

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 Egan Convention Center
8 Anchorage, Alaska
9 March 9, 2016
10 1:30 p.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
16 Fred Alexie
17 Ray Collins
18 Donald Honea
19 Jenny Pelkola
20 Pollock Simon
21 Dennis Thomas
22 Robert Walker
23 Darrel Vent

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27
28 Acting Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson
29 Melinda Burke
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 03/09/2016)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's 1:30 p.m.
8 Our RAC meeting is only for half a day. We're going to
9 have to cover the agenda all in this half-day session.
10 We're bringing the meeting to order. I welcome those
11 in attendance here and we have a new coordinator.
12 Melinda is here to help us out in the transition and
13 I'm real happy to see that. We have two new Regional
14 Council members.

15
16 We're going to call the roll is what I
17 would like to do.

18
19 MS. PELKOLA: Robert Walker.

20
21 MR. R. WALKER: Here.

22
23 MS. PELKOLA: Don Honea.

24
25 MR. HONEA: Here.

26
27 MS. PELKOLA: Pollock Simon.

28
29 MR. SIMON: Here.

30
31 MS. PELKOLA: Raymond Collins.

32
33 MR. COLLINS: Here.

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: Jack Reakoff.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

38
39 MS. PELKOLA: Darrell Vent.

40
41 MR. VENT: Here.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA: Timothy Gervais.

44
45 (No response)

46
47 MS. PELKOLA: Dennis Thomas.

48
49 MR. THOMAS: Here.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola. I'm here.
2 Fred Alexie.

3
4 MR. ALEXIE: Here.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I welcome the two
7 new Council members. I would like each Council member
8 to give a brief statement of the community you come
9 from and experience and so forth.

10
11 Just a real short synopsis.

12
13 Dennis.

14
15 MR. THOMAS: Crooked Creek on the
16 Kuskokwim, which is between Aniak and Sleetmute, up in
17 that area. We're pretty isolated in there and this is
18 one of the reasons I got interested in something like
19 this to see if there's something I could possibly do to
20 help bring some of our fish back. I don't know whether
21 I can or not, but I'm here to listen to any ideas that
22 come out. I've got some ideas I'd like to check on
23 myself here, but we'll get to that when we get the
24 meeting going.

25
26 Other than that, I'm glad to be here
27 and I think I got -- I'm up for a two-year term, I
28 think. I'm filling in for somebody, but I'm not sure.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You should be
31 appointment for two years at least.

32
33 Fred.

34
35 MR. ALEXIE: Good afternoon. My name
36 is Fred Alexie and I'm from Kaltag. My main interest
37 in getting on the RAC board -- I'm from the local area
38 anyway, but my main thing is protection of our fish and
39 game. I've been working a lot of years in subsistence
40 trying to protect our resources and to bring them back
41 if possible. My avenues have been bumping up against
42 you know who. I'm not going to say who, but you know
43 who they're bumping up against. I find out I'm
44 spinning my wheels for nothing, so I figured, well, how
45 about I look toward the RAC. Maybe I can make more
46 headway there. I know after hearing all the talk two
47 days before this that we could go someplace. I'm just
48 here to try to work on those issues.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome to the
2 Regional Council. So we're going to go around the rest
3 of the table here. Zach, do you want to -- we have a
4 new Council Coordinator. Zach, do you want to
5 introduce yourself.

6
7 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 My name is Zach Stevenson. I am honored to be here
9 serving Western Interior Alaska as the new coordinator.
10 Previously I served for the past five years living in
11 Kotzebue where I coordinated the Northwest Arctic
12 Borough Subsistence Mapping Project, documenting where
13 hunters, fishers and gatherers in seven coastal
14 communities practice subsistence and that information
15 will be used as a tool for protecting the subsistence
16 way of life and also guiding development in the future
17 in the region.

18
19 I work for you and please excuse me if
20 I make mistakes in learning today, but my goal is to be
21 eyes and ears on the ground and help to provide you any
22 information that you need to serve your interests.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
27 Zach. Every time you have a new job it takes a while
28 to get up to speed, but Melinda is good at keeping
29 people up to speed.

30
31 Melinda.

32
33 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Melinda Burke. I used to be this Council's
35 Coordinator. About 90 days ago I accepted a job with
36 the U.S. Forest Service in Juneau. I'm the new Tribal
37 Relations Program Manager for the region and will be
38 participating in the tribal consultation panels this
39 week with the other liaisons and coordinators.

40
41 So thrilled to be able to be here with
42 you all today. I know Zach is going to do a wonderful
43 job. This is a really great Council. Again, thank you
44 so much for allowing me to have served under you for so
45 long and happy to be here today.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.
48 And our court recorder Penny -- your last name?

49
50 REPORTER: Reagle-Smith.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Reagle-Smith. We'll
2 go around the room. Gerald.

3
4 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann.
5 I'm the assistant Federal in-season manager for the
6 Yukon.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: Hello. I'm Katerina
9 Wessels. I'm a new subsistence Council coordinator for
10 Eastern Interior and I'm with Office of Subsistence
11 Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

12
13 MS. GARCIA: I'm Sabrina Garcia. I'm
14 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I am
15 the summer season assistant manager on the Yukon River.

16
17 MS. MCBURNEY: I'm Mary McBurney. I'm
18 the subsistence program lead for the National Park
19 Service in the Alaska Region and also the Interagency
20 Staff Committee member for the National Park Service.

21
22 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi, I'm Catherine
23 Moncrieff. I'm with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
24 Association and I'm the staff anthropologist.

25
26 MS. JULIANUS: I'm Erin Julianus, a
27 wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Land Management in
28 Fairbanks.

29
30 MR. SEPPI: Good afternoon. I'm Bruce
31 Seppi. I'm a wildlife biologist with Anchorage Field
32 Office BLM in Anchorage.

33
34 MR. ELLIS: Good afternoon. I'm Mitch
35 Ellis. I'm the Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge
36 System for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
37 Alaska.

38
39 MR. BORN: Good afternoon. Ray Born,
40 Deputy Refuge Manager for Yukon Delta National Wildlife
41 Refuge in Bethel.

42
43 MR. SANCHEZ: Good afternoon. Ronnie
44 Sanchez. I'm the Refuge Supervisor for the Southern
45 Zone of Refuges here in Alaska.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: I've only got like 25
48 slides to show, so don't worry. I'm Vince Mathews. I
49 wanted to make sure you could hear me. I represent
50 Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flat. Any stories Robert

1 tells you about me they're not true. Anyway, the
2 refuge report for Kanuti is on page WI17. I'm going to
3 be kind of floating in the room. My daughter is
4 defending her thesis, so I leave tonight for Denver.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see why you
7 want to point out where your report is. Okay.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: I was just joking because
10 I know you guys had some people come up with 40 slides
11 and you guys would kind of phase out.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Vince used to
14 also be our coordinator for this Regional Council.
15 Thanks, Vince.

16
17 MR. MCKENNA: Good afternoon. My name
18 is Brian McKenna, fisheries biologist with Tanana
19 Chiefs Conference. I just want to say it's a pleasure
20 to be here. I look forward to meeting and speaking
21 with a lot of you. I was talking with Jack earlier in
22 another session. Unfortunately I haven't been able to
23 attend many of the Western RAC meetings in the last
24 couple years. It seemed to always coincide with other
25 meetings, so I'm happy to be here today.

26
27 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon. I'm Marcy
28 Okada, the subsistence coordinator for Gates of the
29 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

30
31 MR. RIVARD: Good afternoon. I'm Don
32 Rivard. I'm one of the fish biologists with the Office
33 of Subsistence Management covering the Yukon and the
34 Kuskokwim.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. MEARS: Good afternoon. My name is
39 Jeremy Mears. I work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
40 Service and I'm a fish biologist.

41
42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Clara Demientieff, a
43 refuge information tech out of Innoko Wildlife Refuge
44 in McGrath and also being supervised by Jeremy and
45 Kenton out of the Galena Refuge.

46
47 MR. CHASE: Ken Chase, Anvik, McGrath.
48 I'm RIT for the Innoko Refuge out of McGrath and also
49 work with at Nowitna with Jeremy and Kenton. I try and
50 work one areas try to enhance the living and the way of

1 life of our people in our district and all of the
2 state of Alaska for better usage.

3

4 MR. MOOS: Good afternoon. I'm Kenton
5 Moos. I'm the Refuge Manager for Koyukuk, Nowitna and
6 Innoko Refuge Complex out of Galena.

7

8 MR. HAVENER: Good afternoon. Jeremy
9 Havener. I'm the Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for
10 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko and I'm also stationed out of
11 Galena.

12

13 MR. SHARP: Good afternoon. I'm Dan
14 Sharp. I serve as the statewide subsistence
15 coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management and as
16 the representative to the Interagency Staff Committee.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I'll
19 take the people who are on the phone. If you're on the
20 phone, introduce yourself.

21

22 MS. BROWN: This is Caroline Brown.
23 I'm the Subsistence Resource Specialist for the
24 Interior at the Department of Fish and Game, Division
25 of Subsistence.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody else on the
28 phone?

29

30 MR. SAITO: Yeah, this is Brandon
31 Saito, area biologist, Kotzebue Fish and Game office.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 Anybody else.

36

37 (No response)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stephanie, do you
40 want to introduce yourself. She just sneaked in.

41

42 MS. SCHMIDT: Stephanie Schmidt,
43 Fishery Management Biologist at Alaska Department of
44 Fish and Game.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think that
47 covers everybody in attendance at our meeting. Review
48 and adopt the agenda.

49

50 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

2

3 MS. BURKE: Let's do the invocation,
4 please, if we could get somebody to do an invocation
5 for us.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I skipped that,
8 sorry. Ray, would you like to do that.

9

10 (Invocation)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got ahead of
13 myself there. Thanks, Melinda, for keeping me on
14 track. So we're going to review and adopt the agenda.
15 One thing that has come up is our Wildlife Proposal
16 WP16-41 for Dall sheep in Unit 24. At our fall meeting
17 we wanted a harvest reporting registration permit for
18 Dall sheep for Gates of the Arctic National Park. We
19 had adopted language that was requiring a harvest
20 survey. Well, there's some nuances to that term.

21

22 So the suggested language, which you
23 should have a sheet with red lettering on the bottom
24 here, is that except residences of Allakaket and Alatna
25 where reporting will be by community harvest reporting
26 system, which alludes to allowing the tribal councils
27 to report the Dall sheep harvest from the Gates of the
28 Arctic Park and there's only a few people hunting out
29 of Allakaket and Alatna, so that's relatively easy to
30 do, but it gets away from some of the legal languages
31 of doing a harvest survey. So I want to put that on
32 the agenda. That's the reason why I would like to
33 include that.

34

35 Then I had a request from Gerald
36 Maschmann with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be
37 included with the agency reports on item 12. So put
38 WP16-41 under old business and we'll be Gerald under
39 agency reports. Any other additions to the agenda.
40 Ray.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Do we
43 have on there the discussion of the ruling on predator
44 control? That was being referred by all the groups.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's here on
47 old business, refuge proposed rule. That's on Page 110
48 and then we have U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff to go
49 over that with us also.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead,
4 Zach.
5
6 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Two items.
7 One was the update from the Koyukuk/Nowitna Region.
8 Secondly, the announcement regarding a fisheries
9 update, which will happen both tomorrow and then Friday
10 regarding the Y-K fisheries.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's at a
13 breakout?
14
15 MR. STEVENSON: Correct, 1:30 tomorrow.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 1:30 tomorrow.
18 Okay.
19
20 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
21
22 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, Melinda.
25
26 MS. BURKE: There's one more thing to
27 introduce, Mr. Chair. There is a letter that's being
28 proposed by a couple of the other Councils that they'd
29 like to bounce off of you folks today. That's in
30 regards to some issues that are common among all of the
31 RACs. There is a draft letter that's been written up.
32 I believe one or two other Councils has already
33 reviewed it today. So if you would like to we can add
34 that under new business. The Council can review that
35 letter. I haven't handed it out quite yet. I know you
36 have a lot of paper in front of you. But if you'd like
37 to review that letter and possibly endorse it, we can
38 discuss that under new business.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yes, we'll
41 put that down under new business and that's the all-RAC
42 letter that was discussed yesterday. Any other
43 additions to the agenda. Don.
44
45 MR. HONEA: No, Mr. Chair. I'd just
46 motion to adopt.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Motion to
49 adopt the agenda. Do we have a second.
50

1 MR. VENT: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
4 Further discussion on the agenda.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
9 adopting the agenda as amended signify by saying aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then we're down
18 to election of officers and the DFO is -- okay,
19 Melinda, go ahead.
20
21 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Thank you very
22 much. I will take over chairing the meeting until the
23 new chairman is elected. With that I'd like to open
24 nominations for a new Chair of the Western Interior
25 Regional Advisory Council.
26
27 MR. COLLINS: Nominate Jack Reakoff.
28
29 MS. BURKE: Second the nomination of
30 Jack Reakoff, is there a second.
31
32 MR. ALEXIE: Second.
33
34 MS. BURKE: Seconded by Mr. Alexie from
35 Kaltag. Are there any further nominations?
36
37 MS. PELKOLA: I make the motion to
38 close nominations.
39
40 MS. BURKE: A motion to close
41 nominations by Jenny Pelkola from Galena. Is there a
42 second?
43
44 MR. ALEXIE: Second.
45
46 MS. BURKE: All in favor signify by
47 saying aye.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 MS. BURKE: All opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 MS. BURKE: Unanimously reappoint Mr.
6 Reakoff from Wiseman as the Chair. With that, I'll
7 turn that back over for the election of the Vice-Chair
8 and the Secretary.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.
11 Appreciate that. So we open the floor nomination for
12 Vice-Chair.
13
14 MR. HONEA: I nominate Ray Collins.
15
16 MR. SIMON: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock seconded,
19 Don motioned. Any further nominations.
20
21 MR. ALEXIE: I move that nominations be
22 closed.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second
25 to the motion to close the nominations.
26
27 MR. THOMAS: Dennis seconded. Further
28 discussion.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
33 Ray Collins as Vice-Chair of the Western Interior
34 Regional Advisory Council signify by saying aye.
35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
39
40 (No opposing votes)
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And current
43 Secretary is Jenny. Nomination for Secretary.
44
45 MR. HONEA: I nominate Jenny.
46
47 MR. SIMON: Second.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock seconded.
50 Further nominations.

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. HONEA: Motion to close.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to close by
6 Don. We've got a second for that?
7
8 MR. VENT: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell seconded.
11 Those in favor of Jenny as Secretary for the Western
12 Interior Regional Advisory Council signify by saying
13 aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've reinstated the
22 same officers for the Regional Council. Review and
23 approve the previous minutes. That's on WI4, which is
24 on the next page. This would be our Galena meeting.
25 We covered various wildlife proposals. We also covered
26 some fish proposals and made some recommendations on
27 and some of those fishery proposal were actually
28 adopted. There's some proposals that actually would
29 affect our region and there's a suggestion to State
30 proposals that actually passed that would affect our
31 region that should be included in our proposals, but we
32 have that on our agenda as fishery proposals.
33
34 Any discussion on the minutes.
35
36 MR. COLLINS: I move approval of the
37 minutes.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to adopt the
40 minutes by Ray. Have you read.....
41
42 MR. VENT: Second.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a second
45 on that, Darrell. Discussion. My question is have you
46 read the minutes from our last meeting, Fred?
47
48 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, I did.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Dennis?

1 MR. THOMAS: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they're aware of
4 our previous actions. Any further discussion on the
5 minutes.
6
7 MR. POLLOCK: Question.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
10 called. All those in favor of adoption of the minutes
11 signify by saying aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're moving
20 right along.
21
22 Council member reports.
23
24 We'll start with Robert.
25
26 MR. R. WALKER: For what?
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council member
29 report. Do you have a report?
30
31 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 I'm not really here. We did go down and go out of Holy
33 Cross to look at the bison. They're kind of like
34 moving a lot further south than we anticipated, so this
35 is something we might have to take a look at again this
36 spring after the water leaves.
37
38 I went to Grayling because they had a
39 nuisance bison there right in the community. They had
40 to come and haul it out by helicopter, which was very
41 unusual. I've never seen this done before. Having a
42 chance to have a firsthand look and work with them, it
43 was quite an interesting deal here. They had to
44 tranquilize it, haul it out to the airport, load it
45 into a cargo sling and sling it out.
46
47 It was a nuisance because it was in the
48 town and it was at a couple people's porches eating
49 their dog food, so it got pretty tame. The local chief
50 had to call Fish and Wildlife and have them come and

1 remove it here. He was the one that had to get up at
2 6:00 o'clock in the morning, open his door and find a
3 bison on his porch, which is pretty hard to explain to
4 somebody that, you know, there's a bison on my porch,
5 could you come over and help me move it out.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. R. WALKER: It did this to a few
10 houses here too. Other than that, Mr. Chairman, that's
11 all I had.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.
16 It's always good to hear what's going on around the
17 region.

18

19 Darrell.

20

21 MR. VENT: Good afternoon, Chair.

22 Well, back home the weather is getting a little
23 different. I guess everybody's been talking about it
24 and how the animals have been moving with it. We
25 noticed that the wolves have been really pretty much
26 effective over there because the moose can't run with
27 hardly any snow, so those wolves are moving right
28 along. They're harder to catch, so we're having a
29 harder time with the predators. I noticed they were
30 talking about in the springtime that there's a lot more
31 bears out there too. So we're getting kind of worried
32 up there.

33

34 We still have moose, but we just don't
35 know what their numbers are. I guess we had a report
36 this spring that finally they had a moose count up
37 there. We're noticing that our ratios are not in favor
38 of having our spring hunt. So we haven't had a spring
39 hunt in like three, four years now. Hopefully if the
40 management could maybe try to correct this problem.
41 That way we don't have to be so worrisome in the
42 springtime when we need new fresh meat be eaten in the
43 villages.

44

45 That's about it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrell.
48 There's consultation with the Chair of the Western
49 Interior Regional Council on the winter moose hunt for
50 the Huslia area, but the bull:cow ratios are down to 26

1 bulls per 100 cows and we have a 30 bull per 100 cow
2 objective, so that's why that hunt didn't occur.
3 Primarily because there's lags in certain cohorts.
4 There was real poor calf recruitments and there was
5 really high harvest, so the people caught a lot of
6 moose in the fall time. So we can't actually have the
7 moose hunt unless we're meeting our management
8 objective of 30 bulls per 100 cows, which we should see
9 a turnaround because we have a better recruitment
10 lately. So I had to discuss that part with you.

11

12 Fred.

13

14 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 do have a bunch of reports from the Alaska Department
16 of Fish and Game. In our area there is 41 moose per
17 100. It's good. I got another report from the
18 fisheries department and the fall chum return was
19 really abundant, which is good. It's another
20 alternative to saving our king salmon, which we've
21 really sacrificed for the past two years. According to
22 the survey in the end, through our sacrifice from the
23 Yukon, from the Yukon River fishermen, is the return to
24 -- we met the escapement goal into the thing.

25

26 My thing is, Mr. Chair, about that
27 treaty, I really think the number should come down even
28 though it would take a major Act of Congress to do that
29 though, the numbers, because the numbers aren't there
30 no more where they used to be a long time ago. You
31 know, that's where I think that we should try to work
32 on lowering that number, but it's going to take a major
33 Act of Congress to do that. I realize that.

34

35 At any rate, in our area, you know,
36 trapping is good, beaver trapping. You heard some of
37 the people testifying that the beavers are damming up
38 the spawning areas for the salmon. In our area,
39 Huslia, Allakaket, the beavers is one of our primary
40 food also, so we harvest them pretty regular. I know
41 they're harvested pretty regular.

42

43 With that, I should end. I could go on
44 forever.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That International
47 Agreement is set by the Trans-Boundary -- what is that?
48 It's like the International Panel on Yukon River
49 Salmon. It's 42,500 to 55,000 chinook salmon border
50 passage. That has to do with the Department of State

1 and a whole bunch of stuff. That's an international
2 agreement and that would be very hard for this body to
3 actually get that changed. We could advise. We could
4 say to the -- what is that, the Yukon River Panel that
5 managed that? The Yukon River Panel we could say that
6 number is high, but right now with a stock of concern
7 that would actually be fairly hard to change that.
8 But, you know, I take your point.

9

10 Go ahead, Fred.

11

12 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You know
13 we've got an international agreement with Canada, but
14 who does the sacrifice and all that to honor that
15 treaty? People on the Yukon. Not the whole state of
16 Alaska. You know, us people that live on the Yukon we
17 sacrifice daily to honor that treaty. Only people on
18 the Yukon, Kuskokwim and down Southeast someplace
19 there's another spawning stream. I really want to
20 clarify that point right there.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will state for
25 Canada's part the First Nations have not harvested
26 chinook salmon. Even though they had some quota, they
27 still didn't harvest. They actually bought fish from
28 Alaska or from the coast and actually imported fish.
29 So they actually haven't been taking any. Because
30 they're concerned about the stock, they're not even
31 taking fish, so they're making sacrifices also.

32

33 MR. ALEXIE: See, I didn't know that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I just wanted to
36 state that also. Ray.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, living on the head
39 of the Kuskokwim River, I kind of feel for the people
40 in Canada because the fish that are spawning up there
41 are fished all the way up the river and they got what
42 was left. I'm glad to hear that they did have good
43 escapement this year and that they're, as you
44 mentioned, Jack, that they're protecting those runs too
45 because that really means a lot in the future as I
46 understood it, about over half of the salmon in the
47 Yukon actually come from Canada. So getting production
48 up there will help the whole river in the future at
49 least, I think, and make it pay off.

50

1 We had a similar situation in the
2 Kuskokwim in that the fish spawning up in our area get
3 fished all the way up the river and they're the first
4 ones in, they have the furthest to go and they were the
5 biggest too. And I don't know if that's true in
6 Canada, but I would think it would be. That because
7 they have so long to go, those are some of the richest
8 salmon in the river. Hopefully in the future your
9 sacrifice is going to pay off in getting those big,
10 rich salmon back again.

11
12 The example in the Upper Kuskokwim, the
13 last count they actually did, they've been doing aerial
14 counts in the salmon river near -- just above McGrath
15 there. They only counted about 200. Well, with the
16 complete closure this year, the escapement was 6,800
17 and that was off of a poor run. So we saw the
18 escapement more than triple up there because they were
19 protected all the way up and that will pay off if we
20 can keep that up for a
21 few years. There are other headwater streams up there
22 where they weren't counting too that will contribute.

23
24 I know it's tough for those downriver
25 to watch those fish going by and not taking any of
26 them, but hopefully we're going to see it pay off in
27 the future.

28
29 In terms of moose, the local moose,
30 it's mostly State land up there, but it looks like
31 we're getting good survival and because we did have
32 predator control where we closed the area around
33 McGrath for a number of years and then did predator
34 control, we've got a bigger breeding population now, so
35 the moose numbers are coming back. And most of our
36 harvest was young bulls, but that means their sisters
37 are out there breeding. So it looks good for the
38 future and moose in the area again. We're going to get
39 back to what it was previously.

40
41 One thing I mentioned here and I think
42 at some point we may want to address again is there is
43 a problem in recruiting younger members who are working
44 and have jobs because they can't afford to take part in
45 meetings like this and we need more of them available.
46 So I think we should raise the issue of a meeting fee
47 that would make it possible for other people who are
48 working to take part in these meetings. It means a
49 minimum usually of three days contribution just for a
50 one-day meeting because there's travel on either side

1 for the rural people. On this one now it's five days
2 in here plus travel on either end.

3

4 So I think we ought to keep that in
5 mind in our annual report or something there in the
6 future that we bring that issue up again about a
7 meeting fee that will allow broader participation for
8 somebody that has to give up work or give up
9 subsistence activities in order to attend.

10

11 I'll close with that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray.

14

15 Pollock.

16

17 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
18 name is Pollock Simon, Sr. I live in Allakaket, Upper
19 Koyukuk River. There was no caribou for 10 years and
20 the moose population was down. We had wolf control
21 done for three years and already we're seeing some
22 results. We're seeing more moose tracks this winter.
23 During the fall hunt, a few of us did better than the
24 two previous years.

25

26 The salmon, we didn't fish for king
27 salmon. For hundreds of years we lived by the river
28 and take the salmon as needed. That was good. The
29 salmon was always there. Then the State and the Feds
30 took over management and the king salmon disappeared.
31 So we were restricted from taking king salmon, so we
32 put our nets out although it's no fault of ours that
33 the salmon disappeared. But being good residents and
34 law-abiding citizens, we didn't take king salmon.

35

36 Another thing about fishnets. First,
37 when there was enough king salmon, we had 8-inch net
38 and that was outlawed and went to 7-inch and that was
39 outlawed also, so then we were told to use 6-inch, but
40 most of us had surrendered our bigger nets. Most
41 people got 6-inch, so that's what we use now. Fish and
42 Game told us to pull our nets out when the king salmon
43 is running, so we'll pull out 6-inch and set 4-inch.
44 Well, I had 4-inch nets. Of course I have a dozen
45 dogs, I have to feed my dogs anyways, but some of my
46 relatives are not quite as fortunate. They only have
47 6-inch and they're told to pull it out and set 4-inch.
48 They don't have a 4-inch and money is minimum, so they
49 can't afford to buy another net 4-inch, so that's a
50 little hardship.

1 But everybody kind of sacrificed
2 because the king salmon being one of the main fish diet
3 for our people. A couple years ago we had a meeting in
4 Galena an elder said maybe that king salmon is going to
5 be something to remember in the past when we used to
6 enjoy king salmon. He talked that the king salmon
7 would come back but not in great numbers like it used
8 to because once king salmon coming up above the
9 escapement goal, then they call surplus fish, then they
10 open commercial fishing for the surplus fish and that
11 keeps the king salmon down. They should let more fish
12 go so that the whole stock will rebuild.

13
14 I always talk about that the per diem
15 too is low for getting up here and the cost of living
16 is high. I always mention this in the other meeting,
17 like National Park also, that we should get more money.
18 We're just volunteering our time to travel. Like Ray
19 says, we travel one day. Like this one was a 5-day
20 meeting, so we're staying away a long time from our
21 home. So we should in the future talk about trying to
22 get more money for our members.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

27
28 Jenny.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 First of all, I'd like to thank the Council members who
32 were at the Galena meeting because, as I look at the
33 excused people, almost half of the board wasn't there.
34 So I just want to thank those of you that were there
35 that were able to go ahead and conduct the meeting.

36
37 I wasn't there. I was invited to
38 Russia, so that's why. I couldn't turn it down. It
39 was a one-time opportunity and I learned a lot over
40 there. With their weather, I was able to sit in on
41 their climate change. They're also dealing with
42 climate change. The Russians will be in Fairbanks this
43 week attending the Arctic, whatever it is up there, and
44 then coming to Galena for a couple days. That trip was
45 to deal with -- the area that I went to, they have a
46 lot of flooding, so we sort of compared their flooding
47 and our flooding and it was very similar.

48
49 Other than that, last summer I was able
50 to get my fish done and get my moose meat. We didn't

1 get a moose, but thank God for the young people that
2 look after their elders. They brought us a whole bunch
3 of meat. I'd just like to thank those young people for
4 looking out for their elders.

5
6 Another thing is, we didn't have it so
7 much this year in Galena, was harassment from -- I
8 didn't see it like I did the year before with the out-
9 of-town hunters coming in and really not showing any
10 respect for our animals. I was taught from just a
11 little girl how to respect your animals. You just
12 don't -- when you shoot a moose, you just don't scatter
13 it all over. I've seen my mom put them in --
14 everything that was left over put it in one pile and
15 then she'd cover it -- they would cover it with -- if
16 they weren't taking the moose skin back, they would
17 cover that. So I still do the same thing.

18
19 For me to see people just throw stuff
20 away to the dump is really hard for me to look at. I
21 said at least they could put it in a hole and bury it,
22 you know. So I think we still need to educate some of
23 our people that are doing that just out of respect for
24 the animals and the people that have to look at it.

25
26 Again, I just want to thank everyone
27 for coming here and being with us.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Jenny.
32 Yeah, you talked about that last year, about them
33 throwing all those bones and stuff away. People should
34 donate those to the elders. I eat every last bone on a
35 moose from stem to stern, every bone. Cook them all
36 up. There's lots and lots of food there. People
37 report wanton waste. When you go out in the woods, you
38 see all kinds of bones thrown around. Basically
39 there's hundreds of pounds of stuff laying there that's
40 completely wasted. The jaw, the tongue, all that
41 stuff, what I call giblets, should be donated --
42 brought back and donated to communities. There's lots
43 of elders that will take that.

44
45 So that's what Jenny's talking about
46 and I'm concerned about that, this waste issue.

47
48 Dennis.

49
50 MR. THOMAS: I don't have much.

1 Dennis, I'm from Crooked Creek. I don't know what they
2 did this year, but the last two years they had this
3 predator control up at Sleetmute. They were flying in
4 there with helicopters and stuff and they were taking
5 out approximately 80 bears a year. With that, probably
6 six or seven brown bear and the rest were all black.

7
8 This year I notice our moose population
9 is a lot better than it has been in the past. Three
10 years ago there were only three moose taken in our
11 whole village. Now last year there was about 15, 16,
12 17 taken by the people. This was all with this permit
13 to go onto this land that we're talking about here, you
14 know. I know I got a freezer full.

15
16 As far as the fishing goes, the king
17 salmon, you know, are kind of non-existent, but we were
18 making strips out of dog fish and everything else to
19 get it. Then for our eating, the fish are cooked,
20 fried or however you do it. We're using the reds for
21 that and it worked out real well, you know, because
22 they're a good fish going in. Then we still smoke some
23 of those also so we could get our -- the ones you
24 partially smoke for about three days and you boil them
25 up, whatever the hell they call them. I don't know,
26 but they sure taste good. I think we still have some
27 of those left in the freezer, so we didn't do real bad,
28 but our family is a lot smaller than it used to be
29 also, you know.

30
31 Then these closures seem to really help
32 also. Like with the kings, it looks like we're going
33 to be doing something here. I hope that we don't lose
34 the whole run, which has happened in some areas, but
35 I'm hoping that we don't because that is part of our
36 food chain. Like my wife says, that's the only word in
37 the Native language is for food, what they call the
38 fish. So it's really a big part of what we have, you
39 know.

40
41 And then the moose we got this year, I
42 got a couple grandsons that like to hunt and I've got a
43 couple sons that like to hunt, so I didn't even have to
44 put my boat in the water to go hunting this year and I
45 got moose in the freezer, you know. So this is, I
46 guess, taking care of the elders. The kids are really
47 good about that, you know.

48
49 The caribou, they change. The herds
50 come and the herds go. One time when they used to come

1 through where we live there, somebody told me there was
2 about 400,000 animals in it. I thought, well, okay.
3 Now we don't see any. They changed their migration
4 patterns. I don't know whether they eat up all the
5 food as they go here and then they've got to go
6 somewhere else, but I look for ours to start coming
7 back here again in a few years. I used to shoot them
8 off my front porch when I wanted a caribou. Okay, got
9 one. And I'd shoot them across the river in the ice
10 with the wolves chasing them there and they still kept
11 coming and they still kept coming, you know.

12
13 I don't think we're going to run out of
14 them. I really don't. It's just one of those things
15 that just happen, up and down, up and down. That's
16 just like rabbits. You know, one year you see them all
17 over the place and pretty soon you don't see any. You
18 know, you say why is this. Okay. Maybe there weren't
19 enough wolves. So they get more wolves, so they start
20 killing more rabbits. Whatever it is, it usually takes
21 care of itself.

22
23 Now we get into this climate change
24 that everybody talks about. I realize that it is out
25 there. We are going through some of this, but there's
26 also just natural things that happen. We've had, what,
27 four Ice Ages in the past. Maybe we're getting ready
28 for another one somewhere. I think we have to keep an
29 eye on it, but we're not Chicken Little, you know, the
30 sky is falling, the sky is falling all the time. We
31 just have to be aware of it and I don't think we should
32 panic over it, but just be aware of what's going on and
33 see if you personally could do anything to make it work
34 or anything to help it, you know.

35
36 I'm glad I'm here and I'm glad I was
37 invited to this just to find out what is happening.
38 Now this closure with the king salmon on the Kuskokwim,
39 I wasn't aware there was a full closure. Bobby told
40 me, Bobby Aloysius from Kalskag there. Oh, okay, no
41 wonder everybody is getting worried. And then he said
42 how many went through McGrath up there that weren't
43 there before. That's a big bunch of fish.

44
45 Let's just hope -- what do king salmon
46 run, four years, six years, something like that? If we
47 could curtail this for another five or six years, it's
48 going to be all right. Down around Bethel they cut off
49 the moose hunting for, what, five to seven years. Now
50 they're getting moose down there. The people up our

1 way we're talking about going down there and hunt
2 because we didn't have any up our way, you know. Now
3 our moose is starting to come back and I sure hope it
4 continues because it's great. We've got people in that
5 village that haven't worked in years, so they get a few
6 food stamps here and there. Sure, it would be nice to
7 be able to turn your oil stove on and don't have to cut
8 wood or anything, but they don't. These people have to
9 do it.

10
11 I believe in the subsistence way of
12 life out there and I believe that there's things that
13 -- I don't know how we could do it or what we could do.
14 We're going to have to do something with these people
15 that live in the small villages such as we're in get a
16 chance to get out there and get at the moose or
17 whatever before the onslaught comes on. Years ago when
18 we had a lot of game up our way people would come from
19 Bethel, they'd come from Nelson Island, whatever, up
20 through our area and go all the way up to McGrath to go
21 hunting.

22
23 I used to have 50 to 60 boats a day
24 come to my store to buy gas and stuff. I did more
25 business in September than I did any of the three or
26 four months out of the year. I was running all day
27 long from dawn till dark. Now, the price of gas, what,
28 six, seven, eight dollars a gallon in places, I might
29 see one or two. It's killed my business in that
30 respect, but it's hurt everybody. Look at the poor guy
31 making maybe a couple, three hundred dollars a month or
32 something and how in the hell is he going to really eat
33 like he should without the supplement of the
34 subsistence like fishing on it.

35
36 I get on a podium here, guys. Thanks
37 for listening.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we like to
40 hear about your part of the Kuskokwim River. Do you
41 know what happened to your caribou? The Mulchatna
42 Caribou Herd got killed off. There were 200,000
43 caribou and they shot all the bull caribou in the sport
44 hunts over in the Mulchatna Hills and they went down to
45 one big bull per 100 cows and they only had 14 bulls.
46 They had reproductive failure. The caribou herd
47 crashed and it's still only 28,000 caribou and a still
48 really low bull:cow ratio. That's what happened to
49 your caribou. So now they don't migrate anymore. When
50 you reduce caribou populations dramatically like that,

1 they don't migrate and they don't feed all the
2 communities. So don't get me on my soap box about the
3 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. THOMAS: Same here. Now these
8 local people when they go up to shoot caribou, if they
9 shoot a bull, they'll shoot a cow or two with it also.
10 I mean they don't discriminate.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. We've got to
13 move along here. We don't want to get bogged down.
14 Don.

15
16 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
17 report is -- I'm not even going to go into the fishery
18 part. You know, most of the summer was pretty smokey
19 in every area, but one thing that we've been discussing
20 at the Ruby AC for a long time was maybe creating a
21 fire between Ruby and the Wildlife Refuge Nowitna. So
22 Mother Nature took care of that this summer. Actually
23 in the last week, two weeks I've been up that way
24 personally doing some beaver trapping. There's good
25 reports of the moose browse and right out of Ruby, so I
26 think it was a good thing.

27
28 Also I got a comment on the moose waste
29 and stuff. To me, it's always, I think, something that
30 -- you know, maybe the refuges could notify hunters,
31 maybe we could notify -- I visit pretty often Kenton or
32 Jeremy, whoever is at the refuge, and I think that
33 we've got to make known some of these things. There's
34 always a lot of black bears. Tell these hunters to
35 take these bears, you know. We harvested one bear
36 there. You know, anything that we can do.

37
38 Like you mentioned, wanton waste of
39 game. People don't know that we could go along and --
40 I did that for a long time, cut off the moose nose,
41 cut off the tongue, everything like that. They don't
42 know they're edible. So I think we've got to get that
43 fact out.

44
45 Also I'm glad to be here. And just for
46 the record, we don't often meet with the Federal
47 Subsistence Board. I was down here for rural providers
48 at the end of November and that was the first time that
49 I saw the whole Board. We were able to quiz them and
50 ask them questions and stuff like that. So I think if

1 they can afford any time, whether it's in Fairbanks,
2 whether it's in Anchorage, you have another meeting
3 like this, I'm all for it and I'd like that comment on
4 record.

5
6 Also I think that maybe because of the
7 climate change that we're having we should consider or
8 maybe the State will consider changing the hunting
9 dates to a later date. I mean that's debatable, but
10 that's my report.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. We
15 have increased that hunting season up to October 1 for
16 moose down in 21B there. That's been used more. If
17 our proposal passes, the Federal Subsistence Board to
18 include the area of the Nowitna Refuge along the river,
19 that will help out a lot also.

20
21 So the Chair report. I've been working
22 on this Dall Sheep Workgroup. It's a subcommittee of
23 the Board of Game. There's 40 members. I'm
24 representing Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
25 and the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. I'm combined
26 on that. Ray is the McGrath Advisory Committee Chair,
27 so he's there, but it's pretty much three-quarters
28 guides and commercial interest, so it's a very diverse
29 group. They want to work on a consensus system to
30 build consensus on a sheep management plan.

31
32 The coordinator says that he's gotten
33 Israelis and Palestinians together and come to 100
34 percent consensus. I says you've never worked with the
35 Fairbanks Advisory Committee and some of these people.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 They're never going to come to
40 consensus on anything. So we spun out, but we're
41 moving ahead just a teeny tiny bit at this last
42 meeting, but we've had three meetings. One in early
43 December, one in late January and then again in the
44 middle of February. Dall sheep are having some real
45 problems. The problem is the State resident hunters
46 and the non-resident hunters success rates and the
47 number of sheep has been going down steadily since the
48 '80s.

49
50 The Department says there's no problem

1 with Dall sheep. The guides say the resident hunters
2 are all lazy. That's why their success rate went down.
3 Well, the guide's success rate went from 84 percent to
4 57 percent. The number of sheep they've taken is at an
5 all-time low, so there's a biological problem with Dall
6 sheep. We need to have a Dall sheep management plan
7 and I'm going to continue to work on that issue.

8

9 We have Subsistence Resource Commission
10 work that I do and the Subsistence Resource Commissions
11 for the Park they enter into the Regional Advisory
12 Council process. Like this proposal that we're going
13 to review here, this is coming from the Subsistence
14 Resource Commission on Dall sheep and the Park.

15

16 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
17 met on February 23 by teleconference. Our funding got
18 cut off. We can't travel for Advisory Committees, but
19 we did have a teleconference and we reviewed various
20 game proposals, but we also -- several members were
21 concerned about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed
22 rule, so the Advisory Committee made certain points
23 during our meeting and they directed the chair, me, to
24 write a comment, which we will go over when we get into
25 this proposed rule here pretty soon. Anyway, this
26 comment came from the Advisory Committee and under 805
27 of ANILCA Advisory Committees are actually part of the
28 Regional Council process. They bring information to
29 the Regional Council. So the Koyukuk Advisory
30 Committee is bringing, through me, this comment on the
31 proposed rule.

32

33 That's pretty much what I've been up
34 to. I'm on email practically every day. Being the
35 Chair of anything, you're getting -- there's no off
36 season. I don't just go to a meeting and it's all
37 over. No, it's like almost every day or every week I'm
38 doing something. Melinda can tell you about the email
39 traffic that typically occurs.

40

41 So we're going to move down into old
42 business. I would like to cover this proposal. This
43 is a housekeeping proposal. We got passed out this
44 proposal with the red lettering on the bottom. It's
45 Proposal WP16-41. It's a Dall sheep proposal. It
46 would require no more than -- the change would be no
47 more than one sheep of a three-sheep limit would be a
48 ewe and horns taken in the Gates of the Arctic National
49 Park are eliminated from sealing requirements by
50 Federal registration permit except for residents of

1 Allakaket and Alatna where reporting will be by
2 community harvest reporting system.

3

4 The red lettering is what I'd like this
5 Council to adopt. The intention is that these Dall
6 sheep would not have to be sealed that were taken in
7 the Gates of the Arctic Park and that the reporting
8 system would be by community harvest reporting system.
9 My intention would be the tribal councils of Alatna and
10 Allakaket being -- the people report back to their
11 community tribal office. Someone at Gates of the
12 Arctic would contact them, find out how many sheep they
13 took. But we do need to have harvest reporting.

14

15 If there's a regulatory change of any
16 type, when you go to the State Board of Game or the
17 Federal Subsistence Board, if there's no harvest
18 report, people think, oh, I'm not going to tell the
19 government anything. Well, that's cutting your throat.
20 Because then if those aren't accounted for, the State
21 Board of Game is going to reallocate those to another
22 user group. Sport users. So it's very, very important
23 for users to report their harvest of any kind of --
24 especially big game animal. So that's why this harvest
25 reporting for this portion of this proposal is
26 important.

27

28 The Chair will entertain a motion to
29 adopt this red language to be included in our comment
30 to the Federal Subsistence Board on Proposal WP16-41.

31

32 MR. POLLOCK: So move.

33

34 MR. VENT: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion
37 and a second by Darrell. Further discussion on that
38 proposal and overview.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. THOMAS: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
45 called. Those in favor of including the additional
46 language except residents of Allakaket, Alatna only
47 where reporting will be by community harvest reporting
48 system signify by saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thank you. We're
6 moving on.....
7
8 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead,
11 Melinda.
12
13 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I wanted to move
14 back for just one second. I heard at least one more
15 beep on the teleconference line and wanted to check in
16 and see if there was any other Federal/State agency
17 staff, tribal or public that's called in to the
18 teleconference today.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MS. BURKE: I thought I heard one more
25 beep.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My mistake. I did
30 skip over 9, public and tribal comment on non-agenda
31 item. I got a blue card from Ken Chase and he would
32 like to speak to us on non-agenda fish. Ken.
33
34 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Members of the board. I know your time is short, but
36 I'll try to go quick here. What I want to address is
37 the Board's action in the last meeting in Galena
38 pertaining to pink salmon, humpback salmon, whatever
39 you want to call it, on the Yukon River that was put in
40 by Delta Fisheries to have a fishery on the Yukon
41 River.
42
43 In speaking to this, I'd like to
44 declare I am an employee of the Fish and Wildlife
45 Service and also chairman of the four village board
46 down on the Yukon and I don't have a conflict. Our
47 committee had met and we supported that proposal by
48 Delta Fisheries. In Galena's RAC meeting, the RAC
49 board voted against it. I believe there was not enough
50 communications between the two and the people of the

1 region and that's why I'm here. In our area, we know
2 for a fact the pink salmon, humpy salmon, destroy
3 spawning grounds for salmon, especially on Anvik River
4 and the tributaries in our area close to the Anvik
5 River.

6
7 We do not use the pink salmon for
8 anything and, therefore, we would have liked to have
9 seen Delta Fisheries, if they could use the fish for
10 commercial purposes, to maybe take the place of some of
11 their loss on other fisheries and we encourage that.
12 Again, I'd like to reiterate that we'd like to have
13 more communication between the Federal RAC Board and
14 our people because we're all one and the same, but
15 we're on a different page in that area and that was
16 kind of not too good of a thing.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we lost or a
19 member was weathered out from Anvik this fall and we
20 didn't realize that. That's why it's very important
21 for the Council to have all membership present because
22 it's a huge region.

23
24 MR. CHASE: But he was on. Three
25 members were not present from the area, Carl, Robert
26 and Jimmy, but they were all on the teleconference.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not on the fishery.

29
30 MR. CHASE: Yes, they were.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not on the fishery.

33
34 MR. CHASE: Yeah, they voted on it.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did they vote? I
37 don't remember you voting on it.

38
39 MR. R. WALKER: I didn't. James and
40 Carl did.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't remember
43 them being on the call for that portion.

44
45 MR. CHASE: I'd like to see the
46 minutes. I'd like to see the minutes then.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we'll get the
49 minutes, but we're not going to quibble about it.

50

1 MR. CHASE: Yeah. But then also at the
2 same time on the Yukon they had requested a seining for
3 chum salmon. We went against that because they wanted
4 to release them and now they're releasing types for
5 sport fishing, whatever, was not allowed, so we didn't
6 want that and I wanted to bring that up to this board.

7
8 Also we heard some report from Fred on
9 the fall chum. We had a good fall chum season, but
10 we'd like to keep that up and I'd like to see it
11 protected and managed wisely with the Fish and Game and
12 other people involved. Saying that, I thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I appreciate
15 that, Ken. Your local knowledge of pink salmon
16 spawning over the top of chums, that's something that
17 we need to have and I would have liked that information
18 before the Council when we were at that meeting.

19
20 MR. CHASE: Yeah, I was there, but I
21 just missed it. I didn't get to comment on it. It was
22 kind of pushing along pretty fast, so I didn't.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. So we do
25 have -- this Council has been on the record as wanting
26 protection of coho and fall chum because there's a
27 shift from chinook towards fall stocks, so we're a
28 proponent of reduced commercial harvest especially for
29 coho. There was an underescapement of coho into the
30 Clearwater Delta System two years ago when they had a
31 huge commercial harvest in the Lower Yukon.

32
33 Any other comment.

34
35 MR. CHASE: I had one more on the pike
36 in the Innoko/Yukon River area and this was brought to
37 me by concerned people in Shageluk about a week ago.
38 We will discuss it in our advisory committee, but
39 they're looking to -- for years we've had a request to
40 limit them on the State side. We can't hardly do on
41 subsistence, but their concern was -- and then on the
42 other side a lot of the people I talked to on it said
43 we don't have a problem with pike, that they're
44 overabundant. So this is going to probably be one of
45 the things that come up before this board too.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This pike issue has
48 come up there on the Lower Innoko a couple times, but
49 what local people have got to understand is that
50 reducing the sport harvest affects the local people

1 because those are State waters in the Lower River, so
2 they would actually reduce their bag limit for fishing
3 through the ice with hook. So that's actually kind of
4 a problem that people don't -- you can't cut off non-
5 subsistence users because it's State lands and State
6 waters right there. That's what that whole pike issue
7 revolved around, remember that, about five, six years,
8 seven years ago. So that's what you're telegraphing is
9 that there's going to be more pike proposals from down
10 there?

11
12 MR. CHASE: Uh-huh (affirmative).

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
15 that heads up.

16
17 MR. CHASE: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ken. If
20 we're moving along too fast, get our attention and come
21 forward. You know, I get to rolling here. So jump up
22 and down, wave your arms, whatever it takes. We want
23 information.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. CHASE: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got another
30 request. This is Pat Holmes. He wants to talk about
31 the proposed rule. So we're going to be getting to the
32 proposed rule here in a little bit.

33
34 MS. BURKE: You've got one more.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again.

37
38 MS. BURKE: You've got one more.

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. I wanted to
41 bring to your attention that Jim Magdanz is here as
42 well and is available to speak on caribou research and
43 sharing network information.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Where should
48 we stick.....

49
50 MR. STEVENSON: I believe we have that

1 presently under item 12 in the agenda.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
4 We'll put that here. So now we're -- do we have any
5 other public and tribal comment on non-agenda items on
6 the phone or otherwise.

7

8 MR. THOMAS: I'd like to make one
9 comment.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Dennis.

12

13 MR. THOMAS: Dennis Thomas, Crooked
14 Creek. The thing that I'd like to bring up here, at
15 Crooked Creek we have a counting station or a water
16 quality station from USGS and they've got an awful lot
17 of information on that. I don't know how to use a
18 computer, but if somebody did I tried to get them to
19 come up with the amount of contaminants in the water.
20 They've got up at Liskeys Crossing, whatever they call
21 it. We've got one at Crooked Creek in the river.

22

23 We also had one up the creek also
24 because the mine is going up there and we wanted to
25 check our water there too. When they were active
26 working up there, they checked it once a month for
27 contaminants, but the main river these people have been
28 doing this since 1951 and they've got the data on this.
29 Whether it's up or down, whether you've got mercury,
30 whether you've got selenium, whatever it is, it's all
31 in here. Somebody who wants the information and knows
32 how to use a computer, it's available.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's going to be
35 a Donlin Creek presentation tomorrow afternoon, so we
36 can talk about that then. Having no other public non-
37 agenda items, then we're going to move into the Refuge
38 proposed rule. Mitch, do you want to bring your staff
39 up and brief the Council on agenda item 10(a). Go to
40 page 210.

41

42 All right, Mitch.

43

44 MR. ELLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
45 Council members. We appreciate the opportunity to talk
46 to you today and provide some information. It's going
47 to be a very quick update and I think we'd like to
48 leave some time for questions. Again, my name is Mitch
49 Ellis. I'm the Refuge Chief for the Refuge System here
50 in Alaska for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm

1 going to let Ray Born introduce himself real quick.
2 He's a recent addition to the Yukon Delta Refuge and
3 Deputy Manager there.

4

5 Go ahead, Ray.

6

7 MR. BORN: Good afternoon, Mr.
8 Chairman. Thank you for a few minutes. As Mitch said,
9 I'm Ray Born, the Deputy Refuge Manager of Yukon Delta
10 National Wildlife Refuge. I've been in the refuge
11 about 11 months now, so I'm really new to Alaska and
12 very pleased to be here and addressing the RAC. I look
13 forward to working together with you on future issues.
14 Again, you can call me at any time, any questions or
15 concerns.

16

17 I'm glad to work together.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Will you be acting
22 Refuge Manager this summer for the summer season?

23

24 MR. BORN: It looks like that, yes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're in the hot
27 seat.....

28

29 MR. BORN: I'm well aware of that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:for the
32 Kuskokwim fishery. So good to meet you. Put a face
33 with a name.

34

35 Mitch.

36

37 MR. ELLIS: Mr. Chair. Real quick.
38 Again, thank you for the opportunity. For those of you
39 who aren't familiar with this rulemaking process, I'm
40 sure most of you are, but real quick. It does a couple
41 of things for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
42 Alaska. It promulgates regulations that apply to the
43 National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska and it does
44 basically two things.

45

46 It clarifies existing mandates for how
47 we manage predator populations on refuges in Alaska,
48 and the second thing that it does is it updates
49 existing closure procedures that we've had in place for
50 some time but haven't updated in a couple of decades.

1 So in the unlikely event that we would have to do a
2 closure, an emergency or a temporary or a permanent
3 closure, this updates the public notification
4 procedures and some other items with regard to that.

5
6 So I do want to talk a little bit about
7 the history of the coordination and the consultation
8 that we've done. We, as an agency back in 2014 when we
9 began thinking about these regulations, reached out to
10 the tribes, the Native corporations, the RACs, and I
11 think over the last year and a half or more we've done
12 a pretty good job trying to keep folks updated and
13 involved in the process.

14
15 So leading up to the draft rule that
16 you saw the first week of January there was a pretty
17 robust scoping and public process and government-to-
18 government consultation process that went on. It did
19 result in some changes to the draft rule, so the draft
20 that you see -- you know, we're very happy to get the
21 input that we did. I think it was productive and it
22 did result in some changes.

23
24 This draft rule initially went out for
25 60 days. We got a lot of feedback from folks and I
26 think rightly so that they wanted additional time, so
27 we've extended the comment period another 30 days,
28 which one of the things it did was incorporated the
29 time period this week so that if the Regional Advisory
30 Councils wanted to provide additional comments
31 formally, they were able to do that. So the 90-day
32 comment period that we have now ends April 7th.

33
34 We've had nine public hearings around
35 the state. Those concluded last week. Our public
36 hearing in Galena on March 3rd was the final public
37 hearing. We've so far received over 3,000 public
38 comments and most of those are posted on
39 regulations.gov so they're actually available for folks
40 to look at if they want to go on the website. You
41 would do a search for the rule and the publications
42 that we've given out have that reference, but I'll read
43 it into the record. It's fws-r7-nwrs-2014-0005. So if
44 you go to regulations.gov, you can put that reference
45 in and you can see the rule, the comments. It's a
46 pretty nice transparent system.

47
48 That is really all I have as far as an
49 update. That's where we are. Again, the comment
50 period closes April 7th. I know there's been a lot of

1 discussion about the proposed rule. I'd be happy to
2 answer any questions or listen to any concerns now, but
3 we're looking for any input from any and all during the
4 comment period.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mitch, for
9 the overview of the proposed rule. Any questions from
10 the Council for Mitch.

11
12 Ray.

13
14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, the comment I have,
15 I guess they've already been made, but how are you
16 going to maintain healthy populations without
17 intervening at some point to avoid getting into a
18 predator pit like down on the peninsula there. Those
19 caribou are not going to grow as long as there's no
20 calf or no recruitment and so on. The same is true we
21 found in the McGrath area there. If there hadn't been
22 intervention there, we'd have a very low moose
23 population. It wouldn't be healthy for either the
24 predators or hunters.

25
26 So how in the refuges are you going to
27 maintain healthy populations if there's not more
28 harvest of predators at some point?

29
30 MR. ELLIS: Thank you, Councilman
31 Collins. I appreciate the question. We do strive to
32 maintain -- it's an ecosystem management approach, so
33 we want all animals present in the ecosystem
34 functioning in their natural system, recognizing that
35 there are fluctuations in populations and mix of
36 species.

37
38 Should there be a conservation concern
39 and overharvest of a species if there were -- and the
40 proposed real lays this out. There's a whole, you
41 know, to meet refuge purposes, to do certain things.
42 We actually would use predator control as a legitimate
43 wildlife management tool. We use it frequently around
44 the country on National Wildlife Refuges to restore
45 species, recover endangered species, to protect
46 waterfowl populations and that sort of thing.

47
48 The rule, what it does is it ties how
49 we treat predator populations to our mandates under
50 ANILCA, which is managing for natural diversity. And

1 the Congressional Record and what we've researched, the
2 best definition we could come up with for natural
3 diversity is in the rule, but basically that we would
4 not manage one species to the detriment of another,
5 that we would manage for the natural mix of species in
6 their natural variation.

7

8 So allowing for some variation, but
9 clearly if there was some anthropomorphic human-caused
10 issue at hand, if we overharvested, if we fragmented
11 the habitat, if we were responsible for that decline,
12 then we would certainly entertain the idea of predator
13 control as a tool to restore that species.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Well, I can understand
16 that if it's human caused, but it's not human caused
17 that caused the moose to crash in our area. I mean we
18 had no -- we were watching bull:cow ratios, we had no
19 harvest of the cows, but we were getting no calf
20 recruitment because of predation basically. They were
21 killed off about 60 percent by bears and another 35
22 percent by wolves within the first two weeks after the
23 season and that's not going to change.

24

25 So you're managing -- actually
26 protecting wolves to the benefit of those and you're
27 not allowing -- you don't have the diversity you'd
28 have if you had a healthy population of moose. Once
29 you get up -- the predators benefit as well as the
30 moose if you can get the breeding -- the food is out
31 there. It's not under-eating that's bringing them
32 down, it's just the lack of recruitment in the
33 population. So it's triggered by, I see, low calf
34 production, not by human hunting, which we can regulate
35 season and bag limits on that.

36

37 But if you're not, you're going to have
38 this kind of thing (motioning up and down) on refuge
39 lands. Once you get down low, you can close all
40 hunting, but that's not going to bring them back if
41 you're not getting any recruitment of calves. I just
42 don't understand how it's going to work to get a
43 natural diversity without intervening at some point
44 when the populations get out of whack.

45

46 MR. ELLIS: I guess, without belaboring
47 and going into a really exhaustive discussion on
48 predator control and the merits of it, we do
49 acknowledge that predator control is a valid tool and
50 it can be very effective. On refuges it's limited.

1 Its use is limited to certain circumstances. In the
2 proposed rule it spells out exactly what those
3 circumstance are. So I think there's probably a
4 difference in management approach. We don't think that
5 State or private lands and applying predator control
6 there is necessarily wrong, it's just the mandates are
7 different on refuges versus State and private lands.

8

9 So we welcome comments on the rule.
10 The period is extended to gather information like
11 you're stating and we'll analyze those comments.
12 Hopefully the final rule coming out later this summer
13 will reflect the substantive changes that are
14 necessary.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've gotten a note
17 from my staff that says they would like you to clarify
18 where the public should send these comments. Is it
19 that same website under a different tab?

20

21 MR. ELLIS: Mr. Chair. Yes. There are
22 a couple ways people can submit comments. Probably the
23 easiest way is on that website regulations.gov.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have people in
26 this room that are not.....

27

28 MR. ELLIS: They can also mail them to
29 our regional office and that address is on the comment
30 card. They can also fill out a written comment card.
31 There was a packet that was provided to each RAC this
32 week and it has a stack of comment cards that people
33 can get.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Zach will
36 find that for us.

37

38 MR. ELLIS: Yeah. They probably should
39 pass those around to all the Council members.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we'll have
42 that passed out for our Regional Council. The Koyukuk
43 River Advisory Committee wanted me to write a comment
44 on the proposed rule, so I'll read that into the record
45 for the Regional Council. I only have one hard copy.
46 Did Nissa send you this? Darrell is on our advisory
47 committee. Did Nissa send you that comment, Darrell?
48 The State Board support coordinator was supposed to
49 send that.

50

1 MR. VENT: I haven't seen that paper.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, she might not
4 have gotten it to you yet.

5

6 MR. VENT: Before I came down, no.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. This is a
9 comment on the proposed rule, which is FWS-R7-NWRS-
10 2014-0005, which is the proposed rule. The Koyukuk
11 River Advisory Committee is one of 84 advisory bodies
12 that make recommendations to the Alaska Board of Game
13 and Fish. The advisory committees are recognized
14 statutorily as also advising the Federal management
15 regarding Federal lands under Title VIII, 805(a)(2) of
16 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

17

18 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee is
19 comprised of rural residents of Alaska in Game
20 Management Unit 24. On February 23, 2016, the Koyukuk
21 River Advisory Committee met by teleconference to
22 review game proposals and other issues. Many members
23 of the committee were concerned with aspects of the
24 U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed rule regarding
25 non-subsistence take. The committee voted to submit
26 comments on the proposed rule and opposed the proposed
27 rule as written unanimously.

28

29 Moose, caribou and other prey species,
30 as well as black bear, are used for food by the people
31 of the Koyukuk River. During the meeting, several
32 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee members expressed
33 concern that the current State of Alaska predator
34 harvest regulations would be precluded arbitrarily
35 without a scientific basis. Most members believe from
36 personal experience that predator harvest needs to be
37 maintained for non-subsistence users under State of
38 Alaska regulations as well as rural subsistence uses.

39

40 A healthy balance of predator harvest
41 of wolves and brown bears in the Koyukuk National
42 Wildlife Refuge and Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge,
43 which is where the proposed rule will affect, by rural
44 residents and non-subsistence, is desired by the
45 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. Predator harvest is
46 far below rural use amounts needed and predator
47 populations that are at all-time highs, whereas caribou
48 and moose populations have declined dramatically over
49 the past two decades. Western Arctic Herd is half,
50 Teshekpuk is half. Moose populations in the Kanuti are

1 half of what they were in the '90s.

2

3 The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
4 discussed the proposed rule allowing for future
5 arbitrary regulation reductions by using primarily
6 biological integrity, diversity and environmental
7 health, BIDEH criteria. The BIDEH language gives too
8 much leeway to wildlife manager's judgment and
9 interpretation. I'm quoting, "Sound professional
10 judgment incorporates field experience, knowledge of
11 refuge resources, refuge role within an ecosystem,
12 applicable laws, and best available science including
13 consultation with others both inside and outside the
14 Service."

15

16 The high turnover rate for several
17 Alaska refuges -- and we were just introduced to new
18 refuge staff -- of field managers and staff has been a
19 concern for some time. And this Regional Council is on
20 record about the high turnover rate of refuge staff and
21 the institutional knowledge and loss of all the time.
22 That is a problem. Lack of field experience and
23 familiarity with predator/prey relationships in Alaska
24 may lead to arbitrary decisions. Reliance on BIDEH as
25 a directive for management decisions diverges away from
26 the statutory mandate for science-based decisions found
27 in ANILCA.

28

29 Enabling legislation for the Alaska
30 refuges gives clear direction to management of fish and
31 wildlife resources in Title VIII of ANILCA public law
32 96-487 policy of ANILCA. Section 802, "It is hereby
33 declared to be the policy of Congress that (1)
34 consistent with sound management principles, and the
35 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
36 wildlife, the utilization of the public lands in Alaska
37 is to cause the least adverse impact possible on rural
38 residents who depend upon subsistence uses of the
39 resources of such lands; consistent with management of
40 fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized
41 scientific principles and the purposes for each unit
42 established, designated, or expanded by or pursuant to
43 Titles II through VII of this Act, the purpose of this
44 title is to provide the opportunity for rural residents
45 engaged in a subsistence way of life to do so."

46

47 We feel that there should be science-
48 based harvest of predators within sustainability by
49 non-subsistence and subsistence users. Balanced
50 harvest of both prey and predators to maintain healthy

1 populations of wildlife on refuge lands is statutory
2 and should be the main concern. State of Alaska
3 predator harvest seasons, methods and means should be
4 of little concern if predator populations are harvested
5 at or below thresholds for scientifically-established
6 sustained yield.

7

8 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
9 appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed
10 rule.

11

12 The crux of this is that we feel that
13 science should be the primary objective and is
14 statutory under ANILCA. So the BIDEH language was very
15 concerning to me personally because I've had such
16 experience with the high turnover rate of refuge staff
17 and new staff may have misperceptions about any
18 predator populations, whether it's lynx, bear or wolf
19 or whatever. So that would be the comment of the
20 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.

21

22 The Chair will entertain a motion to
23 adopt that comment into the record to be transmitted
24 from the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council if
25 you choose.

26

27 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt by
30 Don.

31

32 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

33

34 MR. VENT: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
37 Discussion on that comment.

38

39 MR. VENT: Yes. I just had some words
40 to put in on that. We always in the villages we're
41 always there -- after our moose hunting is done and
42 everything, we always go after these predators. I mean
43 that's something that's not noted. I think maybe
44 that's why they didn't understand that we did try to
45 take care of the predators. It's been a problem. It
46 was a problem before, then they had aerial hunting
47 around our area, and that increased the moose
48 population because they took care of some of those
49 wolves around there and it decreased the wolf
50 population and the moose population came back up. You

1 hear that all over.

2

3 If you work with the predators, your
4 population will come back up. The same thing in McGrath
5 area. The same thing up there in Bettles area. So
6 it's a known fact that if we take care of these
7 predators, we will help the moose population or the
8 caribou or whatever other animal population come back
9 up. Not only with the wolves but also with the bears.
10 So it's known that -- you know, just let them know that
11 that's the things we do in our areas.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What this comment is
14 basically stating is that if predator harvest under
15 State regulation is not exceeding sustainability, then
16 there's no reason to preclude it. So science-based
17 management needs to be considered. I don't consider
18 predator harvest by local people as control. People
19 keep talking this is control. They're not flying
20 around shooting bears out of helicopters on the
21 refuges. This is just harvest. These are harvest
22 regulations and they're liberal harvest regulations,
23 but still, even with the liberality of these
24 regulations, the harvest is still far below the
25 sustained yield of those populations. As a Council
26 member, that's what I'm saying.

27

28 Further discussion on that.

29

30 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

33

34 MR. SIMON: Pollock Simon from
35 Allakaket. We didn't have a good population of moose
36 for many years. For 10 years we keep after the Game
37 Board to do an intensive management. After 10 years
38 they finally agreed to do it. Then for three years we
39 got wolf control and they get some wolves. It's
40 already working. Just a few miles out of Allakaket we
41 could see wolf tracks this winter. Kanuti National
42 Wildlife Refuge, just in the background of Allakaket,
43 you can't kill a wolf in that area. There's also good
44 moose habitat. Like caribou never come around for 10
45 years, so the wolves would only eat moose.

46

47 People back home are opposed to this
48 rule.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
2 discussion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion on
7 the floor.
8
9 MR. ALEXIE: Question.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
12 called. Those in favor of adopting the language of the
13 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee on the proposed rule
14 signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have Pat Holmes
22 that put up a blue card to speak on that issue. A
23 brief comment, Pat. Brevity is the issue since we're
24 in a half-day meeting.
25
26 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
27 on the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC 15 years and six years on
28 the local AC. I've been going out Peninsula and
29 Aleutians since '63 and I've seen some massive changes
30 out there. I just wanted to give you some speculation
31 on what our Council feels on this issue because I don't
32 know if it's kosher at this point for me to make
33 comments on what they will do, but I suspect that they
34 strongly agree with the position that you've taken on
35 scientific management.
36
37 I think many people on our Council and
38 our AC were around back when ANILCA was written, as
39 when most of your staff except for Jenny, I'm sure
40 she's much too young, participated in it. Part of the
41 arguments that we've heard on the Peninsula Herd, of
42 which we've had no active management at all by the Fish
43 and Wildlife Service, and the one thing that turned
44 around our South Peninsula Herd slightly enough to get
45 a subsistence harvest. I was thinking perhaps it might
46 sell better in America down south if we talked about
47 animal equilibrium. They talk about natural diversity
48 and was the reason that we were given why the Service
49 did not want to take any action.
50

1 Lem Butler with the State did an
2 experiment and they went down for two weeks for three
3 years, I think, total. Took something like 36 wolves
4 altogether or 31, 26 adults and some cubs. They only
5 took them on the calving grounds with critters that
6 were going after does or cows that were dropping
7 calves. That changed the reproductive potential from
8 almost nothing, less than 2 percent, up to over 40
9 percent. So in a year we saw a tremendous increase.
10 In three years we saw a great improvement in cow:calf
11 ratios. It was all done without -- I mean folks
12 liberalized the harvest and the sport, guides and
13 things like that with the sport hunters, but that
14 really didn't have much effect at all. The thing that
15 did was dealing with the critters that were just coming
16 on the calving grounds.

17
18 I have chatted with several of you
19 about other parts of the state where they've had
20 massive predator controls under State regs and I really
21 wonder if anything other than politics is necessary to
22 do that because you can leave things with your predator
23 numbers in reasonable balance because you do need them
24 to take care of the sick and the weak.

25
26 I wanted to bring to your attention and
27 I passed it up to Jack and hopefully you folks will get
28 a look at that. It's a copy of December 1, 1980
29 Congressional Senate Record from Ted Stevens. A lot of
30 folks in our area have known the President at the time,
31 Senator Stevens, the whole gang. I knew his staff
32 quite well. But this little phrase is the phrase of
33 the framing of ANILCA. The phrase "in their natural
34 diversity" was included in each subsection of those two
35 sections to emphasize the importance of maintaining
36 flora and fauna within each refuge in a healthy
37 condition. Nobody can argue with that. The term is
38 not intended to, in any way, restrict the authority of
39 the Service to manipulate habitat for the benefit of
40 fish or wildlife populations within a refuge or for the
41 benefit of the use of such populations by man as part
42 of a balanced management program mandated by ANILCA.

43
44 That's all quite reasonable, but the
45 term also is not intended to preclude predator control
46 on refuge lands in appropriate instances. So I suspect
47 our Council will be supporting you as well as all the
48 other Councils that we've chatted with. You know, I
49 think there needs to be a balance on both sides because
50 I know you're sure getting tired, we are, of the

1 bickering between the two agencies. With reduced
2 funds, something like this where you do selective
3 removal on the calving grounds, then you don't
4 significantly affect the predator species, but it's
5 been proven that it allows it to go up.

6

7 I'll try and close quickly, Jack,
8 because I know you'll be on me in a second.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. HOLMES: The question on habitat
13 that's been described to us that that was a problem on
14 the Peninsula and Unimak. Unimak, nothing has been
15 done by the State or the Feds and there's hardly enough
16 caribou to even count. Their survival rates are
17 abysmal. But having gone out there in 1963, I worked
18 for the State early '70s through '90s and I know the
19 habitat out there and I've seen it go from when they --
20 granted at one time there were too many caribou. They
21 had to chase them off the runway with trucks, but at
22 that time the forbs, the blueberries and lichens, you
23 could hardly find lichens and the blueberries were
24 maybe four, six inches high.

25

26 Now, when we have no caribou, the
27 things that they feed on are five or six feet high in
28 the valleys. It's not habitat or micro-nutrients or
29 anything else. So sometimes the proof is in the pudding
30 with the study that the State did, so I think there's
31 room on both sides to give a bit, but I think our
32 Council feels that this proposed rule is totally
33 unnecessary.

34

35 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and
36 members of the Committee. This has been so exciting
37 for us in the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC to be able to talk
38 with our fellow RAC members. Frankly, I was ready to
39 quit because I was so tired of tilting at windmills,
40 and we've got some big ones on Kodiak, but this has
41 just restored my spirit that we, as people that live in
42 rural areas, can actually make a difference. So thank
43 you so much.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pat.
46 Appreciate your comments. The thing you read into the
47 record, the Senate Congressional Record, you read it
48 into our record. I found it on December 1, 1980 on
49 page S15131. I wanted to reference that for the
50 record. Any other comments on the proposed rule.

1 Greg, brief comment.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.
4 For the record, Greg Roczicka. I'm Vice-Chair with the
5 Y-K Delta RAC. We just had our meeting this morning
6 regarding that and we did pass a motion there that
7 reaffirmed our opposition to the proposed rule, but
8 within that as well we had requested that that be
9 forwarded to the remainder of the RACs. If you could
10 perhaps assign someone or delegate someone from your
11 RAC and the rest of those who have similar concerns
12 with this proposed rule that we could come up with a
13 joint statement prior to our dispersing back to our
14 home sections of the state this Friday.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we could do
17 that maybe if OSM allows some kind of a giant joint
18 session, but I don't know that that's -- that's up to
19 OSM. I can't make that decision. I have to complete
20 this agenda by the end of this day. We would be
21 willing to join that. I see affirmative from our
22 Council, but that's up to OSM to provide that platform.

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: Again, it would be to
25 come up with a joint statement from the Councils to put
26 together in between here and there, this Friday.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda.

29

30 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure
31 administratively how -- like you said, that might be
32 something difficult to pull off, but Zach and I will
33 get together with Carl and I know that both Y-K Delta
34 and Western Interior were going to attend that 1:30
35 fish session, so we'll see what the administrative
36 boundaries are with that, but it's something we'll look
37 into.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'm sure that
40 we will be willing to join that, but administratively
41 I'm not sure how that's going to happen, but they can
42 figure it out.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Sue has her hand up.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sue, do you want to
47 come to the table.

48

49 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 I am the Eastern Interior Chairman for the Eastern

1 Interior RAC and I too wanted to reiterate some things
2 about the proposed rule. This has been coming up to
3 our Council and you make comments, you send letters and
4 now it's time to send a letter on the proposed rule.
5 This is an important time and I want to encourage you
6 guys don't eliminate that letter that you're going to
7 be commenting on the proposed rule. And if we could do
8 something as all RACs, that would be great. It's been
9 fun to see all of you guys again that I've met in the
10 past and look forward to seeing you guys again.

11

12 Thanks for all the work you do.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Sue. I
15 think we had a great -- this all-RAC meeting thing has
16 worked a lot better than I thought it would work. It's
17 been a lot more beneficial than I thought it would be.
18 Unlike the Wasilla tri-RAC meeting, which sort of fell
19 a little flat I felt. That was long before Melinda was
20 there.

21

22 So I think we've covered the proposed
23 rule. I would like our transcript of this entirety
24 transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
25 office so that they have the verbatim discussion before
26 them.

27

28 Did you make a note of that, Zach?

29

30 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And thanks so
33 much for coming to the meeting, Mitch. I appreciate
34 you introducing your staff. We have new members here
35 also.

36

37 Darrell.

38

39 MR. VENT: Yeah, I just had a question.
40 You know, we have this caribou herd that's between
41 Huslia and Galena. There's no kind of management or
42 anything on it. I was wondering, you know, we're
43 talking about predators, when would we want to be
44 noting that it's time to be starting a study or
45 whatever to try to get this herd back up? Because it's
46 been sitting there. There's about 100 now, 150, but
47 every time they have calves the predators are taking
48 the calves, so there's no growth in this herd. I'm
49 just wondering when would be a good time to try to put
50 a proposal in or something to try to get something done

1 with this?

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the Wolf Mountain Herd and that's primarily off the refuge, but the State of Alaska -- I've heard they're going to have like zero money for predator control. So 100 caribou herd, predator control is pretty much going to go away with the budget constraints. So that's not going to happen anytime soon.

10

11 So we're going to move on down the
12 agenda. We have the National Park Service proposed
13 rule on subsistence collections.

14

15 Mary.

16

17

MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Good afternoon, Council members. My name is Mary
19 McBurney and I'm the subsistence program lead for the
20 Alaska Region National Park Service. I'm here today
21 just to give you a quick update on another proposed
22 rule, only this is one that the Park Service is putting
23 forward. I would just like to note for the new members
24 on this Council that this proposed rule will affect
25 those portions of Gates of the Arctic National Park and
26 Preserve, Denali National Park and Preserve and Lake
27 Clark National Preserve that are within the Western
28 Interior Region.

29

30 So this proposed rule was actually in
31 response to a request that was made by subsistence
32 users and through some of the Subsistence Resource
33 Commissions that the National Park Service has with our
34 Parks and Monuments.....

35

36

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was Gates of
37 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission Hunting Plan
38 Recommendation 99-01. That's 1999 is when we made that
39 request, so that's how long this proposed rule has
40 taken to get it in place now.

41

42

43

44

MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you for that
45 reminder of the history, Mr. Chair. This was also
46 brought forward by the Eastern Interior RAC as well,
47 but a little more recently than 1999. The purpose of
48 the proposed rule was to and is to authorize the
49 customary and traditional practice of producing and
50 exchanging handicrafts made out of discarded parts of

1 animals, like bones, antlers, horns, those nonedible
2 parts of animals that you might find either shed on the
3 landscape or that might be salvaged from animals that
4 are legally hunted or trapped, and then also from
5 materials that are plant materials as well. So this is
6 to make sure that subsistence users have the
7 opportunity to maximize the value of those materials
8 that they harvest.

9

10 Over time I believe this Council has
11 also received briefings from the National Park Service
12 kind of giving you an update on where we are with this
13 proposal. Finally the proposed rule has been published
14 and that was published on January 13th of this year and
15 is currently open for public comment through April
16 12th.

17

18 So I just wanted to let you know that
19 we do have this proposed rule that is open for public
20 comment. I gave copies of a briefing paper and also
21 copies of the proposed rule to Zach. So for those of
22 you that didn't want to dig around in your binder to
23 find a copy, there are some extra copies for your
24 information.

25

26 We're very interested in hearing from
27 subsistence users on how well this proposed rule is
28 going to be meeting people's needs. And proposed
29 rules, the whole purpose of them, is kind of like first
30 drafts of a regulation and by opening up a draft to
31 public comment we're able to get that kind of feedback
32 so we can amend it and change it in ways that can make
33 it more amenable for subsistence users.

34

35 So in addition to allowing for what
36 we're calling the collection of nonedible animal parts
37 and plants for subsistence purposes this proposed rule
38 also does a couple of other things. Number one, it
39 also clarifies that collecting live wildlife is not
40 allowed under National Park Service regulations.
41 ANILCA basically allows the hunting and trapping of
42 animals in National Preserves, but collecting live
43 animals and specifically live falcon chicks -- this is
44 how this issue came up -- doesn't fall under hunting or
45 trapping, so it's not something that we can allow under
46 National Park Service regulations.

47

48 Anyway, this was just one of those odd
49 issues that just sort of came up when a falconer made
50 the request to collect falcon chicks in a National

1 Preserve and the Park Service said, hmm, I don't think
2 we can allow that. So this would also clarify that
3 even if you do have a permit from the State of Alaska
4 that says that you can collect say falcon chicks that
5 that isn't something that can be allowed on National
6 Park Service managed lands.

7

8 The last item -- and please forgive me
9 if -- I want to recognize that mentioning the large
10 animal is something that is not appropriate in some
11 forums, so I want to be sure that I'm not offensive.
12 The last item also in the proposed rule has to do with
13 limiting the types of baits that may be used for taking
14 large animals in certain parts of the state where
15 baiting bears is allowed. So currently a wide variety
16 of items may be used for baiting large animals,
17 including human foods and commercial pet foods.

18

19 What the National Park Service is
20 proposing to do is to limit the types of materials that
21 can be used to those things that a large animal might
22 find on its own as a food source, such as gut pile or
23 maybe the carcasses of trapped animals that are not
24 salvaged in any way, but the purpose is basically to
25 limit the use, prohibit the use of things like bacon
26 grease and donuts and dog food for baiting large
27 animals, but yet recognizing that that is a practice in
28 some areas of the state and being able to allow it but
29 with a more limited use of the type of baits.

30

31 With that, Mr. Chair, I'm open to any
32 questions that anyone might have.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mary. Any
35 questions from the Western Interior Regional Council
36 on the proposed rule on collection of antlers, teeth,
37 et cetera, nonedible animal parts as well as plant
38 materials and collection of wildlife and the type of
39 baits to be used. Have you reviewed this Park Service
40 proposed rule, Ray?

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have a comment on
45 it?

46

47 MR. COLLINS: No.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Gates of the
50 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission met on the

1 proposed rule back around the 17th of February by
2 teleconference. The Gates of the Arctic -- this
3 proposed rule requires permitting of individuals that
4 would collect horns and antlers, et cetera. The
5 options that we originally saw did not include a
6 permitting system unless the Superintendent felt there
7 was a problem with the amount of collections.

8
9 So the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
10 Resource Commission would have preferred not to have an
11 individual permit or requirement of permitting, so we
12 commented to the Park Service that if you do get a
13 permit, it should last for a while. It shouldn't have
14 to be an annual thing. There's already in ANILCA
15 portions of the Kobuk River that allow collection of
16 birch bark and certain plant materials. Those should
17 be grandfathered in. People on the Kobuk should not
18 even have to have a permit because that's already in
19 the statute.

20
21 So we're fully in favor. The Gates of
22 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission requested
23 the collection of shed antler and bones and things to
24 be used, incorporated into handicrafts, but the
25 permitting process can be cumbersome. As I read in
26 802, regulations are supposed to be the least
27 cumbersome, have least impact on subsistence users, so
28 I would prefer not to have permitting.

29
30 How does the Council feel about the
31 necessity of permitting? I don't feel that that should
32 be a really large issue myself because you randomly run
33 across a shed antler. You come across a moose antler
34 or something, you just pick it up and you use it. So I
35 would prefer not to see permitting myself unless the
36 Superintendent can identify that it's a problem.
37 That's one of my comments that I'm stating.

38
39 Darrell.

40
41 MR. VENT: I agree with you, Jack.
42 We've got enough regulations the way it is. So what
43 you're saying I agree with you there.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.
46 Appreciate that, Darrell. Dennis.

47
48 MR. THOMAS: I don't see where it would
49 be a problem because when you pick these kind of things
50 up, everybody knows they're dead. They've been there

1 for a while. This is not something you just went out
2 and got a moose and busted the antler off to try to do
3 something with. So to me it's pretty self-evident
4 also. I don't see why you would need to go and get a
5 special permit to go in there and pick up some used
6 antlers or whatnot. Used, I guess. That's one way of
7 putting it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This regulation will
10 apply to Lake Clark, Denali and Gates of the Arctic.
11 There's three Park units inside of the Western Interior
12 Region or portions of the Park units are within the
13 region. That's why we're discussing this issue.

14
15 Robert.

16
17 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 I would just leave it up to the Superintendent of the
19 Park. Let him do it to his discretion. That would
20 take us off the -- that would be no problem with us
21 being involved with it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you know, if
24 there was like this huge amount of antler harvest and
25 it got to be a problem for the Park, then I could see
26 where the Superintendent might want to require a
27 permitting, but at least for Gates of the Arctic, the
28 number of people that would actually collect antlers,
29 the minuscule of the amount of antler horn or whatever
30 it is that's out there on the landscape.

31
32 Sue wanted to make a comment. I seen
33 you waving your hand, Sue.

34
35 MS. ENTSMINGER: Go on. I'll wait
36 until you get to the other one.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comment.

39
40 Fred.

41
42 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Back home in Kaltag there are a couple hunters that go
44 out this time of the year when the moose have shed
45 their antlers. They go around to different areas and
46 they pick up all those discarded things when the horns
47 fall off the moose. They go around, they do it and
48 they bring it home and they send it too -- I don't know
49 wherever they send it, but they send it away and they
50 get a little money off of it.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This would be on
2 Parklands and if you pick those up, you couldn't just
3 send them off to be sold. They have to be actually
4 incorporated into handicrafts. That's what this
5 regulatory change is. So it's not that you could
6 collect like a whole sled load of caribou antlers and
7 send them off to Fairbanks to knife carvers. You would
8 actually have to be a knife carver yourself and then
9 incorporate them into a handicraft. That's what this
10 allows, is for people to utilize those resources for
11 their own handicrafts to be eventually sold.

12

13 Don.

14

15 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
16 guess my comment on this is I agree with Robert. I
17 believe -- you know, because this is National Park
18 Service lands we're discussing, I believe it should be
19 left to the SERs [sic] or whatever they're called. I
20 mean I don't know if this is just informational for us.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is brought
25 before the Regional Council for additional comments
26 since we are a wider body. Our records are transcribed
27 and I intend that these comments be directed back to
28 the National Park Service on the proposed rule.

29

30 Any further comments. Sue.

31

32 MS. ENTSMINGER: I thank you the luxury
33 to come up here without a blue card. This is Sue
34 Entsminger at Eastern Interior. Also I'm on the
35 Subsistence Resource Commission for the Wrangell-St.
36 Elias and we took this up and I asked our coordinator
37 to send the letter that came from the SRC. I guess you
38 have your letter up there from your SRC, Jack.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I'm just
41 stating comments from our SRC from my recollection.

42

43 MS. ENTSMINGER: We agreed with the
44 first point you brought up, no permitting. We think
45 it's excessive, all this permitting that happens.
46 Everywhere you turn something new comes up and then
47 there's more permitting into it. We were a little bit
48 distraught at our organization that the original EA for
49 the collection of horns and antlers was just that and
50 then it brought in two other things. The one in our

1 region was the definition of bait. In our letter, we
2 went through a long discussion about that. It is
3 something that, it looked like to us, that got slipped
4 in at the last minute. It wasn't supposed to be in
5 there and then it gets slipped in and maybe higher-ups
6 are trying to do something, but it was our impression
7 this is how that came about and we were opposed to the
8 process of putting it into something that we worked so
9 long and hard on. It should be done separately and
10 more transparency to the people. So I just wanted to
11 bring it up. I am going to have Eva send that letter
12 so you guys can see a copy of it.

13

14 Okay.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

17

18 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Sue. Any
21 comments on the use of bait for taking bears under
22 Federal subsistence regulations in the proposed rule.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Regional
27 Council and the Subsistence Resource Commission for
28 Gates of the Arctic, bear baiting is not a cultural
29 thing, so that's the divergence between Eastern and
30 Western. We don't bait bears. And when we discussed
31 it at the Koyukuk River Advisory, we were talking about
32 State regulations on refuges for baiting bears or
33 selling bear skins or anything. People go like we
34 don't do that. We don't talk about bears. We talk
35 about big animals. So this is the divergence between
36 the two regions.

37

38 Your comment should reply to your
39 region, but over on the Western Interior that's why
40 this proposed rule is statewide. It affects certain
41 regions differently. For the Western Interior, the bear
42 baiting regulation doesn't have an effect on our
43 region. I don't know, do they bait bears around
44 McGrath, Ray?

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, there is some bear
47 baiting going on around McGrath because that's a way of
48 harvesting bears, but it's only minimal use. The
49 problem is the baits you've got to sit over it in order
50 to take something and it can only be used close to

1 town. You can't go out very far because you're not
2 going to go out there and sit there and wait. So it's
3 only limited use.

4
5 But in terms of the Park, I think when
6 we discussed this at Denali, I can't remember if it
7 came up at our last meeting up there at all, if there
8 was discussion on it, but they were not in favor of
9 baiting either because they didn't want to run into
10 conflicts with other people that are using those lands
11 along the highway, you know, visitors and so on. They
12 weren't using baiting either, the people in Cantwell.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But every
15 region has their differences and that's why one size
16 fits all doesn't always fit. I think we've covered the
17 main comments on the proposed rule. Thanks for your
18 addition that you rejected the permitting from the
19 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC.

20
21 Ray.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: I was going to ask Mary,
24 was there discussion on whether or not to use at the
25 Park level whether or not to use the permitting or not
26 in there? What went on in your office in that regard?
27 Is that an option?

28
29 MS. MCBURNEY: Well, I was not involved
30 with the formulation of the regulations or the draft
31 regulation, but what I can share with you is that there
32 was a great deal of discussion within the subsistence
33 coordinators and also at the SRC level to discuss what
34 would work best. Where we kind of left it was that --
35 there's kind of a sliding scale, I guess might be the
36 best way to describe it. There was discussion about an
37 individual permit, for example. Based on 802, as
38 Chairman Reakoff mentioned, that really the purpose is
39 that we want to have as little impact on subsistence
40 users as we possibly can, but also recognizing the
41 National Park Service, being a large government agency,
42 also has its administrative needs as well.

43
44 So one of the things we came up with
45 was, well, each Park is kind of different and the
46 situations on the ground are different and that
47 something like a permit could be taken care of as
48 simply as having, say, the Superintendent make an area-
49 wide authorization and, say, file it with the Park
50 Compendium for example so the burden is not on the

1 individual subsistence user that would like to go out
2 and collect materials for use in handicrafts. So that
3 is something that I can say with certainty that was
4 discussed and is considered.

5
6 So there is not a hard and fast
7 proposal in this proposed rule that says you have to go
8 to the Park Superintendent and you need to go get a
9 permit, but rather there is a recognition that
10 something much broader can be implemented where the
11 Superintendent can use their discretion and just say,
12 you know, everybody in this area that is a Federally
13 qualified subsistence user can engage in this activity
14 and I've got the paper in my file folder that reflects
15 that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'm glad to
18 hear that because that's not what the Gates of the
19 Arctic Subsistence -- or the Superintendent -- we were
20 under the impression during our teleconference that we
21 were required to have permits. So maybe the
22 Superintendents are under a misimpression of what the
23 proposed rule is actually stating. We've discussed
24 that. Marcy is our coordinator, so went around the
25 axle on this permitting thing. I feel that the
26 Superintendent should have discretion on issuing
27 permits and primarily avoiding permits if possible.

28
29 Marcy.

30
31 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, subsistence
32 coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and
33 Preserve. It sounds like a conversation needs to be
34 had between the Superintendents and the regional office
35 regarding that sliding scale.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that was a
38 mis-perception that was brought before the Subsistence
39 Resource Commission. That's why my discussion went in
40 that direction and you seem to be a little confused,
41 but that's where that came from.

42
43 We need to move on in this agenda. I
44 appreciate your update and coming before the Council,
45 Mary. Glad to see you again.

46
47 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
48 thank you, Council members.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

1 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 I mean you have to look at Mother Nature's way of
3 baiting too because the wolves do come down and do take
4 a moose here and there and just about everywhere and
5 every spring we do run upon where the grizzly bears do
6 come and feed on them, so there is baiting that goes on
7 by Mother Nature whether we like it or not. Hunters
8 have been utilizing it. I wouldn't say where, but
9 people just fly around until they find a moose kill
10 that the wolves left. Eventually that grizzly bear is
11 going to find it.

12
13 So there is things being done here.

14
15 Okay.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's where the
18 Park Service's definition of bait would include wolf
19 kills and stuff like that, you know, natural products.
20 Not introduced foods, but natural foods that are part
21 of the land. That's what the proposed rule is actually
22 stating.

23
24 We're on old business (c), which is
25 Board nonrural policy timeline. Don.

26
27 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. If I could,
28 while Don is coming up to the table, there wasn't a
29 sign-in sheet put out when everybody first got here, so
30 I know folks are going to be filtering in and out maybe
31 to go to another session. So if you could please sign
32 your name on that today, we'd appreciate it.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
37 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. The
38 Board is going to be drafting their policy regarding
39 rural determinations and that will be coming back for
40 your review this fall is my understanding. You already
41 got a preview of that yesterday of what that's all
42 about, the changes.

43
44 They're just going to now put that into
45 a policy.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks
50 for that update. New business. We're under call for

1 Federal fish and shellfish regulatory proposals. Don
2 is a fishery biologist.

3

4 Don.

5

6 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 This particular topic is in the main book on Page 225.
8 It's the news release call for proposals, so not your
9 supplementary section. I'm just going to read this
10 real quick.

11

12 The Federal Subsistence Board is
13 accepting proposals through April 1, 2016 to change
14 Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of fish
15 and shellfish on Federal public lands for the
16 2017-2019 regulatory years (April 1, 2017 - March 31,
17 2019).

18

19 The Board will consider proposals to
20 change Federal fishing seasons, harvest limits, methods
21 of harvest, and customary and traditional use
22 determinations. The Board will also accept proposals
23 for individual customary and traditional use
24 determinations from residents of National Park and
25 National Monument resident zone communities or those
26 who already hold a Section 13.440 subsistence use
27 permit.

28

29 So it is a hard and fast date April
30 1st. They've got to get into the Federal system by
31 that date, so anything after that we can't accept.
32 This is an opportunity for your Council. If you have
33 some Federal regulatory changes you'd like to see, you
34 can share that with us now or you, as a Council, can
35 come up with something now or if you have something
36 later, you can contact me. You'll see an 800 number
37 there on the top of the page for Deborah Coble. You
38 can call that number and talk with me and we can
39 develop a proposal then and get it submitted by April
40 1st.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. George, you
45 brought some issues to my attention from the Board of
46 Fish.

47

48 Go ahead.

49

50 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management, State
2 Subsistence Liaison Board of Fish and Board of Game.
3 It's been about 207 weeks since I've been on this side
4 of the table from you instead of being on the
5 telephone, so it's really good to be in front of you
6 guys again.

7

8 Thank you very much.

9

10 Leading into what Don said, we had a
11 Federal process come up. The Board of Fish made a few
12 decisions this last winter, some of them affecting your
13 area, and I just wanted to mention them if you're
14 interested. It appears that the State subsistence
15 fisheries might be a little bit more liberal in a
16 couple spots and if you're interested in contacting Don
17 for assistance in writing some proposals to the Federal
18 Subsistence Board to match or something along those
19 lines with what the State has done, I can walk you
20 through three of them real quickly if you're
21 interested.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Please do.

24

25 MR. PAPPAS: I might need some help
26 from Dr. Schmidt. She wasn't aware of that or Gerald,
27 fisheries manager. Let's start off with the one that
28 was authored by Mr. Jack Reakoff. There was a proposal
29 if you're interested -- would you like to cover that or
30 would you like me to cover that for Proposal 142, a
31 little bit upriver there?

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's on the
34 -- you know, you get into the BLM waters and since day
35 one BLM has said that those waters in the Dalton
36 Highway Corridor are not -- did not have water,
37 reserved water rights and we're not subject to Federal
38 subsistence regulations. I never did agree with that.
39 I never did press the issue. There's a State
40 subsistence fishery in the Upper Middle Fork and South
41 Fork Drainage in the area that I live in. Currently
42 there is no Federal waters according to BLM there, so
43 we won't take that one up.

44

45 MR. PAPPAS: Sounds good.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 144 though.

48

49 MR. PAPPAS: Proposal 144 was submitted
50 from a resident from the Huslia area. It was not

1 adopted as proposed. The bottom line is the local
2 folks wanted to have more effective and efficient means
3 to harvest northern pike in their area. The original
4 proposal was to allow nets to block off entire water
5 bodies to get pike, but there's a statewide regulation
6 both on the Federal and State side that indicates you
7 can't use a net to block off more than half of a
8 waterway.

9
10 What the Board of Fish did was modify
11 that proposal and passed it for the area near Huslia
12 that's called except for that in Racetrack Slough off
13 of the Koyukuk River and the sloughs of the Huslia
14 River drainage from when each river is free of ice
15 through June 15th, the offshore end of a gillnet may
16 not be closer than 20 feet from the opposite side of
17 the bank unless closed by emergency order.

18
19 So that was put in place to basically
20 allow folks that do want to target northern pike and
21 other species to more effectively target those fish in
22 those sloughs as identified here, but not block off the
23 entire river because there's navigation concerns,
24 there's other users going through the area.

25
26 But if you are interested, we could
27 assist with crafting a proposal to match that because
28 currently the State subsistence regulations in that
29 area would be more liberal than the Federal subsistence
30 fisheries regulations. It's not expected that very
31 many people would participate in this fishery or that
32 harvest would be significant. We don't have a means of
33 telling right now, but if you're interested, I wanted
34 to bring that up to you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was a driving
37 -- Darrell is on the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
38 and Jack Wholecheese and Darrell spearheaded that
39 Proposal 144. Orville Huntington, on the State Board
40 of Fish, spearheaded this and this is as close to what
41 the proponents would like to get, but I feel that the
42 Federal regulation should be mirrored in the Federal
43 regulation book.

44
45 We should submit a Federal proposal to
46 align now with State regulations for that area except
47 for that in Racetrack Slough off of the Koyukuk River
48 and the sloughs of the Huslia River drainage from when
49 each river is free of ice through June 15th, the
50 offshore end of a gillnet may not be closer than 20

1 feet from the opposite side of the bank unless closed
2 by emergency order.

3

4 I feel that those gillnet restrictions
5 should include that language for that area near Huslia
6 because that's as close to what the proponents wanted.
7 Do you want to make a motion to that effect, Darrell.

8

9 MR. VENT: Yes, Jack, I'd like to make
10 a motion for that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

13

14 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I think maybe
15 to clarify things, it wouldn't be an emergency order
16 under the Feds, but maybe it could be by the Federal
17 in-season manager, use that wording instead.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that good.
20 Close by Federal in-season manager. Okay. So that's
21 the motion. Do we have a second.

22

23 MR. SIMON: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
26 This is basically to align with new current State
27 regulations. Any further discussion.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. SIMON: Question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
34 called. Those in favor of spinning a Federal proposal
35 to include the current State regulation for gillnet
36 obstruction for that area near Huslia signify by saying
37 aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
42 sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I'll draft
47 that up and send it to Zach to send it to you for your
48 approval.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate

1 that, Don.

2

3 MR. PAPPAS: And in the fall season
4 we'll bring this to you for comment.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. And then
9 there's the 4-A.

10

11 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Proposal 121 that was approved by the Board of Fish
13 changed the regulations in Subdistrict 4-A downstream
14 from the mouth of Stink Creek, (A) king salmon may be
15 taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14,
16 unless closed by emergency order; (B) from June 10
17 through August 2, the commissioner may open, by
18 emergency order, fishing periods during which chum
19 salmon may be taken by drift gillnets.

20

21 We have the management staff from both
22 State and Federal here to correct me if I go astray,
23 but the idea is to allow for additional Federal
24 subsistence fisheries opportunity -- excuse me, on the
25 State side, additional subsistence opportunity for chum
26 salmon when chinook salmon are not present. The
27 existing regulation that we have on the Federal side
28 and including the framework which was established by
29 the Federal Board will not allow the Federal in-season
30 manager to go beyond the July 14th period to cover that
31 area if there are no kings present. Folks have made
32 massive sacrifices because of chinook already have the
33 ability to potentially go out and target chum salmon
34 during that timeframe.

35

36 So if you did make a motion to mirror
37 this, and we can use the wordsmithing that Don
38 recommended, unless closed by special action or closed
39 by the in-season manager, that will mirror the Federal
40 regulations with the State regulations.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Replace
43 commissioner. In conjunction with the Federal in-
44 season manager opening June 10 through August 2. How
45 would you feel about that Stephanie?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Great. She's comfy
50 with it. So the Chair will entertain a motion to

1 include the new State regulation for 4-A from
2 downstream downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek,
3 (A) king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from
4 June 10 through July 14, unless closed by emergency
5 order; (B) from June 10 through August 2, the
6 commissioner may open, by emergency
7 order, fishing periods during which chum salmon may be
8 taken by drift gillnets.

9

10 Instead of commissioner it would be
11 Federal in-season manager may open. Is that clear to
12 the Council?

13

14 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt by
17 Don. Do we have a second.

18

19 MR. R. WALKER: I'll second, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.
22 Further discussion on alignment with the new State
23 regulation.

24

25 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 guess under discussion I'm kind of confused here. Are
27 we modifying an existing regulation already in effect?
28 Is that what we're doing?

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: George.

31

32 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, this would be
33 liberalizing the Federal subsistence in-season
34 manager's framework. The framework set aside by the
35 Federal Subsistence Board. So this would allow the in-
36 season manager to further liberalize the fishery if
37 harvestable surplus is available and it wouldn't target
38 the chinook salmon during times of low abundance. So
39 this gives them the option. If you don't pass this
40 proposal at a later date, you can review this later
41 when we come back in the fall, then the in-season
42 manager would not have that flexibility to provide for
43 opportunity if it becomes available.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So basically this
46 would allow the Federal in-season manager to have a
47 conjunction opening from June 10 through August 2 for
48 drift gillnet instead of closing on July 14. So that
49 gives more subsistence opportunity.

50

1 Further discussion. Oh, Ken.
2
3 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
4 proposal has been brought up year after year after year
5 and I think I heard August 12nd. Is that the
6 timeframe?
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Goes through August
9 2nd, yeah.
10
11 MR. CHASE: This is not going to do
12 anything for those fall chum for fishing. The fall
13 chum run after July 2nd in our area down in Anvik area.
14 I talked to the fish biologist here earlier this fall
15 and that proposal was put in this last time by
16 Grayling, a person in Grayling, and we never really got
17 to comment on it, but this is not going to do much for
18 the area for fall chum. What Fish and Game is mixing
19 up on is they're looking at the end run of the summer
20 chum. We don't want those. Those are not even worth
21 fishing. The fall chum are coming later, after the 2nd
22 of August, and that's the ones we were wanting to fish.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The data I've seen
25 from the Rampart test wheel is that when Stan Zuray
26 gets to 50 percent red fall chum meat he considered the
27 fall chum reaching the Ramparts. That typically is
28 occurring around the very first few days of August.
29 And then your fall season on the Lower Yukon is July
30 15th, is when they consider the fall run as occurring.
31 That's the mean date. Stephanie, correct? So here nor
32 there, the State is now allowing an opening that goes
33 through August 2 instead of July 14, so I'm a proponent
34 of increasing harvest opportunity on Federal waters for
35 subsistence use.
36
37 MR. CHASE: Starting August 2nd?
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, it opens -- the
40 commissioner can open drift gillnet when there's no
41 king salmon present from June 10th to August 2. You,
42 in lower part of 4-A, would actually have access to
43 fall chum pretty much after around the 20th of July or
44 something kind of like that.
45
46 MR. CHASE: I think maybe Robert could
47 comment on that too.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What do you think,
50 Robert? You're the fisherman around there.

1 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 AC chairman Ken, yes, we do utilize it in July because
3 we have used it in the past time. Now that we don't
4 have king salmon, we kind of like really need this
5 direction here to utilize because we have a fall chum
6 from July -- sometimes they are early. It all depends
7 on what the ice does when it goes out. Yes, we would
8 look forward to these dates. It would be the in-season
9 managers if we do have to extend it. I think they are
10 very flexible and I think we should just use this right
11 now as a template right now.

12
13 If we have to extend it, we can do it
14 later.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate your
19 comments though, Ken.

20
21 Go ahead.

22
23 MR. CHASE: Thanks, but I think if
24 there was a window there longer into August. I just
25 don't agree with that time.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'd have disparate
28 season and there was quite a battle to get additional
29 fishing time in 4-A, so we don't want to go there. We
30 just want to basically align with the State season.
31 Maybe in the next Board of Fish round you can request
32 additional fishing time. Once the Board of Fish passes
33 that, then it's a lot easier to work with the Board of
34 Fish. I think right now the Board of Fish is more
35 amicable to increasing fall chum opportunity, so the
36 next round I think that you could actually probably ask
37 for more additional fishing time into the fall season.

38
39 MR. CHASE: That's true. I feel if we
40 get maybe people's consensus down there and them
41 deciding what time they want to fish rather than the
42 Board or the Fish and Game biologist tell us when we
43 can fish.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my opinion that
46 they should be able to drift gillnet fish after the
47 kings are gone. Just keep fishing. People are going
48 to meet subsistence needs. The next round it should be
49 just throw the season wide open. When the in-season
50 managers decide there's enough fall chum and coho, just

1 throw it open. Let people fish until they can't get
2 the net out of the water because it's covered in ice.
3 Right now this is all we have to work with, so I want
4 to see a Federal proposal current to this. That's what
5 the discussion is, so stay on track here.

6

7 Go ahead, Robert.

8

9 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Stephanie, can you come up and please speak to this
11 also while you're here.

12

13 MS. SCHMIDT: Thank you. Through the
14 Chair. Stephanie Schmidt. I'm the in-season summer
15 fishery manager for the Department of Fish and Game. I
16 just want to clarify with this proposal it was actually
17 aligning with a proposal that was passed last year that
18 was submitted by Mr. Fred Alexie to extend opportunity
19 with drift gillnets to target summer chum salmon when
20 king salmon abundances are low.

21

22 So this proposal, while it was
23 submitted by the Department this year, it was merely a
24 housekeeping proposal so that the entire of Subdistrict
25 4-A would be able to have that opportunity because
26 currently only the upper portion of 4-A has that
27 opportunity. We tried to do that last year as an ACR
28 through the Board, but we didn't give proper
29 administrative -- you know, EPA.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Procedurally.

32

33 MS. SCHMIDT: Exactly. And so our
34 Department of Law stepped in and said we can't take
35 this up, you'll have to do some housekeeping for next
36 year. So appreciate your comments. If they want to
37 target fall chum to submit something to the Board of
38 Fisheries at a future date for that. This was just
39 aligning with what Mr. Fred Alexie had put in in a
40 previous year.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
43 that overview. At this time I'd like to take a vote on
44 this as amended, that the Federal in-season manager may
45 open the season from June 10 through August 2.

46

47 Do you have a question? Are you
48 calling the question?

49

50 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, call the question.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question. Those in
2 favor of submitting a Federal Subsistence Board
3 proposal to align with current State regulation in
4 Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink
5 Creek to allow the Federal in-season manager to open a
6 drift gillnet fishery from June 10 to August 2 signify
7 by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
12 sign.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion passes.
17 George, do you have any further information for us?

18
19 MR. PAPPAS: No, that's it. We'll work
20 on those to get the proposals to you and then will be
21 sitting in front of you in the fall session to form
22 positions or modifications or what have you.

23
24 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

25
26 Thank you for your time.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate you
29 speaking slower.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I remember the good
34 old days when you used to speak like an auctioneer for
35 the State of Alaska.

36
37 MR. PAPPAS: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I got
38 tired of hearing what did he say.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
43 continue to move on. Should we take a break here,
44 Melinda. We'll take about a five-minute break.

45
46 (Off record)

47
48 (On record)

49
50 MS. BURKE: Mr. Saito, are you still

1 on?

2

3 MR. SAITO: Yes.

4

5 MS. BURKE: Okay, good.

6

7 MS. MONCRIEFF: This is Catherine
8 Moncrieff. I was in the room and then I switched to
9 the phone.

10

11 MS. BURKE: Oh, Catherine. Okay,
12 wonderful. Anyone else, any public, any tribal members
13 on the phone?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. BURKE: Okay, everybody, thank you.
18 We're moving our way through the agenda here. I know
19 it's a large agenda for a short time period this
20 afternoon. We've just finished the call for fish and
21 shellfish regulatory proposals and I believe we've got
22 Don up here next for FRMP.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

25

26 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
27 Rivard, OSM. We're going to go through -- we're now
28 into the stage where we're asking your Council for an
29 update on priority information needs for both the
30 Kuskokwim and the Yukon Regions. This will be for the
31 2018 notice of funding opportunity.

32

33 We just finished the 2016 and the Board
34 made its final recommendations there in January. We've
35 got a list of projects that we're going to fund
36 starting this summer. We're already gearing up now for
37 the next one. Every two years we do this, but it takes
38 about a year to get through the process.

39

40 We're asking your Council and the other
41 Councils for any priority information needs they may
42 have. We will compile a list of those and bring them
43 back to you at your fall meeting to make sure we
44 capture whatever you may want, we worded it correctly,
45 and you'll be able to review them again and maybe even
46 add to them if you come up with some other ones.

47

48 Time is short for this meeting.
49 Usually you guys meet two days and we're only meeting
50 half a day today, so we don't have a whole lot of time.

1 One of the things you can do if you have some priority
2 information needs you want to share with me now, we'll
3 write those down. If you think of some later, contact
4 me and we'll get them in either as individuals or
5 through Zach, your Council Coordinator, and we'll
6 compile those and get them back to you and we'll all
7 look at them again in the fall.

8

9 What I have for you, if you see the two
10 sheets of paper that were distributed earlier, they've
11 got yellow and green on them. One is for the Yukon
12 Region, one is for the Kuskokwim Region. Does
13 everybody have that in front of them?

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we do.

16

17 MR. RIVARD: So if you'd like to go
18 through these a little bit, these are from the past
19 three different calls from 2016, 2014 and 2012. I just
20 wanted to remind you of what was put forth for the
21 Yukon and Kuskokwim Regions. Your Council had a say in
22 all of these. So at your pleasure, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was a
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program workshop/breakout
26 and I hope that some of our new members get to attend
27 that because there's funding for resource monitoring
28 and there's informational needs that the Councils
29 should identify. I think the next round is for 2018
30 and we should identify studies or needs.

31

32 One of them, as I've stated over and
33 over, is the incidental harvest mortality factor for
34 dropouts from small mesh gear. If they require a 6-
35 inch net and you have lots of kings, there's a certain
36 amount of kings that fall out of the net dead, but we
37 have no idea how many that is. We need to have an
38 index or a number that the managers can calculate, so
39 that's an informational need and I've stated it on the
40 record last fall. I'll keep stating it until a project
41 is developed and an investigator will submit the
42 project.

43

44 I would like to put that need back out
45 on the board again for 2018, Don. And you've heard this
46 one before. My schematics and my catch-point diagram.
47 I have a king salmon picture and I draw marks on that
48 where if it catches it right there on the gill plate,
49 it kills it and it comes out real easy. Pops right
50 back out again. Kings have a pointier head and it pops

1 out easy. So they can have like a whole bunch of kings
2 dropping out. They seem to think that they bounce off
3 the net and swim away, but that's not always what
4 happens. There can be a large number of fish that
5 actually are dead. It depends on their sizes and so
6 forth.

7

8 So that's kind of been an issue for my
9 new members on this Council. That's an informational
10 need. Other members have information needs for
11 fisheries for studies on any fishery within our region.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this time I don't
16 see any more, Don.

17

18 MR. HONEA: Well, actually.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

21

22 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 guess, you know, I'm always confused by this because --
24 I mean I don't know if we, as a RAC, are supposed to be
25 submitting this or if it's for a village, an entity
26 like that or something. Realize you have funding out
27 there. I guess every year I'm asking the same
28 question. To what extent do you guys, OSM, assist
29 somebody if they wanted to submit a grant or something.
30 I realize you're not going to do the grant writing or
31 anything, but how would you assist an entity to receive
32 any of these fundings, a scenario?

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. RIVARD: Through the Chair. Don,
37 that's a very good question. We do provide technical
38 assistance with people that are writing proposals. We
39 can't write the proposals ourselves as staff, but we
40 will maybe give you some ideas on how to sharpen your
41 proposal or to make sure that you're addressing a
42 priority information need.

43

44 As Jack pointed out, we do have a
45 training session on FRMP that's really good. I was in
46 on one session yesterday and it kind of explains a lot
47 more in detail kind of the whole process and how to be
48 involved. We're really stressing this time around that
49 the Council members that are interested in doing this
50 work closely with principal investigators starting

1 right now. We're going to try to come up with some
2 priority information needs now, especially in the fall.
3 The call will go out in November, but principal
4 investigators should be speaking with Council members
5 to kind of really refine what their proposal to us will
6 entail based on priority information needs.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach, go ahead.

9

10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Jennifer Hyer [sic] is the Office of Subsistence
12 Management specialist that is involved in the FRMP
13 initiative and she has explained to me that the Service
14 is working very hard right now to strengthen its
15 outreach to the RACs and ensure that the FRMP program
16 that Don was mentioning a moment ago is informed and
17 driven by the interest, wants and needs of the RAC
18 members.

19

20 So, as you alluded, Mr. Chair, if there
21 are issues of subsistence fisheries management or
22 subsistence fisheries conservation that is of interest
23 to our RAC members and their communities, let us know
24 and we have enough time that the Service can work in
25 partnership with our RACs and help to put the strongest
26 proposal forward that we can.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I sat for the
31 Partnership Program and the FRMP Program. The
32 Partnership Program actually has funds. There was
33 Ahtna -- there was three, TCC and then Eek or Eyak.
34 Eyak. They take those Partnership funds and they hire
35 professional fishery biologists or professional
36 wildlife biologists and they help them. They bring the
37 credibility of a project.

38

39 So you're asking about how can a
40 community or tribal entity -- they apply for these
41 Partnership funds to hire a professional and that
42 brings credibility to help them write -- you know, we
43 identify right now -- we're identifying needs. Dropout
44 of salmon on the Yukon River. All we're doing is
45 identifying a need. That's what we're doing right now.

46

47

48 We put out the need, the State of
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game gets 42 percent of
50 those projects because they've got professionals and

1 they have real biologists. Fish and Wildlife gets some
2 of the funds, OSM gets some of the funds. But if a
3 community hires a professional biologist with the
4 Partner Program funds, they can actually score really
5 high because they can then -- that person can write a
6 good proposal to identify a project that will meet
7 scientific criteria to get funded with the FRMP.

8

9 So that's how communities should
10 actually start thinking, especially if you have like
11 TCC or larger entities like that. They get these
12 Partnership funds, so then they can write the
13 proposals. The proposals are scored. It's a very
14 scientific -- the Technical Review Committee is going
15 to make sure that this proposal is going to meet
16 economy and, you know, best bang for your buck and a
17 whole bunch of criteria and scientific, it's actually
18 going to meet the science, peer-reviewed science.

19

20 Don's question was about how
21 communities can do that. Your community could get
22 Partnership funding to apply for and try to get
23 Partnership funding to get a real biologist to help you
24 address certain issues if a project came up in your
25 area and you needed assistance with that. OSM will
26 help finalize this. Once it's submitted, that's it.
27 OSM is not going to help you anymore.

28

29 So I just wanted the Council to
30 understand how these two programs work, but we need to
31 identify issues right now. That's what I'm putting out
32 is this dropout issue, this dead loss, because
33 managers, by guess and by golly, have no idea how many
34 fish are falling out of nets statewide, let alone on
35 the Yukon and Kuskokwim River.

36

37 Any other ideas on informational needs.
38 Don.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. One of the
41 things I presented this morning to the Y-K Council and
42 what they did, they asked that the ones that were put
43 forth for 2016, the priority information needs, if no
44 proposals came in, we would put those back in as
45 priority information needs for the 2018. That's one
46 way of kind of doing it real quick. The one that
47 you're talking about is under the Yukon. It's the
48 second bullet after the green. You'll see it says
49 assessment of incidental mortality with gillnets.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: So that's one way. Not
4 all of these 2016 information needs were addressed in
5 this cycle. We didn't get proposals in to address some
6 of them. So we're going to put the ones that didn't
7 get addressed this time around back in for another
8 round based on what the Y-K Council has asked us to do.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would agree with
11 the Y-K Council that the -- there's a whole list of
12 needs here for 2016. Some didn't make the cut. They
13 weren't written correctly or there was something wrong.
14 So that's the best way to do this. I'm identifying the
15 same need. So anything that didn't make the cut in the
16 Yukon-Kuskokwim Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan
17 should be put back into the hopper. We still have
18 those needs, we still want that information and that's
19 the quickest way to address this. I will agree with Y-
20 K Delta.

21

22 Zach.

23

24 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 I should note with Don mentioning that. Northwest
26 Arctic RAC had used FRMP funds, if I'm not mistaken,
27 Don, I'd say within the past five, maybe six years, to
28 do a study using both science and traditional knowledge
29 to study the use and history of whitefish in the
30 Selawik Refuge area. I'd be happy to share that with
31 this RAC if that example would be helpful.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's been
34 projects like that on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River.
35 Some of these projects or these informational needs
36 have been identified, they didn't make the cut, the
37 proposals need to be redone. They need to work with a
38 professional to get it cleaned up to where they can
39 actually submit the proposal and it will score high to
40 the Technical Review Committee.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

45

46 MR. RIVARD: I didn't explain the color
47 scheme that I had there. For the yellow there, it's
48 reliable estimates of chinook salmon. Those were
49 common to both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim Regions.
50 Those are like weir projects and that, which have

1 always been a priority for your Councils to see that
2 salmon are still being enumerated. So we're going to
3 continue with those. With your blessing, we'll keep
4 those on.

5
6 And then the ones in green, again, they
7 were also common to both regions, over more than one
8 notice of funding opportunity call for proposals. The
9 methods for trying to get at the quality of escapement
10 on the spawning grounds. So we can continue to keep
11 both of those in there if it is your desire.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The quality of
14 escapement, yes, those are very important issues, the
15 reliable estimate of escapement. Stewart told us that
16 it costs \$200,000 for a weir project typically. So
17 there's only limited funds. I would like to see a
18 reliable method that's not as expensive for the program
19 since the funding keeps going down.

20
21 Go ahead, Don.

22
23 MR. RIVARD: That's interesting you say
24 that. There's a lot of the private investigators, both
25 the State and the Fish and Wildlife Service, that are
26 utilizing more and more video equipment at the weirs,
27 which reduces the amount of staff time. Hopefully and
28 theoretically it does. So that's one way of at least
29 keeping the cost down somewhat. So they are doing that
30 to try to continue to monitor at certain places, but to
31 lower the cost as well.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These highlighted
34 yellow and green for the Yukon-Kuskokwim are a
35 priority. That's been a big priority for the Upper
36 Kuskokwim, right, Ray?

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those two and
41 anything that didn't make the previous cut in the
42 Kuskokwim and Yukon should be put back in for 2018. Is
43 that acceptable to the Council? These two yellow and
44 green on the Yukon and Kuskokwim, which are ongoing
45 quality escapement and escapement projects need to be
46 funded and then these other, like this assessment for
47 incidental mortality with gillnet and other projects
48 that haven't made the cut.

49
50 The Chair will entertain a motion to

1 submit those as projects informational needs for the
2 2016 cycle.

3

4 MR. RIVARD: 2018.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Correction '18. I
7 stand corrected.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: So move.

10

11 MR. HONEA: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny,
14 seconded by Don. Further discussion.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Under discussion here I guess on these highlighted
18 ones, if there was not anything that we come up with,
19 then the funding just goes to these in the next few
20 years? Is that how the scenario works?

21

22 MR. RIVARD: These are just priority
23 information needs. We'll have them in draft form for
24 you to look at again at your fall meeting, so make sure
25 we capture it right, and you can again look at it. You
26 may come up with some other ones at that time. Maybe
27 you thought of something in the meantime. If any of
28 you think of something else you really think is a
29 priority information need for these two regions, give
30 me a call. We'll put them in on the draft and then let
31 the whole Council look at them in the fall as well.

32

33 I was going to make a point and I kind
34 of lost it here. Could I have your question again,
35 Don, because I was going to make another point.

36

37 MS. BURKE: If I may, Mr. Chair. He
38 was asking if the funds automatically go somewhere
39 else, so I think he's maybe thinking that it's already
40 a funded project, the item on the list.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: No, what happens with
43 these, these go into the call and then private -- well,
44 the principal investigators can then submit proposals
45 to address these information needs. As has happened in
46 the past, we don't always get in proposals for some of
47 these information needs. We do fund whatever proposals
48 do come in after they go through a very stringent
49 review by the Technical Review Committee and pass
50 muster on certain criteria.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.
2
3 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Not to spend too much time on this, I guess my question
5 was -- you know, it seems like we don't push through
6 any new ideas or anything. Well, I haven't submitted
7 anything on these. I guess my question was, I mean if
8 we don't say anything and these are highlighted, year
9 after year they will continue to be funded. Is that
10 how it works?
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach.
13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 To provide some information responding to Donald's
16 question. Through my conversation with Jennifer Hyer
17 [sic] at OSM regarding the FRMP program, she has
18 explained to me that the RACs have the ability to
19 recommend investigators that may be able to help
20 advance some of these priority subsistence fisheries
21 research needs. So if the RAC is aware of a biologist
22 that can serve to advance some of these research needs
23 for the region, you have the authority to recommend
24 those investigators for consideration as these
25 proposals are being vetted.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
30
31 Go ahead, Fred.
32
33 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you. I tried
34 getting this information this morning about the process
35 about our projects. If it don't make the cut in 2016,
36 it does not automatically go without the RAC
37 resubmitting that.
38
39 MR. RIVARD: That is correct. We don't
40 automatically. That's why we come back to you and say
41 would you like us to, for lack of a better term,
42 recycle these information needs.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what we're
45 doing right now. We want to resubmit.
46
47 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. It's not automatic.
48 That's what I'm asking.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, it's not

1 automatic. If we don't keep resubmitting the needs,
2 then it drops.

3

4 MR. ALEXIE: I'm looking at the tribal
5 councils. I know for a fact that like if Kaltag put in
6 a proposal and it failed to make the cut, the people on
7 the tribal council don't follow up on it. It just
8 drops off, which is a bad deal for our local tribes.
9 Whereas if it was automatic, we wouldn't worry about it
10 at all after, you know, until it makes it or just
11 finally goes away.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If Kaltag has
14 submitted a proposal that would address one of these
15 needs and it fails, they probably don't have the
16 expertise to make the fine mesh cut. So that's where
17 you want to go to the Partner Program and get funding
18 to get a real biologist to help you work this proposal
19 out and then oversee the project to make sure that it
20 goes really well through the process.

21

22 Don.

23

24 MR. RIVARD: I think I can help answer
25 this a little bit too. When the Technical Review
26 Committee, and they're made up of very highly qualified
27 fish biologists and anthropologists, there's 12 of
28 them, and when they review these proposals that come
29 in, if they don't make the cut, if they don't make very
30 high marks, they're all given a review and the
31 principal investigator gets that review back and it
32 says here's what's lacking in the proposal. It didn't
33 have the right people to do it or whatever. Then
34 usually in two years you'll have an opportunity to
35 resubmit that proposal and strengthen it from the
36 critique that you got from the Technical Review
37 Committee. You can see where it was weak and how to
38 strengthen that proposal and maybe the next round it
39 does then pass muster and has a better chance of being
40 funded. Does that help?

41

42 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think we're
45 beating this one down, so we need to move on.

46

47 Melinda.

48

49 MS. BURKE: Just one thing that jumped
50 to my mind, Mr. Chair. We do have some new Council

1 members on this RAC for the first time in quite a
2 while. We've seen the same faces. It's been a little
3 bit since we've had a Council training session, so
4 perhaps at your next meeting in McGrath a short
5 training session to include discussion on FRMP,
6 Partners, maybe even go through an example proposal and
7 what it looks like and what the process is. So just a
8 suggestion for your next meeting.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be good
11 for the Council members who haven't attended the
12 workshop or the breakout that we didn't have here. So
13 we have a motion on table to adopt the colored portions
14 for the Yukon 2016. Those are the reliable estimates
15 for chinook, chum, sockeye and coho stocks for
16 Kuskokwim and also for the Yukon River system and then
17 a method of including quality escapement measures, et
18 cetera, for the Yukon and Kuskokwim River. And then
19 also projects that did not meet muster in 2016, they
20 should all be resubmitted for the 2018 cycle. That's
21 the motion on the table.

22

23 MR. HONEA: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call for question.
26 Those in favor of that motion signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
31 sign.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm having Zach make
36 notes of all these actions. So we're moving on in the
37 agenda. Thanks, Don. We're at approval of the FY2015
38 annual report. Council Coordinator, you have our
39 annual report items.

40

41 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Council,
42 on Page WI14 and 15, you will see the draft annual
43 report that we put together the previous meetings that
44 summarize there. Is this an action item? Yes, it is.
45 So we made a pretty good draft at the Galena meeting.
46 I believe this was one of the meetings where we were
47 able to put several of the letters up on the screen.
48 We edited it together, added some finishing touches
49 between that meeting and this meeting between the Chair
50 and myself before I left to Juneau.

1 Just a very, very quick summary. I
2 know we're running short on time. Co-management on the
3 Yukon River. That was something that Darrell and
4 several others spoke very strongly about. The Councils
5 received a lot of briefings about things that are
6 happening on the Kusko in similar regards. You were
7 recommending that something similar happens on the
8 Yukon.

9
10 The number two item regarding the
11 restrictions on fish and having a more equitable
12 restrictions and conservation methods up and down the
13 rivers.

14
15 Number three is something that Jack and
16 several others have brought up quite extensively about
17 information needs regarding the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
18 We worked on that item for quite a while.

19
20 Then number four regarding chinook
21 salmon recovery efforts that have been made on both the
22 State and Federal side. If the Council members have
23 any additions from the fall meeting to now this would
24 be the time to discuss it.

25
26 Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know, the
29 Subsistence Division is going to not have travel
30 funding to take inventory of harvests on wildlife in
31 Alaska. An annual report topic for need is a wildlife
32 funding source for resource monitoring like they do for
33 fishery. There's a wildlife resource monitoring need
34 in the Federal program, especially for harvest,
35 community harvest in rural Alaska, and those should
36 work through the tribal offices. Each village in our
37 region typically has a tribal office and those harvests
38 could be reported. Community harvesting could be
39 reported back to the Federal system.

40
41 So that annual report topic needs to go
42 before the Federal Subsistence Board and OSM because
43 it's a priority need. We can't rely on the State
44 Subsistence Division anymore. They've been losing
45 funding. We have very antiquated data, stale data the
46 Board of Game will call it, and if we don't have
47 current harvest data for communities, then it's a real,
48 real problem at the Board level, State or Federal Board
49 level. So I feel that it should be item number five,
50 is a wildlife resource monitoring program developed

1 with the funding for not only wildlife issues, but also
2 harvest reporting for communities.

3

4 Discussion on that topic with the
5 Council. Fred.

6

7 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you. I'd like to
8 see more villages do that because if we don't, the
9 Department could open that thing to anybody else,
10 anybody coming in, because there's no report by the
11 local villages. What does that do? It cuts our
12 resources down because the Fish and Game can open it to
13 outside hunters or whatever. We do not want that in
14 our villages.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's exactly what
17 happens at the State Board level. If they don't think
18 there's a harvestable surplus, if they don't think that
19 local people are taking that, they'll reallocate it to
20 the other user group. So that's an important issue for
21 this Council. Any other additions to this annual
22 report.

23

24 We send this annual report in and
25 usually the OSM and the Federal Subsistence Board go
26 through it and they send a letter back typically in
27 late summer in response to our annual report. That's
28 what this is about. So we highlight issues that are
29 important to this region and then we get responses.

30

31 If enough Councils keep talking about
32 this wildlife issue, I think that's going to -- and I
33 think that we would like to also transmit a letter on
34 that wildlife monitoring program and community harvest
35 reporting and we want a letter sent to all 10 Regional
36 Councils, not only in the annual report, but we also
37 want the other Regional Councils to be aware that this
38 is an issue that we feel that all Councils should work
39 on.

40

41 Is that appropriate? Does the Council
42 agree about sending this issue to the other Regional
43 Councils?

44

(Council nodding affirmatively)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see an affirmative
47 to that. Any other annual report topics. Ray.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. This isn't
50

1 for the annual report, but, you know, we have never
2 seen a harvest report on all of our villages. The
3 State should have those records in hand by now and it
4 would be nice if on the spring meeting we could see the
5 results of last fall hunting by community. We'd have
6 to get the information from the State, but it would be
7 nice to have that report so that we could -- and then
8 members from those communities can see how accurate
9 that is from their experience and so on. Just an
10 information need that we haven't really looked at.

11

12 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

15

16 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is
17 this an action item? Are you entertaining a motion?
18 Because I actually agree wholeheartedly that the
19 reporting of it, whether we do it on our own or whether
20 we do it with the State or something. It shows the
21 need. It shows how much we are using locally.

22

23 It's really important, I think.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've included that
28 as topic five for the annual report and then we're also
29 highlighting that to the other Regional Councils.
30 That's probably one of the most important things on
31 this annual report is that issue. Melinda.

32

33 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I just
34 wanted to also suggest that since the Council members
35 are going to be here through Friday, I, myself, will be
36 tied up in another panel in the Southeast Council
37 meeting, but it would be really good for Zach to go
38 ahead and get a fresh copy of the annual report with
39 your amended item perhaps finished and signed before
40 you leave this week. I know the pressure will be on
41 once everybody goes home and everybody gets really
42 busy.

43

44 So it might not be a bad idea for the
45 Council and Zach in the next two days while you're here
46 to work on that number five item and go ahead and get
47 it finished and printed while you're in town. I know
48 it was desirable by the Division Chief to try to get
49 these letters finished up and since you're just adding
50 one item it might be something that the Council can

1 kind of work on together intermittently from now until
2 Friday.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think we can
5 get that done. So that was five items that will be on
6 the annual report. We're in discussion. Further
7 discussion on the annual report. Do we have a motion
8 on the floor? I need a motion on the floor to adopt
9 the annual report.

10
11 MR. HONEA: So move.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt by
14 Don.

15
16 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Fred.
19 Further discussion.

20
21 MR. SIMON: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
24 the annual report five items as enumerated signify by
25 saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're down to new
34 business (d), WSA16-01 closure of caribou hunt in Unit
35 23 to non-Federally qualified users, supplement.

36
37 Lisa. This is the -- introduce
38 yourself, Lisa.

39
40 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Members of the Council. My name is Lisa Maas and I'm a
42 wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
43 Management. I will be presenting a summary of the
44 analysis for a temporary special action request WSA16-
45 01, which you are just now receiving as a handout.
46 Audience members, there's copies on the table just
47 outside in the hall.

48
49 Temporary Special Action Request
50 WSA16-01, submitted by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence

1 Regional Advisory Council, requests that Federal public
2 lands in Unit 23 be closed to caribou hunting by
3 non-Federally qualified subsistence users during the
4 2016-2017 regulatory year beginning July 1, 2016.

5
6 The reason this special action request
7 is being presented to the Western Interior RAC is that
8 residents of Unit 24 and portions of Unit 21D have a
9 customary and traditional use determination for caribou
10 in Unit 23. The proponent is concerned with the health
11 and declining population of the Western Arctic Caribou
12 Herd, the lack of recent population data and the
13 negative effects that outside hunting activity combined
14 with a declining caribou population is having on local
15 subsistence users. The proponent states that the
16 requested closure is necessary for conservation
17 purposes.

18
19 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd or WACH
20 is the largest caribou herd with the largest range in
21 Alaska. The WACH Working Group developed a management
22 table for this herd, which is found on Page 8 of the
23 analysis. Referring to this table could aid in
24 understanding WACH management.

25
26 Caribou populations naturally fluctuate
27 over time. In 1976, the WACH reached a low of 75,000
28 caribou, then the WACH population increased, reaching a
29 peak of 490,000 caribou in 2003. Since 2003, the WACH
30 population has declined about 50 percent to an
31 estimated 235,000 caribou in 2013. Hunting, which has
32 historically been a minor mortality factor, now
33 represents a greater percentage of mortality as the
34 herd declines and harvest remains the same.

35
36 The State conducted an aerial photo
37 census of the herd in July 2015. However, due to poor
38 light conditions, the photos could not be used. The
39 State will attempt another photo census this summer.
40 However, based on cow mortality and calf survival, the
41 decline continues. The current population may be
42 around 200,000 caribou.

43
44 Between 1999 and 2013, the average
45 annual harvest from the WACH was an estimated 13,500
46 caribou. The vast majority of the WACH are harvested
47 within Unit 23. Of the Unit 23 harvest, residents
48 living within the range of the WACH harvest 95 percent
49 of the caribou on average while all other hunters only
50 account for 5 percent of the harvest on average.

1 There's a lot of uncertainty in harvest
2 estimates, but if harvest and caribou population
3 estimates are accurate, State biologists suggest
4 overharvesting is already occurring. Under the
5 preservative and critical management levels, the WACH
6 management plan recommends restricting harvest to
7 residents only and that closure of some Federal lands
8 to non-qualified users may be necessary.

9
10 Most caribou hunting in Unit 23 occurs
11 in September through November when caribou migrate
12 through the unit. Caribou dominate the subsistence
13 harvest in Unit 23. However, in recent years, local
14 people have been having trouble getting caribou, which
15 is hurting villages. Local people, particularly in
16 Noatak, are concerned about aircraft and non-local
17 hunters disrupting caribou migration and reducing
18 harvest success by camping along migration routes,
19 scaring caribou away from river crossings and shooting
20 lead caribou.

21
22 Another concern is that non-locals
23 disrespect local hunting traditions by wasting meat,
24 hunting for trophies instead of meat and leaving litter
25 and trash. A survey of sport hunters in the Noatak
26 National Preserve somewhat validates these concerns.

27
28 In 2015, the Alaska Board of Game
29 adopted new regulations across the WACH range in
30 response to the population decline. The new
31 regulations included reducing the bag limit for
32 non-residents, prohibiting calf harvest and reducing
33 season lengths.

34
35 Also in 2015, the Federal Subsistence
36 Board approved a special action request which reduced
37 harvest limits and season lengths, prohibited the take
38 of calves and cows with calves. Four proposals
39 addressing the declining WACH population in Unit 23
40 were submitted for the 2016 Federal regulatory cycle
41 and are currently under review.

42
43 If this special action request is
44 approved, non-Federally qualified subsistence users
45 could still hunt caribou on State lands. As State
46 lands only comprise about 19 percent of Unit 23, hunts
47 could become congested in these areas. Users would
48 also need to distinguish between State and Federal
49 lands, which could increase law enforcement concerns.

50

1 As all users could still hunt moose,
2 bear and wolves on Federal public lands, as well as
3 utilize these lands for other non-hunting purposes,
4 user conflicts would not be eliminated. Currently, it
5 is uncertain whether the WACH population is within the
6 conservative or preservative level of the WACH
7 management table. Regardless, closure to non-residents
8 under State regulations is warranted before closure to
9 non-Federally qualified users.

10
11 Additionally, as non-Federally
12 qualified users account for less than 5 percent of the
13 harvest on Federal public lands in Unit 23, closure of
14 these lands to this user group would have no meaningful
15 biological effect.

16
17 The new State regulations already
18 reduce the bag limit and season for non-residents as
19 well as season for residents allowing time to gauge the
20 efficacy of these new regulations in conservation of
21 the WACH is warranted before enacting more restrictive
22 regulations.

23
24 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
25 oppose Temporary Special Action Request WSA16-01.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Lisa.
30 Any questions on her presentation.

31
32 Go ahead, Robert.

33
34 MR. R. WALKER: I'm just going to say I
35 make a motion to work with this WACH group here and
36 close it. That's just my motion for now. I mean we
37 can work around that.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can make a
40 motion to adopt WSA16-01.

41
42 MR. R. WALKER: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second
45 for that.

46
47 MR. HONEA: Second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.
50 Discussion on this proposal to close to non-

1 subsistence, which would be nonrural, people who have
2 customary and traditional use of caribou in Unit 23.

3
4 Yesterday there was a lady that sat
5 behind me in the 804 group. She said she's from Kiana
6 and she lives in Anchorage and she was real concerned
7 about being able to go home and actually going hunting.
8 That's what the problem was we had on the Yukon River.
9 When we thought about closing 804, AVCP submitted
10 closure to nonrural, but there's people that come from
11 home. There's family members that live in Anchorage or
12 Fairbanks that want to go back and fish or hunt with
13 their families. So that's where you get into a
14 problem.

15
16 The other problem with this proposal is
17 under 815 of ANILCA you can't close an area to non-
18 subsistence uses unless there's a biological reason to
19 do that. If there's a harvestable surplus, then they
20 can't close it to non-subsistence. So the data is
21 actually very gray as to whether they've reached that
22 point. So I think this proposal is premature, is what
23 I think it is. I don't think that they have the data
24 to stand up in the Federal Subsistence Board to
25 actually do this.

26
27 I'm concerned about family members who
28 live in Fairbanks or Anchorage returning back to their
29 village of origin and not being able to hunt and that's
30 probably not broken out whether they previously lived.
31 They're either rural or nonrural. Your data, Lisa?

32
33 MS. MAAS: You're asking about the
34 harvest, the resident within the WACH range?

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Within the WACH's
37 range, the harvest by non-local or non-subsistence,
38 that's not broken out as to people who used to live
39 there and are actually previous residents.

40
41 MS. MAAS: That data is primarily from
42 household surveys. There's a lot of uncertainty in the
43 harvest data how the State kind of extrapolates the
44 harvest data, but it's primarily just combining
45 household survey data over the years from different
46 communities and kind of extrapolating that over time.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The other aspect of
49 this proposal is that the State controlled lands are
50 actually the Native corp lands and the blue and the

1 green lands. Some of the problem areas where user
2 conflicts are coming out are on those State controlled
3 lands.

4
5 Zach, you were over in that country.
6 Any comments on this proposal.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 I had the opportunity to participate in a public
10 meeting in Kotzebue along with Lisa Maas about two
11 weeks ago now and the concern that you've raised or the
12 point you've raised I should say regarding the
13 potential impacts of the special action on, in this
14 case, State lands was a perspective that was raised by
15 Brandon Saito of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
16 Office in Kotzebue. The point that he raised was if
17 enacted, you know, might there be increased pressure on
18 State lands resulting from the prohibition of
19 non-qualified subsistence hunters not being able to
20 access Federal lands.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And it pushed people
23 towards congested areas and they already have some
24 congestion where the caribou migrate anyway.
25 Personally, if there was a problem that could be
26 justified biologically, I would support the proposal,
27 but currently the data does not show that the number of
28 people of non-local, non-subsistence users are actually
29 a large influence on the harvest.

30
31 So I'm personally opposed to this
32 because I think that it would throw the people who live
33 in Anchorage or Fairbanks and want to go home out of
34 hunting on certain areas on Federal public lands. So
35 that's why I oppose the proposal at this time. IN the
36 future, when we get better data and this proposal comes
37 back again as a permanent proposal instead of special
38 action, then I might support, but we need to have
39 better data. Right now they don't have data on that
40 Western Herd. They've got some bad pictures of seeing
41 right in the sun and they're in the shadows and they
42 couldn't count the caribou. Further discussion on
43 proposal. That's my perspective.

44
45 Darrel.

46
47 MR. VENT: I think we mentioned
48 something about this in the fall meeting. They were
49 talking about all that trash and stuff that they were
50 leaving out on the land there and we were also trying

1 to include hunter education on there so they could
2 respect that land that belongs to the people over
3 there.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, user conflicts
6 with trash and stuff, that's something that the Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game has to address. They
8 promote these hunters to go afield, especially non-
9 resident hunters with big game locking tags and
10 licenses, but they need to educate the hunters that fly
11 into these areas on leave no trace, low impact camping
12 and stuff like that.

13
14 Further discussion on this proposal.
15 The motion is to adopt Proposal WSA16-01. I need a
16 question.

17
18 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
21 called on the proposal. Those in favor of the Proposal
22 WSA16-01 signify by saying aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
27 sign.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
32 the proposal signify by holding your hand up. I need a
33 count.

34
35 (Mr. R. Walker, Mr. Collins and Mr.
36 Thomas in favor)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have three for
39 the proposal. Those opposed to the proposal same sign.

40
41 (Counting hands)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have five. So
44 five opposed and three.....

45
46 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I just want to
47 make sure I got the count correct. Four in favor, five
48 against, motion fails.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Three or four and

1 five against that I count. We've got nine. We should
2 have five and four. So how many were opposed. Let's
3 just count that.

4
5 (Chairman Reakoff, Mr. Honea, Ms.
6 Pelkola, Mr. Alexie, Mr. Simon, Mr. Vent opposed)

7
8 MS. BURKE: Six opposed.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So six and three.
11 Good data presentation. I really like this color chart
12 on harvest. I do like this. This is a really good
13 chart. It's the kind of thing that we would like to
14 see for harvest information for moose and other species
15 in the region. Easy to read, easy to look at and know
16 how it's going.

17
18 Robert.

19
20 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chair. For
21 the record, I would like to have my name say that I
22 voted in favor just to say that I was supporting 16-01.
23 I mean we're here to try to protect animals too. I
24 mean just because the data is not right, we could have
25 voted all yes and say, okay, we can take a look at the
26 data again one more time instead of voting it down. It
27 might not come back up again, Jack. Only me and Ray
28 voted on this. That's my say.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I like to have
31 the opposing opinion in the record also.

32
33 Thank you, Robert.

34
35 Lisa.

36
37 MS. MAAS: I'd just like to state for
38 the record that the reason the Northwest Arctic RAC
39 submitted this proposal was because of the lack of
40 population data. That they saw this as a proactive
41 measure and it's kind of one of those perspectives
42 where you kind of look -- with the same data with
43 different perspectives, you come to different
44 conclusions, but that's just why the Northwest Arctic
45 RAC recently submitted the proposal.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's cool, but I
48 mean they -- did they deliberate the proposal with the
49 understanding that they may be cutting off family
50 members from the Federal lands? Did they understand

1 that part?

2

3

MS. MAAS: Well, that came up a lot in
4 the tribal consultation and also in the public meeting
5 when it was presented last fall at the Northwest Arctic
6 RAC. It wasn't really discussed at length or in depth,
7 but I'm sure it will come up tomorrow or Friday when we
8 present it to the.....

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Let our
10 action be known to the Northwest Arctic Regional
11 Advisory Council of our concern about preclusion of
12 family members to be able to return to hunt at home.
13 Okay. Thanks so much.

14

15

16

MR. R. WALKER: Jack.

17

18

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

19

20

MR. R. WALKER: Maybe we should just
21 reconsider, say that we will take no action at this
22 time rather than this because I just don't want to see
23 half of our board vote no and a third vote yes. I think
24 maybe we should reconsider this. I will withdraw my
25 motion and then we will send it back to the home where
26 it came from and say we need more information before we
27 take action on this because I don't want to have a
28 negative attitude here when we're going into this.

29

30

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our meeting will be
31 ended today. We can't take any further actions after
32 right now. You can make a motion to reconsider the
33 proposal. You can make a motion to reconsider the
34 vote.

35

36

MR. R. WALKER: Yes, I'd like to take a
37 reconsider here, Mr. Chairman, on the vote here because
38 I think that -- I would withdraw my motion if I could
39 so we could just say that we will send it back to the
40 home base.

41

42

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So your motion is to
43 reconsider the vote on WSA16-01 and you want to
44 basically table the proposal is your intention.

45

46

MR. R. WALKER: Yes. I think that
47 would be due process here rather than send them a no
48 vote.

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a

1 second to that.

2

3 MR. HONEA: I second. Mr. Chair, I
4 guess I mean the reason for this was the justification
5 of OSM and also I was reading into it it was due to the
6 relatively low numbers of caribou harvested by non-
7 Federally qualified subsistence users. So that's kind
8 of what swayed me to vote against it. But also, in
9 being good neighbors and stuff, I guess sometimes it
10 may come back to bite us that, you know, whether we
11 could leave it to region or we could not take action at
12 all.

13

14 So I'm either way.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You're
19 seconding the motion?

20

21 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So reconsider vote
24 to table WSA16-01. Any further discussion on tabling
25 that proposal.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. SIMON: Question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
32 called. Those in favor of tabling the proposal and
33 returning it to region signify by saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

38

39 (One opposing vote)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll still oppose
42 because I still feel -- the lady behind me was almost
43 crying on my shoulder about not being able to go home
44 to go hunting, so I'm voting with her. She was raised
45 there. She was concerned about not being able to hunt.

46

47 MR. THOMAS: Was she actually a
48 resident there? Does she live there now?

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She said she had an

1 elderly mother that had to live in Anchorage. She had
2 to work here and she still eats Native foods. She
3 still wanted to go home to hunt and she wasn't going to
4 be able to do that. I don't think the data is there
5 for this proposal at this time. So that's why I'm
6 voting against the proposal. It's not that I don't
7 have a rural preference, but I do feel that there's a
8 lot of people from Anchorage and Fairbanks that live in
9 town that actually go home to hunt there.

10

11 Let the record reflect to the Northwest
12 Arctic Regional Advisory Council that's my primary vote
13 in opposition to the proposal is concern for members of
14 the urban community that actually were raised there.

15

16 So moving on in this -- Lisa.

17

18 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
19 for the record, they would still be able to hunt on
20 State land and any private Native corporation land.
21 While the reason that the Northwest Arctic stated in
22 their request was for conservation purposes, user
23 conflict was another humongous reason why they
24 submitted it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, her
27 particularly, she said she hunted above the corp lands
28 up towards Onion Portage on the Federal portion. So
29 that's what that was about. Okay. We're moving on
30 down this list.

31

32 MS. BURKE: Jack, hold on just one sec.
33 Unless I'm mistaken here, I've got a motion to
34 reconsider and we got a second, but I don't think
35 we.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We voted.

38

39 MS. BURKE: Did we vote? Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was eight to
42 table the proposal and one opposed. I was opposed to
43 it.

44

45 (Off record discussion)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Vote to
48 reconsider. Those in favor of voting to reconsider
49 signify by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
4 tabling Proposal WSA16-01.....
5
6 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I am
7 confused here. Could you just say both of them first
8 before you take one up at a time.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We brought it back
11 to the table and instead of going back through that
12 whole process again. Do you want to make a motion to
13 table Proposal WSA16-01?
14
15 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, I'd like to make a
16 motion to table 16-01.
17
18 MR. VENT: Don was the second, but he's
19 not here.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don took off,
22 so.....
23
24 MR. VENT: I'll second it.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell will second
27 that motion. Now we're going to take a vote to table
28 WSA16-01. Those in favor of tabling Proposal 16-01
29 signify by saying aye.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
34 sign.
35
36 MR. THOMAS: Can I abstain?
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can abstain. I
39 oppose. One abstinence. Let the record reflect that.
40
41 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. I
42 believe that I have a point of order for you.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.
45
46 MR. R. WALKER: Robert's Rules of Order
47 state that the Chairman will not vote unless there is a
48 tiebreaker on Robert's Rules of Order.
49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Well, I'm not

1 voting. All right. Moving on.....

2

3 MS. BURKE: One abstinence.

4

5 MR. R. WALKER: Yes, and he would have
6 to have a reason why he abstained too.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kanuti National
9 Wildlife Refuge report. It's in our packet. Vince was
10 here. So it's on WI17 in our book here. The main
11 thing -- since Kanuti is not here, the main thing I
12 want to point out is that they did get a 2015 moose
13 census with a real high confidence level of 90 percent
14 and Kanuti was showing 50 calves per 100 cows and the
15 bull:cow ratio was 56 bulls per 100 cows. So that's
16 over the management objective for bulls. The bulls are
17 doing well as usual on the Kanuti. The main thing is
18 that the calf recruitment numbers has gone up
19 significantly.

20

21 Glenn Stout for the Galena management
22 area, which includes this Unit 24, said that the
23 overall GSPE census was 55 calves per 100 cows, so it's
24 actually a little better than what they had on Kanuti.
25 So the moose population is doing real good this year.
26 That was from the 2014. Easy winter, easy summer,
27 various factors lined up to have a good -- and I see
28 lots of twins still running around with the mom, so
29 they didn't get killed by bears in the summertime
30 either.

31

32 Melinda.

33

34 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Yes, we skipped
35 over item (e) under 11 new business that Zach is going
36 to go over really quickly. There was discussion
37 amongst some of the other Councils to develop a joint
38 statement of sorts and I'll hand that out really quick
39 while Zach gives you a quick summary.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, we were
42 supposed to do this joint letter. Southeast in the
43 hall was a little convoluted on this letter. They
44 weren't sure -- so did they finalize this? Is this
45 Southeast's final document?

46

47 MS. BURKE: This is Southeast's final.
48 The only kind of interesting issue we're running into
49 is that instead of -- I believe in order for it to be a
50 universal letter among all the Councils it would need

1 to be adopted in the same language as it's presented to
2 everyone and it seems that a couple of the Councils who
3 met earlier today had some modifications and additions,
4 so I'm not sure what the life cycle or the full product
5 is going to be at the end, but I thought we should
6 still go ahead and share what was put forth by the
7 Southeast Council. I'm sure the coordinators will be
8 working together to figure out what administratively
9 can be done with this letter.

10

11 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

14

15 MR. STEVENSON: From what I understand,
16 this letter, which was drafted this week recently
17 appears to be a living document which has, since the
18 circulation of this draft that you have before you, as
19 Melinda mentioned, may have received some additional
20 editor changes, which I don't have access to at this
21 time. What I am prepared to do is to just briefly
22 provide an overview of the seven main points that were
23 addressed here if that would be of interest to the RAC.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. STEVENSON: I would describe these seven
28 points as essentially falling into two categories. One
29 was the need for funding, as was discussed earlier this
30 afternoon, to address the need for more research,
31 specifically wildlife research, and the other was the
32 need for better communication. Strengthened
33 communication amongst particularly the Councils at
34 large and the Federal Subsistence Board.

35

36 So with those two essentially
37 overarching needs, I would say there were seven points.
38 As I mentioned, increasing funding. And one example
39 that was noted was the need for funding to better
40 enable participating communities at the RAC level to
41 continue their participation in the process. I
42 mentioned research and point number two, the request of
43 the Federal Subsistence Board was to increase funding
44 in this case to conduct, as this RAC mentioned, not
45 only fish research but also wildlife population
46 assessments and monitoring. This was an issue that
47 they point out was an issue of concern also during
48 Secretarial review, though yet remains unaddressed in
49 terms of providing additional funding.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One issue in our
2 annual report is to also have harvest information, so
3 that's where we get into editing this thing.

4
5 MR. STEVENSON: Right.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think that's
8 fairly important to include into this. I feel it's
9 important to increase funding to conduct fish and
10 wildlife population assessment and monitoring, but also
11 harvest information for rural Alaska.

12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Noted.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Item three, and again
18 this addresses the overarching need for enhanced
19 communication and consultation. There was a request
20 for the Board to seek an avenue for having a designated
21 subsistence seat on the NPFMC or North Pacific
22 Fisheries Monitoring Council and this representative
23 would have ideally experience on the Regional Advisory
24 Council. The Councils have expressed this recently to
25 the Board, asking the Federal Subsistence Board to
26 forward this request to the Secretary of Commerce. The
27 response, however, did not address the underlying
28 concern.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

33
34 MS. PELKOLA: I think they were talking
35 about a voting seat or a non-voting. Is this going to
36 be a voting member?

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: I'm not clear. I can
39 clarify that for you, Jenny, if you'd like.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's an important
42 question because there's non-voting members and they're
43 strictly advisory.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: I'll clarify that for
46 you. Shall I continue, Mr. Chair?

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Please do.

49
50 MR. STEVENSON: Item four was a request

1 that the Board develop a program that would allow each
2 of the 10 Councils a mechanism to engage youth in the
3 subsistence regulatory process. This point would be
4 inline with the Secretary's implementation plan, as was
5 discussed on Monday; a play, learn and serve and work
6 program specifically oriented towards developing youth
7 programs. The Secretary specifically created a
8 position in Alaska to facilitate the implementation of
9 that program.

10

11 Shall I continue?

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. One comment.
14 You know, when we meet in a community, there should be
15 a youth liaison selected from the school to attend our
16 meeting and report back to school. We also have classes
17 that come to our meeting many times. This kind of goes
18 along with that. This is fairly gray what they're
19 asking for, but I'm in favor of this. Continue.

20

21 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Item five
22 was a request for the Board to engage in the formal
23 rulemaking that would include giving deference to the
24 Councils. Not only in taking of fish and wildlife but
25 also for other regulatory issues affecting subsistence
26 uses in our regions. While this is currently the
27 policy of the Board, there is no assurance that a
28 future Board would implement this policy unless it is
29 clear in regulation.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could ask for
32 that. The presentation we saw there were certain
33 deferences given to the Councils and certain deferences
34 -- or there was not deferences, like rural
35 determination. They can ask, but we don't have
36 deference on that. This is asking for deference on all
37 issues. Yeah, we can ask for it. I'm agreeable to
38 that.

39

40 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Item six was the
41 identification of priority information needs as the
42 basis for soliciting fisheries projects for the
43 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The Councils
44 appreciate recent efforts to make the development of
45 those priorities more accessible and successful. The
46 Councils request the Board continue to support the
47 provision of adequate technical support that will
48 enable us to make meaningful recommendations.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's

1 agreeable.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: Lastly, item seven was
4 bringing all Councils together allows the effective
5 sharing of information between Council members and
6 allows the Councils to identify common concerns for big
7 picture issues. The Councils request the Board engage
8 the Office of Subsistence Management to allow the
9 periodic planning of another joint Council meeting.
10 It's the recommendation of the Councils that such joint
11 sessions occur at least every five years.

12

13 They just close with an affirmative
14 statement supporting the all-Council meeting being
15 helpful towards this type of consultation and
16 collaboration.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One insertion is
19 that the five-day meeting was extremely burdensome for
20 certain members that work or have other home
21 obligations. I burn wood at home and I have to get a
22 guy to watch my house for nine days. My wife can't
23 leave work that long. This has been an extremely
24 burdensome meeting to our family. So if we have an
25 all-Council meeting, I would prefer to have a two-day
26 joint, one-day RAC meeting and then go home. Five days
27 was like extreme for me, personally, and probably for
28 several people also. People got beavers, I've got wolf
29 traps out. I've got to get home.

30

31 So I would like to see -- I'm agreeable
32 to this, but the five-day meeting was just a little bit
33 too long, so it needs to be shortened up a little bit.
34 So I would like that notation in there. Is that
35 agreeable to the Council.

36

37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So the Chair
40 will entertain a motion to adopt this.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: So moved.

43

44 MR. SIMON: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a second
47 from Pollock. Any further discussion.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
2 called on the -- go ahead, Don.
3
4 MR. HONEA: Just a quick little thing
5 here. On number four, I wanted to kind of reiterate
6 what you suggested. Sometimes it's discouraging enough
7 where we go to a village and we don't have very much
8 participation. So I think, you know, you add a class
9 in there, I think that's a good idea.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.
14
15 Other discussion.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question was
20 called. Those in favor of the letter as edited signify
21 by saying aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for bringing
30 that up. I had that noted there, but I missed it.
31
32 Robert.
33
34 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 When you put your signature, since you're Council
36 Chair, how many Council Chairs was -- all 10?
37
38 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Through the
39 Chair, Robert. I believe the intention is to by week's
40 end have all of the Council Chairs and full RACs
41 endorse the letter, so all Chairs would be signing it,
42 I believe was the intention. I think that there was
43 some more communication that could have happened maybe
44 to ensure that new edits were circulated. The
45 logistics of it being the same in front of every
46 Council just seemed like it was going to be a little
47 difficult, but I think the concept of it is great. The
48 fact that all these Councils have been able to come
49 together this week and share common issues.
50

1 Like Zach said, I think it's going to
2 be a living document. I think he's right and it might
3 not get approved and voted on and finished this week,
4 but I think it's a really great start for a good
5 dialogue.

6
7 MR. R. WALKER: Mr. Chair. Thank you,
8 Melinda. That's a little more understanding.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Subsistence
13 caribou household harvest and sharing patterns.

14
15 Jim Magdanz.

16
17 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jim.

20
21 MR. MAGDANZ: While the projector is
22 getting set up here. My name is Jim Magdanz. I'm
23 currently a graduate student at the University of
24 Alaska. I'm working on natural resources Ph.D. I
25 worked for the Division of Subsistence for 30 years. I
26 lived in Shungnak in 1979 and '80 and joined the
27 Department in Nome in 1981 and then moved up to
28 Kotzebue in 1982, where I married my wife, Susan
29 Georgette, who is now the Refuge Manager for the
30 Selawik National Refuge in Kotzebue and that's where my
31 home is.

32
33 So the data that I'm going to show you
34 today comes from projects that I participated in while
35 I worked for the Department, but the analysis that I'm
36 going to show you is work that I did as a graduate
37 student. The Department has seen this and is good with
38 me showing it to you, but it is my analysis of the
39 data.

40
41 The point here is with the declining
42 herd there's talk about how harvest should be
43 restricted. There are many methods that could be used
44 to do that. We thought it would be useful to consider
45 how harvests are occurring in the villages in the range
46 of the Western Arctic Herd and I hope that the
47 information that I share with you today gives you some
48 ideas about what the effects would be of certain kinds
49 of regulatory approaches. I'm not proposing any one
50 particular approach. You would have probably some

1 discussions about that in the days and years to come.
2 But that's the point of this, to think about how
3 harvests are structured in these communities.

4
5 I'm going to do three parts to this
6 presentation. The purpose of it is to explore
7 household caribou harvesting patterns, to explore
8 sharing of caribou and to consider how harvests might
9 change. The data that I'm using probably comes from
10 some of your households. The community estimates, 37
11 community surveys -- well, more than that. 37
12 communities that were surveyed multiple times. 3,500
13 households in this data. Then I've got one final
14 example of sharing in a community and we have just the
15 one community for that.

16
17 Briefly, this is a look at human
18 populations. The population in the region has been
19 growing from about 21,000 to about 24,000 over the last
20 30 years. Let's start with this sheet. I appreciate
21 your kind comments about this. This summarizes all of
22 the survey data the Department, Subsistence Division,
23 has in the range of the Western Arctic Herd from 1989
24 to 2013. It's based on 146 surveys in those 37
25 communities that includes GMUs 21, 22, 23, 24 and 26A.

26
27 If you've had time to study this
28 already, maybe I don't need to explain it too much, but
29 basically what I've done here, I've taken all the
30 survey data for each of the communities for which we
31 have data in the range of the herd. At the top, the
32 first three are the larger regional centers; Kotzebue ,
33 Barrow and Nome. We have five surveys in Kotzebue, six
34 for Barrow, three for Nome. They range in Kotzebue
35 2002 to 2013, in Barrow '89 to 2001.

36
37 In those surveys the average number of
38 caribou harvested by the entire community, these are
39 expanded estimates, is about 1,800 in Kotzebue, just
40 over 2000 in Barrow and only about 100 in Nome. Nome
41 is an unusual situation for caribou because they're
42 present in some years and not present in others and if
43 we happen to survey them in a low year, then we won't
44 reflect the total harvest in Nome.

45
46 So the red portion is the total
47 harvest. On the right, the blue bar, is the harvest
48 per person. It's basically the estimate of the total
49 harvest divided by the number of people in the
50 community to give you an average per person, which is

1 about a half a caribou per person or one caribou for
2 every two people. Now this is the regional centers.

3
4 Below that, the rest of those are
5 smaller communities and I've sorted these in descending
6 order of the average caribou per person. So Deering
7 winds up at the top of that list with a little over two
8 caribou per person per year in the years that we
9 surveyed them. Because Deering is a small community,
10 just a little bit over 100 people, the total harvest in
11 Deering averages 270 per year.

12
13 If you look on down that list, you'll
14 see some of the larger communities have larger
15 harvests. Wainwright would be an example with about
16 900. Selawik, 800 people there, about 900 caribou
17 harvested. So this gives you a way of looking at what
18 data we have from surveys for the different communities
19 in the region.

20
21 On the back side of that same sheet is
22 what is on the right side of the graph here. At the
23 bottom are each of the individual survey estimates, the
24 number of caribou per person in a single community in a
25 single year over time. You see on the graph here I've
26 drawn lines from Shungnak down to the three data points
27 that we have for Shungnak. You could that with any one
28 of those communities in the table on the left. You
29 could draw a line down to a data point on the right.

30
31 The dotted line through that series of
32 points there represents the trend in community harvest
33 per person over time. What we see is no trend. That
34 is at least based on the survey data, now we're not
35 talking to every community every year by any means, but
36 we're not seeing in the survey data any change in human
37 harvest over the last 30 years. People are harvesting
38 about the same number of caribou. It's a good
39 indication that that's how many they need.

40
41 At the top of this graph we have the
42 estimates of the population of the caribou herd. So if
43 I were to draw a trend line up there, one, it would be
44 a curve with a peak about 2003, but the recent decline
45 is taking it down to probably now about 200,000 caribou
46 is what I hear from Lincoln Parrett. So the population
47 isn't affecting the harvest yet as we see it in our
48 survey data.

49
50 There are two data points I want to

1 point out that I've put little red X's over on the
2 right. One of those is Deering, which has a very high
3 harvest per person, but it is located where the caribou
4 are wintering in two of the years that we did surveys.
5 They were right outside of town, so it was really easy
6 for Deering to get caribou. They're a small community.
7 So I have not included those in the trend line because
8 they're highly influential. They don't give you a
9 sense of the full picture. That's what it looks like,
10 just to be clear, if I include those two outlier
11 communities, it tips that bar up. It will look like
12 things are increasing. I don't think things are
13 increasing, so I took those out and drew that straight
14 line.

15
16 This is each Game Management Unit. The
17 trends are different in 22. We see a slight decline in
18 23. We're seeing no change if I take those two outlier
19 communities out. GMU 24, 26A, we're seeing slight
20 increases, but we don't have a lot of data points in
21 24. Overall, every place it's still a flat line for
22 human harvest.

23
24 So the take-home message is that people
25 living in the range of the Western Arctic Herd have
26 been meeting their needs with about 13,000 annually. I
27 say meeting their needs because effectively we don't
28 have any harvest limits there. The people, you know,
29 it's been five a day or 10 a day or 15 a day over this
30 period, so people were pretty much able to get the
31 caribou that they needed. Noatak would be an
32 exception. Anaktuvuk this year is an exception because
33 of caribou distributions, not regulations.

34
35 Overall, this level of harvest seems to
36 have been steady for 25 years. Looking forward, we may
37 not have the same harvestable surplus. So that makes
38 us think about how do you manage caribou harvest in a
39 time of declining caribou. I'm looking now at
40 household harvest patterns to answer that question.
41 These are raw household data. They're not community
42 estimates. What we're looking at here is the harvest
43 that the households reported to us. Their actual
44 harvest in the study year in each of these communities.
45 Most of these communities were surveyed more than once
46 and certainly some of these households have been
47 surveyed multiple times. I do not include hunters from
48 outside of the range. This is all survey data from
49 villages conducted by Subsistence Division and the
50 communities and some regional non-profits like Kawerak.

1
2 So the average caribou harvested per
3 household is about 3.6 caribou. The Seward Peninsula
4 harvests there are lower than average because caribou
5 aren't so available. I don't have 21 and 24 on this
6 graph. There's would be even lower than Seward
7 Peninsula. GMU 23, harvests are much higher there on
8 average, especially on the Kobuk River and especially
9 on the Northern Seward Peninsula, which is Buckland,
10 Deering and Selawik, and the North Slope also has high
11 harvest and these would be Wainwright, Point Hope,
12 Point Lay, those western 26A communities.

13
14 Different households harvest different
15 amounts of caribou and I've broken them here into six
16 groups. At the bottom I've got households that killed
17 no caribou at all. They reported no harvest to us.
18 About 48 percent of the surveys in this database of
19 3,500 households harvested no caribou. About 30
20 percent harvested one to five, 13 percent six to ten,
21 and you get way up at the top there only 2 percent of
22 households killed 21 or more caribou, 2 percent killed
23 16 to 20. So there aren't very many households that
24 are harvesting a lot of caribou.

25
26 Here are those same groups in the same
27 order and the graph now shows the percentage of caribou
28 that each of those groups of households harvested, so
29 that 2 percent of households harvested 19 percent of
30 the caribou at the top there. The households that
31 killed 21 or more caribou. The next 2 percent of
32 households, the ones that killed 16 to 20, accounted
33 for about 12 percent of the harvest. So that 4 percent
34 of those households are having a huge impact on the
35 overall harvest.

36
37 Here's that same data. I put both of
38 them together now. We call those the super households.
39 Again, 4 percent down there at the bottom killed about
40 31 percent of the caribou. I'm going fast in the
41 interest of time. Am I going too fast?

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.

44
45 MR. MAGDANZ: Are we good? All right.
46 Well, you guys know this data. So here's the same
47 thing in a pie chart. I just pulled it out. Those two
48 groups of households that killed 16 or more caribou are
49 taking a third of the total harvest. So if you're
50 thinking about harvest restrictions, those are the guys

1 that you want to talk to because they're driving this
2 train.

3

4 Let's look at those guys. This is the
5 last part of it. This is an example of cooperation
6 documented in Wainwright in a project that I
7 participated in in 2011. Wainwright is a big
8 community, 153 households. They were totally on board
9 for this project. It was a University of Alaska
10 project that I worked on as a consultant for the
11 Department of Fish and Game. 147 households
12 participated, 96 percent sample. Again, household
13 surveys. This is a 105-page survey and we paid people
14 to participate.

15

16 I'll show you what we asked people. We
17 had six pages on caribou and we had a page for each
18 different kind of social relation in the community.
19 Now when I say social relation, I mean sharing or
20 trading or cooperative hunting. This page just asks
21 about caribou that were killed by someone living in the
22 respondent household. So we asked did anyone living in
23 your house kill caribou for your household last year,
24 yes or no.

25

26 If they said yes, then we moved on and
27 we asked who living in this household killed caribou
28 that your household used last year. So we'd write a
29 code down for who that person was. And we asked how
30 many caribou did this person kill for your household
31 and we'd write down a number there. And then we would
32 ask who else in this household hunted caribou with this
33 person. It almost documented the harvest at the hunt
34 level. This page would sometimes fill up with
35 different combinations of people who were hunting for a
36 household.

37

38 And then we asked, the next page, did
39 anyone living in your household get a share of caribou
40 while hunting with other households, yes or no. If
41 they said yes, then we'd say who in your household
42 hunted with people from other households last year and
43 how much was their share from that cooperative hunt.
44 Again, people would typically participate in two,
45 three, four different hunts with different people and
46 we would come up with the share that returned into this
47 household.

48

49 So we have one social relation was own
50 harvest and another social relation was cooperative

1 harvest. The people that then shared caribou with
2 other households we also recorded those sharing events.
3 So we had all these different inflows of caribou to a
4 household from harvesting from cooperation, from
5 sharing.

6
7 When we look at one household's reports
8 graphically, this is what we see. This is Household 3.
9 I just look through them in order and 3 was a good one
10 to look at. It had a nice example here. So Household
11 3, the blue square in the middle, got a total of 40
12 caribou from eight different people. Person 1 in
13 Household 123 got five caribou that wound up in
14 Household 3. Person 4 in Household 29 got half a
15 caribou, probably a share, that went to Household 3.
16 Person 3 got 15 caribou for Household 3. The size of
17 the symbols there reflects the number of caribou that
18 these people contributed to Household 3.

19
20 So now I'm going to switch perspectives
21 and look at this from the hunter's point of view.
22 Person 1 in Household 1. He was the first guy I looked
23 at in the dataset when I was making this presentation.
24 I thought we're done, he's good. Person 1 in Household
25 1 got 34 caribou for 21 households. I want to make the
26 point that Person 1 did not tell us that. Twenty-one
27 households told us that. Every one of these households
28 named this guy as the source of caribou for them.

29
30 In villages, you know, people don't
31 like to brag about their hunting. I mean I think
32 that's a good thing. But in this case it's not this
33 guy saying I got all these caribou and I gave them away
34 to all these people. This is other people recognizing
35 the caribou that they got from this guy. I mean if I
36 were person 1 in Household 1, I'd be feeling pretty
37 good about myself because people appreciate what I've
38 done for them.

39
40 So if we put this together, we start
41 adding these reports together and here we've got two
42 households, Household 3 again and now I've added
43 Household 29, and you see that Person 3, who was a big
44 contributor to Household 3 also contributed to
45 Household 29. In fact, so did Person 2 in Household 3
46 also contributed to Household 29. So there's several
47 people here who contributed to both of these
48 households. There are other people that contributed to
49 one or the other.

50

1 Remember we surveyed 147 households and
2 we can put that all together and that's what caribou
3 distribution looks like in Wainwright. It looks like
4 this in other places. I've done surveys like this, not
5 as detailed in the sense that we didn't drill down to
6 the numbers of caribou, but in terms of who got caribou
7 for your household we've done this in probably 50
8 communities around northern Alaska now and in several
9 communities in northwest.

10

11 Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're on a real
14 tight schedule this evening, so can you give a quick
15 synopsis. People understand the sharing thing in rural
16 Alaska. That's what people do and so this is not -- I
17 do know that there are super-harvesters that take a lot
18 of caribou and I've seen that in Anaktuvuk Pass where
19 way less than -- only a third of the households even
20 harvest caribou and most people receive caribou.
21 That's what typically is happening. But we are really,
22 really short on time. Can you give us kind of a
23 synopsis of your presentation.

24

25 MR. MAGDANZ: Two slides and we're
26 there, Mr. Chair. So what we have in these communities
27 is a specialized economy with super-households and
28 super-hunters that specialize in the production and
29 distribution of caribou. That's true of other
30 resources too. It's also true of other kinds of
31 economies. This kind of specialization is not unique
32 to subsistence. It's found in all kinds of economies
33 and it works, it's there because it's productive.

34

35 I emphasize this because there is a
36 sense in some circles that hunting should be equal.
37 Everybody should be able to take the same amount and we
38 should have a limit so that if I can only get three, he
39 can only get three. There's also a tendency to set bag
40 limits at the average level of harvest. In this case,
41 that would hugely disrupt this caribou-sharing system.

42

43 When caribou become scarce, we expect
44 to see communities kill fewer caribou, but so far we
45 don't see it. Maybe it is happening. Our surveys
46 haven't picked up on it yet. Part of this is because
47 super-hunters are skilled and some travel long
48 distances to get caribou. When Noatak wasn't getting
49 caribou for several years, people were going down to
50 Buckland in the wintertime and getting caribou and

1 carrying them all the way back to Noatak. So even
2 though the caribou decline, even though they may change
3 their migration patterns, people adapt to those things.

4
5 If harvest reductions are needed, and I
6 hear a lot of talk about that, considering the role of
7 these super-hunters in the communities is really
8 important. We have a model where I've taken all this
9 data and I can apply harvest limits to all these
10 households that we've surveyed as if these new
11 regulations applied to all these old times and test
12 where the.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach.

15
16 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 I'm sorry to interrupt you, Jim. A week ago, when the
18 government-to-government consultation was scheduled
19 regarding the proposed special action in Unit 23, the
20 question from BLM arose, what do we know about sharing
21 of caribou in Unit 23, and I said the guy you need to
22 talk to is this guy right here (Mr. Magdanz).

23
24 When I explained, given my limited
25 understanding of the work that has been done through
26 Jim's work on modeling these sharing networks, the
27 immediate question from BLM was, my goodness, might
28 there be some adverse, unintended effects on these
29 communities that are relying on these caribou that
30 we've been able to document through these sharing
31 networks.

32
33 In other words, this is ammunition that
34 can be used to advocate for the needs of RACs
35 potentially and that was very evident to me when I
36 first learned about this work.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, I
41 appreciate all the work you've done on this
42 presentation. I appreciate the schematic here. This
43 gives us a good idea what the harvest rates are. I
44 would like this done for other species is what I'd
45 really like to see. But we are really, really short on
46 time. I want my Council to question you if they have
47 anything they've missed here.

48
49 Darrell.

50

1 MR. VENT: I'd like to mention that the
2 sharing continues over in the area I'm from because I'm
3 living with a lady that's from Ambler, so she gets --
4 you know, she has brothers and stuff, so we end up with
5 food over there. So the sharing doesn't only stop
6 there. It goes to Hughes, it goes to all these other
7 villages around.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

10
11 MR. THOMAS: I have a comment.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

14
15 MR. THOMAS: We have the same thing.
16 You'll have a piece of moose on your front porch.
17 Somebody gets a moose, they pass it around. I know
18 when we got one, somebody else -- we always give some
19 to somebody else. It's spread around, just like your
20 super-hunter. There's guys that love to hunt. Maybe
21 they don't even want to eat them, but boy they love to
22 hunt. I think that kind of skews the situation a bit.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Any other
25 questions for Jim.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sorry to cut you off
32 there, Jim, but we really have to move on here.

33
34 MS. BURKE: And if you'll email that
35 presentation to Zach, we'll make sure it's printed,
36 mailed to all the Council members and I think this can
37 spur some further discussion. Maybe you can call in to
38 the fall meeting as well.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think this data is
41 going to be important if this special action request
42 for harvest reduction moves into proposals. I think
43 we're going to need this data for future. But I
44 appreciate your presentation.

45
46 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 Staff does have the presentation now.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

1 So we have to finish this agenda. We've got Jeremy
2 Havener sitting in the back here. Do you want to come
3 up, Jeremy, for Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko. And then I
4 have Gerald after that.

5
6 Go ahead, Jeremy.

7
8 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
9 Council members. My name is Jeremy Havener. I'm the
10 Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for Koyukuk, Nowitna and
11 Innoko stationed out of Galena. Due to time
12 constraints, I'm going to be pretty quick with this
13 report so I can kind of get it opened up for questions.

14
15 I handed out three packets. The first
16 one I want to kind of go over real quick is our moose
17 survey data. I'm just going to be really brief on it.
18 Just so you guys understand this report, it's just a
19 summary. It goes through each of our trend count
20 units. We have a table with the data and there are
21 specific graphs for each trend count area. On the top
22 graph, it will have just straight numbers of calves,
23 cows, bulls and total moose. On the bottom graph it
24 will have our ratios. So bull:cow ratios, calf:cow
25 ratio and yearling bull:cow ratios.

26
27 On this map page, it has each trend
28 count area and those are the square boxes there and
29 inside those boxes are numbers and that's the total
30 number of moose we count in each one of those squares.

31
32 So we did moose surveys from November
33 6th through the 26th in 2015. We did a total of 11
34 trend count areas and there were two on the Nowitna,
35 three on the Kaiyuh Flats, which is northern unit
36 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, five on the Koyukuk
37 and one on the Innoko Refuge. Snow conditions this
38 year were excellent. We felt really confident with our
39 data this year. Temperatures were good throughout the
40 survey period.

41
42 To summarize things really quickly we
43 observed increases in adult bulls and cows along with
44 excellent calf production in the Koyukuk River mouth,
45 Pilot Mountain and Galena area. Recruitment of
46 yearling bulls was above average. The Kaiyuh moose
47 population, so between Nulato and Kaltag, increased in
48 all age/sex classes with excellent yearling recruitment
49 and outstanding calf production and survival to the
50 fall.

1 We observed lower moose abundance again
2 on the Nowitna this year. Cow and bull numbers are
3 both still below average, though calf production was
4 excellent this year. Yearling bull recruitment was
5 average. The Innoko River, between the lower Dishna
6 and Grouch Creek, which is up by our field camp. It's
7 about 350 miles up the Innoko River is where we're
8 surveying. It's a healthy population and it's in a low
9 density status. Again, we had excellent recruitment
10 and calf production this year.

11
12 The Middle and Northern Koyukuk Refuge,
13 so Three Day Slough up to Treat Island. Adult cow and
14 bull populations are still below average. This kind of
15 goes with the Federal hunt that we have in GMU 24D.
16 We're still seeing those low adult numbers and that's
17 why we remain conservative again this year and didn't
18 hold the March Federal hunt. But, on the bright side
19 of things, calf production was up and we had average
20 recruitment this year. So hopefully things are looking
21 better for the future there.

22
23 That's just a brief summary of our
24 moose data.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We really appreciate
27 the moose data. The Koyukuk, the whole Middle Yukon
28 country is pretty important to this Regional Advisory
29 Council. These moose:cow ratios are fairly low in a
30 lot of those populations, 21, 28, stuff like that.
31 That's probably a result of high success rate on bull
32 harvest this fall. So we are getting some good yearly
33 recruitment bulls in, so we should start to see that
34 bull:cow ratio starting to turn around with these high
35 calf numbers in the next year or two.

36
37 Any questions. Don.

38
39 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Jack. I don't
40 have any questions. I mean you're throwing us a lot of
41 information in a short time, I realize that. We're
42 talking about three refuges and stuff. My question, is
43 there any cause for concern about any populations of
44 moose or something that we should be aware of? What's
45 the trend like? Is there numbers we should be
46 concerned about in any of these particular refuges?

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. HAVENER: Through the Chair, Mr.

1 Honea. Thank you for that question. That's a very
2 good point. Right now we're keeping a close eye on the
3 Koyukuk Refuge up in 24D. We're seeing a reduction in
4 those adult moose numbers, so we're watching that
5 closely. Also on the Nowitna we're starting to see
6 trends that are showing lower adult numbers as well, so
7 we're going to be keeping a close eye on that as well.
8 Don't quote me on this, but usually when we start
9 seeing conservation concerns and stuff like that, we do
10 full population estimates to kind of prove what our
11 data showing is actually there. So that's one step we
12 might take here in the future if there is a concern.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the State issues
15 drawing permits for the Koyukuk Refuge and they're
16 staying at static permit numbers, which is a little bit
17 concerning since the bull:cow ratio is not within the
18 management objective. Right now we'll let that go, but
19 if our bull numbers keep slipping, we're going to be
20 lobbying for a reduction in that drawing permit for the
21 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

22

23 Any other questions or comments.
24 Darrell.

25

26 MR. VENT: Yeah, this one you're saying
27 there's recruitment of young calves and stuff coming
28 up. Right now it may look good, but by the time
29 springtime comes around it might be a different story.
30 Like I talked about, predation is kind of a key thing
31 there. We don't really understand it yet. I think it
32 was in 2012 was when we had a real crash in calf
33 production because of the way they were going through
34 the snow and it rained and it kind of kept the wolves
35 from getting them pretty effectively.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
38 for Jeremy.

39

40 MR. HAVENER: I can continue on. I
41 have just a few things on outreach and just staffing
42 and then, of course, subsistence updates as well with
43 some of the hunts we've got going on if that's okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, just give us a
46 quick briefing on those.

47

48 MR. HAVENER: Okay. I gave you a
49 handout. It's got a picture of a guy in an orange
50 hunter safety vest. Environmental education and

1 outreach. We have the Galena Ecology Site and I have a
2 separate attachment for that and I'll talk about that
3 here in just a second. Again, I like to stress this.
4 I'm one of the Millennia people that we talked about
5 the other day. We have a FaceBook page on our refuge.
6 Just living out in Galena I notice a lot of people are
7 using FaceBook and we're just excited to have that.
8 Once a month we'll put updates on there. If anybody
9 has any recommendations or anything, it would be great
10 to get some phone calls and just talk with people.
11 Look for us on FaceBook. We have that and, like I
12 said, we currently update that once a month.

13

14 Hunters education. We still have two
15 staff members at our refuge that are hunter safety
16 instructors and I'm one of them. Right now we don't
17 have anything lined up, so if anybody is interested,
18 feel free to give us a call and we'd love to come to
19 the village and, of course, meet people and put on a
20 hunter safety course.

21

22 Migratory bird calendar. We just
23 finished things up there. This year's theme is working
24 together to save migratory birds and the deadline for
25 the entries was on February 12th, so that's past. A
26 couple things I didn't mention on there, here today I
27 have with me two RITs from the Innoko National Wildlife
28 Refuge, Ken Chase and Clara Demientoff. We have quite
29 a few plans this summer to get out and do a lot of
30 village visits both for fisheries and environmental
31 education and outreach. I just wanted you guys to be
32 aware of that so you'll be seeing us out in the
33 villages this summer.

34

35 Fire. As you guys all know, we had a
36 huge fire season. On refuges that we manage within
37 Innoko, Koyukuk and Nowitna, we had a total of 980,000
38 acres of fire. So just a busy year. It will be
39 interesting to see how things go this year with the low
40 snow and everything.

41

42 Staff changes, hiring and maintenance.
43 For 2016 we're planning on hiring two youth summer
44 laborers and we're going to be fixing up the combat
45 alert cell. It's that big four-bay hangar in Galena
46 and renovating that. We're also going to hire two
47 ANSEP students, I believe. They're all going to be
48 local hire and stationed in Galena doing work around
49 the refuge. Also we're still looking to hire an RIT in
50 Galena. I want to get things moving on that here in

1 the near future.

2

3

4 For subsistence, the Federal
5 subsistence moose hunt FM-2406, we kind of talked about
6 that. That's the hunt up by Huslia and Hughes in GMU
7 24D. We made the decision this year not to hold it.
8 We went up and had a meeting with the tribal council
9 and one of our moose survey data that we talked about
10 earlier today. They all kind of agreed that they're
11 seeing the same kind of things with the lower adult
12 moose numbers and they agreed not to hold hunt. So
13 again this year we didn't have the March winter moose
14 hunt.

14

15

16 Federal subsistence moose hunt FM-2101,
17 which is on the Nowitna River, and that goes from
18 September 26 through October 1st and it's for the
19 qualified villages of Galena, Ruby and Tanana. We had
20 seven permits issued last year and two bull moose were
21 harvested. I have a graph attached with that data.
22 It's Figure 1 and it tells our harvest data and permit
23 data since 2007.

23

24

25 Federal moose hunt FM-2104 and 2105,
26 we're currently holding that hunt in Game Management
27 Unit 21E and that hunt will go from February 15 to
28 March 15. Again, I have data attached for that on
29 Figure 2 and 3. Last year I think we had a total of
30 three moose harvested for the two permits. So for that
31 hunt there's two areas, a northern area and a southern
32 area. That southern area is south of the line by
33 Paimiut Slough. As you can see, Figures 2 and 3 kind
34 of indicate that data for that Federal hunt.

34

35

36 Then the Nowitna moose hunter check
37 station we saw some interesting stuff this year.

37

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let me back you up
40 there, Jeremy. On that 21E south, is there very few
41 permits coming out of Aniak to hunt in that allocation
42 area?

42

43

44 MR. HAVENER: The last couple years it
45 seems like we've gotten a few. I would say between
46 three or four coming out of Aniak. This year we have
47 Ken Chase on staff here and he was visiting the
48 villages and he tried to cover some of the Kuskokwim
49 River villages as well and tried to get out as much as
50 he could.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That regulation,
2 that customary and traditional use area was delineated.
3 This Council worked on an allocation for that winter
4 hunt. I thought there would be like 100 people wanting
5 those permits to go hunt in lower Unit 21E for the
6 winter hunt because 19A is so poor. I'm surprised.

7
8 MR. HAVENER: It seems that most of the
9 permits I'm seeing anyway is coming out of Grayling.
10 While I was here at the meeting, I've got people
11 texting me wanting permits. They seem to be using it
12 quite a bit.

13
14 And then on the Nowitna, we run the
15 Nowitna check station. We usually set it up around the
16 1st of September and run through October. The State
17 season runs from September 5th through the 25th of
18 September. This year we saw an increase in both
19 hunters and in moose harvested. On Figure 4 you can
20 see that we had 117 hunters checked in this year and a
21 total of 47 moose were harvested, so it was up pretty
22 significantly. You know, I don't want to speculate,
23 but things like the fire could have been a factor. I
24 don't know what that was from.

25
26 And then on the back of this I just
27 attached, so everybody can kind of see it, is a map of
28 the Federal moose hunt in 2104 and 2015. It just kind
29 of shows Federal land, the boundaries. I just wanted
30 to include that so everybody can see that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
33 much, Jeremy. Don I think had a question.

34
35 MR. HONEA: Yeah, hank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Jeremy I had a quick question. I guess consistently
37 it's been about like 30 moose taken and then I'm pretty
38 sure because maybe you had early one where maybe you
39 guys didn't even know it, there was maybe a couple
40 moose taken. I'd say it was closer to 50. Is that why
41 maybe you're not seeing the population right now, that
42 maybe the bull:cow ratio is down or something? Is that
43 maybe a contributing factor, the fires I believe drew
44 them out to the water. I mean that's what I was
45 thinking because of all the fires.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. HAVENER: Through the Chair, Mr.
50 Honea. Yeah, with harvests like that, I definitely

1 could see that contributing to changing the bull:cow
2 ratios. It's speculation, but it could definitely
3 change bull:cow ratios.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bull:cow ratios that
6 usually go way down like that are usually hunter
7 induced. I mean a natural moose population usually has
8 between 75 to 85 bulls per hundred cows. Like the dead
9 center of Gates of the Arctic Park where nobody ever
10 shoots one you see really low bull:cow ratios. That's
11 typically -- in a long-term low bull:cow ratios, that's
12 typically hunter induced.

13

14 Kenton.

15

16 MR. MOOS: For the record, Kenton Moos,
17 Refuge Manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko. Through the
18 Chair. That is absolutely correct, but we are still
19 concerned because the decrease in the number of adult
20 moose is what we're seeing in Nowitna. So it's not
21 only the bull:cow ratios, but it's that decrease in
22 adult moose that has got our attention right now. So
23 that's one of the things that we're really going to pay
24 attention too because it's not just the bull:cow
25 ratios, but it's that decrease in adult moose, which is
26 really key, especially cows.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's true.

29

30 Other question, Don.

31

32 MR. HONEA: No other question, but I
33 think we should all be concerned about our local
34 population and why it's that way, whether it's
35 predators or something.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Don. Any
40 further questions.

41

42 Jeremy.

43

44 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Honea, I really
45 appreciate those comments. The last part of this is our
46 Galena Ecology Site. I just wanted to touch on this
47 real quick. This is something we have going on in
48 Galena. The Galena Ecology Site is dedicated to long-
49 term ecological monitoring and education that improves
50 community awareness of the environment and instills a

1 sense of culture and nature connection in our young
2 people.

3
4 The site is operated through a
5 partnership between Louden Tribal Council, Gana-A'Yoo
6 Limited, Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife
7 Refuges and Galena City Schools. Just a summary from
8 2015 annual report put together by Karen Bodony.

9
10 Quite a few new activities occurred at
11 the Galena Ecology Site in 2015, including a spring in-
12 school program for elementary students, a community
13 camp-out and bio-blitz and several new biological
14 monitoring efforts. We were able to show the site to
15 tribal environmental specialists from area villages as
16 a model for partnerships and environmental education
17 and stewardship for their home communities.

18
19 Also the Galena Ecology Site received
20 recognition through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
21 Sense of Wonder award. It shows specifics of what we've
22 done.

23
24 That concludes my presentation. Thank
25 you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Jeremy.

28
29 Further questions.

30
31 MS. PELKOLA: I just have a comment.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: One day I was going up
36 the road and I saw this sign, so I walked in there and
37 I was so shocked. It's like a camping area. They have
38 a place you can make fire and it's beautiful. So if
39 you ever get to Galena come on up and look at it. It's
40 like a little park or something.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
43 much. Gerald. And Erin, are you.....

44
45 MS. BURKE: Erin's got something if we
46 want it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So we'll give
49 Gerald his shot. Go ahead, Gerald.

50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann
2 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of
3 Fairbanks. I'm the Assistant Federal Yukon In-season
4 Manager. Fred Bue couldn't be here today. He's my
5 supervisor. Most of you know who Fred is. Tomorrow we
6 are having a Yukon River breakout session in the
7 afternoon where we're going to be talking about the
8 2016 outlook and talking with fishers about
9 conservation strategies and how they feel about the
10 run. The managers just wanted to ask the RAC members
11 some questions beforehand for you to think about and
12 bring to that breakout session tomorrow.

13
14 Although the managers have a number of
15 tools to flexibly manage Yukon River salmon, we are
16 limited to managing based on time, area and gear. So
17 if the 2016 chinook salmon run is poor and conservation
18 efforts are needed, we want you to think about fishing
19 in your villages and how can managers best provide
20 fishing opportunities on chum salmon and other species
21 while conserving chinook salmon, utilizing time, area
22 and gear. Again, I don't want an answer today. This
23 is just something for you to think about and bring to
24 the meeting tomorrow.

25
26 If the 2016 chinook salmon run comes in
27 similar to 2015, which was better than expected, again
28 thinking about fishing in your villages, how can
29 managers or should managers provide some fishing
30 opportunity on chinook salmon if there is a potential
31 for a small surplus available for subsistence harvest
32 utilizing time, area and gear.

33
34 Finally, in general, the managers want
35 to know how fishermen in your area are feeling about
36 the chinook salmon run and how are they feeling about
37 the conservation efforts we've taken the last few
38 seasons. And how do you guys feel about the
39 communication with the managers.

40
41 Again, I don't need an answer here and
42 would actually prefer that you think about those
43 tonight and come to the breakout session tomorrow and
44 hopefully it will be discussion driven and we can have
45 some good discussion.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
50 sleep on those questions and we'll wake up wide awake

1 with coffee, but right now we're tired. So that's a
2 good idea, Gerald. Appreciate that.

3

4 Go ahead, Robert.

5

6 MR. R. WALKER: The State is really a
7 great salesman for all this gear here. I mean, good
8 Lord, how much money have we spent so far.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We will
13 answer some of these questions tomorrow. Thanks so
14 much, Gerald, for bringing those up. Erin.

15

16 MS. JULIANUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 For the record, my name is Erin Julianus. I work for
18 the BLM in Fairbanks and I hadn't actually planned on
19 giving the report. There's nothing too earth-
20 shattering in our BLM report for the Central Yukon
21 Field Office.

22

23 But, since I have the microphone, I
24 will just direct your attention to our latest planning
25 update, I brought a couple ACEC, areas of critical
26 environmental concern, reports with me. So I think
27 there's only three hard copies and a couple CDs, but
28 encourage you to look through that report and all the
29 other reports we produced are online.

30

31 We are going to be ramping up
32 alternatives development in 2016 again for the draft
33 RMP EIS. So I don't know if there's going to be
34 scoping. At some point this year, I don't know when
35 exactly, we're going to go out -- I think it's going to
36 be late 2016 that we'll probably go out to the public
37 and ask for their input on our draft alternatives for
38 our Resource Management Plan.

39

40 For wildlife, we were able to do the
41 Middle Fork trend count area this year. This was the
42 first year that I had done that. So, Mr. Chair, I did
43 include the results on page 5 of that, just an updated
44 line for 2015-2016. It was good to get that done and
45 good for me to get out and see it.

46

47 I think the last thing I want to make
48 you aware of is the Central Yukon Field Office is
49 redoing the authorization for the Bettles winter road
50 from the Dalton Highway to Bettles. You know, that

1 right-of-way has been in existence a long time. In the
2 reauthorization we're looking at a range -- we're
3 developing a range of alternatives for how to manage
4 that right-of-way.

5
6 Based on some of the problems we've had
7 managing the right-of-way in the past, I think one of
8 the alternatives is probably going to restrict use of
9 the right-of-way to get fuel into Bettles. My first
10 concern with that was if that's going to impact
11 traditional subsistence access in that area. The
12 alternatives at this point are not official, but I do
13 want to make you aware of that and there's going to be
14 a public scoping period. I don't know when that's
15 going to be yet.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you saying that
18 there would be a limitation on who could access that
19 road? Specifically, would it include Allakaket that
20 utilizes that road for access to reach the winter
21 trail?

22
23 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, I don't know what
24 the most restrictive alternative is going to end up
25 being. Yeah, that's kind of my concern. I would think
26 that the RAC would want to officially comment when the
27 comment period is open for that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Will the window be
30 open when we have our fall meeting?

31
32 MS. JULIANUS: I anticipate it's
33 probably going to be before that. I think they really
34 want to get this done, so I think it will be before the
35 fall.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll have to
38 transmit a notice to OSM so that we can get this to the
39 Regional Councils, especially to upriver Council
40 members, so that we can make comments on that.

41
42 Were they re-evaluating how the guide
43 concession program -- or the Dall sheep allocation
44 through guided hunters, is there any progress on that?

45
46 MS. JULIANUS: There was a report that I
47 actually just got, I haven't read it yet, for a
48 concession program in the Lower 48. It wasn't guide
49 stuff, but a BLM concession program. I need to read
50 the report, but I think there's issues with whether the

1 BLM has the authority to have a concession program, but
2 I can definitely forward you that report through Zach.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I was just
5 wondering. So I might get a hold of Dan Sharp here and
6 find out from him what's going on there. Higher
7 levels.

8

9 Any questions on the BLM report.
10 Pollock.

11

12 MR. SIMON: I just want to mention that
13 there was a fire between Tanana and Allakaket and
14 there's the winter trail that goes over some hills. It
15 burned and the trees were falling all over the trail.
16 There needs to be funds to clear the trail. Can BLM do
17 that?

18

19 MS. JULIANUS: Through the Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Erin.

22

23 MS. JULIANUS: Yes, there is funding I
24 believe available for that. The burned area
25 rehabilitation, BAER funding. I don't know if -- I can
26 bring that to the attention of our fire management
27 officer. I don't know if he's aware of that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,

34 Erin.

35

36 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach made me aware
39 that the BLM, Army Corps and AE Comm will share
40 information regarding the Donlin Creek Mine tomorrow at
41 3:45.

42

43 MR. THOMAS: 3:45? Here?

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's in a breakout
46 session in one of these rooms here somewhere.

47

48 Go ahead, Zach.

49

50 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 I don't have that location yet, but that will be at
2 3:45 as requested.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So our Council
5 members who are interested, and this Council is very
6 keyed in on that Donlin Creek issue, should plan on
7 attending that 3:45 meeting.

8

9 Melinda.

10

11 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Before we
12 move on to number 13, our very last action item of the
13 day, I also wanted to make a plug for -- I know you've
14 got several folks who will be going to the Yukon River
15 salmon discussion at 1:30. It sounds like at 3:45
16 there's another discussion that's really pertinent to
17 this Council.

18

19 Another one I'd encourage especially
20 this Council to attend if you can, at 8:30 tomorrow and
21 1:30 on Friday there's going to be a panel of the
22 liaisons and the tribal relations folks from the
23 different agencies in the program. We're going to be
24 talking about consultation processes within our
25 agencies, but more importantly I feel it's going to be
26 really important while all the Councils are here.

27

28 And we have some of the different
29 folks, like RITs and tribal representatives here, to
30 talk about -- now that it's been over a year since the
31 Board implemented its own tribal consultation policy,
32 we need to hear from the Councils on how it's working.
33 Of course there are things that can be improved. What
34 is working, what isn't working. You know, for example,
35 the teleconferences that are being held during the
36 proposal cycle. So I think it's going to be a really
37 important discussion and I know lots of these Councils,
38 lots of your communities have participated in these
39 calls. I think the observations coming from this RAC
40 especially will be really important. You all have made
41 a lot of comment on that.

42

43 So I just wanted to plug that one as
44 well.

45

46 MR. STEVENSON: I'm sorry. One
47 correction, through the Chair. That BLM/Donlin
48 presentation is on Friday, not tomorrow.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MR. HONEA: Donlin is Friday?
2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, sir.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the afternoon
6 still.
7
8 MS. BURKE: If everybody will turn to
9 235 we have your cycle calendar for fall 2016 as well
10 as winter 2017. As always, you've already chosen fall
11 2016 meeting dates and location. That's October 11th
12 and 12th in McGrath. It looks like for Page 236 for
13 the winter 2017 it's wide open for this cycle.
14 Basically, Mr. Chair, the whole window from February
15 6th through March 17th is still open for this Council
16 to choose a location and a date for your winter 2017
17 meeting.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I personally prefer
20 the third week in February to have the meeting, the
21 week of the 21st, but we want to take comment from the
22 rest of the Council.
23
24 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I mean if we're
25 taking comment, I would agree. I mean March is so
26 filled up with stuff.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You get into March,
29 we've got a lot of other things going on, a lot of
30 spring activities. I prefer to have this week of the
31 21st, but I want other Council members to comment on
32 it.
33
34 Fred.
35
36 MR. ALEXIE: It's good for me too also,
37 Mr. Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell.
40
41 MR. VENT: February is better.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert. Oh, you
44 might not be there. You're not going to be there.
45 Ray.
46
47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that will work.
48
49 MR. R. WALKER: It sounds good to me.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny, yeah.
2
3 MR. THOMAS: Why not February 21?
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: February 21. Can we
6 travel that Presidents Day? Probably, yeah.
7
8 MR. THOMAS: Why not.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's probably
11 going to be a two-day meeting, February 21, 22.
12
13 MR. THOMAS: Two days?
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's usually a two-
16 day meeting is what our normal RAC meetings are. We've
17 been driving this afternoon to get this done. This is
18 not the way this normally goes. We normally allow a
19 little more comment. The fall meeting is already set
20 for McGrath on October 11 and 12.
21
22 MR. THOMAS: That's on then. Okay.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's on.
25
26 MR. THOMAS: Now that's just this group
27 or is that the whole thing?
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, no, no. This is
30 strictly -- this is a total fluke. Ten RACs has never
31 met like this before.
32
33 MR. THOMAS: So this is just our RAC.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just our Regional
36 Council is going to meet in McGrath on October 11 and
37 12. Then just our RAC is going to meet on February 21-
38 22. We're going to set a place. We met in McGrath, so
39 we should meet.....
40
41 MR. THOMAS: How many of us is there
42 going to be, just the 10 of us or is there going to be
43 everybody else?
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, no, no. Just us
46 10.
47
48 MR. THOMAS: We could have it at
49 Crooked Creek for that matter.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the other
2 aspect. We're typically restrained to three regional
3 hubs with this Council. Aniak, McGrath and Galena. If
4 we have pressing needs and with a cost comparison,
5 Melinda was real good with the cost comparison and
6 hopefully Zach is too, but I don't know any pressing
7 needs not to meet in one of the hubs. The problem with
8 Aniak is we've had to meet in that gym and that's the
9 worst place and I actually refuse to go back there
10 because the public can't hear us, we can't hear
11 ourselves. It echoes off the room. That thing was
12 terrible.

13

14 Go ahead, Kenton.

15

16 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. I'd just remind
17 you fisheries proposals I believe are going to be taken
18 up with the Yukon River. I don't know if you want to
19 meet with Eastern. That might be another option as
20 well.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could actually
23 have the meeting in Fairbanks, joint meeting with
24 Eastern on fisheries. If we go to McGrath, we can go
25 to Fairbanks. It's typically cheaper and we get better
26 staff attendance.

27

28 MR. THOMAS: McGrath is easy.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Council is
31 agreeable with Fairbanks February 21 and 22. Galena is
32 an alternate.

33

34 MR. THOMAS: McGrath isn't hard to get
35 to either.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to
38 McGrath already. We keep moving around. We're going
39 to meet in McGrath for the fall meeting. We're talking
40 about February 21-22 in Fairbanks.

41

42 MR. THOMAS: Okay, gotcha.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

45

46 MR. SIMON: Yeah, meeting in Fairbanks
47 is good. We've got all the agencies. Most of them
48 drive to the meeting center and that's it.

49

50 MR. THOMAS: Fairbanks is only six

1 hours.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So is it agreeable
4 with the Council for Fairbanks? Darrell.

5

6 MR. VENT: Yeah, that's agreeable, but
7 I think maybe we should talk with Eastern and find out
8 what time they're going to be meeting. It might be
9 helpful there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's just a
12 proposal. We can still meet in Fairbanks one way or
13 another. If they're going to go to Fort Yukon or
14 somewhere, we'll meet by ourselves in Fairbanks.

15

16 Go ahead, Melinda.

17

18 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Eastern
19 Interior meeting commences tomorrow morning at 8:30.
20 If you'd like to go ahead and set February 21-22 for
21 Fairbanks, we can extend the invitation through their
22 coordinator in the morning. It's my understanding that
23 if Eastern cannot join us at that meeting you still
24 want February 21 and 22 in Fairbanks?

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We'll have a
27 half-day overlap with them, so not a full-day overlap.
28 Any further discussion on this Fairbanks meeting with
29 the Council. Looks good.

30

31 MR. THOMAS: Where do you have the
32 meetings in Fairbanks?

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's at the
35 discretion of OSM to have the meeting, but we have met
36 at Pikes. Further discussion on the meeting.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. That
41 looks good. We're going to dialogue with Eastern on
42 those dates. We're going to use those dates and
43 whether they want to meet with us, that's their
44 discretion.

45

46 Motion to adjourn.

47

48 MS. BURKE: Let's just tidy up this
49 future meeting dates. A motion to confirm the winter
50 and the fall.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We need a
2 motion to confirm the winter meeting dates of 21 and 22
3 in Fairbanks.
4
5 MR. VENT: Make a motion.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Darrell.
8
9 MR. THOMAS: Second.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Dennis.
12 Further discussion.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
17 those meeting dates February 21 and 22 of 2017 in
18 Fairbanks signify by saying aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will
27 entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.
28
29 MR. COLLINS: Make a motion.
30
31 MR. VENT: Second.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Ray,
34 seconded by Darrell. Those in favor of adjournment
35 signify by saying aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
40
41 (No opposing votes)
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we'll forego the
44 closing comments since we're over time right now.
45
46 (Off record)
47
48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/18