things are happening and I want to thank you
23 for your time.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
30 Chair. And thank you very much, Gayla, lots of good
31 information. One thing I just realized and I'm glad
32 you're talking about the wanton waste issue. I haven't
33 followed it very closely, but two or three times this
34 fall people that were following it a little close
35 buttonholed me and their general concern was that the
36 current language that you're supporting for all birds
37 to recover especially internal organs, the folks that
38 talked to me felt that was way too extreme. I tend to
39 save those parts myself, I'm not very much of a
40 waterfowl hunter either to be honest, you know, I get a
41 couple of geese and a crane or two and stuff, sometimes
42 we get some ducks. And I started thinking about it
43 and, you know, I get the smaller ducks peel and stuff
44 or I used to like to hunt snipes a little bit, there
45 ain't much there, the heart or anything. So I'm a
46 little concerned, you know, I like the gizzards in the
47 geese I shoot, it's almost my favorite part, but I'm
48 wondering if that's a little burdensome if people are
49 going for the really small birds. And since people
50 have stopped me on the street on it I feel I ought to

1 speak up on that. Also I really appreciate when a
2 public comment opportunity comes up that if that gets
3 well advertised.

4

5 Let's see, there's another point. I'm
6 glad to see some of this opportunity for people to use
7 the feathers and such for handicrafts. I was in Bethel
8 once and this -- I wish I could remember his name, neat
9 guy, but he's telling me how much grief he had over
10 using feathers in some -- he had really cool art, it
11 was really different. And I really had to sympathize
12 with him, here's he's making use of a material and he's
13 got to fight the bureaucracies.

14

15 So anyway I do have some of those
16 wanton waste concerns though, yeah, if people are
17 throwing half a swan or goose in the dumpster and just
18 taking the breast, I never -- I grew up we took the
19 whole bird. Spruce hens, I was horrified the first
20 time I heard somebody say they's gotten 50 spruce hens
21 and oh, we just whack the breast off. I couldn't
22 fathom it. So anyway I wanted to -- I do have that one
23 concern and wanted to pass it on since a few public
24 people have brought it up to me. And especially just
25 for the smaller birds personally.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, through the
30 Chair, Dan. And that was -- we did have a lot of
31 discussion regarding the wanton waste definition. And
32 all across the table it is customary and traditional
33 that the entire bird is harvest -- is consumed. We did
34 talk about that. And it wouldn't be -- you know, the
35 traditional people that harvest the birds wouldn't be
36 -- well, you know, we talked about this for a very,
37 very long time and we wouldn't be -- what was the word?

38

39 MS. CARTY: Breaking.

40

41 MS. HOSETH: No, we wouldn't be -- we
42 wouldn't be breaking -- there would be no wanton waste
43 for the Native people of Alaska if -- and as we are all
44 Federally-qualified users if people do partake in this
45 harvest that they can give those edible meats to people
46 that would be happy to receive those. And that's why
47 -- and that's what we talked about. And so, you know,
48 the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and
49 heart must be consumed. But we really wanted to
50 emphasize that however the head, neck, feet and other

1 internal organs and skin are optional because that's
2 customary and traditional practice.

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair, I
9 correspond with some people on a Facebook Native foods
10 thing and I notice a picture of duck in a pot means
11 head and all. And so, yeah, okay, well, I just
12 appreciate that and I hadn't quite thought of the angle
13 of share them with folks that do appreciate them --
14 appreciate that.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair,
19 Dan. Just to clarify those comments should all be
20 incorporated I guess into the public record when these
21 proposed rules come out. And we would encourage
22 everyone to make their comment, but this language has
23 been worked on for a long time and is really trying to
24 streamline the regulation with the traditional harvest
25 method.

26

27 MR. SHUGAK: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Senafont.

30

31 MR. SHUGAK: Yeah, I got a question.
32 It's great to hear that we've going to be able to use
33 feathers and stuff out of that. And my -- I'm excited
34 because, you know, I can use a lot of stuff on what I
35 do. But how do you go about educating the people that
36 they -- that are doing the catching that there's people
37 out there like me that could use the feathers and stuff
38 that they catch and use or that they catch.

39

40 MS. HOSETH: I guess outreach and
41 outreaching through our Regional Councils and so that
42 they could educate people in the villages. We also
43 could include that in our newsletters at BBNA and
44 update on it and that could get mailed to everybody.
45 But we do -- we're -- we are -- you know, we really
46 want the people engaged, we want to educate people.
47 I'm really glad to see youth here and especially on
48 this topic, we have a lot of youth hunters that bird
49 hunt. So I'm really glad that they're here to listen
50 to this discussion. So educate -- we will get the word

1 out through BBNA.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Just a real quick one. We
8 should just have a sign up here saying no acronyms and
9 I'm sure we have people in the audience they don't know
10 what AMBCC is or SRC is. Real briefly.
11
12 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Through the Chair,
13 Dan. AMBCC is Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
14 Council and SRC is the Service Regulations Committee.
15
16 MR. O'HARA: Oh, that's the
17 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MS. HOSETH: No, that's the Fish and
22 Wildlife Service.
23
24 MR. O'HARA: (Indiscernible - away from
25 microphone).....
26
27 MS. HOSETH: Yeah.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, just one real
32 quick comment for me. And I would -- I'm excited to
33 hear too that they're going to allow parts to be used
34 in handicrafts. And just a pure suggestion, but as
35 you're going forward fleshing this idea out of making
36 use of these parts it might be helpful if you would
37 compile a list of -- at least get a list started of
38 craft users in areas that you could make available
39 along with the publishing of it and it could always be
40 updated as it continues on. Getting one started is
41 important and it's good if you get a start on the
42 ground floor. But just an idea.
43
44 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
47
48 MR. O'HARA: You know, when I was Chair
49 of this Council we'd go before the Federal Board and we
50 could kill a brown bear and eat it and if we tanned the

1 hide we'd have to cut the arms and legs off. We --
2 I'll tell you what, you -- I used good language, but
3 they didn't like it and that was so disgusting. I
4 mean, like why would we -- some guys pay \$15,000 and
5 leave the meat in the woods and we take it and use it
6 and then we've got to cut everything off if we're going
7 to tan it and hang it on the wall or use it for a rug
8 or something.

9
10 That's just a complaint, nothing to do
11 with your ducks.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: My comment for
14 the record is from my village and my people we eat the
15 whole -- the whole bird including the parts that are
16 optional. So I'm glad that that's finally coming to a
17 head.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Just
26 checking on our youth group here. Raise the hands on
27 how many households hunt?

28
29 MR. SHUGAK: Are you asking the young
30 folks?

31
32 MR. WILSON: Just seeing if they're
33 awake.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. WILSON: Raise the hands, how many
38 of your households hunt?

39
40 STUDENTS: (Indiscernible - away from
41 microphone).....

42
43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Figured as much.
44 Yeah, good deal.

45
46 MR. WILSON: Thanks.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, that's
49 really good. And again I think this is Jackie's
50 history class is it, is Jackie here?

1 MRS WILSON: (Indiscernible - away from
2 microphone).....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What was that.
5 But, yeah, we want to again welcome you students here.
6 We really -- we feel really wonderful that you're there
7 observing us and within what, 10, 15 years you can be
8 sitting at the table here.....

9
10 MR. WILSON: That's right.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:while
13 we're home twiddling our thumbs. So thanks for coming
14 or walking with the sleep walker.

15
16 Okay. Thank you, ladies for.....

17
18 MS. CARTY: Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:that
21 information. It was really good.

22
23 Do we have Kate Gomez?

24
25 MS. GOMEZ: Hi, I'm Kate Gomez. I am
26 in ninth grade here at Dillingham High School. I am
27 only 14 years old and this -- and I'm so excited to
28 speak in front of all you guys today. I have talked --
29 spoke in front of the Environmental Protection Agency
30 twice and the Department of Natural Resources once
31 about the proposed Pebble Mine. And I enjoy speaking
32 about issues and certain topics that need to be
33 discussed in Alaska.

34
35 For the WP16-29 and 30, I support the
36 exception in the opening for the caribou hunt. Being
37 allowed to go out and hunt for 16 more days gives us as
38 hunters more opportunities to go and provide for our
39 families and to support our culture and community. The
40 extension would also allow the hunters to show and
41 teach the younger hunters how to harvest caribou and to
42 try to keep the cultures and traditions alive. Also to
43 support ADF&G's comment about having the hunt open to
44 all of Alaska's hunters would mean having the urban
45 areas of Alaska be able to fly in to the locations and
46 go and try to support their families that are in need
47 because they might not be able to go out and pay for
48 the meat at the grocery store. And having them able to
49 -- all hunters of Alaska able to go out and hunt and
50 support their families and their culture and their

1 traditions would mean so much to everybody. You know,
2 having to go out to the grocery store and buying this
3 meat that has been filtered so to say with a bunch of
4 chemicals could really have a bad fault for Alaska, it
5 could really push our people into bad health states and
6 not -- like not being able to go and support for
7 everyone in need. And by having all the hunters able
8 to go hunt during the opening would give everyone a
9 chance to keep the traditions alive and keep the
10 cultures going throughout the State.

11
12 With the WP16-31 to 32, I also support
13 this proposal because I believe that the hunters should
14 be able to go and hunt as soon as they fly over to the
15 location. You know, having to wait in the area all
16 night just to the early next morning to be able to hunt
17 kind of slows down our time and our thinking process.
18 We should be able to go out and -- as soon as we have
19 our station set up go out and hunt. We should be able
20 to go and support for our families as soon as possible.
21 We need this because it allows us to also again support
22 our community and our culture and keep traditions
23 alive. Being immediately allowed to hunt would give us
24 the desired ability to support our community and then
25 would show -- this would also give us more time to show
26 our young the importance of the subsistence lifestyle,
27 that the rural parts of Alaska live by and use to keep
28 healthy and be able to survive off the land.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. That
33 was very, very impressive for a 14 year old. At 14 I
34 don't think I would have been able to do like you're
35 doing. So it's very -- I'm sure -- I'm sure we're all
36 feeling like we're in high gear, so proud of you.

37
38 Dan, did you have a comment.

39
40 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Thank you for the
41 good report and you can take my place anytime you want
42 right here at this table. Appreciate it very much. I
43 like the airborne thing and the time issue, that's I
44 thought a very good point.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

49
50 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame

1 Chair. Kate, I really appreciate you coming up here
2 too, but, Dan, you got to wait in line, my chair's
3 already warmed up for her.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: I do appreciate your
8 passion for coming up here and making the statements
9 that you made. I really like your thoughts about, you
10 know, what produced meat is doing for our communities
11 and our people, I think it's a valuable thought and we
12 haven't even brought that one up at the table, guys,
13 this whole entire meeting. Thank you very much. So
14 that's a new perspective and I really appreciate it.

15
16 And I would also like to say that
17 you'll be happy to know that we have supported what you
18 supported. So so far we're batting a thousand on each
19 other's team.

20
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
24 other questions?

25
26 Richard.

27
28 MR. WILSON: No.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I would have
33 brought up the chemical issue if the wanton waste
34 requirement had made me keep the livers on the birds
35 too because frankly I worry in the spring about birds
36 coming up from those agricultural fields and having
37 agricultural chemical residues, it's one of the reasons
38 I'm not a real vigorous spring hunter, but especially
39 the livers, that's where some of that stuff
40 accumulates.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
45 questions?

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

50

1 MS. GOMEZ: I have one more thing to
2 say. I also support having the bag limit go from two
3 caribou by State registration permit to three. Having
4 the bag limit move from two to three would help hunters
5 provide and support the community culture they live in.
6 Being one of Alaska hunters, this would really help me
7 support and provide for my family and also provide for
8 the elders of Dillingham. I love providing for the
9 elders of Dillingham, it's great to see their faces
10 light up with excitement when they have young youth
11 going and bringing them freshly caught game or freshly
12 picked berries.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm one of
15 those elders.

16
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Sign me up.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You're speak
20 -- yeah, sign me up.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 Any other comments?

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you so
29 much. Hope to see you next time.

30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.

32
33 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you for your time.

34
35 (Applause)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
38 Courtenay, we sort of ran out of time for your blue
39 card earlier.

40
41 MS. CARTY: What if I just do it during
42 staff report?

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And --
45 okay. That'll do.

46
47 Okay. The next one is Robyn Chaney or
48 is it Robyn Chaney?

49
50 MS. CHANEY: Madame Chair. I also

1 request you also have a blue card for my son, Dylan
2 Chaney.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

5

6 MS. CHANEY: If it's allowable I'd like
7 him -- we can testify together.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dylan.

10

11 MS. CHANEY: My name is Robyn Chaney,
12 I'm a lifelong resident of Dillingham. This is my son
13 Dylan Chaney, I'm pretty sure he's 14, also a lifelong
14 resident and a hunter. I thank you for this
15 opportunity and I also thank you for inviting youth and
16 students to participate.

17

18 Last spring Gayla informed us of the
19 YKC meeting and we were able to bring together a group
20 of youth hunters in our school, middle school and high
21 school hunters. We brought them in, they were able to
22 review regulations and proposals and they were also
23 able to go to that meeting and testify. And I think --
24 and I hope that's something that we can continue so
25 that you see more of our youth testifying because I
26 know in my family I have very few opportunities to
27 shoot anything myself. I'm -- they kill it, they clean
28 it, I get to cook it and that's about it.

29

30 We are here though at this moment to
31 testify on the proposed wanton waste of migratory
32 birds. And I'm here to voice my support for the
33 regulations that Gayla described earlier. And I feel
34 so strongly about that in my position at the District
35 one of my responsibilities is to provide professional
36 development. I work in Native education, bilingual,
37 bicultural Indian education and that's one of my
38 charges is to provide culturally responsive
39 professional development to our certified staff and
40 other staff. So last Friday because it's something we
41 haven't done very much I thought let's do something
42 experiential. I had some teachers here who said that
43 they hunt and in talking about that I realized that
44 they were only harvesting the breasts. And I'm always
45 shocked about that because that's the last part that I
46 ever want to eat, anything I don't have to work for
47 just doesn't seem to taste that good. So we talked
48 about that and we invited them over and we invited them
49 over and it just never worked out. So last Friday my
50 boys had caught some spruce chickens and froze them

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
4 Madame Chair. And I just -- I commend you both. I
5 think that -- I think, you know, many of our districts
6 -- we're on the other side of the bay and I think many
7 of our districts have the need to bring in educators
8 from other places and I don't know that it wouldn't be
9 bad for bay wide to do some -- I think that's a very
10 innovative idea and I think it would -- it helps
11 introduce new folks to the area to traditions and our
12 way of life. And even, you know, some of them probably
13 never even thought of doing it before and it opens the
14 mind up a lot I think. And I commend you for doing it
15 and I plan on, you know, even taking your demonstration
16 idea back and hopefully seeing if we can't implement it
17 on the other side as a pure leaning tool and to
18 integrate folks into the culture in our areas faster.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MS. CHANEY: Absolutely. And that was
23 kind of one of my -- one of the things I want to bring
24 here too is to recognize and honor that local
25 knowledge. You know, we pay thousands and thousands of
26 dollars for people -- and well spent to come out and
27 educate us on ways of teaching and new curriculum, but
28 that is part of -- I see my job here is to also bring
29 in that local knowledge that's tested of time, you
30 know, of millennia.

31

32 And then I also support these
33 regulations because I think that reenforces, you know,
34 our cultural traditions and that some youth don't have
35 the opportunity to learn from an elder like, you know,
36 maybe my children did. When we make those requirements
37 we ensure that those traditions will continue as well.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
42 Dylan, excited that you -- you know, you -- you're
43 interested in what the regulations have to say, you
44 know, you're interest in them before you go out hunting
45 and stuff. And for a young person to want to get into
46 that part instead of just grabbing your shotgun and
47 shells and saying, okay, mom, dad, I'm gone, you know,
48 bring back whatever, but you've taken the next step and
49 the interest in actually what's -- you know, what
50 you're able to take and how much. And those kind of

1 things are I think just valuable for our youth, you
2 know, to get into that part of it because then you --
3 you know, it's just -- it's just a good way to go and I
4 just applaud you for, you know, taking the time and I'd
5 be interested in pursuing that kind of stuff, pass it
6 on.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, if I'm
9 not mistaken I think Robyn is -- Robyn Samuelson's
10 daughter and Dylan is a grandson. And, Dylan, from the
11 time you were just probably barely enough to carry a
12 gun your grandpa took you out hunting. And Joe and I
13 have enjoyed -- in fact, I've got a spruce chicken in
14 my freezer from your hunt with your grandpa. And I
15 really commend you for bringing that knowledge to the
16 school district, that is really innovative and very
17 educational to show that. So, boy, this has been my
18 highlight of this meeting to bring the students and
19 have you come before us to testify or to talk to us.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. CHANEY: And then if I may, Madame
24 Chair. I would also encourage you to continue to
25 solicit input from youth and through staff or however
26 you want to share upcoming meetings and regulations,
27 whether we submit those written reports, we're working
28 on teaching our students how that process works and
29 when possible coming and giving oral testimony as well.
30 As part of our -- and it's interesting when you ask --
31 to ask youth questions, you know, some of us are so
32 used to be on Boards that we know this process and we
33 ask questions and we answer questions. Gayla asked
34 this -- you know, we surveyed them before we went to
35 YKC and we just to -- they are, they're the ones that
36 are every weekend, my kids wake up earlier on the
37 weekends than they do on school days because they have
38 to get out and go get set up to go hunting. And Gayla
39 said, okay, well, so when do the birds come. And they
40 sat and they talked and they, you know, wrote their
41 answers and Gayla went through and read and she had to
42 -- she showed me one of the students, I won't say which
43 one, he might know, one of the students responded and
44 said well, we walk out and we sit in the grass and we
45 wait for them. She meant March, April.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. CHANEY: So we -- she said that was
50 going to be out motto for our youth hunter's club is we

1 go out in the grass and we wait.

2

3 So thank you very much for this
4 opportunity.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you so
7 much. Let's take a five minute break before we get
8 into the reports. Do a little stretch and then we'll
9 start with -- I guess we -- we'll take a five minute
10 break and do the -- identify issues for FY15.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'll call the
17 meeting back to order.

18

19 Donald.

20

21 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. If
22 you turn to page 191 in your meeting materials, that's
23 the annual report briefing. I'll just -- it'll be
24 really brief and we can -- the Council can continue to
25 identify their 2015 annual report items.

26

27 ANILCA established the annual reports
28 as the way to bring regional subsistence issues and
29 needs to the Secretaries' attention. The annual report
30 provides the Councils an opportunity to address the
31 directors of each of the four Department of Interior
32 agencies and the Department of Agriculture Forest
33 Service. The Board is required to discuss and reply to
34 each issue in every annual report and take action
35 within the Board's authority.

36

37 Report content describes what the --
38 what may be contained in the annual report from the
39 Councils to the Board as to description includes an
40 identification of current and anticipated subsistence
41 uses of fish and wildlife populations within the
42 region; an evaluation of current and anticipated
43 subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations
44 from the public lands within the region; a recommended
45 strategy for the management of fish and wildlife
46 populations within the region to accommodate
47 subsistence uses and needs related to public lands; and
48 recommendations concerning policy, standards,
49 guidelines and the regulations to implement the
50 strategy.

1 And in order for the Board to
2 adequately respond to each Council's report items, it's
3 important for this Council in the annual report itself
4 to state the issues clearly.

5
6 Madame Chair, thank you.

7
8 That's the briefing of the annual
9 report process.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And as
14 a action item?

15
16 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Now's
17 the time just to identify issues for fiscal year 2015
18 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

19
20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

23
24 MS. MORRIS LYON: The first one that
25 hops into my mind I guess is one that was discussed at
26 length here at this meeting and that would be the need
27 for more consistent enumeration reports of our big game
28 species. And that should include, you know, new
29 potential means and methods of surveying these animals
30 with our issues with snow the past several years and
31 our lack of data. As I stated earlier in this position
32 that it's hard for us to maintain the integrity of this
33 system without having integrity from the other side of
34 the system to give us sound science based information
35 to be able to analyze and make decisions with. And I
36 see that as a concern that I would like addressed
37 again.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
46 Chair. I started trying to write down some of my
47 thoughts here. First I started to write Togiak chinook
48 salmon, but I thought well, also really Bristol Bay
49 chinook salmon. Also I touched on earlier I still have
50 concerns over the Port Heiden slash Meshik subsistence

1 salmon needs. And I'm glad to see that that use and
2 trade personal networking and use of fish stays in
3 there. And that's what I can think of at the moment.
4 I keep thinking how interesting that bird information
5 was. This -- we've had a lot of really interesting
6 stuff come to us this meeting. I really appreciate it.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

13

14 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, yeah, one
15 thought here is just that, you know, as we go through
16 proposals and other things that are before us here, I
17 know in the past when I first got on this Council it
18 seemed like we had better -- more representation from
19 all agencies. And I know there's budget cuts and
20 things that go on, but it -- sometimes it's a struggle
21 coming from the east side of the bay when you have Fed
22 and State issues or combined issues, it would just be
23 nice to be able to have staff instead of online, I know
24 it's -- sometimes it's impossible, but to best
25 reasonable or -- I don't know, just try to be more
26 effective that way, being hands on here instead of over
27 the phone. I'm not one of those guys that's so, you
28 know, online kind of thing. It's just nice to see them
29 in person and -- because you can collaborate a lot
30 better and it seems like this function here works out
31 better.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci.

36

37

38 MS. MORRIS LYON: I got one other thing
39 too and I don't know this maybe would be better
40 addressed to Courtenay and company, I'm not sure, but,
41 you know, the other thing too is the Chignik fisheries.
42 I read the report from -- that Tim sent back from the
43 Council and those are becoming quickly fisheries of
44 concern for our subsistence users down there. And I
45 guess I don't -- I didn't see any studies that would --
46 that were proposed for the fisheries in that area. And
47 I don't -- I guess what I'm -- I'm looking for answers
48 as to why those are becoming of concern and what we
49 could do to ward off that concern quicker, sooner
50 rather than later. And I don't know that that's

1 something that -- what's the best way to address that.
2 But before I lost that thought I thought I'd bring it
3 out.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Nanci, through
8 the Chair. For the record Courtenay Carty, BBNA.

9

10 I'll briefly touch on that I guess
11 during my staff report, I would have spoke to it during
12 the FRMP time. We did have one proposal which is
13 ranked number 1, Bristol Bay subsistence sharing
14 network addresses harvest monitoring in Chignik
15 communities Port Heiden and Perryville. One of our
16 strategies I guess in this time of budget shortfall is
17 to really try to assess what's going on with the
18 subsistence harvest and understand that a lot more
19 which is a smaller cost of a project. And then once we
20 understand the true need and have some data to back
21 that up then start trying to work on some of these more
22 expensive, logistic, larger partnership type of stock
23 status trends project. We did put in two for Togiak,
24 but that Togiak one has been a long process, it's been
25 a long time coming and has been worked over and over
26 again. So I can talk about that more during my staff
27 report, but that's one side of it.

28

29 I guess through the FRMP process the
30 Chignik communities, Port Heiden and Perryville, did
31 move forward with a tribal consultation in April with
32 the Federal Subsistence Board regarding their
33 subsistence salmon issues. What came from that, and I
34 believe George will be addressing this later during his
35 report is Alaska Board of Fish proposal 129. BBNA
36 provided technical assistance to those tribal
37 communities which authored that proposal, working with
38 Fish and Wildlife, OSM staff as well as ADF&G Division
39 of Subsistence to work on that and we'll be working
40 that through the Board of Fish process as well as
41 continually trying to I guess hopefully we're going to
42 get funded for sharing networks and we can get some
43 data going.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

48

49 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
50 Courtenay. That eases my mind a bit. I just don't

1 want -- I don't want that dropped. I see that as going
2 to -- that could become a severe need sooner rather
3 than later and I'd just hate to see that happen.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: I think, you know, one of
12 -- it was presented very well by Pete Abraham today on
13 the bycatch of prohibited species at the North Pacific
14 Council. And there's three things that need to be
15 looked at. One, you need a presence at the Council.
16 Well, let's start at the Scientific Committee,
17 Statistical Committee, you know, let them know that
18 we're hot on their trail for the bycatch of kings. Let
19 the North Pacific Fishery Management Advisory Panel
20 which I testified before last April I believe it was
21 that we're wanting a bigger reduction in bycatch of
22 kings. That's all of Alaska, the Bering Sea and the
23 Gulf starts with -- on the east side of the Shelikof
24 Straits all the way down to Unalaska -- I mean, to
25 Ketchikan. And then they go to the Council. These are
26 -- the Council is not going before the Fish Board, not
27 everybody's comfortable going to those guys because
28 they really work you over. Who cares, you know, we
29 have nothing to lose. And we can't keep using the
30 excuse well, you go there because you've done it
31 before, you know, you're introduced to enough stuff now
32 where.....

33

34 So thank -- that's a good thing.

35

36 Oh, the agencies that need to be here,
37 maybe it's the only time we want to see government.
38 You can take that with a grain of salt if you like.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. O'HARA: But one of the things that
43 happens is you'll hear the younger people who are part
44 of the upper management say well, I don't have the
45 authority to really answer that question. Well, the
46 they need to -- those agencies need to be here to give
47 us that. How are we going to have the information if
48 we don't get to the right people and have them act on
49 it.

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
4 else?

5

6 MS. MORRIS LYON: Courtenay has her
7 hand up.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Courtenay, you
10 have something?

11

12 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 I guess if you're asking us and nobody
15 is going to talk about what we'd like to see in the
16 annual report, I noticed on the record today you guys
17 are so thankful for the youth involvement, maybe that
18 could be highlighted. That was one of the reasons to
19 have the meeting in the school was to get the youth
20 involved and maybe we could start trying to have more
21 of our meetings in more of our schools to get more
22 youth around the region involved. I was going to cover
23 it in my staff report, but we're having discussions
24 about trying to hold youth RACs, mock RAC type meetings
25 with youth in our schools, trying to potentially work
26 with each of the school districts to chose a school
27 site and get out into the villages as opposing we had
28 the symposium a while back in 2011 I believe, where we
29 traveled kids in and they learned about the process,
30 but our youth are becoming more and more eloquent in
31 this and we'd like to try to see them identify their
32 own issues, develop a draft proposal and work their own
33 proposal process and then be able to present that to
34 you guys at a time or if it's something that is a
35 legitimate management concern even try to work that in
36 as an official proposal, but once they understand how
37 to do that. So that could potentially be something you
38 might want to consider.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
43 Courtenay. Okay. Any other?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I've got one.
48 You know, we -- in the past we've talked about RITs
49 attending our meetings here. And I know that with the
50 budget shortfall we can't -- we can't have all the RITs

1 in here, but, you know, we had a good example of our
2 students here giving us information, very good
3 information. But we have these RITs working in the
4 field and they know, they're living it, they're living
5 proof of people living in the village. And they
6 probably could give us good, sound information of what
7 they're doing in the village. And my thinking is, you
8 know, not -- if we can't get the RITs in here all at
9 once, what would probably work is to invite an RIT
10 that's -- would be mostly involved with what's in our
11 agenda. And again I'd like to encourage the agencies
12 to think about that because if we can't get elders in
13 here I think we can -- it would enhance our knowledge
14 by bringing these RITs that are working in the field.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

21

22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I really like
23 that idea, Molly, and I'm really taken with Courtenay's
24 idea too about, you know, I have not heard one of us at
25 this table not say how we'd like to see more youth
26 involved and ways to get more youth involved and I
27 would love to see maybe even just some sort of
28 investigation take place that -- at whom we could
29 contact in these schools. It would -- I would think as
30 an educator it could give me a two week classroom plan
31 to lead up to one of these meetings in teaching these
32 kids about the process, how the process works,
33 encouraging them to get involved writing their own
34 proposals and, you know, and the educator could choose
35 which proposals we would be hearing and do a mock thing
36 like this. I think it would be a huge step for -- to
37 take a lot of the intimidation process that can happen
38 when people first approach that table which I would
39 find quite scary too hadn't I approached it for too
40 many times and some of those things. But I think that
41 that is worth investigating as we try to recruit some
42 more of our youth into this system. Let's go to the
43 youth, let's take it to where they're at, let's try and
44 use our schools more in the areas where we're having
45 our meetings and let's encourage their involvement by
46 inviting them to become a portion of it. But I do like
47 that idea and think it's definitely worthy of following
48 through with that.

49

50 I see the RIT program kind of along the

1 same lines because I would see our youth stepping into
2 those shoes as well which is where that led me into
3 that.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So maybe to
8 get this going we could ask our coordinator to contact
9 the schools and see who he could work with to, you
10 know, get something like this going.

11

12 We have -- we don't have very much time
13 left. Some of our staff or some of the committee
14 member -- majority of our committee members are going
15 to have to leave at 3:00 o'clock so we need to start
16 our reports. And it's not going to be 15 minutes
17 anymore so make your reports -- oh, I guess I'm jumping
18 ahead. We need to do a U.S. Coast Guard boating
19 safety. Sorry, I didn't mean to go through that.

20

21 And then we have George, Board of Fish.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: For our report if I could
28 insert one more thing. I don't have anything specific,
29 but I think we need to be vigilant that as the State
30 cuts their funding of these various projects which are
31 a lot of them mainly geared towards commercial fishing
32 which is kind of out of our range, but some of it has
33 side effects on our subsistence fisheries. And so we
34 need to be vigilant and if we see potentials for, you
35 know, bad impacts on our subsistence fisheries we may
36 be able to look for opportunities to offset the lack of
37 data or whatever else. So I think just State funding
38 cuts and loss of monitoring programs I would like to
39 add to that reporting list.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
44 you.

45

46 You've got the floor.

47

48 MR. FOLKERTS: Good afternoon, Madame
49 Chair, members of the Council. For the record my name
50 is Mike Folkerts, I'm a Boating Safety Specialist for

1 the U.S. Coast Guard stationed in Juneau. Thank you
2 for inviting the Coast Guard to the Bristol Bay
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I'm happy to be
4 here and secretly thrilled that I'm the only agencies
5 not talking about subsistence resource management
6 today.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yet.

11

12 MR. FOLKERTS: Yet. Yeah. Daniel will
13 make sure, right.

14

15 I think everyone knows what the Coast
16 Guard does in Alaska and of course one of our primary
17 missions is marine safety. So I want to talk just a
18 little bit about subsistence safety, boating safety
19 since a majority -- I'm guessing a majority of
20 subsistence users utilize boats and waterways to gather
21 food. And that's really what I'd like to talk about a
22 little bit today.

23

24 We want to help ensure that Alaskans
25 who venture out into Alaskan waters come home safe. We
26 have search and rescue resources of course and as the
27 Arctic opens up climate change really affects where we
28 go and how we do our missions. We're going to be
29 driving by Dillingham a lot in the next few years, I'm
30 sure of that. As such you're probably going to see
31 some enforcement out there and some of that's going to
32 fall to the subsistence folks, the users out there that
33 haven't seen a Coast Guard cutter in 50 years or
34 longer. And so what's important for my program at
35 least for boating safety is to ensure that those
36 boaters have had an opportunity to learn about the
37 requirements first of all and then what we'd like to do
38 in the Coast Guard is develop a program more
39 appropriate for rural boaters, whether they be hunters
40 or fishermen, but more appropriate -- or just simply
41 travelers, more appropriate for this type of a boating
42 situation. Most of the stuff we get from the lower 48
43 is bass boats and bikinis and I just can't use it in
44 Alaska because it doesn't apply. So we develop our own
45 programs up here. We're pretty well set with the urban
46 boaters, we pretty much know what they respond to, what
47 their needs are, but we don't know as much about the
48 rural boaters. So I'm going to travel around Alaska a
49 little bit and thank you for this opportunity and find
50 out what the subsistence boaters of Alaska need in

1 terms of safety and support from the Coast Guard.

2

3 And with that I'd just like to open it
4 up for whatever questions you have for me. I might not
5 have the answer, but I can certainly go back to Juneau
6 and dig them up for you.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you for coming and
17 thank you for bearing with us for all the other stuff
18 for your short time here.

19

20 When I was in my other life as an area
21 Biologist with Sport Fish, Fish and Game, we did have
22 marine safety officers, I corralled a few of them or
23 they happened to offer themselves and took them up
24 river and they gave talks to the guides and such like
25 that. I think one of the biggest -- you know, and I --
26 once I was up at the lake to see some folks that I
27 know, eat pesticide free, all these other health food,
28 but then they pile too many people in their boat with
29 no life jackets and all and motored off and I thought
30 which one's going to be the most immediate affect. It
31 just horrified me. But another thing, you know,
32 favorable stance I see you've been hanging out there
33 with Ward Jones and he has brought -- found some life
34 vests that you can put on and they don't obstruct your
35 use of a gun and stuff. I wear the old fashioned kind
36 and then usually either take it off where I'm going to
37 shoot or something. But I think if just -- out here
38 from my observations if more people would put some sort
39 of life jacket on. I was impressed when I was up on
40 the Kuskokwim back in the mid '90s, a lot of people
41 wear some sort of floatation device, but out here many,
42 many, many times, you know, people with little kids in
43 their laps and other stuff and no life jacket. And yet
44 you've had some of your other co-workers have been out
45 here and working on it and we have the Kids Don't Float
46 stand at all our boat launches.

47

48 But I'm glad you're out here and wish
49 you success.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. FOLKERTS: Through the Chair.
4 Thank you, sir. The Kids Don't Float Program is the --
5 probably the number 1 program in Alaska for boating
6 safety. There's over 600 loaner sites. The Coast
7 Guard supports that. There's also a schools program, a
8 peer educator program, that goes with Kids Don't Float
9 that we're trying to get to all the communities. Those
10 are no cost programs so they're available. We just got
11 to get people hooked up with them and get them going
12 out there. It's made a difference. In the last 12
13 years Alaska's life jacket wear rates are almost double
14 the national wear rates. We have cut our recreational
15 -- we call them recreational, but it includes
16 subsistence of course, non-commercial I'll call them,
17 fatalities. We're at 30 to 40 times the national
18 average fatality rate, now they're down to five to
19 seven times. We're still worse than national but we're
20 getting a lot better. And your exactly right, wearing
21 life jackets is the number 1 -- number 1 cause
22 absolutely.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

29

30 MR. O'HARA: Well, Michael, it's nice
31 to see you in this environment versus Kids Don't Float
32 and the Governor's Safety Program which you and I both
33 served on. I'm no longer on the Committee, but it was
34 very educational and good. And let's see, what was I
35 going to ask you anyway. Oh, I think in our Committee,
36 do you remember correctly that the fatalities among
37 people who -- drowning whether it's in commercial or
38 subsistence, recreational type thing I think was the
39 highest rate was it between age 17 or 19 and 42 was it
40 that -- remember those little cards where you make the
41 mom and dad -- mom and kids make their dad or brother
42 or whoever it is sign that they will have a thing on.
43 Could you just talk a little bit to that?

44

45 MR. FOLKERTS: Through the Chair, yes,
46 sir. That is the Pledge to Live Program and it's put
47 on by the State of Alaska. The Alaskan fatality rate,
48 boating fatality demographic is an 18 to 34 year old
49 male falling out of an open boat under 26 feet. Half
50 of them occur in saltwater, half of them occur in

1 freshwater. 30 percent have an alcohol involvement and
2 over three-quarters of them are not wearing life
3 jackets. So wearing -- if we can get the 18 to 34 year
4 old men to wear life jackets we're going to make a
5 terrific difference.

6

7 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: We see your C-130s from
12 Kodiak and in the King Salmon five days out of the
13 week, they're shooting their approaches, getting
14 current in everything and see your helicopters flying
15 down the Naknek River and it's a good sight.

16

17 MR. FOLKERTS: Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

20

21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair. I know I'm just a little bit out of line, but I
23 really highly encourage you to if you can take the time
24 to come visit my guide academy class too. I've got
25 future major water users in that class and we do it
26 once a year. It's going to be sometime in June. I
27 don't have dates set for it yet, but it'll be over at
28 Mission Lodge. For students too who are interested, I
29 know this may not be the proper platform, but please
30 forgive me.

31

32 But, yeah, I think what you're doing is
33 a -- really overdue. I think you recognize that which
34 is why you're doing it. And I'm -- I would be totally
35 encouraged to be involved and help refine, you know, a
36 program if you've got something fleshed out again
37 already. I guess I'm feeling like I'm a little bit
38 inadequate in helping you out off the cuff type stuff,
39 I mean, we've got the obvious stuff, but not knowing
40 exactly where you're trying to head with the program
41 and whatnot, you know, back to the subsistence chair
42 that I'm filling right now, I see a huge need for it
43 and I see a huge need for education in it. And I think
44 developing a program not even just at the school level,
45 but, you know, at multiple different levels that can be
46 presented quickly, thoroughly and efficiently to people
47 to keep them out of trouble before they get into it is
48 a great idea and I'm all behind it.

49

50 MR. FOLKERTS: Through the Chair.

1 Thank you, ma'am. That's a great idea. I'm sure you
2 appreciate you just tasked me with some more work, but
3 that's fine.....

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. FOLKERTS:we can handle that,
8 we're the government, we're here to help, right. What
9 I'd like to do then is develop a -- kind of an outline
10 of the program that we anticipate and I'll get it to
11 all the Regional Advisory Council. That would be
12 great.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Are
17 we.....

18

19 MR. O'HARA: One more thing.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

22

23 MR. O'HARA: Michael, do you go into
24 the schools as the Coast Guard, a government agency,
25 and talk to various grade levels?

26

27 MR. FOLKERTS: Through the Chair. Yes,
28 sir, we do. We support -- again it's through the Kids
29 Don't Float Program through the State of Alaska. Last
30 year we went out of Bethel to 34 schools, out of Bethel
31 area as far as south I think as Platinum or Goodnews
32 Bay and as far as north as -- not quite -- probably
33 Quinhagak. We went -- we taught 3,367 children and
34 adults. We worked in the Bethel pool, I had over 60
35 active duty Coast Guardsmen involved. Next year we'll
36 be going back to Kotzebue, Nome and Barrow and the
37 schools around there. And then we're going to try and
38 include with our Arctic funding, it's a separate pot of
39 money, so we get to do mostly Arctic stuff. Dillingham
40 is on the edge, Bristol -- the whole Bristol Bay area's
41 on the edge of our boundary, but I'm going to push very
42 hard to be able to bring that boating safety program
43 into southwest Alaska.

44

45 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

48

49 MR. O'HARA: We have a pool so come to
50 Naknek and start your program. And, you know, there

1 should be -- the assembly should be putting some money
2 into that program, saving these children's lives. I
3 appreciate the assembly when they -- all the villages
4 around Bristol Bay, they'll work for six months selling
5 pop and candy to get on the plane and go over to Naknek
6 and get in the pool. They'll come on a Wednesday, go
7 home on a Sunday. They can stay in the school for
8 free, they can cook in the school cafeteria and
9 assembly so there's no fee for the young people coming
10 to our schools. So these are efforts that are, you
11 know, being to save lives and create a much better
12 situation. So keep the door open.

13

14 MR. FOLKERTS: Through the Chair. Yes,
15 sir, I'm going to take that as an invitation.

16

17 MR. O'HARA: Yeah.

18

19 MR. FOLKERTS: We'll be there.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
22 other comments?

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

27

28 MR. O'HARA: Anybody want to join the
29 Coast Guard?

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. O'HARA: Think about it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
36 next one on the agenda is the Board of Fish.

37

38 George. Thanks for patiently waiting
39 and waiting and waiting.

40

41 MR. PAPPAS: No problem. Good
42 afternoon, Madame Chair, members of the Council. As
43 Council Member Lyon said this is a difficult table to
44 sit at, I've sat at hundreds of them and this is my
45 favorite one to sit at in front of you guys here. So
46 it's good to see everybody and welcome the new Council
47 member.

48

49 We have a few Board of Fish proposals
50 we'd like to bounce off of you and get your intent.

1 You don't exactly have to take a position if you don't
2 want to, but I'll try to go this fairly quickly. I
3 think we have a total of seven and then the final one
4 will be Chignik proposal which you've heard referenced
5 earlier. So normally you get the stack of proposals in
6 your hand, we had a mixup at the office and my draft
7 notes were copied off instead, so I retracted that from
8 everybody because I wouldn't provide a document unless
9 it was finalized and I'm here to get your position and
10 input to finalize this document before I put it -- take
11 it forth and present it to the Board of Fish. So I'll
12 do my best to summarize and I do apologize you don't
13 have it in front of you right now.

14

15 But these first two proposals, proposal
16 number 56 and 57 are related to commercial fisheries.
17 Proposals to increase some exploitation that
18 potentially could impact Federally-qualified users.

19

20 Number 56 is a proposal to increase
21 some commercial fishing activity in the Alagnak River
22 salmon area in the river itself. The idea is to follow
23 any transition -- the allocation period after July 17th
24 above the mouth of the Alagnak River to one mile in
25 that river. Increase the commercial fishing
26 opportunity. I believe the proponent potentially would
27 like to see some more commercial deliveries to
28 Levelock, I guess a plant's being built there or along
29 those lines. One issue is -- yes, this is miles
30 outside of Federally-qualified subsistence users
31 jurisdiction water, but that's downriver. We usually
32 don't comment on the blue water fisheries, moving the
33 lines offshore, but if you're in a river and are a
34 Federally-qualified user that fish up that river and
35 there could be impact I'd like your position on it.
36 You know, recent times the abundance of salmon or
37 sockeye specifically, you know, have millions of fish
38 go up, might not have that much Federally-qualified
39 subsistence effort upriver, but if the local experts
40 here know that there are Federally-qualified
41 subsistence users who are not getting their sockeye
42 upriver in Federal waters, I'd like to hear it. When
43 this proposal came forth in a different format three
44 years and it wasn't passed by the Board and I think our
45 position at the time was just to make the Board of Fish
46 understood there are Federally-qualified users upriver
47 and during times of low abundance if you don't have a
48 means of, you know, estimating the fish that are going
49 in the river and you harvest too hard it could impact
50 folks upriver.

1 So that's the bottom line for proposal
2 56. If you're interested in supporting or exposing
3 increasing exploitation rate, it's up to you. I don't
4 have a conclusion, but the Board -- excuse me, the
5 proponent did say they would like to see like basically
6 managed by emergency order authority, they want to go
7 every other day. It would be great to have a schedule,
8 but if there's abundance problem then you'd the in
9 season manager emergency order, close it based on
10 abundance and the Federal Subsistence Management
11 Program does support abundance based management on an
12 automatic schedule.

13

14 So that's proposal number 56. Have you
15 heard of any concerns of folks upriver, (indiscernible)
16 area, the wild and scenic river area fishing, is there
17 any challenges you've heard from anybody?

18

19 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. George,
24 yeah been involved in the Alagnak one here when they
25 had it open years ago as a set net as a drift. They --
26 you know, they gave that a try in there and not many of
27 the companies actually, you know, agreed to take fish
28 from that far upriver because they were watermarked.
29 And it came true, over time, you know, they -- I don't
30 know, I think it was like a two year or three year,
31 somewhere in there, and over time nobody wanted those
32 fish. It just wasn't, you know -- yeah, I can see it,
33 there's probably plenty of difficulties involved with
34 the State trying to -- you know, trying to get
35 escapement if -- you know, if you got a fishery up in
36 the river like that. You know, who's going to go, how
37 many's going to go, how many are you going to take, you
38 know. And is it just for Levelock fishery or is it
39 going to come back out and some of it going to go up
40 there and, you know, you got a couple canneries down
41 below that don't have their quota, I want some more. I
42 mean, it -- you know, there's just -- it would be a
43 whole bunch of issues there. We tried it as fishermen
44 and it -- to be able to make market and get in and out
45 of that system it's very challenging. So that's -- it
46 would just be a hard fit.

47

48 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

1
2 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, we know this system
3 really well and fished it all of our life and so we can
4 definitely speak to this issue. It's been a common
5 practice that the northern boundary of the Bristol Bay,
6 Naknek, Kvichak, has been a Dimond J. I mean, a --
7 yeah, Dimond J, Richard. And so that's not an issue.
8 And they're still pretty good there.

9
10 The other issue -- Richard covered them
11 very well, but one more thing on the Branch, called the
12 Alakanuk by the way, is -- that's how you chastise
13 people openly and I'm told that that's really a good
14 thing. Anyway the Branch is really hard to -- people
15 have tried fishing in there with 50 fathoms of gear and
16 with the snags and everything it tears their net up and
17 Richard talked about the watermarked fish. But I think
18 if I were to nod at something it would be the northern
19 marker of Dimond J.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
28 Chair. I spent a lot of time over there when I was
29 working with Sport Fish, Fish and Game. At that time
30 there was a couple, John and Mary Talikpalik (ph) that
31 did most of their subsistence fishing there. I think
32 they've passed away. I didn't often see many other
33 nets, but I haven't been there in quite a while, I
34 don't know what's going on now. I do have a bit of a
35 concern, the king salmon run in there is more
36 protracted and actually starts later there than say the
37 Nushagak. I don't recall that it was a real problem
38 when they did have those other king salmon or other
39 commercial openers, but we're concerned about kings and
40 those kings supply kings to Levelock even. And so I do
41 have that concern, but I -- these days I don't know how
42 many people in the summer fish subsistence in that
43 river.

44
45 Thanks.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

48
49 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, one last, I'll
50 keep it very brief. You brought -- I'm glad you

1 mentioned what you did, Dan. I was talking to one of
2 the Sammon sisters just earlier this fall and they're
3 actually -- they have through their family holding down
4 there and they are preparing to build and/or in the
5 process of and plan to do some of their subsistence
6 harvest down there. So I don't -- I can't speak
7 directly to any subsistence harvesters that are
8 currently using it that I can talk about, but I do know
9 that even if they're not currently using it there are
10 plans to start with even a younger generation down
11 there. So it will still be in use and will still be a
12 valid concern.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
15 else?

16

17 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, yeah.

22 Thanks. When we were in the Alagnak River fishing
23 commercially, you know when the tide's out you can --
24 you know, we were allowed, you know, 25 fathoms of
25 gear. And you can virtually cut that little creek off
26 on that stream. When the tide's out there's not a lot
27 of water, you can -- you can't even get out of there
28 with a skiff with a loaded skiff. So, you know, it's
29 pretty minimal. And so I just wanted to mention that.
30 And because of that you can -- you know, we did catch a
31 lot of kings on low water there, incoming tide was very
32 easy to catch, you know, the -- you know, those species
33 too. So.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
36 comments?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Did you have a
41 reply.

42

43 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Madame Chair. So
44 what I'm hearing here, there are concerns. And I can
45 go through these concerns, I can summarize them, I can
46 incorporate the comments. I'm not asking for a
47 position. If you'd like to stay neutral on this
48 position, but please be aware Federally-qualified
49 fishermen are fishing upriver, there could be
50 significant impacts with a species like chinook if not

1 based -- you know, if the management is not monitored
2 properly. I can say that the -- yeah, there are
3 Federally-qualified users that do use those waters and
4 let's see here, I can go with that. And I'll stay away
5 from the quality for commercial product, what have you,
6 but, you know, I don't hear strong opposition to some
7 type of a properly managed fishery up there if they did
8 happen to have one, that is if it's properly managed
9 based on abundance. Do you agree with that, RAC?

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

12

13 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I guess what I
14 would propose if -- would be to proceed with caution
15 comment, that to be aware that that -- it will have to
16 have careful management to protect subsistence uses
17 upstream. Because just like Richard said, when that
18 tide's out if you can't flood that river it's.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: When I was
21 involved with subsistence, it's probably late '80s or
22 early or mid '90s, the elders were still -- the elders
23 of Levelock were still around and processing. And at
24 that time the elders that were processing were mainly
25 getting their fish from Fish and Game that were I guess
26 -- what was that?

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Test fish.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Test fish.
31 Test fishing. And the two elders that were pretty
32 faithful in going up to Alagnak mainly to catch -- to
33 harvest kings were the Talikpaliks. And then later on
34 -- later on in my surveys over there it got to the
35 point where these elders were dying off and these
36 younger generations weren't really participating. So I
37 don't know if ADF&G subsistence has any updated
38 information regarding this, but that's how it was back
39 when I was involved with that. And that's probably
40 what needs to be looked into, see how much involvement
41 there is.

42

43 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

46

47 MR. O'HARA: Don't want to belabor the
48 point, but there's still a good number of people who --
49 from Levelock who go up into the Branch and do silvers.
50 That's -- they use that on a regular basis. Two older

1 people who no longer do it, Dahila and Michael Andrew.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: That's right.

4

5 MR. O'HARA: And, you know, the sports
6 guys tried to run them off because they had a net in
7 the water. Well, you know, that was just -- finally
8 that conflict was taken care of.

9

10 MS. MORRIS LYON: They ran them off.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
13 no more questions?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
18 George. You have a reply?

19

20 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, we got -- that's
21 fantastic for that proposal. I have a few more. The
22 next proposal's almost identical, it's the same folks,
23 just further upriver in the Kvichak looking to put
24 another 15 miles of potential commercial fishery in
25 there. This would affect the upper watershed, Lake
26 Clark Park and Preserve potentially, you know, there
27 are Federally-qualified users up there. Same issue,
28 concentrate exploitation in river where there's
29 Federally-qualified users at the end of the line. Do
30 you have concerns about that, I mean, there's been
31 millions of fish in recent years, abundance has been
32 good for sockeye. I'm uncertain if -- I don't even
33 have to bring these comments forward to the Board, just
34 I know that there are Federally-qualified users at the
35 end of the line. Are you interested in making comments
36 about potentially increasing the in river Kvichak
37 fishery, commercial fishery that is.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

40

41 MR. O'HARA: Did you say 15 miles up
42 the Kvichak?

43

44 MR. PAPPAS: Well, let's see here,
45 proposal number 57 is.....

46

47 MR. O'HARA: I think the -- I think the
48 answer's no?

49

50 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

1
2 MR. PAPPAS: So don't make -- don't
3 bring this to the Board. Okay. That makes it easy for
4 me.
5
6 MS. MORRIS LYON: We want to oppose it.
7
8 MR. PAPPAS: Oh, I'm sorry. I was --
9 okay.
10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, we're not okay
12 with that.
13
14 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, it would be after the
15 transition period of the -- and it would extend the
16 upper fishing limit line to a point 15 miles upriver.
17 So that would be an oppose.
18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that's
20 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....
21
22 MR. PAPPAS: Okay. Let's move to the
23 next proposal then. I will -- that's very loud and
24 clear. Number 75, Now this is -- was a Togiak
25 question and we got a lot of discussions on chinook
26 salmon. Three years ago the Togiak commercial fishery
27 was modified at -- per request from a local proponent
28 to reduce exploitation on king salmon. I believe the
29 date -- the commercial fishing date was moved from the
30 11th to the 15th or so. And that was -- the original
31 comments that were sent in last go around and I believe
32 with the blessings of this Regional Advisory Council,
33 was concerned about harvesting chinook salmon that are
34 milling or near the mouth of the water in shallower
35 channels. So this is just the opposite proposal. This
36 will liberalize the drift and gill net fishery season
37 near the mouth of the Togiak and the concern would be
38 it might increase exploitation rates on chinook salmon.
39 And right now we don't have a solid count of or
40 enumeration program or monitoring program in place. It
41 -- I believe three years ago the commercial harvest
42 catches for chinook salmon have been fairly reduced for
43 that time period. Mr. Sands is here and he can help
44 out if you have any questions, but the bottom line is
45 three years ago they restricted to protect kings and do
46 we want to -- is the -- is this Regional Advisory
47 Council interested in increasing exploitation on --
48 potential exploitation on king salmon.
49
50 Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair. The
6 Nushagak Advisory Committee took this proposal up and
7 discussed it extensively and Jonathan Forsling sits on
8 that Council, he's also from Togiak and he explained
9 that there was an attempt to -- they picked that date
10 as a compromise between the more restrictive and some
11 people wanted even less restrictive than the 11th, like
12 the 9th I think. The Advisory Committee in the end
13 supported it eight to two.
14
15 Switching hats. I'm the -- on the RAC
16 as a member. And I was one of the two that said no. I
17 feel that my responsibilities to the subsistence folks
18 and what I know of the outlet of the Togiak River and
19 especially hearing Pete, his concerns for kings, I'm
20 personally and as a member of this RAC opposed to that
21 proposal.
22
23 Thank you.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
26 Anymore.....
27
28 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
31
32 MR. WILSON: I'm finding it very hard
33 to sit here and try to yay or nay a proposal that I've
34 just -- that we didn't have before us. So it's -- I'm
35 having difficulty with this.
36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it's hard.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So I think Dan
40 Dunaway involved with Nushagak Electric -- Nushagak
41 Advisory, you know, gave us a pretty good insight as to
42 how Togiak folks have this because I wouldn't know, not
43 working over there anymore.
44
45 Anymore comments?
46
47 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. And, Richard, totally agree. I guess I'm torn
3 between knowing that the comment period's closing very
4 quickly so in order for us to get comments as a
5 subsistence organization on record need to either jump
6 in the pot and fry our feet or go without saying
7 anything. I'm leaning towards Dan's analysis as well,
8 we've said earlier that we are concerned about chinook
9 fisheries in this area for our subsistence users. And,
10 you know, I don't see this as benefitting subsistence
11 users in the least with this proposal.

12
13 And so I guess I would feel I'd have to
14 oppose it as well.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: George.

17
18 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you very much. We
19 can move on to the next one.

20
21 So I'm capturing intent here is our
22 position, although I do agree with you, apologize for
23 not having this in front of you and this will not
24 happen again.

25
26 Proposal number 79. While you folks
27 are familiar with this, in State regulation and in
28 Federal subsistence regulation there are restrictions
29 on subsistence fisheries. There are -- there's a
30 schedule and it's based or in the commercial fishery
31 district and it's scheduled from 9:00 a.m. Monday to
32 9:00 a.m. Friday, from June 1 to September 30th. And
33 there -- and also within the waters of commercial
34 salmon district, salmon may be taken only during open
35 commercial fishing periods. Nushagak district
36 commissioner by -- maybe by emergency order shall also
37 provide subsistence and fishing opportunity periods for
38 -- during extended closures. Bottom line, the proposal
39 is to eliminate restrictions on subsistence users, fish
40 when you -- when the fish are available, fish when a
41 location works for you, fish when you have the right
42 weather or the right processing conditions and it just
43 eliminates the subsistence schedule. Our -- the
44 Federal regulations, subsistence regulations were
45 copied right over from the State regulations and I'm
46 looking for an intent here. Eliminating that
47 regulation would allow subsistence users to fish in
48 preferred weather type, vocational schedules, other
49 beneficial conditions, avoid blue flies, inclement
50 weather, you name it. So if you're interested on

1 commending on this one, this would just go to a fish
2 when you can like a lot of the parts of the State.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, we're
11 kind of familiar with this over there in Naknek. You
12 -- if you're commercial fishing you cannot subsist and
13 they've opened that up pretty much all week. And the
14 schedule was very loose. So I'm in favor of this, just
15 -- you know, and there's -- there's point here where
16 they -- they're allowed to, you know, if they're not
17 actually involved in the commercial fishery. I'd be in
18 favor of it.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair,
25 Nushagak Advisory Committee also took this one up and
26 we were running late there, but it was unanimous
27 consent to support it. I've always felt fortunate that
28 over in Nushagak some of the subsistence rules, they
29 actually seem a lot less restrictive than what I hear
30 out of the Naknek and such. But so anyway I supported
31 it at the AC and I'll support it here.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

36

37 MR. O'HARA: (Indiscernible - away from
38 microphone).....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

41

42 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll give you my
43 consensus too, George.

44

45 MR. PAPPAS: And so we're -- okay.
46 Intent was expressed and captured here. And I'm not
47 going to represent this in the notes as a vote or
48 obviously the intent was expressed related to the
49 subject matter discussed. I have the notes to
50 summarize.

1 Okay. Proposal 83, the no chumming
2 regulation. This one that was put in up near Newhalen.
3 This is a sport fishery regulation. This is a complex
4 issue. Federal subsistence users can use a rod and
5 reel for subsistence methods and means, on the State
6 you cannot. The concerns expressed by the proponent
7 that -- they're worried about when fish camp, families
8 are all butchering fish, throwing the guts in the water
9 and the kids go out and play with the rod and reel and
10 catch some whitefish. The concern is it's chumming,
11 somebody's intentionally attracting fish to a fish camp
12 or whatever, to a fisherman to increase their odds.
13 This proposal came up somewhat in the -- three years
14 ago there was a proposal no throwing guts back in the
15 water because then there's no way to provide who's
16 chumming and who's not chumming. And this is a multi
17 layered proposal, but I'll stick with the Federal
18 subsistence perspective. The -- currently under
19 National Park regulations chumming is illegal, it is in
20 Federal regulation and it has been successfully
21 prosecuted in this area. Where somebody might have a
22 ketchup jar full of eggs dragging behind them with some
23 clients or what have you downriver and oh, wow, it's
24 much more successful right now. That's intentionally
25 doing so. Now you go up and down any river around
26 here, there's probably a filet table every 500 yards,
27 well, you're not going to be allowed near your filet
28 tables. So in the big picture the -- talking with
29 National Park Service and with the enforcement officers
30 on the Federal side, this is a regulation, it's in
31 place, it's enforceable and the perspective is to take
32 no action since they felt like the Board of Fish
33 developed new regulations last -- three years ago that
34 defines what chumming is. Now that's one layer, but
35 the second layer Courtenay would like to speak to.

36

37 MS. CARTY: Goodness. Through the
38 Chair. Courtenay Carty for the record. I guess I kind
39 of want to back up if I may and ask George a question
40 on that first layer. So, yes, chumming is illegal in
41 the sport fish under those Federal regs, but is rod and
42 reel not a legal method of harvest for subsistence
43 users so they would not be -- it's not an issue in the
44 Federal water because it's an allowable practice?

45

46 MR. PAPPAS: That's correct. Under
47 Federal subsistence regulation rod and reel is a legal
48 methods and means in waters under Federal subsistence
49 fisheries jurisdiction.

50

1 MS. CARTY: Thank you. Through the
2 Chair.

3
4 So then the issue -- why it's a Alaska
5 of Board issue is because our friends up in Nondalton
6 on one side of the lake are under State jurisdiction,
7 on the other side of the lake are under Federal
8 jurisdiction. So depending on where your fish camp is
9 you could potentially be cited. The original -- Nanci
10 and I have been working on this and everyone here kind
11 of for the last three years since our December, 2012
12 Board of Fish cycle and that meeting in Naknek. In the
13 years that led up to the development and submission of
14 this proposal through public comments and AC meetings,
15 it was originally intended Lake Clark SRC had some
16 serious conversations around this issue, we thought
17 Iliamna or at that meeting it was determined that
18 Iliamna AC would be the best people to address the
19 issue and developing a proposal to submit to the Alaska
20 Board of Fish. In the winter proposal development
21 cycle Iliamna AC did not meet so they were not able to
22 author the proposal. Nondalton felt strongly enough
23 about the issue to get it submitted into the proposal
24 book so I will say that the Iliamna AC met on Monday I
25 believe and put forward a suggested modification to
26 this proposal that changes the location. Essentially
27 it omits the location and the substitute language is
28 age 16 years or younger since their traditional
29 practice is youth fishing in this method. So that is
30 going to go forward coming from the Iliamna AC and the
31 Board will have that to consider.

32
33 I think that's kind of (indiscernible)
34 on it for right now.

35
36 MR. PAPPAS: The confusion part would
37 be a local user at fish camp with their family with a
38 rod and reel fishing. Are they subsistence fishing or
39 are they sport fishing. Well, if it's in Federal
40 waters they're allowed to use rod and reel, Federally-
41 qualified subsistence users, for Federal subsistence
42 purposes. Under State regulations I believe you're not
43 allowed to use a rod for subsistence, that's where it
44 gets gray and that's why I brought this to the table.
45 But from the Federal enforcement perspective somebody
46 using a rod and reel on Federal public lands that is a
47 Federally-qualified user who claims to be Federal
48 subsistence using, if they happen to fishing next to a
49 gut pile, then it's legal. You know, intentionally or
50 not intentionally, if somebody goes up with a

1 wheelbarrow and dumps it in and stirs it all up and
2 tries to get as many fish there as possible, there
3 might be some issues with a Federal enforcement
4 officer, but that's not the folks that have been
5 prosecuted, it's the folks that are, you know,
6 scrambling eggs or dumping eggs up in front of some
7 potential anglers that are just having fun to catch one
8 of these. That's different than putting fish on a
9 (indiscernible).

10

11 Madame Chair.

12

13 MS. CARTY: If I may, just one more
14 thing to follow-up on that. A big part of the issue
15 that Nondalton felt is that it's not enough to just not
16 get a ticket, right, sure the Troopers aren't out there
17 ticketing these kids, but it's very important that our
18 tribes are able to exercise our self determination and
19 put forward proposals that address their issues and
20 have the Board recognize this method of harvesting as
21 customary and traditional regardless under which set of
22 statutory authority it falls, under sport or
23 subsistence. And I will add the regulation as it is in
24 the book is a little bit backwards, it says river mile
25 one to 22 of the Newhalen River and it's really
26 supposed to be river mile 22 to the mouth of the Six
27 Mile Lake. So I'll be working with Nondalton to
28 address that. Although the Iliamna AC's comment likely
29 addressed the issue, but they said for all waters of
30 Bristol Bay. Well, this chumming regulation applies to
31 all waters that are closed to bait. So at some point
32 in time that clarification in the State record will
33 have to be made.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you.

38

39 So also for just a little bit more
40 background history on this too, this whole proposal
41 came about by a sport fishing entity. And I caught it
42 and took it to Courtenay as I recall and said, yeah,
43 we're going to have an issue on the subsistence side of
44 things. So the problem -- and the problem that I see
45 with what -- we haven't had a chance to talk on this so
46 sorry, Courtenay, but the problem that I have with the
47 16 year old issue and under is the problem that occurs
48 with that we've already hit in sport fishing. And that
49 is the minute an adult goes to help a child, be they
50 one year old or 16 year old, they become the sport

1 fisher. So the age suggestion in my opinion is not
2 going to be a good enforcement tool. And it goes back
3 to exactly what Molly was -- read about in calling
4 those birds illegal. It's the same thing as calling
5 this fisherman illegal at fish camp. So we need -- I
6 don't know that this is the perfect proposal, I think
7 it's a good start and I think it's a good jab at a good
8 start, but I think we need -- this is something that we
9 need to monitor on the State side of it very closely
10 because we do have a lot of lands not even just there,
11 but all up and down our bay, that involves State waters
12 that this is going to impact.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

15

16 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Those
17 Dena'ina people there they didn't have a chance. You
18 know, they were there before the Feds and the State,
19 you know, the -- people living on the river do know
20 what they're doing and along come the Feds and the
21 State and says, no, this side of the river is yours and
22 this side of the river is mine. And then they all got
23 separate regulations. And it's horrible, just
24 horrible.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair
31 and Courtenay and -- for bringing this up. The
32 Nushagak Advisory Committee started to take this up and
33 then that very point that it was in those areas where
34 it was closed to bait fishing which really in the
35 Nushagak area doesn't apply so we took no action as an
36 AC.

37

38 Then switch my hat again. I -- when I
39 -- back when I was the area Biologist as a sports
40 fisherman I fought off chumming once because it gets
41 into this stuff and I said I don't want to be out there
42 busting grandmas and little kids. And you know as soon
43 as you got a regulation like this sooner or later
44 you're going to get an overactive cop out there and
45 he's going to go for the low hanging fruit and it
46 doesn't work good. So this happened -- I've -- see
47 everywhere you go, below every village out here you see
48 little kids and adults and also grandmas fishing. And
49 that's why I kind of hated to see that no chumming.
50 You kind of -- I used to try to appeal to the athletes

1 of the actual sport fisherman, guided or unguided, to
2 say come on, you know. And so I support action that
3 would accommodate the long term practices.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you know
8 how rod and reel was established or created? By
9 traditional people using hook and line, using sticks
10 and then line and then got modernized. But that's --
11 yeah, that's -- I hear the frustration, but I guess
12 we'll just have to work through the process that we've
13 always tried working through.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. PAPPAS: Okay. One last proposal
18 and I'll move through it. I apologize for taking so
19 much time here. It's the proposal that was a result of
20 tribal consultation with the Chignik Tribal Council,
21 Chignik Lagoon Village Council, Chignik Lake
22 Traditional Council, Native Village of Perryville and
23 Port Heiden Traditional Council requested tribal
24 consultation with the Office of Subsistence Management
25 and asked for some guidance. And we're going through
26 the Chignik Area Management Plan and regulations and
27 they're minor -- they're major concern was folks
28 weren't getting the redfish late, late, late in the
29 season. We discussed -- I think we met a couple of
30 times and the -- this group together put a proposal to
31 the Board of Fish asking to increase the late run
32 escapement goals for basically the Chignik Lake and its
33 tributaries. In regulation the -- in the State
34 regulation for management the manager required to pass
35 an additional 50,000 sockeye salmon through the Chignik
36 weir in addition to the late run sockeye salmon
37 escapement needs. And that's broken down in regulation
38 to 25,000 in August and an additional 25,000 from
39 September 1 through September 15th. The Chignik --
40 well, during this consultation process folks were
41 saying they're not seeing redfish in November. I mean,
42 they're -- I've been up there in February and there's
43 been live fish under the ice there. And their concern
44 is in the last four years it's less and less and less.
45 And they're -- they want to do something different
46 about it. So what the group effort settled on was to
47 add another 100,000 fish total to that escapement so
48 that would be -- what's in regulation now is 25 in
49 August, 25 the first half of September, they wanted to
50 add another 75 on each, right, or, no, 50 on each. So

1 that would be -- you'd have 75,000 fish in August above
2 the escapement goal and 75,000 fish in September,
3 between September 1 and 15th in the first week of
4 September. And the hopes would be that would put
5 plenty of fish available on a redfish grounds which is
6 Home Creek or Clark River near the village, Hatchery
7 Beach, all around Chignik Lake there.

8

9 Now we haven't formed a final position
10 on this at OSM. The State -- Department of Fish and
11 Game, I'm not -- I think Drew's online here, there has
12 been some concerns with the system of having too many
13 fish in recently and the State has been attempting to
14 manage towards the lower end of the escapement goals.
15 You know -- if you remember you've heard this many
16 times, the Chignik system is very complex with the
17 Black Lake and Chignik Lake. And Black Lake is getting
18 shallower and then potentially those early run smolt
19 are coming down and competing with the late run smolt
20 in Chignik Lake and overall productivity might be going
21 down.

22

23 I can speak to the second half of the
24 proposal, that is September 1 to September 15th. As --
25 I just heard on the radio, the local radio station just
26 gave a great interview of Fish and Game. The processor
27 pulled out the 20th of August, the fish show up in big
28 numbers late and what do you, there was no fishery. I
29 just got the season summary from Fish and Game, this
30 year 150,000 fish went through on the first 15 day of
31 September, 131,985 was estimated for the first two
32 weeks of September, total of 1.1 million fish went into
33 the river this year. And that was the like the second
34 highest since 1980. The first are up late, there's
35 nowhere to fish. That's the issue with the second half
36 I don't know how to approach because there's no
37 fishery, there's no exploitation on it, how do you put
38 more fish in the river in September when there's really
39 no way to do it, there's no way to control that. So I
40 haven't figured out a comment on the first part, but
41 the second half of the proposal -- the first part of
42 the proposal during the -- putting another 50,000 fish
43 on top of the required 25,000 fish during basically,
44 you know, late July and August or excuse me, during the
45 month of August, they can do that, the Department of
46 Fish and Game can control the fisheries to that point
47 or they could put extra fish up. The question you have
48 to ask is those fish going in say middle of August,
49 late August, they have a stream life of what, 60 days
50 or so, is that going to help you in November. I don't

1 know. It's been warmer now, possibly is the fish
2 having a higher metabolism, not lasting as long. So
3 I'm looking for your position on putting more fish on
4 the spawning grounds in addition to the escapement
5 goal for August and September.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 And I believe you have some -- do you
10 have anymore to add to that? This has been a long
11 process with the Board of Fish, it's been two or three
12 times. And is the State of Alaska on board, do they
13 have any questions or comments to add to that?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing
18 none.

19

20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, I'll.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

23

24 MS. MORRIS LYON:leap into this
25 one too. Why do my feet get muddy on the ones that
26 last forever.

27

28 So who all was involved in formulating
29 this decision down there. I feel if it is our
30 subsistence users down there which is what I heard it
31 was then I feel that we need to weigh in on it. And
32 I'm wondering if the second part of the proposal wasn't
33 formulated in order to establish perhaps a base should
34 indeed the fact become necessary that they need one. I
35 don't know, but that was just a suggestion and a
36 question all at the same time.

37

38 MS. CARTY: Nanci, through the Chair.
39 The tribal governments of those five communities are
40 all the ones who were involved in developing the
41 proposal and who authored the proposal. BBNA worked
42 with Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Subsistence
43 to provide technical assistance to those tribes while
44 they were developing this proposal understanding that
45 we can only provide so much assistance and it's their
46 decision to put forward whatever proposal they would
47 like to. I can't speak on their behalf, but I can say
48 that I think probably trying to -- the stream life
49 thing that George just talked about if those August
50 fish are going to be available in November, might have

1 something to do with that second half as well as I know
2 we're all pretty well aware of some radical proposals
3 that may go forward or be attention grabbing proposals
4 perhaps that people put forward. So I can't really
5 speak on their behalf, but I know that they'll be at
6 the Board of Fish speaking to their proposal.

7

8 I will say that the Chignik AC has met,
9 they went over Bristol Bay proposals, there's still
10 some time, this proposal won't be weighed in on until
11 February 26.

12

13 MR. SHUGAK: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Senafont.

16

17 MR. SHUGAK: Well, with that closure
18 they had I'm sure they're going to have a lot of fish
19 this year. You know, that's not going to be a question
20 of whether they need anymore fish this year, you know.
21 And having lived down in Ivanof in the area, you know,
22 I'm kind of familiar with a lot of, you know, the fish
23 issues that are down there. So my guess is just
24 they're not going to have any problem with the lack of
25 fish this year, you know, which I think is what they
26 were saying, you know, on that end -- end part there,
27 let more fish come up, let more fish come up, you know.
28 That could be anytime, I mean, during the course of the
29 year you want to put fish up early, you want to put
30 fish up late, you know. For us up in Pedro Bay we got
31 fish there even now, you know, and I'm sure, you know,
32 the lakes have, you know, fish up there now. So I
33 don't think it's going to be a problem with fish this
34 year, you know.

35

36 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Senafont,
37 through the Chair. That is one of the concerns is the
38 redbfish, you know, the spawned out fish, being able to
39 harvest those. There is an ANS specified for the
40 different runs for Chignik, amount necessary for
41 subsistence, I'm on you with the acronym game there,
42 Mr. O'Hara, and so BBNA and the tribes will be working
43 with Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Subsistence
44 to make sure that we have all the numbers that we're
45 going to need to present to the Board in time for this
46 meeting and try to make sure that the picture is pretty
47 well painted as to what the subsistence harvests are.
48 Also given that the Chigniks haven't received a lot of
49 data collection in terms of subsistence harvest, but
50 hopefully people will be turning in their subsistence

1 salmon permits and we can have some information going
2 into the Board meeting.

3

4 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

7

8 MR. O'HARA: I spend a lot of time in
9 Chigs, I do probably 75 percent of their boats as a
10 marine surveyor. And the last two years, not -- you
11 know, '13 and '14, they didn't catch enough fish to get
12 out of town literally, the school came back because
13 they did not get enough fish. So you have the problem
14 of the fact that there's just not going to be very many
15 redfish going up there and you really can't do anything
16 about it. And I think this year when the processors
17 shut down half the season that may not help them in
18 another year. So you need to keep that in mind as
19 well. And just keep in mind that sometimes they're low
20 runs and a couple years before that, had a million
21 pounds harvested. So it's a -- it's back and forth.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If
26 that's your last proposal, thank you.

27

28 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you very much.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Let's
31 -- it's almost 3:00 o'clock. Let's jump into the --
32 we're finally to the agency reports. And tribal.....

33

34 MS. MORRIS LYON: That's BBNA.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:Native
37 organizations, BBNA.

38

39 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair,
40 members of the Council. For the record my name's
41 Courtenay Carty and I'm the Director of Natural
42 Resources at the Bristol Bay Native Association in
43 Dillingham. I have with me two of my staff members,
44 Gayla Hoseth, the Subsistence Research Specialist whom
45 you've heard on the record today and Triston Chaney who
46 is our two time now high school Fisheries Intern. And
47 I guess I could let Triston say a couple things really
48 quickly before I get into the content of my report.

49

50 MR. CHANEY: Hi, my name is Triston

1 Chaney and for the last two years I've worked at the
2 (indiscernible) camp on Lake Aleknagik. We walk the
3 creeks, caught Dolly Vardens, studied them. We counted
4 the dead, how many red salmon died in the creeks, we
5 counted the dead every day, how many were alive and we
6 tagged a few and see how far they made it or what
7 happened to them.

8

9 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Triston.
10 Triston is our first ever high school Intern. The BBNA
11 Internship Program has been going on for about 15 years
12 now and we've had over 75 college age interns. And in
13 2014 and then again in 2015 we offered -- 2014 was our
14 first ever high school internship opportunity, trying
15 to reach out and engage youth at a younger age. And
16 then this summer we had two high school Interns,
17 Triston and then also Ms. Alea Upton of Togiak.

18

19 So before I get any further along on
20 these millions of agenda or I guess non-agenda items
21 I'd like to report on, I'll start by saying that the
22 purpose of the BBNA Natural Resources Department is
23 that we're dedicated to protecting, maintaining and
24 preserving the land, eco systems and natural resources
25 of Bristol Bay while empowering our tribes to enhance
26 their subsistence, cultural and economic opportunities
27 as described in the Bristol Bay Vision. So I feel like
28 that would probably give -- you guys kind of already
29 know what we do, but our guests don't always
30 necessarily have -- know I guess understand our working
31 relationships. So that's kind of the main backbone
32 about what our Department does.

33

34 I mentioned on the record yesterday
35 that BBNA has now -- we're I guess regularly meeting,
36 our BBNA Fish and Game Harvest Committee. The purpose
37 of that Committee is to weigh in on regulatory
38 proposals as well as some research issues. And it's
39 comprised of six members, one each of our subregions
40 from our 31 Board of Directors and we had our first
41 meeting here the week of AFN in Anchorage and that's
42 when we talked about the wildlife proposals. And we're
43 going to be weighing in, deciding BBNA's formal
44 position on the Board of Fish proposals before the
45 December meeting.

46

47 We've already talked about those so I
48 won't do anymore to address them and we've already
49 talked about the wildlife proposals.

50

1 One thing I will talk about briefly
2 about the Board of Fish process and I had a quick
3 sidebar conversation with Carl about it's not the
4 Federal Subsistence Board's responsibility or OSM, nor
5 do they have to consult with the tribes for Board of
6 Fish process, but it would be really nice if perhaps
7 Orville Lind, our new Native Liaison was able to
8 conduct some outreach and have conversations with those
9 tribes in preparing OSM comments.

10

11 I did want to mention that the Naknek
12 Advisory Committee is meeting November 12th at 7:00
13 p.m., I believe in the Borough Assembly Chambers and
14 via teleconference and they'll be plenty of opportunity
15 for the public as well as RAC members to weigh in on
16 some of those really detailed Naknek proposals. And as
17 of yet we do not have a date for the Togiak AC meeting.

18

19 The BBNA Partners for Fisheries
20 Monitoring Program is wrapping up our -- what is right
21 now our final year of funding. We applied for a new
22 set of four year funding for FY16 through 19, this
23 summer we submitted that proposal in August and are
24 waiting to hear back it sounds like potentially in
25 December. I had hoped to be able to announce whether
26 or not we were funded at this meeting.

27

28 BBNA submitted three FRMP projects this
29 year for consideration for funding and we're really
30 happy to see that our -- two of our three are ranked as
31 one as two. And we would really like to still and will
32 continue through the Federal Subsistence Board process
33 reiterating our position on the mark recapture project
34 that is currently ranked seventh. We feel that's
35 important and would like to see that move forward.

36

37 I had some notes -- these are notes,
38 but a lot of things are taken care of on the agenda.

39

40 Other Partners Program and FRMP updates
41 are Lake Clark Whitefish Project, that was funded in
42 the 2012 FRMP cycle recently wrapped up. We finished
43 and now hot off the press in September is ADF&G
44 Technical Paper number 411 which is the final report
45 for this project. I will say that the report is one of
46 the best technical reports that I've written, a very,
47 very great example of truly integrating western science
48 methodology and reporting as well as local traditional
49 knowledge. A lot of times, you know, we have these
50 projects that incorporate the methods in the research

1 and how it's conducted, but when the report comes out
2 it's very compartmentalized and you get a report on the
3 western science and you get a report on the local
4 traditional knowledge. And this report really does a
5 really job of blending the two ways of knowing or
6 understanding the two knowledge systems together. And
7 so I was really happy to see that come out and thank
8 both our partnership with the tribal communities and
9 Lake Iliamna and Lake Clark as well as the ADF&G and
10 the Park Service.

11

12 Working with I guess the Refuges,
13 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge, Tom Cady's here,
14 we've been working with them for almost two years now
15 trying to institute a Youth Ambassador Program for the
16 Refuge Information Technician. Trying to engage with
17 local youth in the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof Refuge
18 and try to hire them in internship style experiences to
19 get them trained as Refuge Information Technicians and
20 hopefully employable with the Service.

21

22 We've had some setbacks in terms of
23 actually recruiting these youth from these communities.
24 Our original age was 18 to 22, obviously for the
25 Federal system or anybody dealing with insurance it's a
26 lot easier to work with an adult on paper than youth.
27 But one of the things that we found in trying to go our
28 and recruit these students is that the young people in
29 these communities if they're not out of town for
30 college or academics or formal internship experience in
31 a different program, they're busy living subsistence
32 lives in their community or participating in industry
33 in their communities. So they're already I guess
34 employed and not really necessarily looking to take on
35 another activity because they're in a good situation as
36 it is. So one thing we're considering doing is
37 revising the age limit and trying to access some high
38 school age interns and then get them engaged at a
39 younger age kind of like our high school interns for
40 Fisheries who then look forward to careers with the
41 Service. As soon as they get their new Visitor Service
42 Manager hired which is happening in the works right
43 now, we'll be able to move forward on that program.

44

45 BBNA has been very busy working with
46 OSM, the Service -- Fish and Wildlife Service and other
47 agencies of the Federal Subsistence Board on things
48 such as rural determination, tribal consultation and
49 the Native American Policy, trying to provide that
50 information as well as any of the rulemaking,

1 regulatory process information to our tribes to try to
2 encourage public comment.

3

4 I will say that during the initial
5 draft Native American Policy, tribal consultation
6 opportunity I guess myself as well as the other tribes
7 in Bristol Bay were pretty, I don't know if awestruck
8 is the right word, but there's 229 Federally recognized
9 tribes in the State of Alaska and there are seven
10 tribes that participated in the consultation
11 opportunity, four of which were from Bristol Bay. So I
12 don't know what we can do other than continuing working
13 with the Service and the tribes on developing this
14 policy and getting it implemented to make sure that our
15 tribes are being heard through consultation all --
16 through all of our proposals we've heard on the record
17 I don't a single one of them had any tribal
18 consultation feedback.

19

20 There's a 30 day extension to that
21 Native American Policy initial review. And now they're
22 going to come out with an Alaska Native amendment that
23 is specific to how the Service would work with Alaska
24 Natives because the overall national policy can't
25 really adequately address that with such specific
26 issues.

27

28 So we'll be looking forward to working
29 with Crystal and Sara and their shop on that when it
30 comes out as well as with our tribes and trying to get
31 them to engage in that level of the process where it's
32 more applicable to them than necessarily the national
33 process.

34

35 We had some conversations I guess off
36 the record yesterday a little bit about Landscape
37 Conservation Cooperatives so I'll just take a quick
38 moment to let you know that BBNA serves on the Western
39 Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative. I served as
40 the co-chair for one year and on September 30th was my
41 last day as the Chair of the Western Alaska LLC
42 Steering Committee. Which is interesting because that
43 same week I was appointed to serve on the LCC Council.
44 So there are 22 LCCs throughout the network and the
45 Council's comprised of up to 31 members, three of which
46 are tribally recognized so I'm now the only Alaska
47 Native and the only Alaskan on this international
48 council. And we'll be having our first meeting next
49 week, but I'm not able to attend, but I will
50 participate via teleconference.

1 The LCC in western Alaska operates on a
2 system cycle and you guys at the last meeting that we
3 had here in October of last year I presented to the RAC
4 about the Western Alaska LCC and we have two year
5 cycles so the first year was coastal erosion and
6 storms, then we're just wrapping up our freshwater
7 system and now we're engaging in our terrestrial
8 system. And so we have an RFP that's been opened for a
9 while and it closes next week on November 2nd to
10 understand land, ecosystem changes, hotspots, all that
11 type of thing, what's happening in our land and our
12 terrestrial ecosystem and how that's impacting either
13 resource management or harvesting of resources. And at
14 one point in time through developing the RFP we had the
15 conversation which we engaged in a little bit yesterday
16 about the winter moose survey and hopefully maybe
17 that's been addressed.

18
19 Through my work with the LCC I did get
20 some information on eelgrass for Mr. O'Hara. Izembek
21 Refuge recently completely a really extensive eelgrass
22 survey and I could get that information to you through
23 Mr. Mike here, a report on that. So maybe the FRMP
24 isn't the right way to understand eelgrass or do the
25 research, but it is happening, it just might not be
26 from Bristol Bay.

27
28 I have a note here about RAC logistics
29 and I guess we kind of addressed that at the -- during
30 the annual report development. I was just going to let
31 you guys know that Donald and I working together
32 decided that the school would be a nice place, that we
33 could get the youth involved and so potentially when we
34 get to the section of agenda development for the next
35 meeting maybe we could do it at the Bristol Bay Borough
36 School District in the auditorium there, that's a
37 really nice facility.

38
39 I think that's all for right now.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. That
42 was a great overall report. Do you have any questions?

43
44 Nanci.

45
46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just real quick. I
47 just commend you, Courtenay, for once again bringing a
48 lot of really good information to our meeting for us
49 and, Gayla, you as well. I think you guys are doing a
50 great job over here and we appreciate it and thank you

1 as well, Triston, for participating in the process.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
4 you.

5

6 MS. CARTY: Thank you, guys. I just
7 wanted to say that, you know, even if we don't get
8 funded for the Partners Program which pay us for our
9 travel to attend these meetings, our organization is
10 very much committed to engaging in all the public
11 processes regardless I guess of really where the dollar
12 signs come from. Where there's a will, there's a way
13 so I'm sure you'll continue to see us and maybe just
14 not with some Federal money behind us, but BBNA is very
15 much looking into directly compacting services that the
16 Federal government provides and we're going to be
17 following that pursuit and perhaps at your next RAC
18 meeting, maybe not the March all Council meeting, but
19 the next year's October meeting, we might have some
20 proposals to ask for your support on.

21

22 And I just wanted to thank you RAC
23 members and staff of OSM as well as our other Federal
24 agencies before I get off the record for being so
25 diligent in the work that you guys do as well as I
26 guess especially the FRMP process. You know, last year
27 in October we had our Committee meeting to develop the
28 priority information needs for our region which were --
29 I guess the first time -- I feel like they were so much
30 more comprehensive, you know, you -- I was able to at
31 the Federal Subsistence Board in January testify about
32 how you RAC members here in our region bring forth all
33 the issues. It doesn't matter if it's under Federal
34 jurisdiction, it doesn't matter who's responsible for
35 which management section or what regulatory/statutory
36 authority is being addressed. You bring the issues to
37 the table and make sure that they're heard on the
38 record and then we're able to work them in other ways.
39 So seeing rivers such as the Nushagak and Kvichak being
40 incorporated into our priority information needs
41 definitely puts it on the record and we're able to --
42 even if we're not able to access Federal funds to
43 conduct that research we can use that decision that
44 you've made and use that as backup in our process to
45 try to justify the need and the case in other terms of
46 funding sources I guess.

47

48 So thank you so much for the work that
49 you do.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
2 thank you. The next I think is a special action.

3
4 Donald, what.....

5
6 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. This was a
7 section of the agenda where any special action that we
8 had in our office was provided just for your
9 information, but to my knowledge we didn't get any
10 special actions for Bristol Bay.

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, real quick. just
19 follow a transition here. I encourage you to look at
20 the Alaska Dispatch, I don't know if it was yesterday's
21 issue or this morning, the -- Courtenay's comments
22 triggered my thoughts. There's a -- and it's partly
23 tongue and cheek editorial from a guy named John
24 Shandelmier who fishes our here in the summer, but
25 bemoaning the conflicts between the conflicts between
26 State and Fed subsistence hunting rules up in the Paxon
27 area in the Interior. I read that last night and it's
28 like this is why I try to stay on here, that we can try
29 to find ways to mesh so we're not creating nasty
30 tangles for the users, the public out there.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
35 you, Dan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

36
37 MR. CADY: Madame Chair, Council, Tom
38 Cady representing the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
39 Refuges. First of all just a simple apology, the item
40 listed in the agenda is inaccurate, it was supposed to
41 simply be a summary overview of our project work, our
42 ongoing projects for the Refuges which was an omission
43 for the booklet so apologies for that as well.
44 Hopefully you picked it up and had a chance to look at
45 it.

46
47 And just to be brief I would say a
48 number of the items that are discussed here as
49 summaries in our pamphlet were covered in some of the
50 discussions yesterday regarding the proposals and

1 certainly by Neil Barten with Fish and Game regarding
2 the comprehensive summaries for all of the caribou
3 herds in the area. And I would just simply say if you
4 have a chance to take a look at this and if you have
5 any questions I'd be happy to answer them. And
6 certainly if you have an opportunity to get in touch
7 with us at the Refuge or stop by we'd be happy to
8 discuss any of these projects in more detail certainly.

9

10 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

13

14 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 Just for your information we did receive the Alaska
16 Peninsula's agency report and I -- I'm sorry I forget
17 to mention it during the start of the meeting, but when
18 I mailed out the meeting materials I include the agency
19 reports from Refuge office in King Salmon and it is in
20 your meeting materials, it's under supplemental meeting
21 materials in the back of your binder.

22

23 So I apologize for that omission,
24 Madame Chair.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

29

30 MR. O'HARA: My question was answered.
31 I'm looking for the article and it's here.

32

33 MR. CADY: Very good.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. No
36 comments?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

41

42 MR. CADY: Great. Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Andy
45 Aderman.

46

47 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
48 Council. We do have a report in your book, it starts
49 on page 198, but much like Tom I think we covered moose
50 and caribou thoroughly with the proposals you dealt

1 with yesterday, just say that we continue to do a
2 number of monitoring projects, many of which have been
3 presented to you in the past.

4
5 The only difference to that is this
6 year was the first year that we did not monitor
7 seabirds. Our Biologist that was responsible for that
8 took a promotion with Migratory Birds in Anchorage so
9 until that position gets filled we probably won't be
10 doing seabird monitoring. And our pilot has taken a
11 promotion and tomorrow's his last day. I plan to stick
12 around for the duration, but anyways that position will
13 probably be advertised as a pilot/biologist. If you
14 know of anybody that, you know, that has their pilot's
15 license, it'll probably be advertised also as a
16 straight pilot as well. But the desire is to get a
17 pilot/biologist if we can. And if not we'll go
18 straight pilot.

19
20 That's really all I had unless you had
21 anything, Susanna, if you have questions.

22
23 MS. HENRY: I'm just here in support to
24 help answer any questions too.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
27 questions?

28
29 Dan, did you have -- want to be -- no.
30 Okay.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
35 you. Nice and sweet, short and sweet.

36
37 Okay. Resource management 2015.
38 National Park Service. About time we get Diane up
39 here. Thanks so much for patiently waiting, waiting,
40 waiting. Good to see you.

41
42 MS. CHUNG: Okay. Hi, I'm Diane Chung,
43 Superintendent for Katmai National Park, Aniakchak
44 National Monument and Preserve and the Alagnak Wild
45 River. We're just going to -- I'm just going to hit a
46 couple key things that we've been working on that you
47 might be interested in.

48
49 And the first one is to talk about
50 local hires and that we were pretty successful this

1 year getting a few more local hires on our staff. We
2 hired a permanent admin assistant and a term custodian
3 and we hired -- we were able to hire three local
4 maintenance workers, somebody from Naknek, King Salmon
5 and somebody from Nondalton. And certainly, you know,
6 we have a lot of challenges. We also advertised our
7 King Salmon Visitor Center person and our Interpreters
8 at Brooks Camp and didn't get any applicants. So
9 basically everybody who applied got -- we hired. So
10 we're really wanting to hire locals if we can. So
11 we're going to be readvertising all those positions
12 again probably in January so if you know anybody who
13 wants to come work for us we would love to have them
14 apply and we'll work with them through the application
15 process. Some of the challenges we have are certainly,
16 you know, communication, you know, finding people who
17 want to come work for the Park Service. We have our
18 application process is, you know, kind of interesting,
19 it's a paper one as opposed to an online one for local
20 hires, you know, which in some cases is good, but it
21 does make -- you know, mail kind of has a problem. We
22 also have to have background investigation so that was
23 a challenge for us getting fingerprints back and forth
24 and sent in. And then communication, good telephone
25 and internet, you know, we're used to being able to
26 have good communication and, you know, these villages,
27 you know, we love to hire people, but that does create
28 challenges for us. But we're certainly, you know,
29 hopeful we'll work around all those and find some good
30 people.

31
32 The other thing I want to talk about is
33 our Pike Ridge Trail. We've been actually really
34 working on this. If you're not familiar with Pike
35 Ridge Trail it is a trail that goes in and out of the
36 boundary of Katmai National Park. It was -- when the
37 Park expanded in 1980 through ANILCA they drew the line
38 in a really strange way. And, you know, certainly it's
39 a trail that's been in use for hundreds of years by the
40 community and we want to honor that, we have allowed
41 use on it, illeg -- you know, it's not -- it's kind of
42 off the record, but, you know, we do allow ATV use and
43 hunting on one side of the trail and so it's kind of an
44 agreement we've had with the community. We do want to
45 clean that up because that is not the way we can really
46 operate in the long term. So we're looking at several
47 alternatives. We held a couple of workshops in the
48 community, we met with the Paug-Vik Board to also talk
49 about, you know, their role because they're the initial
50 landowner. If you look at the map that I -- we just

1 passed out the first map, the pink area is Paug-Vik
2 land where the trail originates from the Lake Camp
3 Road. And then it goes in and out of the Park
4 boundary. And then -- so we're looking at several
5 alternatives, some of them utilize ANILCA 103(b)
6 authority to do minor boundary adjustments so that we
7 could either move the boundary of the Park back and
8 that land would go to the BLM. We also discussed land
9 exchanges with the State who isn't really crazy about
10 that. They said their process isn't set up to actually
11 make it successful. And the other option -- main
12 option was to adjust the boundary of the Preserve so
13 the trail would fall into an area that would become
14 Preserve. We're trying to run that our solicitor and
15 make sure we can still go through with that, but, you
16 know, that is several of the options that we're looking
17 at right now.

18

19 So we're going to be working this
20 winter on getting an environmental assessment done and
21 then being able to get that back out to the public
22 hopefully by February or March and then being able to
23 implement something by June. So it's - we're pretty
24 excited to be able to do that.

25

26 Go ahead.

27

28 MR. HAMON: And, Madame Chairman and
29 members of the Council. For the record my name is Troy
30 Hamon, the Resource Manager for Katmai, Aniakchak and
31 the Alagnak. We have a new Subsistence Coordinator and
32 that lady's name is Linda Chism. She's not here today
33 because we're trying to help her finish, she's a
34 Pathways hire for us, that is what used to be a student
35 hire. She's finishing up a Ph.D. in Anthropology and
36 Archeology. She'll be part of our Cultural Resource
37 Team and she's been the one facilitating the Aniakchak
38 SRC meeting. And the notes that I have from that which
39 were on September 24th, we ended up because of weather
40 not being able to travel or get our people all to one
41 place so it was a teleconference and we were one shy of
42 a quorum. So we did have a workshop, they covered a
43 lot of the topics that were related to different fish
44 and wildlife proposals in their area. They didn't have
45 -- they didn't have specific comments because of the --
46 as a body they couldn't issue those. They shared the
47 same kinds of concerns on those proposals that we were
48 hearing here from the Board and I don't -- I didn't
49 hear anything that was really missed. So it seems like
50 the deliberations that you were going through reflected

1 their comments as well.

2

3 We don't have -- we don't need to take
4 the time, there's an update in the booklet for -- from
5 our Division which is sort of major projects that we
6 have ongoing and I'll let you read those at your
7 leisure or you can ask questions if you're interested
8 in any of those.

9

10 I did want to mention that the National
11 Park Service wildlife regulation package which we've
12 talked about at a couple of these meetings and which
13 have been going through the regulations process were
14 finalized just in the last couple weeks. There's a
15 list of changes that were made in response to comments,
16 some of which reflect concerns of the Council. There
17 are other concerns of the Council that were not adopted
18 in the final rule. And I think we have some over on
19 the table or we can hand them out if you haven't been
20 able to pick those up yet. Again that's a final rule
21 that I haven't had a chance to get fully memorized all
22 the differences, but I'd be happy to look it over and
23 try to answer questions if you people had questions
24 about that as well.

25

26 I think that's it.

27

28 MR. SUMMERS: I didn't have my hand up,
29 but I guess I'm waving it around. I'm just trying to
30 think of -- but, no, I'm very thankful. We have a --
31 you know, it seemed like over there, you know, with --
32 this is the latest issue of the Park boundary buffer
33 zone here, you know. This -- their presentation that
34 came before the community was very well presented, very
35 well planned out and very well taken. And there was --
36 you know, they had upwards of, you know, possible
37 20,000 acres that could be adjusted and put into, you
38 know, the Preserve status was the preferred method that
39 the community there chose. And so our relationship
40 with the Park Service is growing, we're really excited
41 about that as a community, you know, and once again
42 we're thankful that you guys are on board with -- you
43 know, with helping through the redfish, you know,
44 issues, you know, that we've been struggling with and
45 that open door policy that you have and involving
46 yourself in the community and stuff and it just -- it's
47 very noticeable and it's becoming more noticeable and
48 we're appreciate.

49

50 Thank you.

1
2 MS. CHUNG: Thank you.
3
4 MR. HAMON: And, Madame Chair, if I may
5 just follow-up. One thing I would like to say about
6 the Pike Ridge process is what we chose to do is
7 something we haven't normally done and that is we tried
8 to go to the public before there was any alternatives
9 developed and ask for their assistance in developing
10 those alternatives. We feel like that was a really
11 positive process and we hope to repeat that.
12
13 MR. O'HARA: Okay.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
16
17 MR. O'HARA: Yes, thank you.
18 Appreciate you being here, Ms. Chung. Is there a
19 possibility of exchange with Paug-Vik or did you say
20 that or did I not hear it? The second thing is there
21 is a thorny little issue in their Preserve up at
22 Kokhanok where people have been taking recreational
23 vehicles in and getting subsistence type food. So
24 extensive research has been done on it, that means you
25 have a video report from a couple of high profile guys
26 who spent a great deal of time in (indiscernible) and
27 Kokhanok and maybe Levelock. If you would, please.
28
29 MS. CHUNG: So, yes, we do have a study
30 that was completed back in 2008. Yeah, we just haven't
31 had the capacity to go through the process to allow
32 that use, but we'll get there after we get through Pike
33 Ridge.
34
35 MR. O'HARA: The land.
36
37 MS. CHUNG: Oh, the land with Paug-
38 Vik.....
39
40 MR. O'HARA: Land exchange.
41
42 MS. CHUNG:land exchange. So
43 that wasn't on the table, I don't know if Paug-Vik is
44 interested, we did meet with them, but our intent is
45 to, you know, honor the Paug-Vik land property that's
46 already there. So and I don't think there's -- we
47 looked at land exchange with the State only because
48 they are the adjacent landowner.
49
50 MR. O'HARA: Thank you.

1 MR. HAMON: And, Madame Chair, if I may
2 just in follow-up. We did have 10 or 11 different
3 things that were evaluated at least internally and we
4 went forward with the five or so that we felt were
5 things that could likely be done. The Paug-Vik land
6 exchange was not an option that was evaluated
7 internally or externally because we were not aware of a
8 legal mechanism to do that. If the Paug-Vik people
9 were interest we probably would look harder to see if
10 there was, but we hadn't -- we met with the Paug-Vik
11 Board and it didn't come up as an option so it --
12 that's the primary reason that we didn't work hard to
13 try to find one. But we haven't seen an interest in
14 trying to pursue that.

15

16 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

19

20 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, the
21 -- you know, the boundary reduction that looks like
22 might happen is going to be very beneficial to the
23 residents there because it's going to allow -- you
24 know, it's going to allow the Park Service better to
25 represent the boundary line and it's going to allow the
26 locals to -- you know, the ridge line basically it's a
27 ridge and coming off of that ridge is going to allow
28 the people to work the ridge for their hunting needs
29 and probably more trapping needs there.

30

31 So it's a win, win.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank your, Madame
40 Chairman. When I first showed up or most recently
41 showed up in this country in '89 I spent quite a bit of
42 time over on the east side and at that time the Park
43 Service and other -- rest of the public were in a
44 really contentious situation constantly. It's pretty
45 -- and I made a tough remark on the Park Service
46 earlier too, but I really do commend the last two
47 leaders at the Park have come a huge way in this Pike
48 Ridge was one of the hottest issues and it's pretty
49 exciting to see it getting fixed. The redfish thing is
50 working and likely to get better. And so I really want

1 to compliment you on those things because, yeah, I used
2 to have to sit in meetings where there was long talks
3 about Pike Ridge and redbfish.

4
5 So thank you very much and keep up the
6 good work.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else?

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I want to
15 commend both you and -- or Troy and Diane for just like
16 Dan Dunaway said, when I first came on board here Park
17 Service and anybody else that dealt with Park Service,
18 it just -- and it's so wonderful to see the
19 relationship you are building with that -- with those
20 communities. I'm really impressed.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 And thank you for your report.

25
26 MS. MORRIS LYON: Lake Clark is next.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lake Clark.

29
30 MS. RUPP: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 For the record my name is Liza Rupp and I am the
32 Cultural Resources and Subsistence Manager at Lake
33 Clark National Park and Preserve and I'm representing
34 the Park today.

35
36 So in the interest of time I will start
37 with our one order of business which involves the Lake
38 Clark Subsistence Resource Commission. We do have an
39 empty seat on the Commission. Mr. Carl Jensen of Pedro
40 Bay retired in the spring and his seat is a Bristol Bay
41 RAC appointment, excuse me, seat. So in our most
42 recent SRC meeting on October 7th we did have a quorum
43 and the -- actually I should backtrack, in the spring
44 at the Pedro Bay meeting the SRC identified potential
45 candidates to fill Mr. Jensen's seat, one of whom is
46 Mr. Shugak and the other was Joel Jacko. In
47 interviewing Joel there was some issue about he's moved
48 to Igiogik I think and so his residency was a little
49 uncertain since Igiogik is not one of the residence
50 zone communities for Lake Clark subsistence. So then I

1 -- I also talked to Mr. Shugak who was very interested
2 in the position. And then at our SRC meeting in
3 October we -- the SRC voted -- we discussed the matter
4 and they wanted to relay -- want me to relay that they
5 were approving of Mr. Shugak. And so I would ask that
6 the RAC please.....

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
11 Madame Chair. I would move that we appoint Mr.
12 Senafont Shugak to the Lake Clark SRC position that's
13 open and available for our appointment.

14
15 MR. O'HARA: Second.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
18 Seconded by Dan O'Hara. There's been a motion to
19 appoint Senafont Shugak to the Park Service.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Call the question, Madame
22 Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

25
26 MR. WILSON: SRC.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: SRC. The
29 question's been called. All in favor say aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any objection?

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You're on.

38
39 MS. RUPP: Thank you very much.

40
41 And then just in other updates from the
42 Park, I'm not sure that our -- my little -- the
43 handout, the program update, it did not make it into
44 your binder, but I think Donald handed it out
45 yesterday. And then I've also just included a handout
46 from our Wildlife Biologist in terms of subsistence
47 permits for Dall sheep and brown bear just as an
48 update. So and in terms of other subsistence issues
49 we've issued 21 moose permits, 10 caribou, 50 wood
50 cutting and the Park also completed a wood lot access

1 trail in Ports Alsworth for the local community, they
2 were having trouble getting to the designated wood
3 cutting area within Port Alsworth. Again with lack of
4 snow the trail was very rutted so now it's more
5 appropriate for four-wheelers and people can get there
6 a little more easily.

7

8 And then just moving on to other items
9 that might be of interest. We in terms of fish you see
10 on the back at the Newhalen river counting tower this
11 year our fish people counted 730,338 sockeye salmon.
12 This is the largest escapement since 2000 and
13 approximately two times the average -- the 2000 to 2014
14 average. And the midpoint of the run was the 25th of
15 July which is four days later than average. The
16 Telaquana River weir also had a record escapement of
17 90,725. So it was a good year in the Lake Clark area.

18

19 Also we have some natural resources
20 projects. We're doing collaring of brown bears,
21 studying their movement, GPS collaring. We have
22 approximately 35 bears that are collared and they'll be
23 followed for three years. And then the Park staff also
24 did a Dall sheep survey and they don't have the num --
25 the numbers will come out this winter in terms of the
26 population, but it does look good.

27

28 And then just other things that were in
29 this handout. We have several cultural resources
30 projects going. I gave each of the Commission members
31 John Branson's book on the history of Lake Clark -- the
32 20th century history of Lake Clark. We will in the
33 winter be developing a prospectus for guided hunting in
34 the Preserve and there's information on if you would
35 like to be involved or get information about that,
36 Ginger Irwin at the Park will be dealing with that. So
37 that's in development.

38

39 And then just briefly there are other
40 projects about mercury contamination in the Lake Clark
41 fish and lake temperature and bald eagle surveys. So
42 the Park is doing a lot of different projects looking
43 at our natural and cultural resources.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

48

49 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you. My
50 question, Liza, is about the mercury, that's been of

1 interest to me since we heard about it because I think
2 it could affect our subsistence users more than most
3 issues could. Could we have a brief update, I mean, I
4 don't really see anything updated on this piece of
5 paper we really got, can you can give me any idea where
6 they're going with studies in the future or any new
7 discoveries?

8

9 MS. RUPP: Through the Chair. I
10 actually personally can't give you that information,
11 but I can certainly contact our -- the biologists who
12 work on that. I mean, all I -- unfortunately I only
13 have the information that Amy Miller gave us or gave
14 me. So I know it is an ongoing project and they're
15 also looking at dragonfly larva again as a species of,
16 you know, concern for mercury since they're a top level
17 predator in the water system, but I'm happy to ask her
18 to provide some more detailed information to relay to
19 you.

20

21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Liza. Your --
28 you mentioned some wood cutting, you guys have a policy
29 in place and the wood cutting is it dead fall or is it
30 -- you know, how does that come about. The only reason
31 I'm asking because in the -- I know it's different, but
32 in the Park that surrounds us we've been kind of toying
33 with an idea of asking, you know, what's -- you know,
34 if there was ever an opportunity to take dead fall or,
35 you know, something, all the beetle kill stuff going
36 on. What kind of program do you guys have going?

37

38 MS. RUPP: I'm still new to this whole
39 Division so, I'm sorry, that I don't actually know the
40 answer to that. I can certainly provide it for you and
41 get information. I know it's the -- I mean, it's
42 certainly on the Park lands that surround Lake -- on
43 the Park owned obviously land surrounding Lake Clark.
44 We have maps that, you know, and the local residents do
45 go out and cut the wood, but I don't know exactly what
46 the regulations are.

47

48 So but I will follow-up for you.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MR. WILSON: One more thing here. I --
2 you know, you handed us the latest John Branson, you
3 know, booklet and I really appreciate that. We -- I do
4 have in the library copies of everything that he's done
5 there, everything that you guys have provided. And
6 we've had just interesting enough just lately in our
7 Park over there we've -- they've come to us as a
8 community and asked, you know, they're kind of --
9 they're looking for ideas on how to better the Park,
10 you know, what else can you provide in there. And one
11 of the things that was suggested was to take some
12 customary, you know, people to include, you know, some
13 language or -- and I think I steered them toward you
14 folks with John Branson here being your historian
15 there. You know, so hopefully in the future maybe
16 there can be some collaboration there to show because
17 one thing that we feel that's lacking there in Katmai
18 is that relationship, you know, from -- you know, for
19 that -- the people that come and go out of there to
20 know who we are, how long we've been there, you know,
21 what our status is in the area. And it's just a big
22 component that's missing and I really appreciate Lake
23 Clark being a big part of the region there, being --
24 you know, identifying the people and their usage and
25 it's huge. So commend for you for that.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anymore
30 questions?

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

35

36 Next on the agenda is OSM.

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
39 members of the Council. The OSM written report begins
40 on page 211 in your meeting book. And since there is a
41 written report there I am just going to highlight some
42 of the top points.

43

44 First of all, you know, as you've been
45 following the last year and a half or so we've been on
46 a bit of a hiring movement here at OSM. We've filled a
47 lot of vacant positions, but also simultaneously we
48 keep losing position so it's kind of a never ending
49 thing.

50

1 But just a couple of new hires, you've
2 already met Robbin who started with us actually last
3 fall, but she wasn't included in your winter staffing
4 update.

5
6 And then also Ameer Howard was hired as
7 our new Policy Coordinator. David Jenkins had
8 previously held that position, but he left us last
9 year. So that position had been vacant for about a
10 year.

11
12 We're also in the process of hiring two
13 new Council Coordinators. We had one Coordinator who
14 we had hired last year who was quickly snatched up by
15 the Park Service to become the new Native Liaison and
16 then we just learned recently that Melinda Burke who
17 has been one of our Council Coordinators for several
18 years has accepted a position as the new Regional
19 Tribal Relations Program Manager for Forest Service.
20 So she's going to be going back to her roots with the
21 Forest Service in Juneau. But we just recently
22 completed recruitment so we'll be hiring two new
23 Coordinators here shortly.

24
25 There's an overview in your report on
26 recent actions by the North Pacific Fishery Management
27 Council on the hard cap on bycatch that they adopted at
28 their meeting summer of 45,000 and that's in times of
29 low chinook salmon abundance. They also adopted other
30 measures that are covered that will apply regardless of
31 whether or not there is low chinook abundance.

32
33 There's a little bit of note in here
34 too about recent activities between the Fish and
35 Wildlife Service and the ANSEP or the Alaska Native
36 Science and Engineering Program, that is -- we put that
37 in here not necessarily because it's anything, you
38 know, crucial or new that's happened, but it's kind of
39 an ongoing reminder of not only Fish and Wildlife
40 Service, but also our programs and involvement with the
41 ANSEP Program which is an excellent program and we
42 always -- we like to take advantage of highlighting
43 that when we can.

44
45 And then finally if you recall last
46 year or last fall you were briefed on some recommended
47 changes to how Council appointments are conducted. The
48 Board had agreed on those, we put it out to the
49 Councils and the Councils were all in favor of them.
50 Those -- the requests to implement those changes have

1 been forwarded to the Secretary's Office in D.C.,
2 however we have not received the formal response yet so
3 we won't be able to implement those changes
4 immediately. And just for a refresher, that was to go
5 from three to four year appointment terms, to provide
6 for you formal alternate appointments and that also to
7 put a provision in your charters that would allow you
8 to stay in your term for up to 120 days if an
9 appointment letter either to reappoint you or to
10 replace you, isn't received from D.C. in a timely
11 manner because if you recall that's been a bit of a
12 problem in recent years. So we're still waiting for
13 the official word on whether or not we'll be able to
14 implement those changes, but we won't be able to
15 implement them with this 2015 appointment cycle as I
16 had hoped.

17

18 And that is a highlight of the OSM
19 report.

20

21 I'll be happy to answer any questions
22 if the Council has any.

23

24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
27 questions on the OSM update?

28

29 MR. WILSON: One quick one.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

32

33 MR. WILSON: Orville Lind, he's in your
34 office, tell us a little bit about him, we kind of miss
35 him.

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Orville Lind, yeah. I'm
38 sure you may have heard of him. No, he's jumped right
39 on, yeah, he's keeping busy this meeting cycle. I know
40 he's been out -- I think he's going to four different
41 meetings and I'll be with him in next week in Anaktuvuk
42 Pass when the North Slope Council meets there. And,
43 you know, one of -- one of the things that's always
44 great about the Native Liaison position is it really
45 does allow the person who is in the position to kind of
46 shape it to what -- to kind of fit their personality
47 and who they are. And I know Orville has been busy
48 from the very beginning engaging in a lot of tribal
49 consultations and we've been doing in addition to the
50 normal tribal consultations we do as part of our

1 regulatory proposal process, we've been getting a lot
2 of individual requests from tribes to come out to the
3 village and do consultations. So he's been involved
4 with some of those and also some of our Council
5 Coordinators have gone out in response to those tribal
6 consultation requests.

7

8 And I think it'll take a while for the
9 tribes and I think the program to kind of get used to
10 the process of doing tribal consultation, but I think
11 that the more people become aware of that opportunity
12 hopefully the more that will be utilized.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any further
15 questions for Carl?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
22 Carl, good report.

23

24 Next on our agenda, ADF&G. Finally.
25 ADF&G Subsistence and.....

26

27 MR. KREIG: Ted Kreig with Subsistence
28 Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in
29 Dillingham and I have Hazel
30 Nelson who's the Director of the Subsistence Division
31 with me. I'm going to -- I've got a few things to go
32 over and then Hazel's got things she like to say also.

33

34 First off a couple of these are kind of
35 repeats from what Courtenay's already presented to you.
36 The Lake Clark Whitefish Project Technical Paper,
37 that's been completed. And that was a partnership
38 with, you know, Subsistence Division, BBNA, National
39 Park Service and Nondalton Traditional Council. The
40 other thing that Courtenay already mentioned are the
41 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects, the
42 proposals. We're partnering with BBNA on those also
43 and that would be project number 16-541, the Bristol
44 Bay Subsistence Salmon Networks and project number 16-
45 543 which was the Togiak River Chinook Salmon
46 Subsistence Harvest Assessment. So thanks for your
47 support on those.

48

49 And I just -- I've mentioned this in
50 the past, but just to remind you that in Subsistence

1 Division when we do work we always try to partner, but
2 before we do any work in any community we always go to
3 their Traditional Council, Village Council and get
4 approval before we start any work. We hire local
5 people, we work closely with them. When we're done
6 with our research we come back and present that
7 information to them before we write the final report we
8 -- you know, we let them have input and, you know, kind
9 of direct where we're going with that report so they
10 feel comfortable with it. But that's something we do
11 whether it's an OSM project or any project, that's just
12 part of how we do business.

13
14 And the only thing to be brief, it's
15 time to turn in subsistence salmon permits, your
16 returns if you're done fishing. You know, I was
17 calling around the other day and actually, yeah, in
18 Pedro Bay they said they're not ready to send their
19 things back yet because people are still going to get
20 spawned out or later fish. So but if you're done
21 fishing please turn those in, I always like to remind
22 people to -- you know, the way the permit on the back
23 part of it has a calendar for daily catches and that's
24 important information. I always encourage people to
25 record their daily harvests, you know, and locations
26 and the dates and turn all of that in.

27
28 So with that I'll close and turn it
29 over to Hazel.

30
31 MS. NELSON: Madame Chair, Hazel
32 Nelson, Director of Subsistence Division. I'll be
33 really brief.

34
35 I think if my boss were here or his
36 boss were here they'd be sharing with you this message
37 that we'd like to improve our working relationships
38 with our Federal partners and I believe that the
39 emphasis has been establishing real working
40 relationships with them as much as possible, working on
41 agreements where we can because we recognize that we're
42 here to service the public. That's what we're here to
43 do, we're all paid to help people meet their
44 subsistence needs and I think that my boss gives that
45 commitment to the public, it's really important to him,
46 it's important to the Governor and, yes, we are facing
47 tighter budget times. I think we're all in the same
48 boat, you know, it's not just the Department or the
49 Division of Subsistence that's going to be facing more
50 budget cuts, it's coming statewide. And regardless of

1 that I think that this body, the other public bodies
2 that address subsistence concerns will continue to do
3 so because it is your diligence, it is your sincerity
4 in making sure that these concerns such as the
5 communities and issues that you discussed this past
6 couple of days will continue to be brought to the Board
7 of Fish, the Federal Subsistence Board, any of those
8 Boards that make decisions on behalf of the users. And
9 I trust that process regardless of the budget cuts.
10 Yes, our Division does have some challenges with less
11 money to bring updated research to the decisions makers
12 to make decision, but we're not going to go out of
13 business. And I -- the Managers in the Department
14 understand their role in managing to meeting
15 subsistence needs and they're going to continue to do
16 that regardless of how many budget cuts we have. I
17 think the system isn't broken because these meetings
18 will continue and your diligence in speaking to your
19 concerns will continue to be brought to those meetings
20 and that's something that isn't going to stop.

21

22 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

23

24 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

27

28 MR. O'HARA: Well, you're real nice to
29 listen to. Yeah, you never yelled at us or anything so
30 that was nice. I guess what I wanted to mention,
31 Hazel, well we've known each other for forever and I
32 think it's great that you're in this position. I'll
33 give an example. You understand that in the last 20
34 years that people in Egegik haven't been able to use a
35 four and three-quarter inch or seven and three quarters
36 for kings period. I mean, so they can't target a king
37 because they're just not there. And so they go on and
38 put out their red net, you know, and occasionally catch
39 a king. So I think you're in a good position to
40 understand probably on the overall basis of what Alaska
41 represents in, you know, in subsistence.

42

43 And, Ted, how many times have I had to
44 fill out this piece of paper for you, do you remember?
45 It's been good. So these are -- when you talk about
46 getting that -- getting your subsistence -- you know,
47 permit to go get salmon for personal use, it's -- we
48 register all of our grandkids on my permit with me so
49 should that thing fall away they're going to be in the
50 system. And that's the advantage of getting online.

1 My -- our late son, Tom, missed his drift permit by one
2 point because we weren't diligent about making him, you
3 know, be registered with gear ahead of time when
4 limited entry came along. So we do appreciate that
5 work. When it comes down to, you know, throwing rocks
6 is when we haven't done these things, the shortage
7 (indiscernible).

8

9 So these are good things and we
10 appreciate that a lot.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Hazel, that's
17 really a nice message to hear and from your boss' boss
18 and all and that's, you know, if we all work together
19 and I sure appreciate that. And you're probably not
20 quite the right person to carry the message, but you're
21 here. And I was kind of disappointed to hear that when
22 the Park Service is eager to work with the State on a
23 land issue that for some reason the State couldn't and
24 I don't know if you have a -- can call over to the
25 other group there, but for the many times that the
26 State of Alaska likes to beat up on the Feds for being
27 in transit and then it turns around the other way, you
28 know, I guess it would sure be nice if that Pike Ridge
29 issue if the State would find a way to work with the
30 Park would be great.

31

32 So anyway it's really a nice message
33 and thank you for coming out.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, and I just also
38 wanted to thank you for being here, Hazel, and taking
39 the time to put into attending one of our meetings and
40 listening to the concerns in the area and then voicing,
41 you know, your intent and the intent of your superiors
42 in what path they'd like to head down. I appreciate
43 it.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Senafont.

46

47 MR. SHUGAK: Yeah. Well, it seems like
48 Pedro Bay is the last in the State to catch a fish in
49 the springtime. It seems like we sit there with our
50 fork and knife waiting for it, you know. I caught my

1 first one at the end of June, you know, and everybody
2 else, you know, I used to be down in Ivanof and we'd
3 catch our fish earlier, but being up there in Pedro
4 Bay, you know, it seems like we wait forever and
5 forever for the fish to come up there. And then we
6 have like a two week window, you know, because they go
7 from all the way up the river, the Kvichak, then they
8 come all the way up 90 miles to our place and up there.
9 And in that two week window we got to get our smoked
10 salmon and filet fish, salt salmon, you know, before
11 they start turning color, you know. And within that
12 two weeks they're starting to turn color already, you
13 know, And we're kind of fortunate though we got a lot
14 of fish this year so we got to have a lot of dry fish
15 and they're still like maybe 2,000, 3,000 at the head
16 of the Knudson there. So, yeah, but it does seem like
17 it takes forever to get there and we are working on our
18 ticket.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
21 Everybody had their say?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I just want to
26 appreciate both of you being here. Having worked with
27 the -- that Division I have a really I guess
28 appreciation for that Department and Division. And
29 it's great to get these surveys I guess to us, but the
30 work doesn't begin until we get into the communities
31 and that's where -- you know, that's where the work
32 goes in because once you get inside a community unless
33 yourself or your workers are respected the survey
34 doesn't get anywhere. Well, it gets anywhere, but it's
35 not as I guess accomplished. And that's -- you know,
36 that's one thing that I've learned. On the other side
37 regarding the -- I hate to confess this, you know, how
38 a mechanic's wife doesn't get their car done, here I am
39 -- in fact I'm the one that called each other household
40 if you haven't returned your subsistence permit, my
41 permit is still hanging, I haven't returned it. I'll
42 promise I'll get it back to you. But I really
43 appreciate your work and I just -- like you said in
44 spite of our budget shortfall our hearts are there.
45 And, Hazel, you know us, you lived our tradition so you
46 know how to go forward with the projects that we have
47 and the issues that we have in the village. I think
48 that's why -- you know, when we get people that have
49 lived our issues those are the ones -- you guys are the
50 ones that can understand without having us explain to

1 you the issues because you've lived it. And I sure
2 thank you for your report.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 (In Native)

7
8 Ted.

9
10 MR. KREIG: Yeah, Madame Chair. I just
11 -- thanks, Molly, I mean you -- from the early days in
12 Subsistence Division, you know, you paved the way for
13 us for -- in a lot of communities here in Bristol Bay
14 so thank you for all the work that you put in, you were
15 there for what 26 years, that's a long time.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. NELSON: And you set the bar really
20 high for me. Thanks a lot.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
25 you.

26
27 Next on the agenda is our next -- is it
28 next meeting.

29
30 And, Donald, I guess you can -- or Carl
31 will explain the spring March and then the winter.

32
33 MR. JOHNSON: Exactly. Thank you,
34 Madame Chair, members of the Council.

35
36 I'm just going to give you kind of a
37 quick overview of the current planning for the all
38 Council meeting which I'm very excited that we're
39 doing. We were a little nervous because it took us a
40 while to actually get the contract for the venue, but
41 it's going to be at the Egan Center in Anchorage on
42 March 7th through 11th. And what you have in your
43 meeting books regarding this starts on page 214. And
44 so there's kind of quick overview of what that week
45 will look like so it'll actually be five days and this
46 will be the entire winter meeting cycle of eight weeks
47 sandwiched into five working days and that'll be it.

48
49 And so the general format will be the
50 first day will be a joint session where you all 10

1 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils together in the
2 same room. The current draft of the agenda is on page
3 215 and that was based on the Meeting Committee's
4 suggestion. And the Meeting Committee consists of
5 myself, Orville Lind, the Council Coordinators and the
6 Council Chairs. Basically the idea was to go through
7 annual reports and looks for common themes of issues
8 that the Councils have raised. So I reviewed the last
9 10 years of annual reports and came up with some issues
10 that are common to all of the regions. Our next
11 challenge will be to kind of come up with a way of
12 actually making that a useful discussion item for you
13 and then also to come up with somebody who will lead
14 those discussions. But this is what we have so far.
15 That'll be day one.

16

17 And then days two through five will be
18 the breakout sessions that you see listed on page 217.
19 And the idea there is each Council will then have an
20 opportunity to have a full day to have their own
21 regional meeting so you can discuss issues specific to
22 your region whether it's -- you want to submit a
23 fisheries proposal because this will be the call for
24 fisheries proposals or hear some regional agency
25 reports that are specific to your region and address
26 other issues. But then when you're not in a concurrent
27 session, your own Council session, there will be these
28 other training programs, panel discussions and
29 presentations on a variety of topics form an overview
30 of Title VIII of ANILCA to Federal Indian law, a
31 comparison between how customary and traditional use
32 determinations are made with Section 804 determination
33 and a bunch of other different subjects that again
34 these are topics that have come up as areas of interest
35 that Council members want to learn more about. Some of
36 these things are covered in a little detail in your
37 Regional Advisory Council Operation Manual and in your
38 usual winter training, but this will give you a much
39 more in depth opportunity for training and discussion
40 on those subjects.

41

42 And we also selected some subjects that
43 were specifically called for in the Federal Subsistence
44 Board's Tribal Consultation Policy as suggested
45 training opportunities so that Federal staff can learn
46 more about Alaska Native people and Alaska Native
47 people themselves can learn a bit more about the
48 Federal system.

49

50 And we're working right now on getting

1 presenters for those, but this again is the -- kind of
2 the rough outline of the subject matter that we'll be
3 covering at those meetings. And we designed it also so
4 that if a presentation is given once it'll be given at
5 another time so if you missed it on the day that your
6 Regional Council is meeting, it'll be covered at
7 another day so you still have an opportunity to catch
8 that presentation. The only presentations we're not
9 repeating are ones that are specific, multi regional
10 reports like a regional report on the Western Arctic
11 Caribou Herd and its status or the Yukon salmon report
12 or the Kuskokwim salmon report. The rest of them
13 though, the other subjects will be repeated more than
14 once to give everybody an opportunity to participate.

15
16 And I'll be happy to answer any
17 questions that the Council may have on the all Council
18 meeting.

19
20 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

23
24 MR. O'HARA: Carl, on page 116 you have
25 -- 216, I'm sorry, you have North Pacific Pollack
26 Bycatch Update, but pollack is mid water and cod is
27 hard on bottom, you should have both on there. I mean,
28 they're both bycatches, it just so happens hard on
29 bottom is on the bottom so there's a little less and
30 the strong king gets there. You don't catch chums very
31 much, but we want to do everything we can to prevent
32 bycatch. That just might help a little bit.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. JOHNSON: And certainly and thank
37 you. And through the Chair, that would be a great
38 idea. We already have confirmed the NMFS will present
39 at this meeting so I can just ask them to add that to
40 their subject. Any other -- I guess probably you just
41 keep it broadly to any bycatch because I know there's
42 also been -- in some area there are concerns about
43 halibut bycatch as well.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So this
46 session will cover the spring meeting, but then we'll
47 also have a winter in October?

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, yes. This
50 will be your winter meeting cycle and then you'll have

1 your normal fall meeting to then discuss whatever
2 fisheries, regulatory proposals were submitted and
3 anything else that may be of concern for the region.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And then at
6 that region because in the spring in elections, we'll
7 be able to have our own little Council meeting and do
8 business.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, Madame
11 Chair. You'll have your elections, you'll use your --
12 do your normal winter, you know, individual Council
13 business. And one advantage with this is, you know,
14 normally with your winter meeting you might not start
15 until 10:00 or 11:00 on the first day because you take
16 out a couple hours to do some training. Well, instead
17 of taking a couple hours you're just taking four days
18 to do training.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

21

22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
23 Madame Chair. I'm sure you've already thought of it,
24 but I would just reiterate that seeing how we have such
25 a good resource maybe out here in BBNA that let's make
26 sure we have call in numbers to these regional meetings
27 and that our folks don't feel disenfranchised around
28 us, the people who we're representing, by not being
29 able to be there in person and having call in numbers
30 to adequately be able to let them access the meeting
31 and speak to their causes for us. I know you probably
32 have it covered, but I just -- I want to throw it out
33 there just in case so it doesn't slip through the
34 cracks.

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly. And through
37 the Chair. We will have your normal teleconference
38 will be available for your regional meeting. We'll
39 have teleconference for the larger sessions and some of
40 the training sessions because even though they may not
41 be a public meeting per se, they're still -- that's a
42 resource that we want to make available to as many
43 people as possible. And we'll also have a central -- a
44 single meeting book that will include the presentation
45 materials from the different breakout sessions to the
46 extent that we can get those in advance of the all
47 Council meeting. So if people are participating they
48 could just go through that meeting book and they can
49 hopefully switch around not only to participate in the
50 Council meetings, but if they wanted to listen in on

1 some of the panel discussion or other presentations,
2 the idea will be for them to be able to follow along
3 with the meeting book as they listen in on the
4 teleconference.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
7 good with this?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
12 Carl.

13
14 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
17 we're.....

18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Set meeting dates for
20 fall.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:the set
23 meeting -- I guess the -- we need to set the meeting
24 date for fall?

25
26 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Madame Chair. Yes,
27 we are going to have a fall meeting date so the window
28 opens August 22 through -- and the window closes
29 November 4, 2016. I also am the Coordinator for the
30 Southcentral Region and the Southcentral Regional
31 Advisory Council selected the dates of October 18th and
32 19th, Madame Chair.

33
34 And just for your information the
35 Kodiak Aleutians selected the dates of September 28,
36 29, Northwest areas selected October 5 and 6, Yukon
37 Kuskokwim, October 12, 13th, Seward Peninsula, November
38 1 and 2, Eastern Interior Regional Council, October 25
39 and 26 and AFN is October 20 to the 22nd.

40
41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So AFN, did
44 you say was October 20, 21?

45
46 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair.

47
48 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

1
2 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, is the dates that we
3 just had here the last couple days, are they open?
4
5 MR. MIKE: Yes, the last week of
6 October. Yes, it is open.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: 27, 28 are
9 open.
10
11 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. We're done
12 with caribou and moose and all that stuff and ducks are
13 almost all gone, might as well have a meeting.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: 27, 28?
16
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, let me check
18 real quick.
19
20 Donald, just because Interior has 25
21 and 26 doesn't mean we could not also use that though,
22 correct, because you're not involved in that one?
23
24 MR. MIKE: That is correct. Just as
25 long as we don't share staff with the Eastern Interior
26 so I think it would be -- we'll be okay, is that
27 correct, Carl?
28
29 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So we could go
32 26, 27?
33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Madame Chair,
35 that was just what I was offering because I know that
36 they like to stay away from Mondays and Fridays and use
37 them as travel days. So I know that I should be done
38 on the 20th so those dates will suit me just fine.
39
40 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
43
44 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Council
45 members. Yeah, the last week -- this worked for me
46 this year because our corporate meeting didn't happen
47 on the last Tuesday, we usually have last Tuesday of
48 the month. The corporate meeting is usually in the
49 evening so if it starts off on October 26th I'd
50 probably be late getting here, but that would work for

1 me. Just knowing that I would be late the first day.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So are we
4 confirmed on 26, 27?

5

6 MR. MIKE: And, Madame Chair, would
7 that be in Dillingham again, this Council usually have
8 its meeting in Dillingham in the fall. But I just want
9 to confirm that, Madame Chair.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes. And then
14 how did the school work, work for us, if it's
15 available. I think it worked really well with our
16 students coming in, you know, whenever they can and if
17 we met anywhere else they might not be as available.

18

19 MR. WILSON: I heard they had a new
20 bridge and there was a school on the other end.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's no
23 restaurants or hotels up there.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Well, Madame Chair, I'll
26 work with the community and also I'll work with
27 Courtenay and Gayla with BBNA and we'll work out the
28 meeting venue details.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Sounds
33 good. So we're good?

34

35 Carl.

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39 Just an off topic update on the rural
40 determination process. We received word that both the
41 Secretarial Rule, the final rule on the rural
42 determinations, you know, communities will be nonrural
43 and the Board's direct final rule on the nonrural
44 community list is scheduled to be published on November
45 4th. So we'll make sure to get the word out to you as
46 to what the extent of the public comment period is so
47 you can share that with your communities.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: You got a couple of Board
4 members who need to be at the airport at 5:30 or else
5 they're going to spend another night here.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
8 we can call for adjournment.
9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: Amen.
11
12 MR. O'HARA: Before we adjourn we're
13 glad to have Senafont Shugak here with us and nice to
14 have Pedro Bay, but we are -- have a vacancy at
15 Chigniks, right, Madame Chair, John resigned?
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: So we need to work on
20 that.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Just real quick. I was
29 really tickled to see this -- seems like we have a
30 wider window of time to pick our meeting dates than we
31 used to and it's always worked better for us to be in
32 these later dates. So I'm really glad for that. And,
33 yeah, I was getting concerned we don't have a Chignik
34 representative. I thought John did an excellent job, I
35 kind of wish he'd reconsider because he could talk from
36 quite a few different sides down there.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 MR. MIKE: I will be sending an
41 application to John Jones.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: All in favor
44 say aye.
45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No
49 oppositions.
50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Have a safe
4 trip home.
5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks to our public for
11 coming.
12
13 (Applause)
14
15 (Off record)
16
17 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
18

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)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:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 183 through 339 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 29th day of November 2015 in Dillingham, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th day of November 2015.

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