

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME III

7  
8  
9 Petersburg ANB Hall  
10 Petersburg, Alaska  
11 October 6, 2016  
12 8:30 a.m.  
13

14  
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16  
17 Michael Bangs, Chair  
18 Michael Douville  
19 Donald Hernandez  
20 Albert Howard  
21 Kenneth Jackson  
22 Cathy Needham  
23 Patricia Phillips  
24 Steve Reifenstuh1  
25 Robert Schroeder  
26 Raymond Sensmeier  
27 Frank Wright  
28 John Yeager  
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33  
34 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
2  
3 (Petersburg, Alaska - 10/6/2016)  
4  
5 (On record)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please take your seats  
8 and we'll get started here soon.  
9  
10 (Pause)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Good morning.  
13  
14 IN UNISON: Good morning.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We've decided that it's  
17 probably going to -- the jet will probably overhead and  
18 Robert's offered his house for anybody that's stuck here.  
19  
20 (Laughter)  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Hopefully it'll burn off  
23 here soon.  
24  
25 Okay, we're going to start this morning  
26 off with some Park Service information. We discussed  
27 this at our last meeting and at the meeting in  
28 Anchorage.....  
29  
30 MR. LARSON: What?  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Park Service.  
33  
34 MR. LARSON: Okay. While he's getting  
35 organized can I say something.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: And while they're  
38 getting set up Robert has an announcement.  
39  
40 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Most  
41 of you are leaving on 64 this afternoon. There's some  
42 that have an overnight in Juneau. If there's anybody  
43 that doesn't understand their travel itinerary or where  
44 they're going to be tonight, let me know. And I need to  
45 take this opportunity to remind you that if you change  
46 your reservations then it becomes deviated travel and we  
47 are not authorized to take care of you after that point.  
48 So we have contractual arrangements with our travel  
49 agents and if you do something for yourself by yourself  
50 then you take responsibility for anything, any costs, any

1 issues, problems that occur after that point. If you let  
2 me do it, then we assume those costs and  
3 responsibilities. So, you know, I have this speech every  
4 year, every meeting and so it's -- please be kind to the  
5 program and to me, personally, by keeping in mind if you  
6 want to deviate from the travel itinerary that you have  
7 in front of you or if there's any part of it that you  
8 don't understand, please contact me, you have my cell  
9 phone, it doesn't matter, let me help you.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. LARSON: The other is that Staff has  
14 prepared one, two, three, four letters, draft letters  
15 that we've distributed this morning for your review.  
16 We'll review those letters towards the end of the meeting  
17 for approval. They're not final but they convey, I  
18 think, the instructions that were provided from the  
19 Council to the Staff yesterday.

20

21 There's also a list of annual report  
22 issues that we should be prepared to review, you know,  
23 prior to the meeting adjourning, just provide us a  
24 guidance about how to proceed in drafting your annual  
25 report prior to your next meeting.

26

27 That's my comments for this morning.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.  
30 So with that in mind, if we get a -- we'll take a break  
31 later this morning and we'll be able to read over those  
32 letters and then we can act on them before the  
33 adjournment.

34

35 So with that said I'll turn it over to  
36 the Park Service, good morning.

37

38 MR. HOOGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
39 members of the Council, for this invitation to discuss  
40 cabin issues at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

41

42 I'm Phillip Hooge, I'm superintendent at  
43 Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. I've been  
44 superintendent since 2014. Previous to that, for the  
45 decade before, I was Deputy Superintendent at Denali  
46 National Park where I managed subsistence issues and  
47 actually worked on one of the last -- the only time in  
48 the last decade where we've actually authorized -- NPS  
49 has authorized a subsistence cabin, new subsistence  
50 cabin. Previous to that I worked as a marine biologist

1 at Glacier Bay for a decade.

2

3 With me here is Ranger Jim Capra and Jim  
4 is joining me to basically be a resource for the history  
5 of the Park and need for policy.

6

7 I see my role today as a responsible  
8 manager, is to address any questions that you have about  
9 the management of Glacier Bay, and to aid you in the  
10 performance of your very important duties managing  
11 subsistence. I understand that from Ranger Capra's  
12 presentation last year that there was discussion and  
13 confusion and I hope I can aid the Council.

14

15 In your meeting materials on Page 62 is  
16 a formal response to the RAC for last year to the report,  
17 and so that's additional background.

18

19 My understanding of the issue is that Mr.  
20 Pat Robbins, a long time commercial fisherman at Dry Bay  
21 and his father, Mr. Pat Robbin has a history of trying to  
22 use his commercial fishing cabin for recreational  
23 purposes. He became qualified as a subsistence user in  
24 2013, his father in 2000. Mr. Robbins requested  
25 unfettered access for the use of his commercial fishing  
26 cabin at Glacier Bay through the winter and spring. In  
27 writing and in person and in public meetings at Dry Bay,  
28 I informed Mr. Robbins that the ANILCA provisions for  
29 cabins did not work in the way that he imagined and that  
30 I was obligated by the equal protection clause to treat  
31 all subsistence users in exactly the same way. I could  
32 not give special privileges to him beyond that which I  
33 would give to other subsistence users. He chose to  
34 appeal to this body. I also informed him that, you know,  
35 if he wanted redress then he was going to have to look  
36 into how the law was structured.

37

38 To add to this, you know, the basic  
39 structure is that cabins for commercial purposes at  
40 Glacier Bay are authorized under one section of ANILCA  
41 and in the regulations and subsistence cabins are  
42 authorized in a different section with different  
43 requirements. Commercial use cabins in the ANILCA  
44 provisions are specifically authorized only for the use  
45 for commercial fishing, no other activities. The  
46 subsistence cabins -- decisions about subsistence cabins  
47 are done looking at overall patterns of community  
48 subsistence and in most -- and in almost virtually all  
49 cases by the NPS they're not -- they're authorized for  
50 use by all subsistence users.

1                   In this area we are quite generous with  
2 our allowance for people to come to the cabins at other  
3 times and do repairs and at no time during the time that  
4 they are commercial fishing do we restrict their ability  
5 to engage in subsistence. What we aren't doing is  
6 specifically authorizing trips for just these cabins,  
7 strictly for subsistence, separate from anything else to  
8 do with commercial fishing. Especially when that request  
9 was basically all -- the whole year.

10

11                   Now, there's -- you might have specific  
12 questions about the NPS decisions on regulations.

13

14                   I mentioned that at Denali I worked on  
15 authorizing some new subsistence cabins. During that  
16 year we had requests for four different cabins in the  
17 NPS. Two of them were denied because of the standard is  
18 that if it can -- a temporary structure can function then  
19 that is what authorized in the case in Denali. We made  
20 a compelling case that the subsistence users in that area  
21 having to prepare skins and having traplines that went  
22 hundreds of miles, that the cabins were necessary, and so  
23 we authorized the construction of a new cabin. In all  
24 those cases that those were authorized, those were not  
25 authorized for just that one individual, they were  
26 available for all subsistence users.

27

28                   It should be noted also that at Dry Bay  
29 there is a public use cabin that we prioritize  
30 subsistence users to use.

31

32                   So, you know, that's the basic nature of  
33 the situation and I'd be glad to answer any questions  
34 about that, or anything else about Glacier Bay, too, and  
35 the Preserve.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Are there any  
38 questions.

39

40                   Patty.

41

42                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. And thank you  
43 for coming all the way to Petersburg to give us that  
44 summary of the different types of cabin, the commercial  
45 use cabins and the subsistence cabins. It was  
46 interesting to note that the subsistence is overall  
47 subsistence use patterns and that's how you determine  
48 whether to build the cabin, I wasn't -- are they already  
49 built and then how do you determine who uses them.

50

1                   MR. HOOGE: Well, subsistence cabins on  
2 NPS lands, I mean in Preserve lands within ANILCA the  
3 Parks are obligated to treat Preserves like Parks, except  
4 that hunting, fishing, subsistence is allowed. When a  
5 subsistence cabin is authorized it's almost always  
6 authorized for the use of all subsistence users. It's a  
7 resource available to all.

8  
9                   There are factors that are specified  
10 within the regulations that a superintendent is supposed  
11 to use in evaluating whether a cabin is needed. Those  
12 involve the history of subsistence activities, but  
13 they're heavily weighted as to the nature of the  
14 activities and the necessity for a cabin and within the  
15 criteria that, you know, would a temporary structure  
16 serve that structure. And if a temporary -- if a  
17 temporary structure would serve that function then that's  
18 usually what is authorized, you know, tent platforms, you  
19 know, they're set up at the beginning of the season and  
20 then torn down.

21  
22                   MS. PHILLIPS: Followup.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

25  
26                   MS. PHILLIPS: So in our annual report  
27 response, did you have a chance to read that, it's Page  
28 63. Yeah, so anyways it says, although two requests were  
29 recently denied those requests were for a six month  
30 period and included uses in addition to subsistence. So  
31 were you able to work with those requests and narrow them  
32 down to an acceptable level. And then you described a  
33 whole policy that the Glacier Bay National Park is  
34 following, is that in a written format for rural  
35 residents of that area to have access to.

36  
37                   MR. HOOGE: Mrs. Phillips and Chairman.  
38 We work extensively with the users. You know there are  
39 17 cabins, fishing cabins, commercial fishing cabins, of  
40 those cabins, I believe four individuals are qualified  
41 for subsistence. It's important to note that those  
42 cabins, you know, are authorized due to the fishing  
43 permits that individuals have. If they do not have a  
44 valid fishing permit, commercial fishing permit, then  
45 they are supposed to remove those cabins. And so we have  
46 worked very well with the vast majority of users in that  
47 area to accommodate. A lot of times during the fishing  
48 season there is -- people are very busy and so they do a  
49 lot of their repairs later in the season and we authorize  
50 that because we can create a nexus between that activity

1 and commercial fishing. I mean the law -- ANILCA is very  
2 specific about that authorization for commercial fishing.

3  
4 In terms of -- yes, and as I mentioned  
5 before, during that time that individuals are there  
6 engaged in commercial fishing, none of their capabilities  
7 to engage in subsistence are infringed on.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Patty,  
10 follow up.

11  
12 MS. PHILLIPS: So I'm sorry my question  
13 was so long but do you have that in a written format for  
14 the people there to have a hard copy.

15  
16 MR. HOOGE: Yes. We give this to them  
17 with extensive permit conditions so they sign off on  
18 these requirements. Those requirements specifically say  
19 give us the nature of the trip that you're going and then  
20 we authorize trips at one time. The individuals that --  
21 of concern just put in blanket statements without saying  
22 what they were, you know, specifically using for and made  
23 broad statements about engaging in subsistence use over  
24 the entire timeframe and -- and we know from history that  
25 this involves taking friends out to the cabins who were  
26 not State residents and other activities. I mean that we  
27 can't but describe as recreational in nature.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other  
30 questions.

31  
32 Ray.

33  
34 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Madame  
35 Chairman. [sic]

36  
37 After the commercial fishing period the  
38 tent camps are removed and does this include the tent  
39 platform as well.

40  
41 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Sensmeier, and Chairman.  
42 I believe that we let people leave those set up in Dry  
43 Bay; is that correct.

44  
45 MR. CAPRA: They have to take the -- Mr.  
46 Chairman. Mr. Sensmeier. For the temporary camps, they  
47 sign a slightly different permit and basically the cover  
48 has to come off and it has to come down to four and a  
49 half feet high for the winter. At Glacier Bay we have  
50 the telescoping camps, the pop up camps that actually

1 protect the gear really well, and that's how we  
2 accommodate the folks who don't have cabins who still  
3 want to have a base there to fish out of.

4  
5 MR. HOOGE: Let me add in. You know, in  
6 other areas of the State it varies, you know, when it's  
7 a significant hardship to take out all the materials, we  
8 often let people keep those there. The Park Service is  
9 mainly concerned with that they can say that that  
10 structure is temporary. You know, there's a tendency if  
11 things stay up for a long time for it to become more  
12 permanent in nature so, you know, that's -- we heavily  
13 focus on, you know, it stays temporary.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Sensmeier.

16  
17 MR. SENSMEIER: I'm still wondering, do  
18 you have to remove the tent platform as well after the  
19 fishing season.

20  
21 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Sensmeier. Mr. Chairman.  
22 No, not in Glacier Bay.

23  
24 MR. CAPRA: Not for the -- for the  
25 commercial fishing camps, no, we've -- in Glacier Bay  
26 we've never had a -- to this point we've never had a  
27 subsistence camp permitted so I'm not familiar with what  
28 they might do in other areas for a tent frame.

29  
30 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you. Thank you,  
31 Madame Chairman [sic].

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I have one question that  
36 I approached the Park Service about and I was wondering  
37 if you have a cabin that's used for commercial fishing,  
38 would the Park Service entertain the idea, let's say, I  
39 want to use it for two weeks or, you know, for moose  
40 hunting or something like that, would -- could a person  
41 apply for an extended use of that cabin for specifically  
42 subsistence purposes.

43  
44 MR. HOOGE: The Park has been very  
45 lenient about people saying that they were wanting to  
46 engage in some activity, you know, repairing the windows  
47 or other things, and while they were there engaging in  
48 subsistence also. The cabins are for commercial use.  
49 And the way we authorize subsistence cabins is different.  
50 So my take on the law has always been -- is that it is --



1 it is, you know, authorizing these cabins versus the day  
2 use -- or the public cabin, you know, so we could  
3 authorize a public cabin for engaging in subsistence  
4 activities, but what I don't want to do is create a  
5 situation where some subsistence users, by virtue of  
6 having a commercial fishing permit, achieve a higher  
7 level of harvest or opportunities for harvest than other  
8 individuals. You know that's not equal protection for  
9 subsistence purposes.

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other  
14 questions or comments.

15  
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty and then Mr.  
19 Howard.

20  
21 MS. PHILLIPS: On the subsistence --  
22 temporary use permits, I mean you talked about the permit  
23 for commercial fishing, it's spelled out in their permit  
24 requirements and they have to sign off on it, but for the  
25 temporary use permits, is there a spelled out terms and  
26 conditions, and are those only for Federally-qualified  
27 subsistence users and are those only those who have C&T  
28 use designation for, you know, that area.

29  
30 MR. HOOGE: Mrs. Phillips. Chairman.  
31 Only -- cabins are only authorized on National Park  
32 Service lands for specific purposes. Two of those  
33 purposes in Dry Bay are commercial fishing and  
34 subsistence. No recreational cabin use other than at a  
35 public use cabin is authorized. If a subsistence user  
36 from Yakutat wanted to, you know, made a proposal for a  
37 cabin, we would evaluate that. We have to go through a  
38 NEPA process, they would probably be -- if it was a  
39 simple asking for a temporary structure, a cabin and a  
40 tent platform, that would probably be a relatively  
41 simple, unless we had authorized it in the past and then  
42 I would just continue with that one, but -- and that  
43 individual would be given a permit with conditions, and  
44 those conditions would depend upon the particular  
45 situation that they were engaged in. You know trying to  
46 balance maintaining those subsistence opportunities with  
47 other Park purposes.

48  
49 Thank you.  
50

1                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr. Howard.  
2  
3                   MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
4 have several questions.  
5  
6                   We'll start with -- so did the previous  
7 Park Ranger or Superintendent allowed him to do what he  
8 was doing at his cabin, what has changed since then, or  
9 is it the fact that it was just never enforced.  
10  
11                  MR. HOOGE: Mr. Howard. Chairman. The  
12 previous Superintendent did not authorize Mr. Robbins to  
13 have unfettered access through the whole season for his  
14 cabin. She did not authorize him to have recreational  
15 use of his cabin.  
16  
17                  So that, you know, there was specific  
18 times in which he made requests, many of those times were  
19 tied to activities that were associated with commercial  
20 fishing. But I'm not aware of -- looking through the  
21 records I'm not aware of any broad scale authorization.  
22 And National Park Service policies and the law have not  
23 changed since early period in ANILCA. There has been  
24 some evolution as we understand, the National Park  
25 Service has come to better create and how to implement  
26 ANILCA, you know, it's a continuous exercise.  
27  
28                  MR. HOWARD: Do you have data showing how  
29 long his cabin has been there.  
30  
31                  MR. HOOGE: I'm going to leave that --  
32 Mr. Howard, Chairman. I'm going to leave answering that  
33 question to Ranger Capra who can tell more about that  
34 history.  
35  
36                  MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Council member  
37 Howard. I believe you're talking about the Robbins  
38 family or a specific.....  
39  
40                  MR. HOWARD: (Nods affirmatively)  
41  
42                  MR. CAPRA: The Robbins have been fishing  
43 in the area since before ANILCA and had a permit for a  
44 camp on Forest lands. They got a permit to build a new  
45 cabin in 1983, I believe, I think the cabin was built in  
46 '84 for Harold Robbins and that cabin is still standing  
47 and the family still uses it. Pat Robbins purchased a  
48 cabin from another fisherman in, for give me if I don't  
49 know the exact year, but I believe 2010 or 2011, so they  
50 both have permits now, and there's one other member of

1 the family that has a commercial fish camp in Glacier Bay  
2 also under Park Service permit. And those are all the  
3 permitted cabin type permits -- we also have the  
4 commercial fishing temporary permits, which are not the  
5 same as subsistence but they give opportunity for other  
6 commercial fishermen.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard, do you have  
9 a follow up.

10

11 MR. HOWARD: Just an observation I  
12 suppose. But that almost shows customary and traditional  
13 use of the area before you even became a National Park.  
14 I know you just had added that to Glacier Bay. I mean  
15 it's kind of interesting that somebody turns these places  
16 into National Parks so somebody can go in there and just  
17 look at them and it permanently has an effect on the  
18 residents that have used the area for quite awhile.

19

20 That's all I have.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other  
25 questions.

26

27 MR. JACKSON: I have one.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Jackson.

30

31 MR. JACKSON: Mr. Capra. Just a  
32 question, are there areas that are marked or designated  
33 for tribal customary and traditional uses that came  
34 before this, was there anything submitted for Dry Bay to  
35 show that at maybe one time there were villages or, you  
36 know, sacred sites there.

37

38 MR. CAPRA: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. HOOGE: Yes, there have been. The  
41 Park Service has worked closely with the Yakutat Tribe to  
42 identify sites within that area that have been  
43 traditionally used by the (In Tlingit) and other clans.  
44 And our, you know, our cultural anthropologist, in fact,  
45 we kind of revisited one of the sites, Battle with the  
46 Russians, which was very fascinating and found a rifle  
47 there from that time period, so, you know, the Park  
48 Service at Glacier Bay where subsistence is not  
49 authorized, the Park was created before Statehood, the  
50 Park has worked very closely with the Hoonah Indian

1 Association to explore -- and, in fact, got the first  
2 authorization to engage in a traditional hunt, it's not  
3 subsistence, it's traditional gatherings of eggs, it's,  
4 you know, based on enhancing the cultural practices, you  
5 know, as compared to subsistence which is often about  
6 efficiency.

7

8 So broadly the answer is yes there are  
9 connections.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr. Yeager.

12

13 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What  
14 is the cost for the public use cabin if you want to use  
15 it for subsistence.

16

17 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Yeager. Chairman. The  
18 cost is waived for any subsistence user.

19

20 MR. YEAGER: Okay.

21

22 MR. HOOGE: We have resisted --  
23 individuals actually just -- the only person who's  
24 actually done this is Mr. Robbins' request for just  
25 reserving it completely for the entire winter for their  
26 exclusive use. But we have no charge.

27

28 MR. YEAGER: And so it is on a  
29 reservation type system where you would go on line or  
30 something like that to reserve the days that you would  
31 like to use the cabin.

32

33 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Yeager. Chairman. Jim,  
34 you could probably talk more about the reservation system  
35 than I can.

36

37 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Yeager.  
38 The cabin is -- it is reserve -- the public can reserve  
39 it, the cost is 25 bucks a night for recreation. For the  
40 high use subsistence periods, we have two weeks of  
41 subsistence -- only local resident moose hunting, we  
42 block that out on the calendar and that's -- it's not  
43 available to reserve, basically everybody who comes there  
44 who's a qualified subsistence user can use it for free.  
45 We didn't want to reduce the opportunity by having  
46 reservations. Once in a while we have two groups who  
47 show up at once, that's rare, usually we work that out  
48 ahead of time since you have to fly in, it takes some  
49 planning. And other high use subsistence periods, we  
50 just typically block it out and don't take reservations

1 from the public.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow up, John.

4

5 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It  
6 just seems to me that if the Robbins family has three  
7 cabins they're -- if I'm understanding correctly, that --  
8 and they're trying to go the right channels and use the  
9 public cabin for subsistence it would mean more  
10 opportunity for the other qualified users if the Robbins  
11 could use their own cabin and open up the public use  
12 cabin for anyone else. I know on the Stikine, those of  
13 us that have cabins that are used for subsistence, there  
14 is no need to reserve the many Forest Service cabins on  
15 the Tongass to provide opportunity in other places for  
16 the other residents of Wrangell and Petersburg and  
17 elsewhere.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John. Any  
22 other questions or comments.

23

24 Mr. Sensmeier.

25

26 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27 I apologize for referring to you as Madame Chairman.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. SENSMEIER: You mentioned the  
32 traditional sites, graveyards and things, that was the  
33 (In Tlingit) from Dry Bay to Aukeway and from Aukeway to  
34 (In Tlingit) the Bear Clan utilized that. And I have a  
35 map here showing the different sites that were occupied,  
36 going from Lost River to the Alsek.

37

38 These includes fish camps, some are fish  
39 camps, grave sites and village sites.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.

46

47 Is there any other discussion.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: I have one comment that  
2 I shared with the Federal Board at our meeting this  
3 winter and I thought that maybe there could be some use  
4 of a commercial fishing cabin through a -- you know,  
5 whether it's a regulation or just a request, that  
6 possibly the Robbins family could use their cabins for  
7 like a two week period, you know, through applying to the  
8 Park Service for extended use of it for subsistence  
9 purposes, and the representative of the Park Service  
10 didn't really understand the scope of what was happening  
11 to the family. But I thought, you know, there's a cabin  
12 there, like Mr. Yeager explained, that, why wouldn't this  
13 be a good thing if they could utilize the cabin for a  
14 short period of time during the moose season or some  
15 other subsistence gathering activities and it would  
16 alleviate the public cabins from, you know, their use.  
17 So, you know, I just hope there would be some way, or  
18 some avenue that we could relax the regulations and give  
19 opportunity to utilize those cabins other than for  
20 commercial fishing.

21  
22                   That's just my thought on it.

23  
24                   But, anyway, does anybody else have any  
25 comments.

26  
27                   Mr. Howard.

28  
29                   MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 Just to clarify things. I know the Robbins said they  
31 just wanted to use it for moose hunting and possibly  
32 trapping and then I'm hearing, from what you're saying,  
33 they actually -- it looks like they want to use it  
34 yearround, so there's so many layers to this that you  
35 have to sort through to either allow them to do this or  
36 make sure he doesn't overstep his bounds, and I kind of  
37 understand that but it seems like, Mr. Chairman, I'm not  
38 sure why they're not allowing subsistence use in there  
39 because even the Federal government says subsistence has  
40 priority.

41  
42                   So I'm not sure -- I guess the question  
43 is, is he going to use this yearround like he had stated  
44 or is he actually trying to use this just for moose  
45 hunting, which, you know, I'd support him being able to  
46 use his own cabin for moose hunting, that kind of makes  
47 sense to me.

48  
49                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

2

3 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Chair -- Chairman. Mr.  
4 Howard.

5

6 Up until this point the subsistence users  
7 at Dry Bay have had no issue with finding some  
8 opportunity that they needed to do repairs or other  
9 things and then going to their cabins and engaging in  
10 subsistence on an occasional basis. Mr. Robbins could  
11 have availed himself of that same opportunities. The  
12 Park is very lenient about the types of activities  
13 associated with fishing but you have to draw a nexus  
14 there and then you can engage in subsistence. In no way  
15 does the Park Service stop individuals from engaging in  
16 subsistence while they're using their commercial fishing  
17 cabins.

18

19 The Park Service has a responsibility to  
20 ensure that these cabins are not used for recreational  
21 purposes and it is in the view of the Park Service, broad  
22 requests for using the cabins throughout the entire  
23 winter, not specifying when those dates would be, I'm  
24 just going to drop in and fly in, have a very tenuous  
25 connection with actual subsistence activities. And as I  
26 said this has not -- you know, access to those for that  
27 purpose has not been an issue.

28

29 And when it comes down to those types of  
30 very, more blatant broad uses of the cabin, I feel a very  
31 strong responsibility to ensure that every subsistence  
32 user is treated the same and that just because you -- I  
33 mean people can get these commercial fishing cabins,  
34 somebody can walk in from down south, this year, have a  
35 fishing permit, you know, a year later to qualify for  
36 subsistence and they get to use a cabin while somebody  
37 who's been in Yakutat, you know, for generations is not  
38 allowed to, that does not seem fair to me.

39

40 So, you know, that is where the Park  
41 Service stands on that issue.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Mr.  
46 Hernandez.

47

48 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 I mean that's the view I take. I guess I kind of  
50 disagree with a lot of what the other Council members

1 have been saying. I mean I see this as a situation where  
2 owning a limited entry permit, which, essentially is not  
3 equal access, comes up against the equal access laws that  
4 the Park Service has to deal with. I mean that's exactly  
5 how I see it. I don't see how the purchase of a limited  
6 entry permit should give anybody more opportunity than  
7 somebody who doesn't own a limited entry permit when it  
8 comes to subsistence.

9

10 So, yeah, I think the Park Service is  
11 doing the right thing.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

14

15 Any other questions or comments.

16

17 Ray.

18

19 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Just for the record, I'd like to state that there are  
21 fishing sites, subsistence sites from Summit Lake to Dry  
22 Bay and these are considered sacred sites by the Yakutat  
23 Tlingit Tribe.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

30

31 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Bangs.

32 And I have a comment, not a question.

33

34 So the response to the annual report, it  
35 talks about the cabins being consistent with National  
36 Park Service regulations for cabins and then it talks  
37 about consistent with Title VIII of ANILCA and that these  
38 -- the regulations for cabins was established in 1986,  
39 and so I just hope that the two align together, you know,  
40 ANILCA and the regulations for cabins.

41

42 I'm not directing these comments  
43 specifically at you two people before us, and I really  
44 appreciate you taking the time to come here but I have a  
45 concern about a Federal system making blanket remarks  
46 about a way of life that traditional way of life, where  
47 I live a traditional way of life that's different than  
48 Mr. Hernandez' traditional way of life that's different  
49 than John Yeager's traditional way of life and that my  
50 traditional way of life includes subsistence activities,



1 commercial fishing activities, and now I'm going to be  
2 judged on whether my activity is recreational in nature,  
3 but I am one person who lives a certain way of life who  
4 has a family who lives that lives that certain way of  
5 life and yet if I'm doing a certain behavior that's  
6 recreational in nature I'm going to be denied something  
7 that I've been doing since pre-ANILCA. And this whole  
8 limited entry scheme is something that has fallen upon my  
9 generation at a time when I was not eligible to apply for  
10 a limited entry permit, that was given to me, but now I  
11 have to buy one to live a traditional way of life that my  
12 people used to live. In fact, in the Pelican area I  
13 think I can name three families that traditionally would  
14 go to Dry Bay, come back to Pelican; go to Dry Bay come  
15 back to Pelican, but now we're not qualified Federal  
16 subsistence users because of the overall arching  
17 regulations that are in place now, but I got moose horns  
18 in my yard that came out of Dry Bay area from traditional  
19 harvesters.

20  
21 So it's -- I understand where the family  
22 -- where the Robinson [sic] family is -- and I also  
23 understand that there are regulations in place that --  
24 and I appreciate that you guys work on a case by case  
25 basis to deal with them, but I understand the  
26 frustrations.

27  
28 So that's my comment, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 Thank you very much.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you very much  
33 Patty. That's spot on in my mind.

34  
35 Is there any other comments or questions.

36  
37 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 Mr. Howard. Question on how many  
40 subsistence cabins are in Dry Bay.

41  
42 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Howard. Mr. Bangs.  
43 There are no subsistence only authorized cabins in Dry  
44 Bay. There is a public use cabin that's authorized for  
45 subsistence and then there are the commercial fishing  
46 cabins. There has not, to my knowledge, been a request  
47 for a specific construction of a subsistence use cabin  
48 yet. If there was, I definitely would entertain that  
49 request.

50

1 But let me ask Ranger Capra, is that is  
2 correct, about the no requests.

3  
4 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Howard.  
5 There has, to my knowledge, been two requests, one was  
6 made in the mid- to early '80s by somebody who was not  
7 very well informed and was not an Alaska resident and  
8 that one was actually turned down. There was one other  
9 request that received serious consideration and went  
10 through a good portion of the NEPA process, unfortunately  
11 the individual insisted on having an individual cabin and  
12 wanted it right next to an existing -- the existing  
13 public use cabin and airstrip which made it difficult to  
14 justify and in the end that request was denied.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other  
17 comments or questions.

18  
19 MR. HOWARD: Just a comment, Mr. Chair,  
20 to follow up on the answer to the question.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.

23  
24 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Hernandez kind of  
25 sparked that thought when he mentioned that he supported  
26 their idea, was the fact that, yeah, you shouldn't have  
27 both, commercial and subsistence but there is no  
28 subsistence cabins there.

29  
30 So in a way you're giving priority to a  
31 commercial fishing industry in the Bay but there's no  
32 subsistence cabins in the Bay.

33  
34 That's just a comment.

35  
36 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.  
39 So I missed it, I guess, but how many cabins are  
40 available for the public use in the Bay.

41  
42 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Chair. There is one  
43 cabin. That cabin has -- we have not seen that cabin be  
44 used anywhere near capacity at that time, that's in one  
45 location. There hasn't been as -- as Ranger Capra said,  
46 there was a request, I'd forgotten about that one, right  
47 next to where this public use cabin -- there hasn't been  
48 a request in other locations. The -- I think there is a  
49 substantial difference between -- there is a very high  
50 capacity for any subsistence user to get to use a cabin.

1 Are there spec -- that is not the same as if there are  
2 specifically authorized subsistence only cabins in the  
3 Park.

4  
5 So subsistence users have access to  
6 cabins, to a cabin.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other  
11 questions to be addressed to the Park Service.

12  
13 MS. PHILLIPS: I have a quick question,  
14 thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

17  
18 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 So could the Yakutat Tribe put in an application to build  
20 a subsistence use cabin that would be for -- it couldn't  
21 be just for their use it would have to be for everyone's  
22 use but they could do that.

23  
24 MR. HOOGE: Ms. Phillips. Chairman. By  
25 regulation and by law in ANILCA cabins for subsistence  
26 purposes are to be authorized for general use of all  
27 subsistence use regardless of whether they were tribal  
28 members or not, it's any Federally-qualified subsistence  
29 user would be entitled to that.

30  
31 MS. PHILLIPS: But the tribe could apply  
32 to construct one.

33  
34 MR. HOOGE: The tribe or any other entity  
35 could apply to -- usually in most cabin applications,  
36 like in Denali, where I authorized a subsistence cabin to  
37 be built, it was built and paid for by one individual but  
38 then they shared it with the other trappers in the area.  
39 And they kind of worked out issues with traplines among  
40 themselves. So, you know, that request could come in.

41  
42 If that request met the criteria where it  
43 served a subsistence -- where it served a purpose, that  
44 a tent platform or other temporary functions would not  
45 do, that would probably be then authorized.

46  
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty. any  
50 other questions.

1 MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Jackson.  
4  
5 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
6 mentioned that the request for a cabin before was too  
7 close to an existing one and an airfield, is there a  
8 certain distance that you have to be away from those to  
9 build another subsistence cabin or something.  
10  
11 MR. HOOGE: Mr. Jackson. Chairman. I  
12 can -- you know, each case, you know, is evaluated on a  
13 case by case basis. In Denali where there were very  
14 long, 100 mile traplines, there were requests for three  
15 cabins. I authorized two that were spread out. It was  
16 judged that one of the locations could be adequately done  
17 by a temporary facility. So it depends on, not -- you  
18 know, the weather in the area, the activities that are  
19 being taken, you know, if it's just -- shoot a deer and  
20 carry it out on a plane or something, you know, it's not  
21 going to be the same as if a subsistence user is needing  
22 to prepare skins in the middle of -- at 50 degrees below,  
23 you know, that's going to be evaluated at a higher need  
24 level.  
25  
26 So it's need.  
27  
28 Thank you.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Anyone else  
31 have a question or a comment.  
32  
33 (No comments)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, we really  
36 appreciate you addressing this issue as it came before  
37 this Council and the Federal Board and there was a lot of  
38 interest in understanding and really appreciate you  
39 coming here and explaining things to us. It makes things  
40 a lot more clear, I think, for the Council.  
41  
42 Thank you.  
43  
44 MR. HOOGE: Thank you, Chairman.  
45 Council.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson is going to  
48 give us information about outstanding National Resource  
49 Waters.  
50

1 Robert.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If  
4 you could turn to Page 95 there's a section in your book  
5 that talks about Tier III water protections. Tier III is  
6 also called an Outstanding National Resource Water  
7 Designation. On 95 there's a letter from the Yakutat  
8 Tlingit Tribe.

9

10 And I wish -- I should back up just a  
11 second and say that this agenda item was identified at  
12 our last Council meeting. Ray Sensmeier asked it to be  
13 put on the agenda and asked me to provide some background  
14 information. And you'll see the background information  
15 that we thought was relevant is on Page 95, which is the  
16 letter from the Yakutat Tribe to the Director of the  
17 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation who's in  
18 charge of the nomination process. So 95 through 101 is  
19 their letter -- or through 100, and then on Page 101 then  
20 is the response from the response from the Alaska  
21 Department of Environmental Conservation.

22

23 And I think there is -- some background  
24 real quick is that the designation for Tier III  
25 Outstanding National Resource Water is provided by the  
26 Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Water Act, and it  
27 allows the states to have a deviation from what would be  
28 the National standards for water quality. There's a Tier  
29 I standard that is water that is, somebody by its nature  
30 is -- has a -- it will never meet the Water Quality  
31 Standards of the Clean Water Protection Act, that's Tier  
32 I. Tier II is the standard. Tier III is the outstanding  
33 waters and we're talking about maintaining these waters  
34 in a pristine condition. Well, that has ramifications  
35 about what you can do on the land if the -- if it's  
36 designated as pristine. So although it is assumed that  
37 that means that it's a highest quality water, it's not  
38 necessarily a prerequisite or a criteria for making a  
39 determination. But it sort of goes as part of the  
40 package.

41

42 So, anyway, we have the request from the  
43 Yakutat Tribe. It's very well done and very well  
44 documented what the issue is for the Yakutat Forelands.  
45 Then we have the response by DEC and there's a question  
46 and answer section on Page 102 and 103.

47

48 Very informative.

49

50 There has been a number of nominations

1 made by organizations for some waters within the state of  
2 Alaska, however, the issue is, well, what does that mean.  
3 The Department of Environmental Conservation will accept  
4 nominations, however, it is up to the Alaska State  
5 Legislature to pass implementing statutes to allow the  
6 environmental conservation, the State, to adopt  
7 regulations to implement a Tier III designation. The  
8 Legislature has not done that. So there is no mechanism  
9 for the process to move forward. DEC will accept a  
10 nomination and file it appropriately. But until the  
11 Legislature meets and passes a statute that allows DEC to  
12 move forward and develop regulations that would implement  
13 this kind of a designation that's allowed in Federal law,  
14 then it's just going to sit in a drawer.

15  
16 As far as I know there is a statute  
17 that's been drafted and it's in one committee or the  
18 other. I tried to find somebody in DEC that would, you  
19 know, tell me when that's going to be passed by the  
20 Legislature and there was -- yeah, there was no clue when  
21 the Legislature is going to act on this legislation, so  
22 I have no idea.

23  
24 So that's the application by the Yakutat  
25 Tribe for -- a fairly significant portion of the Yakutat  
26 Forelands. There's a response from DEC that says thank  
27 you very much, here's where we are in this whole process,  
28 and there's no assurances from our Congressional  
29 Delegation or from our State Legislature about when they  
30 will get around to adopting a statute, and then we have  
31 to have the process of adopting regulations, you know,  
32 that are associated with that.

33  
34 So it's a long process and it is at a  
35 point where there's nominations will be accepted but  
36 there's no place for it to go right now.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

41  
42 Ms. Needham.

43  
44 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
45 Larson, do you know if there's a timeline, if this is a  
46 -- if the State has to pass policy, anti-degradation  
47 policy under the Clean Water Act, does the EPA have a  
48 timeline for when states actually have to implement that  
49 and, if they don't, under the Clean Water Act, the EPA  
50 can then take jurisdiction back over. And then the

1 second part of that question is, is there a venue for  
2 nominations that are sitting around waiting for  
3 legislation to pass, is there a venue for those to be  
4 forwarded directly to the EPA.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson.

7  
8 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. My understanding  
9 is that there are some states that have enacted  
10 legislation that would allow their state governments to  
11 move forward with Tier III type designations. Some  
12 states have elected not to. This opportunity to enact  
13 legislation has been part of the Clean Water Act, it's  
14 been around for a number of years. It's fairly slow in  
15 being enacted by other state legislatures. I don't -- I  
16 have not heard that there is any kind of a timeline.  
17 It's an opportunity that's part of the original  
18 legislation that states could avail themselves if they  
19 wanted to.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

22  
23 Questions.

24  
25 Steve.

26  
27 MR. REIFENSTUHL: I'm wondering if --  
28 well, thinking about the Legislature, it's not surprising  
29 that it's not going to move anywhere. But I'm wondering  
30 if there would be an avenue in the National Scenic River,  
31 go the Federal route for a designation. Has that been --  
32 does anybody know anything about that. I just Googled it  
33 here and there is such a program so I'm -- I would think  
34 the State's not going to move so maybe there is another  
35 avenue is my comment.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

40  
41 Mr. Sensmeier.

42  
43 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44  
45 As was stated by Mr. Larson, outstanding  
46 waters of pristine quality can get the Tier III  
47 nominations, Bristol Bay watershed has asked for Tier III  
48 nominations. According to Commissioner Michele Hale  
49 there are other activities which would preclude this  
50 nomination. The other nomination introduced by the

1 Chilkat Village of Klukwan with reference to the Chilkat  
2 River, which has a run of salmon through the winter and  
3 3,000 eagles at any one time which utilize this resource.

4  
5 One of the prerequisites is that we meet  
6 with the State Legislature and Commissioner Michele Hale,  
7 which president Victoria Demmert, President of the  
8 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and myself as the Yakutat Tlingit  
9 Tribe Council member, we did meet with Commissioner  
10 Michele Hale and with the State Legislature at which both  
11 Victoria and I testified and speaking with Guy Archibald  
12 the other day of SEAK, which I am a board member of as  
13 well, there's going to be additional opportunity to  
14 address the State Legislature this coming year.  
15 Commissioner Michele Hale came to Yakutat and held a  
16 public meeting and stated that of all the nominations  
17 Yakutat had the best chance of being approved. But  
18 knowing as slow as the Legislature works that may be some  
19 time. And forelands, there's Western Hemisphere  
20 Shorebird Reserve Network Document that I just received  
21 a short time ago that goes hand in hand with the  
22 Forelands, it is in the Forelands. There are over 90  
23 rivers, streams and tributaries within this river, which  
24 is utilized by five runs of salmon, three runs of trout,  
25 a large run of eulachon, which the seals and sea lions  
26 come down to utilize that resource. It was utilized by  
27 our ancestors who had permanent villages on almost all  
28 the -- on all these rivers.

29  
30 Hopefully we can make headway on this.  
31 It's not something the tribe will, you know, stop.

32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.

36  
37 Any other thoughts or comments.

38  
39 Mr. Howard.

40  
41 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
42 not sure if this applies. It seems to me like, you know,  
43 doing city business at home, if you don't have anything  
44 in place to deal with a certain situation then the State  
45 regulation applies and if the State doesn't have anything  
46 in place then the Federal regulation applies, so I'm  
47 wondering if Ms. Needham has a point, of, maybe you need  
48 to take this to the Federal and go through their process.  
49 It may be faster than waiting for the State.

50



1 I know what you're trying to accomplish  
2 by doing this, and to be honest with you, I think the  
3 organization you're racing for the end is probably going  
4 to beat you there.  
5  
6 It just seems to be how it is.  
7  
8 I had some other thoughts but I'm getting  
9 up there in age, I think it just went poof.  
10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12  
13 (Laughter)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.  
16  
17 Cathy.  
18  
19 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
20 Page 103 of our briefing documents, it's a fact sheet  
21 from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.  
22  
23 The last paragraph reads:  
24  
25 Alaska adopted an anti-degradation  
26 policy in 1997 that has not yet  
27 established final accompanying  
28 implementation procedures. This bill  
29 would fulfill that requirement for  
30 outstanding National Resource Waters and  
31 with regulations scheduled for public  
32 notice in the summer of 2016 for the  
33 remaining implementation procedure  
34 requirements, would bring Alaska into  
35 compliance with Federal law.  
36  
37 So this is DEC telling us that they're  
38 currently not in compliance with the Clean Water Act with  
39 the Environmental Protection Agency. This Council has  
40 been told and has tried to utilize in the past the option  
41 to write a letter to the Secretaries of the Department of  
42 Agriculture and Department of Interior to ring issues  
43 that have come before this Council before them that are  
44 outside of the jurisdiction of those departments so that  
45 those Secretaries may engage the Secretaries of other  
46 departments on issues that are important for protecting  
47 or working in subsistence resources. So that might be --  
48 if the Council feels comfortable might be one way to have  
49 a voice in encouraging the Environmental Protection  
50 Agency to either work with the State of Alaska to make

1 sure that the State of Alaska is in compliance, or  
2 potentially take jurisdiction back over for implementing  
3 or being in compliance with respect to anti-degradation.

4

5 But we should also recognize that right  
6 now it's in the State's hands and the State could choose  
7 to -- they have a policy that was written in 1997, but  
8 they could also choose to not actually have a process  
9 where they designate waters. And so that -- if we choose  
10 to send a letter it should obviously be carbon copied to  
11 the State of Alaska.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.

14

15 Mr. Sensmeier.

16

17 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 As I stated earlier, we had just received a Western  
19 Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network document, which we  
20 will submit to Commissioner Michele Hale and to the  
21 Alaska State Legislature. This document alludes to the  
22 Forelands site as a major site for migrating birds.  
23 During the spring and summer and fall there were 350,000  
24 birds that utilize this area after traveling thousands of  
25 miles to rest and is home to 23 species of birds which  
26 nest there. There are 47 million people in the United  
27 States and Alaska who are bird watchers, they are over  
28 average income and there's a number of them that already  
29 come to the Forelands, we would hope to -- the Tribe, to  
30 help these people for economic benefit -- but designation  
31 would exclude any industry, mining, logging, oil drilling  
32 from lowering the water quality from the State it is in  
33 at this time. And the large area of the Forelands has  
34 been designated LUD II and prevents road building in this  
35 area and stipulates logging, mining -- I'm sorry, oil  
36 drilling not occur. There's no reference to mining in  
37 that. And that's a great fear with all the mines going  
38 in at the headwaters of the various streams and the  
39 Alsek, which comes down and is a part of the Yakutat  
40 Forelands. So that is our fear now.

41

42 I'm with the Trans-Tribal Boundary  
43 Working Group and we're hoping to -- working with the  
44 First Nations, which we have been, to make some headway  
45 on this issue.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.  
2  
3 Any other comments.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any interest in  
8 the Council drafting a -- having Staff draft a letter in  
9 regards to this. I'm getting a feeling that there's some  
10 interest in expressing our feeling to -- anybody have any  
11 comments on that.  
12  
13 Mr. Yeager.  
14  
15 MR. YEAGER: I say we have Staff draft a  
16 letter.  
17  
18 (Laughter)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson.  
21  
22 MR. LARSON: Before we get too far down  
23 this road.....  
24  
25 (Laughter)  
26  
27 MR. LARSON: This is a State issue. So  
28 you need to get your mind around the idea that the State  
29 Legislature needs to act. There is a prohibition against  
30 the Council accessing the State's Legislature. So when we  
31 talk about drafting a letter, we need to think -- you  
32 need to think this through about exactly where it needs  
33 to go and what it needs to say.  
34  
35 So that's the sideboards that I need to  
36 remind you of.  
37  
38 Thank you.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.  
41  
42 Ms. Needham.  
43  
44 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Well, I believe my recommendation was that we draft a  
46 letter raising this issue because it's something that's  
47 been brought before our Council encouraging maybe the  
48 Federal Subsistence Board to forward it on to the  
49 Secretaries of Agricultural and Interior because remember  
50 when we went through the review of the program, that was

1 one avenue that the Federal Subsistence Board said that  
2 they wanted to know about issues that are brought before  
3 our Council that are outside of the jurisdictions of the  
4 Secretary of Agriculture and Department of Interior.

5  
6 So I just suggested that maybe it be CC'd  
7 to the State but if we cannot technically give it to the  
8 State, that's fine, but I think we ask the Secretaries to  
9 engage the Environmental Protection Agency or bring the  
10 issue to the Environmental Protection Agency as something  
11 that the State's inability to, or -- I mean since 1997,  
12 that's a long time since the anti-degradation policy was  
13 put in place with no venue for actually designating  
14 waters, and so personally I feel it would be appropriate  
15 to raise the issue that we need protected waters,  
16 sometimes, to protect subsistence resources and that's an  
17 issue that's been brought to this Council, but we  
18 recognize that it's not under our jurisdiction, our  
19 operating mechanisms and so we're just raising that issue  
20 on to be forwarded, that we're -- I mean we've done this  
21 before and I know it doesn't get anywhere but it's --  
22 otherwise we don't have much that we can do.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.

27  
28 Mr. Howard and then Patty.

29  
30 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31  
32 The fact that this is coming from the  
33 president of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribes should be  
34 recognized as a government to government document and it  
35 isn't by the State because the State doesn't recognize  
36 government to government documents. Also the fact that  
37 we're a subsistence board and they mention subsistence in  
38 this document they're forwarding, I believe we should  
39 take some stand on it in regards to subsistence and the  
40 fact that they're taking an active role in protecting the  
41 area before it actually needs protection.

42  
43 So I think at some point we need to  
44 support that. And we're separate from the State and if  
45 the State doesn't have anything in place to help them,  
46 then I think we need to figure out how we're supposed to  
47 play a role in this and send a letter and move them  
48 forward concerning subsistence in the area.

49  
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.  
2  
3 Ms. Phillips.  
4  
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Bangs.  
6  
7 So do we need a motion to proceed with  
8 the letter and then it would be to the Secretaries, and  
9 thank you for the parameters of who we can send that to,  
10 but, yesterday we heard that we could send a letter to  
11 the State Administration, so we could copy them. But  
12 would that be appropriate to do it by motion.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson.  
15  
16 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. In -- and I'll  
17 say this one more time and then I'll listen, first of  
18 all, I would appreciate a motion. We need some content  
19 that is clear. The other is there's no role for the  
20 Federal government to take any more in this process, this  
21 is authorized by Federal statutes to allow the State to  
22 do this, if they wish. I don't -- I can understand  
23 raising this issue to the Federal Subsistence Board. I  
24 don't see any practical or any -- this -- without any  
25 authority to act I don't see where it would be important  
26 to raise the issue to the Secretaries. But I do  
27 understand going to the Board, it is a State issue and I  
28 would appreciate a motion and prior to the end of this  
29 Council meeting, the same as other correspondence, I'd  
30 like to spend a few minutes and craft something that  
31 would be acceptable to the Council.  
32  
33 It wouldn't take us very long. You know,  
34 prior to the Council meeting we'll have something you  
35 guys can vote on and review.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.  
38  
39 Mr. Jackson and then Mr. Sensmeier.  
40  
41 MR. JACKSON: Thank you for bringing this  
42 to our attention.  
43  
44 I know he had said something that was not  
45 added into the original letter and that was the mining  
46 aspect, he said drilling, but mining wasn't a part of it,  
47 and with the TransBoundary Mining thing going, I don't  
48 know if this would be in support of keeping that water  
49 clean because of it or if that would be included in the  
50 letter, if we decide to draft the letter.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ken.

4

5 Mr. Sensmeier.

6

7 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8

9 When I stated it didn't include mining,  
10 I was referring to the LUD II designation which did not  
11 mention mining. I think at that time we didn't consider  
12 that, but because of the 1872 mining law, which allows  
13 mining any time, any place, anywhere, that trumps all  
14 laws.

15

16 MS. PHILLIPS: It does.

17

18 MR. SENSMEIER: Yes, it does. There's  
19 even less in Canada but we're trying to deal with those.  
20 We would really appreciate a letter being written. The  
21 letters would be submitted to DEC, Commissioner Michele  
22 Hale, and then she would then turn it over to the  
23 Legislature, which she has done for Yakutat last year.

24

25 In addition, letters of support were  
26 submitted to Michele Hale and to the Legislature,  
27 Department of Natural Resources, letter of support from  
28 the US National Park Service, Yakutat District, and the  
29 US Forest Service, Yakutat District. We already have  
30 letters of support from them, any additional ones would  
31 be greatly appreciated.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.

36

37 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead, Mr. Hernandez,  
40 and then I'd like to ask Mr. Larson something.

41

42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
43 Chairman.

44

45 I think at this point I would support  
46 that the Council would write a letter to the DEC. I  
47 think it would merely be symbolic at this point to show  
48 some support for what Yakutat is trying to do. Recognize  
49 this could be a very long process. In the interim I  
50 might also suggest that the Council work with the Yakutat

1 Tribe to see if making some inquiries in the Federal  
2 system at the Secretary level would be beneficial.  
3 Actions such as that, you know, could take place at our  
4 next Council meeting if we decide that that is what the  
5 tribe thinks would be a good avenue and if we could help  
6 them in that then we could do it at the next meeting, and  
7 I would suggest that, you know, Cathy, who seems to know  
8 a lot about water quality issues, could possibly, you  
9 know, be in contact with the Yakutat Tribe and see if  
10 that's an action we might want to take in the future.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

13  
14 Cathy.

15  
16 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
17 would also offer the alternative that we make sure, if we  
18 don't write a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board,  
19 that we include this item in our annual report to the  
20 Federal Subsistence Board that this concern has been  
21 brought before this body so that we at least raise it to  
22 that level.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. There is one  
27 issue that I think needs to be addressed and we're  
28 talking about the Yakutat Tribe but there may be  
29 opposition to this as well from the residents of Yakutat.  
30 So I'd be curious to know if there is opposition and the  
31 reasons why there's opposition. I mean we have to look  
32 at the community as a whole, and I think it's important  
33 that we consider that.

34  
35 Mr. Yeager.

36  
37 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
38 think for those reasons specifically I would be more in  
39 favor of an addition in the annual report than a letter  
40 at this point.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

43  
44 I would feel more comfortable with more  
45 of a concern about this issue than writing a letter  
46 because I just don't know what the community feels. I  
47 mean we know the tribe but ask Mr. Larson if there's any  
48 opposition to this.

49  
50 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Yes, I've

1 actually been in contact with the community, the city  
2 government of Yakutat and they've written a letter in  
3 opposition. There's fairly strong feelings there that  
4 this would be inappropriate.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Okay. I  
7 think there's somebody on line that wanted to speak to  
8 this issue, on the phone.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Mr. Howard.

13  
14 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is  
15 that letter available from the city, I mean now we have  
16 two different governments wanting two different things.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson.

19  
20 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I do not have  
21 that letter, no.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: With the information  
24 that we've received, you know, we don't have the letter  
25 of opposition but I just feel more in line with what Mr.  
26 Yeager is saying, that, maybe this should be a bullet  
27 point that we include as a concern but that's just my  
28 thoughts.

29  
30 Mr. Sensmeier.

31  
32 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 When Commissioner Michele Hale came to Yakutat at a  
34 public meeting members of the Assembly were present.  
35 This has to do with mining and, you know, our fear of  
36 what it would do to the Forelands and there were several  
37 people, Assembly member as well, that thought that this  
38 mining would provide jobs for the people of Yakutat, but  
39 this is not an area that could utilize hard rock mining  
40 or other types of mining with the exception of dredge  
41 type mining, which is taking place north of Fairbanks and  
42 in Nome. This does not require -- a job requires two or  
43 three operators to operate the occiliator on the barge  
44 and a conveyor belt and maybe one or two oilers and, you  
45 know, maybe one or two or three mechanics, so it would  
46 not provide jobs in the sense that hard rock mining and  
47 other types of mining would provide.

48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50



1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.  
2  
3 Well, what's the will of the Council.  
4  
5 Mr. Douville.  
6  
7 MR. DOUVILLE: I would have a hard time  
8 of supporting this until I get to see what the effect  
9 would be. It says right here, there are potential long-  
10 term, if not permanent land use consequences to  
11 designating these things. I don't want to take anything  
12 away from anybody but, you know, I understand you want  
13 clean water, but, you know, there is some potential  
14 issues that I would like to see before I say, yeah, it's  
15 okay with me.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike.  
18  
19 Ray, you have a follow up.  
20  
21 MR. SENSMEIER: Yes. If this were  
22 designated on Tier III, all the uses that have taken  
23 place in the Forelands would be allowed, tent camps, many  
24 of which you heard the Park Service mention, subsistence  
25 and uses that were utilized in the past would not be  
26 excluded, they would be included.  
27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. So what I'm  
31 getting from the Council is that it's a concern, but  
32 there's information that we need to move forward with any  
33 kind of a letter or a statement from the Council. So  
34 unless anybody has something that they feel that the  
35 Council should do at this point, I would ask Staff to  
36 provide us with more information and bring it to our next  
37 meeting.  
38  
39 I just don't feel comfortable with doing  
40 anything provided with the information we only have from  
41 part of the community of Yakutat.  
42  
43 Anybody else have any thoughts on this.  
44  
45 (No comments)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any desire to  
48 move forward with making a statement or a letter, or, you  
49 know, what's the will of the Council.  
50

1                   Mr. Yeager.  
2  
3                   MR. YEAGER: I think maybe just have it  
4 as a bullet item in the annual report that we were given  
5 this information as an informative topics and that it  
6 raised some concern and we're waiting for more followup  
7 information, and it could be presented at the next  
8 Council meeting, if the rest of the Council feels that's  
9 adequate.  
10  
11                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Does that sound good to  
12 the Council.  
13  
14                  MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.  
15  
16                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ray, do you have a  
17 follow up.  
18  
19                  MR. SENSMEIER: Yes, thank you for having  
20 it on the Saxman meeting and I'd like to, the Council to  
21 have the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network be  
22 placed on the agenda as well as both issues pertain to  
23 the same thing.  
24  
25                  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
26  
27                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray. So if  
28 there's no other comments, I think we'll request that the  
29 Staff give us some more information for our next meeting  
30 and more response from the community of Yakutat.  
31  
32                  Mr. Howard.  
33  
34                  MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It  
35 was brought to my attention that there was a question and  
36 answer part in the document here; that the question is it  
37 pertains to Greens Creek in Hawk Inlet and Angoon, the  
38 question was do the people of Angoon feel safe to eat the  
39 foods from there; and it didn't clearly answer. The  
40 reason I'm bringing this up is this is DEC talking to  
41 Yakutat without involving us, so to me Yakutat didn't get  
42 the full information that we have and our concerns with  
43 the way DEC's handling Greens Creek. And the reason I  
44 think this is important to this body is our subsistence  
45 food goes by there, our salmon goes by there, our seal go  
46 by there. We don't know the impact that the mine is  
47 having on our deer.  
48  
49                  And being a Tlingit, I'm an opportunist,  
50 if I have a deer tag and I'm going by Hawk Inlet, and I

1 see a deer, I'll probably shoot it and take it home and  
2 tag it. Knowing what I know now, I'll probably pass on  
3 it. But it's just an observation that this is the  
4 information they're giving to Yakutat that I'm concerned  
5 about and I think -- the more I think about it, you  
6 almost have to go past the State to get this accomplished  
7 because you're not going to get the true story. I mean  
8 Ms. Needham brought something else to my attention that  
9 I can use later at a different time, about the fact that  
10 the State has to come in compliance with EPA. That, in  
11 itself, should send an alarm to us about all of the  
12 mining companies in Southeast Alaska and what is the  
13 impact, what is the impact they are having on subsistence  
14 foods.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

19  
20 Ray.

21  
22 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23 That is one of our greatest fears. We know what happened  
24 at Hawk Inlet, where, according to Guy Archibald of SEAK,  
25 the seal taken from there and consumed by 12 families was  
26 tested and found to have 232 times the safe level and the  
27 highest ever recorded in the past was 2.1 above the safe  
28 level, and what's the common denominator is the mine, the  
29 Greens Creek Mine. And we know that they utilize mercury  
30 to separate the gold from the gravel. And with mines in  
31 the Interior flowing into the Forelands, which has been  
32 stated by biologists, scientists as being the most  
33 pristine area in the state of Alaska and in the nation,  
34 and we utilize it for subsistence, as I mentioned,  
35 there's five runs of salmon in that area, which is not  
36 found in any other area, plus the birds and eulachon and  
37 other things that we utilize. It's never been touched by  
38 logging, mining or oil industry, and this would preclude  
39 those industries from operating because there is no way  
40 that they could not degradate the water or keep it at the  
41 pristine quality it is. There is one mine, the Donlin  
42 Mine that recycles their water, and I don't know if that  
43 would meet the standards of the Yakutat Foreland.

44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.

48  
49 Okay, I think it's time that we should  
50 take a little break, a 10 minute break and we'll carry on

1 with the agenda.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We've covered  
10 this issue a little bit already in this meeting and it  
11 has to do with the unguided sportfishermen, non-resident  
12 sportfishermen. And I just wanted to bring it up because  
13 we did have it as an item that we were concerned about,  
14 and I wanted to know if the Council has anything they'd  
15 like to add or they want to move forward with some sort  
16 of an inquiry or what.

17

18 Mr. Yeager.

19

20 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
21 thoughts are I don't like to raise a problem without  
22 having some sort of solution or recommendation. So this  
23 is, in my opinion, a very huge item, issue, that affects  
24 a lot of people and our resources in general, not only  
25 salmon, but also halibut and other species as well. So  
26 I would like, possibly, some discussion on this and maybe  
27 try to formulate some kind of a direction the Council  
28 could take as far as addressing this, either in a letter  
29 or an annual report item or taking it to the Board and  
30 then having them come back with something maybe to the  
31 State. But I think this would be kind of a difficult  
32 issue without some kind of an idea or recommendation to  
33 follow along with anything that we pass on.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

38

39 Any other thoughts.

40

41 Ms. Needham.

42

43 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 I agree with Mr. Yeager and I think we have had  
46 discussion at this table and I haven't got a chance to  
47 look at the proposed annual report issues, you know, now  
48 that we have two pages or topic items, but I believe it  
49 is one of those items that we talked about putting in the  
50 annual report and if it's not, then I think it should go

1 into the annual report because it's something that we  
2 have talked about at a couple of meetings now.

3  
4 Also the other thing that was brought up  
5 in our discussions, I just noticed it on there, it's No.  
6 12 in our annual report item already so that's one action  
7 we would be moving forward with and then we also talked  
8 about potentially submitting a proposal in the next  
9 fisheries cycle that was similar to what we had  
10 previously proposed to the Board of Fish, only doing it  
11 for one species. And so I think that those are two  
12 things that we said we were moving forward with and  
13 keeping these issues alive and making it understood that  
14 we feel it's an important piece of information that we  
15 need in order to better understand overall harvest of  
16 species in our region.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.

21  
22 Any other thoughts on what the Council  
23 might do to address this issue.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I think it's a really  
28 important item, and I'm glad it's in our annual report.  
29 I think that the concern that I feel about this issue is  
30 the unknown factor. And I think that should be stressed  
31 is that the reasoning behind it is the unknown amount,  
32 amounts taken under sportfishing from non-residents, that  
33 there is no accountability, there's no record; I think  
34 it's important that we know that. So when we have  
35 streams that are under -- you know a problem situation,  
36 you know, we don't know what's going on we need to have  
37 accountability from the unguided sportfishermen.

38  
39 I'm glad that it's in the annual report.

40  
41 Mr. Yeager.

42  
43 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
44 agree 100 percent with that statement. The outlying --  
45 one outlying outreaching aspect of this is that -- and  
46 Mr. Howard can totally attest to this, I'm sure, the  
47 frustration that guides have in the state as our  
48 accountability increases, which I felt is always a good  
49 thing because a lot of our resources are dealt with on a  
50 data driven basis and numbers scenario, that we're

1 required more log book keeping and more items in the log  
2 book as well that can be time consuming and sometimes  
3 problematic in a hectic summer schedule. But also that  
4 as the guided bag limits become more stringent, it  
5 provides a sort of relaxation of the non-guided bag  
6 limits and so that's going to drive more people into the  
7 non-guided sector so it will create a growth of that  
8 industry which in many cases develops a situation where  
9 there's more non-accountability that happens. There's a  
10 higher impact on all different resources that they can  
11 take. And we need to remember this also expands to  
12 shellfish. A non-guided non-resident can come here with  
13 a sportfish license and set crab pots and shrimp gear, so  
14 not only are we talking about fish, we're talking about  
15 shellfish that can be in a box and taken home as well.

16  
17 So those are all things that this thing  
18 can just mushroom out and the non-accountability has just  
19 been -- it's been out of control and it's -- it also  
20 leads to safety concerns, more non-guided people from the  
21 Lower 48 on the water, not familiar with waters, that's  
22 a situation as well. So this thing encompasses a lot.

23  
24 But it's a big thing to tackle but I'm  
25 really glad that this is, at least, going to be mentioned  
26 in some form

27  
28 One option, I think, could be for us, as  
29 Council members, take this back to your local Fish and  
30 Game Advisory Committees and start pushing from that end  
31 because that's a State to State relationship so we might  
32 be able to do that individually if we want to carry this  
33 on to our communities.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John. That's  
38 very good points, I think, that addresses a lot of our  
39 concerns. I think that we should direct Staff to  
40 emphasize our concerns in our annual report to this issue  
41 and I'm not sure all that we can do but I think you're  
42 right, the local ACs are probably a good venue for us to  
43 be build some sort of a program to help make accountable  
44 what's being taken. That's important.

45  
46 Anyone else.

47  
48 Don.

49  
50 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I'd just like to

1 add that, I mean there are some policy implications that  
2 we could be involved in. Some of this outfitter/guide,  
3 if we're talking about stream uses, you know, they have  
4 to be permitted, you know, through the Forest Service to  
5 use areas and I don't think we really got involved so  
6 much when they went through a fairly large effort on  
7 reviewing outfitter permits on the National Forest.

8  
9 You know the situation was probably just  
10 developing at that time and we were maybe a little behind  
11 the curve but there's policy implications as well that we  
12 do have direct say over as well as regulation.

13  
14 And we might also add that, you know, the  
15 way things go it's starting to move into the hunting  
16 arena as well, you know, once these businesses get  
17 established where they have skiffs for rent and starting  
18 to see a little bit where they're extending their seasons  
19 because they already have the infrastructure, you know,  
20 they got hunters sticking around and want to go hunting,  
21 definitely a factor in the bera hunting.

22  
23 So, yeah, it's definitely a lot to it.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

26  
27 Anybody else have any thoughts or  
28 comments.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I think it's important  
33 that we stay engaged with this.

34  
35 Mr. Jackson.

36  
37 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Yeager, your  
38 comments are really appreciated, and Mr. Hernandez.

39  
40 Yeah, we've been dealing with this around  
41 Kake for quite some time and we know that they take guys  
42 out but, you know, they say they're friends and now  
43 they're building a lodge -- we say it's a lodge but they  
44 say it's a church down in Pillar Bay (ph) and they're  
45 going to have their members come up and fish and they'll  
46 have boats for them and so, you know, I know there's  
47 probably loopholes that they use. And there's guys that  
48 take these guys, meet them at the ferry, take them down  
49 to boats, and they say well, we're not making a cent on  
50 it but they're using our boats and they're going out

1 fishing. So there must be loopholes where as long as  
2 they have a license, you know, and they're not guided --  
3 well, I know of one guy that takes them out and takes  
4 them to the streams and after that they go by themselves.  
5 But, whoever was talking about, you know, one guy brings  
6 four and the next following year he brings four or 16 or  
7 -- but it is escalating and they're finding loopholes and  
8 we are feeling, you know, that our subsistence lifestyle  
9 will be 'nil before too long, especially where the  
10 sockeyes are concerned.

11  
12 And, you know, I like what Mr. Yeager  
13 said about, you know, those bays that are being pressured  
14 that the sportsfishermen also should be held to a limit,  
15 yeah, I mean if we're only allowed 20 annually, I mean 10  
16 per day but 20 annually then the sportsfishermen should  
17 also be limited to that. I don't know who's going to  
18 check that with the State cutting funding and the State  
19 Troopers are busy and Fish and Game, it's getting harder  
20 and harder.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ken.

25  
26 Point well taken.

27  
28 I think you're right that it's not going  
29 to diminish in the future, it's only going to escalate  
30 and I think it's time, past time that we try to be  
31 proactive and try to come up with some way to at least  
32 hold the sportfishery accountable.

33  
34 Anyone else have any ideas.

35  
36 Frank.

37  
38 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
39 know I agree that we need to try and put some limits on  
40 what they take. Because we residents of the State of  
41 Alaska have to have limits on what we can take but  
42 nothing is ever done with them, with the guys that are  
43 taking -- like I said when I was in Juneau I saw that  
44 whole van loaded full of boxes, you know.

45  
46 And a couple years back I was talking to  
47 an enforcement person and he said, well, guess what I did  
48 and I said what'd you do, he said well I went all the way  
49 around the island and I said, oh, you went all the way  
50 around the island, and I thought he was talking about



1 Hawaii or something, no, he went around Chichagof and he  
2 said, I emptied out my book. I said what do you mean you  
3 emptied out your book, citation book, I emptied out my  
4 citation book going around the island. I said, holy  
5 crap, there's a lot, and how many people did he not  
6 catch, you know, I don't know how many citations in a  
7 book but still, you know, he said he emptied out his  
8 book.

9

10 So, you know, people are getting away  
11 with it. Maybe we need to get to the State and say, hey,  
12 you guys you need to put more people out there, you know,  
13 because we only got one person in Hoonah. And I know he  
14 doesn't go out everyday in the summer when there's those  
15 guys running all over the place and sitting on top of a  
16 rock and dragging up little halibut and, you know, even  
17 in August when -- when I was going to Bartlett Cove you  
18 see all those boats out by Pleasant Island just anchored  
19 there, you know, so I think that there should be a limit  
20 put on the number of unguided people.....

21

22 (Telephone interruption)

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: They should make some kind  
25 of law saying, okay, you got a lodge but you're only  
26 going to be limited to so many people and they all should  
27 be able to keep log books to be able to show how many  
28 fish or wildlife that they're taking.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Frank. At a  
33 minimum, he should get more than one book.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Yeager.

38

39 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
40 have one more comment and a point to bring up as well.

41

42 Charter fishing is an industry based on  
43 a lot of disposable income. People don't have to come up  
44 here and fish with me, for example, or Mr. Howard, so a  
45 lot of us that do partake in the industry we rely on word  
46 of mouth and referrals and things like that. But one  
47 thing that I'm seeing, personally, as you build your  
48 clientele when people come to you and fished with you in  
49 2005 and the halibut limits were two fish of any size  
50 let's say, for example, as the fishing charter industry

1 is required to adopt and adapt to the ongoing regulations  
2 you see the regulations pushing your clientele away.  
3 They want to go to where you can catch the most fish and  
4 catch the biggest fish. So you essentially are losing  
5 money and so what I'm seeing, not only lodges, but  
6 individual companies that are adopting -- or I'm sorry,  
7 adapting to that by becoming kind of part guided and  
8 unguided options within their businesses so that they can  
9 continue to bring those fathers and sons that they had in  
10 the late '90s and early 2000s that were fishing under the  
11 good bag limits, they put them in an unguided boat and  
12 there you have it.

13  
14 They're keeping more fish and bigger fish  
15 and it's a survival technique but it's a loophole as well  
16 that people can partake in. And it's becoming a method  
17 to adapt to regulation that's trying to, one side protect  
18 the resource, but on the other side they're totally not  
19 protecting the resource.

20  
21 So my observations over the last 11 years  
22 in this industry.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John. I  
27 agree and I think there's a lot of loopholes.

28  
29 And just for example, you rent a skiff  
30 from a lodge or whatever, and in the skiff there's a GPS  
31 and it has a mark, jig here, troll here, I mean that's  
32 unguided?

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I mean there's some  
37 things that just don't make sense to me that we -- I  
38 don't know how we can address it but it's going to  
39 escalate I'm sure.

40  
41 Mr. Howard.

42  
43 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We  
44 have log books for our saltwater, there's also logbooks  
45 for freshwater you have to keep. That's why I got out of  
46 freshwater because I had to keep two separate log books  
47 and it was getting frustrating so the younger guys at the  
48 lodge ended up doing the freshwater so those two areas  
49 are documented. So we need to focus on the fact that the  
50 self-guided have no documentation in the state. And I

1 think to present it to the State, we need to present it  
2 as a concern for the resource from a subsistence  
3 standpoint. So when we ask for data on all user groups,  
4 we should ask for by area so you don't just get a big  
5 blanket of Southeast Alaska and this is how much halibut  
6 was caught throughout Southeast Alaska.

7  
8 I think to better understand what's  
9 happening to the resource to sit here and represent the  
10 subsistence user, we should ask for all user's group data  
11 by area so as a group we're looking at conservation  
12 concerns, we can say, well, we can see that this user  
13 group is using more of the resource than others and that  
14 would also have the State come back into compliance where  
15 their own State Constitution says that the resource  
16 belongs to everyone equally.

17  
18 So I think as a part of this we ought to  
19 ask for all user group data by area.

20  
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

24  
25 Okay.

26  
27 I think that Staff has a grip on our  
28 feelings about this and we can enter it into our annual  
29 report and I think we'll stay active in the State Board  
30 of Fish and Board of Game proposal arena and when the  
31 cycle comes back around I think we should do something.

32  
33 And with that said I'd like to go on to  
34 our letters that we were given copies of that we're going  
35 to have to ratify and forward on to the Board.

36  
37 The first one I'd like to address is the  
38 feedback on the All Council meeting.

39  
40 Mr. Larson, would you like to address it.

41  
42 Hopefully everyone's read the letters  
43 that we received.

44  
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Did you deal with the POW  
46 wolf.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah, we're going to get  
49 there.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 A simple letter that says that the  
6 Council appreciates the efforts it took to put that  
7 meeting together and they thought it was a valuable  
8 exercise. If you under -- when you read the letter  
9 understand that there's going to be additional  
10 wordsmithing, this was put together pretty quickly, so at  
11 the end of the day you're going to sound good and look  
12 good.  
13  
14 (Laughter)  
15  
16 MR. LARSON: But if there's any specific  
17 things in there you want me to include just go ahead and  
18 say them now but recognize that this isn't what's going  
19 to be sent, it'll be something that has these points in  
20 it.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ms. Needham and then Mr.  
23 Schroeder.  
24  
25 MS. NEEDHAM: Go ahead.  
26  
27 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a suggestion, it may  
28 be useful to say, if other Council members agree with  
29 this, that the annual meeting doesn't occur every two  
30 decades or something, but perhaps make a suggestion that  
31 there is not an annual manual, but that the joint  
32 meeting, that it occurs every three or four years or  
33 something like that. That's my personal feeling that  
34 that would be useful.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Bob.  
37  
38 Mr. Kitka.  
39  
40 MR. KITKA: I just had one thing here on  
41 what I said, that's written in this thing, when I asked  
42 for a little more time to attend the other meetings; it  
43 doesn't really say that and I'd like to correct it a  
44 little.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Harvey. Mr.  
47 Larson will take note.  
48  
49 Ms. Needham, did you have something.  
50

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 I was just going to ask if we -- for these letters, do we  
3 need to make motions to approve and move them forward, is  
4 that -- once we've gotten the additional points  
5 clarified.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson.

8  
9 MR. LARSON: I think that's the  
10 prerogative of the Chair. We've already approved sending  
11 the letters so we have that process already approved. I  
12 just want to make sure that in this forum I've captured  
13 the intent of the Council. So if we could have some  
14 ruling that this content either less or more is what the  
15 Council wanted to include in the letter that should be  
16 sufficient. So we've already had a motion on the table,  
17 it's been approved, send the letter, and now all we're  
18 doing is just making sure that the content of this letter  
19 is what the Council intended. So yeah that's okay.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.  
22 So I would agree we could just informally agree to the  
23 content and then have him wordsmith the letter for us, if  
24 the Council is comfortable with that.

25  
26 So if we read through these letters --  
27 we'll address each one and if there's any additions that  
28 you want to make or corrections, we can do that. Other  
29 than that I think we should just move along and have them  
30 craft the letter with maybe -- I mean some wordsmithing  
31 for sure.

32  
33 Mr. Reifenhuth.

34  
35 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Well, I , too, found  
36 the joint meeting very valuable and agree with Mr.  
37 Schroeder that it should be more frequent than once every  
38 two decades and so three to five years I think would be  
39 very valuable and then you'd pick up many of the new  
40 members to the Regional Advisory Councils.

41  
42 Also in my short time here I recognize  
43 that Staff does an excellent job of making us sound  
44 eloquent, so, thank you.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Steve.

49  
50 I agree that the point that Mr. Schroeder

1 brought up should be included in our letter, that maybe  
2 it should happen more frequently than every 20 years.

3  
4 If the rest of the Council feels that  
5 that's a good idea maybe we should include that.

6  
7 Anybody have any oppositions.

8  
9 Ms. Phillips.

10  
11 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I  
12 don't have any opposition.

13  
14 What I found especially valuable were the  
15 legal workshops provided by the attorneys and also the  
16 Task Force, like the Yukon Kuskokwim Task Force on  
17 managing their salmon all the way throughout their  
18 system, the coming together of the various RAC members  
19 and the Task Force members.

20  
21 Did they evaluate -- did we fill out an  
22 evaluation of that, of the All Council meeting, did they  
23 have a form for us to fill -- I don't remember. Maybe  
24 they should do a followup on that to the RAC members.

25  
26 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.  
29 That's a very good idea, that we could request that the  
30 other Councils weigh in as well as to how they feel and  
31 maybe we could review that at a future meeting.

32  
33 Mr. Larson.

34  
35 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. So this is the  
36 evaluation and all the other Councils are having a  
37 similar discussion.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you.

42  
43 Is there anything else that we want to  
44 add to the feedback on the All Council meeting.

45  
46 Ms. Needham.

47  
48 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
49 agree with Patty's point about the evaluation and maybe  
50 we'd clarify that at future meetings it would be good to

1 have a written evaluation form handed out to us directly  
2 after the meeting so we could evaluate different sessions  
3 that were useful to us at that time, while it's still  
4 fresh in our minds.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy. I  
7 think it's a good idea. I mean we're writing a letter in  
8 response as a Council, but I think a personal evaluation  
9 that we could make at the meeting would be helpful to  
10 OSM.

11  
12 So, okay, anybody else have anything that  
13 they would like to add to this letter or correct, or do  
14 we have the intent of the Council written down.

15  
16 Ken.

17  
18 MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, just a  
19 comment. I found it very good for the Federal Board to  
20 have people there to talk to us. It made me feel better  
21 anyway that they were there to address some of the things  
22 that were going on.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ken.

27  
28 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
29 think getting together, we were able to address a couple  
30 issues like getting a person on the big Board, and  
31 talking about how we can all be represented there. When  
32 you got all the regions of the Councils addressing an  
33 issue it makes it a lot stronger, you know, because we're  
34 all talking the same language and I think, you know, we  
35 were talking about nominating someone to the -- what was  
36 it, the National Marine Fisheries, is that what we were  
37 talking about, or -- and we, you know, and we have a  
38 letter from the whole Council, all the group then I think  
39 that makes things a little stronger.

40  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Frank.

44  
45 Mr. Larson.

46  
47 MR. LARSON: I just had a thought, so is  
48 there -- something for the Council to consider, whether  
49 or not the Council should have an evaluation of each  
50 meeting, so should I be distributing forms to Council

1 members looking for an evaluation of this Council meeting  
2 or the next Council meeting so it's -- you know we don't  
3 do that and I'm certainly not advocating that.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. LARSON: But, you know, if the  
8 Council would like a regular form, that's fine, if the  
9 Council, at the end of the meeting, after final comments,  
10 that's the place where we normally get feedback. If  
11 there's anybody that wants to call me after the meeting  
12 is adjourned, next week, any time, and chew on me for  
13 awhile, that's fine too. I encourage that.

14

15 So we're all about evaluations and making  
16 this process easier and more informative, more -- well,  
17 more transparent maybe.

18

19 So that's my thoughts on the subject.

20

21 Thank you, very much.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

24

25 It's the will of the Council, if they  
26 feel that's an important issue we can address that. I  
27 think what we were getting at is the joint meeting, and  
28 expressing our evaluation of that.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. So is there  
33 anything else with the feedback of the All Council  
34 meeting.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We'll move along  
39 to the letter the Governor, the Lt. Governor Mallott.

40

41 Ms. Needham.

42

43 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
44 wanted to go back and remind that I made comments  
45 yesterday on the record regarding how I felt the letter  
46 should also state that the State of Alaska is working  
47 towards putting together baseline studies on  
48 TransBoundary Rivers and how I thought it would be good  
49 to encourage the State to coordinate with the existing  
50 study that is happening that is establishing baseline, so



1 that there was not duplication of efforts.  
2  
3 Thank you.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.  
6  
7 So is that the wish of the Council, to  
8 include that in the letter.  
9  
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.  
11  
12 (Council nods affirmatively)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. So I think that  
15 is a good addition.  
16  
17 Anything else.  
18  
19 Mr. Schroeder.  
20  
21 MR. SCHROEDER: Just wordsmithing,  
22 probably Robert was going to do this anyway, but it's  
23 generally good to have that paragraph that says we are a  
24 Federal Advisory Committee Act Council appointed by the  
25 Secretary of Interior authorized to do these sorts of  
26 things, because that's kind of our authority base.  
27  
28 We're not just some organization out  
29 there that's writing in for the hell of it because it  
30 wasn't 5:00 o'clock yet, you know.  
31  
32 (Laughter)  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that Mr.  
35 Schroeder.  
36  
37 (Laughter)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Is there anything  
40 else that we would like to address in this letter.  
41  
42 (No comments)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Everybody good with the  
45 content.  
46  
47 Ms. Phillips.  
48  
49 MS. PHILLIPS: Just another wordsmithing.  
50

1                   It says to improve communication and  
2 cooperation with our neighbors in British Columbia to  
3 ensure that the, and I would, instead of waters and  
4 fisheries, say, waters, fisheries and natural  
5 environmental systems, because it's more than just the  
6 water and fisheries, it's the entire ecosystem.  
7  
8                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9  
10                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Good point, Patty.  
11 Yeah, wildlife could be in there as well.  
12  
13                  Yeah.  
14  
15                  So I think Mr. Larson is catching our  
16 intent.  
17  
18                  Is there anything else.  
19  
20                  (No comments)  
21  
22                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. So if there's  
23 nothing else on that letter, let's go to the letter to  
24 the Federal Board, to Mr. Christianson, who is now our  
25 Chairman. Any thoughts on this letter.  
26  
27                  (Pause)  
28  
29                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Schroeder.  
30  
31                  MR. SCHROEDER: I think this has most of  
32 the stuff in it and, you know, group editing isn't going  
33 to be -- word by word isn't going to be very useful --  
34 oh, I'm on the wrong one, sorry.  
35  
36                  I'll pick up.  
37  
38                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. The one that I  
39 wanted to address.....  
40  
41                  MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you.  
42  
43                  (Laughter)  
44  
45                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: The one that I wanted to  
46 address at this point is the submerged lands. And what  
47 we did is we brought up some bullet points, there were a  
48 few Council members that came up with bullet points that  
49 they felt was the intent of the Council's concerns about  
50 submerged lands and we came up with this four bullet

1 points that we wanted to stress to the Federal Board, and  
2 I think it covers what we discussed in the meeting.  
3  
4 Does everybody have that letter and  
5 understand.  
6  
7 (Council nods affirmatively)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there any comments.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Changes.  
14  
15 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Bangs.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Schroeder.  
18  
19 MR. SCHROEDER: Now that I'm on the right  
20 letter, we did have some discussion on how we'd really  
21 like this job to be finished and not to dribble out into  
22 bureaucratic eternity, so that we would really like to  
23 know what lands we're talking about throughout the  
24 region.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.  
27 Schroeder.  
28  
29 Do you have that intent Mr. Larson.  
30  
31 MR. LARSON: Got it.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. So is there  
34 anything else on that particular letter.  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, hearing none, what  
39 else do we have.  
40  
41 Does that cover all the letters.  
42  
43 MS. NEEDHAM: No.  
44  
45 MS. PHILLIPS: No.  
46  
47 MR. LARSON: No. Non-rural.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: One more, oh, the annual  
50 report.

1 MR. LARSON: No, non-rural.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Non-rural. Where's it  
4 at.  
5  
6 (Pause)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I didn't get that one.  
9  
10 (Pause)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. So there's a  
13 letter about the non-rural draft policy and I want to  
14 make sure everybody's -- Mr. Schroeder.  
15  
16 (Laughter)  
17  
18 MR. SCHROEDER: This is the one I was  
19 starting to comment on out of order.  
20  
21 (Laughter)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.  
24  
25 MR. SCHROEDER: I think this has the  
26 stuff in it, you know, it needs some reorganization. But  
27 the Council has maintained in a lot of correspondence,  
28 not that the Federal Board is going to give us some  
29 deference, but that we have it. That this is part of  
30 ANILCA, and that we really want the Federal Subsistence  
31 Board, in the fifth line of paragraph two, to recognize  
32 the deference to the Councils, and then in the bottom --  
33 in that same paragraph, the third line from the bottom,  
34 that deference to Council applies according to Section  
35 .805(c), and that would be consistent with positions the  
36 Council has taken since time immemorial.  
37  
38 (Laughter)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Bob.  
41  
42 Any other comments or suggestions to add.  
43  
44 Ms. Phillips.  
45  
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman. I would  
47 like to acknowledge and state that we very much  
48 appreciate the public process that the non-rural policy  
49 went through to achieve this draft non-rural policy.  
50

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty. Does  
4 everybody agree with that.  
5  
6 (Council nods affirmatively)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Anything else.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I think that  
13 covers our correspondence.  
14  
15 I think now would be a good time to move  
16 to the annual report.  
17  
18 (Laughter)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: No. Yeah. Good idea.  
21  
22 (Laughter)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So there's a listing of  
25 our annual report issues, which is a two page thing.  
26 This is the longest annual report I think we've ever had.  
27 Is there anything that we'd like to add or subtract from  
28 this list.  
29  
30 I think these were all important points  
31 that we discussed.  
32  
33 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson.  
36  
37 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. There is -- so  
38 far this morning, the Council's added an Item 24, which  
39 is the outstanding National Resource Waters Tier III  
40 discussion, and I have good notes on that.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: IS there any other  
43 additions.  
44  
45 Mr. Jackson.  
46  
47 MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman Bangs. No.  
48 23, request for data, the group that stays in the bay at  
49 Kake, they do have a website that states they are --  
50 their address is Kake Portage, and that's our harbor.

1 But I'd like to delete, only Forest Service would know if  
2 they have a permit. Because in the bay that they're --  
3 they have a -- not a lodge, but a two story building up  
4 there, it isn't tied to the beach, it's anchored and they  
5 have the windows all boarded up but smoke comes out of  
6 there and they take their clients there and they go from  
7 there. So I don't know, you know, if anybody -- if it's  
8 -- they're in saltwater so if the -- if we even have any  
9 jurisdiction to go in there or to look around or, you  
10 know, I don't know that part of it.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

15  
16 Mr. Larson.

17  
18 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Council.

19  
20 You should be aware that I will take some  
21 artistic license with these issues and make them relevant  
22 to Board action so some of the specific items, for  
23 instance, Mr. Jackson's concern about this particularly  
24 place in Kake will likely be rolled into a larger issue  
25 so the -- the idea is that we want to bring issues to the  
26 attention of the Secretaries through the Board, a  
27 particular item, if we're not asking the Board to do  
28 something then it becomes part of a larger issue and so  
29 once we have the annual report written and -- and we'll  
30 make it available for your review, you know, six months  
31 from now.

32  
33 That's just the way we do business.

34  
35 So I didn't want to have unrealistic  
36 expectations about some of these items, okay.

37  
38 MR. JACKSON: All right.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. And that's  
41 a good point because this is not the final annual report,  
42 we'll be able to review it and add and subtract or  
43 whatever.

44  
45 So, is there anything -- Ms. Phillips.

46  
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Bangs.

48  
49 Items 5 through 14 were related to the  
50 2015 annual report and I was just suggesting that what we

1 -- in our 2015 report we brought up, you know, we  
2 identified things that were of concern for us and then  
3 the Federal Board responded to us and rather than just  
4 let those topics sort of die die, that we continue to  
5 build a dialogue on our previous needs that we  
6 identified.

7  
8               Some of them, you know, like with No. 8,  
9 cabins on Park Lands, that was addressed in our 2015  
10 report, but I don't know if it would continue on in a  
11 2016 annual report beings as how the Park Service  
12 supervisor and Park Service ranger were here to address  
13 concerns. So I guess, you know, I don't know if they  
14 necessarily have to be in the 2016 annual report if we're  
15 having continuing agenda items on our RAC meetings.

16  
17               Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18  
19               CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty, I  
20 agree. I don't know if it's a necessity because our  
21 concerns were addressed.

22  
23               Mr. Hernandez.

24  
25               MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
26 Chairman. At the top of the page, it's not listed as a  
27 numbered item but, you know, it says a comment from me  
28 that we should start thinking about strategies on  
29 subsistence needs and how they're being met in the  
30 region. I think that should be made into an annual  
31 report topic, and I think maybe the way to address that  
32 would be to notify the Board that we would like to  
33 undertake, you know, that type of a project and we would  
34 be requiring probably some additional Staff time in  
35 helping us put something like that together in the  
36 future.

37  
38               CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

39  
40               Patty.

41  
42               MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. No. 7, the  
43 baseline water monitoring, that should -- I strongly feel  
44 that should be part of our annual report. But also that  
45 perhaps baseline water monitoring could include amount of  
46 precipitation because of these strong downpour events  
47 that we're having and that could affect water treatment  
48 of mine tailings that further affect fish and fish  
49 spawning and so on.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.  
4  
5 Mr. Larson.  
6  
7 MR. LARSON: Point of clarification.  
8 Informing the Board, we've done this -- the Council has  
9 done this before, is discussed and informed the Board  
10 that, you know, as they develop projects they want to  
11 move forward with that they appreciate the Staff time and  
12 the Council has put that in their annual report, the  
13 Board's replied and says tell us what you need and we'll  
14 provide the Staff, so if you could provide maybe, between  
15 now and next meeting, or at this meeting, some direction  
16 about what specific plans or policies that you want to  
17 address, it might be more meaningful than this. Because  
18 the Board is going to say, yes, thank you for your  
19 interest and move on, so if you could be a little more  
20 specific then that would be helpful.  
21  
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Don.  
25  
26 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Robert.  
27 I guess I wasn't sure, you know, how we should proceed  
28 with that but I have been kind of jotting down a list of  
29 some of the specific things that I thought maybe we might  
30 want to look into and, you know, some of it's going to be  
31 social science type stuff, we'll maybe want to maybe get  
32 some more community surveys on how needs are being met.  
33 I don't know if those have been done for awhile. Might  
34 need to coordinate with the Department of Fish and Game  
35 in some of this, I don't know what kind of information  
36 they have. Kind of some information on what's the level  
37 of -- increasing levels of non-Federally-qualified users  
38 in some key hunting and fishing areas, that kind of  
39 information should be available. There's some research  
40 out there that's probably being done that would be  
41 relevant. We might want to support that.  
42  
43 I know there -- I think I've heard -- the  
44 Council has heard of some research being done involving  
45 bear, wolf, deer interactions in Unit 3, maybe  
46 particularly Kuiu Island, but I think it's also relevant  
47 to Mitkof, Kupreanof, Wrangell, Zarembo. Also I think  
48 it's significant with the -- kind of a drastic change  
49 over the last 20 years of how moose have moved into the  
50 area, it's changed a lot. And I think some research on



1 moose interactions with, you know, deer, wolves, possibly  
2 bear would be beneficial as well.

3

4                   So, yeah, I do have a more specific list  
5 and if anybody else has any ideas to add to that we could  
6 put it all into the report.

7

8                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don. Maybe  
9 it would be good to get together with Robert and share  
10 those ideas and you could wordsmith and put it into our  
11 report to address at the next meeting.

12

13                   Anyone else.

14

15                   Mr. Schroeder.

16

17                   MR. SCHROEDER: I'm not really sure  
18 whether the Council would want to go ahead with this, but  
19 just after Don brought some of these things up, the day  
20 before yesterday, I was thinking about what Title VIII of  
21 ANILCA says an annual report is. We have that print up  
22 on Page 58.

23

24                   And so what we've been doing in annual  
25 reports consistently and that's what -- this happened  
26 with other Councils, is, we raise specific issues that  
27 are kind of sticky points or things that we think need  
28 attention. But really, so far, our Council and other  
29 Councils haven't done what ANILCA sort of thought  
30 Councils would do, which is, kind of present this is what  
31 the year was like in the region; these are current and  
32 anticipated subsistence uses; these are current and  
33 anticipated needs; to look at some sort of strategy for  
34 management and to -- we do make recommendations, but we  
35 haven't really done that in something that comes up in  
36 report format.

37

38                   Kind of annual reports have become bullet  
39 points that we ask for some action from the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board.

41

42                   So I don't know whether we really want to  
43 take this on at all because it's a piece of work and, you  
44 know, but it could be a productive exercise, to do so  
45 would require a number of Council members to be  
46 interested and then to enlist Staff on specific things.

47

48                   So let me just put that out there and see  
49 if there's interest in pursuing that approach.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Schroeder. I think we address a lot of those issues with  
3 our Council member reports at the beginning of the  
4 meeting to get the sense of what's going on in our  
5 region. That's one of the things that I feel addresses  
6 your concerns.  
7  
8                   I'm not sure, what's the will of the  
9 Council.  
10  
11                  Ms. Needham.  
12  
13                  MS. NEEDHAM: With that respect we know  
14 that the things that get raised to the Federal  
15 Subsistence Board are really only things that go into our  
16 annual report, and so if we address it in our Council  
17 comments at the beginning of the meeting, that isn't  
18 necessarily -- if there's important things in there that  
19 apply to us, that's not necessarily getting elevated to  
20 the Board level and so maybe one suggestion to follow  
21 through is that in Council reports, if there is an issue  
22 that we -- after we've heard everyone's comments, that we  
23 should, at each meeting, decide whether or not any of  
24 those Council comments should be included in the annual  
25 report.  
26  
27                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.  
28  
29                  Mr. Larson.  
30  
31                  MR. LARSON: I have a suggestion that  
32 makes sense to me. And following up on Ms. Needham's  
33 comments, that I could review the Council comments made  
34 at this meeting and the previous meeting, and include a  
35 narrative paragraph that would be introductory to the  
36 issue statement that we normally provide, is overarching  
37 for the conditions in Southeast Alaska and then if I did  
38 that then you guys could peck away at that and decide if  
39 there was anything in there that you wanted to retain or,  
40 you know, delete.  
41  
42                  That would be a way to address those  
43 Council comments.  
44  
45                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert. I  
46 think that's a good idea.  
47  
48                  Anyone else have any ideas or additions  
49 to the annual report.  
50

1 Mr. Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
4 was looking at Item 18, ETJ petition process.

5

6 The thing I wanted to correct or change  
7 on that, is the State didn't abide by their own process  
8 of raising and lowering amount for subsistence because  
9 when I went to get my permit the guy just crossed out the  
10 number that was there and wrote another number there and  
11 I don't remember being a part of that process at the  
12 tribal level so that was what I meant by that.

13

14 And I think we should maybe add another  
15 item, when I mentioned there's two standards in the  
16 state. Southeast Alaska is the only one that's required  
17 to have a bag limit for subsistence salmon. That's part  
18 of what we also discovered. One of my winter hobbies is  
19 to watch reality shows and I saw where a gentleman was  
20 allowed to get 700 chums for his dog team, and I'm  
21 allowed to get, depending on how the guy feels that day  
22 when he gives me my permit, 15 to 20 sockeyes to sustain  
23 my family through the winter. So that's what I mean by  
24 two standards.

25

26 Granted, the guy did it on the northern  
27 end of Alaska but, you know, we're supposed to, according  
28 to the State's own Constitution the resource belongs to  
29 us equally, that, in itself doesn't seem equal either.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

34

35 Anyone else.

36

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Well, I think the  
41 Staff has a flair for what the wishes of the Council are  
42 and we'll review this at our next meeting.

43

44 Okay, so we're going to move along here  
45 to the next item.

46

47 We're down to any agency reports from  
48 tribal governments.

49

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Native organizations.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Is there anybody on  
8 line, on the phone that is a tribal liaison or  
9 governmental agency that wants to speak.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So I guess we'll move  
14 to.....  
15  
16 Mr. Douville.  
17  
18 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 I have a letter that was written to the Department and  
20 the other, the Feds that came from the Craig Tribe. It's  
21 on my phone, I don't have a printed copy. I did send it  
22 to Robert and I was hoping that he would print it so we  
23 could all look at it but -- I could read that to the  
24 Council.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah, if you feel.....  
27  
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Do I have to change hats  
29 or anything, or can I just do it from here.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: You can do it from  
32 there.  
33  
34 (Pause)  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead, Mr. Douville.  
39  
40 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. Thank you,  
41 Chairman.  
42  
43 It says:  
44  
45 Dear Mr. Scott.  
46  
47 The Craig Tribal Association is  
48 Federally-recognized tribe located on  
49 Prince of Wales Island in Craig, Alaska.  
50

1 This area is covered in Game Management  
2 Unit 2 and we're writing to voice our  
3 objection to the current reduction in  
4 the wolf quota for our area.

5  
6 After reviewing the 2014/2015 wolf  
7 population in Game Management 2 prepared  
8 by Gretchan Rofler, research biologist  
9 with the Division of Wildlife  
10 Conservation, her report indicated there  
11 was no indication of a decrease in deer  
12 population or an increase in -- it says  
13 disease amongst the wolves or unreported  
14 wolf takes affecting the wolves in our  
15 area.

16  
17 The report stated that the test area was  
18 limited and the testing methods were not  
19 effective for the first year of testing.  
20 In her report, Ms. Rofler stated that  
21 changing the testing methods and  
22 expanding the testing area more  
23 conclusive data would be collected and  
24 collated, I guess, after 2015.

25  
26 The report was used to reduce the quota  
27 in Game Unit -- the report that was used  
28 to reduce the quota in Game Unit 2 is  
29 inconclusive of the actual population,  
30 which the reporter stated ranged from 69  
31 to 167 for 2015.

32  
33 Between the US Forest Service and Alaska  
34 Department of Fish and Game, a decision  
35 was made to reduce the quota from 22 to  
36 11 effectively reducing this quota by 50  
37 percent due to unrecorded high mortality  
38 rate by human cause that we are  
39 interpreting to be due to the illegal  
40 catch. There has been no documented  
41 evidence presented to justify the  
42 decision to reduce the quota by 50  
43 percent.

44  
45 In addition the US Forest Service, a  
46 Federal agency is required under  
47 Executive Order 32175 to provide  
48 meaningful consultation with tribal  
49 officials, especially in areas that will  
50 be directly impacted.

1           There was no tribal consultation in this  
2           matter to either the Craig Tribal  
3           Association or any other of the three  
4           Federally-recognized tribes within the  
5           Unit 2 Game Management area.  
6

7           Although the State of Alaska is not a  
8           Federal agency required under Executive  
9           Order 32175 to provide tribal  
10          consultation the State of Alaska is  
11          required to public notice and open a  
12          public comment period to citizens  
13          affected by decisions which have direct  
14          impact in their respective area. There  
15          have been no public notice or public  
16          comment period to Prince of Wales  
17          residents residing in Game Unit 2 who  
18          have been impacted by this decision.  
19

20          Until the US Forest Service meets its  
21          tribal consultation obligation and the  
22          State of Alaska provides due process  
23          notice to the residents of Prince of  
24          Wales Island and seeks meaningful  
25          consultation and comments from Island  
26          residents, we request that wolf quota in  
27          Game Management 2 be restored to 22. If  
28          the agencies find there are undocumented  
29          or unreported wolf takes it should take  
30          steps to reduce it by the number of  
31          wolves it is able to document. It is  
32          unethical to proceed with this drastic  
33          reduction without seeking input from  
34          Prince of Wales Island residents and  
35          Federally-recognized tribes who are  
36          impacted by this decision.  
37

38          And it is signed by the President,  
39          Clinton E. Cook, Sr., tribal president.  
40

41          It went out to Matt Anderson, the  
42          regional -- well, we listed the Regional Advisory Council  
43          and the other tribes on the island.  
44

45                 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Douville.  
46

47          I would request that the Council to refer  
48          -- to reference that letter when we discuss the ADF&G  
49          report that we're going to get. We're going to speak to  
50          the wolf issue. So I'd like everyone to keep in mind the

1 letter that was written and we'll be getting to that  
2 report very soon.

3  
4 I want to make sure that we go through  
5 the agency reports.

6  
7 US Forest Service. Is there an update or  
8 report from the Forest Service.

9  
10 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. The Forest  
11 Service's agency report was provided by Earl Stewart  
12 earlier in the meeting.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 And I would like to say on the record  
17 that -- well, we have an additional comment from Yakutat,  
18 other than what Earl provided earlier, but I would like  
19 to say that Mike Douville tried to email me that letter  
20 and it was unsuccessful from his cell phone and I asked  
21 him, when he gets home, if he could email me from his  
22 computer and maybe we'll be more successful that way.

23  
24 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, this is Melinda  
25 Burke, Tribal Relations Program Manager for the Forest  
26 Service.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes, I didn't get the  
29 name. Could you repeat it, please.

30  
31 MS. BURKE: Melinda Burke.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Oh, Melinda, yes, you  
34 have comment.

35  
36 MS. BURKE: I do. I was hoping to make a  
37 short presentation to the Council. I was there but not  
38 able to stay for the entirety of the meeting, my  
39 apologies for having to depart. But I was just hoping  
40 for a couple of minutes to talk about my new position and  
41 some of the work I hope to do with the subsistence  
42 program, if you'll indulge me.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please.

45  
46 MS. BURKE: Thank you so much.  
47 Everybody, it was great to be there with you the first  
48 couple of days of this meeting. I won't take a lot of  
49 time, I know you still have some business to cover.

50

1                   But I just wanted to talk to the RAC and  
2 solicit some ideas and establish some communication in my  
3 new capacity. I have worked with this Council for  
4 several years.

5  
6                   Currently I hold the position of the  
7 Tribal Relations Program Manager here in the regional  
8 office. I just began this position replacing Lillian  
9 Petershore in December. I'm very excited to be taking on  
10 this role and I'm hoping to use some of my experience  
11 with the subsistence program and my work with the  
12 Southeast Council to establish some communication and see  
13 where I, in my new position, as well as my Tongass Tribal  
14 Relation Specialist, Karla Kasalukuyan, where we can help  
15 assist to helping communication with the program  
16 activities.

17  
18                   One of the things that I spoke to the  
19 Regional Forester about when I came on board was a goal  
20 of mine was to help to increase tribal participation and  
21 strengthen their voices in this program.

22  
23                   I am charged in my position with  
24 maintaining government to government relationships with  
25 tribes and ensure those relationships are maintained. I  
26 see myself as being in a position to be able to work  
27 closely with Office of Subsistence Management. I just  
28 returned from a five year stint with them working with  
29 other Councils throughout the State as well as working in  
30 a really great relationship and capacity with Orville  
31 Lind, who is the Native Liaison there at OSM. Orville  
32 did a really fantastic job. But it is quite a heavy load  
33 to have on your plate communicating with all the  
34 Federally-recognized tribes, village corporations and  
35 regional corporations.

36  
37                   So I just wanted to put it out there to  
38 the Council, I'm open to ideas and strategizing and  
39 working with the tribes represented in the room, as well  
40 as the ones who aren't there today. The tribal voice  
41 extremely important in this program and it carries a lot  
42 of weight when it comes to recommendations and  
43 decisionmaking, both, at the Council level as well as at  
44 the Board level.

45  
46                   I also wanted to reiterate that there is  
47 a tribal consultation implementation guidelines with the  
48 Federal Subsistence Board so there are regularly  
49 established times for consultation between tribes, the  
50 Board, as well as corporations, and the Board when it



1 comes to the proposal process.

2

3 And I just put myself out there, Mr.  
4 Chair, Council members, and the tribes that are  
5 listening, I am at your service and welcome to any ideas  
6 with increasing tribal presence at this meeting, and at  
7 future meetings.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Melinda.

10

11 Is there anyone that has any questions  
12 for Melinda.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I must say that I  
17 appreciate that you were here at our meeting, sorry you  
18 had to leave before we were finished, but appreciate it  
19 and I'm happy that they put you in that position, that's  
20 a big asset to all of us.

21

22 Thank you for testifying.

23

24 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll  
25 ensure that I put my new contact information out there to  
26 the Council. I haven't gotten to visit with all of the  
27 tribes directly yet, but as I'm finishing up my first  
28 year here and embarking on this journey, I hope to be  
29 able to visit the tribes and increase communication with  
30 them. And as I stated earlier I'm open to ideas on how  
31 I can assist to help the Council, the program communicate  
32 with the tribes and to strengthen their voice.

33

34 Gunalcheesh.

35

36 Thank you for your time.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thanks, Melinda.

39

40 Patty has a comment or a question.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43

44 I have a comment.

45

46 It's very encouraging to see the USDA  
47 Forest Service, Tongass Region building capacity in a  
48 local resident. We've watched her, you know, she came as  
49 a college student to some of our meetings and now we see  
50 her in a tribal position, in a Tribal Relations Program

1 Manager Position, so, congratulations and good luck in  
2 your new position.  
3  
4 MS. BURKE: Gunalcheesh. Thank you,  
5 Patty.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thanks, Melinda.  
8  
9 Anyone else have any comments.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. I think  
14 we'll move on to the US Forest Service additional  
15 comments for agency report.  
16  
17 MS. OEHLERS: Good morning. Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. Susan Oehlers, I'm  
19 a wildlife biologist with the Forest Service in Yakutat.  
20  
21 I also realize we're getting short on  
22 time, I do have a handout, and I'll go ahead and hand  
23 that out and then I'm just going to go through a few  
24 brief highlights of that, if that's all right.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes.  
27  
28 MS. OEHLERS: And realizing this is a  
29 fisheries focused meeting, but we do have the wildlife  
30 cycle coming up so I have just a few highlights of  
31 wildlife in Yakutat, you know, some of which may come up  
32 through proposals at this next Council meeting so just  
33 kind of giving you a head's up on what's going on in  
34 Yakutat.  
35  
36 Primarily with moose, and I think  
37 probably -- you know, I've done reports before, probably  
38 have some background knowledge of moose in Yakutat, they  
39 are managed by a joint State/Federal permit with a  
40 combined quota, which has been, most recently, 25 bulls,  
41 west of the Dangerous River, which is kind of a dividing  
42 point for the Forelands, 30 on the other side. We have  
43 had low bull to cow ratios since about 2006, which  
44 resulted in that lower quota to 25, it used to be 30,  
45 starting in 2008. As with most of Southeast, we've had  
46 some heavy snow winters, 2011, 2012 and relatively mild  
47 winters the last couple of years, which, I believe has  
48 helped the moose population.  
49  
50 We did have an aerial survey completed by

1 the State Department of Fish and Game last December 2015.  
2 We did see a little bit of an increase in total numbers  
3 on the west side. We had a fairly good calf to cow  
4 ratio, 24 calves to 100 cows. The bull to cow ratio has  
5 improved slightly. It was at 16 bulls to 100 cows  
6 compared to 12 to 100 in 2013. So we are seeing some  
7 signs in recovery but we still have a low bull to cow  
8 ratio which is, you know, well below our management  
9 objective of 25 to 100.

10  
11 So along with, you know, differing  
12 weather conditions we've had some land status changes  
13 since 2012. That was the result of Sealaska lands, and  
14 what this did is it increased the amount of Federal lands  
15 and so with the Federal season opening up a week earlier  
16 than the State season and Federal lands being closed that  
17 first week of the State season, it really -- it makes  
18 little land available for non-locals for the first two  
19 weeks of the season. It also opened up areas closer to  
20 town that are popular hunting areas. And so the  
21 combination of those land changes has resulted -- and the  
22 recovering population has resulted in a reduced season  
23 length the last couple of years, we've reached the quota  
24 very quickly, in less than a week and, as such, we didn't  
25 even get to the point where the State hunt opened. So  
26 all the harvest, and traditionally west of the Dangerous,  
27 it's been primarily by local residents but we haven't  
28 even opened a State hunt the last couple of years.

29  
30 With these changes in the rapid harvest  
31 we have actually exceeded the quota the last two years.  
32 As managers we, you know, one of the actions that we took  
33 to try and get that quota, or to not exceed that quota,  
34 we actually reduced the permit reporting period from five  
35 days to three days effective last year and we're  
36 continuing to work on just compliance and enforcement of  
37 that reporting period.

38  
39 A couple notes on designated hunter  
40 permits because that's something that's been identified  
41 as an issue locally.

42  
43 For moose, designated hunter permits,  
44 we've issued 36 permits, 2011-2015 and they also could be  
45 used for deer. But as a result there have been 16 moose  
46 harvested by designated hunters. Seven of those were  
47 east of the Dangerous and nine were west of the  
48 Dangerous, which is that portion closer to town.  
49 Generally -- anyone designated hunting has only harvested  
50 one moose within a year but we did have one year where

1 someone actually harvested two deer under the designated  
2 hunter harvest.

3  
4               Some of the concerns that have been  
5 brought forth by local residents as things have changed  
6 and the hunt has become much more rapid reaching the  
7 quota, some people are concerned that there's not equal  
8 distribution of the harvest, that there's -- it's going  
9 so fast some people aren't even getting the opportunity  
10 to get out there and hunt. And so some things have been  
11 brought forward through the AC, there was also a  
12 gentleman, if you recall, came in and talked to the  
13 Council during the fall meeting in Yakutat. Some of the  
14 ideas have been to limit the number of moose that a  
15 household can take, so limit to one moose per household,  
16 and there's also been talk about potentially limiting the  
17 number of folks that people can hunt for, or that you can  
18 harvest under the designated hunter harvest.

19  
20               So those are just some concerns that  
21 have, you know, been brought forward by some of the  
22 community members and things that people have, you know,  
23 introduced as potential ideas that could be brought  
24 forward during this next regulatory cycle.

25  
26               So I will be working with the local AC  
27 and the gentleman that brought the one moose per  
28 household idea to your meeting last fall. I'll be  
29 working with them to see what they want to do as far as  
30 developing proposals for next spring.

31  
32               The moose season opens this Saturday and  
33 so I will hopefully be back tomorrow to help administer  
34 that hunt. Terry Suminski will actually be joining me  
35 there to help with the harvest and kind of find out more  
36 about that and we also will have Fish and Game and Forest  
37 Service representatives.

38  
39               So that's it for moose.

40  
41               And that was kind of the main thing I  
42 wanted to go over.

43  
44               There's more information in your handout.

45  
46               I also did touch on goat numbers because  
47 we have had an area that has had declines. We actually  
48 were able to go out and do some goat surveys this fall  
49 and we're seeing the area that has declined, has  
50 continued to decline, be at low numbers, and then

1 interestingly enough, you know, again we've kind of got  
2 a dividing line of Harlequin Lake, the Dangerous River,  
3 so one range west of Harlequin Lake we're seeing very low  
4 numbers and then on the other side we've actually seen a  
5 pretty big increase from the last survey that was done in  
6 2010. So not really sure what's going on there but we'll  
7 continue to monitor those populations.

8

9 Eulachon.

10

11 We did have the formal monitoring from  
12 2010 to 2013, we've continued to monitor as we can using  
13 internal Forest Service funding. We have fairly strong  
14 runs, 2014/2015, and then a pretty weak run this spring.  
15 so probably similar to throughout Southeast.

16

17 I think that's it.

18

19 Mr. Larson had asked me to mention  
20 wolves. We don't have a lot of information for the  
21 Yakutat area other than harvest sealing information.  
22 There is trapping there. Just speaking to Mr. Scott, he  
23 suggested there's probably about 10 wolves per year on  
24 average. He could probably speak to that a little bit  
25 better if you have questions but as far as we know, you  
26 know, there aren't really any conservation issues for  
27 wolves in Yakutat.

28

29 Those are my highlights.

30

31 Thank you, very much.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Oehlers.

34

35 Are there any questions of Ms. Oehlers.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I have one question  
40 regarding the moose. Has there been discussion or  
41 resistance or whatever to an antler restriction to  
42 increase the bull count per ratio, or -- there's no  
43 antler restrictions.

44

45 MS. OEHLERS: Correct. It's any bull.

46

47 That's something that hasn't really been  
48 talked about. It is certainly something we could  
49 consider. I know that kind of adds some, you know, legal  
50 complexities and there can be issues with people -- you

1 know, illegal take, I mean Mr. Larson could probably  
2 speak to that more. I think there's issues, you know,  
3 certainly makes it a little more cumbersome for folks.  
4 But I mean that is something we could consider. I  
5 haven't heard any talk of that or any opposition or  
6 support, either way.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. I just was  
9 curious because I notice that there is a need for  
10 increasing the ratio, bulls to cows, and I'm not a fan of  
11 antler restrictions but I know it can be effective in  
12 increasing animal numbers.

13  
14 So, anyway, just a thought.

15  
16 Anyone have any other comments or  
17 questions for Ms. Oehlers.

18  
19 Mr. Sensmeier.

20  
21 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
22 I would just like to reiterate the designated hunter,  
23 these are for elders, or those that are not physically  
24 able to hunt.

25  
26 I know my son-in-law is going to be a  
27 designated hunter for my household, and also there is a  
28 moose allowed, preferably a cow moose, for ceremonial  
29 potlatches where enough meat is utilized for the dinner  
30 of the 40-day and the one year potlatch and the rest of  
31 the meat is distributed amongst the community. As I  
32 stated, a cow moose is preferred, is this what is allowed  
33 now.

34  
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36  
37 MS. OEHLERS: Through the Chair. Your  
38 question is for the ceremonial harvest?

39  
40 MR. SENSMEIER: Yes. The preferred moose  
41 is a cow moose for that ceremony, is this still allowed?

42  
43 MS. OEHLERS: Through the Chair. We do  
44 allow ceremonial harvest and, you know, we generally do  
45 get a couple of requests per year which, you know, we  
46 grant. We don't put a specific restriction on it, we  
47 generally do recommend getting a bull, but it's not  
48 something we can restrict, and, so, you know, generally  
49 it's either sex, and that does get implemented.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Any other  
2 questions.  
3  
4                   Ms. Phillips.  
5  
6                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Is that  
7 ceremonial harvest part of the total harvest, are they  
8 included in the total harvest?  
9  
10                  MS. OEHLERS; Through the Chair. Yes,  
11 they generally are considered part of the harvest and  
12 we'll get, you know, maybe one or two in a year.  
13  
14                  MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, followup.  
15  
16                  So if there's an average of 164 moose  
17 permits issued and only 53 harvested, that means only 32  
18 percent of those 164 permits get a moose, that means  
19 about 68 percent of the permits issued are not getting a  
20 moose so I would say subsistence needs are not being met  
21 in Yakutat.  
22  
23                  Thank you, Ms. Oehlers.  
24  
25                  MS. OEHLERS: Thank you.  
26  
27                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that,  
28 Patty.  
29  
30                  Anyone else have a comment or a question  
31 for Ms. Oehlers.  
32  
33                  (No comments)  
34  
35                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.  
36  
37                  MS. OEHLERS: Thank you.  
38  
39                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Do we have any  
40 kind of a followup report from the Park Service.  
41  
42                  Mr. Capra.  
43  
44                  MR. CAPRA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Members of the Council. I'm Jim Capra. I'm the Acting  
46 Yakutat District Ranger for Wrangell-St. Elias and  
47 Glacier Bay National Parks and Preserves.  
48  
49                  Superintendent Hooge covered most of the  
50 highlights for what I would have put in my annual report.

1 I did want to mention a few items though to tie in with  
2 Ms. Oehlers report.

3  
4 We have had an increase in Unit 5B, which  
5 is in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park for moose harvest.  
6 We tied our highest harvest in 5B, which is, for the most  
7 part, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and  
8 the remaining land is Chugach Land, which has very little  
9 -- usually very little hunting pressure but we shot up to  
10 18 bulls for that unit. I have not seen the community  
11 harvest numbers, but I would -- from my personal  
12 knowledge I'd say half, or slightly more than half were  
13 local hunters who, because of reaching the quota so  
14 quickly in 5A, or just being worried about it, they went  
15 over to 5B and are using the resources over there. This  
16 year is on a slightly slower pace but most of the hunters  
17 are local hunters or at least tied to local families when  
18 they come in to hunt. It's nice to see the resource  
19 being used, it was a little surprising to see it go up  
20 that quickly. There is a quota in Unit 5B of 25. To my  
21 knowledge we've never reached the quota, we've gotten as  
22 high as 18 but those are few and far between. It's nice  
23 to see that being used. Our hunt numbers before, at  
24 least for the Park Lands would be a total of maybe four  
25 or five moose, and we've surpassed that already this  
26 year.

27  
28 One of the advantages for Yakutat folks  
29 is for the folks who can do it, who aren't fishing, the  
30 5B season opens up September 1st and they don't have to  
31 wait until October to hunt, and with the 5A hunts going  
32 so quickly, they don't have to feel competitive about it,  
33 they don't have to get a moose in those first couple of  
34 days.

35  
36 This year for Glacier Bay, Superintendent  
37 Hooge mentioned it, but this was the Centennial for the  
38 National Park Service this year, August 25th, 26th.  
39 There were four very large celebrations by the Park  
40 Service for the Centennial and Glacier Bay is very proud  
41 that the Hoonah House was one of those four. It was an  
42 amazing event and I hope it moves forward from there.  
43 And thank you to Councilman Wright for all the work he  
44 did, both on the ground and before.

45  
46 The egg collection with the legislation  
47 that was approved is going forward. This is the  
48 collection of gull eggs in Glacier Bay National Park in  
49 Glacier Bay proper. The Park needed to secure  
50 legislation for traditional harvest with the Hoonah



1 people for gull eggs and it's moving forward with Hoonah  
2 people selected from the tribe and biologists from the  
3 Park Service working out the best and most sustainable  
4 means to keep the harvest going in the National Park that  
5 will meet the needs in Hoonah and meet the conservation  
6 needs for the Park Service.

7  
8 A couple of other highlights this year  
9 that have some effect on the Yakutat area anyway, we had  
10 a Lituya type wave in Icy Bay, and last October, right  
11 about a year ago today, there was a 300-foot wave roared  
12 down one of the fjords in the back of Icy Bay and the  
13 Park supported four trips, mostly the same researchers,  
14 glaciologists, geologists, some biologists to see what  
15 effects that has. We're seeing a lot more big  
16 landslides, some of them hit the water like the wave in  
17 Icy Bay. And it may become more common due to climate  
18 change or whatever reason and it would be nice to know  
19 the effects long-term on some of these environments.

20  
21 We also helped with seal research effort  
22 at Hubbard Glacier in tagging baby harbor seals and  
23 radiotracking them. I see Ray smiling so he's probably  
24 seen the results, it was pretty amazing six weeks after  
25 being tagged we had some of the seals from the Hubbard  
26 Glacier well into Prince William Sound, others in Glacier  
27 Bay and further into the Inside Passage. They seem to  
28 move quite a bit more than was supposed.

29  
30 And on the statewide part, I've reported  
31 to the Council on the horns and antlers policy for  
32 subsistence gathering for the National Park areas in the  
33 state. That is moving forward, the areas, especially the  
34 Parks with Subsistence Resource Commissions that had the  
35 highest concern over these regulations are forming their  
36 regulations with the Park Administration. In some areas  
37 it's moved forward really quickly. In areas where it's  
38 not as much of a concern, of course, it's going to go  
39 slower. But this is for the collection of plants, horns,  
40 antlers for subsistence use and subsistence trade in the  
41 National Park areas.

42  
43 And that's all the points I really wanted  
44 to cover, Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Capra.

47  
48 Any questions.

49  
50 Mr. Sensmeier.

1 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 With reference to the seal tagging, the  
4 tribe has been involved with NOAA, National Marine  
5 Fisheries, the Marine Mammal Lab in doing the sort of  
6 work you're talking about. This is as a result of the  
7 cruise ships. Around 75 to 80 cruise ships visit the  
8 Hubbard Glacier, where we hunt seals in the wintertime.  
9 They come at precisely the same time as the mother seals  
10 giving birth to the pups. The pups don't know how to  
11 swim. They have no fat acquired at the time of birth.  
12 The cruise ships come in and they make a large wake and  
13 the babies are flushed into the water. And according to  
14 the hunters, and I'm one of those, the population has  
15 dropped dramatically. Last year there were approximately  
16 1,500 seals in Disenchantment Bay, the highest  
17 population, and 12,000 in Icy Bay and growing. So the  
18 hunters believe, and the local people believe the seals  
19 are going out of the bay and up to Icy Bay. Prior to the  
20 ships coming in there's quite a large number of seals in  
21 Disenchantment Bay and that population decreases when the  
22 cruise ships arrive.

23

24 This is an ongoing thing with National  
25 Marine Fisheries coming up every June and doing such  
26 things as tagging, as he alluded to.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ms. Phillips.

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: Are there any public use  
37 cabins in Area 5B.

38

39 MR. CAPRA: There is one public use  
40 cabin. There are also some pre-ANILCA subsistence  
41 permitted cabins and three commercial fishing cabins in  
42 Unit -- on the Park Lands in Unit 5B.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions or  
47 comments for Mr. Capra.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Jim.  
2  
3 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Oh, sorry, Mr. Howard.  
6  
7 MR. HOWARD: Just a quick question.  
8 Where can I find your data on tracking seals?  
9  
10 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chair. Mr. Howard. I  
11 will get it to you. Off the top of my head I cannot  
12 remember the primary researcher except that he is a NOAA  
13 researcher with -- I've worked with before in many areas  
14 in Southeast on harbor seals.  
15  
16 MR. HOWARD: Thank you.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Anyone else.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, thank you, Jim.  
23  
24 MR. CAPRA: Thank you.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I think we'll take a  
27 real short break and then we're going to finish up the  
28 rest of the agenda, and we'll be back in 10 minutes.  
29  
30 (Off record)  
31  
32 (On record)  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, thank you.  
35  
36 I'd like to move on, we have a couple  
37 more items.  
38  
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
40 report.  
41  
42 Ryan.  
43  
44 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
45 Members of the Council. It's nice to see everybody again  
46 and get reconnected. It's been about a year, I think,  
47 since the last time I was here with you all up at Yakutat  
48 and that was a great time as well.  
49  
50 I do have a quick PowerPoint

1 presentation, but I believe you also have hard copies of  
2 that and hopefully you've had a chance to look at that.  
3  
4               We're going to start off running through  
5 several slides concerning wolves, specifically in Unit 2.  
6 I know there's a lot of interest there and I will rapidly  
7 move through a couple things, additional things that I  
8 wanted to highlight for the Council, recognizing that  
9 we're probably going to spend some time on wolves.  
10  
11              Next slide please.  
12  
13              We all know where we're at at this point  
14 but we cover everywhere from down by Ketchikan,  
15 Metlakatla all the way up through Unit 5B in Yakutat.  
16 And I would like to introduce, it looks like he slipped  
17 away, but we have Rich Lowell, the area management  
18 biologist for the Wildlife Division as well, so if there  
19 is some specific Unit 3 central Southeast questions he's  
20 available to help with that stuff.  
21  
22              Next slide please.  
23  
24              Quick wolf synopsis for Southeast.  
25  
26              We get them in Units 1, 2, 3 and 5 so the  
27 mainland through the Southeast Panhandle, Unit 2 Prince  
28 of Wales, here in this area, Unit 3 Central Southeast and  
29 then up along the Gulf Coast in the Yakutat area. You  
30 know it's a rough estimate of how many wolves we might  
31 have in the region, 750-1100. The highest densities have  
32 historically always occurred in Unit 2 and Unit 3, so  
33 Prince of Wales and Central Southeast, the Island  
34 systems, however they are found on the mainland in this  
35 area as well. Harvest is traditionally hunting trapping.  
36 They are a species that's required to be sealed by the  
37 United States Fish and Wildlife Service and on average in  
38 the region we take about 156 wolves.  
39  
40              Next slide please.  
41  
42              A quick, just to make sure we're all on  
43 the same sheet, a quick explanation of the variable  
44 hunting and trapping regulations for subsistence  
45 Federally-qualified users as well as folks who fall under  
46 the State user group.  
47  
48              Next slide please.  
49  
50              So now we'll delve down a little bit more

1 into the Unit 2 wolf information. You can see this is  
2 just a distribution of harvest over time. There isn't a  
3 wolf season in April, May and August. Those are wolves  
4 that get sealed but some extenuating circumstance, you  
5 know, has brought that about. It may be anything from  
6 where we find a mortality somewhere or a vehicle  
7 collision, something like that. I think the take home  
8 message with this is the majority of the animals are  
9 harvested in January and February. And then, you know,  
10 we'll see a significant increase pretty quick here in  
11 December.

12

13 Next slide please.

14

15 This is the harvest over time to show you  
16 just what the harvest trend has been, what the track line  
17 looks like. Those notes, that's an EO closure, so those  
18 are emergency order closures when we've reached the  
19 established quota. That is annually issued in  
20 conjunction with the United States Forest Service and  
21 OSM.

22

23 Next slide please.

24

25 I'm not going to read all of this to you  
26 because you'd really get tired of listening to me talk,  
27 sooner than I want you to, but I think it's important  
28 that we look back and look at the history of the wolf  
29 harvest regulations for -- and this is specific to Game  
30 Management Unit 2, and you'll have that in front of you  
31 as well and be able to refer to and if you have questions  
32 about that, you know, please don't hesitate to ask.

33

34 Next slide please.

35

36 Wolf management is challenging anywhere  
37 you go. We've known that in Alaska for many, many years,  
38 and they're learning that rapidly in the Lower 48 as wolf  
39 populations expand. One of our challenges and it's also  
40 a blessing, frankly, is that we have great Forests, very  
41 dense canopy cover and we can't see them very well,  
42 unlike the Interior, Western Alaska, Arctic Alaska where  
43 they can actually fly and identify wolves and count  
44 wolves and get a hard number for them. So we use  
45 something different. We use a DNA based technique here,  
46 where we collect the hair, grab the follicles that  
47 contains DNA, we can utilize that to identify individual  
48 animals and then through replicates of that in a given  
49 season, going out and continuing to collect hair we get  
50 recaptures. So we identify individual wolves and then we

1 identify new wolves all the time, but at the same time  
2 we're identifying wolves that we've seen before. By  
3 using that information, specific numbers of animals, we  
4 can produce a population estimate.

5  
6                   Next slide please.

7  
8                   Mr. Douville read the letter from Craig  
9 Tribal. This is some of the information that was cited  
10 there for you to have. So in 2013 we had an estimate.  
11 2014, 2015. It's also important, I think, at this point  
12 to recognize that we are operating a little bit behind.  
13 We collect the information in the fall. We actually have  
14 crews preparing as we speak to go into the field and  
15 start collecting hair again. It takes us until, not just  
16 us, it takes the lab and everybody else involved until  
17 June, the June timeframe, July timeframe to get that  
18 information out, to get the identity of the animals and  
19 the number of recaptures, things like that back to us,  
20 and then it takes a little bit of time, not much at this  
21 point, because we do have the modeling work and the  
22 statistical work, you know, somewhat down pat to produce  
23 a population estimate.

24  
25                   The map that you see on the right hand  
26 side of the slide is, it shows the original study area  
27 design, which is focused primarily in North Central  
28 Prince of Wales Island and then it shows the expansion of  
29 that area in 2014 and '15 and it also demonstrates the  
30 area that we're going to expand to in the south, working  
31 with Hydaburg Cooperative Association. We have a joint  
32 project with them beginning now, all the folks -- Mr.  
33 Natkong.....

34  
35                   MR. NATKONG: Natkong.

36  
37                   MR. SCOTT: Mr. Natkong, apparently is  
38 going to be helping us down there and that's great, we're  
39 going to be working collaboratively and I'm looking  
40 forward to seeing that project continue, as well as  
41 expand. And we'll be -- again, those guys are going to  
42 hit the ground pretty quick.

43  
44                   A couple of other notes of interest as  
45 far as 2015 goes, while we didn't expand the study area  
46 from the previous year, we did put out hair board  
47 stations, and these stations, we put out essentially  
48 pieces of plywood with barbed wire on them, we used a  
49 scent lure and bring animals into us and they rub on it  
50 and we collect the hair in that method.

1                   In 2015 we increased the number of those  
2 stations. And of great interest to all of us, is that,  
3 we collected more samples last year, quite a few more.  
4 And we also got samples in areas of the study area that  
5 had been vacant prior to that. That's good indications  
6 for us. It's good to see that animals are back in places  
7 that historically they've been as well as the more hair  
8 we catch the more opportunity we have to identify  
9 individual animals, both on the new animal side of things  
10 as well as into the recaptures.

11  
12                   Next slide please.

13  
14                   So we'll come back to the wolf discussion  
15 I'm sure, but I did want to highlight some other things  
16 that the Department and the Division has been working on  
17 and wrapping up.

18  
19                   Southeast Alaska brown bears, a great  
20 project was just recently completed in Yakutat, the field  
21 work is completed. There is analysis ongoing and  
22 publication being prepared. We went to the Yakutat area,  
23 both Unit 5A and 5B and did a brown bear population  
24 estimate. It takes a long time and it takes a lot of  
25 money and we're just getting to the end of that. Anthony  
26 Crupe and a gentleman named Lavern Byer spearheaded that.  
27 Ms. Oehlers was instrumental in that as well, as well  
28 lots of members of the community participated in that.  
29 The estimate came in lower than we've typically used over  
30 time. Back in the early '90s all of the area management  
31 biologists were asked to -- your best estimate of the  
32 number of brown bears that you would have in your game  
33 management unit and most of us were pretty highly,  
34 frankly. So it's good to have a number. Having an  
35 estimate like that is something that we can use to manage  
36 around. Typically in this area of Southeast Alaska, the  
37 big islands, Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagof we manage very  
38 very conservatively at about a four percent harvest rate.  
39 At present, based on our new information we're managing  
40 -- or we're harvesting anywhere from five to six percent  
41 and then the additional mortality, including defense of  
42 life and property kills, natural mortality, things like  
43 that, represents about seven percent of the population,  
44 all of which are acceptable. We don't want to get too  
45 high, but places around the state manage anywhere from  
46 like six to eight, nine percent, so we're well within  
47 that. And while we have that new number we don't see a  
48 lot of changes coming in the way we would recommend  
49 management programs proceed in Unit 5.  
50

1                       Next slide please.

2

3                       Brown bear management, again, you have  
4 this in front of you. You'll get tired of me reading it.  
5 It gets convoluted, frankly, I mean it just gets pretty  
6 busy. The seasons and bag limits form generally a spring  
7 season and a fall season. Unit 5 is a little bit  
8 different where a permit is issued for an entire spring  
9 and fall period. In the Inside Waters of Unit 4, again,  
10 the big islands, Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof, the  
11 spring season ends May 20th and that's largely because  
12 that's where our primarily harvest comes from. Almost,  
13 I believe it was 72 percent of our annual harvest comes  
14 from Unit 4, the runner up is Unit 5 and then Unit 1 and  
15 some of the other places make up the balance of the  
16 harvest.

17

18                       It works. Seems to be working.

19

20                       They're a long lived species, slow to  
21 reproduce, things like that, so we want to be a little  
22 bit careful with how, with the harvest rates and where we  
23 get there. And I'd e remiss to not mention, you know,  
24 we've had a pretty rough year with brown bears.  
25 Southeast Alaska, we had our fifth mauling last weekend,  
26 and that's -- I was asked just a couple of days ago,  
27 what's normal, I don't know if we know what normal is,  
28 but I know five is more than we typically will see in a  
29 given year. Had one in Haines, Yakutat, Sitkho Bay that  
30 involved two people, Shieak Bay and then most recently  
31 over in, gosh.....

32

33                       MR. WRIGHT: Neka.

34

35                       MR. SCOTT: .....Hoonah. Neka Bay, thank  
36 you.

37

38                       It's been a difficult year for that. And  
39 certainly our thoughts and prayers go out to the folks  
40 who have been injured during those events.

41

42                       Next slide please.

43

44                       This is just an example of how the  
45 Yakutat work was done. I won't spend a ton of time on it  
46 but we essentially covered the entire Forelands and put  
47 grids in. Went out and we used the same DNA technique  
48 but we used neck snares, really big neck snares that  
49 break away as a bear will pass through them, it collects  
50 hairs, it slides down the animals back and we use that to



1 identify the individuals.

2

3 Next slide please.

4

5 These are just some examples of the  
6 different methods that were used to collect that hair.  
7 We built barbed wire corrals, hung a scent lure in the  
8 middle of it, some of those corrals had game cameras on  
9 them so we got to see exactly what happened when they  
10 came through. As you can imagine bears are mischievous  
11 and they did a lot of funky things but we got a lot of  
12 hair. I think Mr. Croupe estimated we got four pounds of  
13 brown bear hair to analyze. And that's not like the  
14 underfur because we get rid of all that. We're just  
15 getting the guard hairs and the long hairs with the  
16 follicles on them. We took advantage of rub trees when  
17 they were available and then Mr. Byer, on the right side  
18 there, is setting one of the large neck snares to collect  
19 hair.

20

21 Next slide please.

22

23 And this is the estimates that we came  
24 out with. We determined -- so we're running about 2.8  
25 bears per square mile. It's -- actually, I'm sorry,  
26 about 2.2 bears per square mile. Looking at a different  
27 graphic I haven't included here, it puts us about smack  
28 dab in the middle for brown bear populations around the  
29 state. Fairly lower density, I think, that we  
30 anticipated but it doesn't put us out of the realm of  
31 possibilities. The previous population estimate for 5A  
32 was 522 bears. Our estimate is now 354 bears.

33

34 Next slide please.

35

36 Goats. Just a couple things to highlight  
37 I thought the Council would be interested in. We've  
38 talked about goats in the past. We watch them really  
39 close. The harvest is very conservative. But two areas,  
40 just this season have been -- are now providing some  
41 additional opportunity. One of them is here where a goat  
42 survey was completed fairly recently and Mr. Lowell felt  
43 like that there was additional opportunity to be had and  
44 that's available to everybody. Another area is around  
45 Sitka, where, previously it had been closed and a recent  
46 survey suggested we had enough animals to offer  
47 additional opportunity. And unlike a lot of places in  
48 the state Southeast actually issued an emergency order to  
49 open an area. And most of those animals, both here in  
50 the Petersburg area as well as around Sitka will be

1 utilized by locals. I mean those are places that people  
2 can get to.

3

4 Next slide please.

5

6 Black bear management. Again, something  
7 we've talked about over the years. Several years ago the  
8 Alaska Board of Game implemented a drawing permit hunt  
9 system for 10 unique hunt areas. That was in response to  
10 conservation concerns for several of those areas but it  
11 was also a little bit preemptive, in that, if we  
12 tightened up in one area what's going to happen to the  
13 areas around it. So we ended up with 10 of those areas.  
14 We've now gone through several years of harvest. We've  
15 also been working with the guiding industry encouraging  
16 them to maintain a specific level of harvest and they've  
17 done a great job with that. So we started to look into  
18 places that we're going to start relaxing that. That'll  
19 be a topic, that as we get up to the Alaska Board of  
20 Game, which is coming in 2019, we'll make some decisions  
21 and recommendations to the Board on which areas that we  
22 think we can get rid of those drawing permits. Some of  
23 the places, they're probably not going away, you know,  
24 Unit 3, the Kuiu Island area, certainly Prince of Wales  
25 as well and maybe a few other areas around on the  
26 mainland, but it's evolving and it's time that we start  
27 taking a pretty hard look at that, and it looks like we  
28 can provide some additional opportunity in places. And  
29 just this week, if you do any drawing hunts around the  
30 state, the drawing hunt supplements will be coming out  
31 and that period will be opening up and several areas will  
32 have an increased number of permits available to folks to  
33 get out there.

34

35 Next slide please.

36

37 And this last one I threw in as a little  
38 bit of an afterthought but I felt like this is a great  
39 group of people to have a quick discussion and some  
40 encouragement and reminder. A few weeks ago we had a  
41 tragedy in Juneau, 17 year old boy was removing a shotgun  
42 out of a pickup truck, he had been out duck hunting the  
43 day before, and nobody had unloaded the gun, it  
44 discharged and shot him in the chest and killed him. All  
45 of us in this room, likely, have -- we know about these  
46 things that happen, not just in the state of Alaska but  
47 around the country and other places, so I wanted to put  
48 a little bit of a tidbit in for our hunter education and  
49 training program. I did a little digging and it's kind  
50 of exciting to me, frankly, to look around the room and

1 the communities that you all represent, we have 67  
2 volunteer hunter education instructors around Southeast  
3 -- that's just Southeast Alaska. I can't every community  
4 here is represented in that but 99 percent of them are.  
5 And if we don't have volunteer instructors in those  
6 communities and somebody wants to do it, we'll bring them  
7 to Juneau, we'll provide them the certification and we'll  
8 help that process move forward. If we can't get that  
9 done and you need us to come to your community, please  
10 tell us, and we'll come and we'll do it.

11  
12 In the last several years we've had a  
13 couple different fatalities as well as an accidental  
14 discharge this last fall. Some guys monkeying with a  
15 handgun, it went off, and it went into a school bus  
16 window. Thankfully nobody was hurt. All three of the  
17 people that I know of just by a quick search, you know,  
18 they actually had been through hunter ed, which is, you  
19 know, unfortunate, but things happen. And I think it's  
20 a great tool for us to reach out and just get that  
21 reminder out, be careful, make sure you know, you know,  
22 the four rules. If people would just follow that, we'd  
23 probably be -- you know, we'd probably be 100 percent in  
24 doing -- you know even one person getting injured is too  
25 many in my opinion.

26  
27 And that's all I have as far as a  
28 highlight and an update for the Southeast region and I am  
29 prepared to answer questions.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

32  
33 Is there any questions.

34  
35 Mr. Kitka.

36  
37 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was  
38 just curious, it seems like bears have gotten more  
39 aggressive especially within the towns and cities in  
40 Southeast Alaska, especially in the brown bear area.  
41 Just the other day there was a bicycle riding down by  
42 Totem Park in Sitka, just riding along and he didn't  
43 realize a bear was chasing him down the bike path, a car  
44 behind him came and saw the bear and cut the bear off but  
45 it seems like they're getting very popular -- well, their  
46 population is exploding to where they're coming right  
47 into the towns and there seems to be not much we can do  
48 about it at this point. But they get real aggressive at  
49 this time of the year for some reason.

50

1 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member  
2 Kitka. Certainly my experience with brown bears has been  
3 they're grumpy, and October just kind of in general.  
4 Anecdotal, you know, we don't have research that  
5 speaks specifically why we have, you know, various  
6 behaviors exhibited by brown bears, anecdotal, talking  
7 to people who have been in the field this fall, bears  
8 have been agitated for sure. One thought is, there's no  
9 conclusive proof to it, but it makes sense to me,  
10 frankly, fish runs have been very low in some places so,  
11 you know, this year maybe exacerbated by that, this fall  
12 time of year where bears are -- they all know, time's  
13 short, it's about time for them to go and den up. We do  
14 have -- actually today we have Staff in Port Alexander  
15 looking into some of the issues they're having with brown  
16 bears in that community. And I do know that the wildlife  
17 Staff, as well as the wildlife Troopers have been,  
18 frankly, looking for the bear you've described today.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

21  
22 Ms. Phillips.

23  
24 MS. PHILLIPS: It seems like with the  
25 high amount of deer we had and then the huge deer kill  
26 off, that we had increasing populations of bear feeding  
27 on the amount of deer that went to dead, you know, ended  
28 up dead but -- and then we started seeing more sows with  
29 two and three cubs and then now more sows with older cubs  
30 with them. And so I know you don't know the number  
31 estimated population for the region, but for me, from  
32 what I'm seeing on beach fringe, riparian areas, I'm  
33 seeing more bears, more and more bears than I've ever  
34 seen before. And they are more aggressive because they  
35 are hungry.

36  
37 So that's my observation.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

42  
43 Any other questions.

44  
45 Mr. Douville.

46  
47 MR. DOUVILLE: I don't know if I have a  
48 specific question just yet but I do have a few things I'd  
49 like to say.

50

1                   You all know that the ESA was looming at  
2 us because of the wolf populations and some of us thought  
3 it was only Unit 2 but in reality the ESA was for all of  
4 Southeast. We had a couple meetings with the Department,  
5 community meetings, and the people that went to those in  
6 Craig were real conservation minded at that time because  
7 they did not want an ESA listing, it actually scared  
8 people pretty bad because it has far reaching effect.  
9 And we worked with them and we were very conservative and  
10 had suggestions and gave our opinions about, you know,  
11 what we thought should happen and we did that. The quota  
12 was lowered and we decided, well, what do you think the  
13 percentage of take should be and 25 was suggested and we  
14 actually said, well, just to make sure let's do 20. So  
15 if you lay off wolves for a couple years the population  
16 just rebounds fantastic enough, what we're seeing now,  
17 but we're being held to a really small number here. We  
18 believe we're on the high end of what you're looking at  
19 as an estimate and not the low but you fixed the quota  
20 that we take off the low end of it and not only that  
21 you've taken 50 percent for illegal harvest, which is --  
22 everybody that I've talked to disagrees with that,  
23 totally. That's totally not fair. That sets a  
24 precedence for a lot of things. We didn't complain about  
25 it the year before because -- until a decision was made  
26 on the ESA was made so no one was going to trap anyway,  
27 you know, really, just kind of backed off everything.  
28 But now there's some interest in trapping again but the  
29 quota's so low that, you know, a couple of guys that I  
30 know of said, well, you going to go out, no, there's not  
31 enough to even expend the energy.

32  
33                   You know I was at a Board of Game meeting  
34 a few years ago representing the RAC on the wolf quota  
35 and there was the -- the biologist, the bear biologist  
36 there went to the Board and wanted to reduce the bear  
37 quota by X percent, 10 or 15 or whatever it was because  
38 of, well, they decided that some bears get shot and  
39 they're not reported and they die and the Board of Game  
40 would not tolerate that at all, they -- you know unless  
41 you could document it they wouldn't listen to that and  
42 they chastised the biologist and would not go there. But  
43 administratively this has happened with what you're  
44 doing. It didn't go through the Board of Game, they just  
45 added it in there somehow administratively, and it comes  
46 from a theory that Pearson had, that the illegal harvest  
47 was equal to the legal harvest because the numbers that  
48 he provided weren't coming out right so he had to look  
49 somewhere, well where was the mistake, but I think there  
50 was a mistake in the science, it was a little off and I

1 don't think he was willing to admit any of that.

2

3 That's not true that it's the same.

4 There is some illegal harvest or unreported, but I don't  
5 think it's -- it's certainly not half.

6

7 So we got a quota of 11 wolves when it  
8 should be 22 and we think it should be higher than that  
9 because we believe there's more wolf than what their  
10 science is showing now and we have boots on the ground,  
11 we've got cameras, we got better means and methods than  
12 I think what they're using and not only that we're  
13 covering the whole unit, you're only looking at a portion  
14 of it.

15

16 So we're not happy that you did not do a  
17 public process and listen to our opinions like you did  
18 before when you were scared of the ESA but after that  
19 went away, well, hell, we'll just do this ourselves, you  
20 know, and we don't need your help or want to talk to you  
21 anymore. And I think you're not sharing information with  
22 us and it makes us less inclined to share information  
23 with you and we did do some of that but now, on second  
24 thought, well, maybe we should take that -- sit back here  
25 and be careful with what we do with you and your  
26 biologist and your program because it somehow got one-  
27 sided here, I don't like that at all. I mean your  
28 information could dry up from us.

29

30 The other thing I worry about is the  
31 researchers have a tendency to become quite -- treat  
32 these things like they're pets, kind of, you know, and I  
33 think it's easy to become a little biased, you know, I  
34 mean it's easy to do because these things are -- they're  
35 a tremendous animal and they're super, you know, and  
36 they're kind of like dogs, you know, so I worry about  
37 that a little bit.

38

39 So we need to see the numbers go up. I  
40 think that your science, like you said, lags behind. So  
41 even at a year or two, you know, your wolf population is  
42 going up, you know, because we don't eat wolves, we eat  
43 deer. We don't want to go back to the '90s where we were  
44 struggling with the non-rurals over who gets the deer  
45 because there was less deer but since then the population  
46 has come up but it's going to go back down.

47

48 Anyway, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Douville.

1 I don't know if you have a response but  
2 what I would like to see is the Council request Staff to  
3 give us a report for our next meeting, gather the  
4 information and the reasoning behind and the science  
5 behind the reasons why they reduced the quota. I'd feel  
6 more comfortable if I had the information in front of me  
7 that responds to what you're saying, Mike, and I think  
8 that this would be a good topic to address at our next  
9 meeting in more detail with information provided by  
10 Staff.  
11  
12 Did you have a comment, Mike.  
13  
14 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah. I read the tribal  
15 letter, but the City of Craig also mailed out a letter  
16 and I wish that we had that here, but it's requesting not  
17 a 20 percent cap on the quota, but up to 30 percent. You  
18 know wording like that so it would be more flexible.  
19  
20 I think that's about it -- I don't know  
21 how we're going to change this, though, this is wrong, so  
22 how does it get fixed, you know. I mean it needs to be  
23 fixed, not three years from now, it needs to be fixed  
24 soon.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Douville.  
27  
28 Mr. Hernandez.  
29  
30 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I just wanted to  
31 ask Ryan, I mean in this management, wolf management  
32 between the subsistence seasons and the State seasons, I  
33 mean you are working with the Federal managers as well in  
34 making all these decisions; is that correct?  
35  
36 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member  
37 Hernandez. That is correct.  
38  
39 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. And so, I mean  
40 obviously this Council, you know, has an advisory  
41 capacity to our Federal managers, so we could certainly,  
42 you know, make our opinions known there.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.  
45  
46 Any other questions.  
47  
48 MR. DOUVILLE: If I could say one more  
49 thing.  
50

1                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Douville. Then Mr.  
2 Wright.  
3  
4                   MR. DOUVILLE: There was no opposition to  
5 counting wolves that were illegally harvested and  
6 documented, you know, like hit by a car or, you know,  
7 unreported that you can prove taken off the quota, there  
8 was no opposition to that, but to just take 50 percent,  
9 just in case, was not acceptable.  
10  
11                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.  
12  
13                  Mr. Wright.  
14  
15                  MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do  
16 you do any kind of studies up near Glacier Bay. Because  
17 I know that -- I was talking to a hunter and he said  
18 there's no more deer on Pleasant Island because there's  
19 so many wolves on the island now. So I mean there used  
20 to be plenty of deer that used to be on that island where  
21 we used to go but now the guy said we've been walking for  
22 days trying to find one and there's no more deer there  
23 because the wolves are coming on the island. So I was  
24 just wondering, do you guys do anything up there or is  
25 everything down in this area.  
26  
27                  MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member  
28 Wright. We do. We do it on the Gustavus Forelands. And  
29 what we've learned is wolves will move back and forth.  
30 As you well know it's not very far from Gustavus over to  
31 Pleasant Island, maybe a quarter of a mile, pretty easy  
32 swim for them. So they move on and off pretty regularly.  
33 We also, you know, the folks in that community, as on  
34 Prince of Wales or here are very astute to wolf activity  
35 so we get that information as well. We've also learned,  
36 however, that wolves will move way up into Glacier Bay  
37 and they'll also go south down around the home shore area  
38 and around the corner, moving almost all the way up to  
39 St. James Bay. Certainly I've had lots of conversations  
40 with deer hunters about Pleasant Island. And not only do  
41 I have those conversations, we also have some trappers  
42 that have been working in that area as well. It's a  
43 regulatory quirk, if you will, Unit 4, Pleasant Island  
44 falls into the same game management unit as Admiralty,  
45 Baranof and Chichagof, but there happens to be a wolf  
46 season for it, which it just got -- you know, thankfully  
47 it got kind of sucked up, so we do -- actually a local  
48 Hoonah resident has been trapping over there pretty  
49 regularly. So I anticipate that we'll see numbers of  
50 deer coming back there pretty quickly.



1                   It's a good sign that we also see deer on  
2 the main land more and more so there's source populations  
3 as well.

4  
5                   And in that regard, ungulate populations,  
6 deer, moose, mountain goats, they're pretty happy right  
7 now with the mild winters especially. They -- we have  
8 pretty good indications that those populations are doing  
9 pretty well and enjoying some growth because of the lack  
10 of snow, frankly.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

13  
14                  Any other questions or comments.

15  
16                  Patty.

17  
18                  MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 These are not directed at you personally, these are my  
20 comments.

21  
22                  So ANILCA could not see this trend by  
23 NGOs using ESA to effect land management and fish and  
24 wildlife management decisions that are detrimental to our  
25 rural communities and so here we are as Federally-  
26 qualified subsistence users trying to come up with how  
27 can we reverse this trend that tends to be politically  
28 related -- I mean politically manoeuvred and so, you  
29 know, I'm asking the same question as Mr. Douville, you  
30 know, how can we put the reverse on this before there is  
31 no wolf harvest because of big NGO influence in our  
32 region.

33  
34                  Thank you.

35  
36                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

37  
38                  Any other comments.

39  
40                  Mr. Hernandez.

41  
42                  MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
43 Chairman. I don't know I just think it might be fair to  
44 ask Ryan if he'd care to kind of explain how they do come  
45 up with that 50 percent mortality, or unreported  
46 mortality factor; is it as arbitrary as Mr. Douville kind  
47 of leads us to believe.

48  
49                  MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member  
50 Hernandez.

1 I guess I have multiple comments on this.

2

3 But the first one is that Mike's right,  
4 I didn't call and say, what do you think, should we do  
5 this, and to him, personally, as well as to this Council  
6 I apologize for that. Certainly there was no malice  
7 intended with that. But, frankly, there's no excuse for  
8 not picking up the phone either and making that phone  
9 call. In regards to public outreach and the community  
10 interactions with that, I have had conversations with the  
11 district ranger, the intent is to reach out to all the  
12 parties involved and seeing when we can sit down and have  
13 a very similar conversation that we're having now.

14

15 Mr. Douville also read one letter, he  
16 indicated a second letter had come from the Craig City  
17 Council, and I believe this group was copied on that and  
18 you will be copied on my response to that as well.

19

20 So that will help with the information  
21 that I believe you'd be interested in at, I believe you  
22 have a March meeting coming, I think, so that will be  
23 coming your way.

24

25 The -- by Alaska regulation, Board of  
26 Game regulation we can allow up to 20 percent of the most  
27 recent population estimate to be harvested in a given  
28 year annually. Based on this year's estimate it was 107.  
29 whatever and we rounded up to 108 and as Mr. Douville  
30 pointed out that's 22 wolves, and also a very accurate  
31 accounting of last year and the discussions and how we  
32 move forward with establishing that quota as well.

33

34 I believe there's somewhat of a  
35 misconception in -- when we talked about unreported human  
36 caused mortality, certainly not in my mind, nor I believe  
37 in anybody else's do we immediately call that illegal  
38 activity. These are other wolves that we know were  
39 killed by whatever it might be, other wolves, we had one  
40 that got killed by another wolf or multiple wolves, or  
41 they get hit by vehicles, whatever that cause of that  
42 mortality might be, that's where -- you know that's the  
43 reduction that we see.

44

45 50 percent is not necessarily arbitrary,  
46 however, last year we used it, this year we used it  
47 again, but I can give you some background information on  
48 the thought process that went into that.

49

50 So we're aware of -- sorry I should have

1 had this out.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MR. SCOTT: We're aware of six additional  
6 wolves that wouldn't have fallen underneath harvest,  
7 legal harvest, sealed harvest, let's say. In addition to  
8 that, though, there was some additional thought that went  
9 into and this can be debated, certainly, we had multiple  
10 conversations with not only hunters but others about --  
11 and actually hunters were great, they're very  
12 forthcoming, as Mr. Douville indicated, you know, I shot  
13 one, here it is to be sealed, but I shot at three of them  
14 and I hit two or three of them, I recovered one. Now,  
15 that can be debated whether or not those should be  
16 counted or not. But if we just hear rumors about them  
17 and if we -- even in those discussions if we didn't talk  
18 to the people who were involved, we counted them as  
19 rumors, you know, I try to recognize that we can't live  
20 on rumors and, you know, really dead wolves are what  
21 counted. Having somebody tell us that they shot into a  
22 group of wolves and didn't end up recovering a couple we  
23 make assumptions that's there's probably multiple dead  
24 wolves associated with that event.

25

26 So that was part of it that went into the  
27 discussion with that.

28

29 You know, there are some bright spots  
30 here as well.

31

32 No doubt the communication needs to get  
33 better and I need to do a better job of that. Some other  
34 indications, however, as I mentioned in my previous  
35 discussion, we collected samples in pack territories that  
36 had been vacant the year before, so we know that at least  
37 wolves are recolonizing places and that's what they do,  
38 they do very well at that kind of stuff. Another good  
39 indication is that we now -- we have some data, recent  
40 data on the number of pups that have been observed, both  
41 in the study area as well as from information that people  
42 living on the island or out on the outer islands of Unit  
43 2 have sent us, and two years ago we saw one pup, well,  
44 that's not a lot. And this year we've documented 12 pups  
45 in the study area, we're aware of up to 19, 20 just  
46 through additional information as well. So the  
47 indications, I won't disagree at all with Mr. Douville,  
48 that the indications are the wolf numbers are coming up.  
49 I think I see that as a positive thing, recognizing that  
50 we don't want to have negative impacts to the deer

1 numbers as well.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

4

5 Mr. Hernandez.

6

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just a comment if  
8 I may.

9

10 You know there's a lot of, oh, I don't  
11 know how best to describe it, I guess just sort of public  
12 reactions, public feeling to, you know, regulations in  
13 general and I think it's kind of unfortunate that, you  
14 know, if people don't agree with your management  
15 strategies, your 50 percent mortality, unreported  
16 mortality is almost kind of like a cause and effect, it  
17 may increase that unreported mortality if people don't,  
18 you know, respect decisions. That's kind of just an  
19 unfortunate circumstance, and it has an awful lot to do  
20 with people's attitudes about wolves, I mean you just  
21 can't get away from it. People aren't shooting wolves  
22 out there because they want to take a wolf hide, it's  
23 essentially predator control.

24

25 You know, I've dealt with this a lot, you  
26 know, my years there just dealing with all my friends and  
27 neighbors, you know, it's like in one year over a two  
28 year period I saw 11 wolves while I was out there  
29 hunting, a pretty high number. I just made a conscience  
30 decision myself I wasn't going to shoot a wolf if I saw  
31 it anymore, given all the, you know, but still the first  
32 question, you know, I ran into a pack of five wolves,  
33 first question, how many did you get, you know, it's  
34 almost like I'm doing something wrong if I don't shoot  
35 them because I'm not doing my part yet -- it's attitude,  
36 it's a lot about attitude and, you know, it's cause and  
37 effect here, how you manage affects the way people feel  
38 about things and, you know, it almost might bring about  
39 more unreported mortality if people don't respect  
40 management.

41

42 So it's a real difficult situation, you  
43 know, and I think we just all would like to see that  
44 there's a reasonable expectation that wolves will  
45 continue to be a part of the ecosystem and it'll be a  
46 good balance and anything we can do to maintain the  
47 balance is what we ought to be doing, I guess.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

50

1 I'd like to let the Council know that  
2 we're kind of approaching the panic timeframe.....  
3  
4 (Laughter)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: .....of being at the  
7 airport on time.  
8  
9 (Laughter)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I know this is an  
12 important subject and I feel that -- I think the Council  
13 needs to weigh in as far as letting Departments know that  
14 this is an issue that needs to be addressed. But I feel  
15 that we need information from Staff to give us the  
16 science, give us the information that we can make a sound  
17 decision on. All we are doing now is just anecdotal  
18 stories, I mean, basically.  
19  
20 That's the way I feel, I don't know how  
21 the Council feels.  
22  
23 But I think that it would be important  
24 for the Council to address this issue at our next meeting  
25 in the winter and I would ask that Staff prepare an  
26 analysis and document the protocol for reducing the bag  
27 limit -- or reducing the 50 percent, it's like Mr.  
28 Douville said, and I agree with Mr. Douville and Ms.  
29 Phillips on their, we need to fix this. But like I say  
30 we're running out of time and I don't think we can make  
31 a decision on anything without being properly versed in  
32 the facts.  
33  
34 So if it's okay with the Council I'd like  
35 to move along and we've got to wrap it up.  
36  
37 (Laughter)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.  
40  
41 Is that okay with the Council.  
42  
43 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. I have a couple  
44 of quick questions, I needed -- if I may.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.  
47  
48 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is  
49 there a mechanism in place for when a bear is shot on  
50 Admiralty and isn't killed but he's out there wounded, to

1 let local hunters know. Because, man, you know, we're  
2 having non-resident hunters hunting bears on the island  
3 and sometimes I'll be out there with my son and three or  
4 four boats pass us and we don't know who they are but we  
5 know they're hunters, I'm concerned with the fact that  
6 maybe they shot a bear, wounded it and then just moved on  
7 and they're not going to come and tell me, so is there  
8 something they're required to do when they do that.

9

10 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member  
11 Howard. There is. They have to report that wounding  
12 loss.

13

14 As far as a mechanism to get it out to  
15 the public, if people call and ask our area offices, we  
16 could certainly help in that regard. I guess the good  
17 news is it doesn't happen very often, at least as far as  
18 we know, and I think we get pretty good compliance with  
19 that reporting requirement.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

22

23 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. An idea, Mr.  
24 Chair, could we put some requirement if they do that and  
25 they're passing a hunter that's hunting in the area that  
26 they let them know instead of just going past and not  
27 even telling us. That incident in Sheak was right in our  
28 backyard so -- I have ideas about preventing that type of  
29 thing happening also but the Chairman says we're on a  
30 time crunch.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Okay. I  
35 think we need to move along and if there's any other  
36 comments.

37

38 Mr. Scott.

39

40 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
41 just want to get some clarification.

42

43 Certainly we'll work with your OSM Staff  
44 and provide what they need but you specifically  
45 mentioned, Staff, if it's okay with you and with the  
46 Council, I'd like to show up in March and have this  
47 ongoing wolf conversation.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Absolutely. I think  
50 that's imperative that it's a collaborative effort to

1 compile the information that we've talked about so we're  
2 better informed as a Council and go on from there.

3

4 Mr. Wright.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT; Thank you, Mr. Chair. What  
7 I'd also like would be to get some information on the  
8 bears, you know, like in Hoonah we had a bear put down  
9 behind the school and then there was another bear there  
10 and some bear attacks and all those kind of things, so  
11 information on the bears would be good.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's a good point, Mr.  
16 Wright. I agree. I know we have an increasing  
17 population on this island of brown bears and I think  
18 that's valid information that would be useful to the  
19 Council.

20

21 Okay.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Scott.

24

25 Right now I don't know if OSM has a brief  
26 report, it'd be good if it was brief.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's  
31 Jennifer Hardin for the Office of Subsistence Management  
32 and I will be extremely brief. I only have a Staff  
33 update for you all today. We wanted to update you on  
34 folks that have left us, sadly, and then we've had a lot  
35 of new arrivals and so we wanted to fill you in on those.

36

37 Let's start with the sad news and that is  
38 we've had three folks leave since we last met with you.

39

40 As you know Chuck Ardizzone left his  
41 position as the Deputy Assistant Regional Director to  
42 take another position with the US Fish and Wildlife in  
43 Texas. Recruitment efforts have been underway for that  
44 position and they are still underway. In the meantime  
45 Stewart Cogswell is serving as the Acting Deputy  
46 Assistant Regional Director.

47

48 Deborah Coble also left OSM and her  
49 position was the subsistence outreach coordinator. And  
50 she's gone to join the National Park Service in their

1 Alaska Regional Office. We're currently recruiting to  
2 fill that position as well.

3  
4 And a real loss for us was Melinda Burke  
5 leaving her position as a Council coordinator but our  
6 loss was your gain and as you know she's now the Tribal  
7 Relations Program Manager and we're really just delighted  
8 that we'll still get to work with her in that capacity.

9  
10 We have a lot of new folks at OSM, many  
11 of them have long history in Alaska and I'll just run  
12 through those quickly.

13  
14 Scott Ayers was hired as a fisheries  
15 biologist and he came to us from the Alaska Department of  
16 Fish and Game in Anchorage.

17  
18 Gary Decossas was hired as a fisheries  
19 biometrician and he'll be providing statistical expertise  
20 and assistance with the FRMP program. He came to us from  
21 Louisiana.

22  
23 Srinath Doraiswamy has joined us as the  
24 information technology database administrator. So he'll  
25 be working with you all on our databases.

26  
27 Frank Harris has joined us, or will join  
28 us this month as a fisheries biologist. He's been  
29 working with the Fish and Wildlife Service here in Alaska  
30 for the last 14 years. We're really excited to have him  
31 come join us.

32  
33 Megan Klosterman was hired as a new  
34 wildlife biologist and she's come to us from the National  
35 Wildlife Service from the Arapaho National Wildlife  
36 Refuge Complex.

37  
38 Joshua Ream joined our team in the  
39 Anthropology Division as a new cultural anthropologist.  
40 He's an inter-disciplinary scientist and he also has  
41 connections to your region, he's been working in the  
42 Stikine region for several years monitoring amphibian  
43 populations and documenting cultural relationships to  
44 non-game species. He came to us from the Division of  
45 Subsistence at ADF&G.

46  
47 Michelle St. Peters is our new grants  
48 management specialist. She also comes to us from the  
49 Fish and Wildlife Service.

50



1                   Khris Santos was joined us as a new  
2 information technology specialist, he'll also be working  
3 on our databases.  
4  
5                   We have a new receptionist, her name is  
6 Sabrina Schmidt and she came to us from the Department of  
7 Defense.  
8  
9                   Zach Stevenson was hired as a new Council  
10 Coordinator and he has been assigned to the Western  
11 Interior region and the Northwest Arctic region. He was  
12 previously employed with the Northwest Arctic Borough as  
13 a subsistence mapping coordinator.  
14  
15                   We have a new student Graduate Pathways  
16 student trainee in the Fisheries Division and his name is  
17 Jarred Stone, and he is working on a Masters Degree at  
18 the Alaska Pacific University Fisheries Aquatic Science  
19 and Technology Lab.  
20  
21                   Finally, Katya Wessels was a hired as a  
22 Council coordinator and she is assigned to the Eastern  
23 Interior region. She came to us from the National Park  
24 Service where she's been working as -- she was working as  
25 a Beringa Program Specialist for the last 16 years.  
26  
27                   And that is my Staffing update. I hope  
28 that was brief enough for you.  
29  
30                   I have more information about all these  
31 folks if you're interested but I'm happy to answer any  
32 questions also.  
33  
34                   Thank you.  
35  
36                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Is there any  
37 questions.  
38  
39                   (No comments)  
40  
41                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Hearing none -- I don't  
42 mean to -- push you to be brief but I appreciate it.....  
43  
44                   (Laughter)  
45  
46                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: .....because I know it's  
47 getting to the point where we're not going to -- so now  
48 we're down to confirming our winter meeting.  
49  
50                   We talked about Saxman, but talking to a

1 few of the Council members -- Ms. Needham.

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I think you  
4 were probably going to say the same thing I was going to  
5 say so I didn't mean to cut you off.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead.

8

9 MS. NEEDHAM: At our last meeting I had  
10 made the recommendation that this upcoming meeting in the  
11 fall be held -- or sorry in the spring, be held on Prince  
12 of Wales Island because we have -- I've been on the  
13 Council for seven years now and we have not been to  
14 Prince of Wales and we have nine rural communities on the  
15 road system there that can access, and so I feel like I'd  
16 be remiss if I didn't remind everyone of that  
17 recommendation, and we decided at that time, or the  
18 greater body had decided at that time to have the meeting  
19 in Saxman, but now that we've just had this discussion  
20 about Unit 2 wolves, I think it would be a good idea to  
21 revisit the potential of having our next meeting on  
22 Prince of Wales so that when we have this discussion  
23 about Unit 2 wolves that we are actually there.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms. Needham.

26

27 I agree. I think it would be a good place  
28 to have the meeting. I've already asked Mr. Larson if he  
29 could investigate a cost analysis for us to go there. I  
30 don't know how the rest of the Council feels, any  
31 comments on changing it to Prince of Wales from Saxman.

32

33 Mr. Yeager.

34

35 MR. YEAGER: Thanks, Mr. Chair, I agree  
36 with that change.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opinions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So I guess what we would  
47 -- do we need to make a formal motion to change it.

48

49 MR. LARSON: Yes.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay, so I would  
2 entertain a motion.  
3  
4                   MR. LARSON: So what's the motion.  
5  
6                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: A motion to have our  
7 next meeting in Prince of Wales, so does somebody want to  
8 make that motion.  
9  
10                  Mr. Reifenhuth.  
11  
12                  MR. REIFENSTUHL: I'd like to make a  
13 motion that the fall meeting occur on a community --  
14 excuse me, the winter RAC meeting occur on Prince of  
15 Wales Island at a community that has the facilities that  
16 can house us.  
17  
18                  MS. PHILLIPS: Second.  
19  
20                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved and  
21 seconded to have our winter meeting on Prince of Wales  
22 where we can -- where there's facilities for the Council.  
23  
24                  All those in favor -- or we need a call  
25 for the question, please.  
26  
27                  MR. YEAGER: Question.  
28  
29                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Question's been  
30 called for. All those in favor of having our next  
31 meeting on Prince of Wales Island say aye.  
32  
33                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
34  
35                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.  
36  
37                  (No opposing votes)  
38  
39                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Motion carries. Mr.  
40 Larson is charged with arranging for a meeting on Prince  
41 of Wales. So now we got to choose the dates.  
42  
43                  Mr. Larson.  
44  
45                  MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. Unless the  
46 Council directs me otherwise we'll stay with March 14th  
47 through the 16th, and now we're into fall of '17.  
48  
49                  I would -- I have not received late  
50 breaking news regarding other Councils participations and

1 what dates they've selected for the fall. I've made some  
2 phone calls this morning and they were not returned. So  
3 we've run into this problem before where other Councils  
4 have, unbeknownst to us, made selections for dates that  
5 precluded us from having our first choice. But that  
6 being said, I think the only information we have in front  
7 of us is what's listed on Page 104 -- not 104, 107.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

10

11 I want to remind the Council and it's my  
12 fault, and I apologize, we discussed this, that we should  
13 probably entertain our movement at the beginning of our  
14 meeting so that we don't run into this problem of being  
15 preempted by another Council but, anyway, we're at where  
16 we're at.

17

18 Ms. Needham.

19

20 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
21 think along the same lines as that, the past two times  
22 we've had to move our meetings to other timeframes  
23 because we're the last one to pick, I think that I'd like  
24 to have a suggestion forwarded on to the Office of  
25 Subsistence Management that if we choose dates at this  
26 meeting and it corresponds with dates that another  
27 Council has done, that maybe it's the other Council's  
28 turn to defer to us because we've moved our meeting  
29 timeframe at least twice now in recent years.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy. Good  
32 point, I agree.

33

34 But we need to do, I think, now, is come  
35 up with some dates that are good for us and hopefully we  
36 can prevail.

37

38 Any suggestions on dates for our fall  
39 2017 meeting.

40

41 Mr. Schroeder.

42

43 MR. SCHROEDER: Just, if possible, late  
44 in the meeting cycle would work for me for personal  
45 reasons, that would be after AFN and even October 31, but  
46 that may be too late for other Council members.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's Halloween.

49

50 (Laughter)

1                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: What's the wish of the  
2 Council. So you're suggesting the week of October 29th  
3 to the 4th of November, that week.  
4  
5                   MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Does anybody have issues  
8 with that timeframe.  
9  
10                  MR. DOUVILLE: It's in the middle of the  
11 peak hunting.  
12  
13                  (Laughter)  
14  
15                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: They have deer tags on  
16 Prince of Wales.  
17  
18                  MR. DOUVILLE: Do they. I've never.....  
19  
20                  (Laughter)  
21  
22                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Hearing no  
23 opposition we can tentatively schedule the meeting for  
24 that week, whatever days that are appropriate for Staff  
25 to pencil us in. Now, where are we going to want to  
26 conduct the next meeting in the fall.  
27  
28                  (Pause)  
29  
30                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any suggestions.  
31  
32                  Don.  
33  
34                  MR. HERNANDEZ: Would it be appropriate  
35 to see if Saxman would host us at that point, seeing how  
36 we moved our meeting from there.  
37  
38                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Saxman seems  
39 appropriate.  
40  
41                  MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.  
42  
43                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.  
44  
45                  MS. PHILLIPS: I think we should go to  
46 the north end.  
47  
48                  CHAIRMAN BANGS: Are you suggesting  
49 Pelican.  
50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MR. SCHROEDER: Juneau.  
4  
5 MR. YEAGER: Juneau.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Juneau.  
8  
9 MR. LARSON: It's been awhile since  
10 you've met in Juneau.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It has been awhile since  
13 we've been to Juneau. Is that acceptable. We can always  
14 change it in the spring, but I mean we need to pencil in  
15 something so we can give Staff a chance to fix things.  
16  
17 Frank.  
18  
19 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair. I make a motion  
20 to meet in Juneau.  
21  
22 MR. SENSMEIER: Second.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved and  
25 seconded to have our fall meeting in Juneau the week of  
26 October 30th to November 3rd.  
27  
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved and  
31 seconded so we need to call for the question.  
32  
33 MR. KITKA: Question.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Question's been called  
36 for, all those in favor of having our fall meeting in  
37 Juneau the week of October 30th to November 3rd, say aye.  
38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.  
42  
43 (No opposing votes)  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Motion carries. Okay,  
46 that does it for our agenda.  
47  
48 There is a video and a letter that  
49 Ninilchik sent us, they wanted us to view it and give  
50 them a response. It's a video about the gillnet fishery

1 which was approved by the Federal board for subsistence  
2 in the Kenai River and it happened last winter and they  
3 sent a letter and a video. It's a short video and I  
4 would say that maybe this would be a time where, if you  
5 can't wait 10 minutes, then we'll adjourn the meeting,  
6 view the video if you want to, but definitely get the  
7 copy of the letter and read that. It's an interesting  
8 perspective from the Ninilchik Traditional Council.

9

10 Robert.

11

12 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 Closing comments.

15

16 One is I'd like to recognize Ray, as  
17 Ray's son is a movie star.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. LARSON: .....and he is one of the  
22 Magnificent Seven and it's pretty darn exciting for Ray's  
23 family and the city of Yakutat so congratulations to you  
24 and yours for that. It seems to be really important and  
25 a moment for everybody to be proud of.

26

27 And the other is that some of you  
28 incurred wifi charges at the hotel, it's not part of the  
29 corporate credit card that we can pay for, please get a  
30 separate receipt, provide that to me as well as any other  
31 receipts that you incur while traveling so I can fill out  
32 your final travel voucher and get you paid. So if you  
33 incur receipts other than -- you know that you pay for  
34 personally, make sure you give it to me, I need a receipt  
35 and we'll get you paid, don't linger on that, these  
36 things happen -- we don't want them to stay in your  
37 drawer for weeks or months so just take care of that.

38

39 And I think that's, you know, the  
40 airplane leaves -- you need to be at the airport here in  
41 45 minutes, so, thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

44

45 I'd like to thank the Staff for providing  
46 us the information and helping us through this meeting.  
47 I appreciate everyone's patience and with that I will  
48 adjourn the meeting.

49

50 Mr. Reifenstuhl.

1 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Well, I believe this is  
2 the last time that we're going to have Robert officially  
3 as the Staff at our meeting; is that correct, that's what  
4 he tells me.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'm saying no he's got  
7 to do one more meeting.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 MR. REIFENSTUHL: Well, regardless, I  
12 would like to thank Robert for all his work through all  
13 the years that I have known him, for the subsistence  
14 Staff as well Fish and Game. He's done a tremendous job,  
15 great communicator and is going to be sorely missed.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Steve. I  
20 agree wholeheartedly but I'm really counting on him for  
21 one more meeting. So I don't know, Robert.

22  
23 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Steve. And it's  
24 been a real pleasure. I've been in this business,  
25 managing fish or wildlife for 43 seasons and all good  
26 things come to an end. As far as my plans are, this will  
27 be my last Council meeting.

28  
29 So job well done, you guys are  
30 volunteers. I am constantly amazed at how willing you  
31 are to spend your resources, your valuable resources,  
32 most valuable, which is your time, to make this program  
33 a success. So I am very, very impressed.

34  
35 The Southeast Council is looked up by all  
36 of the other Councils. You know I have -- I don't know  
37 whether you know this but I've been the Council  
38 coordinator for the Yukon-Kuskokwim for a year, and I've  
39 been running -- one year for Eastern Interior and Norton  
40 Sound -- not Norton Sound but the -- the.....

41  
42 REPORTER: Seward Peninsula.

43  
44 MR. LARSON: Seward Peninsula, thank you.  
45 Got to get the water and land right.

46  
47 And all of the other Councils, the first  
48 thing they ask when they have a particularly thorny issue  
49 is well what did the Southeast Council say, what is the  
50 Southeast Council's thoughts on this topic. So you are



1 held in high regard and rightfully so, you've put in the  
2 correct amount of thought into your recommendations.  
3  
4                   So job well done everybody and we'll see  
5 -- I haven't really announced a retirement date so -- but  
6 we do have a new Council coordinator, DeAnna, and I'm  
7 assuming we're making this transition as of this Council  
8 meeting.  
9  
10                   Thank you.  
11  
12                   Goodbye.  
13  
14                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert. I  
15 just hope your retirement date is like June of next year.  
16  
17                   (Laughter)  
18  
19                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Douville.  
20  
21                   MR. DOUVILLE: Thanks, Robert, for all  
22 your help. When you first got on board you were one of  
23 those people that came from the State and I wasn't sure  
24 how things were going to work because we were struggling  
25 with things like that.  
26  
27                   But when I first laid eyes on Robert it  
28 was probably in the '60s and he was a young man working  
29 for the Department and I think he was at the Craig  
30 Cannery with, maybe Clem Tillion, or somebody, and the  
31 seiners were beating him up because they didn't like how  
32 he said the season was going to go but that was quite a  
33 few years ago. Robert has been involved a long time.  
34  
35                   (Laughter)  
36  
37                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike.  
38  
39                   Okay.  
40  
41                   Does anybody else have a comment before  
42 we adjourn.  
43  
44                   (No comments)  
45  
46                   CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.  
47  
48                   MR. HOWARD: Just a quick one, Mr. Chair.  
49 Like some people I don't like change, so I'll support  
50 your objection on him retiring.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.  
4  
5 Okay.  
6  
7 I appreciate all the help and the  
8 confidence and patience you've given me and I think it  
9 was a good meeting and with that said we'll see everyone  
10 on Prince of Wales next spring, or this winter.  
11  
12 Thank you.  
13  
14 (Off record)  
15  
16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
  ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                                )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 237 through 343  
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING, VOLUME III taken electronically on the 6th day  
of October in Petersburg, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct  
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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or  
party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day  
of November 2016.

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