

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5
6 VOLUME I
7
8 Grand Aleutians Hotel
9 Unalaska, Alaska
10 August 15, 2016
11 9:00 a.m.
12
13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
16
17 Della Trumble, Acting Chair
18 Melissa Berns (Telephonic)
19 Coral Chernoff
20 Patrick Holmes
21 Richard Koso
22 Thomas Schwantes
23 Antone Shelikoff
24 Rebecca Skinner
25
26
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage
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42 Recorded and transcribed by:
43
44 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
45 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
46 Anchorage, AK 99501
47 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Unalaska, Alaska - 8/15/2016)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'll call this
8 meeting to order. I'd like to ask and recognize our
9 past Kodiak/Aleutian Federal Subsistence Advisory
10 Council member, Vince Tutiakoff, if he's in the room,
11 I'd ask that he'd do the invocation and he's agreed to,
12 so, Vince.
13
14 (Invocation)
15
16 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
17 Vince.
18
19 If we can have a roll call.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair.
23
24 Antone Shelikoff.
25
26 MR. SHELIKOFF: Here.
27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Patrick Holmes.
29
30 MR. HOLMES: Here.
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Richard Koso.
33
34 MR. KOSO: Here.
35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Samuel Rohrer has an
37 excused absence.
38
39 Tom Schwantes.
40
41 MR. SCHWANTES: Here.
42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Coral Chernoff.
44
45 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.
46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Skinner.
48
49 MS. SKINNER: Here.
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Della Trumble.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.
4
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mitch Simeonoff.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Melissa Berns.
10
11 MS. BERNs: Here.
12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
14
15 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa, you're
16 on line, where are you at?
17
18 MS. BERNs: I'm in Kodiak. I was en
19 route and had some issues, medical issues come up with
20 my son, so I'm here in Kodiak.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
23
24 I'd like to welcome everyone to
25 Unalaska. I think this was a decision to try to come
26 here after our last meeting in Anchorage and we did
27 have some testimony from some people from this
28 community. If we can at this time, I'd like everybody
29 to go ahead and go around and say your name and who you
30 represent or where you're from, in the room, and then
31 also we'll go on line following that.
32
33 So we'll start over here with Coral.
34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm Coral Chernoff. I'm
36 from Kodiak.
37
38 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak.
39
40 MR. SHELKOFF: Antone Shelikoff,
41 Akutan.
42
43 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner, Kodiak.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Della Trumble,
46 King Cove.
47
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Rick Koso from Adak.
49
50 MR. SCHWANTES: Tom Schwantes, Kodiak.

1 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members.
2 Always great to see you guys and attend your meetings.
3 My name is Glenn Chen, I'm the Bureau of Indian Affairs
4 Subsistence Branch Chief.

5
6 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Chairman,
7 Council members. My name is Greg Risdahl. I'm the new
8 manager at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. I've been
9 at my station for almost two weeks now, but I've got 10
10 years in Alaska so -- and I've worked with several
11 other Councils; the Northwest Arctic, Seward Peninsula
12 and Southcentral. So I'm glad to be here.

13
14 Thank you for having me.

15
16 MS. KRAEGEL: Morning. My name is
17 Laura Kraegel and I am a new reporter here at the local
18 radio station, KUCB. Looking forward to just covering
19 everything for our community members who couldn't be
20 here today.

21
22 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Good morning, Council.
23 My name is Vince Tutiakoff, Sr. I'm here representing
24 several entities. The Unalaska Corporation, as Chair
25 and president. Tribal Council is cultural
26 representative for the Tribe of Unalaska. Also I'm the
27 president of the Unalaska Native Fishermen Association.
28 So hopefully you have a nice meeting.

29
30 MR. OSTERBACK: Madame Chair and
31 Council. My name is Alvin Osterback. I'm from Sand
32 Point. I'm here for another meeting but I wanted to
33 stop in and see how these meetings went.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. LIND: (In Native) Hello. Good
38 morning. My name is Orville Lind. I am from the
39 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the new Tribal
40 Native Liaison for that office. I'm excited to be
41 here. It's nice to see old friends, and I hope to make
42 new ones while I'm here.

43
44 Have a great meeting.

45
46 Quyana.

47
48 MR. DEVINE: Good morning, Madame
49 Chair. Council. Peter Devine from Sand Point. I'm on
50 the AMBCC. I represent the Aleutian/Pribilofs on

1 Migratory Birds and also the Harbor Seal Commission and
2 a few other commissions. But also here for another
3 meeting but I thought I'd stop in and see what's going
4 on over here.

5
6 MR. LEKANOFF: Hello. I'm Nick
7 Lekanoff, Unalaska. Representing OC, tribe, UNFA.

8
9 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Hi. My name is
10 Nikolai Tutiakoff. I'm here just to listen and see
11 what's going on.

12
13 MR. KELTY: My name is Frank Kelty.
14 I'm retired from positions I've had. I was a fisheries
15 advisor for the city for 15 years and worked in the
16 Alaska seafood industry for 30 years. I've been a
17 resident of Unalaska 46 years and now I'm on the
18 Unalaska City Council and I want to just say that it's
19 a real pleasure to welcome our region's subsistence
20 advisory council to Unalaska. It's something that I've
21 wanted to see for a long time, and this is your first
22 time that the subsistence council has come out here
23 from our region and I think it's very appropriate and
24 it's very important that the people of our community
25 get a chance to weigh in and we have quite a few
26 subsistence users in this area, and I think it's great
27 that you were able to make this trip. I know it's
28 expensive to get out here and we really appreciate your
29 visit to the community.

30
31 Thank you very much, and have a great
32 meeting.

33
34 MR. POLUM: I'm Taylor Polum. I'm with
35 the Department of Fish and Game. I'm the area sport
36 fish biologist for Kodiak and the Aleutians.

37
38 MR. ROBINSON: Good morning. Tom
39 Robinson. Qawalangin Tribal President. And I'm also
40 on the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association. I
41 really would like to welcome you to our town. There's
42 lots to talk about and lots to address and we all see a
43 need for improvement.

44
45 Thank you for coming.

46
47 MR. LOUDERMILK: Good morning everyone.
48 My name is Bruce Loudermilk. I'm the Regional Director
49 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and I'm also a Federal
50 Subsistence Board member.

1 MR. PRICE: Good morning. Welcome to
2 Unalaska. My name is Chris Price. I'm a resident of
3 the community of Unalaska. I also work for the
4 Qawalangin Tribe. I'm on the EPA Region 10 Tribal
5 Operations Committee. And I've worked for the tribe
6 for a number of years. I'd just like to thank you guys
7 for being here and I look forward to a great meeting.

8
9 MR. BURN: Good morning. My name is
10 Douglas Burn. I'm coordinator of the Aleutian and
11 Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative,
12 and we are one of the many co-sponsors of the Aleutian
13 Life Forum that's going to be here over the rest of the
14 week.

15
16 MR. POE: Good morning. My name is
17 Aaron Poe. I work with Douglas in the ABSILCC as we'll
18 call it for short. I'm just really excited that you
19 guys were able to pull this off and have you be here
20 this week. I'm hoping that you enjoy the proceedings
21 of the Aleutian Life Forum and are able to stick around
22 through Saturday for the Coastal Resilience and
23 Adaptation Workshop. Your voices will be really
24 helpful in that session.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MS. GOOD: Good morning everyone. My
29 name is Melissa Good. I'm with University of Alaska,
30 Alaska Sea Grant Program. I'm an Unalaska resident
31 also, I've been here about five years and also been
32 helping arrange the Aleutian Life Forum so hope to see
33 you guys there.

34
35 Thanks for coming out.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
38 If we can go ahead and go on line. If you can state
39 your name and who you represent, appreciate it.

40
41 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is
42 Kelly Krueger. I'm with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

43
44 MR. SVOBODA: Hi, good morning. This
45 is Nate Svoboda. I'm with the Alaska Department of
46 Fish and Game in Kodiak.

47
48 MS. LOWE: Hi, good morning. This is
49 Stacey Lowe, I'm the wildlife biologist at Izembek
50 Refuge.

1 MS. HOWARD: Good morning. This is
2 Ameer Howard. I'm the policy coordinator for the Office
3 of Subsistence Management.

4
5 MR. EVANS: Good morning. My name is
6 Tom Evans. I'm the wildlife biologist for the Kodiak
7 RAC. I work with OSM.

8
9 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
10 Klein. I'm a Special Assistant to the Commissioner at
11 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game listening from
12 Anchorage.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: So anyone else
15 on line.

16
17 MS. WARDLOW: Good morning. This is
18 Cindy Wardlow with Fish and Game also in Anchorage.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Again,
21 I'd like to welcome everyone. We're happy to be here.
22 I think when Vincent Tutiakoff was a member on this
23 Council for many years we'd fight to go to the outlying
24 areas within the Aleutians and, trust me, it's a battle
25 for us each and every time we do and when we do, and
26 are finally able to, we are pretty happy. We've been
27 trying to get to this community, the Pribilofs, Adak,
28 and technically this meeting was, at some point
29 earlier, about a year and a half ago, was potentially
30 going to be in Sand Point. Given that we have the
31 Aleutian Life Forum and being able to attend both this
32 meeting and that meeting at the same time, is much
33 appreciated by all of us and we thank all of you that
34 are here in the room today and on the phone.

35
36 I am the Co-Chair of the
37 Kodiak/Aleutian Federal Subsistence Advisory Council.
38 Mitch Simeonoff is not here, we're not exactly sure
39 where he's at, we haven't been able to contact him.
40 Possibly maybe he's on his way, we don't know. But
41 until then I'll go ahead and Chair the meeting.

42
43 Karen, is there anything else I need to
44 bring up at this time for anybody.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
47 Chair. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Karen
48 Deatherage. I'm the Council Coordinator for the
49 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
50 and I appreciate all of you being here.

1 For those of you who have just stepped
2 in or who have not yet signed the sign-in sheet on the
3 back table, please do so so we know you're here.
4 There's also plenty of materials there that you can
5 help yourself with. And one point I would like to make
6 on behalf of the Council is make a particular thank you
7 to Doug Burns and Aaron Poe who are here with the LCC
8 for their help in the travel funding to get our Council
9 here out to Unalaska. I'd like to recognize that on
10 behalf of the Council, and your gift to the Council.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Karen.

16
17 We'll move on to review and adopt the
18 agenda. Are there any additions to the agenda.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
21 Chair. Yes, there are a couple of additions to the
22 agenda.

23
24 Under new business, we're adding as the
25 Item No. C, before charter review, a memorandum between
26 the State of Alaska and the Federal Subsistence
27 Management Program. The memorandum of agreement --
28 copies of that memorandum of agreement, the draft, are
29 back on the back table, they're also included in your
30 packet as the last item in your supplemental materials.

31
32 The next item we would add under agency
33 reports, which is the Buskin River Salmon update by
34 Tyler Polum who is here from ADF&G.

35
36 That's all I have for now.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen, you also
41 -- is that the handout that -- there's another handout
42 that was added for report.

43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Yes, we
45 do have another handout from ADF&G but I'm not sure if
46 there's somebody who is going to be able to do a short
47 presentation on that handout. The person that was
48 supposed to do that was unable to make the meeting. Is
49 there anybody on the phone from ADF&G that would like
50 to be added to the agenda to make the short report on

1 the subsistence activities out here in the Aleutian
2 region.
3
4 MS. KLEIN: Hi, this is Jill. Maybe I
5 can look into -- I don't know if anyone is listening
6 who -- or is Lisa Olson, are you -- she was maybe going
7 to call in, I can find out if Subsistence Division, or
8 whoever is responsible for those reports could talk to
9 it.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. If we can
12 have a motion at this point to.....
13
14 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, go
17 ahead.
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: Motion to accept the
20 agenda as revised.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: A motion made by
23 Tom Schwantes.
24
25 MR. KOSO: Second.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by
28 Richard Koso. All in favor signify by saying aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
33 sign.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
38 Pat.
39
40 MR. HOLMES: I had my hand up on
41 hopefully a couple other items and we could put it at
42 the end on old business. I think it would be
43 productive to have a couple comments on the
44 predator/prey ruling that was adopted on Wednesday of
45 this last week. And I was hoping that, perhaps, Nate
46 Svoboda, with Fish and Game could give us a little
47 highlight on the critters there on Kodiak, on their
48 status.
49
50 And, I don't know, I'm old, I forgot

1 the other item.
2
3 Thank you, Madame Chair.
4
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I think
6 we can cover that under old business, under predator
7 control, Pat's concerns there on that one.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, so any
10 other items at this point. We have a motion made to
11 approve the agenda as amended, and a second by Richard
12 Koso.
13
14 All in favor signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
19 sign.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carries.
24 Apologize for that, Pat, I didn't see you in the
25 corner, I'm used to you being on the left of us.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MR. HOLMES: I'll get a flag.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
34 move on to the previous meeting minutes, a motion to
35 approve.
36
37 MS. SKINNER: Move to approve.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made to
40 approve, do I have a second. Do I hear a second.
41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
43
44 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Tom.
45
46 Discussion.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 MR. SHELIKOFF: Second.

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we have
2 two seconds. All in favor of approving the minutes of
3 the last meeting signify by saying aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
8 sign.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
13
14 I see at this point we have a couple
15 more people that stepped in the room, if you can go
16 ahead and sign in and then we'll just take a second
17 here, if you can also introduce yourself, we'd
18 appreciate it.
19
20 So, Jim, before you sit down, maybe you
21 can come up and tell us who you are.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe he didn't
26 hear.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 MR. PAULIN: Yes, good morning. I'm
31 Jim Paulin from the Bristol Bay Times, Dutch Harbor
32 Fishermen Weekly Newspaper, reporting on the meeting.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Vincent reminded
37 me, there's a green paper in the very back of the room,
38 he's raising it right now, if you would like to testify
39 or would like to speak, just go ahead and turn that up
40 to the front here and we'll be happy to recognize you
41 during the course of this meeting. We always try to
42 keep that open as we've done in the past.
43
44 Okay, with that, would you like to come
45 up and introduce yourself.
46
47 MS. MOLLER: Yeah, good morning. Sorry
48 I came in the front door, I like to make an entrance, I
49 suppose. Sandra Moller, I'm with the Ounalashka
50 Corporation, director of Operations.

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Sandra.
3
4 We'll move on at this time to Council
5 member reports. We'll go ahead and start on this side
6 with Coral.
7
8 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I'm Coral
9 Chernoff from Kodiak.
10
11 I do a lot of subsistence gathering,
12 eating and then I'm a Native natural materials artist.
13 I work with a lot of fish skins and all that kind of
14 stuff so I'm out there all the time.
15
16 I think this year in Kodiak, it's been
17 really, really warm. We had a really warm winter. All
18 our populations seem to be really healthy. Deer, goat,
19 salmon. The salmon seem to be trickling in rather
20 late, the humpies and the silvers. I think our red
21 salmon run was -- well, according to my fisherman son,
22 they did well, so I don't know how it was overall.
23 We'll probably hear that later from Tyler.
24
25 This year in Kodiak we did have a PSP
26 case. I think the lady got very sick. I ate clams
27 myself so I don't know what's going on there with --
28 but it's never good to get cases of PSP and I think
29 they -- I haven't heard reports of what those levels
30 were. I don't know if they've got those reports back.
31
32 We're very excited to perhaps have a
33 Emperor Goose hunt coming up. I've never, myself,
34 hunted emperors, I think it's been closed all my
35 lifetime, at least my hunting lifetime.
36
37 We have a crayfish issue that, they
38 seem to be studying this year. We've got crayfish in a
39 pretty major river of ours. Personally, I ate some a
40 few days ago. Some people I know within two days --
41 some kids were out gathering them. Within a few days
42 they gathered about almost 80 crayfish and had a
43 crayfish boil. So they seem to be doing quite well in
44 our lake and river there at home.
45
46 I'm very happy to be here out in Dutch
47 Harbor and I know we've pushed to be here in
48 Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. I'm excited to meet you all and
49 hear what you have to report and hear any concerns you
50 may have.

1 Thank you.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
4 Coral.
5
6 Pat.
7
8 MR. HOLMES: I'll just try to pick up
9 on some of the things Coral didn't mention. I'm really
10 tickled to be back here. I worked in the Aleutians in
11 the mid '70s, in the '80s, in the '90s and then the
12 last time the price of oil dropped to 17 bucks a
13 gallon, I was encouraged to retire.
14
15 But Unalaska and Atka have been some of
16 my favorite places. Like one of the elders in Unalaska
17 that passed, Walter Dyakanoff, said, this is the start
18 of the real world. He was a really swell guy. When
19 Vince was on our Council, he asked me to quit asking
20 about old-timers in Unalaska because whenever I did,
21 they'd already passed the bar. So really wonderful
22 people here.
23
24 On our salmon, Coral hit it pretty
25 well. The pink numbers were way down, but the ones
26 that survived and came back were huge. I got a 10-
27 pounder and I heard one of the tenders got a 14-pound
28 pink over at Mush Bay on the west side, so that's
29 extraordinary.
30
31 I finally figured out what was wrong
32 with the motor for my dory, so I got back to
33 gillnetting like I usually do and pretty much filled
34 out two permits and gave away 60 percent of my fish.
35 Took some people out that couldn't do it and I'm sure
36 some of the folks knew Iver Malutin on Kodiak and so I
37 made sure that his wife got a bunch of reds and pinks.
38
39 At one point the halibut seemed to be
40 quite a bit smaller. Probably 30/40 percent smaller at
41 a given age than they used to be. And I went to a
42 meeting and there was quite a bit of concern expressed
43 by the biologists and the fishermen as to the cause of
44 whether it's a lack of food or who knows. I don't know
45 what the competition is there.
46
47 And I would like to go along with Coral
48 and put a great big attention star on the crawdads in
49 Buskin Lake because in other parts of the Lower 48
50 these crawfish came up from northwest Washington and

1 I'm pretty sure that they would be eating salmon eggs.
2 If they get up to the northern, most of the reds in the
3 Buskin are shore spawners and I think that could be a
4 real disaster for us and really require some changes on
5 what's the desired escapement. So that's a potential
6 really big problem because the Buskin is the major
7 sockeye producer for subsistence for our island.

8

9 Thank you, Madam Chair.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

12

13 Antone.

14

15 MR. SHELKOFF: I don't have much. I
16 have a report of the subsistence activities that
17 happened in the last couple of months.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

20 Rebecca.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. Well, Coral
23 and Pat covered most of the comments that I was going
24 to make. I participated in the Emperor Goose calls as
25 well and I'll be happy to hear the update later today
26 about hopefully a hunt that will happen in 2017.

27

28 We have had odd weather, warm winter.
29 We had early berry flowers and I think the whole early
30 warm season has just continued since March or April.

31

32 I also am concerned about the crayfish
33 in Buskin Lake and Buskin River. As Pat said, this is
34 the primary subsistence salmon for Federal subsistence
35 purposes on the Kodiak road system. I think right now
36 it's not clear what impact the crayfish might be having
37 on the salmon, but I think the crayfish population has
38 escalated so rapidly that this is an area of concern
39 for Kodiak.

40

41 We did host the North Pacific Fishery
42 Management Council for their June meeting in Kodiak.
43 That was pretty exciting to have the whole Council in
44 Kodiak. We had really good public participation and
45 attendance, so that was a good event.

46

47 I am also happy to be in Dutch Harbor.
48 This is the first time I've been out here, so it's
49 really exciting to get out to the different communities
50 in our region. I know it's hard to get from out on the

1 Chain to -- we seem to have a lot of meetings in Kodiak
2 and the travel is difficult, so I'm very excited to be
3 out in this community. We landed yesterday and I was
4 just impressed with how beautiful it was, but I hear
5 it's going to rain for the rest of the week, but I'm
6 glad to be here.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
11 Rebecca.

12

13 Rick Koso.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Good morning. It's a
16 pleasure to be here in Dutch Harbor. It's been 20
17 years, I think, since I've been here last. I used to
18 fish out here quite a bit back in the '80s and '90s,
19 '70s. But, anyway, I'm representing Adak. Been in
20 Adak since 2001. I think when Vince started things up
21 out there.

22

23 But Adak right now is doing real well
24 as far as subsistence goes. The salmon, the halibut,
25 they're not having any problem getting their
26 subsistence. The problem we ran into this summer was
27 getting permits. Cold Bay is closed -- I don't know if
28 they closed their office down there or what it was, but
29 they were having to go to Sand Point to get it and
30 nobody knew that. So that was a problem we had out
31 there as far as connections to try to get permits to do
32 their subsistence.

33

34 Outside of that Adak is, you know, a
35 pretty happy crew that the Federal government wasn't
36 able to get the funding or whatever to kill off them
37 caribou on Kagalaska, so that was a good thing for Adak
38 and the people.

39

40 Outside of that everything has gone
41 well that I know of. You know, because of the low
42 population we have in Adak we don't have too much
43 problem with getting our subsistence. We do have a
44 little bit of a problem with, you know, hunters coming
45 in. We've been getting a tremendous amount of hunters
46 coming in to hunt caribou, so it's real hard to find
47 caribou again on the road system in Adak, but most
48 people have to take a boat or skiff now to get a
49 caribou to get around the island.

50

1 One of the things I'd like to do is
2 maybe try to get another survey done on that caribou
3 herd out there if that's possible. Anyway, that's
4 about it for Adak.
5
6 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.
7
8 Tom.
9
10 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. Members.
11 Some of this has already been touched on. Deer
12 population on Kodiak has really rebounded. We're
13 seeing way more deer now than we have in the last
14 several years. Also seeing a significant increase in
15 the sea otter population, which is having an impact on
16 the crab and shellfish populations.
17
18 Since most of everything else has been
19 covered, I'm going to take just a minute to express my
20 frustration with the National
21 Park Service and the Federal government over
22 implementing these predator control regulations. As
23 far as I'm concerned, they're totally ignoring the
24 subsistence users in the state of Alaska. From my
25 perspective, the fight has just started. We're going
26 to do everything we can to get those regulations
27 overturned.
28
29 Again, it's great to be here in Dutch
30 Harbor. It's been a long time. I appreciate all the
31 efforts of those who put in to get us out here.
32
33 Thank you.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
36
37 Melissa.
38
39 MS. BERNES: Yes, hi. My name is
40 Melissa Bernes and I am from the village of Old Harbor,
41 which is on the southeast side of Kodiak Island, a
42 population of about 230 people. We just got done
43 wrapping up a successful 2016 Nuniaq Culture Camp on
44 Sitkalidak Island where we had subsistence harvesting
45 demos for deer and halibut.
46
47 I just want to say that we're really
48 thankful for obtaining an educational permit from ADF&G
49 for our deer harvest and also to Kodiak's National
50 Wildlife Refuge for the processing equipment. We were

1 able to learn dehydrator and grinder and pressure
2 cooker, all of which were used for our demonstrations
3 at our camp. We also had mask carving, Alutiig
4 dancing, model kayak building.

5
6 We had Julie Matweyou with UAF come out
7 and work with our kids on a two-day workshop on PSP,
8 which was really well received and really important.
9 As Coral mentioned, there was a situation with PSP, so
10 the more we can get education out amongst the users the
11 better.

12
13 We also did canning of salmon, plant
14 identification, natural dyes and much more. We had a
15 really successful camp and I know that Mitch had his
16 camp going on down in Akhiok at the same time and we
17 were fortunate to have a nice streak of weather for us.

18
19 We do have a healthy deer population in
20 and around Old Harbor. Many of our locals have already
21 been taking advantage of that and adding to their
22 freezers.

23
24 Commercial salmon fishing has been slow
25 with the late return for our local fleet. As we go
26 into the fall, many of our community members will be
27 preparing to put up their fish for the winter, so we're
28 hopeful that those silvers are just doing a straight
29 shot up into our creek and we can have a successful
30 fall subsistence harvest season.

31
32 I apologize for not being there. I
33 haven't been to Dutch Harbor in probably about eight
34 years and it is a beautiful, beautiful place. I was
35 looking forward to being there and meeting with the
36 residents and hearing your needs and concerns regarding
37 subsistence. So I will be here on the teleconference
38 for the next two days and hopefully I can hear from you
39 guys through that.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
44 Melissa. My name is Della Trumble. I'll just kind of
45 basically report I think for my area. We all had --
46 most everybody has had a very extremely early spring
47 and summer this past year. You know, it's really
48 unusual to see berry bushes starting to get leaves on
49 them in April. The harvest of berries this year is very
50 early and a lot. A lot of berries, which is one of the

1 reasons I didn't want to be here today. Gotta get the
2 berries.

3

4 Our fishing season right now in our
5 region is closed for pinks. It's interesting to hear,
6 I think, that other areas are coming in maybe slower
7 later, but it's going to be interesting, I think, to
8 see what happens here in the next couple weeks.

9

10 Caribou, the 9D, the State did open the
11 caribou for one per hunter this year and people are
12 registering online. The Federal has the 15 permits per
13 the five communities and I know some of those
14 communities were still doing the drawing when I left.
15 I've talked to, I think, the Refuge manager and staff
16 recently about that going on in Cold Bay. So there's a
17 little bit of confusion between the State and the
18 Federal and then the Federal permits try to explain to
19 everyone you need to be a resident of the communities
20 to qualify for that. So that's basically going on.

21

22 Other than that, I think it's been a
23 very warm spring and summer, lots of rain and it's
24 going to be very curious to see what our winter turns
25 out to be this year. Pretty mild all through last
26 year.

27

28 With that, I kind of just would say if
29 anybody in the public would like to make any comments
30 on the tribal reports at this time. After we do that
31 I'd like to go ahead and take a 15-minute recess or
32 maybe we should just kind of do that right now.

33

34 I don't have the Chair's report.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: For Mitch?

37

38 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: For Mitch. We
39 don't have the Chair's report at this time. What I'll
40 go ahead and do is move on to the public and tribal
41 comments. At this point I'd like to recognize Mitch
42 Tutiakoff and he would like to talk a bit about the
43 Emperor Geese hunts. Mitch. Vince, I'm sorry.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I was looking around
48 here. That's what happens at these Council meetings,
49 you know. They don't want to hear you, they call a
50 different name.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Well, I'd like to start
4 off by welcoming the Council to Unalaska. It's been 38
5 years ago when we started this process, the Federal
6 Subsistence Kodiak/Aleutians. I was one of the first
7 ones on the Council for many years.

8

9 As was mentioned and talked about, we
10 need to get out to our communities in the Aleutians.
11 Federal funding as it is today, you're very lucky to
12 get to be here and I appreciate you being out here to
13 get a little different view about what we're doing
14 here.

15

16 I'll talk a little bit about
17 subsistence hunting and fishing in general. It's been
18 pretty much of a battle here in this community to get
19 birds. We're kind of afraid to eat them. Some are --
20 our bay is so polluted within 12, 14 miles of Unalaska
21 you no longer go on the beach to gather. It's very
22 polluted. I know the tribe may speak to it later, but
23 we have a lot of concerns with campsites that are
24 polluted. Thirty, forty years ago you could go down
25 the beach and have breakfast or have lunch. Today you
26 don't do that.

27

28 I invited my son Nick to be at this
29 meeting so he can start getting involved. The reds
30 this year into McLees Lake was pretty high. I think it
31 was 38,000, maybe more. The count quit after a month
32 and a half. There was so many reds going up there.

33

34 The humpies in this area are just now
35 showing up within the last three to four days and
36 they're large, as was mentioned by someone up there.
37 They're very big humpies. I mean they look like dog
38 salmon. Yesterday I was out and gathered about 60
39 humpies for elders and myself and I was kind of
40 surprised at the size of them, but they're just now
41 starting to show up, so we'll see how they run.

42

43 The dogs are also large and huge.
44 They're just starting to
45 hit the bays here. No silvers yet. I've seen them out
46 at Priest Rock and in the past jumping, but they're not
47 in here yet, so they're on their way.

48

49 I want to speak a little bit about
50 hunting of Emperors. It's going to be almost 20, 25

1 years. That's a whole generation of kids that have
2 missed out on traditional hunts. Basically we're going
3 to have to retrain a whole group of hunters, and one of
4 them is sitting behind me, about how to hunt them, what
5 you need to take and not take with you and how many you
6 take and why you take them. You just can't teach
7 somebody that in a classroom. That has to be done on a
8 hands-on basis. So I'm looking forward to the hunt.

9

10 At this last culture camp this last
11 summer, just a week ago, we're starting to teach our
12 young kids about hunting seal and how to clean them and
13 field dress them and what to utilize. We bring it into
14 the camp for the kids to show them what parts are good
15 and what parts are not and how we use them.

16

17 I'd like to mention the culture camp,
18 Camp Q as we call it. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife is a
19 big part of this program. They donate every year or
20 contribute \$15,000 to this community of Unalaska and we
21 appreciate their funding. This year the Tiglax was
22 here and anchored up right outside the bay. They spent
23 the whole day taking kids in and out from the beach to
24 the boat. Gave them a two-hour tour, whatever hour, 55
25 kids and 21 mentors were able to participate with the
26 Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

27

28 This year was our 19th year of culture
29 camp and next year they're planning a big 20-year
30 celebration, which will include invites to all the
31 communities that have culture camps to send a
32 representative or group to celebrate with us 20 years
33 of culture camp here in this community.

34

35 The concerns I have with the Department
36 with this process is being able to communicate the
37 issues on a timely basis. I know that regulations, and
38 I've been part of this, is very frustrating. We have
39 to follow certain guidelines and something
40 happens to our environment out here a lot faster than
41 the reaction by the Subsistence Board or Department of
42 Fish and Game. I mean it's just the way it is.

43

44 Maybe the tribal council, when they
45 speak, will talk about the issues that have depleted
46 our halibut. For the last 10 years they've allowed
47 dragging within our bays, within two miles or a mile of
48 our community. They've taken the subsistence halibut
49 right out of our diet. We have to travel 20, 25 miles
50 just to get halibut now. It's both dangerous and we

1 have a small group of elders and we're losing them
2 faster these days. They're crying out for subsistence
3 foods and we have to travel further to get it, but we
4 do. There's three or four of us that do that.

5
6 So as you do your deliberations in the
7 next couple of days, I'll be in and out, but I'm here
8 as a community member and also as a past board member I
9 understand what the issues are. If you need any
10 counsel or advice on how to deal with an issue, I'll be
11 available to speak with you.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
16 Vince. Is there any questions for Vince at this time
17 from the Council.

18
19 Pat.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Vince, Tom Robertson spoke
22 to us at the all-Council meeting in March about some
23 difficulties here with the competition with nonresident
24 cannery workers getting resident fishing licenses and
25 competing at Summers Bay and other places. Have you
26 folks been able to reach some resolution on that?

27
28 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Well, I'll be surprised
29 -- this year I saw maybe a quarter of those kinds of
30 activity compared to the last two to three years. I
31 think a lot of it had to do with the
32 recognition by the enforcement agencies here. They
33 made a
34 presence this year to actually go out in the field or
35 go down to the beaches and check for IDs and licenses.
36 Word must have got around because there weren't that
37 many this year as there has been in the past. I did
38 notice that.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Have you had problems with
41 people snagging at the mouth of Unalaska Creek?
42 Because there's so few reds returning, that would be
43 quite a concern I would think.

44
45 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I don't know if it's as
46 much snagging at the mouth of the creek, Pat, as much
47 it is the size of the gillnets and as many as there are
48 put out in the front beach when the reds are running.
49 I have complained about it before and brought it to the
50 Unalaska Advisory Board here that maybe we ought to

1 have a limit size of net. Some of these guys have 250-
2 300 foot nets and there would be 14, 15 of them running
3 the whole length of Front Beach. There's no way fish
4 are going to make it up that creek.

5
6 This year was not as bad as last year.
7 Most of the people went with the bigger boats, the guys
8 with the \$150-200,000 speed boats. They now run out to
9 McLees Lake or over to, weather permitting, Volcano
10 Bay. I think they got the word last year. There were
11 a lot of complaints from locals, people that put out a
12 50 or 60-foot net, that's all they've got, and they
13 were not getting any fish.

14
15 The count, we'd like to see a weir put
16 in in this community. We're working with the city and
17 the tribe, the UNFA group, Unalaska Native Fishermen's
18 Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
19 to try and get a weir or some mechanism of counting
20 salmon going up into Unalaska Lake and Summers Bay
21 Lake. We're still in the process of discussing that.
22 Hopefully we get something done this next year.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Have you had any
25 discussions -- I know Frank's here and very sensitive
26 about Unalaska area, the lake and the reds. When I was
27 here, I moved the marker south. One thing you might
28 want to consider as a community would be to talk with
29 Lisa Fox. She's the commercial fish gal for this area.
30 She has Arnie Shaw's job now. And just come up with
31 what you think would be a good portion of the beach to
32 just flat keep closed until Unalaska shows some
33 improvement.

34
35 And then, as you do, the folks that are
36 dedicated subsistence fishermen, help out some of the
37 old-timers that would have normally fished there
38 because that seems to be the -- gosh, 20 years ago that
39 was a problem and, you know, it's certainly a lot worse
40 I would assume.

41
42 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. And maybe Frank
43 can speak to that because he is on the Fish and Game
44 Advisory Council and maybe they have discussions that I
45 haven't been privy to. I'm not on that council or
46 board. So whenever he gets up to speak maybe you could
47 nail him with that one.

48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, because I was
2 thinking that if, you know, your community as a whole,
3 the tribes and the AC were to endorse that, you know,
4 our Council could also write a letter of recommendation
5 to the Fish and Game lady for them to consider moving
6 the markers and just do it on a temporary basis until
7 stocks improve. That's something we could help with, I
8 think.

9
10 MR. TUTIAKOFF: We talked about putting
11 in like two, maybe three days a week allow fishing from
12 9:00 am until like 5:00 pm and no larger nets than 100-
13 150 feet and no more than seven or eight nets a day.
14 If that meant we had to do a lottery, then that could
15 be done. You know, pick the names of people who could
16 fish that day. But there has to be something done.
17 There's very poor run of reds this year in those
18 creeks.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
21 If somebody can let me know. It's my understanding
22 that Lisa is -- is she coming in today, Lisa Fox? For
23 some reason I'm thinking I heard that yesterday.
24 Hopefully that will be the case.

25
26 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Wait. Rebecca
29 would like to make some comments, Vince.

30
31 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay.

32
33 MS. SKINNER: I had a question. I
34 think this has been answered. I wanted to confirm that
35 when you're talking about trying to limit the gillnets
36 by the river, you have been communicating with the
37 local fish and game advisory committee?

38
39 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Uh-huh. Yes.

40
41 MS. SKINNER: Okay. And then my
42 comment would be anybody can put in a proposal to the
43 Board of Fish, so you certainly don't have to wait for
44 your local committee to do that.

45
46 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I was trying to
47 alleviate the political impacts of the \$150,000 vessels
48 versus what I run around in, most people do. You know,
49 get them to move out where the salmon are and give us
50 an opportunity with the smaller nets to fish.

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I
2 certainly understand the politics of fishing, but
3 sometimes when it comes down to it, you've got to do
4 what you have to do.
5
6 Thank you.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
9 Vince. Any more comments. Thanks.
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Antone.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry,
14 Antone.
15
16 MR. SHELIKOFF: I'd just like to make a
17 comment on the polluted beaches. Maybe Pat can write
18 them a letter from this Council. That's all I suggest.
19
20 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
21 Thank you, Vince.
22
23 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay, thanks.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Taking these in
26 order as I'm getting these, the next person that I have
27 is Chris Price.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thomas Robinson.
32
33 MR. TUTIAKOFF: He just left for
34 another meeting.
35
36 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll come back
37 to these. Peter Devine.
38
39 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 I wanted to talk about the -- where the heck is it now.
41 I've got caribou control down. What is that? Okay,
42 it's under 33, Alaska Maritime halts the cattle.....
43
44 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can you show us
45 what document or can we see what document you're
46 looking at or where.....
47
48 MR. DEVINE: No, I'm looking on your --
49 what's inside. On 33 you have caribou control. I was
50 wondering what that was. I know the Fish and Wildlife

1 Service wanted to remove cattle from Chirikof and
2 Wosnesenski, but how did caribou get involved? I know
3 there's caribou on Unga Island. Is that what this is
4 about?

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Devine, through
7 Madame Chair. This is Karen Deatherage. There was a
8 proposal to remove caribou from Kagalaska and also --
9 as an invasive species and also to remove cattle and
10 the funding was taken by Congress to enact those
11 programs. So what you have in your meeting book on
12 Page 33 is a copy of the press release that discusses
13 that the funding is no longer available for those
14 programs. So that's what's in there. But it had been
15 a proposal, but the funding was removed. Does that
16 answer your question?

17
18 MR. DEVINE: Yes. Kinda, sorta.

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: There were concerns by
21 the Refuge about the impacts of caribou as well as
22 cattle on the natural vegetation and the native species
23 on those islands. So there was a proposal to remove
24 them, but there's no funding available anymore to do
25 that.

26
27 MR. DEVINE: Okay. Well, I would like
28 to speak in opposition of removing anything from the
29 islands. I mean with what's happening in the oceans, I
30 mean this is our food security. I mean this is what
31 we're going to live on when we can't, you know, fish
32 anymore.

33
34 I don't know if this is the place to
35 say it, but we want to introduce elk to one of our
36 islands and that's going to be quite a hurdle, but we
37 have a chance coming up this next year to do it because
38 the conservation group up there by Anchorage they're
39 closing shop and we have a chance to get 15 elk. A
40 couple years ago we got a couple new bison to add to
41 our herd on Popof Island and those have done real well.

42
43 That's all I have.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
48 Peter, just maybe -- the Fish and Wildlife was trying
49 to remove -- was basically have funding to remove the
50 caribou on Kagalaska. There was an EIS process that

1 had gone on for a couple years prior to that on both
2 the cattle on Wosnesenski and Chirikof and also the
3 Adak caribou issue. What basically has happened is the
4 senator took the funding for those out of the
5 Interior's bill, so they're not allowed to continue to
6 move forward with that.

7

8 Just to kind of reinforce what Peter is
9 talking about, I think, is on Unga Island, that there
10 are a number of caribou there, and his concern is that
11 they go through the process of removing them also.
12 Peter, I think, and just anybody here understand we
13 fought, this Council, very hard on all of those issues
14 and it's a big concern when we look at the fact that we
15 can speak and by recognition our comments or proposals
16 or papers supporting or not supporting an issue go on
17 record.

18

19 The concern that we've always had when
20 you look at the issue is that -- taking the issue that
21 was brought up earlier on
22 predator control, all the Councils and RACs did not
23 support this issue in the state, but yet they passed it
24 last Wednesday. It's law.

25

26 So I question -- and I know that Vince
27 a couple of times that he has been a member of this RAC
28 and other members in the past have basically expressed
29 that concern, is why are we here and we continue to do
30 what we do and we can't compete on a national level
31 when you're getting to the processes of EAs. I've
32 always wondered if there was some sort of weight system
33 that we can use because we can't be technically
34 represented.

35

36 Understand, you know, some part of this
37 is my opinion, but the other part of it is just being a
38 part of this process and where we end up at times it is
39 frustrating, but we just continue to battle it like
40 other -- you know, Tom has mentioned we will
41 continue to do what we have to do, representing the
42 people that we serve.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 Frank Kelty.

47

48 MR. KELTY: Madame Chair. Members of
49 the RAC. Hi, my name is Frank Kelty. I'm speaking for
50 myself and also as chairman of the Unalaska AC,

1 advisory committee. Thanks, Vince, for putting a word
2 in for me to come up here. Anyway, once again, welcome
3 to town on behalf of the city and the city council.

4
5 The Unalaska AC, as a matter of fact,
6 is having a meeting tomorrow night and one of the
7 issues on the agenda naturally is salmon sport fish
8 issues and subsistence. I think we made some
9 improvements through the lead that the Unalaska AC took
10 on getting more enforcement involved. As many of you
11 know, the State patrol vessel Stimson used to be home
12 ported here. It's now been moved to Kodiak, so we lost
13 all our troopers except for one trooper. In the
14 summertime, the trooper has to go to Bristol Bay
15 because of the lack of State resources to have
16 enforcement help up there.

17
18 So now we're encouraging local people
19 to make phone calls if they see activities going on.
20 We have our local police department going out and
21 having a presence out there in the Summers Bay Lake
22 area. We've brought this up to the Board of Fish, put
23 in an agenda change request this year for Summers Bay
24 for the sockeye regulations to keep sport fish people
25 250 yards off the mouth of Summers Bay Lake River,
26 similar to what it is for coho. Hopefully that will be
27 considered by the Board of Fish in October.

28
29 We're also considering tonight some of
30 the subsistence issues on Front Beach, which is a very
31 delicate and political issue because you've got a
32 combination -- there's a lot of nets out there, but
33 some are long-time residents of the community that have
34 a real need to harvest fish. They don't have vessels
35 that can get out to Reese Lake and McLees Lake and then
36 you have other people that have maybe more resources,
37 but they're putting their nets out too.

38
39 We've talked about in the past of gear
40 regulations. Some of the people that fish there have
41 complained that if you shorten the nets they won't get
42 any fish at all because the sockeye don't usually come
43 too close to shore.

44
45 One of the things that we're probably
46 going to discuss tomorrow night is -- I've had one of
47 our members bring up the idea of closing down -- maybe
48 taking three days away a week. Just to fish for four
49 days instead of having the opportunity to fish for
50 seven. At least it would give hopefully a fighting

1 chance for some sockeye to get into Iliuliuk River,
2 which is the river through town, Town Creek River.

3
4 We've taken the lead on supporting --
5 which was put in place a couple years ago -- no sockeye
6 fishing at all, sport fishing, in the river. It is
7 open for coho and pinks from the Church Hole back
8 towards the mouth of the river. So we have the local
9 river is totally closed for sockeye because of the
10 problem there.

11
12 We also have habitat issues here that
13 are a problem. Unalaska Lake is getting a tremendous
14 amount of turbidity issues and runoff from mud into the
15 lake and we're losing a lot of spawning grounds in the
16 lake. The city just recently put in some more catch
17 basins, big cement things that go in the road on these
18 gravel roads, to catch mud and try and keep it out of
19 tributaries that go into the lake. To work on that was
20 over a million dollars. We just spent leftover money
21 from the Aleutians West Coastal Resource Management
22 Program that we were able to still utilize. So we're
23 working on that.

24
25 You know, we have a real situation in
26 this state with ADF&G having a lack of resources. You
27 know, Unalaska has, as it is in many rural communities,
28 very little presence. We don't have a sport fish
29 person, we don't have a habitat person here, we don't
30 have a subsistence person here. We have crab and
31 groundfish personnel and observers. But it's a real
32 issue and now we have the enforcement issue on top of
33 that, lack of enforcement. So it's tough not getting
34 surveys here. There's been no pink salmon commercial
35 fishery in years. It's tough for the Department to
36 even get out here and survey our local rivers.

37
38 We had a great year at McLees Lake this
39 year. Over 40,000 fish returned into that system, so
40 people did real well getting out there. But the salmon
41 resources in Unalaska Bay area have been pretty tough
42 to come up. The pink salmon run looked pretty poor in
43 this area as well is what I heard from Kodiak folks.
44 As of right now, not a lot of pinks in the area.

45
46 So it's things that the Unalaska AC is
47 working on. You know, things are changing. I
48 definitely am a climate change believer. This year we
49 haven't got our herring resource to show up. We
50 usually have 2,000 short tons that are harvested.

1 They've only harvested 100 tons and the fishery has
2 been open a month and the herring aren't showing up.
3 We're seeing hundreds of humpback whales coming into
4 the inner bay, you know, right by the airport and the
5 whole Unalaska Bay area.

6
7 I've lived here 46 years. I've never
8 seen the amount of whales showing up in the inner bays
9 the last few years and I think they're showing up in
10 the peninsula area as well. I mean you've got a show
11 of 80, 90 whales right off the highway going to the
12 airport doing whatever they're doing. I'm sure they're
13 feeding on something. So things are changing.

14
15 I think that's about all I have.
16 There's concerns on subsistence issues on halibut and
17 crab here. There's still a few tanner crab in the
18 area, but this whole area of the Chain king crab are
19 almost non-existent. I think hardly any people get a
20 king crab in subsistence fishing in the area. It's
21 real tough, but there is still some tanners that people
22 are getting.

23
24 Halibut fishing and sport fishing has
25 been reported to be pretty good this year. I'm not
26 sure about that. I saw enough fish in my lifetime of
27 30 years of working in plants. I don't go out sport
28 fishing anymore. I don't need to see them.

29
30 Anyway, I think that's about all I have
31 to report. Once again, I appreciate the impact of your
32 presence here in our community this week along with the
33 Aleutian Life Forum. I think it will be a benefit to
34 the community and hopefully we'll get a lot of
35 community members out. I'll answer any questions that
36 you might have.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I'm going
39 to go ahead because Rebecca had raised her hand first
40 and then we'll go to Tom and then Pat.

41
42 MS. SKINNER: I just wanted to know
43 what time the meeting is and where it is, the AC
44 meeting.

45
46 MR. KELTY: Yeah, it's at the Unalaska
47 Public Library at 5:30 tomorrow until 7:00. We'll
48 hopefully get out of there so some of the people on the
49 committee will be able to get back over here for your
50 evening session. We meet about three or four times a

1 year and tomorrow night we're going to address the
2 sport and salmon issues.

3
4 Like I said, we've just sent an ACR on
5 Summers Bay to get a sockeye regulation. Hopefully it
6 will be accepted. We've been working with the
7 Department. We've got new signage out in these areas
8 on the road system and that's really going to be a big
9 help. We're also going to get it in various languages.
10 We have a work force in the community that are from
11 many different countries, so we're working on that.
12 Tyler here has been very helpful to us on the sport
13 fishing issues, so we're addressing that.

14
15 Like I said, we still have a couple of
16 days before the ACRs are due on the 18th to possibly
17 address another issue. But, like I said, the Front
18 Beach subsistence issue is very political. We're not
19 sure what the right answer is going to be. We are
20 going to have a subsistence person from Kodiak ADF&G on
21 the phone, but I kind of feel supportive of possibly
22 reducing the days if that can be done and we'll be
23 discussing that tomorrow.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Tom.

28
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Having worked in
30 enforcement for a number of years, I sympathize with
31 you. I understand what the problem is. For the life
32 of me, I can't understand why you don't have an
33 enforcement officer here. With this being the number
34 one fishing port in Alaska, there's absolutely no
35 excuse.

36
37 So what I would recommend you do is get
38 a hold of the Director of Fish and Wildlife Protection,
39 the Commissioner of Public Safety and go right on up to
40 the Governor and petition to get an enforcement officer
41 back here.

42
43 MR. KELTY: Well, we have one that's
44 here. They have one staff person. Now we do have two
45 or three rotating NOAA people in town for Federal water
46 work and I think they're even possibly going to be
47 sticking there when they can go out to Summers Bay and
48 some of these other places on the road system because
49 they can be deputized to report things too.

50

1 But, no, it's a real -- you know, here
2 we worked so long to get the Stimson built or bought.
3 It's a former crab boat that was out here for the
4 Bering Sea issues and now it's parked in Kodiak.
5 Basically it's a financial issue and we have addressed
6 this with the commissioners and the governor, but they
7 say there's no money.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have
10 any comments.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Frank, as you would well
13 know, I'm very empathetic with you folks. You know,
14 the habitat issues we tried to address back in '97 and
15 came up with a shopping list of do-it-yourself things
16 for the community and things for grants. You know, the
17 price of oil dropped to 17 bucks and that's just sad.

18
19 I also feel for you on the enforcement
20 issue. I know many times with the Department I put
21 together a really good case and there would be nobody
22 there because they all went to Bristol Bay. So I would
23 certainly go along with Tom's comments that you do a
24 full court press on making sure that your enforcement
25 guy stays here because one person is not going to make
26 that big a difference in Bristol Bay.

27
28 I was wondering on your king crab loss.
29 In Kodiak we only have just a few areas with any king
30 crab left. One of them is Womens Bay, but we've seen
31 pods of 50 otters go in and hardly anybody can get a
32 crab. Are otters a problem for you folks here?

33
34 MR. KELTY: Yeah, I believe that we are
35 seeing more otters in the community. People that are
36 getting out on the water more than me would probably
37 have a better comment. Vince or some of the other
38 people out there. But it appears from the road system
39 that we're seeing more otters in the area than we had
40 recently. You know, they definitely can do some damage.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Okay. The other thing you
43 might consider on your subsistence question once you
44 develop some consensus or even in the process give Lisa
45 Fox a call at -- I believe she's at Sand Point and chat
46 with her and then her boss, the head comm fish
47 coordinator for salmon and herring is Jeff Wadle and he
48 may be at Port Moller right now or Sand Point. I know
49 he was going on the peninsula to talk to folks.
50

1 One option that has -- I know it's
2 happened on the Federal side are like community
3 subsistence harvest permits. And then the Department
4 also has inseason abilities to give proxy permits. So
5 when you've got gung-ho subsistence fishermen like
6 Vince or I don't know if Gregory is still in town with
7 his beach seine, but you could do something like have a
8 community harvest and then bring those fish from McLees
9 Lake into town and, you know, distribute them to the
10 folks that need it.

11
12 So those are some options you might
13 want to explore on the State side. I don't know if the
14 waters off McLees are Federal turf too, but I would
15 suggest going to the State first because it can be done
16 sometimes inseason a whole lot quicker just with the
17 regs that they have. And then if you end up where
18 you've got something really divisive, then you have to
19 present both sides of the question. But that's one
20 place you might be able to get some action.

21
22 MR. KELTY: Thank you for that,
23 Committee Member Holmes. I have talked to Lisa about
24 our salmon and herring operations are managed out of
25 Sand Point and Kodiak. For the life of me, that's kind
26 of difficult and most of the time they're not here. So
27 it's a hard one. But, yeah, those are good
28 suggestions.

29
30 You know, I want to make one comment.
31 You're probably going to hear some testimony about
32 trawling in Unalaska Bay. Well, that was done away
33 with this past Board of Fish meeting. The Unalaska AC
34 10 years ago started that process and got it closed to
35 September 1st, from June 10th to September 1st. The
36 Qawalangin Tribe was successful in getting it closed
37 from September 1st to November 1st, so it's closed
38 totally. They were only allowed in there from June
39 10th until November 1, but that is closed.

40
41 The only comment I have to make, and
42 I'm not going to get a point/counterpoint going, was
43 the Unalaska AC and the State -- we had very little
44 bycatch of halibut, crab or anything. Those vessels
45 were observed 24/7. The only measured bycatch species
46 caught was Pacific cod, which they were selling anyway.
47 So that's the only comment there that I have on that.
48 Looking at the records that we had on when those
49 pollock vessels were fishing in there, there was very
50 little bycatch of any of the species that subsistence

1 users were using.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, do you
4 have a comment.

5

6 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Frank. I know you've
7 been in this fishing pollock for probably 40, 50 years
8 if I can remember. At least 30 I can remember. So I
9 guess there's probably not a lot of new that I could
10 add to the table, you know. I was hoping that Lisa
11 could make it here. I heard rumors from Della that she
12 might be in today. It would be nice to get a report
13 from her, you know, at this meeting. Most of the time
14 we always look at conservation as probably the biggest
15 problem and the return.

16

17 I know like in Cold Bay, like
18 Mortensen's, if you get a bad return, they drop the
19 number of fish you're able to take. I'm sure they do
20 that probably here too and stuff. Anyway, it sounds
21 like you're on top of things there and I wish you luck.
22 Whatever we can do to help or back you up on certain
23 things, we'll be more than happy to do that.

24

25 Just a little note on the crab. Like
26 you guys are having some trouble finding the king crab
27 here. Well, we did a survey in Adak last September for
28 three weeks there on the king crab fishery, which we
29 were trying to pursue in Adak as a small boat fishery.
30 Well, it turned out there were no king crab. Very few.
31 They checked the whole area. A lot of tanners. So
32 we're trying to maybe implement a commissioner's permit
33 to do a tanner fishery locally just to kind of do a
34 survey on that aspect of it so we don't have to deal
35 with the Feds so much in trying to get that done
36 because it takes so long with the Feds.

37

38 Anyway, good job and wish you luck on
39 that stuff. Like I said, we'll be here to do what we
40 can do to help you out on that.

41

42 Thanks.

43

44 MR. KELTY: Through the Chair. I
45 appreciate your comments. It's been tough on the crab
46 situation. You know, I've been here since '71 and went
47 through the whole Bering Sea 100 billion pound seasons
48 and things like that. To have them drop off the wall
49 like they did in '81, they've never come back to any
50 reasonable amount. Now we're seeing declines in the

1 opilio from 100 millions to 50 million last year, king
2 crab only 10 million last year. The environment is
3 definitely changing pretty tough for shellfish species,
4 but groundfish species are all booming across the board
5 in the Bering Sea.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

8

9 Any more questions or comments.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

14

15 MR. KELTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

16 Thank you for coming.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: How do we do
19 this, Karen? If anyone online has comments, do we just
20 ask them to bring their name and organization forward?
21 What I'd like to do at this time is go ahead and take a
22 15-minute break and then start with John Reft after our
23 break and then any tribal council reports or comments.
24 Is that agreeable with everybody? Okay. We'll take a
25 15-minute break at this time.

26

27 (Off record)

28

29 (On record)

30

31 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I may ask,
32 Lisa Fox, are you online?

33

34 MS. FOX: Yep, yeah, this is Lisa Fox.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. What
37 we've decided since she's got a little bit of time
38 before she needs to be flying, the weather appears to
39 be nice out in that area, we're going to go ahead and
40 have her available. There's been a lot of discussion
41 and some questions that were going to come up for her.
42 So if we can kind of have her online at this point to
43 answer any questions that anybody may have. There's
44 been a lot of discussion about ADF&G and her name has
45 come up a lot this morning.

46

47 Then, John, we'll go ahead and move to
48 you for your testimony or report, John Reft, after
49 Lisa. Thank you. Now I know Frank is not in the room.
50 Mitch, do -- oh, jeez.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, my God.
4 Vince.
5
6 MR. TUTIAKOFF: What?
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Did you have any
11 questions for Lisa or does anybody at the table have
12 any questions for Lisa Fox?
13
14 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, this is Vince
15 Tutiakoff. I'm with the Unalaska Fishermen
16 Association. Some discussion earlier was about the
17 ability to restrict certain fisheries, primarily the
18 red salmon fishery going on on the Front Beach of
19 Unalaska. Through the years, the past five or six
20 years, we've had a major decline in the red salmon
21 going up into the Iliuliuk River. A combination of the
22 freighter going to shore and to Summers Bay has caused
23 pollution and that's caused a drop, but there's also a
24 big fishery going on in Summers Bay, sports fishing.
25
26 We would like to -- I think they're
27 going to have a
28 discussion tomorrow night and if Lisa is I'm sure maybe
29 on the phone or I understand she's coming this way or
30 be at the meeting, I don't know. The Unalaska Fishery
31 Advisory Council is meeting tomorrow night at 5:30 to
32 discuss one of the issues and that is the Unalaska
33 tributary area. The discussion is to propose a 3 or 4-
34 day fishery for subsistence.
35
36 I'm going to be there to propose a
37 limit size of gillnet. Right now they're running 250
38 to 300 feet and those that are traditional fishing
39 individuals over the past 30 or 40 years have used 50
40 to 100 foot nets and still did okay. I mean got their
41 25 or whatever it was that they're allotted on their
42 permit. The last two or three years it's been a battle
43 with the big nets and the amount of nets that were
44 being put out. At one point last year I counted 18
45 gillnets. Some of them as close as 10 to 15 feet apart
46 in certain areas of the beach. That has to stop or we
47 have to control it.
48
49 I think that's going to be a question
50 for Fish and Game that somebody mentioned from the

1 Council here. I think it was Rebecca, that you could
2 propose at the Fish and Game and let it go forward.
3 But it's been a matter of trying to get the council
4 that Frank represents to speak to the issue. Politics,
5 a lot of it. Most people will oppose it and the
6 supporters are maybe three or four individuals like
7 myself who have lived here all their lives.

8
9 The new fishery type person we see here
10 today has only lived in this community maybe 10 years
11 and think it's great just to go out to the beach and
12 put out a 300-foot net and get their daily count of 30
13 or 40 fish, then come back a week later with another
14 permit issued by Fish and Game to get another 30, 40,
15 which they send home. That's a sad deal because there
16 are people that actually use it here in this community.
17 So there's a little bit of the politics of that.

18
19 I don't necessarily have a question for
20 you other than explaining the situation. Thanks.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Lisa, do you
23 have any comments?

24
25 MS. FOX: Yeah, I guess I'm glad you guys are
26 going to be bringing it up and talking about it.
27 Having a consolidated opinion to put a proposal in
28 about your concerns would be the way to go. As I
29 understand, there's some habitat degradation in the
30 Iliuliuk system that might need to be addressed.
31 Subsistence permits and subsistence restrictions are
32 definitely something that could be proposed. And then
33 any kind of sport fishing
34 proposals would be out of my area. I do plan on
35 attending the meeting tomorrow via teleconference. I'm
36 not going to fly down there tomorrow, but I will be
37 available for any questions if anybody has any tomorrow
38 night.

39
40 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thanks.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

43
44 Rick Koso.

45
46 MR. KOSO: Hi, Lisa. This is Rick Koso
47 here. I just guess I've got a couple of questions. Is
48 your office in Cold Bay closed this year? You know, I
49 tried stopping there a couple of times and I called a
50 couple times. I finally called Sand Point, and I found

1 out you were there, to get a subsistence permit.

2

3 Anyway, if you could just quickly give
4 us kind of an overview of what the fishery is doing
5 right now in the Area M area. Just a quick review of
6 what you're seeing. That's all I guess I need to know.

7

8 MS. FOX: Is that for commercial
9 fishing or subsistence fishing?

10

11 MR. KOSO: Well, I guess you could call
12 it the commercial, but it definitely affects the
13 subsistence.

14

15 MS. FOX: Okay. Yeah, so the June
16 fishery went off as planned, as scheduled by the
17 regulation. The most notable thing this year was the
18 number of pinks that were caught in the June fishery
19 was a record-breaking pink year. Then they were also
20 very large pinks in size. Then the pink harvest
21 dropped off in July. The sockeye harvest I think was
22 good. Then now that we're into August the pink
23 escapement has been really, really low. I've been
24 flying surveys trying to find pinks, trying to count
25 pinks, but we're split less than 10 percent of the low
26 end of the goal, which was 1.75 million or just over
27 100,000 pinks.

28

29 Sockeye and chum seem to be getting
30 really low as far as escapement goes. Right now the
31 fishery is closed pretty much everywhere except for the
32 northwestern district in Izembek/Moffett. That's still
33 on the schedule throughout August. But everything on
34 the south peninsula is closed and I'm waiting for pink
35 salmon escapement to build. It will just be a little
36 bit late still.

37

38 Subsistence-wise I've heard good
39 reports of people catching fish out of Mortensen's and
40 inside Kinzarof and locals around here in Sand Point
41 have been catching subsistence fish now during the
42 closure for the purse fishery. Then out there in
43 McLees it was a really good year as far as escapement
44 goes at almost 40,000 sockeye before the weir was
45 pulled, so they had I think plenty of harvest out of
46 McLees.

47

48 Yeah, that's pretty much my summary.

49

50 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Lisa. I know I

1 just come back from Cold Bay here not too long ago and
2 they were catching a little bit of fish in Mortensen's,
3 but it didn't seem like there was that much of a return
4 on the reds there. I know the guys that normally go
5 down there and get -- you know, they ended up with 20,
6 30 fish and not see anymore. I know up north for the
7 Kinzarof Lagoon area a week ago there was maybe 10, 15
8 fish being caught along the beach there, but not too
9 much. So you're saying they're catching more now for
10 the subsistence?

11
12 MS. FOX: I guess all the reports I've
13 had for Mortensen's have been pretty positive. We put
14 our subsistence net there and, you know, filled it
15 pretty quick. I've heard other people say the same
16 thing. That Cold Bay office was empty for all of June
17 and then even for the first couple weeks of July. I
18 finally have somebody down there at that office now.

19
20 I've heard reports that fishing has
21 been pretty good, I guess, and the escapement estimates
22 that we can do are pretty late in the season. Those
23 fish are really hard to see until they're colored up
24 and up in the lake. So, yeah, I've heard that there's
25 been plenty of subsistence fishing opportunity down
26 there, but I guess maybe that's a little bit
27 optimistic.

28
29 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Lisa.

30
31 MS. FOX: Yep.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa.
34 Anyone with questions or comments for Lisa at this
35 time?

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Lisa. The input
42 that we've gotten today on some of the subsistence
43 problems here in Unalaska Bay are quite compelling. A
44 lot of discussion because the folks that have lived
45 here a long time and don't have much money fish with
46 small gear and really can't afford to get out to McLees
47 and then some of the folks with larger boats can get
48 out there and then it was such a swell run out there.

49
50 So it's almost two different issues on

1 gear length and size. One would be basically in town,
2 as Vince Tutiakoff had mentioned, and then McLees is
3 kind of a separate issue. And then the number of nets
4 fishing in town. As you pointed out, the minuscule run
5 to Unalaska Lake and how do you protect that.

6
7 A couple of things that tickled my mind
8 is when I was out here in mid/late '90s I talked with
9 Arnie and we moved the markers out for Unalaska Creek,
10 so that might be an option on that to move it out a
11 little bit.

12
13 One of the things I was cogitating on
14 that might want to be considered by the community and
15 the AC and the tribes is, you know, proxy permits for
16 those folks in town that really aren't getting their
17 fish for subsistence where they could maybe designate
18 those for -- you know, if they could be specifically
19 done for McLees Lake or something like that.

20
21 And then also the potential of
22 community subsistence harvest permits because there's
23 one fellow down here that's very active and so is his
24 wife, Patty Lekanoff-Gregory, but Mr. Gregory has a
25 beach seine. So I was wondering if that might be
26 something for folks to think about, would be some type
27 of a cooperative subsistence harvest where folks that
28 had the ability to go to McLees could catch fish for
29 folks in town. Particularly because there's no
30 commercial fishery out there.

31
32 Those are just a couple of concepts
33 that are being tossed around. I hope to go to the AC
34 meeting tonight if I can. But like you mentioned, the
35 habitat thing in Unalaska Lake is just awful and it's
36 really gone downhill since I was here. So I sure
37 appreciate all the hard work you do in trying to keep
38 the interests of everybody, commercial fishing as well
39 as the subsistence folks.

40
41 So thanks a bunch, Lisa.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

44
45 MS. FOX: There was a company who was
46 going to do a restoration project in Unalaska Lake and
47 I contacted them this spring and it was a pretty big
48 project with a lot of different pieces and it kind of
49 sounded like it had been paired back a little bit, but
50 it was still moving forward. I could try to find that

1 and get information. Maybe contact them and see if
2 they're available for the teleconference tomorrow.

3

4 And then I'm not sure about proxy or
5 community subsistence harvest permits, but I can try to
6 do a little bit of research and see if I can have the
7 information about that. You probably know more about
8 that than I do, Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Thanks a bunch.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. We
13 do probably need to move on a little bit right now. I
14 have John Reft for public comments, but we also do have
15 tribal council reports, tribal government and Native
16 organization under agency reports, which is later in
17 the agenda.

18

19 There was another issue I think that
20 came up a little bit. The issue of predator control has
21 come up on a number of occasions, but that issue is on
22 the agenda and I think Kelly and Tom will go through
23 that. If we can kind of limit some of our public
24 comments to that discussion. There is that item and
25 the nonrural determination I think are big items for
26 this RAC.

27

28 If we can move on at this time. I will
29 go ahead and recognize John Reft from Kodiak.

30

31 MR. REFT: Good morning. John Reft.
32 Vice chair of Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. Good morning to
33 the RAC Council, the council of knowledge. It's good
34 to be here. I know quite a few personally from your
35 retirements in the Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game and
36 from our boards in Kodiak, so I can say that
37 truthfully. You've got a lot of knowledge on this
38 board.

39

40 Basically representing the tribe. We
41 have a lot of concerns going on in Kodiak. One of them
42 is the sea otter population of Womens Bay. You know
43 the king crab basically are getting devastated by them.
44 The clams, shellfish have all disappeared. There's no
45 way to control them. The sea otter are smart because I
46 know, I hunted them.

47

48 In '93, I had an agreement with the
49 Fish and Wildlife out there in Buskin to work with them
50 because they were getting overpopulated and Southeast

1 had the same problem. We got a market between Japan
2 and Korea that we could get \$1,600 to \$1,700 a hide if
3 we worked with the Fish and Game to do it.

4
5 I had an agreement, so I went out
6 thinking this was going to be a good thing, so I made
7 my own laws and everything about hunting with my
8 brother when we went out in my boat. After a few days
9 out there, you know, I said, Charlie, you know, I don't
10 trust the Fish and Wildlife. I said their agreements
11 and stuff change so quick. I think we ought to take
12 these six to eight sea otter and get them tagged and
13 see what's going on.

14
15 So we went in and sure enough, when I
16 went in that door out in Buskin, they said, hey, we're
17 sure glad to see you. And I says, yeah, what's wrong.
18 I said that's why I came in. If you're glad to see me,
19 there's something wrong. They said, yeah, we can't let
20 you transport these hides. I said why not. You said I
21 could when I left. And they said, well, we're sorry,
22 Greenpeace. I said that never came into the
23 discussion. But that's what it did, so that curtailed
24 the hunting of the sea otter to keep them down.

25
26 Now they've taken over the whole
27 island, moving down to Old Harbor, everywhere, but
28 Womens Bay and all the way around full of sea otters
29 and they're eating everything. They're devastating.
30 If we don't do something with them, there's going to be
31 nothing left as far as shellfish and stuff go. It's a
32 tremendous impact. Besides that we have two biologists
33 in the Sun'aq Tribe, Tom Lance and Kelly Krueger, and
34 they're very good.

35
36 The king crab pot concern is one of
37 them for the crab, but the sea otter is the main in my
38 opinion because I hunted them. I know how smart they
39 are. They're smart enough now that they don't even
40 come in at daylight when boats and stuff are around.
41 They wait until dusk in the evening, like Anton's Bay
42 when we were hunting. At dusk it's just like a big
43 wrath coming through the water and you'd think it was
44 a bunch of kelp or something like that. It turns out
45 to be a herd of sea otter coming in and they spread out
46 and they feed all night and daylight comes and they
47 disappear out. But that's a major concern for us, the
48 sea otter population.

49
50 The lighting is not good for me because

1 of this right eye where I had surgery. We also had a
2 meeting with the Navy from the Pacific Fleet and it was
3 Admiral Korka. Some of his officers met with us in
4 Kodiak and we had a good meeting. We were able to
5 voice our concerns, which one of them started by me was
6 the blasting and the sonar testing out in the Portlock
7 Banks area.

8
9 I told him, Admiral, you don't know how
10 valuable that area is to Kodiak and some of the coastal
11 villages along the Homer and on up the way. I said
12 you're blasting the biggest, richest body of king crab
13 that we have and we're trying to build it up on Kodiak
14 to bring king and tanner crab back. He asked me how
15 they were affecting it and I said the area you are in
16 testing is the area where that body of crab travels
17 through. I said nobody knows that area like me.

18
19 I said I spent five years of my life
20 out there with Jerry Gugel, the hardest crab fisherman
21 that you could ever fish with. Crew members would come
22 and go, one trips, they were crazy, but I spent five
23 years with him and I knew exactly where they were
24 blasting and what was going on, so I started the
25 protest in Kodiak. And Jerry -- I told Admiral Korka
26 if Mr. Gugel was still alive, you would hear a wild
27 German confronting you now instead of a local guy just
28 talking to you. That is rich. Get out of there. He
29 says, well, John, we could move out further. I said
30 the further you go, the better it is to protect that
31 area because that's crab that nobody knows about except
32 me and Jerry Gugel.

33
34 So he agreed they'd move out and he
35 said, you know, this is really a good meeting, like you
36 said you wanted, John, face-to-face confrontation. He
37 says I believe in that and he says from this meeting I
38 can guarantee you I'll be back again and, if necessary,
39 I'll come back a few more times. But this is the
40 Admiral of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Korka, and he
41 seemed honest and he agreed that they'd move further
42 out to protect that area and I hope he keeps his word.

43
44 As you've heard, one of the big
45 concerns now is the Buskin River and the crayfish that
46 are in there and we need to get them out of there as
47 efficiently and as fast as we can. The last report we
48 heard -- and not only the locals are trying to fish
49 them and our biologist monitoring things, but we heard
50 that the Dolly Varden, which I don't like anyway, but

1 they're finally doing something. They're eating the
2 baby crayfish there when they spawn. If they're doing
3 that, that really helps too. But everybody's trying
4 to catch and monitor them somehow to curtail the influx
5 of them because they could be detrimental to us.

6
7 There's many members of the public that
8 are involved in this crayfish fishery, trying to get
9 them down. Divers, different people. So that's how
10 much of a concern it is. Our biologists are working
11 with them, Tom and Kelly, and keeping close tabs on
12 what they can do to curtail this influx of crayfish
13 that we're afraid of.

14
15 Like Tom says, we're cooperating with
16 the others on the new PSP research project funded by
17 the North Pacific Research Board. That's where our
18 shellfish PSP concerns. So that's going to be a new
19 thing that we'll be involved in too and it's a big
20 concern.

21
22 The other one is the Emperor goose. We
23 believe in Kodiak, just like the North Slope area and
24 those guys up there, that the Emperor goose should be
25 opened up because they have really come along quite a
26 bit. And when you go out duck hunting out there, you
27 run into them. It's hard not to shoot something to eat
28 when it would be nice.

29
30 One of my concerns with the Fish and
31 Game is the survey. There are lots of Emperor geese
32 down at the south end of the island and I do not
33 believe that the survey covers that area. It's not
34 only in the Kodiak area. You know, from Kalsin to
35 Womens Bay, they go down to all those islands down
36 there in the south end, Trinity and on up, all the bay
37 area is loaded with Emperor geese in the winter.

38
39 I talked with some of the guys from Old
40 Harbor at a meeting on the Emperor geese and they said,
41 oh, yeah, we've got a lot of Emperor geese down there,
42 but they don't survey that area. So their surveys in
43 my opinion are not thorough enough to tell us what
44 amount of geese we really have there. If they'd just
45 do the whole thing, I think they'd come out with a lot
46 more results than what they do from the local area.

47
48 DR. ROSENBERG: Hey, John.

49
50 MR. REFT: Yeah.

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, hi. This is Dan
2 Rosenberg with Fish and Game. I'm in Anchorage on the
3 phone here. I'm not there and I don't want to
4 interrupt, but I would like to respond a little bit for
5 just some corrections to your statements about Emperor
6 geese as to what we're doing now if I may.

7
8 MR. REFT: Go ahead.

9
10 DR. ROSENBERG: Okay, thanks. You
11 know, the survey, of course, that we used to do was
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did that, not Fish and
13 Game, and that survey was conducted on the Alaska
14 Peninsula during migration, so it wasn't designed to be
15 a winter survey. We did find a lot of problems with
16 that survey, so we're now switching methods. As I
17 think you're aware, we're developing a new plan for
18 Emperor geese, so I'm going to talk about that more
19 this afternoon as time allows and all.

20
21 The idea is that we're now going to go
22 to a survey on the breeding grounds that we're going to
23 use for the next three years while we still work on
24 coming up with new ways to assess population. I think
25 we have recognized that there are a lot more -- well,
26 we haven't recognized that there are more Emperor
27 geese, we just have recognized that the index that we
28 were using wasn't able to really give us a good
29 population estimate.

30
31 So we do have a management plan, you
32 know, in the works that we'll try to get through and
33 adopted this fall both at the AMBCC level and the Fish
34 and Wildlife Service level that will allow for a hunt
35 next year.

36
37 MR. REFT: Thank you very much. That's
38 encouraging to hear. The reason I can comment on this
39 personally is because I hunted down there when we
40 crabbed and I know there's a tremendous amount of geese
41 in that area and my comments are from local personal
42 knowledge along with the people that live in Akhiok, so
43 thank you.

44
45 DR. ROSENBERG: No, thank you. Again,
46 I think I'm on the agenda to talk about this more at
47 some time this afternoon. I just wanted to put that in
48 there now, so thanks.

49
50 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

1 John, are you -- is some of your report able to cover
2 under tribal government reports?

3
4 MR. REFT: No, I'm not, basically other
5 than what I have here. So if you want me to, I think
6 I'm basically finished.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, John.
9 If there's anything else that can come up under the
10 tribal report later in the agenda. You can bring that
11 up then. If that is okay with you, we'd like to go
12 ahead and move on.

13
14 MR. REFT: Okay.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: There are a
17 number of the issues that you brought up that will be
18 coming up on the agency reports and can be also brought
19 up at that time. Thank you, John.

20
21 It is 11:30. We've kind of basically
22 covered a lot of public discussion. I do have two more
23 people. I'm wondering -- and they both have comments
24 in regard to Proposal 194 that was passed at the last
25 meeting. I think if we can go ahead and finish with
26 those this morning, we will break for lunch and we're
27 going to have to work pretty hard to get caught up on
28 this agenda this afternoon.

29
30 However, as long as I've been on this
31 Council, we've always made it important that when we
32 get to come to the communities that we allow the people
33 that are here and we are working to represent to have
34 that opportunity to speak. It's not often that we do
35 and this Council strongly sticks to that. I know
36 sometimes that's not quite the protocol that the people
37 that work for us would like to take, but this morning
38 we will and we're thankful to be here.

39
40 So with that I'll go ahead and ask for
41 Chris Price to come forward and then Thomas Robinson
42 following. Okay, I guess we'll do Thomas first. Chris
43 isn't here.

44
45 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you for having me.
46 Chris Price is back at the office on a teleconference.
47 I just would like to share a follow up and also inform
48 the board that I also represent not only the Unangan
49 here locally, regionally and nationally of all the
50 villages to the Department of Interior. It's a newly

1 appointed board that recognizes all the unmet needs in
2 the Aleut region and we submit the unmet needs to the
3 Department of Interior.

4

5 So it's a newly formed board. There's
6 12 -- it's a 12-seat board that reports to our national
7 delegates who -- I think we have a vice president from
8 Chickaloon and then there's one other seat that reports
9 to the unmet needs to Congress and
10 the new president in the allocation cycle.

11

12 Looking at the unmet needs on a lot of
13 our tribes and especially Unalaska, what we learned
14 from Proposal 194 is that we
15 don't have enforcement for our rivers and I think since
16 the
17 State's deficit has impacted their efforts on
18 enforcement it's put some of our rivers in jeopardy.

19

20 We also are having problems
21 extrapolating funding to provide -- when we apply for a
22 grant, of course, we need the baseline data. A good
23 example is in 1997 the Hiroshima Maru wrecked in
24 Summers Bay and it devastated and depleted and killed a
25 coho run. The attempts of remediation have already
26 been closed, but there's still residual oil in the
27 lake. There are no more coho. And then it was decided
28 by NOAA that any kind of restitution, at least on the
29 tribal perspective, any monies be allocated to the
30 tribe since we could not prove that we used it for
31 subsistence use.

32

33 So, anyway, what we're faced with is
34 just the degradation of our rivers from industry, from
35 wrecks, from military. They reconstructed a river in
36 Morris Cove during World War II and through the NALEMP
37 program -- NALEMP is an acronym for Native American
38 Lands Environmental Mitigation Program funded by the
39 Department of Interior and we secured the funding to
40 have that river restored to its original form prior to
41 its change. And then what we did do is we applied for
42 a grant to rebuild that coho run and red run and we
43 were turned down. So at least we're making a concerted
44 effort to get our rivers restored to where they were
45 historically.

46

47 But what we really noticed west of
48 Scotch Cap there isn't really a management plan for our
49 area. Until Proposal 194 about, we really did capture
50 some attention on that because we felt that our state's

1 -- our constitutional rights had been violated, Article
2 8, paragraph 3, which signifies that subsistence takes
3 priority over common use, which is commercial and
4 sports fishing. With that said, we did succeed in
5 getting the trawlers out of the bay.

6
7 We also would like maybe the
8 recommendation before the State of Alaska opens up
9 anything inside three miles that they have an
10 understanding of the area and its impacts before they
11 open it up to commercial fishing. It was rather
12 alarming that our bay was treated as a parallel
13 fishery. Meaning they can catch any bycatch in our bay
14 and report it on a Federal premise. So our fear is an
15 attempt to have that reopened. But before I think the
16 State reopens any State waters they should at least
17 understand the impacts that it may have on at least a
18 subsistence level.

19
20 We're really actually really proud of
21 the win and there is just a little bit of return on the
22 halibut. People are catching a little, but we're not
23 seeing that in our salmon rivers. I think once we
24 figure out what's going on there we can move forward.
25 That would be my suggestion, if we could get your board
26 to acknowledge or at least support our tribal effort to
27 have the State of Alaska implement an impact study
28 before they open it up to a commercial effort.

29
30 So that's all I have on 194. I do have
31 an array of topics, but I know it's getting close to
32 lunch, but I would like to speak further on a number of
33 other topics involving our community and the region.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
38 Any comment directly at this time.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. We
43 will be here the rest of the day today and then I think
44 if we don't finish up, which as I'm looking at this we
45 will not, we'll finish tomorrow evening, is that
46 correct, or Wednesday evening?

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. We will
49 have a meeting tomorrow night from 7:00 o'clock to 9:00
50 o'clock here in this room after the barbecue for the

1 Aleutian Life Forum. I would certainly encourage you
2 to come at that time to share the rest of the issues
3 that are of concern. That meeting was largely set up
4 tomorrow night to hear from the community and to give
5 them an opportunity to come speak to the Council.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Karen. I think part of -- I know this came up in the
13 last meeting when we were in Kodiak is having the
14 public speak and taking that time early because you
15 have the agency representatives here and that in the
16 event that we need to do proposals, that we have all
17 the information before us because the proposals are
18 usually what's done toward the end when we work on
19 them. So if the rest of this Council is comfortable, I
20 would like to continue to do what we're doing. We have
21 I know -- I'm sorry, but we have in the past, like I've
22 said before, allowed the public that we represent to be
23 able to speak because that's why we're here.

24

25 So thank you.

26

27 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: With that, go
30 ahead.

31

32 MR. SCHWANTES: Just one question.
33 I've heard a couple of different people mention this
34 Proposal 194. Do we have a copy of that or do we know
35 what it is? I haven't been able to find it in any of
36 the stuff that I have.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Schwantes,
39 through the Chair. Proposal No. 194 was a proposal to
40 the Alaska Board of Fisheries
41 and that proposal you reviewed in Kodiak. We didn't
42 have a lot of time to actually review it. It did pass
43 by the Board of Fisheries and Mr. Robinson actually
44 came to our meeting and informed us of that news at the
45 time. So it's not a current issue for the Council.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. At this
50 time we have about 20 minutes. Do you want to go ahead

1 and move on and do the report on the Draft Nonrural
2 Determination. At least maybe start that report
3 process. If we need to move on with it after a break
4 for lunch, we will do so.

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. The
7 only other thing I might suggest is that we ask if
8 there's anybody on the phone that would like to
9 testify.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. She's
12 correct. I apologize. Is there anyone on the phone
13 who would like to testify at this time.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. We're
20 going to need a couple minutes to set up the projector
21 for the nonrural presentation. Just a couple minutes.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are we ready?

28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we can get
32 everybody back to their seats, please. We'll move on
33 at this time to rural determination.

34
35 Orville.

36
37 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair.
38 Members of the Council. My name is Orville Lind. I'm
39 the Native liaison for Office of Subsistence
40 Management. I have been chosen to give you a brief
41 history of the Draft Nonrural Policy. It is in your
42 supplemental information under Policy on Nonrural
43 Determination.

44
45 So we are almost to the finish line of
46 the rural/nonrural process. In November 2015, the
47 final rule changing the rural determination process was
48 published. The Board determines which areas or
49 communities in Alaska are nonrural. All other
50 communities and areas are therefore rural. In January

1 2016, the Board directed Staff to create a nonrural
2 policy that outlines the administrative process for
3 future nonrural determinations. In July 2016, the
4 Board approved a Draft Nonrural Policy to be presented
5 to the Regional Advisory Councils for feedback.

6

7 Today we are presenting this Draft
8 Nonrural policy to you. The focus is process section
9 and process timeline and does this policy make sense,
10 are there holes in the process that we need to address.
11 We definitely look forward to your feedback, all of
12 your comments and questions will be reviewed and
13 considered for the final version of the policy. The
14 Board will decide whether or not to adopt the Nonrural
15 Policy at the January 2017 Board meeting.

16

17 We want to thank you for your time and
18 your assistance in this important effort. Folks, at
19 this time, I don't know whether you've had some time to
20 overlook the Draft Nonrural Policy, but we can take
21 your comments, possibly some edits.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: I appreciate, I guess,
26 the spirit of the Board's effort in trying to include
27 some flexibility so that the determination process
28 isn't bound by hard and fast rules such as a population
29 threshold. So I do appreciate the spirit of that.

30

31 I am concerned now, however, that
32 there's very little guidance. It's almost -- I have
33 concerns that perhaps it's too flexible and too
34 undefined. I am concerned that any individual can
35 submit a proposal to change a designation of a
36 community. I think the Kodiak region, when the RAC
37 commented on this, we were looking for a limitation
38 that you had to at least be from the area or the
39 community in question to even make a proposal. So I am
40 concerned that this is wide open. I think we've seen
41 that -- I guess I've seen it more on the State Board of
42 Fish and Board of Game that we have proposals impacting
43 Kodiak that are coming from places like Fairbanks and
44 that gets kind of frustrating. So that's a concern.

45

46 The other concern is that deference to
47 the Councils does not apply and I understand that the
48 Board has a built-in mechanism to get feedback from the
49 Councils. And while I can understand that there would
50 be challenges with deferring to the Councils, it is

1 somewhat disappointing that it's so clearly stated that
2 deference to Councils does not apply. So I just wanted
3 to note that because I believe that the
4 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC had also talked about having
5 deference to the Councils.

6
7 Those are my comments for now. I may
8 have more after more discussion.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
13 comments or questions.

14
15 MR. LIND: Through the Chair, Madame
16 Chairman. We also have our policy coordinator online,
17 Amee Howard, who is also able to give us some direction
18 and answers to some of your questions or maybe some
19 comments.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
22 Orville. Amee, do you have any responses in regard to
23 Rebecca's comments?

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I would
26 just like to totally agree with Rebecca. The comments
27 that we made that went into this document, Kodiak had
28 such a difficult time and so did Sitka in maintaining
29 our rural status. It all came, in my mind, as a result
30 of political pressure from Alaska Outdoor Council, from
31 folks in Anchorage and also from Drew Pearce and her
32 leveraging the OSM. It's all conjecture on my part,
33 but a good part of it was practical experience. You
34 can go back and ask Mr. Chen how many pounds and how
35 high the pile of comments that came from Kodiak. I
36 think if it was an Olympic event we won statewide.

37
38 I really do think that if there is to
39 be a change within our region, then that suggestion or
40 that recommendation should come from the RAC. People
41 can come to the RAC and say, gee, I think this is right
42 or wrong or someplace should be there, but I think we
43 should be sort of the first step in that process for
44 changing what's rural and what's not rural because we
45 live there and we know what's going on. If we end up
46 having gold mines in Kodiak and getting 50,000 people,
47 well then I think our RAC is going to be not too keen
48 on the overall thing, but trying to get something more
49 specific for certain villages or certain components of
50 our community.

1 So I'll just babble on, but that's the
2 point.
3
4 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Orville.
5
6 MR. LIND: Through the Chair. Thank
7 you for that, Mr. Holmes. You know, we are at the
8 timeline now where exactly it is the time to make some
9 comments, some changes which best are going to work for
10 you and your tribes and your people. And we look
11 forward to gathering all that information from each
12 and every one of you.
13
14 Thank you, Madame Chair.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.
17
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. When we
19 discussed this in the past, one of our concerns was
20 exactly what Rebecca and Pat have already touched on,
21 was the fact that if this goes into effect, we could
22 have somebody from Fairbanks saying Kodiak shouldn't be
23 rural. I agree, we've got to be able to come back to
24 the RACs to be able to have the RAC input in
25 determining what areas within our region should be
26 designated as rural or nonrural.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.
31
32 MS. SKINNER: I have a question about
33 one of the provisions, so I'm not sure if this is for
34 you or for Amee. Under limitation on submission of
35 proposals to change from rural to nonrural and there's
36 no page numbers, but it would be -- I don't know. In
37 my stapled thing it would be page 4.
38
39 So this governs -- I think this is
40 getting to one of the concerns that relates to where it
41 can request to change the designation of a community
42 come from and then how often will that community or how
43 frequently will that community have to basically defend
44 its rural status.
45
46 So my question is -- so there's a
47 limitation that if somebody asked to change a community
48 from rural to nonrural, if that request is rejected
49 either because it fails to comply with the guidelines
50 or it's rejected after the Board considers it, then no

1 proposals to change that community or area status as
2 nonrural shall be accepted until there's been a
3 demonstrated change in the community's rural identity.

4
5 So this is intended to again limit how
6 often a community has to defend its rural status, but
7 it's not clear to me exactly
8 what this means. So if a request is thrown out for a
9 technical
10 reason, say somebody didn't include their name on the
11 proposal so it's thrown out because it didn't comply,
12 the merits of the request weren't actually addressed.
13 If they wanted to submit the proposal again, are they
14 having to include information that's in addition to
15 what they put in the original proposal, do they have to
16 include more information and do they literally come
17 back the next proposal year?

18
19 I realize this is a fairly specific
20 question, but because this issue is important I wanted
21 to get clarification while I had the chance.

22
23 MR. LIND: Thank you. Through the
24 Chair. Amee, are you still online.

25
26 MS. HOWARD: Hi, Orville. I'm here.

27
28 MR. LIND: Can you answer Ms. Skinner's
29 question.

30
31 MS. HOWARD: Certainly. Good morning,
32 Madame Chair and Council Members. Again, thank you
33 everyone for all of your hard work during this process.
34 I know it's been a multi-year process and everyone has
35 done an amazing job and given amazing feedback, so your
36 efforts are recognized and we appreciate it.

37
38 So through the Chair in response to Ms.
39 Skinner. This section -- you know, the intent of this
40 section is as you stated, a way for us to try and
41 corral or limit arbitrary re-submissions of changes
42 because we knew that that was a concern for the
43 Kodiak/Aleutians Council. I think one of the more
44 boisterous concerns.

45
46 So failure to comply with these
47 guidelines would mean not only just the baseline
48 guidelines that are above, but also the very important
49 threshold requirements. We tried to build those in so
50 that that would give the Councils time to look at

1 proposals that would be going to the Board. So kind of
2 think of it in two rounds.

3

4 First the proposals will go to the
5 Board to see if they even meet the threshold and
6 Councils will see that and be able to make
7 recommendations on those proposals before the Board
8 decides on the threshold requirement. And then, if the
9 Board decides that a full analysis needs to be
10 conducted, then the Councils will also have input as
11 well as multiple chances for public meetings and things
12 of that nature for affected communities.

13

14 So in a roundabout way I guess you kind
15 of have to think that this limitation of submission
16 where it's positioned at in the policy is in addition
17 to these other things that would have to be met. So I
18 guess the hypothetical that something would be thrown
19 out just for not including a name, that's not likely.
20 It would be more substantial.

21

22 Does that somewhat address your
23 question?

24

25 MS. SKINNER: No, it doesn't. So if
26 you pick something, maybe the name is a bad example,
27 but my point is if something gets thrown out before the
28 Board has considered the substance of the request or
29 even if the Board has considered the substance of the
30 request, I'm trying to better understand what does it
31 take for that proposal to come back into the process.
32 And if that's something that could happen the following
33 year or, you know, two years later, I am concerned
34 about that because -- yeah, I appreciate the
35 opportunity for Council and public involvement, but
36 that involvement takes a lot of time and resources and
37 that's part of the -- the concern is that because
38 Kodiak put in quite a
39 lot of time and resources defending its rural status,
40 we don't want to have to do that every year or every
41 two years or every three years. So I just want to
42 better understand what is the expectation as far as the
43 -- I guess the gap in time between when we might have
44 to deal with these requests.

45

46 MS. HOWARD: So there was some
47 discussion -- through the Chair again, sorry. There
48 was a lot of discussion at last month's Board work
49 session about the demonstrated change that's mentioned
50 in this section of the policy. Those demonstrated

1 changes, they could be the list of cri -- not criteria,
2 but the list of what may be considered that was
3 outlined in the final rule. Things like major shifts
4 in the community, the addition or subtraction of
5 military installations. There are many things that the
6 Board could comprehensively look at. So that is
7 something that, you know, would be on the proponent to
8 kind of describe and provide rationale to the Board.

9

10 Now as far as time period goes, we
11 tried to think of the most beneficial or appropriate
12 time to have nonrural determinations enter the cycle.
13 What was decided on was for them to enter the cycle the
14 same time as fisheries regulatory proposed changes.
15 That being said, that's when the proposals enter the
16 cycle. However, the full breadth from beginning to end
17 should the proposal go all the way through would be
18 three years. It would be a three-year process.

19

20 So I think that your comments and
21 concerns are very valid and also something that we can
22 consider further in trying to strengthen the language
23 in the section.

24

25 Does that help maybe address it a
26 little? I apologize not to have solid answers and it's
27 a new process, so we're definitely trying to gather all
28 the comments and feedback that we can.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, that is helpful and
31 I appreciate that you will take these comments and try
32 to refine the process. I think again if proposals had
33 to come from the region that's going to be impacted or
34 if they had to come through the associated RAC, I think
35 that would help alleviate some of my concerns, but if
36 the language doesn't change as written, even if the
37 process takes three years, I would be very concerned
38 that -- again, I hate to pick on Fairbanks, but, you
39 know, somebody from Fairbanks every three years could
40 put in a request to change Kodiak's rural status and
41 that I don't think is the intent of this. This
42 particular issue again is something that Kodiak was
43 very concerned about. But I do appreciate you taking
44 my comments as the process moves forward.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
47 Rebecca.

48

49 Tom.

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: I would just echo what
2 Rebecca said. I think I would certainly feel a lot
3 more comfortable if any recommended change would have
4 to come through a RAC rather than just any citizen out
5 there. If it doesn't, we're going to see that
6 happening a lot with the Alaska Council and other folks
7 wanting Kodiak to be nonrural. I certainly would like
8 to see that in there that any designated change would
9 have to come from a RAC.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
14 Any other discussion with this.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I
19 think we will.....
20
21 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Council members.
23
24 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. At
25 this time I think we will break for lunch and come back
26 at 1:00 o'clock since we do have a pretty full agenda
27 at this point.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 (Off record)
32
33 (On record)
34
35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can we take our
36 seats, please.
37
38 (Pause)
39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody,
41 if we could call the meeting back to order. I did have
42 a request from Rebecca to make one comment on the rural
43 determination before we move into predator control.
44
45 Thank you.
46
47 Rebecca.
48
49 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I did have
50 one further comment/clarification question regarding

1 the rural determination process. It's not clear to me
2 if somebody is requesting to change the designation of
3 a community and they have to show a change, what is the
4 baseline year? So are they showing it -- say for
5 Kodiak, are they showing a change from the state of
6 Kodiak in 2007 or are they showing a change in Kodiak
7 compared to the year 2016 because that's when the new
8 rule went into effect? That's not clear in what I've
9 looked at and it would be helpful to understand again
10 what the baseline for comparison is.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
15 Chair. Is Amee Howard still on the phone?

16

17 (No comment)

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, I guess she's
20 not. So we'll try to get an answer to that question
21 for you, Rebecca, from Amee. Thank you.

22

23 REPORTER: Is there anybody on the
24 phone?

25

26 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, is there
27 anybody on the phone? I was just thinking that.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 REPORTER: I did not disconnect. I
32 might redial. Should I? You can go on. I'll just go
33 ahead and reconnect. It says we're connected.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom. Oh, I'm
36 sorry. Peter.

37

38 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Board. On the AMBCC level, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
40 Management Council, we tackled this issue and they
41 wanted to know what our definition of a community was.
42 Well, the number we came up with was one could be a
43 community. One person could put in a proposal.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Peter, if I may
46 ask. When you're saying one person, you're saying one
47 person classified as a resident of that community, is
48 that correct?

49

50 MR. DEVINE: Yes, that is correct. You

1 have to be from the region and from the community and
2 have ties to it was our definition.

3

4 REPORTER: There's six people online.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Those of you
7 online we're back in session. We are going to move on
8 at this point to predator control. Excuse me. Amee,
9 are you online from this morning?

10

11 MS. HOWARD: Hi, Madame Chair. This is
12 Amee Howard.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
15 have Rebecca ask the question again. I'm not sure if
16 you heard it. We were confused whether or not we were
17 online with everyone.

18

19 MS. HOWARD: Okay.

20

21 MS. SKINNER: My question is what is
22 the baseline year or baseline data that's used when
23 making a case that there has been a change in a
24 community regarding a rural/nonrural determination? Is
25 it 2007 data, is it 2016 data or has the baseline date
26 even been established?

27

28 MS. HOWARD: Through the Chair. I
29 don't believe a baseline date has been established. I
30 believe the intent is that it would be at the
31 discretion of the Board and kind of put on the
32 proponent again to justify their rationale for why they
33 would want that change and then the Board would go
34 through the threshold -- go through determining whether
35 or not the proposal meets the threshold. So I think
36 all those things could be taken into account. At this
37 time I'm not aware of any baseline year being
38 designated.

39

40 MS. SKINNER: So then my comment is I
41 think there needs to be clarification on what the
42 baseline data is because the document we have today
43 references the burden being on the proponent to show
44 that a change has occurred and if you're trying to show
45 a change, there has to be kind of the baseline or your
46 point of comparison. Personally, I don't agree with
47 that being handled differently for every single
48 community. I think it needs to be clear what the
49 starting point is.

50

1 Either way, I would like a
2 clarification as to whether that depends on the
3 community so there is no set baseline or what year is
4 being proposed as the baseline data year.

5
6 MS. HOWARD: I think those are great
7 comments, Rebecca, and definitely something to take
8 forward for consideration by the Board.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
11 With that, moving on. We do have predator control.
12 Karen, are you going to be starting with this? Just
13 before we do get started on this. This issue has been
14 an issue of major controversy and I will suspect it
15 will continue to be so for a very long time. We did
16 have a lot of good comments this morning in regard to
17 this and I'm sure we'll continue on with that dialogue.
18 So given that I know we have to be respectful of each
19 other in our positions, but also be upfront with your
20 comments and what your concerns are in regard to this.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
25 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Karen
26 Deatherage and I am the Council Coordinator for the
27 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
28 I'm going to be covering an issue here that, as Della
29 said, is very controversial and I'm going to try to
30 keep it as simple as possible.

31
32 The first thing I'm going to be talking
33 about is what we call formal or State or agency-
34 sponsored predator control. Once I finish this
35 presentation, then Tom Schwantes of the Council will be
36 talking about the final rule, which is considered a
37 regulatory rule for means and methods of hunting and in
38 particular sport hunting on National Park and U.S. Fish
39 and Wildlife Refuge lands, so we're going to have a
40 distinction between the two.

41
42 I'm going to be reading you four
43 different pieces of information about agency or State-
44 sponsored predator control and what I'm going to
45 propose is that after each one you can open the floor
46 if you choose, Madame Chair, for any discussion on
47 that.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 Our job as Council Coordinators is to
2 assist Councils to be as effective as possible. For
3 the past couple of years in particular, some of the
4 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils have spent a
5 considerable amount of time discussing predator control
6 in their regions. While we recognize that this issue
7 is a major concern for many of our Councils, it is
8 important that Councils engage in work that is
9 consistent with their charter, which can be found on
10 Page 61 of your meeting book.

11
12 The focus of the Council's effort
13 should be on subsistence issues that fall within the
14 purview of the Federal Subsistence Program, which, as
15 noted below, and I will read subsequently, does not
16 include predator control to benefit specific wildlife
17 populations.

18
19 I will now read information that should
20 be helpful to you as you continue your discussion.
21 Both the final environmental impact statement for the
22 Federal Subsistence Program and the Federal Subsistence
23 Board Predator Management Policy, which is currently in
24 your meeting book, note that the Board's delegated
25 authority under Title VIII of ANILCA only permits the
26 Board to administer the subsistence taking and uses of
27 wildlife on Federal public lands and that predator
28 control is not a subsistence use. Thus the Board is
29 not empowered to engage in predator control and cannot
30 direct land managers to engage in it.

31
32 So I'm going to stop there and if you
33 have any questions about that, Ameer Howard is on the
34 phone or I will try to answer those questions for you
35 or we will try to get those answers for you at a later
36 time.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

41
42 MS. SKINNER: I have a question. For
43 purposes of this discussion, when we're talking about
44 predator control and I'm looking at the Predator
45 Management Policy that's on Page 10, it specifically
46 references ungulates. I just want to clarify, does
47 this discussion also apply to things like sea otters
48 that has been a topic discussed by this Council as far
49 as otters and their impact on the crab population and
50 shellfish populations? So are we treating those

1 separate or is it an umbrella policy that basically
2 applies to any sort of predator control activities or
3 requests?

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Skinner,
6 through the Chair. That is an excellent question and
7 it is item number four on the list that I have here,
8 but I can tell you that the Federal Subsistence Board
9 is not responsible for managing sea otters. That is
10 done through a different Federal agency and I will
11 discuss that under item four.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen, a point
16 of clarification and I'm just trying to go back and
17 forth through the paperwork here. I realize you were
18 talking and I may not have quite grasped what I should
19 have. You made a reference to the charter, going back
20 to the charter as a RAC, and what your description of
21 duties are. In that it basically outlines the
22 subsistence use of fish and wildlife on public lands.

23

24 The issue now you were saying --
25 technically an issue that is in reference to predator
26 control, are you saying this RAC has no authority to
27 make an opinion on it or what we have to say on it does
28 not count? What exactly were you trying to get at?

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, thank
31 you. That is also an excellent question. ANILCA does
32 allow for the Council to engage in discussion on
33 activities outside of subsistence uses. What we're
34 seeing happening though at the Office of Subsistence
35 Management is that a considerable amount of time -- and
36 not just with this Council, but with quite a few
37 Councils -- is being spent on predator control where
38 the Council really has no jurisdiction or cannot affect
39 policy on predator control and, therefore, they are not
40 able to finish some of the duties under their agenda
41 items that they need to finish. That's not nec -- this
42 is something that, by the way, is going to every
43 Council. It's not just specific to you. So there are
44 some Councils that may spend five hours on predator
45 control on State lands when there's really no
46 jurisdiction for the Council itself to affect that
47 proposal.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Karen, and I thank you for that description because I
3 disagree. I think the majority of this Council is
4 going to disagree. When you look at Unimak Island,
5 Unit 10, which the bulk and the majority, probably 90
6 percent of those caribou are on Federal lands within
7 their jurisdiction and that is the issue where the
8 predator control comes in. I know it's frustrating for
9 Staff to have to deal with this issue time and time
10 again, but I think we're at this point and we'll
11 continue to be at this point until we can all work to
12 resolve some sort of way that it's going to work for
13 us.

14
15 Because these animals, these caribou,
16 are what we depend on for subsistence and when those
17 counts go down and we can't hunt and then we can only
18 be allowed by subsistence to hunt, it's frustrating.
19 So it's not the first time, I know I've said it before
20 and I'll say it again and I'll continue to pound that
21 to the table, I don't feel like we have a clear
22 mechanism to make this work.

23
24 I do have a comment from Rebecca before
25 you move on and then you.

26
27 MS. SKINNER: I actually appreciate
28 your remarks, Karen. My takeaway is that it's
29 important to remember what the purview of this Council
30 is and what the purview of the Federal Subsistence
31 Board is. That doesn't mean issues outside of that are
32 not important. What it means is that they are not
33 issues that can be officially acted on. So I'm taking
34 your point to be we need to make sure to leave enough
35 time or take enough time to address the issues that we
36 have responsibility for.

37
38 Part of the memo on Page 10 is that you
39 or other Staff, if issues come up outside of the
40 purview that are important, you will let us know where
41 that issue needs to go so that it can be addressed. It
42 doesn't mean we can't talk about it, it doesn't mean
43 it's not important, but we need to weigh that as far as
44 when we're prioritizing and where we're dedicating our
45 time, which I think is a very important point and I
46 think it comes up a lot in fish and wildlife
47 discussions.

48
49 Because Alaska has a very complex
50 regulatory system, there's State, there's Federal,

1 there's sport, commercial, subsistence, personal use,
2 sea otters, marine mammals, it's not always clear where
3 an issue needs to go, so I can understand why things
4 get to where they are as far as issues that are
5 important coming to the wrong place, but I think one
6 valuable purpose that we can help serve is to let
7 people know where an issue needs to be taken to
8 actually get resolution.

9

10 So thank you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Member
15 Skinner. Through the Chair. To go back to what you
16 were saying, this first item that I've brought up
17 regarding the Federal Subsistence Board, what that's
18 saying is you can't bring these issues through to
19 the Board. The next few items I'm going to tell you
20 how you can bring these issues forth.

21

22 As Member Skinner said, we do allow
23 obviously for other issues that are important and I
24 think Kodiak is a good example of that certainly with
25 the Emperor goose issue, which is not a Federal
26 subsistence issue through the Board, but the Council
27 has been very active with that issue and it's a
28 critical subsistence food source for people in your
29 communities and regions.

30

31 So what we're trying to do is say if
32 you're at a meeting and you want to ask the Board to
33 implement predator control, the Board is not going to
34 be able to do that based on their policy. I can lead
35 in if there aren't any other questions to two ways in
36 which this Council can work to ask for predator
37 control.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Through the Chair. I
40 guess my question would be we can't do it through the
41 Board but can we make recommendations to specific
42 agencies, just like we make recommendations to the
43 State, et cetera?

44

45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen, is that
46 part of what you're moving onto? We'll go ahead and
47 let you continue.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
50 Chair. I'm going to read item number two and three on

1 here because those are two ways. Federal Subsistence
2 Regional Advisory Councils may submit a request to
3 Federal land managers for agency-sponsored predator
4 control in their region.

5
6 Thus, for example, if the Council
7 wished for predator control on Federal lands to benefit
8 the southern peninsula or the Unimak Peninsula, Unimak
9 Island Caribou Herd, a request would need to be
10 submitted to the Izembek Refuge Manager or the Maritime
11 National Wildlife Refuge Manager. So you can directly
12 request land managers to implement agency-sponsored
13 predator control on Federal lands.

14
15 As we know, the State of Alaska
16 requested a permit to do that on Unimak Island, which
17 stimulated an environmental impact statement and the
18 record of decision was that the Federal agency was not
19 going to do that.

20
21 MR. KOSO: Excuse me, Karen. I hate to
22 break you up. Can you direct us to the piece of paper
23 you're reading off there. We've got 10 here, but I
24 don't see the one and two or is that a separate deal?

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Koso.
27 Through the Chair. This is just my talking points for
28 the meeting. However, I would be absolutely more than
29 happy to provide you all with copies of this so that
30 you can reference it.

31
32 The next item on the list is Federal
33 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils may also submit
34 a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to modify
35 regulations related to intensive management of big game
36 prey populations. That's how the State looks at this.
37 You don't put in a proposal for predator control. You
38 ask for intensive management because they are directed
39 by the Intensive Game Management Law for the state of
40 Alaska, but you're allowed to do this.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MS. SKINNER: So we, as a Council, are
45 allowed to put forward proposals from our body to the
46 State Board of Game and Board of Fish?

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Member
49 Skinner. Through the Chair. Absolutely. In fact, I
50 just did that for the Seward Peninsula Council when

1 they wanted to stop nonresident hunting of moose in
2 their region. I submitted a proposal on their behalf
3 to the Alaska Board of Game for the next cycle.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Do those proposals --
6 what sort of review process do those proposals have to
7 go through? So if we, as a group, decided we wanted to
8 put forward a proposal, does somebody need to sign off
9 on that proposal before it gets submitted or how does
10 that work?

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Skinner,
13 through the Chair. This Council has the right to put
14 whatever it wants in the proposal. My job as your
15 coordinator is to make sure it meets the criteria for
16 proposals before the Board of Game. Those proposals
17 are not reviewed by the Office of Subsistence
18 Management or the Federal Subsistence Board. Those are
19 independent of that process and you do have the right
20 to go ahead and submit the proposals.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Before we
25 interrupted you, were you done with that number two or
26 do you have more to add to that?

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I was
29 done with number two and three and I have number four
30 which deals with sea otters and I'd be happy to read
31 that.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Before you move
34 on is there any other questions.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: What was three? I kind of
37 missed it.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Number three was
40 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils may also
41 submit a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to modify
42 regulations. So basically we have you may submit a
43 request to the land manager under the Federal land
44 managers or you may submit a proposal to the Alaska
45 Board of Game for State-managed wildlife. So those are
46 the two options that you have.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Karen.
49 There was a comment maybe from the public, Karen,
50 before you move on.

1 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 It was just a comment. You guys are talking about
3 caribou and sea otters. I hope they get this predator
4 control issue dealt with because it's
5 not only caribou and sea otters, but it's also
6 migratory birds. But what I'm hearing is it has to
7 come from the regional part, but what if it affects the
8 whole state?

9
10 What I'm talking about is up in AYK,
11 you know, we're trying to get the goose numbers up so
12 we could have a harvest and we're telling them to go in
13 and kill the foxes. One year they did. They got
14 \$40,000 from Ducks Unlimited, so they went in and did
15 some work, but now their hands are tied again.

16
17 It's not only foxes that are preying on
18 these animals or these birds, but you have the Glaucus
19 gulls that are up there eating more than that are
20 flying out. So it's not just foxes. I mean you have
21 other birds preying on these things. You know, not
22 only eating eggs but eating young birds.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Peter. Just out of curiosity from just what he said,
26 in your mind, how would we -- if we were wanting to
27 request to do something, what would your recommended
28 steps be?

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
31 Chair. Clarification. If you were wanting to do
32 something about which issue? What he just talked
33 about? If it's a terrestrial land animal and it's on
34 Federal land, you would need to write to the Federal
35 land manager regarding that concern.

36
37 With respect to migratory birds, that
38 would be a new one, for me anyway, and my suspicion is
39 that would have to go through the Alaska Migratory Bird
40 Co-Management Council as a proposal if a bird is
41 preying on another bird because Federal land manager
42 are not out there managing birds the same way they are
43 managing terrestrial animals. However, I can get
44 clarification for that because I have not been asked
45 that question before.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
50 you ready to move on to number four.

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. Sea otters and other marine mammals are
3 protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The
4 Act does not authorize predator control of marine
5 mammals. Subsistence hunting of marine mammals by
6 Alaska Natives however is permitted under the act.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: I would assume that that
11 would imply that our indigenous friends and neighbors
12 could selectively harvest them in certain places then.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Holmes.
15 Through the Chair. Yes, Alaska Natives are allowed to
16 go and harvest sea otters in areas where it's permitted
17 certainly.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: My point is that, you
20 know, with all the discussions of tribal sovereignty
21 and all the other things that interact, I was just
22 thinking of our Womens Bay situation in Kodiak. I
23 think providing encouragement to the members of the
24 Sun'ag Tribe and the Native Village of Afognak, et
25 cetera, to do their gathering of pelts for their
26 personal use to that area. I mean you could have -- I
27 mean if Native folks can harvest otters, then they
28 themselves in my mind could set up their own decision
29 as to where they wanted to harvest them to benefit
30 their own subsistence needs on other species. I'm
31 sorry to be combative, but I'm just looking around
32 corners.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Holmes, through
35 the Chair. I don't think you're being combative. I
36 think these are all very legitimate questions and this
37 is why we put this together because we're trying to get
38 you the best information possible. As long as harvest
39 of sea otters by those qualified is within the
40 regulations for using for personal use and for
41 handicraft, then certainly that is permitted.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Have you got
44 another comment, Peter.

45
46 MR. DEVINE: Yes. Thank you, Madame
47 Chair. What she says is partially true. She said
48 Alaska Natives can hunt, but we've come across a
49 problem. There's this underlying where you have to
50 have a quarter quantum. So what I'm teaching my

1 grandchildren is illegal today, but through the Harbor
2 Seal Commission we're going through the process of
3 trying to get that reversed to where we could eliminate
4 the blood quantum. We started two years ago, but these
5 things take time, so hopefully in 20 years we'll have
6 it.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Thank
11 you, Mr. Devine. That is absolutely correct. I should
12 have clarified what that is, blood quantum for
13 eligibility to hunt marine mammals.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
18 Peter, yeah, that was a good reminder. Any other
19 discussion at this point before we move on.

20

21 Rebecca.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: I think it might be
24 useful for this Council
25 to talk about if we're allowed to form maybe a
26 subcommittee that can kind of catch these issues and
27 come up with a framework or a plan. I agree with Pat's
28 comments where he was going with how to address the sea
29 otter issue in Kodiak.

30

31 So it's been identified that the sea
32 otters have been characterized as devastating the
33 shellfish resources and there are mechanisms to hunt
34 otters. There are a limited number of people or a
35 class of people who can hunt otters, but there is a
36 mechanism.

37

38 I think, you know, similarly with the
39 geese, there may be ways of addressing predator control
40 that impacts subsistence resources, but not through the
41 Federal Subsistence Board process necessarily. I feel
42 like these have come up enough in this Council that it
43 would be helpful to have kind of a designated group of
44 people, so at least we know where to send these issues
45 when they come up. Actually I think having a framework
46 would be most helpful so that when these things come in
47 we're not every time trying to figure out how do we
48 handle this request or this problem.

49

50 I also think a lot of these issues are

1 statewide. The otter problem is not statewide, but
2 it's definitely not just in Kodiak. It's a problem in
3 Southeast. It sounds like it may be a problem out
4 here, Kachemak Bay. I think there's a lot of
5 opportunity to address the problem, so the problem is
6 not just hunting the sea otters. Then once you have
7 the sea otter you have to pay to tan the hide or you
8 can tan it yourself.

9

10 So then there's how do you pay for
11 tanning the hid and then there's where do you get the
12 hide tanned and then if you're trying to make the hide
13 into something to sell, there's a whole marketing
14 issue. So while otters can be hunted, I think there's
15 a bigger problem that could be discussed that might
16 encourage people to actually hunt the otters if that's
17 something that we want to deal with.

18

19 So understanding this is not a Federal
20 Subsistence Board issue but it has been identified as
21 an important issue at this Council level, again, if
22 appropriate, I think, you know, a subcommittee might be
23 useful.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
26 Rebecca. I also agree because that sort of answers
27 some of the concern that some of these issues are
28 taking too much RAC time. That some of it a working
29 group can work through some of the issues so it
30 streamlines the process a bit, you know, as long as
31 we're careful that we don't override the people that
32 it's impacting the most.

33

34 Karen, go ahead.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. That is
37 the end of my presentation to you on the four points
38 about predator control for this Council. Again, I want
39 to clarify this is for agency-sponsored or formal
40 predator control. If the discussion is over and the
41 Council elects, then I can turn it over to Tom
42 Schwantes to talk about the regulatory side of hunting
43 and trapping predators on Federal lands and the impacts
44 of the recent final rule.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. As you

1 all know, we presented comments and received
2 information from the Feds regarding this Proposed Final
3 Rule and the effects that it would have. Quite
4 frankly, I'll just be straightforward. I believe in
5 calling a spade a spade. We were not told the truth
6 about these regulations. In fact, when we received
7 that testimony that supposedly this was being prepared,
8 we found out within an hour or so after receiving that
9 testimony that the regulation was back in Washington,
10 D.C. and it had already been approved.

11
12 Anyway, what I would like to do, I
13 would like this Council -- and I'll put it for you as a
14 motion. That this council send a letter to the
15 Subsistence Board requesting that they petition the
16 Secretaries to contact the Alaska Delegation and
17 request that they do everything they can to overturn
18 this Final Rule that's been implemented by the Feds.

19
20 I think let's stop there. I have
21 another motion I want to make regarding this same
22 thing, but let's stop here and discuss this and see
23 what we want to do. We do not have the authority to
24 contact the Alaska Delegation, but we do have the
25 authority to petition the Federal Subsistence Board and
26 request that they go through the Secretaries to contact
27 the Alaska Delegation to help us with this issue. So
28 my motion would be that we take that step.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have a motion
33 on the floor at the time.

34
35 Rebecca.

36
37 MS. SKINNER: Can I ask a question.
38 Does your motion pertain to the rule for non-
39 subsistence take of wildlife, the Fish and Wildlife
40 Service rule?

41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.

43
44 MS. SKINNER: Okay. I'll second the
45 motion.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have a motion
48 made by Tom, seconded by Rebecca. Discussion. Pat.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I agree with you

1 folks. I was wondering if we need to have a friendly
2 amendment that says to the Board and to the
3 representative agencies? Do we also need to go that
4 route as well or can we just go straight to the Board,
5 Karen?

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Holmes, through
8 the Chair. I'm not sure about that because, again,
9 this is an issue that -- this issue is outside of the
10 Board's jurisdiction because this relates to sport
11 hunting, does not relate to subsistence. My
12 recommendation at this time, unless I find out
13 otherwise, is to go ahead and direct this to the Board
14 as a concern by the Council and ask the Board to take
15 action to petition or make a request of the Secretary
16 of the Interior.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does that answer
19 your question, Pat?

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Yes, it does. And to
22 provide some support I'd be willing to work with Tom
23 and however we come up with the final phrasing of this.

24

25

26 I read that document that was published
27 and I know that we need to talk to the respective
28 agencies, but we have talked to the respective
29 agencies. We talked to Haskett in person in
30 teleconference about our concerns on the Peninsula. We
31 talked to his predecessor. We talked to every single
32 one of the Refuge Managers saying, gee, when we have
33 two percent survival from June to September, there's a
34 problem. When you see a population on Unimak Island
35 drop to 300, there's a problem. That's way below
36 carrying capacity. We've raised that many times.

37

38 I'd like to also once again have on the
39 record that when we had our meeting at Cold Bay, there
40 was an agenda item, I believe, and it was a briefing to
41 our Council about the EA process and Unimak Island.
42 Correct me if I'm wrong, Della, but the whole thing --
43 none of the villages got, as far as we heard,
44 communications. It was published in the Anchorage
45 paper. Della herself got in contact with the folks at
46 False Pass for their testimony. It was all summarized
47 up nice and neatly at the end by the staff and they did
48 a nice, professional job.

49

50 When we asked the person who was

1 preparing it, he was a retired deputy refuge director,
2 and we asked him are you going to False Pass, Nelson
3 Lagoon, Sand Point, King Cove, any of these other
4 areas, to get folks that have hunted there for their
5 input and he said, gee, I can't because I was only
6 hired to come to do this meeting and then go back to
7 Anchorage to meet with the environmental folks and then
8 with the Alaska Outdoor Council and the Alaska Guide
9 Council.

10

11 So there was never any intent there in
12 our minds -- or mine, I can't speak for the RAC -- that
13 they were ever even listening to us as to our comments
14 on Unimak Island and previous times in relation to the
15 Peninsula. So it's just unfortunate because you read
16 this MOA that's coming up that we'll talk a little
17 later that was drafted on August 11th and yet there's a
18 whole lot of good things in here, but, you know,
19 considering how many have been ignored in the past, I
20 think this is a good document, but I guess we're
21 skeptical.

22

23 We just want to continue to reinforce
24 that we're not talking about predator control. We're
25 talking about food for
26 people for subsistence and folks in False Pass haven't
27 had caribou for 10 years. I know kids that are going
28 into junior high that have never eaten caribou and they
29 spent their whole lives on the Peninsula, you know.
30 The caribou are there. I mean
31 if all you got is a 32-foot driftnetter, it's really
32 tough to get to where the caribou are on your feet. So
33 I'm just kind of
34 explaining our concern and angst.

35

36 I'd like to toss out something for a
37 little comic relief. Perhaps instead of referring to
38 predator control, I mean the Federal government just
39 loves acronyms, so I would propose SSARBLNB, selective
40 surgical adjustments to restore balance of local
41 natural biodiversity. That way it's surgical removing
42 of the problem individual critters. Not killing them
43 all off, but just individual critters, just like you
44 would do a bear in Katmai or in the National Park
45 that's causing problems. Boop, a bear disappears after
46 he kills five tourists from California. The same with
47 panthers in Los Angeles. So I think the thought of
48 SSARBLNB is a good one.

49

50 Thank you.

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
2 Karen, just a point of clarification as we're going
3 through this. You made the point of requesting, let's
4 say using Izembek as an example, to the land manager
5 that the issue is wolves, the predation of caribou by
6 wolves on Unit 10. Now that is a major concern, so we
7 go to the Refuge Manager. What basically is his steps
8 in authority? Because every time we've gotten through
9 anything like this it's gotten to an EA. I'll get into
10 that discussion after. Just using that as an example,
11 how far do you see this going? Is this just one of
12 those things that we always get into where, oh, you
13 have a process but it doesn't go anywhere?

14
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I can't
16 really answer that question. I can tell you that when
17 a Federal agency does go in and manipulate any type of
18 population or if there's any major action, which
19 predator control could conceivably be, on Federal
20 lands, it stimulates the National Environmental Policy
21 Act, NEPA,
22 which requires several documents starting with a basic,
23 it's a clear issue that you could just sign off on, all
24 the way up to a full environmental impact statement,
25 which, as you know, is very timely.

26
27 So that is the process and there are no
28 guarantees as to where that will end up. And it's a
29 national process, so it will go out for comment to all
30 citizens of the United States who are considered
31 landowners of Federal public lands. So that is the
32 process.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
37 respond to that and then Tom and Coral. So when we
38 talk about spending time doing this, we are wasting our
39 time. Vince Tutiakoff, as a member of this Council,
40 went through this time and time again. These Council
41 members, time and time again we've lost Council members
42 on here because they're frustrated with this process.
43 We're spending time and we're getting nowhere. And
44 then now we're going to create another document that's
45 going to continue to allow us
46 to go nowhere.

47
48 It is frustrating because, using the
49 caribou as an example, you're going to end up back in
50 the EA process. We cannot compete with the Lower 48

1 and conservation groups and environmentalists on an
2 issue like this in Alaska. There is no way we will ever
3 beat it. So I feel my frustration, and I'll say it on
4 record, is why are we doing this. I honestly don't see
5 any good resolution coming out of it except to what
6 we've been doing before and maybe streamlining it and
7 that might be about it.

8

9 With that, I'm sorry. Tom.

10

11 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess what I would
12 say to that, Della, is if we shut up, we'll never get
13 any results. We have to keep fighting. We have to
14 keep fighting for the people that we represent and
15 that's why I say it's time we go to the Alaska
16 Delegation instead of messing around with these Federal
17 agencies. We need to go to the people in Washington
18 who have some clout and maybe we can get somewhere. We
19 got somewhere with the cattle issue and with the
20 caribou issue and so that's our only hope. That's the
21 only hope that I see left, so I think we need to do
22 this.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. So I'm new to
29 this whole predator control thing. I'm just looking
30 for clarification I guess on what we mean by predator
31 control. And I guess in the last couple meetings it's
32 my understanding that we're looking -- what we mean by
33 that is that we want a State or Federal agency to fund
34 coming in and removing predators?

35

36 Because I think -- I know Della is
37 expressing some frustration, but I think it is good to
38 have these conversations again and again and again and
39 to decide what do we mean by predator control? Because
40 we can eliminate those predators on our own perhaps as
41 we think about finding solutions. When I look in these
42 books, I see a lot of nearly year-round 10 wolves a
43 day.

44

45 I think we're always looking for
46 someone else to fix something for us and I think maybe
47 through having conversation and through our frustration
48 we can find other solutions. You know, advertising in
49 your area to the whole country that, hey, you can come
50 here, you can get 10 wolves a day. You know, that's a

1 solution. Bring people to your community to get rid of
2 those.

3

4 I don't know that for myself that the
5 answer is asking an agency to come in and fix the
6 problem for us when we have all the tools we need.
7 Perhaps just an idea. Maybe I could get clarification
8 on what do we mean by predator control. Do we want
9 Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife to come in and kill 20
10 wolves for us? Do we want someone else to take care of
11 the problem for us? I guess that's kind of -- I want
12 clarification on that.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think maybe
17 just to help with that and anybody can help.

18

19 MR. SCHWANTES: I can answer that.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'll just
22 let Tom answer that for you.

23

24 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess what I would
25 say is that when the state of Alaska became a state,
26 there was an agreement between the Feds and the State
27 that the State would manage fish and wildlife and now
28 we see the Feds are trying to take that over. So
29 that's a big part of my concern. And I think if we
30 don't address that, it's just going to get worse and
31 that's why I feel like we need to go back to the Alaska
32 Delegation and say let's get this straightened out.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

35

36 MS. SKINNER: So I think part of the
37 issue is that the hunting regulation books you're
38 looking at that say you can take 10 wolves might be --
39 are they State? Part of the problem is that the State
40 took a more liberalized approach to predator control
41 and the Federal government reacted by passing the rule
42 that we recently commented on and we feel like our
43 comments were ignored where we disagreed with I think
44 the process and the outcome of the rule which
45 significantly limited predator control hunting on
46 Federal lands.

47

48 So I think part of what Tom is saying
49 is that this was allowed -- it used to be allowed under
50 State and Federal and now it is not allowed under

1 Federal for Federal land. So we.....

2

3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: No. Just going
4 back to what Coral and then your discussion. An
5 example is on Unit 10. Unit 10 is mostly Federal.
6 It's basically almost all Federal on Unimak. Now Unit
7 9D you've got a large combination of State, Federal and
8 private owned, private owned being the corporations.
9 So the State did come in and remove some wolves because
10 it had an impact on the caribou.

11

12 Well, the issue that couldn't get done
13 is on Unimak, which the majority of it is Federal
14 lands, that they had to go through a process. The
15 State wanted to come in and they wanted the Feds to
16 remove those wolves that were impacting the caribou
17 herd. So that's basically the jurisdiction and the
18 land
19 owners.

20

21 MS. CHERNOFF: So for clarification,
22 what we mean by predator control is that the Federal
23 agency comes in and eliminates the predator? Like we
24 want someone else to do that.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Almost.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair.

29

30 MS. CHERNOFF: What's the definition of
31 predator control?

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think we have to ask
34 -- through the Chair. I think we have to ask the
35 question in the sense of what is the State and
36 Federal's definition of predator control. When you ask
37 for predator control, you're asking for the State or
38 the Federal government to go in and remove a minimum
39 number of predators to affect -- or the State and the
40 Federal government to
41 artificially manipulate a prey population.

42

43 A lot of people, when it comes to
44 hunting and trapping regulations, kind of use more of
45 the term defacto predator control. So when the State
46 says you can take 10 wolves per day on Federal lands, a
47 lot of those proposals historically have come from
48 people who want to get rid of wolves on those lands.
49 You know, because there's a lot of people out there
50 that aren't going to go trap or hunt 10 wolves per day.

1 I mean it was designed to allow for a very liberal
2 harvest of wolves. We see the same thing with black
3 bears with year-round seasons and things like that.

4

5 I think what I would recommend to the
6 Council is that when you do talk about predator
7 control, you keep that separate as a formal program at
8 the Federal and State levels because that's going to
9 help you understand which direction you go in to try to
10 get what you want.

11

12 If you want a formal predator control
13 program, you go through the methods I talked about. If
14 you want a quote/unquote de facto program, you ask for
15 liberalized bag limits, liberalized seasons, you go
16 through the State, put in a proposal, things like that
17 for regulatory changes. And it makes it a lot cleaner
18 than making everything predator control.

19

20 That is just my recommendation at this
21 point because there's been a lot of confusion.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

26

27 MR. SCHWANTES: There's been a lot of
28 negative communication. I'd like to just turn for a
29 minute and turn it to the positive side. We had -- in
30 your area, we had a caribou population that was down to
31 nothing and there was no seasons, no hunting, no food
32 for the people. The State went in there and did some
33 selective removal of those wolves and now we have a
34 viable population that's on the increase. So I mean
35 there's scientific proof there that it works. I think
36 that's what we need to keep looking at, that positive
37 side. It doesn't make any difference who does it, just
38 so it gets done. Our concern is to take care of the
39 people.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
42 We do have a motion on the floor at this time. Tom did
43 make a motion requesting that this Council request the
44 Board to petition the Alaska Delegation to overturn the
45 rule, is that correct?

46

47 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. We have
48 to petition the Board to go through the
49 Secretaries.....

50

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Through the
2 Secretaries, okay.
3
4 MR. SCHWANTES:to go to the
5 Alaska Delegation.
6
7 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And then
8 seconded by Rebecca.
9 Rebecca.
10
11 MS. SKINNER: So another clarifying
12 question, although I think this is the same question I
13 had before. So the
14 communication with the Alaska Delegation is specific to
15 the rule for non-subsistence take of wildlife on Refuge
16 lands in Alaska, correct? And so that is going more
17 towards what Karen was referring to. Did you call it
18 de facto predator control? So we're not asking for the
19 Federal Delegation to advocate for predator control.
20 What we're asking for is this rule that limits this de
21 facto predator control to go away.
22
23 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.
24
25 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Thank you.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: So is everybody
28 in agreement now that we're thoroughly confused?
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, I think she hit it
33 right on the spot.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, I know she
36 did.
37
38 MR. KOSO: I call for question.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question's
41 been called. I'd like to take a roll call on this
42 vote, please.
43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Coral Chernoff.
45
46 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.
47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Patrick Holmes.
49
50 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I don't know

1 exactly what we're voting on. I'm voting on the gist
2 that we'd like to see the rule
3 removed and then re-discussion of the concepts because,
4 to me, as a biologist, the concept of predator
5 control.....
6
7 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, we're on a
8 vote.
9
10 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry. I'll be quiet.
11 I'll be quiet. Yes. Yes, ma'am.
12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes or no vote.
14
15 MR. HOLMES: Yes.
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Antone Shelikoff.
18
19 MR. SHELKOFF: Yes.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rebecca Skinner.
22
23 MS. SKINNER: Yes.
24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Della Trumble.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.
28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rick Koso.
30
31 MR. KOSO: Yes.
32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Schwantes.
34
35 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.
36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: On the phone we have
38 Melissa Berns.
39
40 MS. BERNES: Yes.
41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: And that's your vote,
43 Melissa?
44
45 MS. BERN: That is my vote, thank you.
46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: The motion passes
48 unanimously.
49
50 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd like to propose
2 another motion that once we get this letter together we
3 send it to the other nine RACs in Alaska and ask them
4 to sign off on it so that we have all of the RACs in
5 Alaska approving this going forward.
6
7 MS. SKINNER: Second.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: A motion made
10 and second. Discussion.
11
12 MR. HOLMES: Question.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question has
15 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
20 sign.
21
22 (No opposing votes)
23
24 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good job.
25 Thank you, Karen. I know this has been tough and it's
26 been a tough decision for not only us, but I think
27 given we're starting the round, we're stirring the pot
28 first.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I also
33 want to thank the Council because I know it's a very
34 complicated issue and I appreciate your respect and
35 your patience. I also want to let you know that I will
36 continue to help you to be effective in what you're
37 doing on this issue because I realize it is important
38 to you. So I just want to make sure you have the right
39 channels.
40
41 Thank you.
42
43 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
44 Rebecca.
45
46 MS. SKINNER: If necessary, I'd like to
47 make a motion to create a subcommittee to deal with the
48 issue of predator control and state for the record that
49 I'm using that term very broadly and that would include
50 everything we've talked about today, so it could

1 include predators in regards to caribou, could relate
2 to otters and shellfish, it could relate to geese and
3 foxes and Glaucus-winged gulls.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Motion
6 made. Karen, do you have a comment?

7
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, I do. Thank you,
9 Madame Chair. Could we clarify the motion that you
10 would create a working group because a committee, any
11 type of committee, would stimulate the Federal Advisory
12 Committee Act.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MS. SKINNER: Yes. I'm moving to
17 create a working group.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
20 second.

21
22 MR. SCHWANTES: I second.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second made by
25 Tom. Discussion.

26
27 MR. KOSO: Della, are you going to
28 appoint that group or is it just going to be voluntary?

29
30 MR. HOLMES: I'll volunteer.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'd say
33 volunteer. Well, I think we need to -- maybe when we
34 take a break we can talk a little bit about how we want
35 to set this up. I guess how many member working group
36 is it and -- yeah, it's.....

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I know
39 we've set up a working group for the Federal Fisheries
40 Resource Monitoring Program, which has been very
41 successful in my opinion. So we currently have four
42 members on that working group. The Council can choose
43 the number of members they think will be effective.
44 You can nominate them at this meeting and that can go
45 on the record.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there four of
50 us or five of us in that group. Tom, Pat, myself and

1 Rebecca, is that correct?
2
3 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair. I suggest we
4 keep the same group for this one.
5
6 MS. SKINNER: I don't want to be on
7 this group. I would actually suggest you find out who
8 wants to be on it in addition to Pat and start from
9 there.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.
12
13 MS. CHERNOFF: I would like to be on
14 the group. I'm pretty involved in sea otters.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, Pat, Tom.
17
18 MS. BERNS: Madame Chair. This is
19 Melissa Berns. I'm interested in serving on the work
20 group as well.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I'm going
23 to have to put
24 myself in this little group here because we've got four
25 from Kodiak and nobody from the Aleutians.
26
27 All right. Coral.
28
29 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm good. I was going
30 to suggest that somebody who is really familiar with
31 perhaps caribou areas. That seems to be a good fit for
32 the group.
33
34 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I guess
35 we have.....
36
37 MR. KOSO: Call the question, please.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question has
40 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.
43
44 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
45 sign.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
50 Good job, guys. One hour we've got a lot done.

1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. While we're
2 warming up for the next topic I was wondering if I
3 could make -- a fellow I used to call Uncle Iver
4 Malutin in Kodiak would sometimes pop up regardless of
5 what the topic was and put in an observation. I think
6 I'd like to make an observation on this whole PC
7 question.

8
9 Looking at a lot of the comments that
10 came in on the EA for Unimak and the road to King Cove
11 and then also this last action on the rule, it seems
12 like a lot of it is coming from California. I can't
13 help but wonder maybe we'd give a poke to Greg and then
14 the NOAA person. You know, the first year I think they
15 only took like 13 wolves. The place that made most of
16 the comments was California. I was thinking Greg could
17 maybe just go out and dart 10 wolves on Unimak Island,
18 sedate them and mail them down to San Francisco and let
19 them go in the Golden Gate park.

20
21 We could also -- I've heard their
22 otters are having problems getting food. Survival has
23 dropped on the sea otters. So, you know, we could get
24 30 sea otters from Kodiak and send them down to San
25 Diego and just let them enjoy some of the privileges we
26 have here in Alaska with those critters. Not do
27 blanket things, but just a few.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
30 Karen, do you have a comment.

31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. This is
33 Karen Deatherage. I'm sorry, I need to clarify on
34 something I said on the record that I'm trying to help
35 you be effective in getting predator control because I
36 don't have an opinion one way or the other because I'm
37 not allowed to. What I want to do is make sure you're
38 effective with your communication and I want to make
39 sure I clarified that for you. That you follow the
40 route that is going to get you the attention that you
41 want for those issues.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
46 Karen. Appreciate it.

47
48 Tom.

49
50 MR. SCHWANTES: Karen, it's hard for me

1 to believe you don't have an opinion.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's true, but I'm
6 not allowed to.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Moving on
9 under new business. We've got the FRMP priority
10 information needs.

11

12 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Council
13 members. For the record, my name is Karen Hyer. I'm
14 with the Office of Subsistence Management and I'm a
15 fisheries biologist with the Fisheries Division. I'm
16 going to talk to you today about the Fisheries Resource
17 Monitoring Program and a little bit about the process
18 and then I'm going to introduce what the working group
19 has done with the priority information needs and then
20 I'm going to turn it over to them. We're going to
21 start on Page 20 of your books and then we're going to
22 move to the handout that says draft priority
23 information needs and this is in your supplemental
24 materials. So I just want to make sure you have both
25 of those before you start. It should be in the back,
26 right.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 MS. HYER: Okay. Starting on Page 20.
31 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is part of
32 the Office of Subsistence Management and it's housed in
33 the Fisheries Division. It is a program where we grant
34 money for fisheries monitoring and research projects.
35 The money is granted through a competitive process. So
36 coming up this fall we're going to be placing a notice
37 of funding opportunity for these projects.

38

39 It's a biannual program, so the call
40 goes out every other year for projects. The projects
41 are to gather information to help manage Federal
42 subsistence fisheries. So each project that's funded
43 has a tie to Federal subsistence fisheries. That's
44 important to recognize that it has to be tied back to
45 the Federal program.

46

47 So if you look at Page 20, you can see
48 there the regional allocations for the Fisheries
49 Resource Monitoring Program. So for Southwest 15
50 percent of the money will be allocated to this region

1 and those are just guidelines. Sometimes that
2 percentage is a little bit more, sometimes it's a
3 little bit less depending on the projects that are
4 submitted. So these projects -- the Board set these
5 guidelines and it talks a little bit about it as you
6 read through, but these have kind of been the
7 guidelines we've been using for quite a while.

8
9 Now coming up for the next call we
10 think we're going to have between 1.5 and 2 million
11 dollars and that's yearly funding. So that means
12 approximately if you have 2 million, that means
13 probably 300,000 per year for the Southwest Region for
14 projects. What happens is these projects are two to
15 four years usually and the money is allocated through
16 our process. So we now have projects that were funded
17 in 2014 currently in the water and they will -- they're
18 funded through 2017, so they'll be funded through next
19 summer and then they'll have to reapply for more
20 funding if they want to continue. Some projects don't
21 continue. Some are just short-term projects.

22
23 There are two kinds of projects we
24 fund. The first is, if you look at the top of Page 21,
25 Stock Status and Trends. These projects deal with
26 abundance, composition, timing, behavior and status of
27 fish populations. The second group we fund is Harvest
28 Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. These
29 projects deal with quantification of harvest and effort
30 and description and assessment of fishing and use
31 patterns.

32
33 Through the process, the process starts
34 with the priority information needs and we'll be
35 discussing that in detail in just a few minutes. That
36 opportunity starts with the Regional Advisory Council
37 and they make recommendations to us about what they see
38 is the priorities in their region and your working
39 group has been working on that. So they'll be
40 presenting to you some ideas they've come up with.

41
42 Then those priorities then are taken
43 back to our office and we talk to the land managers and
44 the other agencies that help regulate the fisheries and
45 we get their input too. So then the next meeting will
46 be our winter meeting. We'll come back with a list of
47 priorities that we will put out in the call and that
48 list is what sets the sideboards for people applying
49 for the money and it guides the investigators. It lets
50 them know where we think the priorities are in the

1 region and what kind of proposals we'd like to see.

2

3 So it's really important that you
4 develop thoughtful priorities for this region. Then
5 once those are developed and the notice of funding goes
6 out, we'll ask for the proposals to be submitted and
7 they'll come in sometime next spring.

8

9 The very first thing that happens is
10 they're evaluated by our Technical Review Committee.
11 This is a committee made up of Federal and State
12 agencies and it is the technical experts in the file.
13 They see the full proposals. If you look at the bottom
14 of Page 21 and the top of 22, they evaluate the
15 proposals based on these five criteria. So they
16 evaluate it on strategic priority, then the technical
17 and scientific merit, the investigator ability and
18 resources, then a partnership-capacity building
19 component that we require, and then cost benefit.

20

21 They produce a recommendation as to
22 what projects they think should be funded and what ones
23 shouldn't be. Then that recommendation helps us with
24 the technical aspect. That's the part that they're
25 supposed to do and that's why they get to see the whole
26 proposals. Now the proposals don't go beyond them
27 because they're proprietary and some investigators are
28 taking those proposals and looking for money in other
29 places too. So we don't make those proposals public.

30

31 The next thing is they'll produce a
32 list and then we'll come back out to the Regional
33 Advisory Councils. If there's a project that's not
34 technically sound, the likelihood of it being funded is
35 very small because we want to fund good projects. Then
36 we'll take the good projects and we'll come back out to
37 the RACs and we'll say, with this list of good
38 projects, which ones do you see as the priorities and
39 you'll give us your feedback on those projects.

40

41 Then we'll take those two lists and we
42 go back to the Interagency Staff Committee, which is
43 the support for the Federal Board and we will get input
44 from them also as to what they see is important and
45 then we take all that information and we take it back
46 to the Federal Subsistence Board and they're the ones
47 that make the recommendation on what to fund.

48

49 Even with their recommendation what we
50 finally fund is based on our budget and our budget does

1 change from year to year. So the final say actually is
2 determined by Gene Peltola and it really is directly
3 related to our budget.

4
5 So if you look at the bottom of Page
6 22, you'll be able to see what has been funded in your
7 region and currently the 2014 and the 2016 projects,
8 there are two projects there, those are currently being
9 operated in your region at the moment. This is only
10 for the Kodiak/Aleutian Region. I've taken out all the
11 Bristol Bay projects although your decision is made in
12 conjunction with that RAC because your region is the
13 Southwest Region.

14
15 At that point I will take a pause and
16 I'll take any questions you have and then we'll go on
17 to the priority information needs.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

20
21 MR. SCHWANTES: I just have one
22 questions. On these projects that are already funded
23 on the bottom of Page 22, can you tell us what the
24 expiration date of that funding is.

25
26 MS. HYER: Yes, absolutely. So if you
27 look at the bottom of the list, you'll see one project
28 that starts with 14-402 and that project was submitted
29 in 2014. It was submitted for four years of funding.
30 So that project will be funded for the summer of 2014,
31 2015, 2016 and 2017. The 2016 project, its first
32 season was this year, 2016. Then all the other
33 projects are older projects and they've come to
34 completion.

35
36 If you look down the list, you'll see
37 -- like for example, the very first project on the list
38 is Buskin River sockeye and then you see it again in
39 '04, so that was a continuation project that was funded
40 through one cycle and then they felt like it was still
41 a priority, so they funded it again. But our funding
42 is for four years. So many, many projects, especially
43 the stock status and trends projects request four
44 years. Sometimes some of the harvest monitoring
45 projects request less funding because they're smaller,
46 more concise projects.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, did you
49 have a question?

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. If I can get
2 my brain to kick in and remember it. At one time the
3 RACs had direct input in the evaluation of which were
4 the priority information needs. We had a
5 representative from each RAC that went to Anchorage to
6 discuss that. That's disappeared. We've never been
7 given the reason for that. I assume it was budgets.

8
9 One of the things we discussed with the
10 Bristol Bay folks, beings we're kind of lumped into it
11 with them, was the fact that we'd really like to see
12 our little study group that we had, the RACs regain
13 that where they are saying, hey, here's a problem. The
14 reason for this -- and I'm a biologist, I like to do
15 big projects, but the reason for this is some of the
16 projects that get proposed are very esoteric, very
17 expensive.

18
19 I think in terms of like the Lake Clark
20 -- what is the buzzword there. It's something to do
21 with intensive cultural blah, blah, blah. Assessment.
22 There's what I wanted. But to solve the problems. Is
23 there a problem on Lake Clark sockeye? We don't know.
24 The folks on Bristol Bay RAC don't know exactly why
25 that project would be funded.

26
27 And so sometimes I've observed in the
28 17, 18 years of doing this is that sometimes there's
29 some selectivity there that are very expensive and they
30 might achieve a biological goal for information or,
31 like in the case of the harvest surveys, there was a
32 proposal from a lady from -- I forget where she is
33 from, down in one of the "I" states, that we
34 recommended that you not be funded and it was to do the
35 surveys from Della's region and it was 900,000 for the
36 first shot and we said no and urged that it would be
37 no, much to Della's chagrin, but the lady came back
38 with a very similar proposal now for a couple hundred
39 or three hundred.

40
41 One of the things that I think should
42 have some merit with the reduction in budgets for all
43 of the agencies is that we are going to propose a
44 little pilot study whereby on maybe harvest surveys to
45 get the precise professional advice from a Subsistence
46 Division or Anthropology folks at OSM to work and coach
47 in just two villages. I talked with Jim Fall at
48 Subsistence Division and he said that they really need
49 to have a new set of good data for the Togiak area and
50 for Unalaska. Even though Unalaska was done recently,

1 it was approved, but it ended up being a very esoteric
2 anthropological thing rather than the type of specific
3 questions for harvest there.

4
5 So what I think we're going to toss out
6 in a proposal as an information need is to do a low
7 cost pilot study to see if we can't get the cost of
8 these surveys down. Because if you look at that
9 university that lady works from, they charge 55 percent
10 overhead. We have staff in the different agencies. We
11 have -- and if the high school kids can't help do the
12 surveys once they're trained, maybe the local folks or
13 maybe the tribes, but a lot of this should be done
14 local because if Vince was coming to interview me, he'd
15 know if I was cribbing or something about a place.

16
17 So I think that type of approach. We'd
18 like to have more input and depending what the PINs are
19 and then we'd like to toss out some of the PINs
20 ourselves. That's just my observations from our group
21 discussion.

22
23 Do you have anything to correct me on
24 because we spent quit a bit of time.

25
26 Thank you for your listening.

27
28 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Council
29 members. I just have a couple comments related to
30 that. First, one of the reasons we formed the working
31 group is so there was more dialogue because we felt,
32 not only with this Council but other Councils, we
33 haven't had enough of a chance to have dialogue because
34 everything has had to happen at these public meetings.
35 So our hope is to allow the Council to have more
36 dialogue through the working group. It's new to us, so
37 along with that I think we'd welcome any input as the
38 process goes on as to how that is working for you as a
39 Council.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think I just
44 maybe have one comment to that and part of it is the
45 members that weren't on this working group on this
46 Council, you know, we do see what the Kodiak/Aleutians
47 funding is, but it doesn't necessarily show what
48 Bristol Bay is. Just kind of give a better picture of
49 how this all fit together. I realize, you know, when
50 we did the working group we just have the funding

1 because we're lumped in with Bristol Bay, but just a
2 sheet showing basically how that funding came out.

3

4 MS. HYER: Madame Chair, if I
5 understand you correctly, you were just talking about
6 the funding for the whole region. At this point we
7 think we have 1.5 to 2 million dollars. Again, we're
8 projecting and that number can change. Your percentage
9 guideline is for the whole region. I know you've had
10 several different discussions about how to kind of
11 approach that within your region.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think what I'm
14 asking is the breakdown of that amount and how the
15 funding got allocated or recommend the allocation and
16 how it was prioritized because it came out of the
17 working group.

18

19 MS. HYER: Right. I think we turned to
20 the working group for that. I think you guys have made
21 some progress in that. We use this as a guideline, but
22 in the past we have just looked at, for this region,
23 what projects are technically sound and then we've then
24 funded the ones that were a high priority that were
25 technically sound.

26

27 You'll get to voice your opinion on the
28 projects once the projects come in, but if you have an
29 opinion about the priority information needs and what
30 is the highest priority, this would be a good time to
31 talk about that, but I think you've been very
32 thoughtful in your approach from what I've looked at
33 because you've limited your priority information needs.

34

35

36 With less money, I think a more
37 directed call is probably more effective because if you
38 list ten PINs and really only three are your priority,
39 but you list all 10, we don't have any control over
40 what the investigators put in and they might go for a
41 priority that is less important to you, so I think
42 you've been very wise in what you've done.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, did you
45 have a comment and then maybe we can move on.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is there
50 anything else we need to cover on that one?

1 MS. HYER: If there are no other
2 questions, I was just going to point you to the
3 supplemental information and I think I've covered most
4 of it. This fall, probably in November/December, we're
5 actually going to put out the notice for the 2018
6 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. So, again, this
7 money won't be used or be available until 2018 for
8 projects. We have a very long process. This is what
9 the working group has come up with and the working
10 group was going to present that themselves. So I think
11 I'll just see if there's any comments after it's done.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's good.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: If I can make a comment.
16 Our discussions that Karen facilitated for us with the
17 Bristol Bay Council I felt was very informative I think
18 to both parties and I think we all learned a lot on
19 that. We probably wouldn't have got it done without
20 Karen's facilitation. I think that that's going to
21 open up an avenue for hopefully some understanding and
22 more equitable allocation for projects.

23

24 I noticed in the -- I don't have the
25 document with me, but in the past our half of the
26 region usually gets 20 percent of the funding and
27 that's a function of applications that go in and also a
28 definition of what need is. So I'm kind of hoping that
29 our little working group will go out once the Council
30 has discussed things that are potential PINs to go out
31 to NOAA, Fish and Game, tribes and start hustling
32 people to do some more proposals because I hate to see
33 the Kodiak/Aleutians lose out to a whole bunch of
34 proposals for National Parks in a whole different part
35 of the state.

36

37 So, anyway, we're going to, I think,
38 continue to have a dialogue. Talking to Molly and Dan
39 Dunaway was I think very informative.

40

41 Thanks, Karen.

42

43 MS. HYER: Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Members
48 of the Council. I'd also like to add Donald Mike to
49 that list of helping to facilitate that meeting. He is
50 the Council Coordinator for the Bristol Bay Subsistence

1 Regional Advisory Council.

2

3 Secondly, I talked with Rebecca Skinner
4 before this meeting and she has agreed to share with
5 the Council Members the draft PIN recommendations,
6 priority information needs recommendations that was
7 gathered from that teleconference that we had with
8 Bristol Bay.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

13

14 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I guess first
15 I'll start with my understanding of where this process
16 is. So we did have a working group comprising members
17 from this RAC and the Bristol Bay RAC. The reason we
18 did that is because the two RACs share one pool of
19 funding for the FRMP projects. When it comes time to
20 review the projects, what happened is the
21 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC would get a list of projects and
22 there would be Bristol Bay projects on there and we had
23 no idea what the projects were. So the intent was to
24 have more dialogue and increase the understanding
25 between the two RAC regions since, again, we share a
26 pool of funding for FRMP.

27

28 The working group met and it was our
29 first attempt at having a dialogue, so I think if we
30 had another meeting we'd kind of know how to structure
31 it and we'd probably be more efficient and maybe have
32 more concrete outcomes. What the working group came up
33 with and what our focus was was to try to identify
34 common areas so that when we're looking at priorities
35 for the single pool of funding, there's a better common
36 understanding between the two RACs. In addition, there
37 were projects that were region-specific, so there are
38 some that are specific to Kodiak/Aleutians and there
39 are some that are specific to Bristol Bay.

40

41 Getting back to the process discussion,
42 my understanding is that today, this Council is going
43 to decide what their priority information needs are.
44 It's not at all limited or bound by the draft needs.
45 In fact, there's more information I learned today that
46 I would like to propose a few other priorities. Then
47 things like -- I see there's the sea otter predation.
48 Based on earlier discussion, we probably won't have
49 that on there.

50

1 But I'll go ahead and start with the
2 mutually beneficial projects that the group talked
3 about. Members of the group were Della Trumble,
4 myself, Pat Holmes and Tom Schwantes from the
5 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC and then Dan Dunaway and Molly
6 Chythlook from the Bristol Bay RAC. The mutually
7 beneficial projects -- and I am going off of the notes
8 that Karen provided from the meeting just to make sure
9 everyone is on the same page.

10

11 Priority one or project one. Reliable
12 estimates of chinook salmon in the Southwest Region to
13 determine health and abundance and address region-wide
14 declines in populations.

15

16 The second project. Obtain subsistence
17 harvest survey data for salmon and non-salmon fish by
18 residents of Southwest communities, particularly those
19 with outdated information and/or not currently surveyed
20 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
21 Subsistence. Emphasis here was given to address
22 harvest trends in Unalaska Bay and Togiak.

23

24 Council region-specific projects. So
25 this would be for Kodiak/Aleutians. There were two
26 listed. One was a comparative ecological evaluation of
27 lake rearing habitats of subsistence sockeye salmon
28 stocks in Southwest Kodiak Island, Alaska, including
29 Olga Lake and Akalura Lake watersheds.

30

31 Assessments of one, the decline of
32 salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest
33 opportunities and, two, the potential effect of climate
34 change on salmon production in these lake systems.

35

36 The second bullet point is investigate
37 crab population in Womens Bay and impacts of ghost crab
38 pots and sea otter predation on crab populations.

39

40 The additional two that I think we need
41 to talk about that were not on the list provided to the
42 Council is funding for the Buskin Weir and the Litnik
43 Weir, which might be the Afognak sockeye projects that
44 are listed on the list of projects. But I think it
45 would be helpful with the weirs. They're currently
46 being funded and they are collecting data, so that
47 should at least get on the list.

48

49 And then I guess I would open it up to
50 other working group members to comment on whether there

1 was consensus on these projects or not or other
2 comments they had.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: I would like, particularly
9 after the presentation from John Reft from the Sun'ag
10 Tribe, to stick in a list of potential projects of
11 interest for the future,
12 examining the relationships between salmon and crayfish
13 in the
14 Buskin Lake as a topic.

15

16 And then I would like to make a comment
17 on the mutual beneficial projects. I think I made a
18 comment during our meeting or teleconference and I kind
19 of got lost, but I don't know that chinook salmon is a
20 problem particularly in Kodiak because they're weired.
21 Chignik, not our area, but it's Bristol Bay's and it's
22 also weired, so they have a pretty good notion on
23 what's

24 going on with the amount of fish and both Karluk and
25 the Ikolik, Ikolik/Red River this year made their
26 escapement goals for the first time in several years.
27 So it looks like it's on an improving trend.

28

29 I would like to add a little
30 clarification on the -- I think I sent an email to
31 folks and, Karen, I don't have the right words, but on
32 the subsistence harvest information, that was the one
33 where I was mentioning that it would be really nice if
34 we could get the professional staff on the Subsistence
35 Division to work with high school kids or local folks
36 to do the surveys themselves. That way we wouldn't
37 have to pay that horrendous 50-60 percent overhead, we
38 wouldn't have to pay massive travel fees and so we
39 could greatly reduce the cost of getting information.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

44

45 Any other comments.

46

47 Rebecca.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: I have a question.
50 During public comment someone talked about -- I think

1 it was salmon and McLees Lake and the need to have a
2 weir and I could have that wrong, but I'm wondering if
3 that -- because I see one of the projects, the 2010
4 projects was the McLees Lake sockeye salmon weir. So
5 I'm wondering if I have the location incorrect. Was it
6 a different location, not McLees Lake, or was the
7 request for a continuation of the existing weir? But
8 if we can get more information on that, it would be
9 helpful while we're putting together this list.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Vincent, do you
12 want to add to that? That came up I think in part of
13 your discussion and then Rick and I were just trying to
14 figure out the jurisdiction also on the discussion that
15 was brought up on Unalaska Lake.

16

17 MR. TUTIAKOFF: This is Vince
18 Tutiakoff, through the Chair. What I mentioned was the
19 Unalaska or the Iliuliuk River, which is Unalaska
20 River, and also Summers Bay River and lake. We need to
21 and we've been working with various groups in the
22 community, the City, UNFA, Fish and Game, to try and
23 raise the funds to get a weir or a count system of
24 salmon going up the lakes because there is a noticeable
25 trend going down in Unalaska River.

26

27 Of course, the effects of the freighter
28 ship going into Summers Bay several years ago, as was
29 mentioned, we lost our silver salmon for three or four
30 years and now they're starting to show up again, a few
31 here and there in Summers Bay.

32

33 You were looking for a jurisdiction of
34 what? On Unalaska River, Lake? What were you looking
35 for in jurisdiction there, you and Rick?

36

37 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, on Unalaska
38 Lake. I think you were talking about -- the river is
39 what you were talking about.

40

41 MR. TUTIAKOFF: It's the Unalaska Lake
42 there that you see as city. The river goes right
43 through the city there.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair. I guess we
46 were discussing whether or not that belongs to the
47 city, the land corporation, Federal or State, that
48 lake.

49

50 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Probably State.

1 MR. KOSO: I guess who would have
2 jurisdiction over it.
3
4 MR. TUTIAKOFF: State I would think.
5
6 MR. KOSO: Okay, thanks. That's what
7 we were asking.
8
9 MR. HOLMES: But possibly, I don't know
10 for sure, but I think possibly part of the fishery,
11 kind of like McLees Lake, I think they've got a
12 different grant funding that, although at one time our
13 Council funded it, but it's possible we need to
14 research it that part of the subsistence fishery may be
15 in Federal waters, so there might be that similar kind
16 of connection that could justify Unalaska Lake
17 escapements as was used for McLees Lake, but I can't
18 remember what it was, Vince.
19
20 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think that's
21 kind of what we were looking at. What Rebecca was
22 referencing is we were trying to determine if we can
23 try to fund something there to do what you were talking
24 about earlier.
25
26 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, Madame Chair.
27 I was thinking, Vince, that if we can't get it into the
28 next cycle, maybe just getting good repeatable salmon
29 harvest subsistence salmon harvest data will give you
30 folks a really good handle on being able to argue more
31 for other projects relating right here in town. If not
32 with us, with the State.
33
34 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. And we'll make
35 sure that you get that. It's recorded in all of our
36 permits there through ADF&G for subsistence on McLees
37 and -- well, the whole Unalaska Bay area.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
40 Vince. Rebecca, do you want to add anything else to
41 your report at this time?
42
43 MS. SKINNER: No, I don't have anything
44 to add to my report, but, again, my understanding in
45 participating in the working group was not that this
46 would be the list of our priorities, but this was
47 brought forward for discussion purposes to the Council
48 today. But again, just in case it was missed, I did
49 want to add two other priorities for Kodiak, which
50 would be -- I'm calling it the Buskin Weir and the

1 Litnik Weir. My understanding is these were both
2 projects already funded through FRMP. So if they were
3 called something else, then I would welcome more exact
4 language on those.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: I think that's a swell
7 idea, Rebecca, because the way the budgets are going
8 now for the Department, if the Buskin loses its
9 funding, I don't see -- maybe Sport Fish, Tyler, that
10 could pull something out of the sky, but it would be
11 doubtful or what do you think the chances are
12 continuing what you do on monitoring escapement
13 sampling if that money is not there?

14
15 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes, through the
16 Chair. My name is Tyler Polum with Sport Fish
17 Division, Fish and Game. If OSM doesn't fund the
18 Buskin sockeye weir, then there's virtually no chance
19 it will be funded by the Department. The Sport Fish
20 Division doesn't have much opportunity to apply for
21 grant funding because most of it requires a non-Federal
22 match, which Sport Fish Division is almost entirely
23 Federally funded, at least for Kodiak.

24
25 So OSM is one of the few -- the FRMP I
26 should say is one of the few opportunities for funding
27 those kinds of projects, particularly in areas like
28 that, like Buskin subsistence priority areas. And
29 Commercial Fisheries, as you all probably well know,
30 has taken the brunt of the budget cuts in the last year
31 and have cut back many of the other weir projects they
32 already have, so chances are extremely slim.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Thanks very much, Tyler.
35 I know myself and Tom and Coral when we go and try to
36 make our plans for the year, you know, the information
37 we get from you, even though it's your professional gut
38 feeling on what you think is going to happen with the
39 run, that makes a whole lot of difference on where I
40 personally go to fish. Sometimes you have to go a
41 considerable distance if the Buskin runs are down.
42 That's the biggest sockeye subsistence fishery in our
43 whole region. Probably McLees Lake is the second one
44 after that. So, you know, it's kind of a priority in
45 my mind to try to keep going.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tyler, if I may,
50 while you're still there. Lisa Fox said we had agreed

1 with the King Cove corporation this year to allow the --
2 I think it's the sonar counting on Mortensen's. Are
3 you aware of that project?

4

5 MR. POLUM: I had heard that -- Madame
6 Chair. I had heard that they used a DIDSON sonar on
7 Mortensen's and maybe one other system that I had heard
8 of, but that's the only one. I'm not directly involved
9 in any of those projects, but I know that Commercial
10 Fisheries has the capability for a few cases.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
13 basically where are we at at this point, Karen?

14

15 MS. HYER: Madame Chair, Council
16 Members. It's confusing because there are two Karen's
17 here. I can list off what you have listed as
18 priorities and I would look to the Council to let me
19 know if they want to include everything on the list or
20 if they want to trim down the list. It's worth noting
21 the longer the list is, the less focused it will be
22 because you are letting the
23 investigators know everything on this list is
24 important.

25

26 If you have a few top priorities, it
27 would be good to know that and not make a long list.
28 If you don't have a few top priorities and you do want
29 a longer list, that's up to the Council. We do not
30 have control over who's going to apply. We just have
31 control over what we actually ask for. So I just want
32 the Council to hold that in mind.

33

34 I'll go ahead and read what I've got.
35 So I have the two bullets here, which was the
36 comparative ecological evaluation of lake rearing
37 habitat of subsistence sockeye salmon and then
38 investigation of crab populations. Then I have the
39 Buskin sockeye weir, I have the Afognak Lake sockeye
40 project, I have the
41 salmon and crayfish in Buskin Lake, and then I have
42 Mclees Lake weir. I also have Summers Bay River and
43 Lake and the Unalaska.

44

45 So if those are all your priorities,
46 we'll leave all of those on the list. If you'd like to
47 see some removed, just let me know. I'd just like to
48 add if there are jurisdictional issues, I'll go back
49 and research those. If indeed there's no Federal
50 nexus, they will not be on the list because it has to

1 be tied to Federal Subsistence Management. But I can
2 determine that back in the office.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. You know,
7 if we were talking about things -- you know, if we
8 could get part of the funds that were going to be going
9 to study chinook and use that for one of the new salmon
10 things, like maybe the crayfish/salmon. I think we
11 need to know on Unalaska for Summers Bay and Unalaska
12 Lake escapement request that Vince made, we need to
13 know whose turf that is and if that even falls into our
14 purview. But I think definitely in my mind the two
15 bullets that are there, the Buskin and crayfish.
16 Afognak is good, but Afognak has been coming in strong
17 in recent years.

18

19 In my mind, to remove something from
20 our list, that might be the item, but I can't really
21 say right now. We almost need to do another
22 teleconference after the meeting after people get a
23 chance to chew on it, but that's just my feeling.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Council have any
26 suggestions at this point so we can move on.

27

28 MS. SKINNER: Actually the idea came up
29 earlier today to delay a decision on the priority
30 information needs until later in the meeting so that we
31 have more opportunity to get feedback from the public
32 locally. So, if it's appropriate at this point, I'd
33 like to table, I guess, final action or a final
34 decision or additional discussion on this until near
35 the end of our agenda. I hate to put this off until
36 tomorrow night, but at the same time I'd really like to
37 hear more from the public before we determine what
38 these priority information needs are.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: The motion has
41 been made. Do I hear a second.

42

43 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Seconded by Tom.
46 Discussion.

47

48 MR. KOSO: Question.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question has

1 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
6 sign.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
11 I'm not sure about the rest of you. I think a 10-
12 minute break would be in order at this point.
13
14 (Off record)
15
16 (On record)
17
18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we can have
19 your attention, we'll get back to order and we're going
20 to at this point move on to agency reports.
21
22 Our recommendation I think at this
23 point is to move identifying the issues for annual
24 report until the end. The MOA State of Alaska, this is
25 probably going to be moved to tomorrow evening and the
26 charter review. Feedback on all-Council meeting, if I
27 may, we can also possibly move that until tomorrow
28 evening.
29
30 Karen, I see you raising your hand.
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
33 Chair. Are you saying to move the MOU to tomorrow
34 night? That is an action item and my recommendation
35 would be to keep that on the agenda for today.
36
37 MR. KOSO: Put it after agency reports.
38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry?
40
41 MR. KOSO: Move it to after agency
42 reports.
43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. The other thing
45 that I can update you on is that I have heard from some
46 people that they are going to try to shuffle a lot of
47 tribal people over here tomorrow night to speak with
48 you regarding issues important to them after the
49 barbecue. We can hope that happens, but I think it
50 would be good if we're prepared for that and the amount

1 of time that that might take because we do want to hear
2 from those folks.

3

4 Thanks.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is a good
7 idea, but I also think as a Council we can try to sit --
8 we don't start until 10:00 tomorrow morning, maybe
9 9:00, a number of us get together and look at what are
10 the identifying issues for the annual report. Maybe
11 take a half hour so we don't have to spend a lot of
12 time on it when we get to that.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: For clarification,
15 Madame Chair. So you're talking about as a Council
16 getting together tomorrow morning? Because there is no
17 Council meeting tomorrow until the evening. You can
18 get together and draft something, but you can't take
19 any action on it.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. A working
22 group of this Council maybe to start identifying some
23 of the issues. We won't be complete until we're done
24 with the meeting.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. I just wanted
27 to clarify that no action could be taken unless it's
28 done in the public.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Given
33 that, if everybody so agrees, we'll move on maybe for
34 15 minutes and talk about the MOU and then we're going
35 to go ahead and move into the agency reports. Is that
36 okay with everyone for the sake of time.

37

38 Glenn? Just checking. I hear you
39 listening over there.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: MOU.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. May I
46 ask if Theo from OSM is on the phone.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. It doesn't

1 sound like it, so I will go ahead through the Chair and
2 give a briefing on the MOU. It's a short briefing and
3 then the Council can take action to make comments or
4 approve the MOU from the Council.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That will
9 be fine.

10
11 Go ahead.

12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: So does everybody have
14 a copy of the MOU. It would probably be the last
15 document behind everything else that was provided in
16 your supplemental packet because it was at the end.
17 There's also copies on the table in the back if anybody
18 would like copies.

19
20 If everybody has their document, I'm
21 just going to read this short briefing on it. This
22 document builds upon the July 18, 2012 Draft Memorandum
23 of Understanding which incorporated recommended changes
24 from the Regional Advisory Councils, Subsistence
25 Resource Commissions and the Advisory Committees for
26 the Fish and Game.

27
28 The subcommittee working on this MOU is
29 made up of representatives from the Office of
30 Subsistence Management, the Bureau of Land Management,
31 the United States Forest Service and the State of
32 Alaska. The intent of this MOU is to provide a
33 foundation to build on with the State to coordinate the
34 management of fish and wildlife resources for
35 subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska. It
36 is not expected to address the variety of issues
37 between the Federal program and the State of Alaska,
38 but to provide a framework so that specific issues may
39 be worked on in the future.

40
41 The Office of Subsistence Management
42 and the subcommittee working on this MOU would like for
43 you to review this document and provide your comments
44 and recommendations both for the subcommittee and to be
45 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Council
50 comments, questions, clarification, discussion.

1 Rick.
2
3 MR. KOSO: Do you want us to take some
4 sort of an action on this now or just general
5 information?
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Koso, through the
8 Chair. The subcommittee would like to receive any
9 comments you have for this document. If you'd like to
10 take a couple minutes to read it, I think that might be
11 something we could recommend.
12
13 MR. KOSO: So if there's no comments
14 does that mean that we approve of it or no?
15
16 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.
17
18 MR. HOLMES: I'll wait for people to
19 read it, but I'm ready to talk like usual. I'll be
20 quiet for a while.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think this is
25 really swell. I thought this type of interaction or
26 this type of document has been needed for a long time.
27 Having read a lot of the MOUs in the past, I kind of
28 thought that this type of document is what they've been
29 dealing with. So I think particularly the guiding
30 principles and the mutually agree to cooperate I think
31 that this is really good. I don't think we'd be having
32 anywhere near the arguments over predator stuff if
33 folks had been doing a little more discussion and
34 seeking to find out rather than getting their backs up
35 between the two agencies and I think we could have
36 avoided a big part of this problem.
37
38 Anyway, I think this is moving in a
39 really positive direction and I really hope this
40 document gets adopted. I wish it had been adopted back
41 when we started this whole Federal subsistence program.
42 It's good to me.
43
44 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Other comments.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen, I
49 basically -- I don't have any comments or recommended
50 changes in regard to this document. I think it gets

1 reviewed every two years, is that correct, and if
2 there's any changes made this is what's in front of us?
3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I
5 apologize, but I don't know the answer to that
6 question. This was a new issue for me as well in my
7 short time.
8

9 Thank you.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I recall,
12 it's every so many years it comes before the Councils
13 to review. My only point in here and I wish there was
14 a way to highlight this and it has to do with page
15 number 2, item number 3(a) which sets the guiding
16 principles. It basically states to ensure conservation
17 of fish and wildlife resources while providing for a
18 continued use of fish and wildlife, including a
19 priority for subsistence uses, through interagency
20 subsistence management and regulatory programs that
21 promote coordination.
22

23 I think that paragraph in itself is
24 very strong and it should be what drives us all to do
25 what we have to do in working together with other
26 agencies because it's very important. Other than that
27 I don't see any other issues or anything on the
28 document.
29

30 So I think at this point, hearing
31 nothing else, if we have a motion to approve the draft
32 as presented would be in order.
33

34 MR. KOSO: I make a motion to approve
35 the draft as it stands.
36

37 MR. HOLMES: Second.
38

39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made and
40 a second. Discussion.
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 MR. KOSO: Question.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question has
47 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
2 sign.
3
4 (No opposing votes)
5
6 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
7 At this time, Rebecca, we had, before you came back
8 into the room, decided to move the charter review and
9 feedback on all-Council meeting and identifying issues
10 for annual report until later. We might try to get
11 together as a group to possibly, if anybody wants to,
12 at maybe 9:30 in the morning to come up with a list.
13 Just to kind of create some sort of working document so
14 we don't take a lot of time, if that's okay with you,
15 Karen, tomorrow morning.
16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. It is,
18 but this room will not be available for that meeting.
19
20 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, maybe we
21 can meet downstairs for coffee or something. So we're
22 going to go ahead and move on. There will be a time
23 limit of 15 minutes. We're going to start with the
24 agency reports. At this time I'll move with the tribal
25 governments. I'm going to ask first if there's any
26 tribal governments online that would like to speak at
27 this time.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any Native
32 organizations. Don't all jump up at one time here.
33
34 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Online.
35
36 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Online.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: How about
41 anybody in the room.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, moving on.
46
47 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I think what
48 we might want to do for this section, at least as far
49 as the Kodiak tribal input, would be just simply to
50 refer to John Reft's comments earlier in the meeting

1 unless you've got something else to add. I think he
2 hit on a lot of points of concern to the folks at
3 Sun'aq and the other two tribes in town.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think that's a
6 good idea, Pat. That was my thought too because he did
7 have that as his agency when he testified this morning.

8
9 Vince.

10
11 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes, Madame Chair.
12 Vince Tutiakoff. I had a question. I guess tomorrow
13 night 7:00 to 9:00 is going to be a public -- you're
14 going to hear from the tribe, you'll hear from probably
15 individuals from different entities about the process
16 of the Subsistence Board and maybe some of the issues --
17 the tribe may bring up environmental issues. I wasn't
18 prepared to discuss anything from OC, but I'm sure
19 there'll be some questions from subsistence users. So
20 I'll just wait for tomorrow night.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That
23 works. With that we'll continue this discussion
24 tomorrow night for an opportunity for people to speak.
25 I'm going to move on to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. I
26 noticed on this list we don't have the Kodiak National
27 Wildlife Refuge. It starts with Izembek and Alaska
28 Maritime. So if Izembek is ready to do their report,
29 maybe we'll do that and then move on with adding Kodiak
30 National Wildlife Refuge and then Alaska Maritime if
31 that's okay with everybody.

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. I did
34 receive a message from Bill Pyle from the Kodiak
35 National Wildlife Refuge and a written report has been
36 provided to the Council and it's on the back table as
37 well. Mr. Pyle will be available if there are any
38 questions and we can certainly have him call in for
39 that, but otherwise there won't be a formal report from
40 Kodiak.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
45 We'll just make note of that when we get to Kodiak.
46 With that, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge update. We
47 have a new manager. We do have the written report, but
48 to be honest with you we do like the people here and
49 giving their verbal report so if there's any questions
50 you're here to answer.

1 MS. LOWE: Good afternoon, Madame
2 Chair. This is Stacey and I'm on the line and prepared
3 to give a report.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Well,
6 that sounds good. We have your boss here listening to
7 you.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MS. LOWE: Can you hear me okay?
12
13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you
14 fine. Go ahead.
15
16 MS. LOWE: Thank you again for your
17 time. I'd like to provide the highlights of our report
18 for this fall RAC meeting. I'd like to begin with the
19 caribou population on Unit 9D on the Southern Alaska
20 Peninsula. I'd like to report on the final numbers for
21 last winter's hunt. In total, we had 75 bull permits
22 issued to each of the five communities, 15 permits
23 each, and in total only 10 of those were harvested.
24 The breakdown of that is available on Table 1 on page
25 two of the report.
26
27 We also completed the annual winter
28 minimum population count on the Southern Alaska
29 Peninsula Herd approximately the last week of April.
30 For this survey we observed a total of 1,568 caribou.
31 In Table 2, you can see the list of population numbers.
32 This continues an increasing trend that we've seen over
33 the last few years.
34
35 Also with the caribou on Unimak Island
36 also known as Unit 10 we did complete the annual winter
37 minimum population count there as well. For that
38 survey we observed a total of 334 caribou this year.
39 The results are in Table 3. Again, for this
40 population, that also shows a continued increasing
41 trend over the last few years. So we saw approximately
42 100 more animals this year than we did last year. We
43 look forward to seeing the fall composition counts this
44 year and hopefully it was a good calf season.
45
46 Moving on to the waterfowl. For the
47 Pacific Black brant they've already started arriving
48 this year. The last week of September and first two
49 weeks of October we will be continuing to conduct our
50 annual age ratio surveys while all the birds are staged

1 here at Izembek. This provides an index of
2 productivity and that data is usually reported at the
3 spring meeting.

4
5 This fall we will also continue working
6 with the USGS to collect avian influenza and blood
7 parasite data from hunter-harvested birds. We hope to
8 approximately sample around 1,000 birds this year.

9
10 Since the report was submitted we were
11 able to complete the annual Tundra swan population
12 survey. This was conducted in early to mid June. This
13 year the survey showed an increase in both the Izembek
14 and Pavlov Units. In total, we observed 1,015 swans
15 and 84 nests. The data from this survey will be
16 reported along with the graphs and such in the spring
17 report as well.

18
19 Also coming up this month in August we
20 have our annual brown bear aerial surveys that we'll be
21 conducting. We'll also be continuing our water
22 temperature monitoring next week on salmon streams
23 across the refuge.

24
25 In addition to that, I'm happy to
26 report that we did complete a salmon stream restoration
27 project. Three streams located in the Kinzarof Lagoon
28 area. Three of these streams had become significantly
29 impacted by marine debris. Mostly a lot of coastal
30 wood and just fishing debris and nets and different
31 material. There's one photo available in the report
32 here kind of showing the severity. We're pretty
33 concerned about the ability for the adults migrating up
34 the stream, so we did complete the project and removed
35 all the debris this year.

36
37 This summer we also completed our
38 annual eelgrass monitoring surveys where we sampled 116
39 points across Izembek Lagoon looking at biomass and
40 productivity of the eelgrass. We're still compiling
41 the data and the results of that survey to look at the
42 five-year trend on that study.

43
44 This summer we're also continuing our
45 marine mammal surveys. In our aerial survey we
46 observed approximately 800 to 1,000 walrus hauled out
47 on Unimak Island. We have some cameras that are out
48 there and we'll be picking those up next week. They've
49 been out there for the last year, so we look forward to
50 seeing all the results of that data to determine

1 exactly when the walrus are using the haul outs on
2 Unimak Island.

3
4 We're also still compiling the data
5 from the nine cameras that we have deployed monitoring
6 the Steller's sea lions on Unimak Island.

7
8 Previously this summer in late May the
9 Marine Mammals Management Division flew an extensive
10 aerial population survey for sea otters on the southern
11 end of the Alaska Peninsula and on most of Unimak
12 Island. This survey was last conducted in 2001 and the
13 results will hopefully be available in late fall or by
14 the time our spring report comes out.

15
16 In terms of our outreach activities, in
17 the late winter, early spring we were able to conduct a
18 wildlife-themed trivia night for the community of Cold
19 Bay, which was really well received. Participants,
20 both youth and adults, were engaged in a fun night of
21 answering questions and learning about the refuge and a
22 great night was had by all.

23
24 Late in the spring we also welcomed a
25 new wildlife biologist and Refuge Manager to our refuge
26 team. In early April we had Chris Kane join the
27 biologist staff, so we now have two full-time wildlife
28 biologists at the refuge. This was a new position
29 created to help increase the capacity of our program
30 and Chris brings a lot of great expertise to us from
31 Region 5, which is the Northeast Region from the
32 Migratory Birds Division.

33
34 Hopefully most of you had the chance to
35 meet our new Refuge Manager Greg Risdahl who is joining
36 us from Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona where
37 he previously served as Refuge Manager for the last few
38 years. Prior to that, Greg worked as Deputy Refuge
39 Manager at Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge in Tok,
40 Alaska. He brings a lot of great experience to our
41 refuge and we look forward to working with him and
42 encourage you all to take a chance to meet him while
43 he's down there in Dutch Harbor.

44
45 That's it for our report.

46
47 I'm happy to answer any questions.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
50 think first of all we'd like to welcome you, Greg.

1 It's the first time we've got to meet you. I know I've
2 talked to you on the phone on a couple occasions. We
3 hope, you know, if there's anything I can help out with
4 when you're starting to work in the region, let me
5 know. Rick is also available and anything that helps
6 the communication I think in a region is something I
7 think we try to work hard with with Izembek. I have to
8 be honest with you, I look at the Kodiak and how they
9 work with the outlying communities and I'll talk about
10 this person specifically when we get to Kodiak.

11
12 Welcome. I'm glad you made it. I
13 realize you just got hired and was only in Cold Bay two
14 weeks and jumped on the ferry and you're here.

15
16 With that, is there any other questions
17 or comments in regard to the Izembek report. Council
18 members first.

19
20 Pat.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd also like to
23 bring to the Council's
24 attention I had breakfast with this young fellow and
25 he's actually spent a lot of time in Alaska in some
26 remote places and he also likes to hunt. So that will
27 be quite a change in philosophy from some previous
28 folks here at Izembek.

29
30 Oh, one thing I should mention right
31 off the bat is when we've had intensive discussions
32 with your folks in Anchorage all the way to the
33 Director's office, we received a verbal commitment that
34 you folks would always have a priority for airplanes
35 for doing your surveys for caribou because of their
36 intense political significance to the state and the
37 interest of our Council. So keep that in mind if you
38 bump into the bureaucratic hassle of your spark plugs
39 having to be changed when you want to go do your
40 survey, they should have another machine here for you
41 hopefully.

42
43 I think doing your calving studies on
44 Unimak, particularly in the spring, is a really good
45 idea. In the past, there was quite an effort to try to
46 survey when there's snow, but the way the weather has
47 been warming here on the Peninsula and elsewhere in
48 Alaska, snow isn't there very long. If it is, it's
49 dang hard to get an airplane in the air when it's
50 there. So I think that's a really good way to get your

1 info.

2

3 Oh, I have a question for your
4 biologist. When you did Unimak, did you find that the
5 caribou were all spread out like they were in the
6 previous year or do they concentrate a bit when they're
7 calving?

8

9 MS. LOWE: Well, it was still prior
10 really to the calving season, but they were pretty far
11 spread out. I do have some maps available showing the
12 weigh points of where we located all the caribou if
13 you're interested.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. I think that's
16 an important thing for folks to know. When you get to
17 small numbers and flying around on Unimak Island six
18 feet below the fog and clouds that sometimes it's
19 pretty dicey to count those critters.

20

21 I have another question on your Tundra
22 swans. Do they nest in the same nest or the same place
23 every year or do they make new nests and kind of have a
24 general area that they go to?

25

26 MS. LOWE: It seems mixed in this area.
27 Some of them are definitely utilizing the exact same
28 nest. It will be a little tiny island in the middle of
29 a pond, but others seem to kind of explore new areas
30 and sometimes we find them just in the middle of the
31 tundra even. So it's been variable.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: When you do have that
34 summarized, I'd be quite interested in seeing that
35 every year. Not that I'd want to hassle them or my
36 ability to afford to go to Izembek is pretty small
37 anymore, but I'm always curious as to where the
38 critters are at.

39

40 Another question on your brown bear
41 surveys and studies, do you folks have anything pinned
42 down on the denning areas? Are they known on the
43 refuge or are they mostly to the north up on the
44 mountains?

45

46 MS. LOWE: To my knowledge we haven't
47 done any denning surveys since the late '80s. Just
48 incidental observations while we're flying other
49 surveys.

50

1 If you find that in your dead files, if
2 you could forward that to me, I'd appreciate just
3 taking a look at whatever information you have on that.
4 And kudos for definitely.....

5
6 MS. LOWE: Yes, absolutely.

7
8 MR. HOLMES:on the removal of
9 debris on the salmon streams. Anyway, I've got other
10 comments, but I'll just tuck them up and let somebody
11 else go. Thanks for all your hard work.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

14
15 Rick.

16
17 MR. KOSO: Yeah, hi, Stacey. I just
18 wanted to know does the subsistence season open
19 tomorrow? Is it the 15th to the 31st for brant in
20 Izembek? That would be my first question. I've got
21 another one after that.

22
23 MS. LOWE: Hi, Rick. This is Stacey.
24 You know, I'd have to check on that. There's a little
25 bit of controversy over the wording of that in the
26 regulations where they specify Izembek Lagoon and
27 there's a question of whether that involves -- if you
28 can hunt on the uplands or in Moffett Lagoon. So
29 actually we have a question in to the State about that
30 and I'll be happy to get back to you as soon as I hear
31 anything.

32
33 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thanks, Stacey. I
34 have another question. I guess maybe it's just me, but
35 on this caribou hunt in our region right now that's
36 just taking place, you got the State opening and the
37 Federal opening. Is the State opening also -- are you
38 able to hunt the State caribou on Federal lands or vice
39 versa?

40
41 MS. LOWE: I appreciate the question.
42 There seems to have been a lot of confusion in our area
43 on that as well. Yes, with a State tag you can hunt on
44 Federal lands. With a Federal tag you are restricted
45 to the Federal lands only. And you can have both tags,
46 but you can only harvest one caribou.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thanks, Stacey. I had
49 a lot of questions on that too from different people
50 and also myself. I guess one more question on caribou.

1 Have you guys had any contact with the Adak herd in
2 this past year or two or are you expecting to do a
3 survey?

4

5 Because I know with all the hunters
6 that have been getting into Adak, the caribou herd I
7 know can't be as large as it used to be because we
8 can't get anymore caribou on the north end of the
9 island, especially on the road system. Most caribou
10 that's taken now is the guys that go out in skiffs and
11 stuff on the south side.

12

13 I was just curious to see what your
14 future surveys were going to be on that.

15

16 MS. LOWE: The Adak caribou have not
17 been on my radar. I'm not certain about the Alaska
18 Maritime Refuge if they've been looking into that or
19 not. Maybe somebody there could speak to that when
20 they give their report.

21

22 MR. KOSO: That's all I have. Thank
23 you.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I'm
26 happy to see that the caribou counts are up on both the
27 9D and 10. I know a lot of people are really happy to
28 be able to hopefully harvest a caribou this year.
29 We'll see how that goes.

30

31 With that, I guess do you have any
32 comments for us? It's the first time you're meeting
33 with us.

34

35 MR. RISDAHL: About the only thing I'd
36 like to say is I'm really happy to be here, Chairman
37 and Members of the Council. I literally got out of my
38 truck and kissed the ground when I crossed into the
39 border of Alaska after being down in Arizona doing my
40 penance there.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. RISDAHL: Stacey, you've done a
45 great job. I really appreciate you giving the report
46 this afternoon. That's about it. I look forward to
47 meeting all of you and you getting to know me and
48 getting out and doing some hunting and fishing
49 while I'm here.

50

1 Thank you very much.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I'm
4 going to go ahead and add the Kodiak National Wildlife
5 Refuge. As Karen said, the report is in your packet.
6 So if anybody has a comment they want to bring on to
7 the record at this time, I would ask that -- but before
8 we do that I'd like to make recognition of a person
9 that this Council has worked with in Kodiak community
10 and region. The villages basically have praise for her
11 work and she has left the refuge and for that I'm going
12 to go ahead and turn this over to Pat to speak on her
13 behalf.

14

15 Pat.

16 MR. HOLMES: Tonya Lee has
17 unfortunately resigned from the Fish and Wildlife
18 Service and quite a remarkable lady. I can give you
19 quotes from the tribal folks. Many of the ladies spend
20 half a day sorting through all of the collaboration and
21 things with other Federal agencies and Melissa Borton
22 told me that if gets a call from Tonya, she knew that
23 the item was really important.

24

25 She was a gal that always gave her
26 answers straight up. She did quite a bit of work. She
27 had a really swell little program when we got questions
28 and concerns from folks in Larsen Bay on the west side
29 of Kodiak on their soup ducks and unfortunately they
30 don't really survey the bay every year. They alternate
31 sides of the island. But she worked with the local
32 kids in Larsen Bay. So in that little bit of the bay
33 in Uyak they started studying the presence of which
34 types of ducks were there, particularly Steller's
35 eiders were something of concern because they nest on
36 the Refuge and then go over to the bay itself. So she
37 did some incredible work like that.

38

39 She was very active in the
40 environmental education program for the visitor's
41 center in Kodiak. I think a lot of people in town and
42 a lot of people on our Council always thought of her as
43 almost being our niece for her ability to communicate
44 and help folks understand what was going on with the
45 Federal government and trying to facilitate positive
46 things for the community of Kodiak and the villages.

47

48 I don't think there's a person in the
49 villages that wouldn't throw the kids out of the
50 bedroom if she got stuck on an airplane or even get out

1 of their own bedroom to give her a place to stay
2 because she just was truly an exceptional young lady
3 and I think a real credit to the Fish and Wildlife
4 Service. I'm quite sorry that she is gone.

5
6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

9
10 Any other comments.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: I have a comment
13 regarding this report.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

16
17 MS. SKINNER: So I see on the report
18 that the plan is to recruit another locally-based RIT
19 for the Kodiak Refuge in the fall of 2017. So my first
20 comment is that's a little concerning, the amount of
21 time that we will not have a locally-based RIT.

22
23 My second comment/request would be that
24 at our winter meeting we get some sort of an update
25 regarding the recruitment plans. I think at a higher
26 level we've had a little bit of discussion about RITs
27 in other -- not the Kodiak Refuge but the other
28 Refuges. I just want to make sure that the agency
29 itself has a clear vision and clear idea of what these
30 positions do.

31
32 Also, from a council perspective, to
33 reiterate the importance of having that person be
34 locally based. Related to that is the agency has to
35 value the fact that they have somebody that is locally
36 based and who can go out into the communities and be
37 perhaps received in a different way than other agency
38 staff.

39
40 So, again, my request for the winter
41 meeting is that we get an update on the recruiting
42 plan, what are they looking for and what's the plan to
43 make sure that the next RIT, because this position is
44 so important for the rural outreach, is going to be
45 both effective in outreach and also be effective within
46 the actual organization and will hopefully be there for
47 awhile.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
50 Rebecca. At this time if we can move on to the Alaska

1 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge update.

2

3 Is someone available for that report?

4

5 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you. My name is
6 Steve Delahanty and I'm the Refuge Manager at Alaska
7 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, so I'm based out of
8 Homer and I was going to try and wow the Council with
9 all kinds of beautiful photos in a PowerPoint, but it
10 isn't set up yet and I don't want to waste your time,
11 so I'm going to wow you with just a verbal report and
12 answer questions if you have any.

13

14 I think all of you know that the Alaska
15 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is this big, spread-
16 out refuge. It covers a lot of coastal Alaska from
17 Forrester Island right along the British Columbia
18 border in Southeast and up through the Gulf of Alaska
19 and islands off the Alaska Peninsula and then the
20 Aleutians and Bering Sea and all the way up into the
21 Chukchi Sea. So it's a big, spread-out place.

22

23 Many of you know our wonderful Research
24 Vessel Tiglax, which is really essential. It's the
25 only way to get to certain parts of the Refuge, so
26 that's a very important tool for us.

27

28 Our work really gets boiled down to
29 sort of three things. We do science work, so we try to
30 study and learn about the wildlife in the Refuge. We
31 do active management on certain parts of the Refuge and
32 I was going to focus a little bit on that today in my
33 report. Then the other part I want to emphasize is our
34 work with communities and particularly with youth
35 because I think it's extremely important work that both
36 you do and we do.

37

38 You have a summary report at the back
39 of the table. I'm going to minimize the science
40 element of it except to point out that there was a lot
41 of concern. There still is a lot of concern over the
42 seabird die-off. It was really widespread particularly
43 in Common Murres. It reached its peak last winter
44 although still some of the aftershocks are still in
45 play. We did notice again this year just as in 2015
46 the Common Murres are not doing well in their breeding
47 effort in the Gulf of Alaska and Alaska Peninsula area.

48

49

50 The work we have done on colonies we

1 visited there basically hanging around the colony but
2 not actually laying eggs. That is not the case in the
3 Aleutians and in the far north where they seem to be
4 doing their thing just like they always do. So I guess
5 it's a mixed bag of good news and bad news. They seem
6 to be doing fine in some parts of Alaska, but in the
7 Gulf of Alaska, Alaska Peninsula area the murre are
8 not making a reproductive effort this year. That's not
9 entirely uncommon. It happens occasionally but two
10 years in a row is disappointing.

11
12 I thought you'd be particularly
13 interested in some of the more active management that
14 we've taken. We have this long history of invasive
15 species management on the Refuge, most notably trying
16 to get rid of introduced foxes from a number of
17 islands. We've eradicated foxes from 45 islands
18 beginning in 1949. Most recently 2015 and 2016 we were
19 on Chirikof Island trying to get rid of foxes there.
20 We think we were successful. We hope we were
21 successful, but we won't really know for a couple of
22 years to do a little bit of follow-up work.

23
24 We also have worked over the years on
25 other species like rats and as you, I think, are very
26 well familiar, we were
27 deeply involved in a planning process writing
28 environmental impact statements, trying to figure out
29 what, if anything, to do regarding cattle on Chirikof
30 and Wosnesenski Islands. That work
31 stopped this year because Congress told us they didn't
32 want us to do the work essentially, so we have not
33 issued a draft environmental impact statement or
34 anything. That's why you haven't seen any further
35 information about different approaches one could take
36 on those islands.

37
38 Similarly, in 2015, we sent a team to
39 Kagalaska Island next to Adak where we were trying to
40 prevent a new breeding population of caribou from
41 becoming established on Kagalaska Island. We recognize
42 and honor the importance of caribou on Adak, but we
43 didn't want another island to have another new
44 population established on it.

45
46 So we did go out and shoot I think it
47 was nine animals, something around there, in 2015. It
48 took a couple of days. We brought the meat back to
49 Adak and the community of Adak distributed the meat to
50 the community members, but that project also stopped

1 this year because of the same congressional
2 restriction. So we had been planning to do a similar
3 effort this year in 2016, but we did not do that
4 because we were told not to, so we aren't.

5
6 Another management action that I think
7 would be of quite a bit of interest is clean up of old
8 defense sites on the Refuge, so that's something where
9 the Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't take the lead
10 role but we help somewhat. The Army Corps of Engineers
11 is responsible for cleaning up these formerly used
12 defense sites and they have a contract or a large team
13 of people on Attu Island in 2016 this year and they
14 will have that team out on Attu again next year.

15
16 They were cleaning up some of the worst
17 of the worst contaminated sites right around the Coast
18 Guard facility, kind of around in Massacre Bay. Not
19 every bit of contaminants, not every bit of military
20 debris by any means. Just the areas of like active tar
21 pits, oil releases and things like that. We're trying
22 to just, I don't know, do you call it high grade or low
23 grade, take the worst of the worst and get that stuff
24 off these islands both for human health reasons and for
25 environmental and wildlife health. So that's an
26 ongoing project in 2016.

27
28 Then something that I am really proud
29 of and I think you all should be really proud of is
30 some of the work that goes on and we're just one small
31 player in outreach with youth. I'm so impressed with
32 the culture camps that are in a number of communities
33 and we are very pleased and proud to help with the kind
34 of science end of the camps on the Pribilof Islands and
35 Sand Point and here in Unalaska. So we provide a
36 little bit of funding and staff time and staff support
37 and I just want to tip my hat to you and to the
38 communities involved.

39
40 I know it is a lot of work, but I just
41 think it's so important. Not only for the kind of
42 historical and cultural aspects, but just this thing
43 that I call a National Wildlife Refuge it's people's
44 homes, it's their backyard and to get kids to just have
45 a chance to experience the full richness of that I
46 think is wonderful. So we are very pleased to help
47 with that.

48
49 We also have a youth hiring program,
50 the Youth Conservation Corps where we hire usually

1 about four high school aged students each year. This
2 year we had one young person from Homer, one from Atka
3 and two from Unalaska and they were our Youth
4 Conservation Corps and our crew leader this year was a
5 young woman Brianna Larson from Sand Point. She
6 formerly was a Youth Conservation Corps enrollee and
7 now she is leading that team. We're very proud of her.
8 She did a wonderful job.

9
10 These kids get an incredible
11 experience. They go and develop education programs,
12 deliver them at the culture and science camps. They
13 also get a chance to be aboard our Research Vessel
14 Tiglax and they get everything from working in the
15 galley and doing deckhand work to learning navigation
16 and getting exposed to marine trades by what biologists
17 do. It's a really excellent experience for these young
18 people, so we're real proud of that.

19
20 So that is in a nutshell what I wanted
21 to talk about. We do the science work, we do the
22 active land management work and we try and help people,
23 both local people here in these communities and people
24 from around the world to appreciate this wonderful
25 place that we have here in coastal Alaska.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
30 questions for Steve.

31
32 Rick.

33
34 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thanks for your good
35 report. I guess I should ask you I guess since you're
36 talking about caribou on Adak. That's where I'm from
37 is Adak, representing it. On Adak Island, the caribou
38 that's there, are you guys planning on
39 doing any kind of survey in the future on that or does
40 that go back to King Salmon for the State to do that or
41 is that a Federal deal?

42
43 MR. DELAHANTY: We don't have any
44 immediate plans to do it. I would love to do it any
45 time we can. When we've been able to do those surveys,
46 they've always been kind of opportunistic when somebody
47 had a helicopter on the island basically and it's been
48 essentially the good help of whoever had that
49 helicopter and we would do it -- I think the last time
50 we did it was 2014, I think. Vince.

1 MR. TUTIAKOFF: 2012.

2

3 MR. DELAHANTY: 2012. And the number
4 was basically stable from the count that had been done
5 earlier. It was in the high two thousands. I don't
6 remember. 2,700 or 2,800, something like that,
7 animals, but it hasn't been counted since. I think it
8 would be an awesome thing to have the community and the
9 Aleut Corporation and the Fish and Wildlife Service and
10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game kind of talk about
11 some sort of management plan and how you -- how you
12 track those numbers. Right now it's a little bit of a
13 -- it's kind of no-man's land. Nobody has really taken
14 charge of it totally, but it's an important resource
15 and it ought to be tracked and managed.

16

17 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thank you. I know on
18 Adak for a fact, you know, you used to be able to drive
19 the road system and be able to get caribou pretty much
20 any time six, eight years ago. Today you can't see a
21 caribou on the north end of the island. Very few if
22 any. There's been an awful lot of hunters in the past
23 five, six years that's been coming out on Alaska Air.
24 I've seen 20, 30 in a plane load sometimes coming out
25 hunting. So there's been a definite impact on the
26 caribou, I think, as far as population. So if there's
27 any possible way that there could be some way of
28 setting up a survey system, I think it would be really
29 great. Thanks.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

32

33 MS. SKINNER: Can you speak to how you
34 distinguish going to Chirikof and eradicating the foxes
35 and predator control? Kind of looking at the policies.
36 For example, not allowing the non-subsistence take in
37 refuge areas. So I assume there must be a basis or a
38 rationale how you look at those differently. I was
39 hoping you could speak to that.

40

41 MR. DELAHANTY: Sure. I'll give it a
42 shot. There's a big distinction in my view between
43 invasive species eradication, which is something we
44 focused on in the refuge, so the key there is
45 essentially the origin of the animals or plants in
46 question. So on Chirikof, for example, we know that
47 the foxes were brought to the island and have been
48 there for quite a long time, but they didn't get there
49 naturally on their own.

50

1 Whereas, for example, in the Pribilof
2 Islands, to use an example, or St. Matthew Island --
3 St. Matthew Island is maybe a better example because
4 that's a Federally-owned island. Foxes are a Native
5 and valued part of the system on St. Matthew Island,
6 but on other islands like in the Aleutians, at least in
7 the central and western Aleutians, foxes, for example,
8 or rats are not native and it's part of what we see as
9 our mandate to get rid of them, to eradicate them where
10 possible.

11
12 Other times you can't eradicate an
13 invasive species and all you can do is control, so
14 that's what we were hoping to do on Kagalaska Island.
15 The reason we couldn't eradicate them from Kagalaska is
16 because the source population from -- you know, we
17 could eliminate every animal on Kagalaska Island, but
18 in a year or two or ten, at some point some other
19 animals would swim across the state and repopulate the
20 -- across the strait, excuse me, and repopulate the
21 island.

22
23 So whereas predator control is a term
24 that different people have different definitions of, I
25 guess, but my definition of it, my sense of it is where
26 you have a native population of predators and you're
27 trying to suppress them in some way in order to
28 manipulate -- usually increase prey populations.

29
30 I'm not the right person to speak about
31 whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, but it's a
32 different thing to go to St. Matthew Island, to go back
33 to that example, and say we're going to trap 50 fox but
34 not all of them in order to make more birds. That
35 would be predator control. If we went to Chirikof
36 Island and said we're going to get rid of 100 percent
37 of all the foxes that live out there because they're
38 not native, that would be invasive species management.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Coral.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: So in regards to
43 invasive species, does your agency have a definition of
44 what's invasive? Like if it's been there 50 years, 60
45 years, is it still considered invasive? Is there some
46 point at which it just becomes a part of the natural
47 environment?

48
49 MR. DELAHANTY: There isn't a time
50 period. It is more the method by which an organism got

1 to some new place, whether that happened a year ago or
2 100 years ago. There is -- I think what you're hinting
3 at also is the definition of natural diversity. I
4 won't be able to quote you because I don't have that
5 proposed rule you discussed earlier today in front of
6 me, but there the Fish and Wildlife Service attempts to
7 identify, to define, natural diversity.

8

9 The reason that that term is important
10 is because the laws that establish these National
11 Wildlife Refuges say we're supposed to manage for that
12 natural diversity. So it isn't a matter of years that
13 plant, animal, whatever has been there, it's a matter
14 of how it got there.

15

16 So on Hawadax Island, Rat Island in the
17 western Aleutians, the rats are believed to have
18 arrived in the late 1700s from a shipwreck. That's the
19 island where the rats were eradicated. To us it didn't
20 matter that they'd been there for 200 years. They just
21 didn't belong. Humans brought them even though it was
22 accidental.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Gosh, there are
25 so many things that are going through my head right
26 now, you wouldn't believe it. First of all, I will say
27 thank you for being brave enough to
28 be in front of us.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, with that, I
33 just really have a hard time with all this. When I
34 look at the Kagalaska caribou and the Adak caribou,
35 Adak caribou was something that was transplanted there.
36 Is your goal to hopefully eventually that this herd
37 disappears and maybe that's why there's not more effort
38 made into a management plan? I know that issue has
39 been coming up for maybe the last five years from this
40 Council.

41

42 I look at Unimak. On Unimak, the
43 caribou, a lot from there came from Unit 9D. They swam
44 across and they started there basically and they've
45 been there. You look at the cattle on Wosnesenski and
46 Chirikof and saying, well, we're going to remove these
47 because they're not part of the natural diversity and
48 somebody is making a decision whether it was 10 years,
49 40 years, 100 years, 200 years, I think without to some
50 degree recognizing the full impact it has on the people

1 in that region that subsist off of these species when
2 other species are low.

3

4 You know, it's really hard for us as
5 people that live out in the region and subsist off of
6 these to watch some of this activity going on. I just
7 don't have an answer except, you know, you've heard our
8 frustration voiced many, many times. I'm not even sure
9 at this point, except to make that a point, what do you
10 do -- as you go forward, who comes up with these
11 decisions?

12

13 MR. DELAHANTY: There were a lot of
14 points in there. Do you want me to pick them off as
15 best I can? First of all, on Adak, I want to be very
16 clear that we were talking only about Kagalaska. We're
17 not talking about the caribou on Adak Island. So I
18 think what happens is -- Adak Island, of course, isn't
19 just Federally owned. There's a human population there
20 and there's a lot of land that I have no business --
21 you know, I have no responsibilities towards other than
22 being a good neighbor and working collaboratively.

23

24 So, no, there's no plan to try and get
25 rid of the caribou on Adak or the reindeer on Atka or
26 something like that. At some point -- well, I won't
27 predict what will happen in 50 or 100 years, but it is
28 not within -- none of that is within -- is ever being
29 talked about, I guess, right now. So we recognize that
30 as a valuable resource. So that's Adak.

31

32 In terms of like the cattle, it's an
33 important point that nobody -- we were doing an
34 environmental impact statement, but we have been
35 reaching out to people and we heard loud and clear
36 different values. On Wosnesenski it was particularly
37 about meat and food. On Chirikof it had more to do
38 with genetics and just sort of the heritage of ranching
39 and things. I'll be honest. We also heard from people
40 that said you have to get rid of them and you have to
41 do it yesterday.

42

43 So all we were trying to do was to
44 assimilate that information and put together options.
45 So that's what is stopped. There was no plan yet
46 because we didn't have one. We were trying to figure
47 out a plan. But we did hear passionately, loudly and
48 clearly from people who valued those resources for
49 different various reasons.

50

1 On Kagalaska Island, which is where the
2 caribou have gone to in small numbers, I don't think
3 there's a -- I don't want to dismiss the future value
4 of a food resource, but it's not an area that
5 historically has been -- people didn't hunt caribou on
6 Kagalaska because there weren't any and they were and
7 to the best of my knowledge remain abundant on Adak,
8 which is more accessible and has all the human
9 infrastructure.

10
11 I think every site, every situation is
12 a little bit different and I think we just have to be
13 mature enough to reach out and talk to people and
14 listen. That doesn't mean that the agency folks are
15 going to come to the decision that you would like all
16 the time, but I think the more that we can -- you
17 talked about communication earlier in your remarks and
18 I think that was a very good one. The more that we can
19 communicate and work together the better off we'll be.

20
21
22 So I'm sure I missed some points, but I
23 wanted to bring up cattle that we hadn't decided. We
24 were just trying to figure out plans. I'm sure I
25 missed something in there, but I did my best.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
28 that. This is going to be a continuing battle and it
29 will be. There's no way around it unfortunately.
30 There's no easy answer. It's hard when I sit back and
31 watch -- to use an example, the battle with the road.
32 You made the comments that you look at all of these
33 factors in place and there's people that are against
34 and say remove them. Well, that group of people is
35 larger than the people that it's affecting that can
36 speak up to it.

37
38 That's been my issue with any kind of
39 EA is the weight system. It's easy for people to say,
40 well, I've done my job, I've consulted, the EA is here,
41 but the biggest thing in the final outcome is the
42 impact is on the people it impacts the most is what's
43 disheartening for me.

44
45 I'll say it and I'll say it until I
46 die. You'll hear it -- as long as I'm around, you're
47 going to hear it and you're going to hear it again and
48 again. I don't see there's an easy resolution to any
49 of this. I really think that it's important to take
50 the people that it affects the most into consideration

1 first and foremost. It's easy to say I want this
2 island to go back to where it was with nothing on it
3 but the vegetation and the birds and what's there, but
4 God help us, there's a human factor here that's
5 involved that we all have to somehow survive with.

6

7 I'm sorry for having to be
8 straightforward, but you'll get used to that the more
9 you see me.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick.

16

17 MR. KOSO: I've just got one comment
18 about Adak and the caribou. I know you said that Adak
19 -- we're not bothering it and doing this, but you did
20 try to do it. If it wasn't for the Aleut Corporation
21 and thank God for Senator Stevens. That was one of the
22 first things they tried to do, after the military moved
23 out and the Aleut Corporation took over Adak, was to
24 kill off the caribou. The Aleut Corporation fought for
25 two years or about four years, I guess, to stop that.
26 If it wasn't for Senator Stevens and the Aleut
27 Corporation, they would have went and killed them all
28 off.

29

30 So that's just a correction I think on
31 maybe your part on that. They've been there as far as
32 I know since 1958, the caribou, when the military
33 brought them out. It's definitely a resource. I'm
34 happy to hear you say that you're looking at that as it
35 will be there forever. So that's one good thing I
36 heard tonight and I appreciate that.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you for the
41 correction. I would just note that that was, of course
42 -- I wasn't here and I'm sure the Fish and Wildlife
43 Service was closely involved, but that was a Navy-led
44 project as they left in terms of what to do with the
45 caribou.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

48

49 MS. CHERNOFF: Something that was also
50 of concern when eliminating these species was the waste

1 of the species after the whole process of them being
2 eliminated. I know the Arctic fox were taken in the
3 summertime and just killed and I assume left there.
4 The caribou, it sounded like until there was some.....

5
6 MR. KOSO: Protest.

7
8 MS. CHERNOFF:push back and then
9 it seems like, you know, some of the meat was saved.
10 So I don't know if there's somewhere in the process
11 that there could be -- or maybe
12 it could be passed on, but there's great concern that
13 when you're taking out these species that there be a
14 little more thoughtfulness about the waste.

15
16 Here in Alaska we do look at a lot of
17 the hunting seasons and subsistence and we talk about
18 wanton waste a lot, all the time, and people get in
19 trouble for wanton waste. Then to see an agency such
20 as the Federal government going in and just eliminating
21 species and leaving them there to be wasted is a little
22 disturbing. So I don't know if somehow through the RAC
23 or, you know, somehow we can have more communication
24 and maybe have a better plan in the future for the
25 waste.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you. In terms of
30 the fox, they were generally killed in the summer
31 months because that's when it's most realistic to be
32 camped out on the island and doing the work and the
33 pelts were of low value, but I totally hear you and
34 it's something that we think about and we talk about a
35 lot. There's a resource value there's economics
36 involved and there's perception and we want to do the
37 right thing. What the right thing is is subject to
38 some debate, but for sure we need to talk about it.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, did you
41 have a comment? I think we'll try to wrap this up real
42 shortly here and then go on.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. I'll be as
45 quick as I can. Aerial surveys and getting it done,
46 having a machine, I did when I was with the Department
47 donate a whole afternoon to do one count in '82. I
48 would suggest that, as we did when we had that lunch in
49 Kodiak, that you go and talk to the Coast Guard Air
50 Station commander and just ask him about planes of

1 opportunity because I know some of the pilots there and
2 in my time with the Department had great success on
3 support with them. Even flew a stream survey one time
4 in a C-130, which was damned exciting.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. HOLMES: But you use what you can
9 get. So that's a point I would suggest. It's been 25
10 years since I read that
11 compilation that was done by Fish and Wildlife Service
12 on places where foxes were introduced. I wonder if you
13 could maybe copy that and mail it to me. I'd really
14 like to read it again because I've been reading some
15 recent translations of Russian material and there's one
16 book that just came out on, I don't know, culture of
17 extinction or something, but they went in and looked at
18 a lot of Russian material. Three years after Bering's
19 crew got back to Khabarovsk or Vladivostok, people were
20 out doing trapping, et cetera, but at that time in
21 early, what, 1743 it would have been, they reported
22 when they came back blue fox, cross fox and red fox as
23 part of their take that they took on those explorations
24 into the Aleutians.

25

26 Then another thing comes to mind when I
27 was talking to my friend Moses Church many years ago
28 the Fox Islands name came from the translation of
29 Alutiiq the islands of the fox. There had to have been
30 critters there that weren't transplanted. So I did
31 mention to you and I forgot to send you that reference
32 on that new study that was done by a geophysicist that
33 they've documented that from Cook Inlet to Oregon that
34 the sea level has risen something like 50 or 60 fathoms
35 in the last eight to ten thousand years. I would argue
36 if you've got voles on the island, I don't think
37 anybody paddled a canoe or a kayak and planted voles.
38 The same with ground squirrels. The deepest water
39 between Chirikof and Kodiak is 20 fathoms. If you
40 think back, Mrs. -- I believe her name was Linstikof
41 (ph) on the Pribilofs, there's a recent article on the
42 mammoth tooth that she found years ago. The whole
43 Bering Sea shelf was down. So you look, something
44 that's close to changing sea level height in the
45 Shumagins and the islands here in the eastern
46 Aleutians, that depth level is not a whole lot
47 different than the depths in the passes. Particularly
48 with blue fox that was cold then. There wasn't any
49 water or ice over the shelf. That Bering Sea ice had
50 to be somewhere because it was cold and I see no reason

1 why there couldn't have been ice through the whole
2 Aleutians that was probably common turf all the way
3 from Russia to the continent of Alaska as far as the
4 distribution of blue fox. I know during the trapping I
5 know some of the folks that used to do fox farming and
6 they did bring in some animals, but it doesn't
7 necessarily mean that there weren't already indigenous
8 species. So I'd really like to see your citations on
9 that and as I find more of these Russian papers on what
10 they harvested and where, I'll relate that to you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: I will be quiet because
15 Della asked me to be.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you. Great
20 points and thank you to the Council for taking the time
21 for these issues.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Peter, did you
24 have a question or a
25 comment, please make it fast. I'm sorry to push you,
26 but if you could, I'd appreciate it.

27

28 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 My question is for Izembek. They mentioned there was a
30 sea otter survey. I know in Sand Point on June 15
31 there was a posting put in the post office saying there
32 was a two-week survey going on, but nobody contacted
33 the tribe or anybody. I wanted to know what was
34 involved with the survey. Was it just aerial? I have
35 reports of a couple Zodiacs being on the north end of
36 Nagai Island in the lagoon. So was there a tagging
37 study done or do we know?

38

39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Stacey, are you
40 still online?

41

42 MS. LOWE: Yes, Madame Chair. This is
43 Stacey from Izembek Refuge. I just wanted to reiterate
44 Izembek Refuge itself did not conduct the survey. It
45 was the Marine Mammals Management Division out of
46 Anchorage. To my knowledge they only did aerial
47 surveys both from a helicopter and a larger aircraft.
48 I don't think it was them in the Zodiacs.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. If

1 we can, we'll go ahead and move on to the proposed
2 Emperor goose hunt.

3

4 Karen.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
7 Chair. I just have a couple quick announcements.
8 Melissa Berns had to get off the phone, so she's no
9 longer on the phone, dealing with a medical issue.

10

11 And I've had a request to add to the
12 agenda a short report on the subsistence research in
13 Kodiak and Aleutian Island communities. You've been
14 given two handouts on this from Fish and Game. They
15 would like to just do a quick report just prior to the
16 Buskin River report if the Council agrees to that.

17

18 And last, but not least, if anybody has
19 joined us, I just wanted to make sure that you took
20 some time to sign in to our sign-in sheet in the back.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Karen. When we get to the ADF&G, we'll just kind of go
26 down the line on the various reports. That's good.

27

28 If we can, we'll go ahead and move to
29 the proposed Emperor goose hunt. Who is speaking on
30 that?

31

32 DR. ROSENBERG: Hi. Good afternoon.
33 This is Dan Rosenberg from the Alaska Department of
34 Fish and Game. Can you hear me okay?

35

36 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Go ahead.

37

38 DR. ROSENBERG: Madame Chair. Members
39 of the Council. Again, I'm Dan Rosenberg and I am
40 sorry I'm not there in person, but I'm trying to do
41 this via cell phone, so I hope this connection goes
42 well.

43

44 Just to update you, and I will try to
45 be brief here, September of 2013 through the Alaska
46 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and the Pacific
47 Flyway Council we have been working to review the
48 status and, as a result, implement a hunt for Emperor
49 geese. We first tried to do this for the spring/summer
50 subsistence hunt last year and due to some stipulations

1 that the Fish and Wildlife Service put on the hunt the
2 regional management bodies of the AMBCC decided not to
3 go forward with that hunt.

4

5 Since that time we have worked on
6 updating the Emperor Goose Management Plan and we are
7 in the process of developing and close to finalizing an
8 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Plan for Emperor
9 Geese and the Pacific Flyway Management Plan for
10 Emperor Geese. Both those plans have similar plans and
11 objectives. If both get approved this fall, we will be
12 able to implement a spring/summer subsistence hunt in
13 2017 and a fall hunt in 2017.

14

15 So I'll stop right there for now just
16 to see if there's any questions and then I can go into
17 more detail if the questions don't take us there
18 regardless.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: So any questions
21 for Dan at this point. Rick, one question.

22

23 MR. KOSO: Yeah, one quick question,
24 Dan. I just wanted to know if you got any numbers as
25 far as -- I know this is a subsistence hunt, but are
26 you going to put a number on how many birds that a
27 person could get or household?

28

29 DR. ROSENBERG: No. What we are going
30 to try to do now as an outcome of this process, which
31 several of you have been involved with at least from
32 time to time, we are going to have a self-regulated
33 spring/summer subsistence hunt on a three-year trial
34 period and as long as it doesn't fall below a minimum
35 threshold, we'll keep it open for the whole three
36 years. That threshold is going to be based on a survey
37 conducted in the previous season on the Yukon Delta and
38 we've agreed to base that on that index.

39

40 As long as that index remains above a
41 threshold that represents for us an index, so it's not
42 a population estimate, then that index would be -- I
43 think it's 23,000. The best we can model that to is a
44 population of about -- I think it's 115,000 birds. So
45 as long as it remains above that, we will keep it open
46 for three years while we evaluate the whole situation
47 just because this is a hunt that hasn't been open in 30
48 years, so we want you to proceed slowly.

49

50 Now in the fall we will have a limit.

1 Right now we're requesting a harvest of 1,000 birds
2 based on a permit system and then those permits will
3 probably be allocated through the Board of Game
4 process. At least that's what we're going to
5 recommend, but that is yet to be determined.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Dan, this is
8 Della. At one time we talked about a subsistence hunt
9 and then it would be opened up for everyone. Is that
10 still the plan for the sport, I guess, subsistence and
11 sport?

12

13 DR. ROSENBERG: Subsistence is the
14 spring/summer hunt. From April 2nd through August 31st
15 will be open to all permanent residents of the included
16 areas, which is Kawerak, Maniilaq, Yukon-Kuskokwim
17 Delta, Bristol Bay Native Association area and then
18 most of the geese are not in Kodiak or the Aleutians at
19 that time of the year. There are still some migrating
20 through in the spring, but most of those are not in
21 those areas during the year, but they'll also be open.

22

23 Now in the fall, beginning September --
24 and of course we recognize with the birds nothing
25 changes, but through the bureaucracy a lot changes and
26 at that point we go into a whole new set of rules, so
27 that would be administered very differently and the
28 harvest will be restricted by a permit system.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe a point of
31 clarification. You mentioned a threshold of 23,000.
32 Does that include the subsistence and the sport?

33

34 DR. ROSENBERG: Okay. What I said was
35 an index of 23,000 birds based on Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
36 breeding grounds survey. That survey flies transects
37 over that area and they compile an index, which is sort
38 of a minimum count of the number of birds that are
39 there. That has nothing to do with the harvest other
40 than it's a number when the harvest can be opened or
41 closed. Right now the index is quite a bit higher than
42 that. So as long as the number of birds on that survey
43 doesn't drop below that index, then we will keep the
44 hunt open for the first three years and then after that
45 we evaluate.

46

47 Does that help clear that up? Indexes
48 have been very confusing to people over the years and
49 we've been trying to get away from it, but we're back
50 to it now at least for this interim period.

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dan.
2 It's really hard to hear you. You're not coming in
3 that loud and it's almost like you're coming in and out
4 a little bit.
5
6 DR. ROSENBERG: I'll try to put my
7 phone up closer to my face here when I'm speaking. I
8 apologize for that. In the spring/summer, to be clear,
9 there's no restriction on the number of birds that can
10 be harvested, but in the fall, after September 1 and
11 later, there will be restrictions on the number of
12 birds that can be harvested. By that, the total number
13 of birds and the number of birds by any individual,
14 which will be one bird per person up to 1,000 birds.
15 That's what's being proposed right now.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anyone have
18 any questions for Dan at this point.
19
20 Tom.
21
22 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Dan, has there
23 been any consideration to allow for proxy hunts for the
24 elders who can't get out and hunt for themselves?
25
26 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, there's been lots
27 of consideration for a hunt that would allow elders
28 that would be geared towards food for elders. There is
29 consideration for that and it goes through the Board of
30 Game process for September 1 and after. That will be a
31 public process and that's where these types of ideas
32 will be able to be introduced. Originally we proposed
33 something like that, we had that in the plan, but
34 that's not in there right now. That was taken out
35 because we're going to propose that it goes through
36 this public process in the Board of Game.
37
38 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you, Dan.
39
40 DR. ROSENBERG: You're welcome.
41
42 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.
43
44 MS. SKINNER: Hi, Dan. This is
45 Rebecca. I have a question about what happens at the
46 end of the three-year trial period and I did mention
47 this on one of the calls. If for some reason the
48 timing of the review of what happens in years one
49 through three takes longer than expected and so we get
50 past 2019 and we're into 2020 and the subcommittee has

1 not yet either made a new recommendation for the final
2 two years of the plan nor have they said the last two
3 years will continue on as the first three years did,
4 what happens?

5
6 So is it assumed that at the end of
7 three years hunting stops until the subcommittee comes
8 up with a new recommendation or keeps the status quo or
9 is it assumed that hunting will continue until the
10 subcommittee either takes an action to states that it
11 will continue with the status quo?

12
13 DR. ROSENBERG: Well, I can't tell you
14 exactly what will happen after three years. I can only
15 tell you the intent right now. The intent for the
16 three years is just because there are several people --
17 there are lots of people out there that are nervous
18 because this has been closed for 30 years and now we're
19 going to open it completely wide open, a self-regulated
20 hunt in April through August. To just kind of assuage
21 some of those concerns and get this thing going.

22
23 We're going to review it annually
24 really and we just put a three-year sort of governor on
25 it to just allow us to -- allow everybody to revisit
26 this and if we needed to put the brakes on it for some
27 reason, we could, but not necessarily that we're going
28 to need hopefully. So it's just a take a deep breath
29 kind of period and look at this again, but I don't
30 think anybody saw a lengthy evaluation period.

31
32 The other part of it though was
33 originally when we went into this, we went into it for
34 the idea of using this Bayesian Integrated State Space
35 Model and we in Fish and Game still think that is a
36 very good way to go. There are other people that are
37 uncomfortable with that and support a second model, a
38 different model. Sort of the compromise was to go with
39 just using this threshold that I just talked about
40 based on the summer index in the Y-K Delta, which is
41 replacing the spring survey on the Alaska Peninsula
42 that we used to do and then trying to agree to a better
43 model after the three years.

44
45 Remember this is a model that gave us a
46 much higher population estimate than we thought we had,
47 than we had ever used in the past. We didn't really
48 have an estimate in the past. These models allowed us
49 to estimate the numbers of what's out there, which was
50 much higher than the index from that spring survey. So

1 the idea is to try to go back to those models which
2 integrated several surveys and that was really, from my
3 perspective, the basis for just doing this for three
4 years while we work on models and hopefully it can go
5 through a different system that we think will be
6 better.

7

8 If not, you know, we can revert back,
9 but I think the idea is that we're doing all this
10 evaluation over the next three years. We're not
11 waiting for three years and then starting the
12 evaluation process. Hopefully the plan -- my plan at
13 least would be that we have it -- at the end of three
14 years we put a little more time into it but not that
15 much more time and we'd have something ready to go for
16 the fourth -- for year four.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

19

20 MS. SKINNER: So my comment or
21 suggestion, I don't know if this can be changed, but I
22 would prefer to see each of the plans specify what
23 happens at year three. So my assumption is the way
24 it's worded now half the people will assume that
25 hunting stops until the subcommittee does something.
26 Half the people will assume that hunting continues
27 until the subcommittee does something.

28

29 Given, I guess, the amount of
30 discussion -- that's not the word I'm looking for, but
31 the amount of concern and
32 discussion around the Emperor goose hunt, I think
33 clarity from the beginning would be better. I would
34 almost prefer the plan to say hunting will continue
35 unless the subcommittee says otherwise because that
36 gives the subcommittee an incentive to make sure that
37 they take whatever action they feel is necessary.

38

39 I'm looking at it from the perspective
40 of the subsistence hunters who have been asking for
41 this hunt for a long time and I would hate to see them
42 caught again in a situation where they aren't able to
43 hunt because a subcommittee perhaps wasn't
44 able to agree on the appropriate survey methodology to
45 use.

46

47 DR. ROSENBERG: I appreciate your
48 concerns about that. I'm not in my office. I don't
49 have the plan in front of me as to where it gives the
50 impression to some people that after three years this

1 is not going to continue if the population is above
2 that 23,000 index. So I can't look at it right now and
3 respond directly to that. I don't have it in front of
4 me. I'll go back and look at it. We've also revised
5 the plan a little since you got your version. We've
6 been taking comments. I will certainly look at it for
7 that and please feel free to email any of those
8 comments to me.

9

10 I'm hoping to get a new version out in
11 another week or so. I can't speak for everybody by any
12 means. I'm sure I won't be there in three years when
13 this all happens, so I think it's always a good idea to
14 have things clear for everybody to what will happen.
15 So I'll have to look at that again and see what we can
16 do with the language.

17

18 There is no intent to have a hunt after
19 three years if the population drops dramatically below
20 that threshold right now. Any time it drops even in
21 the three years below that threshold we will suggest
22 closing the hunt, but we are well above that threshold
23 right now. I always hate to say it will never happen,
24 but I think in the next three years there's not a high
25 probability that we're going to drop that low.
26 Probably not a probability at all, but stranger things
27 have happened and I can't make any guarantees.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.

30

31 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. Can, I just
32 have a question about Native handicraft. How will that
33 pair with this? Will these be exempt from that for now
34 or will it fall like the rest of the migratory birds
35 where we're looking at being able to create Native
36 handicraft.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 DR. ROSENBERG: You're welcome. Thank
41 you for the question. Again, I don't have it in front
42 of me right now and I'm sorry about that, but as far as
43 handicrafts go, the initial handicraft proposal is
44 limited to 27 species. In order to get it through, we
45 had to use those species that occur in Alaska that are
46 not included on the list of species that goes with the
47 treaty with Japan. Okay. So I don't have the list in
48 front of me, but I don't recall if Emperor geese are on
49 that list or not. I don't think they are, but I could
50 be wrong.

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I
2 think.....
3
4 DR. ROSENBERG: So if they're on that
5 list and it's open, you can use them in handicraft, but
6 if it's not on that list, it's not legal to use the
7 nonedible parts for handicrafts.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we may, can
10 we go ahead and get close to wrapping this discussion
11 up. Pat, one more comment. I'm sorry. Go ahead.
12
13 MR. HOLMES: I'll be real quick. Could
14 you give our Council a copy of that list of what
15 critters can be used or birds for handicrafts.
16 Quickly, I'd like to compliment you, Dan, on all the
17 help you've given Kodiak and our region. I haven't
18 been able to follow all these things on the
19 teleconference, but it seems like whenever you've
20 spoken during these discussions you kind of tend to
21 bring things back to reality and I think you're taking
22 the lead on examining the surveys, help to answer a lot
23 of questions our Council has been asking for years. So
24 I wanted to give you an atta-boy.
25
26 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you, Pat. Did I
27 hear Peter Devine's voice earlier?
28
29 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's correct.
30 He's been in these meetings, Dan.
31
32 DR. ROSENBERG: Peter has that list or
33 Peter should have that list of the 27 species that are
34 eligible and John Reft should have that list, but I can
35 send it to Karen again and Karen can distribute it. I
36 have no problem with that. So some of you have been
37 aware of that I think over time and we'll get that back
38 out to Karen if that works for everybody.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dan.
41 Both John and Peter have been in the meeting, so we
42 will get that from them. I know Karen's actually been
43 around the building too. She hasn't been in this
44 particular meeting, but I know she's around.
45
46 I also want to thank you too for your
47 work and then at the statewide meeting, the meetings we
48 had with the different groups that are affected by this
49 region was very helpful. I think just being able to
50 meet face to face and talk about these issues was a big

1 plus, but, yes, thank you very much for your help.

2

3

Antone.

4

5 MR. SHELIKOFF: I have one question for
6 Dan. Where is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7 headquarters at, what state?

8

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Where is the Fish and
10 Wildlife Service headquartered at. I think the people
11 in Anchorage will be on board with this. We're still
12 talking, still ironing out a few points, but I think
13 they'll be on board with this. Hopefully they will
14 bring the people in Washington, D.C. who ultimately
15 approve it on board with this.

16

17 But I can't speak, you know, for them,
18 but we are doing our best from our end trying to make
19 it so that everybody has agreed to this before -- you
20 know, sooner rather than later. We'll know more from
21 the Fish and Wildlife Service. We have to vote on this
22 at the AMBCC meeting on -- I think it's September 1.
23 And then we vote on it at the Pacific Flyway Council on
24 September 29th, I believe it is, maybe 28th, the end of
25 September anyway, and then it goes to Washington, D.C.
26 and they'll vote on it the last week of October.

27

28 We're doing our best to have everybody
29 online and willing to support this as is. And that's
30 another reason we went with a three year for the period
31 because we thought we had a better chance of getting it
32 through Washington and the Fish and Wildlife Service.
33 It's sort of limited and we're trying it out for three
34 years and reevaluating it. We're not calling it an
35 experiment, we're not calling it a trial. You know,
36 we're doing our best to try and get everybody on board.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
39 John, do you have a short comment. Go ahead.

40

41 MR. REFT: In Kodiak, we've got a
42 problem. Ever since, my personal opinion, the Feds got
43 to Herman Squartsoff, they introduced the 500-foot
44 offshore limit to subsistence hunting. We cannot do
45 the seagull eggs, we can't hunt ducks or anything
46 unless you have a skiff, trailer, outboard to get 500
47 feet offshore. Therefore we're not going to be able to
48 hunt the Emperor goose if it's opened up to us. This
49 was slid in on top of us.

50

1 I met with Pete Probasco because I'm
2 the alternate for AMBCC for Sun'aq. When this Sonny
3 guy gets afraid to fly, I go. I talked to Pete about
4 this and he agreed with me. If I wrote a resolution to
5 have this omitted, that we'd be reinstated where we
6 could utilize our subsistence spring hunt and seagull
7 eggs and stuff because we haven't been able to do it
8 for years and it's ridiculous because their excuse was
9 the impact of the Filipino community coming in for the
10 canneries and stuff was so big and the Coast Guard,
11 they were going to wipe out everything. They virtually
12 don't utilize it. They don't use seagull eggs or they
13 don't spring hunt. All they do is sport fish and
14 that's all they're concerned with.

15
16 And then they got a hold of the Audubon
17 Society, I guess Daisy Studebaker or somebody, and
18 they're worried about the Arctic tern eggs. Hell,
19 we're not interested in the Arctic tern eggs, just
20 seagull eggs and stuff. But they utilized these people
21 and got them to sign it and put it in and nobody can go
22 out there and do that now. All they're doing is
23 depriving our
24 elders of walking the beach and the rocks and stuff to
25 harvest or shoot the stuff that they were used to all
26 their life.

27
28 What it amounts to is another village
29 making a law for another village. That's unheard of.
30 Hell, you could create war, you know. I've never heard
31 of it in my life and I can't believe it. Pete
32 Probasco, he backed me up on this resolution in
33 Anchorage here the year before and he says I was right
34 and I know I'm right.

35
36 Then we've got this guy lie to the
37 AMBCC board that we snuck this under the table on him
38 and he didn't know anything about it. Our two
39 biologists -- we were at the teleconference meeting
40 this spring when they had it and his statement was
41 right there in black and white. Sonny. And he lied to
42 the AMBCC board and they swallowed it all. Now he's
43 trying to take Antone away from us and then slide on
44 down to Termination Point, the outside of Monashka,
45 trying to take more area away and it's ridiculous that
46 they believe this.

47
48 But we can't utilize Emperor geese or
49 anything else.
50

1 So thank you very much.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, John.
4 Maybe as a recommendation do you have a copy of that
5 resolution? And is any other Council member from
6 Kodiak aware of it?
7
8 MR. REFT: Well, what I can do, Madame
9 Chair, is have Kelly or Tom forward you a copy of that.
10 They have it in Kodiak. I don't have it with me.
11
12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: If Karen can get
13 that, then she can get it to us.
14
15 Tom.
16
17 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I just noticed
18 this too. In the manual on Page 10, in that handout --
19 I'm sorry, on Page 19, it talks about those closures.
20 It specifically lays them out, the ones John is
21 referring to. And that does. It's going to pretty
22 much eliminate -- as far as Kodiak goes, it's going to
23 eliminate any of the elders being able to harvest
24 birds.
25
26 MR. REFT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27
28 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: John, if we can
29 get a copy of that resolution somehow prior to us
30 adjourning this meeting. If you can get a copy, I'd
31 appreciate it.
32
33 MR. REFT: I know Tom and Kelly are in
34 on this conference listening, especially Kelly, so
35 maybe she'll forward a copy of that to you.
36
37 Thank you very much.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Kelly, if you
40 can forward that to Karen and then she can get us a
41 copy.
42
43 DR. ROSENBERG: Madame Chair. This is
44 Dan. I don't know if you want me to respond or not.
45 I'm finished now. I'd just like to say thank you if
46 that's the case. Again, apologize for not being there
47 in person, but I have appreciated working with
48 everybody on the Council. With that I'll just sign off
49 unless you'd like me to respond to John's comment.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think if you
2 can respond to his comments, it would be helpful if we
3 do anything as far as his resolution goes when we look
4 at it. We'd appreciate that input now before you
5 leave.

6
7 DR. ROSENBERG: Okay. Thank you. I
8 certainly appreciate John's frustration. This is
9 something I've heard many times before. First of all,
10 I'd like to make it clear that we in the AMBCC we don't
11 choose the representatives from the Sun'ag Tribe of
12 Kodiak. That is not up to us. Whoever is the
13 representative they provide the input and that's the
14 input that we get from Kodiak.

15
16 And since 2003, when Herman Squartsoff
17 was the representative, the Sun'ag Tribe had brought
18 forth to us -- the Kodiak representative had brought
19 forth to the AMBCC to close the road system. We also
20 at that time got input from other people in Kodiak. So
21 my point is not whether John is right or wrong or
22 whether it should be opened or closed, my point is that
23 there's obviously differing opinions in Kodiak among
24 the people that live in Kodiak.

25
26 So you're either asking us, I guess, to
27 come to Kodiak and mediate or arbitrate this internal
28 dispute or you're going to have to, through some sort
29 of public meeting, public process in Kodiak, I believe,
30 come to some consensus on how the people of Kodiak want
31 this to proceed. Not everybody is on board, obviously,
32 with opening the road and not everybody is on board
33 with closing it. So it makes it very difficult when we
34 get different messages from different people to respond
35 to this.

36
37 That's all I can say.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
40 that, Dan. I think maybe the representatives from
41 Kodiak should maybe make some recommendations prior to
42 the meeting on how this should be handled. Whether
43 they should try to look to the tribe on holding some
44 sort of public meeting to have this discussion and
45 involve as many people as they can to make some
46 recommendation.

47
48 MR. REFT: Yeah, Madame Chair, we have
49 an AMBCC meeting on the 23rd.
50

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Yeah, that would be
2 very helpful to get a very good.....
3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me. I'm sorry,
5 Madame Chair. I think Dan was speaking on the phone.
6 If anybody from the public wishes to testify, they'll
7 need to come up to the table and state their name.
8
9 MR. REFT: Sorry.
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: No problem. Thank
12 you.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Dan, go ahead.
15
16 DR. ROSENBERG: Oh, no, I just said --
17 I'm sorry if I cut in on anybody. But, no, I think it
18 would be very helpful if there was a meeting in Kodiak
19 that had a good cross section of the community and come
20 to some sort of agreement on it. I still can't tell
21 you what the final results will be, but it might be a
22 factor to consider. That would be helpful, I think, as
23 at least an important first step.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dan.
26 John, if you want to make a comment and then this will
27 be final for this discussion.
28
29 MR. REFT: Yeah, Madame Chair. I agree
30 with him. It's hard to tell who's saying what, but
31 we'll iron this out because we do have an AMBCC meeting
32 coming up in Kodiak. We will host it on Tuesday,
33 August 23rd, so it's going to be recent, in the near
34 future. They will have Emperor goose subsistence
35 hunting and everything will be discussed. Local
36 communities forward to the State AMBCC meeting in
37 Anchorage for a vote. Dates of that vote will be
38 August 29 to September 1st. So that ought to clarify
39 everything, I hope. When I get back, and I'm sure
40 Kelly and them are listening, they'll start moving
41 forward on getting this thing straightened out.
42
43 Thank you, Madame Chair.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, John.
46 The Kodiak/Aleutians is comprised from members from the
47 Aleutians and Kodiak and we don't try from the
48 Aleutians to try to tell Kodiak how to take care of
49 their business. We've always been supportive of each
50 other's region when we move forward in our

1 decision-making process.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 Rick and then Tom.

6

7 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I just got a comment
8 on that. You know, I don't know what went down and how
9 many people were involved in that decision-making on
10 going off the beach 500 feet. I guess if I was to look
11 at it this way, the taking of the beach geese we call
12 them, the Emperors, is that's going to reflect the
13 whole region. You know, if we take too many, then
14 we're going to be shut down. I guess the way I look at
15 this deal is if you've got a community of 12,000
16 people, how many of those people are going to be able
17 to go out and kill a bird or two, you know, and to add
18 up. So I don't know that.

19

20 I'm just saying I don't have enough
21 knowledge of Kodiak as a board member sitting here to
22 make a decision on behalf of you guys. I think that
23 needs to be, like you said, brought up in Kodiak with
24 all the players there and come up with a conclusion to
25 where you guys agree and then maybe the board would be
26 able to push it through with you. But until then I
27 couldn't, in my mind, basically take one side or
28 another because I don't know enough about it.

29

30 So I thank you for that.

31

32 MR. REFT: I understand.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

35

36 MR. SCHWANTES: John, I've got a
37 question for you. In all your discussions on this
38 stuff, has there been any discussion to allow a proxy
39 hunt so that those elders that can't get out can get
40 birds?

41

42 MR. REFT: At this point, Tom,
43 basically no discussion has been made on that subject,
44 but the way it works in Kodiak is the ones that do go
45 out take care of the elders. They share and that's all
46 we want to do because we're not able to utilize this
47 right that we have to subsistence hunt in the spring.
48 We cannot do anything unless this thing is corrected.
49 And I hope you're listening, Kelly. Start working on
50 it because I'm getting sick of it and I do not like a

1 liar. And I haven't confronted him yet.
2
3 Thank you very much.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
6 you, John.
7
8 MR. SCHWANTES: A comment. I guess,
9 John, the reason I asked that is because I see here
10 they're saying the limit is one bird. So if you go out
11 and you kill one bird, you're either going to eat it or
12 give it to somebody else and then you're not going to
13 get another one.
14
15 MR. REFT: I'd give a leg to somebody,
16 a wing to somebody, spread it around.
17
18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I'm going
19 to go ahead and move on. I think the next agency
20 report on the agenda is BLM.
21
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. There's
23 no report from BLM.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: ADF&G. We have
28 a number of issues, I think, so let's start with the
29 report. I think I've got the Buskin, then I've got --
30 I had Lisa Fox, but I don't know if she's back.
31
32 MR. SCHWANTES: Can we take a five-
33 minute break.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I've got
36 a request for a five-minute break. I think we're going
37 to be here until at least maybe 6:00 o'clock to get to
38 these reports tonight, which is good. That's fine.
39 Five minutes.
40
41 (Off record)
42
43 (On record)
44
45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. If we can
46 come back to order. The next item on the agenda is
47 ADF&G.
48
49 (Pause)
50

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tyler.

2

3 MR. POLUM: Oh, excuse me. I thought
4 there were other ADF&G personnel ahead of me. Well,
5 good evening, Members of the RAC and Ms. Chair. I'm
6 Tyler Polum with Department of Fish and Game. I just
7 will give you guys a brief update about our Buskin
8 River sockeye stock assessment project and let you ask
9 any questions about anything you have for me.

10

11 As you probably know, we've just
12 finished up our actual field season for the sockeye
13 weir, but our field projects are still going on through
14 the coho season, so these activities are ongoing still.
15 The Buskin River weir at Buskin Lake has been funded
16 through the FRMP since the year 2000. Next year, as
17 you've previously heard, will be the last year of
18 funding for this cycle 2014 through 2017. So we will
19 be submitting a proposal this winter for the next
20 funding cycle for that project.

21

22 I'll briefly give you a summary of our
23 season for 2016. Some of the information we won't have
24 for you now, but I can give you the full summary at the
25 winter meeting. There's a report in your meeting
26 materials as well as on the back table summarizing our
27 field season.

28

29 So 2016 there was about -- through the
30 end of July there was a little over 10,000 sockeye
31 counted into Buskin Lake. This is a little bit lower
32 than the five-year average of 11,000 through the end of
33 July, but it's above the upper escapement goal of 8,000
34 fish. There's a biological escapement goal of 5,000 to
35 8,000 fish for Buskin Lake for sockeye, which were
36 consistently over in
37 recent years but not by much. We're fairly near the
38 upper end of the goal in most recent years.

39

40 The run this year came exceptionally
41 early, like many of our sockeye runs on Kodiak Island
42 this year. There is folks -- I would say a good chunk
43 of the subsistence harvest just from anecdotal reports
44 and a good chunk of the sport harvest happened in the
45 last week in May and the first week in June probably.
46 It was kind of the peak of the fishing time.

47

48 The run, although it was early, kept
49 plugging along all the way through June and into early
50 July, so we had kind of a prolonged run, which was

1 good. That allowed most folks to get the fish they
2 wanted and everybody seemed fairly happy with the way
3 the run progressed. If you look at historical run
4 timing, we had a much longer or prolonged run than in
5 years past where typically it peaks in mid June and
6 then tapers off pretty readily after that.

7
8 We're still counting sockeye into Lake
9 Louise tributary. That run is much later timing than
10 Buskin Lake and we've counted about 50 fish so far, but
11 we'll probably count a couple hundred fish this year.
12 Sometimes those fish don't show up until even early
13 September because they just shoot right up that creek
14 to spawn when we get a little bit of rain.

15
16 Typically Buskin Lake sockeye are four
17 and five-year-old fish -- excuse me, five and six-year-
18 old fish returning to Buskin Lake and Lake Louise
19 tributary four and five-year-old fish. We don't have
20 any age samples. We have scale samples collected. We
21 don't have any aged yet just because we get to those
22 usually in the fall. But we did meet our sampling
23 goals for Buskin Lake as well as taking samples from
24 the subsistence fishery and had no trouble meeting
25 those goals.

26
27 We did again take genetic samples from
28 the subsistence fishery and at the end of this funding
29 cycle, so probably in early 2018 we'll send those off
30 to the genetics lab in Anchorage and they'll analyze
31 those and then we'll be able to tell what portion of
32 those fish were either from Buskin Lake, Lake Louise or
33 from other stocks around Kodiak. We won't know
34 specifically what stocks, but we'll know whether
35 they're from other than Buskin stock. If you remember
36 from the last time we did this we found out that a
37 pretty good chunk of those fish later in the year were
38 non-local fish, not Buskin fish, and at times Lake
39 Louise made up a pretty good portion of the subsistence
40 harvest.

41
42 We also again hired a couple of high
43 school interns, which has been an extremely successful
44 program for us. It's part of our capacity-building
45 component of the project that you heard about earlier
46 as far as the FRMP funding goes. We hired two high
47 school students that are Federally qualified
48 subsistence users and they learned a lot, worked really
49 hard and thoroughly enjoyed the summer and we really
50 appreciated having them. At least 75 percent of the

1 interns that have worked for us have returned to work
2 for the Department and it's just been an extremely
3 successful program. I think two out of our three
4 seasonal technicians on the Buskin this year were
5 former interns.

6

7 The only other thing I would mention is
8 that we still have been conducting those on-the-spot
9 subsistence user interviews to determine where folks
10 are from and where they traditionally fish on the
11 fishing grounds at Buskin and this year we contacted 11
12 subsistence users. In the last three years that I can
13 think of all of them have been Kodiak residents and all
14 of them have listed the Buskin as traditional fishing
15 grounds even though they may fish other places. So we
16 haven't seen really much variation in those surveys in
17 recent years. But, of course, that's always something
18 we can look more into if you guys are interested.

19

20 Then the last thing I wanted to mention
21 real quick is that we also partner with the Kodiak
22 National Wildlife Refuge in their salmon camp and they
23 bring their salmon camp out for a couple days each
24 summer to come out and check the weir, see how we
25 sample and count fish and just generally learn about
26 salmon right at the weir and that's always something
27 that kids love and our crew loves to do that with them
28 too. So that's ongoing as well. We continue to do
29 that each year.

30

31 That's really all I have right now to
32 give you unless you have any specific questions. Feel
33 free to ask anything.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: So I think the issue of
38 crayfish at Buskin
39 has come up a couple times today. Is that something
40 you can speak to?

41

42 MR. POLUM: If there's any specific
43 questions, I'd be glad to try and answer them. The
44 Sun'aq Tribe and the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation
45 District have been doing a fair amount of research on
46 crayfish and actually have some neat videos on Vimeo.
47 You can actually Google Kodiak crayfish video and
48 there's a couple cool videos on there. But they can
49 speak more to the specifics of the research they're
50 doing, but it's definitely been a hot topic this whole

1 summer.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: My question is more from
6 a biological standpoint. What is your perspective on
7 the crayfish? Because I think the kind of discussion
8 or tenor of discussion has been that this is a new
9 problem, it's an emergency problem, it's a big problem,
10 we need to do something. That's not the impression
11 I've gotten from Fish and Game, other people in Fish
12 and Game. So to put you a little bit on the spot, what
13 can you tell us about that?

14

15 MR. POLUM: The crayfish in Buskin Lake
16 have been there a while. They were first documented in
17 the year 2000 to my knowledge, at least from the
18 Department's perspective. So they've been there a
19 while. From the reports we've heard, they've been
20 there longer than that even. To what extent they've
21 been there, that's anybody's guess. We made a couple
22 attempts to do some trapping for them. It was
23 unsuccessful. So far all the trapping attempts have
24 been pretty unsuccessful.

25

26 This year there's been some folks out
27 in Buskin Lake who have been actually snorkeling for
28 them and grab them by hand and they have done really
29 well and found lots and lots of them. Everybody that
30 I've talked to that's gone out there to do it has come
31 back with a lot of them. So I think while the
32 population is
33 probably higher this and maybe last year as well than
34 it has been in the past, I think the awareness is also
35 a lot higher coincidentally.

36

37 As far as emergency, I can't say that
38 there's any. I don't know whether there would be an
39 emergency or not. I'm not going to declare a state of
40 emergency from my perspective because they've been
41 there a long time. There's also a lot of other natural
42 or native species in Buskin Lake that prey on salmon
43 and are involved in the ecosystem in Buskin Lake. So
44 what impact they may have is yet to be determined, I
45 guess, other than the fact that it's not anything new
46 at this point

47

48 Like I said before, Sun'aq Tribe and
49 the Soil and Water Conservation District are looking
50 into that and they're always looking at new questions

1 to answer as far as the crayfish research goes. Right
2 now they've just gotten -- they've made leaps and
3 bounds this year and actually capturing quite a few of
4 them and kind of documenting where they're found.

5
6 MS. SKINNER: And as far as your FRMP
7 application or request, you will be putting that in for
8 the fall/winter, so in a few months?

9
10 MR. POLUM: Yeah. The timeline that I
11 have it looks like the call for proposals will come out
12 in November, I believe, and then it closes either two
13 or three months later, but our plan is to -- we'll
14 start working on that very soon actually, but to put
15 that in this winter when the call for proposals comes
16 out.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any questions.
19 Pat.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Did it seem to you that it
22 seemed often larger fish are coming into Buskin? It
23 seemed like there was quite a large number of them very
24 late. Did the 2-2s shift with the 2-3s or any guesses
25 on what was going on there?

26
27 MR. POLUM: That's a good question.
28 The pattern is similar to what we saw, that other weirs
29 around the island saw, so I don't know if it had more
30 to do with just environmental conditions of the river,
31 the temperatures that we had or something like that. I
32 suspect that's probably part of it.

33
34 The age classes will -- we have a
35 pretty good time series of age classes by the date we
36 sampled this summer. That's something we always look
37 at, is if the age class has changed throughout the
38 summer. So I don't know off the top of my head right
39 now, but it's something we'll look at and at the next
40 meeting we'll have those ages for you. So we can look
41 at that.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: My wife would like to
44 thank you for that because the number of fish per
45 canner reduced significantly and it really added to our
46 winter supply of fish having larger critters. Quite
47 amazing. I always appreciate being able to call you up
48 on the weekend or whenever. If I'm out fishing with a
49 question, I get an answer.

50

1 I'd like to have the Council note that
2 that program he was talking about, the high school
3 internship, Tyler started in that many years ago and
4 got inspiration to go to college and has worked his way
5 up from literally the bottom to the top of the fish
6 barrel there as far as being sport fish guy for the
7 region. I think you deserve a good pat on the back when
8 people get a chance. I hope that that type of program
9 expands.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
14 Tyler.

15

16 MR. POLUM: Yeah.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thanks, Pat, for
19 sharing that with us. Karen, what do we have next on
20 ADF&G?

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Is Lisa
23 on the phone?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Lisa from ADF&G was
28 going to go through the subsistence research in Kodiak
29 and Aleutian Island communities based on the handout.
30 If she's not available, maybe we can check back in a
31 moment. I'll try to email her again.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Given
36 that's the case, I guess you wanted to go ahead and do
37 the charter review this evening.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. You
40 certainly could do that and get that done this evening
41 and that way it will leave more time for other issues
42 tomorrow night given the short timeframe.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: We do have OSM
45 on the reports too.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. There
48 will be no report from OSM at this time. Thank you.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, perfect.

1 Then we'll move on to the charter review. If you want
2 to go ahead and cover that, Karen. If ADF&G is not
3 online when we finish that, I think we are good to
4 close for the evening.

5
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Can you
7 hear me?

8
9 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Lisa. This
10 is Della Trumble. I guess we have you on the agenda
11 for the -- go ahead.

12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Lisa has asked to give
14 a very brief update on the subsistence research in
15 Kodiak and Aleutian Island communities and economics in
16 subsistence from the Alaska Department of Fish and
17 Game.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you
22 so much, Madame Chair and Council Members. I really
23 appreciate being asked to speak. I have been listening
24 in all day. I just happened to hang you up when you
25 asked me to speak. So it must be a long day for
26 everybody.

27
28 I just wanted to just kind of give you
29 a briefing. My name is Lisa and I've been working for
30 the division of subsistence for quite a long time.
31 Many of you probably know me. I've been fortunate to
32 have worked in many of your communities. I just wanted
33 to kind of update the Council members about our
34 research program. I'm sure you're all aware of that.

35
36 The Division of Subsistence's mission
37 is to scientifically gather and quantify and evaluate
38 and report on how Alaskans harvest and use their wild
39 resources. Much of our research is conducted in
40 partnerships with the local communities and they all
41 follow our ethical principles of social science
42 research. When we embark on a new project, we
43 establish different methods of gathering our
44 information, which includes systematic household
45 surveys. It also includes some respondent interviews
46 and resource mapping and participant observations.

47
48 We work for the State of Alaska. Our
49 responsibility is statewide and it's also resource-
50 wide, so it doesn't matter what agency manages the

1 resource. We collect information if it's about
2 subsistence anywhere from plants to berries to birds to
3 marine mammals and game and fish.

4
5 So I've put together for you a handout.
6 I understand that you have copies. It's just to kind
7 of help you with your discussions and was just some
8 ideas I came up with to kind of give you an overview of
9 subsistence-related projects for the Kodiak and
10 Aleutian region. It doesn't only include just our
11 Division of Subsistence. It's other anthropology
12 researches that have been funded through other
13 divisions.

14
15 Does everybody have a copy of that? It
16 has like a Fish and Game logo on it with some
17 subsistence research in the Kodiak and Aleutian Island
18 communities.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Lisa.
21 Karen is handing out a couple more copies for people
22 who don't have it.

23
24 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
25 Anyway, some of this will hopefully help you a little
26 bit with your discussion when you're evaluating some
27 priority subsistence needs. The Division, we work a
28 lot with the Federal system and we want to be able to
29 get information on all different resources. We also
30 get funding a lot from FRMP projects, which we really
31 appreciate. It helps keep our research going. We also
32 look for funding through other entities. Like the
33 Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund has funded several of
34 our projects recently. We also have general fund money
35 that provides for harvest surveys as well.

36
37 On the first page I've just kind of
38 summarized projects from 2008 to current projects that
39 I could think of that were done in Kodiak and the
40 Aleutian range by myself or other researchers. I don't
41 need to take a lot of time to read them. You guys can
42 read them there, but it kind of highlights the
43 communities that have been -- we have relatively recent
44 updates for. Our Division has been able to do
45 subsistence research in every single community that you
46 represent except for Cold Bay.

47
48 Many of our years are very out of date,
49 so at the very last page I've proposed kind of what we
50 set out in the research data needs that we feel that we

1 need for our research programs for the State, but also
2 I believe many of these will be useful for the Federal
3 program as well.

4
5 At the start of Page 1 on completed
6 projects, 2014, Kate Reedy out of Idaho State
7 University through funding through OSM just completed
8 her report, was just turned in. I'm not sure if
9 everybody has had a chance to look at that. She
10 studied -- did a study in Unalaska and Mikulski, Atka
11 and Adak. She conducted household studies as well as
12 key respondent interviews.

13
14 And Kodiak City, Old Harbor and Larsen
15 Bay we had another FRMP project funded through our
16 Division. Meredith Marchioni was our PI on that
17 project and that report was just completed as well and
18 that was about Kodiak City, Old Harbor and Larsen Bay
19 and it was about subsistence salmon surveys and key
20 respondent interviews were conducted.

21
22 Kate Reedy also did a study in 2010 in
23 Akutan, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon and Port Heiden and
24 that report has been published. That also included
25 subsistence surveys as well as key respondent
26 interviews.

27
28 In 2008, our Division, myself,
29 conducted a study for the Bering Sea project, the
30 BSIERP project, which was an NPRB-funded project that
31 was done in Akutan.

32
33 The current projects, which is on Page
34 2, this is mostly what I wanted to talk about. There's
35 actually two joint projects that are going to be taking
36 place in Cold Bay and King Cove and Sand Point. One of
37 them is funded through the Alaska Sustainable Salmon
38 Fund and it was a grant provided to the Division of
39 Subsistence. I will be the PI on that project and it
40 will start early this fall. The survey will be done in
41 the communities this winter.

42
43 The goal of that project was more of a
44 subsistence salmon study to find out how much
45 subsistence salmon was being harvested. Also we want
46 to learn about rod and reel and sport harvest as well
47 as the amount of home pack salmon they've taken out of
48 commercial catch for home use. You know, a lot about
49 what we know of the people that bring fish home for
50 subsistence is -- you know, a subsistence user doesn't

1 necessarily care if the fish is caught on a commercial
2 boat, if it's caught on rod and reel or if it's caught
3 in a gillnet.

4
5 So our Division, when we collect this
6 information, we want to know about all the salmon that
7 is harvested by those different gear types. So we'll
8 be looking at a lot of those harvest numbers. In
9 addition, I want to be -- I plan on sending out a
10 survey just to commercial Area M salmon license holders
11 this year to find out -- to try to get a better idea of
12 how much is actually home pack from commercial catch
13 they are taking. They're supposed to report that on
14 their fish tickets and we don't think that always
15 occurs, so it's not that we're trying to get anybody in
16 trouble. We just want to understand more of how much
17 food has been taken from the commercial harvest.

18
19 In addition, Kate Reedy from the
20 University of Idaho has an FRMP grant that will be
21 looking at the same communities, but her survey is
22 about salmon as well as all resources and she's also
23 getting some key respondent interviews and also
24 evaluating kind of sharing that work with lots of
25 different communities and households in your
26 communities. She also wants to do some studies on the
27 environmental and wildlife observation data. I think
28 we'll also kind of understand potential impacts of the
29 road that is being proposed from King Cove and hope
30 that that can help the community as well.

31
32 So anyway the two of us have agreed to
33 work together on these projects since they're very
34 complementary with each other. We think that by us
35 working together our Division will be able to do a
36 comprehensive survey in these communities as opposed to
37 just salmon. We're going to be able to combine a lot
38 of our data collection as well, so we'll be doing work
39 together, our analysis will be done together, so the
40 analysis will be Division of Subsistence who collects
41 it, so the Board of Fish can use the information the
42 same.

43
44 Anyway, we'll be talking more to the
45 communities really soon about this. We always want to
46 get their approval before we do any research in the
47 communities, but this will be taking place probably
48 about in March of next year.

49
50 There's also a study being done

1 Mikulski, Akutan and Atka. It's funded through the
2 NPRB grant. The PI is Dr. Meredith Marchioni. She's a
3 former Division researcher and she started the study
4 last year, which includes harvest surveys and key
5 respondent interviews. Her data is being collected the
6 same way our Division does, so that information will be
7 shared with us for our future Board of Fish reports or
8 for yourself as well.

9

10 The study that we've all talked about
11 at McLees Lake, which is another Alaska Sustainable
12 Salmon Fund project. The Commercial Fisheries Division
13 is being funded through -- it's an AKSSF grant. I
14 understand it will be funded next year as well and we
15 will probably be re-applying for funding for that.

16

17 Before going on to some priority needs,
18 I'm just wondering if any of you have any questions
19 about any current projects that we're doing.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Do you need anybody to go
24 to Atka with you?

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'm sorry,
27 what did you say?

28

29 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat wanted to
30 know if you needed anyone to go to Atka with you.

31

32 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Absolutely,
33 Pat. You can come with me.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Lisa, can you
36 maybe talk a little bit about -- this is Della -- on
37 approval from the King Cove Corporation to do the sonar
38 work this summer. Were you able to get that in place?

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I would
41 probably have to talk to the other Lisa, which is Lisa
42 Fox. She would know more about that project, but I can
43 find out for you and maybe report back to you tomorrow.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I have a
46 question. Lisa, what is your last name?

47

48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: It's very
49 long. It's Hutchinson-Scarborough.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we had
2 some confusion. We thought you were Lisa Fox.
3
4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'm sorry.
5 There's too many Lisas right now and Karens, I guess.
6
7 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
8 there any other questions for Lisa. Rick.
9
10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Lisa, I had you
11 confused there too with Lisa Fox. I was just kind of
12 curious if she finished her survey out there. She was
13 on her way out earlier today.
14
15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: That's a
16 survey for which community?
17
18 MR. KOSO: That's okay. I'm kind of
19 confused here of who you're working for and where
20 you're at. I know Lisa Fox is in Sand Point and she
21 was going to go out and do a salmon survey for the area
22 there. I was just curious of how that turned out, but
23 I'm not exactly sure where you're from or where you're
24 at.
25
26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
27 Sorry. Let me just introduce myself a little bit
28 better. Lisa Fox, the one that you were referring to,
29 is the area management biologist for commercial
30 fisheries out in that area and I think that she spoke
31 with us a little bit earlier today and she might be
32 able to answer some questions tomorrow. And she does
33 all those surveys. She deals more with the commercial
34 fisheries and the escapement issues going on out there.
35
36 I work for the Division of Subsistence
37 and we're strictly a Research Division and we just go
38 out and talk to communities and generally do household
39 surveys on subsistence harvest. We don't
40 have anything to do with managing the resource or
41 enforcement. We just strictly do research to find out
42 how much subsistence harvest and uses are taken in a
43 community in a given year and needed.
44
45 Does that help?
46
47 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, thank you.
48 Any other questions. Pat.
49
50 MR. HOLMES: Just briefly, Lisa, I

1 would really like to read your studies that you've got
2 completed since 2008 and maybe if you had a moment if
3 you could mail it to me in Kodiak I'd sure appreciate
4 it. I'm always interested in that. I have to salute
5 you and all the folks that have been doing these
6 studies for so long. It's just too bad that we ended
7 up with a double system here. I wish more people would
8 have paid attention to what you folks were doing 30
9 years ago.

10

11 Anyway, thanks a lot for doing a good
12 job.

13

14 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
15 Chair and Council Members. Pat, thank you so much.
16 Appreciate your support. Our program is -- you know,
17 our number one goal is to try to make sure communities
18 have enough food to eat. We always battle on funding
19 because these surveys are expensive to do, but they're
20 really, really important. Whether it's a Federal
21 system or State system, you know, we want people to
22 have opportunities for subsistence and that's our goal.
23 So appreciate your support.

24

25 The State reports are -- you can
26 actually go on the website, Alaska Department of Fish
27 and Game website and if you just -- you can actually
28 look at -- we have a database that shows all of the
29 harvest numbers per community and the years. If you go
30 on there, you can also look at all our reports that are
31 filed. If you need any help, I can kind of help talk
32 you through that. And then through the Federal
33 Subsistence Board they have -- OSM, they also have
34 their own links to reports that were funded to their
35 project. I'll certainly send links to that, Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Thanks. Yeah, Jim's got
38 my email and that's really super keen. All these
39 things like databases have evolved since I retired. So
40 thanks a lot.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Karen.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
45 Chair. Just a note on that. Even though we didn't do
46 an OSM report, OSM has recently hired Joshua Ring and
47 he was formerly with the Subsistence Division at the
48 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He is now one of
49 our new anthropologists at the Office of Subsistence
50 Management and is a wealth of information. So if you

1 do want to get any information, I'm sure he would be
2 very helpful.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
7 Karen. Thank you, Lisa.

8

9 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I also
10 wanted to say Joshua is great and he will be looking
11 out for your best interest. We're sorry that we lost
12 him. I also wanted to say that there's the regional
13 program manager and his name is Brian Davis. We still
14 have Jim Fall here. He's our statewide research
15 director. And Hazel Nelson is our director in Division
16 of Subsistence. So any time you have questions,
17 there's lots of people you can contact and ask us for
18 help.

19

20 Did you want me to go over the priority
21 needs or you guys can just look at that when you leave
22 and you can just kind of evaluate some of those. I
23 have on the third sheet of paper on that third page
24 handout there's just some other ideas you might want to
25 consider.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on here.
28 So these are some priority needs that the State is
29 looking at as a combination of possible Federal and
30 State funding for subsistence, is that correct?

31

32 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes. So
33 any kind of subsistence project the State will support.
34 For you guys, we might not be able to fund something
35 about the lithographic study of caribou on Unimak
36 Island for example because your fisheries program
37 doesn't provide that, but we do.

38

39 Anyway, when I was looking through the
40 projects that we have done or OSM has funded for other
41 anthropological projects done in your region, we did
42 kind of come up with our priority. One would be
43 Unalaska. We haven't done a comprehensive survey there
44 in a long time. Kate Reedy did a project there
45 recently. Her sample wasn't representative as much as
46 we would do if we did a survey.

47

48 We also would like to do key respondent
49 interviews. There's been some recent regulatory
50 changes and actually did put together a proposal funded

1 through Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund and we haven't
2 heard back yet if it was funded. This project would
3 occur -- it would be conducted by us, but we've also
4 been collaborating with the Aleut Corporation and the
5 Alaska Native Fishermen's Association and the
6 Qawalangin Tribe to work with us on this project if
7 possible. So we'll be doing a comprehensive harvest
8 survey, but we also want to look at how closing
9 trawling in Alaska Bay if that's made any change or we
10 want to know how people feel about how industry and
11 other fisheries are affecting subsistence.

12

13 Some of these topics that came up
14 earlier about getting weir projects Summers Bay or
15 Unalaska Bay, we wouldn't be able to do that, but we
16 can get a lot of information from how local people feel
17 about that. We could talk to a lot of sport fishermen
18 and people who are putting nets out. You know, from
19 long-term local people to people who are just there for
20 a year or two. Just try to get a better understanding
21 of what's going on in Unalaska because it's -- when
22 communities put together proposals to the Board of Fish
23 and the Board of Game and we don't always have
24 up-to-date information to help the communities it's
25 embarrassing, but it's also frustrating that we can't
26 help you better. So we're hoping that this project
27 will get funded so we can get you some up-to-date
28 information for Unalaska.

29

30 We also haven't done any comprehensive
31 work in the Pribilof Islands in a long time either and
32 that would be a priority. Also all of Kodiak Island.
33 We have done kind of a recent study in -- the study
34 that we did was for salmon recently and that was only
35 in three communities, but there's a lot of the other
36 communities we haven't addressed in a long time. So
37 that would be another priority for us is to do
38 comprehensive surveys in really all the communities on
39 Kodiak Island.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
42 think we'll look at this as we're putting some of these
43 information needs and requests for surveys in place. I
44 think Pat has a comment.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Lisa. I had a talk
47 with Jim a while back. We had a joint meeting with our
48 RAC and the Bristol Bay one and Jim had suggested a
49 possible PIN would be to -- what we're hoping to toss
50 into the funding request is the potential of saving

1 some money on these harvest surveys and trying to get
2 it ongoing on a regular basis. So we hope to propose a
3 pilot study for Togiak and possibly Unalaska where your
4 shop could provide mentorship to high school students,
5 if that's possible, to give them some experience.
6 Everything that you do is sociology, psychology, you
7 know, anthropology. If that doesn't work with the
8 schools, with the local folks, like you were
9 mentioning, trying to get something going with the
10 tribal folks.

11
12 So that's one of the things we're going
13 to toss in the heap is to try to get those two things
14 going. Just looking forward to the future with all the
15 cuts that are coming and the reduction of grants.
16 Maybe that might be a little something that would work
17 out where you could get better surveys with less cost
18 and more continuous. So that's our thoughts to this
19 point.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,
24 Madame Chair, Council Members. Can I respond?

25
26 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, please.

27
28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Pat, I
29 totally support that. I know the lack of funding with
30 the State and everywhere. These surveys are very, very
31 expensive. We do have some -- I totally support your
32 idea. We've had some successful examples I think from
33 kind of smaller scale projects which was a marine
34 mammal project that went on for years and years. We
35 worked with the Native Harbor Seal Commission and we
36 worked with the local tribes and hired local assistants
37 that we trained and they actually would go around every
38 year and do the harvest survey.

39
40 That project was funded through the
41 National Marine Fisheries Service and it's still
42 ongoing. It's just that they've cut back a lot on the
43 Native Harbor Seal Commission's budget, but they're
44 still continuing to do that in various regions
45 throughout the state. It kind of depends on which
46 year. But that was really successful and we were
47 mentors. The Harbor Seal Commission was partners on
48 that. We trained local assistants and then they
49 actually administered the surveys and got them to Fish
50 and Game and we did all the data analysis and we came

1 up with the harvest numbers.

2

3 Also the migratory bird project that we
4 have that we've worked with the refuges. That's
5 another really successful example where we've had local
6 communities that have been participating in the
7 migratory bird surveys and then training was done for
8 that. So all this can be done.

9

10 You know, I've worked kind of in
11 smaller -- in some of the communities I've worked in, I
12 have worked in high schools. If you have the right
13 supportive teacher, that they can integrate sometimes
14 many of their curriculums to like math and also like
15 their cultural curriculums. They've actually gone with
16 me to do surveys and I've had them help with the
17 surveys themselves, and doing key respondent
18 interviews. They have to set up the interviews.
19 They're always working with us, but then they come back
20 to the school classroom and then the teacher can do
21 like -- through that data, if she wants to teach them
22 how to do Excel spreadsheets and do their own kind of
23 analysis.

24

25 So there's a lot of things out there
26 that I think would be really beneficial for the
27 communities as well as saving the State money in
28 collecting this information. You know, if we get
29 support from the local communities, the schools, the
30 tribes, to do that and get somebody trained that can
31 oversee that every year, I think it would be definitely
32 worth looking into.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lisa,
35 for your time. At this time we'll go ahead and move
36 on. I'd like to go ahead and do this Charter review
37 tonight. It's Page 61 in your binder.

38

39 Karen.

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair. Members
42 of the Council. Give me one second here. If you note,
43 the Charter is signed in 2015, but I want to read you a
44 section which justifies why we need to go ahead and
45 renew this Charter now.

46

47 The Council will be inactive two years
48 from the date the Charter is filed unless prior to that
49 date it is renewed in accordance with the provision of
50 Section 14 of the FACA. Because it's done in 2015, this

1 year we need to approve it so that it is ready for
2 2017. So we'll need to go ahead and renew this charter
3 so it gets to the Secretary's office so she will have
4 time to execute it prior to the 2017 expiration date.

5
6 We're looking for any comments or
7 anything that you'd like to change in the Charter that
8 we can put forth or you can approve the Charter as is.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat and then
13 Rebecca.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to move that we
16 renew our Charter and do a quick review and see if we
17 need to change any details, but I'd like to just get it
18 out on the table and get moving. I, myself, don't have
19 any problems with what we have on there from 2015.

20
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

24
25 Rebecca.

26
27 MS. SKINNER: I'll second that. I've
28 read through the Charter. I don't have any issues with
29 it. I would prefer to just get this passed tonight,
30 but in the meantime, maybe for our next meeting, if
31 it's possible to get copies of other Charters from
32 other RACs. If they're different, I would be curious
33 to see what other Councils have done. And then
34 depending on what I see in other Charters, I may have
35 some recommended changes, but I'm not ready to propose
36 those this evening.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. For
39 the motion made by Pat, second by Rebecca, discussion.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MR. KOSO: Question.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: The question has
46 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same

1 sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
6 Rebecca, that is a great idea to look at some of the
7 other regions. I've never thought of that in all the
8 years we've been here.
9
10 Okay. I think with that -- Karen.
11
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. I have a couple of quick housekeeping issues.
14 First of all, you'll need to take all your materials
15 with you this evening and your office supplies.
16 They're going to be using this room tomorrow for the
17 Aleutian Life Forum. I'll go ahead and pick up your
18 name tags.
19
20 Secondly, the registration is now open
21 for the Aleutian Life Forum, so if you'd like you can
22 go pick up your badge and the agenda as well as your
23 tickets to the barbecue and seafood buffet that are
24 included in the registration.
25
26 MS. SKINNER: Where do we do that?
27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: I think the
29 registration is right outside here. There's a table
30 out there and all of you should be there. You have a
31 confirmation in your book if you need it.
32
33 Lastly, make sure that tomorrow night
34 we do have the barbecue over at the museum and then
35 from there we're going to grab everybody you can to
36 bring them over here for the 7:00 beginning of this
37 meeting.
38
39 Thank you very much.
40
41 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.
42
43 MS. SKINNER: Can we recap the action
44 items that we need to
45 address tomorrow.
46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Madame Chair, would
48 you like me to do that?
49
50 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Karen.

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: The items that I have
2 that are still left on the agenda is the FRMP priority
3 information needs, identify issues for the annual
4 report, feedback on the all-Council meeting and the
5 remaining issues on the agenda which include confirming
6 your winter 2017 meeting site and your fall 2017
7 meeting site.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Karen. And I think on the identifying issues for
13 annual report if individual Council members can kind of
14 think about that this evening and tomorrow and
15 hopefully won't take too much time to get through that.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 We'll recess this meeting until 7:00
20 o'clock tomorrow evening. Thank you. Thank you for
21 everybody's help and participation today.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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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 02 through
164 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the
15th day of August at Unalaska, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th
day of September 2016.

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