

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

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 AVCP Regional Housing Authority Building
10 Conference Room
11 Bethel, Alaska
12 October 13, 2016
13 9:00 a.m.

14
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16
17 MEMBERS PRESENT:

18
19 Lester Wilde, Chairman
20 Robert Aloysius
21 John Andrew
22 David Bill
23 William Brown
24 James Charles
25 Annie Cleveland
26 Dorothy Johnson
27 Raymond Oney
28 Michael Peters
29 Dale Smith
30 Anthony Ulak

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33
34 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/13/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting to order. Are there any people from the public who would like to make comments on any agenda items, or any other items that may come to mind.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: In that case we will continue on down with our agenda.

Is anyone on teleconference.

MS. WESSEL: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is Maria Wessel with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Welcome, Maria. Anyone else.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, we will continue on with our agenda. The first item this morning was the Kuskokwim area proposals, and the Kuskokwim River fisheries season summary.

MR. STAHLNECKER: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the committee -- or the Council. My name is Ken Stahlnecker; I'm the refuge manager for Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

I have with me this morning Ray Born, deputy refuge manager for Yukon Delta. Ray served as the in-season fisheries manager this year through the 2016 salmon season, so I have him up here to answer any of the difficult questions.

Basically what I intend to do is give you kind of a chronological summary of the actions that were taken throughout the course of the 2016 Chinook salmon fishery this past year.

So based on -- oh, you can find some of the information that I'll be reporting starting on Page 153 in the booklet.

1 So basically based on lower than
2 average pre-season Chinook salmon run forecasts, the
3 Federal in-season manager, excuse me, in consultation
4 with the Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
5 and the Alaska Division of Fish and Game, established
6 an escapement objective of 100,000 Chinook, and a
7 harvest objective of 40,000 Chinook for the Kuskokwim
8 River within Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

9
10 MR. BORN: Do you have a question, Mr.
11 Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pardon? No, I didn't
14 have any question. I was just wondering what was going
15 on over here. Sorry about that.

16
17 MR. BORN: Oh, I see.

18
19 MR. STAHLNECKER: No problem. So the
20 decision was made this year to use gear type
21 restrictions and season openings and closings as the
22 methods to manage the harvest as opposed to issuing
23 permits as was done during the 2015 season.

24
25 The first special action was issued
26 June 1st when the Federal in-season manager closed
27 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge waters to the
28 harvest of Chinook and chum salmon by all users except
29 residents of the Kuskokwim River drainage and the
30 coastal villages that were identified in the Section
31 .804 subsistence user prioritization analysis.

32
33 On June 3rd, two days later, Refuge
34 waters were closed to the harvest of Chinook and chum
35 salmon by Federally-qualified users. That action
36 recognized that fishing openings, closings, and methods
37 for Federally-qualified subsistence users would be
38 announced by subsequent special action after
39 consultation and coordination with the Kuskokwim River
40 Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission and the Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game. At this time a series of
42 weekly in-season meetings were held between Fish and
43 Wildlife Service, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal
44 Fisheries Commission, and the Alaska Department of Fish
45 and Game using what we call an objective-based
46 stakeholder involved decisionmaking process as a
47 framework for our weekly decisionmaking. As the season
48 progressed, harvest data that were collected by ONC
49 were incorporated into the decisionmaking process,
50 which proved to be invaluable in helping us make these

1 weekly decisions.

2

3

4 On June 12th, the first season opener
5 was a 12-hour opener. The opportunity was provided for
6 Chinook and chum harvest for Federally-qualified
7 subsistence users with gear types including set and
8 drift gillnets with six-inch mesh or less, not
9 exceeding 45 meshes deep, and not exceeding 300-foot
10 length, from the Refuge boundary at the Kuskokwim mouth
11 to the Johnson River, and upstream of the Johnson River
12 within the Refuge was limited to 150-foot long.

12

13

14 On June 16th a second opening, this one
15 was a 24-hour opener, was provided for Federally-
16 qualified subsistence users.

16

17

18 And then based on input from the
19 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission and
20 the public, on June 21st the section of the Federal
21 public waters of the main stem and the salmon
22 tributaries of the Kuskokwim River from a line
23 downstream of Kalskag, across the river, up to the
24 boundary of the Refuge was open until further notice to
25 the harvest of chum and Chinook salmon. And at the
26 same time, June 21st, a 72-hour opener was made
27 available from what we call the Kalskag line downriver
28 to the mouth of the Kuskokwim.

28

29

30 On June 29th a second 72-hour opener,
31 harvest opportunity was provided for Chinook and chum
32 salmon by Federally-qualified users.

32

33

34 And on July 7th the Federal manager
35 rescinded all previously issued special actions, which
36 included opening the drainage to all Federally-
37 qualified users and all non-Federally-qualified
38 subsistence users and uses.

38

39

40 A couple of highlights from the season
41 that I wanted to point out. One, this year there
42 appeared to be a high degree of harvest satisfaction.
43 Recognizing that harvest levels were nowhere near
44 historic levels, there seemed to be a high degree of
45 satisfaction amongst the users.

45

46

47 Second, there was extremely high
48 regulatory compliance this year, which made life
49 easier.

49

50

50 Three, we celebrated the signing of the

1 memorandum of understanding between the Kuskokwim River
2 Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission and the Fish and
3 Wildlife Service, and implementation of the first year
4 of that historic relationship, which I think proved to
5 be very effective in the entire decisionmaking process.
6

7 And, four, continued implementation of
8 the objective-based stakeholder involved decisionmaking
9 process, using that as the basis for making our joint
10 fisheries decisions for the Kuskokwim River certainly
11 it was a highlight, and I think provided a good basis
12 for all of the parties that were involved.
13

14 We would like to encourage continued
15 support for funding of the Kuskokwim River drainage
16 fish weirs in future years. These weirs provided
17 invaluable information to evaluate the success of
18 salmon management and to support research and refining
19 the understanding of fisheries factors influencing
20 salmon productivity. So they've proved valuable
21 somewhat throughout the season, but particularly post-
22 season and pre-season in terms of helping us make
23 decisions.
24

25 That's the end of my report. Thank
26 you, Mr. Chair.
27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
29 questions on the Kuskokwim fisheries summary. Are
30 there any questions for the summary on the Kuskokwim.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, you
35 must have done a good job. Thank you.
36

37 (Laughter)
38

39 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
40 LaMont Albertson is here and has served in the capacity
41 of working with the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in the
42 summertime. Mike Williams had anticipated to call in.
43 He may no be able to make it to call in for this
44 meeting, but if the Council was interested in a brief
45 overview of how the in-season worked with the Inter-
46 Tribal Fish Commission, now would be an opportunity for
47 that as well.
48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Yeah, we were
50 going to go on down to our proposals, the Kuskokwim

1 Proposal FP17-05.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, sir. Go ahead.

6

7 MR. ONEY: Yeah. I would like to hear
8 Mr. Albertson's report also for the.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We can have
11 that after this proposal.

12

13 MR. ONEY: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If that's okay.

16

17 MR. DECOSSAS: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was that in Chinese?

22

23 MR. DECOSSAS: Yeah.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. DECOSSAS: You'll have to excuse my
28 Yup'ik. I'm still trying to learn that. I have good
29 teachers though in Ms. Martha Perry and her daughter
30 Shana from Tuntutuliak. Still working on that. It's a
31 fun language. Very pretty.

32

33 So, Mr. Chair, members of the Council,
34 I'm Gary Decossas from OSM, and I'll be presenting the
35 Staff analysis for FP17-05.

36

37 The draft Staff analysis can be found
38 on Page 32 of your Council books, and that would be the
39 executive summary. And then the actual draft Staff
40 analysis starts on Page 33.

41

42 This proposal was submitted by LaMont
43 Albertson and requests that the Federal subsistence
44 management plans, strategies, fishing schedules,
45 openings, closings, and fishing methods for the
46 Kuskokwim area be issued independently by the Federal
47 Subsistence Management Program in consultation with
48 appropriate agencies and entities.

49

50 In conversations OSM Staff had with the

1 proponent, he clarified his intent by stating that he
2 wanted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G, and
3 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to all
4 work together annually in the development and
5 implementation of Kuskokwim River salmon management
6 strategies and plans, both pre-season and in-season.
7

8 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
9 defer Fisheries Proposal FP17-05 and revise the
10 delegation of authority letter from the Federal
11 Subsistence Board to the Kuskokwim River Federal in-
12 season fisheries manager in order to address the
13 proponent's concern regarding collaborative development
14 of in-season management plans and strategies on an
15 annual basis in accordance with the goals and
16 objectives of the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project.
17

18 The Kuskokwim River Partnership Project
19 is intended to provide a mechanism to integrate
20 Kuskokwim tribes and Federally-qualified subsistence
21 users into the decisionmaking process for fisheries
22 management on Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim
23 River drainage. This project aims to develop unified
24 recommendations for fisheries management for the
25 Kuskokwim River drainage, including the development of
26 a single management plan and associated in-season
27 management strategies for the Kuskokwim River.
28

29 While a signed MOU is associated in-
30 season management strategies -- oops. While a signed
31 MOU is in place to outline how tribal interests will be
32 integrated into the in-season decisionmaking process,
33 the second part of the partnership project focusing on
34 Federally-qualified subsistence users has not yet been
35 implemented via the Regional Advisory Council and Board
36 action.
37

38 Deferring Fisheries Proposal FP17-05
39 will provide time for full implementation of all
40 aspects of the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project and
41 possible revision of the delegation of authority from
42 the Federal Subsistence Board to the Federal in-season
43 manager before decisions are made about the necessity
44 of regulatory changes to the Federal subsistence
45 regulations.
46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd be happy to
48 answer any questions that you may have.
49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.

1 Decossas.

2

3

MR. DECOSSAS: I'd also -- excuse me,
4 Mr. Chair. I'd also like to mention that if there is
5 any questions about the intent of the proposal, that
6 the proponent, LaMont Albertson, is sitting in the
7 audience, and I'm sure he'd be happy to explain any
8 questions about the intent of the proposal.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Gary.

13

14 Council members, are there any
15 questions concerning FP17-05. Mr. Smith.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Thank you.

18

19 Maybe a clarification and maybe -- I'm
20 not sure where to direct this question, but I know that
21 I comment last meeting back in March regarding the
22 salmon subsistence harvest around Nelson Island. And
23 I'm not even sure if that's even classified under the
24 Kuskokwim subsistence harvest area. I did request that
25 we get information regarding salmon stocks around that
26 area in Cape Vancouver. So I'm not even sure if maybe
27 I'm crossing the line in terms of this is not our area.
28 I'm just throwing that out.

29

30 MR. DECOSSAS: Through the Chair. Mr.
31 Smith, that was discussed in the winter meeting I
32 believe. You had brought up the discussion about drift
33 gillnetting in the Cape Vancouver area. And I don't
34 know that we -- in relation to this proposal, but I
35 know in the fisheries priority information needs, the
36 FRMP section that we'll be discussing after this, that
37 we'll discuss if we want to make that a priority
38 information need.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Smith? Mr.
43 Aloysius. You. Mr. Aloysius.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Out of
46 respect for the author of this proposal, I would like
47 to have him up here, because he's been a resident of
48 this area for many, many years, and he's been involved
49 in many of the activities that are -- you know, that we
50 participate in. And he's been with the working group

1 for many, many years, and he's familiar with the
2 Kuskokwim River from Aniak down to here. So I'd like
3 to hear from him exactly why he is presenting this
4 proposal, because he knows what he's saying where
5 everybody else is just reading what the proposal is.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
10 Aloysius.

11

12 Mr. Albertson, would you like to come
13 up and field some questions.

14

15 MR. ALBERTSON: Yes, sir. Thank you.
16 Mr. Chair. And I also want to thank you folks from the
17 Yukon. And we certainly appreciate your support of
18 what we're trying to do for our subsistence user here
19 on the Kuskokwim River.

20

21 My name is LaMont Albertson. I met Bob
22 Aloysius and Charles Schroeder Brown, and Mr. James
23 Charles right there. I met those gentlemen 50 years
24 ago, and it's been kind of good growing up with them
25 here on the Kuskokwim, and raising my family with them,
26 as we're now elders, but then back then as mentors to
27 what we try to teach our families in terms of the needs
28 for subsistence, and the needs for protecting our
29 subsistence resources here on the Kuskokwim River.

30

31 I want to read to you from Page 33 I
32 think it is in your book just exactly what this is all
33 about. There's a lot of conversation and a lot of
34 verbiage about what this FP17-05, but this is the
35 essence. And what I'm going to read to you is what
36 I've heard from people on the Kuskokwim River Salmon
37 Management Working Group which I've been on since -- as
38 a charter member with James Charles and Bob Aloysius
39 way back when we tried to get the State's attention
40 that we wanted to have more involvement in the
41 management of our fisheries here on the Kuskokwim, and
42 that was in 1988, and correct me if I'm wrong, James
43 Charles. I think Kim Francisco was a biologist for the
44 State of Alaska at that time, and he worked very well
45 with us, and we came up with the Kuskokwim River Salmon
46 Management Working Group.

47

48 But this is just kind of a distillation
49 or just kind of a brief explanation for what we want.
50 And I think I'm speaking for all members of the

1 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group when I
2 say this.

3

4 We simply want the Federal Subsistence
5 Management Program, including the Federal in-season
6 manager, to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and
7 Game, including direct participation of the Kuskokwim
8 River Salmon Management Working Group, and the
9 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission to
10 determine a management strategy for the Kuskokwim area
11 fisheries.

12

13 That is really simple, gentlemen.
14 There's nothing complicated about that whatsoever. We
15 want everybody to come to the table and let's just sit
16 down and talk about our fisheries, and let's just reach
17 some conclusions.

18

19 Now, we had the extraordinary privilege
20 the last two years, I wasn't involved in it last year
21 so much, but we've had the extraordinary privilege the
22 last two years of working with the Federal Government,
23 with the gentlemen who are seated behind me, and Dr.
24 Lou Cogins, Dr. Pippa Kenner also. We've worked with
25 them and we have had an outstanding cooperative program
26 in place. We come, they tell us what their
27 recommendations are based on the best science that they
28 can give us, and we sit there and cooperatively come up
29 with an understanding of how we ought to go forward
30 with our fishery. There is no mystery to that. Dr.
31 Lou Cogins described it as like sitting around a
32 campfire.

33

34 However, we do not get the same spirit
35 from the State of Alaska. I've worked for the Alaska
36 Department of Fish and Game. I know many of the people
37 who work there, and I don't want anyone in this room to
38 leave here thinking that I lack any respect for them
39 professionally. I'm just saying that whatever the
40 reasons are, we do not have the same sort of
41 interaction, the same sort or arrangement with the
42 State of Alaska, and I would like to see that. For us
43 to be good managers of the subsistence resources on the
44 Kuskokwim River, we need to have everybody at the
45 table. We need to see the same sort of spirit that we
46 saw with our Federal managers this past summer. That's
47 exactly what we need, and then we can go forward.

48

49 I think those managers will tell you
50 that we absolutely cooperated. I'm speaking for the 33

1 tribes, all of our tribal members. We absolutely
2 cooperated with them as they shared the best science
3 they could share with us. And I think they would tell
4 you that we absolutely cooperated with them. We
5 cooperated with each other. That's what it's all
6 about.

7
8 And that's the essence of this, my
9 recommendation right here, that's what I'm driving for.
10 I'm asking for the Federal Government to issue their
11 guidelines, their rules, their observations regarding
12 our escapement and our needs to protect our subsistence
13 resources, or utilize our subsistence resources
14 independently. We would like to have them bring their
15 conclusions to the table; we would like the State of
16 Alaska to bring their conclusions to the table. And
17 let's just sit there and talk about it. And let's talk
18 about what our subsistence needs are. Let's talk about
19 the resource, the salmon. Let's talk about what needs
20 to -- what sort of escapement we have to have in order
21 to protect them.

22
23 We know -- you know, I've listened to
24 tribal members for the 50 years that I've been up here.
25 What we're interested in is protecting these resources
26 for our children and our grandchildren down the road.
27 We don't want to squander our resources as we've seen
28 happen in so many places in the Lower 48. And that's
29 exactly what we're calling on the Federal Government
30 and the State to do by adopting this resolution, this
31 17-05. And I'd certainly appreciate your support in
32 this.

33
34 I think that if we can adopt this, and
35 if we can come up with what we, the Inter-Tribal
36 Fisheries Commission and the Kuskokwim River Salmon
37 Management Working Group, what we envision, I don't
38 think if we were coming to the table and talking the
39 way we have talked this past summer, we would have ever
40 had a protest fishery in 2013.

41
42 Just as a perfect example of what I'm
43 saying, this past year we met with the Board of
44 Fisheries, the State of Alaska, up in Fairbanks in
45 January. And we reached some conclusions up there
46 about the way we wanted to see the fishery executed.
47 We got the distinct impression on the Kuskokwim River
48 Salmon Management Working Group that we would have a
49 couple or three days in that long period from when the
50 fishery is closed on the Kuskokwim until it's opened,

1 that during that time we would have a two or three-day
2 period where people could get a little taste of fish.
3 Just a short period of time, not very long, not enough
4 to do any damage whatsoever to the escapement. We knew
5 that the Board was in our support.

6

7 We then left there understanding that
8 that is what would happen this past summer, and then
9 the State came along, and again I think it's because we
10 could not all gather around the table and talk about
11 it, and they said, no, that's not what the Board of
12 Fisheries meant. So we didn't have an opening.

13

14 We got on the telephone after the fact
15 and called up to the members of the Board of Fish and
16 they told us that is what they meant. That could have
17 all been avoided. We could have had a taste of fish
18 for a two or three-day period during that long closed
19 period at the beginning of the summer this year, if we
20 had been able to all come to the table and sit around
21 and discuss these sort of things. And that's the sort
22 of situation that we can avoid.

23

24 We live out here. We want to get
25 along, and the best way for us to get along is to sit
26 around this campfire that Dr. Cogins describes, and
27 talk about our fish and talk about how we can protect
28 our fish, and at the same time how we can meet the
29 needs of our subsistence users and protect the resource
30 on the river.

31

32 And I'd be glad to answer any of your
33 questions about this.

34

35 I'll note that Federal program, the way
36 it's set up in the State of Alaska, there are 13
37 Federal management districts, and in only three of
38 those management districts is there a rule in place
39 like we're trying to repeal here, which requires the
40 Federal Government to follow the recommendations of the
41 State. Only in three of those, and that's the
42 Kuskokwim, the Yukon, and the Chignik area. We think
43 that the Federal regulations should be issued
44 independently. And we think that we should then sit
45 down with the State, come up with whatever their
46 recommendations are, and let's just work this thing
47 out.

48

49 And I could repeat myself a little bit
50 more here, but I won't, but I will certainly be glad to

1 answer any of your questions that you have about what
2 I'm recommending here.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
5 Albertson.

6

7 Any questions for Mr. Albertson. Mr.
8 Smith.

9

10 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
11 a comment and a question.

12

13 I understand your proposal here is
14 trying to work with the State of Alaska Fish and Game
15 to come together to talk about a common cause. So my
16 question is, if this is -- if this becomes regulation,
17 wouldn't Fish and Game be mandated to come to the
18 table, or how would that work?

19

20 MR. ALBERTSON: No, I don't think they
21 would be mandated to come to the table, but I think
22 that it would encourage them to come to the table if
23 the Federal Government has their own recommendations.
24 The State is going to have their set of recommendations
25 based on what their experts then, and then the Federal
26 Government would also have their recommendations based
27 on what they think. And we would hope, as members of
28 the Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, and I emphasize
29 as members of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
30 Group, too, we would then hope to be involved in those
31 discussions, and we could all, not just share
32 scientific knowledge, but share traditional knowledge,
33 share what we, the users of the resource out here, what
34 we know about those resources, too. So no one would be
35 mandated, I guess, to come to that table. We do have
36 an MOU with the Federal Government in terms of
37 encouraging us to move forward with this cooperative
38 arrangement that we've come up with.

39

40 But the State would not be mandated to
41 come there, but I think they would. You know, they
42 feel -- they have an obligation to manage the fishery
43 from Aniak upriver, and the Federal government then
44 manages the fishery down here, so I think they would
45 come to the table. But we want it to be meaningful
46 negotiations and conversation.

47

48 A lot of time working with the
49 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, which
50 is the State group, we have discussions, but they're

1 simply not meaningful at the end of the day, because
2 what we recommend is not necessarily carried out.

3

4 But this would bring us all to the
5 table, and I think it would lead towards meaningful
6 discussions, discussions which would do what the law,
7 what ANILCA and Section .804 says ought to happen, and
8 that is that subsistence users would be considered in
9 the second priority. The first priority is the
10 resource, and we understand that on the Inter-Tribal
11 Fisheries Commission, that we've got to protect our
12 salmon resources. But the second priority is
13 subsistence use, and that's what we would like to come
14 to the table and discuss.

15

16 Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Smith.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Brown -- or Mr.
19 Charles, I'm sorry.

20

21 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 It's just a comment for LaMont.

23

24 The Proposal 17-05, we, our group -- I
25 remember that now two or three years ago when Alissa
26 Joseph was coordinator for Fish and Game AC, the AC
27 members from Lower Kuskokwim wanted this kind of
28 proposal, or wanted something like this, because people
29 are -- we're getting used to closed and open and closed
30 and open for the season of any species like Chinook,
31 chums and others. So people at that time, two or three
32 years ago, wanted something like this, but they didn't
33 make the proposal. So Fish and Game AC wanted -- or
34 Charlie might remember that time, because Alissa Joseph
35 was our coordinator, too, at that time. They mentioned
36 that, but nobody made a proposal, so I'm glad something
37 like this come up now, too, for our guideline during
38 the season.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
43 for Mr. Albertson. Mr. Aloysius.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Something
46 like this is long overdue. The way I look at it is
47 something like -- okay. Enough chaos. And like LaMont
48 said, we need to come together and make it formal. And
49 to me, this is what is happening, because the first
50 priority for the Federal Subsistence Board is to look

1 after the subsistence needs of rural Alaska. And over
2 50 percent of that is made up of the indigenous people.
3 The Inupiaq, the Malemiut, the Yupiak, the Sugpiaq,
4 Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, and all of the Athabaskan
5 Nations. They've been here the longest. They were
6 here before the territorial days. They were here
7 before the State of Alaska was established. They were
8 here way before Columbus in his wandering landed over
9 in one of those islands and named the inhabitants as
10 Indians.

11
12 But if you look at the real history,
13 you're not going to find any Eskimos, or Indians on the
14 whole world, period. Eskimos and Indians are only
15 labels that the government put on us, because they
16 cannot identify us by our real ethnicity. They can say
17 German, French, and all those European nations.
18 They're expert at that, that's their language. But
19 they cannot speak and call us by our real ethnicity, so
20 they just put two words, Eskimo and Indian. And that's
21 the problem we've been having.

22
23 And the other thing that really upsets
24 me is the simple fact that we're all considered rural,
25 which is far, far from the truth. We are remote Bush
26 Alaskans. We have no direct connection by road. If
27 you look at the word rural, it means it's connected to
28 a city by a road system. We don't have that. So we're
29 always neglected, because most of the effort is on
30 rural, but there's nothing connected to remote Bush
31 Alaska. The closest connection we have to the road
32 system is probably Manley.

33
34 But I'm getting away from what my true
35 reason for commenting is. The simple fact is that we
36 need the Federal Government to recognize this proposal
37 as a means of helping them to understand why we are
38 here. They claim that subsistence is a priority for
39 rural Alaska. Fine. But let them prove it, and get
40 involved in it. It's simply -- you know, including the
41 Federal in-season manager in consultation with
42 appropriate agencies and entities.

43
44 (In Yup'ik) I cannot translate this
45 into Yup'ik, because all of these words are foreign to
46 me. But from my heart, I know that Mr. LaMont
47 Albertson, and whoever was with him in writing up this
48 proposal, speaks for the Native people from here, not
49 from here.

50

1 So the more I think about it, we need
2 this to help us be recognized as the true subsistence
3 users, because our history dictates to us that without
4 the animals and the fish, we are virtually nothing, and
5 we depend on all the resources that are out there to
6 help us live. And our ancestors through the teachings
7 of our grandparents insist that we honor and respect
8 every living thing, especially the animals that we eat,
9 the animals that provide us food, shelter, clothing,
10 comfort, and companionship. And that is something that
11 we don't hear of any more, because our grandparents are
12 put in the closet and said, just stay there. It's not
13 right.

14
15 And it's time that we started educating
16 the Federal Government about real subsistence way of
17 life. And I hope that this will be a step in that
18 direction.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
23 Aloysius.

24
25 Anyone else for questions for Mr.
26 Albertson. There being none, thank you, Mr. Albertson,
27 and.....

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, Mr. Brown. I'm
32 sorry. Just a minute. Mr. Brown, go ahead.

33
34 MR. BROWN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: I'm going to speak.....

37
38 MR. BROWN: I'll speak in my own
39 language.

40
41 INTERPRETER: I wanted to ask regarding
42 the Chinook salmon. I'm going to ask you in reference
43 to the Chinook salmon, that this past year we were not
44 very happy, because during that in-season -- you
45 probably follow the in-season management here, but when
46 the Chinook first comes into the Kuskokwim River,
47 they're the number 1 salmon that comes up the river up
48 here, and at that time during June -- every year the
49 month of June is the best time for drying fish. And in
50 regards to that, in the month of June -- the houseflies

1 that are a bane to us when we are trying to dry our
2 fish, during the month of June the flies are not even
3 out in number at all, so the month of June is a perfect
4 month for drying salmon. And this is a perfect
5 opportune time to get high quality dried salmon. And
6 we want them to dry good, and there's hardly any
7 humidity, and there is no spoilage during the month of
8 June. And that's why traditionally we try to take care
9 of these and in the best of times, it takes us about a
10 week from catch to putting them away. It takes about a
11 week on the best of times. And for those of us that
12 inhabit the fish camps, we are always happy about our
13 catch, and it's like that we are babysitting our food
14 that we split, cut, and dry, and we stay there
15 continually 24/7 until we are able to put them away.

16

17 So my question is, can we not open
18 opportunity for fisheries in June while the humidity is
19 low and before the flies come out in numbers. And so
20 that is my question, because this past summer a lot of
21 people were complaining that the humidity was too high
22 and too many bugs after the fact June was over.

23

24 MR. ALBERTSON: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

25 Thank you.

26

27 These are exactly the sort of issues
28 that we can address at this table if we can all come
29 together. These are exactly the sort of things that we
30 need to be talking about.

31

32 Because the numbers of kings returning
33 upriver have been low the last few years, we've had
34 these serious restrictions in place. That doesn't mean
35 that these restrictions cannot be lifted. What I hope
36 this will lead us to do is to bring all of us to the
37 table so that we can talk about the fly problem in June
38 and we can look at our numbers.

39

40 What some of our restrictions, just an
41 aside, I'll share with you. What some of our
42 restrictions have done the past few years is they've
43 allowed our king salmon to get all the up to McGrath,
44 and Telida, and Takotna, and Nicolai, those areas
45 upriver. And yesterday I testified in behalf of this
46 regulation change also to the Western Interior
47 subsistence group. And Ray Collins gave elegant -- and
48 you know Ray Collins. Ray Collins gave elegant
49 testimony to what a difference it was making in the
50 subsistence lives of the people around McGrath and

1 Nicolai to again have king salmon. It had been so long
2 since they'd had king salmon up there that a lot of
3 their nets were just rotten. There was no sense in
4 them even putting their nets out, it had been that
5 long.

6
7 But I think this past summer, if my
8 recollection is correct, that we've had over -- they've
9 counted over 6,000 kings up at the weir, at the
10 Salmon/Pitka Port weir. So letting some of those
11 salmon go by in early June is allowing the people
12 upriver to meet their subsistence needs also.

13
14 But I think all of these rules that
15 we've come up with can be can be modified to reflect
16 our needs as subsistence users. And what I'm thinking
17 is that with this regulation right here, that's going
18 to encourage us to come to that table for meaningful
19 discussion so that we can make sure that all of our
20 subsistence users, not just us, but all of our
21 subsistence users up and down the river, that their
22 needs can be better met.

23
24 There still -- even with the passage of
25 this regulation right here, should it pass, there still
26 will be the need to compromise, and to discuss among
27 ourselves. We're always going to have to make
28 decisions which will lead to trade-offs. And I think I
29 heard Ken Stahlnecker call it objective-based
30 decisionmaking. So we look at our objectives. Our
31 objectives are to meet as many of our subsistence users
32 on this river's needs as we possibly can, and I think
33 that this regulation right here will help us do that.
34 And I'd certainly appreciate your support of that.

35
36 But thank you very much, Mr. Brown. I
37 appreciate your concern.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr. Oney.

40
41 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chairman.

43
44 Yeah, I've heard about your name for a
45 long time, too, Mr. Albertson. I commend you for the
46 work that you do for the people in your area.

47
48 I think it's more of a comment that I
49 want to speak about. You know, despite the State and
50 Federal people doing a lot of budget cuts, I think this

1 is a good time to get people unified based on this
2 proposal. I think we need -- the more people that we
3 bring to the table, the better we will stand, and to
4 let other people understand what we're trying to do
5 when we unify one another. And, you know, I'd like to
6 see more people be involved in this way. And I thank
7 you, because I think this sets the foundation for many
8 of -- that will open many doors for the Federal and the
9 State people.

10
11 And co-management is something that's
12 been on the table for a long time. I've heard it as
13 Mr. Charles mentioned, I serve on the AC, too. And
14 it's been on the table, and I'd like to see that happen
15 at some point in time that, you know, co-management be
16 made, because, you know, we live in the river
17 throughout the season, winter, summer, winter and fall,
18 you know. We're there throughout the whole year, and
19 we know what's going on with the fish in our area
20 through the knowledge of observation and through the
21 knowledge that have been passed down from our
22 forefathers, so we know what's going on on the river,
23 and I think that's what the State need to recognize,
24 that in order for them to build upon this, they need us
25 to be there to work with them, to have a better
26 management of our resources.

27
28 So again I thank you for the -- commend
29 you for the work that you do for your people. Thank
30 you.

31
32 MR. ALBERTSON: Through the Chair, Mr.
33 Oney. I thank you also.

34
35 And one of the things that I think the
36 State's really going to need us for, the Federal
37 Government is really going to need us for, as we're
38 starting to go through this period of our history where
39 there are going to be tremendous climate change. You
40 know, we're the ones out here on the river, are going
41 to be dealing with that climate change the most. And I
42 think it's even more important as time passes that we
43 all get to that table and start addressing these
44 changes that are coming.

45
46 But thank you very much, sir.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.
49 Mr. Bill.
50

1 MR. BILL: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, I'm going to
4 translate in my -- or I'm going to talk in Yup'ik.

5

6 There has been numerous times even from
7 the coast, they have talked about this cooperation all
8 this time. We have talked about this. We understand
9 this, that we need this. And when they bring proposals
10 on the table, we need to know -- when finish -- make
11 these regulations without consulting the tribe, it's
12 like -- it gets hard on the river, just -- why do you
13 guys make these regulations without consulting the
14 tribes. The State of Alaska has no authorities to talk
15 with us tribes if you're talking to corporation. Make
16 sure this is all ironed out, everything. It hurts some
17 people, especially with those subsistence users. Let
18 us know before you make regulations. Without doing
19 consultation, and they make all these regulations that
20 hurts us, and these regulations, people are making laws
21 about them, that we've been talking about this ever
22 since.

23

24 Everything, they come and pass, but
25 when -- look at this as an example. When we started
26 the Bering Fish, one of the elders said that don't make
27 noise. Don't make noise, and don't make anything.
28 Just talk to them. And we lost our fishery because
29 people were complaining about it. If people won't
30 complain about it, it would still be going.

31

32 They used to tell us that if we make
33 too much noise or we talk about anything like these
34 animals, even the wolves, if we -- we should be having
35 this kind of conversation, so people, you know -- we
36 shouldn't be thinking like this is the last hunter. We
37 are people. We have lived here for more than 10,000
38 years. We have lived here. Subsistence way of life,
39 it has never disappeared. We still live it. My
40 partner always tells me, you know.....

41

42 A lot of times when I got out to gather
43 resources, even though I want to go out hunting, my
44 wife always tells me to stop hunting, because we have
45 enough food. And when I was growing up, if I threw any
46 of my catches without eating it or harvesting, the
47 first thing that I would get is a rebuke from my
48 elders, is not to throw anything away or waste
49 anything, and that was the first thing that I always
50 heard before I went out hunting, and we never hear

1 these things any more. And so, because if you
2 disrespect your resources, those resources will be hard
3 to come by for you after that. And that was what we
4 always heard when we were growing up.

5

6 And I am very thankful that you had
7 mention the respect of the resources. And I was really
8 happy that you wanted a cooperative effort with all the
9 users and the game managers.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Bill.

14 Mr. Peters.

15

16 MR. PETERS: Mr. Albertson, Mr.

17 Chairman.

18

19 You know, it's a concern. One thing
20 that what -- you know, I live on the Yukon, and, you
21 know, with the State and Federal cutback, it's going to
22 really affect us, and I'm kind of, you know, want to
23 support the Kuskokwim on something. You know, like
24 from my area, with all the cutbacks and stuff like
25 that, how it's going to affect my people. I think what
26 Ray brought up was a good suggestion, that they come
27 out and, you know, see how us all subsistence people
28 live out there, and, you know, how it's going to affect
29 our people. And we need to come united on some sort of
30 stuff of how it's going to affect us.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Peters.

35

36 Any further questions for Mr. Albertson
37 concerning this proposal.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you,

42 Mr. Albertson.

43

44 MR. ALBERTSON: If I may respond to Mr.
45 Bill and Mr. Peters, would that be all right?

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may. Yes,

48 you may.

49

50 MR. ALBERTSON: Yeah. Mr. Bill, I want

1 you to know that while I grew up in Florida and didn't
2 move up here until I was my early 20's, that I grew up
3 in a subsistence family down there. The first bird
4 that I ever shot was a meadowlark, and I left it in the
5 field, and I was so proud of it. And I went back and
6 told my dad and mom that I had killed a meadowlark.
7 Without even cracking a smile or anything for my dad to
8 make me feel good about it, he said, where is it? I
9 said, I left it in the field. And he said, get your
10 bum out there and get that meadowlark and bring it back
11 here. We're going to eat it. And he taught me that
12 lesson early in my life.

13

14 And those lessons that I learned
15 growing up in a subsistence family in south Florida
16 although it's far removed from Alaska are the lessons
17 that have allowed me to stay up here for 50 years.
18 They're the lessons that allowed my daughter, Melanie
19 Albertson to teach school in Toksook Bay for two years.

20

21

22 I value these subsistence values. It's
23 who I am, and I think I'm a better person for it. And
24 I think people are better people when they respect the
25 resources that God has given us. And so I certainly
26 appreciate your concerns.

27

28 And I want you to know that any time
29 I'm at that table, any time any of these gentlemen that
30 I know around this table who were at that table
31 negotiating, that respect for our subsistence resources
32 will be our utmost concern. We talk about that at
33 Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission all the time.

34

35 So I think you for your comments. And
36 I think you, too, Mr. Peters. Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: He knows what I'm going
41 to say. But I leave it up to him.

42

43 If you're curious about his first moose
44 hunt in Alaska, ask him. Thank you.

45

46 MR. ULAK: How was it?

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's for
49 another.....

50

1 MR. ALBERTSON: It was wet. It was
2 wet. But only because I didn't listen to my elder
3 sitting right over there in the corner.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was just going to
6 say that is for another proposal.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. ALBERTSON: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
14 Albertson.

15
16 We have one person testifying on this
17 proposal. Ms. Alissa Joseph-Rogers.

18
19 MS. JOSEPH-ROGERS: Good morning, Mr.
20 Chairman and members of the Council.

21
22 This morning I'm sitting in front of
23 you today as the seated director of natural resource
24 for Orutsararmiut Native Council. My name is Alissa
25 Nadine (In Yup'ik) Joseph, recently remarried to Mr.
26 Rogers.

27
28 Usually I sit in front of you as a
29 youth delegate advocating on behalf of my generation,
30 the next generation to sit on those seats after you,
31 but today I am sitting here this morning to represent
32 the ONC Native Council on behalf of Greg Roczicka.

33
34 The ONC subsistence committee has met
35 on September 29th, 2016 to discuss, review in great
36 length Fisheries Proposal 17-05. It was finally
37 decided at a unanimous decision, after great
38 discussion, to support this proposal as written. And
39 if you would like, I could write up a support letter
40 from ONC on behalf of this proposal to support Mr.
41 LaMont Albertson.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Ms.
46 Joseph Rogers.

47
48 MS. JOSEPH-ROGERS: No? Good.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I think your
2 presentation is enough to convince us that ONC supports
3 this. We don't have to have it in writing. It comes
4 from your heart, comes from ONC's heart, so that's the
5 most important thing.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MS. JOSEPH-ROGERS: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments,
12 questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alissa.

17
18 At this time I've got to find my piece
19 of piece of paper down there.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's right here. I'll
24 call the next -- actions are written behind it, that's
25 why I need this.

26
27 At this time, Mr. Lind, you'll be
28 reporting to the tribes and ANCSA on this proposal?

29
30 MR. LIND: (Indicates affirmative)

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And so
33 we'll go on down to agency comments. ADF&G.

34
35 MS. WESSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 This is Maria Wessel again with the Alaska Department
37 of Fish and Game. We have the following comments, and
38 thank you for the opportunity to present them.

39
40 Fishery Proposal 17-05 would authorize
41 for the Kuskokwim area Federal subsistence management
42 plans, strategies, fishing schedules, openings,
43 closings, and fishing methods are independently by the
44 Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to achieving the
45 mission and mandate of the National Wildlife Refuge
46 System, and the Federal Subsistence Management Program
47 in consultation with appropriate agencies and entities.
48 The proposal explanation discusses that this regulation
49 change is not intended to discourage or impede unified
50 regulations when appropriate. Specificities like this

1 would have to be detailed out in the delegation of
2 authority letter that the Office of Subsistence
3 Management mentions, or in a future protocol subject to
4 the MOU between the Federal Subsistence Board and the
5 State of Alaska once it is resigned by the State and
6 Federal agencies and boards.

7

8 The State supports increased
9 collaboration in order to be aligned when possible, and
10 would also like to see the ability for more discerning
11 when closures take place by species, for example, in
12 the sport fishery.

13

14 We do appreciate the fisheries
15 management expertise these past few years from the
16 Yukon Delta Refuge and look forward to continued
17 collaboration on the State-run suite of assessment
18 projects and the two weirs run by the Fish and Wildlife
19 Service.

20

21 The MOU was recently signed between the
22 Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kuskokwim River
23 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, ratifying the Kuskokwim
24 River Partnership project, and we would like to see
25 this partnership project continue to evolve and include
26 the State in this collaborative project.

27

28 The ADF&G area manager is listening in
29 today and is here to answer any questions the Council
30 members may have, and to contribute to the discussion.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Fish and
35 Wildlife Service.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
38 Yesterday we distributed the letter that was addressed
39 Chair Lester Wilde from the Refuge, and they can also
40 speak to these comments as well. So this is the
41 letter. I'll hand them out.

42

43 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair
44 and Council members.

45

46 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
47 Region 7 Refuge Program has reviewed Proposal FP17-05
48 and offers the following comments.

49

50 While we appreciate the overall intent

1 of Proposal FP17-05, and we support the idea of
2 coordinating management of the fishery on the Kuskokwim
3 River, we respectfully oppose the proposal, because we
4 fell there are other avenues to accomplish the desires
5 of the proponent short of implementing regulation.
6 However, we do think that this provides an opportunity
7 to clarify existing regulatory authorities.

8
9 There are various management
10 authorities involved in the management of subsistence
11 resources in Alaska. In the Kuskokwim area the Federal
12 Subsistence Board delegated authority to the Yukon
13 Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager to issue certain
14 in-season actions associated with subsistence
15 fisheries. The delegation of authority letter states
16 the Federal manager is responsible for local management
17 of subsistence fishing by Federally-qualified
18 subsistence users, including the authority to restrict
19 all users in Federal waters if necessary to conserve
20 healthy fish stocks, or to provide for subsistence uses
21 in Federal waters. In delegating this authority, the
22 Federal Subsistence Board's stated intent was that the
23 Refuge manager coordinate with Department of Fish and
24 Game and involved Regional Advisory Council
25 representatives to conserve healthy fish stocks while
26 providing for subsistence uses. It is our belief that
27 this authority provides a resolution to many of the
28 issues raised in Proposal 17-05.

29
30 The Fish and Wildlife Service and the
31 State of Alaska work together to manage fish and
32 wildlife in the National Refuge System. The Service
33 has ultimate management authority over resources in the
34 National Wildlife Refuge System pursuant to a variety
35 of statutes. However, effective stewardship of fish
36 and wildlife resources, various statutory provisions,
37 and Department of the Interior policy require close
38 cooperation with the State of Alaska.

39
40 The proposal requests that Federal
41 subsistence management plans, strategies, fishing
42 schedules, openings, closings and fishing methods be
43 issued independently by the Federal Subsistence
44 Management Program. Such an independent Federal
45 approach would bring about a massive change in how the
46 Service contributes to fisheries management on the
47 Kuskokwim River and would certainly violate the spirit
48 of cooperation and jeopardize the Services affective
49 working relationship with the State of Alaska, a
50 relationship that is vital to continued effective

1 fisheries management on the Kuskokwim River and
2 wildlife management throughout the State of Alaska.

3
4 If adopted, this proposal would require
5 the Service to develop their own independent management
6 plans; however, we feel this proposed regulation is not
7 necessary as Federal managers already have the ability
8 to develop independent management plans, strategies, or
9 objectives and was seen during the 2016 Chinook salmon
10 fishery when the Federal in-season manager and the
11 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
12 developed their own harvest objectives.

13
14 Deferring the proposal seems to be an
15 unnecessary recommendation as the proposed regulatory
16 changes are not needed to meet the intent of the
17 proposal. Rather, we think this action would be
18 counteractive to a more cooperative management system.

19
20 We also support updating the delegation
21 of authority letter as suggested by the Office of
22 Subsistence Management to provide clarity for in-season
23 actions, and to update any partnerships. However, this
24 update can be completed outside of the regulatory
25 process.

26
27 In summary, the Federal Government
28 retains the authority for the in-season manager to
29 carry out the actions that are suggested in this
30 proposal. And while we do support the concept of
31 coordinated management with the State of Alaska for the
32 Kuskokwim River salmon fishery, we feel there are other
33 mechanisms short of regulation to accomplish such an
34 outcome. And, additionally, the Board can take an
35 action to update the delegation of authority letter at
36 any time. Therefore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
37 Service Region 7 Refuge Program does not support
38 adoption of Proposal 17-05.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
43 questions for Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Dale
44 Smith.

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

47
48 I don't how to put this, but I guess
49 I'm a bit confused here. I just heard testimony from
50 Mr. Albertson mentioning that the tribes have spoken to

1 support this proposal to come to the table. And the
2 way they see it is that this needs to be done for the
3 issue there. So my confusion is, okay, so you just
4 mentioned that the Fish and Wildlife does not support
5 this proposal considering that you already are working
6 with Fish and Game on this particular issue. So the
7 way I see it is that, okay, the people have spoken,
8 Fish and Wildlife does not agree with that. So I'm a
9 bit confused here, because the people as we heard Mr.
10 Aloysius say, you know, they've been there for years,
11 and we've heard Mr. Bill. They know their resource,
12 they're stewards of the resource. But then again
13 there's regulations that they have to contend with. So
14 my confusion is, okay, I'm hearing the tribal members
15 speak, that they want this proposal -- they support
16 this proposal, because it brings people to the table.
17 And when I hear you say that you oppose it, because
18 you're already working with Fish and Game, and you
19 already have a process to do that, so I'm a bit
20 confused there.

21
22 MR. STAHLNECKER: Through the Chair.
23 Thank you, Mr. Smith. I can appreciate your confusion.

24
25
26 We do not disagree with the concept of
27 working around the table together. There's clearly a
28 need to do that. I think where we disagree is with the
29 mechanism to do that. We would prefer to see a process
30 put in place perhaps much like the memorandum of
31 understanding that developed the relationship between
32 the Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission and the Fish and
33 Wildlife Service that could be used to established this
34 type of a relationship, something short of regulation.
35 That in our minds can become a bit inflexible, and I
36 think you have a little bit more flexibility with some
37 of the other tools that may be available to us to try
38 to establish those types of relationships.

39
40 So no disagreement whatsoever about the
41 need to develop a coordinated management. It's the
42 details in how we get there.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, and then
45 we'll get to you, Mr. Bill. Go ahead, Mr. Aloysius.

46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

48
49 I don't know how to say this nicely,
50 but if it's a regulation you have to do it, no ifs,

1 ands, buts, or anything about it. No questions. You
2 have to do it. But if it's something like an MOA,
3 well, I don't know, and it -- but a regulation is
4 solid. And so I cannot agree with your not supporting
5 this, because it seems like to me it's like while it's
6 going to add more work to you and your people, fine,
7 that's great. It's time to start looking at things the
8 way they're supposed to be. And if the Federal
9 Government said you have to do it by regulation, I'm
10 all for that.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
15 Aloysius. Mr. Bill.

16

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

18

19 I just want to find out when you talk
20 about Federal waters, I'm a fisherman. When we talk
21 about Federal waters, we're talking about waters
22 outside of State line, that three -- outside of three
23 miles, and here you talk about Federal waters. What
24 waters are you talking about when you say Federal
25 waters?

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Bill. This
30 is Ray Born, deputy Refuge manager.

31

32 When we talk about Federal waters in
33 this context, we're talking primarily about the
34 Kuskokwim River within the boundaries of the Federal
35 land areas. And that's the area we're concerned about
36 with this particular issue.

37

38 I would agree that, you know, Federal
39 waters do extent out beyond three miles, which is a
40 statutory limit for the State. However, that's not the
41 responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Service, that's
42 been delegated to another agency.

43

44 But I understand your concern and I
45 appreciate that.

46

47 Thank you very much.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.
50 Mr. Peters.

1 MR. PETERS: Yeah. My name is Mike
2 Peters from Marshall, Alaska.

3
4 And, you know, on this proposal that
5 you're saying you're not going to support it, and
6 hearing earlier what Mr. Albertson and hearing some of
7 the like people on the Kuskokwim, like from Bob
8 Aloysius and some of the members here on the Board, you
9 know, what I'm saying is I'm hearing you're not
10 supporting something that was being brought up into the
11 regulations. And to my understanding, what's the
12 indication about the tribes or whoever brought this
13 forth to your table, and how to regulate it, I think
14 somewhere along the line that there have to be some
15 sort of understanding coming from the tribes and from
16 the delegation. But you're talking about -- to my
17 understanding, you're talking about traditional and
18 about the livelihood there. And somewhere along the
19 line, you know, when -- excuse me. You have to -- when
20 the regulations are going to be changed, I think the
21 people that live in the area should be brought forth to
22 the table, and let them have it, at least to hear them,
23 you know, and make it clear to them of why someone's
24 trying to change it or something like that, you know.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Peters.
29 Any other comments. Mr. Brown.

30
31 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

32
33 INTERPRETER: I am going to be speaking
34 in my language, too, because we have a translator here.

35
36 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 I want to ask regarding last year, the
39 -- my tribal down at Eek, the Tribe of Eek last
40 November -- or Eek. I came to testify to the Board of
41 Fish regarding this issue about the non-producing
42 salmon. That was the subject that I went to testify
43 about the non-producing salmon down at the mouth of the
44 Kuskokwim. And the fish that travel up the Kuskokwim
45 River, because the non-tributary -- the tributary
46 waters where the salmon do not go up there and lay, I
47 wanted to -- I was talking about the white-fleshed
48 fish, such as whitefish, western lush, whatnot, pike
49 and all that, Arctic char and whatnot, because it is
50 the same as Johnson River. The river that I am talking

1 about, down at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River,
2 because there are tributaries along the Kuskokwim that
3 do not have salmon going up there to lay their eggs at.
4 And so regarding those for the coming season here, how
5 are you going to regulate the non-salmon laying egg
6 tributaries. And so I wanted to know about that.

7

8 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Brown. As I
9 understand the question, it's will the non-salmon
10 bearing tributaries be open for other fishing
11 activities. And historically we're concerned about the
12 Chinook salmon, that's what we need to pay attention to
13 when we're mandated by the Federal Subsistence Board to
14 manage. So those areas outside of the salmon-bearing
15 tributaries and the main stem of the Kusko will
16 typically be opened for other fishing activities. So
17 again like last year and the year before, there's no
18 intent at this point in time to close any of the non-
19 salmon-bearing streams.

20

21 Does that answer the question?

22

23 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: In follow up to that,
26 last summer they said those -- the tributaries where
27 the salmon typically do not go up to lay their eggs,
28 they said those would be opened, but last season they
29 closed those as well. And so I want to know about
30 that. Do those non-salmon areas, are they closed as
31 well as whenever the whole Kuskokwim is closed.

32

33 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

34 Through the Chair.

35

36 The intent was that we looked at some
37 of the historical records for salmon-bearing streams,
38 and amended which ones were closed based upon some
39 historical use that we see in the biological records
40 that we have. However, we definitely like to consult
41 with all the tribes and Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,
42 and especially the Village of Eek to talk about is this
43 salmon-bearing or is it not salmon-bearing. That's
44 something we'd do in the pre-season discussions. I
45 think it would be very valuable, and would really
46 appreciate that if we could.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. BROWN: Quyana.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. There is
4 something in all of these U.S. Department of Interior,
5 Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon-Delta National
6 Wildlife Refuge correspondence. Every one of them that
7 originate from Bethel have no date, and I'm wondering
8 why.
9
10 MR. STAHLNECKER: Through the Chair.
11 Mr. Aloysius, I guess that was just an oversight. I
12 can come up with the date that that was signed and let
13 you know what that was. It's just simply an oversight.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Because it gets very
16 confusing as to when did they respond to something or
17 when they announce something, and it's important for
18 me, and I know other people, when this document
19 originate.
20
21 Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
24
25 MR. STAHLNECKER: So you're referring
26 to the recent letter that was handed out to you?
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, this one hear.
29 And the other correspondence from (indiscernible -
30 microphone not on), there's no date on it.
31
32 MR. STAHLNECKER: So this would have
33 been last Thursday I believe.
34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
36 Yes, we received an email from Ken on Thursday, and I
37 was back in the office from Selawik on Friday, so we
38 received it on Friday via email.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it, Robert?
41 Mr. Aloysius.
42
43 And according to the letter I'm
44 holding, it is not even this proposal that we're
45 addressing. This is for FR17 when it should be FP.
46
47 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you. We stand
48 corrected.
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions

1 for the Service.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
6 thank you very much, gentlemen.
7
8 At this time, for the village comments,
9 Jessica Esquible.
10
11 MS. JOHNSON: It's Jenessa.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who?
14
15 MS. JOHNSON: Janessa.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Janessa. Oh, okay.
18 You have the floor.
19
20 MS. ESQUIBLE: (In Yup'ik) Mr. Chair
21 and the Council. I'm Janessa Esquible with ONC.
22
23 And I was just wondering if the Refuge
24 would be able to speak an alternative mechanism that
25 they're possibly suggesting to LaMont's proposal.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was that?
28
29 MS. ESQUIBLE: I was wondering if the
30 Refuge can maybe clarify or speak to an alternative
31 mechanism that they're suggesting.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I suppose they
34 could. It's part of the proposal.
35
36 MR. STAHLNECKER: Through the Chair.
37 Again, I haven't gone into a lot of detail on this, but
38 the concept that we were thinking of that would be
39 short of regulation would be some type of a memorandum
40 of understanding perhaps, similar to the instrument
41 that's used between the Inter-Tribal Fisheries
42 Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service to
43 establish and spell out the responsibilities and
44 relationship and details -- working details of that
45 interaction. So it would be a similar type of an
46 arrangement perhaps.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Does that
49 answer your question? Go ahead.
50

1 MR. BORN: Through the Chair as well.
2 This is Ray Born with Fish and Wildlife.

3
4 We also have the Fish and Wildlife
5 Service/State of Alaska MOU pending that talks to some
6 of these concerns. You have a copy of that in your
7 book as well. So that may be one of the ways forward
8 we can do that. And that MOU is pending right now. It
9 is being worked on, and I think some of our other
10 members can talk more to that, but in reviewing it, it
11 talks about the coordinated management we're interested
12 in.

13
14 And Fish and Wildlife Service does
15 recognize our responsibilities as Department of the
16 Interior to consult with all the tribes. And that's a
17 responsibility we have at the highest level. So that
18 mechanism is in place. We're mandated to do that
19 already. And it's one of our biggest challenges, I
20 would agree, but I think we're making some strikes yet
21 with the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission as a
22 representative group for the tribes, at least on the
23 Kuskokwim River.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
28 questions before we continue on. Mr. Aloysius.

29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. The trouble
31 with MOUs and MOAs are simple, that everybody who has a
32 copy of that is going to interpret it in their own way
33 to their best interests. But a regulation is solid,
34 and you have to follow that regulation.

35
36 Thank you.

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

40
41 Any other comments. Mr. Peters.

42
43 MR. PETERS: You know, the question I
44 asked was, you know, on this regulation, the only
45 concern was about, you know, not just ONC, but of how
46 it's going to affect their tribes, and that, you know,
47 bring it to the table and how the -- you know, if they
48 need to be regulated somewhere along the line, if you
49 could hear their comments into some sort of
50 consideration, and try to do a follow up on what

1 they're asking now.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Is there
6 any other comments from the Council.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, we will
11 continue on with our procedure on the adoption of this
12 proposal or not.

13

14 Is there any comments from the
15 InterAgency Staff.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments. Advisory
20 group. Other Regional Councils.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
23 The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council took
24 action on 17-05 yesterday, and made a motion and passed
25 unanimously to support WP17-05 [sic] as written.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Fish and
28 Game Advisory Committees. Lower Kuskokwim.

29

30 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee had a
32 meeting a few years ago like I mentioned earlier. And
33 the group wanted the Kuskokwim to be closed and opened
34 before. And like this Proposal FP17-05, the group
35 wanted the same thing to happen. But why they
36 mentioned that was they didn't want the whole season to
37 be closed. They wanted some openings and closures and
38 on schedule. Openings, closings, and fishing method,
39 or the net sizes. And at that time like I mentioned,
40 Alissa was our coordinator, and she may remember, but
41 there was a group meeting here in Bethel at that time.

42

43 And as we know, the salmon and other
44 game are coming back. They're not all the way down
45 like we remember. At some point they were all the way
46 down, but they're coming back again, so using the
47 proposal would work for me, because I come from close
48 to the mouth of Kuskokwim, and we were losing
49 whitefish, broad whitefish. Now they're coming back,
50 and people are catching a lot this year. So salmon

1 will be the same way. Some years they go down and go
2 back up.

3
4 But like I mentioned before, I am
5 Chairman of the Lower Kuskokwim AC from Tuluksak on
6 down to the mouth. But my group would like that kind of
7 proposal.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Charles.

13
14 Lower Yukon.

15
16 MR. ONEY: We kind of didn't get a
17 chance to meet, so we did not review this particular
18 proposal. We have no comment. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
21 Subsistence Resource Commission.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
24 There were no comments from the National Park Service
25 SRCs. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Summary of written
28 public comments.

29
30 MS. PATTON: And no written comments
31 were submitted. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any public
34 testimony concerning this proposal. Mr. Joseph, we'll
35 call on you, and then we'll call on Mr. Nick, and then
36 the translator, if that's okay. Okay.

37
38 MR. JOSEPH: Allen Joseph from Bethel.

39
40 As a subsistence hunter and fisherman,
41 I support this proposal by Mr. Albertson. We consider
42 Mr. Albertson a friend of the people, and he's
43 supported by the tribes.

44
45 As you know, relationships between the
46 Fish and Wildlife and the tribes in the Y-K Delta are
47 usually very good, despite some differences in some
48 areas. But we have successful partnerships with the
49 agency, especially like the Hooper Bay Goose
50 Management, in which we helped each other conserve and

1 increase populations of waterfowl. And I believe the
2 agency could also be involved in our fisheries. I
3 think we could have successful partnerships in that
4 area, too, as well.

5
6 Fish and Wildlife is a big component in
7 the lives of the Y-K Delta people, because we live in
8 the Refuge. And I think this is a good invitation to
9 the agency to work with us on another level, which is
10 salmon. And I encourage Fish and Wildlife to take this
11 proposal, work on it, rewrite it, redraft it, whatever
12 they need to do to make it work for us.

13
14 Thank you very much.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Joseph.
17 Mr. Nick.

18
19 MR. NICK: Good morning, everyone.
20 Good to see familiar faces and some new faces as well.
21 And I'd like to applaud everyone that try to do the
22 best you can with respect to the issues and proposals
23 that this Council is going to be dealing with, or has
24 dealt with yesterday and this morning.

25
26 First thing I would like to ask the
27 Council -- the Council, not the Staff, is how many of
28 you have a computer and internet? And how many of you
29 are informed by your tribal council locally that they
30 had chance to review and provide recommendation how you
31 should comment in your village? I am not judging
32 anyone. I see one hand raised, two hands raised.

33
34 One thing that I would like to
35 recommend the Council and the tribal councils do is to
36 listen to tribal consultation. I don't know if it
37 still is done today. Before any meetings like this
38 public meeting and Federal Board meeting occurs,
39 there's usually a tribal consultation on issues that
40 are going to be put on the table. I have not seen any
41 notification whether or not if there is going to be
42 tribal consultation, and I'm one of the people who
43 listens to the radio and provides comments both in
44 Yup'ik and in English. Talk show in our region.

45
46 There's a thing called -- well, I
47 shouldn't call it a thing, but there is one tool that a
48 government uses. It's called regulatory comment
49 portal. All the comments are provided, and entered
50 into the portal. I don't have any internet access at

1 the moment, last couple of months at least. Last three
2 months I have not had access to internet.

3

4 But I would urge the Council and their
5 tribal council to look into the regulatory comment
6 portal, because Federal Board, if I'm correct, and
7 maybe I might be incorrect on this, but if I remember
8 correctly, Federal Board will also look at those. They
9 will look at the -- excuse me. Pardon me. They will
10 look at the responses or comments that were provided
11 when the consultation is provided to the region. They
12 will compile those together.

13

14 What I would like to say is this. I
15 have four families who now lives in Kuskokwim River,
16 here in Bethel, and are subsistence users of fish and
17 wildlife. I have spoken in the past, I have provided
18 my comments in the past to this Council that I will be
19 watching. I will be listening what is happening in our
20 region.

21

22 I think it's one of the good things
23 that the proponent of FP17-05 did, but I won't provide
24 comment on that, because I have not had a chance to
25 look at it. I have not had a chance to listen to the
26 public comments that were provided in the tribal
27 consultation from the tribes. I have not had a chance
28 to discuss this proposal in person with people like,
29 Council like you.

30

31 I respect you and your Staff. I
32 respect State Fish and Game Staff. I respect all of
33 you who are involved in dealing with subsistence issues
34 in our region. But I urge you, I ask you to look and
35 listen like I told you I would.

36

37 I have listened to some of the people
38 up and down the Kuskokwim River, and up and down Yukon
39 River on fishery issues. I have looked and listened to
40 issues relating to wildlife issues.

41

42 Some of my public comments I will
43 reserve, Mr. Chair. And what I would like to say is
44 that on the issues like this proposal, I would urge you
45 to weigh your vote.

46

47 And I -- correct me if I'm wrong, those
48 of you who are sitting here around the table, you have
49 comment authority. You have recommendation authority
50 to Federal Subsistence Board. Even if I told you that

1 something cannot be done, you as a group could bring it
2 forward through your Chair or through your future
3 chair, or your representative. So do these things
4 carefully. I know that you do, but it always take --
5 it's always good thing to sit down and consider
6 something when we're going to make that go forward. I
7 know that you all do very well job, and some of you
8 still sitting here since I was your coordinator, and I
9 am here to listen to what's going on with our region
10 with respect to dealing with regulatory issues.

11
12 Remember what I said in my previous
13 comment to you and to Federal Board I believe at one
14 time. I said that if the proposal fails, it could be
15 made possible through other avenues. There are other
16 avenues you could take, and your coordinator could show
17 you those avenues. And your Staff could show you those
18 avenues.

19
20 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for
21 letting me provide my comments. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.

24
25 Any questions for Mr. Nick. Mr. Smith.

26
27 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 I just have I guess an overall
30 clarifying question. His comments prompt me to think
31 about the process that we go through according to this
32 procedure here. The introduction, presentation of the
33 analysis, and then to report on Board consultations,
34 any tribes. So it the process, or is the process that
35 the tribes are consulted prior to the discussion of the
36 proposals, or are the tribes consulted after the
37 Council here votes yea or nay on a proposal.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Nick.

40
41 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I would ask your
42 Chair -- or rather your Staff to respond to that.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Lind.

45
46 MR. LIND: Quyana. It's still morning.
47 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Board members. Quyana.
48 Thank you for allowing me to speak again.

49
50 I would like to again just go through

1 -- try to possibly make this a little more simpler. I
2 know at the All Council meeting, every one of the RAC
3 members received this implementation of the guidelines.

4
5

6 We are mandated by Executive Order
7 13175 that we must consult with tribes in any Federal
8 regulation changes that will affect those tribes. And
9 so we have to consult with each and every tribe, which
10 is 229 Federal recognized tribes and 12 regional
11 corporations, and up to 200 village corporations. And
12 it's my duty to make sure that I sent you the letters,
13 sent you the emails, sent the faxes, however we can
14 reach people out there to let you know that we are
15 going to consult on these proposals.

16
17

18 For this instant, we will be sending
19 those information releases out to the villages I'm
20 guessing, like I said before, the first week of
21 November, and shortly afterward to conduct those
22 consultations with all those tribes, which will be
23 talking about each proposal you have visited here.

24
25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that answer your
27 question, Mr. Nick.

28
29

30 Okay. Mr. Smith.

31
32

33 MR. SMITH: I guess my question is --
34 well, I understand you're mandated to do that. My
35 question is, are the consultations done prior to every
36 proposal, or are they done after the fact. That was my
37 question.

38
39

40 MR. LIND: Through the Chair. Thank
41 you, Mr. Smith.

42
43

44 It's different in some cases. If
45 there's a topic that is real hot, in some cases we will
46 consult with the tribes before a RAC meeting. In some
47 cases it's not so hot, and so there's time for the
48 process to go -- us to go through the process. In most
49 cases in the past 20 months since I've been in this
50 position, we've generally had consultation after the
51 meeting.

52
53

54 Thank you.

55
56

57 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Just remember,
58 we're discussing FP17-05, and keep your questions and

1 discussion to that proposal.

2

3 Ms. Patton, do you have a.....

4

5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
6 want to just follow up as well. The program strives to
7 hold tribal consultation opportunities in advance of
8 the Council meetings whenever possible so that that
9 feedback from the tribes can be documented and then
10 feedback to the Councils presented at the Council
11 meetings. That was not able to happen in advance of
12 this meeting.

13

14 There is then a second opportunity for
15 tribal consultation for tribes to speak directly to the
16 Board at the Board meeting, and in advance of the Board
17 meeting. So we've often held two tribal consultation
18 opportunities, one where the tribe is -- they are
19 speaking to the Board, but that information is then
20 relayed to the Council at the Council meeting.

21

22 Sometimes the nature of the timing of
23 the fall meetings, it's subsistence hunting and fishing
24 season. The timing of the tribal consultation
25 sometimes doesn't work out well for tribes in advance
26 of the Council meetings. But they have a second
27 opportunity to consult with the Board in advance of the
28 Board making their decision.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr. Smith.

33

34 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Real
35 quickly.

36

37 Yeah, I think that was my point. You
38 know, if the tribes are consulted prior to an
39 introduction of the proposal, at least for me, it would
40 give me an informed decision about what the tribes are
41 thinking before we even act on a proposal. So if
42 there's a process that we could abide by, you know --
43 and I know that Mr. Lind mentioned that either it be a
44 hot discussion, then they're consulted prior to. But I
45 think for any proposal, I think we should at least get
46 -- at least listen to what the tribes are thinking
47 before we even act on the proposal, so that way we're
48 all informed of what the people are thinking. So
49 that's my point, that I think we need to listen to the
50 people out there, the tribe, the people out there, and

1 then we make a decision based on their feedback,
2 because ultimately it's affecting them.

3

4 So that was my point. Thanks.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Is there
7 any more discussion concerning FP17-05. Go ahead, Mr.
8 Peters, and then we'll get to Mr. Ulak.

9

10 MR. PETERS: You know, I'm for bringing
11 it to tribes, because we've got two tribes now in
12 Marshall, and how it's going to affect them. I like
13 what Mr. Smith said. How it's going to affect them, I
14 think it play a great role there, and, you know, bring
15 it back to the table and have it ready, how it's going
16 to affect them on these proposals, that's something
17 that could be done.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Ulak.

22

23 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. I think my
24 thoughts are like -- on this proposal and the letter
25 that was written to us from Fish and Wildlife, my
26 thoughts were to, you know, we need to really
27 understand both sides, the letter, the intent of the
28 proposal. The tribes need to understand that issue.
29 We can't understand it in one day. It has to be
30 understood by each of us, especially from the tribes,
31 going out to, and then to us, the RAC, and the
32 remaining RAC members, you know. I have -- I can
33 understand some, and some I don't understand, you know.
34 We need to talk to the liaison maybe, and then go on
35 from there.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Is there
40 any more testimony, public testimony concerning FP17.
41 Go ahead. I almost forgot about you. Sorry.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.
44 Patrick Sampson, public testimony in regards to this
45 proposal.

46

47 The respected gentleman from Fish and
48 Wildlife stated that there are other mechanisms to
49 accomplish these objectives. And my question was why
50 does Mr. Albertson feel that there was no other, but to

are other objectives to accomplish this --
3 other mechanisms to accomplish this proposal, why have
4 not they been instituted before. So I just wanted to
5 say that I'm in support of the proposal.
6
7 Thank you.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
10 public testimony.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
15 we'll go on to our next phase. Is there -- what is the
16 Regional Council recommendation concerning Proposal 17-
17 05. Mr. Aloysius.
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I move that
20 we support the adoption of Proposal FP17-05 as written
21 by the author.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.
24 Do I hear a second.
25
26 MR. ANDREW: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
29 Andrew. Mr. Secretary, would you please call the roll.
30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Wait a minute. You
32 forgot to ask if there's any discussion.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. I was just --
35 my mind just split. I'm sorry. Is there any further
36 discussion on Proposal 17-05.
37
38 MR. SMITH: Question.
39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: You guys hold on. We're
41 in the process of a discussion before you ask the
42 question. Thank you.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion. Mr.
45 Aloysius. I'm sorry, Mr. Charles.
46
47 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48
49
50 Why I want to make a discussion is

1 because I like this proposal for the Federal -- I mean,
2 the RAC. And because the State is coming up with some
3 proposals, too, for subsistence fishing, same
4 proposals. I gave my book to Eva yesterday, but it was
5 fisheries proposals in there, and why I like this
6 proposal FP17-05 instead of customary and, what's you
7 call that other one, but it seemed the State proposal
8 coming up. So I have to talk about that when we had
9 meeting at the end of this month, So AC's going to
10 meet in Bethel, Lower Kuskokwim AC's going to meet in
11 Bethel at the end of the month. So that's why I like
12 this, because the people, the users on Lower Kuskokwim
13 liked it before.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Charles. Mr. Aloysius.

19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I'm going to
21 support this proposal simply because of all of what I
22 heard, and what my heart is in, too. And contrary to
23 what was said earlier, a lot of times people don't get
24 information prior to this meeting. And so when they go
25 back and have a tribal consultation, they can say,
26 Western Interior supported this, Yukon-Kuskokwim
27 supported this, and the Eastern Interior supported
28 this, or whoever. And that will give them an idea that
29 -- we represent the people, and our voice is only one.
30 They can agree with it or not agree with it. So that's
31 just the way it is.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
36 Aloysius.

37

38 Anyone else. Mr. Brown.

39

40 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

41

42 INTERPRETER: I also like being under
43 the Federal control. The Federal Wildlife had
44 controlled the Kuskokwim River, and I appreciate their
45 efforts, and I want them to continue controlling the
46 fisheries in the Kuskokwim area.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion

1 from Council. Mr. Peters.

2

3 MR. PETERS: You know, on this
4 proposal, what I would like to see is the tribes like
5 feedback, because how it's going to affect, you know,
6 on something down on paper like on the regulations, if
7 something's going to be changed, or some -- the Federal
8 or whoever's, you know, put it to the table, and if
9 possibly, like if they're going to regulate something,
10 that they brought back to the people to my
11 understanding for like a consent vote, if they're for
12 it, or how it's going to affect our area, no matter
13 where we live at. And that would be something to look
14 at also. And I just want to bring up the tribes on
15 feedback of how it's going to affect them, you know.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion on
20 FP17-05. Any further discussion.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. ULAK: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
27 roll call vote, please.

28

29 MR. ULAK: Okay. Annie Cleveland.

30

31 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

32

33 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.

34

35 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

36

37 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.

38

39 MR. ONEY: Yes.

40

41 MR. ULAK: Greg Roczicka absent.

42 Robert Aloysius.

43

44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

45

46 MR. ULAK: David Bill.

47

48 MR. BILL: Yes.

49

50 MR. ULAK: William Brown.

1 MR. BROWN: Yes.
2
3 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
4
5 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
6
7 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
8
9 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
10
11 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
12
13 MR. PETERS: Yes.
14
15 MR. ULAK: Yes. Lester Wilde.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
18
19 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.
20
21 MR. SMITH: Yes.
22
23 MR. ULAK: Myself, yes. We have 1, 2,
24 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Twelve yeas and one absent.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries.
27 Motion passes unanimously.
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.
32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: May I ask for a break.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we spent two
38 hours on this proposal, so I think it's about time for
39 a break. Let's a 15-minute break.
40
41 (Off record)
42
43 (On record)
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
46 to order. Let's get the meeting back to order.
47
48 The next item on the agenda is -- may I
49 have your attention, please. The next item on the
50 agenda is Item B, Fisheries Resource Monitoring

1 Program, priority information needs.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
4 did have a request from Stewart Cogswell, if the
5 Council would be interested to Item No. C, review and
6 discussion on the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project
7 and MOU, just because it was very similar to some of
8 the discussion the Council was just having now on the
9 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And what you want,
12 what's the request.
13
14 MS. PATTON: The request was if the
15 Council wanted to take that up now. It's a pretty
16 brief discussion, but it follows in line with some of
17 the discussions the Council just had.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was that Item B,
20 Fisheries Resource Management.....
21
22 MS. PATTON: Item C, if that could be
23 bumped up.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, we could probably
26 -- we could suspend the rules if the Council would make
27 a motion to that affect. Mr. Aloysius.
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I request
30 that we suspend the rules to accommodate the wish of
31 our coordinator.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion's been
34 made. Do I hear a second to the motion.
35
36 MR. PETERS: Second.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor say aye.
39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'll go down
43 to Item C, review and discussion of Kuskokwim River
44 Partnership Project MOU and formation of subcommittee.
45 And then after that we'll go back to B.
46
47 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair and members of
48 the Council. My name is Stewart Cogswell. I'm the
49 acting deputy assistant regional director for the
50 Office of Subsistence Management. And thanks for

1 taking this request to change the schedule a little
2 bit.

3
4 I think it's very pertinent, because we
5 were just talking about all this stuff, and a lot of
6 the principles we were talking about apply to the
7 partnership project.

8
9 First of all, the MOU that the Fish and
10 Wildlife Service has with the Kuskokwim River Inter-
11 Tribal Fish Commission, that was part one of the
12 demonstration project, and we've heard from several
13 folks today, LaMont and Ken Stahlnecker from the
14 Refuge, and even the State about the success. There
15 has been some success with that MOU. More discussions
16 happening, and people being more involved. So I think
17 everyone is really happy with the MOU right now. So
18 that was part one of the demonstration or partnership
19 project.

20
21 What I want to talk about now is the
22 second part. We're working towards implementation of
23 the second part of that, and a lot of people have
24 worked very hard on the MOU and to sort of get us
25 pointed in a direction on the second part, including
26 Council Member Greg Roczicka. So the key to the second
27 part is that everyone is involved. We've heard that
28 over and over again today in a prior discussion. We
29 want everyone to be involved in the second part, you
30 know. Again, LaMont talked about that, Ken talked
31 about that, the desire to everyone work together on
32 this final phase of the partnership project.

33
34 So really close to the finish line. As
35 we get close, we want to make sure we have it right.
36 We want everyone to be involved. So we want it to be
37 the best it can be. We want it to be cooperative, you
38 know. We want people's voice to be heard.

39
40 There is an example in the book on Page
41 128. But what I really want -- I'm not going to focus
42 on that. That's a charter, it's a joint subcommittee.

43
44 But to ensure that this process
45 finishes strong and we have all that cooperation, we
46 would like to request the Council nominate someone to
47 finalize the discussion on what exactly that's going to
48 look like at the end. So the second part. So what I'm
49 asking today is to nominate someone to help out with
50 those discussions as we move this second part of the

1 demonstration project across the finish line, and make
2 sure it's representative and meets the needs of
3 everyone involved.

4

5 The Western Interior Council met
6 yesterday and they nominated Ray Collins to be their
7 representative to further these discussions. So I'm
8 going to be asking you for someone to nominate to help
9 with those final discussions.

10

11 And that's basically all I have. You
12 know, we want to be open to what everyone has, the
13 thoughts and ideas everyone has for that final
14 discussion, and then we'll move it forward. So I'm
15 here for any questions, but I would ask that you
16 nominate someone to assist with those final
17 discussions.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

22

23 MR. CHARLES: Can the Chairman be a
24 representative for MOU, too?

25

26 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. Mr.
27 Charles, I think anybody could be, anybody on the
28 Council could be represented here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Smith.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 Just for clarification, wasn't Mr.
35 Roczicka on this intertribal, or was that another deal?

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Gary.

38

39 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. Mr.
40 Smith, yes, Mr. Roczicka was involved with this whole
41 partnership project, the MOU and getting the second
42 part up and running, so he's been very actively
43 involved in this whole process.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

46

47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, he was active from
48 the beginning, but this is a new part of this
49 (indiscernible - teleconference interference) part of
50 the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is

1 there's supposed to be three reps from the RAC on that
2 in the executive portion of that commission. And there
3 was no one that was ever nominated before.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you have a
6 comment, Mr. Oney. I thought -- no.

7
8 Any one have nomination for the
9 position.

10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Oney.

14
15 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman. I'd like to nominate Dale Smith to be on the
17 commission. I feel that he has good communication
18 skills, and I think that will benefit this body. Thank
19 you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead, Dale.

22
23 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 The main reason I asked if Greg was
26 involved, because I know that during the past meetings
27 he was very outspoken on the issue. And is he still
28 serving, or is this a formal to put him on this? Is
29 that a formal request? So we hear you still need a
30 volunteer on it so far.

31
32 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. Mr.
33 Smith. He's been active, involved with it. I don't
34 know if it was through the -- I think it was through
35 the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. You know, he's been
36 very active in that realm with the partnership project.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Smith.

39
40 MR. SMITH: Okay. So I would feel
41 comfortable with nominating Greg considering that he's
42 been -- he has the background from the beginning to see
43 it through. So I nominate Greg.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg's been nominated.
46 Do I hear a second.

47
48 MR. BROWN: Second

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Brown. Any other

1 nominations. Mr. Aloysius.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I need a clarification
4 on who can be on this, because it's the Kuskokwim River
5 Fisheries Commission. It does not say Y-K. And my
6 question has never been answered. If a RAC member is
7 nominated, does he or she have to live on the Kuskokwim
8 River, that's the question I have.

9

10 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. Mr.
11 Aloysius, this is just someone right now. They're not
12 on any commission. It's just someone to further the
13 discussion, to finalize what the final outcome is going
14 to be. We just need someone from this RAC to help with
15 that final framework of what it's going to be like.
16 Ray Collins from Western Interior will be helping. And
17 then once we get that final framework, then we'll be
18 asking for, you know, how that final framework looks,
19 who's going to be on it from the RACs and fish
20 commission and stuff like that. So right now we're
21 just asking for one person to help. We want one person
22 from every organization to help us get that final
23 framework, what it's going to look like. So we just
24 need one person to help out with that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: The other question I
29 have, is that still three RAC members to be on that.
30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. Mr.
33 Aloysius, this person will help decide that, the final
34 number, if there's three, four, six. We want the
35 people to talk on what's best. What's the best
36 solution for that. So this person, Ray, and other
37 folks will help decide that. So that's what we're
38 asking for help for, that final decision on if there's
39 three from each RAC or how that framework is done. So
40 we're asking for help with that final framework.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there -- Greg --
43 was Greg nominated for that position. Yeah. Okay.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Has anybody approached
46 Greg on this?

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Has anybody approached
49 Greg concerning his continued participation in this.

50

1 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. I
2 have not approached Greg, and I don't want to speak for
3 him, but he's been very instrumental and he brings a
4 lot to the table on this. And I agree with Mr.
5 Aloysius and Mr. Smith that he's been involved from the
6 beginning, so he would be an excellent choice, because
7 he knows the history and everything, but I can't speak
8 for him.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
11 Dale.

12
13 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 Yeah. And then that was my point. For
16 the sake of continuity regarding his involvement, I
17 strongly suggest that he continues.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other suggestions
20 from the Council.

21
22 MR. ALBERTSON: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Albertson.

25
26 MR. ALBERTSON: If I may, I know that
27 Greg right now is faced.....

28
29 REPORTER: Microphone, please.

30
31 MR. ALBERTSON: Excuse me. I beg your
32 pardon. And thank you for allowing me to address.

33
34 I know that Greg is faced with some
35 health issues now, and I'm sure you have a mechanism in
36 place to put somebody else in that position if he
37 cannot serve that duty. But I know that in spirit he
38 would love to be there.

39
40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
41 away from microphones)

42
43 MR. ALBERTSON: Yeah, that's a good
44 suggestion. It might be good to come up with an
45 alternate at this point, too, to Greg.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you for
48 your suggestion.

49
50 Council, what do you feel. Mr. Smith.

1 Go ahead, I recognize you, and then we'll get to.....
2
3 MR. SMITH: Sorry, Mr. Chair. So know
4 that I was nominated, but I'd rather decline that
5 considering that I really don't have no history behind
6 this. And I know that Mr. Aloysius has a lot of
7 knowledge regarding the Kuskokwim area. So I would
8 recommend him as alternate for Greg.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Peters.
11
12 MR. PETERS: You know, for nomination,
13 I'd like to nominate James Charles also.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James Charles has been
16 nominated. Would you be willing to be on this, Mr.
17 Charles.
18
19 MR. CHARLES: Yeah.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Charles and
22 Mr. -- anyone else.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: You forgot that I was
25 nominated, too.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, Robert Aloysius?
28
29 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. That's the
32 three nominations that we have is Mr. Smith, Mr.
33 Aloysius and Mr. Charles.
34
35 What are you shaking your head for? I
36 was just wondering why you were shaking your head.
37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Because he declined.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. Just the
41 two of you. Okay. All right. Two people that are
42 nominated now are Bob Aloysius and -- if it's all right
43 with you guys, I'd like to appoint, if I may, appoint
44 the person that is going to be -- since there are only
45 two people that have nominated, we could have Mr.
46 Aloysius as the primary, and Mr. Charles as alternate,
47 if that's all right with you gentleman and the rest of
48 the Council.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: What do you say, James?

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If that's okay.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have no problem with
4 that.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor say aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed.
11
12 (No opposing votes)
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's one way of
15 doing it.
16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 And just to clarify, the Council had discussed at first
19 nominating Greg as primary, but if he was not able to
20 serve in that capacity to have alternates. So we have
21 two alternates.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, we have one -- we
24 have Bob as the rep and James as the alternate.
25
26 MS. PATTON: Bob and James. Thank you
27 for that clarification.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. All right. We
30 are done with C, so we can go back to B. Item B is
31 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, priority
32 information needs.
33
34 And Pippa passed you a couple pages
35 this morning I believe for the discussion we're going
36 to have.
37
38 MS. KENNER: So Council members, I have
39 two handouts. One is called the Yukon Region Priority
40 Information Needs, and one is called the Kuskokwim
41 Region Priority Information Needs. They both look very
42 much the same.
43
44 We're going to be going to Page 112 in
45 your Council books.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are we ready?
48 Continue whenever you are.
49
50 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1 members of the Council. Again my name is Pippa Kenner,
2 and I'm an anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
3 Management.

4

5 MR. DECOSSAS: And again I'm Gary
6 Decossas, fisheries statistician for the Office of
7 Subsistence Management.

8

9 MS. KENNER: I'm here to provide you
10 with a brief overview of the Fisheries Resource
11 Monitoring Program. And this portion of my
12 presentation is not an action item. I'm not going to
13 be reading from the book. I have a subset of comments
14 I'm going to make with information that I've picked
15 from the book that are the most important.

16

17 So the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
18 Program, or the monitoring program as we call it, was
19 established in 2000. And one of its purposes is to
20 provide information for the management of subsistence
21 fisheries on Federal public lands in Alaska. We
22 encourage partnerships with tribes, rural
23 organizations, universities, and Federal and State
24 agencies.

25

26 Since 2000 the monitoring program has
27 funded 453 projects statewide, and you can see a list
28 of the completed or on-going projects for these two
29 regions on Page 114 for the Kuskokwim, and Page 117 for
30 the Yukon region. And after my presentation, we're
31 going to go back to go back to those tables.

32

33 The state is divided into six regions
34 for the purposes of the monitoring program, which are
35 the following: The northern, Yukon, Kuskokwim,
36 Southwest, Southcentral, and Southeast Alaska regions.
37 For each of the six regions, OSM Staff works with the
38 Regional Advisory Councils and Federal managers to
39 ensure that the monitoring program focuses on the
40 highest priority information needs for management of
41 Federal subsistence fisheries.

42

43 This is where you come in. Input and
44 guidance from the Regional Advisory Councils are used
45 to develop the priority information needs by
46 identifying issues of local concern and knowledge gaps
47 related to subsistence fisheries. The program requests
48 new projects every two years. When the call for
49 proposals, or when we request people to submit
50 proposals for research to us, there are two primary

1 types of research projects that we ask for. One is
2 harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge
3 projects, and the other are stock, status and trend
4 projects. Selected projects can run for two to four
5 years.

6
7 A Technical Review Committee evaluates
8 and rates each proposed project based on five criteria:
9 Strategic priority, scientific technical merit,
10 investigator ability and resources, partnership and
11 capacity building, and the cost/benefit of the project.
12 Regional Advisory Councils provide recommendations and
13 public comments are invited. The Federal Subsistence
14 Board takes into consideration recommendations and
15 comments from the process and forwards the successful
16 proposals on to the assistant regional director, at
17 this time is Gene Peltola, of OSM for final approval
18 and funding.

19
20 So we are here today to work with you
21 in the lead up to the new notice of funding
22 opportunity when we ask people to submit proposals to
23 us for projects starting in 2018. So that's projects
24 starting in the spring of 2018, which is about a year
25 and a half. It takes us that long to request
26 proposals, to go through the process of the Technical
27 Review Committee, public process before those projects
28 that we select can get started.

29
30 During the all Council meeting this
31 last spring, we began addressing the priority
32 information needs for our region. Staff took notes
33 from the discussions during the spring meetings, and
34 some Councils formed working groups to better address
35 needs of their area.

36
37 So the following portion of my
38 presentation is about the priority information needs
39 for your region, and this is an action item.

40
41 So I think the first table is for the
42 Kuskokwim, which begins on Page 114. This table is
43 three pages long. And on the third page you will see
44 projects that start with 16. There's 16-301, 16-302,
45 16-303, and 16-351. These are the projects that
46 started this last spring for your area.

47
48 So now what I'm looking at is the
49 Kuskokwim region priority information needs which is
50 one of your handouts. And I'm going to read through it

1 real quickly. We're going to talk about what, with the
2 help of you, we put in the previous priority
3 information needs. I'm going to tell you what we
4 funded and what work has been done. Then we're going
5 to discuss whether or not we should leave the remaining
6 priority information needs on, and what new information
7 we need that we should add to it.

8

9 So the priority information needs were:

10

11

12 Reliable estimates of Chinook, chum,
13 sockeye, and coho salmon escapement. For example, this
14 is projects using weirs, sonar, and mark/recapture
15 methods.

16

17 Methods for including quality of
18 escapement methods, for example, potential egg
19 deposition, sex, and size composition of spawners,
20 spawning habitat utilization, in establishing Chinook
21 salmon spawning goals and determining the reproductive
22 potential and genetic diversity of spawning
23 escapements.

24

25 The next one is estimate the size and
26 growth of the sport fishery over the next 30 years,
27 including the impacts of the sport fishery on cultural
28 values and social systems.

29

30 The next one is an understanding of the
31 meaning and significance of sharing in the context of
32 the social, cultural, and economic life of people in
33 the Lower Kuskokwim area.

34

35 The next one is local knowledge of
36 whitefish species to supplement information from
37 previous research in Central Kuskokwim River drainage
38 communities. Groups of communities might include
39 Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Aniak, and Chuathbaluk, or Red
40 Devil, Sleetmute, and Stony River.

41

42 The next one is local knowledge of
43 whitefish species to supplement information from
44 previous research in Lower Kuskokwim River drainage
45 communities. A group of communities might include
46 Kwethluk, Akiachak, and Tuluksak.

47

48 The last one is an indexing method for
49 estimating species-specific whitefish harvests on an
50 annual basis for the Kuskokwim drainage. Researchers

1 should explore and evaluate an approach where sub-
2 regional clusters of community harvests can be
3 evaluated for regular surveying with results being
4 extrapolated to the rest of the cluster, contributing
5 to drainage-wide harvest estimates.
6

7 I should include that some of these
8 priority information needs come from two different
9 strategic plans. There was a strategic plan for salmon
10 that was developed for the Kuskokwim back in about
11 2005. And also recently it was published in 2012, we,
12 OSM, with the help of others put together a strategic
13 plan for funding whitefish research. And so the
14 whitefish priority information needs, the priority
15 information needs having to do with whitefish come out
16 of that strategic plan. The idea is we have a limited
17 amount of funds, and those funds we want to go to
18 issues that have the highest priority in terms of what
19 we need in order to manage the fisheries.
20

21 I want to tell you that the first one,
22 reliable estimates of Chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho
23 is almost always included, because that's what we --
24 the monitoring program at OSM funds part of the weir
25 projects, sonar projects -- well, we don't have a sonar
26 on the Kuskokwim, and mark/recapture methods that are
27 used throughout the Kuskokwim to measure what the
28 escapement is, and the escapement is the essential
29 number in management.
30

31 The - 1, 2, 3 -- the fourth bullet is
32 an understanding of the meaning and significance of
33 sharing. We actually got a proposal the last round;
34 however, the person who was what we call the principal
35 investigator, the person who is leading that project,
36 moved back to Japan, and so we ended up not funding it.
37 That was Hiroko.
38

39 The local knowledge of whitefish in the
40 Lower Kuskokwim River drainage communities, that was
41 also funded. The communities that -- it's Oscarville,
42 Napaskiak, and I think Atmautluak, the tundra villages
43 are included. And that's Ann Fentaprierdon (ph) is the
44 -- Dr. Ann Fentaprierdon is the principal investigator,
45 and they've been working in those communities for two
46 years now. They started in 2014.
47

48 And so those are projects that were
49 funded from these priority -- or have been funded from
50 these priority information needs.

1 Oh, then this last spring we actually
2 have another project starting concerning whitefish and
3 non-salmon species in the coastal communities. So it
4 includes the communities at the -- I believe it's
5 Goodnews or Quinhagak, and then I think Chefornek, and
6 Scammon Bay, and one other community. So that's to
7 look at people's use of whitefish. And again that
8 comes from the strategic plan for whitefishes.

9
10 So when we developed the priority
11 information needs two years -- started the process two
12 years with you, this is what we did. Some of you will
13 remember, it's happened probably four or five cycles
14 now. We sit down and we ask you to think about
15 information needs that you think we need, and
16 information that we don't have that you would like to
17 spend this money for to do research.

18
19 Another thing, before we take any
20 questions, Gary actually did a great job of looking
21 through what people said the last two Council meetings
22 about what their priority information needs were,
23 because we've asked you a couple of times. And he
24 would, I'd like him to go through that now. Thank you,
25 Gary.

26
27 MR. DECOSSAS: So I went through the
28 transcripts of the last spring meeting that occurred in
29 March. And from my understanding the Council took up a
30 lot of discussion about sheefish, whitefish enumeration
31 throughout the Kuskokwim River. I've seen projects and
32 this past week I was actually in McGrath, between
33 McGrath and Nicolai, working with Lisa Stubey (ph) and
34 James Severide on a project for sheefish enumeration.
35 So as of the last meeting, sheefish enumeration, the
36 effects of forage, gillnets on sheefish populations
37 were very popularly discussed.

38
39 There was also discussion about Cape
40 Vancouver, the drift gillnetting, that when that goes
41 on out there.....

42
43 And the one thing I want to encourage
44 through this process when we're talking about the
45 priority information needs, is once we have these set,
46 it's awesome if you have any questions that maybe we
47 can fund through this process that meet priority
48 information needs, that you get together with Staff at
49 OSM to help developing these projects.

50

1 I just got here within the last six
2 months, but I focus a lot of my time and effort on the
3 Kuskokwim since I've been here. And I have a
4 background in design and experimental design and survey
5 design, so I'd like to encourage the Council members or
6 members within the communities to contact me to help
7 maybe answer some of these priority information needs
8 through the process. I'd be glad to help out if you
9 all so choose.

10
11 But anyway, so if there's any questions
12 about the Kuskokwim priority information needs or
13 things that maybe you all, the Board, the Council may
14 want to add to this list that Pippa handed out to you
15 for the Kuskokwim region, I'd like to -- oop, Pippa has
16 one other thing. I'll pass the mic.

17
18 MS. KENNER: One thing you should know
19 is that there are three projects on the Kuskokwim.
20 They were last funded in 2014 for four years, and in
21 2018 they're up for funding again. And with your
22 consent, I think that these priority information needs
23 should go onto the list.

24
25 One is the Kuskokwim area salmon post-
26 season subsistence harvest surveys. We and the Alaska
27 Department of Fish and Game fund those surveys, so I'd
28 like to put that on as a priority information need.

29
30 Additionally, we partner with the
31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
32 Orutsararamiut Native Council to do the in-season
33 subsistence survey in the Bethel area. That will be up
34 for funding again.

35
36 And we partner with the Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game and we help fund the
38 Kuskokwim Salmon Fishery Working Group. And I'd I'd
39 like to put that on the list of priority information
40 needs to make sure that we continue to contribute to
41 those project.

42
43 MR. DECOSSAS: Through the Chair. At
44 this point, if there are any questions about the
45 priority information needs, or if the Council would
46 like to add to them, or discuss the bullet points that
47 are on the priority information needs for the Kuskokwim
48 River, this would be.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Smith.

1 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Yeah. Going back to the request I had back in the
3 March meeting, looking at the monitoring for the Cape
4 Vancouver subsistence fishing, I guess I'm not really
5 clear on considering that you do a Kuskokwim region
6 priority information needs, and a Yukon region
7 priority, where does Cape Vancouver fall in?
8

9 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
10 question, Mr. Smith. This is Pippa.
11

12 I am looking right now at the fishing
13 regulations and the map of the Kuskokwim area. And the
14 Kuskokwim area and the Kuskokwim region for our
15 purposes extends all the way out around Nunivak Island.
16 So we consider Nunivak Island. So that report that I
17 handed you about the harvest of cod fish and salmon on
18 Nunivak Island, that was funded through the Kuskokwim
19 portion of our monitoring program.
20

21 And that actually wasn't a priority
22 information need. Occasionally we'll get a really good
23 project that nobody thought about, and the TRC and the
24 Board decided to fund it anyway, because it was such an
25 interesting project, and it had such good capacity-
26 building and partnership, and the technical ability was
27 so high.
28

29 MR. SMITH: So if that's the case, then
30 I know that like the Nunivak Islanders and Nelson
31 Islanders, they go to Cape Vancouver and fish for
32 Chinook. And I know that the Chinook has been a very
33 hot topic past several years. So that's the main
34 reason why I brought it out back in March, to see if
35 there could be some type of monitoring program around
36 Cape Vancouver, because there's a lot of -- the way I
37 see it or understand it, there's a lot of monitoring in
38 Kuskokwim River and Yukon River, but not necessarily --
39 there's a gap between that. So that was my main
40 request back in March. And I'd like to actually see
41 that as a priority. And I think at the March meeting
42 that's what I was trying to say.
43

44 I mean, the bottom line is the Chinook
45 are in -- that's the main reason why we're out doing
46 this part of it, to monitor that. And you're missing a
47 major gap there, the mouth of the Kuskokwim, and Yukon,
48 so that's my two cents worth.
49

50 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Smith. And

1 I'd like to respond to you. As part of the post-season
2 harvest survey for salmon in the Kuskokwim area, these
3 coastal communities, many of whom at one time had their
4 fish camps up in the river, at the mouth of the river,
5 and how oftentimes travel on day trips to the mouth of
6 the Kuskokwim. That survey includes the communities
7 along the coast and Nunivak Island. However, in the
8 past those communities haven't chosen to participate,
9 but also, I think due to a lack of manpower and time,
10 people haven't gotten to the coast and asked those
11 communities about their harvest of salmon.

12
13 Generally, as far as the waters around
14 Cape Vancouver, generally for a biological study, we --
15 because our management includes only -- generally
16 includes only fresh waters and not marine waters, we
17 generally aren't looking for projects out in marine
18 waters. However, especially for harvest surveys about
19 what people are catching as far as salmon that are
20 moving up into fresh waters, would be appropriate. I'm
21 not so sure about a study about -- like a genetic
22 study, where are those fish going. It's not clear to
23 me if it would be in our program privy, but I could
24 look into it.

25
26 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Okay. So you
27 talked about non-power. And I think that was part of
28 my request, if that could be funded to at least have a
29 person go out to the communities there to either do
30 survey or talk to the fishermen. I mean, at least that
31 would be a start to get some idea of what's actually
32 being harvested around Cape Vancouver.

33
34 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Smith
35 through the Chair. And that's important for a couple
36 of reasons, and that is for people to document what
37 they're harvesting so that it's on record and it's --
38 and it can be discussed if a regulatory issue comes up.

39
40 MR. BILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: I will speak to you in
44 Yup'ik. I have been told down at Cape Vancouver,
45 that's what we call it, Asaqtooluk (ph). Asaqtooluk is
46 the Yup'ik name for Cape Vancouver.

47
48 Cape Vancouver is not the final rest
49 stopping, resting place for the salmon. It's a byway
50 for the salmon to go. We cannot split and dry the

1 salmon, because they are too fat, and they do not spawn
2 in that area. And I have no idea how you are going to
3 be taking the number of how many salmon pass through
4 there, because there's only a two-week window for the
5 salmon to go through Cape Vancouver. And so when I
6 first came to Nelson Island, there was never any
7 salmon in the Nelson Island. Just only recently after
8 -- just recently there are salmon coming up through the
9 Nelson. And so I have no idea how you are going to be
10 able to count the number of salmon going through there,
11 because that's not their spawning ground. So I have no
12 idea where they are going up to.

13

14 I grew up in the Hazen Bay area, and so
15 in Hazen Bay, I have no idea if the salmon used to come
16 through there, but they did not spawn in that area.
17 But the Chevak villages used to go down to Hazen Bay
18 and they probably still do, and catch salmon. But
19 this Nelson Island, they just pass through there in a
20 short period of time, and it's really hard predict when
21 they are going to pass through, and i have no idea
22 where their final spawning grounds are.

23

24 And I just wanted to say that it would
25 be a monumental task to number how many fish are going
26 to be going through Cape Vancouver. And sometimes they
27 come through before the herring spawning fish come
28 through. So the big fat salmon -- I mean, the salmon
29 come through first, and then after that the herring
30 come through there. And to differentiate between the
31 salmon and the herring when they are intermixed, I have
32 no idea how the monumental talk will be undertaken.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. BILL: And thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry about that. Any
39 other discussion concerning this. Mr. Aloysius.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Mr. Bill
42 reminded me of something that I had written down
43 earlier regarding our non-Native people coming here and
44 providing us with their expertise. They should come
45 here to secure our expertise like Mr. Bill stated.
46 It's very clear what he said. The people know what
47 those fish are doing. They're not stationed Cape
48 Vancouver, they're passing through. They stay there
49 for a while and they pass through somewhere, and he
50 said that they don't know.

1 And the same thing with, you know, any
2 species of fish that anyone wants to study, they should
3 come here with an open mind, saying we, the people of
4 this area, are the experts. We know what the fish are
5 doing. And I'd just remind this young man here, don't
6 come here with your expertise. You come here with an
7 open mind and say, I need help.

8

9 And that brings me back to thinking
10 about Kevin Barkely, a young man who has an open mind
11 and open heart and open spirit about what he could
12 learn from the Native people. And because of that
13 attitude, the elders of this area embraced him and
14 taught him, because he admitted he came here with no
15 knowledge, and that's what we need to hear from these
16 people, young people coming over here to help us. And
17 it should be that we are there to help them understand,
18 so that then they can clearly relate to the non-knowing
19 people what we know out here.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
24 comments on the Kuskokwim region priority information
25 or questions. Mr. Peters.

26

27 MR. PETERS: My name is Mike Peters
28 from Marshall.

29

30 I think Mr. Bill, you know, to take his
31 words into some kind of consideration, because, you
32 know, the areas coming from their region, know the area
33 and what need to be brought forth.

34

35 And I would like to, you know, support
36 him, because of his knowledge and traditional knowledge
37 coming from that area. And even though I live on the
38 Yukon, how, you know, to be united and support what Mr.
39 Bob Aloysius indicated about the young people coming
40 forward and voicing their opinions. It's really good,
41 but I would like to let you know that I would like for
42 you to take down whatever knowledge that he brought
43 forth coming from the coastal region, and to take that
44 in some sort of consideration.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other discussion
49 for information on the Kuskokwim region priority
50 information needs. Are there any other comments.

1 Pippa.

2

3

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 This is an action item, and we would like the Council
5 to make a motion to adopt the priority information
6 needs that we've just discussed, and to vote on it as a
7 recommendation to the Staff here about what will go
8 into the priority information needs.

9

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, you hear the
10 request from Pippa. Any suggestions by any Council
11 members.
12

13

MS. KENNER: I would like to add to
14 that, Mr. Chair. I just want to say that the priority
15 information needs are meant to guide people who want to
16 propose studies for these, who want to propose studies.
17 We can and do fund projects -- when I say we, I mean
18 we, can and do fund projects that are not specifically
19 on the priority information needs. We just expect them
20 to be very good projects.
21

22

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you need
23 approval for the ones that are listed on the bullet
24 mark.
25

26

MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
27 question, Mr. Chair. Again this is Pippa.
28

29

Actually, and I think -- actually if
30 you want to support the discussion. I mentioned to you
31 some projects that we had funded that meet some of
32 these priority information needs, and we mentioned, we
33 heard about a couple of new projects that we should put
34 on here, and projects such as the post-season salmon
35 harvest survey that we will be putting on the priority
36 information needs. So just an adoption of the
37 discussion of what's going to go on and come off. A
38 recommendation from the Council.
39

40

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council members. Any
41 suggestions. Mr. Andrew.
42

43

MR. ANDREW: I move that we approve the
44 Kuskokwim region priority information needs as they
45 request, because they're very important for our
46 monitoring projects. And they are, yeah, the tools
47 that our managers work with and our groups.
48

49

Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was that in the form
2 of a motion.

3
4 MR. ANDREW: Yes, sir.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You hear the motion.
7 Do I have a second. Mr. Smith.

8
9 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, before we get a
10 second, I have a clarifying question.

11
12 For the post-fishing season, the
13 monitoring program, are you saying that that's the gap
14 I've been talking about, the Cape Vancouver issue.

15
16 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
17 question. Through the Chair. Mr. Smith, yes, both for
18 the drainage and additionally out into the coastal
19 communities and Nunivak Island.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, you heard the
22 motion. Looking for a second. Ms. Patton.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
25 believe there may be some members of the public that
26 were also interested in discussing insights into
27 priority information needs as well, if there's an
28 opportunity to check in with the public both attending
29 or on teleconference.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We can do that
32 at this time. Mr. Dan Gillikin.

33
34 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 Council members.

36
37 I'd like to just offer up a data gap or
38 information need for the Council's consideration, at
39 the risk of not offending anybody, but it certainly is
40 an information need in my experience that we have not
41 been collecting data on for the Kuskokwim River. And
42 that information need is ocean survival of Chinook
43 salmon. If we look at that life history of Chinook
44 salmon, they spend only actually a very short period of
45 time in fresh water, and they put on most of their
46 growth actually and spend most of their life out in the
47 Bering Sea. But we actually have very little
48 information about exactly how fast they grow, what
49 their health is, what the mortality is of Chinook
50 salmon in the ocean. And the ocean, as we all know,

1 the Bering Sea in particular, is changing very rapidly.

2

3 There are techniques for evaluating
4 those factors that could fall under the OSM program.
5 Those techniques are you do smolt captures and you put
6 pit tags or you put codawire tags in these juvenile
7 smolt that you are going out, and then you look at the
8 fish that return, and you can estimate what the ocean
9 survival is. It's a very common technique

10

11 To my knowledge, there's only one
12 tributary in the entire Kuskokwim where any of that
13 work's been attempted, and that's on the Kwethluk
14 River. And it's just in the last few years that
15 they've focused on Chinook salmon on the Kwethluk, but
16 it's just a very small sample size.

17

18 We have a very large system, and you
19 could have very different survival rates between all
20 the different tributaries.

21

22 So this is just a suggestion for your
23 consideration, and if you have any additional
24 questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I think
29 this was done on the Yukon River already. So the need,
30 it's also needed here on the Kuskokwim. That's
31 correct.

32

33 Mr. Brown.

34

35 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: I want to ask him, back
38 in 1980s at the Kuskokwim mouth we used to monitor and
39 make reports to every day after doing monitoring.
40 Nowadays those ones that are coming in from the Bering
41 Sea, when they come in from the high seas at the mouth,
42 it becomes fresh water by the mouth, and then starting
43 from that point, after they spawn, they die. We know
44 that. When it's time to spawn, we know they're going
45 to die. Those ones that are coming in to spawn, we are
46 going to eat those fish that -- now, it's not just
47 those, all other animals have a life span, too. And
48 I'm just telling you what we used to work on.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Oney.

4

5 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 Thank you, Dan, for mentioning about
8 that -- bringing up the salmon out in the high seas.
9 If we're going to talk about salmon, we need to talk
10 about the whole cycle of salmon to get an understanding
11 of also what they're feeding on out there. And also on
12 the spawning grounds, you need to talk about, you know,
13 how that area is being taken care of. Are we losing
14 some spawning areas, or, you know, we need to also know
15 that, too. So if we're going to talk to about salmon,
16 we need to talk about the whole cycle of salmon.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.

21

22 Is there anyone else from the public
23 who would like to speak on information needs. Thank
24 you. Mr. Nick.

25

26 After Mr. Nick we'll ask the telephone
27 if there's anybody on the telephone that would need to
28 address the Council.

29

30 Go ahead, Mr. Nick.

31

32 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33 Members of the Council.

34

35 I would like to provide information
36 that I personally experienced here on Kuskokwim River
37 and Yukon River.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is this concerning
40 information needs coming from the Kuskokwim.

41

42 MR. NICK: Concerning the monitoring
43 needs. And for the record again for those of you who
44 don't know me, my name is Alex Nick. I'm originally
45 from Russian Mission, but I've been in Bethel nearly 20
46 years. And I have subsisted on the Kuskokwim River
47 since then.

48

49 I have noticed that the humpback
50 whitefish in the area are abundant in what's called

1 Imryak (ph). And I think John might agree with me, and
2 some of the people who are here and harvest whitefish
3 might agree with me that broad whitefish also is
4 abundant in the Johnson River drainage.

5
6 When I fish for whitefish in
7 wintertime, in early fall and early winter, I have not
8 caught very many broad whitefish, but I have harvested
9 humpback whitefish with my under ice whitefish net here
10 in front of Bethel and in the area. And I harvested
11 over 50 whitefish last year, just about maybe four
12 miles below Bethel, just before freeze up. So here is
13 probably evident -- it is evident that what Bob
14 Aloysius mentioned earlier in his comment, that local
15 people know where whitefish or other species of fish
16 are. And I would assume that James probably knows what
17 kind of whitefish and other freshwater fish are down in
18 the Gallik (ph) River.

19
20 But in my personal knowledge here in
21 Kuskokwim and in Yukon River, around Russian Mission
22 whitefish are abundant coming out of what's called (In
23 Yup'ik) River, not (In Yup'ik). It says in the map (In
24 Yup'ik), but it's actually (In Yup'ik) coming from a
25 Russian word, or rather cyrillic spelling in spelling
26 the old Yup'ik drainages in the area.

27
28 Near Marshall, Mr. Oney will correct me
29 if I'm wrong, because he's originally some Marshall,
30 Devil's Elbow is a good place to do some studies both
31 in spring and falltime. And I don't know where would
32 be appropriate place here on Kuskokwim.

33
34 But I just wanted to provide that information to the
35 people that maybe in the future monitoring needs,
36 whitefish come from different places, or are in feeding
37 areas in different places in summertime. They come out
38 to the main drainage in wintertime.

39
40 Like for example, in Yukon River, I
41 have not heard anyone talk about Bering cisco. There is
42 a place called (In Yup'ik), I don't -- I haven't seen
43 English name for that hill between Marshall and Russian
44 Mission. (In Yup'ik). That's where in wintertime
45 Bering cisco is abundant. And I have not seen any
46 biologist mention that. And the only reason why we
47 know about that is because as a kid I used to watch my
48 dad check his fishtrap right there on the spot. He
49 caught a lot of Bering cisco in middle of the winter
50 right there in that one spot. Nowhere else.

1 So there's probably a lot of monitoring
2 needs. I understand that in Eenayarak River many
3 villages like maybe Eek and Tuntutuliak, Bethel,
4 elsewhere from this area, it's important for people to
5 harvest whitefish in that drainage call Eenayarak. And
6 also for Johnson River, Johnson River drainage, which
7 goes from mouth of the Johnson River below Napaskiak
8 all the way up to behind Kalskag. That little spot
9 from what's called Crooked Creek in English on the map,
10 it's erroneously written down. Johnson River goes all
11 the way up from the mouth of Johnson River into the
12 lake all the way behind Kalskag. Crooked Creek goes
13 toward Russian Mission. And that's the way that old
14 portage route was for people going from Yukon to
15 Kuskokwim and Kuskokwim to Yukon.

16
17 So there are a lot areas where people
18 probably noticed and have not documented or told the
19 scientists about where the salmon may be spawning in
20 summertime. For example -- Mr. Chair, I'm just going to
21 take one more minute. For example, in month of
22 September we went berry picking in Eek Lake, which is
23 probably about maybe 25, 30 miles southeast of Bethel.
24 I'm not too sure how far it is. But when my son's
25 father-in-law set net for whitefish, guess what he
26 caught. Three spawned out red salmon. Three red
27 spawned out red salmon in a drainage east -- northeast
28 of Eek Lake.

29
30 So there are many examples that we
31 could give. So that, you know, I'm just giving this
32 and providing this information so that maybe in the
33 future when OSM Staff or the Fish and Wildlife Staff
34 come up with a question where there should be
35 monitoring programs for whitefish, for example, maybe
36 you'll have an idea.

37
38 Thank you very much for this
39 opportunity, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.
42 Any questions for Mr. Nick before he gets off. Mr.
43 Aloysius.

44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, just a point of
46 clarification. Johnson River originates behind
47 Kalskag. It doesn't originate down as the mouth. It
48 flows from the lake behind Kalskag all the way down to
49 below Napakiak.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else. Any
4 questions for Mr. Nick.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you, Mr.
9 Nick.
10
11 MR. NICK: Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any people
14 telephone that would like to discuss priority needs for
15 the Kuskokwim.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
20 there was a motion prior to this discussion, but if
21 anybody else would like to make another motion since
22 that motion died for lack of second. We could entertain
23 another motion to the effect of supporting these
24 priority information needs. Any Council members.
25
26 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. I'll try again. I
27 move to approve the Kuskokwim Region Priority
28 Information Needs.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As stated? You know,
33 there was a couple more needs that were mentioned prior
34 to that.
35
36 MR. ANDREW: Including what has been
37 provided, the ocean survival of Chinook salmon and
38 mortality study out in the high seas.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Do I hear a
41 second to the motion?
42
43 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion.
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Mr. Charles.
46 Any further discussion. Any further discussion on
47 Kuskokwim priority needs.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's called
4 for. A roll call vote, please, Secretary.
5
6 MR. ULAK: Okay. James Charles.
7
8 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
9
10 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
11
12 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
13
14 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
15
16 MR. PETERS: Yes.
17
18 MR. ULAK: Lester Wilde.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
21
22 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.
23
24 MR. SMITH: Yes.
25
26 MR. ULAK: Myself, yes. Annie
27 Cleveland.
28
29 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
30
31 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.
32
33 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
34
35 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
36
37 MR. ONEY: Yes.
38
39 MR. ULAK: Greg Roczicka absent.
40 Robert Aloysius.
41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
43
44 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
45
46 MR. BILL: Yes.
47
48 MR. ULAK: 11 yeas and one absent.
49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries. The

1 time is now 12:16, if the Council would like to
2 continue on with the Yukon, we will. Otherwise, if you
3 want to take a break, we'll take a lunch break until
4 1:30.

5
6 MR. BROWN: Yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Have a lunch break
9 until 1:30, after which we'll consider Yukon
10 information needs.

11
12 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. If I could
13 take just a couple minutes, I want to clarify a few
14 things with the priority information needs. So could I
15 have.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You have just a couple
18 minutes.

19
20 MR. COGSWELL: A couple minutes. I'll
21 be brief.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm timing.

24
25 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. This is Stewart
26 Cogswell from OSM.

27
28 I want to talk about this program just
29 a bit. I would like to ask a question. Did anybody go
30 to the training at the all Council meetings, the FRMP
31 training, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program?
32 If not, I would like to recommend maybe the next RAC I
33 do a presentation and explain this program. It's hard
34 to get a sense of it in this setting right now, and,
35 you know, where we're running through things. So
36 that's one. So if it please the Board -- or the
37 Council, I would like to put on that training next
38 year. It would take about a half hour, and it's the
39 quick training to explain the program so everyone knows
40 what is going on, the strategy behind it, you know, the
41 priority needs, how they relate to how much money is
42 available for this region, you know. We don't have a
43 lot of time to discuss that when you going through the
44 priority information needs. So that's one thing. I'd
45 love to put on a training so everyone knows what's
46 going on, and how it's happening.

47
48 And the other thing is, the other --
49 about half of the Regional Advisory Councils right now
50 have a working group for the priority information

1 needs. I would highly recommend this RAC develop a
2 working group. That working group works with these
3 priority information needs throughout the year. We
4 just started them. So what would happen, instead of
5 just discussing it here for a few minutes, and just
6 quick. You know, Mr. Smith, you had some questions. I
7 know Mr. Gillikin had some questions. Mr. Nick had
8 some stuff. It's a chance to discuss that through the
9 year. It's very hard to develop these proposals and
10 projects in a half hour here. You need time to do
11 that. So I would like to propose that, you know, we
12 could talk about it later, I know I want to brief right
13 now before lunch, but these working groups, you know,
14 it's two to three, four people, they work on this
15 throughout the year so these things can be thoroughly
16 vetted. We can ask the questions, we can talk to
17 researchers, how do we do this? I have an idea. I
18 want to study this, where do I study it? How do I
19 study it? Like Mr. Aloysius said, we need to
20 incorporate all the different knowledge, you know, the
21 science knowledge and the traditional knowledge. And
22 that's how we do it. It's very hard to do that in a
23 half hour at this meeting.

24

25 So those are my two suggestions. That,
26 one, we have training, and, two, that this Council
27 would develop a working group to work in those priority
28 information needs. About, again, half the Councils
29 have that working group, and they've been working.
30 It's two or three individuals from the Council that
31 works on it through the year. So there's a whole
32 reason behind that. I don't want to be long or belabor
33 it, but I really highly recommend that. I think you'll
34 have a better product, you'll make those priority
35 information needs concise, and they're really going to
36 focus in on what you actually need and want.

37

38 So that's my suggestion, Mr. Chair.
39 Thank you for your time.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And that's
42 a good discussion for lunch time for the Council
43 members for whatever was suggested by the gentleman
44 there.

45

46 Thank you. We'll see you at 1:30.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
2 to order. The time on my watch is 1:35.

3
4 Ms. Pippa, you have the floor on the
5 Yukon.

6
7 MS. KENNER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
8 Chair. Members of the Council. Again, I'm Pippa
9 Kenner. With me is Gary Decossas from the Office of
10 Subsistence Management.

11
12 And we have been presenting to you our
13 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and we've been
14 asking the Council members to help us with the priority
15 information needs that we will put into our request for
16 proposals so people will hopefully submit proposals
17 that have to do with these topics. We just finished
18 the Kuskokwim, meaning we talked about the priority
19 information needs from the last call. We added to it.
20 And now we're going to talk about the Yukon.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are we ready, Council.
23 Ms. Patton. Bill. Okay. We're ready.

24
25 MS. KENNER: In our Yukon region for
26 the purposes of the monitoring program, that table
27 starts on Page 117. And this is the table of the
28 projects that have been funded through our monitoring
29 program starting in 2000. And the last 2, 3, 4, 5 --
30 the last six projects in the table, which is on Page
31 119, are the projects that were recently funded and
32 started this spring.

33
34 So what I have handed out to you are
35 the yukon priority information needs that were used for
36 the 20 -- how do I say this.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 2016.

39
40 MS. KENNER: That were used in 2014 for
41 the most recent call. So this our most recent priority
42 information needs that were developed with members of
43 your Council, and also the other three Councils along
44 the Yukon River. And I'm going to read them to you.

45
46 To develop priority information needs,
47 we advise the Councils, and we do that by using the
48 U.S/Canada Yukon River Salmon Joint Technical Committee
49 Plan, and the Sustainable Salmon Fund's Arctic-Yukon-
50 Kuskokwim Chinook Salmon Research Action Plan, which

1 are both joint multi-agency and community efforts to
2 develop priority information needs on the research of
3 salmon. And we also have the whitefish strategic plan
4 for research that were done for both the Kuskokwim
5 region and Yukon region together, and were published in
6 about 2012.

7

8 So in the last opportunity for funding
9 we had:

10

11 Reliable estimates of salmon
12 escapements. For example, projects using weir, sonar
13 or mark/recapture methods. And, of course, we helped
14 fund quite a few of the weirs on the Yukon River that
15 are really critical for management.

16

17 The next one is geographic distribution
18 of salmon and whitefish species. Of specific interest
19 are the Nulato River, Salmon Fork of the Black River,
20 Porcupine River, and Chandalar River.

21

22 The next one is an indexing method for
23 estimating species-specific whitefish harvests on an
24 annual basis for the Yukon drainage. Researchers
25 should explore and evaluate an approach where sub-
26 regional clusters of community harvests can be
27 evaluated for regular surveying, with results being
28 extrapolated to the rest of the cluster, contributing
29 to drainage-wide harvest estimates.

30

31 The next one is methods for including
32 quality of escapement measures, for example, potential
33 egg deposition, sex and size composition of spawners,
34 spawning habitat utilization, in establishing Chinook
35 salmon spawning goals and determining the reproductive
36 potential and genetic diversity of spawning
37 escapements.

38

39 The next one is a review of escapement
40 data collection methods throughout the Yukon drainage
41 to ensure that test fisheries are accurately accounting
42 for size distribution and abundance of fish. For
43 example, are smaller Chinook salmon being counted
44 accurately.

45

46 The next one is assessment of
47 incidental mortality with gillnets, with particular
48 consideration for delayed mortality from entanglement
49 or direct mortality from drop-outs. For example, loss
50 of Chinook salmon from six-inch mesh chum fisheries.

1 The third to the last is harvest and
2 spawning escapement changes through time in relation to
3 changes in gillnet construction and use, for example,
4 set versus drift fishing, mesh size changes, for
5 Chinook salmon subsistence harvest in the mainstem
6 Yukon River.

7
8 Second to the last is Bering cisco
9 population assessment and monitoring.

10
11 And the last one is burbot population
12 assessments in lakes and rivers known to support
13 subsistence fisheries.

14
15 So we did have a project started this
16 spring that covers -- it's Yukon burbot life history,
17 characterization, and subsistence uses. It's being
18 conducted in the areas of Pilot Point, Galena and Fort
19 Yukon. So part of that priority information need at
20 the bottom of the page that has to do with burbot, we
21 did receive an application for funding for proposals
22 studying burbot populations in three communities. So
23 it has been partially funded.

24
25 I'm going to hand it over to Gary to
26 refresh our memories on what the Council said were
27 priorities in their recent meeting in March, and also
28 to help me if some of these priority information needs
29 are being funded right now, and therefore can come off
30 the list. And again we are also.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before Gary starts,
33 you mentioned Pilot Point. Did you mean Pilot Station?

34
35 MS. KENNER: Yes. Yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Gary, you've
38 got the floor.

39
40 MR. DECOSSAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 So in the spring meeting there was
43 discussion about the evaluation, speaking of Pilot
44 Station, there was discussion of about the evaluation
45 of the Pilot Station sonar. I believe there was
46 discussion about the placement of that sonar, and that
47 it may be in the wrong area in order to count the
48 salmon properly. There was some discussion about that.

49
50 There was also discussion on the of

1 beaver on salmon populations in terms of the dams and
2 how that may affect spawning populations in those
3 areas.

4

5 Then there was a quite complicated
6 discussion on different species of salmon, and taking
7 the information that we have collected in the past and
8 performing what they call a meta analyses, which is
9 simply taking all of the information that's been
10 gathered in the past, and trying to inform management
11 decisions in the future.

12 So those were what were discussed in
13 the spring meeting.

14

15 In addition to the burbot population
16 study that Pippa was talking about recently, there also
17 is the Upper Yukon Flats Bering cisco spawning
18 abundance. So if you look on Page 119, that project
19 was funded in 2016, and it's project 16-203. So that's
20 currently being covered. And that's a priority
21 information need.

22

23 Other than that, that's pretty much
24 what happened at the last spring meeting, so if you
25 have any questions about that, then we'll be sure to
26 answer them.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. KENNER: Okay So this is an action
31 item. We're going to go through the same process that
32 we went through on the Kuskokwim. Since we went
33 through the process on the Kuskokwim, we have heard
34 from Stewart, when he's not acting deputy, is the chief
35 of the fisheries division, and chairs the Fisheries
36 Resource Monitoring Program, about how this is a
37 collaborative process. We do require as part of the
38 scoring that projects work with local tribes, non-
39 profit organizations in rural areas.

40

41 So right now we have projects that are
42 partnering with probably half of the villages in the
43 drainage, either having people work on the projects in
44 some sort of training, or actually carrying part of the
45 projects themselves and being funded direct. That is
46 one of the missions of the Fisheries Resource
47 Monitoring Program, is to include rural people in our
48 projects and in our research.

49

50 So I'd like to stop there and the

1 Kuskokwim in a large river. I know that the people on
2 this Council live mainly in the lower river, but we
3 offered you the priority information needs for the
4 entire region, because of the continuity of the river
5 and the fish running through it, so we thought you
6 might want to see what the priority information needs
7 have been in other regions. And we're happy to take
8 any questions.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for
11 Pippa. Mr. Charles.

12

13 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 Do you have test fishing like in
16 Kuskokwim over there in the Yukon for monitoring or
17 just like we are doing in Bethel?

18

19 MS. KENNER: I'm going to start the
20 answer, and Gerald might want to finish it.

21

22 There are test fisheries, and
23 specifically there's one at -- near the mouth. I think
24 it's on the Emmonak mouth of the Yukon.

25

26 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
27 This is Gerald Maschmann. with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
28 Service. I'm the assistant Federal manager on the
29 Yukon River.

30

31 And, yes, there is a test fishery based
32 out of Emmonak we call the Lower Yukon test fishery.
33 And then just up river at Pilot Station is the Pilot
34 Station sonar.

35

36 MR. CHARLES: So how many test fishing
37 are there in the Yukon then?

38

39 MR. MASCHMANN: On the Yukon there's
40 again the Lower Yukon test fishery out of Emmonak,
41 which has several test fisheries in the south mouth and
42 what they call the middle mouth. Additionally then you
43 have Pilot Station sonar, and then there's no -- there
44 used to be a teat fishery up in the rapids area of
45 District 5; however, that gentleman has decided to
46 retire, and so we're looking at how maybe we can get
47 information up in 5. And then there's, you know, the
48 Eagle sonar which monitors the border passage across
49 into Canada. And then there are some test fisheries
50 when budget allows on the Tanana. And in addition to

1 test fisheries, there's escapement projects, such as
2 the Andraefsky River weir, Gisasa River weir, Henshaw
3 weir, and escapement projects on the Chena and Salcha
4 Rivers, and Chandalar River.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And there's also test
7 fisheries in Mountain if they're still in operation?

8
9 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes. And thanks for
10 that reminder. For the fall chum season, there's a test
11 fishery for fall chum and coho at Mountain Village.

12
13 MR. CHARLES: So they are all funded
14 now or you are requesting for more funding.

15
16 MR. MASCHMANN: Those particular
17 projects are funded currently, yes. And, of course,
18 we'd always love to have more funding for more
19 fisheries.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I have a question for
22 Pippa, if you -- on this Yukon, it states that for the
23 Yukon region the 2016, I think this is the same for the
24 Kuskokwim also Notice of funding opportunity was
25 focused on the following priority. What does that mean
26 exactly in everyday language. Was the funding already
27 earmarked for these projects.

28
29 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
30 the question. So we went through this process
31 beginning in 2014 for projects that would begin funding
32 in 2016. And when we went through that process of
33 developing priority information needs with the Council,
34 beginning in 2014, this is what we came up with. And
35 this was actually sent out to researchers who wanted to
36 apply for funding, to give them an idea of what kind of
37 research we were looking for.

38
39 Additionally, if we get research that
40 is a priority, including research on this list, they
41 get additional points when they're rated. They're more
42 likely to be funded. So these were the ones that three
43 Yukon Councils determined were appropriate for this
44 recent call for projects that went -- that started this
45 spring.

46
47 When I say call, it's old language. We
48 used to call it a call it a call for proposals, and now
49 it's called a notice of funding opportunity. It's to
50 alert people that for a certain amount of time, you can

1 apply for this money by doing these things.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
4 questions concerning the Yukon priority needs
5 information. Mr. Brown.

6

7 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 INTERPRETER: I'm going to speak in
10 Yup'ik. In the Yukon area, does the tide come up and
11 tide goes out. That's my question. Down at the
12 Kuskokwim, the mouth of the Kuskokwim I have
13 experienced sonar. They brought it over there, down to
14 the mouth of the -- they wanted to ut it at the mouth
15 of the Kuskokwim. That's from Department of Fish and
16 Game. At the mouth of the Kuskokwim during the 80s.
17 And they wanted to put it there, the sonar. There's a
18 tide at the mouth of the Kuskokwim. There's water, and
19 then the high tide, when the water comes in and when
20 the water goes out. That was our problem. We ran into
21 a situation where the tide goes up and down. Is it the
22 same thing over at the Yukon.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there someone here
25 to answer that question.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Charlie Brown was
28 referencing that he has participated in the early days
29 in the 80s in scoping and development for a sonar on
30 the Lower Kuskokwim, and the rising and falling of the
31 tides was a challenge. So he was asking if that's the
32 same challenge on the Yukon River.

33

34 MR. MASCHMANN: through the Chair.
35 This is Gerald with Fish and Wildlife Service.

36

37 The tides definitely affect the Lower
38 Yukon test fishery, and we're definitely well aware of
39 that. And fishing is -- the information we get from
40 the Lower Yukon test fishery, we do think about the
41 tides and how those tides, and particularly the winds
42 and the tides bring fish in. So we definitely take
43 tides into account.

44

45 As far as the Pilot Station sonar, the
46 tides don't really affect the sonar. The sonar is far
47 enough upstream that the fish kind of get spread out by
48 the time they get up there. So we don't really see any
49 tidal influence on the Pilot Station sonar as it's far
50 enough up river.

1 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 INTERPRETER: And so in that area on
4 the upper region of the Yukon, the sonar can be
5 affected by the bad weather if there's a lot of rain.
6 And if there's a lot of water in the rivers, it can
7 affect the effectiveness of the sonar. And when the
8 water -- we can't really see now the water's like, but
9 sometimes the weather, if it keeps raining days on end,
10 that can also affect the sonar. That's what I'm
11 thinking.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
14
15 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair. Mr.
16 Brown.
17
18 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)
19
20 INTERPRETER: In addition to that, the
21 -- when we're trying to install the sonar down at the
22 mouth of the -- when there's a south wind, there's a
23 lot of wind, and there's a current that is really
24 affecting placement of that. Do you guys also look at
25 the wind strength and how it affects the tides and the
26 waves. It that how you guys determine your placement
27 of the sonar?
28
29 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair. Mr.
30 Brown. High water and silt and debris definitely
31 affects the Pilot Station sonar, and we're getting
32 daily reports from the soar crew, and that gives us an
33 indication of, you know, how much confidence we might
34 have in the sonar. For example, in 2016 it seemed like
35 we had pretty good flows and low debris, and for the
36 most part the sonar crew said that the sonar was
37 operating, you know, within bounds, and we didn't
38 really have any issues this year.
39
40 Winds don't really affect the sonar
41 that far upriver too much, but we definitely know the
42 winds affect our Lower Yukon test fishery, so when we
43 get winds blowing in, we typically get -- see fish
44 blowing in with those winds. And then if it just
45 happens to be a tide coming in and winds coming in, as
46 managers we're looking at that, thinking, okay, this is
47 probably going to push some fish in. And we make
48 adjustments to management based on that information.
49
50 But the sonar's far enough upriver,

1 it's not really getting influenced too much with the
2 tides, but definitely, you know, high water, high
3 debris loads can affect the sonar. And some years back
4 there was a silt band, or some erosion going on right
5 above the sonar, and so we were seeing a silt band in
6 front of the sonar, but that's gone away.

7

8 For the last few years it seems like
9 the sonar's been running pretty good, but we do take
10 that into account if there's a lot of debris or high
11 water, or something is affecting the sonar counts, as
12 managers we adjust our management and make sure that
13 we're taking that into account.

14

15 MR. BROWN: Quyana.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
18 Brown? Mr. Peters.

19

20 MR. PETERS: I've got a question, and I
21 live on the upper end of Y2, and I've got a concern,
22 you know, from Marshall on test fishing. We used to
23 have test fishing in Marshall, and all of a sudden they
24 move it down to Mountain Village, which is really close
25 to Y1. And with the numbers for Y1, and really close
26 to Mountain Village. And from Pilot Station to
27 Marshall, they took that test fishing away which was a
28 kind of concern coming from my community.

29

30 And the other thing about Pilot Station
31 sonar, at one time on the south bank it had caved in,
32 and they were kind of concerned about the numbers. And
33 after they got that fixed, I think, you know, with the
34 numbers and with the escapement goal that pass the
35 Pilot Station sonar at the time. And, you know, we do
36 get a printout of how much escapement go through the
37 Eagle border, and that was a concern coming from the
38 people on the upper end of Y2. And, you know, with
39 that escapement and the numbers, you know, somewhere
40 around the line there's got to be a clarification
41 coming from like Pilot Station now, because there was a
42 concern coming from my people and the tribe of how they
43 -- you know, on these estimate, what passed there for
44 the escapement, then through the halfway of the summer
45 that they got more than -- pretty close to the
46 escapement goal in Canada through the Eagle border.
47 And the only reason why I brought that up was it was a
48 little confusing, because with the numbers and reaching
49 the quota at the Canadian border, and stuff like that,
50 it was kind of concern about the escapement there, and

1 for the spawning.

2

3

4 But the other thing I would like to
5 bring out is about the mesh size. I think there was a
6 concern about the six-inch mesh in my area, and they
7 were to go with a seven -- I think it already has been
8 brought up about the males or females getting caught on
9 the smaller size mesh, and that was a concern. And if
10 in that entanglement with the mesh size and stuff like
11 that, you know, coming from my area, nobody did a
12 follow up on that. And that really need to be
13 addressed. And coming from Marshall, I think the
14 determination with the numbers and how could that --
15 you know, with the internets and with that
16 consideration coming from the people, I think that
17 really need to be addressed somewhere along the line,
18 that that opportunity to let you know, and, you know,
19 you guys are exploring, and evaluating our system. And
20 if a system is not working, that needs to be corrected
21 somewhere along the line.

21

22 Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was trying to get an
26 idea of what the -- did you get I guess the.....

27

28 MR. MASCHMANN: I think if he's just
29 voicing concerns, I can take them. Or if you want me
30 to maybe address each one.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Both.

33

34 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

37

38 MR. PETERS: You know, I kind of --
39 because you're looking at a time frame, and I try to
40 bring everything -- oh, try to bring everything at one
41 time since it's coming from the Yukon, and it's a
42 concern like where I come from, and I don't have
43 nothing against these priorities, but that's
44 information, you know, coming from my people and tribe.
45 I think that need to be recognized, and if we could get
46 some information from you.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. MASCHMANN: So through the chair.

1 Mr. Peters. Yeah, I know Marshall had a test fishery
2 for a while. And one of the issues with the State is
3 budget, of course, and that's always -- and so managers
4 just have to make decisions on which projects are going
5 to give them the most information for the dollars
6 spent.

7

8 And I know for the fall season we have
9 a Mountain Village test fishery, which is downriver.
10 And one of the reasons that we have that at Mountain
11 Village is because it's just that much sooner downriver
12 that gives us a day or two earlier information for the
13 managers; whereas if it was in Marshall, it would
14 somewhat be after Pilot Station. And so we use the
15 Mountain Village test fishery to confirm what we're
16 seeing at the Emmonak test fishery and then back that
17 against what then we see at Pilot Station. And
18 Mountain Village is just a little bit farther down
19 towards the mouth. It's a couple of days sooner, and
20 so as managers we get that information a little bit
21 sooner.

22

23 As far as your concerns with the Eagle
24 sonar, I can't disagree with you. You know, there was
25 -- what we left by is what went by this last year and
26 the year before. You know, we were just coming off
27 several years of really low runs. We'd been very
28 conservative with management. And again in 2015 we
29 were pretty conservative. In 2016 we were even a
30 little bit less conservative than we were in 2015. And
31 I know you're pretty active in the fishery meetings
32 during the winter and the spring, and so I would
33 definitely bring that concern up this spring. And, you
34 know, we're going to continue to adjust our management
35 actions based on, you know, the input we're getting
36 from you and fishermen at Marshall.

37

38 And I think there was one more concern
39 you had. Was it the Pilot Station sonar?

40

41 MR. PETERS: Yeah. With the Pilot
42 Station sonar, the only reason why they told me to
43 bring that up, because at one time you could always
44 test it for wrong. At the south bank, it caved in, and
45 there were a lot of fish that went by that weren't
46 calculated at the time. And I just thought I'd bring
47 it up to your attention. And I think, you know, that's
48 just informational, so I just thought I'd bring that
49 up.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any more
4 suggestions on the Yukon River priority information
5 needs. Mr. Oney.

6

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

8

9 My concern is about the -- not in-
10 river, but out of our jurisdiction, which is the high
11 seas and also the spawning areas which is on the
12 Canadian side of the border. Like if we make funds
13 available for projects, how does that work with Canada
14 like if we wanted to study maybe the spawning areas,
15 because I know Canada is very heavily into mining. And
16 if there's any sites there that might be affected by
17 the mining. You know, is that something that because
18 of the low returns of Chinook, is it because of mining
19 or the spawning areas being damaged.

20

21 I know global warming, you know, is
22 something that may be affecting them, but my main
23 concern is human destruction of the spawning areas, or
24 even out in the high seas for the salmon to feed before
25 they come into the river.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any answers to that,
30 Pippa?

31

32 MS. KENNER: Yes. Thank you for the
33 question, and through the Chair, Mr. Oney.

34

35 To answer your first question about
36 funding for research in Canada, I don't have the list
37 in front of me of restrictions around using the money.
38 What happened was when this funding first came to us to
39 sponsor this research, the Board, the Federal
40 Subsistence Board talked about what this money would be
41 used for. And a priority use for this money is to
42 partner with local communities and organizations. And
43 one of the rules that came out of that was not to fund
44 projects across the border. Another one was not to fund
45 habitat restoration or to research contamination, heavy
46 metal contamination, that sort of thing.

47

48 The other question out on the high
49 seas, in general we have not funded projects in marine
50 waters. Federal subsistence management jurisdiction at

1 this time is considered to end at the mouth of rivers
2 and streams before marine water. There has been talk
3 about it mainly for genetic testing to find out exactly
4 where fish that are intercepted in the pollock fishery
5 were bound, and we haven't funded it, but there has
6 been that kind of research going on. I know the Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game does quite a bit of
8 research out in marine waters, and maybe somebody else
9 has some more information.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that okay?

12

13 Any more suggestions on the priority
14 needs of the Yukon River. Ms. Pippa.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chair.

18

19 I wanted to go back to the question
20 that James Charles asked about the weir and test
21 fisheries and mark/recapture projects on the Yukon.
22 The Yukon's large, and we fund, directly fund fewer of
23 those projects. I can see on the list at the bottom
24 that this last spring we continued funding for the
25 Henshaw Creek weir, and that's up in the Koyukuk
26 system. And we have a really active Partner's Program
27 there with the Tanana Chief's Council. They have a
28 young person who kind of directs that work, and we help
29 fund that.

30

31 The amount of money that you see on the
32 right side, for most of these projects that's spread
33 over four years. That's four years of funding. So
34 when you break it down, it's, you know, really like two
35 or three Staff people. It's not as much as it -- it's
36 not \$637,000 a year.

37

38 The other one that will probably be
39 ending this year is the Gisasa, which I believe is also
40 in the Koyukuk system. And Fish and Game may be coming
41 to us through this call to ask for funding for that.

42

43 As far as I can see, we don't have any
44 other active funding going on right now for those
45 escapement assessment projects, but the first bullet is
46 reliable estimates of salmon escapements, which
47 includes weirs, sonars, or mark/recapture methods. And
48 we are aware that the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game has had some funding problems, and I wouldn't be
50 surprised if we got more requests this year than we

1 have in the past.

2

3 Thank you very much.

4

5 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa.

8

9 Any more questions on the priority
10 needs information for the Yukon.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more needs, or is
15 there a motion to approve the list as.....

16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
18 there was an opportunity to check in both with the
19 public that's joined us here and those who have joined
20 us on teleconference, if there's any local and public
21 feedback on priorities they observe on the Yukon, that
22 would be great.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Eva, for
27 reminding me of that. Is there any people in the
28 public that would like to discuss the information needs
29 on the Yukon. Go ahead, you've got the floor.

30

31 MR. JENKINS: Good afternoon, Chairman,
32 Council. My name is Wayne Jenkins, I'm the director of
33 the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

34

35 And I just have four project ideas for
36 you that have come to our attention through our board
37 and through our work at the village level that have to
38 do with the fisheries on the Yukon that may fit into
39 your priorities as you try to pull those together.

40

41 The first one is as probably everybody
42 knows, there's a lot of anadromous spawning areas on
43 the Yukon that haven't been identified. We've heard
44 numbers as far as 50 percent. One idea to try to
45 identify those and help ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife map
46 those areas and identify them, get scientists out there
47 to make sure, would be to start at the village level
48 with interviews with the elders, and to try to identify
49 as much of the spawning areas for kings and summer and
50 fall chum as possible, and even other species. So that

1 would be one project that would have value.

2

3 Another, we have in the past assisted
4 with local hire for labor and assistance for weirs and
5 towers and counters and other projects at the village
6 level that the agencies use. And we'd be more than
7 happy to do that again for other organizations that are
8 putting together projects on the river. We have
9 contact at the local level and work at the local level
10 a lot, and so if we can assist with any new projects
11 around that. And it helps to bring expertise and
12 funding into local communities. And it also helps
13 local communities know more about what's going on
14 locally, and getting that information to the
15 decisionmakers.

16

17 A third one is a question around
18 integrating traditional knowledge into the management-
19 making decisions. There's been a lot of discussion
20 about that over the years, but it doesn't appear that
21 there's a clear method or way of doing that. It seems
22 to be a great desire on the part of people in the
23 villages to do that, but now do we do it. And so a
24 project that tries to work with both the managers and
25 local folks that have the traditional knowledge, how do
26 we bring that to the fore, and how can it be better
27 used by managers.

28

29 And the last one, we presently to an
30 in-harvest survey every year where we hire surveyors to
31 work with fishermen and talk with them their catch and
32 how subsistence went, but it's focused solely on
33 Chinook. As the problems with Chinook have fishers and
34 communities focusing on other species to meet
35 subsistence needs, perhaps it would be good to also be
36 asking more questions about summer chum and fall chum,
37 and get that data. So it would be a request from us to
38 lengthen and make that project a little more
39 comprehensive. While we're there and working with
40 people, wouldn't it be better to add those questions
41 about summer and fall chum along with questions about
42 king and meeting subsistence needs.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What exactly was that
45 about the summer and fall chum? I didn't quite get, I
46 was writing.

47

48 MR. JENKINS: So we do an in-season
49 harvest surveys at the community level, and we have a
50 number of villages that we work with on that year-to-

1 year. But it is focused on Chinook. And it would
2 probably make sense now that more pressure or more
3 harvest and focus is on other species to meet
4 subsistence needs to make up for the lack of kings,
5 that we should be asking questions about that,
6 gathering information about that use also.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Jenkins.

10

11 MR. JENKINS: Thank you very much,
12 Council.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
15 Jenkins. Just a minute. Mr. Peters.

16

17 MR. PETERS: Wayne, I've got -- I'm
18 from Marshall on the upper end of Y-2. We've got two
19 tribes there, and I would like to -- you know, with
20 tribes -- what I'm saying is that both Marshall and
21 Ohog with their traditional knowledge, you know, to
22 have their input on this survey that you come up with.

23

24 And the other thing is how long would
25 this project be going, and they were concerned on how
26 much money is available and how to get that into the
27 village, because with the two tribes there, they're
28 kind of concerned about this survey. And, you know,
29 there's been this information back to them, and to let
30 you know that it's going to -- with all the traditional
31 knowledge that they know, it need to be brought to the
32 table.

33

34 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
37 for Mr. Jenkins.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.
42 Are there any other suggestions for priority
43 information needs for the Yukon. Ms. Pippa.

44

45 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
46 Peters. I think there was a question about funding,
47 and it's too early for me to know how much funding
48 we're going to have when we actually get through the
49 process, but somewhere in the realm of a million and a
50 half to 2 million for first year funding is possible

1 and may be probable. Somewhere in that. We're not
2 talking about 15 million, but we're not talking about
3 20,000 either. And that's just for first year funding.
4 We only need to fund those projects for one year, the
5 first year.

6

7 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chair. I would like
8 to thank you for that information, because the tribes
9 were kind of concerned about how long these projects
10 are going to last, and how much money's available with
11 these drastic cuts that are coming to the area. And,
12 you know, with this information, what you gave me, I'll
13 bring it back and let them know that, you know, that
14 they're working on it.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it? Mr.
19 Aloysius.

20

21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Pippa, how
22 much of that money is earmarked for local distribution,
23 and how is it going to be used.

24

25 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
26 question. Through the Chair, Mr. Aloysius.

27

28 On Page 112 of your Council book, I'm
29 directing you to yet another page, because the answer
30 is right there. So money is -- there's funding from
31 the Department of the Interior, and there's funding
32 from the Department of Agriculture, because the Forest
33 Service is part of our program. Most of the Forest
34 Service money goes to fund Southeast Alaska where
35 almost all the Federal land is Forest Service. There's
36 some Forest Service lands in Southcentral.

37

38 The Department of Interior monies are
39 divided as you can see on this page. Of all the funds
40 that we might get for funding the first year of those
41 projects, the Yukon gets almost 30 percent of the total
42 funding, and the Kuskokwim gets about 30 percent of the
43 total funding. Now, these percentages are not firm.
44 Sometimes we don't get that many proposals for a
45 region, or we get proposals, but they're not good
46 proposals, and they're not worth funding. So these
47 aren't firm, but in general these are our guidelines.

48

49 In addition to that, the money is --
50 there's also a reckoning of how much of the money going

1 towards traditional knowledge projects, and how much of
2 the money is going towards biological projects like
3 stock status and trends. Generally a little bit more
4 of it is going towards the biological projects. And
5 one of the reasons for that is because weirs are
6 critical for management of fisheries, and they're very
7 expensive.

8

9 Every project is required to have some
10 intersection with a local organization, be it a tribe
11 or a tribal non-profit, or some other organization.
12 How much of the money is distributed to those local
13 organizations is not set. It depends on what the
14 research is.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We're going
19 to have to get a motion for approval of this pretty
20 soon; otherwise, we're going to go into overtime
21 tonight.

22

23 So what is your next question, Mr.
24 Smith.

25

26 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27 Quickly.

28

29 Kind of going back to Mr. Oney's
30 comments about looking at the full cycle of the
31 Chinook, I know that the information that's been
32 disseminated through North Pacific is that we -- the
33 Council here through the Federal Subsistence Board was
34 looking at recommending reducing bycatch for Chinook
35 and for halibut. Is there any type of like MOU or MOA
36 between Federal Subsistence Board and North Pacific to
37 look at the full cycle of the Chinook, because that's
38 the underlying issue. And I know that, Pippa, you
39 mentioned the jurisdiction begins at the mouth of the
40 Yukon and the Kuskokwim, and that's where we start our
41 business in terms of looking at and dealing with these
42 issues. And then the high seas, North Pacific takes
43 care of that. So has there been any discussion or in
44 the future to look at some type of an agreement or
45 understanding to look at the overall issue from a
46 30,000-foot level to deal with it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ms. Pippa.

49

50 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.

1 Smith.

2

3

4 There's going to be somebody else that
5 can probably answer the specifics, but it's important
6 for you to know that eight years ago when I first
7 walked into this arena of regulation, one of the
8 problems was that we are under the Department of
9 Interior and the Department of Agriculture, that means
10 all of us, that our full program, and, of course, the
11 marine environment fisheries are under a whole
12 different Federal department. And the communication
13 wasn't happening very efficiently. And our Councils,
14 our Board, and others have repeatedly been bringing
15 this up at the North Pacific Fisheries Management
16 Council. And a two-way meaningful dialogue has begun,
17 and we have made progress in reducing those caps that
18 the pollock fishery had.

18

19

20 So I just wanted to tell you from where
21 I've seen, yes, there's been a lot of movement in the
22 big picture of how these offshore fisheries are
23 affecting the salmon runs into really critical streams
24 and rivers in Alaska.

24

25

Excuse me, just a minute.

26

27

28 I asked an expert in the audience, and
29 I am not aware, and neither is she of there being an
30 official MOA or MOU with the Federal Subsistence
31 Management Program or the State, although the State
32 does make appointments to that board.

32

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was a request in
35 2016 to have you to go meet with the -- to attend the
36 North Pacific Management Council meeting, but that
37 budget was -- there was budget constraint and there was
38 not -- they weren't able to fund that trip for you.

38

39

40 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. So, yeah, that
41 was for the testimony for bycatch. What I'm asking was
42 about an agreement that we need to look at I believe,
43 because it's an issue that I keep hearing. I mean, I
44 think that if we can bump this up through the Federal
45 Subsistence Board to the Secretary of Interior, that I
46 think it sounds like it's at that level to where they
47 would need to look at the overall arching issue of the
48 cycle of the Chinook from the high seas to the Yukon
49 and the Kuskokwim. That's what I'm saying.

49

50

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pippa, no?

1 Any further discussion on this. We're
2 needing a motion to approve the priority information
3 needs for the Yukon.

4
5 Is there -- before we get into this
6 motion, is there anybody out in telephone land that
7 would like to make a suggestion on the priority
8 information needs for the Yukon River.

9
10 MR. OLSTROM: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Bill.

13
14 MR. OLSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 was just wondering, you know, on the (indiscernible -
16 teleconference interference) listed here and people,
17 and I'd say on this problem (indiscernible -
18 teleconference interference)

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute, Bill,
21 there seems to be a lot of interference by some person
22 or thing out in the telephone land that needs to be
23 corrected. If somebody is out there wanting to mute
24 their phones, you can do so by star-six. And if there
25 is anybody out there that may be causing this problem
26 that we're having, would you please refrain from doing
27 that until we are done with the discussion.

28
29 I hope that helps, Bill. Let's try it
30 again.

31
32 MR. OLSTROM: (Indiscernible -
33 teleconference interference).

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I really don't know
36 what's causing this. It seems to get worse after I
37 made that statement. I don't know how to go about
38 getting this done.

39
40 Bill, could you try that again one more
41 time.

42
43 MR. OLSTROM: (Indiscernible -
44 teleconference interference)

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This seems to be
47 getting worse. Bill, one thing what you might do is
48 maybe write a letter of your request to the OMS office.

49
50 MR. OLSTROM: (Indiscernible -

1 teleconference interference)
2
3 (Pause - trying to figure out the
4 problem)
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill, are you able to
7 hear me?
8
9 MR. OLSTROM: (Indiscernible -
10 teleconference interference)
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill, it seems to be
13 coming from your station or your area. Every time you
14 speak, there's a lot of interference on the phone.
15 Yeah, try hanging up and try it again, Bill. Are you
16 hung up, or are you going to try again?
17
18 MR. OLSTROM: I'll hang up and try
19 again.
20
21 (Indiscernible - teleconference
22 interference)
23
24 MS. PATTON: Bill, the interference
25 appears to be coming from your telephone, and I don't
26 know if we're going to be able to fix that on our
27 teleconference system. If you would like to call, I'm
28 going to provide a cell phone number, you can relay a
29 message by the cell phone number, and we can proceed
30 that way. Otherwise we're probably going to have to
31 move on. The interference is coming through the phone
32 line every time you try to speak. So there is a
33 telephone number
34
35 (Indiscernible - teleconference
36 interference)
37
38 MS. PATTON: For your purpose, Bill,
39 you can call telephone number 351-0083, and we'll have
40 a Staff talk to you. I think we're going to need to
41 move on though since we can't make a connection. If
42 you could hang up your phone line though, Bill, with
43 our teleconference, there appears to be the static when
44 you talk.
45
46 (Indiscernible - teleconference
47 interference)
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, that don't seem to
50 be the problem. I think the only solution we have is

1 to cut off that teleconference line out to the rest of
2 the state or whoever's on it, because we won't be able
3 to continue our meeting with the interference coming
4 off the phone.

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: That interference is --
11 you can tell it's very intentional. It is not
12 electronic. It is somebody doing it on purpose. Thank
13 you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I think
16 the only way we can do this is to cut off that outside
17 line if we may.

18
19 (Teleconference turned off)

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We are
22 down to motion to adopt the suggested projects,
23 priority information for the Yukon. Is there a motion
24 to that effect.

25
26 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman. I would
27 like to make that motion for this Yukon region priority
28 information, but I would like to consider Mr. Ray
29 Oney's statement and to take it into some
30 consideration. And I know Bill Olstrom had something
31 to say, but, you know, what they've got here, it could
32 always be readjusted. But I would like to accept this,
33 make that motion.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: To approve the
38 priority information needs, including the ones Mr.
39 Jenkins asked to be included.

40
41 MR. PETERS: Yes. In-season harvest of
42 others than the Chinooks. Summer, fall.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Including Mr.
45 Jenkins'.

46
47 MR. PETERS: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Have you got
50 that, Pip.

1 MS. KENNER: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do I hear a second to
4 the motion.
5
6 MR. ONEY: second.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Oney.
9 Any further discussion. Any further discussion.
10
11 MR. ONEY: Yeah, I thought Pippa was
12 going to comment. Were you going to comment?
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Or were you just -- go
15 ahead.
16
17 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Yeah. I just wanted to get some clarification.
19
20 Did you mean Mr. Jenkins' and Mr.
21 Oney's recommendations, or just Mr. Jenkins', or -- I
22 wasn't quite clear on what the motion was.
23
24 MR. PETERS: Those both. Yeah.
25
26 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there a second to
29 that motion? I didn't -- okay. Seconded by Mr. Oney.
30
31 Any further discussion.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MR. ONEY: Question.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's called
38 for. All in favor say aye.
39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
43
44 (No opposing votes)
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much.
47
48 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
49 I just want to say we all look forward to working with
50 the Council members in the upcoming year and meetings

1 on this.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Pippa.

4

5 Let us continue on with our agenda,
6 down to Item D, revision of MOU with the State. It's
7 an action item. Does anybody have that revision to MOU
8 with the State. Mr. Lind.

9

10 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council.
11 We're going to dial back into the teleconference and
12 see if we can reconnect.

13

14 Orville Lind will be providing the
15 overview. We also have the State subsistence liaison
16 who was on teleconference with us.

17

18 We've still got static. Okay.

19

20 So while Orville's providing this
21 overview, I'm going to try to reach our teleconference
22 land and we'll check back in. Thank you, Orville.

23

24 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
25 Council members. I'm Orville Lind, Native liaison for
26 the Office of Subsistence Management.

27

28 And at this time I'm going to give you
29 a brief update briefing on the memorandum of
30 understanding with the State. And if you'd turn to 131
31 in your meeting book, I'd like to just go ahead and
32 read the preamble, the first paragraph, stating that
33 this MOU is between the Federal Subsistence Board and
34 the State of Alaska. It establishes guidelines to
35 coordinate management of subsistence uses of fish and
36 wildlife resources on Federal public lands in Alaska.

37

38 This document builds upon the July 18,
39 2012 draft MOU which incorporated recommended changes
40 from the Regional Advisory Councils, Subsistence
41 Resource Commissions, and Advisory Committees.

42

43 The subcommittee working on this MOU is
44 made up of representatives from OSM, the Office of
45 Subsistence Management, BLM, Bureau of Land Management,
46 USDA, which is the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and
47 FS, which is the Forest Service, and the State of
48 Alaska.

49

50 The intent of this MOU is to provide a

1 foundation to build on with the State to coordinate the
2 management of fish and wildlife resources for
3 subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska. It
4 is not expected to address a variety of issues between
5 the Federal program and the State, but to provide a
6 framework so that specific issues may be worked on in
7 the future.

8

9 We would like for you to review this
10 document, beginning on 131 through 135, and provide
11 your comments and recommendations both for the
12 subcommittees and to be presented to the Board.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Lind.

17

18 Is there any additions or comments on
19 the revised draft combined State and Federal MOU.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Lind.

22

23 Any comments on the memorandum of
24 understanding, MOU, with the State. Mr. Oney.

25

26 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 I'd like to hear what Western Interior
29 or Eastern Interior might have acted on this.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ms. Patton, did you
32 hear the question.

33

34 MS. PATTON: My apologies, no, I
35 didn't. Can you please repeat.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you please
38 repeat your question.

39

40 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
41 Chairman.

42

43 I was saying that I just wanted to know
44 how Western and Eastern Interior might have acted on
45 this. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have any
48 information on that.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

1 Western Interior just met. We didn't get any updates
2 on this specific action item with the MOU. Eastern
3 Interior won't be meeting for another two weeks yet, so
4 at this time it's as the Council sees the MOU. We
5 haven't gotten feedback from the other Councils yet.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, the MOU is five
8 pages there. Is there any additions that you might
9 want to put on the MOU. Any other action. Any other
10 points.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there isn't any,
15 we'll entertain a motion for approval of the MOU as
16 written. Mr. Aloysius.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we support
19 the memorandum of understanding as revised on whatever
20 date that was given to us earlier.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.
23 Do I hear a second.

24

25 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion. Mr.
26 Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
29 Charles. Any other discussion. Any further discussion
30 on the MOU.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. ANDREW: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We need a motion. Was
37 there a motion already on there? I'm sorry.

38

39 MR. ANDREW: There's a motion by
40 Aloysius, the second by James.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All right. I must
43 have had a senior moment there. All in favor of the
44 motion signify by saying aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.

2

3 We are going down to Item E, review
4 annual report reply and identify issues for the 2016
5 annual report. That's always fun.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. On
8 Page 138 you'll find the guidelines for developing an
9 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

10

11 And the Council has already addressed
12 some of the issues and concerns and information that
13 the Council would like to bring to awareness of the
14 Federal Subsistence Board. So far the Council has
15 addressed public feedback that we heard at the
16 beginning of the meeting, concerns that were brought up
17 concerning the time of subsistence salmon harvest when
18 the weather is conducive for drying and there's no
19 flies. Also concerns about the fall moose hunt and
20 timing with warming of weather. There was discussion
21 around, you know, a shift of up to two weeks. So we
22 have that discussion on the record with the public
23 Council.

24

25 Another topic of concern was about oil
26 response, increase in shipping in the region. And then
27 the Council also did discuss at length the interest to
28 have consultation with tribes in advance of the
29 Regional Advisory Council meeting so that you would
30 have feedback from the tribes, to consider their input
31 in our decisionmaking.

32

33 So that's several topics that the
34 Council was interested to bring before the Board. If
35 you have any further topics you would like to add to
36 your annual report, now would be the time to do it.

37

38 And again Page 138 provides the
39 guidelines for some of what the Board is looking for in
40 terms of current and anticipated subsistence uses of
41 fish and wildlife populations, anticipated subsistence
42 needs for fish and wildlife, recommended strategies for
43 management, and the Council has been discussing a
44 number of those issues. Also recommendations
45 concerning policies or guidelines, and implementing
46 your recommendations for subsistence management.

47

48 And as you're thinking about that as
49 well, we also have your reply from your previous
50 report. And so the Board responds to those questions.

1 The report wasn't available yet, back from the Board at
2 the time of the meeting book, so it's in your
3 supplemental materials at the back, and we do have
4 extra copies as well.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I seem to have had
7 this letter somewhere.

8
9 MS. JOHNSON: Which one? The one you
10 showed me?

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The letter from the
13 Board.

14
15 MS. JOHNSON: The one I gave you? The
16 one I showed you?

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: From Tim.

19
20 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Do you want this one?

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is this the right one?
25 Okay. Do you have a copy of that letter that was
26 written. It's on this response from Tim Towarak. If
27 you want us to go through the whole thing, then we
28 will.

29
30 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
31 Council, again this was supplemental in the back of
32 your binders, but isn't in the meeting bound itself.
33 So this is an opportunity to take a look at the
34 response you received from the Board, and see if their
35 response to your annual report last year, if the
36 questions were addressed adequately, or if there's
37 anything further you would like to add, additional
38 information or requests to the Board in this year's
39 annual report.

40
41 So the topics last year were addressing
42 the use of dipnets on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.
43 Accountability of in-season managers. Communication
44 challenges, two-way communication challenges, cultural
45 differences in ways of communicating. And salmon and
46 halibut bycatch. And the Board has responded to each
47 of those questions in this annual report.

48
49 So if there's anything further you'd
50 like to bring forward for next year's annual report,

1 then this would be the opportunity to do that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any other
4 annual report issues that we need to bring to the
5 Board. Mr. Dale Smith.

6

7 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 So earlier I made comments to Pippa
10 regarding the discussion about the Chinook salmon
11 cycle, and to see if we could bump this issue up
12 through the Federal Subsistence Board to the Secretary
13 of Interior to look at some type of working
14 relationship with the other entity. Was it NOAA?
15 National Oceanic -- yeah. With NOAA, Department of
16 Commerce. If we could put that in this report, I think
17 that it would at least get the ball rolling in terms of
18 looking at the cycle from the Bering Sea to the Yukon-
19 Kuskokwim Rivers regarding the salmon.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
22 topics. Any other topics from the Council that you'd
23 like to have placed on the annual report issues.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none
28 other, I guess that's all that -- and that will take
29 care of that part.

30

31 Yes, Mr. Andrew.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. John Andrew
34 out of Kwethluk.

35

36 Last year the issue of dipnets, I had a
37 project last year, it doesn't work in my area. Too
38 deep. And under methods and means there's another tool
39 is that we can use beachseining. And that still
40 doesn't work for my area. Right up about where I live,
41 the Y, most of the beaches are right after spring
42 floods is muddy for a long while. We have no gravel
43 beaches. To top it off, we simply cannot afford them,
44 they're expensive. That will be another issue to this
45 one for methods and means. Because they say we can use
46 dipnets or beachseines for time of Chinook closures.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other topics.

1 Which one of you, I've got to see, one with hands, the
2 other one.....

3

4 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, I'm pointing at him.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. Mr. Peters.

7

8 MR. PETERS: Yeah. My name is Mike
9 Peters from Marshall on the upper end of Y2.

10

11 And coming, you know, from the Native
12 village, they did not support this dipnet, because in
13 my area first part of -- you know, spring time the
14 water's very high, and it's very difficult to catch the
15 subsistence needs. And, you know, that was brought up
16 by the elders on my to talk on their behalf about this,
17 because there were times when they can't even catch
18 five salmon with dipnet. And traditionally, you know,
19 to determine that they'd been using nets, it's either
20 six-inch or seven and one-fourth, but, you know, I
21 would like the Board to -- that coming from my area --
22 you know, the Yukon's very big. In some places it
23 works, and some, like in my area, it don't work. But
24 that to let everybody know that they're not supporting
25 this dipnet. And I just thought I'd bring it to your
26 attention.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other topics. Mr.
31 Aloysius.

32

33 MR. ALOYSIUS: One more time. The use
34 of dipnets and beach seines are just tools that are
35 available for anyone to use. They are not mandated
36 that you have to use them.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
41 Aloysius. Mr. Brown.

42

43 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: When I first heard about
46 this issue, and I first heard about it in my Village of
47 Eek, and the people from my village did not like this
48 at all. And especially the area surrounding. When I
49 first started navigating the waterway here, and when I
50 saw -- sometime I would see 70 to 90 feet deep waters

1 when I did through -- and the currents would always
2 change from seven to nine knots. And that did not take
3 into account the wind. And so because of that, I do
4 not support this at all.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius -- I'm
7 sorry, Mr. Charles.

8
9 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10
11 I was going to say that dipnets were
12 not sufficient for my area either. And like Charlie
13 Brown, we have big tides at the mouth of Kuskokwim.
14 The ground you see at low water, you don't see it at
15 high water, because we can only use dipnets at outgoing
16 tide, not incoming tide. When I was a kid, we used to
17 dipnet for whitefish or other non-salmon species only
18 when water's going out. We'd drive the fence down in
19 the water and dipnet only on outgoing tide. And so I'm
20 like these other guys. I don't go along for dipnets.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
25 I may, the Board had responded to this concern that was
26 brought up in the last annual report. And as Bob had
27 indicated, dipnets are just one type of allowable gear
28 that is in place as an option when other methods are
29 closed for the protection of Chinook since Chinook can
30 be released live and unharmed from a dipnet as opposed
31 to a gillnet.

32
33 So as the letter responds, in recent
34 past during times of conservation of Chinook salmon
35 stocks on both rivers, gear restrictions have been put
36 in place that allow subsistence users to target and
37 selectively harvest other fish such as chum salmon
38 while at the same time being able to immediately
39 release all Chinook salmon incidently caught. Dipnets
40 allow such immediate release to occur, and while the
41 Board recognizes and understands that dipnets is not
42 traditional gear type for salmon fishing, this gear is
43 an option.

44
45 So it's an option available to
46 communities to use, you know, if and when it works. And
47 subsistence users retain the option to use it or not to
48 use it. So it's just an additional tool trying to find
49 some mechanism when drift fishing or setnets are
50 closed. There's an opportunity. It may not work well

1 in a lot of conditions, but it's an option for folks to
2 be able to use.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And I hope the rest of
7 you understand that.

8

9 Any other -- oh, okay.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.

14 Aloysius.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: If you're able to use the
19 dipnets, if you cannot use the dipnets, don't use them.
20 It is not saying that the dipnets are the only one form
21 of -- just if you can use the dipnets, then you can use
22 it. If you don't use it, then don't use it. It's not
23 a necessity or a law that you have to use dipnets to go
24 out and catch your fish. And so a lot of times that
25 they do not -- maybe that people do not translate these
26 very well, but I am telling you it's less like it's
27 right in front of you, but these things, if you can use
28 the dipnets, then you can use them. If you cannot use
29 them, then it is not law in black and white saying you
30 have to use them.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other topics that
35 you might have for the issues on the annual report.

36 I'm getting signals from different people. Go ahead,
37 Mr. Peters.

38

39 MR. PETERS: Okay. I'm Mike Peters
40 from Marshall, and I'd like to make a comment, you
41 know, from my area.

42

43 And if it's not working in certain
44 areas like I come from the Yukon, like I have a lot of
45 due respect for the Board and everybody. You know,
46 it's their option if they want to use that tool,
47 dipnet, but if it's not working in my area with the
48 tribes and the elders bringing that concern, and giving
49 me the opportunity to address this situation. If it's
50 not working in my area where I come from on the Yukon,

1 I think we have a right to make that determination to
2 bring that up to the Council. And I just thought I'd
3 -- I cannot talk for the Kuskokwim, but in your area,
4 but when it comes to my area, I would like to make the
5 statement coming from our people that are affected by
6 this dipnet. And, you know, there's other options to
7 go, but, you know, I just thought I'd bring this up for
8 the people to know.

9

10 Thank you very much. And I don't hold
11 anything against anybody. It's just that it's some
12 sort of tool that don't work in my area. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other topics for
15 the -- Mr. Oney.

16

17 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
18 guess dipnets, if they give you that as the only option
19 to fish for subsistence, it is hard. That's why
20 they're saying that it is not working for us in our
21 area. And at the beginning ADF&G does give us only
22 that option for subsistence fishing. They never give
23 us option beach seining, because beach seining, you
24 have to have a bunch of people to do it. But
25 subsistence fishing is something that, you know, we
26 grew up with even before the State became a State. We
27 relied on the resources, and we noticed it, because
28 they tell us that we only can catch what we can
29 provide, or what we can handle, and then give out the
30 rest if we get too much.

31

32 And at the beginning, you know, we want
33 the resources in abundance, right, one shot, because of
34 the weather, the flies, and things that will come in
35 later. We want to harvest that resource in one quick
36 stop, and be able to cure it in time before the flies
37 come. So if Fish and Game gave you that only options,
38 you know, it's not working for us.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm glad you brought
43 that up. Thank you very much.

44

45 Any other topics for discussion on
46 identifying issues for the annual report.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then just for

1 the time sake, we'll conclude the discussion on this.
2 Do you have enough information there for the next
3 letter? Okay.

4

5 We'll continue on with our Item -- down
6 to our agenda Item F, charter review. Who has this
7 topic.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
10 I'll be addressing the Council on this. In the
11 meantime, maybe we'll try calling again to see if we
12 can reconnect, but I'll continue.

13

14 On Page 140 you will find the Council's
15 charter. And this is an action item that comes before
16 the Council every other year. The charter gets renewed
17 on a regular basis.

18

19 And this is the official charter that
20 provides guidance. Council members are appointed to
21 serve on the Regional Advisory Council, and are
22 appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. This
23 charter provides the primary guidelines and terms of
24 your authorities and duties.

25

26 There isn't much you can change with
27 your charter, but the authorities and duties are very
28 important. You can change the number of seats on the
29 Council. For example, this Council has 13 members.
30 Some have only 10.

31

32 (Teleconference reconnected)

33

34 MS. PATTON: But it's important to
35 review the description of the duties for the Council,
36 primarily to recommend the initiation of review and
37 evaluate proposals for regulations, policies,
38 management plans and other matters relating to
39 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands
40 within the region, provide a public forum for
41 expression of opinions and recommendations by persons
42 interested in any matter related to the uses of
43 subsistence fish and wildlife on public lands within
44 the region, encourage local and regional participation
45 in the decisionmaking process affecting taking of fish
46 and wildlife on public lands within the region for
47 subsistence uses.

48

49 And the other, which we were just
50 working on, is to prepare an annual report which

1 identifies current and anticipated subsistence uses of
2 fish and wildlife, evaluation of current and
3 anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife
4 within the region, and recommended strategies for the
5 management of fish and wildlife within the region, and
6 to accommodate subsistence uses and needs.

7

8 Item No. 4 on your primary authorities
9 is to make recommendations concerning policies,
10 standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the
11 strategy.

12

13 Item (e), very important, make
14 recommendations on determinations of customary and
15 traditional use of subsistence resources.

16

17 Item (f) make recommendations on
18 determinations of rural status.

19

20 And (g) provide recommendations on the
21 establishment and membership of Federal local advisory
22 committees. So numerous Councils make recommendations
23 to appoint seats for National Park Service SRCs, for
24 example.

25

26 And the Council reports to the Federal
27 Subsistence Board Chair. The Council's recommendations
28 are central to the work of the Federal Subsistence
29 Board. And as we noted from the .805(c) report, the
30 Board did act on and support all of the Council's
31 recommendations at the recent meeting in April on
32 wildlife regulations. And generally the Board supports
33 97, 98, 99 percent of the Council's recommendations.
34 Your role is central to their role.

35

36 Support. So U.S Fish and Wildlife
37 Service will provide administrative support for the
38 activities of the Council through the Office of
39 Subsistence Management. So we are your Staff. I'm
40 your Staff as the Council coordinator, and you have
41 fisheries biologists, wildlife biologists,
42 anthropologists and policy. We are your staff. And
43 this charter provides that guidelines.

44

45 And the designated Federal officer, I
46 serve in that capacity of supporting the Council's
47 reporting to the Board, your proposals on subsistence
48 fish and wildlife regulations, and I help bring forward
49 all the actions of the Council.

50

1 Generally the Council meets one to two
2 times per year.

3
4 And the duration, so every two years
5 the charter is renewed, and the Council is continuing.
6 This is under ANILCA and the formation of the Council.

7
8 And termination, essentially this
9 Council will continue with the renewal of the charter
10 every two years. Again ANILCA provides the guidance
11 for the structure.

12
13 So this is your charter, these are your
14 authorities. They very important and recognize the
15 work that you do as volunteers and the support for your
16 communities in hosting the public process for that
17 feedback.

18
19 So if you have any questions, please
20 let me know. Otherwise generally the Council reviews
21 and then approves to continue the charter for the
22 future.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Eva. As
27 Eva stated, 98 to 99 percent of our proposals are
28 passed through the Board, which is a good record for
29 any Council within the State. And that's all I have I
30 guess.

31
32 Is there anything else on the charter.
33 You've got all the information that you need as to who
34 you are. Mr. Aloysius, you've got the floor.

35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. In the early
37 days there was a section called code of conduct, but I
38 don't see it in here at all.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
41 This is your charter in terms of your authorities.
42 There is a guide in terms of Council member
43 responsibilities and conduct. And that's in your
44 Council member handbook. So I've got a copy of that.
45 We usually provide that when new Council members come
46 on. I can pull that out for you. That provides the
47 guidelines for broader work of the Council. This is
48 the primary authorities. And Council member conduct
49 and other guidelines and policies are in that Council
50 handbook. And really that Council handbook is the OSM

1 Council handbook -- or program handbook, because it
2 provides all the basic information about the program
3 and the work of the Council.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could we get a copy to
6 each member of the Council with that book so to make
7 sure that each member of the Council get that.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Absolutely, yes. So I
10 will mail out new copies for everyone. We have a
11 couple copies here, but I'll mail out a new copy for
12 all Council members. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I think
15 we'd appreciate that.

16

17 Any more discussion on the charter
18 review. It's an action item. You need a motion for
19 approval on this, Eva.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Yes. A motion to.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion is needed for
24 approval of the charter. Council members.

25

26 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who's that? Okay.
29 Mr. Ulak.

30

31 MR. ULAK: I move to approve the RAC
32 charter.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion's been made
35 to approve the charter as reviewed.

36

37 MR. ONEY: Second.

38

39 MR. ANDREW: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
42 Andrew. Any other discussion.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MR. PETERS: Question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
49 All in favor say aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.
8
9 We are down to Item G, feedback on all
10 Council meeting. Ms. Patton. Feedback on all Council
11 meeting that was held in Anchorage.
12
13 MS. PATTON: Right. Mr. Chair and
14 Council. This is just if there's any suggestions,
15 recommendations or insights from the Council.
16
17 On Page 170 in your meeting book you'll
18 find the letter that all 10 Regional Advisory Councils
19 had signed onto after that joint meeting. If you'll
20 recall, on the first two days all 10 councils met
21 together, and we had the majority of Federal
22 Subsistence Board members that were in attendance at
23 that meeting at one time or the other.
24
25 The Councils brought up key issues that
26 they were interested to relay to the Board that were
27 common to all 10 Councils. And on Page 170 you'll see
28 the letter that was drafted that identifies those
29 issues, and all Chairs then signed off on that.
30
31 If there is any feedback, ideas, or
32 insights that you'd like to share with the program on
33 that all Council meeting and the workshops, it would be
34 great to get that feedback so we can incorporate that
35 into any such meetings like that in the future, if
36 you're interested.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any topics that the
41 Council members would like to have during the -- in the
42 next four years we'll probably be holding another all
43 Council meeting; is that right?
44
45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think that was the
48 request.
49
50 MS. PATTON: Right. One of the

1 requests. It was every five years that all 10 Councils
2 had identified in that joint session. That at least
3 every five years they would like to meet jointly
4 together again.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And that was also the
9 feeling of this Council at the time.

10

11 Any other discussion on the feedback on
12 the Council meeting, or any additional meetings that
13 you would like to have discussed in the next one.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, we
18 will continue on with our agenda.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
21 we may, I think we have the teleconference back on
22 line. If we can touch base with everyone who's on
23 teleconference with us, and make sure we know who was
24 able to join back on, that would be good.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'd like to
29 have anybody out there in telephone land identify
30 yourself, please.

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett
33 for the Department of Fish and Game, Board Support
34 Section in Kotzebue.

35

36 MS. LEVINE: This is Robin Levine with
37 the Office of Subsistence Management.

38

39 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with Bureau of
40 Land Management in Anchorage.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else.

43

44 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein with
45 Fish and Game in Anchorage.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else.

48

49 MR. SHERMAN: Paul Sherman (ph).

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there anyone else.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill Olstrom, are you
6 still on.
7
8 MR. OLSTROM: Yes.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Is there anyone
11 else.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We are down to
16 -- thank you very much for identifying who you are out
17 there. And we apologize for having to cut out the
18 phone line earlier. We were getting so much
19 interference that we weren't able to conduct our
20 meeting with all the interference coming in. So
21 welcome back to our conference.
22
23 We are back down to item -- or back to
24 our agenda, Item H, Tongass submerged lands proposed
25 rule. It's on Page 144. Who is going to make that
26 presentation. Mr Lind.
27
28 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
29 Council members. I'm going to give you a briefing on
30 the Tongass.
31
32 This proposed rule -- and why we're
33 briefing you is because of the subsistence regulations
34 on the Board's power and duties, the regulation states
35 in appropriate specific instances where there exists
36 additional Federal reservations, Federal reserved water
37 rights, or other Federal interests in lands or waters,
38 including those in which the United States holds less
39 than a fee ownership, to which a Federal subsistence
40 priority attaches and make appropriate recommendations
41 to the Secretaries for inclusion of those interests
42 with the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
43
44 And why are we giving this to a Council
45 who it doesn't affect? It's just -- it is because of
46 the Secretarial rulemaking. As it says, it's been
47 presented to each Council.
48
49 And I would take notice to give on Page
50 144 in your meeting book to 152, there's some great

1 explanation to this proposed rule, and with your
2 permission, Mr. Chairman and Board members, I'd like to
3 read you the summary.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would you please.

6

7 MR. LIND: In the U.S. District Court
8 of Alaska, and it's October 17th, 2011, Warren
9 Peratrovich, et al, versus United States and the State
10 of Alaska, 3:92-cv-0734-HRH, Alaska enjoined the United
11 States to promptly initiate regulatory proceedings for
12 the purpose of implementing the subsistence provisions
13 in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands
14 Conservation Act with respect to submerged public lands
15 within Tongass National Forest and directed entry of
16 judgment to comply with the order, the Federal
17 Subsistence Board must initiate a regulatory proceeding
18 to identify those submerged lands within the Tongass
19 National Forest, and did not pass to the State of
20 Alaska at statehood, and therefore remain Federal
21 public lands subject to the subsistence provisions of
22 ANILCA.

23

24 Following the court's decision, the
25 Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service
26 started a review of hundreds of potential pre-
27 statehood, January 3rd, 1959, withdrawals in the marine
28 waters of the Tongass National Forest. In April and
29 October of 2015, BLM submitted initial lists of
30 submerged public lands to the Board. This proposed
31 rule would add those submerged parcels to the
32 subsistence regulations to ensure compliance with the
33 court order. Additional listings will be published as
34 BLM and the USDA Forest Service continue their review
35 of pre-statehood withdrawals.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Lind.
40 And what exactly -- mind wasn't exactly there, but what
41 action do we need on this proposed rule.

42

43 MR. LIND: This is no action, Mr.
44 Chairman. It's an update briefing.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Somebody made a
47 mistake and.....

48

49 MR. LIND: Well, it's according to
50 Secretarial rule.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
4 Actually it is an action item. It's ironic that it's
5 coming before all Councils, but because this will
6 actually change Federal subsistence regulations on
7 Federal lands, this is specific to the Tongass area,
8 but it does provide that authority for these submerged
9 lands now to be considered Federal lands. So that's
10 why it's coming before all 10 Councils. And it is an
11 action item either for the Council to support or oppose
12 or the Council can defer to the Council in the affected
13 region. But it is an action items, so we would need a
14 motion from the Council on this.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Eva. Ms.
19 Patton.
20
21 The one suggestion I might have is that
22 we defer this back to the people that it affects,
23 because we don't have any knowledge whatsoever of the
24 lands that are mentioned in the proposed rule. So if
25 we could get a -- it depends on what the Council feels,
26 but my feeling is that we should refer it back to the
27 Southeast. But we'll stand a motion at this time for
28 the submerged lands proposed rule.
29
30 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
31 move that we refer this back to the affected users down
32 in Southeast. That's the motion.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made to
35 defer this back to the Southeast. Do I hear a second.
36
37 MR. ONEY: Second.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Oney.
40
41 MR. PETERS: Question.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's called
44 for. All in favor say aye.
45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motions carried.
2
3 The last item on this section is Item
4 I, it's the Marshall letter. You've got this, Mr.
5 Jenkins.
6
7 MR. JENKINS: Afternoon, Chairman and
8 Council. My name is Wayne Jenkins, and I'm the
9 director of Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.
10
11 You have a copy of said letter in your
12 briefing book. I also have about 10 copies here if you
13 would like me to hand them out to you very quickly.
14 It's a very brief letter, and it's a request for
15 support for ACEC nominations made by Marshall and
16 Ohogamiut. And if you would like, I can give you a
17 little background information on what that is.
18
19 Oh, I do need a copy, I'm sorry.
20
21 MS. PATTON: Here you go.
22
23 MR. JENKINS: Would you like that
24 background?
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Oh, the
27 supplemental right here.
28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 This is in the back of your meeting books in the
31 supplementary materials.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It doesn't have a page
34 number though.
35
36 MS. PATTON: Right. But sometimes it's
37 easier just to hand it out so you've got it handy and
38 don't have to go searching for it.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We've got it. We'll
41 wait.
42
43 MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chairman. Do you
44 feel like you need a little bit of the background
45 support for the context for this letter, or do you
46 feel.....
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
49
50 MR. JENKINS: Okay. Then I will begin

1 that.

2

3

4 This is one of the projects that YRDFA
5 has undertaken for assisting local communities. In
6 July of 2014, YRDFA began assisting Yukon River
7 communities with engagement in the Bureau of Land
8 Management, or BLM, resource management planning
9 process. The work is fund by PEW Charitable Trusts.
10 All Federal land management agencies are directed by
11 Congress through the through the Federal Land Policy
12 Management Act of 1976 to create resource management
13 plans for guiding natural resource management
14 decisions, and those plans are prepared. They usually
15 take three to four years to prepare, working with the
16 public, and they are used for over the next 15 to 20
17 years.

17

18

19 The planning process is public, and it
20 seeks through direct engagement to gain input on issues
21 and concerns, and any and all information pertinent to
22 the management of the public's lands the agency is
23 responsible for. In the U.S. BLM, which is within the
24 Department of Interior, administers over 247 million
25 acres. Over 72 million acres of these are in Alaska
26 within eight planning regions.

26

27

28 Three of these planning regions include
29 portions of the Yukon River, and they are in active
30 planning mode right now. The Eastern Interior, the
31 Central Yukon and the Bering Sea/Western Interior
32 regions. Now, these are BLM regions. These differ
33 somewhat from the Subsistence RAC regions, but they do
34 overlap.

34

35

36 YRDFA's community support work is
37 focused on the Central Yukon region and the
38 Bering/Western Interior. As the process is -- our
39 assistance and support is useful to villages as the
40 process itself is complicated, full of difficult to
41 comprehend jargon, and BLM is short on Staff and local
42 capacity to understand and bring important issues
43 forward are challenged due to many issues and the
44 responsibilities which already exist at the local
45 level.

45

46

47 Early on tribal councils and
48 communities after coming better to understand the BLM
49 planning process made it clear that their main concerns
50 with BLM planning were access to and the protection of
51 traditional or subsistence use areas.

1 BLM has a management designation called
2 areas of critical environmental concern, or ACECs. BLM
3 is the only management agency with these. Establishing
4 the area of critical environmental concern is a way to
5 provide special management for fish and wildlife
6 resources, or other important values on public lands.
7 They are also created to conserve or prevent damage to
8 important historic, cultural or to protect fragile
9 landscapes and sensitive ecosystems.

10
11 PEW Trust and YRDFA felt that this
12 designation might be a good fit for the critically
13 important areas that local communities have depended
14 upon for thousands of years, presently use, and that
15 are necessary for carrying local culture forward.

16
17 Requests were then made to individual
18 Native communities that contained a million or more
19 acres of BLM land within 50 miles of their villages for
20 meeting with tribal council and community members for
21 discussing further protection of these traditional use
22 areas. These areas were then mapped by use and by
23 watershed. Once watersheds were identified, they were
24 overlaid on BLM-managed lands and these areas were
25 nominated by the tribal councils for ACEC designation.

26
27 The communities on the Yukon River
28 which have to date made ACEC nominations are Marshall,
29 Koyukuk, Ohogamiut, which have nominated a collective
30 total of 6.5 million acres in the Bering Sea/Western
31 Interior BLM planning region. Louden, Ruby, and Huslia
32 tribal councils have nominated -- and Holy Cross, have
33 nominated 3.7 million acres so far, with the Village of
34 Hughes nomination in process in the Central Yukon BLM
35 area. Also, Yukon River villages of Anvik, Grayling
36 and Nulato have nominated ACECs working with Suzanne
37 Little who is PEW Charitable Trust Alaska field
38 officer.

39
40 The desire of tribal governments and
41 their communities in making ACEC nominations is to
42 increase BLM's understanding of the importance of these
43 areas, request their protection through resource
44 management planning and ACEC process, and as a way to
45 address the Federal Government's trust responsibility
46 with tribal natures. And we are interested in working
47 with Yukon and Kuskokwim River communities for improved
48 engagement with BLM in the planning region mentioned.
49 And you can get more information by contacting me,
50 Wayne Jenkins, with YRDFA.

1 So as part of this process, tribal
2 councils usually follow up the nominations, the maps,
3 and the list of watersheds with a resolution of
4 support. Then they come to the RACs to ask for the
5 same thing. And this is simply a request for a letter
6 of support, and I can read that to you.

7
8 Dear Chairman Wilde, on behalf and with
9 permission of the Native Village of Marshall
10 Traditional Council and Ohogamiut Traditional Council,
11 I would like to request a letter of support for their
12 nominations per the Bureau of Land Management's areas
13 of critical environmental concern, or ACECs. ACECs
14 provide special management for fish and wildlife
15 resources or other important values on public lands.
16 They also are created to conserve or prevent damage to
17 important historic, cultural areas, or to protect
18 fragile landscapes and sensitive ecosystems. ACECs can
19 be nominated and designated through BLM's resource
20 planning process, or RMP, presently underway in the
21 Bering Sea/Western Interior BLM region.

22
23 The Village of Marshall's two tradition
24 councils have nominated traditional use areas which
25 they have used and continue to use for harvest of fish,
26 moose, and other resources necessary for their
27 livelihoods, cultural survival, and well being.
28 Traditional use maps and the required ACEC nomination
29 forms have been shared with BLM along with a supporting
30 resolution from the councils. And the councils would
31 now like to request from the Yukon-Kuskokwim
32 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council a letter of
33 support for protecting these areas to be sent to BLM's
34 regional office.

35
36 The traditional councils and community
37 members of the Village of Marshall appreciate your
38 support for protecting their traditional use lands and
39 waters. And you can direct any questions or concerns
40 to me, Wayne Jenkins of YRDFA.

41
42 And thank you very much, and I'll take
43 any questions that you might have at this time.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for,
46 sorry, Mr. Jenkins on the letter from Marshall. Mr.
47 Peters.

48
49 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman and Wayne. I
50 think, you know, the two Native councils did come

1 together and request this letter, and they had a
2 community meeting over there with you. And with the
3 planning and processing, they did a lot of work. And
4 to traditional knowledge and stuff like that. I was
5 going to ask the Board if they would support something
6 like this coming from the two tribal councils in my
7 area. And it's asking for your support from this body,
8 and it's just a request from myself. The letter, what
9 it stated, and I just wanted to bring it to your
10 attention.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are any
15 questions or any discussion on this letter form
16 Marshall.

17
18 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
19 just want to know how Western Interior might have voted
20 on this.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there Western
23 Interior voting on this. Mr. Jenkins.

24
25 MR. JENKINS: There have been two
26 approaches to Western Interior over the last three
27 years. The first letter of request was for Louden and
28 Galena -- or, no, Louden and Holy Cross. I can't
29 remember. And then just yesterday a request was made
30 for Ruby and Huslia, and they were unanimously
31 approved. The first letter went out a number of years
32 ago to BLM, and they are going to get out another
33 letter.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. And this is for
36 our attention, not Western Interior's.

37
38 Any other discussion on this.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there isn't any,
43 then we will entertain a motion for either support or
44 otherwise. Mr. Aloysius.

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Clarification. Are we
47 going to support the letter or the resolution?

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, it's according
50 to our agenda, it said the letter. I don't know if

1 they meant -- when this was brought up, if they meant
2 the letter or the resolution.

3

4 MR. JENKINS: For clarification, they
5 are asking for your support of their nominations.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Of their nominations.

8

9 MR. JENKINS: To the BLM for ACECs.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there -- how do we
12 know what lands and what part is nominated by them?

13 There is no information on any of this.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
16 That material also is in the back of the book in the
17 supplemental information. We didn't have it in time
18 for the printing of the book, but I'll also hand it out
19 if that's easier. So they have a table of all the
20 lands that they were designating, as well as a map that
21 highlights it, and I'll hand that out.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. It's in the
24 back. I see the map right here. It's this one right
25 here.

26

27 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. So
28 clarification again. So we're supporting or we're
29 being asked to support the resolution, not the letter
30 written by Mr. Jenkins.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're asked to support
33 the nominations of.....

34

35 MR. JENKINS: The nominations for the
36 ACEC designation by BLM.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The nomination. This
39 land was nominated for Marshall. It was 1,634,387
40 acres that are in this map right here in the back of
41 your book.

42

43 MR. JENKINS: And to be clear, if I
44 may, Mr. Chairman. Those maps, those correspond to
45 watersheds that have been identified for some
46 subsistence use, be it moose, salmon spawning, harvest,
47 trapping, greens, vegetables, you know, berries. With
48 each village, we went through the gamut of land use
49 that is needed, has been used. And the reason it's
50 popped out to include four watersheds is because that

1 is how land management agencies should be looking at
2 the land. They should be thinking in terms of what
3 goes on in the full watershed, because something that
4 happens in the head of a watershed can affect the
5 watershed further downstream. And so if we're talking
6 and thinking about, okay, so how do we ensure a healthy
7 future on the land for people. We need to be thinking
8 in terms of all of the land that they use, or may use.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Whenever there is --
11 have you ever come across any nominations that were
12 crossed over?

13
14 MR. JENKINS: There is overlap all
15 through the region, and BLM will hopefully figure out a
16 way to deal with it. And that's one reason why the
17 acreage numbers are so high when you look at the
18 various villages and you add it all up. There certainly
19 is shared. And in this situation, of course, the two
20 traditional councils are in one village, and so they
21 use much of the same lands.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we'll need a motion
24 for support of the nomination by Marshall. Mr. Oney.

25
26 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman.

28
29 Reading through the ACEC proposal that
30 Marshall that submitted, and Wayne mentioned trapping.
31 And I didn't see trapping in there . If we can include
32 trapping. A friendly amendment to include trapping in
33 this proposal.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's a motion to
40 include trapping in the proposed -- in the nomination.
41 And seconded by Mr. Aloysius.

42
43 Any further discussion. Mr. Charles.

44
45 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. What are
46 these little boxes for, like behind Marshall and the
47 airport. This one I know, but these little boxes,
48 what's in them.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MR. JENKINS: So those reflect, as does
2 all the colored area watersheds that are used that are
3 also BLM lands. So land ownership, as you know, is
4 very complicated, especially along the Yukon where you
5 have regional Native corporation lands, you have BLM,
6 you have State of Alaska lands. And so you end up with
7 these separate pieces of land. And then when you
8 identify specific watersheds, you can end up with these
9 kinds of blocks.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Could those be Native
14 allotments?

15
16 MR. JENKINS: No, that's BLM land.

17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: It was my understanding
19 that if a Native allotment is allotted to a Native
20 person, that becomes his land, not BLM land.

21
22 MR. JENKINS: I think there are
23 probably allotments in this area, but this map is not
24 showing them. It's not showing all the different land
25 ownerships.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's just showing the
28 BLM lands.

29
30 Is there any further discussion on
31 this.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We need a call for
36 question on it if we're going to vote on the motion.

37
38 MR. ONEY: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
41 All in favor signify by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's carried.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
4 Jenkins. Yes, Ms. Patton.
5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
7 I may, just a few words of support and justification so
8 that we can add that, the Councils words of support in
9 the letter. Thank you.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I think this is
12 a good idea for any of the villages that are looking
13 for subsistence in their and that support, extra
14 support from BLM is what we need in all the cases that
15 we have that we go out and use -- in the lands that we
16 use for subsistence in our areas.
17
18 You're welcome.
19
20 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Council.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
23 Jenkins.
24
25 At this time let's take a 10-minute
26 break before we get into agency reports. And 10
27 minutes only, yes, because we're in a time crunch.
28
29 (Off record)
30
31 (On record)
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
34 to order. At this time under our public comments, we'd
35 like to ask Mr. Martin Nicolai to come up and address
36 the Council.
37
38 MR. NICOLAI: Quyana. Father Martin
39 Nicolai from Kwethluk. (In Yup'ik)
40
41 INTERPRETER: First of all, I want to
42 speak in Yup'ik in a short sentence here.
43
44 I really want to thank you all of you
45 that are seated up here. I know that the trials that
46 you go through, the hardship sitting on a board, and
47 you are also working with other agencies, meeting with
48 them. You're work is very important for the people,
49 and I know that a lot of people in our home towns say
50 that the other agencies are coming here and telling us

1 what to do, and they are telling us that we cannot do
2 whatever we want to do, but we do know that a lot of
3 times when we did not have any -- very people out
4 there.

5
6 We used to go and gather as much as we
7 wanted to, but right now, because our population has
8 exploded, there are a lot of people in the villages,
9 and the resources that we used to gather are not really
10 up to par with the population explosion that we have,
11 and some of the resources have declined in number,
12 especially the king salmon have. Now the Chinook
13 salmon number are finally climbing up, and we cannot
14 just go out like before and catch all the fish that we
15 need to. And it's been a couple years now that when we
16 did not -- when we almost drove the Chinook salmon into
17 extinction, because we used to get as much as we want.
18 The downriver people would get a lot, upriver would get
19 a lot, and some people would get a lot, but because of
20 that, we almost depreciated the Chinook salmon. So
21 right now we cannot really go out there and use any old
22 way that we used to do it.

23
24 So the work that you do, you really do
25 need to regulate the fisheries, even though back home
26 you are told that you just self-serving and you're not
27 even serving their villages. But I do understand that,
28 so I do understand the hardships that you go through.

29
30 MR. NICOLAI: Yesterday we heard Mr.
31 Black testifying about the moose and that moose season
32 opens a little bit too early. And I agree with him,
33 and a lot of other hunters say the same thing. Maybe
34 for the next moose season opening, maybe they could
35 consider, because of the climate change and everything,
36 maybe hold it a little bit later maybe, even five days
37 later for the opening, if they could consider that.

38
39 Before moose season started I went up
40 the Kwethluk River in hopes of getting a caribou.
41 Above Eluatuk (ph) Mountain. (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: What is it in English?

44
45 MR. ANDREW: Elbow (indiscernible -
46 microphone not on)

47
48 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, Elbow. Elbow
49 Mountain. Above Elbow Mountain I saw many signs of
50 caribou, fresh caribou, but no caribou there. This was

1 like 10 miles above Elbow Mountain. But further up
2 where the mountain started, we saw some caribou up on
3 the mountains, too far away from the river.

4

5 It seems like they came down, and then
6 they went back up again. It's strange for the caribou
7 to do that, because in the past they come down from the
8 mountains, and then proceed down towards the lower part
9 of the river and towards Eek, and in between the
10 Kuskokwim and Eek Rivers.

11

12 Now, in my mind there's three things
13 that would make the caribou head back. One is the
14 wolves. They will drive them back to the mountains,
15 but maybe not likely. A second reason is hunters,
16 influx of hunters coming in and hunting them, and
17 driving them back, but I didn't see any hunters, except
18 four rafters. The third one we've heard i the past
19 before, could be the planes were driving them back up
20 to the mountains. We've heard this time again and
21 again, but we never had any roof that the planes were
22 doing that. But in the past people have seen them
23 doing that. So maybe just to give the proper agencies
24 the head's up that maybe this is still going on.

25

26 That brings me to the rafters, the
27 sportshunters. You know, the -- as Mr. Brown said
28 earlier, our salmon go up our rivers to die. They
29 don't grow up in the rivers. They're born there, yes,
30 but they go back out to the ocean and they are raised
31 up in the ocean, and they go back into the rivers to
32 die. They're nice and healthy when the enter the
33 rivers, but when they get close to their spawning
34 grounds, they're already deteriorating. Most of their
35 strength is gone. Their color's changed.

36

37 And that's the difference between the
38 salmon and the trout and the grayling. The trout and
39 they grayling, they are in swift waters all the time.
40 They never go out to the ocean. When we catch and
41 release char or grayling, there's a big chance that,
42 you know, that fish will be fine. But when you do that
43 to the salmon that's already struggling, chances are
44 that you're hurting it rather than, you know, helping
45 it to go up to the spawning grounds.

46

47 That's always been my biggest problem
48 with catch and release. Any salmon. It doesn't have
49 to be king salmon. Silver, chum, red salmon. Chances
50 are you're hurting that fish rather than -- it's not

1 like the grayling or the trout. So even if they use
2 barbless hooks, you know, that salmon is struggling to
3 reach the spawning ground. It's hurting already. It's
4 changing color. It's dying. That's the fish that we
5 depend on to eat.

6

7 So maybe we -- I don't think we can do
8 anything about that, but just to let you know that.
9 This problem is there already. And I hope to God that,
10 you know, it doesn't get worse.

11

12 Qu yana for your time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And thank you for your
15 time.

16

17 Any questions -- just before you go,
18 Mr. Nicolai. I didn't ask the Council if they had any
19 questions for you, if they had any. Is there any
20 questions for Mr. Nicolai. There's a couple. Could
21 you please come back.

22

23 Mr. Aloysius.

24

25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Qu yana (In Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: Thank you. I'm glad you
28 brought everything up. Our people, our population is
29 differently. There's people coming in while our food
30 supplies there have been steady. I'm glad you brought
31 that up.

32

33 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles. You're
36 done, Mr. Aloysius?

37

38 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)

39

40 INTERPRETER: I would like to thank you
41 very much that you came for the testimony. I'm very
42 thankful. I would like to invite you again. And when
43 Fish and Game have their meetings here or in Anchorage,
44 I always am happy that people from Kwethluk come and
45 join the meeting. Yeah, on March 20 to 25 where
46 there's going to be a meeting in Anchorage. And during
47 that time -- and the Board of Fish will be meeting at
48 the same time, too. And they'll also be talking about
49 the fish, salmon, and if they have the meeting here in
50 Bethel -- they would have a meeting here in Bethel

1 sometime in January. They're going to hold the meeting
2 from January 5 to 9 here in Bethel. If you guys have
3 any proposals or anything, they allow that comment
4 period, too, so if you can go to that meeting, that
5 would be great.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

8

9 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. Yeah.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Nicolai.

12

13 MR. MARTIN: (In Yup'ik)

14

15 INTERPRETER: We can't change the date,
16 but remember when you have the next.....

17

18 MR. MARTIN: Maybe for the next Board
19 of Game here in Bethel or elsewhere to remember that
20 the Orthodox faithful celebrate their Christmas on
21 January 7, because they use a different calendar. On
22 their calendar, it's December 25, but on this new
23 calendar that we're using it's January 7. So 5, 6, and
24 7 is always preparation for the Christmas season in
25 Slavic. So just remember, ask the -- I'm asking the
26 Board of Game to remember those dates are always holy
27 days for orthodox christians especially here in the
28 Delta and the Yukon. Quyana.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

31

32 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)

33

34 INTERPRETER: If you are unable to
35 attend, please send somebody. That would be great.

36

37 MR. MARTIN: Okay. Quyana.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other discussion
40 on -- or questions. I'm sorry. Go ahead, Mr. Oney.

41

42 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Maybe if it's not too late, we could also include this
44 concern to the Federal Subsistence Board as one of
45 those letters that could be included for the catch and
46 release of the salmon.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That can be done.

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Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: I wanted to ask you regarding during the hunting period if you could have noticed, there's been how many passed now that during the subsistence area that -- and when moose is open, I would really wish that there would be a no-fly zone regarding the regions or areas of the moose hunting areas. And I keep bringing that up, and especially during that Elbow Mountain area, if they could do a no-fly zone in the Elbow.

The only activity up there is the rafter, the airplanes dropping off the rafters up into the Elbow area, and so those are the only activity. When I was up there at that time hunting, I did not see any other airlines. I only saw the rafter, the planes coming and dropping off the rafters up to the lakes to raft on the Kwethluk, and I only saw the people -- the planes dropping off the sportsfishers up there. There was no other airlines going up that way.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: And also I do know that there are caribou up in the Kilbuck Mountain areas, and I know it is that area, maybe it is that species. They say the woodland caribou never go around to the other ranges, so just as the Kilbuck or the Ninilchik caribou do. The woodland caribou are the stationary caribou that stays up in that area. And so I know that the other herds come by through our village, but those might be what we call the woodland -- what's called the woodland caribou. And I know that there are four species of caribou up in the Kilbuck Mountains, but there's Kilbuck Mountain caribous, the woodland caribou, the Mulchatna and the Ninilchik that goes through here, but the woodland caribou never go anywhere else.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sorry. Go ahead, Ms.

Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: The sports fishermen down in sportsmen, we have droves and droves of sports fishermen coming out to Quinhagak to the Kanektok

1 River. And with that, one time my son went up the
2 Kanektok River to go moose hunting, and he said that
3 there was a whole bunch of sports fishermen up there,
4 and there was a lot of people with their chestwaders in
5 the river hunting, and it was a barrier for them
6 because of all impediment that the fishermen were
7 causing on the riverway. When my son brought the moose
8 down there, it was almost rancid because they have --
9 the sports fishermen have a lot of -- all summer long
10 for them to go up there to go sport fishing, but on the
11 other hand, us, they only give us a short window period
12 to go moose hunting, and I really a resolution that the
13 sports fishermen would be closed during the moose
14 hunting area in the Kanektok River. And one time we
15 brought up that resolution to AFN, because we wanted to
16 close sports fishing to the Kanektok River during the
17 moose hunting period, because the impediments the
18 sports fishermen have.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done.

21

22 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there isn't
25 anything else, thank you, Mr. Nicolai.

26

27 We've got a lot of items left on our
28 agenda, so at this time we're going to go on down to
29 our regular agenda item, to agency reports. The first
30 on the agency reports is tribal governments, and the
31 first on that list is the Native Village of Napaimute
32 and Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

33

34 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Council members. If we could slide the chairs away a
36 little bit maybe so we can see the full screen, I
37 appreciate it. Thank you.

38

39 So while we're doing that, I'd just
40 like to say how pleased I am to actually see some new
41 faces on the Council here. I know maybe the folks that
42 are here for quite a few years, I've been out here on
43 the Kuskokwim River for about 12 years, and so I'd like
44 to welcome and express my pleasure at seeing some new
45 faces on the Council. So thanks for being here and
46 helping out.

47

48 My name is Dan Gillikin. I'm the
49 environmental director and Partners biologist with the
50 Native Village of Napaimute.

1 For folks that may not be familiar with
2 Napaimute, it's a very small seasonal village located
3 in the Middle Kuskokwim River. It's about 250 miles
4 upriver from Bethel here. And it has a membership
5 right now of 80 and a half actually members, given the
6 new addition. I don't know if we can call the new baby
7 a full member yet.

8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: One.

10
11 MR. GILLIKIN: Oh, one. Okay. Well,
12 let's say 81 then.

13
14 In addition to fisheries projects and
15 programs, Napaimute also administers an Indian general
16 assistance program, known as the IGAP program, which
17 deals with solid waste management, water quality,
18 things like that, and a brown field program, which
19 deals with contamination in and around the villages.

20
21 Napaimute also has a division called
22 Napaimute Enterprises that is a for-profit division,
23 and it's focused on firewood sales, fuel sales, and
24 logistical support, cabin rentals, and things like that
25 for folks coming, traveling on the river or doing work
26 out on the Kuskokwim.

27
28 That's just a little bit of background
29 about Napaimute.

30
31 Now, to the fisheries side of things.
32 We have been fortunate enough to work cooperatively
33 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
34 Fish and Wildlife Service through the Tribal Wildlife
35 grant process to obtain funding through agreements to
36 operate the Salmon River weir last year from June 15th
37 to September 15th. We hired a crew of four local
38 hires, and they operated the weir, and they were the
39 folks in charge of the weir all summer long. It was a
40 successful operation; however it did have challenges
41 like many of the weirs out on the Kuskokwim this summer
42 due to all the high water. We did not operate for, you
43 know, a pretty good amount of time due to the high
44 water, but we did the best we could.

45
46 We had additional challenges with
47 communications at that remote site. You can see the
48 guys trying to fix their internet dish there, and they
49 were successful finally after many trials, but that was
50 very important.

1 One of the other fisheries projects
2 that we got funded through ADF&G and the Tribal
3 Wildlife grants for the second year was the Aniak test
4 fishery, which operates from June 1st to July 15th,
5 focused primarily on Chinook salmon abundance indices,
6 and looking at species ratios. Those numbers get
7 transmitted, you know, real time to managers to assist
8 them in their decisionmaking on when to open and close
9 a fishery, when to allow more opportunity, maybe when
10 to back off. And again we hired local crews to, you
11 know, operate that fishery based out of Aniak.

12
13 I have a graph here, because now we
14 have two years of data, we can actually take a broad
15 view I would say at some of the information. And
16 there's a very interesting thing here. Now, I'll
17 caution you, it's just two years of data, but the 2015
18 year, that blue line right there, you can see the fish
19 aren't coming in. This is a catch per unit effort of
20 Chinook daily in the test fishery. They're not coming
21 in, and then all of a sudden they start coming up,
22 coming up, and then they peak, you know, near the end
23 of June, around and July 4th, and then it starts
24 tailoring off.

25
26 Now, this year, as you folks here on
27 the Kuskokwim are well aware, we had the new regulation
28 in effect that restricted fishing until the 12th, June
29 12th. And this is very interesting. And this isn't
30 just an anomaly I think in the data, because talking
31 with local folks, you know, about their experience in
32 the past, they confirmed that we were catching fish
33 much earlier than they usually did there in Aniak. At
34 least in the last 10, 20 years. I heard several
35 comments from folks in that area that said, yeah, this
36 is the way it used to be; however, it hasn't been that
37 way for a very long time.

38
39 So it's very interesting that, you
40 know, we can actually see that in the data that we
41 collected, and you can see how once it opened it did
42 just the opposite of what it did the previous year, and
43 it dropped. The numbers dramatically dropped and then
44 came back up.

45
46 So we don't have funding for either --
47 scheduled at this time for either this project or the
48 Salmon River weir for next years, but I'm working.
49 That's part of my job is to work on securing that
50 funding, I believe this is -- just illustrates the

1 importance of that information, and future funding of
2 that project.

3

4 Another project that we had funded
5 through the Pacific States Main Fisheries Commission
6 from the disaster -- 2012 disaster relief funds for the
7 Chinook disaster here on the Kuskokwim, was a fishwheel
8 demonstration project. In that project we constructed
9 a total of five fishwheels, and deployed them, provided
10 them to villages in the Middle Kuskokwim area to be
11 operated by community members. The intention there was
12 that they would be shared, and they would provide
13 additional fishing opportunity to these communities
14 when there were closures in place, but yet fishwheels
15 were still allowed. The folks that we spoke with were
16 very appreciative, and they did actually, you know, use
17 those wheels during those periods when it was closed to
18 drift fishing, and so they were able to meet some of
19 their subsistence needs, and that was the intent.
20 Again we employed up to -- at one time we had probably
21 six local crew members working on that project.

22

23 Another project that we had, we just
24 started this year. It is another cooperative project
25 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and it's
26 the in-season -- mid river in-season subsistence salmon
27 harvest surveys. This is an OSM project, and we are a
28 partner with ADF&G on it.

29

30 And the intent there is to characterize
31 in-season harvest of salmon in the middle river
32 communities. It's going to be funded for three years,
33 and it will hire a couple of local surveyors to conduct
34 that work.

35

36 Our crowning jewel was last year. We
37 acquired funding through the Partners in Fisheries
38 Monitoring Program for a full-year program. The intent
39 of the program is kind of captured -- oops, is kind of
40 captured in these four slides that I have here. It's a
41 multi-faceted type of program. It involves, you know,
42 partnering with agencies for fishery monitoring
43 projects like I just mentioned, representing our
44 membership and other stakeholders in management type
45 of meetings, providing technical assistance.

46

47 And two of the big things in my opinion
48 are building a professional local workforce, to build
49 our capacity in the region so that we can be more
50 involved in the future in these monitoring projects and

1 the management and building biologists so to speak,
2 local biologists to get more involved. And the
3 foundation of that, of course, is the community
4 outreach, especially with the youth within the region,
5 and we do -- we try to do quite a bit of that as well.
6 And along those -- well, so this kind of just captures
7 some of the accomplishments that we had through the
8 Partners program. One of the primary focuses was to
9 share information, in-season information on management
10 actions with as many people as we could up and down our
11 part of the river there. And we did that through
12 various means, hard copies, you know, website postings,
13 social meeting, and one of the big things we did is
14 we've hired -- we've actually hired local technicians
15 in the villages, and that is one of our primary roles
16 is to go around and talk with folks and make sure that
17 they understand what the current regulations are, or
18 to get information from local people within those
19 villages to then provide back to managers in things
20 like the working group meetings and stuff like that.

21
22 We just kind of -- we got our funding
23 late, and we kind of got folks hired and started
24 getting them up to speed, so we kind of missed most of
25 the Chinook part of the season, which is always the
26 most difficult part of the season. But in future years
27 I'm hoping to have that program be much more active.

28
29 We participated in the Board of Fish
30 meeting this last January and provided input on that.
31 We've participated in stakeholder capacity-building
32 workshops that were Aniak, and helped facilitate that.
33 Like I mentioned, we hired what I call fisheries
34 resource information technicians in the Middle
35 Kuskokwim villages, four different villages.

36
37 And then one of other big objectives is
38 to build sustainability into our program, so that after
39 Partners funding goes away, we can still have this
40 program, you know, in place and actually, you know, be
41 doing the good things that we're trying to do in the
42 fisheries management on the Kuskokwim. And that's
43 where writing proposals, seeking other funding sources
44 and things like that come into play.

45
46 But like I mentioned earlier also,
47 youth outreach. It all starts with these young folks
48 right here. We have to do things to get them
49 interested in being involved. Along those lines, we
50 used funding from the Katla Rooksook and George River

1 weirs to kind of resurrect the old intern KNA
2 internship program on the George River. The idea
3 behind that, it was an advanced kind of science camp.
4 These were 10 students that had already participated in
5 science camps through the MSC project on the Aniak, and
6 these were paid internships. And it wasn't fun; it was
7 a lot of work. They collected a lot data for us while
8 we were out there, and they learned a lot of skills.
9 And I'll show you something very special here in a
10 moment.

11
12 The other project that we fund is the
13 math and science expedition on the Salmon and Aniak
14 River in partnership with the Kuspuk School District
15 and the Excel Alaska Program, and that is funded
16 through the Partners Program.

17
18 So with that, I would like to show you
19 some of Mr. Dave Cannon's work, and hopefully I can get
20 the sound to work here. Okay. Hit it, Eva.

21
22 (Video playing)

23
24 MR. GILLIKIN: Can everybody hear that?

25
26 (Video playing)

27
28 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. I'll wait until
29 you get going, and we'll restart. I knew this wasn't
30 going to work. Okay. Just go ahead and restart it.
31 Just look for the really big file.

32
33 (Off record conversation re getting the
34 video going)

35
36 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. Hopefully we've
37 got this in synch. Hold on.

38
39 (Video played)

40
41 MR. GILLIKIN: That's it.

42
43 (Applause)

44
45 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you. Through the
46 Chair. Yes, Mr. Aloysius. Where is our Chair? Oh,
47 there. I put the wrong glasses on.

48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Char.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
2
3 REPORTER: Your microphone.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me get back to my
6 chair. My microphone might be missing.
7
8 Are there any questions for Gillikin.
9
10 MR. GILLIKIN: Gillikin, yeah.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
13
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Since the demise of KNA,
15 did the Native Village of Napaimute inherit or take
16 over some of the programs that were still active?
17
18 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair. We
19 did not inherit anything. We had to go out for each of
20 those projects and recompute, just like we initially
21 did with KNA. But because we had some of the expertise
22 and the knowledge, and, you know, it made us very
23 competitive for those projects, because we had
24 basically people there that knew the job, and we had
25 coordinated with. And when I accepted the job at
26 Napaimute, I told them specifically that this is the
27 direction that I would like to go, and they supported
28 that. And so through those contacts, and through the
29 normal competitive process, we were able to start
30 rebuilding a new program with Napaimute.
31
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions on
35 the Napaimute program. Mr. Peters.
36
37 MR. PETERS: My name is Mike Peters
38 from Marshall.
39
40 It looks like it's a worthwhile
41 program. I see a lot of young people involved, in this
42 program, and to me, you know, taking how much and the
43 scale samples and stuff like that, it's a good project
44 for the younger people to get, you know, from the
45 school districts to be involved. And I just want to
46 say that you took a lot of time and effort to come that
47 far with the young people. And I just want to make
48 that comment.
49
50 Thank you.

1 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Peters.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or
4 comments for Mr. Gillikin on the Napaimute Partners and
5 monitoring program.

6

7 (No questions)

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, Mr.
10 Gillikin, thank you for your presentation.

11

12 Next on our agenda is Orutsararmiut
13 Native Council and Partners for Fisheries monitoring
14 program.

15

16 MS. ESQUIBLE: Through the Chair and
17 the Council, this Janessa Esquible, and I'm presenting
18 the ONC Partner Fisheries Program today. Thanks for
19 being here and taking the time to allow me to present
20 to you what we've been up to.

21

22 All right. So the first thing that I
23 want to go over was our in-season subsistence harvest
24 surveys. This takes up the bulk of our summer where
25 we're conducting fish camp surveys in addition to boat
26 harbor surveys. ONC has been conducting fish camp
27 surveys for at least 20 years with a focus on
28 collecting qualitative data, so that's maybe inquiring
29 about to fish camp families, is the timing of the
30 salmon run later, normal, earlier from year-to-year;
31 asking them what their harvest goals are; and how catch
32 rates are.

33

34 But since 2015 we've been focusing more
35 on collecting quantitative data. And I've only been
36 involved since May. But we've been collecting
37 information on the mesh size, the net length, how many
38 of each salmon species was harvested by the families,
39 gear typed used. And these were used -- some of these
40 data were used for real time management decisions,
41 which was done with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as
42 well as the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish
43 Commission.

44

45 So this summer we spent a lot of our
46 time conducting boat harbor surveys. We had a crew of
47 up to about six or seven individuals out there
48 conducting surveys anywhere from 10:00 am. to midnight.
49 And so this allowed us to obtain harvest estimates on
50 the Kuskokwim River. The numbers that were collected

1 in Bethel were expanded out upriver. And U.S. Fish and
2 Wildlife Service worked with us, and they went and
3 conducted aerial surveys to get counts of the boats
4 that were out there.

5
6 And so here's a map of where we conduct
7 our surveys. So we go as far downriver as the
8 downriver end of Napaskiak Slough, all the way upriver
9 to the Y where it splits to Akiachak and Kwethluk. So
10 it's a pretty expansive area that we cover for our fish
11 camp surveys.

12
13 Her are some photos from the in-season.
14 So on the top left and on the bottom left, that's
15 Alissa Rogers or Joseph some of you may know her as.
16 She's been our lead fisheries worker in the in-season
17 for quite some time. So there we are conducting some
18 boat harbor surveys. The middle photo is myself and two
19 others, Brian Henry and Allie Lincoln. We're
20 conducting boat harbor surveys, and then Bob is the
21 fish camp surveys. And then there's just a fish rack
22 on the top right from one of the fish camps.

23
24 And so we also partner with the Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game on the age, sex, length
26 study. So prior to the season starting, ADF&G, they
27 host a training for any interested families or
28 community members that would like to sample the Chinook
29 salmon so we can obtain information on age, sex and
30 length. And so those interested families will receive
31 sampling kits and forms needed to complete the survey.

32
33 And so what's done with these data
34 that's collected? Well, it can be used to estimate
35 age, sex, length, composition of the harvest. It can
36 also determine if the mean length at age of Chinook
37 salmon, is that changing. Is it increasing or
38 decreasing from year-to-year. And it's also used to
39 construct the Chinook salmon group table and to
40 reconstruct the run by age class.

41
42 But I think most importantly this is
43 used as an education outreach opportunity for the
44 fishing families as well as community members to become
45 more engaged and to contribute to the research that's
46 being done on the Kuskokwim.

47
48 So here are some photos of the age,
49 sex, length study. This is from this summer and last
50 summer. Some are left. And then the far right, that's

1 actually Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
2 they're conducting some sampling right at the boat
3 harbor. So fishermen coming in can decide whether or
4 not they'd like to participate in the study and allow
5 us to collect some scale samples so we can later
6 determine the age.

7

8 And in the middle, that's a family at
9 fish camp that's participated in the study. And so it
10 looks like the woman there is just collect -- she just
11 collected a scale from the salmon, and they're placing
12 it on a scale card that they'll eventually send in to
13 ADF&G.

14

15 So we also host summer internship for
16 different students. This year we had the pleasure of
17 working with a recently graduated high school student
18 who's now at UAS actually pursuing a degree in marine
19 biology. It was really great working with her. And we
20 also worked with the Alaska Native Science and
21 Engineering Program.

22

23 So in the beginning of their
24 internships, of which both students had never had any
25 experience in the fisheries field, so it was really
26 great to work with them. So the majority of the
27 beginning of the portion of the internship focused on
28 in-season subsistence harvest surveys, because that was
29 taking up a lot of our time. But once we completed
30 these, we sent them out to the Kwethluk weir with the
31 help of Dan Webber in the Kenai office. And so they
32 took these -- he took us all up there. They were able
33 to better understand the importance of a weir, it's
34 operation. They have a really cool rotary screw trap
35 that they got set up, so they were also able to
36 identify some juvenile salmon, which I'll show you in
37 the next slide.

38

39 And we also sent the interns out with
40 the Bethel test fishery, and so Dan showed some photos
41 there. And, yeah, so they went out with them. They
42 spent quite some time with our internship doing that.
43 They went out and drifted, were able to identify some
44 of these salmon.

45

46 And so in the future we hope to
47 continue working with the Alaska Native Science and
48 Engineering program, and other students from Bethel and
49 surrounding villages, to provide them with some
50 opportunities in the fisheries field.

1 So here are some photos from the summer
2 internship. So most of these photos are from the
3 Kwethluk weir. And so on the bottom left, that's the
4 weir itself. We ran across a moose on the way there.
5 That was kind of cool.

6
7 And then the top photo, that's of the
8 rotary screw trap, so they were able to enumerate the
9 immigrating juvenile that are going out into the ocean.
10 So this is a really cool device. And on the bottom
11 photo you can see them, they're identifying one of the
12 juveniles there.

13
14 And on the bottom, the far bottom
15 right, that's one of our ANSEP students who was from
16 Kwethluk, and she was out with the Bethel test fishery.
17 They'd just did a drift and they're bringing the salmon
18 in.

19
20 This year I had the opportunity to go
21 on the Aniak and Salmon River math and science
22 expedition that Dan just showed some photos on. And so
23 each day the students did leadership and team-building
24 activities, but we also set out minnow traps. And so we
25 would allow the minnow traps to sit overnight, and then
26 the following day the students would collect fish
27 length and weight data, which also use -- I'll show you
28 some photos soon. But it was really neat. We started
29 at the Cripple Creek, which is a tributary off the
30 Salmon River, and which is a super just narrow channel.
31 And as we moved on to the Aniak it got much wider. It
32 was really complex, lots of braids. So it was great for
33 these students from 7th to 12th grade to be able to
34 understand what habitat complexity was and the
35 ecological components of both of these systems, and how
36 it was changing.

37
38 And so the program coordinators here
39 were the EXCEL Alaska program and the Kuspuk School
40 District up in Aniak. And so our future plans are if
41 their program changing is changed a bit earlier, we'd
42 really like to involve some students from maybe
43 downriver and middle river to go on this trip. This
44 year it didn't work out. Most of the students on the
45 trip were upriver, but we're working on that.

46
47 And more importantly, I'm currently
48 working with the Bethel Regional High School. And so
49 we collected a bunch of data on this trip, and
50 processed over 1,000 fish. So we're going to have some

1 of the students here in Bethel work with this data and
2 analyze it, and come up with a science fair project,
3 which students have done in the past.

4

5 So here are some photos. These were
6 all taken by Dave Cannon who also did that amazing
7 video that Dan showed. From the top left you can see
8 there's a beautiful sockeye. On the right there,
9 that's everyone that went on the math and science
10 expedition, so there were about 20 students total with
11 chaperons and teachers.

12

13 And then the bottom right photo is one
14 of the coolest photos. So that's every other day we
15 would process these fish, so that was kind of our set
16 up. We have someone weighing, and then there would be
17 a holding bucket where the fish were. And then we had
18 a great group of folks that were just recording the
19 data, ensuring consistency and accuracy.

20

21 Here's another group of photos from the
22 trip. So on the top left, that's the workbook we used.
23 And then bottom left, that's just them weighing one of
24 the salmon.

25

26 And the top right, that was one of the
27 most important take-aways from the trip for some of the
28 newer students. They didn't understand that, you know,
29 these dead salmon carcasses are marine-derived
30 nutrients, and essential for the rivers and living
31 beings in and around it. And so this was a really cool
32 photo that I thought I'd like to show.

33

34 And on the bottom right, that's one of
35 the newer students who was a seventh grader. He
36 learned how to identify the species. And, yeah, it was
37 really great to have a good age range of students who
38 came on the trip.

39

40 And so where are we currently. Well,
41 as of right now, like I said, I'm working with the
42 science club at the Bethel Regional High School.
43 That's primarily seventh and eighth grade students.
44 But we're going to be expanding out. We'll be starting
45 to work on science fair projects soon, starting next
46 week. And I'll be working with them to analyze some of
47 these data we collected.

48

49 And our future plans are really to
50 continue these educational outreach programs, apply for

1 other funding sources. As of right now it's looking
2 pretty good to have a science and culture camp next
3 summer at the surround, which is just beyond the
4 Kwethluk weir. Dan Gillikin has done it in the past,
5 and so we're thinking that this is going to be a
6 success.

7
8 But we're really hoping to continue
9 exposing and inspiring these younger generations to the
10 natural resources and fisheries fields in hopes that
11 they, you know, significantly contribute to the
12 continuity and replenishment, and hopefully the
13 management of these resources in the Kuskokwim.

14
15 And so with that, thank you and quyana
16 for listening. These are our project funders. Office
17 of Subsistence Management and the Alaska Department of
18 Fish and Game, who are also our collaborators, in
19 addition to EXCEL Alaska program, U.S. Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, ADF&G, the Lower Kuskokwim School
21 District, and the Kuspuk School District.

22
23 Thanks for your time. Does anyone have
24 any questions.

25
26 MR. GILLIKIN: I have been able to
27 share an office next to Janessa all summer long, and
28 I've really been impressed with her energy, and not
29 just with her energy, but Alissa's energy, who is
30 sitting right here behind me. In face, I'll say about
31 Alissa that she can back a boat on a trailer up faster,
32 putting a boat in the water than I can drive forward.
33 She's probably one of the most competent launchers and
34 boat drivers, and I've been out on the Kuskokwim River
35 with her many times.

36
37 But Jenessa and I have had some really
38 good conversations about how we can make what she's
39 working on a permanent part of our students' lives, you
40 know, as we go forward. And the best way to do that,
41 and I say this to you, because I know you're all
42 leaders in your communities, and I say it to you
43 because I'm an educator and I worked in the Kuspuk
44 School District for 18 years, and worked in the Alaska
45 State Operated Schools before that, and in the Alaska
46 Unorganized Borough District before that, is for you as
47 school board members, and those of you who have
48 influence on your school boards and your school
49 district personnel, to get them to adopt and
50 institutionalize the salmon curriculum that the State

1 of Alaska's already spent tens, hundreds of thousands
2 of dollars developing for us. If we could make that a
3 permanent part of our curriculum, something that would
4 not go away when the science teacher goes away, I think
5 we would see more and more students wanting to move
6 into fisheries and wanting to move in the broad general
7 area of sciences from our district. And I would like
8 to encourage you as leaders in your communities to talk
9 to your school board members and your superintendents
10 and your principals and stuff like that, and have them
11 make that science curriculum which is already in place,
12 it won't cost your school districts to create it, to
13 make that science curriculum a permanent part of your
14 curriculum.

15
16 The advantage to doing that is just
17 like with all of our bureaucratic personnel out here,
18 there's a lot of turn over. When your science teacher
19 turns over, if it's a permanent part of your
20 curriculum, then the science teacher who follows that
21 science teacher then will be teaching the same thing,
22 and it will go on year after year after year. It will
23 perpetuate itself.

24
25 And these are just some of the
26 conversations that Janessa and I have had. And we've
27 talked with some of the people in the school districts
28 here locally. And we hope that you'll take that
29 message back to your school districts and to your
30 communities, too, where we can make the salmon
31 curriculum a permanent part of what is being taught in
32 our schools.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
37 Albertson. Mr. Aloysius.

38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't know how to
40 really present how I feel right now. But in many cases
41 all these things are great, because they deal with the
42 physical. But there's always something that's left
43 out. It's our spiritual connection to all of creation.
44 Fish and wildlife, plants and berries, and how they
45 interact with each other to feed us. And that
46 knowledge and wisdom comes from our ancestors. And no
47 one, I don't care who it is, has ever asked a question,
48 how are we today because of the knowledge and wisdom of
49 our ancestors. We don't have that middle ground any
50 more of our grandparents. Our grandparents were the

1 first teachers of all the indigenous people, because
2 mom and dad were too busy raising children. But umpa
3 and grandma, grandfather and grandmother were what we
4 called (In Yup'ik). (In Yup'ik) means that they have
5 -- (In Yup'ik) they're not moving and they're solid.
6 But their condition in life is pretty much sitting
7 down. But their knowledge and wisdom and their mouth
8 is still active. And that has always been missing at
9 work and education. And, you know, everywhere I go, I
10 say this.

11
12 And, you know, I see two young, eager
13 people, and an older gentleman who knows what I'm
14 talking about, because I've known him for many, many
15 years. And the energy that these two, it makes it say
16 it. So I'm going to say it.

17
18 We need to incorporate the knowledge
19 and wisdom of our own people in this area about our
20 relationship to creation, and our relationship to our
21 Creator, and how we all are creatures of the Creator.

22
23 And one of the things that we always
24 neglect is that we must honor and respect all of our
25 relations. Not only our human relations, but our
26 relations that fly, roost, climb, walk, hop, jump,
27 skip, slither, crawl, burrow, swim, and grow on mother
28 earth. Because without them, we are nothing. We are
29 nothing.

30
31 Try to go out and live in a year
32 outdoors in what you call wilderness, naked. See how
33 long you last. Try it sometime in your mind. You
34 won't last very long. Guaranteed. Because you depend
35 on all of creation for your life. And we need to
36 instill in the minds of our young people that without
37 the land and its resources, we are basically nothing.
38 And do we ever give thanks, or do we ever show
39 gratitude to the Creator for giving us all the -- you
40 know, there's four R's in the Native way of living.
41 And the last one is reciprocity. What can you give
42 back to mother earth? Give her back her respect, and
43 treat her with respect.

44
45 That's just a tip of my little
46 fingernail here that I share with you. But the rest of
47 it, you'll have to go into very, very minute detail,
48 and explain to the young people exactly where you're
49 coming from, because they're not going to see it on
50 paper. They're not going to see it on video. It has

1 to come orally from in here by the old people. And so
2 if you have a chance, incorporate the old people. I'm
3 not going to say elders, because we have no word for
4 elders in your language. It's the old people. They're
5 the connection to our past through our grandparents and
6 our ancestors to the beginning. We are that
7 connection, and we need to be utilized and respected
8 and honored. Not just to say, oh, them guys are making
9 all kinds of noise all the time and to nothing. Of
10 course, we do nothing, because we're never asked to do
11 anything. So I challenge you that any time you write
12 up curriculum, include the elders. But in our language
13 it's the old people, because they're the ones who know,
14 capital K-N-O-W. They know, because they've been
15 there, and they have the experience and the education
16 given to them by their grandparents, and they have
17 lived that life.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

24 Aloysius.

25

26 Any other questions for the two
27 presenters. Mr. Brown.

28

29 MR. BROWN: Yeah. I would like to ask
30 you how were the fish that you were working on, and
31 what's the age and length and weight. Like the
32 difference between like back in 62 years ago, back in
33 like 80's, those kings used to weigh like 35, 40
34 pounds. And I'm just wondering, because I was it in
35 your screen that kings are kind of different from back
36 in the 80's. Could you describe what's the difference.

37

38 MS. ESQUIBLE: Through the Chair. To
39 my understanding, that there's been a significant
40 decrease in the Chinook salmon over time, but I think
41 Lamont would be better to elaborate on that.

42

43 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Charlie.
44 You're exactly right. I have the same observations. I
45 got here in the 60's and the kings have gotten a lot
46 smaller, but I have also noted in the literature that
47 I've read statewide that they're getting smaller all
48 over, so it's not just happening here on the Kuskokwim
49 River.

50

1 I think some of what we were doing on
2 the Kuskokwim River early on, and James Charles and I
3 have talked about this before is that we took a lot of
4 the big genetic stock out of the system back when we
5 fished back then commercially. And so we may have
6 played a part in that, but you're exactly right. The
7 kings are getting smaller, and we hope that they'll
8 start getting bigger, and we hope with this Board of
9 Fish regulation that they passed this last spring, that
10 we'll be able to let more of those bigger fish go by.

11
12 But again I'll emphasize it. It's not
13 something that's just happening here on the Kuskokwim.
14 It's happening on all the rivers of the State of Alaska
15 right now for some reason. And I think the research is
16 being done that maybe will help determine what that's
17 happening, but I don't think there are any good
18 definitive answers right now to your question.

19
20 MR. BROWN: The way I learn from that
21 mining in Red Devil, one time I saw it in TV, they were
22 contaminated water in that area. And the flies landed
23 on the surface and those -- what do you call them,
24 fish, they sometime eat those. I saw it on the TV. Do
25 you guys have anything about that contaminated water in
26 Red Devil from mining.

27
28 MR. GILLIKIN: I'll defer to any of the
29 scientists who are in the room who would like to
30 address that question, but from what I've read of the
31 research they've done up there, there are fish that the
32 concentrations of mercury are a little bit higher, and
33 they're primarily pike. And it's the bigger pike that
34 get the higher concentrations of mercury. And I know
35 there are some higher concentrations of mercury around
36 the Red Devil cinnabar mine that you're talking about
37 up there, but I don't think that it's affected the
38 other fish in the area adversely. I don't think that
39 the numbers are out of order at all compared to fish in
40 other systems. But again I'd defer to any of the
41 scientists who are in the room who might have later
42 information than what I have.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
49 Brown. Mr. Charles.
50

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

2

3 I don't have a question, but I want to
4 thank the ONC and Dan and people who work with the
5 Department of Fish and Game, and Refuge, too. You guys
6 help us a lot, and give us good information, and I
7 appreciate what you do for us. And a few of us are with
8 the working group, and we always hear ONC doing this
9 and that. And now through Napaimute. It's a big help.
10 And I thank you and keep it up. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles. Mr.
13 Peters.

14

15 MR. PETERS: My name is Mike Peters. I
16 represent Marshall.

17

18 But to me this program is very worth
19 while. I see a lot of people involved in the sampling
20 and stuff like that. And, you know, coming to think
21 about, you know, bringing it to the school like in the
22 Lower Yukon School District. At one time they sent two
23 or three or four students up to Aniak for that
24 science/math program, and I think it might be similar
25 to this program, because they brought back a lot of
26 information, you know, with the students. And also
27 with this EXCEL program.

28

29 And what I would like to see is, you
30 know, coming from my area, you know, I could talk from
31 Marshall, but I would like to support the young people
32 that want to get into this fishing conservation
33 program. And it's a good worthwhile program. And to
34 have our elders' traditional knowledge in there
35 somewhere along the line. But, you know, with a
36 program now coming from, you know, with Napaimute help
37 also, that a lot of good information and knowledge, and
38 to teach that to the younger generations of the fish
39 samples and stuff like that, to me it's like a pretty
40 good program.

41

42 And I'll kind of keep it short, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44

45 I would like to bring that back to our
46 school and see how much participation of students would
47 go to that program.

48

49 Thank you very much.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions for
2 either two of the presenters by the Council members.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none.
7 Thank you both very much for our presentation.

8
9 (Applause)

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We are
12 down to our Native organizations report. Kuskokwim
13 River Inter-Tribal Commission. Do they have a
14 representative here for their report.

15
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
17 Lamont Albertson is here. Mike Williams had hoped to
18 be able to call in. I wasn't able to get through to
19 him on his cell phone. We could try and
20 teleconference. I know he wasn't feeling so well, so
21 if there was anything further that Lamont wanted to
22 share on the workings of the Inter-Tribal Fish
23 Commission this summer, and that would be an
24 opportunity.

25
26 MR. ALBERTSON: About all I can tell
27 you is that we're working away. We've gotten another
28 grant from the BIA for \$200,000 to carry us over into
29 next year. And I hope this year that I'll be writing
30 grants and things which will increase our funding so
31 that we can become a large organization like the
32 Northwest Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission or the
33 Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission. But
34 we're getting a start. You've got to roll over before
35 you can crawl; you've got to crawl before you can walk;
36 and you've got to be able to walk before you can run.
37 So we're somewhere in the process right there in
38 different areas.

39
40 But we certainly appreciate all of your
41 support. We need the support of the tribes. We are
42 here to represent the tribes' interest, and we need the
43 support of all of our agencies here in the Yukon-
44 Kuskokwim Delta. And it's going to take us a few years
45 I think to develop, but we're in the process of doing
46 it right here.

47
48 And I can't say thank you enough to
49 these gentlemen who are seated behind me with the U.S.
50 Fish and Wildlife Service. They're right here and

1 they've done a great deal for us this past summer. I
2 cannot tell you that we would not have been successful
3 had it not been for their cooperation. And I
4 personally, spiritually as Bob would say, and I think
5 as you gentlemen would say, too, if you had known all
6 they had done, that we are on our road right now
7 because of their support. And I would like to ask them
8 to stand up and have you recognize them and give a
9 round of applause here for their support this summer.
10 Ray Born and all these folks here.

11

12 (Applause)

13

14 MR. ALBERTSON: And they may want to
15 say something, too, I'm not sure. But again, if it
16 hadn't been for them, we would not be where we are
17 right now.

18

19 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
20 is Ray Born, in-season manager for last year with
21 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the State
22 of Alaska, and everything else. The support that the
23 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission provided for us, as well
24 as information, they helped us to understand the issues
25 from the tribes. It was invaluable. Their hard work
26 and explaining it to me more than once that this is how
27 it works out here for the tribes, help us work
28 together.

29

30 So the approach of working together,
31 working with Lamont, Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, is a
32 landmark in the United States, quite frankly. We are
33 setting a model for other activities throughout the
34 United States. So we have a good model to move
35 forward, and this has really been a hallmark of success
36 for the entire region. And it's paid attention to at
37 the highest levels, including Washington, D.C. So the
38 things we're doing here are great and they're
39 wonderful, and I really appreciate everybody's support
40 and help in having a great year, and we're looking
41 forward to another excellent year next year.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
46 further questions concerning the Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal
47 Commission. Mr. Charles.

48

49 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 I appreciate what the Refuge has been
2 doing during the summer. Fly us around and come to
3 have the meeting in Bethel, and let us use their
4 conference room for meetings. And I want to thank you
5 for doing that.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any other
10 questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, I
15 want to thank you both personally for all the work that
16 you've done to help organize this organization.

17
18 We are down to Item 2 under Native
19 organizations, and it's AVCP Natural Resources. Does
20 AVCP have any representation for that.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
23 Jennifer Hooper just introduced herself yesterday, so
24 she is back in the position of the AVCP Natural
25 Resources director. She wasn't able to be here today,
26 and is just beginning in her role again, so didn't have
27 any further updates for the Council at this time.

28
29 We had added to the agenda Yukon River
30 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and we do have Stephanie
31 Schmidt on line to address that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yukon River Inter-
34 Tribal Fish Commission.

35
36 MS. PATTON: We had added that to the
37 agenda yesterday at the request of several Council
38 members to have.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. Oh, that's a
41 little bit further down on the agenda, but we have AVCP
42 resources, and then we have Marshall request, and then
43 we have YRDFA, and then we have Yukon River Inter-
44 Tribal Fish as number 5.

45
46 MS. JOHNSON: We did Marshall. We
47 moved it up.

48
49 MS. PATTON: So we addressed the letter
50 from Marshall. We don't have anyone with AVCP Natural

1 Resources.

2

3

4 Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish
5 Commission is an organization forming similar to the
6 Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

6

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: But next on the agenda
9 is the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. Mr.
10 Jenkins.

10

11

12 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Chairman and
13 Council. My name is Wayne Jenkins. I'm director of
14 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, also known
15 as YRDFA. And I appreciate this opportunity to provide
16 some reports to you on some of our projects that are
17 funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
18 and also other projects that may be of interest to you
19 in your work.

19

20

21 First off, we're very excited to
22 announce we have a new Staff member. Her name is
23 Danielle Stickman. Danielle was raised in Fairbanks
24 and Nondalton. She is Dena'ina/Koyukon/ Athabaskan.
25 And her position is funded by the National
26 (indiscernible - teleconference interference) Wildlife
27 Foundation and PEW Charitable Trusts. And Danielle
28 will be working on education outreach to the
29 communities on the Yukon River for YRDFA, and you will
30 hopefully be meeting her and hearing more about her
31 work over the next year or so.

31

32

33 The next program I'd like to share with
34 you is the pre-season salmon fishery preparation
35 meeting. YRDFA's pre-season salmon fishery prep
36 meetings are funded by the Yukon River Panel, and have
37 been hosted by YRDFA for the past six years, and have
38 become an integral and important part of the annual
39 planning cycle for the subsistence and commercial
40 fisheries on the Yukon River.

40

41

42 Following the day after YRDFA's board
43 meeting with an expanded attendance of invitees from
44 local communities the entire length of the Alaska
45 portion of the river, fishers, managers, researchers
46 and other stakeholders came together for a full day
47 designed to prepare everyone for the fishing season
48 ahead. This was April 28th, 2016. The meeting was in
49 Anchorage. We hosted 82 Yukon River fishers and
50 community representatives, and 17 fisheries managers
51 and Staff.

1 The aim of this year's collaborative
2 efforts by fishers and fishery managers on the Yukon
3 River was to ensure the meeting of escapement goals for
4 Canadian-bound Chinook and fall chum salmon, and, if
5 possible, to provide some opportunities for some
6 harvest of Chinook salmon with an emphasis on the
7 harvest of summer and fall chum to meet subsistence
8 needs. And indeed this is what took place with the
9 Canadian escapement goals being surpassed.

10
11 Some communities were less successful
12 than others, and the subsistence harvest, due to
13 location, high water, fishing timing, and debris in the
14 river and some other factors. And yet overall reports
15 from the river communities reflect much gratitude for
16 management approaches this year. And, of course, the
17 hope that the runs will continue to improve. And folks
18 were very, very happy to get some small amounts of king
19 salmon to share with their communities.

20
21 The next program I would like to share
22 with you is the in-season Yukon River salmon
23 teleconferences. The Yukon River in-season management
24 teleconferences are funded by the FRMP and the Yukon
25 River Panel, and it took place this summer as usual in
26 June, July, and August on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

27
28 This is a call-in communication tool
29 that allows fishers the entire length of the river to
30 communicate with each other and the managers. For 2016
31 we had a total of 857 call-ins during a total of 13
32 calls. There was an average of 66 callers per call
33 with the highest numbers being early on, occurring in
34 June, reflecting the deep interest that communities
35 have around Chinook salmon runs. In July as multiple
36 Chinook pulses had passed many lower and middle river
37 communities, call-in numbers dropped into the 70's, and
38 by the last week in August call numbers are in the mid
39 30's. And this is the usual pattern that we see.

40
41 Our annual evaluation survey showed
42 that people feel that the teleconference is a unique
43 forum that allows fishermen to be active participants
44 in the management of the Yukon River fisheries, and to
45 have a public voice in real that is not available
46 through any other means.

47
48 This year we also shared our post-
49 season evaluation process with Yukon River fishery
50 managers for ways that we might improve the calls, and

1 also with managers in Canada. And we will be working
2 over the winter on that input and for making the calls
3 even better.

4

5 I've shared with you our BLM outreach
6 work that we're doing, so I'll check.

7

8 Catherine Moncrieff, are you on the
9 line for sharing your programs.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. JENKINS: And Catherine may not be.
14 She may have had to go and pick up her children from
15 school. So I will share those programs with you now.

16

17 The Yukon River in-season salmon
18 harvest survey. Through the in-season salmon survey
19 program funded by FRMP, YRDFA was able to hire 10
20 community surveyors who interviewed fisherman for six
21 weeks as the Chinook salmon were passing through their
22 villages. Their results were reported to YRDFA, the
23 managers, and on the teleconferences. This program is
24 an opportunity for many fishermen to be represented on
25 the teleconferences. Our communities this year were
26 Alakanuk, Mountain Village, Marshall, Russian Mission,
27 Anvik, Ruby, Huslia, Tanana, Fort Yukon, and Eagle. We
28 added three new communities this year, which were
29 Mountain Village, Anvik, and Tanana, and we had four
30 new local hires in Alakanuk, Ruby, Huslia, and Eagle.

31

32 We were able to bring nine of the 10
33 surveyors to Anchorage for the pre-season planning
34 meeting with the goal of preparing them with as much
35 information as possible about the upcoming season to
36 share with fishermen in their communities. They also
37 attending a training event while in Anchorage. This
38 was the first time we have trained them all together
39 since the beginning of the program back in the early
40 2000's, and they appreciated that opportunity to
41 network, learn from each other, and to build
42 partnerships.

43

44 During the fishing season, they were
45 able to interview 100 households in 10 villages between
46 May 30th and August 8th for a total of 375 interviews.
47 This season the surveyors reported that fishermen in
48 their communities were disappointed in their ability to
49 fish on the early part of the Chinook salmon run or the
50 closures on the tricklers before the first pulse

1 arrived. There were many requests up and down the
2 river to provide more opportunity for fishing. Once
3 the Chinook salmon arrived and the first part of the
4 run passed, most fishermen reported ending the season
5 with better fishing than compared to the last two
6 years.

7
8 A gear type question was added to our
9 surveys this year so that we were able to report weekly
10 information on the different gear types that were being
11 used in the different villages.

12
13 Our annual program evaluations showed
14 that the professional way that the surveyors reported
15 on the teleconferences helped to set the tone for
16 others, and that the questions this year helped
17 managers know whether people were able to get their
18 fish with the opportunities provided.

19
20 The next program that I would like to
21 share that Catherine works on is the community helper
22 program. Well, actually this is Richell's program.
23 Since 2013 YRDFA has worked with ADF&G to assist them
24 with their post-season harvest survey program by hiring
25 contractors in 33 villages to provide local support for
26 the ADF&G surveyors who are conducting the annual
27 subsistence salmon harvest survey.

28
29 Work for the local assistant is brief,
30 but it's very valuable. Having the local knowledge of
31 the assistants each year makes the post-season survey
32 more successful and efficient. YRDFA appreciates the
33 opportunity to connect with the people of the Yukon
34 River, provide at least short-term employment, and do
35 ensure they're able to participate and be connected to
36 the post-season survey. And this project is funded by
37 ADF&G.

38
39 The next project is customary trade in
40 the Upper Yukon River. Customary trade in the Upper
41 Yukon River project is funded by FRMP, and it continues
42 in partnership with ADF&G Subsistence Division. This
43 project has been extended until June 2017 to include
44 the additional community of Venetie, and to complete
45 the analysis, community reviews, and final reporting.

46
47 The next project is the Yukon River
48 salmon declines, learning from tradition workshop. We
49 have a new project since we last came before the
50 Council. This project is funded by the National

1 Science Foundation, is a workshop with elders from the
2 Lower Yukon River to discuss Chinook salmon. This
3 workshop will be conducted in Yup'ik, and it will take
4 place in Anchorage in late January. This project is in
5 partnership with Calista Education and Culture Group,
6 as well as tribal councils in the Lower Yukon River.
7 Currently we are communicating with the tribal
8 councils, taking nominations for the selections of four
9 to six elders who will attend the workshop.

10

11 The next project that Catherine is
12 working on is how people of the Yukon River value
13 salmon, a case study in the lower, middle and upper
14 portions of the river. The value of salmon project, or
15 how people of the Yukon River value salmon project is
16 funded by the North Pacific Research Board, and it's
17 moving into its final stages. It will be completed
18 within the next year or so. This summer Catherine held
19 a workshop in Fort Yukon to discuss their draft chapter
20 and revise it with their comments. Next she is writing
21 the chapter on Russian Mission and will hold a similar
22 workshop there. Final steps, we put the whole report
23 together, and draft a shorter paper for peer review
24 journal. And she also plans to give some presentations
25 on the project once completed.

26

27 The final project I'd like to share wit
28 you is traditional knowledge in Federal fisheries
29 management. It's a paper funded by PEW Charitable
30 Trusts and Kawerak, Incorporated. We are in the final
31 stages of drafting a paper in partnership with Kawerak,
32 the Nome area non-profit, for a peer review journal tat
33 examines way that traditional knowledge can be used in
34 Federal fisheries management, particularly the North
35 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. To get community
36 feedback on our draft paper, we held workshops in both
37 Golovin and Russian Mission with knowledgeable
38 fishermen, and met with the North Pacific Fisheries
39 Management Council Staff. The next steps are to
40 incorporate the community ideas, Council, and other
41 feedback and finalize the paper to be submitted to a
42 journal in the new future.

43

44 We'd like to thank you for this
45 opportunity for presenting this information and sharing
46 it with you, and if you have any questions, I'll do my
47 best to answer them.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
50 Jenkins.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You must have done a
4 good job there, Mr. Jenkins. There's no questions.
5
6 MR. JENKINS: Or just confused people.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, either one.
9
10 MR. JENKINS: Thank you all very much.
11
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We are
14 down to Yukon River Inter-Tribal -- what is that?
15 Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Is anyone
16 here.
17
18 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I believe
19 Stephanie Quinn-Davidson is on line.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you on, Stephanie?
22
23 MS. QUINN-DAVIDSON: I am. Can you
24 guys hear me okay?
25
26 MS. PATTON: It's a little bit warbled.
27 Do you want to try again.
28
29 MS. QUINN-DAVIDSON: I'll try and hold
30 the microphone a little closer. Is that better?
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yep.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Yes. And I have a handout
35 from Stephanie that she just shared, so as she's
36 speaking can provide that for the Council. Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Stephanie.
39
40 MS. QUINN-DAVIDSON: And thank you for
41 the invitation to address the Council this early
42 evening.
43
44 Just a quick background for those who
45 don't know me. I'm Stephanie Quinn-Davidson. I'm the
46 director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish
47 Commission. Some of you may remember me as Stephanie
48 Schmidt. I got married, changed my name, and then went
49 ahead and also changed my job I used to work for the
50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game as the fishery

1 manager on the Yukon River, and before that I was the
2 research biologist. So I'm still working on the Yukon
3 River, but now I am working with the Inter-Tribal Fish
4 Commission to get that up and running.

5

6 So I recognized several of the voices
7 and I know several of you there, so I'm not too new to
8 this whole thing.

9

10 A quick update on the Inter-Tribal Fish
11 Commission on the Yukon River. We are a little bit
12 behind where the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish
13 Commission is at. The Yukon Inter-Tribal Fish
14 Commission has been going for a few years now, but we
15 are still trying to get all of the tribes of the Yukon
16 River signed on to the fish commission. Currently we
17 have 30 Federally-recognized tribes that have ratified
18 the commission's constitution, and that ranges from
19 Alakanuk all the way to the border of the tribes signed
20 on. Of those member tribes, 18 of them have appointed
21 an authorized commissioner to represent the tribes at
22 commission meeting and vote on behalf of the member
23 tribe.

24

25 If your tribe has not yet signed onto
26 the fish commission and would like to, or would like to
27 receive more information, I encourage you to please get
28 in touch with me. And the handout that you have has my
29 contact information on there. I can provide you with a
30 draft resolution for your tribe, and I can also provide
31 you a draft resolution to appoint a commissioner to the
32 commission.

33

34 And that's our biggest thing right now
35 is we're working to gain full membership of all the
36 Yukon River tribes by the next fishing season so that
37 the tribes can have a unified voice in recommending
38 management options for the 2017 fishery.

39

40 A couple other updates. Just this past
41 spring the fish commission amended their constitution
42 so that it now includes language that reads that our
43 decisionmaking is now consensus-based. And so we had
44 heard from tribes who had not yet signed onto the
45 commission that they were concerned that, you know,
46 their voices would get stopped out by all of the tribes
47 upriver. And so we decided to go ahead and make our
48 decisionmaking is all consensus-based, and that's to
49 alleviate those concerns about unequal representation
50 from different regions of the river, and also to align

1 with our goal of tribal unity. That's really what
2 we're striving for is to have a unified voice when it
3 comes to the management of the fisheries on the Yukon
4 River.

5
6 This past summer we worked hard to get
7 out the word about the fish commission, and to reach
8 out to several of the tribes that have not signed onto
9 it. We visited a few lower river communities in June
10 which is the subsistence and commercial fishing
11 seasons. We visited Emmonak, Alakanuk, and St. Mary's,
12 and I travelled with some folks from the Tanana Chiefs
13 Conference and also with the fish commissioner from
14 Tanana who was quite popular with all the folks,
15 getting his picture taken. And we received a tour of
16 Kwik'Pak fisheries, and also visited the sonar project
17 near Pilot Station.

18
19 The biggest action item that came out
20 of that trip is that we need to have our next fish
21 commission meeting in the lower river so that more
22 people can participate, and more of the lower river
23 tribes can learn about the fish commission. And so I
24 will actually be working with AVCP's new natural
25 resources director to try and get a fish commission
26 meeting in the lower river hopefully this November or
27 December. So stay tuned for more information about
28 that meeting.

29
30 And then we also travelled into the
31 upper river with Tanana Chiefs Staff, with the Lt.
32 Governor, and with the Fish and Game Commissioner Sam
33 Cotton. We visited Eagle, Circle, Fort Yukon, beaver,
34 Stevens Village, Rampart and Tanana. And we visited the
35 sonar project near Eagle, and went through the culture
36 camp near Tanana. And we'll be meeting with the Lt.
37 Governor and Commissioner Sam Cotton actually next week
38 to follow up on several issues and items of concern
39 that came from that trip.

40
41 I want to highlight a couple of --
42 well, I guess one big upcoming meeting, and that's at
43 AFN next week. During AFN the Yukon River Inter-Tribal
44 Fish Commission is going to be hosting a luncheon on
45 Thursday, October 20th at noon. And all Yukon River
46 stakeholders are invited, and lunch will be provided.
47 We have confirmed participation from the fishery
48 managers from ADF&G and from U.S. Fish and Wildlife
49 Service. They will be there to answer questions
50 regarding the fishery this past season. Lt. Governor

1 Byron Mallott and also the Fish and Game Commission Sam
2 Cotton I believe also plan on attending that meeting.
3 And I will be giving a brief update about the fish
4 commission at that meeting as well.

5
6 If you'd like to attend, again my
7 contact information is on that handout. And if you can
8 just let me know that you'd like to stop by and learn
9 more, we'd be happy to have you.

10
11 And then the last bit is that again
12 we're planning a post-season fish commission meeting.
13 We're currently looking at late November or early
14 December, but exact dates will be determined once we
15 work that out with AVCP.

16
17 And I've listed there just for your
18 reference our near-term objectives, and our long-term
19 objectives. I really like what Lamont said about how,
20 you know, what is it, you have to roll over before you
21 can crawl; you have to crawl before you walk; you have
22 to walk before you can run. The Yukon River Fish
23 Commission, where we are at in that process is pretty
24 on, so we're trying to get all the tribes together, to
25 sign on. We're working to increase that membership,
26 we're fostering tribal unity.

27
28 We are working hard to secure research
29 funding and long-term administrative funding. Right
30 now Tanana Chief's Conference is funding vast majority
31 of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. I'm
32 working very hard with private foundations to secure
33 some long-term funding, so that will have funding
34 outside of Tanana Chiefs Conference, and into the
35 future.

36
37 And then we're working to build
38 scientific capacity through research, assessment, and
39 outreach projects.

40
41 Our long-term objectives would be to
42 have something similar to what the Kuskokwim has done
43 in the last year and is intending to do next year,
44 which is to have an agreement with the Federal
45 Government, with the State where we can establish an
46 equal, shared management structure. And before we do
47 that, we need to develop a process to gather in-season
48 management input from all the tribes, to be able to
49 bring that to the table each day when the managers are
50 meeting.

1 So, you know, we're looking at what's
2 happening on the Kuskokwim. We're paying attention,
3 and we're communicating with folks there. We're
4 learning from what their successes are and what they've
5 learned, and we intend to apply that to, you know,
6 where we want to go on the Yukon River.

7
8 And with that, I'll take any questions.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for the
11 young lady on the Yukon Fisheries Commission. Inter-
12 Tribal Commission. Mr. Oney.

13
14 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16
17 Hi, Stephanie. Of the 30 -- where did
18 I see that number -- 30 tribes that has signed onto the
19 treaty, how many more tribes are you looking at to get
20 them signed up? Thank you.

21
22 MS. QUINN-DAVIDSON: Thanks, Mr. Oney.
23 Through the Chair. We estimate that there are about 50
24 tribes on the Yukon River, Federally-recognized tribes
25 that are on the river or the tributaries that have
26 vested interest in the fisheries. So we're a little
27 more than halfway there. Most of the tribes that we
28 still need to get signed on are in the lower river.
29 They are predominantly along the coast and in District
30 1 and District 2.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Does that take care of
33 your question?

34
35 Mr. Peters.

36
37 MR. PETERS: Stephanie, this is Mike
38 Peters representing Marshall on the upper end of Y2.
39 And we do have two organizations at Marshall: The
40 Ohogamiut Council and the Marshall Tribal Council.

41
42 And with this information, I will bring
43 it back to the tribes to see if they would participate
44 in this, and to let them know, because on some of the
45 issues that come from our area, it affect us. And what
46 their -- that they got concerns, and to bring up at the
47 right time. So I just thought I'd let you know with
48 this, you know, signing up and stuff like that, I'll
49 let them know.

50

1 Thank you very much.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other -- go ahead
4 Stephanie.
5
6 MS. QUINN-DAVIDSON: I would like to
7 thank Mike for that. Appreciate it.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
10 for Stephanie.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, we'll go on
15 down to our next item, after which we'll have a break.
16 It's Bering Sea Fisheries Elders Group. I'm sorry, the
17 Bering Sea Elders Group. Is there a rep for that. Mr.
18 Dale Smith.
19
20 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Yeah. I spoke
21 with Fred Phillip yesterday, and he indicated that he'd
22 like to do a presentation at our next Council meeting.
23 And it sounds like next -- this coming winter. So not
24 this meeting here.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. All right. You
27 got that.
28
29 At this time then we'll take a 10-
30 minute break. We still have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 more
31 items on the agenda. You could either have a dinner
32 break and come back, or do you want to work right
33 through. Working right through?
34
35 (Council members indicate in
36 affirmative)
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Work right through.
39 Okay. We'll do that. Let's take a 10-minute break.
40
41 (Off record)
42
43 (On record)
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
46 to order. We are down towards the end of our agenda.
47
48 Next on our agenda is the Yukon Delta
49 National Wildlife Refuge.
50

1 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
2 members of the Council. I'm Ken Stahlnecker, Refuge
3 manager for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

4
5 We've already updated you on the salmon
6 situation over the course of the season, so I'm just
7 going to very briefly update you on just two others
8 subsistence related that occurred over the course of
9 the summer.

10
11 The first would be the Yukon-Kuskokwim
12 Delta region subsistence spring waterfowl closure. A
13 30-day emergency closure was established for the 2016
14 Alaska subsistence spring migratory bird harvest in the
15 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. The spring waterfowl
16 season was closed during the initiation of migratory
17 bird nesting from May 20th through June 20th. This
18 emergency closure came after consultation with the
19 Association of Village Council Presidents, Waterfowl
20 Conservation Committee, and Fish and Wildlife Service
21 biologists. This closure was established in 50 CFR and
22 through the publication of the notice. A special
23 closure for black brant and cackling Canada geese from
24 the time of egg laying until the young birds were
25 fledged remained in effect through July 10th of the
26 year.

27
28 And incidently, this appears on Page
29 155 in your packet.

30
31 The second is just an update on our
32 subsistence moose management program this fall. The
33 Refuge issued a special action for refuge lands in Unit
34 18, Kuskokwim area for a set 15-day moose hunt after
35 coordination with the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim
36 subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game. Residents of the
38 qualifying villages were allowed to harvest one
39 antlered bull moose on Federal lands by State
40 registration permit starting September 1st through
41 September 15th.

42
43 Reported moose harvest on State-managed
44 is currently at 151 moose, and on Federal lands
45 reported harvest is at 43 moose, with a total harvest
46 of 194. These harvest numbers will likely change as
47 there's still some reports coming.

48
49 A quick report on where we intend to go
50 this fall and winter regarding the moose, Service

1 biologists intend to conduct sex and age compositional
2 surveys within the Lower Kuskokwim survey area, and
3 possibly within the Kuskokwim survey area in November.
4 The last time we obtained compositional data for the
5 Lower Yukon area was in 2010. For the Kuskokwim area.
6 We want to attain these compositional data to plan,
7 help us plan for next year's hunt which is currently
8 managed utilizing quotas. If snow conditions are
9 adequate, we hope to conduct a population survey for
10 the Lower Yukon area as well. We've not obtained any
11 population information since 2008 for that area.

12
13 And finally I'd just like to say, as
14 you all know, I am new to the Refuge, I'm new to the
15 Delta, and based on my first handful of months here, I
16 feel like I'm going to be new to the Delta for many
17 years to come, trying to learn all the issues. But
18 I've appreciated meeting everybody this week, and just
19 wanted to let you know that I do look forward to
20 working with you as we move forward with the next
21 couple of years.

22
23 And I extend an invitation to any of
24 you on the Council, at any time, if you have an
25 questions, concerns, you feel like your issues aren't
26 being heard, give me a call. Let me know. Stop by.
27 Contact me. I many not have the answers. In fact, I
28 can guarantee I won't have all the answers, but I am
29 interested in helping identify what those questions are
30 and working towards trying to find those answers.

31
32 So thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And, Ken, we also
35 extend the same invitation to you in the event that you
36 do need -- if you would need any help in any part of
37 our subsistence area. You're welcome, I'm sure, to get
38 ahold of any one of the Council members. Eva has a
39 Patton -- Eva has a Patton to those names.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Has the name of all
44 our members here, so she'll have all our phone numbers.

45
46 MR. STAHLNECKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 I appreciate that.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else from the
50 Refuge.

1 MR. BORN: It's been my pleasure to be
2 the acting Refuge manager for the last several months
3 prior to Ken getting here, and working with everybody
4 through the issues. It's been a wonderful time, and I
5 look forward to another good year coming up, but
6 hopefully I'll get to visit more villages this year
7 than I have in the past year. Thank you very much.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that your
10 conclusion? Is there any questions for the Refuge
11 managers. Mr. Smith.

12
13 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 Thank you, Ken, for your report. As I
16 briefly discussed with you yesterday, Community of
17 Mekoryuk was looking at the muskox management plan that
18 needed to be revised by the community. There was
19 several agencies involved, and I realize that there's
20 been some turnover within Fish and Wildlife, so we
21 really lost continuity on the revision of the plan
22 there. So just to reiterate, it is still a concern for
23 the community that we'd like to revisit that and try
24 and make sure that the agencies involved, for example,
25 Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife, maybe BIA, whichever
26 organizations are involved in making sure that we have
27 an updated plan. I know that I was working with
28 Spencer Riorden. and I know you mentioned he's been
29 doing some other things.

30
31 But I keep bringing this up, because I
32 realize it hasn't moved. The issue hasn't moved. So
33 I'd like to go on the record that we need to keep this
34 moving. So if you could at least put that on your
35 priority list that would be greatly appreciated. So I
36 know I've mentioned this I think in every Council
37 meeting, that this is a concern from the community.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. STAHLNECKER: Through the Chair.
42 Thank you, Mr. Smith. We'll definitely put that on our
43 list.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
46 for the Refuge.

47
48 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

1 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Just a comment from me, James Charles from Tuntutuliak.

3
4
5 For you to let the people know in the
6 region that you are new Refuge information manager. I
7 mean, not information, but for if you have information
8 on closing something like the birds or moose, let the
9 villages know, because you are working for the whole
10 region, not just the people in Bethel. So it would be
11 good to let the villages know, even Tuntutuliak is
12 closed or closed on something, fisheries or other
13 stuff, other game, let neighboring villages know, too,
14 that areas is closed. So that way the word is passed
15 around. So I'd like to do that as a RAC member, too.
16 I do a lot of communications in our radio station.
17 Pass the word around meetings and other things, too.

18
19 Thank you for your report.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other. Mr. Oney.

22
23 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25
26 I know in the past the do aerial
27 surveys of moose in our area, and they haven't been
28 doing that because of the snow conditions have been
29 very poor last few years. I was wonder if they'd be
30 able to do that sometime again.

31
32 And also if there's any concern about
33 the browsing in our area because of the moose
34 population that's occurring in our area, if there's any
35 concerns of browsing while you're doing the aerial
36 survey. That way you could relay that to the villages
37 that may be affected by that browsing.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. BORN: Thank you for your comment.
42 This is Ray from Fish and Wildlife Service.

43
44 We talk extensively intending to get up
45 into that area and do some surveys. We're working on a
46 new survey protocol that will help us do a better job.
47 You know, without the snow cover, it's kind of a
48 challenge. So we're working on that, but we've
49 identified it as a priority because we haven't been
50 there for quite a while, so we want to get up there.

1 And browse is a concern. The moose
2 population is a concern. As we get more data, we'll
3 definitely inform everybody what we're finding out with
4 that information.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr. Brown.

9
10 MR. BROWN: I'm going to speak in my
11 own language. Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 On the moose season, (In Yup'ik)

14
15 INTERPRETER: Before I came here to the
16 meeting, one of the residents in my village had told me
17 to bring this up to you, so I will bring this up to you
18 now. Regarding the moose season hunting area, they
19 have been telling me that they have been opening the
20 hunting season a little too early. And I've had
21 different people come up to me and say that the moose
22 season is a little too early for us in this years. And
23 so way back in the day that used to be good, but now
24 the weather is a lot warmer probably because of the
25 warming client here. And so especially when it is warm
26 on September 1st, there's a lot of house flies, and
27 it's hard to keep the flies off during the hot, warm,
28 humid weather when you first open.

29
30 And the 72-hour window to report the
31 moose, that's a little to -- can you do something about
32 the reporting of your catch on the moose, because if
33 there's two families go into one boat and go camping
34 for moose. And when they catch a moose, they have to go
35 back and leave the other guy without a moose. So in
36 the end, after splitting the expenses. So I wanted to
37 ask if we could do anything about the reporting of the
38 moose. And that's what they want me to ask you if they
39 could do anything about it.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. STAHLNECKER: Through the Chair.
44 Thank you, Mr. Brown, for your comments.

45
46 We have been hearing the issue of the
47 season being too early. Lately it seems that the
48 first, or the beginning of September has been getting
49 warmer noticeably. So that is something that I think
50 we can visit and take a look at, or at least the

1 possibility of extending the season a little bit later
2 perhaps. I think that, you know, those are things that
3 we can look at.

4

5 And as to the reporting, I think we
6 probably can look at that as well, and make some
7 modifications to that. We're certainly willing to talk
8 about extending the reporting time period to make it
9 easier for folks who are out hunting with multiple
10 parties.

11

12 MR. BROWN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: They will be thankful
15 immensely if you do those two things that you say, so
16 they would be very happy. And when I go back I will
17 tell them that you will look at these issues.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

20

21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I don't know
22 who to thank really, but this summer Kalskag and Lower
23 Kalskag were included in the Central Kuskokwim
24 regulatory part of the salmon season, which was
25 awesome, because you know, we're part of -- we're the
26 lowest villages in the Central Kuskokwim. And it was
27 really amazing the response of the people, they were so
28 happy. Hey, we're part of this area and now they
29 finally include us in the seasons. Because, you know,
30 basically we don't have anything in common with the
31 Lower Kuskokwim. You know, from Tuluksak down in the
32 mouth of the Kuskokwim River, they harvest 95 percent
33 of the king salmon harvest, and from Lower Kalskag up
34 to the headwaters, we only harvest five percent. So it
35 was really heartening for the people. And they all
36 came to me and said, may, we're so happy. When you go
37 to Bethel, make sure you thank those people for it. I
38 don't know if it's the Fish and Game or the Fish and
39 Wildlife Service who initiated that process, but thank
40 you very, very much from the people up there.

41

42 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Aloysius.
43 Actually you should thank the Inter-Tribal Fish
44 Commission. They're the ones who brought it to our
45 attention, and discussed this, and we went through a
46 bunch of different discussions and came to that
47 solution, so your representative on the Inter-Tribal
48 Fish Commission did a great job for you.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: When you meet with them

1 again, tell them thank you from the Lower Kalskag and
2 Kalskag.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Brown.

5

6 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER: I also forgot this one
9 item. Before you open any of the season at the Game
10 Management Unit 18, regarding the moose, there are a
11 lot of moose running out in our area, so I just wanted
12 to say that. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other. Mr. Bill.

15

16 MR. BILL: I'll do this in Yup'ik, in
17 my own language. (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: When I was growing up, we
20 did not harvest the moose at all, and you also said
21 that if we want to know anything about it for us to ask
22 you. So about three years now during June and July we
23 have seen a lot of moose, and they go down to the
24 sandbars and they keep looking at Nunivak Island. All
25 these moose are going down to the sand bars on the
26 Bering Sea, and they keep looking down towards Nunivak
27 Island. And after that they start walking up and to
28 Nelson Island. And so from south of -- in front of
29 Tununak out to Toksook and down to Kipnik, there's a
30 lot of sandbars down there, and that's where we are
31 finding a lot of moose on there. And I wanted to know,
32 do you have any idea why the moose are going down to
33 the sand bars. Are they looking at the Nunivak Island,
34 and are they wanting to see how far and fast they can
35 swim to that Nunivak Island. And what is it? Can you
36 answer that question, what are they contemplating?

37

38 MR. BILL: Can you answer that
39 question.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. BORN: I think they're looking for
44 the Love Boat, but I'm not sure.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Follow up.

49

50 MR. BILL: The moose that are coming

1 here, there used to be some moose in our area way back
2 in the day; that's what I've heard. That's what my
3 grandfathers used to say. And they would tell us that
4 the moose would come back into our area, and it is
5 evident they are back into our area. And I know that
6 they have said this before, and we know, we have seen
7 this come to fruition now, and how the heck did they
8 know that that was going to happen. And they do -- and
9 a lot of people say that it's probably a guessing game.
10 That's what they say, but it is not a guessing game,
11 because these are very factual terms that our ancestors
12 used to say would happen.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. One of the
19 most important tales of what to be has been -- you
20 know, I grew up with people from the 19th century.
21 They always said that some day the game -- and they
22 said it will happen again. They said, they just got up
23 walked off -- that the game would migrate from the
24 mountains down to the sea. And we're seeing that. And
25 a lot of people from the Lower Yukon tell me that they
26 see moose swimming out. You know, I've been Kotlik
27 where my brother-in-law takes me out two miles. And I
28 asked him one time, how deep's the water. He said,
29 test it. Two and a half feet. And I think the moose
30 think it's a big lake, and they're going to have to
31 swim across.

32

33 But the old people always said that
34 migration of all the animals, and it's happening, even
35 beaver, coming down from the mountains heading out to
36 the ocean. And all the other animals that migrate are,
37 you know, following the prophecies of the old people.
38 And one of the old people said, because they are being
39 displaced by humans.

40

41 And somebody said this morning that the
42 number of people is growing so much, and yet our
43 resources are staying pretty much level, and that's why
44 our resources are getting diminished. And one other
45 thing, they are being displaced because of noise and
46 pollution, which is happening all over, you know. And
47 these are the things that we have to understand that
48 the prophecies of the old people about whatever goes
49 around come around and goes around again is true. So
50 it's not anything true. It's just the way nature

1 works.

2

3

4 And contrary to the western way of
5 educating, there's nothing wild out there. There is no
6 wilderness and there's no wild animals. Everything has
7 its nature, and its nature is to be what it is. Like
8 there's no wild moose. There's just moose. And
9 there's no wild people, there's just people. And
10 there's no wilderness. It's nature. That's the way it
11 is all over the world. And every part of nature has
12 its nature. Hurricanes, tornadoes. Those are their
13 natures. That's the way they are. That's what they
14 do. And the same thing with animals. They recycle and
15 recycle and recycle.

15

16

Thank you.

17

18

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
19 Aloysius.

20

21

Any more questions for -- Mr. Peters.

22

23

MR. PETERS: I'll make it short. You
24 know, on browsers like what Ray indicated, I've got a
25 question like, you know, for the Federal Refuge. I
26 think behind Marshall it's a Federal Refuge, and it was
27 closed off to browsers. And I was wondering how come
28 -- you know, some people were going back there. And
29 Marshall got two tribes, and, you know, if it's closed
30 for my local people and the surrounding villages, I
31 think there's a concern that need to be brought to your
32 attention. And, you know, they're supposed to follow
33 regulations just like us that live out in the village.
34 And I thought I'd bring it up to your attention about
35 these, I don't know how to say it, non-residential
36 people, you know. And so I just thought I'd bring that
37 up. And, you know, that could be worked on so that --
38 you know, to make sure if we can't -- I mean, if my --
39 those two tribal people can't go back there, and these
40 people coming, you know, browsers, I think that need to
41 be brought up to your attention.

42

43

Thank you very much.

44

45

MR. BORN: Thank you very much. I
46 heard your concerns even last year. And this year we
47 had an officer up there on the river working that,
48 looking at that, and trying to find if there's any
49 other violations. Did you meet with any of our
50 officers while they were up in Marshall area?

1 MR. PETERS: Yeah. You know, that was
2 brought up by some of the community members, and they
3 were kind of concerned about the situation there, but I
4 can't -- at the time I cannot comment on it, because on
5 some of the -- I'm not on part of one tribal agency or
6 other agency. I just thought I'd bring it up as, you
7 know, a concerned person from that village. And if
8 they bring up something like this, you know, I thought
9 I'd bring it to your attention for how could that be
10 worked out for the people that live there.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Peters. I
15 appreciate your comments. I'd like to get up there and
16 talk with your people in the village just a little more
17 to understand better, and see how we can develop a
18 better solution. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
21 for the Refuge. Mr. Brown, make it short, please.

22
23 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

24
25 INTERPRETER: I will speak to you in my
26 Native language again.

27
28 We saw invasive animal in our area, in
29 our island. And it has a tag and it has collar on it,
30 and it looks like a great big buffalo or something. It
31 comes from somewhere, I don't think he came from
32 Alaska. So I wanted to ask what is that animal that
33 we've been seeing down there? I think it is a bison.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. BORN: Quyana. You're right. It's
38 a wood bison. It was released and it's wandered down
39 the Yukon and it's now wandering around Bethel and all
40 the way again down Eek and back and forth. We were
41 watching it a little bit last year as well. So that's
42 what you see.

43
44 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: Are those pets or are
47 they domestic animals or who -- I told my people back
48 home not to mess with that. I know there's one people
49 that have happy trigger fingers and they want to walk
50 up to it and pet them, and I told them not to do that.

1 So are these guys domestic or what?

2

3 MR. BURN: No, they're not domestic.
4 They're just bison. I don't want to call them wild,
5 but they're a bison that's released as part of this
6 release to get them back into nature.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
9 Aloysius.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: What he meant was that
12 they were raised in a farm, and then they were turned
13 loose. And they have a collar. So he's telling his
14 people to leave them alone. And it's kind of like you
15 take a two-year-old boy and send him out in the woods
16 and say, fend for yourself. They don't know anything
17 about nature. They know how to be penned up and to be
18 around people. That's why they come so close to
19 Bethel, because there are people. They can smell
20 people, and they think they're going to be safe here
21 with them.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. BORN: Quyana. It's kind of like
26 the muskox when we re-introduced it back into Nunivak
27 Islands many years ago. Similar to what we're doing
28 with the wood bison. Similar project.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions or
31 comments for -- Mr. Andrew.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 I'm John Andrew of Kwethluk.

35

36 What we have is that short season, we
37 have five-day season up at the village. Majority of
38 the hunters that had a permit did not get their moose.
39 And some of them were pretty angry at me, too. They
40 said, how come you guys make it too short and the
41 weather's too damn warm, and we'd rather see it 5, 10
42 days later after there is a chill in the air. That's
43 one of them.

44

45 Then on those salmon openings we have
46 in our area, this area and right there all the way up
47 to Tuluksak. When you have a very short opening or
48 window, it's more like combat fishing. Too many boats
49 in one area, corking everybody and running -- even
50 running over their nets. It's very, very destructive,

1 and it's not -- that's not our way of fishing. But
2 last summer it wasn't too bad, but the ones, they're
3 for longer hours. 12 hours and 72 hours are too long.
4 Principally for me, I'd rather fish one two hours and
5 take them home and work on them. Because if you hold
6 them in your boat a little too long, they deteriorate
7 faster. Some of them like to go out and try to get as
8 much as possible, then they take them home so they're
9 not the top quality of fish any more.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there anything else
14 for the Refuge.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I have just one. I
19 don't know who does the regulation book, the book on
20 the harvest of game in our area, but in the Lower
21 Yukon, there is no descriptor of the remainder in that
22 book. And my people in Hooper Bay are wondering, are
23 they still in that part or that portion of the
24 remainder of the Yukon. The remainder I guess is what
25 it is.

26

27 MR. BORN: I'll have to refer that to
28 our OSM partners that do those writing of those
29 regulations.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
32 The Federal subsistence regulation book is produced by
33 OSM Staff. So both our wildlife biologists and
34 anthropologists that put input, and then our outreach
35 coordinator and regulations specialist. So if you see
36 any errors or confusion in that book, that feedback
37 would be really important to us so that we can make
38 sure that both accurate information and clear
39 information gets included in that book. So I'd like to
40 follow up with you after the meeting and we can write
41 down specifically what the community's seeing there
42 that needs attending.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, actually the
45 community didn't know what the remainder of the Yukon
46 was. There was actually a couple descriptions. One
47 was -- the latest one that was on that was including
48 that lower area, including Hooper Bay up to Paimiut and
49 up Paimiut on the north shore of the Paimiut going up.
50 But this book, it says -- it points out the -- I don't

1 know, there's a portion in there that said a line
2 between Cape Romanzof to Mountain Village and on up.
3 And that used to be the old descriptor for the lower
4 part, but it didn't say anything. There was just that
5 statement in the harvest book.

6
7 MS. KENNER: Moose? For moose?

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pardon?

10
11 MS. KENNER: Moose?

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, moose.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Got it now.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We just need a
18 descriptor on that remainder is what's giving us
19 problems on there.

20
21 Okay. That's about it. Thank you very
22 much.

23
24 Next on the agenda is Togiak National
25 Wildlife Refuge. Is anybody here from there. Sorry to
26 have kept you waiting so long.

27
28 While we're getting information, Jill,
29 are you on the teleconference. Jill Klein, are you on
30 the telephone.

31
32 MS. KLEIN: I am on the call, but I'm
33 trying to patient and wait my turn.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, you're next on
36 the agenda.

37
38 MS. KLEIN: I know, but -- yeah. Okay.
39 I'll try to wait.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yep. We're hoping
42 that you could wait.

43
44 MS. KLEIN: I know. I just have
45 something I'm supposed to be starting now, but I
46 apologize for that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Go ahead with
49 the Togiak report, please.

50

1 MS. HENRY: Good afternoon, everyone.
2 Mr. Chairman and members of the RAC. I'm Suzanna
3 Henry. I'm the Refuge manager at Togiak Refuge. I
4 live over in Dillingham, and it was my great pleasure
5 to come over and attend this meeting in person. I've
6 listened to a number of them on the phone. It's just
7 not the same. It's a whole lot better being with you
8 guys and getting to visit Bethel. I've really enjoyed
9 it.

10
11 You'll find our report is already in
12 your booklet. It starts on Page 158; it goes through
13 163. I'm not going to go over all that with you. You
14 can read it at your pleasure. I will point out just a
15 few things.

16
17 The very first item talks about the
18 counting weirs on the Middle Fork of the Goodnews River
19 and the Kanektok. You'll notice that there was no
20 funding this year for the Kanektok weir, and there was
21 only limited funding for the Middle Fork of the
22 Goodnews. We did provide a summer intern to help with
23 that. And I think received a lower priority probably
24 because of the lack of a commercial fishery in that
25 area. So that's something that concerns us. We'd like
26 to see those weirs continue in the future.

27
28 And then you'll notice on Page 159
29 there's some discussion about moose. And I had a
30 handout that I was passing around moose sightability.
31 And Mr. Ray Born mentioned that we're working together
32 along with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
33 with our Western Alaska Landscape Conservation
34 Cooperative to try to come up with a better way of
35 counting moose when there is no snow or partial snow on
36 the ground, and that you have to do it by radio
37 collaring moose, and then doing a survey knowing that
38 some are already out there. And you'll see pictures
39 there, just an example of how hard they are to see when
40 there's no snow. But we're trying to improve that. We
41 did 34 trials of that this past spring and hope to
42 continue that this year.

43
44 And then one other thing to mention is
45 the temperature of the water. You'll see there's a
46 discussion of that at the bottom of Page 160. You'll
47 notice that we has some of our upper elevation lakes.
48 Gechiak Lake and Kukaktlim Lake, that was clear out to
49 68 degrees Fahrenheit, and that was a concern, and it
50 looked like it had a result, because a very small fish,

1 Alaska blackfish and some sticklebacks were found dead
2 on the shore of the lake.

3

4 And early yesterday Annie Cleveland
5 mentioned a concern about some fish that had some
6 injuries on them from the Kanektok River, maybe also
7 the Goodnews River that were reported. And I have some
8 pictures of those fish on my Ipad that I can pass
9 around. Actually Eva's going to pass it around.

10

11 And our Refuge information technician,
12 John Mark, who lives in Quinhagak and works with us,
13 was able to get those fish to a lab for analysis. And
14 it was determined that they had injuries on them from
15 lampreys. Fresh lampreys had injured them, and then
16 they had some infection that followed. And might also
17 have to do with warmer temperatures may have improved
18 conditions for lampreys, and may have also improved
19 conditions for bacterial or viral growth. And so I
20 wanted to bring that up to you folks.

21

22 And then I think one other thing I
23 wanted to just address if I could really quickly.
24 Annie mentioned that -- I think you said it was your
25 son that trouble with a moose, that the moose went
26 rancid trying to get it down the Kanektok River there
27 were so many people floating. And we do have a public
28 use management plan that very strictly limits the
29 number of people that can start a floating trip on that
30 river. And I'd like more information about that. It's
31 hard for me to imagine that there were so many people
32 on the river that their moose spoiled trying to get it
33 down the river.

34

35 I just want to reiterate just exactly
36 what Mr. Stahlnecker said, if any of you all have
37 concerns or problems on Togiak Refuge, that part of
38 Unit 18 that you all have an oversight on, please let
39 me know. I'd rather hear about the problems straight
40 from you, and I would like to address them.

41

42 I'm done. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions. Mr.
45 Aloysius.

46

47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Is there a
48 great difference in the water temperature from the
49 Yukon and the Kuskokwim River compared to the area that
50 you took these pictures of?

1 MS. HENRY: Mr. Aloysius through the
2 Chair. Now, you're asking me if it's a difference
3 between the water temperatures of our -- of which two
4 places?

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: The Yukon River and the
7 Kuskokwim River have lampreys. And are these lampreys
8 new to the areas down there that.....

9
10 MR. ANDREW: They're on Kuskokwim
11 River?

12
13 MS. HENRY: Mr. Andrew and Mr. Aloysius
14 through the Chair. I don't believe they're new. I
15 think they've probably just had a better opportunity
16 with the warmer temperatures. They're native lampreys.

17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, my concern is if
19 the water temperature is different, that bacteria is
20 going to grow faster in warm water or in cold water.
21 You know, that.....

22
23 MS. HENRY: Yes. Yes, I agree with
24 you, Mr. Aloysius, through the Chair. That's the
25 concern is that with the warmer temperatures, that
26 either the animals are -- the fish are more susceptible
27 to bacterial or viral infection. We're entering a new
28 world. Those temperatures that we recorded in what we
29 consider our higher lakes, fairly shallow, but they're
30 higher up in our wilderness area, were warm. The
31 warmest that we'd recorded this summer. So we're
32 entering a new situation.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James, and then we'll
35 get into Mr. Brown. Go ahead, Mr. James.

36
37 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39
40 Would water temperature make the fish
41 get smaller or bigger?

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have an answer?

44
45 MS. HENRY: Oh, Mr. Charles. I'm not
46 sure I can answer that. I think that might differ on
47 the species of fish and what sort of food they're
48 eating.

49
50 MR. CHARLES: Because we have -- excuse

1 me. We have our sticklebacks were very small years
2 ago, now they're big. Maybe three inches bigger. And
3 salmon is smaller. Chinook is smaller than years ago.
4 What makes them get smaller and sticklebacks bigger?

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I know you have an
7 answer to that question.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MS. HENRY: Mr. Charles through the
12 Chair. I'm afraid I do not. I'm the manager, you have
13 to understand, not the fisheries biologist. But I will
14 take this back. We have a very -- we have experts and
15 I'm going to ask them. We'll get back to you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Charles.

18
19 Mr. Brown, you have a question.

20
21 MR. BROWN: Yeah. I think when I used
22 to commercial fish down below Quinhagak area, some
23 summers there's some snails about some are about that
24 long. They like to suck the fish. I wonder if there
25 are small fish when they're like fry, whatever they
26 call them. Fry? Those small salmon. I guess the way
27 I saw it, might be carried by those snails. That's
28 what I remember when I used to commercial fish down
29 there, and some -- not every year, but some summers
30 there's some snails along the beach.

31
32 MS. HENRY: Mr. Brown through the
33 Chair. That is fascinating, and I'm going to pass it
34 on to Mark Lisac, our fisheries biologist and see what
35 he thinks about that. Very interesting.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions for
38 the Refuge manager for the Togiak. Mr. Smith.

39
40 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A
41 couple questions.

42
43 The walrus that haul out in that area,
44 are they a different population from the northern
45 walrus?

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: She isn't a biologist,
48 but I'm sure she could answer that question.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MS. HENRY: No, Mr. Smith through the
2 Chair. Well, you know, I have to supervise those
3 wildlife biologists and the fisheries biologists, so I
4 got to do my best.

5
6 You know, Togiak Refuge has always been
7 known for its walrus, but that is not really the case
8 right now. Most of the walrus are not hauling out
9 there in the numbers that they used to. There's a few
10 at Hagemeister Island. There's a few at Cape Peirce
11 and Cape Newenham, but most of them seem to have gone
12 further to the east and over at Cape Greig on the
13 Alaska Peninsula. Some of you may have heard of the
14 huge haul out that's been -- that's going on down
15 there. It was so large that it affected the commercial
16 fishery. They changed some of the fish boundaries to
17 give those walrus a little bit of a break.

18
19 They do believe that's all part of the
20 same group. Most of the walrus that haul out in our
21 area are males, and they're considered part of the same
22 North Pacific population where all the females are
23 further north up at Point Lay, and along with the
24 calves that are up there. So, yes, it's all part of
25 the same bunch.

26
27 MR. SMITH: Okay. So the other
28 question I had was yesterday I reported in our area,
29 Nunivak Island, the decrease in the murre. And
30 according to your report, you're seeing the same
31 decrease in the area. So is there any explanation on
32 that?

33
34 MS. HENRY: Yes, Mr. Smith through the
35 Chair. It seems to be part of a whole regionwide
36 decrease, not only in the number of murre, but we've
37 also been monitoring black leg kittiwakes and pelagic
38 cormorants, and all of them seem to be in greatly
39 depleted numbers. And even those that did nests had
40 nest failures. We had two volunteer biologists that
41 were out at Cape Peirce, and they would normally spend
42 hours counting nests and looking at productivity, and
43 they were done with their plots in just a short period
44 of time, because there were so few birds to even look
45 at.

46
47 And then, you know, when we talk about
48 Refuges in Alaska that really monitor seabirds, the one
49 that does the most is Alaska Maritime. And they were
50 reporting the same for many different seabird nesting

1 populations in the Aleutians as well. And we had
2 similar reports from Round Island, which, you know, is
3 part of the Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary managed
4 by the State of Alaska. So just the same story. And
5 we think -- it's believed that it has to do with warm
6 temperatures and lack of available food for those
7 birds.

8

9 And some of you might remember that in
10 January of 2016 there was a murre die-off, and it was
11 observed in Prince William Sound. And then if you
12 think about January -- if you type into Google seabird
13 die off, you'll also find all these cassin's auklets
14 that died in 2015. And I've read where someone
15 predicted that that would move up the food chain, that
16 birds that ate larger fish would be affected in future
17 years.

18

19 So it is. What we've observed, you're
20 right, it's just part of a bigger scheme of things.
21 And I wish I knew the answers, but I don't.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further questions.
24 Mr. Oney.

25

26 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman.

28

29 I'm thinking about the disaster that
30 happened in Japan, the Fukushima power plant that
31 exploded and all the radiation floating to the sea.
32 Has Fish and Wildlife made any studies from the die off
33 that's been occurring? Have they noticed anything from
34 those die offs or the reasons for the die offs? Is it
35 from the radiation or -- not only the birds, but the
36 fish. And also the debris. Have they been noticing
37 any debris along the coastline as a result of that.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MS. HENRY: Mr. Oney, through the
42 Chair. Thank you for that question. What I do know
43 about murre is the ones that were dying back in
44 January, the adults that people were finding in strange
45 places, there were even a few that showed up in
46 Dillingham, miles from Bristol Bay, were starving.
47 Their whole stomach, their whole intestine was
48 completely empty. So they were simply not getting
49 enough to eat.

50

1 As to how that might be related to the
2 Fukushima nuclear reaction, I'm not sure. I can check
3 though with our migratory bird folks in Anchorage and
4 see if they had any connection with that. But that's
5 what I know, they were hungry.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Brown.

8
9 MR. BROWN: One time I was I think in
10 Southeast, and a couple years ago I saw a hatchery
11 plant in those areas in Southeast. I wonder where
12 these release those hatchery fish out to the sea or
13 what. Those hatchery fish.

14
15 MS. HENRY: All right. Mr. Brown
16 through the Chair. I think you're talking about
17 commercially raised salmon that are in those big nets
18 that they have in Southeast and also in Canada. Is
19 that what you're talking about?

20
21 MR. BROWN: I mean to relation where
22 they release those hatchery planted fries whenever
23 they're ready to go out to the wild.

24
25 MS. HENRY: Right. Well, Mr. Brown,
26 and through the Chair. I cannot be -- this is an area
27 that is definitely beyond my purview. I cannot comment
28 on that. Sorry.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute, Robert.
31 We've got a couple people that had their hands up
32 before you did. We have Annie, Mike, and then we'll
33 get to you after they get done.

34
35 Go ahead, Annie.

36
37 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes. Is infected fish
38 safe to eat. I like trout fish.

39
40 MS. HENRY: Ms. Cleveland through the
41 Chair. I would repeat the words of Mark Lisac, our
42 fisheries biologist. He would say, make sure you cook
43 them well. I've asked him many times, I've showed him
44 tiny worms that are in the flesh of salmon, and I say,
45 what is this, Mark? Tell me what is this little worm.
46 And he'd say, don't worry about it, just cook it. You
47 know, it's an animal. It's a nematode, but it will die
48 when you cook it. And that would be the same thing
49 with a bacteria and a virus. You're going to kill it
50 if you reach -- and I would cook your fish all the way

1 to that 140 degree temperature that they suggest.

2

3 MS. CLEVELAND: All right. Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done, Annie?

6 Mike.

7

8 MR. PETERS: My name is Mike Peters

9 from Marshall.

10

11 I had a concern, you know, that picture
12 that you passed around about the infection of the fish.
13 And it was kind of concerned of where this disease or
14 what causing it. Is it mercury or where does it come
15 from, from before they come in from the high seas, or,
16 you know -- because a lot of fish that come like on the
17 Yukon just like the Kuskokwim, and with that -- I saw
18 it, there's -- on that infection or something like
19 that, you know, it got to be addressed or something,
20 because, you know, we're trying to preserve fish, but
21 at the same time if it's coming in from -- like what
22 I'm saying, before it even reach the Kuskokwim or the
23 Yukon River, and they've got scars on them and stuff
24 like that, and we're trying to conserve fish.

25

26 But the other question is, how could
27 we, you know, ask someone -- like last year a biologist
28 or somebody to look into that, to where that bacteria
29 really started from. And that's a question that -- you
30 know, just a question that I bring forward to you.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. HENRY: Thank you. Mr. Peters
35 through the Chair. I appreciate that. Our fisheries
36 biologist, Mark Lisac said that he believed those
37 bacteria or viruses were already present in the
38 environment, but the fish became more susceptible to
39 them. And when they were injured, whether it was by a
40 lamprey that he thought it was, or maybe from a snail,
41 it made them more susceptible to something that was
42 already there.

43

44 MR. PETERS: Could we have some sort of
45 feedback from your biologist, because, you know,
46 nowadays with this water temperature and getting warmer
47 and stuff like that, and, you know, at least try to
48 find out what's causing that, you know.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MS. HENRY: Mr. Peters through the
2 Chair. I will definitely express your concern and the
3 concern of other members of the RAC about this
4 incident, and see if we can't find some more
5 information out about it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
8 -- Mr. Aloysius.

9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Charlie was
11 asking whether those hatchery raised fish were released
12 out into the ocean. That's what all his question was.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have an answer
15 to that.

16
17 MS. HENRY: Thank you, Bob. Mr.
18 Aloysius through the Chair. I'm not sure. I'm not
19 sure whether all the hatchery fish were released to the
20 wild or not. We're talking about in the Southeast
21 Alaska, right?

22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. There's a
24 documentary film on one particular area where -- and I
25 brought it up several years ago that there's a
26 hatchery, and they let the fish out, and then they wait
27 for them to come back. And the only time they harvest
28 them is when they start getting marked, which is -- you
29 know, I couldn't understand that. And they were bright
30 humpies or pink salmon they call them down there. But
31 by the time they were getting back into the river that
32 they originate from, they were already getting stripes.
33 You know, fits for bears maybe, but, you know, not for
34 us. We're fresh water, clear, non-marked pink salmon
35 eaters.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else come
38 from the Council.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you very
43 much for your presentation.

44
45 And the next on the agenda is a young
46 lady that's been waiting for us for the last couple
47 days I guess. Ms. Jill Klein, you have the floor on
48 the Yukon River Comprehensive Salmon Plan update. Ms.
49 Jill Klein, are you on? Going once. Going twice.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll come back to
4 her. We've got to continue with our -- do you have
5 somebody here with the Yukon River Comprehensive Salmon
6 Plan.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
9 That was Jill Klein was on line to speak to the Yukon
10 River Comprehensive Salmon Management Plan. It sounded
11 like she was getting pushed up against another
12 obligation she had this evening, so she may have had to
13 go.

14

15 I do have a handout that she had
16 provided. And if she's not able to join us tonight, I
17 can follow up with her if there's any further
18 information. WE'll make sure to get that to the
19 Council.

20

21 Again on the agenda we don't have North
22 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. They weren't
23 able to present to the Council, so the last item is the
24 OSM update.

25

26 And if Jill is able to join us again on
27 the meeting before we conclude, we can check back in on
28 teleconference. But I can hand out what she had
29 provided that she was going to speak to, and we'll
30 follow up.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. That would be
33 good.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We are down to
38 our last report. OSM. Office of Subsistence
39 Management.

40

41 MR. COGSWELL: All right. We're so
42 excited this is the last one. I suppose everyone else
43 it, too. So I'm going to up the energy a little bit so
44 everyone's awake.

45

46 My name is Stewart Cogswell. I work for
47 OSM.

48

49 And it's a very exciting time to be at
50 OSM right now. Gene Peltola, Jr. is the boss. He's

1 the assistant regional director, so he's all of our
2 boss here. And he's put together a pretty amazing
3 team. He's been there for almost three years now, and
4 I'm really excited about the people we have there. I
5 think we're poised to do great things. I think Gene
6 has a lot of ideas and vision, and I think we're going
7 to -- you'll be seeing a little bit more of OSM in some
8 different ways than you have in the past. So I'm
9 really excited about that.

10
11 We have some people that have been
12 there for a while, and we have a lot of new people with
13 some energy.

14
15 Anyways I'm going to let Orville go
16 through this, and I'll comment -- I'll interrupt him
17 when I have a few comments to make, but we have a lot
18 of new Staff and he's going to go through that.

19
20 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
21 Board members.

22
23 I'm going to start off with Mr. Chuck
24 Ardizzone, who actually was assistant ARD. He left the
25 position and is now -- went to a position in Fish and
26 Wildlife Service down in the Lower 48.

27
28 Deborah Coble also left the position as
29 subsistence outreach coordinator, and she took a
30 position with the National Park Service here in Alaska
31 region headquarters.

32
33 Melinda Burke left her position as
34 Council coordinator to become tribal relations program
35 manager for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska.

36
37 MR. COGSWELL: All right. This Stewart
38 again.

39
40 Because those people left, we have a
41 few people acting in their place. Chuck was Gene's
42 deputy. He move on, so now I am Gene's deputy. I've
43 been acting as Gene's deputy since January. Jennifer
44 Hardin who is the anthropology division chief is now
45 filled behind me, and she's the fisheries division
46 chief. And Robbin LaVine is now the anthropology
47 chief. Acting. So we've had a few people move around
48 because of those vacancies.

49
50 MR. LIND: We have new hire. Scott

1 Ayers was hired as a fishery biologist, and will be
2 providing his expertise, analysis of fisheries
3 regulatory and Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
4 proposal. He was previously employed by Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage. And he has
6 extensive experience working remotely to Alaska on
7 various weir and radio telemetry surveys. Scott
8 received his bachelor's/ master's degree from the
9 University of Alaska Fairbanks.

10

11 Next new arrival, you know him. You
12 heard him speak. Gary Decossas. Say hi, Gary. Was
13 hired as the fisheries biometrician, and will provide
14 statistical expertise and assistance to the Fisheries
15 Resource Monitoring Program and fishery regulatory
16 proposals. He was previously employed by the Louisiana
17 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries where he was
18 responsible for the design, analysis and the management
19 of various fisheries data. He created the various
20 statistical inputs and estimates that go into fisheries
21 stock assessment models that are used to inform marine
22 and freshwater matters about the status of the
23 fisheries stock across the coast of Louisiana. And
24 Gary is -- he always tries to bridge the gap between
25 the complex, easily misunderstood statistical realm of
26 the sturdiness and practical of the fisheries world.
27 Gary received his bachelors and master's degree from
28 the Louisiana State University.

29

30 I've had the pleasure of working with
31 Gary in the last few months that he's been. This man
32 is excited for his job, and I think he's going to do a
33 great job for OSM.

34

35 Srinath Doraiswamy was hired as the
36 information technologies, Oracle database
37 administrator. He moved from Houston, Texas with his
38 wife and child, and enjoys biking, walking, outdoor
39 sports, loves nature and travel. He previously worked
40 for more than six years in IT, the information
41 technology, for the Texas State Department of Family
42 Protective Services, Health and Human Service
43 Commissions, Texas Tech University Health Science
44 Center, and University of Texas Permian Base. And he
45 looks forward to exploring Alaska. And he's now
46 working for OSM.

47

48 Anything to add?

49

50 MR. COGSWELL: No.

1 MR. LIND: Okay. Our next hire was Mr.
2 Frank Harris was hired as a fisheries biologist and
3 will be providing his expertise of analysis, fisheries
4 regulatory, and Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
5 proposals. And this includes assisting with the
6 preparation of preliminary plans and technical
7 specifications for projects designed to collect and
8 analyze data related to fishery resources, including
9 habitat quality, sport, commercial, and subsistence
10 fishing areas in areas impacted by development. Frank
11 received his bachelor's degree from the Central
12 Michigan University, and will complete his master's
13 degree from West Virginia University in May 2017.

14
15 Another new hire, Megan Klosterman was
16 hired as a new wildlife biologist, and Megan has been
17 working as a wildlife refuge specialist for the Arapaho
18 National Wildlife Refuge complex in Colorado since
19 April of 2015. And in this position she has conducted
20 wildlife surveys in remote refuge locations, and served
21 as the manager of the GIS database for those surveys.
22 She worked as a wildlife biologist for the USDA's
23 Wildlife Service Division, and was a wildlife intern
24 with Lassen Volcanic National Park in California. She
25 earned her bachelor's of science in wildlife science
26 from Ohio State University, and a master's of science
27 in zoology from North Dakota State University.

28
29 Our next new hire was Dr. Joshua Ream
30 who joined the anthropology division as a new cultural
31 anthropologist in June of 2016. Mr. Ream is an
32 interdisciplinary scientist and ethno-biologist with an
33 academic and professional background focusing on the
34 relationships between humans and the natural world --
35 world. I've been practicing for two days. His
36 doctoral research involved the use of the local and
37 traditional knowledge, citizen science, and service
38 learning programs to document species diversity and
39 distribution in Alaska, specifically amphibians. His
40 academic and professional inter-trajectories have
41 shaped his understanding in the traditional and
42 customary uses of wild resources in Alaska, cultivate
43 his dedication supporting the subsistence priority of
44 rural Alaskans, and he's delighted to join the team at
45 OSM.

46
47 And I had the privilege of working with
48 him just a few months also, and this guy' really
49 excited about being here and doing his job, and
50 especially working with subsistence people.

1 Another new hire, Michelle St. Peters
2 was hired as a new grants specialist. Her prior work
3 was assigned -- was in the financial assistance
4 department where we assisted with Region 7, U.S. Fish
5 and Wildlife Service grants and cooperative agreements.
6 Before doing grants and cooperative agreements,
7 Michelle was a biologist with the U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Management for eight
9 years. Michelle moved to Alaska in 2001 and spent
10 seven years with the U.S. Geological Service, Alaska
11 Science Center, assisting on the development of North
12 Pacific pelagic seabird database.

13
14 Another hire for OSM is Khristoffer
15 Santos, another information technology specialist, IT
16 specialist. Besides providing customer support for OSM
17 employees, he's responsible for maintenance of the OSM
18 permits database, which is very important. His prior
19 assignment was from information resources and
20 technology in management, Region 7 headquarter as an IT
21 assistant. He has also worked as a junior systems
22 administrator for Copper River Seafoods. His job
23 included server maintenance of the email system,
24 hardware, software support, and assisting Alaskan
25 fishermen with day-to-day technology needs. And that's
26 really important. He knows his work very well, and he
27 does a great job.

28
29 We have another new hire, Sabrina
30 Schmidt was hired as a new receptionist. She's
31 previously worked for almost three years as an office
32 automation assistant at a child development center on
33 Joint Base Elemendorf-Richardson for the 673rd Force
34 Support Squadron. Prior to that she worked several
35 positions, including forklift operator at a blower
36 factory, security guard, financial representative, and
37 did work for the Chickasaw Nation. She's an avid
38 outdoors person, and has lived most of her life in
39 small towns in Minnesota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.
40 Very excited to be here, and she's already working her
41 tail off for OSM.

42
43 Another new hire, we're almost that, is
44 Zach Stevenson was hired as a Council coordinator. He
45 has been assigned to the Western Interior and Northwest
46 Arctic regions. Some of you may know him. Zach was
47 previously employed with the Northwest Arctic Borough
48 as a subsistence mapping coordinator where he worked
49 for five years on the extensive project to map the
50 subsistence activities and resources in the Northwest

1 Arctic Borough. He worked as a campaign manager for
2 the State House campaign, and developed the officer
3 there for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest,
4 and as a program director for the Renewable Resources
5 Coalition. Zach is jumping. When he came to work, he
6 was running, and he's done very well. We're really
7 happy, and he's a great asset to OSM.

8

9 Another new hired, Jarred Stone was
10 hired as a graduate Pathways Program student training
11 in the fisheries division. Jarred obtained his
12 undergraduate in fisheries management from Northland
13 College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Since he has come to
14 Alaska, he has worked as a fisheries crew leader with
15 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies.
16 Jarred was accepted into Alaska Pacific University
17 fisheries aquatic science and technology lab where he
18 is studying eastern Bering Sea juvenile Chinook salmon
19 stock origin, and the role of diet in growth and
20 condition. It's some of the topics we heard tonight.
21 This research will lead to a master's degree and will
22 enhance the knowledge of the marine life phase of
23 juvenile Chinook and how important diet and conditions
24 are for pre-winter survival. Jarred's here with his
25 wife and lives in Palmer and has resided in Alaska for
26 the last six years.

27

28 The last person is Katya Wessels. She
29 was hired as a Council coordinator and has been
30 assigned to the Eastern Interior region. She's also
31 responsible for the Regional Advisory Council meeting
32 book production, the ones you have in front of you.
33 She's done a very good job. Another person who came to
34 work for us running. She was previously employed by
35 the National Park Service as a Beringia program
36 specialist for 16 years. In that capacity, she managed
37 numerous cooperative agreements and facilitated several
38 annual meetings to carry out the mandates of the
39 program. During her employment at the National Park
40 Service, she also worked several detailed assignments
41 with the Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals
42 Program, and the U.S./Russia Polar Bear Commission.
43 Prior to 1999 she worked as an interpreter and
44 historian through the Smithsonian Institute for the
45 National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. And if
46 you go to AFN, OSM booth next week, her and I will be
47 attending that.

48

49 As of this date of this report, the
50 Office of Subsistence Management is staffed now at 38

1 out of 44 position on its organization chart. Of the
2 six vacancies, two are student trainee positions. This
3 is the first time in over five years where the
4 fisheries, wildlife, and anthropology divisions are
5 fully staffed with a full-time analysis and division
6 chiefs on the organization chart.

7

8 MR. COGSWELL: Whew. Thank you,
9 Orville. As you can tell, we got a lot of people from
10 all over the country, and some local ones, and we're
11 really excited to have the Staff we have now.

12

13 So I just want to thank you guys for
14 putting up with us, and I want to invite everyone here
15 if you're ever in Anchorage, to come see us. We want
16 people to come see us in OSM. Come say hi. I'll give
17 you a tour, or someone will give you a tour. We'll
18 show you the office, we'll tell you what we do, and you
19 can see the faces behind OSM. I've been in Alaska now
20 for two years, and there's a lot of work that goes on
21 for these meetings.

22

23 I'm just totally impressed with folks
24 like Eva. The Council coordinators, it's tireless.
25 She's there on weekends preparing for you. They do a
26 lot of work before and after all the travel. I'm just
27 so impressed with the Staff we have. They're so
28 dedicated to you guys.

29

30 So we have Eva here, we have Pippa
31 Kenner, we have Gary, and we have Orville. And I just
32 want to thank all them for the job they do. We have
33 amazing people that work really hard and they're really
34 dedicated to what they do. And they always strive to
35 do their best, so I'm very impressed with the Staff
36 that Gene has put together, and I'm excited that we're
37 fully staffed and we're ready to rock and roll.

38

39 So thanks. Was that exciting enough
40 for your last one of the day.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, you have
43 a question.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Where is
46 your office.

47

48 MR. LIND: It's on the corner of Old
49 Seward and Tudor Road in Anchorage. It's right across
50 -- it's just south of the University Center.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is it on the south side
2 of Tudor or on the north side of Tudor?

3
4 MR. LIND: It's on the north side of
5 Tudor. Absolutely come by and visit.

6
7 Mr. Chairman. I just have one little
8 teeny thing left. And it is, as you heard me speak
9 about this yesterday, I just want you to know that if
10 you have any comments on this draft non-rural policy,
11 you're always welcome to bring them up now or as you
12 review. Give us a call. We'll document it and go from
13 there.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
16 The presentation was yesterday, and the Council wanted
17 time to read the draft policy. The Board will be
18 making a final decision and recommendation on that
19 policy at their Board meeting this winter. So if the
20 Council had any recommendations or input in terms of
21 guidelines.

22
23 Again, the major changes that are
24 happening is now all communities are considered rural
25 until determined non-rural, except for those key urban
26 centers that are identified in the meeting book, such
27 as Anchorage and Wasilla area. So that's the main
28 change. All communities are considered non-rural until
29 a proposal comes to make them -- I'm sorry. All
30 communities will be considered rural unless a proposal
31 comes to make them non-rural.

32
33 And a key change in the process is now
34 that will be a public process that involves the
35 Council. So those proposals will come before the
36 Council for your input and public input, in addition to
37 the Board. So that's a key part of it.

38
39 The criteria that were used as
40 evaluations in the past, there's no longer set
41 criteria. But it will come before the Council for your
42 review if a proposal is submitted in the region to
43 request a community be non-rural.

44
45 So if you have any guidelines or ideas
46 or suggestions or questions, this would be the time to
47 provide that for the Board before they adopt this
48 policy at their winter meeting.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, OSM, for
2 your report. I would like to say I appreciate all the
3 help that you give us. You know, it's not just you,
4 but the people that were there before you have all done
5 a great job in giving us information so that our
6 decisions pass that Board by 98 percent, which is darn
7 good. Thank you very much for all the help that you've
8 given us.

9

10 MR. LIND: (In Yup'ik)

11

12 MR. COGSWELL: Thank you much.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And, Eva, that was --
15 is there any other comments you might make towards that
16 -- what is that again?

17

18 MS. PATTON: The non-rural policy.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, the non-rural
21 policy.

22

23 MS. PATTON: No. Orville provided a
24 really good overview of it yesterday, and the Council
25 had just wanted time to have a chance to review that
26 last night. So if you have any cessions or
27 recommendations for the Board, this would be an
28 opportunity to provide any feedback.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council members. You
31 heard Eva. Go ahead Mr. Andrew.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
34 have Just one question.

35

36 Sometime back when they were talking
37 about when does a small town or a city is determined
38 non-rural. At what population level? Is that 7 or
39 10,000.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
42 That's one of the fundamental changes that was made
43 with this new non-rural determination policy. So there
44 was a full public process to review the old criteria
45 and the old process for determining rural. And that
46 was some of the recommendations that had been made to
47 the Secretary of the Interior. So we went through a
48 full public process, and the public made comments on
49 those criteria. And that was one of the concerns, was
50 these set guidelines in terms of population. Many

1 communities had concerns that they exhibited rural
2 characteristics but were concerned if a road got built
3 in their region or their population grew, so those set
4 guidelines about population thresholds no longer exist
5 in terms of the criteria that the Board is bound to
6 consider. So they will review on a case-by-case-basis,
7 but those set criteria are no longer in place.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: Because like in Bethel
10 over here, you have a very, very large Native
11 population, and then they say Anchorage is the biggest
12 Native village in Alaska.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments
17 concerning the draft. Any additions to the draft from
18 yesterday.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, if
23 there is any other information or suggestions that you
24 might have, you might be able to get ahold of Eva, and
25 she can take care of it that way, if that's okay.
26 That's just to speed up the evening or tonight. If
27 that's okay with you, Eva.

28

29 All right. We'll go on down to our
30 next item, the future meeting dates. Confirm winter
31 2017 meeting date and location. The meeting date for
32 that winter season, Eva, do you want to get into that.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
35 you will look in your meeting books on Page 168 and 169
36 is the calendar for the next meeting cycle. The
37 Council had already selected a tentative winter meeting
38 date.

39

40 I just heard a beep, and I'm wondering
41 if that might be Jill Klein.

42

43 We have a winter meeting date that the
44 Council had tentatively selected for February 15th and
45 16th in Bethel. So if the Council just wants to look
46 at the calendar and consider that time frame, if that
47 still works for you, to confirm that. And then we'll go
48 on to selecting a fall 2017 winter date -- or fall
49 meeting.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What does the Council
2 think of the winter on February 15th and 16th. That
3 what your selected last year. Is that still okay with
4 the Council. Yes? Mr. Aloysius.

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I move that
7 we confirm the winter dates of February 15 and 16, 2017
8 as our next meeting in Bethel, Alaska 99559.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.
11 Do I hear a second.

12
13 MS. JOHNSON: Second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Annie
16 Cleveland. Oh, I'm sorry, by Dorothy Johnson. Any
17 other discussion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. PETERS: Question

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
24 All in favor say aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried. The
33 next item is select the fall 2017 meeting date and
34 location.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
37 you -- oop. If you'll turn to Page 169, the fall 2017
38 calendar is there. The window opens, the opportunity
39 for holding Council meetings opens on August 21st and
40 closes on November 10th. And right now we have the
41 capacity to hold two meetings per week, and right now
42 there's only one Council scheduled throughout that time
43 frame in any given week, so it's wide open in terms of
44 what timing the Council would like.

45
46 And I would also recommend considering
47 where you would like to meet. So the Council has met
48 in Bethel for a long time now, and has not had an
49 opportunity to meet in a rural village. We're still --
50 we are in rural village, but one of the other villages

1 in the Y-K Delta region. Our director, Gene Peltola,
2 Jr., will consider on a case-by-case basis the interest
3 and incentive for meeting in a particular village in
4 the region, and then a cost analysis. So it's not
5 guaranteed that we will be able to meet there, but I
6 would encourage you to think about communities that
7 would be interested in meeting with the Council.
8 Communities that have pressing subsistence issues that
9 they would like to address with the Council. And you
10 can always make that recommendation, and I will bring
11 that cost analysis and justification to Gene, and get
12 back to the Council on that. And we can always meet in
13 Bethel as an alternative.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

16

17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Am I hearing
18 you correctly that the remote villages meetings are not
19 -- well, we were restricted not to go to a village any
20 more. Has that been changed.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
23 The program was under strict budget restrictions and
24 travel restrictions for a number of years. We are no
25 longer under that strict travel restriction. There's
26 still budgetary issues, and that's why we need to
27 submit a cost analysis that goes along with that
28 request. And also provide -- you know, if there's an
29 urgency to meet in a particular village to address
30 subsistence issues, that helps support consideration of
31 meeting in a rural village. So it is a possibility.
32 It's not guaranteed. But I will draft up the request
33 and the cost analysis and submit that to our director
34 for his consideration.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Eva.

39

40 Any suggestions for the fall meeting.

41 Mr. Aloysius.

42

43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I move that
44 we have our fall Regional Advisory Council meeting for
45 2017 in Emmonak, Alaska on October 4 and 5.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on
48 the floor to have our next meeting on October 4 and 5
49 at Emmonak, Alaska. Do I hear a second to that motion.
50 Is there a second to the motion.

1 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Before we get a
2 second, I have a question. Before we have a second on
3 the motion, I have a question.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

6
7 MR. SMITH: Is there reasonable
8 accommodations for.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Mr. Oney.

11
12 MR. ONEY: I know we're still on
13 discussion, but we have to take into consideration also
14 the AVCP convention. It's usually the first week of
15 October.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are those date -- is
18 there any dates for that AVCP convention yet.

19
20 MS. PATTON: I am not sure about AVCP
21 convention. I know AFN is October 19th, 20th, and
22 21st. Does anyone else on the Council know AVCP
23 convention dates.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I'm sure that if
26 we.....

27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: I withdraw my motion,
29 because I forgot about the AVCP convention, and it's
30 very important to the people of this area.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What dates are those
35 AVCP convention.

36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: They say the first week
38 of October, so that's 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
41 might be an option, the Council could select a primary
42 date, and then a secondary date if the AVCP convention
43 ends up getting scheduled over the top, and that might
44 be one way to address that.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What do you think of
47 that, Mr. Aloysius. What she just said. Do you have
48 an alternate date.

49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: If that's case, you

1 know, I would move -- or I move that we have the fall
2 2017 Regional Advisory Council meeting in Emmonak on
3 October 11 and 12.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You heard the motion.
6 Do I hear a second. Mr. Peters.

7

8 MR. PETERS: You know, before the
9 motion, I was kind of concerned about, you know, giving
10 the other -- giving us an opportunity to where -- I
11 would like to see this.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There is a motion on
14 the floor. If you want to speak on it, you could, but
15 on the motion.

16

17 MR. PETERS: No, I wasn't speaking of
18 the motion, but, you know, where to have the meeting.
19 That part I would like to have -- you know, to say that
20 -- well, I was kind of hoping that they would have it
21 here in Bethel, because of the weather conditions and
22 stuff like that. And with the Staff and everybody
23 being here, it would be kind of a better location, you
24 know.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Our Staff is in
27 Anchorage, not here.

28

29 MR. PETERS: Oh. But, you know, due to
30 consideration of the weather coming from the villages.
31 And that might be a concern, but you know, just to let
32 everybody know.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. There was a
37 motion on the floor didn't get a second. The motion
38 was to hold the next meeting on the 11th and 12th at
39 Emmonak. Is there a second to that motion.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion dies lack
44 of second. Is there another suggestion. Mr. Andrew.

45

46 MR. ANDREW: I move that we have our
47 fall meeting on October 11 and 12 in Bethel at this
48 location, but lodging in Long House. You got it all
49 three, location site, meeting site.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You've got the motion.
2 Do I hear a second to that motion.
3
4 MR. PETERS: Second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by whom. Mr.
7 Peters.
8
9 Any further discussion. Mr. Aloysius.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. Thank you. You
12 know, in the beginning we used to rotate the rivers.
13 And we've been in Bethel for the last five, six years,
14 and yet we were instructed to select a village on the
15 Yukon and a village on the Kuskokwim alternatively, and
16 we haven't don't that for a long time. And the Yukon
17 River is part of the Y-K RAC. So we need to give them
18 a chance to come to the meeting, you know. The last
19 meeting we had on the Yukon was in Mountain Village.
20 So I think it's due time that we go back to the Yukon
21 River and let them know that we're still around, and
22 that they are welcome to share with us what they have
23 concerns about.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was there a second to
28 you motion. Oh, okay. Any further discussion on the
29 motion. Any further discussion.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MS. CLEVELAND: Question.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a second.
36 MR. ANDREW: Question.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, question's called
39 for. All in favor of the motion -- let's have a roll
40 call vote. The motion is to have our next meeting on
41 11th and 12th in Bethel.
42
43 MR. ULAK: Okay. Let me see here.
44 Annie Cleveland.
45
46 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
47
48 MR. ULAK: Dorothy Johnson.
49
50 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

1 MR. ULAK: Raymond Oney.
2
3 MR. ONEY: No.
4
5 MR. ULAK: Greg Roczicka absent. Bob
6 Aloysius.
7
8 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.
9
10 MR. ULAK: David Bill.
11
12 MR. BILL: Yes.
13
14 MR. ULAK: William Brown.
15
16 MR. BROWN: Yes.
17
18 MR. ULAK: James Charles.
19
20 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
21
22 MR. ULAK: John Andrew.
23
24 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
25
26 MR. ULAK: Michael Peters.
27
28 MR. PETERS: Yes.
29
30 MR. ULAK: Lester Wilde.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
33
34 MR. ULAK: Dale Smith.
35
36 MR. SMITH: No.
37
38 MR. ULAK: Myself, no. We have 1, 2,
39 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Seven yeas, and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 -- 5
40 no's, one absent.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So our next meeting
43 will be held here in Bethel on the 11th and 12th of
44 October.
45
46 Mr. Aloysius, we can discuss this again
47 at our next winter meeting which coming up again
48 anyway.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. The

1 suggestion was that we pick an alternate date also and
2 an alternate village. And this was just one of two
3 choices.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we wanted to get an
6 alternate date, that was suggested. Is there an
7 alternate date besides the 11th and 12th, and the
8 location Bethel. Let's get a motion ongoing to that
9 effect. Any suggestions for an alternate date or a
10 place. Mr. Aloysius.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: I remain quiet, because
13 I already made my alternate selection. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any alternate dates.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Then we'll
20 schedule out August/ November -- August to Nov -- our
21 fall meeting in October 11th and 12th here in Bethel.
22 And at our winter meeting this will come up again.
23 We'll confirm it at that time.

24

25 Okay. Jill Klein, are you on the phone
26 yet. Hello, Jill Klein.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There are no Jill
31 Klein. And we're down to our closing comments. There
32 was one -- Mrs. Rogers would like to have closing
33 comments, and then we'll go to the Board.

34

35 MS. JOSEPH-ROGERS: I'll make this
36 quick. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37

38 I wanted to address -- this is Alissa
39 Joseph-Rogers with Orutsararmiut Native Council,
40 director of Natural Resources.

41

42 I wanted to address Mr. Aloysius
43 comments about including elders into our ONC fisheries
44 program. Currently Janessa would have addressed this
45 in person, but she had an appointment that she had
46 already pre-arranged and was late for. We do have
47 Janessa working on a few programs that will include
48 traditional knowledge being passed on to our younger
49 generations.

50

1 Currently with the BRH science club, we
2 invite any of your or anyone that you would know within
3 the region to come and work with the youth. That would
4 be a great opportunity for anyone and any elders to
5 come and address our youth at that time.

6
7 Our second program that she is working
8 on is a summer program camp where we will need a few
9 elders to come and teach the students and youth about
10 our history, traditional knowledge, and culture, to
11 bring them back to their roots and give them a sense of
12 where they come from and who they are.

13
14 Our third program that we are looking
15 into is going to be a traditional knowledge program to
16 incorporate the history, present and future aspects of
17 our region, our people, and what the future may hold
18 for us.

19
20 But the most important is to get the
21 knowledge you all hold and document it before it is
22 lost and forgotten, because we don't want to lose or
23 forget these values in our culture.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Alissa.

28
29 At this time we're going to go with the Board members
30 on closing comments. We will start with Mr. Peters.
31 Do you have any closing comments.

32
33 MR. PETERS: I would like to thank
34 everybody. It's been a really productive meeting for
35 me, because there were a lot of concerns coming from
36 everybody. And, you know, working united together, and
37 get some of these issues passed, I think it is very
38 important for all of us. I would like to thank the
39 Staff and also Eva for the coordination with our
40 flights. And the only thing that I would like say is
41 that if we could have our packet mailed out early,
42 because sometimes because of the weather. But I would
43 like to thank everybody on the Board for, you know,
44 listening to my concerns, especially I kind of speak up
45 for upper end of Marshall on the Yukon. And I want to
46 thank Ray and also Dorothy, people that serve on the
47 RAC, I kind of work with the people coming from the
48 Yukon, but also with everybody on the Board.

49
50 Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And just to correct
2 you, we are not the Board. We are Council members.
3
4 MR. PETERS: Oh, the Council members.
5 Thank you for the correction, Mr. Chairman.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Andrew.
8
9 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman. Quyana to our Council members, and mostly
11 I'd like to thank our OSM Staff for all the hard work,
12 especially Pippa and Eva for driving us around and
13 having all the patience to tolerate us. And to ONC,
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Fish Game for helping us
15 out. They're always a great help. Without their help,
16 it's impossible for us to work on the proposals.
17
18 Then I still have to say little bit
19 about our fall moose hunting season. I would like to
20 see it least -- I had received recommendation to ask to
21 see if we can get a five or 10 days later moose season
22 in our area. We're not talking about remainder of Unit
23 18. We're talking about this small area right in the
24 Kwethluk and Bethel area where better than 1500 people
25 always compete for only 90, or at the most a little
26 over 100 moose.
27
28 Thank you. Quyana.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Annie. Ms. Cleveland,
31 do you have any closing comments.
32
33 MS. CLEVELAND: No.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comments.
36
37 Mr. Ulak, do you have any closing
38 comments.
39
40 MR. ULAK: I'd like to thank the OSM
41 Staff, agencies that were here the last two day.
42 Thanks to the new management, the RAC committee. I
43 think we did well. Still learning. Let's keep working
44 together. We'll be good.
45
46 Quyana.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Ulak.
49 Ms. Johnson.
50

1 MS. JOHNSON: No comment.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No comment. Mr.
4 Charles.
5
6 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, everybody.
7 Doi.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Short and sweet, to
10 the point. Mr. Brown.
11
12 MR. BROWN: I just wanted to thank
13 Federal and State agencies to respond to our questions.
14 Thank you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: First of all, I
19 apologize to anyone whom I may have hurt their spirit,
20 mind, and heart, because a lot of times I sound like
21 I'm very harsh, but I'm not. I have a hell of a time
22 trying to translate what's in my heart to my mind and
23 to my mouth, because I didn't grow up with the English
24 language, and it's easy to translate your spirit, your
25 mind, and your heart in a foreign language.
26
27 But, you know, I'm very soft-hearted.
28 And get to know me, you'll understand that. And it's
29 very difficult to through a four-layer translation of
30 what is really in here. And so I apologize if I hurt
31 anybody spiritually, mentally, or emotionally.
32
33 But mainly it's very gratifying for me
34 to experience the input of this group and the reception
35 that they have of the new people coming in with their
36 new ideas. But again I want to emphasize to you new
37 people that if you want any real expertise of this
38 area, you go to the people, because they've been here
39 for a long, long time.
40
41 Myself, I've been here for 300 years,
42 spiritually, mentally, and emotionally, and I mean that
43 from in here, because I grew up with old people who
44 were born, many of them, before 1850. And I know that
45 there's a lot of people out there of the Yupiak Nation
46 who are in that -- but they don't, for lack of a better
47 word, they're put in the closet and said, stay there.
48 I'm sure as hell not going to stay in that closet,
49 because I have something to say and I have something to
50 say to everybody. And I'm not afraid to say it, because

1 too damn long we've been shut spiritually, mentally,
2 and emotionally, especially in the Catholic missions.

3
4 And it took me until I was 60 years old
5 to break away from that chain, and from then I was
6 liberated thanks to a Canadian woman who was five feet
7 tall and about 5 feet around. But she said, you know,
8 if you want to clear yourself of the bounds that you
9 took when you were young, you have to bring them out in
10 the open. It took me 45 minutes to clear myself
11 spiritually, mentally, and emotionally of that crap
12 that I went through for a year and a half. I was only
13 eight years old. My grandson over here is going to be
14 nine in nine days, and I hope that he never experiences
15 anything like I did when I was eight years.

16
17 I was kidnapped and abducted by the
18 Catholic Church from my home in Kalskag and Aniak. You
19 can imagine what I went through during those times,
20 especially being picked up from a village, put in an
21 airplane and sent to Holy Cross, land on the sandbars,
22 and there's your new home. Go walk back there,
23 somebody will meet you. I was there for a year and a
24 half.

25
26 And it was contrary to my upbringing of
27 tender, loving care by two old women. I didn't grow up
28 with a mom and dad. I didn't grow up with brothers and
29 sisters. I grew up with two old women and they shaped
30 to remember that I am somebody, and nobody better tell
31 me that I'm not.

32
33 But when I got to the mission, it was
34 turned around completely. And I'm thinking, this is a
35 new culture. Why are they so damn harsh. And, you
36 know, during that year and a half, I learned how to
37 cuss, swear and curse, because that's all the way they
38 ever talked to us. Never any kind words. Never any
39 kind touches, you know. And if we do something wrong,
40 they whipped us with a fan belt, not a regular belt,
41 but a fan belt.

42
43 And so, you know, those things I
44 carried with me for a long, long time, and I was so
45 angry at the new, like somebody said, domineering
46 culture, because it wasn't a dominant culture, it was a
47 domineering culture.

48
49 And so I have a pretty hard time
50 expressing how gentle and kind and I am really. And

1 again I apologize if I hurt anybody's feelings
2 spiritually, mentally, or emotionally.

3
4 Quyana.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.

7
8 Mr. Oney, do you have any closing
9 comments.

10
11 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. I'll make it short and sweet.

13
14 First of all I want to thank you guys,
15 the Council, being here the last two days, and being
16 present every time we meet, so I thank you guys for
17 being here every day. And I also want to thank the
18 Staff of OSM for working with us to put this meeting
19 together.

20
21 And maybe for the next meeting, because
22 I felt really strongly that we should have heard from
23 Jill Klein, because of the planning team that she's
24 putting together, that we should -- I would like to
25 recommend that we take care of those that are on the
26 teleconference first, that have priorities, that we
27 need to make decisions on. Because these people that
28 are sitting here will sit here until we're done, but
29 those that are on teleconference, you know, they sit
30 have sit on the phone right there and deal with static
31 as we've been dealing with. So I'd recommend that we
32 take care of those people on teleconference, especially
33 those that, you know, are action items. We need to
34 give those guys first.

35
36 And thank you again for this meeting.
37 I think it was very productive for all of us, so have
38 good, safe trip back home.

39
40 And I also want to recognize those RAC
41 members that have gone before us, to remember them for
42 the work that they've done, and where they've put us
43 where we are today. So I'd like to remember those that
44 have gone before us. So thank you. Thank you again.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.
47 Mr. Smith.

48
49 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair. So I'd like to just thank everybody that came

1 to the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair for your
2 leadership here, and thank you OSM Staff for logistical
3 support. Thanks.

4

5 MR. BILL: I want to thank -- this is
6 one of the best meetings we ever had, and I want to
7 thank the gentleman yesterday who talked about working
8 in cooperation with us. We have been working with the
9 cooperation, we'd be a lot quieter and we'll be more
10 happy. And I think you very much for this meeting, you
11 know, I think one of the best meetings we ever had.
12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you very much.
15 And my closing comments are just plain thank you to the
16 Staff and to our recording secretary. And I also
17 thanked our interpreters earlier for the job that
18 they've done for us.

19

20 And again I would like to thank all the
21 Staff, all of you that participated in our meetings, to
22 get the information ready to us. Eva, thank you.

23

24 And at this time we're going to ask for
25 a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Aloysius.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Before we
28 adjourn, I would ask James to do a benediction.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If that's all right
31 with you, Mr. James, could you do the benediction for
32 us.

33

34 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)

35

36 MR. CHARLES: Let us pray. Thank you,
37 Lord, for everything you have provided us. And we
38 thank you for everything that -- a lot of information
39 we learned throughout the meeting, and let it be useful
40 for us, and people back home use the resource for
41 subsistence, and we ask you to lead us to when we go
42 home and be with us all the time. In Jesus name, amen.

43

44 IN UNISON: Amen.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time the Chair
47 would.....

48

49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
50 that we adjourn.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: A motion for
2 adjournment. There's a motion on the floor to adjourn
3 by Mr. Robert Aloysius. Do I hear a second.
4
5 MR. BILL: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Everybody says second.
8 Mr. Bill. all in favor of the motion say aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The meeting is now
13 adjourned at 7:33.
14
15 (Off record)
16
17 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 148 through 356 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 13th day of October at Bethel, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 7th day of November 2016.

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