

1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME II

8  
9 Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center  
10 Bethel, Alaska

11  
12 October 8, 2015  
13 8:30 a.m.

14  
15  
16  
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18  
19 Lester Wilde, Sr., Chair  
20 Greg Roczicka  
21 Raymond Oney  
22 Robert Aloysius  
23 John Andrew  
24 David Bill  
25 William Brown  
26 Annie Cleveland  
27 Dorothy Johnson  
28 Michael Peters  
29 Anthony Ulak

30  
31  
32  
33  
34 Acting Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson

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36  
37  
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39  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/8/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before we get started, I want to remind everybody there's a sign-in sheet in the back where you can sign in. And if there are any public comments, please turn in a sheet right here. Is anybody here that would like to make any public comments on any agenda items or non-agenda items.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are no one here to make public comment on non-agenda items, then we'll proceed with the meeting. We are down to our item number 5, WP16-27/28, change in season and the harvest limit for moose in Unit 27A.

MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good morning, everyone. My name is Suzanne Worker. I'm a biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

And I'm going to present the wildlife analysis, WP16-27 and 28. So this is on Page 92 of your book if you want to follow along, and there are also copies on the back table if you don't have a book.

WP16-27 was submitted by the Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and 16-28 was submitted by the Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee. These two proposals request the same thing, so they were analyzed together.

And the request is to extend the time frame during which the up to 31-day season for moose can be announced in Unit 17A. Currently that window of opportunity is December 1st through January 31st, and the proposed window of opportunity is December 1st through the end of February.

It also requests that the harvest limit be changed from up to two moose with no antler restrictions to up to two moose with a limit of one antlered bull and one antlerless moose.

The proponent says that these changes

1 will allow managers a better means to maintain  
2 population objectives, and the longer window will allow  
3 better flexibility considering variable winter travel  
4 conditions.

5  
6                   There has been a winter moose season in  
7 Unit 17A since 2003. In the past several years there  
8 have been some adjustments both in the window of  
9 opportunity and in the harvest limits, and this has  
10 occurred on both -- under State regulation and State  
11 regulation. If adopted, this proposal would result in  
12 parallel State and Federal regulations for winter moose  
13 harvest in Unit 17A.

14  
15                   The moose population in 17A is  
16 currently growing and it's expanding its range. The  
17 population has been productive and has relatively high  
18 calf/cow ratios and high recruitment rates. And a  
19 survey that was conducted in May of 2015 indicates that  
20 both calf survival and recruitment is exceeding the  
21 long-term average. The current bull/cow ratios aren't  
22 available, but have historically been high.

23  
24                   Winter harvest of moose in 17A has  
25 averaged 11 moose between 2003 and 2014. And if we  
26 consider both winter harvest and fall harvest, there  
27 have been an average of 36 moose harvested for that  
28 time period, 2003 to 2014.

29  
30                   If these proposals are adopted, they  
31 will result in a longer window of opportunity for the  
32 winter hut season.

33  
34                   (Off record -- connecting  
35 teleconference)

36  
37                   (On record)

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just before we get any  
40 further, can we get the guest list of people that are  
41 on the teleconference, please. Anyone out in TV land.

42  
43                   MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
44 This is Drew Crawford in Alaska Department of Fish and  
45 Game in Anchorage.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anyone  
48 else.

49  
50                   MR. ADERMAN: This is Andy Aderman with

1 the Togiak Refuge in Dillingham.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anyone  
4 else.

5

6 MS. MONCRIEFF: This is Catherine  
7 Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
8 Association.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning,  
11 Catherine. Anyone else.

12

13 MS. OLSON: This is Lisa Olson with the  
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anyone  
17 else.

18

19 MR. BUE: Yeah, this is Fred Bue, Fish  
20 and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, Fred.  
23 Anyone else.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning all you  
28 guys out in teleconference land.

29

30 So we'll go on and continue with that  
31 proposal.

32

33 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 For those of you who just joined, my  
36 name is Suzanne Worker, and I'm a biologist with the  
37 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And I  
38 was going over the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-27  
39 and 28.

40

41 This proposal is a request to extend  
42 the time frame during which the up to 31-day season for  
43 moose can be announced in Unit 27A -- sorry, in 17A.  
44 Currently that window of opportunity is December 1st  
45 through January 31st, and the proposed window of  
46 opportunity is December 1st through the end of  
47 February.

48

49 It also requests that the harvest limit  
50 be changed from up to two moose with no antler

1 restrictions to up to two moose with a limit of one  
2 antlered bull and one antlerless moose.

3  
4                   The moose population in this area  
5 appears to be doing well. It's growing and it's  
6 expanding its range.

7  
8                   If these proposals are adopted, they  
9 will result in a longer window of opportunity for the  
10 may to be announced season, which will provide greater  
11 flexibility for managers. And this will probably be  
12 increasingly important as the winter weather and travel  
13 conditions change.

14  
15                   In addition, the proposed antler  
16 restriction will provide protections for both bull and  
17 cow moose in this population.

18  
19                   So for these reasons the OSM  
20 preliminary conclusion is to support WP16-27 with  
21 modification. The modification is simply to more  
22 clearly specify the antler restrictions. And to take  
23 no action on WP16-28.

24  
25                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all I  
26 have for now, but I'm happy to take questions.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. You've  
29 heard the introduction and presentation.

30  
31                   Mr. Roczicka.

32  
33                   MR. ROCZICKA: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

34  
35                   I'm just curious what the calf rates  
36 are looking like, if you have any of that data.

37  
38                   MS. WORKER: So it looks like the most  
39 current calf/cow ratios are 100.....

40  
41                   MR. ROCZICKA: Not ratios. Weights.

42  
43                   MS. WORKER: Oh, weights. I'm not sure  
44 that we have that in this analysis.

45  
46                   MR. ADERMAN: Mr. Chairman. This is  
47 Andy Aderman with the Togiak Refuge.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

50

1 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. Mr. Roczicka, our  
2 calf weights have been of the highest in the state,  
3 averaging right around 470 pounds. These are female  
4 calves that are about 10 and a half months old.

5  
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. And thank you for  
7 that. I was remembering that you and the Lower Yukon  
8 were vying for that for several years. And I think you  
9 guys passed us here about 10 years ago, or maybe it was  
10 15.

11  
12 When did actually that Togiak moose  
13 management plan go into effect? Was that '95 or '96?  
14 Somewhere in that area as I'm recalling, if you  
15 remember.

16  
17 MR. ADERMAN: It started, yeah, right  
18 around '95, '96, although it never actually got  
19 formally finalized until 2012.

20  
21 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Andy.

24  
25 Are there any comments from tribes on  
26 this proposal 16-27/28.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: ANCSA corporations.  
31 Comments.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments from ANCSA  
36 corporations.

37  
38 ADF&G, any comments on this proposal.

39  
40 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
41 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
42 Game in Anchorage.

43  
44 The Department's preliminary  
45 recommendations are to support Proposal WP16-27 as  
46 modified by the OSM, and take no action on Proposal 16-  
47 28. Over.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Federal agencies, Fish  
50 and Wildlife, any comments

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Native  
4 or tribal village comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments.  
9 InterAgency Staff has no comments.  
10  
11 Other Regional Councils, Mr. Robert, do  
12 you have any comments.  
13  
14 MR. LARSON: No, Mr. Chair.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.  
17 Subsistence Resource Commissions comments.  
18  
19 (No opposing votes)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game Advisory  
22 comments.  
23  
24 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. No comments  
25 from the Lower Yukon.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments from Fish  
28 and Game Advisory.  
29  
30 Summary of written comments. Public.  
31  
32 MR. LARSON: There are none.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There are none. Is  
35 there any public comments on this proposal.  
36  
37 (No comments)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
40 Regional Council, what are your recommendations.  
41  
42 Mr. Roczicka.  
43  
44 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Move to adopt  
45 Proposal 16-27.  
46  
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to  
50 adopt Proposal WP16-27. Is there a second to the

1 motion.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I did already.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Robert Aloysius  
6 seconds the motion.

7

8 Any other discussion. Mr. Roczicka.

9

10 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Looking at  
11 the authors of the proposal, the Togiak Fish and Game  
12 Advisory and the Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory, and  
13 knowing that those advisory committees are made up of  
14 the village representatives, similar to what we have in  
15 our region, nobody -- knows the status of the  
16 population and the desires of their local people, and  
17 have a long-term interest in maintaining it. It looks  
18 like everybody's on the same page with both State and  
19 Federal, and the OSM recommendation, minor modification  
20 in the language. It's again kind of a housekeeping  
21 thing. So I'm ready to support it or vote in favor.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion's been.....

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: I already made it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion's been  
28 made.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

33

34 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. A point of  
35 clarification. Was it Greg's intention for his motion  
36 to adopt or motion to support the original proposal or  
37 the proposal as amended by OSM.

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: They both say basically  
40 the same thing, just a minor tweak of language. What I  
41 saw is housekeeping, so I'm supporting the proposal in  
42 general.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's 27?

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And 28?

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nothing on 28?  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.  
4  
5 MR. ROCZICKA: That would be the next  
6 motion, to take no action on it. We're dealing with  
7 Proposal 27 right now.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal 27. Other  
10 discussion.  
11  
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.  
15  
16 MR. ROCZICKA: With the concurrence of  
17 my second, I'll modify my motion to support the OSM  
18 recommendation.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you concur?  
21  
22 MR. ROCZICKA: It incorporates all of  
23 what I've said already on the proposals.  
24  
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm going with the flow.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You heard the  
28 motion. Is that clear, Council members. All in favor  
29 of the motion signify by saying aye.  
30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.  
34  
35 (No opposing votes)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.  
38 Thank you. That takes care of 27/28.  
39  
40 The next item on the agenda is 16-  
41 29/30, change in method and means, season date with  
42 caribou. And that's on Page 101.  
43  
44 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 This is Suzanne Worker again from OSM.  
46  
47 Proposal 16-29 and 30 will be presented  
48 together. They request the same change, so there's a  
49 single analysis for these two proposals.  
50

1 16-29 was submitted by the Nushagak  
2 Fish and Game Advisory Committee and 16-30 was  
3 submitted by the Togiak Fish and Game Advisory  
4 Committee.

5  
6 These proposals request the addition of  
7 16 days to the end of the caribou season in Unit 9B and  
8 portions of Unit 17. And the motivation for this  
9 proposal is to provide additional opportunities for  
10 harvest, as well as to reduce the regulatory  
11 complexity, because it will align Federal regulations  
12 with the recently implemented State regulations.

13  
14 Many of the regulatory actions for the  
15 Mulchatna Caribou Herd in the past decade have reduced  
16 harvest limit or shortened the season in response to  
17 the declining caribou population. However, in February  
18 of 2015, the Alaska Board of Game extended the State  
19 caribou season from March 15th to March 30th. That  
20 season begins on March 1st, so it essentially doubled  
21 the season.

22  
23 This action was in response to  
24 increasingly challenging winter travel conditions and  
25 reduced access to caribou. The current proposal will  
26 do the same thing under Federal regulation, and, if  
27 adopted, it will result in parallel State and Federal  
28 regulations for caribou seasons in this area.

29  
30 The Mulchatna herd has declined from  
31 its peak population size of around 200,000 animals.  
32 This was around 1996. The most current population  
33 estimate was obtained in 2008 and 2009, and that  
34 estimate was around 30,000 animals. And this is right  
35 around the minimum population objective for this herd.

36  
37 The estimated bull/cow ratio has been  
38 below the management objective, although it has  
39 increased in the last couple of surveys.

40  
41 In addition to the changing population  
42 size, the herd's distribution and their seasonal  
43 movements have been in flux over the past couple of  
44 decades, and some segments of the population appear to  
45 be doing better than other segments of the population.

46  
47  
48 Overall fall composition counts in the  
49 past three years suggest that recruitment is improving.  
50

1                   As a result of the declining population  
2 and the widespread distribution of the Mulchatna herd,  
3 opportunities for harvest are somewhat limited, and  
4 this is reflected in the harvest rates. For the past  
5 five years harvest has averaged 350 caribou per year,  
6 and this is a dramatic decline from the maximum  
7 reported harvest of nearly 4,000 animals per year in  
8 2000 and 2001. It's also well below the harvest  
9 objectives that have been set forth for this  
10 population, although it is acknowledged that there's  
11 probably a sizeable unreported harvest.

12  
13                   Since 2007 an increasing proportion of  
14 harvest has occurred in February and March, when  
15 historically most harvest occurred in August and  
16 September.

17  
18                   If these proposals are adopted, they  
19 would lengthen the caribou season in Unit 9B and most  
20 of Unit 17 by 16 days, which would provide additional  
21 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users.

22  
23                   Although the population remains at the  
24 lower end of the population objective, the bull/cow  
25 ratio and the calf/cow ratio have improved in the past  
26 few years, and recruitment appears to be improving as  
27 well.

28  
29                   With the recent variability in winter  
30 travel conditions, a longer season will provide  
31 additional opportunity for harvest, and it is expected  
32 that the population will be able to withstand this  
33 additional harvest.

34  
35                   Adoption of these proposals would also  
36 reduce the regulatory complexity by aligning Federal  
37 and State regulations for caribou in this area.

38  
39                   So for these reasons, the OSM  
40 preliminary conclusion is to support WP-16 with  
41 modification -- sorry, 16-29, with modification. And  
42 the modification would be to remove the regulatory  
43 language and delegate authority to the Togiak National  
44 Wildlife Refuge manager to determine the season,  
45 harvest limits, and hunt area. And then the OSM  
46 preliminary conclusion is to take no action on Proposal  
47 WP16-30.

48  
49                   That's all I have. I'm happy to take  
50 questions.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the proposal  
2 introduction. My mind is going blank. Introduction,  
3 presentation, and analysis of the proposal. Thank you.

4  
5 Next is comment by -- are there any  
6 tribes to comment on this proposal, Proposal 16-29/30.  
7 Tribal comments.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: ANCSA corporation  
12 comments.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: ADF&G, any comments.

17  
18 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
19 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
20 Game in Anchorage.

21  
22 The Department's preliminary  
23 recommendation is to support Proposal WP16-29 as  
24 modified by OSM, and to take no action on WP16-30.  
25 Over.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Fish and  
28 Wildlife, any comments.

29  
30 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Andy  
31 Aderman with Togiak Refuge.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Andy.

34  
35 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. We support the  
36 preliminary conclusion as modified.

37  
38 I would also bring to the Council's  
39 attention that there is a pending Board of Game  
40 proposal that affects Mulchatna Caribou harvest limit.  
41 And it would just basically make it two caribou and get  
42 rid of the language that only one could be a bull or  
43 only one could be taken between August 1 and January  
44 31, so it would just be two caribou, making a fairly  
45 simple straight-forward harvest limit.

46  
47 That's all I had. Mr. Chairman.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Native  
50 Village.....

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Can I ask?  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.  
4  
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.  
6 Andy, have you had any further discussions with members  
7 of the Togiak/Nushagak Advisory Committees regarding  
8 the recommendation, or perhaps the Board proposal that  
9 you just mentioned.  
10  
11 MR. ADERMAN: Mr. Roczicka, no, not  
12 formally. I've talked with several members, but not in  
13 an actual meeting setting, but so far I've heard  
14 nothing but support for going to the straight two  
15 caribou bag limit.  
16  
17 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you. Or not.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Native village or  
20 tribe, any comments.  
21  
22 (No comments)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Interagency does not  
25 have any comments. Advisory group, other Regional  
26 Council comments. Robert.  
27  
28 MR. LARSON: There are none.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Fish and  
31 Game Advisory Committees comments.  
32  
33 MR. ONEY: None from the Lower Yukon.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There are none.  
36 Subsistence Resource Commission comments.  
37  
38 (No comments)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hearing none. Summary  
41 of written comments, Robert.  
42  
43 MR. LARSON: There are none.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public  
46 testimony, anyone, on Proposal 29/30.  
47  
48 (No comments)  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,

1 Regional Council recommendations. Council  
2 recommendations on Proposal 29/30. Mr. Aloysius. No.  
3  
4 Go ahead, Mr. Ulak.  
5  
6 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. On Page 113  
7 of the binder I see the OSM preliminary conclusion was  
8 support WP16-29 and take no action on Proposal WP16-30.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's right. And  
11 what is the recommendation of the Council. Is it that  
12 early in the morning?  
13  
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.  
17  
18 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 I'd move to support the OSM recommendation with  
20 modification with the no action on the Proposal 16-30.  
21 And I'll speak to that if I get a second.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.  
24 Is there a second.  
25  
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Robert  
29 Aloysius. Any further discussion. Mr. Roczicka.  
30  
31 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 I'd just incorporate by reference everything I said  
33 about the previous one regarding the local advisory  
34 committees and representing the communities in their  
35 area. This provides for the increased opportunity,  
36 recognizing also that there may be an additional  
37 modifications that could be recommended, but I would  
38 leave that to the Bristol Bay Regional Council to  
39 address that at the Federal Board level if they choose  
40 to take that path, and just at this time for this  
41 Council to support the preliminary conclusion with that  
42 understanding.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other  
45 comments, Council.  
46  
47 (No comments)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, all  
50 in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.  
4  
5 (No opposing votes)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.  
8 Thank you.  
9  
10 We are down to item 7, WP16-38, remove  
11 half-mile corridors along the Innoko and Yukon Rivers.  
12 And that is on Page 136.  
13  
14 MS. WORKER: 119 I believe.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 19. Good thing we can  
17 all see this.  
18  
19 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 This is Suzanne Worker again with OSM.  
21  
22 If you don't have copies of the book,  
23 there are additional copies of the proposal on the back  
24 table.  
25  
26 WP16-38 was submitted by Alfred  
27 Demientieff, Jr. on behalf of the Holy Cross Tribal  
28 Council. And he requests that the one-half mile  
29 corridor along the Innoko and Yukon Rivers be opened to  
30 moose harvest during the winter season in Unit 21E.  
31 There's a map on Page 123 of your book that shows the  
32 specific areas that are proposed to be open.  
33  
34 The proponent believes that the half-  
35 mile corridor is confusing, and especially in an area  
36 like this that has a lot of river islands. He also  
37 believes that removal of the corridor will increase the  
38 chance that users will be able to harvest a moose  
39 during the winter season, and that the existing  
40 requirement to have a Federal registration permit will  
41 minimize the impact on the moose population.  
42  
43 This half-mile corridor has been in  
44 existence since 2004 along the Yukon River, and since  
45 2005 along the Innoko River.  
46  
47 Currently there is a winter season for  
48 Federal subsistence users, but there is no State winter  
49 season for moose.  
50

1                   The management and harvest objectives  
2 for this population are laid out in the Yukon/Innoko  
3 Moose Management Plan. And the population is well  
4 below the population objective based on that plan,  
5 although the population has been relatively stable  
6 since about 2000. The bull/cow ratios have generally  
7 been high, and they are above the management objective  
8 for this population. Similarly the cow/calf ratios  
9 have met or exceeded the objective in most years.

10

11                   Nutrition for these animals is  
12 considered adequate and habitat isn't believed to be a  
13 limiting factor.

14

15                   Total harvest has ranged between 94 and  
16 204 moose per year. This is well within the harvest  
17 objective. The winter harvest has averaged less than  
18 five moose per year, and of that winter harvest, fewer  
19 than three per year were females. So again well within  
20 the objectives laid out for this population.

21

22                   If this proposal is adopted, winter  
23 access to moose along the Yukon and Innoko Rivers in  
24 Unit 21E will improve for Federally-qualified  
25 subsistence users. Although it would probably result  
26 in increased harvest pressure, the current harvest is  
27 well below the harvest objectives and it's expected  
28 that this population will be able to sustain the  
29 additional harvest.

30

31                   The number of permits issued for winter  
32 harvest in this area has been low, fewer than 18 per  
33 year, and the success rate of those permit holders has  
34 only been about 27 percent. So even if every permit  
35 holder was successful in getting a moose, the harvest  
36 would still be within the objectives that are laid out  
37 in the moose management plan.

38

39                   In addition, most of the land along the  
40 river is State land. Only about 20 percent of it is  
41 Federal, so the moose would still be protected along  
42 most of the river corridors during the winter season.

43

44                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
45 support WP16-38 with modification to delete the  
46 regulatory language and delegate authority to the  
47 manager of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge to set  
48 permit conditions and to announce the season closure.

49

50                   That's all I have. Thank you, Mr.

1 Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your  
4 introduction, presentation of the analysis.

5

6 Are there any comments from tribes.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: May I ask a question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Roczicka, you  
11 may ask a question.

12

13 MR. ROCZICKA: It may be in here, but I  
14 haven't seen it yet. Or whether it is. Is this hunt  
15 currently limited to only Federally-qualified  
16 subsistence users?

17

18 MS. WORKER: Yes, it is.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any tribal  
21 comments on this proposal.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
26 ANCSA corporation comments.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's none of those  
31 either.

32

33 ADF&G, do you have any comments.

34

35 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
36 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
37 Game in Anchorage.

38

39 The Department's preliminary  
40 recommendation is to oppose Proposal WP16-38. The  
41 Department feels it is justified to minimize  
42 disturbance to moose when they are concentrated on  
43 their winter feeding grounds in Unit 21E, and we  
44 recommend keeping State and Federal regulations aligned  
45 with regards to the one-half mile closed corridor for  
46 winter moose hunting to minimize regulatory complexity  
47 for users and law enforcement. Over.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Federal  
50 agencies, Fish and Wildlife, any comments.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Native  
4 or tribal or village comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There are no  
9 InterAgency Committee comments. Advisory committee  
10 comments, other Regional Councils. Robert, are there  
11 any comments from them.  
12  
13 MR. LARSON: There are none.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game Advisory  
16 comments.  
17  
18 MR. ONEY: None.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Subsistence Resource  
21 Commission comments.  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: None. Summary of  
26 written public comments. Robert.  
27  
28 MR. LARSON: There are none.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public  
31 testimony.  
32  
33 (No comments)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: None. Regional  
36 Council recommendations. Regional Council  
37 recommendations concerning Proposal 16-38. Mr.  
38 Roczicka.  
39  
40 MR. ROCZICKA: Move to support Proposal  
41 38.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: With modification as  
44 OSM conclusion?  
45  
46 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. To  
47 support the OSM preliminary conclusion just to get  
48 something on the table, because we always have to state  
49 our motions in the affirmative.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments,  
2 Council.  
3  
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there a second?  
5  
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Not yet.  
7  
8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made by  
11 Greg to adopt Proposal WP16-38. Seconded by Robert  
12 Aloysius.  
13  
14 Any further Council comments. Mr.  
15 Roczicka.  
16  
17 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 And perhaps I should have asked this question earlier,  
19 but passing this proposal, if I'm understanding the  
20 dual management aspects that we have here correctly,  
21 even if this proposal passed, there would be no hunt on  
22 State lands. And the half-mile corridor primarily  
23 affects State lands, so passing this proposal wouldn't  
24 really do anything to change or open.  
25  
26 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Roczicka.  
27 Through the Chair. That is my understanding, that this  
28 proposal does not apply to State lands, so it really  
29 affects a very small proportion of the corridor along  
30 the Yukon and the Innoko Rivers.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.  
33  
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, in that case, I  
35 don't think I -- I wasn't really sure until I got that  
36 clarified, but I don't think I'm going to support this  
37 proposal, because it actually would end up in being  
38 more confusion and giving false expectations to people  
39 that they're opening ground that's been closed for many  
40 years, and would essentially make the problem that he's  
41 trying to address actually worse instead of fixing  
42 anything and could lead to increased citations for the  
43 folks in that area.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Any  
46 other comments, Council members.  
47  
48 MR. PETERS: Yes.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

1 MR. PETERS: You know, for the record  
2 I'd like to abstain from this proposal, because, you  
3 know, I'm originally from Holy Cross, but how it's  
4 going to effect us. But, you know, for the record I  
5 would like to abstain on that one, because, you know, I  
6 can't vote yes or no on an issue like this. So I just  
7 thought I'd let you know. Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I would think that  
10 you're on the Council and you have -- you could either  
11 state positively or negatively on how you feel on this.  
12 Okay?

13  
14 MR. PETERS: All right.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, do you  
17 have a question.

18  
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. It could create  
20 more confusion, and we don't have boundaries saying  
21 from here to there is State land, from here to here is  
22 Federal, from here to there is Federal. It is going to  
23 create more confusion. So my feeling is just let it be  
24 what it is right now.

25  
26 MR. ROCZICKA: I've got one thing.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Roczicka.

29  
30 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 And it's kind of what Bob was just saying also triggers  
32 a memory to me that the proposal for this half-mile  
33 corridor actually came from the GASH villages back when  
34 it was first brought forward. So without hearing from  
35 them and weighing in on it, and some kind of a  
36 companion action or something addressed within -- they  
37 do have an Innoko Moose Management Plan also that was  
38 put together cooperatively between State, Federal, and  
39 local resident entities, so for me at this point, I'm  
40 still not going to support it, along with that  
41 confusion, and actually not really addressing a problem  
42 and possibly making things worse.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comment,  
45 Council.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, I  
50 think we're going to need to need a roll call vote on

1 this. Mr. Secretary, would you call the roll.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
4 Chairman.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead. Yes. Oh,  
7 Aloysius.  
8  
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Would you explain the  
10 yes and the no votes.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The yes vote would be  
13 to adopt this proposal. A no vote would not adopt this  
14 proposal.  
15  
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Support, not adopt.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Not support. Is that  
19 clear? A no vote means no support; yes means support.  
20  
21 Go ahead, Mr. Secretary.  
22  
23 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24 David Bill, Sr.  
25  
26 MR. BILL: Yes.  
27  
28 MR. ONEY: Robert Aloysius.  
29  
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.  
31  
32 MR. ONEY: Greg Roczicka.  
33  
34 MR. ROCZICKA: No.  
35  
36 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney. No. Dorothy  
37 Johnson.  
38  
39 MS. JOHNSON: No.  
40  
41 MR. ONEY: Annie Cleveland.  
42  
43 MS. CLEVELAND: No.  
44  
45 MR. ONEY: Anthony Ulak.  
46  
47 MR. ULAK: No.  
48  
49 MR. ONEY: Dale Smith, absent. Lester  
50 Wilde, Sr.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.  
2  
3 MR. ONEY: Michael Peters.  
4  
5 MR. PETERS: I vote no.  
6  
7 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.  
8  
9 MR. ANDREW: Yes. Yes.  
10  
11 MR. ONEY: Thank you. James Charles,  
12 absent. William Brown.  
13  
14 MR. BROWN: No.  
15  
16 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman, we have two  
17 yes, nine no. Motion carries.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 16-38 fails. We are  
20 down to item 16-43, change hunt area and descriptor,  
21 close hunt for caribou. And that's on Page 136.  
22  
23 Analysis, please.  
24  
25 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 This is Suzanne Worker with OSM again. And I will  
27 present the analysis for WP16-43.  
28  
29 This proposal was submitted by the  
30 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.  
31 And they request a closure of Federal public lands to  
32 caribou harvest in portions of Units 18 and 22.  
33 Specifically, this closure would apply to the portion  
34 of Unit 22 south of the Unalakleet River and the  
35 portion of Unit 18 in the upper Andraefsky drainages.  
36  
37 The proponent states that since no  
38 caribou have been present in this area for at least 15  
39 years that it will not have any effect on subsistence  
40 users, but it will prevent the intentional or  
41 unintentional harvest of reindeer in the area.  
42  
43 It's true that there have been no  
44 caribou present in this area for a long time. The  
45 Western Arctic Herd used to come down this far, but  
46 it's been a long time since anyone has seen caribou in  
47 this area. And this observation is supported by the  
48 Department of Fish and Game's radio collar data. There  
49 is, however, a reindeer herd that grazes the are  
50 surrounding Stebbins and St. Michael.

1                   Unfortunately, the Board's closure  
2 policy doesn't allow a closure of Federal lands solely  
3 for the protection of private property. This policy  
4 allows closure primarily to maintain healthy  
5 populations of fish and wildlife or to ensure the  
6 continuation of subsistence resources, and this  
7 proposal does not meet those criteria.

8  
9                   So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
10 oppose WP16-43.

11  
12                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your  
15 introduction and presentation.

16  
17                   Any tribal comments on Proposal WP16-  
18 43.

19  
20                   (No comments)

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: ANCSA corporation  
23 comments.

24  
25                   (No comments)

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Annie, will you please  
28 turn off your mic. Thank you.

29  
30                   Agency comments, ADF&G.

31  
32                   MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
33 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
34 Game in Anchorage.

35  
36                   The Department's preliminary  
37 recommendation is to oppose Proposal WP16-43. The  
38 justification for this proposal fails to demonstrate  
39 that a subsistence need is not being met. And it  
40 offsets the undesirable consequences of an increased  
41 regulatory complexity. Over.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Fish and  
44 Game comments. Department of Fish and Game comments.

45  
46                   MR. ROCZICKA: He just gave them. That  
47 was him just now.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh. Fish and  
50 Wildlife, I'm sorry. Fish and Wildlife comments.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Native  
4 Village or tribal comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: InterAgency Staff did  
9 not have any comments.  
10  
11 Advisory group comments, Regional  
12 Council comments. Mr. David -- I'm sorry. Robert.  
13 Are there any other Regional Council comments.  
14  
15 MR. LARSON: There are none.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Fish and  
18 Game Advisory Council.  
19  
20 MR. ONEY: No comment.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comment.  
23 Subsistence Resource Commission comments.  
24  
25 (No comments)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of written  
28 public comments. Robert.  
29  
30 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. We have  
31 one written public comment. That is from Melinda  
32 Bahnke who is president of the Kawerak. They're a non-  
33 profit tribal consortium from the Bering Straits  
34 Region. They are in support of this proposal.  
35  
36 They do have a slight modification, and  
37 what they suggest is that instead of GMU 22A south of  
38 the Unalakleet River, it makes more sense to them to  
39 close that area of 22A south of the Golsovia River as  
40 that will align both State and Federal regulations.  
41  
42 They did note that the Western Arctic  
43 Caribou herd has not migrated south of the Unalakleet  
44 River for almost 20 years. There is no caribou there.  
45 The fact that caribou hunting is allowed causes immense  
46 hardships on the reindeer owners, because they have to  
47 monitor their herd so closely, because people are  
48 hunting them.  
49  
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Public  
2 testimony.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
7 Regional Council recommendation. Mr. Roczicka.  
8  
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Given that it's been stated that the Federal Board has  
11 no authority to or cannot close areas for protection of  
12 private property as is stated straight forward under  
13 discussion, and in the proposal as a whole, and having  
14 been subject to in the past submitting proposals where  
15 they were rejected specifically for that reason, I'm  
16 wondering why this proposals even on the table or  
17 within the book since it's beyond the scope of what the  
18 Board says its authority is.  
19  
20 And with that, I would move to take no  
21 action on this proposal.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to  
24 take no action on this Proposal WP16-38. Do I hear a  
25 second.  
26  
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Robert  
30 Aloysius. Any further discussion, Council.  
31  
32 (No comments)  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being no further  
35 discussion, we'll have a roll call vote on this also,  
36 please. Mr. Secretary, please call the roll.  
37  
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Explain the yes or nos,  
39 please.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes would be for the  
42 proposal, no would be to oppose.  
43  
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Point of order. He made  
45 a motion to take no action.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, take no action.  
48 Yes would be to support the proposal.  
49  
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, support the motion.

1 That's it.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. All right then.  
4 I deserve that. Yes to support the motion, no to not  
5 support the motion.  
6  
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: And the motion is to?  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the motion is to  
10 take no action on this proposal.  
11  
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Do you want me to repeat  
13 what I said?  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr.....  
16  
17 MR. BILL: How do we know when the  
18 caribou's going to come back to that area?  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we don't know,  
21 do we.  
22  
23 MR. ROCZICKA: It is currently open in  
24 the area, so if the caribou come back, they're  
25 available for harvest.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Oney.  
28  
29 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
30 Chairman. If there's no action to be taken on this  
31 proposal, then why are we voting yes or no on it?  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, it's to take no  
34 action on it, whether we want to take action or not.  
35 There's a motion on the floor, so please call the roll.  
36  
37 MR. ONEY: Okay. I'll start from the  
38 middle here. Dale Smith, absent. Anthony Ulak.  
39  
40 MR. ULAK: Yes.  
41  
42 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde, Sr.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.  
45  
46 MR. ONEY: Annie Cleveland.  
47  
48 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.  
49  
50 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.

1 MR. ANDREW: Yes.  
2  
3 MR. ONEY: Dorothy Johnson.  
4  
5 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.  
6  
7 MR. ONEY: James Charles absent.  
8 William Brown.  
9  
10 MR. BROWN: Yes.  
11  
12 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney. Yes. Greg  
13 Roczicka.  
14  
15 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.  
16  
17 MR. ONEY: Robert Aloysius.  
18  
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.  
20  
21 MR. ONEY: Am I missing anyone?  
22 Michael Peters.  
23  
24 MR. PETERS: Yes.  
25  
26 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. We have 11  
27 yes. Motion carries. Motion fails.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So there's no action  
30 taken on WP16-43.  
31  
32 Let's take a 10-minute break, and then  
33 our Fisheries Resource Monitoring.  
34  
35 (Off record)  
36  
37 (On record)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back  
40 to order. We are down to our agenda item B, Fisheries  
41 Resource Monitoring Program.  
42  
43 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Members of  
44 the Council. My name is Stewart Cogswell. I'm the  
45 Fisheries Division chief for the Office of Subsistence  
46 Management. And I'm here today to talk to you about  
47 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And I'm  
48 here with?  
49  
50 MS. KENNER: Oh. Thank you, Stewart.

1 My name is Pippa Kenner, and I'm an anthropologist with  
2 the Office of Subsistence Management.

3

4 MR. COGSWELL: Thanks. We'll be here,  
5 and Pippa will be helping me explain -- just go over  
6 briefly the program, and then explain that we had some  
7 changes this year.

8

9 But before I start I want to -- a lot  
10 of work goes into this program, so I just want to say  
11 thanks to some of the people that have helped. In OSM,  
12 fisheries staff, Kay Larson Blair did a lot of work on  
13 this, on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program this  
14 year, so she deserves a big thanks, along with other  
15 fisheries staff: Don Rivard and Karen Hyer. Also OSM  
16 Anthropology Division did a ton of work to help out  
17 this year: Jennifer Hardin, Pippa, Palma Ingles,  
18 Robbin LaVine and Jeff Brooks. So it was a ton of work  
19 and I just want to thank those folks before we start.

20

21 There is a lot of information in your  
22 books, as much as you want to know about the FRMP, the  
23 history of your region. I'm going to go through a  
24 little bit of that, but the majority of the time I want  
25 to spend is talking about the changes we've made.

26

27 So on Page 156 in your book there are a  
28 couple graphs. I just want to explain those a little  
29 bit briefly to you.

30

31 The first one, the pie chart, the round  
32 one, talks about how much money has been spent on the  
33 program to date. The program started in 2000. So if  
34 you look on that, there's been roughly \$104 million  
35 spent, and that's how it's broken down by agency.

36

37 And then if you look at who received  
38 the funding in the next graph, you can see that the  
39 State of Alaska received 169 proposals. Some of those  
40 go to -- you know, they're cooperative with the tribes  
41 and other folks. Alaska Native organizations received  
42 73. Other is just kind of a catch-all category.  
43 Department of Interior 132. And DOI 26 -- DOA, I'm  
44 sorry. So that's just kind of a historical overview.

45

46 Then if you turn to Page 157. Now I'll  
47 keep track of this up on the -- you can follow along up  
48 on the screen also if you'd like.

49

50 This regional allocation guideline is a

1 template, what we use. It's not set in stone. It's  
2 just kind of a guideline for what we use to distribute  
3 the funds to the different regions.

4  
5                   So you can see that for the Kuskokwim,  
6 it's 29 percent is kind of the target. And if you look  
7 over on the right, the graph on Page 157, you can see  
8 that the Kuskokwim received basically 26 percent, \$25.9  
9 million over the history of the program. So it's  
10 pretty close. It's not exactly 29 percent, but again  
11 it's just a guideline to guide us on how we appropriate  
12 funds to the different regions.

13  
14                   So that's something you can look at. I  
15 think that's very interesting.

16  
17                   My next slide is on Page 161, and this  
18 is the policy and funding guidelines for the program.  
19 And I'll just go through these really quick.

20  
21                   Projects of up to four years duration  
22 may be considered in any given year that we're -- that  
23 the notice goes out.

24  
25                   We don't want studies to duplicate  
26 existing projects.

27  
28                   A majority of the monitory program  
29 funding will be dedicated to non-Federal agencies.

30  
31                   Long-term projects will be considered  
32 on a case-by-case basis. We're still developing how  
33 we're going to handle long-term projects with the FRMP.  
34 We want to be fair and equitable, but address concerns,  
35 so that will be something that probably at the next RAC  
36 meeting we will talk to you more about that.

37  
38                   And here's some activities that are not  
39 eligible for funding:

40  
41                   Habitat protection, mitigation,  
42 restoration, and enhancement. That's sort of on-the-  
43 ground manipulation on projects in dirt. We call it  
44 muds and -- or bricks and mortar, sometimes we call it  
45 that.

46  
47                   Hatchery propagation, restoration,  
48 enhancement, and supplementation.

49  
50                   The next one is contaminant assessment,

1 evaluation, and monitoring.

2

3                   And the last one where this fund  
4 doesn't apply, or we will not fund projects with it is  
5 a project where the primary or only objective is  
6 outreach and education. We don't fund strictly science  
7 camps, technical training, or intern programs. So  
8 we're looking more for information gathering.

9

10                   So that's sort of the guidelines or the  
11 bounds that we work under for this program.

12

13                   So I'm going to the next slide. This  
14 one's not in your book. And this is a -- I want to  
15 start talking now about the changes to the program,  
16 because I think this is a big thing. I've talked to  
17 the other RACs where we've -- there's been two so far  
18 this fall cycle. And this is kind of where some  
19 confusion has happened, so I just want to make sure  
20 that -- you know, ask questions if you have questions,  
21 and we want this to be as clear as it can be for  
22 everyone. And again this is not in the book. This  
23 will be on the screen. This is just sort of me  
24 explaining the process.

25

26                   So step 1 is proposal development. And  
27 this is something we really want to change. We want  
28 more involvement. What happened this year to a certain  
29 extent, I don't know how extensive, but we had a due  
30 date for the proposals and the everyone rushes to get  
31 those projects in right before the due date. We want  
32 to change that a little bit. We want the RACs and the  
33 investigators to kind of work throughout the year to  
34 develop good proposals. So the investigators are  
35 coming to the RACs and saying -- looking at your  
36 priority needs and saying, what do we need and how do  
37 we get to where we answer the questions that you folks  
38 want answered. So we want to work throughout the year  
39 to do that. So the first thing we're going to do, and  
40 we've done this in the past, is we're going to help you  
41 with developing a priority needs. That's a big thing,  
42 because that's a big driver. What are your priorities?  
43 So we're going to work on that, and I think that will  
44 happen at the winter RAC meeting, the all-Council  
45 meeting in Anchorage. We'll have a session to develop  
46 priority needs.

47

48                   The second thing is, like I just said,  
49 we want to work throughout the year. We don't want  
50 this to be last minute where a principal investigator

1 is submitting projects that you may not even know are  
2 out there. We want you to know and work with the  
3 investigators throughout the year.

4  
5                   And the last thing is OSM, the Office  
6 of Subsistence Management, will provide technical  
7 assistance. Again, this is kind of -- we want to  
8 emphasize this. So this December we are going to work  
9 -- the Fisheries Division and Anthropology Division are  
10 going to work to send out a postcard or letter to all  
11 the RACs. We have a mailing list of over I think 600  
12 folks on the mailing list, to the universities, the  
13 RACs, to let them know that this is what we want, we  
14 want to develop this throughout the year, not last  
15 minutes. We want to work with the RACs, have them  
16 engage with the RACs to develop these projects. And  
17 then we'll also provide a training session at the  
18 winter all-Council meeting.

19  
20                   So this is a big step for the RACs to  
21 have involvement. This is where your input is really  
22 valuable to identify those priority needs and get  
23 projects that address those. So we really want to work  
24 hard to maybe shift gears a little bit and not put them  
25 in last minute so you may or may not know what's going  
26 on. We want you to know. We want you to work with the  
27 investigators to develop those proposals.

28  
29                   So that's a big step. That's step 1.

30  
31                   Okay. Step 2 is we're really  
32 emphasizing good projects. Funding levels are  
33 decreasing a little bit for the program, and it's very  
34 important to have a complete project proposal package,  
35 and that they need to be submitted on time. We will  
36 not submit late proposals -- we will not accept late  
37 proposals. And basically all the steps are outlined in  
38 the notice of funding availability or opportunity. The  
39 title's changed a little bit, but that's the notice  
40 that goes out asking for funds. If you follow those  
41 directions in there, you will have a good proposal.  
42 The directions are outlined very clearly, so if you  
43 follow those, you will have a good proposal.

44  
45                   And again the five criteria, I'm going  
46 to stress this a lot today. The first one is strategic  
47 priority or priority needs. The next one is technical  
48 and scientific merit. And this is found -- this is  
49 actually in your book on Page 159 through 161. The  
50 third one is investigator ability and resources.

1 Partnership and capacity is the fourth one. And the  
2 last one is cost/benefit.

3

4                   And I just want to say that, you know,  
5 we want to fund good projects. Some projects, they may  
6 be addressing a priority need, but the science, the  
7 partnership capacity, if that's not worked out to a  
8 good level, the project might not be ready to go.  
9 Because of limited funds, we don't want to fund those  
10 projects. Even though it meets one of those categories  
11 there's so much -- for instance, this year we have \$4.5  
12 million worth of projects, requests that came in. We  
13 only have about \$2 million to spend. So we've really  
14 got to focus on the best projects, the projects that  
15 are ready to go, to actually answer the question. Just  
16 because it's a priority need and the project matches a  
17 priority need doesn't mean that project is ready to go.  
18 It has to meet all those other four aspects.

19

20                   So we're emphasizing good projects that  
21 are ready to go that will answer the question really  
22 good, not just partially answer those questions. So we  
23 have to get good proposals submitted. So that's step 2  
24 is proposal submission.

25

26                   Step 3 is -- again, we want to  
27 emphasize in this climate of our current funding  
28 levels, the priority is high quality projects that  
29 address critical subsistence questions. We want to  
30 enhance the monitoring program, make it a very valuable  
31 resource, and kind of, you know, up the science, make  
32 sure the science is all correct and going to answer the  
33 questions.

34

35                   We want it to be transparent. That's  
36 one thing I'm really big on is transparency. We want  
37 folks to see how their projects are moving through the  
38 process. And we don't want it to be that you turn the  
39 project in and you have no idea why it was a good  
40 project/bad project. We want it to be transparent.

41

42                   The fourth one is identify and fund  
43 high quality research projects that address priority  
44 subsistence information needs. And again we want to  
45 maximize funding opportunities. For some of these  
46 higher cost projects we want to emphasize partnerships.  
47 With lower funding levels, we're going to need to  
48 partner to kind of get these projects done, completed.  
49 So really expensive projects, you may need to get  
50 partners to help out with that.

1                   So the next slide, this talks about the  
2 key modifications. So I've been doing this job for  
3 about a year now, and this is one of the first things I  
4 addressed. I heard all the issues with the FRMP  
5 program, and these are some of the key modifications  
6 that I want you to be aware of.

7  
8                   One is those five criteria I talked  
9 about, we made guidelines for each one of those. So  
10 there's specific guidelines within those criteria, so  
11 we want it to be objective. Not someone's opinion on  
12 how the projects are scored, but it's in the criteria  
13 exactly how they're going to be scored, so there's no  
14 surprises. It's not really subjective, it's not  
15 someone's opinion. It's based on criteria.

16  
17                   The next one is receiving a single  
18 consolidated review from each participating agency. In  
19 the past -- I should thank the -- well, I'll thank them  
20 in a second. In the past there's been multiple folks  
21 from agencies. ADF&G, Alaska Department of Fish and  
22 Game, had three folks on the Technical Review  
23 Committee, OSM had two, Park Service had two, BLM had  
24 one. So there was multiple folks from each agency. I  
25 got rid of that, because I don't want any -- there was  
26 the appearance that folks were having maybe undue  
27 influence on a particular project. We want that to be  
28 fair.

29  
30                   So each agency gets one vote. For  
31 instance, OSM, there's two of us, we get one vote  
32 towards a project. ADF&G gets one vote towards each  
33 project. National Park Service gets one vote. So  
34 every agency gets one vote now. It's not multiple  
35 votes for some agencies and not for others. Every  
36 agency gets one vote.

37  
38                   And, number 3, it's required agencies  
39 to recuse themselves from providing reviews for  
40 projects involving their agency. For instance, if  
41 ADF&G puts a project, if their agency puts a project  
42 forward, or they're involved in it, they don't get to  
43 vote on the project. This year, if it was their  
44 project, they did not vote on it. There's no bias,  
45 there's no introducing -- so they don't have a vote in  
46 the final ranking for that project.

47  
48                   Yes, Bob.

49  
50                   MR. ALOYSIUS: What does that word

1 recuse mean? R-E-C-U-S-E.

2

3 MR. COGSWELL: That's a good question.  
4 Thanks. Recuse means that they take themselves out of  
5 the voting. They do not vote. If their agency has a  
6 project, they do not vote. So if OSM has a project,  
7 they do not vote on that project. If the Park Service  
8 -- if someone from the Park Service submitted a  
9 project, the folks from the Park Service voting don't  
10 get to vote. So that agency doesn't have influence on  
11 the final vote, because it's their project.

12

13 We wanted to remove all that so there's  
14 no -- we want it to be kind of a pure process where  
15 there's no interjection of bias or no appearance of  
16 interjection of bias. So that's why we did that. So  
17 the agencies that submitted projects did not get to  
18 vote on their own projects. So it's the rest of the  
19 agencies that vote on their projects.

20

21 So those are some of the sort of big  
22 steps. So that's an evaluation.

23

24 So step 4 is the proposal ranking.  
25 Again, those five criteria, the Technical Review  
26 Committee, which is made up of -- there's 12  
27 professionals on that committee, made up of the Park  
28 Service, the Forest Service, OSM, ADF&G. They've met.  
29 They read all the proposals. I think there was 44 of  
30 them this year. It's a stack of proposals. It's a lot  
31 of work for the Technical Review Committee. So I want  
32 to thank them. I'm not going to list them all by name,  
33 because I can't at the moment. But they did a lot of  
34 work to review and read through all these proposals.

35

36 So they evaluated these and gave each  
37 -- they scored each proposal on these five categories.  
38 And then the final score determines the rank within  
39 each region. So each project got a score. Like in the  
40 Kuskokwim I think there's six projects, and each one  
41 was scored on these five categories. And their score  
42 determined their rank, you know, one through six. The  
43 higher scores got a higher rank. The lower scores got  
44 a lower rank.

45

46 So that's a little bit different than  
47 in the past. In the past you got a fund, do not fund,  
48 or fund with modification. You're not going to get  
49 that this year, okay? And I'll show them at the end,  
50 and it's in your book, you're getting that ranked list

1 of projects. That's what you're going to receive this  
2 year.

3  
4 I'll move on to step 5, and this is a  
5 very important slide in the process. So this is RAC  
6 input and comments. And this is important, what we're  
7 asking you today to do. So we're going to go over the  
8 -- right when I'm done here, I've got one more step to  
9 do, then we're going to go over the projects, the rank  
10 list.

11  
12 So what you're going to have is the  
13 ranking from those 12 folks that read all the  
14 proposals, every detail of them, and ranked the  
15 proposals. You're going to look at that, and we want  
16 your comment, and then there's a summary. And number 2  
17 is provide comments to accompany the proposals to the  
18 Board.

19  
20 So the Technical Review Committee has  
21 this list. So here's -- there's a list and then  
22 there's your comments. Any comments you have on the  
23 list, the process. I listed four up there. Do the  
24 proposals that you see in front of you, do they align  
25 with your priority needs? We have comments on the  
26 proposal rankings. Do you have any comments on that?  
27 The proposal summaries. There's summaries in your  
28 book. And the new process. So those are the comments.

29  
30 There's two parts of this, and they're  
31 equally important: The rankings from the people that  
32 reviewed them, and then your comments. Both of those  
33 parts will go forward to the Board. I'll go to the  
34 next slide. So it's very important. That's what we're  
35 asking you today is to provide comments back on the  
36 process, the rankings, and those are a very important  
37 piece of this to go to the Board who's going to  
38 ultimately make the decision.

39  
40 So I'll go to the next slide. So what  
41 happens after today is the TRC rankings and your  
42 comments will go to the InterAgency Staff Committee,  
43 which will prepare their recommendations to the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence Board will  
45 look at the comments, they'll synthesize the comments,  
46 and they will provide a draft plan, meaning which  
47 projects they want funded. And then finally it goes to  
48 the Office of Subsistence Management, the Assistant  
49 Regional Director, to make -- he'll sign off on the  
50 final plan. So that's the last step in the process.

1                   So I know that this is different, and  
2 again it might be a little confusing, but we're here to  
3 answer any questions you have to try to clear this up  
4 as much as possible. Again, we want this to be an open  
5 and clear process, you know, transparent, so folks can  
6 understand what exactly is going on.

7

8                   So I'm going to move through, I'm going  
9 to briefly just state these.

10

11                   This slide I have up here is on Page  
12 163. This talks about the Kuskokwim. This is an  
13 overview of the Kuskokwim. It gives you an overview of  
14 the projects since 2000, or the program since 2000, the  
15 funding, who's received the funding in the Kuskokwim,  
16 and the projects. I think there's been 106 -- or I'm  
17 not sure exactly the total of dollars that went to the  
18 Kuskokwim, but this is a breakdown of that, of the  
19 Kuskokwim.

20

21                   The next slide, and this is on Page  
22 188, this is the Yukon. This is the breakdown of  
23 projects on the Yukon by region and by agency.

24

25                   I'm going to have you flipping through  
26 the book a little bit here at the end.

27

28                   And the last graph I want to show you  
29 is the multi-regional. Some of our projects cross  
30 regions. And the multi-regional graph is on Page -- I  
31 just put it up on the overhead, but it's on Page 222.  
32 Page 222 in the book. And this is an overview of the  
33 multi-regional.

34

35                   And we made all these graphs just so if  
36 you want to know where the money's going and who's  
37 getting the funds. So you have that information, you  
38 know, available to you.

39

40                   Okay. Now, if you want to turn to Page  
41 165. Page 165 in the book, and I have the slide up  
42 here.

43

44                   So this is the first slide of -- we  
45 have three more slides to go through and to talk about.  
46 This is the proposal rankings for the Kuskokwim Region.  
47 You can see the projects listed there, and you have the  
48 -- on the left you have the TRC ranking, one through  
49 six. The TRC went through those five criteria and  
50 assigned a score to each of them, and this is how the

1 projects ranked out by the TRC. The number 1 project  
2 is Project 16-301, Lower Kuskokwim River subsistence  
3 Chinook salmon harvest, age, sex, length composition.  
4 And we have the levels there all the way down to the  
5 bottom.

6

7 And the number there on the bottom  
8 right is the average annual request. That is what it  
9 costs a year for all these projects. The cumulative  
10 total is \$687,000.

11

12 So this is the list with how the TRC  
13 ranked them. And in general, depending on funding  
14 levels, the higher you are on a list, the better chance  
15 you have of being funded. We do not know exactly which  
16 projects are going to be funded at this time. You  
17 know, our fiscal year just happened October 1st, and  
18 we're in the process right now of determining our final  
19 funding levels. I believe it's going to be a hair over  
20 \$2 million. We're working on that right now with our  
21 budget folks. And again, 29 percent of that will be  
22 targeted towards -- it's not an exact thing, or exact  
23 29 percent, but it will be close to that for the  
24 Kuskokwim. So this is one part of what we wanted to go  
25 to the Board, the work of the Technical Review  
26 Committee.

27

28 The other part is any comments you may  
29 have on these proposals. So I open it up now for any  
30 questions or.....

31

32 MS. KENNER: On the Kuskokwim.

33

34 MR. COGSWELL: On the Kuskokwim. If  
35 there's any comments? Because your comments will go to  
36 the Board. Yes, sir.

37

38 MR. ULAK: So no matter how many  
39 proposals TRC receives, TRC ranks them, right?

40

41 MR. COGSWELL: Yes.

42

43 MR. ULAK: Okay.

44

45 MR. COGSWELL: Uh-huh. They ranked all  
46 -- I think there was 44 proposals. They ranked all 44  
47 proposals. And we grouped them by region, so there  
48 were six that were specific to the Kuskokwim.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair.

2

3 Stewart, I appreciate the overview;  
4 however, it was a little hard to follow you at first,  
5 bouncing around between the pages. But recognizing  
6 this is only one of your funding opportunities through  
7 OSM, of course, with others available.

8

9 But specifically between the TEK and  
10 the SST, is there any attempt to -- or anything  
11 incorporated in your review processes that tries to  
12 assure that they get projects under both of those  
13 categories funded, or are they all just lumped in in  
14 one? Again, given the concerns that you've raised as  
15 far as one of your priorities being capacity building,  
16 that's one that the TEK would be a major concern.  
17 Anything along those lines as far as some kind of  
18 breakout ahead of time, that you want to try to fund  
19 projects in both categories.

20

21 MR. COGSWELL: Thank you, Greg. That's  
22 a great question.

23

24 If you want to turn to Page -- and I'm  
25 sorry for having you bounce around these pages, but  
26 this is to answer Greg's question. On Page 158, again  
27 there's a lot of information in this book. I wanted it  
28 to all be there, and again I want to thank Kay Larson  
29 Blair who compiled most of this historical data.

30

31 So on Page 158 there is the overview of  
32 -- you know, we have \$17 million, harvest  
33 monitoring/traditional ecological knowledge projects  
34 funded, and \$86 million of stock status and trends. I  
35 think as a general rule of thumb, you know, it's two-  
36 thirds/one-third within a -- like the Kuskokwim, we'd  
37 want two-thirds going towards fish projects and one-  
38 third going through HM/TEK projects. That's not a hard  
39 rule, it's not a fast rule, but we want to provide  
40 equity through that for both. We don't want to forget  
41 about, you know, the HM/TEK projects. So it's a  
42 conscious effort to make sure that at least one-third  
43 of the money for the Kuskokwim is going to HM/TEK.

44

45 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you. And that was  
46 kind of my understanding, but you were saying this is  
47 kind of a new approach that you're doing in the  
48 evaluation, so I just wanted to I guess get some  
49 reassurance that that was still going to be within the  
50 consideration of proposals. Thanks.

1 MR. COGSWELL: Yes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other Council  
4 questions.  
5  
6 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who's that?  
9  
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Teleconference.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Teleconference. Yeah,  
13 go ahead.  
14  
15 MR. ALSTROM: Yes. Is this Lester?  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead,  
18 teleconference. Go ahead with your comment.  
19  
20 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 I've got a question for the gentleman concerning this  
22 program. I'm sorry, I just came on not too long ago,  
23 and I didn't get his name.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you please state  
26 your name and who you are and where you're from,  
27 please.  
28  
29 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, I'm sorry. This is  
30 Bill Alstrom. I'm from Andreafsky, and I'm  
31 representing myself.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry. Go ahead,  
34 Bill.  
35  
36 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chair.  
38  
39 Yeah, I've got a question for -- I  
40 mean, I don't know if it's a question, just regarding  
41 the projects for the Yukon. Do you have these projects  
42 on line? And do you have an email address or an on-  
43 line address where somebody could look these up?  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you hear what the  
46 question was.  
47  
48 MR. COGSWELL: Thanks, Bill. The past  
49 monitoring projects are on line up to 2004. I believe  
50 they're on the OSM website.

1 MS. KENNER: Up to 2014.  
2  
3 MR. COGSWELL: I'm sorry. 2014.  
4  
5 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. Thank you. I'll  
6 look them up then. Thank you.  
7  
8 MR. COGSWELL: All right. Thank you,  
9 Mr. Chair.  
10  
11 All right. Any other comments on the  
12 Kuskokwim. If not, we'll move to the Yukon, but any  
13 other comments on the Kuskokwim on that rank list.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or  
16 comments. Mr. Roczicka.  
17  
18 MR. ROCZICKA: Just to clarify here,  
19 because you're going to be bringing this forward for  
20 the recommendations from the Council, and we're not at  
21 that point yet.  
22  
23 MR. COGSWELL: Right.  
24  
25 MR. ROCZICKA: When that does occur,  
26 I'm going to, just to put you on notice, Mr. Chairman,  
27 I will have to declare a conflict of interest, because  
28 my employer is co-proposer on the number 1 up there, in  
29 deference to what he said as far as people who are  
30 sponsors or have submitted proposals not to have a vote  
31 on it. I'll be stepping down when we get to the  
32 Kuskokwim for that reason.  
33  
34 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. Thanks, Greg.  
35 I'm going to go on to the next slide and the next page.  
36 I'm going to have you turn again. This is on Page 191.  
37 Page 191 in your book.  
38  
39 So on Page 191 we had nine projects for  
40 the Yukon, and the number 1 ranked project was 16-256,  
41 in-season salmon management teleconferences. And if  
42 you look down, the average annual request on the right-  
43 hand side, you can see that the request received just  
44 for the Yukon was \$1.1 million. So again the projects  
45 ranked higher have a higher chance, or a better chance  
46 of being funded.  
47  
48 So at this point, I'd like to open up  
49 to any comments on the project rankings for the Yukon.  
50

1                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any  
2 comments. Mr. Peters.

3  
4                   MR. PETERS: I've got a comment. In  
5 Fort Yukon that on this program that you're talking  
6 about, you know, with these students, like with these  
7 interns, I think it's very useful program. It's  
8 similar like the one at the Kuskokwim up by Aniak on  
9 this tagging or whatever it's called. And I think  
10 that's a really good monitoring program, and I would  
11 like to see it go on, not just for the Lower Yukon  
12 School District, but -- and I can't talk for other  
13 school districts, but I saw these young people in a  
14 learning process, and it's a really good program that  
15 they get into. And the only thing that I want to say,  
16 that I see that they're learning, and if possible it  
17 could be an ongoing project.

18  
19                   Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20  
21                   MR. COGSWELL: Thank you, Mike. Our  
22 Partners Program is another program. It's a different  
23 program that we use to fund positions in different  
24 communities across Alaska. And that's another program  
25 that we're doing kind of the same thing that we're  
26 doing here. It's a competitive process. And we're  
27 really excited about that.

28  
29                   I just want to state one thing about  
30 the FRMP and the Partners. As long as I'm here, we're  
31 really going to stress capacity building. I really  
32 want capacity building to be a part of these projects.  
33 That's one of the five criteria, and you need to have  
34 it. We need to be building capacity. We need to be  
35 doing what you're talking about, Mike, is educating the  
36 next generation, and providing ways to do that, you  
37 know, and building capacity within the villages for  
38 folks to do different monitoring work, and assist, you  
39 know, the State and Federal managers.

40  
41                   So capacity building is a huge part of  
42 both those programs, and we're going to look to build  
43 upon that and expand it as much as we can into the  
44 future. So I'm really excited about emphasizing that  
45 in this cycle of FRMP and the Partners Program into the  
46 future.

47  
48                   So do we have any other comments on  
49 this ranked list of the Yukon.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. COGSWELL: Hearing none, I will go  
4 on to the last slide I have for you, and that is the  
5 multi-regional. And that is on Page -- in your books,  
6 that's on Page 224. These are the projects that cross  
7 regions. In this case they're crossing the Yukon and  
8 the Kuskokwim.

9

10 So the number 1 ranked project is 16-  
11 752, it's a Yukon Delta coastal communities non-salmon  
12 harvest and use patterns. It's the number 1 ranked  
13 project. If you'll on the lower right-hand side,  
14 there's \$331,629 requested for both these projects.  
15 These are both HM/TEK projects, harvest monitoring/  
16 traditional ecological knowledge.

17

18 So I open it up to any comments or  
19 questions/concerns about the multi-regional ranking  
20 from the Technical Review Committee.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments from  
23 Council.

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: I do.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair.

30

31 On your number 2 there on that meaning  
32 and context of sharing between the two river drainages,  
33 there's not a whole lot here. I'm sorry, I wasn't able  
34 to review it ahead of time. Can you just add a little  
35 more background other than what's this brief summary?  
36 Where it's from and what's its deeper intent.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Hi. Yeah. This is Pippa  
39 Kenner with OSM. Thanks, Greg for the question.  
40 Through the Chair.

41

42 Greg, have you had a chance to read the  
43 summary that's here? Would you like me to go over  
44 that?

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry, I  
47 withdraw that. I just did see it.

48

49 MS. KENNER: That's fine.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: I'll withdraw the  
2 question. I found what I was looking for.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or  
5 comments.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair.  
10 Thank you. That's all I have for the FRMP. That will  
11 be for those three, you know, the Kuskokwim, the Yukon,  
12 and the multi-region. This will be going forward to  
13 the Federal Subsistence Board to determine the final --  
14 you know, based on funding levels, they'll be  
15 determining the final monitoring program, which funds  
16 will be actually funded.

17  
18 So again we had \$4.5 million worth of  
19 projects requested, and we have a little over \$2  
20 million. There were a lot of good projects, not all  
21 the projects -- we cannot fund all the projects, but  
22 we'll look at all the -- you know, we'll try to look at  
23 those ratios for each region and come close to that.  
24 We'll look at the traditional knowledge ones versus the  
25 fish ones, make sure we balance that. And, you know,  
26 we want to fund good projects.

27  
28 I'll say it one more time. Projects  
29 that aren't ready to go, that maybe need some work, and  
30 we'll help folks with that, and maybe we can put them  
31 in at the next cycle. But we don't want to fund them  
32 if they're not ready to go. Due to limited dollars, we  
33 want to fund those best projects from around the state  
34 that are ready to go. So that's our intent.

35  
36 I just want to say this, too. If you  
37 have any questions, you can call me or talk to me after  
38 this session, at a break or something. But I want this  
39 to be -- I want it to be -- everyone to know how it  
40 works and where -- how the process, those six steps,  
41 each step of the way, I wanted folks to know how it's  
42 workings. And it's new. Some of those parts are new,  
43 some of them have been here for a while. But please  
44 don't hesitate to talk to me. I love talking about  
45 this.

46  
47 And that's all I have. Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr.  
50 Aloysius.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. This is not  
2 related to funding of the projects, but, you know,  
3 every year we have a problem, not only this RAC, but  
4 other RACs. And a year ago we asked for the  
5 possibility of having a multi-RAC training session,  
6 like three days on exactly what the RAC is, what the  
7 responsibilities are of the RAC, because there's a lot  
8 of new RAC members here. I've been here 12 years, I  
9 still don't remember exactly what our role is. And I  
10 go to RAC meetings in Western Interior, and them guys,  
11 they spend a lot of time explaining exactly what their  
12 role is, the personal and the Council role. And  
13 several times in the past I've asked for, you know, how  
14 do we approach OSM to fund a multi-RAC training session  
15 that's a minimum of three days, because it's not going  
16 to be done in one day or half a day. And so that where  
17 would -- or how would we go about, I mean, presenting a  
18 proposal so that we can have a multi-RAC training  
19 session, because I know there's a lot of question that  
20 would come up from EIRAC and the WIRAC and the people  
21 in the north and the people south of here.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pippa, go ahead. Or  
26 Robert. Which one of you decides to do that.

27  
28 MS. KENNER: Well, this is Pippa Kenner  
29 with OSM. I was going to direct people to Page 255 in  
30 their Council book.

31  
32 Robert, would you like to explain what  
33 that is?

34  
35 MR. LARSON: Thank you. A little later  
36 in our agenda we have an item where I'll discuss the  
37 all-Council meeting that is planned for March. And in  
38 that we talk about training opportunities and that's --  
39 we'll have some time, and I think you'll be very  
40 pleased with what we have planned for March in  
41 Anchorage. We'll just postpone that?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We will need to get --  
44 I'll have to call for a point of order on this, because  
45 we are considering projects for Council recommendation  
46 at this time. That discussion with Council training  
47 can come later as Robert said. It will be coming down  
48 on the agenda later on.

49  
50 Any further comments on the projects

1 for Council recommendation. Mr. Roczicka.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5

6 As he said, this is a new process. And  
7 actually I'm really not comfortable making a  
8 recommendation from the RAC, because I don't know what  
9 other projects you had. I see two projects here that  
10 are recommended as number 1 and 2 from ITFC as I look  
11 back, and I see that there's only those two projects  
12 that are referenced here. And I'm talking about the  
13 multi-region one.

14

15 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair.  
16 Thank you, Greg. That was the only two -- all the  
17 projects you see listed were all the projects received,  
18 unless they weren't eligible. We had one project  
19 submitted that was not eligible. So all the projects  
20 submitted are what you see. Those are the only two  
21 multi-regional projects.

22

23 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. And, in fact,  
24 that holds true for the ones that are listed in the  
25 Kuskokwim/Yukon as well?

26

27 MR. COGSWELL: Yep. Those are all the  
28 projects. Again, we had one project that was for  
29 restoration, and it wasn't eligible so it wasn't  
30 analyzed or evaluated.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. Thank you.

33

34 MR. COGSWELL: But all other 44 were  
35 for the rest of the State and all the other regions.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the Council's  
38 recommendations for the projects. Any recommendations  
39 from the Council.

40

41 Pippa.

42

43 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa  
44 Kenner with OSM very briefly.

45

46 The item is listed in the book as an  
47 action item, but we are really just seeking comments  
48 that we can take down, summarize and take through the  
49 process with us to the Board.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thanks for the  
4 explanation.

5

6 Go ahead, Greg.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 I'll speak to those multi-regional  
11 ones. Both of them after a read through of the actual  
12 investigation plan that you have, they look like pretty  
13 good projects to me.

14

15 I do have to make note that as far as  
16 the one regarding the in-depth survey over the course  
17 of three to four years on the context of sharing and  
18 maybe coming up with some kind of a matrix between the  
19 two regions, is the survey fatigue that is associated  
20 with that and has been expressed as a concern from my  
21 Council specifically. We're being surveyed to death,  
22 and people just get tired of it. I just did one this  
23 spring, and you're back here again this summer, and how  
24 you're back here doing the post-season survey. And  
25 granted they're all there to address different facets  
26 of TEK or SST or whatever else you might have  
27 incorporated there, but it does get tiresome for folks.  
28 That's the only reservation I have on it, and I just  
29 wanted to express that one now on the record. And I  
30 have mentioned it to both, the principal and co-  
31 investigators are well aware of that.

32

33 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair.

34 Thank you, Greg.

35

36 Those are the type -- thank you for  
37 that comment, and that comment will carry through to  
38 the Board so they will be aware of your comment.

39

40 Those are the type of comments, the  
41 feedback we want, that, you know, the Board -- your  
42 direct comments, suggestions, and recommendations will  
43 go directly to the Board, so thank you for that  
44 comment.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments,  
47 concern, or recommendations for projects. Mr.

48 Aloysius.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. You know, in

1 the past it was very clear about what projects they  
2 prioritized, and they asked us for our input on each  
3 and every one of those projects, that we reviewed them,  
4 and we support or not support. But this, I don't see  
5 anything in front of me, just a bunch of rankings that  
6 they did, and they never asked us for our input on it.  
7 So that's where, you know -- I don't know what I'm  
8 going to support, because I didn't hear what the  
9 projects are. So that's where I'm at.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.

12

13 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

16

17 MR. COGSWELL: Thanks, Robert. That's  
18 a good question, and that's a question that's come up  
19 at the other RACs, it's a different process. I've not  
20 -- I mean, for instance, if you want to turn to Page  
21 166.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: That's 1-6-6 or 1-5-6?

24

25 MR. COGSWELL: 1-6-6. So that list of  
26 the ranked projects for the Kuskokwim, we've laid it  
27 out, you know, and I think it's a very nice layout. So  
28 for that number 1 ranked project, if you look on Page  
29 166, you have a project summary. That states what the  
30 project is. Okay. What the project wants to do. And  
31 then underneath that you have just a short paragraph  
32 from the Technical Review Committee, the TRC  
33 justification, talking about that. It's not their  
34 whole evaluation; it's just their summary, their  
35 justification. So each project has that. It's right  
36 there.

37

38 I can go through each one of these  
39 projects if you would like. There's six on the  
40 Kuskokwim, nine on the Yukon. It's all right here. So  
41 whatever -- you know, I'm here to do whatever you guys  
42 want me to do, so whatever the Council would like. But  
43 all the projects are laid out here. We tried to make  
44 it a concise and short so it's just a snapshot. You  
45 can look at the project, know what the project is, and  
46 then kind of why the Technical Review Committee ranked  
47 it the way they did. So it's all laid out right after  
48 -- on Page 165 you have the rankings, and then  
49 immediately after you have just a short little summary,  
50 project summary and justification.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: The reason I guess I was  
4 considering it, I never got this book until yesterday  
5 and I didn't have a chance to go through it all.  
6  
7 Thank you.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other  
10 comments considering the monitoring program, projects.  
11 Mr. Peters.  
12  
13 MR. PETERS: I had a question, like on  
14 these projects on the Yukon, it's kind of similar, and  
15 I just wanted on the board of projects, because it  
16 would help out the people and be very beneficial to  
17 where we come from. And that my priorities -- you  
18 know, going over then and stuff like that, I think it  
19 would be really good for these projects in my area,  
20 because it's beneficial to the younger generation  
21 that's coming up, and, you know, see which one which we  
22 really need and work it out.  
23  
24 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments for  
27 Stewart.  
28  
29 (No comments)  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, we'll  
32 continue. Did you have a comment, Pippa?  
33  
34 MS. KENNER: (Shakes head negative)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then we'll go  
37 ahead and continue on with our agenda. We're going  
38 down to item C, annual report issues. Annual report  
39 issues, who's got that? Fiscal 2015 annual report  
40 issues. Is that you, Robert.  
41  
42 MR. LARSON: Let me speak to that.  
43 Turn to the right page here.  
44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is  
46 Robert Larson. I'm your coordinator.  
47  
48 If you look on Page 233 you will see  
49 some information regarding the authorities for making  
50 annual reports and some suggestions on how to make

1 those annual reports affective. It has some directions  
2 regarding format of the annual report.

3

4 On Page 235 you'll see not the annual  
5 report itself, but the Board's report back to the  
6 Council regarding their -- it's the Board's response to  
7 the 2014 annual report. So it's call the annual report  
8 reply.

9

10 At this meeting, the Councils provide  
11 the coordinator with topics for a 2015 annual report.  
12 So I'm prepared to capture your concerns that you'd  
13 like to bring forward to the Board, and draft a report,  
14 and you would have this report for final approval at  
15 your March meeting.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: One thing that Robert  
18 didn't mention is that annual reports allow the Board  
19 to become aware of issues outside the regulatory  
20 process that affect subsistence users in our region.

21

22 Are there any concerns on regulatory  
23 process that affect users in our region on any -- prior  
24 to this we had beaver dam, and we had the concerns of  
25 moose count, muskox on Nelson Island, communication  
26 with communities over regulations, and there's a  
27 response for each one of those from Mr. Towarak on this  
28 annual report.

29

30 Any subjects that the Council would  
31 like to report to the Office of Subsistence Management  
32 and/or the Subsistence Board. Council members. Mr.  
33 Oney.

34

35 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
36 have one. It's concerning the dipnets. As you know,  
37 people on both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim at the  
38 beginning of the salmon season were allowed to use  
39 dipnets for subsistence harvesting. And a lot of  
40 people are having a hard time with that, trying to meet  
41 their needs. I'd like to address this as a concern to  
42 OSM. People are not meeting their needs using the  
43 dipnets, and it is causing hardships for many of the  
44 subsistence users. And when we use dipnets, it goes  
45 well into -- it drags on well into the late season.  
46 And, you know, we've always advocated at the beginning  
47 of the salmon when they come in, we want to target  
48 those, because, you know, that's the best time that we  
49 could dry the fish when the season is the dry season.  
50 And I would like to recommend that we submit this

1 concern to OSM that we do away with dipnetting for  
2 subsistence use on both the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.

7 Mr. Aloysius.

8

9 MR. ALOYSIUS: One of the things about  
10 dipnets, it's just another tool that people can use to  
11 harvest fish. You're not required to use a dipnet.  
12 That's been said over and over and over for the last  
13 three years. That's just another tool a fisher person  
14 can use. They're not required to only use a dipnet.  
15 It's another tool that's available.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

20 Aloysius. Mr. Peters.

21

22 MR. PETERS: I mean, I'm from the Yukon  
23 up at Marshall, and on this, on dipnets, I think in  
24 some areas, you know, the water was so high that it  
25 didn't work, and that's why I would like to go back to  
26 -- you know, for the record, if they could go back to  
27 setnets.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Is anyone  
32 here from the management, someone? Could you come up  
33 and I've got one question for you. Is it mandatory on  
34 the Yukon to use dipnets for subsistence

35

36 MR. MASCHMANN: Well, it's not  
37 mandatory to use dipnets. If you don't want to use the  
38 net, you don't have to use it, but we did have dipnet  
39 only openings, so at that time of the season, that was  
40 the only gear available. So either you didn't fish, or  
41 you used dipnets.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And that was in  
44 subsistence also?

45

46 MR. MASCHMANN: That was subsistence,  
47 yes. And there was some commercial openings with  
48 dipnets also.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other

1 comments concerning the annual report issues for the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board to consider. Mr. Brown.

3

4 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

5

6 INTERPRETER: From where I am, the  
7 dipnet.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute. He's  
10 going to be speaking in Yup'ik, so if anybody needs to  
11 understand what he's saying, there's translators back  
12 there at the desk of the translators.

13

14 Go ahead.

15

16 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, sir. Gerald  
17 with Fish and Wildlife.

18

19 I just want to clarify that four-inch  
20 mesh or less for subsistence was also allowed 24/7. So  
21 people could fish with four-inch mesh gillnet gear, or  
22 less, 24/7 in addition to the dipnets.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you tell me why,  
25 what was the rationale behind allowing just dipnet only  
26 for -- was that for conservation purposes?

27

28 MR. MASCHMANN: That was to conserve  
29 king salmon. So anyone -- any Chinook caught in a  
30 dipnet had to be released alive. Additionally, it  
31 allowed for fishing on abundant summer chum will they  
32 overlapped with the Chinook run. So from the manager's  
33 perspective we were attempting to provide some  
34 opportunity so fishermen could harvest summer chum  
35 while avoiding harvesting Chinook.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr.  
38 Aloysius.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Wait a  
41 minute. Can you clarify what you mean by four-inch  
42 mesh 24/7? You didn't say from what date to what date  
43 and what river.

44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, sir. I'm Gerald  
46 Maschmann with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the  
47 assistant Federal manager on the Yukon River.

48

49 And on the Yukon River subsistence  
50 fishing was allowed 24 hours a day seven days a week

1 using four-inch mesh gillnet gear or small mesh gillnet  
2 gear, three and a half or three if that's what people  
3 had, for subsistence. So they could catch whitefish or  
4 pike or anything else.

5  
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: May through August or  
7 what dates?

8  
9 MR. MASCHMANN: All season. It was  
10 open all season, 24 hours a day, seven days a week from  
11 ice out to freeze up. And the reason that we allowed  
12 it on the Yukon like that is because people were pretty  
13 compliant with avoiding Chinook salmon. They used the  
14 nets for what they were intended to be used for, non-  
15 salmon species for the most part.

16  
17 MR. ALSTROM: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Whoever is on  
20 the teleconference.

21  
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Billy Alstrom.

23  
24 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
25 Bill Alstrom. It varies in the.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead, Bill.  
28 Go ahead, Bill.

29  
30 MR. ALSTROM: On the dipnet, you know,  
31 the purpose of dipnetting was for Yukon chum was  
32 intended for commercial purposes, because we could not  
33 harvest the Chinook salmon. These regulations were  
34 introduced two, three years ago to use dipnetting to  
35 avoid targeting king salmon. And for subsistence  
36 purposes, Gerald mentioned the four-inch gear to target  
37 other species of salmon and incidentally caught chums.  
38 But as you know, we're in the conservation means on the  
39 Yukon. We've been like that for a number of years, and  
40 all its rivers and kind of we evolved around commercial  
41 fishing on the Lower Yukon. So that's the main purpose  
42 of dipnets was harvest chum salmon which run  
43 concurrently with the kings especially on the first  
44 runs of the Chinook, and avoiding, releasing king  
45 salmon which were aught with dipnets.

46  
47 But if I understood, I think you can  
48 also -- during these commercial openings for chum  
49 salmon, you can also keep some for subsistence  
50 preferences. But also during when the kings are

1 petering out there usually towards the end of June, the  
2 Department did give us a chance to go out with fishnets  
3 towards the end of June and early part of July to  
4 target our subsistence needs, and that's mostly chum  
5 and it did give us a chance to keep any Chinooks that  
6 we caught during that opening.

7

8                   And dipnets are really -- they can  
9 catch fish as you can see during the commercial  
10 openings, we see a number of our fisherman on the Lower  
11 Yukon delivering fish out there in our 12-hour  
12 openings. So they are only substantial in the -- are  
13 producing chum salmon for commercial and subsistence  
14 uses.

15

16                   Thank you.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bill, for  
19 your comments.

20

21                   But this annual report issues, Council  
22 members, is there any other concerns that you have.  
23 Mr. Andrew.

24

25                   MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
26 My name is John Andrew from Kwethluk.

27

28                   From where I came from, in the areas of  
29 Kwethluk, Akiak, Akiachak, and Tuluksak Rivers,  
30 especially on the Kwethluk, the last nine years we were  
31 not allowed to use any type of salmon gear or whitefish  
32 gear from mid May to August 25. And during the salmon  
33 season in June we were allowed only two openings in  
34 June, and at that time, with the first opening like,  
35 remember, yesterday James Nicori from our village  
36 testified that on the first opening, four villages had  
37 a one-mile stretch, or a little over a mile stretch of  
38 fishing area where they competed for the first opening.  
39 And the majority of them people that went out fishing  
40 did not catch enough to support their families, or some  
41 households did not meet their subsistence needs. And  
42 dipnets don't work right in where I came from.

43

44                   The other one -- those were the two  
45 issues, major issues we had this summer. Not enough  
46 openings, some people did not get to meet their  
47 subsistence needs on salmon.

48

49                   The other one we have is every year we  
50 have more and more nuisance bear raiding our fish

1 camps. And especially this summer, please harvesting  
2 very little salmon and they got caught out in the rainy  
3 season. They had a very poor drying season for them,  
4 too.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there  
9 anything else that you would like to see in your annual  
10 report.

11  
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. You  
13 forgot Charlie.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
16 didn't realize that you had your hand up. Go ahead,  
17 Mr. Brown.

18  
19 MR. BROWN: Quyana. Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 (In Yup'ik)

22  
23 INTERPRETER: I wanted to address the  
24 dipnetting issue here, because I wanted to say here,  
25 down in my village, because we live down at the mouth  
26 of the Kuskokwim, the current is seven to nine knots an  
27 hour. And if you throw in the wind, with the current  
28 there, it's pretty treacherous out there to be using  
29 the dipnets, and it's not feasible for us to be using  
30 our dipnets in our area, because there are freighters  
31 coming in and out of the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.

32  
33 One time the freighters asked for  
34 assistance to be navigating into the waters up int the  
35 Kuskokwim River, and when I looked at the sound boards  
36 that they have for measuring the depth of the  
37 Kuskokwim, and it was 72 to 90 fathoms deep in that  
38 area. And so it is not feasible for our area to be  
39 dipnetting because of the sheer depth of the waters  
40 there, so we don't support the dipnetting there.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

43  
44 Any other -- Mr. Roczicka.

45  
46 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 And since we're just identifying issues here, and not  
48 trying to come up with the exact language, but we  
49 actually did have one that is a major concern, and how  
50

1 do we approach getting some accountability for Fish and  
2 Wildlife to manage to assure that there's something out  
3 there to catch, and doing what they can for ANS. And  
4 it came up under that new policy and proposed rule  
5 that's being developed for all the refuges, and putting  
6 words out there saying like this is not going to affect  
7 subsistence, this doesn't -- not to preclude any of  
8 these continued uses. But how do we get that in front  
9 of the Board that these policies which are developed  
10 for folks, for lack of a better word or label, have a  
11 moral superiority problem that they feel it should be  
12 put to unilaterally across the nation when the  
13 biological integrity of our populations are not  
14 jeopardized by those management activities. And it's  
15 more of a perceptual/conceptual/personal thing.

16

17                   And perhaps if the Service or Interior  
18 -- well, the Service specifically, because these things  
19 as we understand are in place for wilderness areas and  
20 for the Park Service, pretty straight forward, but as  
21 far as Fish and Wildlife, it has its priority use,  
22 providing for continued subsistence. And we are being  
23 placed in a secondary status by the imposition of these  
24 policies, that, as I mentioned yesterday on the same  
25 subject, were developed from primarily urban standards  
26 in the Lower 48. And folks that have very strong  
27 voices and access to top level administration that we  
28 do not.

29

30                   So how do we get that addressed in a  
31 positive manner that these policies perhaps should be  
32 adapted or modified when it comes to that priority use  
33 for subsistence, human use. Not an existential use,  
34 the actual use of food on the table. Those policies  
35 need to be adapted to recognize Title VIII of ANILCA  
36 which is law, not a policy. So how do we get that  
37 incorporated into our management report as a concern?  
38 It's been ongoing for a long time, and we've gone at it  
39 a couple of different directions, but I guess since  
40 this thing got laid at the table.

41

42                   And I'll go back to where it's a  
43 policy, where it really has affected subsistence, and  
44 that's what happened on Unimak, that you had a very  
45 clear, straight forward situation, and because of that  
46 policy, and I believe you had a wilderness area  
47 associated with that, too, trying to impose it, but it  
48 was basically the Service said, well, people are just  
49 going to have to find something else to eat. Is that  
50 the policy of management to protect subsistence, or

1 provide for amounts necessary, or the continued  
2 subsistence use, find something else to eat, when  
3 there's a very biologically sound management principle  
4 in place that by admission or frustrated words of  
5 management both from professionals in the field, both  
6 State and Federal that these are good, acceptable  
7 practices that do work. And the sound management  
8 principle that's being applied is a sound bite from  
9 folks that really don't, other than this broad, general  
10 thing that it belongs to the whole nation, really don't  
11 have a dog in the fight as far as food on the table.

12

13 I'll get off that soapbox, but I'd like  
14 to explore getting that into our annual report somehow  
15 in a productive manner.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. That reminds  
20 me of something that I grew up with. Nothing like  
21 these people who don't know how to live out here are  
22 the ones who are dictating to us how we're supposed to  
23 live. They live on the East Coast, the central United  
24 States, and hardly anybody in the Western regions.  
25 They determine how we are going to eat, what we're  
26 going to eat, and when we're going to eat it. And it's  
27 wrong. And I hear that over and over and over. What  
28 do these people know? They don't know. They do not  
29 know, K-N-O-W. They don't know. And that comes from in  
30 here, not from here. They theorize that -- you know,  
31 they think that people up here are just the same as the  
32 people down there. They have millions of people where  
33 we have only thousands. We do not depend on Fred  
34 Meyer's or Carr's or Safeway, and our people always  
35 said that our Fred Meyer's, our Safeway, is out there.  
36 And yet somebody else is telling us how we can use that  
37 to feed ourselves. And that basically it is putting  
38 food on the table, and it's to sustain our way of life.  
39 It has nothing to do with subsistence. It is to  
40 sustain way of life. And it gets frustrating more and  
41 more every year, because somebody on the East Coast,  
42 close to Washington, has the influence about how we are  
43 supposed to live, and how we're supposed to eat, and  
44 how we maintain ourselves, and how do we maintain our  
45 identify as Yupiak people in this reason. And it gets  
46 really frustrating. And our hands are tied about how  
47 we're going to do that. We don't live on the East  
48 Coast. We live out here in remote Bush Alaska. And we  
49 sure as hell are not from rural Alaska, we are remote  
50 Bush Alaska. That's something that people don't

1 understand. Our land is our food table. It's our  
2 garden. It's our ranch. It's our farm. And too many  
3 times somebody else comes up here and abuses that land.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.

8

9 Any other concerns for the annual  
10 report issues. Mr. Roczicka.

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. And Bob triggered  
13 another thought along those lines in my mind, is that  
14 how do we incorporate into this, or get the Service to  
15 bring the message back from the (indiscernible -  
16 interference from teleconference) that this is the  
17 priority use, and explain to folks who have no common  
18 base of perception, and not to say East Coast or urban  
19 necessarily, but what Bob was saying, they've had their  
20 food delivered to them their whole life. Their whole  
21 life. To most folks in that realm look at substance,  
22 that way of life as being a recreational, idyllic, Walt  
23 Disney type of thing where -- literally. They're good  
24 people, but they just have no common base of  
25 perception. How do we turn that message around and let  
26 them understand that is your priority management  
27 purpose under ANILCA in the State of Alaska. I mean,  
28 folks think that we can go out there -- so many people  
29 bring this up: Well, gee, you can go catch a moose any  
30 time you want. You've got all the fish in the world  
31 there any time you want. You just go out and get it.  
32 Boy, that must be just such a great place to life.  
33 They think we're Bandit (ph) World or something, you  
34 know. Turn that message around, send it back, that  
35 those policies need to be modified and incorporate the  
36 management responsibility that was put in place to  
37 protect that way of life that was a direct offshoot of  
38 what may be called a treaty with the Native people of  
39 Alaska under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.  
40 It was to fulfill those requirements. That's right up  
41 there on Title VIII, to fulfill the obligations that  
42 are unaddressed in the passage of the Alaska Native  
43 Claims Settlement Act. And that's why there's  
44 movements that have to come from all different  
45 directions (indiscernible - conversations on  
46 teleconferences) to come back and revisit that. People  
47 sure want to get rid of that clause that as I  
48 understand was put in at the 11th hour actually without  
49 the agreement of the people involved. And you may go  
50 under the Congressional record of Title VIII of ANILCA

1 (indiscernible - conversations on teleconference) and  
2 find.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Whoever is speaking  
5 out on the teleconference, could you please -- we're  
6 having a discussion here.

7

8 MR. CRAWFORD: Yesterday the operator  
9 was able to reconnect folks here. I'll just see if she  
10 can do that again today. Over.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is that all  
13 about?

14

15 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. Thank you.

16

17 MR. ROCZICKA: That's Billy Alstrom's  
18 talking to the teleconference operator is sounds like.

19

20 Anyway, you can find other quotes under  
21 the legislative record, along with Mr. Udall's that  
22 also specifically recognize that there are ways to  
23 manipulate habit, populations, that recognized  
24 different human uses. There's others there as well,  
25 not selective ones that support that certain  
26 philosophies, assertions under this proposed rule. But  
27 that is a major issue. It's not part of the regulatory  
28 system, it's imposition of policies that don't  
29 recognize what Title VIII of ANILCA was created for.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a reminder -- go  
32 ahead.

33

34 REPORTER: For those on the  
35 teleconference, we are hearing you loud and clear. If  
36 you are not addressing the Council at this time, could  
37 you please mute your phones. And if you do not have a  
38 mute button, it is star-6. Then when you are  
39 addressing the Council, you can take it off mute by  
40 again hitting star-6. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And thank you for  
43 that.

44

45 Just a reminder to the Council, since  
46 we're on the subject of the annual report, the report  
47 format is, while there's no particular format is  
48 necessary for the annual report, the report must  
49 clearly state the following for each item the Council  
50 wants the Board to address. Number 1, numbering the

1 issues 1, 2, 3. Item 2, a description of each issue.  
2 Three, whether the Council seeks Board action on the  
3 matter, and, if so, what Council action recommends --  
4 what Council recommends. And, four, as much evidence  
5 or explanation as necessary to support the Council's  
6 request or statements relating to the item of interest.  
7 That is the format of the annual report.

8

9 Are there any more issues for the  
10 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board. Mr.  
11 Brown.

12

13 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

14

15 INTERPRETER: I forgot to mention that  
16 at the mouth of the river we cannot set our nets by the  
17 mouth of the Kuskokwim River, but this is the -- they  
18 cannot set nets at the mouth of the river, and that's  
19 just something for the committee and the public to  
20 know.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other  
23 issues for the annual report. Concerns. Council  
24 members.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
29 nothing else, we'll continue on to our item E,  
30 Kuskokwim Partnership project, and we'll have a break  
31 after that.

32

33 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Bob.

36

37 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I will take an  
38 opportunity here during the next few minutes probably  
39 before lunch, and we'll have a draft annual report  
40 topics for the Council's review here prior to  
41 adjournment. And at that point, if there's suggestions  
42 about what the Council would like the Board to do, or  
43 to amend and make it clearer exactly what the Council's  
44 intentions are with these three topics, that would be  
45 the time to discuss them and make them actually the  
46 will of the Council and provide us with sufficient  
47 information for us to move forward with drafting the  
48 final annual report for your review at the spring.

49

50 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, could I

1 request that we step down for about five minutes before  
2 we go onto the next issue.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's that?

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: I'd like to step down  
7 for five minutes before we go onto the next one, if  
8 you.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Take a break.  
11 Yeah, we'll have a break for a five-minute break,  
12 or.....

13

14 MR. ROCZICKA: He wants 10 minutes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ten minutes then.  
17 We'll take a 10-minute break.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back  
24 to order. We are down to our agenda item number D,  
25 Kuskokwim River partnership projects. Stewart  
26 Cogswell, and the young lady will introduce herself.

27

28 MS. CLARK: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
29 the Council. My name is.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May we have attention,  
32 please, Council. Pay attention to what we're doing.  
33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. CLARK: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
36 the Council. My name is Karen Clark. I'm the Deputy  
37 Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
38 Service, Alaska Region. Thank you for having me here.

39

40 We're here to talk a little bit about  
41 the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project. You might  
42 know the history of this. We started about a year ago  
43 when Deputy Secretary Mike Connor announced at AFN the  
44 intention for the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter  
45 into a demonstration project with the Kuskokwim River  
46 area on the fisheries management.

47

48 The intent is to do as much as we can  
49 administratively to allow subsistence users a mechanism  
50 for meaningful input into the decision-making process.

1                   Since that time we've been working  
2 together with a large group of people, to include the  
3 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission with Mike Williams, Kevin  
4 Bartley, Greg Roczicka has been involved, Sky Starkey,  
5 and Myron Naneng have also been involved. Nick  
6 Kameroff as well. So we have gotten ourselves to a  
7 point where we are ready to talk about what options we  
8 have on the table.

9  
10                   And I appreciate everyone's support  
11 along the way. This has been really for the Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service a new way of moving forward and trying  
13 to address issues in a cooperative collaborative way  
14 without just deciding that this is how we're doing it  
15 and throwing it out there. So we appreciate your  
16 support and your comments on this.

17  
18                   And Stewart is going to go through a  
19 brief presentation on what we're doing, and then we're  
20 here to entertain questions and comments as we move  
21 forward. So thanks for having me.

22  
23                   MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, members of  
24 the Council. My name is Stewart Cogswell. I'm the  
25 Fisheries Division chief for the Office of Subsistence  
26 Management, and I'm going to run through a history and  
27 a brief summary of the Kuskokwim River Partnership.

28  
29                   Before I do that, I always like to  
30 thank people, and Karen thanked a lot of the folks, the  
31 tribal folks and folks out here that have been working  
32 on it, but I want to just thank and recognize the folks  
33 from the Fish and Wildlife Service, and that's Holly  
34 Gaboreau and Trevor Fox have been doing a lot of the  
35 work to synthesize a lot of this, and look at different  
36 options. And I also want to thank Karen Clark and  
37 Geoff Haskett. They've been providing leadership.  
38 Karen prods us along and gets us going, and we thank  
39 her for that in their roles. And there's been numerous  
40 other Refuge Staff, law enforcement staff that  
41 participate to help bring this project forward. So I  
42 just want to thank the combined effort of everyone from  
43 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

44  
45                   So I have a slideshow, and I'm going to  
46 go to the first slide. So the objectives that kind of  
47 we were under to start this: To provide a meaningful  
48 role with salmon fisheries management for rural  
49 residents of the Kuskokwim River. That was our first  
50 objective. The second objective is we wanted State

1 participation. And the third objective was to provide  
2 advice directly to the in-season manager. So those  
3 were the objections to kind of meet the requirement  
4 that -- or the announcement from Deputy Secretary  
5 Connor.

6  
7 In the smaller print there, these are  
8 the other options considered, but not carried forward.  
9 The team that was looking at this looked at a FACA  
10 advisory committee, .805 advisory committee, tribal  
11 consultation and a governmental committee, the rest of  
12 the list there. We looked at all these options, and  
13 some of those options would work to a certain extent,  
14 some of them there were some issues with. But we  
15 looked all those. We worked with the lawyers, the  
16 solicitors, to try to find an option that could be  
17 implemented administratively, and that was the key to  
18 what Deputy Secretary Connor said.

19  
20 So we are looking at -- the number 1 up  
21 there, the FACA advisory committee, was one that we  
22 were kind of leaning towards, because that was our  
23 administrative option. But we wanted to -- we were  
24 sitting there talking at one point, and we're like,  
25 this would be another group, a new group, a Federal  
26 FACA advisory committee, and we just thought, is that  
27 going to be -- you know, how is that going to be on the  
28 ground to meet those objectives.

29  
30 And we kind of started to think about,  
31 you know, what happened this year, and we wanted to --  
32 you know, it wasn't perfect, but it was kind of new  
33 with the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission on board. And  
34 for the most part there was a lot of positive things  
35 with the fish commission. So we wanted to kind of  
36 build on that. And so we came up with a two-part  
37 structure to meet this partnership project.

38  
39 And so one part is a RAC subcommittee  
40 between the two RAC, the Western Interior and the Yukon  
41 Delta RACs. Create a subcommittee to deal with  
42 fisheries issues.

43  
44 And the other one was to kind of  
45 solidify and to firm up that working relationship the  
46 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission had with the in-season  
47 managers through a memorandum of understanding.

48  
49 And this is a picture, I like pictures,  
50 so I -- to explain this. So the partnership project,

1 the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project is made up of  
2 two parts. The Western Interior and the Yukon-  
3 Kuskokwim RAC subcommittee, or fishery subcommittee,  
4 and the MOU with the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and  
5 the Fish and Wildlife Service. We need both to -- both  
6 of those together equal the partnership project. Each  
7 on its own does not, but the Kuskokwim River  
8 Partnership Project is going to be two parts to kind of  
9 build on what we already have. We already have the RAC  
10 system in place, and the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
11 in place. So this is what the proponents who have been  
12 working on this have come up with, this two-part system  
13 to build on the success of last year.

14  
15                   And you have to remember, this is a  
16 demonstration project. This is to try something. You  
17 know, what we try this year, we can modify it for next  
18 year. We can work on things that don't work, and find  
19 things that we can adjust to make it work better and  
20 meet the needs of folks. So it's a demonstration  
21 project, so just keep that in mind as we go through  
22 that, that this is -- we want it to work for everyone,  
23 so we'll take suggestions after we go through this  
24 process and see what works well, what doesn't work, and  
25 how we can refine it further.

26  
27                   So how we envision that two-part  
28 structure working, I want to -- I just want to  
29 specifically talk about each part of that.

30  
31                   So the joint fisheries subcommittee,  
32 this committee that would be charged through the RACs,  
33 there's four points up there on the top of the slide.  
34 They'd provide a drainage-wide perspective. You would  
35 be able to look through the whole drainage.

36  
37                   Strategies and recommendations to the  
38 RACs. So the -- anything that the fisheries  
39 subcommittee comes up with, they move it through the  
40 RACs to consider.

41  
42                   The RACs do retain deference. They  
43 have deference with their decisions.

44  
45                   And how we expect it to work, this last  
46 point, is off-season input during the regular RAC  
47 meeting cycles.

48  
49                   So, for example, let's say the run  
50 forecast comes in similar -- for next year, comes in

1 similar to this year. That subcommittee could discuss  
2 that and put a recommendation forward through the RACs  
3 to the in-season manager, or to the managers.

4  
5 Just a second. All right. So the RACs  
6 can take the suggestions from the subcommittee and make  
7 suggestions with deference. So, for instance, if the  
8 run is similar to last year, and, you know, an  
9 allocation would be -- that we had this last year would  
10 be the same -- would be an option, the RACs could  
11 forward that with deference. So that's one way they  
12 can be involved in -- you know, during the normal RAC  
13 cycle they can be involved in in-season input. And  
14 there's other options they'd be able to talk about,  
15 too, to provide input.

16  
17 So that's how we expect that  
18 subcommittee to work, to bring forward in-season  
19 questions through the RACs.

20  
21 Yes, Bob.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Bob.

24  
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Can you go  
26 back one slide, the WI-RAC and WE-RAC. Do you have  
27 people on this subcommittee already?

28  
29 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. No.  
30 This is what we're -- I'm going to go through the  
31 charge in a second.

32  
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Oh, okay. All right.

34  
35 MR. COGSWELL: So we'll go through that  
36 in a second to show you an example. We've created a  
37 template that you guys.....

38  
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: The reason I'm confused  
40 is because I never heard of anybody being selected from  
41 here or from the WI-RAC to -- I mean the WE-RAC. Thank  
42 you.

43  
44 MR. COGSWELL: Thank you, Bob.

45  
46 I'll move on to the MOU, the memorandum  
47 of understanding with the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal  
48 Fish Commission. This MOU will provide a mechanism for  
49 consultations throughout the year. They can talk with  
50 the RACs, Regional Advisory Council. And during in-

1 season, what happened this year is they were able to  
2 provide -- they appointed three commissioners to talk  
3 to the in-season manager for day-to-day consultation.  
4 They worked with him on a day-to-day basis sometimes,  
5 and at a minimum it was weekly during the season. And  
6 it's basically going to mirror the process used in this  
7 past season. So the MOU is just going to kind of  
8 solidify the arrangement that we had this year to work  
9 with the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. So that is the  
10 second part.

11  
12                   And these are kind of the next steps  
13 towards implementation. We want to present this  
14 structure to the Regional Advisory Councils. We are --  
15 and that's something that they're going to have to work  
16 through and make it their own document.

17  
18                   We need to finalize the MOU with the  
19 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which we're getting  
20 closer to finalizing that.

21  
22                   We have told the State about this  
23 process. We've talked to them about the two-part  
24 structure. We are getting -- we want them involved in  
25 the process. We haven't brought them in, and we want  
26 -- in fully yet. We want to get to a point where we  
27 have some documents that we can go forward with. So  
28 then we want the State to review these documents and  
29 see how their participation could be most beneficial.

30  
31                   So we need to identify what -- how much  
32 funding is needed and a source. Right now there is no  
33 money allocated for this demonstration project.

34  
35                   And we do want to -- the last bullet  
36 there is expand tribal consultation. We want to make  
37 sure we are consulting with all tribes throughout the  
38 area.

39  
40                   So that is the two-part process.

41  
42                   In your packets, I think in  
43 supplemental, in the back, you have a document that  
44 looks like this. It's entitled overview, Kuskokwim  
45 River Partnership Project. So that sort of summarized  
46 Karen and I's comments. And then on the next page you  
47 have -- does everyone have that before I continue? We  
48 should all be on the same page looking at that.

49  
50                   MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: What I believe I've  
4 noticed is that in what we had mailed out to us, it was  
5 included in a supplemental, but I don't believe it's in  
6 the handout that's in the back there. So maybe  
7 everybody doesn't have it.

8

9 MR. COGSWELL: I have a handout here  
10 I'll hand out to everyone.

11

12 MR. LARSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, those  
13 were distributed yesterday afternoon in addition to  
14 being in the Council's copies of the book. They are  
15 not in the copies of the books that are available to  
16 the public, but there are copies available on the back  
17 table.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue, Stewart.

20

21 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. I'm on the page  
22 that says subcommittee charge, Kuskokwim River  
23 fisheries subcommittee. So I'd like to go through  
24 this. Not necessarily line-by-line, unless you want  
25 to, but I'd like to read it just to make sure that you  
26 know what it is.

27

28 And the big thing is this is just the  
29 starting point, you know. The Council will have to  
30 make changes that they deem necessary.

31

32 So the first item there is the  
33 subcommittee's official designation, the title of it.  
34 We've just called it the Kuskokwim River fisheries  
35 subcommittee. The title of it will be the title that  
36 the Council comes up with.

37

38 And the charge is the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
39 Delta and Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional  
40 Advisory Councils hereby jointly create this  
41 subcommittee to provide a meaningful role for  
42 Federally-recognized tribes and rural residents of the  
43 Kuskokwim River area in the management decisions  
44 regarding salmon and other subsistence fisheries in  
45 Federal public waters. And again, some of this  
46 language we can tweak a little bit depending on what  
47 the needs are and the purpose of your comments.

48

49 So the purpose, the subcommittee will  
50 provide a forum for tribal governments and residents of

1 the Kuskokwim River villages and communities with  
2 personal knowledge of local conditions and resource  
3 requirements to have a meaningful role in the  
4 management of subsistence fisheries on Federal public  
5 waters in the Kuskokwim River area as described in 50  
6 CFR.

7  
8                   So the next paragraph says, in jointly  
9 establishing a subcommittee, the Councils recognize  
10 that there is a government-to-government relationship  
11 between Federal agencies and tribal governments.  
12 Tribes are the primary, if not only, government for  
13 many Kuskokwim River area communities, and their  
14 support and involvement is vital for successful  
15 fisheries management. Moreover, the Kuskokwim River  
16 area tribes contribute valuable traditional knowledge  
17 accumulated through countless generations of living in  
18 the watershed and with its resources.

19  
20                   The primary objective of the  
21 subcommittee is to establish a process for the Council  
22 representatives and other subcommittee members to  
23 regularly meet, exchange information, and seek broad  
24 support for fisheries management recommendations. To  
25 this end, the State of Alaska will be provided an  
26 opportunity to meaningfully engage with the  
27 subcommittee. Again, we haven't defined that, but  
28 we're going to offer the opportunity.

29  
30                   Specific responsibilities. The  
31 subcommittee reports directly to the Councils. It will  
32 report directly to the Federal Subsistence Board.

33  
34                   MS. CLARK: Will not.

35  
36                   MR. COGSWELL: Will not report, I'm  
37 sorry. It will not report directly to the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board, any other agency, or any Federal  
39 officer. Its specific responsibility is to provide  
40 recommendations for the management of Kuskokwim River  
41 area fisheries and subsistence uses of fisheries  
42 resources, which include:

43  
44                   Recommendations to the Councils on  
45 initiation, review, and evaluation of proposals for  
46 regulations, policies, management plans, special  
47 actions, in quotations, in-season management, and other  
48 matters or potential impacts relating to subsistence  
49 uses of fish in the Kuskokwim River area, or for  
50 fisheries which have impacts on Kuskokwim River area

1 stocks. The Councils will review the recommendations  
2 of the subcommittee and provide final recommendations  
3 to the Federal Subsistence Board or in-season manager.

4

5 The next bullet point is provide a  
6 forum for the expression of knowledge, opinions, and  
7 recommendations by persons interested in any matter  
8 related to subsistence uses of fish in Federal public  
9 waters within the Kuskokwim river area.

10

11 I'll move on to the next page. The  
12 last bullet point says, encourage tribal, local, and  
13 regional participation in the decision-making process  
14 in matters related to the subsistence uses of fish in  
15 Federal public waters within the Kuskokwim River area.

16

17

18 The next section is a designated  
19 Federal officer, a DFO. That's standard regulatory  
20 language that needs to be included in a charge. So I'm  
21 not going to read that, that's standard in all  
22 subcommittee charges.

23

24 The next section is estimated and  
25 frequency of meetings. The subcommittee will meet a  
26 minimum of two times per year, and at times as  
27 designated by the DFO for the Councils. Again, that  
28 will be up to -- it's in yellow, so it will be up to  
29 the Council to determine how often you'll meet.

30

31 The duration. The subcommittee's  
32 termination date is the same as its parent Councils.

33

34 Support. The Service will provide  
35 administrative support for the activities of the  
36 subcommittee through the Office of Subsistence  
37 Management, OSM. The OSM will assist with subcommittee  
38 formation and operation. The OSM will assist with the  
39 review of management recommendations, identifying  
40 issues and concerns, and develop options to address  
41 potential concerns.

42

43 There's also a technical committee that  
44 is being recommended for this subcommittee, and the  
45 role is to provide a collective review and assessment  
46 of all available data, the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge  
47 manager, or designee, will attend the subcommittee  
48 meetings and work with OSM to provide information and  
49 technical advice to the subcommittee. The Alaska  
50 Department of Fish and Game Kuskokwim area manager, or

1 designee, and an expert in traditional knowledge, and  
2 an expert in fisheries management from the Inter-Tribal  
3 Fish Commission will also be encouraged to join this  
4 team of technical advisory and attend the subcommittee  
5 meetings.

6  
7                   So in yellow, highlighted in yellow,  
8 the Council, you guys will determine exactly who you  
9 want and how you want them to interact.

10  
11                   Membership. The subcommittee is  
12 composed of members who are knowledgeable and  
13 experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses and  
14 management of fish, and who are residents of villages  
15 along the Kuskokwim River watershed. Highlighted in  
16 yellow there, the number and composition of members  
17 will be up to the Council to decide.

18  
19                   Here's what's initially suggested:  
20 There will be four individuals. The Councils will each  
21 provide two Council members to serve on the  
22 subcommittee.

23  
24                   The Inter-Tribal Fish Commission will  
25 nominate three members to serve on the subcommittee.  
26 And for geographic diversity and population  
27 considerations, it is the goal to seat one commissioner  
28 who resides in the Upper Kuskokwim River, one in the  
29 Middle Kuskokwim River, and one in the Lower Kuskokwim  
30 River.

31  
32                   And the last suggestion is the  
33 Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group will nominate two  
34 members to be appointed to the subcommittee.

35  
36                   Moving on, the members will be  
37 appointed for three years. A vacancy on the  
38 subcommittee will be filled in the same manner in which  
39 the original appointment was made. Members serve at  
40 the discretion of the DFO and Councils. There is no  
41 term limit.

42  
43                   Subcommittee members will elect a  
44 chair, a vice chair, and a secretary for a one-year  
45 term each.

46  
47                   Six of the members must be present in  
48 order to form a quorum. Members shall strive for  
49 consensus for all recommendations forwarded to the  
50 Councils. Failing consensus, the members may vote. An

1 affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members present  
2 shall be required for the adoption of a recommendation.

3  
4                   Members of the subcommittee will serve  
5 without compensation. However, while away from their  
6 homes or regular places of business, subcommittee  
7 members engaged in subcommittee business, approved by  
8 the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per  
9 diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as  
10 persons employed intermittently in Government service  
11 under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States  
12 Code. When possible, teleconferences will be used to  
13 minimize expenditures.

14  
15                   There's a recordkeeping paragraph  
16 there, and I believe that is standard language for all  
17 subcommittees.

18  
19                   So that is the charge that we have  
20 developed, and there are some sections that the Council  
21 is able to make their own if they want to. So anyway I  
22 think at this time we'll open up the floor for  
23 discussion or questions.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any discussion or  
26 questions from the Council concerning the partnership.  
27 Are there any comments, questions, Council. Mr. Bill.

28  
29                   MR. BILL: Sir, I would like to find --  
30 this is the first time in my life I ever seen Federal  
31 public waters. Any time in Alaska, in any river that  
32 I've been through, when we're fishing, there's no  
33 public water. When you're fishing, there's Fish and  
34 Game. If you do something wrong, they'll come pick you  
35 up in the water. I've never heard any Federal public  
36 waters. The only public waters I've seen is the mud  
37 puddles. Everything else is all related.

38  
39                   And the second thing.

40  
41                   (In Yup'ik)

42  
43                   INTERPRETER: I'm going to be speaking  
44 in Yup'ik here.

45                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute. He's  
46 going to be speaking.....

47  
48                   MR. BILL: I'm going to be speaking  
49 Yup'ik, so you'll have to put your ear on.

50

1 (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: A lot of times when I do  
4 -- a lot of people come here and they ask us about  
5 their opinions, and they bring in documents to us  
6 regarding what our way of life is, how it produced.  
7 And they say that it is a good thing if we follow the  
8 propositions that they follow. But we ourselves have  
9 our codes and regulations and stuff that we need to  
10 follow. And every time that we need to follow. And  
11 every time that we bring our customary practices and  
12 everything else like that, when we tell them, they tell  
13 us that our more frequent folk ways are not written  
14 down. And so they come in here and they bring us  
15 documents and say that these are the documents that is  
16 going to regulate your behavior out in the -- wildlife  
17 or whatnot.

18

19 But right now, regarding the dipnets,  
20 that a lot of the people do not the dipnetting fishing,  
21 but when they come here, they tell us that dipnetting  
22 is good for us, and even though ourselves, it is not  
23 good for us. And when we try tell them our way of life  
24 and the way that we do things, they will not follow it,  
25 because if they don't want to, they will not follow  
26 what we recommend.

27

28 And we are told that we need to try to  
29 gather as much food that we can for the wintertime,  
30 because when the weather's bad or when there's climate  
31 change and stuff like that, that if we didn't catch  
32 during the summertime and we have a bad winter, then  
33 the food that we gather during the wintertime is going  
34 to tide us over through the wintertime. And also they  
35 were always keep telling us not to over-catch anything  
36 like that. And when we have put away enough food or  
37 dried enough fish, they tell us to quit harvesting  
38 these things.

39

40 And as a hunter, when I go out there  
41 and I hunt and gather, the wife that prepares the food  
42 for my family, those are the ones that regulate us.  
43 They tell us that we cannot go out hunt any more,  
44 because we have enough food in the storage. And they  
45 tell us that when we have enough food for ourselves, we  
46 always give to others that are more in need of us.

47

48 MR. BILL: For instance, in my Island,  
49 musk ox hunt

50

1 (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: When we catch musk ox in  
4 our area, we just don't harvest the head and the hide  
5 and leave the food. But when we catch, we harvest all  
6 of the musk ox. And when the big sports hunters come  
7 here, they take the musk ox hide and the head, and they  
8 leave everything else behind. That's not the way that  
9 we do things, that's not our way of gathering, because  
10 when we go out and hunt, the only thing that we throw  
11 away is what we cannot eat, and we use all the food and  
12 we use the hide, and we use everything else like that.  
13 We turn that into clothing. And we don't hunt food and  
14 game to hang on the wall. We don't harvest fur to put  
15 on the floor and use it as a rug. We use it for food  
16 and clothing, and that's our way of life, and we are  
17 told that if you see something that you can shoot,  
18 don't shoot it if you're not going to eat it or use it,  
19 because you already have enough.

20

21 And right now you see a lot of wanton  
22 waste. And if I through one fish away and one of the  
23 -- we are told that if we throw one fish into the river  
24 without harvesting it, we are told that the spirits or  
25 whoever takes care of the fish sees that as a  
26 disrespectful act for us. But for the western  
27 civilization to come here and pitch food out into the  
28 wild, it doesn't phase them at all, and that's not our  
29 way of life.

30

31 MR. BILL: Especially in the Bush area  
32 where I come from. Where all we came from. We have no  
33 24 hours office like you guys do.

34

35 INTERPRETER: And so it really does  
36 pick us that.....

37

38 MR. BILL: We live off the land. We're  
39 providers to the family. Provider's life is hunting in  
40 good weather or in bad weather. That is why most of  
41 our relatives has never come back from the waters.  
42 Most of them. Trying to put food on the table. That  
43 is why some of our relatives never come back in the  
44 wintertime, trying to put on the table. They risk  
45 their lives to save our young people, next generation.

46

47 (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: Right now we live in the  
50 present. Tomorrow we will not be here, we live in the

1 present. But the generation that are coming up will  
2 take the torch, and they will run with it. But  
3 tomorrow is -- and I really do not like hearing this,  
4 that a young person, when it says that when you guys  
5 were young, did not your forefathers prepare you for  
6 these climate changes and everything else like that.  
7 Where are you guys -- why are you guys in an uproar? I  
8 do not want to hear that from the younger generation.  
9

10 MR. BILL: When I was growing up, I'm  
11 an orphan. My father died when I was nine years old.  
12 I never saw my mother because she died on my birth.  
13 Also, down at.....  
14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to have to  
16 -- Mr. Bill. Mr. Bill. I have to interrupt you.  
17 We're on our agenda item, we're on the agenda, and our  
18 agenda states on the Kuskokwim River Partnership  
19 Project.  
20

21 MR. BILL: Oh, sorry. Sorry.  
22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you keep your  
24 comments to that subject.  
25

26 MR. BILL: Yeah.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else with any  
29 comments concerning the Kuskokwim River Partnership  
30 Project. Council. Mr. Roczicka.  
31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33  
34

35 This has been a very difficult work in  
36 progress, having to come to a way to get people to the  
37 table in a meaningful way. One of the biggest  
38 struggles that we have to deal with, and kind of  
39 references part of what Mr. Bill was just talking  
40 about, but the big struggle that we have, especially on  
41 the Kuskokwim. We do have Federal waters now with the  
42 dual management, and we have State waters where  
43 differing rules and regulations apply where people have  
44 a subsistence priority on paper, but no ability to get  
45 to it.  
46

47 And the intent of the commission is  
48 very clear, that we do not want to see State/Federal --  
49 State management, we do not want to see Federal  
50 management. And given what we have to deal with today

1 that our people's ancestors did not have to deal with,  
2 and the gear that we have now that was never there 50  
3 years before, and what people -- how do we -- when we  
4 have these smaller runs that are in place, and we have  
5 2,000 boats in 150 miles of river with 50-fathom nets  
6 that can pretty much cover everything, and, yeah, you  
7 can take some, but if you go out there and get them  
8 all, we have severe consequences for the children and  
9 the next generation.

10

11 And the tribes have to be considered  
12 and brought into this process, and on a long-term basis  
13 to get into a true co-management structure. And that  
14 as everybody's recognized is the intent and the desire  
15 for this commission. And this is one step in the  
16 process.

17

18 We're still working out the language on  
19 the MOU, or the memorandum of understanding, which he  
20 spoke of. It's not finalized yet. It will not be  
21 finalized until such time as it goes back and the  
22 members of the commission, the member villages, the  
23 member tribes, there's 33 of them identified right now  
24 at present, will have to ratify whatever comes forward  
25 from the commission. That's a given.

26

27 It's breaking new ground. It's heading  
28 a new direction. If we're going to get there from  
29 here, this is kind of one of the necessary steps in the  
30 process. By putting it under this subcommittee rather  
31 than directly to the RAC, it also takes it out from  
32 under the direct thumb of Fish and Wildlife Service on  
33 this subcommittee's membership, or what they come  
34 forward with. They bring it forward to the RAC, but it  
35 brings in a role that's never been there before, and a  
36 recognition. And throughout the document, we continue  
37 to try to make sure that that is not diminished in any  
38 way.

39

40 There are -- this right here again, to  
41 move forward, this RAC does need to adopt some document  
42 to give it the formal recognition. The Western  
43 Interior is going to have to do the same thing at their  
44 meeting on the first part of November.

45

46 It is our committee. It is not the  
47 Fish and Wildlife's committee. We can change anything  
48 we want at any time. We could disband it if we want  
49 to. It is a subcommittee that Fish and Wildlife does  
50 not have any, quote/unquote, control over at all.

1 I just wanted to make note of that on  
2 the record that what we have here is a first step  
3 putting it forward. The memorandum of understanding is  
4 still under negotiation for final languages. We're  
5 getting close, but we've still got work to do on that.  
6 It's getting down to where people are hitting on the  
7 major words of concern. So I would expect this to  
8 actually be coming back to us again in February for a  
9 more finalized version. This still a draft, but it  
10 puts it in place. And I would actually recommend that  
11 in the charge that you have put forward, that that does  
12 have that recognition in there, that this is pursuant  
13 to and in accordance with that memorandum of  
14 understanding that's currently being developed between  
15 the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Service or the  
16 Department of Interior, whichever. At present it is  
17 the Service.

18  
19 And a couple tweaks, I don't want to  
20 wordsmith too much, but just a couple tweaks, and I can  
21 give this to you later, but like in that first  
22 paragraph with the charge, it's never been any secret  
23 through the discussions that I've attended that this  
24 should not be just limited to only subsistence  
25 fisheries. This is the tribes wanting to be at a table  
26 for fisheries management decisions.

27  
28 And so in that sentence under that  
29 first one, maybe just change on the last line in the  
30 first paragraph under the charge it would say, the  
31 recognized tribes -- provide that meaningful role for  
32 Federally-recognized tribes and rural resident of the  
33 Kuskokwim River area in decisions regarding fisheries  
34 management in Federal public waters, and not have the  
35 limitation to only subsistence fisheries, which is  
36 actually recognized later in some of the specific  
37 responsibilities, but I believe that would be  
38 appropriate to have in there.

39  
40 Under the purpose, the subcommittee is  
41 not just to provide a forum. It is to make  
42 recommendations for actual management decisions, to  
43 have that meaningful role. So I'd just strike the  
44 words on that first line there that says the  
45 subcommittee will provide tribal governments and  
46 residents of the Kuskokwim River villages and  
47 communities with that role. Take out the a forum for.  
48 It's not just a forum.

49  
50 And maybe following that then down

1 under the last paragraph of that purpose again reflect  
2 that. This is not to just have recommendations and a  
3 forum. This is direct collaborative work in the  
4 management decision. You'd add in there -- it says, a  
5 primary objective of the subcommittee to establish a  
6 process for Council representatives and other  
7 subcommittee members to regularly meet, exchange  
8 information, and then add in there, develop and seek  
9 broad support for fishery management decisions, not  
10 recommendations.

11  
12                   And then on the following, on those  
13 specific responsibilities, your third bullet that's on  
14 the second page, this is not to encourage tribal,  
15 local, and regional participation, this is to  
16 incorporate it. Change the word encourage to  
17 incorporate.

18  
19                   And before get off of this, Mr.  
20 Chairman, I'll stop there for now, if that generates  
21 further discussion. But before we're done with this,  
22 too, we do have the Chair of the Inter-Tribal Fish  
23 Commission here, and I'd appreciate if other people  
24 would be interest, too, I'd like to offer him an  
25 opportunity to give some comments on this.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Williams. I've  
28 know you for so long, I forgot your name. Just the  
29 Chairman, please. Go ahead, Mike.

30  
31                   MR. WILLIAMS: Turn on mic. Mic's  
32 turned one. Good morning everyone. I really  
33 appreciate this time in the report for the Kuskokwim  
34 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and  
35 Wildlife efforts with this partnership project.

36  
37                   I really appreciate the Department of  
38 the Interior, the Secretary, Deputy Secretary Mike  
39 Connor, for his directive to get a Kuskokwim  
40 demonstration project.

41  
42                   And we've been working very hard after  
43 his announcement, and we're pretty fortunate to have 33  
44 tribal governments signed into the commission with a  
45 resolution authorizing us to have that organizations.

46  
47                   And I'd like to recognize Kevin Bartley  
48 who has been charged by AVCP to work with us. And also  
49 James Nicori is on the executive council. And Greg  
50 Roczicka has been working very hard all summer long to

1 establish this fish commission.

2

3                   On April 2 we went to Tanana and we  
4 formed the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,  
5 and I was one of the witnesses for that great meeting  
6 in Tanana.

7

8                   And we had a meeting here on May 5th,  
9 one year after my great friend, Billy Frank, passed  
10 away from Northwest Indian Fish Commission, who was  
11 very supportive of establishment of our fish  
12 commission. And before he died, he committed the  
13 Northwest Indian Fish Commission that anything we need  
14 from them, he offered that, as well as the Columbia  
15 River and Great Lakes. You know, we've had  
16 interactions with those folks that established their  
17 fish commissions.

18

19                   But with this partnership project, like  
20 Greg said, you know, we are in the process of moving  
21 forward with negotiations on a weekly basis, and we are  
22 going to be coming up with the MOU soon. And it's a  
23 work in progress. And it's going to be brought before  
24 the commission to move forward.

25

26                   And with the subcommittee charge, you  
27 know, I just wanted to say that at times, you know,  
28 going through word-for-word, and each word is very  
29 important. One word is very powerful.

30

31                   And I've been taking a look at the word  
32 subsistence. I think, you know, as much as we can --  
33 and the Northwest Indian Fish Commission and other  
34 commissions, they don't use the word subsistence. It's  
35 a word that I think we need to reword, because we  
36 depend on the fish and wildlife to survive, and that  
37 word subsistence kind of is -- the definition, I looked  
38 it up, and it's not the word that I think we need to  
39 use.

40

41                   And I agree with the word forum. I  
42 think we have the government-to-government  
43 consultation, and collaborative way of doing things.  
44 And I think with all of the issues regarding giving  
45 recommendations and advice, I think, you know, we've  
46 been giving advice and recommendations, and input for  
47 many, many years. And I just feel that with this  
48 demonstration project, I know that we have limitations,  
49 but if we're going to go any further beyond the  
50 administrative structure with the ANILCA, then we have

1 to go through and we have to introduce legislation or  
2 other means to make those changes so we will have  
3 meaningful, collaborative, cooperative management of  
4 our fish and wildlife as charged in ANILCA. But this  
5 is a very important work.

6

7 And again this past spring we  
8 identified three in-season managers. That was James  
9 Charles from Tuntatuliak, Greg Roczicka from Bethel,  
10 and Nick Kameroff from Aniak for upriver villages. So  
11 we charged them to continuously meet with the in-season  
12 manager, which was Neil Lalonde, the Refuge manager.  
13 And I was in the meeting every week all summer long.

14

15 And when we negotiated, you know, the  
16 amount of Chinook, and it's a big issue, and we looked  
17 at the numbers of 3,000, and we took a look at, you  
18 know, how can we go higher and have an earlier opening.  
19 But it was a hard process that we went through, and  
20 through negotiation and through conversations like  
21 this, we were on the table, and we were able to meet  
22 somewhere in the middle, and that was 7,000, because of  
23 the conservation issue that we were facing on the  
24 Kuskokwim River. But we agreed to open on June 10th  
25 before the rainy season.

26

27 And I just applaud the in-season  
28 managers to agree to move forward. And we engage the  
29 tribal governments to keep the counts. But the permit  
30 system is not the way we want, but it was necessary to  
31 go through that at this time, because of not meeting  
32 the conservation needs of the king salmon on the river.

33

34 But I would like to also thank the  
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game for being on the  
36 table in our weekly meetings. And they attended, the  
37 area biologist was there every week, and it was a  
38 process where, you know, we had two-hour meetings,  
39 three-hour meetings. And it was cut down to, you know  
40 -- we did not need to have longer meetings. But I  
41 think that process, for the very first time we were  
42 able to keep our commissioners involved in the process.

43

44 And we had two incidents where it  
45 almost -- you know, because of the conservation  
46 measures, and most restrictive time that we ever had in  
47 the Kuskokwim River on the Chinook, we almost had two  
48 civil disobedience happening. And we were able to work  
49 through that in talking to the two villages, because  
50 like David Bill said, you know, we are trained to get

1 as much as we can of our resources for the survival in  
2 the winter. But we were able to limit that and within  
3 the number 7,000. And we all agreed.

4  
5                   And it went on for the summer and it  
6 was a hard summer, but it was one of the most  
7 successful one for us, because for the very first time  
8 the Chinook escapement were all met in all the  
9 tributaries. And it was due to the people being  
10 involved and making those sacrifices it happened.

11  
12                   But hopefully in the future we won't  
13 see any more of the permit system, and to limit the  
14 catches any more in the future. Because of what we are  
15 doing today, I think it will make a big difference.

16  
17                   But again I look forward for  
18 formalizing the relationship with Fish and Wildlife  
19 Service, and I look forward in formalizing the  
20 relationship with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
21 Game for the best interest of our subsistence resources  
22 and our people. And our people need to remain healthy.

23  
24                   And I wanted to give James Nicori, if  
25 he wants to make a few comments, and also Kevin Bartley  
26 who has been working with us every step of the way all  
27 summer.

28  
29                   And again, you know, I just wanted to  
30 quote just one thing from Billy Frank. And he said,  
31 relationships take time. Good relationships don't just  
32 happen. We have to work together to build and maintain  
33 strong foundation of trust and commitment to keep a  
34 relationship healthy and strong. And these are his  
35 statements.

36  
37                   And I'm honored to have been elected  
38 Chairman, interim Chairman, for the commission, and I  
39 look forward in establishing this relationship that we  
40 can have both with the Federal managers and the State  
41 managers in a government-to-government basis. You  
42 know, we cannot agree on everything, and it becomes  
43 kind of disappointing, but we can't always agree on  
44 things. But little small steps we make, these little  
45 small steps like we had this past summer, those are  
46 winnings, earnings that I cherish and build on those.

47  
48                   And I just wanted to -- James Nicori,  
49 do you want to make a few comments? And Kevin.  
50

1 Thank you so much.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, before  
4 James, could I ask a question of Mike.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mike, did your Kuskokwim  
9 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission review this document  
10 that we're deliberating right now? And if so, what was  
11 their conclusion on the review.

12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: It is an ongoing  
14 negotiation for the MOU and we're negotiating on a  
15 weekly basis on the MOU. And with the subcommittee  
16 charge, we've been focusing on that as well. So both  
17 the MOU and the subcommittee charge we've been involved  
18 with during the negotiations. Ongoing review.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All right. Mr.  
21 Aloysius. James, are you done. Okay.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Quyana.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And if we could keep  
26 our -- we're going to have to put some time limit on  
27 this.

28

29 MR. NICORI: Okay. I won't take long.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So keep your  
32 statements to about 15 minutes, we'd appreciate it.  
33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. NICORI: Okay. Less than 15.  
36 First of all, I'd like to thank the Fish and Wildlife  
37 and Fish and Game to work with us with whatever we were  
38 on all summer.

39

40 And our work for the people had been  
41 done on our own, supplying our own gas and  
42 transportation to make sure that this demonstration  
43 project is negotiated in good terms, along with the  
44 Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Fish and Game,  
45 mostly with Fish and Wildlife.

46

47 Since this couple years, this  
48 allocation for permit system have gone, the  
49 negotiations between the partnership, we had increased  
50 the amount that we could take on this demonstration

1 project with permit system. And we had to -- in our  
2 village we had to talk to our elders to make sure that  
3 they understand that this allocation of our permit  
4 system was on behalf of each village, mostly to our  
5 elders that wanted to get the first taste of the  
6 salmons that were coming in. And on behalf of the  
7 elders from our village that understood and thank how  
8 the people that work on this project to make sure that  
9 they had the first taste of the Kuskokwim salmons that  
10 were coming in.

11  
12 This ongoing project that we are having  
13 is to understand our traditional life and use of our  
14 salmon take that we use for subsistence, for our use,  
15 for our traditional use. And like I said, on behalf of  
16 the elders from our village would like to thank for us  
17 to permit and take what the elders would like to taste  
18 when the first salmons came in. And we did that so to  
19 -- and we took our first salmons that were coming in,  
20 and allocating the household, we had more to the elders  
21 and the widows that couldn't afford to go out and get  
22 their salmon.

23  
24 And we would appreciate and like to  
25 thank again the Department of Fish and Wildlife to work  
26 along with us to get this ironed out for both sides, of  
27 the users and the management to agree on good terms, to  
28 avoid any disagreements or violations that would be  
29 ongoing, to make sure that everything is working good.

30  
31 As we all know, the salmon is a primary  
32 food source for the winter. And the river, as you all  
33 know, is our supermarket. That's what we live on.  
34 That's what we have been living on for thousands of  
35 years. And we had by ourselves, before anybody came in  
36 to manage, we managed our own. Our workers, our  
37 helpers, our fish cutters tell us it's time to quit, we  
38 have enough for the winter. That's how we had managed  
39 our salmon, and we'd like to keep that practice going.  
40 And traditionally that is our life, and we'd like to  
41 keep that going in harmony with our Creator that  
42 provides everything for us.

43  
44 I'd like to thank you for giving me  
45 time to say what I have to say, and I hope and I pray  
46 that this project goes on well without any interference  
47 with anybody, of giving hardship to anybody, or giving  
48 hard time to anybody. Thank you very much.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And,

1 Kevin, you have the rest of his 15 minutes. You have  
2 five minutes.

3

4 MR. BARTLEY: Mr. Chairman. Kevin  
5 Bartley, and I'm with the AVCP. I've been supporting  
6 the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission for these last many  
7 months. I'll try to keep it brief here. I know  
8 everybody wants to go to lunch.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And we have one more  
11 person to speak after you.

12

13 MR. BARTLEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chairman.

15

16 I'll just say this. You know, when I  
17 was conducting the research that many of you are all  
18 aware of in 2012, after pouring through -- interviewing  
19 21 people, pouring through over a thousand pages of  
20 transcripts, and trying to understand what was the  
21 greatest challenge to our ability to work together, and  
22 this is the very simple conclusion that I came to: The  
23 greatest challenge is linked to a lack of understanding  
24 between those involved regarding each others cultures,  
25 world views, and their approaches to management or care  
26 of their world. It wasn't about ill intent. It was  
27 simply a lack of understanding.

28

29 And what I have observed through the  
30 process of this fish commission, and this is where I'm  
31 going to keep to the thank yous, dialogue,  
32 communication, consultation, negotiation, frequent  
33 meetings is changing all of that. The fact that we  
34 know Karen Clark, the deputy director, Ray Burn, we're  
35 working with these guys on a weekly basis. Robert  
36 Sundown. Stewart Cogswell. Trevor Fox. Geoff  
37 Haskett. And many, many others. Sky Starkey. Greg  
38 Roczicka. The list goes on. Mike Williams. James  
39 Nicori. James Charles. I'm not going to be able to  
40 list them all. But we are literally meeting on a week-  
41 to-week basis.

42

43 I am so very happy, because what I came  
44 to learn at the end of the season was this: Productive  
45 negotiations are linked to how well stakeholders know  
46 and understand each other. I really believe that. We  
47 are where we are today on this document, and it's not  
48 perfect, but it continues to get better every week, and  
49 we continue to work on it. And we are getting there  
50 because of that dialogue. Because relationships

1 matter, and we are investing in those relationships.  
2 And I'm happy, for one, and maybe others share this  
3 thought. You know, we are viewing our Fish and  
4 Wildlife, they are our partners. I own that for one.  
5 You know, they are our partners and they have worked  
6 very hard. And I am very happy that this continues to  
7 go forward, and I'll just keep it to that.

8

9 And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for  
10 allowing me time to speak.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Kevin.

13

14 Are there any other comments on the  
15 partnership project. Keep it to the partnership  
16 project, please, Mr. Brown.

17

18 MR. BROWN: Yeah.

19

20 (In Yup'ik)

21

22 INTERPRETER: When I was a young man,  
23 there was a fish and game person. The fish and game  
24 person was the elder, and the elder used to tell me to  
25 respect the salmon that were swimming in the water, and  
26 all of us were in, and were told constantly to not  
27 over-fish any of that, because if we over-fish, we will  
28 not be able to take of that. But we respected the end  
29 of my actions, because if I go out there and catch all  
30 the fish and bring it to my caretakers, the caretakers  
31 are the one that did all the work there, but because of  
32 the constant teaching of my fish and game, when my  
33 limit got -- when I filled up my quota, then I would  
34 stop fishing even though I wanted to go out fishing  
35 every single day, but my elders would tell me that all  
36 the drying season was the parameters that we fished  
37 under, because we needed to dry the fish before it  
38 started raining, and so those were the ones that we  
39 followed. And they would tell us that we cannot over-  
40 fish, because next year we will do the same thing. And  
41 it was the constant reminder of the future that we did  
42 not over-fish or over-use any of them. And we were  
43 told not to be throwing them any way, but respect to  
44 them.

45

46 And thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

49

50

1 Any further comments on the Kuskokwim  
2 partnership project. Mr. Ulak.

3  
4 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. Listening to  
5 Mike Williams, I think -- and on this Kuskokwim River  
6 Partnership Project, has the charter been started.

7  
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Anthony. On May  
9 5th we approved the constitution of the Kuskokwim River  
10 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and that constitution was  
11 passed by the 29 villages that were in attendance, the  
12 tribal governments here in Bethel. And those four  
13 villages, you know, are working on it. And we're going  
14 to be working to ratify that. But we're having more  
15 requests from other villages, like Toksook Bay or  
16 others, Mekoryuk, that are inquiring about joining the  
17 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

18  
19 But, yes, we have a constitution in  
20 place.

21  
22 MR. ULAK: Okay. Yeah, Mr. Chairman,  
23 because to me forming another committee like this is --  
24 I don't know, but, you know, to put these folks in this  
25 format, you know, since they've already started, I  
26 think that would be really nice, because they're  
27 already going, you know. Their tribes are recognized.  
28 That's my thought.

29  
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I  
31 think, you know, within the administrative rules, like  
32 I said, that this demonstration project is going. And  
33 I think we can work hard to make those lasting changes  
34 in the next few years ahead, and one step at a time.  
35 And who knows where we're going to end up. But, you  
36 know, I feel really good that we're going to have one  
37 unified management system, and that is a goal in the  
38 Kuskokwim River. And in working together, we can  
39 achieve great things. And establishing that, and then  
40 doing fun things like research, and that's where our  
41 social scientists, anthropologists, fisheries  
42 scientists, you know, we're going to have the staff  
43 that we have to enhance everyone in the river, and to  
44 keep our river healthy and our people healthy. That's  
45 a goal.

46  
47 Thanks.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mike.

50

1 Mr. Roczicka, one more comment.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
4 was actually thinking about moving this forward, but I  
5 need to back up here a little bit and get a  
6 clarification or ruling from you or from the Federal  
7 officer over there that's been designated for this  
8 meeting, whether or not I could make a motion to  
9 support moving this forward with the understanding that  
10 it will come back before us at our next meeting, you  
11 know, pending what happens with that memorandum of  
12 understanding, that there may be some changes that  
13 would need to be incorporated. But since I was  
14 appointed by our tribe to be the commissioner for  
15 Bethel, and was also selected to be on the executive  
16 council for seat 5, I don't know if I would have that  
17 conflict of interest, and I need to declare that out.  
18 I have inquired into it, and I'd heard that it probably  
19 wouldn't be considered any different than being on a  
20 State Fish and Game Advisory Committee or something,  
21 but I need a ruling for that on the record before I'd  
22 make a motion.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, what do you  
25 think, Robert.

26

27 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I think it's  
28 entirely appropriate that Mr. Roczicka participate  
29 fully in this discussion. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Unless somebody else wanted to make the motion.  
35 Actually, no.

36

37 I would move that the Y-K Delta  
38 Subsistence Council would adopt this draft -- or to  
39 create a subcommittee and essentially call it the  
40 Kuskokwim River Fisheries Subcommittee, that says it  
41 pretty straight forward. Well, what's contained in  
42 here is it's not limited just to subsistence, and it's  
43 not really limited to salmon. For now this is the  
44 first step. With the understanding that it could come  
45 back before us in February or March when we have our  
46 meeting, it would be an actual appointment to  
47 membership. And the membership that's laid out within  
48 that charge, that's before you was discussed pretty  
49 thoroughly by the commission members, and back and  
50 forth between the Staff here, but again would all

1 intend to get us down the road here to a one management  
2 system where people don't have to be going to three  
3 different meetings. And like I've said so many other  
4 times, that you have to be on all four sides of the  
5 table at once along with the top and bottom and  
6 checking out the door, too, to see what's coming at  
7 you.

8

9                                 So my motion is to support  
10 establishment of a Kuskokwim River Fisheries  
11 Subcommittee.

12

13                                 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion's been made  
14 by Greg to support the partnership project by the RAC.  
15 Do I hear a second to the motion.

16

17                                 MR. ULAK: Second.

18

19                                 MR. ANDREW: Second.

20

21                                 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.

22 Andrew.

23

24                                 Any further discussion. Mr. Aloysius,  
25 go ahead.

26

27                                 MR. ALOYSIUS: Are you calling me?

28

29                                 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you rather  
30 prefer Robert.

31

32                                 MR. ALOYSIUS: You know, I like to have  
33 a simple motion and not have somebody else change it.  
34 He originally started with something, and then you  
35 called it something else, and let's get it straight.  
36 Let's call this what he called it.

37

38                                 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What did you call it?

39

40                                 MR. ALOYSIUS: Otherwise we're going to  
41 fighting about subcommittee or that committee or this  
42 committee. So just let's make it simple.

43

44                                 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I thought that the  
45 request or the motion was for this RAC to support the  
46 partnership project.

47

48                                 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

49

50                                 MR. ROCZICKA: No, my motion -- Mr.

1 Chair. My motion was.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Then I stand  
4 corrected.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes. In order to  
7 support the demonstration project, we need to establish  
8 a subcommittee to be a part of that process. And my  
9 motion is to establish a subcommittee, a Kuskokwim  
10 River Fisheries subcommittee, of the Y-I Delta RAC to  
11 carry on that work.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, you heard the  
14 motion was to form a subcommittee to?

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: A subcommittee to  
17 develop specific fisheries recommendations -- not  
18 recommendations, I'm sorry. To be involved in the  
19 fisheries management decisions with the Kuskokwim River  
20 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You've got that  
23 motion?

24

25 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I do. And I  
26 understand the intent of that motion. It is the  
27 prerogative of the Board to establish subcommittees.  
28 So to be more precise, the motion would be to recommend  
29 the Board establish the subcommittees.....

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: No, no. Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

34

35 MR. ROCZICKA: The Board has no control  
36 over whether this Council appoints any subcommittee it  
37 wants to or not. The Board does not rule us in that  
38 regard. We can establish any subcommittee we choose to  
39 do.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody got an opinion  
42 on this.

43

44 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Let's take  
45 this up after lunch.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, actually before  
48 going to lunch, there's a young lady that's been  
49 waiting here for I don't know how many hours, just  
50 waiting to address the Council, and I wanted to make

1 sure that she was included. But we've got to make sure  
2 that we got this partnership thing over with prior to  
3 the time that I can call this young lady to come up and  
4 address the Council as she wished. And I wanted to  
5 make sure that she was heard prior to us going to  
6 lunch.

7

8 Now I'm at a standstill. I don't know  
9 exactly what to do with this river partnership project  
10 subcommittee.

11

12 MR. LARSON: Let me make a phone call.  
13 I want to be exact.

14

15 MR. ROCZICKA: You can suspend the  
16 rules.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we need to  
19 suspend the rules to hear Mary C. Nanuwak. And could  
20 you state your name and who you're representing.

21

22 MS. NANUWAK: My name is Mary Nanuwak.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Turn on your mic,  
25 please.

26

27 MS. NANUWAK: Thank you. My name is  
28 Mary Catherine Nanuwak. I'm from Chevak, although I  
29 didn't grow up there. And for health purposes, I moved  
30 back to Bethel, and I've been working within the region  
31 quite a number of years. And thank you for allowing me  
32 to speak.

33

34 But subsistence is one of the issues  
35 that I've always been passionate about ever since I was  
36 a youngster. And I attend as many things as I can  
37 wherever I am. If not, then call in.

38

39 But what I constantly notice in  
40 attending these meetings, it very often appears that to  
41 the inhabitants of this region, and the people who are  
42 working in high positions, that have come to Bethel to  
43 work, it always appears that we're not speaking with  
44 the same definition. And that's something that I  
45 consistently notice.

46

47 And I was reading the report where Fish  
48 and Wildlife and Fish and Game can nominate, nominate a  
49 land for scenic purposes, and other purposes. And  
50 right away I almost blurted out, how can one nominate a

1 land? It seems there's always just differences of  
2 definitions. And like I always say, that we work  
3 better and faster when we work from the same  
4 definitions. And the famous, famous, famous acronyms.  
5 When people are using acronyms, don't take it for --  
6 don't accept it as an issue where everybody knows what  
7 those acronyms stand for, because a lot of them get to  
8 be like blurry, blurry, blurry.

9  
10                   And I always think that in order for  
11 the Native peoples to progress is that we talk and  
12 listen, and not only do we just, you know, like pretend  
13 to listen, because when you look around, you really can  
14 tell who is listening, and who is not. Or who wants to  
15 appear like they're listening, when in what I call  
16 reality, they are not. And this is why I can recognize  
17 frustrations of a lot of people, like Bob Aloysius and  
18 Greg.

19  
20                   Before I go any further, I want to say  
21 that the Native peoples, when they speak about  
22 something, you know, like it always awes me, like I  
23 know like tonight I won't be able to sleep because they  
24 so awed me. They're way better scientists than our  
25 counterparts who have gone to the best schools in the  
26 world.

27  
28                   And another difference is that as  
29 Native peoples, and inhabitants of the third world  
30 countries, we don't keep our knowledge to ourselves as  
31 if it's our own. The purpose of knowledge in the first  
32 place is not something to be kept to ourselves. Its  
33 real purpose is that we share it within our families,  
34 within the schools, within the villages, cities,  
35 regions, the state, the national, international. And  
36 if we all work together, progression would visibly be  
37 moving along.

38  
39                   Truly another thing I notice is time.  
40 time. It's everybody's always worried about time.  
41 Well, our Caucasian counterparts, their time is like we  
42 didn't -- even though nothing got done, we have to  
43 stick to this time, whereas again Native peoples of  
44 Alaska and even our Caucasian counterparts who have  
45 understood our values and our so-called traditional  
46 knowledge, which to me a more accurate biology,  
47 physics, and the other sciences.

48  
49                   And then like when we do subsistence  
50 activities, it does not have a sole purpose of just

1 getting food, because when we do subsistence  
2 activities, we include health, education, conservation,  
3 and any environmental protection. That's what we do.  
4 But then again, nowadays I see that so many people have  
5 chosen to go to our Caucasian -- the Caucasian ways,  
6 which is not really a bad thing. However, it would be  
7 better if we all -- like we have our scientific  
8 knowledge, we have our cultural knowledge, respect, and  
9 so does the other side. And I can never, never, never  
10 say this enough, that we meet halfway in between, not  
11 one side trying to have all the knowledge, or the other  
12 side. I mean, like -- I used to be once upon a time I  
13 thought a most patient person, but now when I look  
14 around I said, man, you have the greatest patience. He  
15 has the greatest patience, and a lot of the elders,  
16 they have the greatest patience.

17  
18                   And then some man spoke about teaching  
19 our elders. And I thought, we don't need to teach our  
20 elders. What we need to do is, if they're not able to  
21 be present at meetings like this, that we give them the  
22 information. In other words, when you all go home to  
23 your villages, to your regions, you report to the  
24 community of what went on in the meeting. Okay?

25  
26                   And there was another thing. Oh.  
27 Conservation. Conservation. I've observed again since  
28 I was a youngster to this day, like the Native peoples,  
29 not just in Alaska, but in the country and in the third  
30 world countries, they are way better conservationists  
31 than the Federal Government, the State Government, or  
32 groups who profess to anthropologists, anyone working  
33 in those fields.

34  
35                   So again like this is why I say we have  
36 to like -- we bother to learn the histories of the  
37 other cultures. I don't like -- I felt we didn't have  
38 to, but we took it upon ourselves, not only to learn  
39 the cultures, their difference, and our differences,  
40 our similarities. What I'm trying to get is too many  
41 of us, we put our emphasis on the difference part.  
42 Let's throw away the difference part of us and focus  
43 and concentrate on the similarities. Again, I think  
44 like progress would visibly move on.

45  
46                   And it sometimes saddens me that, like  
47 my grandparents, relatives from all over, when we take  
48 a mapping project for our community, we interviewed a  
49 lot of the elders. Not only that, we were lucky to get  
50 the ANCSA tapes from our region and translated those --

1 or we wrote them out in Chup'ik or Yup'ik, in some  
2 cases even Indian and Russian, and take the translation  
3 in the English part.

4  
5                   But then again I think our project  
6 succeeded because before we started we wrote and  
7 defined what we wanted to do, and how the information  
8 will be used in helping our people, and hopefully like  
9 help the region, the State -- well, let's see, help all  
10 human beings within this planet called the earth, both  
11 past, present and future.

12  
13                   And then like in health care, the best  
14 tools one has to have, it's always prevention, and if  
15 prevention doesn't work, early detection, and it's  
16 earliest time, because then it's easier to take care of  
17 and to clear. So the same thing applies to anything  
18 else, to issues, to ideas in education.

19  
20                   And then when we're into our  
21 subsistence activities, I don't know if I said, its  
22 sole purpose is to get food, okay? Sustenance to keep  
23 our bodies healthy.

24  
25                   And again we know there's like  
26 contamination in the air, in the waters, and the plants  
27 everywhere. And we all know that when contaminations  
28 come from the whole universe, they settle in the north  
29 and in the south, the coldest parts. And the sad thing  
30 is when those contaminants go into these cold parts,  
31 they don't go away, they stay. And so any people  
32 believe that once an oil spill or even the chemicals  
33 within bombs, once those are cleaned, they think the  
34 contaminants go away. No, they really don't go away.  
35 And then we put some more of these oil spills and other  
36 things come. They pile up over and over until like  
37 when you really think about it, you look up to the  
38 highest part of the universe. You can't see it. You  
39 look down, and if you really think about it, you can't  
40 see. And those effects do not leave us. They become  
41 part of our genes, our DNA, our RNA, and those are  
42 passed on down forever for the rest of time. They just  
43 don't.

44  
45                   This is why like -- and when you think  
46 a lot of the things, you know what really that comes  
47 down to? It really comes down to common sense. Common  
48 sense. Common sense. Common sense.

49  
50                   When I'm passionate about something

1 like -- I can like talk for hours and days and weeks.  
2 But I'm taking up your time.

3  
4 But I appreciate you.

5  
6 Quyana.

7  
8 (In Yup'ik)

9  
10 INTERPRETER: Thank you for letting me  
11 speak.

12  
13 MS. NANUWAK: Oh, another thing.  
14 Language is very important. Language is very  
15 important. When we lose our languages, a lot of the  
16 language also gets lost from subsistence, from health  
17 care, from spirituality. So it's most important that  
18 we not lose our languages. If we have lost them, it's  
19 never too late to learn. And honestly, honestly, any  
20 language you can learn on your own.

21  
22 (In Yup'ik)

23  
24 INTERPRETER: Thank you very much for  
25 giving me a chance to speak. Thank you very much.

26  
27 (Applause)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm lost. I'm lost.  
30 I disappeared some way.

31  
32 We were discussing this partnership  
33 project, and there was a motion on the floor. I think  
34 we should have taken care of that.

35  
36 Go ahead, Robert.

37  
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: I think a more simple  
39 motion would be to support the formation of the  
40 Kuskokwim River Fisheries Subcommittee for the  
41 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. That's  
42 the whole.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's that? Will you  
45 withdraw your motion to replace it with that? Go  
46 ahead, Mr. Roczicka.

47  
48 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I  
49 was going to withdraw my previous motion to try to come  
50 up with something similar that we would reference, and

1 that our recommendation is to form a joint subcommittee  
2 with the Western Interior, because that is the purpose  
3 of this, to represent -- this subcommittee would  
4 represent both RACs.

5  
6 I'll withdraw my previous motion just  
7 for discussion if Bob wanted to go ahead and make  
8 another run at another one.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Rob. Would  
11 you like to introduce that motion.

12  
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: To remove any doubt  
14 about what we are trying to do there, I think -- I move  
15 to support the formation of the Kuskokwim River  
16 Fisheries Subcommittee to help form the Kuskokwim River  
17 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Period.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion  
20 on the floor. Do I hear a second to the motion.

21  
22 MR. ULAK: Second.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by whom?

25  
26 MR. ULAK: Right here.

27  
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: And rationale is simple,  
29 that we went through everything here. It includes all  
30 the things that were up in there, and it includes the  
31 two RACs and all the other people that are involved in  
32 the formation of the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish  
33 Commission. And that's as simple as I can make it.  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Just for  
37 clarification, Robert, please state your statement or  
38 motion so that the rest of the Council will understand  
39 it. Once more time, please. Your motion.

40  
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move to support the  
42 formation of the Kuskokwim River Fisheries Subcommittee  
43 to enhance the formation of the Kuskokwim River Inter-  
44 Tribal Fish Commission.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.  
47 It's been seconded. Any further discussion from the  
48 Council. Any further discussion.

49  
50 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. On that

1 motion, are we understanding the Mike Williams  
2 formation?  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, you heard the  
5 motion.  
6  
7 MR. ULAK: Yeah.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you understand what  
10 the motion is.  
11  
12 MR. ULAK: Yeah.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any more  
15 discussion on the motion.  
16  
17 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.  
20  
21 MR. ROCZICKA: Just to clarify on the  
22 intent here, it's not to support the formation of the  
23 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. It's in support of the  
24 efforts and the memorandum of understanding of the  
25 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. I think that's an  
26 important distinction, and if it needs to be  
27 incorporated as a friendly amendment, I would offer  
28 that.  
29  
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: It doesn't need to be  
31 amended.  
32  
33 MR. ROCZICKA: If I could just have  
34 that as fully understood on the record that is the  
35 intent.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You heard the  
38 motion. Any further discussion.  
39  
40 MS. JOHNSON: Question.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.  
43 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
44  
45 IN UNISON: Aye.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.  
48  
49 (No opposing votes)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried. We  
2 will recess until 2:00 o'clock for lunch. And after  
3 lunch we'll go into our agency reports. The first on  
4 the agenda will be special actions, Robert Sundown.  
5 And most of the rest of the afternoon will be on  
6 supplementals.

7  
8 (Off record)

9  
10 (On record)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This will be a  
13 supplemental?

14  
15 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
16 Members of the Council.

17  
18 I believe everything we're going to  
19 cover was going to be in the context of the Refuge  
20 update. How they might have gotten separated, I'm not  
21 positive, as far as agenda items.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Refuge update.

24  
25 MR. SUNDOWN: We don't have any current  
26 special actions in play right now.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. All right.  
29 Thank you, Robert.

30  
31 Next on the agenda is Yukon fisheries  
32 update. Gerald Maschmann. On the Yukon fisheries  
33 update.

34  
35 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Chairman  
36 Wilde. My name is Gerald Maschmann. I am the  
37 assistant Federal manager on the Yukon River. Fred  
38 Bue, who is the Federal manager, couldn't make it  
39 today, so I'll be in his place. But he is on the  
40 teleconference, so if he needs to answer any questions,  
41 he'll be there. And I also believe the State Fish and  
42 Game managers are also on the teleconference, listening  
43 also.

44  
45 I don't know if you -- we emailed our  
46 presentation to Bob, or I don't know if you guys got it  
47 or not, but I do have nine copies. If the Yukon folks  
48 would need copies, I can hand those out.

49  
50 MR. LARSON: I believe it was

1 distributed, one of those things yesterday.

2

3 MR. MASCHMANN: And I will summarize  
4 that. I know we're short on time.

5

6 In addition that season summary that  
7 we're handing out, there's -- Pippa, there's only nine  
8 copies so you'll want to focus on the Yukon folks if  
9 you can.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm a Yukon person.  
12 Or a delta person anyway.

13

14 MR. MASCHMANN: In addition, the State  
15 summer season Chinook and summer chum seasons summary  
16 is on the back table. This is also available on line  
17 on the State Fish and Game website.

18

19 Management of the 2015 summer salmon  
20 season was challenged with the wide disparity in run  
21 strength between the overlapping Chinook and summer  
22 chum salmon mixed stock fisheries. Efforts to conserve  
23 Chinook salmon were initiated at the beginning of the  
24 season in the lower river, and implemented  
25 chronologically in upriver districts as the run  
26 progressed. Due to the anticipated poor Chinook salmon  
27 run, conservation strategies were maintained throughout  
28 most of the summer season in all areas of the drainage.  
29 Essentially, throughout the entire summer season, all  
30 fishing for Chinook salmon was closed in most  
31 districts, and fishing gear restrictions were applied  
32 to direct harvest towards other species. Sportfishing  
33 and personal use fishing were closed and a large amount  
34 of commercial fishing opportunity for summer chum was  
35 foregone.

36

37 These management actions significantly  
38 limited subsistence access to the abundant summer chum  
39 salmon. However, in the Lower and Middle Yukon River  
40 sections, dipnets were allowed for the harvest of  
41 summer chum while releasing Chinook salmon back into  
42 the river unharmed, and manned fishwheels requiring the  
43 live release of Chinook salmon were allowed in District  
44 4. Many lower river fishermen took advantage of these  
45 gear opportunities and were successful in meeting their  
46 summer chum salmon needs.

47

48 These opportunities were not provided  
49 in most of the upper river as few fishermen in the  
50 upper sections harvest summer chum due to low local

1 abundance or poor flesh quality. Upriver fishermen  
2 opted to harvest other species or wait for the fall  
3 chum run when flesh quality is better.

4  
5                   Verbal reports and anecdotal  
6 information indicate many fishermen voluntarily avoided  
7 Chinook salmon in their subsistence fishing activity  
8 for the 2015 season.

9  
10                   As expected, subsistence salmon harvest  
11 information collected in-season indicated that most  
12 fishermen did not meet their Chinook salmon subsistence  
13 harvest goals. Generally fishermen reported a lack of  
14 fishing opportunity, having to fish later into the  
15 season, or having to shift their fishing efforts to  
16 other species. This was expected in light of the  
17 current trend in low Chinook salmon abundance and the  
18 extreme conservative management efforts.

19  
20                   Based on assessment projects,  
21 particularly the Eagle sonar, the 2015 Chinook salmon  
22 run appears to have been closer to average and near the  
23 high end of the pre-season outlook range.

24  
25                   Because of the uncertainty around  
26 productivity in recent years, management approached  
27 this season very cautiously with implementation of  
28 exceptionally conservative management actions that  
29 restricted the Chinook salmon subsistence harvest, and  
30 the somewhat higher than expected return of Chinook  
31 salmon, it is believed that most of the Alaska  
32 escapement objectives were attained, and the  
33 U.S./Canada treaty agreement was met. Likewise, the  
34 summer chum run came in at an average size, and all  
35 escapement goals were met.

36  
37                   Fall season salmon stocks provided  
38 liberal opportunities for subsistence harvest, and a  
39 surplus for commercial harvest. Fall chum salmon are  
40 expected to meet or exceed most escapement objectives,  
41 and coho salmon escapement is expected to be  
42 sufficient.

43  
44                   It is recognized that the sacrifices of  
45 the Yukon River fishing community are heavily relied  
46 upon for assistance in conserving the Chinook salmon  
47 run. To sustain this important resource, fishermen  
48 incurred a significant hardship through reduced harvest  
49 and inefficient gear types.

50

1                   Given the trend in Chinook salmon runs  
2 in recent years, we will continue to work with  
3 fishermen and interested parties to develop  
4 conservative strategies with the primary goal to  
5 provide for escapement needs and subsistence uses  
6 during low years while looking for ways to accommodate  
7 other fishing opportunities.

8  
9                   In addition to that summary, I just  
10 want to remind the Council that the Alaska Board of  
11 Fish will be taking up AYK fish proposals in January in  
12 Fairbanks. And these will probably be discussed in  
13 your local State AC meetings. And of particular note,  
14 they'll probably be talking about the escapement goal  
15 review that's been done recently, and possibly a  
16 drainage-wide escapement goal for summer chum, which  
17 will affect the current management plan, and they'll  
18 probably be discussing the stock status of Chinook  
19 salmon. So be aware of that as you attend your AC  
20 meetings this winter.

21  
22                   I wanted to ask the State if there was  
23 anything they would like to add, if they're on line.

24  
25                   MS. GARCIA: Through the Chair, this is  
26 Sabrina Garcia, summer season assistant area manager on  
27 the Yukon River.

28  
29                   Thank you for that overview, Gerald.

30  
31                   I just wanted to reiterate thanks and  
32 appreciation to the fishermen of the Yukon River.  
33 Meeting escapement goals this year would not have been  
34 possible without the efforts you made to conserve and  
35 protect Chinook salmon. I'm available and happy to  
36 take any questions.

37  
38                   Thank you.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any  
41 questions for either/or, one or the other of the  
42 presenters with ADF&G. Council members.

43  
44                   (No comments)

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: You just have done a  
47 good job.

48  
49                   MR. ONEY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.  
50 Here.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we have one  
2 question. Go ahead, Mr. Oney.

3  
4 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5  
6 I know we're talking about meeting the  
7 escapement goals for Canada, and we've met that by two-  
8 fold. And I'm wondering about the Chinook salmon on  
9 the Alaska side, the drainages, and how are they doing?  
10 Are they healthy enough for us to target those? It  
11 seems like we're just only protecting the runs that  
12 are going into Canada.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, we are meeting  
17 our escapement objectives on the U.S. side. The U.S.  
18 stocks have seemed to perform a little better than the  
19 Canadian stocks, but they're certainly not outstanding.  
20 This year we've hit probably on the upper end of the  
21 escapement goals. And for streams that we did not have  
22 escapement goals, we were average or a little above  
23 average on the Chinook escapement. So I think U.S.  
24 stocks aren't doing great, but they're doing a little  
25 better than Canadian stocks.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Go ahead.

28  
29 MR. ONEY: Just to follow up. Will we  
30 be allowed to target those then?

31  
32 MR. MASCHMANN: Again, in the Lower  
33 Yukon, it's a mixed stock of Canadian and U.S. stocks,  
34 so how do we target U.S. stocks? Well, Canadian stocks  
35 tend to be a little heavier on the front of the season,  
36 and so we tend to look towards the end of the season  
37 when we think most of those Canadian stocks have gone  
38 by, and we might liberalize fishing, you know, later in  
39 the season. So it's definitely a possibility and I  
40 think it's something that as we enter the pre-season in  
41 the spring, that's something maybe to bring up at the  
42 meetings. Yeah.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions  
45 for Gerald.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
50 thank you, Gerald.

1                   MR. MASCHMANN: I do have a question  
2 for the Yukon members of the Council. We heard Stewart  
3 with his presentation, and I just want to say that our  
4 office is open to any kind of research projects or  
5 anything that the Council thinks we ought to be putting  
6 proposals in as far as research or whatever their  
7 interest. So I don't want to put anyone on the spot  
8 not, but as you're thinking about what you might like  
9 to see for research in your area, I'd be happy to hear  
10 about those.

11  
12                   Thanks.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you Gerald.

15  
16                   Next on the agenda, the Kuskokwim  
17 fisheries update. And I think that goes to Robert  
18 Sundown.

19  
20                   MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Chairman.  
21 Members of the Council. If you could refer to the  
22 update sheet. It's two pages, and it's most  
23 identifiable by the green and yellow table on the back.  
24 So I put it in micro-lettering that's really only good  
25 for my eyes and probably size 2 font. 2015 fall RAC  
26 fisheries update. So my apologies for that.

27  
28                   Okay. I'd like to begin and end the  
29 update with an acknowledge that on a typical year  
30 84,000 fish are harvested on the Kuskokwim River for  
31 Chinook salmon specifically on an average year. We  
32 fell far short of that in terms of the total fish that  
33 were estimated to be harvested for the subsistence  
34 user. So you know, there was a great deal of sacrifice  
35 that was made by subsistence fishermen in the 2015  
36 summer fisheries that typically occurs. And we  
37 typically have a 243,000 Chinook salmon return on a 25-  
38 year average. So we certainly missed both benchmarks  
39 by a long shot. So I'll jump right into the update.

40  
41                   The 2015 salmon season began with a  
42 forecasted return by the Alaska Department of Fish and  
43 Game of 96 to 163,000 Chinook salmon. The previous  
44 2014 season made the in-river goal of 65 to 120,000  
45 Chinook salmon, and was estimated to be 118,000. So  
46 this was for the 2014 season. But we missed two of the  
47 three goals established for the Kwethluk and Kugururok,  
48 and only the George River made the in-river -- I mean,  
49 the tributary escapement goal even with the subsistence  
50 restrictions in place, and this is far from the 25-year

1 average of 243,000 Chinook salmon that typically return  
2 to the Kuskokwim River.

3  
4 Our primary objective was to allow for  
5 a limited 15,000 harvest of Chinook salmon at the  
6 earliest opportunity to harvest chum and sockeye while  
7 targeting the upper end of the in-river escapement goal  
8 for Chinook salmon. Other objectives were to reduce  
9 the bycatch of Chinook salmon in the four-inch gillnet  
10 fishery and have a tributary closure to allow the  
11 greatest chance of making escapement for the Kwethluk,  
12 because we've not made escapement for the Kwethluk  
13 since 2009, and we've been chronically under-shooting  
14 that year after year no matter how many restrictions we  
15 seem to have in place.

16  
17 The season started with scheduled 13  
18 meet -- scheduled meetings with 13 villages from the  
19 mouth of the Kuskokwim to Aniak that were primarily  
20 affected by the special actions that were going to take  
21 place. You know, we recognize there's a whole bunch  
22 more villages that are affected upriver of Aniak and  
23 closer to the mouth, specifically Kwig and Kong who  
24 participate in the gillnet fishery at the mouth of the  
25 river.

26  
27 Outreach was done by Refuge Staff and  
28 leadership of Refuge law enforcement. Topics included  
29 those in those visits during the 2014 summary. We gave  
30 a forecasted return for the 2015 season, and finally  
31 various conservation strategies for the 2015 season.  
32 So we had very limited options for direct harvest of  
33 Chinook salmon, so we brought the various options for  
34 in what ways we'd like to share the conservation  
35 strategy with villages.

36  
37 And the two topics that came up  
38 frequently were either a directed allocation of a small  
39 allocation, or an earlier opportunity for the use of  
40 six-inch gear targeting chum and sockeye later in the  
41 season. So we recognized that we had to conserve  
42 Chinook salmon, and not directly target them early in  
43 the season.

44  
45 All right. Other pre-season activities  
46 that you guys area all well aware of, included the  
47 formation of the Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
48 and establishment of the in-season representatives from  
49 the commission to sit in representation and negotiate  
50 the interest of the commission with the in-season

1 manager. So once that happened, there was a  
2 negotiation that included the negotiated harvest of  
3 7,000 Chinook salmon that was accomplished. And this  
4 was to occur during a permit fishery that allowed -- on  
5 June 10th through June 30th of 2015.

6  
7           So going into the season we had issued  
8 a total of 12 special actions that were issued by the  
9 Refuge manager at the Refuge. Beginning on May 21st,  
10 the first special action limited the Chinook fishery to  
11 Federally-qualified users. The subsequent special  
12 action closed the fishery targeting Chinook salmon,  
13 established the four-inch gillnet fishery. And the  
14 last special action was issued on July 1st returning  
15 the active management of the salmon fishery to the  
16 State of Alaska.

17  
18           So during the special actions, a total  
19 of, or an estimated total of 13,327 Chinook salmon was  
20 estimated to be harvested during the openings allowed  
21 by special action. During the specific drift gillnet  
22 openings on June 22, 26, and June 30th. The 4,353  
23 Chinook salmon were estimated to be harvested. The  
24 difference in estimated harvest was in the four-inch  
25 gillnet fishery, the directed community allocation, and  
26 the harvest upriver of Aniak. A total estimate of  
27 27,911 chum and sockeye were estimated to be harvested  
28 during the three special action openings during the  
29 last 10 days of June.

30  
31           And the next page is going to show you  
32 kind of how our thought process matured working with  
33 the Inter-Tribal Fish Commissioners, or the three  
34 leadership members of the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,  
35 and by which we decided to hold those fisheries open.  
36 And it was really based on the ratio of chum and  
37 sockeye to king salmon as chum and sockeye moved  
38 upriver from the lowest part of the river up through  
39 the Refuge boundary at Aniak.

40  
41           A preliminary post-season summary. The  
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has preliminarily  
43 estimated 158,000 Chinook salmon that was returned to  
44 the Kuskokwim River in 2016. All three weir projects  
45 with Chinook salmon escapement goals were made. The  
46 Kwethluk River with a range of 4,100 to 7,500 saw 8,163  
47 Chinook salmon pass, 663 fish over the upper goal. So  
48 this was the first time since 2009 that escapement was  
49 made on the Kwethluk. The Kugururok River with an  
50 escapement range of 4,800 to 8,800 saw 7,640 Chinook

1 return. The George River with an escapement range of  
2 1,800 to 3,300 saw a return of 2,282. And this is  
3 significant, because this is the first time that we've  
4 seen all of our escapement goals made for Chinook made  
5 for 2015. And like I said, you know, none of this  
6 would have happened without the hard sacrifices that  
7 were made by the subsistence fishermen on the Kuskokwim  
8 River.

9

10 And that concludes my summary for the  
11 2015 season. And I'll take any questions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.  
14 Any questions for Robert on the Kuskokwim update. Mr.  
15 Brown.

16

17 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: I wanted to ask regarding  
20 the Helmick Point, those tributaries that do not reach  
21 the mountains there. Are those open? The non-spawning  
22 rivers, are they open like Bitzlik, I think where they  
23 call Innuik (ph), the Bitzlik River does not have any  
24 salmon in it. They only have whitefish and sheefish  
25 inside. And so there's salmon do not go up in the  
26 Bitzlik River. So people always wonder if that's open  
27 for fishing or not, so I'm asking.

28

29 MR. SUNDOWN: (In Yup'ik)

30

31 INTERPRETER: Bitzlik was closed up.

32

33 MR. SUNDOWN: So I'm just explaining  
34 that the river he's specifically referring to was  
35 closed this summer.

36

37 We've got I suppose an internal debate  
38 for future openings on how it is that the RAC and the  
39 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission would like to see  
40 different opportunities. You know, we heard earlier  
41 testimony from members from Kwethluk with their  
42 displeasure that salmon fishing was occurring in the  
43 lower river and non-salmon tributaries. So there's  
44 many interests that actually occur in how it is that  
45 you guys would like to see your salmon fishery occur.

46

47 You know, certain members of the  
48 villages on the Kuskokwim weren't happy with that  
49 effort. Other folks downriver were very happy with  
50 that effort. So I know for a fact that, you know,

1 people from Tuntutuliak and Eek and other places saw  
2 these as good opportunities to meet salmon needs for  
3 the summer.

4

5                   So I guess we're going to have to have  
6 an internal debate on what it is you guys would like to  
7 see for non-salmon tributaries, and how you guys would  
8 like to see that done for the upcoming seasons.

9

10                   You know, this year we could afford it.  
11 You know, we obviously made escapement and then some,  
12 so, you know, it was not an issue for the 2015 year.  
13 But in a year where we're clearly not going to meet  
14 subsistence needs, and clearly we didn't, because there  
15 a huge discrepancy between the typical harvest on a  
16 given year and what was projected to be harvest for  
17 2015. So what an equitable sharing plan would look  
18 like, I guess I'll leave to the multiple groups that  
19 are going to be involved with the fisheries management  
20 for the 2016 season.

21

22                   So it's a good question. How do you  
23 deal with non-salmon tributaries.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Brown.

26

27                   MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

28

29                   INTERPRETER: In one of the working  
30 group meetings that I had, I asked if the non-spawning  
31 tributaries would go up that are in -- they were  
32 defined as the non-channels. And so the State  
33 responded to me that they are open, the non-tributary  
34 -- or the non-spawning rivers are opened, and that's  
35 what the State said, but the Federal said that it was  
36 closed, so we weren't really sure who to go with.

37

38                   MR. SUNDOWN: Yeah. There are really  
39 two allowances, you know. One allowance that allows  
40 you to fish four-inch and smaller gillnets, and another  
41 that allows for a general opportunity for salmon in  
42 non-salmon tributaries. So we had a general four-inch  
43 and smaller allowance throughout the Kuskokwim  
44 drainage, whether it was salmon or non-salmon. But  
45 there was also a greater opportunity for non-salmon  
46 tributaries to use whatever gillnets you wanted. So,  
47 you know, I don't know what to say about the  
48 discrepancies in messaging that was -- we try to give a  
49 consistent message. I know we failed on a couple of  
50 occasions, especially in the vicinity of Eek Island

1 earlier in the summer with different maps and different  
2 messages that were sent out. And we quickly tried to  
3 correct them.

4

5 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: People from Buckland were  
8 wondering about that question. That's why I brought it  
9 up, because the river we use is not a place where the  
10 salmon spawn, and there's other species in the river.  
11 The regulations have been kind of confusing.

12

13 MR. SUNDOWN: I'll be happy to come to  
14 Eek for a specific village meeting on the issue of non-  
15 salmon tributaries, and what the tributaries in the  
16 vicinity of Eek mean. And we will have answers. Good  
17 answer.

18

19 MR. BROWN: Yeah. Quyana.

20

21 (In Yup'ik)

22

23 INTERPRETER: Yeah, that might be  
24 really appreciated if you could come to our village.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions  
27 for Mr. Sundown on the Kuskokwim fisheries update.

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: I'll make one comment.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Maybe just to make a  
34 comment, that, you know, having been part of that  
35 painful privilege of going through what we did in  
36 putting this together, and in the event that some of us  
37 aren't around because of the result of predation on a  
38 sidewalk of Anchorage or something like that, and our  
39 good Lord yanks the strings, we might pass along that  
40 in establishing these goals, was a significant level of  
41 compromise. We're really sorry to see Lalonde go. We  
42 did take an extremely conservative approach, but had we  
43 gone with what we considered a conservative approach  
44 going in there at 10 to 12,000, we still would have  
45 made our escapement, well above, and had pretty good  
46 rationale. But again we're all being careful the first  
47 year, but keep that in your back pocket and pass it  
48 along to whoever that successor might be that's going  
49 to have to get trained all over again if the same  
50 process is followed. And granted the Refuge manager

1 this year also did have unprecedented ability and  
2 latitude to make the decisions that he did that  
3 previous ones possibly could have, but just didn't,  
4 They didn't have a commission to work with and the same  
5 flexibility in place.

6

7 MR. SUNDOWN: Member Roczicka, you're  
8 absolutely right. We could have had 15,000 fish, and  
9 we still would have easily made our escapement  
10 objectives.

11

12 You know, this goes to show you the  
13 limitations of the Bethel test fishery, and what it  
14 suggests for how we should manage the fishery. You  
15 know, the State of Alaska has got a great idea in  
16 resurrecting an in-river Bethel or Kuskokwim sonar  
17 river immediately adjacent to Bethel. So whatever  
18 support that you can give that as a RAC to the Alaska  
19 Department of Fish and Game, I think it would be to  
20 everybody's benefit to be able to see in real time what  
21 our returning fish are on the year-to-year basis. And,  
22 you know, to rely on the Bethel test fish, which gives  
23 us a wide ranging expectation every season, and it  
24 seems like it's a moving target, so I think if we went  
25 to a sonar, we would start to see a more standardized  
26 allowance.

27

28 MR. ROCZICKA: The sonar. And I'd like  
29 to make our endorsement just in general terms. It's  
30 actually not immediately adjacent to Bethel. The two  
31 sites being considered are right above the top end of  
32 Churchtow below Kuskokwak, and then across from the  
33 bluffs there below the mouth Gweek are the two areas  
34 under consideration. And they should have had  
35 preliminary studies or activities out there this last  
36 summer, and expected to continue for next couple years.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions  
39 for Mr. Sundown on the Kuskokwim update.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
44 thank you for your update, Robert.

45

46 We are down to Yukon River Fisheries  
47 Association. Mr. Wayne Jenkins will be presenting  
48 season summary and the areas of critical environmental  
49 concern.

50

1 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Chairman  
2 Wilde. It's actually a little bit more than that. I'd  
3 like to report on some of YRDFA's programs also, if it  
4 pleases the Chair.

5  
6 So good afternoon, Chairman Wilde and  
7 Yukon-Kuskokwim Federal Regional Advisory Council  
8 members. Thank you very much for giving me the  
9 opportunity. My name is Wayne Jenkins. I'm deputy  
10 director for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
11 Association, also known as YRDFA.

12  
13 So the first project I'd like to report  
14 on is the pre-season fishery preparation meeting. This  
15 year the pre-season fishery meeting was hosted by YRDFA  
16 on April 29th in Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting rotates  
17 its location on an annual basis between Fairbanks and  
18 Anchorage.

19  
20 The 2015 pre-season followed directly  
21 upon YRDFA's annual board meeting, and YRDFA board and  
22 alternates, that is commercial and subsistence fishers  
23 from the full length of the Alaska Yukon, were able to  
24 attend. This meeting is funded by the Yukon River Panel  
25 Restoration and Enhancement Fund. And it's a one-day  
26 meeting for fishermen to meet with fisheries managers  
27 and biologists from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
28 Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare for the  
29 upcoming fisheries season.

30  
31 The fishery managers share their  
32 pre-season outlook as well as stock status updates, and  
33 time was spent in open discussion talking about the  
34 specific scenarios to anticipate and to plan for in the  
35 season fishing coming up on the Yukon River. Despite  
36 the weak condition of the king salmon run and  
37 subsequent need for severe conservation measures for  
38 the second year, it was clear from the meeting that  
39 attendees understood the gravity of the situation and  
40 intended to target other salmon species for meeting  
41 subsistence needs. The sacrifice of Alaskan Yukon  
42 fishers resulted in meeting most escapement goals for  
43 Alaskan Yukon River tributaries, as you've heard, and  
44 for going over the Yukon River Agreement Canadian  
45 escapement goal target for 2015.

46  
47  
48 The next program I'd like to share just  
49 a brief update on for you is the in-season Yukon River  
50 salmon teleconferences.

1 YRDFA has hosted in-season salmon management  
2 teleconferences for 12 years. We expect many of you  
3 know of these in-season salmon management  
4 teleconferences that are funded by both the Office of  
5 Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resources Monitoring  
6 Program and the Yukon River Panel Restoration and  
7 Enhancement Fund. YRDFA hosted the calls every  
8 Tuesday, beginning June 2, 2015, running through the  
9 last week of August. The calls follow an agenda each  
10 week: opening with subsistence fishing reports from  
11 Alaska Yukon River villages and fishers and First  
12 Nation reports from Yukon, Canada; then, reports from  
13 state and federal fisheries managers on their test  
14 fisheries results, assessments and management  
15 strategies. And we also hear from the Department of  
16 Fisheries and Oceans in Canada. These calls are an  
17 open forum for members of the public to call in and  
18 hear weekly fisheries updates and also a place to ask  
19 questions about the salmon fishery in-season. Managers  
20 gain valuable information from Yukon River fishers as  
21 to river conditions and how well people are meeting  
22 their subsistence needs and their challenges.

23  
24 This year's calls reflected many  
25 challenging issues facing Yukon River fishers and  
26 managers. While striving to meet subsistence needs,  
27 fishers faced delayed initial runs of king and summer  
28 chum salmon, high water conditions, wildfires which  
29 threatened some villages and pulled some fishermen out  
30 of the communities for fire duty, and the lack of the  
31 proper fishing gear in some communities. All the while  
32 managers and fishers worked to avoid harvesting king  
33 salmon and targeting other fish species. It was a  
34 tough year.

35  
36 As mentioned previously, the choices,  
37 actions and sacrifice made by Alaska's Yukon River  
38 fishers enabled most Canadian and Alaskan escapement  
39 goals to be met and in some cases exceeded, and that  
40 during an overall weak king salmon run.

41  
42 YRDFA proposals for next year's  
43 teleconference program are in process and we look  
44 forward to continuing this important project.

45  
46 The next project I'd like to share just  
47 briefly with you is YRDFA's educational exchange. Most  
48 of you are probably familiar with this project also.

49  
50 The education exchange trip was

1 developed by YRDFA and is funded by the Yukon River  
2 Panel through its Restoration and Enhancement Fund for  
3 the past 12 years after the Yukon River Salmon  
4 Agreement was signed by the US and Canadian  
5 governments. This exchange trip is for people from  
6 Alaska and Canada that reside in Yukon River villages  
7 or who work with Yukon River salmon fisheries to learn  
8 from each other and fisheries management agencies about  
9 issues pertaining to Canadian origin Chinook and fall  
10 chum salmon fisheries. Some key topics for sharing are  
11 management approaches and goals, Yukon River cultures  
12 and people who rely on salmon, and the goals of the  
13 Yukon River Salmon Agreement. A group of five people  
14 travels across the border to the neighboring country  
15 each summer and State and Federal agency personnel,  
16 Yukon River Panel members, elders, youth, fish  
17 processors and guides augment the group along their  
18 trip at various stops. The goal of the exchange is to  
19 foster cross-border collaboration and acts as a bridge  
20 to greater understanding, dialogue and cooperation  
21 along the Yukon River.

22  
23 This year's Alaskan group represented  
24 the Yukon River villages of Marshall, Huslia, Galena  
25 and Minto. We visited three First Nations: Trondek  
26 Gwitchin in Dawson City, Little Salmon Carmacks in  
27 Carmacks, and Teslin Tlingit at Teslin Lake in the very  
28 headwaters of the Yukon River. We also met with  
29 Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans management  
30 and visited two restoration projects in Whitehorse.

31  
32 Our post trip evaluation indicated that  
33 our guests found the experience informative, beautiful,  
34 and deeply moving as they gained a greater  
35 understanding of the salmon decline situation,  
36 river-wide, and the long sacrifice that Yukon Territory  
37 First Nation communities have been making. Some  
38 communities have chosen to not harvest king salmon for  
39 more than 17 years. Alaskan visitors saw and heard how  
40 First Nations are working to uphold their culture and  
41 educate the youth as their fish camps set idle.  
42 Alaskan's shared their culture while gaining more  
43 understanding of the critical importance of Alaskan  
44 salmon conservation for meeting escapement goals to  
45 rebuild the king run and for healing Native cultures in  
46 the Upper Yukon headwaters.

47  
48 So we have a couple of other projects  
49 that are done by Catherine Moncrieff, our  
50 anthropologist. And I would just ask, Catherine, are

1 you on the teleconference? So it sounds like maybe  
2 Catherine is not on, so I will give them for her.

3

4 MS. MONCRIEFF: I am here.

5

6 MR. JENKINS: Oh, you are there.

7

8 MS. MONCRIEFF: Sorry, I had the phone  
9 muted.

10

11 This is Catherine Moncrieff with YRDFA.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Catherine.

14

15 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Great. Thank  
16 you, Chair Wilde.

17

18 I have just a few projects I'd like to  
19 also report on, and the first one is the in-season  
20 harvest survey program, which is run by YRDFA and  
21 funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
22 And we work on this in partnership with the manager.

23

24 It's an important assessment tool that  
25 qualitatively informs managers how fishers in key  
26 locations throughout the drainage are doing in-season,  
27 enabling managers to make timely decisions allowing the  
28 maximum of fishers to meet their subsistence needs. The  
29 in-season harvest survey compliments the quantitative  
30 post-season survey conducted by the Alaska Department  
31 of Fish and Game by providing an explanation of fishing  
32 success such as high water, debris, or other adverse  
33 effects that influence fishing success.

34

35 Beginning in 2002, in-season harvest  
36 interviewers have been hired in each community -- each  
37 year in select communities along the Yukon River to  
38 ensure consistent participation and reporting each week  
39 about subsistence harvests and observed abundance on  
40 the in-season salmon management teleconferences. These  
41 in-season interviews were begun to assist in meeting  
42 the mandate set forth in the Alaska Native Interest  
43 Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA, and the State of  
44 Alaska Statutes, both of which require a priority for  
45 subsistence over other consumptive uses. In-season  
46 interviews provide managers insight on subsistence  
47 harvest progression within multiple villages located on  
48 the Yukon River for use in fisheries management  
49 decision-making.

50

1 For the 2015 season, YRDFA was at the  
2 end of our cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service, Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
4 Program. They allowed us to extend our agreement and  
5 we operated this season on reduced funds. With these  
6 reduced funds we were able to hire surveyors in 4  
7 communities instead of our usual 10. We chose  
8 Marshall, Russian Mission, and Fort Yukon to operate  
9 this year because we had good effective surveyors on  
10 board already in these communities. We added Ruby as a  
11 new community at the request of the managers because  
12 they were seeking more information about why the  
13 fishers in Ruby did not meet their needs in 2014.  
14 Selection of these four communities gave us a pretty  
15 good spread along the river and the surveyors did a  
16 good job of interviewing and participating.

17  
18 Results for the 2015 season include  
19 interviews with 46 households in four communities for a  
20 total of 133 interviews and information reported on 13  
21 in-season salmon management teleconferences.

22  
23 We held our annual review of the  
24 program with the managers and collected feedback from  
25 the surveyors prior to the start of the season. With  
26 this input we decided not to make any changes to our  
27 survey form for 2015. Although the program is Chinook  
28 or king salmon focused, with the anticipated closures  
29 on Chinook salmon, we agreed to again collect  
30 information on chum salmon harvest efforts, fishers'  
31 ability to access allowable gear types, their success  
32 using new gear, and what fishers were doing instead of  
33 harvesting Chinook salmon. As planned, the survey ran  
34 for six weeks in each participating community while the  
35 Chinook salmon were migrating through their part of the  
36 river. This benefitted the goal of learning about  
37 fishing activities during the Chinook salmon season but  
38 did not allow for assessments of chum salmon harvest  
39 needs met, which is really outside of the scope of this  
40 project.

41  
42 There is a handout. I don't know if it  
43 made it to the meeting and is available for Council  
44 members. Can anyone confirm that?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have it, Catherine.

47  
48 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Great. Thank  
49 you.  
50

1                   So on the handout, you can see the  
2 progress toward meeting Chinook salmon harvest goals by  
3 community were generally zero as has been reported  
4 already earlier this meeting, or very low due to the  
5 Chinook salmon fishing closures. Fort Yukon was the  
6 exception as there was an effort to allow them to  
7 harvest some Chinook salmon due to the lack of chum  
8 salmon in their area. The table on the handout also  
9 shows the number of households interviewed, the total  
10 number of interviews, and the percentage of harvest  
11 completion by community over the past three years.

12  
13                   And that's it for that project. I've  
14 got a couple more unless there's any questions about  
15 that.

16  
17                   (No comments)

18  
19                   MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. The next project  
20 I wanted to talk about was customary trade in the Upper  
21 Yukon River.

22  
23                   As you probably recall from our  
24 previous reports, this project is also funded by the  
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and it's a  
26 partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
27 Game, Subsistence Division. The project examines  
28 historic and contemporary customary trade of harvested  
29 salmon in the Upper Yukon and Tanana Rivers. We are  
30 using ethnographic interviews to describe how customary  
31 trade practices fit within the overall subsistence use  
32 of salmon and a survey on barter and exchange practices  
33 to document the scope and local nature of customary  
34 trade. The final objective of this project is to  
35 improve understanding of the role of customary trade  
36 within a continuum of exchange practices and to  
37 describe any potential effects on customary trade from  
38 declining salmon runs.

39  
40                   In the spring of 2015 we reported  
41 completing our field work in Manley Hot Springs. And  
42 since then, we've conducted our fieldwork in Fort Yukon  
43 and in Steven's Village. We're now in the analysis  
44 phase, and if the budget allows, we may consider adding  
45 another community to expand our fieldwork, but we  
46 haven't yet approached them or received community  
47 approval yet. So I'll keep you posted on that. Once  
48 we have completed the analysis, we'll revisit the  
49 communities to share the preliminary results and  
50 collect their feedback. And I'll continue to provide

1 updates on this project through the life of the  
2 project, which is scheduled to end in December of 2016.

3

4

5                   And then just two more quick projects.  
6 One is the Koyukuk traditional place names project. As  
7 most of you know from previous reports, we've been  
8 working with the communities of Koyukuk, Huslia, and  
9 Hughes to document and record traditional place names  
10 and the stories that go with them for the Koyukuk River  
11 from Koyukuk to Hughes. Additional partners on that  
12 project include language expert Eliza Jones; the Yukon  
13 Koyukuk School District, the Native language  
14 coordinator there, Susan Paskvan; the U.S. Fish and  
15 Wildlife Service, Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge; and  
16 the U.S. Geological Survey.

17

18                   To date we've completed our interviews  
19 with local elders, presented maps, and received  
20 community approvals to share the data. Currently we're  
21 seeking funding to publish a book with places and  
22 stories. And we're working with the Exchange of Local  
23 Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic to post an  
24 interactive map with the place names, and sound bites,  
25 and stories on the internet for everyone to access.

26

27                   And then one final project I wanted to  
28 make sure you were aware of. This is the value of  
29 salmon project that's funded by North Pacific Research  
30 Board, and I've reported on this previously I think or  
31 Wayne has reported for me at your past meetings.

32

33                   But the goal of this project is to  
34 describe how people of the Yukon River value salmon  
35 through case studies in three communities, and the  
36 communities are Russian Mission, Nenana, and Fort  
37 Yukon. And as an update, I've completed the interviews  
38 in all three communities. And for the most recent one,  
39 which was Russian Mission, we are currently  
40 transcribing the interviews. And over the summer, I  
41 re-visited Nenana to present the preliminary results on  
42 their community, which they approved, and I'm working  
43 on drafting their chapter, which I will share with them  
44 to gather their comments before I share it outside of  
45 their community. I will do the same with the other  
46 communities. And This project is set to wrap up in  
47 December of 2016.

48

49                   And that's the end of my report, unless  
50 there's any questions for me. And thank you for

1 allowing me to speak.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Catherine.  
4 Any questions for Catherine, Council members. Or for  
5 Wayne.

6

7 MR. JENKINS: Chairman Wilde I have  
8 just one more brief program to share with you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any  
11 questions for Catherine on her presentation.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, go  
16 ahead, Wayne.

17

18 Thank you, Catherine.

19

20 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you.

21

22 MR. JENKINS: So as you may be aware,  
23 the Bureau of Land Management is the largest Federal  
24 lands manager in Alaska with 70 million acres under its  
25 purview, and is in the process of long-range resource  
26 management planning in two regions: the Bearing  
27 Sea-Western Interior at 10.6 million acres of BLM land,  
28 and Central Yukon Region with 16 million acres. These  
29 plans will guide BLM management on nearly 27 million  
30 acres of land for the next 20 to 30 years once their  
31 completed. The plans will govern only BLM land, some  
32 of which surrounds communities on the Yukon and  
33 Kuskokwim and is of critical interest to villages and  
34 tribes in the regions.

35

36 YRDFA, in partnership with the PEW  
37 Charitable Trusts continues to reach out to inform  
38 communities about the BLM resource management planning  
39 process, and, when requested, is providing assistance  
40 and support for tribes along the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
41 Rivers who wish to guide planning and management with  
42 their comments and input. Protecting the water, the  
43 wildlife habitats and traditional harvest areas is a  
44 major concern for villages that we are working with,  
45 but there many other concerns around mining  
46 development, road building, guided hunts etc. on BLM  
47 lands. Twelve Tribal Councils have made land  
48 protection nominations to BLM through the Areas of  
49 Critical Environmental Concern process. And you have  
50 a little handout there describing what the ACEC process

1 is about.

2

3 Tribes that have already submitted  
4 nominations for areas needing special protection may in  
5 the future be requesting a letter of support from the  
6 Y-K Delta Regional Advisory Council on the nominations  
7 that they have made. So you may -- this is a head's up  
8 for that. You may see some at the spring meeting. We  
9 may have the permissions to bring them to you and  
10 request your support. Two have already been brought to  
11 the Western Interior RAC and they were more than happy  
12 to supply us with a letter of support that they sent to  
13 BLM. And this is just for information.

14

15 So if you have any questions about  
16 that, that's the end of my presentation.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.  
19 Jenkins. Mr. Roczicka.

20

21 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. And thank you for  
22 that report. What the status of BLM's plans right now  
23 as far as -- I know they've been in consultations for  
24 -- or having general meetings which some of us would  
25 have like to be at, but you can't be at every meeting  
26 and involved in every process you want to be. How long  
27 does this continue as far as getting their plans  
28 established? When are they going to be finalized?

29

30 MR. JENKINS: I'll answer that to the  
31 best of my ability. So there are three plans moving  
32 forward simultaneously. The Eastern Interior plan is  
33 much further along, and we are not direct -- I'm not  
34 directly involved in that one. And it has -- I think  
35 it's reached a point of some challenges and is in  
36 consultation, government-to-government to consultation.  
37 So that's the Fort Yukon area and over to the Canadian  
38 border.

39

40 The Bering Sea/Western Interior, which  
41 is the one that overlaps your particular RAC's region  
42 more than the rest of them, although the lines don't  
43 match up perfectly, they are expecting -- the comment  
44 period has been over for quite some time. They're  
45 putting together the draft EIS, and that is supposed to  
46 come out early next year is the estimate. But that has  
47 been -- the time for that being released keeps kind of  
48 being pushed into the future. But I think they're  
49 feeling somewhat confident that it will be early next  
50 year.

1                   The Central Yukon is behind the Bering  
2 Sea/Western Interior, and I have not heard. The  
3 comment period is over, but I have not heard when the  
4 draft EIS might come out.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions  
7 for Mr. Jenkins.

8  
9                   (No comments)

10  
11                  CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
12 thank you, Mr. Jenkins for your report, and thank you,  
13 Catherine, also.

14  
15                  MR. JENKINS: I'd like to thank the  
16 panel for their time.

17  
18                  CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next item on the  
19 agenda is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Togiak  
20 National Wildlife Refuge and the Lower Kuskokwim moose,  
21 joint with ADF&G. Who from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service will be covering the Togiak National Wildlife  
23 Refuge.

24  
25                  MR. REARDEN: Togiak's on line.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Togiak. Is  
28 Togiak on line. Anyone from Togiak on line. I guess  
29 not, Spence.

30  
31                  MR. REARDEN: Yeah. Spencer Rearden,  
32 Fish and Wildlife Service here in Bethel.

33  
34                  So this year we had a couple of bad  
35 years as you all know, where we had low snow, or snow  
36 followed up by rain. And so in 2014 we decided not to  
37 do the survey. But it was getting time to. When 2015  
38 came around and weather was still kind of the same as  
39 last year. But we're obviously getting pressure from  
40 the locals to conduct a survey, to determine if we  
41 could increase the moose quota for the Lower Kuskokwim,  
42 and we felt it was time to. I mean, the last time we  
43 did it was in 2011. And looking at our data from our  
44 composition information, the number of calves per 100  
45 cows and so forth, showed high indication that our  
46 population likely increased. And we heard it from the  
47 public. We saw it ourselves. We're seeing moose in  
48 places we haven't seen them before. And so when we had  
49 just enough snow, barely enough, we decided to go ahead  
50 and conduct the survey.

1                   So Fish and Wildlife Service in  
2 cooperation with the local Fish and Game here in  
3 Bethel, we decided to go ahead and do the survey  
4 anyway. And we indeed found more moose as expected;  
5 however, I will put in there that we're not sure how  
6 comparable that will be to other years, but simply by  
7 finding that we have more moose allowed us to increase  
8 that quota for the State-managed lands.

9  
10                   At the same time Fish and Wildlife  
11 Service, we conducted surveys in March with a  
12 helicopter, using a different method on the  
13 tributaries. That's the Eek, the Kwethluk, Kisaralik,  
14 Fog, Tuluksak Rivers, using a different method. And  
15 indeed, there, too we found more moose.

16  
17                   So to quickly summarize, in March we  
18 found an estimate of 1,378 moose for the mainstem of  
19 the Kuskokwim, which is mostly on State lands, between  
20 the mouth of the Kuskokwim and Kalskag.

21  
22                   We did extend the survey down. As  
23 moose expanded into this region, we expanded our survey  
24 area. So this year we added I believe close to 50 more  
25 survey blocks, and that went down past the Johnson  
26 River where you start running out of Willow habitat,  
27 where it becomes almost all tundra, and then we even  
28 went up the Johnson River where we indeed found moose,  
29 too.

30  
31                   So we responded to the public. We knew  
32 moose were expanding, whereas previous years moose  
33 weren't really found there.

34  
35                   So in the future, we'll probably expand  
36 it again. I mean, we're starting to see moose on the  
37 outskirts of the river where they're moving into areas  
38 along the lakes where there's a little bit of willows  
39 here and there. I mean, we're starting to find moose  
40 in a lot of places now.

41  
42                   So even though we came up with a higher  
43 number, it's over a different area, and it's in an year  
44 where we likely missed moose, because the conditions  
45 were so bleak. We would go out there and we're seeing  
46 moose and the next day it was brown again, because we  
47 were dealing with, you know, less than an inch of snow  
48 at times, and we were looking for brown moose in brown  
49 tundra habitat and trees. It's easy to miss. And we  
50 found ourselves missing them at times. So that number

1 could very well be higher, which is the good news, but  
2 we don't know. But either way it was higher, which  
3 allowed the State to increase their quota.

4

5                   And our number on the tributaries was  
6 also higher. 508 moose in 2015 versus 352 in 2010.  
7 And so with this increase in the quota, we're getting  
8 more comfortable with handling the hunt. The State,  
9 they bear the challenge of issuing the permits and  
10 maintaining a database on how many were killed and  
11 where, and trying to split where they were killed  
12 between Federal lands and State lands, because we were  
13 operating on slightly different quotas.

14

15                   The Refuge in particular, we recognize  
16 that it was a difficult hunt on Federal lands,  
17 particularly the area up the tributaries. Where before  
18 it was a 24-hour reporting requirement, we can close  
19 the season in 24 hours, you know, and we closed -- we  
20 happened to -- were able to close with the State on the  
21 same day in the last few years, but this year we wanted  
22 to approach it a little differently. So we threw out  
23 the idea, since we were able to increase the Federal  
24 quota to 45 moose, and learning from the past, we  
25 figured that would take close to eight days of season  
26 to get to 45.

27

28                   And so we had tribal consultation. We  
29 invited various villages. We didn't have a whole lot  
30 of turnout, but we had a lot of positive feedback with  
31 folks thinking that our suggestion was a good one with  
32 going eight days, and then we also suggested 72-hour  
33 reporting requirement, because you can imagine yourself  
34 going up to the Kwethluk or Kisaralik where you're out  
35 of cell phone coverage. You don't know when it's going  
36 to close, and then this year you did. You knew it was  
37 going to close on the 8th. And then if you got a  
38 moose, you had 72 hours to report it instead of 24. So  
39 if you're hunting with a few people, and they didn't  
40 get a moose yet, you could continue to hunt for a  
41 little longer. So we were trying to make it more  
42 friendly to local users for the Federal lands that were  
43 further away.

44

45                   The State, they maintained going with a  
46 quota, although they did increase it to 110. So we had  
47 a total of 155 moose. And with the ratios that we're  
48 continuing to find, I expect that our harvest numbers  
49 will go up.

50

1 I'll turn it over to Patrick who works  
2 with Fish and Game to talk about how the hunt came out  
3 for this year.

4  
5 MR. JONES: Through the Chair. Again  
6 for the record my name is Patrick Jones. I'm the  
7 assistant area wildlife biologist for Unit 18. I'm  
8 based here in Bethel working for Fish and Game.

9  
10 So we ended up -- for the Kuskokwim  
11 moose hunt, we ended up issuing 1,365 permits.  
12 Currently we have 149 reported kills for both Federal  
13 and State lands. The breakouts kind of 99 on State  
14 lands, and 40 on Federal lands, and we have 10 unknown  
15 where we don't have a location on kill. So that's 149  
16 out of the quota of 155. That's about as close as  
17 we're going to come to meeting our quota with the tools  
18 we have. Some years we're going to be above the quota,  
19 some years you're going to be below the quota, but over  
20 the long term it's going to average out. So the hunt  
21 went pretty smooth.

22  
23 The State lands closed on -- we issued  
24 an EO to close the State lands on day four. And then,  
25 of course, Federal lands went eight days.

26  
27 And that's pretty much that for the  
28 Kuskokwim moose hunt, so I can update people on the  
29 Goodnews hunt, too, if you'd like.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it? With  
32 that, any questions for either of the two presenters.  
33 Any questions for Fish and Wildlife Service. Go ahead,  
34 Mr. Brown.

35  
36 MR. BROWN: Last year

37  
38 (In Yup'ik)

39  
40 INTERPRETER: Last year that I heard on  
41 the 24-hour reporting, it wasn't enough. The people  
42 that went out hunting, some of those people before  
43 their hunting partners caught something, they use a lot  
44 gas, preserving gas. This year it's a lot much better  
45 with 72-hour reporting requirement. I am very grateful  
46 that you guys extended the reporting requirements.  
47 That will give other hunters chance to catch, too.

48  
49 And also on Federal lands, when we hunt  
50 on Federal lands, that's -- I am so very happy that

1 they extended the hunting period on Federal lands. It  
2 was like you guys were playing with us last year, and  
3 the gas price is not cheap. This year it's a lot  
4 better than last year. This year's hunt is more  
5 enjoyable and more relaxing, and I'm very grateful that  
6 you guys have listened to us.

7

8 Thank you very much.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you understand him?  
11 He just wanted to thank you for that extension and the  
12 72-hour reporting period.

13

14 Any other comments or questions for the  
15 Department or for the Service. Mr. Brown.

16

17 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: Well, like just recently  
20 I joined a hunt, but we had a boat accident, and my rib  
21 -- while we were camping out there, I was feeling  
22 uncomfortable with my rib, so I went home and then I  
23 came here. And they said I cracked my rib, so I missed  
24 my chance to go hunting. I was wondering, I kind of  
25 wanted to go hunting. I don't think you guys will  
26 allow me to though.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or  
29 questions to the two gentlemen up front.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you very  
34 much for your report.

35

36 One more call for Togiak National  
37 Wildlife Refuge. Anyone from the Togiak Wildlife  
38 Refuge.

39

40 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This  
41 is Andy Aderman with the Togiak National Wildlife  
42 Refuge.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead with your  
45 report, Andy.

46

47 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. the report is in  
48 your books. It starts on Page 240, but I'm going to  
49 just mention a few things beginning on Page 241.

50

1                   Late next week we'll be working with  
2 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in trying to get  
3 composition surveys done for Mulchatna Caribou. And we  
4 will be working in a portion of Unit 18 where caribou  
5 are right now, and then also in 17 where there's also  
6 caribou.

7  
8                   After that caribou composition work, we  
9 will be trying to put out 20 radio collars on bull  
10 moose. And this would be throughout the Refuge, so in  
11 Unit 17 and some in southern Unit 18.

12  
13                   Also in that same effort, we will be  
14 trying to put some collars out on wolves. Right now we  
15 have two packs in Unit 17 that don't have collars in  
16 them, and we would be focused on collaring additional  
17 wolves in those packs.

18  
19                   And I guess just the last thing, I know  
20 you don't deal with marine mammals a whole lot, but  
21 over on Page 242, we've been monitoring haulouts that  
22 are on the Refuge for a number of years using people  
23 during the spring, summer, and fall, but we've been  
24 putting up cameras now and found out something that we  
25 didn't know about. And that's walrus using haulouts at  
26 the Cape Newenham beaches year round. Whether that's  
27 just due to the unseasonably warm winters that we had  
28 last year, or if it's something that's been going on --  
29 we don't think it's been going on.

30  
31                   But anyways that's it for my report,  
32 Mr. Chairman. I'd be happy to try and answer any  
33 questions.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry. Are there any  
36 questions for the Togiak Wildlife Refuge.

37  
38                   (No comments)

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: There don't seem to be  
41 any. Thank you, Andy.

42  
43                   MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
44 and Council members.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we are going to  
47 continue on with our agenda. The next item on the  
48 agenda is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with my  
49 friend Taylor Brelsford.

50

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman. I'll take just a second to set up and have a  
3 presentation.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You need a new  
6 operator there.

7  
8 (Pause - setting up PowerPoint)

9  
10 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman. I'm  
11 sorry. We can proceed, the slides are in a handout, in  
12 order to catch up time. Or we can -- if you want to  
13 take a break, we'll monkey with it some more. I think  
14 we should proceed.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you try to get  
17 that working while we take a break?

18  
19 MR. BRELSFORD: We could, yes.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Let's take a  
22 10-minute break.

23  
24 (Off record)

25  
26 (On record)

27  
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you very much,  
29 Mr. Chairman. I'm here to present on behalf of Keith  
30 Gordon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project  
31 manager. He's not able to come, so my coworker, Donne  
32 Fleagle, and myself, Taylor Brelsford, we will be  
33 providing a briefing.

34  
35 We've met with this Council several  
36 times over the previous years about the status of the  
37 Donlin Gold EIS. So today we're going to focus on the  
38 upcoming release of the draft EIS, the big document,  
39 and the public meetings that will be held throughout  
40 the Y-K Delta to provide an opportunity for you to  
41 review and provide comments.

42  
43 Many of you are folks that I've known  
44 over the years. I worked in the Federal subsistence  
45 program for many years, but for the new folks, it's a  
46 pleasure to watch the Council program mature, to hear  
47 all of the good work that's going on in the Fisheries  
48 Research Monitoring Program. And I still see all of  
49 the same stamina and diligence. You guys work hard on  
50 behalf of the people of the region, so it's really an

1 honor to be able to present this to you.

2

3 I do want to mention that Donne, my  
4 coworker, is originally from Crooked Creek, but raised  
5 in McGrath. And Donne has been meeting in many of the  
6 villages over the last several years in outreach  
7 sessions. And then she's also been the lead for some  
8 oral history projects where we've been interviewing  
9 elders to provide information. One of our hopes is  
10 that this draft EIS would represent Alaska Native  
11 perspectives in the document on the basis of these  
12 interviews with elders. And I look around the table, I  
13 see several of you that have worked with Donne and a  
14 young woman from Bethel, Chelsie Beans Polk.

15

16 So let me move along. I think most of  
17 you are familiar with the Donlin Gold project. It's  
18 located on Calista Corporation land and Kuskokwim  
19 Corporation surface lands near the Village of Crooked  
20 Creek. The project is proposed by Donlin Gold, which  
21 is a consortium, a joint venture of two international  
22 gold mining companies, Barrick Gold and NovaGold.

23

24 The Army Corps of Engineers, as I  
25 mentioned, leads the Federal EIS effort. The Corps is  
26 not a proponent nor an opponent of the project. The  
27 assignment to the Army Corps and to those of us who  
28 serve as contract staff, technical staff, our job is to  
29 objectively identify the environmental consequences and  
30 any potential mitigation measures that could reduce  
31 those consequences.

32

33 So again the project is quite large.  
34 It begins with the mine site where there is an ore pit.  
35 It will be an open-pit gold mine. The tailings storage  
36 facility is where the flour-line residue, it's rock  
37 ground down to flour in water. It's left over after  
38 the gold has been taken out. And then the third big  
39 facility is the waste rock facility where the rock  
40 taken out of the pit, the open pit, that doesn't have  
41 gold in it, it has to be piled up in the waste rock  
42 facility.

43

44 There's a great deal of transportation  
45 that is required to operate a large mine of this sort.  
46 And so there will be upgrades to port and fuel storage  
47 in Bethel, a new barge landing near the Village of  
48 Crooked Creek at a site called Angyaruaq, or in the  
49 English maps it says Jungjuk, but who knows. A 30-mile  
50 mine access road from the port up to the mine site. A

1 5,000-foot airstrip. Most of the transportation for  
2 personnel will actually be directly to the mine site,  
3 to this airstrip. And then finally fuel storage at the  
4 mine site. 40 million gallons a year is about the  
5 consumption of the mine site. Obviously it takes a lot  
6 of barge traffic to move 40 million gallons of fuel and  
7 several hundred thousand tons of supplies and equipment  
8 each year.

9  
10 The energy required to operate the  
11 Donlin Gold project is provided by a natural gas  
12 pipeline. It's a small diameter pipeline that runs up  
13 through the Alaska Range and on the north side of the  
14 foothills over to the Village of Crooked Creek. It's  
15 buried beneath the ground. It's not like TAPS when you  
16 imagine a big pipeline. This is 14 inches, TAPS is 40.  
17 TAPS is running petroleum product, liquid petroleum.  
18 This is a natural gas pipeline. It's cool. It doesn't  
19 melt the permafrost. And if there were a spill, it  
20 actually dissipates rather than spilling out as a  
21 liquid. So it's important to understand a few key  
22 differences between this pipeline and the ones we're  
23 more familiar with.

24  
25 So those are the three major  
26 components. And we've talked about these in the past,  
27 so I'm going to keep moving

28  
29 What I want to draw attention to is the  
30 big milestones. So this little diagram on the right-  
31 hand side shows development of the draft EIS coming up  
32 through November of this year. And we're working  
33 really hard to put the final polish on the draft  
34 document.

35  
36 What comes next is the meetings, public  
37 meetings for the public to review the draft EIS. And  
38 this is an extremely important opportunity to see what  
39 the scientists have looked at, what they've estimated  
40 as being the impacts, and kind of check the homework.  
41 Be sure that the right questions were asked and that  
42 the answers are solid. It's a big project. It could  
43 have a lot of effects in the region. It's very  
44 important for local people to have a voice, to have a  
45 say. So the meetings on the draft EIS are really  
46 important.

47  
48 The draft is scheduled to come out on  
49 November 30th, and the public comment period will run  
50 for several months, starting on November 30th, and

1 ending in April. We will start the public after Slavic  
2 (ph), after mid-January, so the document would be out  
3 and available for people to review for about six weeks  
4 before we would start the public meetings.

5  
6 We've been sending out newsletters and  
7 made some presentations about some of the biggest  
8 issues on the EIS, so I'll highlight one or two items  
9 under each of these issues, and we'll move a little bit  
10 quickly.

11  
12 Barge traffic is probably the single  
13 most significant issue in the Donlin Gold project based  
14 on the comments from people who live along the river.  
15 The scale of new barging associated with the Donlin  
16 project would go from about a current estimate of 65  
17 barge trips per year on the Kuskokwim River, this would  
18 add 122, so the total volume would be about three times  
19 what people are accustomed to seeing on the Kuskokwim  
20 now. It would be a little over two barges passing by a  
21 village per day if we were to average it out. They're  
22 pretty big barges.

23  
24 They're actually called a barge tow of  
25 four barges, four fuel barges or four supply barges. I  
26 remember seeing Ayanni Gusty push two barges up the  
27 river with a tug boat. This will be larger, so it's  
28 important to keep that in mind.

29  
30 The barge traffic will have a wake, so  
31 wave forces effects on fish, effects on subsistence  
32 fishers that would be nearby. So those are issues that  
33 we will be addressing in the EIS.

34  
35 And let me turn to subsistence. The  
36 kind of things people are concerned about are whether  
37 the project would close off access to traditional use  
38 areas, whether the project would damage the population  
39 levels, result in reductions to fish, moose, waterfowl,  
40 plants.

41  
42 Some folks have drawn our attention to  
43 the fact that when there's new income, it actually  
44 helps subsistence users afford their equipment and the  
45 cost of operating their gear. But there's also a  
46 concern that some folks might, if they get new jobs,  
47 move away, and some of the younger people in the  
48 villages that are very high subsistence producers, if  
49 they move away, that could have downward impact.

50

1                   So those are the kinds of questions on  
2 subsistence that we're looking at.

3  
4                   On fisheries, in the Crooked Creek  
5 drainage, the mine site would actually cover over  
6 habitat in a couple of drainages, and so we want to  
7 look at the impact in the Crooked Creek drainage.

8  
9                   The mine also draws a great deal of  
10 water. When you dig a deep pit, the water table flows  
11 in and they have to pump that out to have safe, dry  
12 working conditions. And that water then pulls away  
13 from beneath Crooked Creek, so it's referred to as  
14 dewatering of Crooked Creek. And our technical people  
15 have tried to estimate what the extent of that would be  
16 so that we can disclose, we can explain in the winter  
17 period what the remaining flow would look like, or in  
18 the summertime what the reduced flow would be.

19  
20                   Barge impacts on the Kuskokwim I  
21 mentioned earlier.

22  
23                   And the pipeline river crossings of  
24 streams through the west side of Cook Inlet, after the  
25 Alaska Range, that's also very important, to ensure  
26 that the pipeline construction doesn't block fish  
27 passage.

28  
29                   On socio-economics, people have asked a  
30 lot of questions about what's the level of employment  
31 during the construction period and the operations  
32 period, and how much of that employment would go to  
33 Alaska Native corporation shareholders. To give you an  
34 idea of the scale, during construction Donlin Gold  
35 estimated that 3200 workers would be required to build  
36 the project for a three to four-year period. And then  
37 once it's built, in operations it would be about 1,000  
38 employees, primarily at the mine site, but some in  
39 Bethel to operate the barge traffic each summer.

40  
41                   Bob, go ahead, please.

42  
43                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Did you say 3400?

44  
45                   MR. BRELSFORD: 3200.

46  
47                   MR. ALOYSIUS: 32. And is that  
48 starting from Cook Inlet all the way through the.....

49  
50                   REPORTER: Bob, your microphone.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Your mic.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: .....construction of the  
4 pipeline and.....  
5  
6 REPORTER: Robert, your microphone.  
7  
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Robert's question was  
9 the distribution of the workforce, did it cover all of  
10 the work from Beluga all the way through the Alaska  
11 Range and on to the mine site? Yeah?  
12  
13 Okay. So that is the case. About two-  
14 thirds of the workers would be building the mine site  
15 itself and the power plants and all the stuff there.  
16 And about one-third would be involved in constructing  
17 the pipeline, 315 miles. A lot of temporary camps and  
18 they move through. It's about one season at a -- they  
19 finish a segment of the pipeline in one season. It's  
20 not trenched and opened up and left open. They trench,  
21 place the pipe, close it up, and then move on. But  
22 it's a very big operation obviously.  
23  
24 I think I have two more issues. Water  
25 flow. I've mentioned that a large mine requires a  
26 great deal of water. Some of it comes from ground  
27 water pulled out, pumped out of the pit, and some of it  
28 comes from capturing surface water. They especially  
29 want to make sure that no water drains across the  
30 exposed rock. That's referred to as acid rock  
31 drainage. So they have control dams. This is the  
32 plan, to have these control dams -- pardon me, contact  
33 water dams, to ensure that water that might have been  
34 contaminated by the rock is not just draining directly  
35 out into Crooked Creek or running all the way down into  
36 the Kuskokwim. They have to make plans for high water  
37 years, to make sure it doesn't run over the top of the  
38 dams, and they have to make plans for low water years  
39 so that they have an adequate water supply.  
40  
41 And there will be a lot of technical  
42 information on these questions in the draft EIS.  
43  
44 When we think about contaminants,  
45 people in this region are very familiar with the  
46 problem of mercury, because it's native in the rock in  
47 the Kuskokwim drainage. And when it's mined, it  
48 creates dust, and mercury can go up into the wind, into  
49 the atmosphere. So this is a question. What would be  
50 the air emissions from the mine site, whether it's dust

1 or coming out the stack of the milling process. And  
2 then what kind of water, what would be the chemicals in  
3 the water that's discharged from the mill into the  
4 tailings storage facility.

5  
6 And so we have some wind models to show  
7 what would happen to the air emissions, how far they  
8 would go, which predominant wind direction, where they  
9 might be deposited. And then we try to -- the  
10 scientists have tried to calculate what the  
11 accumulation of those air contaminants would be over  
12 time. So that I know will be of a lot of interest to  
13 people who are familiar with the Red Devil Mine.

14  
15 Hazardous chemicals. Mercury I've  
16 talked a bit about. There's a lot of special  
17 engineering to take mercury out of the rock and out of  
18 the air vapors. When the rock is heated to remove the  
19 gold, mercury vapor will come out, so there's seven  
20 steps of engineering to capture that mercury.

21  
22 And then another chemical that some  
23 folks have asked about is cyanide. It's used as a  
24 solvent to remove the gold from the pulverized rock,  
25 and it's very dangerous if it's exposed in the  
26 environment. So there's a lot of control for the use  
27 of cyanide inside the mill building. And then what's  
28 called detoxification. They capture the cyanide so  
29 that it's not exposed in the natural environment.  
30 People, animals, and plants would not be exposed.

31  
32 Finally on spills, hazardous material  
33 spills, most of the things we've analyzed are if  
34 everything goes right. If the mine engineering and the  
35 environmental management measures, if everything works,  
36 we have one set of estimates of impacts. But then we  
37 also have to look at what if something goes wrong. If  
38 there's an unplanned release or a catastrophic failure  
39 of some component. So there are nine hazardous  
40 material spills that are analyzed in the EIS. They're  
41 things like diesel release from an ocean barge. Diesel  
42 release in the river, on the river barges. A cyanide  
43 release, if one of the specialized containers drops off  
44 of a barge and ruptures. So there are nine scenarios.  
45 And then we go through what's the likelihood, what's  
46 the potential volume? How big of a spill could happen?  
47 What would be the impacts, and what are the spill  
48 response plans to address those impacts.

49  
50 So this is going to turn to another

1 section. Let me stop and see if there are any  
2 questions about these big issues that we've mentioned  
3 just up until now.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from Mr.  
6 Brelsford.

7  
8 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

11  
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13  
14 And I certainly have a lot of  
15 questions, but I believe you're going to say it's in  
16 the EIS. But one that did pop out to me, and maybe  
17 you'd know off the top of your head, is the 40 million  
18 gallon fuel storage facility that's up there. And I  
19 had thought I had heard, and maybe I misunderstood, in  
20 some of the previous presentations that one of the  
21 reasons for putting the gas pipeline in is that you  
22 would not need that amount there. Is that being put in  
23 as a contingency, just to have it on board in case that  
24 pipeline breaks, or why is it still going, that -- I  
25 mean, that was one of the selling points or the  
26 purposes was in reducing the barge traffic and  
27 potential spills in getting the gas line there.

28  
29 MR. BRELSFORD: So, Mr. Chairman.  
30 Greg, many of you have followed the Donlin Gold project  
31 for almost a decade, and in earlier design there was no  
32 pipeline. You maybe remember it was called Donlin  
33 Creek years ago. And at that time the plan was to  
34 barge all fuel to Birch Tree Crossing. It's down below  
35 Aniak, and it's a location where -- there was a much  
36 greater volume, and that volume of barge traffic  
37 couldn't make the last segment, so they put a port.  
38 They designed a port at Birch Tree Crossing.

39  
40 And in that design, it was 110 million  
41 gallons of diesel that was required to operate the --  
42 to generate, the electrical generating plant, plus the  
43 trucks.

44  
45 So with the gas line, it requires 40  
46 million gallons of diesel to fuel the trucks, the big  
47 haul trucks. But the electric generation plant is  
48 operated on natural gas running through the pipeline.

49  
50 One of the alternatives, Greg, we've

1 mentioned this before, is to see if LNG haul trucks  
2 would be available in time for the Donlin project. And  
3 at that point no diesel fuel would be required for  
4 barging. The natural gas pipeline would operate at a  
5 higher volume and would run enough natural gas to the  
6 mine site for the electrical generating plus the haul  
7 trucks. And there's a lot of technical and commercial  
8 details about that that are in the EIS.

9

10 But the current version proposed by  
11 Donlin is diesel fuel for the trucks, 40 million  
12 gallons a year, and barging, because it's less volume,  
13 they can barge further upriver to Angyaruaq rather than  
14 just only as far as Birch Tree.

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Well, you did  
17 anticipate my next question, because that's exactly  
18 what I was going to ask if Caterpillar was still going  
19 to come through on that, the LNG.

20

21 I don't know if here or later, but I  
22 may as well mention it here since I'm talking. As far  
23 -- well, you haven't got to the public hearing portion  
24 yet. I'll hold off.

25

26 MR. BRELSFORD: Greg always eats desert  
27 first. Thank you. I'll keep moving.

28

Pardon me. Mr. Aloysius.

29

30  
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. In view of  
32 the fact that you have less barge traffic, or the  
33 volume of diesel going up, how are they going to cross  
34 or pass Birch Creek Crossing with the bigger barges  
35 that they have now, because right now you have to have  
36 high water like it is right now in order for those fuel  
37 barges to go. In the summertime when there's, you  
38 know, one-tenth of the water volume, they don't make it  
39 beyond there. How are you going to compensate for that  
40 with the 40 million gallons your proposing to barge up  
41 past Birch Creek Landing or Crossing?

42

43 MR. BRELSFORD: Donlin Gold prepared a  
44 load management plan that looked at the river flow  
45 volume at Crooked Creek where the gauge is. And they  
46 know -- I'm not going to remember the exact numbers,  
47 but at a certain average flow, the four-barge tow can  
48 make the run. And if that flow goes down, then they  
49 have to lighten the loads in the barges. And if it  
50 goes below a certain level, they don't run at all. So

1 there's several strategies. They will sometimes take  
2 two barges rather than four and ferry them up until the  
3 shallow point, and then push two through, come back and  
4 get the other two. There are a lot of elements in  
5 accommodating water flow conditions.

6  
7 And they ran an estimate with the last  
8 50 years of water flow in the Kuskokwim River, how many  
9 years would they have made all of their trips in the  
10 110-day season, how many years would they have had to  
11 break up the barge tows or make extra trips at the end  
12 of the season. And this model estimated that 95  
13 percent of the time roughly they would make the season.

14  
15 Serious work has gone into this, trying  
16 to establish the load management plan, the barge  
17 management plan. But I'll invite you to look at it  
18 with your own eyes in the draft EIS, and see if it  
19 holds up, if it really is believable.

20  
21 Okay. I'll talk very quickly about the  
22 big chapters, the organization of the EIS. And so  
23 here's the overview. Five chapters plus an opening  
24 executive summary. We'll talk about each one in turn.

25  
26 The executive summary will be prepared  
27 and widely distributed. It will be about 100 pages  
28 long, and it will have a DVD of the entire EIS in a  
29 pocket so that we can send it out widely and people can  
30 read. The entire EIS is going to be a big, big  
31 document, physically big. So we're going to try and  
32 rely on what's called electronic publishing with a kind  
33 of stronger overview in the executive summary. And it  
34 will give key conclusions, and then tell you where to  
35 look for details in the draft EIS document.

36  
37 A brief executive summary will be  
38 translated into Yup'ik language and available widely in  
39 the region as well.

40  
41 Chapter 1 is referred to as purpose and  
42 need. And these are terms that come from the National  
43 Environmental Protection Act, NEPA. Sorry, National  
44 Environmental Policy Act. And so NEPA requires this  
45 identification of purpose and need. This chapter will  
46 introduce the roles and the authorities of the lead  
47 Federal agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and  
48 the roles of the cooperating agencies and tribes.  
49 There are six cooperating tribes working on this EIS.  
50 It describes the purpose of the proposed project so

1 that alternative methods and designs that could meet  
2 the same purpose could be examined.

3  
4 Chapter 2 goes through, describes those  
5 alternatives. So the no action alternative means if  
6 there were no project, what would the environmental  
7 conditions look like into the future. The proposed  
8 action is Donlin's proposed gold mine. And then there  
9 are an additional alternatives. They had to meet a  
10 standard of being reasonable practicable.

11  
12 In the little image, you see the road  
13 to Birch Tree Crossing compared to the road to  
14 Angyaruaq. And so one of the alternatives examined  
15 would be to place the upriver terminal for the barging  
16 at Birch Tree, even though that's no longer Donlin's  
17 proposal. It would avoid -- the reason for looking at  
18 it is that it would avoid barge traffic in the narrow  
19 reach of the river above Aniak. So that's alternative  
20 number 4 in the draft EIS.

21  
22 Chapter 3 is the largest chapter. It's  
23 sort of the real heart of an EIS. It first outlines  
24 the regulations, the laws that govern air quality or  
25 water quality or subsistence management, each section.  
26 It describes the baseline conditions, the current  
27 environmental conditions in 26 resource areas, and then  
28 analyzes the likely impacts of the proposal and the  
29 alternatives. It looks at both routine operations as  
30 well as potential spills.

31  
32 And here you see the listing of the  
33 resources areas. So, for example, the first nine are  
34 physical science areas, geology, soils, water quality,  
35 air quality, noise. Then the next handful are biology,  
36 biological sciences, so vegetations, wetlands,  
37 wildlife, fish, threatened and endangered species. And  
38 then the last group could be looked at as social  
39 environment, things like land ownership, recreation,  
40 socio-economics, cultural resources, subsistence, human  
41 health. So that's the detailed organization of the  
42 environmental analysis in Chapter 3.

43  
44 Chapter 4 addresses what's called  
45 cumulative effects. And this is a term from NEPA that  
46 says you can't look at one project in isolation. You  
47 have to see if it's adding on top of other projects in  
48 the region. Do they create bigger environmental  
49 effects or even counteracting environmental effects,  
50 but you can't just focus on the project in a vacuum.

1 you have to look at it in relation to other activities  
2 in the region. So that's the purpose of chapter 4,  
3 cumulative effects.

4

5                   And then chapter 5 on mitigation, this  
6 is an important term in NEPA that talks about what can  
7 be done from engineering or operations to reduce  
8 impacts. And those mitigation measures include some  
9 things that Donlin has already done to bring impacts  
10 down. They've tried to design for the minimum impacts  
11 as a mine proposal. But then there will be additional  
12 measures identified by the Army Corps of Engineers that  
13 would become legally binding permit conditions. And  
14 that whole area is referred to as mitigation.

15

16                   So now we're on the public meetings.  
17 So let me pause and see if people had questions about  
18 how the EIS is going to be organized.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions.

21

22                   (No comments)

23

24                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: I guess not.

25 Continue.

26

27                   MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Well, these will  
28 be the last couple of slides.

29

30                   So the proposed public meetings would  
31 occur from mid-January to the end of April 2016. This  
32 is the list of communities where scoping meetings were  
33 held in January to March of 2013. Many of you will  
34 recognize that these are spread across the Y-K Delta.  
35 They correspond to the subregions for the AVCP  
36 executive board. So we wanted to make sure that every  
37 subregion had a host meeting. Then there's some  
38 extras: McGrath, Holy Cross, and a meeting in  
39 Anchorage.

40

41                   I want to mention an item of special  
42 importance to the Regional Advisory Council. ANILCA  
43 Section .810 requires an evaluation of impacts to  
44 subsistence for any Federal land management activity.  
45 So the BLM would be issuing a lease for a part of the  
46 pipeline where it goes across BLM lands. That  
47 qualifies as a Federal land management activity, and so  
48 this specialized analysis of impacts to subsistence is  
49 required. It will be found in appendix N in the EIS.

50

1                   But ANILCA goes on to say that if  
2 project activities may significantly restrict  
3 subsistence, then there has to be notice to the  
4 Regional Advisory Councils and to the communities, and  
5 hearings held in the communities. So they're often  
6 called Section .810 hearings. And the BLM currently  
7 believes that there will be Section .810 hearings in  
8 many communities, probably on the Kuskokwim River and  
9 maybe on the Bering coast or on the Yukon. But  
10 Kuskokwim River. So it would be a separate meeting  
11 held just after the main meeting on the draft EIS.  
12 Again, it's one where a letter would come to the  
13 Regional Advisory Councils, notifying you of those  
14 meetings.

15  
16                   This map shows the landscape and how  
17 the meetings were distributed across the Y-K Delta in  
18 the various subregions.

19  
20                   And then this points out that there's  
21 several ways to comment. Probably best is if people  
22 come and give testimony at the public meetings, but  
23 email comments are also very welcome. Written comments  
24 can be submitted, and then faxed comments can also be  
25 sent in. The address and phone numbers are not yet  
26 settled for a couple of these things, so they will come  
27 out in the public notices when the draft EIS is  
28 distributed at the end of November.

29  
30                   One other thing to draw to your  
31 attention is the website as a way of watching and  
32 seeing documents. So the draft EIS will come out in  
33 November. The chapters will be placed on the website  
34 if you want to download them. There will be a  
35 newsletter that describes the draft EIS and outlines  
36 the public meetings. That should come out in about  
37 December of 2015.

38  
39                   And then finally the last items were  
40 the contact information for Keith Gordon, the Army  
41 Corps project manager, and then for Amanda Andraschko  
42 who is the tribal liaison for the Army Corps of  
43 Engineers.

44  
45                   So, Mr. Chairman, that concludes he  
46 overview, and I'd welcome any further questions.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Are there  
49 any questions. Mr. Oney.

50

1 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman.

3  
4 Will the Yukon River in any way be  
5 impacted by the development of this mine?

6  
7 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you very much.  
8 It's an important question.

9  
10 The reason that the Bering Coast  
11 villages and the Yukon River villages are included in  
12 the EIS analysis is that the socio-economic, the  
13 employment impacts, will extend all the way across the  
14 Calista region. So it's primarily the jobs, kind of  
15 indirect impacts if you will. But the direct  
16 environmental impacts, air quality, water quality in  
17 the river, barge traffic, those are really focused  
18 almost entirely on the Kuskokwim River.

19  
20 So there is a difference, but all the  
21 way along we thought it was important to keep the Yukon  
22 River communities up to date on how the Donlin Gold  
23 project EIS is going.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Oney.

26  
27 MR. ONEY: Yeah, the reason why I asked  
28 is because AVCP, Inc. is in the process of developing a  
29 road from the Kuskokwim to the Yukon. I guess it's  
30 pretty much similar, in the same area. You could  
31 correct me if I'm wrong.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 MR. BRELSFORD: I think you're  
36 referring -- I've understood it called the  
37 Paimuit/Kalskag, Paimuit Slough/Kalskag road. And we  
38 did in the first year a lot of research to verify the  
39 status of that road project, and the engineer who did a  
40 draft plan came to talk with the cooperators and with  
41 the Army Corps. And what I understand is that the very  
42 early engineering options has been done, but there's no  
43 funding, and no funding on the -- they don't foresee  
44 future funding within the time that this project would  
45 be initiated. So we've operated on the basis that that  
46 road would not be part of the landscape when the Donlin  
47 Gold project, if it goes forward, when it would be  
48 under construction.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other

1 questions. Mr. Roczicka.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 It's always tempting to editorialize in connection with  
5 things such as Section .810 analysis and some of the  
6 past FONSI's that have come out as a result of that.

7

8 But the main one I wanted to point out  
9 on the public meeting that you have here, and given  
10 that most of us here, the main focus and concern, which  
11 you've certainly heard, is the potential effects to  
12 subsistence resources. And some of the meetings that  
13 are going to be going on through the course of this  
14 coming winter, specifically Federal Subsistence Board  
15 meeting, the AYK region is up in cycle for regulatory  
16 action by the Board of Fisheries. Those are going to  
17 both be in January after Slavic. And I believe the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board also in mid April. Sometimes  
19 it varies back and forth. And the associated pre-  
20 season management meetings that occur between State,  
21 Federal and tribal representatives, managers, too. So  
22 some of those dates are set already, others have  
23 remained to be -- you know, have tentative dates put  
24 down, but as much as you could to try to avoid conflict  
25 with those, or perhaps piggyback on them, you know.  
26 Certainly not during the same time, but the day before  
27 or after, something along those lines.

28

29 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you. That's  
30 helpful input. We'll factor it into the scheduling as  
31 much as we can.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any other  
34 questions for Mr. Brelsford concerning the EIS.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
39 thank you very much for your presentation.

40

41 MR. ROCZICKA: Actually I do have one  
42 more actually. When you mention about the large  
43 document you produce for full environmental impact  
44 statement, you're looking two to three volumes of two  
45 to three inches thick, and you said it's going to be  
46 huge. Are we looking at double that or -- no, the  
47 physical document.

48

49 MR. BRELSFORD: You weren't going to  
50 let me get away with that. So this is an EIS that

1 covers almost 800 miles of Alaska, the pipeline, the  
2 river corridor, the mine site. It's pretty complex.  
3 We want to be sure that it covers the issues carefully  
4 and fully, so that's why there's a lot of separate  
5 resources. There's a lot of geography. The answer to  
6 your question is that the draft EIS is going to be  
7 about 3,000 pages long. And the appendices with a lot  
8 of strip maps for the engineering and things like that  
9 is also going to be about that much again. So that's  
10 the reason that we're moving to electronic publication  
11 on the DVD rather than mailing five or six inches of  
12 paper around and about.

13

14 Let me say a little bit more. I think  
15 from the very beginning we have tried inside of our  
16 team to think about the best ways to communicate with  
17 the communities. This is an important project. People  
18 have bit concerns. They see maybe it's very promising,  
19 but they really need to be confident that the  
20 environmental management's going to be okay. So we've  
21 been trying to think up some ideas inside the EIS  
22 process to strengthen the opportunity for communities  
23 to participate.

24

25 So in addition to the outreach meetings  
26 where Donne's been going and sitting down with tribal  
27 councils, every chapter will start with a two-page  
28 summary. It's called a synopsis. And it's meant to be  
29 kind of a cliff notes if you read the next 50 or 100  
30 pages, what would you learn. Those synopses were  
31 intended as a half-way tool to dig into the details of  
32 the EIS. So wherever we can, we've been trying to find  
33 ways to provide enough overview for people to kind of  
34 get their footing, but then the full detail is there  
35 for the people who want to really read the detailed  
36 technical information.

37

38 So I think we all understand that this  
39 is not going to be a simple review process. It's not a  
40 simple project, but it's really important. And so we  
41 really hope people will take the time to look into it  
42 and to call us. I mean, find a way for us to help  
43 facilitate your review of that draft EIS.

44

45 MR. ROCZICKA: So through the Chair.  
46 I'd just follow up. It will be entirely electronic  
47 then, no hard copies, six volumes of 500 pages each,  
48 whatever. There's no plans to run off anything like  
49 that, it will be entirely electronic.

50

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Basically. So the  
2 contract requires 10 copies to the Army Corps of  
3 Engineers and EPA and so on. There's a prescribed  
4 number, but it's very small. And then as I say, we  
5 want to rely largely on the electronic publication  
6 version.

7  
8 If I may, Mr. Chair, Donne was going to  
9 add a comment.

10  
11 MS. FLEAGLE: This spring the Corps put  
12 out a newsletter, and we have copies in our office, and  
13 I have my business card if you want to get ahold of me.  
14 But that lines out some of the more critical scoping  
15 concerns that came out, such as barge traffic, spills,  
16 jobs, subsistence concerns. And it tells you just  
17 exactly where to go to find that information in this  
18 3,000-page document. And I'm encouraging people to get  
19 ahold of newsletter 4, and use that as your outline  
20 rather than try to thrash your way around to find  
21 critical concerns and questions you might have in your  
22 own minds. So get ahold of me, and I'll make sure you  
23 get a copy of that if you need one.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Donne.

28  
29 Any other questions. Are there any  
30 other questions.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
35 thank you, Mr. Brelsford and Donne for your report.

36  
37 Next on the agenda is ADF&G. Sabrina  
38 Garcia, the assistant summer season manager. Is  
39 Sabrina Garcia here.

40  
41 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew  
42 Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
43 Anchorage.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Will you  
46 continue.

47  
48 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. Sabrina  
49 participated via teleconference during the Yukon  
50 fisheries update. Over.

1                   So the Department doesn't any further  
2 reports for you at this time. Over.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

5  
6                   So we are going to continue on down to  
7 OSM. Changes to Council appointments. Robert Larson.

8  
9                   MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I believe that  
10 Stewart Cogswell would like to say words before I talk  
11 about the Council appointment process.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Stewart, you  
14 have the floor.

15  
16                  MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Members of  
17 the Council. My name is Stewart Cogswell, Fisheries  
18 Division Chief with the Office of Subsistence  
19 Management.

20  
21                  All right. I have the update from OSM.  
22 The first thing, I'm not going to read this line for  
23 line. I know it's late in the day. But on Page 247 of  
24 your book is the OSM update. And as you turn there, I  
25 will start.

26  
27                  The first topic there is a staffing  
28 update. I just want to introduce a couple new folks.  
29 We have Robbin LaVine, she works -- she's an  
30 anthropologist, works in the Anthropology Division.  
31 She's wonderful. She's been a great addition to OSM.  
32 She has an extensive background working in Bristol Bay,  
33 and she's just been a wonderful addition. If you get  
34 to work with her, she's very nice and very helpful.  
35 And we love having her at OSM.

36  
37                  The second person we hired is Ameer  
38 Howard. She is the new subsistence policy  
39 coordinator. She's been on since July. Again  
40 extensive background and ties to the Aleutians. So  
41 she's been a great addition, very knowledgeable, very  
42 bright, and we're very glad to have her in the policy  
43 -- as a policy coordinator. So if you're in Anchorage,  
44 and you can always stop into OSM and meet some of these  
45 people that you see their names written down here, and  
46 come and find me, too.

47  
48                  Anyways, lastly there's quite a few  
49 open positions right now. We are hiring a Council  
50 coordinator. We have one empty Council coordinator

1 position right now. We have one empty anthropologist  
2 position. We also have a Pathways student, which is  
3 like sort of an internship for anthropology. We have a  
4 fisheries biometrician that I believe closed this week,  
5 so I'll be hiring that position, and hopefully doing  
6 interviews in the next few weeks. We have two fish  
7 biologists that are open right now, or that will be  
8 advertised. A grants management specialist for the  
9 Fisheries Monitoring Program to keep track of all the  
10 money and the applications, so that position will be  
11 advertised soon. We also have an information  
12 technology specialist and an administrative assistant  
13 we'll be hiring. So quite a few over the next few  
14 months we'll be hiring in OSM.

15  
16                   The next update is -- and I'm not going  
17 to read this one. It's on the bottom of Page 247.  
18 It's North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopts  
19 measures to reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering  
20 Sea pollock fishery.

21  
22                   If you turn the page to 248, the last  
23 paragraph in that section I will read.

24  
25                   In summary, the NPFMC's actions puts in  
26 place measures to further reduce bycatch in all times  
27 of abundance, and to ensure that in periods of low  
28 Chinook salmon abundance the pollock fishery would  
29 be limited to a lower level of bycatch. So the numbers  
30 and rationale are included in that update.

31  
32                   The next thing I want to go through is  
33 a section called bridging the gap. It's on the bottom  
34 of Page 248. Bridging the gap between Native  
35 communities, conservation, and natural resource  
36 management. This is a grant update. This one really  
37 excites me. We have -- through the National Fish and  
38 Wildlife Foundation we received over a million dollars  
39 to hire refuge information technicians and ANSEP summer  
40 students. So I've been trying to figure out exact --  
41 let you know exactly how many RITs, refuge information  
42 technicians we hired and how many ANSEP students we  
43 hired, but I can't get ahold of anybody back at the  
44 office. So that continues on Page 249.

45  
46                   And let's see if there's anything else  
47 I want to update. Those refuge information technicians  
48 and the ANSEP students are for the Yukon-Kuskokwim area  
49 and Doyon regions. That's the focus of those positions  
50 and the focus of that grant, that \$1 million grant. So

1 I know it's quite a few ANSEP students. It's I think  
2 between -- over the next three years it's between 12  
3 and 16 each summer, so that's quite a few students it's  
4 supporting. And I'm not sure off hand on the RIT, how  
5 many RITs it -- but I think it's three to six. I'm  
6 guessing it's in that area per year.

7  
8 So I think that's it with the update.  
9 I think Robert's going to cover the changes to  
10 appointment process. And that is all I have now at  
11 this time. Mr. Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any  
14 questions for OSM. Any questions for Mr. Stewart.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,  
19 thank you.

20  
21 Go ahead, Robert.

22  
23 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 Just real quick that, you know, in previous Council  
25 meetings you hear the Council coordinator or OSM Staff  
26 discuss possible changes to the appointment process,  
27 primarily going from three-year appointment to a four-  
28 year appointment. Those suggested changes that have  
29 been approved by the Councils were sent to the  
30 Secretaries for actions, but they have not responded.  
31 So for at least in the near future that we'll continue  
32 with the same appointments and the same appointment  
33 process and what you're -- than what you're used to.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.  
38 Excuse me.

39  
40 We are now down, getting close to the  
41 end here. The next item on the agenda is future  
42 meeting dates. Winter 2016 all Council meeting dates  
43 update. Mr. Larson. Pardon me if I forget your last  
44 name every once in a while.

45  
46 MR. LARSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
47 Chair. In your book under Page 250, there's a  
48 discussion regarding what's going to happen at this  
49 winter Council meeting. It's going to be a joint  
50 Council meeting with all 10 Councils. It will be in

1 Anchorage. The dates are March 7th through 11th, that  
2 week. It will be at the Egan Center. There is going  
3 to be both concurrent sessions and sessions that are  
4 grouped. There's going to be trainings. We'll have a  
5 training on -- ANILCA training, Robert's Rules  
6 training. There will be Federal Indian law training,  
7 cross cultural communications training. There will be  
8 customary and traditional use determination training.  
9 And there will be regulatory process trainings. There  
10 will be State and Federal representatives there, and we  
11 completely organized and understand the dual management  
12 of fish and wildlife resources. There will be a number  
13 of reports. If you look, there's a draft agenda on the  
14 second page. And then on the fourth page is the  
15 meeting schedule. And a review of the trainings, the  
16 panels and the reports on the fifth and last page of  
17 that enclosure.

18  
19 I'll be there as a Council coordinator.  
20 I will likely conduct the Robert's Rules of Order  
21 training. So you will have another opportunity to  
22 interact with me.

23  
24 And I think that's -- we're all pretty  
25 excited about getting together as a bigger group. The  
26 feedback I've gotten from the other Councils is that  
27 they're very excited as well. I know Southeast is.

28  
29 So that's my report.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And what about the  
32 2016 all-Council meeting -- oh, okay. That's the all-  
33 Council meeting.

34  
35 MR. LARSON: Yes.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And select the fall  
38 2016 meeting date and location.

39  
40 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I have an  
41 updated Council meeting calendar. Previous to this  
42 point, the Kodiak/Aleutians have selected September  
43 28th and 29 in Sand Point as their preferred meeting  
44 times. You'll see that the Council calendar that's in  
45 your book does not have the latest information in it.  
46 This is something that we just -- I just got as an  
47 email a few minutes ago. But you might want to make  
48 that note, that Kodiak/Aleutians is going to meet on  
49 September 28th and 29th of 2016.

50

1 The Northwest Arctic is going to meet  
2 on October 5th and 6th. And the other dates that.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: October 5th and 6th,  
5 too?

6  
7 MR. LARSON: October 5th and 6th,  
8 that's correct.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And who was that?

11  
12 MR. LARSON: Northwest Arctic.

13  
14 The other date that you might want to  
15 keep in mind is the AFN Convention in Fairbanks.  
16 That's October 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

17  
18 So we have a fairly open meeting  
19 calendar. And it would be appropriate at this time for  
20 you guys to select the dates and the location.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any Council members  
23 got any suggestions.

24  
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have a question. What  
26 was the first RAC you mentioned?

27  
28 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The  
29 Kodiak/Aleutians are going to meet in Sand Point on  
30 September 28 and 29th.

31  
32 MR. ULAK: Sand Point?

33  
34 MR. LARSON: Yes.

35  
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: 23 to 29?

37  
38 MR. LARSON: 28th to 29, yes.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 28th and 29th. And  
41 October 5th and 6th will be Northwest Arctic. October  
42 20th, 21st, and 22nd is AFN.

43  
44 Any suggestions, Council, on your fall  
45 meeting date and location.

46  
47 Mr. Roczicka.

48  
49 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50 Right around the first part of October here just seems

1 to be pretty wearing with all the other meetings that  
2 are going on. There's also AVCP convention that occurs  
3 right around that time, too. To toss something out,  
4 I'd recommend maybe October 26th and 27 would be some  
5 good dates.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 26 and 27. What do  
8 the Council members think of October 26th -- Mr. Bill,  
9 what do you think of 26th and 27th of October.

10  
11 MR. BILL: Where -- when is AFN? I  
12 mean AVCP? 26 and 27? Yeah, I go vote.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Or we could go into  
15 September, about the same time we're holding this one.  
16 It's entirely up to you gentlemen.

17  
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: How about October 13/14.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: October 13 and 14 has  
21 been suggested. And 26 and 27 you said. Suggested  
22 October 13th and 14th, that's Thursday and Friday. And  
23 then another suggestion was October 26th and 27th which  
24 is on Wednesday and Thursday. Are we going to sit here  
25 and look and smile at each other all afternoon?  
26 Anyone's got any suggestions.

27  
28 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, there's two  
31 suggestions. Are we in agreement with one or the  
32 other.

33  
34 Mr. Ulak.

35  
36 MR. ULAK: I'd say October 13/14.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: October 13th, 14th is  
39 one. Go ahead.

40  
41 MS. CLEVELAND: 13/14.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 13 and 14. That's  
44 two. Okay. That's four. Anyone else with 13 and 14.  
45 Why don't you just make it a motion.

46  
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that our fall  
2 2016 meeting be in Bethel on October 13 and 14.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.  
5 Do I hear a second.  
6  
7 MS. CLEVELAND: Second.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Dorothy  
10 Johnson.  
11  
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.  
13  
14 MS. CLEVELAND: Annie Cleveland.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry, Annie  
17 Cleveland. I can't tell the difference between your  
18 two voices.  
19  
20 Any other discussion.  
21  
22 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I'm  
23 discussing if you have your meeting on 13 and 14,  
24 you'll go home on 15 and we have no Staff support.  
25  
26 MR. LARSON: That's an important  
27 consideration I think.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. You've got to  
30 take into consideration the Staff. If we're going to  
31 be going home on the 15th, we won't have Staff support.  
32  
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: May I modify my motion?  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may modify  
36 your motion, Mr. Aloysius.  
37  
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: October 12 and 13th.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 12th and 13th sound  
41 good? Okay. Is that a motion.  
42  
43 MR. ROCZICKA: He just amended his  
44 motion.  
45  
46 MS. CLEVELAND: Second.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that -- concur  
49 with that. Any other discussion on 13 and 14th.  
50

1 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Oney.  
4  
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, 12th and 13th.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 12 and 13, I'm sorry.  
8 Yes, Mr. Oney.  
9 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman. Taking into consideration of Greg Roczicka's  
11 comment relating to AVCP convention, I think it's right  
12 about that time. It's usually a week before AFN, so we  
13 need to consider that, too. A majority of the people  
14 do wear many hats, and they are tribal councils that  
15 they attend the AVCP convention.  
16  
17 Thank you.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.  
20  
21 Go ahead, Mr. Aloysius.  
22  
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, it seems like  
24 they've been moving up their AVCP convention. They  
25 just had one last week. I mean, they've moved the date  
26 up because of too many crowded dates in the middle and  
27 the -- you know, because it's before AFN, so they moved  
28 it up.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So, Mr. Roczicka, go  
31 ahead.  
32  
33 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 No, they moved it up this year because AFN moved theirs  
35 up. It's generally two weeks before, so actually those  
36 dates shouldn't conflict with AVCP. It's probably  
37 going to be the 4th through the 6th of October. So it  
38 should be all right there, but that goes with some of  
39 the paperwork deadlines that they want to have that AFN  
40 has in place that they have to receive two weeks ahead  
41 of time.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion on the floor  
44 for 12th and 13th. Any further discussion.  
45  
46 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.  
49  
50 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you. Maybe

1 keep 26/27 as an option. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion maker, would  
4 you like to take 26th and 27th as an option. Why would  
5 we need an option?

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: We have a motion on the  
8 floor.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have a motion on  
11 the floor. That's correct. There's a motion and it's  
12 seconded. All in favor of 12th and 13th of October  
13 signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried. Our  
22 fall meeting will be on the 12th and 13th of October.

23

24 We are down to item 13. At this time  
25 I'll be calling for closing comments. Mr. Ulak, do you  
26 have any closing comments.

27

28 MR. ULAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29 I've learned from this meeting, from the previous  
30 meeting we've had. I still have a lot to learn, but  
31 working together I think that's one big thing that I  
32 look at. Quyana

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr. Brown,  
35 any closing comments.

36

37 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

38

39 INTERPRETER: The meeting went very  
40 well, and I'm very grateful that the meeting went off  
41 without any incident. And the information and all the  
42 questions were met and talked about. And also those  
43 workers, they were all here, too. I'm very grateful.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

48

49 Mr. Andrew, do you have any closing  
50 comments?

1 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 Earlier when we had our annual reports, those were my  
3 main concerns.

4  
5 But first of all I'd like to thank our  
6 Staff and Fish and Game for giving us support for this  
7 meeting. And to my fellow Council members and women,  
8 I'll say quyana.

9  
10 And the other one I forgot to mention  
11 was we need more moose hunting time in the rain of 18,  
12 because we only had four days this fall. And my  
13 village people brought that up, and they weren't too  
14 happy with it.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Andrew.

19  
20  
21 Mr. Bill.

22  
23 MR. BILL: (In Yup'ik)

24  
25 INTERPRETER: I don't have a lot of  
26 comments to make here, but I'm really thankful that  
27 didn't have any major fireworks, and we all worked  
28 together, and that's what I'm thankful for. So thank  
29 you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Bill.

32  
33 Mr. Oney.

34  
35 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
36 Chairman.

37  
38 First of all I want to thank the Staff  
39 for putting this meeting for us, and they do a lot of  
40 hard work in putting this together for us, so I thank  
41 you for that.

42  
43 And I would like to also thank those  
44 people that have made an effort to be for our meeting,  
45 that have traveled to some here for the meeting. I  
46 thank you for that, too. And everyone else. Thank  
47 you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.

50

1 Mr. Roczicka, do you have any closing  
2 comments.

3  
4 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, echoing the  
5 earlier ones, and just to make a note, there's been a  
6 lot of history made this year, and a lot of potential  
7 for that continuing in the future years, and I wish us  
8 all well to do that.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Roczicka.

12  
13 Ms. Johnson, do you have any closing  
14 comments.

15  
16 MS. JOHNSON: I'd just like to thank  
17 everyone for the learning opportunity, and I've got a  
18 long ways to go yet before I know. A lot of reading to  
19 do. Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Dorothy.

22  
23 Mr. Aloysius, do you have any closing  
24 comments.

25  
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: I know I offend a lot of  
27 people when I get too excited about something, and I  
28 apologize for that, but, you know, my spirit, mind, and  
29 heart are on this land, the water, and the first  
30 inhabitants of this land. The fish, the game, plants  
31 and berries. And every year we concentrate on only two  
32 things. One is the wildlife and game, and the other  
33 one is the fish, and mostly salmon. We have 20  
34 different species of native fishes that we consume in  
35 this area, and we also consume the migratory birds that  
36 come here and visit us every spring and leave us in the  
37 fall. We never even thing about them or talk about  
38 them. We never talk about our native fishes, the  
39 furbearers. It seems the only thing we are concerned  
40 about is the salmon and the moose and caribou. There's  
41 so much -- you know, take an example. My house is  
42 right here in Kalskag. Fifty mile radius, there's  
43 moose, caribou, bear, grizzly, beaver, otter, mink,  
44 lynx. fox, marten. There's three different kind of  
45 foxes. The six salmon that go up the river. The  
46 native fish, the grayling, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden,  
47 lush, sheefish, blackfish, five kind of whitefish, four  
48 kinds of pike. And I could go on and on and on. And  
49 each and every one of those fall under the category of  
50 sustaining life of our people.

1                   We get lopsided on the things that are  
2 brought to us by people from the outside. We never  
3 take time to love, honor, and respect our backyard,  
4 which is where we eat from. We need more time to think  
5 about that, and to educate our children and our  
6 grandchildren about the importance of keeping the land  
7 as pristine as it was before we got here. Because we  
8 have to remember that we're only visitor. We're (In  
9 Yup'ik). The fish and game, plants and berries were  
10 here way before us.

11  
12                   The water was here way before us.

13  
14                   We're just visitors. We aren't going  
15 to be here long. And whenever we visit somewhere, we  
16 leave a pretty bad mark. And that was something that  
17 our people a long time ago stressed. When you visit a  
18 place and you leave it, you leave it as close as  
19 possible as when you found it. That's why many people  
20 never -- it's like me, never got their title to a  
21 Native allotment, because there was no evidence of use  
22 and occupancy. Because that was our first rule, when  
23 you go to a place, you leave it just the way you found  
24 it. And this is something that, you know, we have to  
25 instill in the minds of our young people and in the  
26 minds of the people from outside who are dictating to  
27 use how we eat and where we eat and how we eat. This  
28 land was here before all of us, and it's our  
29 responsibility to be the stewards that our grandparents  
30 and our ancestors taught us how to be.

31  
32                   Thank you.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for those  
35 reminders, Robert.

36  
37                   And, Ann, do you have any closing  
38 comments.

39  
40                   MS. CLEVELAND: I'm glad I came here  
41 for this meeting. I feel better than I did last time.  
42 Last year was my first one, and I felt a little bit  
43 better being here this time.

44  
45                   And I want to thank the people that are  
46 here to answer our questions. Quyana.

47  
48                   And it was good to hear a good report  
49 from Mike Williams and others. It makes my heart  
50 really happy. Quyana.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. First of  
2 all I would like to thank Robert Aloysius for reminding  
3 us of why we're here. And I've always looked up to  
4 Robert because of his ability to be able to remind us  
5 of who we are and where we come from, and why we are  
6 here.

7  
8 And I also want to thank the Staff, all  
9 of your, for doing all the work that you've done to  
10 make our decisions in deciding on these proposals  
11 easier than it would have been if we had to go out and  
12 investigate all this information that you've given us.  
13 And I want to thank you all for doing all the hard work  
14 to make it easier for us.

15  
16 And I would like to also thank the  
17 public for coming, because without out, we wouldn't be  
18 here. We're here to serve you, and to serve you as  
19 well as we can, and I hope we're filling those  
20 mandates.

21  
22 At this time I would like to suspend  
23 the rules for one more subject. Mr. Robert has a  
24 couple things on his mind that he would like to bring  
25 up. Mr. Larson.

26  
27 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 We have tried to wordsmith the motions  
30 that were made by the Council. I wouldn't mind reading  
31 them to you, and what I think is the will and words of  
32 the Council. That if there is any discussion or  
33 concerns about the exact words that will be printed,  
34 then this is a good time to have those discussions. So  
35 if you would bear with me, I'll read those two motions  
36 for you.

37  
38 The first motion is regarding the  
39 proposed Refuge regulations. The motion reads, the  
40 Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
41 recommends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not  
42 pursue the proposed regulatory changes regarding  
43 hunting on Refuge lands any further until the U.S. Fish  
44 and Wildlife Service creates a companion plan that  
45 includes the management of populations to provide for  
46 the priority human use for subsistence, and the amounts  
47 necessary for subsistence uses on Refuge lands.

48  
49 MR. ROCZICKA: Close enough.

50

1 MR. LARSON: The other motion that was  
2 adopted by the Council is the motion in support of the  
3 Kuskokwim River Partnership Project. I'd like to read  
4 that motion to you. It goes as follows.

5  
6 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence  
7 Regional Advisory Council supports the formation of a  
8 Kuskokwim Fisheries Joint Subcommittee with the Western  
9 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to  
10 enhance the Kuskokwim Partnership Project. The Council  
11 also supports the formation of a memorandum of  
12 understanding between the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal  
13 Fisheries Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
14 Service.

15  
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Man, you sure know how  
17 to add to a simple statement.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.

22  
23 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I  
24 think what he was trying to do was what he added, and  
25 it was the intent language that was added on  
26 afterwards.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that close enough.

29  
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I said I'm easy.

31  
32 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 MR. ROCZICKA: And that incorporated  
35 some of the stuff that I read into the record for  
36 clarifications in the document.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. That will  
39 pass.

40  
41 We are just about ready to adjourn, but  
42 if you must address us, come on up. Go ahead. You're  
43 welcome to make a.....

44  
45 MR. NICORI: Just a quick thank you to  
46 all of you for supporting 16-35, the use of artificial  
47 lights. But I'd like to tell you, don't give me all  
48 the credit. The credit, most of it belongs to Robert  
49 Sundown and Pippa for doing all the work. The credit  
50 given to me is only that I agreed to be sponsor of the

1 bill. That's it. But thank you very much.

2

3 But to make your thoughts easier, if  
4 ever any of you go denning, you could use your  
5 flashlights for bears.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you mind doing  
10 the benediction for us also while you're there.

11

12 MR. NICORI: (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: In the name of the Father  
15 and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

16

17 MR. NICORI: Oh, God our Creator, we  
18 thank You for all that You have given us and provided  
19 both for our physical status and also the ones that we  
20 don't see, all the spiritual aspects of our life that  
21 You have made known to us. We ask that You bring your  
22 blessing to all the members of this Council, and those  
23 who were involved in it from the beginning, and those  
24 who will be involved afterwards from all the decisions  
25 that they made. We ask that You bless their families  
26 and their loved ones and keep them all safe in Your  
27 hands. And we ask that You be with us every day at  
28 every moment of our life, and give us the courage to do  
29 Your will so that all of us will be working together,  
30 not only for the good of our area, but also for the  
31 good of our universe and our world. We ask You all  
32 this, for we have no other god but You, and we give You  
33 glory, thanksgiving, worship. You are the Father, Son,  
34 and Holy Spirit now and forever.

35

36 Amen.

37

38 IN UNISON: Amen.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The Chair now will  
41 entertain a motion for adjournment.

42

43 MR. BILL: Motion to adjourn.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion to adjourn by  
46 Mr. Bill. Do I hear a second.

47

48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor say aye.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's adjourned at  
-- meeting's adjourned at 4:32:57.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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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 128 through 281 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 8th day of October 2015 at Bethel, 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 19th day of October 2015.

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