

BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Dillingham High School Gym
Dillingham, Alaska
November 2, 2017
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Molly Chythlook, Chair
Dennis Andrew
Dan Dunaway
Lary Hill
Billy Maines
Nanci Morris Lyon
Victor Seybert
Richard Wilson

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Dillingham, Alaska - 11/01/2017)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I'm going to call the meeting to order and it looks like it's about 8:40. And before we get started I've asked Joe to have -- pray for us so let's all stand.

It's good to always have prayer.

(Invocation)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you. I guess we'll finish this proposal and then I'll ask for comments on non-agenda items after we finish this proposal, before we go on to other proposals.

So we left yesterday -- yesterday we left on advisory group comments. So we're to other regional comments.

Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think we stopped before we had any of the Fish and Game advisory committee comments.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We finished that, we're on.....

MR. DUNAWAY: No, I -- because I never got to say mine.

MS. MORRIS LYON: Oh, not the Fish and Game advisory council, but Fish and Game.

MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, for -- oh, okay. Okay. I thought we were down where just other regional councils. Sorry.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Other regional council.

MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

1 MR. HILL: We stopped on page 87 of the
2 -- just got as far as the tribal yesterday.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. I guess
5 -- is Victor on the phone or do we need to check to see
6 who all's on the phone before we get started.

7
8 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Before
9 we get started we can see who's online today. And I
10 noticed we had some new folks in the audience, maybe
11 they can introduce themselves.

12
13 And I just want to remind the public
14 online if you are participating please have your phone
15 on mute unless you're ready to speak to address the
16 Council.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do we
21 have new people on the floor that haven't -- that
22 didn't introduce themselves yesterday.

23
24 MS. GREEN: Hi, good morning. I'm
25 Suzanne Fleet Green and I'm on your agenda later today.
26 I'm the new superintendent of Lake Clark Park and
27 Preserve.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
32 you. Anybody else.

33
34 MR. STRUM: Good morning, Madame Chair
35 and distinguished Council members. My name's Mark
36 Sturm, I'm the superintendent of Katmai National Park
37 and Preserve and Aniakchak National Monument and
38 Preserve. I was here yesterday, I know you all
39 probably saw me, the big, green guy in the back. I
40 apologize though I wasn't here during introduction
41 time.

42
43 So nice to see you all.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
46 Welcome. You're hard to miss. You're the tallest of
47 all of us.

48
49 Donald.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Yes, do we have Victory
2 Seybert online with us today and Mr. Pete Abraham.

3
4 MR. SEYBERT: Yes, this is Victor, I'm
5 here. Good morning.

6
7 MR. MIKE: Good morning, Victor. Pete
8 Abraham, are you with us today?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
15 we're done with our housekeeping stuff so let's get
16 started on other regional councils. There was no
17 action on that one or no reply.

18
19 Fish and Game advisory committees.

20
21 Dan.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
24 Chair. Nushagak Advisory Committee took up two
25 proposals that are State proposals to the Board of Game
26 from -- also from Mr. Nukwak. They're proposals number
27 142 and 143. And they're virtually identical to what
28 he's proposed to the -- our committee here. And the
29 Nushagak Advisory Committee, one of them was shifting
30 the fall resident hunting seasons and the Advisory
31 Committee opposed it two to nine. And then for
32 shifting the winter moose season it was opposed zero to
33 12.

34
35 And we didn't take up 18-25/26 I think
36 partly out of time constraints and I think we also felt
37 that what we said in these two State proposals
38 essentially carried over to attitude for the Federal
39 RAC.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
44 you, Dan. Subsistence resource committee.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
49 none, summary of written public comments.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair there are no
2 written public comments on 25-26.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Public
7 testimony regarding this proposal.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
12 none.....

13
14 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, we had a
15 student, Kate Gomez, that signed up for this testimony,
16 but she's not here I believe. So if you wish we can
17 accommodate her later on today.

18
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
22 the regional council recommendation.

23
24 Nanci.

25
26 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. Madame Chair,
27 I propose to adopt wildlife proposal WP 18-25/26. And
28 then I'd like to give my reasoning for how I feel about
29 this if I can get a second.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
32 been a motion to adopt WP 18-25/26.

33
34 MR. WILSON: Second.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by
37 Richard.

38
39 Discussion.

40
41 Nanci.

42
43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
44 Madame Chair. I am -- I'm not intending to vote in
45 favor of this proposal. I feel that it's very scary
46 and concerning that we have loss of our -- our calf
47 rates are so incredibly high in this area as well as
48 other areas. I hope that that is -- that the reason
49 for that is discovered in as quick a manner as possible

50

1 so that we can stop some of that loss.

2

3 And because of that conservation
4 concern along with other reasonings for that particular
5 area I will not be voting in favor of this proposal.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
10 Chair. Yes, I too will be opposing this. As we heard
11 maybe a little faintly from the State, they just got
12 going on a study, what they are finding is pretty
13 alarming. I had not heard before about this apparent
14 illegal take of what was it, six to eight animals in
15 this area which really disappointing to me and
16 concerning. And as much as I kind of want to
17 sympathize with the folks because it is -- the heavy
18 foliage early in the season has made hunting difficult
19 in some of these areas, but we're like to learn an
20 awful lot more in a couple of years with these studies
21 that I'm pretty pleased to see the State's doing.

22

23 Well, actually the Feds are working
24 with them closely.

25

26 So for those reasons I'm opposed.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
31 other comments.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Regarding that
36 illegal take seems like the presenter about the illegal
37 take wasn't sure who did the taking. So I -- and the
38 reason why I'm talking about this or revisiting it is I
39 think when there's a comment -- comments about illegal
40 takes of any sort they need to -- the presenters need
41 to be clear as to who -- you know, who the illegal
42 takers are. If -- because we have bears and wolves in
43 the area and for somebody or some people to leave --
44 take those and leave, I don't know if there was a
45 wanton waste on this. I think there needs to be a
46 clear reporting sys -- or report on illegal takes to
47 make sure that -- who the takers were. Not naming, but
48 make sure it's clear that the animals have surely been
49 poached.

50

1 Does he have a comment?

2

3 MR. MILLER: Yes, Madame Chairman.
4 This is Alan Miller with Togiak Refuge. I could
5 clarify a couple things if you would like. Each of the
6 cases that I was including in that six yesterday all
7 had clear evidence that it -- they were taken by
8 people. They had bullet wounds of -- in them. You
9 know, we make some assumptions that, you know, if there
10 was a bullet wound in them that that -- the intent was
11 to take the animal.

12

13 I would rather not say how many of the
14 cases are open, but a significant number of them still
15 are and so that's the reason we don't really know where
16 the people are from. The cases that we have solved,
17 there's been no violators who are completely outside of
18 the Bristol Bay area. I think that's why I'm
19 comfortable maybe characterizing, but a lot of them we
20 just do not know yet.

21

22 And in terms of wanton waste I'm only
23 aware of one of those cases where meat was left behind
24 in any significant amount. And out of all -- out of
25 those six. There was one, it's really unclear as to
26 why that happened. There was a couple of small calves
27 that were wasted with that one, but that's one that the
28 State worked on and I don't know all the details. But
29 in general I'd say there's very little evidence of
30 wanton waste overall.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
33 you.

34

35 Dan.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Mr. Miller, what
38 time of year were these cases made or when these
39 problems were found?

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. MILLER: I believe all six were
44 after the season had closed.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Winter or fall.

47

48 MR. FALL: After the winter season had
49 closed. I'm sorry. Yeah, thank you for clarifying.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan are you
2 through with your comment?

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
7 comments.

8
9 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
10 Chris Peterson with Alaska Fish and Game. I did have a
11 further comment that I neglected to make yesterday if
12 this is the time to do that.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

15
16 MS. PETERSON: Would this be the
17 appropriate time?

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes. I'm
20 sorry. Yes, it is.

21
22 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you. And I
23 apologize for not including it yesterday, I think I
24 felt a little bit rushed trying to get through before
25 we were finished for the day and I did neglect one or
26 two things.

27
28 If we break it down to being WP 18-25
29 and also WP 18-26, we are -- Alaska Fish and Game is
30 opposed to both of these proposals. But for 18-25,
31 this particular proposal would most likely increase
32 opportunity and basically because it -- you would be
33 able to shift the season according to when the best
34 snow conditions were which would lead to an increase in
35 snowmachines, the use of snowmachines when hunting.
36 And I'm not referring to what we were talking about
37 yesterday, chasing animals, but just using the
38 snowmachine would increase access and hunting
39 opportunity for the moose which would increase stress
40 on all moose at that time of the year which is a
41 critical time of year. They are very low on energy
42 reserves and particularly the cows are pregnant and
43 this is getting later in the season so those
44 pregnancies which can under certain circumstances can
45 really impact the survival of calves. It would also
46 increase the likelihood of cows being harvested this
47 late in the season.

48
49 One other observation that we make on
50

1 this particular proposal is that it would lead to
2 designation of a new hunt area with different season
3 dates than the areas surrounding it in the same unit.
4 This generally leads to more difficulty for hunters to
5 keep track of where they are hunting and which
6 regulations they need to be adhering to. And it would
7 require some sort of a different permit than the
8 surrounding hunt areas and seasons. And that would be
9 something that would have to be addressed. So Fish and
10 Game is opposed to 18-25.

11
12 For 18-26 as I said yesterday that the
13 population surveys show the numbers are stable, but
14 every other survey that we've been doing indicates
15 problems. Population survey is simply numbers, it does
16 not tell anything about the herd other than numbers.
17 The twinning surveys that we've been doing show a lot
18 of single cows with zero calves. The composition
19 survey we've done shows very low bull to cow ratios.
20 Very low calf/cow ratios and extremely high calf
21 mortality from our calf survival studies this spring.
22 So one small area that has slightly higher numbers
23 meaning ratios is the area or is at least in part the
24 area that's addressed in these two proposals which is
25 west of the Wood River and west of Weary River.

26
27 This small area seems very possible
28 that it is boosting the numbers for the rest of the
29 unit and it's a very small area. So any changes in
30 harvest there, increases in particular, could affect
31 the entire unit. All our data suggests that we need
32 more -- we need a few more years of studying before we
33 can clearly define what is going on with this herd. We
34 know at this point that there's very high predation.
35 We need more information to determine how that is
36 taking place and where and why. We just don't feel
37 that this is the time to be increasing opportunity for
38 harvest just when the herd is possibly entering a
39 really significant decline phrase. And that is why we
40 are opposing 18-26 as well.

41
42 And just wanted to make sure that I got
43 all of those things out there.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

48
49 Dan.

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Chris,
2 and thank you, Madame Chair. Yeah, I'm looking at our
3 advisory committee comments on that -- the equivalent
4 of 18-25 and people did observe that this could end up
5 focusing an awful lot of effort in a small area for
6 five days after the other areas nearby close down. So
7 they extend -- you know, she says increased opportunity
8 would also mean likely increased, highly focused
9 harvest in a relatively small area which I'm not sure
10 even that the proposer really wants to that would
11 happen, it would increase the competition for -- closer
12 to his home area.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
17 other comments.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Call for question.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
22 Question's been called. All in favor -- or should we
23 do a roll call on this one?

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: I doubt it.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. All in
28 favor say aye.

29
30 MR. SEYBERT: Aye.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Opposition.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. One,
37 two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Okay. Madame Chair, I just
40 want to clarify for the record that that Mr. Seybert
41 voted in favor and the rest of the Council, seven,
42 opposed the proposal.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
47 thank you.

48
49 MR. SEYBERT: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, Victor.

2

3 MR. SEYBERT: This is Victor. I was
4 miss -- I'd like to change my vote to no.

5

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you, Madame
10 Chair. Just let the record show that Mr. Seybert voted
11 against the proposal. So the motion fails unanimously.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. SEYBERT: Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
18 before we move on to our next proposal I'd like to
19 recognize the students. So if the teacher would come
20 and introduce the students, what grade, what class.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. POPEK: Good morning again. This
25 is Ms. Popek's sixth grade science class attending for
26 the second day. So the same students that were here
27 this time yesterday. And we're very excited to be
28 hearing about these topics and learning how our animals
29 and subsistence can also relate to job possibilities
30 for our scientists in the future.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
35 you. Welcome, students. I'm glad you're here to
36 observe again this morning.

37

38 I guess we can move on to the next --
39 WP 18-31.

40

41 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 This is Suzanne Worker from the Office of Subsistence
43 Management. And WP 18-31 marks the beginning of the
44 crossover proposals. So just a reminder that the
45 crossover proposals are those that are from other
46 regions. They apply in other regions, but in areas
47 where Bristol Bay residents have customary and
48 traditional use. So where at least some of you or the
49 people you represent are eligible to hunt. So that

50

1 gives you an opportunity to weigh in with the Federal
2 Subsistence Board.

3
4 WP 18-31 my notes say begin on page 31
5 and that can't be right. So how about 101. This was
6 -- this proposal was submitted by the Orutsararmuit
7 Native Council and they're concerned about the
8 conservation status of the Mulchatna caribou herd and
9 so they're requesting that the caribou season in unit
10 18 be shortened by 15 days from the current season
11 which is August 1st to March 15th to a shorter season,
12 August 1st to February 28th.

13
14 As I mentioned earlier the most current
15 population estimate for the Mulchatna herd is at the
16 lower end of the population objective, but the bull/cow
17 ratio is better than it has been in a long time.

18
19 The reported harvest by Federally-
20 qualified subsistence users have averaged fewer than
21 500 caribou annually since 2000 although we do expect
22 that that is probably an underestimate. A little bit
23 more detail. Almost 50 percent of the reported harvest
24 from the Mulchatna caribou herd occurs in the spring,
25 in either February or March. And among Federally-
26 qualified subsistence users nearly 50 percent of the
27 reported harvest occurs in unit 18. So the harvest in
28 this area at this time of year is not inconsequential.

29
30 If this proposal is adopted the Federal
31 season will be shorter than the State season by 15
32 days. But since there's nothing preventing Federally-
33 qualified subsistence users from hunting under State
34 regulation there is expected to be actual affect on the
35 caribou population or on subsistence users. So the
36 main effect of this proposal would simply be to
37 increase regulatory complexity which can create
38 problems of its own and we believe that it's
39 unnecessary in the absence of a conservation benefit.

40
41 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
42 oppose WP 18-31.

43
44 So I can give you more detail if you
45 need.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
50

1 we'll move on down to the report on board consultation.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, there are no
4 reports on this WP 31.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Agency
9 comments, ADF&G.

10

11 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
12 Chris Peterson at Alaska Fish and Game. Alaska Fish
13 and Game is opposed to this proposal because it does
14 not provide any clear benefit to the population,
15 biology of the Mulchatna caribou herd or to the
16 Federally-qualified subsistence users. However we
17 would very much like to mention that we are impressed
18 that this Native Council is being so careful to watch
19 out for the conservation of the herd and be concerned
20 about that. That's a very good thing and we wish that
21 this happened more often. It's just that in this
22 particular case there are surplus animals in the
23 Mulchatna caribou herd and those animals are available
24 for harvest, there's no problem with using those.

25

26 The numbers that are reported are lower
27 we believe than what is actually being harvested, but
28 we still believe that there are plenty available
29 caribou to be harvested. We do keep very close track
30 of the numbers on this herd and if it was to get to a
31 low level then we would make sure to apprise the
32 Council of that.

33

34 Also if these Federal regulations were
35 to be shortened then they -- as was stated they would
36 be out of alignment with the State regulations and this
37 generally leads to confusion on the part of hunters and
38 increases the likelihood of a certain proportion of the
39 hunters doing what they shouldn't do and mixing up
40 their regulations and having an illegal harvest. And
41 we don't like when that happens.

42

43 Even with an increase in harvest if
44 there was to be one this herd would increase under the
45 present seasons and bag limits. The amount necessary
46 for subsistence is not being met because a great
47 portion of the herd has moved to a more inaccessible
48 part of its range, not because hunting regulations are
49 restricting it.

50

1 So because of these reasons we don't
2 see a need at this time for this change. But we
3 certainly appreciate that the Native Council has tried
4 to be proactive and look ahead and we do appreciate
5 that.

6
7 So for these reasons the Department is
8 opposed to this particular proposal.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
13 you. Federal.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Tribal.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Other regional
22 councils.

23
24 MS. WORKER: Madame Chair, the Yukon
25 Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council voted to support
26 this proposal. And the Seward Peninsula Regional
27 Advisory Council who also heard this as a crossover
28 voted to not support this proposal.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
33 you. Fish and Game advisory committees.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, I don't
36 think the Nushagak AC looked at this proposal. And I
37 don't recall that we had any comment. But as we've
38 heard from our New Stuyahok member here we're
39 constantly looking at later in the spring if anything.
40 And I imagine this wouldn't be well received especially
41 in our upriver communities.

42
43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
46 Subsistence resource commission.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Summary of
2 written public comments.

3
4 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, there are no
5 written comments on this proposal.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Public
10 testimony.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
15 Regional Council recommendation.

16
17 Dan.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to adopt so we
20 can get our opinion on the record.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
25 been a motion to adopt WP 18-31.

26
27 MR. MAINES: Second.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by
30 Billy. Discussion.

31
32 Dan.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 As I spoke earlier my experience in this area
36 frequently requesting spring extensions, from what we
37 hear the biologist close to this herd the herd isn't
38 growing like we'd like to, but it does have some spare
39 animals. I'll be totally opposed to this.

40
41 One other comment and I don't know how
42 to address it, but it concerns me that we have so
43 little comment from the tribal, ANCSA groups. And I'd
44 worry is our -- because we haven't really seen anything
45 in any of these proposals, could it be that when these
46 become available for comment is it really difficult for
47 these groups to comment timely.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, do you
2 have a comment on this one?

3
4 MR. MIKE: Yes, I do. Madame Chair,
5 Member Dunaway. Orville Lind, he's our Native liaison
6 and he is the lead for consultation with tribes and
7 ANCSA corporation. He sends out notices identifying
8 the dates and toll free numbers and we announce it
9 through our news release from Anchorage and we make
10 those phone numbers available and the dates available
11 and oftentimes it's in September of before the prior
12 Council meetings and people are very busy during the
13 fall. So we try to accommodate tribes and ANCSA
14 corporations to participate on the consultation with
15 the Board. So I think in the future we'll have to
16 discuss that with Orville and see how we can get more
17 tribes and ANCSAs to participate in these
18 consultations.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Donald. Yeah,
25 that's my impression that the Federal agencies work
26 pretty hard to get comment. And I really applaud that.
27 I just -- yeah, I'm thinking too that maybe the timing
28 makes it just really hard for those folks to get
29 comments. And I just want to -- those are really
30 important to us so I don't want them to be somehow left
31 out.

32
33 So, thank you.

34
35 But once again I will be opposing this
36 proposal.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

41
42 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
43 Madame Chair. I'm also going to be in opposition to
44 this proposal because it's actually detrimental to our
45 sharing of that herd. We do depend on that herd more
46 later in the season than we do earlier in the season
47 and it would basically remove our ability to harvest
48 from the herd. I would prefer to see a reduction in
49 permits issues or something along those lines so it

50

1 wouldn't be so targeted to the user group that happens
2 to be us.

3
4 So I also will not be in favor of this
5 proposal.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 This is Suzanne Worker. I just want to make one
11 clarification. So this proposal applies only to unit
12 18, I'm not sure if that was clear in the presentation,
13 but I just wanted to make sure that I said that.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
18 more comments.

19
20 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair. I'm also
21 not in.....

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

24
25 MR. ANDREW:I'm also not in favor
26 of this proposal.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Are
31 we.....

32
33 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

36
37 MR. HILL: Yes, I understand this is
38 for unit 18, but when you mentioned the word Mulchatna
39 and that's what kind of scares me, it's an all
40 encompassing word that it could be applied therefore by
41 extension to the whole herd. And I wouldn't like that.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
46 question's been called, all in favor say aye.

47
48 (No affirmative votes)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Opposition.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Victor.
6
7 MR. SEYBERT: Aye.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald,
10 I think all the Council voted no.
11
12 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. For the
13 record the Council opposed this proposal unanimously.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
18 down to statewide proposals, but before we go on I'd
19 like to recognize Kate. I'm sorry -- is she here?
20
21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Right there.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm sorry we
24 didn't get to you yesterday, but we are very anxious
25 for you to -- or hear from you. If you don't mind
26 sharing with us what you had yesterday.
27
28 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Kate Gomez. I too am opposed to pushing back the dates
30 on WP 18-25 and 26. I do not agree with that because
31 not only does it make the moose population more
32 vulnerable and it can lead to some very bad decrease in
33 numbers, but also because I myself leave five days
34 before the season to go up to my cabin to get stuff
35 ready. We're up there for about two to three weeks so
36 I end up missing the first couple days of school. And
37 not only students, but staff members who go hunting of
38 the school and then other employees of different
39 employers, they also miss more work than normal because
40 everything is weather permitting.
41
42 And if it were to be pushed back five
43 days and starting on the 25th of August that mean I
44 went up August 20th, stayed out there for two or three
45 weeks, I missed the first week of school, the most
46 important week of school besides final week. Because
47 that first week of school is when you get accustomed to
48 your classes, you get to know your teachers more and
49 they explain what they expect and what they want to be
50

1 done throughout the school year. And to me that is
2 very important because if I come a week late to school
3 not only do I have to take the time to learn all those
4 expectation, but I have to take another week to get
5 caught up. And eventually that's just going to make me
6 be two weeks late on everything. And so I have to
7 pressure myself more to get caught up and then that
8 puts unnecessary stress on me. As a student athlete,
9 no one wants to be behind.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
14 Kate, that was a different view of looking at, you
15 know, this proposal from the young person and persons
16 like you. So any comments on any of our proposals are
17 very welcome by you or any of the students because
18 that's -- it's really refreshing to hear real life
19 experiences and actions regarding any of our proposals
20 like this.

21

22 Thank you so much for your interest and
23 keep up -- we'll accommodate or any of the students
24 that would like to come and talk to us.

25

26 It's refreshing to hear from young
27 people.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

34

35 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I just wanted
36 to say thank you as well, Kate. And as Madame Chair
37 pointed out it's great to have a new perspective, it's
38 one I haven't considered sitting in this seat before
39 and it's something I will take into consideration in a
40 better form in the future.

41

42 So thank you for even bringing it to
43 us.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
46 on the statewide proposals, WP 18-30.

47

48 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 This is Suzanne Worker again. WP 18-30 begins on page

50

1 115 of your book. And this proposal was also submitted
2 by the Orutsararmuit Native Council. And the request
3 is in a similar spirit as the Mulchatna caribou herd
4 one.

5
6 They're concerned that the ptarmigan in
7 their area are declining and so they're requesting more
8 conservative regulations. Specifically they're
9 requesting that the ptarmigan season be shortened from
10 the current season of August 10th to May 30th to a
11 shorter season of August 10th to March 31st. They're
12 also requesting that the harvest limit be reduced from
13 50 per day, 100 in possession to 15 per day, 30 in
14 possession.

15
16 Currently the unit 18 ptarmigan
17 populations are not being surveyed so it's difficult to
18 know, you know, exactly what's going on with that
19 population. But we do know that ptarmigan naturally --
20 the abundance of ptarmigan naturally fluctuates along
21 with other predator and prey populations. We know that
22 in unit 18 ptarmigan are locally migratory so they
23 winter in the interior regions and then they migrate
24 out to the coast as the snow melts. We also believe
25 that despite the lack of formal surveys that the
26 ptarmigan population in this area may be much lower
27 than in the past and that's based on local
28 observations.

29
30 Perhaps the most notable thing about
31 ptarmigan harvest in this area is that the timing of
32 harvest varies geographically and that is related to
33 way the birds move as the snow melts. So the inland
34 communities harvest earlier in the spring and the
35 coastal communities harvest later in the spring.

36
37 The estimates are ptarmigan harvest are
38 variable. Since 2002 the estimated has ranged from
39 fewer than 10,000 birds to nearly 34,000 birds per
40 year. But these estimates aren't really very useful in
41 gauging the impacts of new management strategies
42 because the harvest is affected by so many factors.

43
44 So these limitations combined with our
45 poor understanding of ptarmigan abundance make it
46 difficult to predict what affect these proposed changes
47 will have on the ptarmigan population. However
48 recognizing that the population has declined and
49 recognizing the need to keep the season open until the
50

1 birds reach the coast in order to provide that harvest
2 opportunity to the coastal communities, the OSM
3 preliminary conclusion is to support WP 18-30 with
4 modification to retain the August 10th to May 30th
5 season, but to change the harvest and possession limits
6 as requested to 15 per day, 30 in possession.

7
8 So again the OSM conclusion is to
9 support with modification.

10
11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
14 you. Tribes.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, there are no
17 comments on this from the tribes, consultation tribes.

18
19 Thanks.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: ANCSA
22 corporations. Same thing.

23
24 MR. MIKE: None.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: ADF&G.

27
28 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair, this is
29 Chris Peterson with Alaska Fish and Game. The
30 Department is neutral on this proposal because the
31 hunting opportunity for the Federally-qualified users
32 would still be provided under State regulations until
33 the season closes on May 15th. This discrepancy
34 between the State and Federal hunting regs in unit 18
35 that would be created if this proposal is adopted would
36 not be desirable, it generally leads to problems for
37 the hunters.

38
39 Currently we have no abundance or
40 productivity monitoring efforts for rock or willow
41 ptarmigan in unit 18. So it would be pretty difficult
42 to evaluate this proposal and its effects on the
43 population of ptarmigan.

44
45 The current State and Federal
46 regulations allow hunting during the entire breeding
47 season. When human harvest is considered additive
48 mortality because of the timing of that harvest. And
49 has the greatest impact on the annual productivity.

50

1 Late in the season, late in spring the birds are more
2 susceptible to harvest and they have more condition
3 factors involved after a long winter. So it does have
4 more impacts on the flocks.

5
6 Highly conspicuous males, their
7 breeding displays increase their vulnerability also.
8 And these factors would -- could possibly contribute to
9 a decrease in the population depending on the amount of
10 harvest that did occur.

11
12 But with all that said, that's a
13 cautionary statement, but the Department is currently
14 neutral. It is a preliminary assessment, but currently
15 we would be neutral on this proposal.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

20
21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
22 Madame Chair. Christ, could you clarify did you say
23 that the State harvest ended May 15th, not the May 30th
24 that's proposed here?

25
26 MS. PETERSON: That's -- excuse me, I'm
27 sorry. Yes. Madame Chair. Yes, the State harvest
28 goes through from August 10th to May 15th. So there
29 would be a discrepancy there.

30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
34 other. Federal.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Tribal.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Other regional
43 councils.

44
45 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 This is Suzanne Worker. The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
47 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council voted to support
48 the OSM conclusion on this one. So maintain the
49 current Federal season, but reduce the harvest limit.

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
4 you. Fish and Game advisory.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Subsistence
9 resource committee.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Summary of
14 written public comments.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I didn't
17 receive any comments -- written public comments on this
18 proposal.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Public
23 testimony.

24

25 Joe.

26

27 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Madame Chair, I
28 just thought I'd -- I noticed that the area that --
29 some of the areas that this proposal's talking about is
30 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And as you can see in
31 the map it's adjacent to unit 17. And in unit 17 we
32 already have a regulation in place for harvest limits
33 within the Federal lands is 20 ptarmigan per day, 40 in
34 possession. And if for some reason folks from Togiak
35 and whatever happened to cross that line and then
36 there's a different -- I guess if there's a different
37 harvest limit, I don't know how protection and whatnot
38 is going to enforce that. I realize that in both
39 cases, both 17 and 18 are large areas. So but anyway I
40 just thought I'd let you know that part of this same
41 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge lands extend all the
42 way up into unit 18 as well as 17.

43

44 So that's my comment, just from my
45 observation.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

50

1 Regional Council recommendation.

2

3

Nanci.

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MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Joe, that was actually something I wish would have been -- I'm glad was brought out before we went forward with anything on this proposal.

I'm going to -- because of that I'm going to make a proposal that we would adopt WP 18-30 with the changes of a season closure from or a season that would last from August 10th to May 15th in order to align with the State and limits of 20 per day and 40 in possession in order to align with the neighboring Togiak area residents who are primary -- would primarily be users of the resource in 18. And I'm -- that's mostly just for opening it for discussion as much as anything if somebody has a second for it.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Just to keep the process clear is I -- my recommendation is to make a motion to adopt a proposal and then have a second and then discuss and you can bring up the changes you wish to make.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. MORRIS LYON: Even if I made my proposal with my modifications already?

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, we need to move to adopt the proposal as written and then when we get a second we -- then during the discussion you can make amendments to the harvest limits or bag limits on the proposal.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess we need a second for.....

MS. MORRIS LYON: No, wait, let me change the -- yeah, let me change it first so we get it in there properly. So I would like to move to support proposal WP 18-30 as written.

1 MR. WILSON: Second.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
4 motion to support WP 18-30, second by Lary -- I mean,
5 Richard.

6

7

8

9

10 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
11 Chair. I would like -- I think that this proposal has
12 merit. I like that they want to see a decrease in
13 pressure. We are suffering on our side of the bay with
14 the same issue, real lack of ptarmigan. I believe
15 Council Member Richard brought it up in his report as a
16 matter of fact. And I happen to know for a fact that
17 he has a fence around four ptarmigan over there on our
18 side because he doesn't want to see the pressure on
19 them.

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1 ptarmigan in his other flying. It's not definitive,
2 but he didn't feel super alarmed.

3
4 But going further, yeah, the concerns
5 for confusion between State and Federal regulations has
6 always been a big one for me. From what we hear from
7 the Feds it might not make a big difference, 15 or 20,
8 it would be a substantial reduction from the current
9 bag limits. My only concern is and I wish they might
10 have elaborated more is that -- and I think I used to
11 learn this was (indiscernible) based out of Bethel,
12 they likely did a pretty extensive consultation among
13 their members and I'm really impressed on this.

14
15 So that's my one concern is that they
16 might have picked dates and bag limits that they
17 thought worked best for them, but I'll be inclined to
18 support this amendment that Nanci proposed.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

23
24 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, discussing
25 this ptarmigan problem, we -- as we all know it's --
26 their population is cyclic, you know, area -- Iliamna
27 Lake area there are very few ptarmigan. It almost
28 seems like it's -- the harvest is like self limiting,
29 they're just gone and there aren't any ptarmigan so you
30 don't go again until there's more. At what point do
31 you start -- do you decrease the bag limits, I mean, is
32 that less ptarmigan, do you decrease it again, less
33 ptarmigan, decrease it again or is this something
34 that's kind of understood, it'll go until you can't get
35 any more ptarmigan and then as the population will rise
36 as it will. So what do we do with this problem when it
37 becomes like in our area where there's nothing.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

40
41 Richard.

42
43 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Yeah, we -- you know, it's several years now in the
45 unit 9C, 9E, when it's -- you know, there's smaller
46 flocks, very few. Yeah, hardly any resource there.
47 And I -- you know, we talk over there at the ACs and
48 locally there, the biologist alerted it to us here like
49 a year ago, you know, and he had real concerns. Didn't

50

1 have any answers, but had a lot of concern because
2 there wasn't anything there. And kind of still looks
3 the same, there's no answers really, what's happening,
4 but the concern is there.

5
6 And to see communities, you know,
7 taking charge, you know, at least they're recognizing
8 it and they're lowering, you know, the take. It's -- I
9 think it's a good first step until, you know, we
10 actually see where this population is going, perhaps,
11 you know, later it might be a closure. But first steps
12 are good and, you know, this is something that's --
13 it's encouraging because there's -- there is very few
14 ptarmigan in our area and we even thought about just an
15 absolute shut down. You know, but there are people
16 that, you know, require that for food and so you can't
17 completely shut it down. I understand that, I
18 understand that this unit here they migrate out to the
19 coast so, you know, they've got to have an opportunity
20 there.

21
22 So I'd be in favor of this one with the
23 amendment also.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
26 other comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. MAINES: Question.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Questions'
33 been called, all in favor say aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
38 opposition.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. All in
43 favor.

44
45 MR. MIKE: Now we -- the amendment
46 passes, now you can go back to the main motion with the
47 amendment so you can vote on that now.

48
49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Question.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
6 question's been called. All in favor say aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
11 opposition.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
16 Victor.
17
18 MR. SEYBERT: Welcome.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think we
21 have one more.
22
23 MS. DAMBERG: Hello, this is somebody
24 on the phone which is Carol Damberg. Could you repeat
25 what was passed?
26
27 MR. MIKE: Yes, can you identify
28 yourself, please, and which agency you are with?
29
30 MS. DAMBERG: Yes, my name's Carol
31 Damberg and I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
32 in Anchorage, Alaska.
33
34 MR. MIKE: Okay. The Council took
35 action on WP 18-30. And there was an amendment on the
36 proposal and the amendment was to change the season
37 from August 10 to May 15th to align with the State to
38 reduce confusion and decrease bag limit to align with
39 the unit 17. And that amendment passed. And the
40 Council voted on the main motion to -- with the
41 amendment and it passed unanimously.
42
43 Thank you.
44
45 MS. DAMBERG: Thank you.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
48
49 Moving on to WP 18-51.
50

1 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 WP 18-51 begins on page 131 of your meeting materials.
3 And this proposal was submitted by the Eastern Interior
4 Regional Advisory Council. They requested that bear
5 baiting restrictions be aligned with State regulations,
6 specifically those related to the use of biodegradable
7 materials as bait.

8
9 State regulation allows the use of any
10 biodegradable material as bait so this includes things
11 like dog food, and pastries, popcorn. But the Federal
12 regulations currently only allow the use of the head,
13 bones, viscera or skin of legally harvested fish and
14 wildlife as bait. The Western Interior Council argues
15 that because the Federal regulations are more
16 restrictive than the State regulations they do not
17 provide a subsistence opportunity. They also note that
18 many of the items that are excluded under Federal
19 regulation are items that have traditionally been used
20 as bait.

21
22 So there are a couple of recent
23 regulatory changes that are important to this issue.
24 The first is that in 2015 the National Park Service
25 published a final rule that prohibited the take of
26 black and brown bears over bait on National Preserves
27 for anyone trapping under State regulation. In 2017
28 the Park Service published a final rule that limited
29 the types of bait that may be used for taking bears
30 under Federal regulations to Native fish and wildlife
31 remains with some exceptions for the Wrangell St. Elias
32 National Park and Preserve. And so what this means is
33 that for the most part any changes that are made as a
34 result of this proposal won't apply to Park Service
35 lands.

36
37 I also want to note that scent lure is
38 not defined in either State or Federal regulation and
39 so the consequences of that were addressed in this
40 analysis.

41
42 If this proposal is adopted Federally-
43 qualified subsistence users could use any biodegradable
44 material including scene lures at registered bear
45 baiting stations on lands administered by the Fish and
46 Wildlife Service, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.
47 On National Park Service lands bait would continue to
48 be limited to Native fish and wildlife remains, again
49 with a few exceptions for the Wrangell St. Elias

50

1 National Park and Preserve.

2

3 Adoption of this proposal would reduce
4 regulatory complexity by aligning State and Federal
5 regulations on most Federal land. Because the
6 requested changes are already permitted under State
7 regulation there isn't expected to be any appreciable
8 differences in the population on harvests, on
9 subsistence uses or on bear habituation to human foods.

10

11 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
12 support WP 18-51 with modification to first establish a
13 definition for scent lure and second to clarify the
14 regulatory language substituting the word wildlife for
15 the terms game, fur animal and small game because these
16 terms are not defined under Federal regulation, but are
17 included in the Federal definition of wildlife. So
18 that modification is just, you know, sort of a
19 bureaucratic thing.

20

21 But our conclusion is to support with
22 modification.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
27 you. Report on board consultations, tribes.

28

29 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, there were
30 none.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: ANCSA
35 corporations.

36

37 MR. MIKE: None. Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: ADF&G.

40

41 MS. PETERSON: Yes, please, Madame
42 Chair. This is Chris Peterson with Alaska Fish and
43 Game. It is somewhat preliminary, but at this time
44 Alaska Fish and Game supports this proposal because it
45 does reduce the regulatory complexity and any user
46 confusion by allowing the Federally-qualified users to
47 bait bears with additional attractants that are
48 currently acceptable under the State regulation. So
49 because it would reduce that complexity and the

50

1 problems for hunters, we do support this proposal.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank

6

you. Tribal.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Other regional

11

councils.

12

13

MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council

15

voted to support WP 18-51 and the Western Interior and

16

the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Councils voted

17

to support the OSM modification on WP 18-51.

18

19

Thank you.

20

21

MR. McKEE: The Northwest Arctic RAC

22

also voted to support this proposal as modified by OSM.

23

24

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank

25

you. Fish and Game advisory.

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Subsistence

30

resource commission.

31

32

MS. RUPP: Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

This is Liza Rupp on behalf of the Lake Clark SRC. And

34

the Lake Clark SRC does not recognize bear baiting as

35

an established traditional method of hunting bears in

36

the Lake Clark region. The SRC believes the term any

37

biodegradable material is too broad because it may

38

include items such as commercial dog food, baked good,

39

anise and syrup that are not considered traditional

40

bait. If bait were allowed the only bait appropriate

41

for hunting purposes should be limited to fish and

42

wildlife remains indigenous to the area.

43

44

Thank you.

45

46

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank

47

you. Summary of written public comments.

48

49

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. We

50

1 received three written public comments beginning on
2 page 141 on the -- from your meeting material books.
3 And all three written comments received were opposing
4 the proposal, stating that it will habituate bears to
5 humans and cause bear/human conflicts.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Public
10 testimony.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Regional
15 Council recommendation.

16
17 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

20
21 MR. MAINES: I move to approve WP 18-
22 51.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
25 been a motion to approve WP 18-51.

26
27 MR. ANDREW: Second, Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by
30 Dennis.

31
32 Discussion.

33
34 Dan.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: I was waiting to see if
37 Billy wanted to speak to it first. But, yeah, I've
38 always been strongly for consistency between State and
39 Federal regulations. One thing is starting to -- and
40 some of these things adventure kind of farther afield
41 than what my local experience is. I'm kind of wishing
42 that the justification from the original proposal, from
43 the original proposers, was in this analysis or maybe
44 I'm missing it. It seems like we kind of depend on the
45 word of the -- in this case of the presenter to say
46 what their general justification is. And maybe I'm
47 just being a little dim on it.

48
49 That's one thing and then sometimes I
50

1 get a little confused on what kind of baits are out
2 there that seem to be a cause for concern. The SRC
3 spoke up and helped me -- helped clarify for me a
4 little bit of that kind of thing. I can imagine you
5 might worry about maybe diseased meat from somewhere
6 else coming in or something like that. So with this
7 kind of stuff I'm not real familiar with.

8

9

So I probably need more help.

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy then

14

Lary.

15

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25

MR. MAINES: I like the modifications
that OSM has proposed with the summary. The issue that
the lady from Lake Clark, biodegradable, I do believe
that is a broad term, but I can -- I can live with it
only for the fact that I know what I tend to think of
if I'm out doing my bear hunting and stuff like that.
I've got a bunch of old fish carcasses that I save and
that's what I do. And sounds like our friends
elsewhere around the State seem to agree with the
proposal too.

26

27

28

29

So I -- as it is with the modification
from OSM I'll be voting in support of it.

30

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44

MR. HILL: Yeah, I -- this looks like
it is something that we should -- I should support just
with the -- actually because of the -- from me having
trouble with the definition of what is bait. I've seen
people go and take their garbage sack and go out and
put that out and wait for the bears to come. In that
garbage sack are a bunch of foods that they've taken
out of their kitchen, you know, sugars and meats and
salts and stuff. And so it -- and a lot of times what
happens instead of just the -- with the bears that are
habituated to humans and they're used to that kind of
garbage and that's being used as bait.

45

46

47

48

49

50

So I'd like to see a real clear
definition of what is bait before I would -- but
aligning with the -- aligning the regulations is a
better deal, I would probably support that.

1 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair. Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

4

5 MR. ANDREW:thank you, Madame
6 Chair. Just upriver at New Stuyahok Village there, you
7 know, there's quite a bit of smokehouses and people
8 putting up a lot of fish there. But we usually make
9 announcements to -- before they used to take them up to
10 the dump or by the creek, but we had put a stop to
11 that. We make announcement, please, take your
12 carcasses and stuff from the salmon out in Miller River
13 and let it go. So that really helped and we got less
14 bears, I mean, not coming there right to the village.
15 It's just we were trying to get into control of it and
16 like the dump there, they used to go up there and
17 without saying anything to get rid of the bear.

18

19 But that's not the way to do it.

20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I've
24 got Dan and then Nanci.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll defer to Nanci.

27

28 MS. MORRIS LYON: I just had a question
29 for the proposer. Did you -- was your proposal as
30 amended or was it -- or, I mean, as modified by OSM or
31 were you intending for the original proposal, was that
32 your purpose -- what that what you moved?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Are you
35 talking to Billy?

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'm talking to Billy.

38

39 MR. MAINES: What was that.

40

41 MS. MORRIS LYON: Oh, I'm sorry, Billy,
42 I meant to make it more clear too. I'm just wondering
43 were you moving to approve the OSM modified proposal or
44 the original proposal, I was unclear on that myself.

45

46 MR. MAINES: I was moving to approve
47 the proposal as presented and I'm hoping that in the
48 discussion and that we'll be making a motion to amend
49 it to the OSM modification.

50

1 So the purpose was just to get it on
2 the table to talk about it first and then as we talk
3 and think it through and stuff like that we'll probably
4 -- my proposal would be to modify it to accept the OSM
5 modifications.

6
7 And I also since I have the mic right
8 now, I wanted to address the issue that Lary brought up
9 as far as definition. If we're aligning this with the
10 OSM modifications and with the State regs on page 135
11 it talks about what bait is and clearly to me it's
12 pretty clear if we're going to go by that. And if we
13 put that into the proposal itself it's almost specific,
14 but still there's a little wiggle room in there.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
19 Chair. Lary, you really helped clarify things. It had
20 never occurred to me somebody might just dump a bag of
21 garbage, plastic and wrappers and tin cans and
22 everything in there and that certainly would be
23 offensive to me and all. I'm inclined to support the
24 recommended modification language that would align with
25 the state.

26
27 And in fact I guess I'll so move at
28 this point, move it along.

29
30 MR. MAINES: I'll second it.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
33 been a motion by Dan to support WP 18-51.....

34
35 MS. MORRIS LYON: With the
36 modification.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:with the
39 modifications. Second by Billy.

40
41 All in favor say aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
46 opposition.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And, Victor.

2
3 MR. SEYBERT: Yes, I vote aye.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
6 you.

7
8 MR. MAINES: Question on the main
9 motion.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
12 been a question called on the main motion. All in
13 favor say aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
18 opposition.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
23 Victor.

24
25 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I just want to
26 clarify for the record that Mr. Seybert voted for the
27 proposal rather than opposing.

28
29 So, Mr. Seybert, did you vote with the
30 rest of the Council members to support this proposal as
31 amended?

32
33 MR. SEYBERT: Yes, I do.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Seybert.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
38 you. Let's take a five minute break before we move on
39 to the next agenda item.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to thank
42 Victor for hanging in there. It's hard on the phone,
43 but it's sure helpful to have you onboard.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, Chris.

50

1 MS. PETERSON: Thank you. Since I'm on
2 the phone occasionally it blanks out and I could not
3 hear what the -- what the modifications were. Could
4 somebody, please, state those for me, please.

5
6 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Chris, they
7 were modified as OSM recommendations.

8
9 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you very
10 much. I appreciate it.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Donald, I'm having a hard
13 time hearing with this fan going.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We want to
20 welcome the students. We love having all these little,
21 fresh young people that are observing. And I want to
22 encourage each one to keep your interest with this
23 Regional Advisory Council because we want you to be
24 leaders or sitting at this table someday to take care
25 of our resources.

26
27 Are you -- do you want to quickly
28 introduce your -- are these the same ones that we
29 had.....

30
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
32 away from mic).....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So just
35 welcome, students. We're going to be -- we're in the
36 reports now and we'll be having our reports on -- some
37 of them will be on -- our very first agency reports
38 looks like Bristol Bay.....

39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Wait, wait, wait.
41 Donald would like.....

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, Donald.
44 Sorry.

45
46 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
47 We're still under new business so our next agenda item
48 is for the 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

2

3 MR. MIKE: And then identify issues for
4 the 2017 annual report.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. 2018
9 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, OSM.

10

11 MS. LaVINE: Good morning, Madame Chair
12 and members of the Council. For the record my name is
13 Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist with the Office
14 of Subsistence Management. And I will be presenting
15 you day a brief overview of the Fisheries Resource
16 Monitoring Program and it's accomplishments to date.

17

18 Yeah, you might want to find a better
19 vantage point for this, but you can also follow along
20 in your Council books. And the materials begin on page
21 147 for those of you looking in the Council books.

22

23 All right. There we go. So I'll be
24 reviewing the funding process, your regional overview
25 and finish up by requesting your comments on the
26 proposed 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in
27 the Southwest Alaska region. The Fisheries Resource
28 Monitoring Program materials again begin on page 147.
29 There is no motion necessary for this item, agenda
30 item.

31

32 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
33 Program is a multi disciplinary, collaborative effort
34 that enhances subsistence fisheries research and
35 provides necessary information for the management of
36 subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in
37 Alaska. We encourage partnerships between tribes,
38 rural organizations, universities and Federal and State
39 agencies. In addition we encourage interdisciplinary
40 approaches to conducting research and addressing
41 issues.

42

43 The Monitoring Program is administered
44 through the Office of Subsistence Management in order
45 to advance projects of strategic importance to the
46 Federal Subsistence Management Program. It also
47 coordinates communications and information sharing of
48 ongoing and new subsistence research efforts.

49

50

1 Since its inception in 2000 the
2 Monitoring Program has funded 452 projects statewide
3 with a total allocation of close to \$117 million. The
4 figures on this slide demonstrate both the allocation
5 of funds and the number of projects funded through the
6 Monitoring Program by the organization of principal
7 investigator. And it should be noted that some of
8 these funds have been used by the principal
9 investigator organization to subcontract with research
10 partners such as communities, tribes and other research
11 organizations.

12
13 This slide demonstrates the allocation
14 of funds by region. Budget guidelines provide an
15 initial target for planning, however they are not final
16 and are often adjusted to ensure that we fund quality
17 projects.

18
19 How the FRMP funding process works.
20 The State is divided into six regions that
21 approximately correspond to Federal subsistence
22 fisheries areas and to stock, harvest and community
23 issues that those areas hold in common. I'm going to
24 review with you the five steps to the FRMP funding
25 process that span a two year cycle.

26
27 Step one, for each of the six regions
28 Office of Subsistence Management staff works with
29 regional advisory councils and Federal and State
30 fishery and land manager to ensure the Monitoring
31 Program focuses on the highest priority subsistence
32 fisheries information needs. Input and guidance from
33 Councils are used to develop priority information needs
34 by identifying issues of local concern and knowledge
35 gaps related to subsistence fisheries. Ideally
36 principal investigators will work closely with councils
37 in order to develop strong proposals that are
38 responsive to those needs. The Office of Subsistence
39 Management provides technical assistance as needed.

40
41 Step two, the program requests new
42 projects every two years. Submissions must be
43 complete, on time and address five criteria outlined in
44 the notice of funding opportunity in order to be
45 competitive. Those five criteria are strategic
46 priority, technical scientific merit, investigator
47 ability and resources, partnership and capacity
48 building and the cost benefit of the project. A more
49 detailed description of the five criteria can be found

50

1 on page 152 of your Council books.

2

3 Step three, once submitted a Technical
4 Review Committee evaluates and rates each proposed
5 project. The Technical Review Committee is a standing,
6 Interagency Committee of senior technical experts
7 brought together to ensure program transparency. It is
8 the responsibility of the Technical Review Committee to
9 develop the strongest possible monitoring program for
10 your region and across the State based on high quality,
11 cost effective projects that address critical
12 subsistence questions.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin, could
15 you -- I guess the consistency of the Technical
16 Committee, who are they.

17

18 MS. LaVINE: Thank you for that
19 question. Yes, Madame Chair. So the TRC, the
20 Technical Review Committee is composed of
21 representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service,
23 the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs
24 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

25

26 Slide 12, so step three continued.
27 During the proposal evaluation process the Technical
28 Review Committee adheres to specific guidelines in
29 order to assess how well a project addresses the five
30 criteria. While some agencies may have more than one
31 senior expert on the committee, a social scientist,
32 fisheries biologist, managers, each agency only
33 provides one single, consolidated review and will not
34 score their own proposals. The final score for each
35 proposal is based on an assessment of the five
36 criteria.

37

38 Step four, once a draft monitoring plan
39 is developed it is brought before the regional advisory
40 councils for their input and comments. That's you and
41 actually that's where we are today in the two year
42 cycle. We'll get back to that in a moment.

43

44 Step five, additional comments on the
45 process and draft 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
46 Plan for the Southwest Alaska region are provided by
47 the Interagency Staff Committee and these along with
48 those comments developed by the Councils are then
49 forwarded on to the Federal Subsistence Board. The

50

1 Board takes into consideration comments and concerns
2 generated through the process and endorses the funding
3 plan. Final approval of the funding plan is made by
4 assistant regional director of the Office of
5 Subsistence Management.

6
7 So on to your Southwest Alaska regional
8 overview. So in your region, the Southwest region, 55
9 projects have been undertaken for approximately \$10
10 million in funding since 2000. You can find a list of
11 those projects conducted in the Bristol -- in the
12 Southwest region on page 162 of your Council books.
13 Project leads were predominantly held by the State of
14 Alaska or the Department of the Interior, but remember
15 most of those projects also included other agency and
16 Alaska rural organizations as research partners.

17
18 So for 2018 there is an anticipated one
19 to one and a half million available for new projects
20 statewide and up to \$1.6 million for ongoing, already
21 funded projects. Please note that the available
22 funding for 2018 is budgeted for each project's first
23 year costs, not the total project request. For the
24 Southwest region five projects were submitted, the
25 projects are listed in order by the strength of their
26 Technical Review Committee scores. Justification for
27 project order begin on page 159 of your Council books
28 and project abstracts can be found on page 164. You
29 may want to note that these projects are in response to
30 the priority information needs that we all developed
31 together and you reviewed last fall. And these can be
32 found -- the priority information needs can be found on
33 page 157.

34
35 In addition and relevant to your region
36 there are two multi regional projects that were
37 submitted. One that actually overlaps with the
38 Southwest region and they can be found on page 171.

39
40 So once again we're here at step four
41 of the funding process. We're looking for your input
42 and comments on the draft monitoring plan for your
43 region. No motion is necessary, I'll be taking notes,
44 Christine will be taking notes, these will be forwarded
45 on to the Board. And some points for you to consider
46 as you develop your comments are one, proposal
47 alignment with the priority information needs; two,
48 proposal score order; three, proposal abstracts; and
49 four, just the overall process, things you might want
50

1 to comment on.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair, and I'm ready
4 for your comments.

5

6 And Christine, really quick, if you
7 want to go back to the five projects, right there.
8 Yeah, for folks to look at.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin, you
13 know, that TRC process is important. My understanding
14 is that TRC group are the ones that decide which
15 programs are going to be funded? No. I thought that
16 was what that TRC -- one of the work that the TRC -- so
17 what does TRC do before I add my -- yeah, what does TRC
18 do. I know you went -- kind of went through it, but
19 let me hear it again.

20

21 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
22 members of the Council. The Technical Review Committee
23 comes together a multi agency effort of the land
24 managers and people invested in the Fisheries Resource
25 Monitoring Program statewide. And they review the
26 projects based on the five criteria. And everyone
27 actually will come up -- each five criteria has a
28 numerical value ascribed to it. And there is a strong
29 vetting process and agreement and consensus is reached
30 as to the score order. So they forward the score order
31 based on ensuring that the projects that are forwarded
32 to you, the order represented are those projects both
33 most likely to succeed based on their scientific merit,
34 their partnerships, their consideration and expertise,
35 as well as cost benefit. And then also based on
36 whether or not they really -- they really have a -- are
37 speaking to the priorities developed by the Councils.
38 So they do a lot of foot work here, but you also did a
39 lot of the foot work a year ago when you came together
40 as part of a subcommittee. There was -- we had a
41 subcommittee to help develop the priority information
42 needs for the Southwest region. If you recall the
43 Southwest region is made up of two Councils, not just
44 the Bristol Bay Council, but also the Kodiak and
45 Aleutian Council. We had some members of the Bristol
46 Bay Council and some members of the Kodiak Aleutian
47 Council come together and identify those priority
48 information needs that were most relevant to this
49 cycle. They may change, they may stay the same, we'll

50

1 be revisiting those priority information needs for the
2 2000 cycle this time next year.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
7 looking to the consistency of the TRC, I was just
8 wondering why we don't have anybody like from the RAC
9 or a Native representation within that group.

10
11 MS. LaVINE: Madame Chair, I think that
12 -- I think in the past there have been various
13 different participants. The process prior though,
14 prior to the new five criteria and the new way of
15 rating the proposals, at times provided opportunity for
16 lobbying and we wanted to be really careful about that.

17
18
19 Additionally we have regional
20 representation here at the Councils and again the
21 priority information needs drive the process, the
22 priority information needs that you develop and you
23 reach consensus on are what these proposals respond to.
24 And so if we do a really good job of identifying the
25 issues that we need addressed prior to the call then
26 we're going to get the great projects that we do get
27 every two years.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
32 you, Robbin. I know that the TRC has a good group of
33 different -- you know, different interest groups,
34 different people that are -- that have qualifications
35 on the ratings.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

42
43 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Just on the counting towers, on the monitoring. I know
45 in the -- on the Nushagak on the Nugnugaluktuk (ph)
46 River there, they used to count -- they got a tower up
47 there. It's been a while up there, there hasn't had no
48 one there for a while now counting pinks and stuff, you
49 know, that goes up -- up into the Tikchiks. Is that

50

1 possible that could be added for the students there to
2 pick that back up, they -- you know, they count the
3 pinks and stuff right on the Nugnugaluktuk River there
4 besides right down in Portage Creek there.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MS. LaVINE: Through the Chair. Thank
9 you Council Member Andrew. Yes, this -- the subject
10 that you brought up, the Nushagak counting tower is
11 something that we need to keep on our radar. We're
12 going to take notes of it now and we can revisit it as
13 we develop the next call for proposals. And this is
14 something that we can all -- you as a Council will be
15 able to examine as you look at other issues in your
16 region. We'll be looking for your input and your
17 expertise on that.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin, could
22 you -- he's a new Council member, could you quickly go
23 through the process of how his wishes could be met
24 through the proposal process or however this can be
25 accomplished.

26
27 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 We did address it briefly in the presentation. This is
29 a two year cycle and so of course one year, one fall
30 and actually we'll probably be starting to develop the
31 priority information needs earlier, we'll probably
32 develop a working group again as we did last year in
33 the spring so that will be in Naknek. And we'll
34 probably have as we did last time a few phone calls,
35 Dan was on that subcommittee last time. We'll have
36 some phone calls or teleconferences with the committee
37 members, the subcommittee members from the Kodiak
38 Aleutians because you share this region and together
39 we'll work out and identify those priority information
40 needs most critical for you.

41
42 If you look on page, let's see, I think
43 it's 157 of your book you'll see our priority
44 information needs that went through our vetting process
45 followed last year. You gave final approval a year ago
46 before we -- in order to develop our notice of funding
47 opportunity. So probably one of the things that we'll
48 do is we'll review these priority information needs and
49 we'll look at the projects that have been funded and
50

1 the projects that may be ongoing that address those.
2 And then we're going to kind of shift around and see if
3 there's anything new that has developed since the last
4 time you met.

5
6 One of the things that maybe new and
7 significant for your region could be the Nushagak
8 counting tower. So it's really important that we have
9 folks that -- from our agency take notes to assist you
10 and also from the Council that have a good reach back
11 with their memory as we move forward.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Thank you again, Madame
20 Chair. Just looking at this here, the funding on
21 statewide is pretty high and Alaska Natives pretty low.
22 But my question is on the counting tower on the
23 Nushagak is from -- you know, they come out in June and
24 pretty early. But there's other species out there are
25 still coming up that river and not even counted for. I
26 mean, even in the -- earlier in the season like the
27 jacks and stuff aren't even counted for. The earliest
28 days they ever got kings up there was May 17th. That's
29 not even counted for, that's half the month of May.
30 You imagine from that May to June how much fish is not
31 counted for. I mean, we need to really look into this
32 monitoring, even a lot better for the Department and
33 stuff.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

38
39 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, Robbin, I have
40 a question about the priority information. I see it
41 starts out with salmon, we're -- and this is dealing
42 just with sockeye, that's correct. Okay. In our area
43 like Iliamna, there are two areas, the upper and lower
44 Tulary (ph) Creek, Pete Under Creek and some of the
45 other creeks and the Newhalen River. Over many years
46 we've seen a real increase in the silver, coho, up to I
47 would estimate like 30 to 40,000 a year into those
48 rivers and creeks. And well, the sportfishing people
49 love them because they're really fun to catch and

50

1 they're a good meal. But locally we were kind of
2 concerned perhaps although I'd been assured by
3 biologists that the silver salmon don't really mess
4 with the sockeyes' spawning area, but concerned that
5 perhaps there maybe should be someone looking at this
6 to see if this may be the case, that we've got that
7 many coming into the area. And it's increased over the
8 last -- well, I've been there a long time, 30 years
9 it's gone up to quite a bit now every year.

10
11 And these sockeye -- I mean, this coho
12 are going all the way up into the drainage, up the
13 furthest they can go, as far as the sockeye go. And
14 they're wintering in the small lakes and streams where
15 they -- once they hatch they go into the small lakes
16 and streams and ponds and you can find them there and
17 they stay there for a couple years and they go out with
18 the sockeye.

19
20 So my main concern is is there a
21 possibility that they -- these coho, although there's
22 nothing you can do about it probably, just to see if
23 anything affecting our sockeye is coming into that
24 area. Everyone's talking about the sockeye, well,
25 there's these other fish are sneaking in there too.
26 And so -- and they're eating the same kind of food and
27 they also eat the baby salmon coming out. So there's
28 some concern there. So I'm wondering if perhaps
29 someone could start looking at it. There's an unnamed
30 mining presence in the area and there was a lot of fish
31 counting done, but it always stopped when the sockeye
32 quit running. So I would like to see something looked
33 at, maybe it's not a problem, I'm sure we love the
34 silvers and we catch them with rod and reel, I don't
35 know what we would do to not necessarily stop the
36 harvest, but at least maybe allow more -- I don't know
37 what the sportfishing, I don't know what the bag limit
38 would be for these cohos if there is any, so if someone
39 could at least look at it or do a proposal or
40 something.

41
42 I don't know, but it's just something
43 to think about.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

48
49 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 Robbin, I was -- I'm kind of new to this process even
2 though I guess this is my third year on the Council. I
3 looked at those 55 projects that were funded in the
4 past and I was kind of curious has there ever been
5 reports back to this Council dealing with the
6 assessments, the surveys, the findings that were
7 undertaken through the projects on there because some
8 of them I'm kind of curious about.

9
10 The other thing too I was just seeing a
11 lack of information on some of the main rivers and
12 tributaries in my neck of the woods only for the fact
13 that it's all State land. I realize that you're
14 talking Federal public lands, but I also understand
15 that you have agreements with the State of Alaska in
16 certain arenas. And I was just bringing that up
17 because over the -- probably the past decade people
18 have really been concerned about the mighty chinook.
19 And those of us on the Nushagak were really concerned
20 because we thought we were going to lose ours too and
21 then find out the big boats out in the ocean decided to
22 catch 120,000 of our chinook one year as bycatch and
23 that almost wiped our chinook fishery away, especially
24 for us subsistence folks.

25
26 And it's been coming back and we're
27 starting to hear that the honkers are coming back, the
28 bigger kings and stuff like that which is always good.
29 But I was kind of curious as to why things like the
30 chinook issue that has been a problem throughout the
31 State of Alaska, with the State of Alaska and the
32 subsistence users, why they haven't partnered up with
33 the Federal government to maybe do some research and
34 surveys and assessments and try to understand other
35 than mother nature and other folks chiming in elsewhere
36 have had an affect on our runs. And I guess I -- being
37 the newcomer I'm trying to figure out how can I get the
38 Federal government and the State of Alaska to work
39 together to protect my salmon because I am a salmon
40 person and the last thing I want to see happen is to
41 see any of my salmon go bye-bye because we do utilize
42 each and every species, at least I do, for one purpose
43 or another, to provide for my home.

44
45 So I hear what Lary's talking about and
46 what Dennis is concerned, but at the same time I also
47 know what your charge is, you're on the Federal public
48 lands where I'm on the State lands. But going through
49 your material here that you supplied with us I see a
50

1 lot of interaction with the State of Alaska and the
2 Department of Fish and Game. And I was trying to
3 figure out in my mind how to make that something that
4 we can maybe give you advice on to work with them, to
5 try to come up with some of the answers that they're
6 really interested in, but at the same time satisfy our
7 concerns.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

12
13 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you again,
14 Madame Chair. Just -- it's been in my head the last
15 few years now on monitoring salmon. Mainly we get all
16 five species that go up the Nushagak and stuff. I'm
17 really interested in the smolts, the little fellows.
18 That I haven't heard from the Department or the State
19 or anybody how much smolt is really up there. Have
20 they been monitored, where they're at, how long they
21 been there. I never did see no on smolt size after our
22 salmon spawn.

23
24 So I'm really interested in that, if
25 that could be included, if they're monitoring or
26 something.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan, did you
31 have a comment.

32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: Kind of respond to
34 Dennis.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Pat.

37
38 MS. LaVINE: Thank you. Through the
39 Chair. I know there's a number of issues that I'm
40 recording right now. It sounds like really the
41 substance of your feedback really is towards the
42 priority information needs that develop -- that we need
43 to develop and your concern over our State and Federal
44 partnerships regardless of jurisdiction on lands.
45 They're all public lands to you whether they're Federal
46 or State.

47
48 And I hear that statewide.

1 And as a fellow -- a former Dillingham
2 resident and employee of the Bristol Bay Native
3 Association and a Partner's position that sought
4 funding for projects in this region, I certainly
5 sympathize with your frustrations. I do want to point
6 out the majority of the projects out here partner
7 closely with the Bristol Bay Native Association. As I
8 said in the presentation despite the fact that we look
9 at the amount of funding that goes to the principal
10 investigator a lot of that funding is then sub-awarded
11 to partners out here.

12
13 So it's a little misleading.

14
15 And there is never any harm in
16 continuing to voice your concerns, your needs through
17 this process and any ideas on how we can continue to
18 develop stronger partnerships to address your
19 information needs.

20
21 And that's all I can say at the moment.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair,
28 and thank you, Robbin. And I've got a bit of a list,
29 but I think Lary's comment was really fascinating
30 because I don't get over to his country too much, but I
31 too was getting a little bit of a sense that there
32 seems to be more silvers over there. It never occurred
33 to me that maybe we should be concerned about them. So
34 and some of that has more of a Federal nexus and it
35 might be that a project could be developed.

36
37 Overall there was a time where maybe
38 Bristol Bay had a bigger chunk of these programs going
39 and we had a big flurry of activity, I was even
40 involved with some of them. And I don't want to
41 begrudge other folks their funding, but it does concern
42 me to have so few in the bay.

43
44 One I'm glad to see on there just from
45 history from living in Unalaska is the McLees Lake
46 work, I believe that's out of Reese Bay. Those small
47 red runs in that part of the world bear close attention
48 and they are valued. But I kind of wishing that the
49 Togiak dolly varden was higher on the list. And this

50

1 is where, you know, Molly mentioned earlier about the
2 TRC. Sometimes they have almost too much power. And I
3 know this RAC has bucked them on a few times and I
4 think we finally succeeded on one which was the -- I
5 believe the food sharing networking study.

6 So and Dennis' idea, I never thought
7 quite about pinks and such in the upper region. From
8 what I've heard in the past, pinks in the Nuikguk (ph)
9 are kind of a unique brand of pink that swims a way lot
10 farther than most pinks anywhere else.

11
12 So overall I'm -- and I'll still bring
13 up one of my favorite concerns is the Meshik River
14 salmon and subsistence. I'm -- I've tried to have
15 productive and constructive ideas and I am stumped on
16 it. I admire I believe that BBNA and some of the folks
17 from down that way keep trying to find something and
18 I'll encourage them to continue. And I would like to
19 see some of that kind of food networking studies
20 switching back from the Chignik food sharing thing is
21 that I've been -- I'm kind of connected to especially
22 the lake area, Lake Iliamna area, subsistence users.
23 And it's pretty fascinating how folks share their
24 resources and how muktuk finds it's way from the North
25 Slope to all over the State. And so I would hope on a
26 larger or large scale that that continues and that more
27 of Bristol Bay can get included because it's obvious
28 how important that is.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Sorry. I
35 think we're going -- I'm going to have -- Robbin, I'm
36 going to have you finish your presentation and then
37 we'll do comments after.

38
39 But let's get you done with your
40 presentation here.

41
42 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 I just wanted to point out really quickly that if you
44 look at the list of projects on page 162 you'll see
45 that there are projects that begin with the year 16,
46 16-451, 16-453, 16-452.

47
48 These were the projects that were
49 funded through the last cycle. Two of them directly
50

1 pertaining to Bristol Bay salmon. So there is and I
2 think we developed the priority information needs last
3 time recognizing that the Kodiak Aleutian areas has not
4 had a project that flew in a while. Also you will see
5 all the investigators listed. You'll see that it's
6 ADF&G, BBNA, I think Oregon State University is one.
7 And I think then just to -- oh, and then you also had
8 mentioned about do people come back and talk about
9 their projects. And they do, I believe that especially
10 if you wish we have some principal investigators on
11 some ongoing FRMP projects here today and when it comes
12 time for agency reports I do hope they will update you
13 on the progress of their projects.

14
15 Finally again I'm -- we've started some
16 great discussions in prep for next year's prior
17 information need development. But one final kind of
18 shake of your tree, we are looking for just more
19 comments on this year's lineup. I hear you spoke about
20 the Meshik, I don't think it's represented here, but
21 for this cycle we have the five here and the two, I
22 think the dolly varden is one of the multi regional
23 projects and that you can find on page, somewhere near
24 the back did I say, 171, we kind of talk about the
25 multi regional Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
26 And as far as the scoring order for the multi regional
27 projects that subsistence harvest assessment and stock
28 composition of dolly varden was placed, the order was
29 over the other. So that might represent your interest
30 there.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: So am I misreading it
33 because I got the impression from skimming this that
34 the Togiak dolly didn't make the cut.

35
36 Am I mistaken there?

37
38 MS. LaVINE: I'm pleased to say, yes,
39 you are.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm pleased to hear I'm
42 wrong.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MS. LaVINE: It's not that -- no, these
47 are different regions. So basically we're looking at
48 -- we have six regions and then on occasion we will
49 have projects submitted that don't really get tied up

50

1 neatly in one region or the area and they become multi
2 regions. And they're kind of separated differently and
3 depending on the strength of the project they can kind
4 of out jostle some of the others and some of the other
5 orders in the -- basically statewide, they come from a
6 slightly different priority criteria. So if it's
7 something that interests you and if it's a project that
8 is of importance to your Council then please let us
9 know. And you can comment then on the multi regional
10 projects and those for Southwest Alaska.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. Well,
15 if Togiak harvest assessment is still in lineup to get
16 funded I'm really glad to hear it because I know a long
17 time ago I realized that the subsistence harvest of
18 dolly over there is big and significant to people. And
19 I'm glad to see it's still in there.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
26 Madame Chair. Yeah, I have a few comments that I would
27 like to offer. First is actually thank you very much
28 for acknowledging prior years programs and taking them
29 out of our funding pool. I've long had a beef with
30 that because you don't start something you can't
31 finish. And for that to have been included in the past
32 was really irritating to me. So I appreciate that,
33 it's just one little thing.

34
35 I'll also say I am disappointed that we
36 don't have more partnered up projects in our area at
37 all on this list. I am glad to see we're doing
38 something down in Unalaska as well, I know that the
39 Buskin River has been, you know, something that they've
40 been asking for help with for a while. And, but I also
41 know that we had several priorities that I am
42 disappointed did not get recognized here including -- I
43 feel probably my most relevant comment is I feel like
44 we didn't have enough weight given to the Chignik area,
45 they've had issues down there with there subsistence
46 and questions on how that -- and I would certainly
47 defer to Victor and encourage Madame Chair to see if
48 Victor has something to add to this, but through my
49 many years on the Council I have most of those years I
50

1 have spent talking to people in both lakes and lagoon
2 about issues that they're having with their subsistence
3 fish.
4

5 And whether it's allocation or
6 whatever, but I've always -- I've been hoping and
7 continue to hope that a study will be funded down there
8 and I understand that it takes somebody to put the
9 proper one together in order -- and present it in order
10 for the TRC to be able to move forward.
11

12 I do understand that, but that's my
13 comment, I hope somebody keeps looking at that and
14 maybe somewhere it gets started.
15

16 Thanks.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin.
19

20 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
21 One quick note. These five projects that you see
22 before you are all of the projects in their entirety
23 that were submitted to this regional call. So even
24 though you develop priority information needs that were
25 specific to Bristol Bay, this is what was submitted.
26 And having you reiterate your concerns and the
27 significance of those issues that were not addressed at
28 this call, strengthens them for the following year.
29

30 Thank you.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
33

34 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
35 Yeah, Robbin, on -- we have 157 here on some of our
36 priority notice of funding opportunities, the priority
37 needs and you give several bullet points there. And
38 the second to the last bullet point it talks about our
39 salmon escapement evaluation and stuff. And in
40 conversations that we've had in the past about getting
41 on this list with a species of concern and it was the
42 chinook into these areas, into Big Creek, Alagnak, you
43 know, the areas there.
44

45 And it's -- you know, it's talking
46 about the biological side of it, you know, but I would
47 also like to see what pressures come of this resource
48 in these areas while we're monitoring. I think it's an
49 important tool to help us, you know, to evaluate what's
50

1 going on. You know, the amount of traffic whether it
2 be subsistence needs or commercial needs in these areas
3 that are making a difference or potential differences
4 in these various areas. I think it's important because
5 of all the added pressure like we have the chinook
6 coming back a little stronger and with that the
7 pressure comes stronger into these area and their
8 rearing beds and different things.
9

10 So I would really like to see that as a
11 monitoring technique on these -- especially on the
12 chinook and other species while you're in there because
13 all it is is just -- you know, it's just an added thing
14 you can look for while you're in there.
15

16 Thanks.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
19

20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
21 Madame Chair. I actually left out of my comments one
22 of the things that I definitely feel is a very high
23 priority. One of the reasons I really like BBNA to put
24 these projects in is they've have shown a good trend of
25 using not only local people in the project, but local
26 youth as well. And I encourage or would at least like
27 on the record for my comments that I would encourage
28 anybody who gleans these two figure out a way to
29 include our local youth in the actual administering of
30 the project.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And with this
33 dolly varden project for Togiak, I've got a concern. I
34 hope that the investigators know what species they're
35 going to be investigating. We have dolly vardens here
36 in this area, the Wood Lake/Wood River system that are
37 different from Togiak. And when I was working for
38 Subsistence Division the only way that we could I guess
39 learn the or identify these species is by their Yup'ik
40 names. And there is -- there's a difference. And I
41 don't know if this is specifically going to be dolly
42 varden or are they going to include all trouts. By
43 looking at this -- the justification they didn't say
44 enough.
45

46 But my -- I guess what I want the
47 investigators to do is make sure that they know what
48 they're surveying as far as fish are concerned because
49 there are differences, there's different fishes over
50

1 there that are some like labeled dolly varden.

2

3

Thanks.

4

5

MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

I'll just note again that the -- some of the principal
7 investigators and co-investigators are actually here in
8 the room and so if you have questions about that you
9 can ask them when they're doing their agency reports.

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we
14 need to move on and if you're done then let's move on
15 to the next agenda item.

16

17

Thank you.

18

19

Victor, do you have any comments
20 regarding this project or this topic?

21

22

MR. SEYBERT: No, no comments at this
23 time.

24

25

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

26

27

MR. SEYBERT: Thank you.

28

29

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks.
30 Okay next one on our agenda is identifying issues for
31 FY 2017 annual report.

32

33

Donald.

34

35

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 Every year we provide an opportunity for regional
37 advisory councils to submit their annual reports to the
38 Federal Subsistence Board. And ANILCA established the
39 annual reports as a way to bring regional subsistence
40 uses and needs to the Secretary of Interior's
41 attention. And these annual reports provide the
42 Councils an opportunity to address the director. So
43 each of the four Department of Interior agencies and
44 the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service in their
45 capacity as members of the Federal Subsistence Board
46 and that the annual reports are -- the Board is
47 required to discuss and reply to each issue in every
48 annual report and take action when it is within the
49 Board's authority.

50

1 So this year for the report content,
2 you know, both title VIII of ANILCA, section 805 and 50
3 CFR, describe what may be contained in an annual report
4 from the Councils to the Board. The Council can
5 identify current and anticipated subsistence uses or
6 fish and wildlife populations within the region, an
7 evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs
8 for fish and wildlife populations from the public lands
9 within the region and develop a recommended strategy
10 for the management of fish and wildlife populations
11 within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses
12 and needs related to the public lands. And
13 recommendations concerning policy standards, guidelines
14 and regulations to implement that strategy.

15
16 So this is an opportunity for this
17 Council to provide annual report items to the Federal
18 Subsistence Board.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You
23 need action on this?

24
25 MR. MIKE: It's -- if the Council wish
26 to submit annual report items to the Federal
27 Subsistence Board now is the -- this is a good
28 opportunity for this Council to bring annual report
29 concerns to the Federal Subsistence Board's attention.

30
31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

34
35 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
36 Chair. I'll start off, Donald, just with I think that
37 I would like to make sure that they're aware of our
38 concerns with our moose/calf problem issues that were
39 just brought to us here at this meeting as well as our
40 concerns with the ptarmigan in the area and the lack of
41 there that we've been seeing.

42
43 If anybody else has things that.....

44
45 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

48
49 MR. WILSON: On that list also the

50

1 hare, the Arctic hare is also one that's been very
2 questioned here by the biologists and the locals here
3 lately. So it's that population count is way down.
4 And that too also needs to be addressed.

5
6 Thanks.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

9
10 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
11 I guess, Donald, I don't know if this is the right
12 arena to bring it up, but based on the presentation we
13 just had I would like to let the Federal Subsistence
14 Board and the Federal agencies know that at least this
15 Council member's concern that there ought to be more
16 cooperation, collaboration, on issues that are a major
17 concern in our area, not so much the game, but also
18 with the fish. I have great concerns of what's
19 happening out in the ocean and what's happening with
20 the changing of, I don't want to say climate change
21 since that's a no no catch phrase anymore, but the
22 change in the season, the water temperature, things
23 that are going on. That there ought to be more
24 analysis, more research, more cooperation with the
25 State and our Federal partners to address the concerns
26 that those of us who live in rural Alaska have the
27 ability to have the tools or the means to adapt I guess
28 to address that.

29
30 I'm not sure if that's something that
31 this Council can put to the Federal Subsistence Board,
32 but just to make them aware of the concerns.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

35
36 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
37 Thank you, Billy, that kind of brings up another
38 thought here that we've seen lately sitting here in the
39 Council is that, you know, on our -- the State and the
40 Federal funding side of things, trying to get agencies
41 here, you know, to help through this process. That's
42 been lacking. I mean, we know that budget cuts have
43 happened, you know, all around and that's something I
44 want to make sure that they feel that we're really
45 hurting here as far as getting agencies here at the
46 table, you know, wherever or collaborating with each
47 other, each agency to get some of these things done.

48
49 It's just a -- it's a heartache having
50

1 -- you know, seeing, you know, just all the struggles
2 and trying to get information and you can't because of,
3 you know, lack of funding or personnel or things. I
4 just want them to know that that is really being felt
5 here in this Council and that it would be nice to see
6 more cooperation between the two. I know they always
7 -- you know, there's a lot dissension there, but we
8 realize that we have to take care of a resource and I
9 think they need to get over it.

10

11 Thanks.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 Yeah, that was well spoken, Richard, and I think I see
17 it especially on the State side where they're kind of
18 going begging to fish processors and everyplace else to
19 get some of the towers and the salmon assessment. And,
20 you know, that does affect subsistence users as well as
21 commercial.

22

23 I want to agree with Nanci too on the
24 moose and caribou surveys and the predation problems.
25 I'm real excited to see that we do have funding and do
26 have studies going on right now that we were wishing
27 for for years and it's pretty cool. My impression is
28 we have really strong, close, cooperation among State
29 and Federal from King Salmon to Togiak on that. And I
30 hope it -- the funding continues and we can get some
31 good results out of that because for years the Nushagak
32 Advisory Committee has been begging for moose surveys.
33 And some people were a little critical of the former
34 biologist that he didn't do them. Well, the new
35 biologist says well, he didn't get the money. And
36 finally some money got in the pipeline. But we've got
37 people from the King Salmon office, Togiak office and
38 Dillingham Fish and Game all working together.

39

40 And, yeah, I don't want to lose track
41 of fish uses too.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

46

47 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
48 Chair. Richard, your comments also reminded me I think
49 that it would be worthwhile to investigate further how

50

1 we could better include our tribes and ANCSA
2 corporation is our proposal comments. I think timing
3 is an issue. I'm not sure how we overcome that, but I
4 do think it should be looked at because I do think that
5 their comments would be valuable to have at this table.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
8 requests.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess my
13 request would be similar to what Nanci just brought up.
14 We need to collaborate with our tribes and
15 corporations. And we need to figure out a way to get
16 their interest. I think one way that we could be
17 informants to -- especially to the people that take --
18 make time to write proposals is to send the -- maybe
19 send a letter of appreciation to the tribes that
20 proposal maker is coming from to let them know, you
21 know, how their proposal was taken care of here at the
22 Board. I think so many times they'll write -- they'll
23 have a proposal put in and they won't hear nothing
24 about the outcome of their proposals. And this would
25 be one way to collaborate with the -- our tribes and
26 even our ANCSA corporations.

27
28 And we still need to keep working to
29 get public involvement. I think this Board could, you
30 know, find a way to develop something to get our
31 interest. And I do appreciate the agency people that
32 have been coming. For a while we were getting agency
33 people that were just like -- they weren't managers so
34 anytime we needed anything requested they -- the --
35 whoever was present here would have to go back to their
36 managers to I guess carry forward our request. But
37 it's been nice to have managers, agency managers
38 present. It's really hard to deal with people over the
39 phone. But a majority of our agency folks have been
40 here and I thank you for being present.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 Any other requests.

45
46 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, yes.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

49
50

1 MR. HILL: Just to again you recall
2 about the issue of the sockeye maybe being replaced by
3 the coho in our area. And they're going further up the
4 Vale River up into I believe the National Park area
5 there. So it -- just curious to see if there's
6 something that -- maybe some collaboration between the
7 State and the Federal to look at that. I don't know
8 what we could do about it, but it's just, you know,
9 something to think about with the way things change.

10
11 And lastly the ptarmigan in our area
12 are almost nonexistent. And what's happening is I
13 think is the -- something with the weather patterns,
14 the -- last year the ptarmigan were there and there
15 wasn't any snow cover so the predation was pretty high.
16 And -- or the year before rather. Last year there was
17 a lot of snow and you could see the ptarmigan tracks
18 and you could see -- you knew they were there, but we
19 still couldn't get to them. It's just their conditions
20 weren't right.

21
22 But all the little things that are
23 happening like that that affect us locally and we have
24 to ask for help from different agencies and none of us
25 have the money to do these studies. So I'm really glad
26 to see collaboration and hopefully that one, these
27 different agencies have this information, that it's
28 shared. I understand there's a tendency to be a little
29 bit maybe -- all these words, stingy with the
30 information you have, not wanting to share it with
31 someone else because you spent your own money on it and
32 you don't want anybody else to take credit for it. So
33 it's -- you know, we got to go beyond that. It's
34 because it's affecting all of us, State and Federal and
35 local and down to individuals. So if we -- the more we
36 can move together the better off we'll all be.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more.
41 Richard, did you have.....

42
43 MR. WILSON: (Indiscernible - away from
44 microphone) doi.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Doi. We need
47 Pete Abraham here to -- Victor, do you have any
48 suggestions.

49
50

1 MR. SEYBERT: No, I sure don't. Thank
2 you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
5 we're through with this agenda. Ready to move on to
6 agency reports.

7
8 BBNA.

9
10 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
11 This is Cody Larson. I'm the subsistence fishery
12 scientist for BBNA and work -- I coordinate the
13 Partner's Program with BBNA. And I've got a short
14 update in the meeting materials here, it starts on page
15 184. A little bit of the work I've been doing relates
16 to some of the conversation and -- that was stimulated
17 here in the last hour or so. So let me address some of
18 the things, I'd also like to field any question and
19 talk about any of the ongoing projects that Robbin had
20 mentioned in the FRMP projects. Additionally any of
21 those questions that the Council has on the proposal,
22 the multi regional proposal for the dolly varden and
23 the Togiak communities.

24
25 So with that I guess some of the work
26 that the Partner's Program has taken on has been
27 through the FRMP proposal process. And some of it has
28 been outside of that and finding funding for additional
29 project by breeding grants, collaborating State -- some
30 of the State and Federal agencies as well.

31
32 A quick update and it may be that a
33 colleague of mine and a co-investigator on the FRMP 16-
34 45, sharing salmon networks project, may have dialed in
35 and be online.

36
37 I would like to ask if Amy Wiita is
38 online.

39
40 MS. WIITA: Hi, Cody. This is Amy, I'm
41 here.

42
43 MR. LARSON: Hi, Amy. So I guess we'll
44 take these kind of one program at a time or one project
45 at a time. This first one is as I said an
46 investigation with BBNA, the Division of Subsistence,
47 which is Amy Wiita and Oregon State University and this
48 is one that was mentioned.

49
50

1 A quick correction to some of the
2 information on page 184 is that when -- so to -- well,
3 to get into it this project is based on the Alaska
4 Peninsula. The six communities that are part of this
5 project are the Chigniks, so Chignik Lake, Chignik Bay
6 and Chignik Lagoon, Perryville, Point Heiden and
7 Egegik. So these are the communities that we looked at
8 the network of how folks in those communities are
9 sharing salmon within a community, in two other
10 communities within the region and then outside of the
11 region so statewide and out of the State.

12
13 The information we collected was done
14 through household surveys. We did 147 household
15 surveys rather than 182. So there's a little bit of a
16 correction there. The project employed 18 local
17 research assistants among those six communities and we
18 conducted 22 key respondent interviews. Those are
19 interviews that are with knowledgeable folks in those
20 communities. That information is being analyzed and
21 data being archived right now in some of the State data
22 bases.

23
24 A quick I guess plug for the Partner's
25 Intern Program is that we're currently recruiting for
26 one or two interns within the -- that's located in the
27 Anchorage area to work on archiving that data and
28 transcribing some of those interviews with those key
29 respondents. So if any of you have any nieces,
30 nephews, college students that are in the Anchorage
31 area that are looking for employment please have them
32 give me a call. I'd be happy to find some additional
33 part-time work for them. So far my recruitment efforts
34 have been met with hey, we're college students, we're
35 really, really busy. And I'm like great, that's good,
36 know your limitations.

37
38 So that one's currently ongoing and,
39 Amy, if you'd like to add anything now would be the
40 time. If not, I'd to field any questions on the
41 sharing networks project on the Alaska Peninsula.

42
43 MS. WIITA: Cody, I think I'll just add
44 that we had a really good response rate in all the
45 communities and both in the surveys that were done
46 themselves as well as the reaction to doing the
47 community -- the surveys within the community. So the
48 response rates over the course of -- across all the
49 communities ranged from a low of only 84 percent all
50

1 the way up to 100 percent. So we felt like we did --
2 the communities really enjoyed the work that we were
3 doing and enjoyed participating.

4
5 So I'll leave it at that.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Thanks for the update, I'm really eager to see how this
13 goes. This is what I was speaking to earlier, I hope
14 that we could carry on and extend or do a similar
15 survey in other parts of Bristol Bay area as one of the
16 priorities.

17
18 And I want to say that back in my
19 experience when I was still working it was wonderful to
20 work with BBNA and I believe they're probably still
21 maintaining that high level of capacity.

22
23 And one last suggestion, UAA I believe
24 has a -- kind of like a rural student, maybe you know
25 about it already. I knew of a young lady who was
26 working there and I think they called it rural student
27 success coordinator, something like that. But it was a
28 real positive group where they helped Bush students do
29 well or better in college. And that might be an
30 officer to seek intern connections with. And I don't
31 quite know how to find them, but I know how to --
32 actually it was Stephanie Timmerman was working in that
33 and possibly contacting her mother or somebody would be
34 a way. And then for an individual, but I'm sure he's
35 way too busy, but I've kind of become friends with
36 Jaylan Kunupiak from New Stu and I just get the biggest
37 kick out of him. He might be somebody that either
38 could lead you to somebody else or be available
39 himself.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Are these
44 interns -- are these surveys that you're wanting to
45 find an intern from Anchorage, are the surveys from
46 Anchorage or are they from our local villages here?

47
48 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 The -- right now the internship would be specific to
50

1 these -- the projects within Bristol Bay. So we're
2 looking for preferably a student from the region not
3 only so that they're familiar with, you know, some of
4 the data or some of the information, but also so that
5 it would have more intimate, you know, relationship
6 with dealing with that information. So something to
7 build capacity if you will or gain some interest within
8 the region for doing more of these types of projects.
9

10 Okay. All right. Thanks. The next
11 project I'd like to talk about is also an FRMP project
12 and my -- another co-investigator is in the room. This
13 is Bronwyn Jones and she's with the Division of
14 Subsistence. And so if she has any comments she can
15 definitely join in on this.
16

17 This is the -- another ongoing FRMP
18 project. Year two, we've been -- this is a TEK project
19 that also looks at the chinook stock and the health of
20 that stock. And it's sort of stock status and trends,
21 it's sort of a TEK, it's a bit of a mix, but so far
22 things have been going very well. We've done one year
23 of household surveys where we completed 95 household
24 surveys in Togiak, 20 household surveys in Twin Hills
25 and employed four local research assistants in Togiak
26 and one local research assistant in Twin Hills. So
27 that's been great, it seems like it's been really
28 positive.
29

30 One thing that I'd like to note is that
31 when doing these household surveys when we talk about
32 chinook there's -- the conversation is around one
33 species, it's really more holistic than just focusing
34 on one species. You get all these ecological
35 observations and additional information and that is
36 really helpful in our Department in getting that
37 information from communities not just on one species or
38 one topic, with a wide range of topics. Being on these
39 projects really helps to address a lot of concerns, all
40 sorts of subsistence concerns within these communities.
41 So that's a huge plus in being part of these projects
42 is you get additional information and you can go with
43 it from there.
44

45 So, yep, we're in year two, we'll be
46 visit -- we'll be visiting Togiak and Twin Hills again
47 this January we decided on. And then a future write up
48 from there.
49
50

1 Do you have any.....

2

3 MS. JONES: No, I don't think I have
4 anything to add.

5

6 MR. LARSON: Okay. So if any -- oh, I
7 guess in addition to that project we're adding a couple
8 of different items to it, possibly an extension that
9 had to do with the dolly varden and non-salmon species.
10 So one thing that came to light with the conversation
11 around chinook is there -- what was highlighted to me
12 by a few folks was the traditional management method
13 of, you know, salmon and the relationship with dolly
14 varden and that there's -- it's not just dependence on
15 one species there's, you know, an interdependency. And
16 there's -- that's part of a traditional management
17 method is in times of scarcity if one species or
18 there's more reliance on another species and that's
19 managed based on seasonal rounds. And so that's showed
20 us that, you know, there's some emphasis on or a
21 relationship between dolly varden and chinook in
22 traditional management practices. So that's led us
23 down the dolly varden road as well as the concerns of
24 the priority information needs from the RAC.

25

26 So that was an additional component to
27 this project. And we were going to add one more I
28 guess question or set of questions in this next series
29 of household surveys to sort of access the amounts of
30 roe on kelp that have been harvested in the last year
31 as not monitoring, but just a quick bit of information
32 to see if the more recent, I think it was four or five
33 years ago, there was an amount necessary for
34 subsistence set for that resource. And so with this
35 we're going to try to gauge some of that as well.

36

37 So like I said these projects allow for
38 as information comes to us that say this is a concern
39 we can develop some of those questions into the
40 surveys.

41

42 MS. JONES: I wanted to address Madame
43 Chair's question about the Yup'ik names for the dolly
44 varden project. In our proposal we acknowledged that
45 there are char and dollies that are often lumped
46 together and that there are several different Yup'ik
47 names for them. And part of this project we'd like to
48 be able to genetically separate them. And then as we
49 do at the household surveys when people speak to one

50

1 Yup'ik name we'll know how -- which species they're
2 speaking about for the survey. So we'll get better
3 quantification of those species.
4

5 MR. LARSON: So with that we'll field
6 any questions on either of those projects.
7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.
9

10 MR. HILL: It isn't a question, but
11 more of with a Togiak River section. In the next
12 paragraph you have the additionally each assistant was
13 advised on education pathways that they can use to
14 continue in this and related fields of study or work.
15 I really like that. If we could do that in every one
16 of these projects, in any of these partnership things
17 and perhaps even assist these students to -- if they
18 express an interest in that line of work.
19

20 I really like that paragraph and I
21 compliment you on doing that.
22

23 Thank you.
24

25 MR. LARSON: Thank you very much. With
26 that I'll -- that's the FRMP projects that we've been
27 working on in the Partner's Program. Another component
28 to the Partner's Program is the Internship Program. We
29 this year was -- we were able to hire an intern
30 coordinator which 2016 we weren't. So that was really
31 nice to have an additional set of hands there.
32

33 We had four interns working with a
34 variety of folks, the University of Washington, FRI or
35 Fishery Research Institute in Aleknagik has been a
36 partner in the Intern Program for quite a long time and
37 so that one's been excellent. This year we also
38 created sort of an intern swap with ONC and that was
39 the group that was mentioned in one of the proposals
40 earlier based in Bethel there. And that was -- that
41 went really well. The intern -- the interns I guess
42 that swapped both said it was really great to get a
43 chance to see the Kuskokwim region and our region and
44 some of the differences in those projects. So we're
45 going to continue doing that, that was excellent. And
46 also keep recruiting through the ANSEP Program, the
47 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. That's
48 one of the areas where I'm currently recruiting for the
49 winter internship and we were able to get one intern
50

1 through that program this summer which is excellent.

2

3 Another intern -- I guess internship
4 that was -- came about this past year that has been a
5 new one was a -- an internship with NOAA. And that was
6 part of the Preserve American initiative. And what
7 that group looked at was definitely social sciences and
8 they went -- they traveled around the region, they went
9 to three -- four different communities and filmed and
10 recorded the oral histories of Alaska Native women set
11 netters or I think they focused mostly on set netters
12 and the Alaska Native women set netters perspective on
13 their role in fishing and climate change.

14

15 So that was really unique.

16

17 The most recent update on those
18 transcripts if they're being transcribed and edited in
19 audio and video format. They'll be getting approval
20 from the interviewees and with their permission added
21 to the Voices for -- Voices from the Fisheries website.
22 So it's a website that those oral histories will be
23 documented on.

24

25 We're hoping to collaborate a little
26 bit more in the future with NOAA on doing more of that.
27 That was really excellent.

28

29 So that was the Internship Program.
30 I'd like -- it would be great to hear any of the
31 Council members' comments or suggestions with that
32 Internship Program and how that's going and any
33 suggestions you might have.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. LARSON: Okay. Great. Moving on
38 to an additional project that was -- funding was sought
39 for outside of the FRMP proposal. This was a project
40 that was supported by the Naknek communities to look at
41 the salmon harvest there and uses and sort of an update
42 on the Naknek River communities. So that one is also
43 in -- with my colleague, Bronwyn Jones, with the
44 Division of Subsistence. We started that this summer.
45 Things have been going really well with that. We're
46 looking at the subsistence harvest of salmon there and
47 we'll be doing a round of household surveys within
48 those three communities this winter similar to the
49 other projects, hiring some local research assistants.

50

1
2 And additionally there's a small part
3 of this project that we're looking at the fall redfish
4 fishery in Naknek Lake. And looking at what that looks
5 like today. So we were this last fall, got to be --
6 well, got to observe some of that harvest and that was
7 really great, really interesting. I'm really happy to
8 be on this project, I think it's an excellent one. So
9 that one's continuing on and it'll be a two year
10 project concluding in 2019.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thanks. I just
15 really -- you guys are usually good about it, but just
16 for the record, you know, we'll be interested to see
17 reports on all these projects in future meetings. So
18 please include them, if you wonder if we care we do.

19
20 MR. LARSON: Okay. Great. Thank you
21 so much. Through the Chair. I also wanted to talk
22 about the Meshik River. This was something that around
23 a year ago in the same room the priority information
24 need was set to look at Port Heiden, the Native Village
25 of Point Heiden's concerns with meeting their
26 subsistence needs for sockeye and chinook. This was
27 the focus of my efforts during -- one of the focuses of
28 my efforts during the FRMP proposal period. I -- the
29 river is -- has Federal public lands, State public
30 lands and village corporation lands all, you know,
31 around it. It's -- I think my approach to it was going
32 to be an interagency effort with doing a feasibility of
33 monitoring on the Meshik River. So the National Park
34 Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were really
35 supportive in what they could -- what role they could
36 play especially in doing aerial support or monitoring
37 of salmon through aerial surveys. And that was
38 excellent conversation. The capacity for BBNA or the
39 Partner's Program to do a monitoring project with the
40 equipment used, the biologists, the technicians, I
41 don't feel that without an interagency effort it would
42 be possible to do a feasibility of monitoring on the
43 Meshik River which is where I look to coordinate with
44 the other agencies.

45
46 That region is managed -- that region
47 is -- the State -- the Department of Fish and Game
48 region of that is managed through the Kodiak office and
49 so that's where my discussions with developing that
50

1 proposal with the Sportfish Division and CommFish
2 Division started. There was some hesitancy to take on
3 the projects by those departments. I think just -- you
4 know, some of it I think was, you know, how thin can we
5 spread ourselves and it just wasn't something that
6 developed during this period. But it's definitely
7 something that we'll be focusing on and I'll be
8 focusing on for developing during the next FRMP cycle.
9

10 If there's any suggestion on that or
11 comments on the Meshik River I'd sure take them.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair,
16 and thank you, Cody, for the update and thank you for
17 all your efforts on that. And I hope you can continue
18 until we find some success. I guess I have to
19 recognize that a lot of the State agencies are cut
20 beyond the bone. I continue to be frustrated with the
21 difficulty to get coordination and cooperation out of
22 the Kodiak office. And again like I say, pretty low on
23 inspiration myself for a solution there, but I continue
24 -- I encourage you to continue because I think the
25 people down there really need something. And I try to
26 keep my antennas up if I come up with an idea or if I
27 can help out.
28

29 Thank you very much and I'm really glad
30 to see it's high on your list of things too. And then
31 additionally I just see that there's a growing concern
32 of erosion down in the Port Heiden area and I start
33 wondering how -- I guess it's affecting their
34 subsistence sites for fishing, that I wonder if it
35 could affect their salmon ability to migrate into some
36 of the smaller streams there and so on.
37

38 So they certainly deserve ongoing
39 attention.
40

41 Thank you.
42

43 MR. LARSON: Okay. Thanks very much.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.
46

47 MR. HILL: Just a -- why Kodiak. Why
48 Kodiak, it's way away and my personal opinion is the --
49 and nothing personal with the Kodiak office, I
50

1 understand it's a lot of it funding priorities that
2 there's some information lost in the process of trying
3 to get information back and forth. And it's -- I
4 understand it's a point of frustration for the people
5 in that area too.

6
7 Also just a lot of the problems with
8 the Meshik River I think was from erosion and some of
9 it needs some mitigation as far as opening up new
10 channels for the fish to come up and to winter.

11
12 So there's a lot of information there,
13 but again, you know, why Kodiak.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

16
17 MR. HILL: Lary, I'll try to answer a
18 little bit. I think it's kind of along tradition is
19 they had to draw the line across the Alaska Peninsula
20 somewhere and, you know, mostly it's commercial fish
21 oriented. And at one time -- and I think still to some
22 degree the logistics were easier for some management I
23 think based out of the Chignik summer field office.
24 And they'd pop over if and when they can to do a few
25 surveys. But, yes, I struggle with that and nowadays
26 there's possibly -- logistics might be better out of
27 King Salmon. And there is this area M elephant that
28 looms out there that seems to add a little bit of
29 difficulty to coordinating on a number of things when
30 you get down there in the border territory so to speak.
31 And I wish that part could be overcome in the name of
32 doing good science.

33
34 So I hear you, Lary, and I agree, it's
35 -- can't we find someway around that.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess
40 continue with your report.

41
42 MR. LARSON: Okay. So the last little
43 bit I'd like to mention is an effort to do a
44 subsistence set net recovery and reuse program. Not
45 necessarily just recovering subsistence set nets, but
46 the reason I title it that is this year we'll be
47 starting a campaign to distribute net bags and like
48 (indiscernible) knives to cleanup some of the
49 traditional sites where folks do gillnet fishing and
50

1 then reusing any of the materials that have been
2 recovered, recycling any of those that can be reused
3 and using local teachers to put on community based net
4 hanging classes or web -- yeah, net hanging classes to
5 recycle and reuse those nets.

6
7 I think that's all that I wanted to
8 mention and while we've got this slot here I'd like for
9 my co-worker, Gayla, to be able to address some of the
10 things that she's been working on as well.

11
12 If there's any more questions for me, I
13 -- comments also are very much appreciated.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
16 thank you, Cody. So these surveys are -- these
17 projects are ongoing now and do you have the completion
18 dates are probably different?

19
20 MR. LARSON: Yep, that's correct,
21 Madame Chair. Each project has a different calendar
22 and two of the project -- well, yeah, two of the
23 projects should be wrapping up in 2018 and then the
24 Naknek River project going into 2019, the subsistence
25 set net recovery project is going to be one year -- we
26 have funding for one year of that.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, the
29 reason why I'm asking about the completion dates is so
30 that this Board will kind of have an idea of when these
31 different projects will be completed and expectation of
32 reports from you folks with the completions.

33
34 MR. LARSON: Yep, we'll definitely be
35 presenting that information here as well as within the
36 communities for the final review of the information to
37 make sure that we've got -- done that correct before it
38 being a completed project.

39
40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

43
44 MR. MAINES: Yeah, thanks, Cody, for
45 the information there. Who decides what your projects
46 or priorities are going to be for your funding cycles,
47 where do you get the information from, where do you get
48 the priorities, who gives you the go ahead and work?

49
50

1 MR. LARSON: So a lot of it is what
2 funding is available to do what. So the projects -- in
3 order to fund these projects I have to apply or we have
4 to apply for funding through various grants. The FRMP
5 projects are given directly by this Regional Advisory
6 Council, and so that's what sets the priority of those
7 projects. That's where my directive to, you know,
8 create a proposal to monitor or do feasibility of
9 monitoring on the Meshik River, something that came
10 from this Regional Advisory Council. Other times it's
11 when I'm approached by, you know, organizations,
12 agencies, to collaborate I sort of vet what's going to
13 be beneficial to the tribes and communities and within
14 the Department we sort of gauge how much we want to
15 take on and what's going to be doable with quality
16 work, quality versus quantity in how many projects to
17 take on.

18
19 MR. MAINES: Thanks, Cody. The reason
20 why I was asking is that earlier I made the comment
21 that I think that we need more cooperation between our
22 Federal partners and our State partners. And not only
23 surveying, but cataloging our natural resources in our
24 area because we're basically surrounded by State land.
25 And our partners also are the corporations, they have
26 the corporate lands and they're looking at land
27 management plans and how to manage their resources. So
28 and it has a lot to determine what I'm going to have on
29 my dinner plate tonight, you know, as far as the
30 animals, berries, vegetation and the fish.

31
32 There's a lot of areas that there's no
33 information on and I would like to hopefully see
34 sometime in the future that information on the table.
35 Close by here there's a little tributary that I was the
36 only one going up besides some old guy from up at the
37 lake and then I took a friend of mine up to this little
38 area and now it's one of the main places where sports
39 cabins on the lake go up and do sportfishing on. And
40 yet there's no data on the chinook or the silver and
41 any other fish that might be going up in that little
42 tributary. And I think that that may have an impact on
43 the number of fish that's going in because they're not
44 being reported or recorded anywhere. It's before the
45 towers that the State's put in so, you know, it's those
46 type of things I'm kind of curious at because I think
47 it's because of that little tributary that we do have
48 at least some chinook in our waters, that we do have
49 some silver in our waters in some places.

50

1 So I was just was kind of curious who
2 gives you your marching orders and where you're looking
3 at as far as possible projects. I know funding always
4 is a main driver, but I was just looking at the
5 possibility of maybe a marriage happening that's
6 already happened, but expanding it to different arenas
7 around besides just the Togiak or the Meshik or the
8 Naknek, you know, because I'm really concerned about
9 our waters around here for a lot of different reasons.

10

11 Thanks.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

14

15 MR. HILL: Yes, Cody, I apologize for
16 my lack of information or -- but have you had projects,
17 partnership projects like this in the Lake Iliamna
18 area?

19

20 MR. LARSON: So I personally haven't,
21 the Partner's Program at BBNA has and you can see a
22 list of those past ones I think in the FRMP historical
23 projects there. I know that most recently there was a
24 whitefish assessment and, you know, a few others. And
25 it looks like on page 162 and 163, that's the
26 historical. And currently I don't have any projects
27 that I'm collaborating on in that area.

28

29 I do have the notes on the coho
30 escapement monitoring on either the lower Talarek or
31 upper Talarek Creek. That's something I'll work with
32 the Sportfish Division here in the Dillingham office on
33 looking at that. I know that right now they're going
34 through their assessment of what they want to work on
35 during the next two period -- two years and we -- you
36 know, we discuss some of these ideas. And this is some
37 of the collaborating that I do is to say, you know,
38 coho in the lower Talarek Creek are probably going to
39 be targeted by sportfisher users and so this is
40 something that Division may focus on. And so I --
41 that's where I -- the comments by the Council are
42 excellent and they give me talking points to work with
43 in -- with the other agencies as well.

44

45 MR. HILL: Okay. Yeah, thank you. How
46 do you -- how do we request these projects and suggest
47 a way to prioritize them, you know, specifically like
48 with the coho. I was told the coho will spawn in a
49 muddy -- in a mud puddle, they're not too careful about

50

1 where they go. So but the part I didn't like is that
2 the -- as the smolt get bigger the coho smolt are more
3 aggressive and will actually feed on the smolt of the
4 sockeye. The smaller streams and the ponds up in our
5 area, the coho and dolly varden or sockeye, they'll go
6 into these small lakes and they eat the blackfish or
7 the freshwater shrimp in that area. So there's some
8 other studies that need to be done.
9

10 If the freshwater shrimp are not there
11 and, you know, those fish are not going to get enough
12 food to survive that winter.
13

14 So appreciate if you could, you know,
15 send something our way.
16

17 Thank you.
18

19 MR. LARSON: Okay. I appreciate your
20 comments.
21

22 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, through the
23 Chair. I just want to address Billy's comments about
24 who gives us marching orders. When you guys were
25 talking about when Robbin was giving the presentation,
26 the FRMP projects, Cody's over there writing notes and
27 we're keeping mental note of the things that Dennis
28 brought up and the issues that you guys bring up. But
29 if any tribes or any Bristol Bay residents have any
30 specific areas that you want us to look into, contact
31 our office and we will -- you know, as we're looking at
32 proposals and possible projects that we could take on
33 in our department that's how we're aware of things by
34 coming to meetings like this, through the public
35 meetings and also talking to the people of our region.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Cory, you're
38 done with your report and then Gayla, you have
39 something.
40

41 MS. HOSETH: Yes, I do, thank you,
42 Madame Chair.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
45

46 MS. HOSETH: So for the record Gayla
47 Hoseth, BBNA. And I was looking at the past minutes
48 from the last meeting and I just wanted to follow-up on
49 some items that we talked about last time. But I was
50

1 going to start with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
2 Management Council. And I'm really happy to see some
3 of the youth here and I know a lot of -- we have a lot
4 of bird hunters in the audience and also hunters. So
5 just to kind of give a recap to the students here.

6
7 So the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
8 Management Council was formed in 2000 and includes
9 representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
10 Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
11 the Native Caucus. With Native -- Alaska Native
12 representatives from 10 subsistence regions and each
13 region has a regional bird council. So we have the
14 Yakulut Calisti (ph) Council here in the Bristol Bay
15 region that we have, it's like a six member board that
16 we gather information and present to the AMBCC.

17
18 The main objective of the AMBCC are to
19 conserve migratory birds and to support sustainable
20 subsistence harvest opportunities and to develop
21 recommendations for the spring and summer subsistence
22 harvest. So I know that you guys know sitting at the
23 table, but the students might not know. So our spring
24 and summer harvest we follow under Federal regulations
25 and then the fall and winter harvests are State
26 regulations. That's where kind of we're living in the
27 dual management area.

28
29 One thing that was done in the AMBCC so
30 in 2013 they started doing harvest assessments of how
31 many birds are being harvested throughout Alaska. So
32 five regions were selected and how it's been up until
33 last year is only one region would be selected for
34 these harvest surveys. Well, last year all five
35 regions are being surveys now and there's training that
36 was going on this week and I'm not sure if they're
37 still here today, but training is going on to train the
38 RITs and some local surveyors.

39
40 So the interesting thing is with the
41 2016 numbers that we have. 369,910 total birds were
42 harvested for subsistence for 2016. Of that number
43 33,225 were Bristol Bay. So that will give us more
44 information as for the Federal bird population. And
45 the communities selected for 2017 are going to be
46 Chignik, Dillingham, Iliamna, Levelock, Manokotak,
47 Naknek, New Stuyahok, Pedro Bay, Point Heiden and
48 Togiak. So you'll see the -- I think there's two RITs
49 from Togiak Wildlife Refuge and some local assistants

1 that will be out there conducting the surveys and
2 they'll be getting the information from 10 households
3 in each of those villages.
4

5 That brings us to -- I wanted to give a
6 follow-up on the emperor goose hunt. So a customary
7 and traditional harvest of emperor geese opened as you
8 guys know in April of 2017. This was the first time in
9 30 years. Harvest opportunities were open to rural
10 Alaskans living in the area eligible for the spring and
11 summer subsistence harvest consisting with the
12 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. And a fall and winter hunt
13 started in September in 2017 by a registration permit
14 system managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and
15 Game. And so in order for either hunt to remain open
16 the total bird index from the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
17 coastal zone survey which is flown each year in May,
18 must remain above 23,000 emperor geese. And that's a
19 change that we did at the AMBCC instead of doing the
20 aerial surveys, how they would usually go on the upper
21 part, I mean, where it was starting the YK Delta area,
22 come all the way down the peninsula and then go up.
23 We're not using that aerial survey for emperor geese
24 anymore and that's where they're doing the coastal zone
25 surveys on the YK Delta for emperor geese.
26

27 And the -- so the -- with the 2017
28 survey it was an estimated 30,087 emperor geese on the
29 breeding grounds and it was a 95 confidence interval of
30 26,000 to 34,000. So with those numbers it will
31 support a customary and traditional harvest again for
32 2018. And when we revise that Emperor Goose Management
33 Plan it's going to be a three year project, a three
34 year time frame to look at to make sure that the
35 emperor geese are, you know, remain sustainable for us
36 to continue hunting them.
37

38 That was really interesting and I
39 emailed Jason Schamber who works with the Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game to find out what are the
41 current. So that was the spring and summer hunt. And
42 then part of the revising the Emperor Goose Management
43 Plan we included a State hunt which gave an allocation
44 of 1,000 birds for the fall and winter hunt with a one
45 bird, one permit system. We thought that 1,000 birds
46 was, you know, that we were going to get close to that
47 number. As of today Jason has a total number of 81
48 emperor geese that have been harvested. So the numbers
49 are way lower than what we expected with Bristol Bay
50

1 taking the lead of 60 emperor geese that were taken
2 through the permit.

3
4 And so Bristol Bay will close on
5 December 16th, Kodiak and Aleutians will be open until
6 January 22nd and Izembek will close on October 31st.
7 And so the season ends December 16th for the three
8 northern hunt areas, but since the birds migrated down
9 we could pretty much think that those are -- that
10 season is closed.

11
12 One thing that we are going to be
13 working on AMBCC is to.....

14
15 (Announcement)

16
17 MS. HOSETH: Sorry, I didn't want to
18 compete with the overhead. So the interesting thing is
19 so we're going to be working on adjusting our fall and
20 winter dates. I'll just wait for the bell. So even
21 though that we've had subsistence hunting opportunity
22 for emperor geese in the first time in 30 years our
23 friends down in Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands will
24 not -- they don't have that subsistence opportunity
25 because of the season dates. So when they want to go
26 hunt the emperor geese they have to hunt under the
27 State regulations which only gives them one bird. So
28 we're working on changing those dates to where that
29 will be -- they would be able to participate in a
30 subsistence hunt.

31
32 I'm not sure if any of you have heard
33 the good news that handicrafts are now going to be --
34 you'll be able to use migratory bird parts and feathers
35 for -- just only 27 of the migratory birds that I think
36 it's 92 species. So we have some -- there's some
37 criteria of what would need to -- what you would need
38 to do in order to sell handicrafts using migratory bird
39 parts or clothing and I have that information, I don't
40 think I need to go into the detail here. But one thing
41 that we're working on as well within the AMBCC is we
42 want to have all of the species of migratory birds
43 allowable for handicrafts and clothing. And so, but
44 there needs to be treaties that need to be revised in
45 order for us to do that.

46
47 We do have three Board of Game
48 proposals that we put in for the Board of Game. And
49 that will be taken up this coming next week in

50

1 Anchorage. One of them is the requirement for the
2 State duck stamp. So that is a proposal that is in
3 there. As you know that we don't have -- we're not
4 required to have a Federal duck stamp for spring and
5 summer or fall and winter, but yet we're still required
6 to have a State duck stamp for a subsistence hunt. So
7 even though it's I think \$10 now, we want to make sure
8 that that is changed and we're trying to do that
9 through the Board of Game.

10

11 The other one is that we put in for on
12 the State side to allow proxy hunting for emperor
13 geese. And the other one is to -- for a definition of
14 edible meat for swans, geese and cranes, to be more
15 restrictive like it is in the Federal regulations
16 because our Federal regulations for wanton waste
17 definitions is a lot more restrictive than the State
18 side.

19

20 Just so that you guys know for December
21 that -- Billy, the deadline is December 15th for the
22 call for proposals for any migratory bird regulations
23 changes. So if you guys have any changes you want to
24 see for migratory birds the deadline for that is the
25 15th and you could go ahead and contact me for that, to
26 help with that or through our Council or your regional
27 representative.

28

29 At the last meeting there was mention
30 about the possible listing of Pacific walrus on the
31 endangered species list. And we received and Helen --
32 I got this information from Helen Aderman in our office
33 at BBNA, from Patrick Clemmons the chief of Marine
34 Mammals Management Division and it was determined that
35 the listing of Pacific walrus as threatened or
36 endangered under the endangered species act was not
37 warranted at this time. Based on this finding the
38 species will be removed from candidate status under the
39 ESA.

40

41 And there was no -- and although loss
42 of sea ice and associated structures continue to impact
43 the species, Pacific Walrus have shown some ability
44 to adapt to these changes and their population appears
45 to be approaching stability. The Pacific Walrus will
46 continue to receive protection of the U.S. under the
47 Marine Mammal Protection Act. Protections afforded
48 under the Marine Mammal Protection Act include
49 prohibitions on the import, export and take of the

50

1 Pacific walrus or walrus products except by Alaska
2 Native for subsistence and handicraft creation of the
3 sale.
4

5 Lastly upcoming work that we have at
6 BBNA. One of the projects that we have is traditional
7 ecological knowledge for the Mulchatna caribou project.
8 Jamie Van Lennon is working on finalizing the mapping
9 project event and that captured the 50 year -- we went
10 and did some interviews with some elders to get more
11 history of that Mulchatna caribou herd and so we're
12 finalizing that project.
13

14 We were grateful to receive funds from
15 BIA and Cody Larson and I have some exciting projects
16 coming up and he talked about the subsistence net
17 project, net reuse project. One of the other things
18 that we were going to do is do some talking circles in
19 some villages and start forming that. And as we put
20 that together it's going to be a really exciting time
21 to spend with residents in the Bristol Bay to hear from
22 stories from a long time ago and also we're working on
23 documenting that, we're going to either do it by video
24 or transcript or, you know, recordings. But we want to
25 be able to make sure that we capture those stories and
26 that we share those stories so that they don't get
27 lost.
28

29 So we're really excited for this
30 project.
31

32 And one of the other opportunities
33 through that -- through the funds that we received is
34 we're going to be having 2,500 subsistence mini grants
35 for villages to apply for for any subsistence
36 activities that they could put that towards. So we're
37 really happy that we're going to share the funds that
38 we receive and expand that out to the villages.
39

40 BBNA will continue to work with tribes
41 and residents in Bristol Bay on fish and wildlife
42 regulations for both State and Federal. And I'm sure
43 that all of you have heard that Board of Game will be
44 here in February in Dillingham and also Board of Fish
45 in December of 2018.
46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair. That's all I
48 have.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

2
3 Lary.

4
5 MR. HILL: Yeah, thank you. It's hard
6 to keep up with all your information. But anyway with
7 your -- the interviews with the people on the harvest
8 I've several questions. So first is there talk about
9 changes in the migration patterns and how that's
10 affecting the harvest?

11
12 MS. HOSETH: I haven't seen the actual
13 questions of the -- I mean, I haven't reviewed the
14 actual questions of the harvest survey, but to answer
15 the question of the changes in migration patterns, yes,
16 that's something that we do talk about at the AMBCC
17 level is the changes of the migration patterns due to
18 climate change and things warming up and birds are
19 being seen farther north than they have. And also
20 birds are wintering here and not migrating down for
21 some of the species where those birds would migrate out
22 and they're not.

23
24 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you. The other
25 thing was like you were talking about the birds
26 wintering over. In Lake Iliamna we've seen -- well,
27 when the lake doesn't freeze we see, you know, birds
28 like swans and geese and ducks that winter over and
29 they usually didn't. Or they would freeze sometimes.

30
31 But the other part is the bird parts,
32 do we -- is that in regulations already that has been
33 sent to the particular villages, the actual bird parts
34 that can be used for handicrafts and stuff?

35
36 MS. HOSETH: I can resend it again, but
37 definitely yes. It's -- I could definitely send it out
38 to the tribes again and I have some information here I
39 could -- you could take home with you now and I'd be
40 happy -- be more than happy to share that information.

41
42 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you. And the
43 other thing about the TEK interviews on the Mulchatna
44 caribou herd, will you be having people interviewed in
45 the Iliamna Lake, Nondalton, in that area, because we
46 do get caribou from the Mulchatna herd.

47
48 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. I'm sorry,
49 through the Chair, Madame Chair. Yes, Nondalton is a
50

1 part of that project so Nondalton was a part of the TEK
2 projects of the villages that were selected and I
3 believe Koliganek, New Stu, we did Togiak and Egegik.
4 I'm trying to think of -- those are the villages that
5 were selected for that project.

6

7

MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If
10 there's -- anymore questions we'll break for lunch now
11 until 1:30.

12

13

(Off record)

14

15

(On record)

16

17

18

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do we have any
non-agenda item comments from the public.

19

20

(No comments)

21

22

23

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none, I
want to thank Cody and Gayla for that report again.
24 Lots of information, lots of good information.

25

26

27

So thanks again.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

We're going to move the or change the
-- I changed the agenda item a little bit here. Now we
have under U.S. Fish and Wildlife we had Togiak, but I
want to put Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
first. She needs to catch her flight at 2:30 the
flight lands or if -- yeah, if the flight lands, it's
so foggy out there.

35

36

37

So I guess we're ready for you.

38

39

40

41

MS. GREEN: Great. Thank you very much
and thank you for accommodating my schedule. We'll see
if my airplane actually lands or not in Dillingham.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

But, Madame Chair, and distinguished
Council members, thank you for allowing Lake Clark to
have some time on your agenda today. My name is
Suzanne Fleet Green and I am the new superintendent of
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. I started about
the middle of June. And it's a little bit coming home
for me, just a bit of my background. My family's
actually from Southeast Alaska, my mother's family is

1 from the Dry Bay area outside of Yakutat and my
2 father's family is from Juneau. I grew up mostly in
3 Anchorage, but I actually lived in King Salmon when I
4 was a little kid as well. My father was stationed
5 there, he was Fish and Wildlife protection for the
6 State of Alaska. So it was a little bit coming home.
7 He used to spend a lot of time and we would take a lot
8 of trips to Lake Clark when I was a kid. So it's
9 wonderful being back there and getting to work for the
10 National Park Service.

11
12 We have some updates for you from the
13 Park which Liza will give, but I wanted to highlight a
14 few things. And then we also have this presentation on
15 mercury levels in some of the southwestern lakes of
16 Alaska that was conducted by part of our research arm
17 of the National Park Service. And that is a follow-up
18 to your meeting request that we give you an update on
19 that mercury study. So I'll get into that as well.

20
21 But just a couple of highlights from
22 our summer. We did some great projects on the
23 scientific level that Liza will talk about, both in our
24 fish counts at river mile 22 on the Newhalen as well as
25 the Telaquana Lake weir that I wanted to highlight
26 because it goes to one of your points earlier about
27 partnerships. That's actually a partnership that the
28 National Park Service has with the State of Alaska.
29 It's they fund us to do the project, but we can do it
30 more efficiently and cost effectively because of our
31 scientific presence within the Park. And that's a
32 partnership that we've enjoyed with them for a number
33 of years now and is going well and there's actually
34 some interesting data that came up this summer.

35
36 I also wanted to highlight another
37 project. If the students were here I would try and
38 recruit all of them, but a partnership with GCI and
39 BBNC so thank you. Joe and BBNC fund a trail crew each
40 summer and this year we had about eight youth that were
41 working at the Emerson Falls trails in June and did a
42 brush trail to the falls. It was I think a great
43 experience for the youth, getting to do some
44 backcountry work and also a wonderful opportunity for
45 the National Park Service to try and show youth some
46 opportunities within the National Park Service. And
47 that project hopefully will turn into another trail
48 crew project this coming summer in 2018, maybe a little
49 bit closer to Port Alsworth. We're looking to do some
50

1 Telaquana Trail that goes from Lake Clark to Telaquana
2 Lake.

3
4 We also had several student
5 conservation association youth with us over the summer
6 doing fish counting at Newhalen and Telaquana. So that
7 too is a great partnership that we have where we are
8 able to bring students in and get them hopefully on a
9 path of careers in science with one of the Federal
10 agencies. So again for any of you that know youth
11 that want to do some fun work in the summer please have
12 them look for those announcements that will be coming
13 out probably in January about job opportunities with
14 Lake Clark and other Federal agencies.

15
16 So let me get into this presentation
17 before I hop on my flight. The SWAN network has been
18 working with the U.S. Geological Survey for over a
19 decade now looking at water quality in lakes around the
20 country and specifically in Southwestern Alaska. On
21 this first slide you'll see a summary of what the
22 inventory and monitoring program does. One of the
23 regions is the SWAN network that covers five Park units
24 in Alaska including Lake Clark and Katmai. We have a
25 whole number of scientists that come out and do water
26 quality sampling in Lake Clark and Katmai as well as in
27 some of other units, Kenai Fjords, Aniakchak and the
28 Alagnak wild river.

29
30 If you switch to your next slide you'll
31 see that SWAN's focus is really on developing a long
32 term monitoring system or vital signs for those five
33 units. They're looking at weather and climate, air
34 quality, terrestrial vegetation, wildlife, nearshore
35 marine systems and freshwater systems.

36
37 And on the next slide for the
38 freshwater systems as I mentioned they're looking at
39 water quantity and quality. And this is what gets us
40 into some of our work on mercury in the lakes. They --
41 this study in particular looks at resident lake fish so
42 as you know these are the fish that remain in these
43 lakes year round and use them as habitat. In
44 particular they look at lake trout, grayling, northern
45 pike and least cisco.

46
47 So for the mercury study one of the
48 things that I want to highlight before we get into the
49 data is methylmercury is a neurotoxin and it is

50

1 something that really pregnant and nursing women and
2 very young children should be aware of. And the State
3 DEC has done a good job of putting out health
4 notifications about mercury content in various fish
5 around Alaska. So the good news is that salmon, which
6 most of us eat, is very, very low in mercury. There
7 are not any mercury alerts for any Pacific salmon.

8
9 What we've looked at is really these
10 resident fish that bioaccumulate methylmercury or
11 biomagnify. And by bioaccumulate really what you need
12 to know is that the older and bigger the fish get the
13 higher the mercury levels are in those fish. So you'll
14 see at the end of the slide show, the basic rule is if
15 you're going to eat some of those resident fish and
16 you're a -- if you expect to be pregnant, are pregnant
17 or a nursing mother eat smaller fish. We all love to
18 catch big fish, but the smaller fish are actually much
19 healthier for you because they have lower levels of
20 bioaccumulation.

21
22 And then outside of that on the
23 biomagnification it simply means that the higher you
24 are on the food chain the more mercury that you might
25 have because you're eating the fish that are eaten by
26 other animals and so if you're higher up on the food
27 chain you are accumulating that mercury in your system
28 as well.

29
30 So on this particular study as I
31 mentioned they've been looking at lakes across the
32 Southwestern region for a while now, but this was a
33 particular study that they wanted to do on mercury
34 because what they found surprisingly was that mercury
35 levels in some of the lakes in Katmai and Lake Clark
36 were higher than what they expected. And what you can
37 see on this chart is the yellow band highlights those
38 Parks that had higher mercury levels in their fish.
39 And so Lake Clark is right there, the third one over.
40 And compared to a lot of the lakes in the rest of
41 Alaska as well as in the lower 48, our lake trout did
42 have higher mercury levels.

43
44 So the question is of course why. This
45 is not -- we are not close to coal-fired powerplants
46 which you see in the Great Lakes in the Northeast, that
47 usually lead to higher mercury levels. So why did we
48 see elevated levels in Southwestern Alaska. And we
49 don't know exactly yet, but there's a couple of

1 different theories as to why that might be. And really
2 it goes to what the unique natural influences are
3 around those lakes. So the melting glaciers that have
4 accumulated mercury over eons are now melting and so
5 some of that mercury is coming out of the glaciers,
6 depositing into the soils and then running off into the
7 lakes. Also the wetlands have also captured the
8 mercury over decades and so some of that mercury is now
9 being released because of climate change and warming.
10 Migrating salmon, again mercury in salmon is very, very
11 low, but for the thousands -- hundreds of thousands of
12 salmon that are coming into some of these lakes, even a
13 little bit of the mercury if you multiply it over the
14 years, that will lead to higher mercury levels in those
15 lakes. And then again the underlying geology is that
16 there might just naturally be more mercury occurring in
17 the unique geology surrounding these lakes.

18
19 So what SWAN did is fanned out and
20 chose lakes that had different systems so that they can
21 really try and get a better sense of why certain lakes
22 had higher levels. And so they selected 13 lakes in
23 two Parks and collected samples from lake trout and
24 salmon if salmon were present in those lakes, took
25 water samples, sediment samples and plankton samples
26 and then they analyzed those for total mercury levels,
27 HG is just the scientific acronym for mercury as well
28 as the specific isotopes of those mercury levels.

29
30 And the results on the next slide show
31 you that lake trout exhibited a wide range of mercury
32 levels, both among Parks and among lakes. And these
33 funny looking charts on the right side show you the
34 lakes that were sampled in Lake Clark as well as
35 Katmai. And the dotted line represents the level of
36 mercury that the State of Alaska has set as the highest
37 level of mercury in a fish again for those at risk
38 populations. So for nursing, pregnant women and very
39 young children.

40
41 So what you should be looking at are
42 those samples where the line in the middle of the box,
43 and again I apologize for the busy graph, but the line
44 in the middle of the box goes over the dotted line down
45 the chart. So -- and then the pink boxes are the
46 salmon. And so you can see that the salmon samples are
47 very, very far below the point where you should start
48 considering your intake of the fish.

49
50

1 The other boxes where you see the
2 median line show at like Lake Contrashabenia (ph) in
3 Lake Clark, that is one lake where the mercury levels
4 were higher in the trout and you should start thinking
5 about how big of a fish that you eat and how often you
6 eat in.

7
8 In Katmai you'll see that there were
9 four lakes that had elevated mercury levels. Again if
10 you're getting lake trout out of those waterbodies you
11 should start and if you're within the at risk
12 population you should think about what size fish and
13 how many fish you eat. So there were elevated mercury
14 levels in some of the lakes, but again the sockeye in
15 those lakes had very, very low, no risk levels.

16
17 So what do you take away from this.
18 Again on the next slide you'll see this is the State of
19 Alaska health notification that gives women who are or
20 can become pregnant, nursing mothers and children, some
21 guidelines about how many fish, what type of fish they
22 should eat per week. You'll see the red box on the
23 left that includes salmon, those are eat as many salmon
24 as you want, very low risk. The boxes on the right-
25 hand side of that you get points per mercury level and
26 so you'll see that lake trout is that top box where
27 again you want to be looking for lake trout of smaller
28 size.

29
30 Next steps for SWAN is to try and
31 develop a little better understanding of the geology
32 and surrounding influences of the lakes so that we can
33 give the public a better sense of which lakes are
34 predictably have higher levels of mercury. So on this
35 last side you'll see where our research will go next.
36 To look at the soil samples, to understand the
37 influences of these lakes and this information is up on
38 the National Park Service website. If you would like
39 more information we can certainly put you in touch with
40 the scientists who conducted the work. We have Dan
41 Young in our office at Lake Clark National Park who
42 participates in the study as well as Krista Barts who
43 is the lead scientist from the SWAN network on this
44 study.

45
46 So I would be happy to answer any
47 questions, but I'll also turn it over to Liza to give
48 you other highlights from Lake Clark from this summer.

1 Thank you very much for your time.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, I like
4 your report, it's simple and I can understand it.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MS. GREEN: And I apologize, I am going
9 to have go pretty quick here to catch my airplane, but
10 I can very quickly try and answer whatever questions
11 you might have.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci and then
14 Dan.

15

16 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you. I
17 appreciate the report too. The one thing I would add
18 is seeing the elevated amounts of mercury that you
19 found in Kulik, Nonvianuk, no, not Nonvianuk, Hammer's
20 Lake, Grosvenor and Brooks, I highly recommend you do a
21 study in Naknek Lake as well because that is the lake
22 that's most used by the popu -- we -- just because we
23 have the highest population base around the lake.

24

25 MS. GREEN: Uh-huh.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 This is really interesting and a little startling. I
31 know the State was pretty concerned about this sometime
32 ago and they were looking statewide. And I remember
33 from where they looked at that point the most concern
34 was mercury levels in -- I believe it was pike in the
35 -- I want to say St. Mary's area and Anvik River area.
36 And this is a lot closer to home.

37

38 Is it possible that these lakes,
39 especially in the Naknek system, could that be of
40 partly volcanic origin.

41

42 MS. GREEN: Yes, that's one of the --
43 thank you. Through the Chair. That is one of the
44 things that they're looking at again is nationally the
45 scientists find this very interesting because we don't
46 have some of those external influences like the -- you
47 know, usually you see elevated levels when you are
48 within the airstream or the distribution area near
49 coal-fired powerplants. So scientists nationally find

50

1 this interesting and that's one of the things that they
2 believe is that it is a result of the natural
3 environment including the volcanic activity of
4 Southwest Alaska.

5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Another question if I can
7 continue.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: I'd be eager and curious
12 on your sediment studies and I don't know if you're
13 taking like deep cores or something so that like you
14 could plot it over time and maybe again get a hint of
15 where this stuff's coming from.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. GREEN: Yes, and I -- again I would
20 offer and be happy to give you a follow-up presentation
21 after they do the work next summer to start getting at
22 some of those questions.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And my
25 interest would be the toxicity of a fish cooked and
26 raw. Because, you know, like the white -- we like the
27 whitefish from Lake Clark.....

28
29 MS. GREEN: Uh-huh.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:to freeze
32 and eat frozen and then the pike. So I'd be interested
33 in, you know, how the cooked fish and the raw fish
34 differ.

35
36 MS. GREEN: Yes, that's a good point.
37 My understanding is for methylmercury that the cooking
38 of the fish doesn't alter the level. But whitefish
39 from these studies have shown that they have lower
40 levels of mercury, but they too are on the Alaska site
41 as one of the fish listed. So if you're in one of
42 those at risk populations you can go and look up their
43 recommended consumption levels for whitefish as well.
44 But the eating of it raw or cooked doesn't make a
45 difference in terms of your intake.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.

50

1 Using -- looking at the sockeye samples, were the
2 samples done or the -- was it done with the mature
3 salmon when they came into the lake or was it with the
4 smolt out migration, like the two year smolt out
5 migration?
6

7 MS. GREEN: Thank you for that
8 question. It was the salmon in the lake so it was the
9 mature salmon in the lake. But overall many studies
10 have been done regarding mercury in salmon and
11 consistently it is found that they have very low
12 mercury levels.
13

14 MR. WILSON: But no studies were done
15 when the smolt out migration like they've been in there
16 a couple years. You're picking on a fish that has gone
17 in there and it's only been in there for a couple
18 months, correct?
19

20 MS. GREEN: Correct. And they -- yes.
21 So I can only speak for the work that SWAN did and so
22 those samples were taken in the lake.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Was there any
25 difference in the mercury level of resident fish versus
26 the ones that migrate like the salmon?
27

28 MS. GREEN: Yes, so the resident fish
29 had the higher mercury levels. The salmon again have
30 very, very low levels and some of that is because the
31 resident fish are in the waterbody where the mercury is
32 depositing from factors potentially like the geology
33 and the volcanic activity versus salmon that go out
34 into the ocean and then come back.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. And it
39 seems like you concentrated on lake trout here. How
40 were the pike, I know partly because I think it was
41 pike in St. Mary's where the -- they were really high
42 too.
43

44 MS. GREEN: Pike.....
45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Just curious. Thank you.
47

48 MS. GREEN:pike were the second
49 highest. So we did highlight trout and that's what we
50

1 focused on, but pike also had higher levels of mercury.
2 So the same factor would be recommended there, eat
3 smaller pike.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: One more question. You
8 know, I was speaking earlier about distribution of
9 goods caught and friends around Egegik are putting nets
10 out for pike and whitefish right now. Is there any
11 chance you could sneak into Lake Iliamna and check some
12 of the fish there as well. It would -- you know, it
13 would be very interesting.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MS. GREEN: Yes, that's certainly
18 something that we can look into. As you know that's
19 not too far from Lake Clark and so we can talk to our
20 SWAN folks. It's outside of the Park so we would have
21 to talk to folks about being able to get a permit to do
22 our scientific work there, but we could certainly --
23 it's within reach of our jurisdiction.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

26

27 MR. HILL: Yeah, thanks for the
28 excellent report. I'm on the SRC and we asked at one
29 time if there was any way to -- you talk about
30 biomagnification, on the list of things that use the
31 fish, you know, stopping at bears, but human also.

32

33 MS. GREEN: Uh-huh.

34

35 MR. HILL: I'm wondering if there's
36 anything you can look at for lifelong residents of that
37 area, see if there's any accumulation. I don't know
38 how you'd test it or what.

39

40 MS. GREEN: Yes, that's not something
41 that the National Park Service does, but I know that
42 other agencies do voluntary studies where -- in fact,
43 I've done this myself a long time ago, where you can
44 give a blood sample and get tested for a whole variety
45 of neurotoxins that might be in your system. I could
46 certainly find out for you, I don't know if there's any
47 of those studies going on right now, but there are
48 other agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency
49 that have done those kind of studies with human samples

50

1 before voluntarily.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

4

5

6

MR. MAINES: Thanks. It's a -- an eye-opener to see how much mercury is actually in our systems, whether it's the lakes to the east or to the north.

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The issue that I wanted to bring up and hopefully keep it in the back of your minds is that when you're talking about the jet stream it does affect us here. I mean, what happens in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 40 years ago may be happening here now. It's just that.....

MS. GREEN: Right.

MR. MAINES:that's the way the jet stream works and that's how long it takes to get up there, get over here and then come down with the moisture. Same with the Asian haze that's coming up from.....

MS. GREEN: Uh-huh.

MR. MAINES:China and stuff like that, that will affect us too.

MS. GREEN: Uh-huh.

MR. MAINES: And with us being on the international jet stream there's been a lot of talk about the aviation fuel that the freighters are using and how they create that tail and stuff, that that coming down also might have an impact. So to me.....

MS. GREEN: That's.....

MR. MAINES:it's going to be sort of like a bioaccumulation of everything.....

MS. GREEN: Yeah.

MR. MAINES:that you can think of.

MS. GREEN: And that's -- that is certainly true. Mercury is a heavier substance and so

1 what studies have found is that it tends to have I
2 guess a steeper arc in its deposition, is that you
3 much, much heavier levels of depositing from, you know,
4 coal-fired powerplants in the nearby area versus some
5 other materials that are lighter and drift.

6
7 Thank you very much. And again I
8 apologize that I have to go, I will see you at your
9 next meeting, but I will -- I'm very happy and
10 confident to turn it over to Liza from Lake Clark to
11 give you some more information about what we've been
12 doing this summer.

13
14 So thank you very much and it's nice to
15 meet all of you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
18 And if your plane doesn't come you're welcome to come
19 back.

20
21 Okay. Did you have -- okay.

22
23 MS. RUPP: Yes, thank you, Madame
24 Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Please
27 continue.

28
29 MS. RUPP: Yes, I have a few -- one
30 item of business for the RAC. We have a SRC
31 appointment, George Alexi, his -- of Nondalton. His
32 SRC appointment by the RAC is up this year so I had
33 sent a letter earlier through Donald and I would
34 appreciate if the RAC would take that up so that George
35 can -- he has indicated that he would like to continue
36 and the SRC has indicated that they would like him to
37 continue.

38
39 So I leave that up to you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What's his
42 name, George?

43
44 MS. RUPP: George Alexi. And he is on
45 Iliamna Lake Commission so he qualifies and is a very
46 long time subsistence from Nondalton.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
2 apologize. I thought I had printed out some copies on
3 the letter that was written by the SRC to this Council
4 for SRC appointments. But, Ms. Liza, if you can do a
5 quick summary for the Council to hear we can go from
6 there.

7
8 Thank you, Madame Chair.
9

10 MS. RUPP: Sure. Did -- okay. Anyway
11 to recap, George Alexi is from Nondalton and he is -- I
12 think Lary could probably speak to they know each
13 other, have worked on the SRC -- the Lake Clark SRC for
14 several years and George is on the Iliamna Lake
15 Advisory Council. So he -- and is a subsistence user
16 from Nondalton. He lives sometimes in Port Alsworth
17 and his home is in Nondalton.

18
19 So, yes, I would say he qualifies.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So I
22 guess we need a motion to accept.

23
24 MR. HILL: I'd like to make that motion
25 to reinstate or to have George Alexi continue on the
26 SRC.

27
28 MR. WILSON: I'll second that.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
31 been a motion by Lary to accept George Alexi to the SRC
32 would be board or committee, second by Lary [sic].

33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Question's
37 been called. All in favor say aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
42 opposition.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Was that
47 Victor?

48
49 MR. MIKE: Yes, that was Victor.

50

1 Victor, just for the record, did you -- were you
2 supporting the motion to appoint Mr. George Alexi to
3 the SRC?
4

5 MR. SEYBERT: Yes, this is Victor. I
6 vote yet.
7

8 MR. MIKE: Okay. Thank you.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Okay.
11 Thank you. Anything else.
12

13 MS. RUPP: Yes, I just wanted to give
14 you a brief update. On page 202 in the packet there's
15 sort of a summary of our activities over the past year.
16 And I was just going to highlight a couple of items of
17 subsistence issue -- interest I should say.
18

19 So in -- from a fish perspective we
20 count -- our counting towers that Suzanne referenced,
21 the Newhalen counting tower counted 434,118 salmon
22 returning to Lake Clark. And then our Telaquana weir
23 which is at the outlet of Telaquana Lake we had 138,418
24 fish which was the highest in the eight years that this
25 tower has been up there. So that was -- broke quite a
26 record for returning fish. The Newhalen River average --
27 was fairly average return for the lake.
28

29 And I also wanted to highlight that on
30 our counting towers and in our fish crews we do always
31 like try and have a student conservation association,
32 Alaska Academy. So we try and staff it mostly with
33 Alaskans from around the State. So we've had -- I'm
34 trying to remember. Anyway so we always try and get
35 some Alaska youth involved in the program.
36

37 Of other interest, we did a coastal
38 brown bear survey in June and that was the highest
39 number of brown bears that were ever -- have been
40 recorded in the -- since they're been doing the
41 surveys. So it was in June there was 254 bears
42 identified and then in July there were 330 brown bears
43 identified. So that seems to be a good, healthy
44 population of bears on the coast.
45

46 And then just from hunting results this
47 year, so far we've had three sheep harvested and no
48 bears have -- we've given out permits, but no bears
49 have been reported. Our moose, because it's a State
50

1 permit we don't know how many would have been taken.
2 And then one final item and then I'll
3 open it up to questions, is that we have a local hire
4 budget analyst position that is open right now and it
5 closes on Monday so on the 6th. There's a short
6 turnaround, but that is a sort of streamlined hiring
7 process for the Federal government or the Park Service
8 can use for people in -- who have spent at least one
9 year in anyone of 24 communities which is basically all
10 of the Bristol Bay regions. So Dillingham, Port
11 Alsworth, all the way down to Port Heiden. If you know
12 of anyone who has some budget analyst skills I can -- I
13 have the announcement on my phone, but our hiring
14 person asked if I would share that. So it's we try and
15 hire locally.

16
17 We also had a -- earlier we had a
18 maintenance position with the same hiring authority.
19 It's just an easier process than the usual U.S.A. jobs
20 lengthy process. So if you know of anyone who has some
21 budgetary background we would -- always looking for
22 local folks to fill the position. So I was just asked
23 to announce that to you as well.

24
25 So with that I will take any questions
26 that you might have.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

29
30 MR. HILL: Liza, I'm sorry I missed the
31 SRC meeting, but and wondered if you might have covered
32 the -- it's at Katmai National and there was a study on
33 the invasive plants. Have you -- has the Lake Clark
34 National Park, are they doing anything like that?

35
36 MS. RUPP: Through the Chair. I -- we
37 have been looking for elodea, that is one definite
38 which is the water -- invasive water plant that they
39 had at Lake Hood that sea planes tend -- you know,
40 floatplanes tend or can bring in. We did look for that
41 again this year and did not find any which is very --
42 we're all very happy about that. I'm not sure about
43 other invasive plants. I don't think we've done any
44 other studies, elodea was the one that we really
45 focused on this year.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair, I

50

1 just want to -- Liza, I think I've heard some of these
2 recruitment -- job recruitment announcements even over
3 here. And it sure kind of made me feel good to hear
4 that you are looking for qualified folks locally. I
5 think I heard that maintenance once actually. I can
6 think of a couple people that might have applied, but
7 thank you for that, that's nice.

8

9

Bye.

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
other questions.

13

14

(No comments)

15

16

17

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, thank
you.

18

19

MS. RUPP: Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21

22

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Back to
our agenda. And I better accommodate BBNC, I skipped
them. I have to live with him so.....

23

24

25

(Laughter)

26

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34

MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Madame Chair,
thank you. I didn't realize that we were going to be
on the agenda until a few days ago so I never had a
chance to really with the staff and BBNC. For the
record I am with BBNC Board, I've been Chair since 2009
and been on the Board for 27 plus years. Got reelected
on the Board for another three year term this year.

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But just for the I guess information
BBNC and its -- I have an extra copy here if somebody
wants it, we got into Katmai Land as of May 31, 2016.
And then this piece of announcement came through Alaska
Business Magazine and it goes something like this.
Bristol Bay Native Corporation and this is like in May
31, 2016, finalized the purchase of the Katmai Land and
its associated assets, operations, locations in
Anchorage and King Salmon, Alaska, as well as within
Katmai National Park. The acquisition's effective
immediately and includes the Brooks Lodge, Grosvenor
Lodge, concessions and Katmai Land National Park and
Kulik Lodge and Nonvianuk Lake.

Case Metrokin, president and chief

1 executive officer of BBNC issued the following
2 statement. BBNC's excited about its acquisition of
3 Katmai Land. The lodges are incredible in incredible
4 locations, they're in the heart of Bristol Bay and were
5 critical -- and are critically important to the
6 ancestry and history of many of our shareholders. BBNC
7 has been interested in acquiring this historic
8 properties for many years. The lodges and operations
9 will be significant additions to BBNC's tourism
10 operations and can offer additional opportunities for
11 local and shareholder employment.

12
13 BBNC does not plan on any immediate
14 changes to the operations at the lodges. Sonny
15 Peterson, the previous owner and the son of Ray
16 Peterson who established the original Anglers Paradise
17 Lodges in 1950 will stay on to manage the operations.

18
19 Investing within the Bristol Bay region
20 has been a priority for BBNC over the last several
21 years. This acquisition will further position BBNC as
22 a premier operator within the Bristol Bay and Alaska
23 tourism sector. BBNC acquired Mission Lodge located on
24 Charter Lake -- Lake Aleknagik near the confluence with
25 the Wood River in 2012.

26
27 And then a little bit about BBNC for
28 the record. Bristol Bay Native Corporation is a
29 responsible Alaska Native investment corporation
30 dedicated to the mission of enriching our Native way of
31 life, establish your Alaska Native Land Claims of 1971.
32 BBNC works to protect the land in Bristol Bay,
33 celebrate the legacy of its people and enhance the
34 lives of its shareholders.

35
36 And about Katmai Land, Inc. Katmai
37 Land, Inc. was established in 1982 by -- must have been
38 -- that might be a -- probably so, 1982 by Ray Peterson
39 and his son, Raymond Sonny Peterson, in order to
40 acquire and operate the Brooks, Grosvenor and Kulik
41 Lodges in Katmai National Park. The lodge operations
42 were founded by the elder Peterson's airline in order
43 to consolidate its airlines later with Alaska Airlines
44 in 1950. The Alaska Air -- the airline has operated
45 the lodges until 1982 when they were acquired by the
46 Peterson Katmai Land, Inc. And you can learn more
47 about this through our stuff.

48
49 But I guess the reason why we're here
50

1 today is BBNC is going to be probably more of a player
2 in some of the discussions of utilizing sportfishing
3 industry and salmon and whatnot within that area. And
4 I had the opportunity and privilege to visit there last
5 September. And it was kind of an eye-opener. I've
6 never been over to that side of our Bristol Bay. And I
7 didn't realize how big them lakes are, you know,
8 they're -- of course Naknek Lake system and then of
9 course and also the Aleknagik Lake system. I was very
10 surprised and it's beautiful.

11
12 But anyway I guess just as a point of
13 information we'll be interested in what regulations and
14 whatnot come out of the Federal Subsistence Board and
15 then how you folks act on it in the future. So I'm
16 just here just to -- for information.

17
18 I don't have any answers to any
19 questions.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

26
27 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 Since the BBNC acquisition of Katmai Land, our Chair,
29 Ms. Chythlook, requested that, you know, BBNC bring a
30 representative to our meetings to give the Council an
31 update on what they do. And I've been working with
32 BBNC and Joe and Ms. Chythlook trying to get the
33 representative from BBNC to come and address this
34 Council. And I was contacted by one of your staff in
35 Anchorage at the last minute so and I suggested that
36 this Council write a correspondence to BBNC and invite
37 them officially to our next meeting. So that way they
38 can have it on their calendar and we'll have a time
39 certain for them to be on the agenda. And that way
40 we'll have all the details necessary for this Council
41 to be familiar with the operation.

42
43 And I want to thank the CEO, Mr. Joe
44 Chythlook, for helping me stay in contact and Ms.
45 Chythlook, and we look forward to a presentation from
46 BBNC.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. CHYTHLOOK: That's all I have
2 folks, thank you for having me.

3
4 Thank you, Madame Chair.
5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: I just had a little idea
7 here is maybe BBNC could host a meeting at one of those
8 places and then we'd be happy to get very well informed
9 on them. I've had the pleasure of attending a fly
10 fishing academy at Kulik Lodge and.....

11
12 MR. CHYTHLOOK: We don't operate for
13 free either.

14
15 (Laughter)
16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: So anyway, thank you,
18 Joe.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
21

22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Joe, and I --
23 this isn't a question. So just a comment because I --
24 it just occurred to me I hadn't stated it on record
25 before, but as a resident of the area, subsistence user
26 and somebody's who deeply involved in the sport fishing
27 industry in the area, I was incredibly pleased to see
28 BBNC pick up those lodges because they have huge
29 ancestral value to this area on the other side. I can --
30 my biggest fear would probably be to have a -- I don't
31 know, for lack of better terminology, somebody from
32 Princess Lines come in there and acquire something like
33 that and totally disregard everything that means so
34 much to people.

35
36 So just -- you've got an awful lot of
37 support through me and the people that I work closely
38 with. So we thank BBNC for doing that.
39

40 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I guess I just
41 wanted to say I appreciate your work with us and know
42 prior program since we got our Mission Lodge has been
43 work with young people and trying to get them involved
44 in sportfish industry and also participate in sportfish
45 through joint programs with some of the lodges. And
46 Nanci and others have worked with the Mission Lodge and
47 we hope to develop that close relationship and get our
48 young people, some of them like we saw here today, more
49 involved in utilizing that sector of I guess our
50

1 enjoyment that we can have and getting some of our fish
2 in that area. So you'll be hearing more from us.

3
4 I think the best way to get ahold of us
5 would be just to get Katmai Land and we do have a
6 manager, his name's John, and he's the one that's
7 responsible for both Mission Lodge and also Katmai Land
8 as a manager. So work with him and then I'm sure we'll
9 get some topnotch information in the future and help
10 where we can.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

15
16 MR. HILL: Joe, I talked to you about
17 and follow-up on what Nanci was talking about. I was
18 really pleased to see that the report or the
19 presentation highlighted one of the local young ladies
20 or ladies at this lodge representing our local Native
21 culture and giving presentations and even songs. I was
22 really pleased to see that.

23
24 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, we have -- we had
25 a hiree that worked right there at the Katmai Land, I
26 guess the air taxi place where folks and our clients
27 come in and she did a real good job for us. Very
28 pleasant lady, a local lady and we're hoping that she
29 will remain with us. And her mission was to before the
30 folks went out to the land to inform them how important
31 this land is to our shareholders and our people who
32 live in the land for many years. And the folks that
33 really -- that are there really appreciate it. And I
34 noticed when I was there that there's a little radio
35 playing all the time, explaining what it's all about
36 and a real form of education before the people went out
37 and visited our area of interest there. So we'll
38 continue to do that.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

43
44 MR. MAINES: I'm going to give my
45 coodos also, Joe. I've done it at the shareholder
46 informational meetings and stuff like that. It's
47 really nice to see our regional corporation, our for
48 profit corporation, actually investing in the region
49 where it came from.

50

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.

2
3 MR. MAINES: And at the same time offer
4 the opportunity of like a fly fishing academy for young
5 people in our area to learn a little skill in a area
6 that could benefit them in the future. And I know that
7 lodges in the area who have hired some of those
8 students appreciate the work that they provide.
9 Because I at one time or another was a guide at one of
10 the lodges on the river and stuff like that. And for
11 folks that are not familiar with the area coming into
12 the area want to know a little bit more about what's
13 going on rather than just doing the fishing too. So
14 when you can add a little local color to it it makes it
15 even better.

16
17 So I appreciate BBNC on that and I
18 encourage BBNC to continue what they've started and not
19 to stop midstream and forgot all about it. So thank
20 you and also for the work that the corporation has done
21 in supporting local activities that promote the
22 preservation and protection of our natural resources.

23
24 So thanks, Joe.

25
26 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Billy. And,
27 you know, I've never fly fished before, but when we're
28 at the Kulik Lodge there just before sunset, Everett
29 Anderson and I went and I got the bigger rainbow than
30 he did.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. CHYTHLOOK: So I -- for an old guy
35 I'm pretty proud of myself.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 Donald indicated it might be good to make a motion that
43 we formally invite BBNC to speak at future meetings and
44 that we keep them informed of meeting schedules and so
45 on. So I'd like to make that motion.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan's

50

1 made a motion to get BBNC involved and probably write
2 that letter that Donald suggested.

3

4

5 MR. MAINES: I'll second the motion.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by
8 Billy Maines.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Question.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Question's
13 been called. All in favor say aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
18 opposition.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks,
23 Victor. I think I heard you. Okay.

24

25 MR. SEYBERT: Thank you. Yeah, it's
26 Victor. I said I vote aye.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Moving
29 on. We're down to Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

30

31 Andy.

32

33 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
34 Council members. My name's Andy Aderman, wildlife
35 biologist with the Togiak Refuge. And next to me is
36 Pat Walsh, the supervisory biologist for the Refuge.
37 Our report begins on page 188 in your books. I'm just
38 going to jump right down to the last section there on
39 page 188. I gave you most of the information yesterday
40 when discussing the proposal that dealt with the
41 Nushagak Peninsula.

42

43 I've just got I guess an update, that
44 very last sentence. As of November 2nd -- it should
45 read as of November 2nd, 2017 a total of 11 caribou.
46 And that would be 10 bulls and one cow have been
47 reported. And then the information is the parentheses
48 would be seven by Federal permit and four by State
49 permit.

50

1 The other piece of information that I
2 have concerning the Nushagak Peninsula herd was a
3 composition survey that we did on October 13th. We
4 looked at a little over 400 animals and came up with
5 the estimate of about 42 calves per 100 cows and 30
6 bulls per 100 cows. The calf to cow ratio was just
7 slightly above what it was last year. However the bull
8 to cow ratio dropped from 50, 51 bulls per 100 cows
9 that we estimated last year. I think most of that is
10 due to the harvest. If you look at the first sentence
11 in that paragraph on Nushagak Peninsula caribou we had
12 189 bulls, a little over half of the harvest was that
13 bull component.

14
15 On the next page 189, with moose. So
16 we've been involved with this idea of trying to get a
17 handle on our moose population especially with the poor
18 winters that we've experienced in the not too distant
19 pass, no snow or partial snow. And to that end we've
20 conducted three moose surveys here in the last year.
21 One -- the first one was last October with no snow. We
22 did it again in March with pretty much complete snow
23 and then again here just a week and a half ago with
24 pretty much bare snow. We had a little bit more snow
25 on the mountaintops and that. And this was a Refuge
26 wide survey in each case. And I give the results from
27 the October one there where we estimated about 2,600
28 moose in that.

29
30 But we also did what's called
31 sightability trials using our radio collared moose out
32 there. And so I was testing the survey crews on
33 whether or not they found a collared moose or the group
34 that had the collared moose. And from that you can
35 develop a correction factor which for the October
36 survey was 1.375. That suggests for every 100 moose
37 that we're counted there was actually 137 or 138 moose
38 there.

39
40 We did the same thing in March. The
41 uncorrected estimate was three -- just a little over
42 3,000. The sightability correction factor was 1.2. So
43 they saw more of the collared moose probably because of
44 complete snow cover. And so we can apply those
45 correction factors to those estimates and we come up
46 with about 3,500 moose for the October survey last year
47 and -- I lost my thought here, 3,685 for the March.

48
49 The preliminary results from this
50

1 latest survey a week and a half ago was just under
2 2,400 moose. The sightability correction factor was
3 1.409. Pretty close to what it was last year. And
4 that gives an overall estimate for the Refuge of 3,300
5 moose. So pretty much in the ball park.

6
7 I will say that the March survey we had
8 two units and these are fairly small units, they're
9 about six and a half to seven square miles. And we had
10 two of those units that had over 110 moose each. And
11 when you add that in with all the other units it kinds
12 of biases high. And so really that estimate should be --
13 if you just kind of take those two units out and set
14 them aside and run the analysis it would lower that
15 corrected population by about 200.

16
17 So we're feeling pretty good at this
18 point we can get a reasonable estimate of our moose
19 population in the absence of snow. And a lot of that's
20 due just because of the type of habitats that we have.
21 We have a lot of tundra, open shrub habitat and not a
22 lot of spruce.

23
24 So another something that we did this --
25 in this last survey based on some information that we
26 got from last October was we kept track of brown bears
27 that we seen while we were tracking moose. We didn't
28 put in additional effort to look for brown bears, you
29 know, some of the units are in the mountains and you're
30 probably not going to look for moose up on the
31 mountaintop. And so we didn't go up there and look for
32 bears so some of the units it's -- we're -- there were
33 probably bears in there, but we didn't put that effort
34 in. We did it like we do it for moose and that was so
35 as not to bias the effort on the moose survey.

36
37 And Pat may want to add a little bit
38 more on the bear component on that.

39
40 MR. WALSH: Yeah, I can mention that.
41 I want to summarize one thing that Andy said which is
42 change in climate's forcing us to change our ways of
43 doing business. And we're finding that we're able to
44 accomplish our mission under these conditions and no
45 snow. So what Andy reported is really positive to us.

46
47 This bear story that he's starting to
48 tell is a side benefit that we weren't really
49 expecting. And we've been interested in reassessing
50

1 our bear population for a few years now. We did one
2 rigorous bear survey in 2004 and estimated some eight
3 or 900 total brown bears for all of Togiak Refuge.
4 Since then we haven't done any other surveys, but we've
5 been getting reports from local residents, air taxi
6 operators, guides, other people that the bear
7 population is down. Since 2004 there have been a
8 number of regulation changes designed to increase the
9 harvest and those things worked. Our harvest back then
10 was around five to 15 bears per year, in recent years
11 it's 30 to 50 bears per year. So the harvest has gone
12 just linerally [sic] up. Bears are long lived species,
13 they live 25, 30 years, they have low reproductive
14 potential so ultimately you reach a point that high
15 harvest is going to drive numbers down.

16
17 So we have been racking our brain with
18 trying to figure out a way to reassess this bear
19 population and we did not want to use the method we
20 used 15 years ago. That cost us \$200,000 to do that
21 survey and we just don't see the way of getting that
22 kind of money now. And so encountering these bears
23 that Andy mentioned last year in October, a time that
24 we would not normally be doing it, got us to thinking
25 maybe we can use this time of year to count bears. So
26 we spent most of last year designing a formal study to
27 incorporate in Andy's bear survey this year. We worked
28 with biometricians, developed a study plan, got it peer
29 reviewed by two other biometricians from outside our
30 agency, it passed that peer review. We've conducted
31 the survey in concert with this moose survey. We saw
32 more than a hundred bears during the course of that
33 survey so the data came in. And so now we're going to
34 analyze the data and see whether we really have another
35 way of assessing a bear population that can be done
36 simultaneous with what we're already doing and not
37 having to spend another huge amount of money to do it.

38
39 So we'll keep you posted on that.

40
41 MR. ADERMAN: One other benefit of this
42 -- doing the surveys in October is we were able to get
43 some composition information on the moose. So I
44 totaled up the moose that were observed across all the
45 surveys and it worked out to a ration of 70 bulls per
46 100 cows and 24 calves per 100 cows.

47
48 I suspect that the bull cow or the bull
49 to cow ratio is biased high because as you know it's a
50

1 lot easier to see them big bulls anyways with antlers
2 than it is a cow or a cow with calves. And there's
3 lots of other factors besides antlers, but snow or no
4 snow, standing, lying down. From our sightability
5 trials I don't think anybody missed a collared moose if
6 it was with a large antlered bull. I think there was
7 maybe one or two moose that were missed that might have
8 had a small bull, a small antlered bull present with
9 them. And so the -- I think that ratio might be biased
10 a little bit high and thus the number of calves
11 probably is biased low a little bit too because those
12 are typically the ones that are missed. Usually the
13 cows with calves are not hanging out in the larger
14 groups, they're off by themselves.

15
16 MR. WALSH: Yeah, I'll mention one
17 other project that we're doing that might be of
18 interest to this Council and that is we are interested
19 in the -- quantifying bear and wolf predation on moose.
20 Right now we've got a growing moose population, it's
21 doing very well and each time we count it there's more.
22 But that's not going to take place forever. We
23 probably have a growing wolf population as well that's
24 growing in concert with this moose population and we
25 don't really know what's happening with bears, but
26 we're interested in -- really in tracking all three
27 species. But in particular we want to understand the
28 predation affects of bears and wolves on moose.

29
30 And so to that end we have -- we
31 started a study about three years ago. We're partway
32 through it. The study requires population information
33 on bears and wolves so we're doing that through a
34 combination of radiotelemetry on wolves and this
35 project I just mentioned on bears and using other
36 information we had and gathering diet information from
37 both species. And we will ultimately model the diet
38 information that we get and estimate the predation
39 affects and see which species is responsible for the
40 greatest amount of predation on moose.

41
42 And we're also doing this under various
43 moose population regimes. And when I say regimes,
44 we've got areas like was mentioned yesterday. The area
45 around Manokotak, where our moose population is not
46 growing, may be going down, but it's not doing the same
47 that it's doing in the Togiak valley where it's been
48 growing rapidly for a number of years, but that growth
49 has slowed some. And then when you go to the Goodnews
50

1 drainage further to the west, the moose population's
2 really jumping through the roof there. So there's a
3 lot of differences from east to west across the Refuge
4 and when you get up to the Orolick (ph)and Kanektok
5 drainages, the population's just trying to get
6 established there. It's -- moose are not doing as well
7 there as they are elsewhere.

8
9 So we're going to try to understand
10 bear and wolf predation on moose under these four
11 different population size and trajectories of moose.

12
13 That's all I've got.

14
15 MR. ADERMAN: I have just one last
16 thing and this kind of goes in the realm of education
17 and outreach that didn't make it into our report. But
18 the Refuge this year was involved with hunter ed
19 classes in some of the local schools up at Aleknagik
20 and over at Manokotak and one in Quinhagak. And these
21 were done by Refuge staff that have gone through the
22 hunter ed training along with some of the A -- ADF&G
23 runs the hunter ed program and there was involvement by
24 them, but Southwest region school is bought into it.
25 And so the plan is to try to get around to some of the
26 other schools this year. And I think Manokotak is on
27 the list again, but try to hit as many of the schools.
28 Oh, we also had kids from Twin Hills. They actually
29 did the -- did their own course online over there, but
30 they came over to Dillingham for the range portion of
31 it. But the idea is to, you know, try to hit as many
32 of these local schools including Dillingham and, you
33 know, can't do them all every year or every other year,
34 but we look forward to continuing that anyways.

35
36 That's all I had.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

39
40 MR. HILL: Yes. Pat, this is in
41 reference to the bears. When you did your observation
42 along with the moose, but when you saw the bears did --
43 was there a particular size of bears that were more
44 evident than others? I'll explain. In our area
45 several years ago we had a real cold winter with no
46 snow. And we feel like a lot of the bears died in
47 their dens because there's no cover. So now we have a
48 lot of smaller bears, you know, younger bears more than
49 we had the huge -- the boars. I was curious to -- I

50

1 know it's hard to tell between a male and female when
2 they're by themselves, but if you have any idea.

3
4 MR. WALSH: We'[re in the early stages
5 of analyzing those data, but my guess is what you're
6 reporting these data are going to bring out. I think
7 we saw a higher proportion of cubs in all cub age
8 classes, from cubs of the year up to three year old
9 cubs than we saw 15 years ago when we last did it. But
10 I can't take this too far now because this is really
11 preliminary, but we've heard anecdotally the same thing
12 you're reporting and my impression is that's what these
13 data are going to bear out.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, thank you for this.
18 And this is kind of an exciting development because I
19 know all of the Alaska Peninsula's been just confounded
20 with being able to count moose and I think they've
21 tried hard to count bears as well. And if I remember
22 right this is a little bit of a pioneer study that
23 you're hoping that could be shared with other areas.
24 And that's wonderful, we can get a handle on -- better
25 handle on moose in areas without snow.

26
27 I'm just kind of curious.

28
29 You have to get collars out so this new
30 system is possibly slightly more expensive or a lot
31 more expensive or maybe you could speak to that.

32
33 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, putting collars out
34 is pretty expensive. There are other ways to estimate
35 sightability by, you know, double observer counts and
36 there's -- one of the Refuges in the Northern part of
37 the State has been doing that. That helps you correct
38 the estimate, but there are still moose that no matter
39 how hard you fly or how much you fly, you're never
40 going to see. So, you know, having a radio collar, you
41 know, there that you can back and actually find
42 eliminates that.

43
44 So I'd be remiss in saying that, yeah,
45 the -- this moose survey project was funded by the
46 Western Alaska LCC and, you know, the intention was is
47 to try and get information on our moose populations in
48 the absence of the snow. Because that might be what
49 we're facing here for a long while and there's a lot of

50

1 places in the State over the last few years that
2 haven't conducted moose surveys because they didn't
3 have any snow.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: 1980s, mid
6 1980s to early 1990s when I was working for Subsistence
7 Division we were -- I was doing some baseline surveys
8 up in the Nushagak villages and at that time the black
9 bears were preferred, you know, eating -- for eating in
10 the spring. And then what was it, about four or five
11 years ago we were experiencing a fire. So we'd see
12 presence of black bear up in the lake system. So do
13 you see very much black bears in the area?

14
15 MR. ADERMAN: I haven't seen that many
16 black bears. I've been here 23 years. I don't do as
17 much flying as I have in the past, but I think I could
18 probably count on both hands the number of black bears
19 I've seen and most of those were in the northern part
20 of the Refuge, just up -- just west of Togiak, upper
21 Togiak Lake. And I suspect some of them were the same
22 bears I seen on multiple occasions. But I've heard
23 from others that other people have been seeing a few
24 more black bears around this year, locally here around
25 Dillingham.

26
27 So that's all I know.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Moving
30 down to Alaska Peninsula, Becharof.

31
32 MS. ALEXANDER: Good afternoon, Madame
33 Chair, members of the Council. Susan Alexander, Refuge
34 manager, Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National
35 Wildlife Refuges. I want to just give you a couple of
36 highlights and updates. If you would like a more
37 comprehensive view at what we've done over the last
38 year, our written reports starts on page 193.

39
40 And I wanted to start out and Dan just
41 said it for me, thanking Togiak for the work that
42 they're doing in relation to moose sightability with no
43 snow because four years ago I came to visit you all for
44 the first time and said we haven't been able to count
45 moose because we don't have enough snow. And four
46 years later we still haven't been able to count moose
47 because we don't have enough snow. So I'm really
48 grateful that they're working on that. We've been
49 sending our pilot and an aircraft over to try to help

50

1 them out with the survey because it's pretty labor
2 intensive. And we obviously stand to benefit from
3 that.

4
5 And I'm also -- this is the first I had
6 heard about the bear work that they're trying to kind
7 of piggyback and that's pretty exciting too because
8 nothing has been done with bears on our Refuges for a
9 long time. And that was one of the -- before I even
10 took this job I talked to the former manager and said
11 you're not doing anything with bears and so that's been
12 a big gap that I've seen in what we're keeping tabs on.
13 So maybe we can benefit from that too.

14
15 I wanted to on the big mammal front
16 also give you an update on the caribou hunts. The
17 Federal hunt in 9C remainder and 9E for which I'm the
18 in season manager. Going back to last year the harvest
19 for 16 and 17 -- excuse me, the Federal subsistence
20 hunt harvest was six animals out of 15 permits and I
21 understand from Fish and Game that the State tier two
22 harvest was 80 out of 200 permits.

23
24 For the 2017/18 hunt, we have given out
25 the permits for those hunts, we did the draw, it was --
26 you know, it was a random draw permit. And our
27 participation in 9E was not what we had hoped for. And
28 I wanted -- we had this same conversation with the
29 Aniakchak SRC. I wanted to see if the RAC had any
30 suggestions for us in terms of our outreach. The one
31 thing that we changed this year is with the season
32 starting date for both units being August 10th. It's a
33 little awkward with commercial fishing season. And for
34 16 and 17 we did it kind of after commercial fishing
35 was winding down, but that ended up with the
36 applications having to go out in July which is not --
37 you know, it's not winding down at that point. We
38 actually did the draw in early August.

39
40 And so we were afraid that because we
41 had to back up a bit from the beginning of the hunt we
42 ended up being right in the middle of fishing so this
43 time we tried to go earlier. And we did our -- well,
44 we kind of -- the first piece of it was the notice of
45 the public hearing which was April 7th and then going
46 through notifications to tribes and villages and the
47 actual draw was May 17th. So kind of between early
48 April and mid May was when we were getting the word out
49 and doing public hearings and then finally doing the

50

1 drawing. And our turnout for 9E was much worse. And
2 so if you all have any suggestions, the one that we're
3 definitely going to implement that we got the SRC is
4 that we contacted the villages by email a couple times,
5 but we didn't send any paper flyers and they
6 recommended that we actually send paper copies because
7 it's easier for somebody to just take it and stick it
8 on the bulletin board than it is for someone to have to
9 print out an email or get it to -- you know, to
10 distribute it that way.

11
12 So I wanted to put it to your group and
13 ask if you have any other suggestions for us in terms
14 of timing or outreach to get that word out to the
15 villages down in 9E better than we apparently did this
16 year.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair.
21 Thanks, Susan. Is it they're not applying for the
22 permits or you just -- they're not -- they're not --
23 they're getting the permits, but not the animal.

24
25 MS. ALEXANDER: They're not applying
26 for the permits. We had no applications from 9E this
27 year. And last year we had -- I don't remember the
28 exact number, but it was -- we were giving out 10
29 permits and I believe we had at least 20 applicants so
30 there was definitely a draw in 9E last year. There was
31 some competition for the permits and this year no one
32 applied. And so obviously something slipped there.
33 And basically our outreach other than the timing was
34 exactly the same except I think we did one additional
35 reminder email or something. We did one additional
36 piece this year that we hadn't done last year. So we
37 did a little more and got nothing. And that's
38 obviously concerning.

39
40 MR. WILSON: I've heard that the
41 movement of the caribou is shifted, I mean, there's --
42 they're not moving as, you know, like standard times.
43 I mean, you know, they're different and that's been
44 some of the difficulty in, you know, in scoring on
45 caribou. I know that's been a factor down there.

46
47 MS. ALEXANDER: That's my understanding
48 as well. And from talking to Fish and Game who are the
49 ones doing the surveys they're not tending to group up

50

1 as much, they're more disbursed. I know they are still
2 congregating somewhere around Point Heiden and most of
3 the animals taken in 9E in the previous season we're
4 near Port Heiden.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
9 Madame Chair. Maybe -- it might be a little bit
10 unconventional, but one of the first things that you
11 might want to consider doing is reaching out to
12 everybody who did reach out in previous years directly
13 instead of trying to go public because sometimes just --
14 I mean, it relates directly to what you said when
15 you're trying to put the message out there in the
16 middle of fishing season it's not going to get across
17 because they ain't there to listen to it. But if you
18 reach into their computer and say, hey, the hunt's
19 open. If you, your family or friends are interested
20 please have your application in by such and such a date
21 you will get to them.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm okay with what
26 Nanci's saying and may -- I might need to be careful,
27 but I know I was impressed this summer how much
28 response the KDLG had to some night call in programs
29 from all over the east side. And if you haven't used
30 KAKN and KDLG and if that is an acceptable way I would
31 encourage you to think about because I know we've got
32 some regular open line listeners from Naknek call in
33 almost every day. And then I think people in Egegik
34 and farther down and this is where Victor might also be
35 able to speak up, you just might, you know, bump them
36 enough to remind them to apply.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Victor,
41 do you have any suggestions, comment.

42

43 MR. SEYBERT: No, not -- no, I don't
44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

47

48 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you. We did
49 actually do -- oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

50

1
2 MR. MAINES: I was going to ask how do
3 you get them out right now.
4

5 MS. ALEXANDER: What we have been doing
6 is trying to contact the tribes and villages by email.
7 And sometimes it's challenging keeping that email
8 address list current as rolls change on the village
9 councils and the corporations. But we do our best to
10 try to keep that current and that I think -- that's the
11 one thing we're definitely going to change is that we
12 will add mailing something just by regular mail on
13 paper. We put it on our Facebook page. We did do a
14 KDLG interview about the hunt, but I think maybe just
15 calling into open line and saying, hey, everybody
16 remember this is open, closing date is so and so, just
17 to get it out there repeatedly rather than just the one
18 big interview. And then we post flyers around locally
19 in the King Salmon/Naknek area that we have access to.
20 Of course that hits 9C and not 9E.
21

22 So that's -- those are the major pieces
23 of what we've been doing.
24

25 And one other thing on -- we're
26 considering, but haven't done yet which kind of I think
27 gets to your suggestion, Nanci, which was we have to be
28 careful about contacting individuals specifically
29 because then it could appear that we're favoring them
30 and because it's a draw hunt. But we thought about
31 possibly through our Facebook page trying to set up a
32 mailing list where if somebody wanted to be notified
33 they could sign up for the mailing list. And then that
34 would be something we could just maintain from year to
35 year and if people are interested they could get on it
36 and then they would get a notice directly.
37

38 So that is one thing that would kind of
39 get what you were thinking.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.
42

43 MR. MAINES: The reason why I was
44 asking is that I know that with our folks here the
45 rangers just bring it over to our tribal office and
46 drop them off. And if they're in town great, if
47 they're not then they -- you mail them, right, Andy,
48 you mail them to the village councils?
49
50

1 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, for -- some of them
2 I mail, I try to visit with them -- like I'll go over
3 to Manokotak and usually if they have a new person
4 that's going to be the permit person and kind of walk
5 them through, you know, a couple different scenarios on
6 how to fill them out and stuff because they're the ones
7 that are doing the work, you know, like Chris is.....

8

9

MR. MAINES: Right.

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MR. ADERMAN:here and he -- I
don't have to worry about Chris, he's been doing it for
the last three or four years. Same thing up at
Aleknagik, but some of them I can mail out if I know
the people there have done it in the past.

MR. MAINES: And we're not talking that
many villages, I mean, as far as 9E goes. And when
we're talking about partnerships, you know, Bristol Bay
-- BBNA's got folks that travel up and down the coast,
you know, for different programs and stuff like that.
Lake and Peninsula Borough has people, Lake and Pen
School District has people. You know, they -- at one
time or another they even had a charter plane that they
allowed folks to fly on with them when they were going
up and down. So it seems like with that many resources
available you should be able to find somebody in each
one of those villages to at least maybe stop in and see
you and take a little training course on filling out
the applications and handing out the tickets and stuff
like that. You know, it's nice to hear that you have a
Facebook and you're trying to do what you can, but
there are other resources in your neighborhood that
might be able to help you in that endeavor any how.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you. I hadn't
thought about reaching out to folks like BBNA and Lake
and Pen so we will definitely do that and see if they
can help us. We do do village visits, but it's
virtually impossible for us to visit every village in
the right time frame to be able to give people dates
for when they are going to be able to apply. And so
other folks who are going up and down the peninsula
helping us out would be great.

Thank you. That's a great idea.

MS. MORRIS LYON: A quick thought,
Lary, and that's the other one place that everybody

1 goes. If you could even -- and I'm sure there's some
2 Federal rule against it, but if you could get somebody
3 to post it in the post offices for you, the local
4 people will see it there too. That's the other place
5 they're going to have their eyes open.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

8
9 MR. HILL: Yes, on these applications
10 for those permits, when you receive the permit if that
11 ticket has been filled is there a place there where you
12 then acknowledge that you've received the actual
13 application and/or if the permits been filled.

14
15 MR. MIKE: Victor, are you still with
16 us?

17
18 Madame Chair, maybe we could
19 acknowledge our student and attendance at the Council
20 meeting.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You want to
23 come to the chair and introduce yourself. You've been
24 patiently sitting there observing and I even saw you
25 taking notes so I'm very proud of you. So introduce
26 yourself and what grade you are and where you're from.

27
28 MR. GOLIA: Hi, I'm Vernie Golia and
29 I'm in 11th grade and I'm from Dillingham, Alaska.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Then
32 what have you observed or learned so far?

33
34 MR. GOLIA: That this meeting is
35 important to all of us.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: For
38 subsistence users like you.

39
40 MR. GOLIA: Yes.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

43
44 MR. GOLIA: You're welcome.

45
46 (Applause)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

49
50

1 Continue.

2

3 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. I think I'm
4 understanding your question, if I don't answer it
5 please let me know and I'll take another shot.

6

7 The way we handle the application
8 process, especially since it's a fairly small hunt, low
9 number of permits, we try to keep it as simple as
10 possible. All we ask for initially is name, village of
11 residence and a contact phone number. And then if
12 someone wins the draw and is awarded the permit then
13 obviously we have to get more information from them,
14 their hunting license number and everything required to
15 issue them the permit. And so for residents of 9C a
16 lot of folks just come in, we keep a sign up on our
17 front desk at our office, a lot of people just come in
18 and do it there or other folks in 9C and obviously
19 residents of 9E who cannot walk in can submit that
20 either by email or by telephone. So they're either
21 speaking directly to someone who's confirming, yes, I'm
22 taking your information down or we will reply to their
23 email and say got it, thanks. So they do get a
24 confirmation back that we have their information.

25

26 MR. HILL: Okay. That -- yes, but is
27 there a space on the application where you -- I know
28 you don't -- I know you don't want to be accused of
29 showing favoritism, but a little box there would you
30 like to be -- would you like to reapply at the next
31 opening if you're not successful the first time.

32

33 MS. ALEXANDER: Good question, thank
34 you. I -- we would have to consult with our colleagues
35 and OSM and make sure that that's something that we
36 could legally do, but if nothing else we -- I'm sure we
37 could ask them if they want to be included on our
38 mailing list where they'd at least be notified that
39 they could -- it was time to apply. And maybe there
40 would be a way that they could say, you know, just
41 throw my name in again next year, just indefinitely.
42 But I hadn't thought about that.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

47

48 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Yeah, just,
49 you know, building on what Lary's saying, I think

50

1 that's an excellent point because the hunters -- the
2 main hunters in the villages don't change much.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
5 you, Susan.

6
7 MS. ALEXANDER: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you have
10 any -- oh, you have more. Sorry.

11
12 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes. I'm sorry.
13 That's all right, I had -- I appreciate all the input,
14 this is genuinely very helpful because we were
15 distressed to not get any applications for that hunt.

16
17 So I'll move quickly through, I just
18 had a couple of other things I wanted to mention. One
19 other on caribou front, just an FYI. We did process
20 two permits, one a year ago and one just this last late
21 summer for Point Heiden for a cultural education
22 harvest permit for two caribou each. So they have --
23 were able to harvest for their -- the festivals that
24 they've had, they've -- you know, culture camp and
25 sustainable food workshop and whatnot.

26
27 And then just very briefly we -- I hope
28 we'll be able to give you a little bit more on this at
29 the next meeting, but two years ago I think I came to
30 you and explained about how when I first became the
31 manager here it was pretty clear to me that there was
32 some big gaps in our biological program and some things
33 that we were putting attention towards that didn't make
34 much sense to me which our marine program sort of went
35 away when the boat sank. So that might have been just
36 as well. Not that I would have wished for the boat to
37 sink, but I'm not sure why we were pursuing a marine
38 program and ignoring fish and bears and the largest
39 lake in the Refuge system and the -- these lake
40 systems, lake/river systems that contribute huge
41 amounts to the Bristol Bay sockeye fishery and all of
42 that seemed a little out of whack.

43
44 So two years later we now I think he
45 came and introduced himself at the last Naknek meeting,
46 Bill Smith is our new supervisory wildlife biologist in
47 charge of our program. And he is now working to try to
48 readjust our priorities somewhat. And we're not doing
49 a big, super formal process for that, but we did want
50

1 to -- before we made more assumptions about what we
2 should be paying most attention to we wanted to take a
3 little bit of a step back and look at the whole breadth
4 of the environments and the species that occur on the
5 Refuges. And just make sure we weren't overlooking
6 something.

7
8 So we're working through that at this
9 point and obviously subsistence is a big part of that.
10 And we are at a point now where we have a list of about
11 70 species that are floating to the top overall. That
12 list is going to get narrowed down some more and part
13 of that is a little bit more rigorous look at each of
14 those and a ranking. And we feel fairly confident at
15 this point and there's kind of a footnote on that that
16 I'll come to in a minute, that we're getting the right
17 species. It's easier to figure out which species we
18 should be looking at than it is to figure out what
19 questions we should be asking about those species.

20
21 And so what we're planing to do, Bill
22 is -- and I just let Cody and Gayla know this
23 yesterday, that Bill is planning to get in touch with
24 them and ask for some assistance from them just in
25 bouncing what we are trying to develop off of them and
26 getting their thoughts to put a survey out to
27 subsistence users that says all right, here are the
28 species that we're considering looking at, that these
29 are rising to the top as high priority subsistence
30 species. And the footnote is of course if we've left
31 something out we want people to tell us. Or if there's
32 something on there that they think is like why would I
33 care about that, we want them to tell us.

34
35 But the bigger question that we want to
36 ask is that harder one of what about these species
37 should we be looking at, what are your particular
38 concerns about these species. Like maybe the fact that
39 we can't count moose because we don't have any snow or,
40 you know, and to try to start getting at what should we
41 be looking at, what is not being looked at anybody
42 else, what's falling through the cracks, what questions
43 should we be asking to help us make management
44 decisions. Those are the kinds of thing that when we
45 get -- are getting down to a smaller list of species
46 we're going to have to start saying not just we need to
47 pay attention to caribou, but what do we most need to
48 know about caribou. Because they're -- we could spend
49 our entire budget learning anything and everything

50

1 there is to know about caribou which would be
2 wonderful, but then we'd be ignoring everything else.
3 And so to try to really get at the most important
4 questions we want to ask people's input on that.

5
6 So that's just kind of a heads up that
7 we're planning to ask as I said BBNA's assistance with
8 that both for some feedback on the survey itself and
9 also again kind of the outreach of trying to make sure
10 we're being effective and getting the survey into the
11 hands of people who can give us some good information.

12
13 So I guess I'll pause there and just
14 ask if you have questions about that.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

17
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
19 Chair. And thank you, Susan, too. Well, I've got two
20 things. The first one is I sure hope that ptarmigan
21 are on the list because it's definitely something I've
22 seen down south or the lack thereof I should say.

23 And the second comment I would have is
24 I think that -- I think that you're taking an approach
25 that I find wonderfully refreshing. We just -- we
26 haven't had anybody ask for input for that -- from that
27 side for a long time. And I appreciate the recognition
28 and I would encourage you if you can even a pseudo list
29 narrowed by our spring -- by our February meeting, I
30 think that everybody would be open to take a look at it
31 and offer input and advice.

32
33 I think if you start with 70 species
34 here we'll be here another five days because we all
35 would be happy to give you some information on them.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you. That's very
40 good to hear and, yes, ptarmigan are definitely on the
41 list. And we actually because we've been working on
42 this effort ended up skipping year in the ptarmigan
43 surveys that we have been doing. We were doing those
44 every other year on the years we were not doing spring
45 bear. But and will that survey continue in exactly the
46 same format we've been doing it, I don't know, but,
47 yes, ptarmigan are definitely -- they're floating to
48 the top.

49
50

1 Thank you. This is one last quick
2 note, just I always like to share a little bit on our
3 subsistence related outreach and education efforts. We
4 -- I know I've come every year I think and talked about
5 our science camps and I wanted to let everybody know
6 that that -- I think the era of our science camps for
7 the moment has passed. We may come back to them, but
8 the school districts were finding them difficult to
9 support. The expense of getting the kids to Becharof
10 Lake and both Bristol Bay and Lake and Pen let us know --
11 I guess that was last spring that they were no longer
12 going to participate in the science camps. And that
13 instead they're doing these -- like where they're
14 bringing all the kids together in Naknek for this
15 corrections and extensions week where they're doing
16 kind of everything votech and sort of lumped all their
17 travel stuff together into one big effort. And we're
18 going down and doing some of the same science based
19 stuff that we did at science and culture camp for that
20 big week, but it's all kind of at the Bristol Bay
21 school rather than out on Naknek Lake.

22
23 And for the time being I don't see
24 another way for -- you know, I know Togiak does really
25 successful science camps and so I wouldn't say we'll
26 never do them again, but we are definitely still
27 putting a lot of emphasis on getting -- we try to get
28 twice to every village and of course to the Bristol Bay
29 school to do education, science programs. One of those
30 is always based on the migratory bird calendar contest
31 to get the kids writing and doing art to submit to
32 that. And then the other is some topic that our
33 outreach folks pick and develop a program that's a
34 science based program and take that to the schools. So
35 this year we did 18 of those programs in eight schools
36 of course across the two districts. And then we also
37 did six visits with pre-K through fifth grade at the
38 Bristol Bay schools. So we did a little bit more
39 intensive thing with them because of course then we
40 don't have to travel and it's a little easier.

41
42 And the only other quick note that we
43 were very happy about, following up on the video that
44 youth intern Makota Thompson filmed interviewing --
45 doing oral histories related to changes that people
46 have seen in subsistence and I think you all saw it at
47 your last meeting. Our visitors services manager, Sara
48 Griffith and Makota and our BBNA partners took that to
49 the elders and youth conference at AFN this year. So
50

1 we were very happy they were able to do that and share
2 that video.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

5
6 MR. WILSON: Susan, have you looked
7 into Katmai Land as a possible transportation and
8 staging area and the National Park for use of their
9 rangers on your new science camp positioning and
10 helpfulness?

11
12 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes and no. We -- when
13 we did -- we did two science camps in King
14 Salmon/Naknek area, bringing the Lake and Pen kids in.
15 And when we did those we always took the kids out to
16 Brooks camp for a day. And the interpretative staff at
17 Katmai worked with them for the day. And it's possible
18 that we could do something like that again. The
19 transportation issue I think was more than just the
20 funding because we actually provided funding to Lake
21 and Pen for two years to bring the kids in partly
22 because it was much easier for them to spend the money
23 than for the Federal government. Like to spend Federal
24 money on flying and like it's so much easier for them
25 to do it. And so we just did an agreement with them
26 and just handed them the money. And I think they had
27 other difficulties that I'm honestly not sure exactly
28 what they were that prevented them from continuing to
29 do it even though we were funding the flights.

30
31 So I wish I had a better answer for you
32 on that. A lot of people were sad to see those camps
33 not happen anymore. And I definitely would not rule
34 out a science camp sometime in the future, but for the
35 moment we're kind of trying to regroup in our program.
36 We have basically two full-time staff, one of whom mans
37 the King Salmon Visitor's Center. So we've essentially
38 got one person to do all our outreach, visitor service,
39 visitor center, school visits and science camp. And so
40 that person gets stretched a little thin.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard, did
43 you.....

44
45 MR. WILSON: I think the place they
46 were using science camp down on Becharof, the old camp
47 there, I think it was finding that it was not suitable.
48 I think that was one of the problems why, you know,
49 that wasn't able to happen there. That's why I'm

50

1 suggesting perhaps, you know, using, you know, Katmai
2 Land now, as they're, you know, new owners of those
3 camps and maybe they can find a find a time and the
4 personnel to help keep this camp going. I think
5 there's -- I think it's totally possible.

6

7

I just got to believe it.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

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MS. MORRIS LYON: I do have a comment
being actually pretty intimately familiar with those
camps, Grosvenor would be an incredibly ideal location
for a science camp with lots of cultural bases as well
and one that wouldn't financially affect Katmai Land
too much even if it was done in season.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
comments.

(No comments)

MS. ALEXANDER: Well, thank you. I had
-- I realize I didn't quite understand what you were
suggesting the first time and that is a possibility.
It never occurred to me that they would be open to that
and I -- oh, shoot, there were two thoughts there and
one just.....

(Laughter)

MS. ALEXANDER: And I will say, you
know, that since Mark has been at Katmai he and I are
having ongoing discussions about sharing all kinds of
things. And so, you know, maybe that's something we
could add to the list. We're sort of working our way
through a rather long list of things where the Park and
the Refuge are sharing more than we ever have before.

And, yes, I agree with you that the old
bible camp location where we were holding camp, my
husband and I actually just went out and stayed there
for a week in August. And I knew the buildings were
getting a little -- but, yeah, they're -- and actually
we've already reached out to Paul Boskasti and a couple
of other folks that we know have a long history with
that place to let them know that we're going to have to
take down all but -- there's one building that we had
replaced and that new one we leave as an emergency

1 cabin, but we're going to have to find a way to take
2 them down. The bears are turning them into confetti
3 because they're 50 year old plywood that's been sitting
4 out on Becharof Lake. So I think their -- their story
5 has come to an end. You know, I know there was a lot
6 of history in that place, but -- so, yeah, another
7 location might be a whole different situation for the
8 camp.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 Any other questions.

13
14 MR. HILL: It's interesting the
15 subsistence lifestyle was all about sharing and it's --
16 now I'm seeing our NGOs and our government
17 organizations really realizing what subsistence is
18 about, sharing. And you're all sharing people,
19 information, so you're experiencing subsistence on a
20 little different level.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
23 more?

24
25 MS. ALEXANDER: Not from me unless the
26 Council has any more questions for me.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
29 questions?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, let's
34 take a five minute break, stretch, and then get back
35 to our last two sessions and I'm going to time the last
36 two sessions to make sure that they're 15 minutes.

37
38 MR. SEYBERT: Okay.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (On record)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'll call this
45 meeting back to order at 3:25.

46
47 Next one on our agenda is Katmai
48 National Park and Preserve. Fifteen minutes. If we
49 need I'll do some extensions.

50

1 MR. STURM: I'll try not to need that,
2 Madame Chair.

3
4 Thank you. Distinguished Council
5 members, thank you for the opportunity to come and
6 speak with you today. I just wanted to start by
7 acknowledging the important and good addition to our
8 efforts in Katmai to have BBNC working with us in the
9 administration of Brooks Camp and Grosvenor Lodge and
10 Kulik Lodge in the Park. It has been good and it's
11 also been very much a learning experience for a number
12 of us including myself who is very new to the whole
13 concession side of things if you know what I mean. And
14 we look forward to many years of good collaboration
15 going forward.

16
17 I wanted to mention since there's been
18 a lot of talk today about collaboration between
19 agencies and also I guess with other State and local
20 entities that as we sit here today there's also a
21 meeting going on in Anchorage that is discussing the
22 future of the Landscape Conservation Cooperative
23 Program. And I'm not sure if RAC members would be
24 aware of what the LCC is, but it is an important
25 government program that was established probably a
26 decade or so ago. And it's unfortunate that it has
27 been zeroed out in funding, it's no longer continuing
28 to be implemented as it has been.

29
30 Its initial intent was to facilitate
31 interagency collaboration and collaboration with local
32 and regional and NGOs and everybody that has an
33 interest in a particular research topic, to look
34 broadly at those topics and to find efficiencies where
35 they exist. Right now the individuals, you know I'm --
36 I set on a advisory board for the Southwest Alaska LCC.
37 The individuals who sit on those boards and the staff
38 who currently at the moment remain onboard, are just
39 talking about how do we keep our good collaboration
40 going in the absence of this program.

41
42 I just thought it was worth mentioning
43 that the LCC is I guess currently under a lot of
44 pressure to find a way to keep going. And if there is
45 a way to express interest from this Council to continue
46 that type of collaboration it might be worth mentioning
47 someplace.

48
49 The next thing I wanted to talk about
50

1 was a project that we have begun internally to discuss
2 which is the development of a Katmai National Park and
3 Preserve including the Alagnak National Wild River
4 Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan. I
5 mentioned this in February when I was here addressing
6 the Council and the plan is likely to take years to
7 work through. I think we intend to be going public
8 with an informative packet of information and
9 requesting for public input with regard to points of
10 view and perspectives that the public might have with
11 regard to some of the issues we face in Katmai and the
12 Alagnak. Essentially the intent of the plan would be
13 to allow us to have some options for addressing
14 resource related issues that occur in different areas
15 of the Park and Preserve. Those resource related
16 issues can range from I guess unwarranted levels of
17 impacts to localized resources or user conflicts, how
18 do we address those types of things. And so we're
19 beginning a process and I would -- I guess I'm
20 mentioning that we just would hope to have, you know,
21 public comment as we go public with it sometime later
22 this coming spring.

23
24 There's another project that the Park
25 has been working on, it predates my arrival in the Park
26 last year which is the Pike Ridge hunter access
27 project. It is something that the National Park
28 Service has worked to develop a draft environmental
29 planning document around. There has been some updates
30 regarding that project since last I spoke with you. In
31 particular the number of alternatives has shrunk by
32 one. There was as I came onboard an alternative that
33 was proposing to approach the halls of congress in
34 Washington, D.C. to redesignate the purpose of lands
35 that are affected by this particular -- this particular
36 I guess project or access to these areas. And I guess
37 that it does not have I guess a legitimate basis for us
38 to be able to expect that congress will be able to
39 solve our problem for us. We have closely considered
40 whether or not we think it's a realistic possibility
41 and I guess we have dismissed that option.

42
43 What we have also been doing with
44 regard to this project is looking at other alternatives
45 for trying to find resolution. I expect that we'll be
46 going public with our draft environmental assessment
47 sometime this winter. It will have an option to
48 continue the status quo which has some implications
49 that I could talk about at length if needed. Another
50

1 option would be to do a land exchange with, you know,
2 the BLM is a possibility. And a final option would be
3 to use an authority under ANILCA that would allow the
4 Park Service to redesignate the land from a National
5 Park status to a National Preserve status.

6
7 And that -- those three alternatives
8 are likely to be present in that document in some form
9 going forward in winter. The one that's dropped off is
10 trying to ask congress to solve our problems. We just
11 didn't think that given what we see everyday these days
12 from Washington that asking them to help us with our
13 little problem up here was a very good idea.

14
15 So we're hoping to move -- get it up
16 and moving again come this winter.

17
18 Before I move on to other projects does
19 anyone have any questions about the Pike Ridge access
20 project?

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Not so much a question as
25 a comment.

26
27 MR. STURM: Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. WILSON: This issue has come before
30 our village corporation, our village councils here in
31 the past and the staff at Katmai has brought those same
32 scenarios and looking to the communities around the
33 Park and the corporations to help resolve, you know,
34 some of those issues. And the -- there was like A, B,
35 C, what do you want. You know, A is the best, the
36 first option, second and third option. Well, I think
37 you've -- you know, in the past we've given you those
38 options that we as communities or landholders next to
39 the Park, you know, would prefer. So in your -- you
40 know, when you come out with a draft I hope that those
41 -- you know, that those -- when you guys collaborated
42 with those communities and, you know, the landholder
43 next to you, that those were -- those are part of your
44 decision making in that draft.

45
46 Thanks.

47
48 MR. STURM: Thank you very much and
49 indeed they have been.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes. And my comment
4 to add on to that would just be to, if we could,
5 Donald, to have it as a -- or perhaps you could make
6 sure and included it on your report in the spring, for
7 our spring meeting to give us an update on where things
8 stand so we can continue to keep it on the radar. I've
9 been on this Council for a really long time and it's
10 been -- we started with that whole -- with the whole
11 journey down this road a lot of years ago. So it would
12 be nice to see it concluded before I'm no longer on
13 this Council.

14
15 MR. STURM: Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
20 Chair. I'm really glad to hear you're still moving
21 towards resolution. I don't work on that side of the
22 bay much these days, but when I did more it was more it
23 was conversation around town over there. So I really
24 hope that the local folks get to weigh in. It seems
25 like whenever it's Park Service or some even wildlife
26 stuff happens the ultra preservationists from back east
27 get whipped to a fury and they just steamroll the local
28 folks. And yet it's -- the don't have to live with it
29 and the local folks do. So I know the lady just prior
30 to you being here made a strong resolution to this
31 group to do everything she could to fix it. Sounds
32 like it's still moving forward and that's really good,
33 but, yeah, hopefully the local needs get addressed.

34
35 Thank you very much.

36
37 MR. STURM: Thank you for those
38 comments. And indeed we are trying to take the locals'
39 perspective into account as we develop our
40 alternatives. There are some discussions just to be
41 frank I guess internally within the Park Service about
42 what the ANILCA alternative allows us actually to do.
43 And so we're trying to flush out the details of how we
44 would do such a thing. And it hasn't been -- that
45 authority has not been used often in the past so this
46 would be certainly a precedent setting action for this
47 Park and we just need to make sure we do it right and
48 we're trying to make sure we have our ducks in a row
49 before we go public.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. Just real quickly too, Mark, could you just
5 give us a brief -- I mean, I know that this whole thing
6 has gone through the review before when Diane was
7 moving forward with it and alternatives were looked at.
8 Can you recycle any of that information to save time,
9 money and energy?

10

11 MR. STURM: So if I understand what had
12 happened in the past before I arrived, we did have --
13 the Park Service did go public with the scoping process
14 and did ask what do you think we should do about this,
15 what options, and very much as Richard mentioned we got
16 good feedback and we tried to take that back and write
17 a draft plan. We had developed a number of
18 alternatives for that and so I think you should expect
19 that those alternatives will reflect the full breath of
20 what those suggestions were and in a nutshell I think
21 there's essentially two action alternatives. One would
22 be -- involve a land swap with BLM. I don't think BLM
23 is very excited about it although they haven't told us
24 they wouldn't do it. And so that's kind of out there
25 that we would have to deal with that if that is what we
26 ultimately choose to do. If we can proceed along a --
27 you know, along a route that would allow us to
28 redesignate this area within the Park currently
29 designated as National Park as National Preserve, for
30 all intents and purposes what it means to the local
31 community is that what is allowed within the National
32 Preserve portion of Katmai National Park and Preserve
33 would be allowed in this area then.

34

35 And so that's it in a nutshell.

36

37 We're trying to get there.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Just a final thought.
42 Have you -- do you guys intend to go to the Federal
43 Board with this issue, you know, since you have BLM,
44 you have all the entities there, you know, on the
45 Federal side, you know, to bring this before them
46 before you guys -- I mean, that could be a helpful tool
47 because they're there -- you know, this is, you know,
48 the first process and then the final one is them on
49 this Council.

50

1 MR. STURM: If we do involve two
2 Federal agencies we likely would have to do such a
3 thing. If we do determine that we can move forward
4 with a redesignation as a means of addressing the
5 underlying issues for this project, it is probably
6 something that the National Park Service can do within
7 its own agency.

8
9 Okay. A couple more things if there's
10 no other questions.

11
12 Thank you for those.

13
14 I was asked to give an update on a road
15 restoration project out at Brooks Camp. I did speak
16 about this at the winter RAC meeting in Naknek. We
17 have made some progress and I guess I would just give a
18 very brief background. In 2014 the National Park
19 Service built a spur of a road that connects I guess
20 two areas out near Brooks Lake in the Brooks Camp area.
21 They did so improperly and in doing so damaged some
22 cultural resources that were known to exist in that
23 locality. We have -- we certainly own that mistake and
24 are trying to figure out what we need to do about
25 making it right.

26
27 What we have done since February when I
28 last spoke with this body is to have met with a number
29 of different entities that have expressed interest in
30 trying to be engaged in our process to determine what
31 actions would be appropriate to restore this particular
32 impacted area. We've met with the Council of Katmai
33 Decedents on a number of occasions. We've also had
34 five of their representatives onsite to look at the
35 site and to understand on the ground what it -- what it
36 meant, what impacts occurred and also ask them to
37 provide feedback to us about what might be appropriate,
38 not just -- not necessarily solely what type of
39 restoration we should consider, but also how to go
40 about it, what would be most culturally sensitive. And
41 also who should we involve in that process. And so
42 that's the type of feedback we have requested and have
43 gotten.

44
45 We have also been working trying to get
46 representatives from the Paug-Vik Native Corporation
47 who have expressed interest in trying to participate in
48 this process with us as well as a couple other local --
49 BBNC has asked for some involvement in this as well.

50

1 So we're trying to -- we did reach out to all the
2 different affiliated tribes and asked them to express
3 an interest if they wanted to work with us on
4 developing our process. A number of them have and
5 we're trying to continue to be engaged with them.

6
7 A couple of other formative I guess
8 actions that we have taken is we have also developed
9 what we call an SOP in the Park, it's short for
10 standard operating procedure and it essentially
11 outlines the process that the Park needs to go through
12 to conduct anything, especially in such a culturally
13 sensitive area so that we don't make this kind of a
14 mistake again. We have a very formalized and now we're
15 going through a process of finalizing that SOP and
16 educating our staff and our regional staff about what
17 has to happen, what boxes need to be checked, before
18 something -- before a shovel hits the ground or
19 anything that goes on anywhere in the park, but
20 especially out there at Brooks.

21
22 So we formalized that.

23
24 We've also hired an environmental
25 planner. That individual will report on duty at the
26 end of this month. It's a position that hasn't been
27 filled in the Park in a number of years. It will --
28 and it will provide a level of capacity to produce
29 these types of documents, this past one and the -- for
30 Brooks Lake, but also for Pike Ridge. One of the
31 things that causes time to go by is just these projects
32 have -- essentially are assigned as a collateral duty
33 to an individual to kind of champion and move forward
34 and they do the best can. But if we have a dedicated
35 individual which this individual will be, the projects
36 will maintain a better timeline and we'll be able to
37 wrap these things up hopefully before individuals roll
38 off of this Council.

39
40 And I guess the -- you know, I guess
41 going forward we also hope to have other members come
42 out, other Native -- Alaska Native interested party
43 that want to come out and have a look onsite and we do
44 want to facilitate those interest and have an
45 opportunity -- provide and opportunity for them to both
46 see what the situation is that we're facing and how to
47 address it.

48
49 And that's the -- we -- I guess I do
50

1 have one other update. With regard a lead for this
2 project, we have a regional National Park Service
3 employee who has managed these types of environmental
4 issues elsewhere in the region where they've occurred
5 as the lead for developing this plan. We would hope to
6 be actually doing some work if everything goes well and
7 I have no reason to believe it won't, by next summer.
8 We will be doing work next summer, that's our intent.

9
10 Are there any questions about that
11 project?

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I don't see
14 any hands come up.

15
16 MR. STURM: Okay.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So I guess
19 continue.

20
21 MR. STURM: Just one last thing and it
22 can be very brief. 2018 is the Katmai National Park
23 and Preserve's 100th anniversary and we are planning a
24 number of events for our centennial year. We would
25 very much like to have subsistence and the subsistence
26 history affiliated with the Park to be one of the
27 highlighted aspects of the Park that we emphasize in an
28 event or two that we have. And so we likely in the
29 winter meeting will be coming back and presenting our
30 ideas a little bit more flushed out as to what that
31 might look like and asking for suggestions about how to
32 pull it together.

33
34 Thank you very much.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So you're
37 looking for suggestions on what you're going to do for
38 your what, 100th anniversary, is that what you're
39 asking.

40
41 MR. STURM: Madame Chair, I think I'm
42 just giving the Council a heads up that we are planning
43 some activities for next summer, that we anticipate
44 highlighting subsistence as one of the ongoing
45 activities in the Park that is part of our history as a
46 Park and that we would like to -- I guess we would
47 welcome an opportunity to tell some of the stories
48 about how subsistence is important not just to the
49 National Park Service as an attribute that we try to

50

1 support by supporting these types of activities, but
2 also the communities and their participation in those
3 activities. I think more to come in February would be
4 what I'm trying to say at the moment.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

7
8 MR. HILL: I'm struggling with how to
9 say this gently I guess. But my wife cautions me about
10 being political. But look at the word alternatives,
11 break it down. Alter Natives. It's -- you're -- by
12 you, I mean, government organization, are -- who rule
13 over us are trying to change us to suit them. And
14 we're trying to change you to suit us. And that's
15 where the problem lies, to try to get together on what
16 kinds of changes that each one of us can live with.
17 And we're coming along, we're getting there.

18
19 But that was just my take on it.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think my
22 suggestion would be since you're looking for
23 subsistence information is to contact the local
24 villages there because, you know, they were the users
25 of that -- of those properties or of that area, you
26 know, way before anything was developed. And I think
27 this would be the most important activity or
28 information gathering to share with -- you know, with
29 the Katmai, you know, during your 100th anniversary.

30
31 But it seems like since I've been on
32 the Board there's been times when people have been
33 limited to using those lands that they've used, you
34 know, forever. So I think if the local villages would
35 kind of -- would get a historical perspective of their
36 land uses, of their subsistence uses in that area, it
37 might be helpful. And, you know, there's information
38 from Subsistence Division through the baselines that
39 have been completed, you know, starting 1980s. But
40 moving further back from the 1980s I'm sure that
41 there's interesting -- you know, those villages up
42 there would -- could develop by talking to their elders
43 interesting information about the land uses of that
44 area.

45
46 And so that would be my suggestion.

47
48 Dan.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I kind of want to circle
2 back a little bit to your mention about LCC stuff. And
3 I encouraged the government agencies to work to
4 coordinate. And I want to bring up an example if
5 you're relatively new, maybe Troy's filled you in
6 already that we had this thing that was just kind of
7 brought together originally from some of the Fish and
8 Wildlife staff and the Dillingham Fish and Game staff
9 just having lunch together because we were friends.
10 It's that SWIM thing and I think it's struggling now,
11 but we -- actually it's my predecessor's Sportfish
12 Division guy and then Mark Leesik from Fish and
13 Wildlife started talking and realizing that we had
14 projects that were potentially going to conflict, but
15 we're sitting down and talking through things we could
16 maybe coordinate.

17
18 And for quite a period of time there
19 was a spring SWIM meeting which was Southwest
20 interagency meeting. It was really pretty loosey
21 goosey, a lot of times it was just kind of handshake
22 agreements, but I was pretty excited at times. We
23 avoided conflict, we coordinated, supported each other
24 and without a lot of formal paperwork and all this
25 other stuff there were times like I contributed a boat
26 and a motor and one person in the Fish and Wildlife
27 contributed a campsite in a little bit, and then we
28 shared alternating -- funding of alternating supply
29 flights and we all got our missions done and we weren't
30 tripping over each other, we were helping each other.

31
32 And so if you can in any way perpetuate
33 that and it grew for a quite a while, we had the
34 university, the Parks, the University of Washington, a
35 lot of folks joining. I think funding has kind of
36 hammered it too, but it can work and sometimes the
37 grownup back in Anchorage, Juneau, D.C. don't need to
38 know about it all. You can get the work done, you
39 know.

40
41 So anyway I want to encourage that.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. STURM: Thank you very much. I can
46 -- I'm pleased to report that I'll be having a
47 conversation just like tomorrow from 8:00 to 12:00,
48 trying to get things figured out.

49
50

1 And I appreciate your comments, Madame
2 Chair, we will be absolutely be doing that contacting
3 locals and asking them to help us tell the story about
4 subsistence in the area.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
7 you. We'll -- you can give us an update at our spring
8 session also.

9
10 MR. STURM: Yes, I will.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So thank you.

13
14 MR. STURM: Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: ADF&G.

17
18 MS. JONES: Good afternoon. Just a
19 reminder I'm Bronwyn Jones, I'm a subsistence resource
20 specialist at Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.
21 Gabriela and I are going to be giving an update on just
22 some projects that we're working on in Bristol Bay. I
23 have two that I wanted to mention that we haven't
24 talked about yet.

25
26 AKSSF, the Alaska Stable Salmon
27 Fisheries fund just awarded us a project called the
28 Port Heiden Subsistence Monitoring Project. We'll be
29 doing one year of salmon surveys in Port Heiden and
30 looking at the permit system there. And to address
31 what Dan brought up earlier, we'll also be looking at
32 erosion and doing some TEK mapping about set net sites,
33 commercial and subsistence, and changes due to coastal
34 erosion to see if there's been any affects so far.

35
36 So that will start in the spring of
37 this year. We're going to do some participant
38 observation and then we'll be out there in the winter
39 of 2018 and '19 to do the surveys.

40
41 And then the other project I wanted to
42 mention I'm working on with Tyler Dan with the Genetics
43 Lab at Fish and Game and Greg Buck with Commercial
44 Fisheries. We're doing -- it's a continuation of a
45 project that they had already been doing in the Iliamna
46 lake area, it called the Kvichak River Stock
47 Composition of Sockeye Salmon Return. And so basically
48 what we're looking at for that project is -- well, here
49 I'll just read the -- the genetics stuff is above me.

50

1 So there's three major goals for that
2 project. We're looking at which of the four stocks are
3 most utilized by subsistence fishers in the area. The
4 second objective is when the stocks migrate through the
5 commercial fisheries and the escapement tower to see --
6 to separate the stocks and see which ones are actually
7 most important for subsistence. And then the third is
8 to look at temporal trends in migration that may allow
9 commercial fishery managers to protect stocks that are
10 important for subsistence uses.

11
12 And the methods for this, we hired two
13 local samplers in five communities. We did Pedro Bay,
14 Kokhanok, Iliamna and Newhalen as one community,
15 Nondalton and Port Alsworth to sample their own
16 subsistence catches as well as their, you know, friends
17 and neighbors. Last year was the first year that Tyler
18 and I flew out. We went to each community and did a
19 couple hour training and brought all the supplies that
20 they needed and kind of left them to it.

21
22 We had mixed results. We had Pedro
23 Bay, the two that we hired weren't able to sample and
24 the same thing happened in Nondalton. But for the
25 other communities we were able to get all the samples
26 that we needed. And I believe for Pedro Bay we ended
27 up getting fin clippings, but not the otolith which
28 show the age so we still got some data. But next year
29 we're going to go out and work with the local research
30 assistants just to make sure that they are comfortable
31 with it before we leave and then hopefully for the next
32 two years of the project they'll be able to do it on
33 their own.

34
35 But those are the two projects that
36 I've got.

37
38 Any questions.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Not a question, but a
43 hallelujah on Port Heiden. That's wonderful to hear.
44 It's not everything I've hoped because we really wanted
45 to see king salmon especially stock assessment and that
46 sort of thing. But this is a step and it might also --
47 one of the -- when I went to Port Heiden one time I was
48 working for the university and not even focusing on
49 subsistence and I started hearing complaints about not
50

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1 enough fish. And then my ears really went up. And but
2 then we went to a Board of Fish meeting and I kind of
3 felt like Port Heiden was brushed aside. And partly
4 the struggle maybe to make themselves clear to the
5 Board, it's kind of like poo poo, you know, don't
6 bother us too much which was really frustrating to my
7 friends down there and all. So this fresh
8 documentation and then some of these added erosion
9 concerns that I've just become aware of here this fall,
10 sounds excellent.

11
12 I'm really excited to hear that.

13
14 I'm also -- I have a very high regard
15 for Mr. Buck and Tyler Dan and so I'll be very eager to
16 see how you do with that information in the Kvichak.

17
18 So excellent.

19
20 I'm really glad to hear on both of
21 them.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MS. HALAS: Okay. And again my name is
26 Gabriela Halas with the Division of Subsistence out of
27 Anchorage. And I just want to apologize that there's
28 no written materials in the binders from our Division,
29 but next year I will supply you ahead of time. Again
30 I'm just doing some quick updates on our projects, a
31 few of which are already mentioned by Cody and Gayla at
32 BBNA because we partner with them a lot on our
33 projects.

34
35 Cody had already mentioned the
36 subsistence salmon and redbfish one in Naknek and King
37 Salmon that we started this past spring and fall. So
38 unless there's more questions about that one, I don't
39 have anything to add.

40
41 We have a chinook initiative project
42 with the communities -- well, the data is all finished
43 and I'm currently writing that report. And that was
44 with the communities of Dillingham, Clark's Point,
45 Koliganek, New Stu and Ekwok and so that'll be
46 completed by June, 2018.

47
48 And then as Gayla mentioned also the
49 Mulchatna caribou TEK projects is being written up

50

1 right now so hopefully that will -- that will be
2 finished in a timely manner.

3
4 We do have two projects currently in
5 the Chigniks region, again Cody mentioned the sharing
6 networks project. And then our colleague, Lisa
7 Hutchinson-Scarbroug sent us an update on hers which is
8 Chignik chinook initiative project, a three year
9 harvest assessment of all five species of salmon in the
10 communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik
11 Lake and Perryville with key respondent interviews.
12 Data collection occurred in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and
13 it's now being analyzed. Data review meetings will
14 occur in each community next year around February or
15 March. And all of these projects will have reports and
16 can be delivered to the RAC and other Councils.

17
18 And again Gayla already mentioned the
19 AMBCC trainings and surveys which will be -- which are
20 happening now. The trainings and the surveys will be
21 happening shortly.

22
23 And then lastly I just wanted to
24 mention that Bronwyn and I are currently writing a
25 proposal under the North Pacific Research Board, NPRB.
26 It's a walrus proposal with the lead being Lori
27 Polasek, a Fish and Game marine mammal biologist out of
28 Juneau which will be a multi agency science and TEK
29 effort. We've received a letter of support already
30 from BBNA and have funded of course working with local
31 hires. We'll also be working with the Togiak and
32 Alaska Peninsula Refuges and awaiting letters of
33 support from the Walrus Commission and local villages.
34 We have to get funding to do walrus counts for all the
35 haul out locations in all of Bristol Bay from
36 historical data at this point and then including TEK
37 interviews that would capture long term data on walrus
38 distribution and abundance.

39
40 We hope to work with Togiak, Twin
41 Hills, Manokotak, Port Heiden, Pilot Point and Nelson's
42 Lagoon. Those are just some villages where we'll be
43 contacting and again obtaining letters of support. It
44 would also benefit this project if we could obtain a
45 letter of support from the RAC. We can send a letter
46 of project introduction to the Chair and each member
47 and then you can let us know if a letter is something
48 that you're able to do. The proposal is due in a
49 couple weeks internally.

50

1 But -- yeah, so that's kind of all
2 we've got to say about our upcoming proposal that we're
3 writing.

4
5 If anyone has questions I'd be happy to
6 answer.

7
8 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

11
12 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Just on subsistence permits, you mentioned, you know,
14 New Stu and Ekwok and Koliganek. I'd like to see those
15 directly be directed to the Council, maybe a village
16 administrator. At first you said it was individual
17 person that sometime not in town and stuff, I've heard
18 that they wanted to get a permit and could not get
19 ahold of this person.

20
21 MS. HALAS: Okay. Yeah.

22
23 MR. ANDREW: And with this cost of
24 flying today so expensive maybe mid May or first week
25 of May, that would be good.

26
27 Then another one I've called Woodsy and
28 a few other people about that walrus hunt. We used to
29 have captains in the community before. And another guy
30 gave me a call that what happened to it. And they said
31 maybe you could connect with Manokotak or Togiak.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. HALAS: Thank you. Yeah, I will --
36 that's a good idea with the permits. You're speaking
37 of the vendors and sometimes the difficulty there in
38 coordinating with the vendors. So I will take that
39 comment back to Anchorage.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you have --
44 now that Ted's retired who do you have working here
45 locally in Dillingham in the Subsistence Division?

46
47 MS. HALAS: Unfortunately currently we
48 don't have anyone working in this office. But there --
49 yeah, there is talk of hopefully filling the position

50

1 maybe within a year. That's very up in the air and
2 we're not really in the position to say that, but no
3 one is in it right now unfortunately.

4
5 MS. JONES: But Gabriela is your
6 contact.

7
8 MS. HALAS: So you can ask me.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

11
12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
13 Madame Chair. I think I would be interested in
14 possibly giving them a letter of support and I'd like
15 to hear other Council members' thoughts. I think
16 that's something we could take of here now and, Donald,
17 knowing how light his plate is probably wouldn't mind a
18 bit writing us that letter.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
23 Chair. I was about ready to suggest that too. And
24 what Dennis brought up, I didn't grow up eating walrus,
25 but for a while Frank was bringing some in and my
26 family was accessing it and I was starting to learn how
27 to cook it and kind of got to liking it. But also in
28 light of some of these changes we're seeing with that
29 big haul out over there near Pilot Point I think this
30 RAC should strongly support whatever research efforts
31 you are developing with the interagencies and I'm in
32 strong support of this.

33
34 And it's kind of interesting, I've seen
35 this NPRB float around and never quite knew how to deal
36 with it. So if ADF&G and BBNA and -- are working
37 together on this or at least supporting each other,
38 that's wonderful.

39
40 So I'm eager to move ahead on this.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair, I got one
45 more.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

48
49 MR. ANDREW: And I don't know if it's
50

1 on the right line, but the waters out there for
2 halibut, for subsistence halibut, I've heard there's
3 people heading out there without no permit and stuff
4 and that those aren't recorded. And that's going to
5 hurt our nursing system out here. It's a big nursing
6 area for halibut and if the locals are going out there
7 without that permit and not being recorded, hey, and
8 there's guys that are getting their permits and stuff
9 and going out there and selling some in Naknek and the
10 harbor here and off to Anchorage. I mean, if there are
11 locals that are going out there without that permit,
12 I'm just afraid of them for getting pinched or
13 something. I think it needs to maybe get ahold of the
14 Council and notify them how the process could go to get
15 their permits also.

16
17 MS. HALAS: Okay. That's a great
18 comment. Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

21
22 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 I'm glad to hear that the chinook survey is done and
24 going to be released this summer. I'm really
25 interested in finding out what you guys came up with.

26
27 As far as the walrus goes, how did you
28 choose the villages that you're going to talk to
29 because we do have the Walrus Commission and it is
30 housed out at BBNA and Gayla is our rep on that for
31 Curyung Tribal Council. And or Woods still is, I
32 thought you were. And I know Gayla works with the
33 staff on that.

34
35 And we -- it took a while for us to be
36 able to get that I don't want to say livelihood, but
37 that resource again and we don't want to lose it, but
38 at times it's really dangerous to go after them and
39 having to haul them all the way back from Togiak. It's
40 taken a couple commercial fishermen and their boats and
41 lots of buoys and time and oil -- gas and oil and stuff
42 like that. And when they bring them back it's really
43 appreciated, but it's really -- the season when we're
44 allowed to go and get them, it's pretty dangerous as
45 far as the spring storms and stuff like that or even
46 the fall storms.

47
48 So I was just kind of curious because I
49 know that there's a lot of blood, sweat and tears on

50

1 some of the elders in Dillingham as well as Manokotak,
2 Togiak, Twin Hills and Clark's to be able to get the
3 Federal government to give us our rights to go after
4 that resource and harvest it. So I was kind of curious
5 when you were talking about Togiak, Twin Hills,
6 Manokotak and then you skipped on down to Port Heiden,
7 Pilot Point and I think you said Nelson Lagoon or
8 something like that. I can see Port Heiden since
9 that's where the walrus for one reason or another are
10 starting to haul out and the State having to change the
11 fishing area and stuff like that, that that's something
12 of real consideration and importance as far as those of
13 us who do know how to cook walrus and enjoy walrus. It
14 -- to me I'm just curious as to why you're not
15 following the Commission and the people who utilize
16 that resource for subsistence and bringing other folks
17 in other than Port Heiden where the haul out is right
18 now.

19
20 MS. JONES: So we're actually
21 partnering with Helen with BBNA. And speaking with
22 her, she brought up some of the communities. But the
23 way that this research project is designed it's those
24 are just going to be jumping off points. What we're
25 looking to do is do key responder interviews which is
26 knowledge people who've spent time in Bristol Bay and,
27 you know, hunt walrus or has spent a lot of time in the
28 ocean observing them. So those are going to be a point
29 of contact communities to start asking for suggestions
30 of key respondents, but by no means does that mean we
31 can't interview somebody in Dillingham or, you know,
32 someone who lives in Anchorage who used to live in
33 Bristol Bay for 40 years.

34
35 So we're just kind of keeping it open
36 like that. And, you know, we are in the writing stage
37 still so if you have more ideas per communities to add
38 we'd be happy to.

39
40 MR. MAINES: I don't mean to say that
41 it's not important to get interviews from other places,
42 but my point is why not interview the people who have
43 access to that resource now, who fought to have access
44 to that resource as your beginning point and go from
45 there.

46
47 That's all.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MS. HALAS: Thank you.

2
3 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

6
7 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 I'd just to ask you about beluga, do you need a permit
9 for beluga. We've got a lot of them out here and
10 stuff. In fact, I came down and pick up a hunter and I
11 hit two of them with my prop just right up here. So
12 thick as you were saying. Do you need a permit for
13 that or can I just go, send the young fellows there and
14 say let's go, boys.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MS. HALAS: That's a good question. I
19 don't feel like I'm the best person to answer that. Is
20 there anyone in the room that can answer about marine
21 mammals?

22
23 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

26
27 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. As
28 far as marine mammals are concerned, marine mammals and
29 migratory birds, we don't have any jurisdiction, but to
30 answer your questions about hunting beluga, I don't
31 believe you need a permit for hunting belugas since,
32 you know, all the coastal Natives are allowed to
33 harvest marine mammals, be it belugas, harbor seals,
34 bearded seals and sea otters.

35
36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
39 we're good.

40
41 Dan.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, maybe this would be
44 the time to move that we write and submit a letter of
45 support for this walrus project. And I've already
46 forgotten who we send it to, NPRB, I believe. And that
47 I'd be -- I don't know who would be best to help write
48 this among us on the Board here, but if you want me to
49 help I'll try, if there's somebody better qualified,

50

1 maybe Billy's got more experience.

2

3 Anyway, I'd like to move that we write
4 and submit a letter.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Second.

9

10 MS. JONES: We also have a draft
11 template if you want to start with that and you could
12 edit it from there. We'd be happy to send it to
13 somebody.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
16 been a motion to write a letter in support of walrus
17 survey. Second by Nanci.

18

19 MR. WILSON: Call the question.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question's
22 been called. All in favor say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
27 opposition.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And I
32 guess.....

33

34 MR. SEYBERT: This is Victor, I vote
35 aye.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
38 Victor. Do we need to appoint a couple of people to
39 write this letter or are you going to be able to do it,
40 Donald?

41

42 MR. MIKE: No, Madame Chair, you don't
43 need to appoint it anybody. I work with Bronwyn and
44 Gabriela. They'll send me a template and I'll work
45 with the Council members that are interested and we'll
46 go from there. And as long as the intent of this
47 Council is to support this project we're good to go.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
2 you, Donald.

3
4 Lary.

5
6 MR. HILL: Yeah, it would be good to
7 see the template, it's not like we're writing a blank
8 check so we'd kind of like to look at it.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, thank you.
13 Thank you for your comment. I'll make sure I send that
14 template to all the Council before I get started or we
15 get started everybody.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
20 you, ladies. Next on our agenda is OSM.

21
22 MR. McKEE: Madame Chair, you'll like
23 this because this will be short and sweet. I just give
24 a very brief staffing update of OSM very quickly.

25
26 We had one of our senior fisheries
27 biologists, Don Rivard, retired as well as Paula
28 Ingles, one of our senior anthropologists. And also
29 Jennifer Hardin who was our Anthropology Division chief
30 has now moved over to the position of policy
31 coordinator. And we also have a new deputy assistant
32 regional director, Tom Doolittle. He comes to us from
33 Southeast Alaska, but prior to that he had spent many
34 years as the deputy Refuge manager at Yukon Delta so he
35 has a lot of Alaska experience.

36
37 In terms of rehiring and refilling some
38 of those positions we either lost through retirement or
39 through internal transfers, it's going to take a little
40 while. The hiring process going on now with -- since
41 the new administration came on is a necessarily very
42 slow process and I really can't give any estimate as to
43 how long it's going to take, but probably at least
44 several months to -- between, you know, getting the
45 paperwork through and approved in DC to getting the
46 announcement for the positions flown and then going
47 through the hiring process. So those positions are
48 empty, but it's the intention of OSM to hire -- refill
49 those positions so that we're fully staffed.

50

1 And that's pretty much all I had.

2

3 Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
6 comments, suggestions, questions to OSM.

7

8 Richard.

9

10 MR. WILSON: How's Orville doing, tell
11 him we say hi.

12

13 MR. McKEE: I will do that. He's in
14 Southeast right now.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: One suggestion
17 I would like to make, OSM, is to have our all Chairs
18 meeting, you know, continued. We had one and then we
19 haven't had any. Those are so important and, in fact,
20 during the Federal Subsistence Board session we thought
21 we were going to have an all Chairs meeting after, but
22 that didn't happen. Those meetings are so important
23 for the Chairs to get together to collaborate with our
24 regional programs and activities. So I'd like to
25 suggest that the all Chairs meeting be continued.

26

27 MR. McKEE: I will certainly forward
28 that request on to Carl Johnson who is our Council
29 Coordination Division chief.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci
34 and then Lary.

35

36 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would suggest,
37 Donald, perhaps it might also behoove us to enter that
38 concern into our regional comments for the.....

39

40 MR. MIKE: Annual report?

41

42 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I just wanted to --
47 whoever I am. I want to thank Chris for his -- we've
48 called on him a number of times through the meeting to
49 hop up here and appreciate his help on a number of

50

1 things.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. McKEE: Thank you. I appreciate

6

it.

7

8

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any

9

other comments.

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I just

14

want to thank OSM for all your help, you've been so

15

helpful to us and even providing us with food and

16

making coffee.

17

18

MR. McKEE: That's the most important

19

part of the meeting.

20

21

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah.

22

23

(Laughter)

24

25

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So thank you

26

for your help.

27

28

(Applause)

29

30

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're

31

down to future meeting dates. Confirm winter, 2018

32

meeting dates and location. Usually our winter meeting

33

dates are -- our locations are spring in Naknek and

34

then the fall in Dillingham.

35

36

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

37

38

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, Donald.

39

40

MR. MIKE: Yeah, if you look at your

41

meeting materials I believe the Bristol Bay Council had

42

two options, February 27 and 28, that was the first

43

option, and March 13, 14, that was the second option.

44

That was revolving around spring break I believe. So

45

if you -- when is spring break for Bristol Bay.

46

47

So, Madame Chair, if I may suggest the

48

week of March 12.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Week of
2 March 12 for winter.

3
4 MR. MIKE: There was some conflicts
5 with -- there's a -- the Kodiak Aleutians Regional
6 Advisory Council had some -- I can't recall what
7 function it was, but it was related to -- maybe staff
8 can help me out, but they suggested the Bristol Bay
9 Council meet late in the month of March, March 12. So
10 if that's okay with you, I'm okay with the week of
11 March 13 and 14, Madame Chair, if that's okay with the
12 Council.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. 15 and
15 14. I guess we're discussing amongst each other what
16 dates.

17
18 So March 13, 14 for the winter.

19
20 How about the fall.

21
22 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, the Council
23 confirms March 13 and 14th for Naknek. And I handed
24 out an updated fall, 2018, Council meeting calendar to
25 go around. So AFN week is during October -- the week
26 of October 15th. And the calendar's open for the
27 Bristol Bay Council to decide the meeting date either
28 in August, September or November.....

29
30 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

31
32 MR. MIKE:October.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

35
36 MR. MAINES: I'd like to move for
37 October 2nd and 3rd.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

40
41 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I don't -- I do
42 not by any means want to dictate the Council's
43 decision, but I will not be done or able to attend a
44 meeting until after October 20th.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Then it'll be
47 October was it 2 and 3. It's going to be hard for
48 annual regional shareholder for Bristol Bay Native
49 Corporation usually happens about the same time. First
50

1 Saturday of October. October 6th.

2

3

So I guess we need a -- Dan.

4

5

6

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, my impressions are that this later -- these later dates seem to generally work for everybody, get through hunting seasons and other seasons. And my preference for all would be, you know, late October.

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And I don't know if it's quite the place to bring on, but I thought early on there was a discussion that maybe we would entertain other communities as a possible meeting location. And one that I think -- do the dates first. Okay.

Okay.

So I'll just leave it at that and we'll talk about where later.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: October 30, 31, would work -- would those work? 6th and 7th, November 6 and 7 is in agreement.

Okay. Our fall meeting will be November 6 and 7 in Dillingham.

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

MR. MIKE: For the Council to consider is possible other community meeting hubs for Bristol Bay Council to meet in, but it's just open for discussion. We can come back and revisit it at our winter meeting.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Well, just to float some ideas I know when I was early on this RAC we were hoping to attend -- have a meeting in Togiak and I guess that there weren't sufficient facilities or something. I'd still like to try to be available to,

1 you know, a wider range of folks. I'd wonder if
2 Iliamna has enough facilities. But I'm willing to
3 entertain other places even if it means some
4 inconvenience to me, but plus I like to get around the
5 area. But just throw it out there for an idea.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

10
11 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, Dan. Iliamna --
12 well, I'd guess I'd them how much money do we have to
13 spend. That would determine where possibly. And since
14 Iliamna has facilities, but there'd have to be special
15 hiring of people to cook and clean and because of the
16 places that are open, they're not open, they're only
17 open seasonally. So it's just, you know, wondering
18 about that.

19
20 Otherwise we could try.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: My suggestion
23 is to probably revisit this during our spring. But
24 have the dates for November 6 and 7 in Dillingham and
25 then if we decide to have it somewhere else then we can
26 change the location.

27
28 Nanci.

29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I got a couple
31 beautiful suggestions around Kulik Lodge and Brooks
32 Lodge and Grosvenor Lodge. And just a thought.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Katmai Lodge.

35
36 Dan.

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I didn't want to
39 debate. I just bring up some of this too I'm aware
40 that at times the folks in other Bristol Bay issues,
41 some of the folks around the lake feel a little bit
42 forgotten. So, you know, this is one of the ideas if
43 we could move around a little bit, you know, make it --
44 be a little more accessible to a part of the area that
45 doesn't have ready access. But I also have to
46 recognize the realities of the cost and the difficulty
47 of getting people there and getting facilities up to
48 sufficient to help us.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: The one I think we're
4 leaving out that possibly we could take it to the
5 school is Aleknagik. That's -- that could be one that
6 could easily be accessible and allow us again to access
7 the kids. It just occurred to me now with the bridge,
8 your hometown.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald. We
11 can check into that. We'd have to bring our own sack
12 lunches.

13

14 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 Yeah, that's a -- that's a potential location. And if
16 the Council wish, you know, I can provide an analysis
17 of all the meeting venue and determine -- look at their
18 availability of meeting space, venue and access and
19 I'll come up with a list and provide an update to the
20 Council at our winter meeting.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I just don't
25 want to have a meeting where our agency folks are going
26 to be limited in coming with additional cost and
27 whatnot. But if we do have a meeting in Aleknagik we
28 can drive back and forth. I know that Aleknagik has a
29 gym similar to this, but I don't know what their
30 programs are. But I guess before our spring meeting
31 Donald could check into all of that.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dennis.

36

37 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 Yeah, I agree with you. I'd like Aleknagik, we can
39 drive back and forth for, you know, and then the staff
40 and plus we got the airport here for access for staff
41 to come in.

42

43 Yeah, I agree with Madame Chair for
44 Aleknagik.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
49 discuss the location more at our spring meeting, but

50

1 the dates are set, November 6 and 7. We'll discuss the
2 location a little bit more.

3
4 So we're good with the dates.

5
6 And I guess closing comments. We're
7 too closing comments.

8
9 Lary.

10
11 MR. HILL: Yes, I want to thank from
12 wherever it came the letter of appreciation. It was
13 unexpected and not being (indiscernible) I don't see
14 that I did anything different than anybody else has
15 been doing.

16
17 But thank you anyway.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I'll --
20 even invite the public, you know, if you want to have
21 any closing comments, come to the mic.

22
23 MR. SEYBERT: Madame Chair. I can call
24 back in.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I'm
27 looking for closing comments. If not we can call for
28 adjournment.

29
30 Dennis.

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.

33
34 MR. SEYBERT: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

37
38 Yes, Victor.

39
40 MR. SEYBERT: Yeah, this is Victor. I
41 should have mentioned this earlier I guess, but on page
42 184 -- these will be my closing comments. Page 184,
43 the BBNA's Partner's Program. I don't know why we were
44 not included in that survey, but I would just like to
45 mention that we do have a program for the subsistence
46 users. We have some marine debris -- we have a marine
47 debris program that has a couple of four-wheelers that
48 we let the locals out hunting for subsistence use and
49 they have to give a portion of their catch to the

50

1 elders.

2

3

So I just wanted to mention that.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
you, Victor. I guess his question was why was Pilot
Point not included in the project here.

7

8

9

Cody.

10

11

12

MR. SEYBERT: I have no idea. This is
the first I've heard of it, but I am going to check
into it.

13

14

15

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Cody from BBNA
is going to give us an answer I guess.

16

17

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31

MR. LARSON: Hello, Mr. Seybert.
Through the Chair. This is Cody Larson who -- you're
discussing the salmon sharing networks project on --
that I spoke about. So this proposal originally was
presented to the FRMP or to that group of funds to do
all of Bristol Bay. That proposal was rejected in 2014
because the scope was too large, the cost was too
large. So it was resubmitted and reduced in size to
five communities. We decided we would be able to
include a sixth, I think it was Chignik Bay, wasn't in
the original one. So we were able to include one more
community using the budget we had. But I guess the
short answer is it was what was feasible budget wise
with the grant that was available.

32

33

34

MR. SEYBERT: Okay. Thank you.

35

36

37

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Closing
comments.

38

39

40

41

MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

42

43

44

45

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50

MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
I want to thank the agencies for all the work that
you've done and your willingness to answer my idiotic
questions or put up with my sometime asinine comments,
but I'm truly looking out for the subsistence users in
and around my area and my area is Bristol Bay because I
do trade and barter and subsist from what use to be
Ivanoff Bay up to Nondalton and everything in between.

1 I really appreciate your work, your dedication and your
2 anxiousness to preserve and protect our natural
3 resources and what they mean to us.

4
5 I want to thank the Board members here
6 because you guys have taught me quite a bit in the past
7 couple years. I -- you will notice at this meeting I
8 wasn't as quiet as a mouse. I actually thought I
9 provided a little bit of substance to the meeting.
10 And, Donald, again if you want more for that annual
11 report I'll be more than happy to give you more as far
12 as what I think this Council has done within this last
13 year.

14
15 Thank you, Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

18
19 Richard.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Yeah, just a final thought
22 here about the way you -- you guys have set up our
23 schedule here. I notice that a lot of times with the
24 agenda the agency report, some of the out of town
25 agencies are kind of the last. And perhaps shuffling
26 that around a bit so everybody gets an opportunity to
27 be last and not always the same one.

28
29 Thanks.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

32
33 Any more -- Dan.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 I want to thank my fellow Board members here because I
37 learn a lot from them every time. And even if we might
38 disagree somewhat I think we probably end up making
39 better decisions by all working together and working on
40 it.

41
42 I want to thank Richard for squaring me
43 away on a few things. And again like he did, thanks to
44 the agency folks and all the work they do to provide us
45 with the information.

46
47 Thank you very much.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody

50

1 else.

2

3

Dennis.

4

5

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

I just want to thank the Board here and I want to thank
7 Donald for last winter my Board training. And then
8 this one here is a real good learning experience for
9 me. I'm a team player.

10

11

Thank you very much, Molly, Board.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

14

15

Billy.

16

17

MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.

18

I forgot to mention, Donald, what am I ever going to
19 do, my seat's up and we had the renewal application, I
20 filled out and I sent it to you and then I've also been
21 interviewed over the phone, but that's been about a
22 year now and I haven't heard anything back. And I know
23 the transition's probably had something to do with, but
24 I was just kind of wondering where it was at, do you
25 know anything?

26

27

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, thank you.

28

The nomination process is a lengthy process, it's a
29 year long process. And last spring the Federal
30 Subsistence Board took the nominations process on and
31 made their recommendations to the Secretary of Interior
32 and Secretary of Agriculture. And it was signed off
33 and sent to D.C. And as far as the nominations from
34 the Secretary's Office, our office haven't heard
35 anything back from -- who's nominated and who's not.
36 So once I find out I'll make sure I send you an email,
37 give you contact as soon as I find out where the
38 nomination process is and the new appointments or
39 reappointments and I'll keep you up to date.

40

41

Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

44

45

MR. HILL: You said the nomination

46

process is a long process. So really that letter of
47 appreciation wasn't like a gold watch and I'm ready for
48 retirement.

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, that's why we
4 have LT that attend our meetings.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We have
7 -- do we have any last comments from the public.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
12 none, I guess we're.....

13

14 Donald.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Thanks for putting up with me and I'd like to
18 acknowledge our gracious host, the Dillingham School
19 District and I'd like to acknowledge BBNA for helping
20 us out in the Council and our gracious elderly host,
21 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chythlook.

22

23 Thank you very much.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We are
26 done, but I do want to thank again our agency people.
27 We do, you know, have differences, but then at the end
28 our differences are combined with the knowledge that
29 you've given us to move forward with our program here.
30 And so I do appreciate especially those of you that
31 stick with us, you now, through the whole process. And
32 the managers that are here so that they don't have to
33 go back -- people won't have to go back to their
34 managers to inform them that this is what the RACs are
35 requesting.

36

37 And, Pat, you've been so helpful. I
38 really appreciate your input when we get stuck on some
39 of the -- sort of like legal aspects of some of our I
40 guess agenda items.

41

42 And BBNA, Cody and Gayla, you guys are
43 the eyes and ears for us for this area. So we do
44 appreciate your work. I know how hard it is after
45 going -- kind of being in your shoes. And so I really
46 appreciate your surveys, you know, contacts to the
47 communities. You're one of our -- I guess you're one
48 of our representatives to this I guess organization.
49 And we do need to develop a better program or better

50

1 way of still informing our public that this -- I guess
2 this -- I don't now if it's an organization, but this
3 committee is so important for the communities.
4

5 And I think another thing that I would
6 like to see is -- and I know that, you know, cost is a
7 problem for villages to travel, but it would be so nice
8 to have a proposal -- the people that write the
9 proposals actually present here in person especially
10 like the village folks. I really appreciated Kenneth
11 Nukwak's proposal. And it would have been so nice, you
12 know, more personalized and he probably would have
13 given us more knowledge, cultural and traditional
14 knowledge, and make his proposals more live, you know,
15 if he would have been here.
16

17 And so for the people that make an
18 effort to write proposals we need to find a way to
19 thank them. I don't know how, you know, by writing to
20 the Council that they represent. That might be a way
21 to encourage the folks that we do care, we do care
22 about their proposals.
23

24 So thank you, Board members. Dennis, a
25 new Board member. He's new, but anytime we have a
26 Board meeting I learn something new. So, Dennis,
27 you'll be learning forever as long as you're on the
28 Board.
29

30 So thank you so much for coming and
31 being here.
32

33 MR. WILSON: Tell Joe to wake up now.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Joe, time to
36 wake up.
37

38 (Laughter)
39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I have to be
41 kind to him because I -- he gave me a ride.
42

43 So thank you and we'll need a call for
44 adjournment.
45

46 MR. ANDREW: Move to adjourn, Madame
47 Chair.
48

49 MR. HILL: Second.
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dennis
2 made a motion to adjourn, second by Lary. All in favor
3 say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 (No opposing votes)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks
10 for sticking with us, Victor.

11
12 MR. SEYBERT: You bet. Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Victor, we'll see
17 you again.

18
19 MR. SEYBERT: Okay.

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

