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SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Nome Mini-Convention Center
Nome, Alaska
November 1, 2016
9:15 a.m.

Members Present:

Louis Green, Chairman
Fred Eningowuk
Theodore Katcheak
Ronald Kirk
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 11/1/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hello, we're live in Nome, Alaska. I'd like to call this meeting to order. Karen, can you do roll call, please. The time is.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: 9:15.

CHAIRMAN GREEN:9:15.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can everybody in the room hear me? It's generally not a problem. Hi, this is Karen Deatherage. I'm doing roll call for the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Theodore Katcheak.

MR. KATCHEAK: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

(No response)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Fred Eningowuk.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Present.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Charles Saccheus.

(No response)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Ronald Kirk.

MR. KIRK: Here.

MS. DEATHERAGE: With five members present we do have a quorum. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.
2 Welcome everybody. I think we're going to have some
3 introductions here. We'll start off to my right with
4 the Council and then we'll go into the Staff. Please
5 introduce yourself. Mr. Seetot,
6

7 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Kakaruk
8 my Eskimo name. I've been on the Seward Peninsula
9 Advisory Council since its inception, I think, since
10 1995 and this is probably my last cycle that I'll be
11 looking forward to in 2018.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15 MR. KATCHEAK: I'm Theodore Katcheak.
16 I'm from Stebbins. I have been on the Advisory Council
17 since it started. It's been my pleasure to serve.
18

19 Thank you.
20

21 MR. KIRK: I'm Ronald Kirk. I'm from
22 Stebbins. I was recently elected to serve on this
23 Council this spring. It's been a pleasure here, so I'm
24 going to do the best I can.
25

26 Thank you.
27

28 MR. ENINGOWUK: Uvlaalluataq, good
29 morning. My name is Fred Eningowuk from Shishmaref and
30 been serving on this Council since 2008 and it's been a
31 pleasure serving on this Council and helping our
32 people.
33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis Green, Chair.
35 I'm serving six years now. I spent 13 years on the
36 Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee. It's a
37 pleasure to be here. I'll turn it over to Staff to
38 introduce themselves.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hello, my name is
43 Karen Deatherage. I'm the Council Coordinator for the
44 Seward Peninsula Council from the Office of Subsistence
45 Management.
46

47 Thank you everybody for being here.
48

49 MR. SUMMERS: My name is Clarence
50 Summers, National Park Service. I work in the

1 Subsistence Division as a Subsistence Manager.
2
3 MS. APSENS: I'm Sarah Apsens. I'm
4 also with the Park Service and I'm a fisheries intern.
5
6 MS. WOODY: I'm Carol Ann Woody. I am a
7 fisheries biologist. I'm also with the Park Service in
8 Subsistence.
9
10 MR. STUP: I'm Tyler Stup and I'm with
11 KNOM.
12
13 MS. DEBENHAM: My name is Rosalie
14 Debenham. I am here representing the Bureau of Indian
15 Affairs from Juneau.
16
17 MR. ASHENFELTER: Good morning. My
18 name is Roy Ashenfelter representing Kawerak.
19
20 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Council. My
21 name is Don Rivard. I'm a fish biologist with the Fish
22 and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management.
23
24 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. Ken
25 Adkisson with the Subsistence Program, Western Arctic
26 National Parklands.
27
28 MR. DUNKER: Bill Dunker, Unit 22 area
29 biologist for Department of Fish and Game.
30
31 MR. SPARKS: Good morning. Tom Sparks,
32 BLM Nome Field Station.
33
34 MR. UBELAKER: Brian Ubelaker, wildlife
35 biologist with BLM here in Nome.
36
37 MS. MIKOW: Good morning. I'm Beth
38 Mikow. I work for the Subsistence Division out of
39 Fairbanks for the Department of Fish and Game.
40
41 MR. SEPPI: My name is Bruce Seppi, BLM
42 in Anchorage.
43
44 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine,
45 anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
46 Management.
47
48 MS. HOWARD: Good morning, Council.
49 I'm Ameer Howard, Policy Coordinator at OSM.
50

1 MR. MARTIN: Jacob Martin, Nome Eskimo
2 Community.
3
4 MR. MILLER: Andrew Miller, public.
5
6 MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk, Kawerak,
7 Inc.
8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you all for
10 introducing yourselves. Now could you please give me
11 your names again so I can write them down this time so
12 I don't forget who you are.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Excuse me,
17 Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: On that note, could
22 everybody please make sure that they sign in on the
23 sign-in sheet back there next to the candy. It's
24 strategically placed.
25
26 Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. It's my turn,
29 right?
30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.
32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I love this. Okay.
34 So we're looking to review the agenda and adopt the
35 agenda. We will have four additional items on the
36 agenda, two which will be actions. So I'd ask for a
37 motion and a second to go into discussion, please. Is
38 there a motion?
39
40 MR. KIRK: So moved.
41
42 MR. KATCHEAK: Second. Ted.
43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We are now
45 into discussion. The first item I have here on the
46 list is the Board of Game proposal update. We're going
47 to add that. The second one is the WSA16-03. That is
48 on the caribou. Special action also under 16-07 on
49 moose in 22D remainder. The Council Member Honorarium.
50 That's all four.

1 Is there any discussion to be had.
2
3 MR. ENINGOWUK: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Fred.
6
7 MR. ENINGOWUK: Could you please state
8 where those agenda items are going to be.
9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I've got Board of Game
11 update will be under old business as item C that's
12 listed and following predatory control. Then under new
13 business it would be the WSA16-03 and adding the 22D
14 moose 16-07, which will require action also. The
15 fourth item is the Council Member Honorarium designated
16 by the letter (h) under new business. We've added two
17 items. So we've got them all.
18
19 If there's any more discussion, I'd
20 like to hear it at this time.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MR. SEETOT: Question.
25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
27 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.
28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
32 sign.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion carries. That
37 brings us on to the review and approval of the previous
38 meeting minutes. I think that has to do with the March
39 9th, 2016. Looking for any changes, corrections. I
40 would ask for a motion and a second for discussion
41 purposes. Do I have a motion to approve.
42
43 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Move to
44 approve previous meeting minutes.
45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.
47
48 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second the motion.
49
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We're now

1 in discussion. Are there any changes, comments from
2 the Council.

3

4 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mr. Seetot.

7

8 MR. SEETOT: Page 6 it has my name on
9 the first paragraph on the last line. I wasn't at the
10 meeting. Page 6, approval of minutes, last line says
11 that it was seconded by Seetot. I wasn't at the
12 meeting. In the March meeting at the Egan Center.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.

15

16 MR. SEETOT: And then also on Page 8,
17 last paragraph, I think you have a typo on the last
18 name. Calvin Molder should be Moto. I'm not really
19 too sure on Page 9, the future meeting dates. It says
20 the new board room at the North Slope EC office may be
21 available. Was that available for all the Councils at
22 that meeting in March? I just need some clarification
23 on that. Page 9 on future meeting dates under the
24 heading, I wasn't really too sure what it would refer
25 to on the North Slope.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: That was a new meeting
28 room that somebody mentioned might be available for the
29 meeting if we chose to use that.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay. Thank you.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, through the
34 Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Is that
37 all, Mr. Seetot?

38

39 MR. SEETOT: Yes, sir.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted, your mic is on.
42 Did you have something to add?

43

44 MR. KATCHEAK: Oh, sorry.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Take a little bit more
47 time here to review.

48

49 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Fred.
2
3 MR. ENINGOWUK: As previously stated in
4 previous meetings, my name should have a middle
5 initial, Fred D. Eningowuk, as there is another Fred
6 Eningowuk.
7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.
9
10 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Just one on
11 Page 9, closing comments, Saccheus is misspelled.
12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the
14 correction.
15
16 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Call for the
17 question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
20 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
25 sign.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
30 passes. The agenda is approved with additions. I mean
31 -- excuse me. I'm reading it backwards here. The
32 review and approval of the March 9th meeting.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 So that moves us into item number 7,
37 which is reports. I'd like to hear from Council
38 members. Have you anything to report.
39
40 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Our season so
41 far has been good in the harvest of resources or
42 marine, land, sea. Also our Imuruk Basin is still
43 open. Grantley Harbor is still open, so that's
44 something that we need to look at in the future, that
45 our freezing dates have changed. Twenty-five years ago
46 I remember that it used to freeze even the first part
47 of September. That was about 40 years ago to my
48 recollection, even 50 years ago. I have seen it freeze
49 in Port Clarence Bay three times in December, so that's
50 kind of odd. One, it's mainly due to winds

1 predominantly from the Northeast that keeps the Bay
2 open.

3

4 Other than that life goes on as usual
5 at the community level. We've seen some high water
6 this past month. Our concern for high storms is still
7 there because we still do have a lot of open water.
8 High water adds more danger to the outlying communities
9 along the coastline.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Seetot.

14

15 Ted.

16

17 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
18 mention that we are experiencing the same situation
19 that Brevig has. Ours is usually until this last year
20 I think it was in January it started to freeze. Since
21 we're on an island, we're separated from the mainland,
22 so we're limited to subsistence hunting two months out
23 of the year because of late freeze or very thin ice.
24 So we've been getting these past years as just living
25 Stebbins, St. Michael Island, so we're kind of in a
26 situation where we might not see ice anymore in the
27 future if this continues.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

32

33 Ron.

34

35 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. We're
36 experiencing, like Ted says, this warm weather and our
37 harvest of our animals, like mammals like moose is
38 pretty hard to get to because of climate change and
39 high winds prevent us from taking our skiffs out. So
40 it's pretty hard during the fall now. We're losing a
41 lot of our natural resources, which we usually gather
42 off the land due to high waters coming over the bay and
43 into our flats. A lot of our edible greens are no
44 longer there.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

49

50 Fred.

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred from
2 Shishmaref. As stated with our Council Members, we are
3 having -- the climate change is affecting our
4 subsistence way of life. For Shishmaref, that's
5 getting kind of old news, so we are adapting to climate
6 change. That's our only choice is to adapt with the
7 climate change and we have to. That's how we have
8 survived for thousands of years as Inupiats.

9
10 During the summer I was building a boat
11 and spent a lot of time outside the house and I noticed
12 a lot of invasive insects. I have some photos in my
13 phone here of insects that I can't identify and we
14 don't see them up north before. So I don't know if
15 that's going to be affecting our wildlife that we
16 harvest. So we do have some invasive insects.

17
18 Also our community members are very
19 concerned about the oogrucs, the bearded seal, being
20 listed as threatened. They base that on the ice
21 without looking at the actual population of the oogrucs
22 or bearded seals, so there is a concern for our
23 community on that.

24
25 Another concern is the ban on ivory,
26 all ivory. We subsist on walrus. We use the ivory for
27 carving and that supplements our income. With the
28 limited jobs we have available in communities like
29 Shishmaref, that really helps our community. I,
30 myself, do some carving and I was going to take some
31 bracelets here today, but I forgot them in my room. So
32 that's one example of the concern our community has
33 with the ban on ivory, which started in Africa with the
34 elephant ivory.

35
36 Otherwise we had a pretty good summer
37 with blackberries. No salmonberries at all. A lot of
38 caribou. As our forefathers had predicted the caribou
39 would come back, they are back, so we are very
40 fortunate to have caribou here in our community.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. So
45 for my comments, I've been watching for years here and
46 seeing how things are happening on the Seward
47 Peninsula. We're losing our moose herds. We're losing
48 our muskox. We have also issues with caribou, the
49 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, has been reducing in
50 numbers. Reindeer herds are almost non-existent to a

1 point considering where they were 20 years ago, 10
2 years ago. We see lots of predation. Plenty of bears.
3 I spent some time out there hunting this year and I saw
4 quite a few and very few moose.

5
6 I don't know what the answer is at this
7 point, but it seems to me that if predation of bears
8 and wolves are so prevalent in our region here that
9 there should be something, a coordinated effort between
10 the Feds and the State to find some way to manage those
11 levels.

12
13 I know we've had predator control
14 discussed here at this level in a past meeting I wasn't
15 in attendance of. There's been discussions about it
16 since. It may be a real issue. I recall serving on
17 the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee and there
18 was discussion there about this coming up in the future
19 and we're there.

20
21 Having said that, we'll move on to
22 public and tribal comment of non-agenda items. We make
23 this available in the morning. If there's anybody that
24 has something to add to the meeting, making comments or
25 such, please step up to the mic.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There doesn't appear
30 to be any.

31
32 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted, go ahead.

35
36 MR. KATCHEAK: I'm a tribal council
37 member for Stebbins Community Association and Ron Kirk
38 recently came on board, so this is coming from a tribal
39 perspective.

40
41 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

44
45 MR. KIRK: I'd like to further
46 elaborate on what Fred stated earlier concerning our
47 walrus ivory and our mammoth ivory. Like Fred did, I
48 forgot my earrings in my room. I'm a carver too.
49 That's our way of life. A lot of us in the communities
50 we don't have jobs. Lack of employment throughout the

1 villages in Alaska, Interior, along the coast, all over
2 Alaska is very hard.

3

4 Now the Federal government trying to
5 ban the Alaska Natives walrus ivory and mammoth from us
6 is like taking food off our table, taking away our
7 heating fuel, our electricity, our food and clothing
8 off our children's backs. So I'm not very comfortable
9 with the Federal government trying to ban the use of
10 walrus.

11

12 We're not headhunters. We use our
13 walrus for food. We use the tusks for tools. Another
14 thing I'm concerned about is oogruk. If they start
15 banning oogruk in our area, my concern is our area down
16 towards the Yukon. We get a lot of young oogruks this
17 year, this time of year, fall time. They're all in the
18 rivers down there, all the young oogruks, and that's
19 what we live off.

20

21 That's my concern, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I
24 suppose I would have to add to that. Walrus hunting and
25 oogruk hunting.

26

27 Ma'am, it's your turn. I'll step down.
28 Please introduce yourself.

29

30 MS. WOODY: I am Carol Ann Woody and
31 I'm with the National Park Service. I just want to
32 address your concern regarding the ivory. I just
33 wanted to make very clear that the Federal government
34 is not trying to ban the sale of walrus, ivory or
35 mammoth ivory. What they have been working on is
36 banning the sale of elephant ivory and the exchange of
37 that.

38

39 The reason I know this is my brother is
40 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and his name is Bill
41 Woody and he's worked very hard on this issue for a
42 long time because they're wiping out the world's
43 elephants for ivory. People are working hard and we
44 can work together. We can make sure that people are
45 educated and know the difference between the ivory that
46 you work with and elephant ivory.

47

48 So please don't think that that's
49 what's going on because the Federal government is not
50 trying to ban walrus and mammoth ivory, so please don't

1 think that.

2

3 Thank you very much.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your

6 comment.

7

8 Fred.

9

10 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, the only reason I

11 brought that up was I attend AFN every year and that

12 was one of the agenda items during AFN and that was a

13 hot topic during AFN. So I just wanted to comment on

14 that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. To

17 add to my report, I guess the discussion of ice seals,

18 like oogruk, ring seal, spotted seal, ribbon seal. I

19 spend a lot of time down there in the Seattle area in

20 the last couple years because of a medical issue of my

21 son's, but I see seals there. There's no ice there.

22 They get along just fine.

23

24 I kind of have a hard time the people

25 in the Lower 48 thinking that ice seals have to always

26 have ice. It's not necessarily true. And walrus, I

27 know they need time to rest, but I've seen seals out

28 here when I've hunted that are sleeping in the water.

29 They don't sleep on the ice always.

30

31 Polar bears. I made a comment several

32 years ago about why would you want to restrict hunting

33 to polar bears if the ice cap is shrinking and there's

34 less food for them. The last thing you want is too

35 many of them running around. My other idea was that

36 they're going to adapt. They're going to reestablish

37 themselves on land. That's where they started from in

38 the first place.

39

40 And that's what's happened. I mean the

41 Federal government recognizes that. So when all these

42 things come up and it's a threat to our existence, our

43 way of life and the animals and the products we utilize

44 to get along in our tough economic situation up here,

45 it's something that we will voice our opinions on and

46 we will discuss.

47

48 Appreciate your comment though. It

49 relieved me a little bit on there and I'm sure my

50 fellow Council members have that thought.

1 Mr. Ashenfelter with Kawerak.

2

3 MR. ASHENFELTER: Good morning. My
4 name is Roy Ashenfelter. I represent Kawerak. On the
5 listing for bearded, ring and spotted, I believe
6 bearded is the one that's currently listed and they're
7 working on listing the other three. The process I
8 believe may not be correctly followed by NMFS. They're
9 supposed to do public hearings or public notices in
10 this process. When they came here a year and a half
11 ago, it was already listed in their book, so we were
12 trying to make the argument that we didn't have a
13 chance to contest or make comment on their comments or
14 their written strategy for listing bearded.

15

16 So one of the recommendations that
17 should come out is the proper process for public
18 notice. Coming up here to Alaska, to Western Alaska
19 specifically because we're the major hunters of seals
20 and as you all know they provide a subsistence resource
21 for us.

22

23 Fortunately for us, the North Slope
24 Borough sued one and less than a month ago it was re-
25 listed through an injunction by a judge. Anyway, at
26 the end of the day, hopefully the Federal government
27 can get with NMFS and have them do the proper process
28 for listing. That there'd be public hearings prior to
29 the listing so that we can all weigh in on their
30 decision or their ideas of listing these various
31 species.

32

33 So, to me, that would be a very
34 important first step and I believe we were not
35 correctly informed. In fact, like I said earlier, we
36 were informed after the fact and that's not good.

37

38 So anyway, those are my comments.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.
41 Ashenfelter.

42

43 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted, from
46 the Council.

47

48 MR. KATCHEAK: I think what needs to be
49 done is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should
50 notify people of Alaska that this is not walrus or some

1 other ivory that's from Alaska. It's an elephant from
2 Africa ivory. So if we could get somebody to notify
3 people of Alaska that -- you know, for a while it
4 seemed like all of a sudden we can't carve and we can't
5 hunt walrus. If you can come up with a notice to the
6 public, that would be fine, I think.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

11

12 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

15

16 MR. KIRK: I'm wondering, concerning
17 bearded seals, I'm wondering if the Federal government
18 is including further down past Stebbins towards the
19 Yukon, towards Hooper Bay, because the bearded seals
20 migrate that far down. When I spoke earlier concerning
21 the bearded seals, the young bearded seals, they enter
22 into these rivers in the Yukon so they end up in the
23 Emmonak, Kotlik, Alagnak in the rivers, so we have
24 young bearded seals going that far and that's my
25 concern.

26

27 A lot of the bearded seals don't only
28 reside in our area but further down. So I'd like the
29 Federal government take a further look into that
30 because it's not only affecting our area, it's
31 affecting the whole Alaska coast.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I'm
36 looking for any additional comments from the public.
37 Nobody on the phone? Okay.

38

39 Well, that takes us to item number 9
40 under old business, under (a) Draft of Nonrural
41 Determination Policy. There's no action. We're going
42 to have somebody come up here and speak to this. We're
43 going to have a slide show. Amee, right?

44

45 MS. HOWARD: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I guess
48 apparently there is an action item here to act on this,
49 so we'll pick that up here after the slide show
50 presentation. Thank you.

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let's take a five-
4 minute break here and be ready for this.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'd like to call the
11 meeting back to order here and we have this
12 presentation with Amee on the Draft Nonrural Policy.
13 Are there further things to add here, Karen?

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
16 Deatherage, Council Coordinator. For those of you on
17 the telephone, we're having technical difficulties. I
18 know that you can hear us, but we are unable to hear
19 you at this time, so we did want to let you know that.

20

21 Thank you for your patience.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Amee, you've got the
24 floor.

25

26 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
27 the record, I'm Amee Howard. I'm the Policy
28 Coordinator at the Office of Subsistence Management.
29 Good morning and thank you all for being here.

30

31 On Page 11 of your book you will find
32 the Draft Policy on Nonrural Determinations. This is
33 what we're going to be talking about and hopefully
34 we'll get some feedback and comments from you.

35

36 To kick off, we're almost finished with
37 the rural process. As most of you know and have been
38 part of for I would say the last four years, going
39 through the rural process to simplify the regulations.
40 There were factors. Some say there were eight factors.
41 There were factors that were in regulation prior to the
42 rural process. Those factors have now been removed and
43 on November 4th, 2015, so almost a year ago to the day,
44 if you look on Page 19, you'll see the Federal Register
45 notice of the final rule for rural determination
46 process.

47

48 What it really boils down to is the
49 Board now determines which areas or communities in
50 Alaska are nonrural. All other communities and areas

1 are therefor rural. So that's how simplified the
2 regulations are now for the rural process.

3
4 In January 2016, the Board directed
5 Staff to create a nonrural policy that will outline the
6 administrative process for future nonrural
7 determinations. That's what we have in the book here.
8 Starting on Page 11, this is the Board's draft policy
9 that we're presenting to you so you can look at how
10 they plan to administratively address.

11
12 Again, this is just the administrative
13 process. It lays out a schedule, a general timeline
14 and it also talks about making nonrural determinations,
15 rescinding nonrural determinations because we have
16 heard from some communities that were aggregated or
17 grouped with larger communities that they may in the
18 future want to put in a proposal to the Board to
19 ungroup themselves so they can perhaps be designated as
20 rural.

21
22 We also outlined the decision-making
23 process, what the Board will take into consideration
24 when making a decision. We also have on Page 16 and 17
25 a step-by-step process timeline and we also on 17 have
26 a layout of how all of the cycles fit together.

27
28 So in July 2016, the Board approved
29 this policy in the book to be presented to you. The
30 best thing to focus on right now in my opinion would be
31 on Page 13. The policy begins and you'll see process.
32 It's envisioned that making a nonrural determination or
33 even addressing nonrural status altogether will go
34 through some very key steps.

35
36 There will be a threshold process. So
37 say a proposal comes in to change a nonrural status,
38 whether that's to make one or rescind one. That
39 proposal will be validated by Staff in the same manner
40 that fish and wildlife proposals are. We look for
41 names, we look to make sure all the pieces are there,
42 that type of thing.

43
44 With nonrural determination proposals,
45 however, once it's validated by Staff, those proposals
46 will then go out to the Councils, out to the affected
47 Councils at their fall meeting and that will be the
48 first opportunity for Councils to see what's being
49 proposed and provide initial recommendations on those
50 proposals.

1 Then we'll go through some more general
2 steps with the ISC, we'll go through a tribal
3 consultation if requested at that time, an ANCSA
4 corporation consultation if requested at that time, and
5 then all that information will be packaged and
6 presented to the Board in a threshold nonrural
7 presentation.

8
9 So at that time the Board will
10 determine whether or not the proposals meet their
11 threshold requirements. At that time the proposal
12 could go forward or it could be concluded. This is
13 very similar to the process that the Board has for
14 request for reconsideration. So when they adopt a
15 regulation and someone puts in a request to change it
16 after the fact, there's a threshold process and then a
17 full process.

18
19 So we took that same type of process
20 and allowed it to be for the nonrural, thinking that
21 this would be a good way to make sure that we're not
22 going through and putting forward proposals that may be
23 arbitrary or may not have support from Councils or a
24 myriad of other variables.

25
26 At this point I can ask does that make
27 sense. What we're looking for today is feedback from
28 you, comments from you, on the administrative process
29 on the policy. Are there things that are important for
30 the Council to have added. I'm open to questions. All
31 the comments are going to be reviewed and incorporated
32 into the final draft of the policy and then presented
33 to the Board in January.

34
35 Hopefully the Board will approve the
36 policy in January so that we can kick things into gear.
37 We can finalize this rural process. This very long,
38 four-year process going through rulemaking. Now we're
39 at the finish line. This is the policy outlining how
40 the Board will act.

41
42 So Mr. Chair, Council Members.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ameer.
45 Anybody on the Council here have any comments or
46 concerns. We have the option of acting on this through
47 motion or we can just make comment to it to assist them
48 in any further changes if you see anything in there.
49 This has been a long process and I guess the final
50 meeting for a decision on it -- yeah, the Board is

1 going to meet in January this coming year.

2

3 MS. HOWARD: Just to clarify, the final
4 rule and the direct final rule that are appendices,
5 this is success. This is all the hard work that the
6 Councils put in all the public meetings. Like Chairman
7 Green said, it's been a long process. So I do want to
8 let you know that this is success. The regulations
9 were simplified, the factors that a lot of people --
10 population being required, things of that nature, those
11 were taken out.

12

13 So I just really want to thank the
14 Council for their participation and also just let you
15 know that this is success and the Board policy,
16 although it's important, this is just the
17 administrative process. This is how we're going to
18 handle the proposals according to the regulations that
19 everyone here helped get put into place.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I see Mr. Kirk is
24 still reviewing some of this. Any comments or concerns
25 of the Council.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There doesn't seem to
30 be. Do we want to just follow up with a motion or do
31 we want to just -- there's no other time for comment
32 period on this. This is pretty much right here. So if
33 you're comfortable with it, we could do it under a
34 motion to approve, but I'm leaving that open.

35

36 Ted.

37

38 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I move to
39 adopt this.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have a motion on
42 the floor from Ted to approve. Is there a second.

43

44 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second by Fred. Under
47 discussion. It's been a long work. Four years. It's
48 been pretty well hammered out, so I think I can feel
49 comfortable with it from the time that it's taken to
50 get this far. I hadn't seen anything or recognized

1 anything that I'd want to comment on at this time.
2 Hopefully I didn't miss anything.

3
4 So I'd ask for the question.

5
6 MR. KIRK: Question.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
9 called. All those in favor of the motion signify by
10 saying aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposed same
15 sign.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
20 passes. A mee.

21
22 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Chairman Green,
23 Council Members. If you do find yourself with
24 questions, I will be here the whole meeting. I'm open.
25 Let me know. We can discuss it further.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
30 presentation. That brings us under old business to
31 item (b) predator control overview. I think Karen is
32 going to present that for us. Karen.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 This is Karen Deatherage, Council Coordinator. As many
36 of you are aware, the issue of predator control has
37 been a topic for several of our Councils. So I'm going
38 to read you a statement that we put together to help
39 clarify what Councils can and cannot do with respect to
40 requesting predator control and who they would go to if
41 they were interested. So I'm going to go ahead and
42 read this statement.

43
44 I'm going to just read each section and
45 after I read a section of the protocol for predator
46 control, I'm going to open it up to questions for you.

47
48 Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. My
49 job as Council Coordinator is to assist Councils to be
50 as effective as possible. For the past couple of years

1 in particular some of the Subsistence Regional Advisory
2 Councils have spent a considerable amount of time
3 discussing predator control in their regions.

4
5 While we recognize this is an issue of
6 concern for many of our Councils, it is important that
7 Councils engage in work that is consistent with their
8 Charter, which can be found in your meeting book.

9
10 The focus of the Council's effort
11 should be on subsistence issues that fall within the
12 purview of the Federal Subsistence Program, which, as
13 noted below, does not include predator control to
14 benefit specific wildlife populations.

15
16 So now I'm going to read some
17 information that hopefully will be helpful to you
18 regarding this discussion. Both the final
19 Environmental Impact Statement for the Federal
20 Subsistence Program and the Federal Subsistence Board
21 Predator Management Policy note that the Board's
22 delegated authority under Title VIII of ANILCA only
23 permits the Board to administer the subsistence taking
24 and uses of wildlife on Federal public lands and that
25 predator control is not a subsistence use. Thus the
26 Board is not empowered to engage in predator control
27 and cannot direct land managers to engage in it.

28
29 So that's the first thing I read. Does
30 anybody have any questions about that? The Predator
31 Control Policy is in your books if you want to read
32 additional information about that. This is specific to
33 the Federal Subsistence Board.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Now I'm going
38 to read two ways that the Council is permitted to
39 request predator control. The Federal Subsistence
40 Regional Advisory Councils may submit a request to
41 Federal land managers for Agency-sponsored predator
42 control in their region. So, in other words, Councils
43 can write directly to a Refuge Manager or a Park
44 Superintendent and request predator control.

45
46 Notably, that will go through a
47 process. We've had that go through the U.S. Fish and
48 Wildlife Service on Unimak Island down in the Alaska
49 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. That is something
50 if the Council is interested and this is for Federal

1 lands, they can write directly to the Federal land
2 manager and request predator control.

3

4 Are there any questions about that?

5

6 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. You stated we
7 can write letters to who?

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: To the land managers.
10 Actually you could even write to the regional offices,
11 but our recommendation is you would write to the
12 specific land manager. So if you had a Refuge Manager,
13 you could write to that person and say we see an issue
14 with being able to get our subsistence needs met. We
15 believe that predation is having an impact and we would
16 like your agency to consider predator control for that
17 Refuge or Park.

18

19 I have a copy of this write-up, so I
20 can certainly provide that to you and anybody else so
21 you don't have to worry about writing this stuff down.

22

23 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. It would be good
24 if she could pass out a copy to the Council Members.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: She will. Karen, I
27 guess the Federal land manager is the Superintendent of
28 the Bering Land Bridge Park to be specific.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Yes, that
31 would be the one that's applicable to this region.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred.

34

35 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This
36 is Fred. I just wanted to see. It would be like
37 Shishmaref, we're surrounded by Federal lands, which is
38 the Bering Land Bridge Preserve. So can it be from
39 this table that we request to the Park Service for
40 predator control or can the tribal government issue a
41 request for that?

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.
46 Yes, the tribal government can indeed make a request to
47 the manager for predator control. There's no
48 limitations on that. In fact, anybody could actually
49 make a request, but it does stimulate in most cases a
50 NEPA process, so it would go through a complete review.

1 But the village of Shishmaref could indeed send a
2 letter to the Park Service requesting predator control
3 if they have concerns about predation on subsistence
4 resources.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else. Elmer,
9 go ahead.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: Do you have more to this
12 letter? I'll kind of comment at the end.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm going to read the
15 next option that you have for requesting predator
16 control and this would have to do with the State and
17 State lands.

18

19 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
20 Councils may also submit a proposal to the Alaska Board
21 of Game to modify regulations related to the intensive
22 management of big game prey populations. So the State
23 calls this not predator control but intensive
24 management. So you could put forth a proposal to the
25 Board of Game to enact intensive management on the
26 State lands if there is concern about predation on
27 subsistence resources.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, could you say
32 what term they used.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: The term that the
35 State uses is intensive game management because of the
36 statute, the Intensive Game Management Law.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Any other
39 members of Council.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: There's a question
44 from the audience.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a question
47 from the audience. Mr. Ashenfelter.

48

49 MR. ASHENFELTER: Again, my name is Roy
50 Ashenfelter. I represent Kawerak. In this predator

1 control process, if you do it on the State portion,
2 using Seward Peninsula as an example, you would only
3 affect State lands. You would not affect the Bering
4 Land Bridge lands if you were to do intensive
5 management. So these wild animals, if you will,
6 couldn't proliferate on the Bering Land Bridge lands
7 while we have an opportunity if we choose to do
8 intensive management on game lands on State lands. Is
9 that my understanding of this process?

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Well, it's not the
12 process itself, but biologically I suppose that can
13 occur. If you don't allow it on Federal lands but
14 you're allowing it on State lands, certainly the
15 Federal lands populations of wolves or bears on those
16 lands could go into the State lands. I believe
17 actually there was a study done down in Denali to look
18 at that particular situation, but they didn't see these
19 Federal lands as a sink hole so to speak for increased
20 predators to move on to State lands. But they have to
21 be distinctly different because of the different laws
22 governing the different lands.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy. Kind
25 of the way I understand it though is if you're going to
26 do predator control, you're going to take a section of
27 land, an area, and you're going to work that and you're
28 going to study it, so it's not just an overall.

29

30 And I understand what Roy is saying
31 that the possibility if it's done on State lands, that
32 they could be over in Federal lands. But it would seem
33 to me too if that was the case, that the area was
34 taking in the State and Fed lands, that they'd be
35 working together. It's an expensive venture, so in
36 these times. But the conversation has been on
37 everybody's list. It's something that maybe needs to
38 be considered.

39

40 Go ahead, Karen.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Also
43 another point is it can work the other way. We've seen
44 issues with wolf populations in Yukon Charley Preserve
45 where those wolves were actually Park wolves that were
46 removed through the State predator control program. So
47 wolves are going to go where they go and the same with
48 bears, so there's no way to really define that with
49 respect to any type of formal program.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 The last thing I had is not really
4 applicable, but I'm going to read it anyway or I don't
5 think it's applicable, but it has to do with sea
6 otters. Sea otters and other marine mammals are
7 protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The
8 Act does not authorize predator control of marine
9 mammals. Subsistence hunting of marine mammals by
10 Alaska Natives however is permitted under the Act.

11

12 So those are the four points that we
13 would like to make about predator control and what the
14 limitations are and what the possibilities are with
15 respect to Council activities.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. Are
20 there any further comments. I see Elmer is ready to
21 push the button.

22

23 MR. SEETOT: Yes. I think we've talked
24 about predator control pretty much on the Federal side
25 and on the State side depending on which Council or
26 agency that you're on. State and Federal government
27 have administrative regulations that they put on paper
28 and also in policies that prohibit certain things.

29

30 However, as a subsistence hunter in the
31 Seward Peninsula area, I guess our wildlife resources
32 have survived over the years all the way from what to
33 eat to what eats those -- I mean the harvesters and the
34 predators. Over the years I think the Federal
35 government has been pretty vocal due to its policies on
36 predator control.

37

38 However, on the local level, you can do
39 it on the local level where you do have hunters that
40 part of their subsistence lifestyle that they go after
41 predators or furbearing animals such as wolves. I took
42 a ride to Imuruk Basin about 10 years ago. That was
43 about 150-mile ride in one day just looking at the
44 river systems. During that ride or over the course of
45 three weeks we counted 21 moose kills by wolves. That
46 was before Brevig Mission really started hunting
47 wolves. It's been pretty much the same like that.

48

49 The Kuzitritin, the American, those river
50 drainages that was pretty much within Imuruk Basin, so

1 I know that predation of ungulates by wolves is pretty
2 high in our area. However our hunters are very adamant
3 in catching these wolves. I think Shishmaref and
4 Teller are pretty much two communities that's pretty
5 much harvested wolves during the past year and the past
6 five years. It's just that more communities are more
7 active in taking a ride in the winter time and going
8 after whatever they're going after.

9

10 The other thing is traditional
11 ecological knowledge that has been passed down for
12 generations during our lifetimes for the Inuit and for
13 the Yup'ik hunters. Whatever you take, that's what
14 they tell us, dos and don'ts of wildlife resource, dos
15 and don'ts of living. Waste not, want not pretty much
16 is one of that.

17

18 I did mention something about quarrel
19 over wildlife resources, argue over wildlife resources,
20 and after a while the resources won't be there for you.
21 I mentioned that at a muskox meeting because many of
22 the locals and Seward Peninsula residents mentioned
23 that muskox were a nuisance. They were reintroduced
24 into the Brevig Mission area through Port Clarence 1975
25 or that sort without any consultation with the
26 communities that were being affected. I think that
27 portion where we're not being consulted is kind of a
28 thing of the past.

29

30 Now these wildlife predators that we're
31 going after, especially wolves, because I think with
32 movement by wolves when they're chasing, I think that's
33 where the majority of our wolves in 22D are going to
34 22E because I think they feel safe there. One is that
35 there is a line from Shishmaref all the way to Brevig
36 Mission, I think a no-cross line for predators that do
37 go in there. Even though they do have lots of
38 mountains within that area, we've been outsmarted by
39 wolves so many times that we're thinking like wolves
40 now. We used to kind of chase them all around. Now
41 we're, oh, I know which way they went last time, so
42 this is what we'll do.

43

44 Our ancestors or the people before me
45 mentioned that the caribou will be coming back in our
46 area. Last year was the first time that I seen caribou
47 or as the young people in Brevig, I sawn it. They say
48 it when they're trying to outdo each other. At least
49 we're able to see caribou, the bull caribou come in to
50 our area, but we had to go more east where the heavier

1 population was during the wintertime.

2

3

4 Our initial hunts for caribou I think
5 on our expedition was anywhere from 200 to 300-mile
6 round robin type scouting trip and then after that we
7 were able to get caribou within 100 miles and it got
8 closer, 60 miles within the past five years, now it's
9 within 20 miles. I'm not really too sure how they're
10 moving, but I think the residents of Shishmaref and
11 Brevig are getting the majority of the wolves have been
12 able to let the caribou and other ungulates kind of
13 graze peaceful in the western portion of Seward
14 Peninsula.

14

15

16 Other than that you do have a lot of
17 Nome hunters that go up to the lava lake beds and
18 there's a lot of wolf activity that they use as
19 territory perimeter and the eastern portion of Imuruk
20 Lake and that's pretty much a corridor that the wolves
21 take to go to the southern portion of the Western
22 Seward Peninsula and that's where the majority of our
23 hunters are training or focusing their attention on.

23

24

25 Right now we do not have any snow
26 within our hunt area, but hopefully the predators won't
27 be as much as it was last year because I think you have
28 to have a balance between the ones that are being eaten
29 and the ones that eat other things and to try to
30 decimate the wolf population I think, like Louis say,
31 you would have a rise in certain populations of the
32 wildlife resources.

32

33

34 Bear-wise, we just talk about them and
35 they continue to destroy or break into cabin up around
36 Agiapuk River. I witnessed a couple or I did see a
37 couple break-ins, so that's something that people in
38 Teller and Brevig do not really do any bear hunting and
39 we welcome any bear hunters within Imuruk Basin area to
40 harvest, you know, from Nome side, especially during
41 the open seasons in the spring.

41

42

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

43

44

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

45

46

Karen.

47

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you very much,
50 Council Members, for your comments. It looks like we
51 have one more from Roy Ashenfelter.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Roy.

4

5 MR. ASHENFELTER: I'm trying to get
6 caught up on the predator control. The statements you
7 made, are they going to be added to the policy that was
8 passed May 20, 2004? Is there going to be the added
9 statements for written comments or, excuse me, if
10 Shishmaref, using that as an example, wanted to do a
11 predator control management on the Bering Land Bridge,
12 from what I understand they can write a letter to the
13 manager here in Nome and there's a process then that
14 would precipitate this effort for predator control. Is
15 that something that's going to be added to this policy
16 or is this something that's being contemplated and
17 needs public comments on it?

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Ashenfelter
20 through the Chair. The points made about writing
21 directly to the land manager or about the Board of Game
22 will not be added to the Federal Subsistence Board
23 policy and that is specific to the Board.

24

25 What I'm trying to do and what we are
26 trying to do at the Office of Subsistence Management is
27 point out ways of the process that you could ask for
28 predator control and also reiterate the Federal
29 Subsistence Board policy that does not allow for
30 request through the Board for predator control.

31

32 Does that make sense to you, Mr.
33 Ashenfelter? In other words, that policy is specific
34 to the Federal Subsistence Board. It does not in any
35 way affect the ability or inability of Federal land
36 managers to implement predator control on their
37 specific land units.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead again, Roy.

40

41 MR. ASHENFELTER: So is there going to
42 be a public or a written strategy in these books now
43 for this new process so that people who, for example,
44 using Shishmaref again or Brevig or anyone on the
45 Seward Peninsula that wants to request a predator
46 control that there be a written method, the method that
47 you read off your screen there, that somehow that be a
48 process available for people to review and choose to do
49 because it's now written?

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Ashenfelter,
2 through the Chair. This is not a new policy or a new
3 process. Councils, villages, tribes and individual
4 members of the public have always had the opportunity
5 to request predator control or intensive management
6 through either the State or Federal land managers.

7
8 What we're trying to do is to clarify
9 for the Councils where they can direct their
10 correspondence so that they can be effective in the
11 process because we've seen Council after Council try to
12 request that the Federal Subsistence Board actually
13 take on the task of either requesting from land
14 managers predator control or allowing for proposals to
15 come in asking for predator control. Those are not
16 permitted under the Federal subsistence policy.

17
18 What we are sharing with you is
19 something that's always been available. Councils,
20 tribes, individuals have always had the opportunity to
21 request predator control through Federal land managers
22 or through the State and their intensive game
23 management program. Does that make sense? This is not
24 a new policy or a change in any policy.

25
26 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yeah, it makes sense
27 in that you understand it, okay, and maybe other
28 Federal guys and ladies here understand it. This is
29 the first time I've heard of this and this has been on
30 the books for a long time. Where is it that a general
31 Joe Blow from the public could know to write the letter
32 and say I want to recommend a predator control for
33 bears on the Bering Land Bridge?

34
35 So understanding that we all agree that
36 it's been on the books for a long time, the process for
37 hopefully maybe in the future, I'm just offering a
38 suggestion for everyone to learn that there's this
39 process that's been available for a while that I myself
40 just learned today is available.

41
42 I guess anybody could write the letter
43 and then the Staff will write back and say now you've
44 got the information, go ahead and -- I don't know. I'm
45 just asking that there be a written notice that this is
46 available to the public.

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Ashenfelter,
49 through the Chair. I think that any kind of proposal
50 from the public or tribes or even the Council is like

1 any other proposal. It's a simple proposal of your
2 concerns. There's no set policy or methodology with
3 respect to requesting predator control on other Federal
4 or State lands to my knowledge. How they reacted to
5 are different from each agency.

6
7 Let's say that the village wanted to
8 ask the Board of Game to implement intensive game
9 management. They would do that through the Board of
10 Game process that's already in place by entering a
11 proposal during the next cycle that covers the region
12 and requesting an intensive game management program on
13 bears or wolves or whatever predation issue the area is
14 concerned with for the protection of moose or caribou
15 or whatever game species that the village is concerned
16 with.

17
18 So it's the same process. It's just
19 letting you know that this is available to you and has
20 been. A letter to the Federal land manager expressing
21 your concerns is the second methodology you could use.
22 There's no outside or different process than any other
23 thing that you would request from the Federal
24 government. Does that help you a little more? I'd be
25 happy to share also with you a copy of this paper so
26 that you have it distinctly written out as to the
27 options and opportunities that I handed out to the
28 Council.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. The
33 way I'm taking this is the information, this intensive
34 management through the State or predator control
35 through the Feds and the requesting process, it's new
36 to me too. I didn't know this was in here, so I'm glad
37 that this has been brought up.

38
39 There's been plenty of talk about
40 predation control over the last few years here at this
41 table and other tables. So I'm glad this has been
42 brought forward. It shows that there is opportunity
43 other than dealing with the Federal Subsistence Board
44 because the Subsistence Board is only about
45 subsistence, it's not about taking game for control
46 measures outside of their scope of business, I suppose
47 you would say.

48
49 So, having said that, I think if
50 anybody -- I don't think anybody else has anything to

1 bring up. Are you going to ask a question or make a
2 comment.

3

4 MR. SEETOT: Comment.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

7

8 Elmer.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: Under predator control I
11 think some of the communities do have incentives to
12 bring down or to control the population of wolves.
13 Like in St. Lawrence where every wolf you kill you get
14 a certain amount of reindeer. In the past I was trying
15 to get Kawerak to do that within the Seward Peninsula
16 because supposedly you have 17 reindeer permit owners
17 for the land in Seward Peninsula. Now there's only,
18 what, maybe one, two, three, four active herds within
19 Seward Peninsula, Stebbins, St. Michael, along with
20 Kuchuk, Kakaruk Herd, Wales, and then possibly Nome.

21

22 So that's something that I have been
23 able to do, is to mention to Kawerak is to do an
24 incentive. For those that are licensed and registered
25 with State of Alaska, you don't need to talk about
26 predator control. Just do it, you know. I mean for
27 BLM or for land managers and stuff like that, it's
28 pretty hard for you to say we're going to do this, but
29 I think you do have to go by what is printed in your
30 book and then what is printed in your job description
31 and then present it to us, the hunters, the consumers.

32

33

34 Sometimes we do have a hard time trying
35 to understand what is being written in simple English
36 because we don't have no college degrees and stuff like
37 that, but we do know the environment and what was
38 taught to us over the years from our ancestors and we
39 still try to keep it on. I think you just need to have
40 a balance between wildlife resources and the wolves and
41 bears just to keep everything in balance. That's how
42 everything is supposed to work. According to what is
43 being written on paper sometimes is not really there.
44 But we're also going into changing times where the norm
45 in the past is being replaced by something new and
46 that's how we've been able to adapt.

47

48 At Brevig Mission we talk about it a
49 lot, but we don't really go after bears. We talk about
50 it a lot in Brevig Mission, but we do really go after

1 wolves because that is what is spreading our animals
2 around. Moose are going over toward 22E in my opinion
3 because of placement by wolves and other predators.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Seetot.

8

9 Karen, you have something to add.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Well, I would like to
12 thank everybody for their comments. I'd like to go
13 ahead and conclude by saying that the intent of reading
14 these points for the Council is also to recognize that
15 this is a Council that is for the Federal Subsistence
16 Management Program and there's a lot of work that has
17 to be done that the Council needs to focus on that is
18 relevant to the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

19

20

21 So we've seen a lot of time spent on
22 predator control, so part of the reason why this was
23 written was to help guide the Council to focus on those
24 issues that they can do something about at the Federal
25 subsistence level and then to provide some guidance on
26 how you could affect it outside of the Federal
27 Management Program through the State or through the
28 land managers.

29

30 So I just want to make clear that
31 point, that the focus of the Councils are to look at
32 those issues where you do have jurisdiction and
33 responsibility for helping to bring forth community
34 concerns to the Federal Subsistence Board.

35

36 Thank you very much for your patience
37 on this.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So
40 since this is a public meeting, this has been a
41 presentation of public information and I'm glad it took
42 place. The only thing I can say is that we're talking
43 about our farm out here in the Seward Peninsula. We're
44 having problems with the chicken house getting raided,
45 so we find ourselves deliberating over predator control
46 issues and predations, so that's what brings it to the
47 table. You've got both sides of the coin here to deal
48 with.

49

50 Having said that, I think we need to

1 move on to the next portion of the meeting here. I
2 appreciate everybody's comments and concerns. So we're
3 looking at Item C, Board of Game proposal update.

4

5 Karen, that's you again.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Members of the Council. If you recall, the Council
9 requested that the Office of Subsistence Management put
10 forth a proposal on their behalf to the Alaska Board of
11 Game that's under your supplemental material in your
12 book, a tab that says supplemental. For those of you
13 in the audience there's copies on the back table.

14

15 What we've put in here is a schedule
16 for the next Alaska Board of Game Arctic Western Region
17 Meeting, which is going to be held January 6th through
18 9th in Bethel. At that time the proposal put forth by
19 the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council will be
20 presented for Board deliberation. This proposal was
21 asking to eliminate the nonresident moose hunt in Units
22 22E and 22D remainder. This was done at the request of
23 the Seward Peninsula Council.

24

25 So the Council can leave this as is for
26 the Board to deliberate on. They also have until
27 December 22nd to make any additional comments on that
28 proposal. Certainly Native corporations, associations
29 and specific villages are welcome to make any public
30 comment and send that to the Board of Game regarding
31 this proposal.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you have the page
34 number, Karen?

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Under supplemental
37 it's page number 48 is where the actual Proposal No. 28
38 is to the Board of Game. You got it? It's 28 in the
39 supplemental. So it should be one of the first
40 documents under supplemental. This was taken out of
41 the Board of Game book, so it's their page number, not
42 ours.

43

44 Anyway, Mr. Chair, Council Members.
45 What I wanted to do is to point out that this has been
46 published in the Board of Game proposal book. It will
47 be heard before the Board of Game in their January
48 meeting and you're welcome to make any additional
49 comments if needed.

50

1 That's it. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry, folks. We're
4 just going to iron this out a little bit.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, Council
7 Members. What you have in your packets is a schedule
8 for the Arctic Western Region Meeting, which is going
9 to be held Friday, January 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th in
10 Bethel.

11

12 The second page that you have of that
13 packet shows you the comment deadlines, which is
14 December 22nd for the proposals that have been
15 published in the book and then the third page that you
16 have or pages of the actual proposals, the Nome area
17 proposals, so these are other proposals you may also
18 wish to look at and comment on, but the proposals
19 specifically submitted by the Seward Peninsula Council
20 is Proposal No. 28 requesting to eliminate the non-
21 resident moose hunting in 22E and 22D remainder.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: For your information
26 Karen has shared this with us. I take it that this is
27 already passed out because it's a State Board of Game
28 schedule. So we're just sharing it at this level.

29

30 Before we call Mr. Rivard up here I
31 think we'll take a 5-minute break. Mr. Rivard will be
32 discussing under new business fisheries proposals.

33

34 (Off record)

35

36 (On record)

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 11:13 back to order.

39

40 Mr. Don Rivard.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Good morning to you and your other Council Members. My
44 name is Don Rivard. I'm a fish biologist with the
45 Office of Subsistence Management based out of
46 Anchorage. We're going to be going through the four
47 fisheries proposals that your Council is going to deal
48 with today. The reason they're in front of you is
49 because residents of Stebbins have a customary and
50 traditional use determination for salmon. There's also

1 one on northern pike that we're going to give you just
2 to be safe that we've run it by your Council as well.

3

4 So the first proposal is FP17-01. That
5 starts on Page 32 in your Council book. Proposal
6 FP17-01, submitted by the Eastern Interior Alaska
7 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council requests a new
8 regulation be made to Subdistrict 5D of the Yukon River
9 to allow harvest of chinook salmon during Federally
10 recognized fisheries closures, once the mid-range of
11 the Canadian Interim Management Escapement Goal, which
12 is currently at a range of 42,500 to 55,000 chinook
13 salmon, and the total allowable catch goal are
14 projected to be achieved in the Yukon River at the
15 Eagle sonar site.

16

17 We can look on Page 36 for a map that
18 kind of shows this area. 5D on the Yukon River, the
19 fishing district, starts just downstream from Stevens
20 Village, sort of towards the left center of the map,
21 and runs all the way to the Canadian border just
22 upstream of Eagle.

23

24 So if this Proposal FP17-01 were
25 adopted, Federally qualified subsistence users would be
26 allowed to harvest salmon when the Federal in-season
27 manager projects the midrange of the Canadian interim
28 management escapement goal and the total allowable
29 catch goal will be achieved. The harvest in
30 Subdistrict 5D if this happens is expected to be low
31 and not significantly impact the population of either
32 chinook or chum salmon.

33

34 So the preliminary OSM conclusion is to
35 support Proposal FP17-01 with modification to change
36 the wording in the proposed regulation from projected
37 to be achieved to achieved only. In other words, it
38 wouldn't be projected, it would be when it's achieved.
39 And to specify that the Federal in-season manager is
40 the person to declare when these two goals are
41 achieved.

42

43 So the justification for this is that
44 the adoption of this proposal with the OSM recommended
45 modification could result in additional harvest
46 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
47 in Subdistrict 5D in times of chinook salmon
48 conservation. Estimates of in-season run strength
49 usually have a high degree of uncertainty, so it would
50 be prudent to wait until the Eagle sonar counts achieve

1 the midrange of the interim management escapement goal
2 and total allowable catch before lifting the closure to
3 Federally qualified subsistence users.

4

5 I will also read what the other three
6 Councils recommendations were on this because this
7 proposal also went in front of the Yukon-Kuskokwim
8 Delta Regional Council, the Western Interior Regional
9 Council and the Eastern Interior Regional Council, the
10 proponent. All three Councils supported the proposal
11 as written. In other words, without the modification
12 that OSM recommended. So that proposed regulation you
13 can see on Page 33 and the additional language is in
14 bold.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Rivard.
19 Any comments from Council here. Ted, did you review it
20 very well?

21

22 MR. KATCHEAK: No. Not very much. I
23 didn't see the packet. I'm finally reviewing it. Who
24 submitted this proposal? Who is the author of the
25 proposal?

26

27 MR. RIVARD: Through the Chair. This
28 proposal was submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional
29 Council.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There were three
32 groups that went with it or two. What were they?

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. It was the
35 three other Regional Councils that have customary and
36 traditional use for salmon on the Yukon River, so it's
37 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council, the
38 Western Interior Regional Council and the Eastern
39 Interior Regional Council.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Rivard.

42

43 Ted.

44

45 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Just a
46 comment, 40-50,000 salmon were counted. Is that the
47 amount you gave us?

48

49 MR. RIVARD: Through the Chair. What I
50 told you was that the Canadian interim management

1 escapement goal is a range of 42,500 to 55,00 chinook
2 salmon. So what this proposal is asking is that once
3 the midrange of that, approximately 48-49,000, once
4 that's projected to be achieved, then they would open
5 it up to allowing people in 5D to start harvesting --
6 directing harvest
7 to chinook salmon.

8

9 MR. KATCHEAK: So there's a sufficient
10 number of salmon escape and then this is why the
11 proposal is submitted to us?

12

13 MR. RIVARD: Yes, correct. It would be
14 determined that there was going to be enough chinook
15 salmon escaping into Canada to allow for some harvest
16 in 5D. Again, it's coming before your Council because
17 the residents of Stebbins have customary and
18 traditional use determination for chinook salmon and
19 all salmon on the Yukon River.

20

21 MR. KATCHEAK: I don't have any problem
22 with that and I don't see any need to change.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted, Don.

25

26 Do you have something, Ron.

27

28 MR. KIRK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I don't
29 have a problem with this proposal, but I'd like to
30 inform Don here that in our area in Stebbins we have
31 our own stock of salmon. They go up our own sloughs.
32 We have three freshwater rivers that come down from the
33 mountains in our area, so we have our own stock that
34 hang around our area of salmon. We get our own chinook
35 and chum. They're there year round until the fishing
36 is over, until they move, but we have our own stock.

37

38 That's what I'd like to make a comment
39 on.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. So
42 what Mr. Rivard is asking is we have a choice here. We
43 could take no action or we could move on it and vote.
44 Ted made his comments and he doesn't object to anything
45 with no changes.

46

47 If that's the case, I'd ask for a
48 motion or take action.

49

50 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I move to

1 approve the Proposal FP17-01.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

4

5 MR. KIRK: Second.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there any
8 discussion.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Apparently we have a
13 little bit more of a process than I was paying
14 attention to. So what we need to do now since Mr.
15 Rivard made comment on this, we'd like to have the
16 agency comments if there are any, ADF&G, Federal
17 agencies, Native, tribal, village or other, and
18 Interagency Staff Committee members. Do we have
19 anybody out there that needs to come to the table?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't look like
24 it. Appreciate it. We also have under advisory group
25 comments other Regional Councils, Fish and Game
26 Advisory Committee members, Subsistence Resource
27 Commissions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Since there's nobody
32 there that stepped up, there's also public testimony.
33 We need to know if there's anybody that wants to
34 testify.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Understandable. There
39 are none. Regional Council recommendation, motion to
40 adopt. So we've already had a motion and a second. So
41 is there any more discussion on this. Ted, have you
42 got anything to add or Ron. You're done. Okay. So
43 I'd call for the question.

44

45 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
48 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
2 sign.
3
4 (No opposing votes)
5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. So we
7 move on to the next proposal.
8
9 (Pause)
10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess we have a
12 phone issue here. Technology in its finest hour.
13 We'll take a short break here and see if we can't get
14 the people on the phone to be able to make comment.
15 Thanks.
16
17 (Off record)
18
19 (On record)
20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're back on. Folks
22 on the phone, we need to know if any of you have any
23 comments to make on Proposal 17-01. As the Council has
24 already voted, we could at this point rescind the vote.
25 It's up to the maker and the second. Anybody in the
26 public.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Agencies, advisory
31 groups.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tribes and ANCSA
36 corporations for consultations.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the phone,
41 any of those groups.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're good. So the
46 vote stands and we voted to support the first one, 01.
47 Mr. Rivard, you have the floor again for the second
48 one, 17-02.
49
50 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don

1 Rivard again with OSM. Proposal FP17-02 starts in your
2 book on Page 52. We're talking about the same section
3 of the Yukon River subdistrict 5D. That map is shown
4 on Page 55. Proposal FP17-02 was submitted by the
5 Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
6 Council and seeks to harvest the early run of chinook
7 salmon in Subdistrict 5D.

8

9 Few summer chum salmon migrate as far
10 upriver as District 5, therefore any subsistence
11 opportunity provided would likely target chinook
12 salmon, the majority of which are of Canadian origin.
13 Because few alternative fish species are available for
14 subsistence harvest during the summer season, District
15 5 often
16 experiences the most restrictive management measures.

17

18 In an effort to increase harvest
19 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
20 in Subdistrict 5D, the Council proposed allowing
21 harvest of the early arriving chinook salmon.
22 Federally qualified subsistence users would be able to
23 harvest the early arriving chinook salmon until the
24 first pulse of chinook salmon arrived in Subdistrict 5D
25 which is often protected by a fishing closure.

26

27 So if this proposal were adopted, it
28 would give Federally qualified subsistence users in
29 Subdistrict 5D the ability to harvest early arriving
30 chinook salmon, migrating through portions of
31 Subdistrict 5D without action from the Federal in-
32 season manager, provided a surplus is available for
33 harvest. In times of low chinook salmon abundance,
34 when conservation actions are required, the in-season
35 manager may still impose a subsistence
36 fishing schedule and/or gear restrictions through
37 Federal Special Actions.

38

39 Since 2014, Federally qualified
40 subsistence users have been allowed to harvest the
41 earliest returning Chinook Salmon with gear
42 restrictions. Once the first pulse of chinook salmon
43 arrived in the subdistrict, the in-season manager
44 issued a closure to protect the salmon pulse.

45

46 If this proposal were adopted, the
47 Federally qualified subsistence users in Subdistrict 5D
48 would have that same opportunity as they have had in
49 recent years without a Federal Special Action.

50

1 Therefore, Mr. Chair, the OSM
2 preliminary conclusion is to support this proposal
3 FP17-02. I'll read the other Council's
4 recommendations, okay.

5
6 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
7 Advisory Council recommendation is to oppose. The
8 Western Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council
9 recommendation is to oppose and the Eastern Interior
10 Alaska Regional Advisory Council recommendation, the
11 proponent of this proposal, is to support.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Rivard.
16 Council members, any comments. We can either vote on
17 this to support it or we can take no action if it's no
18 concern of the folks down in Stebbins, St. Michael. It
19 sounds like the Yukon -- Ted.

20
21 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. We're about
22 55 miles north of the Yukon Delta, the north fork of
23 Yukon Delta. We don't go that far upriver from there.
24 We usually fish in the Delta Region only. I don't have
25 an opposition to it, but I don't see any way I could
26 convince the people of Stebbins should go upriver to go
27 fishing, so we have no concern of that proposal.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do we have consensus?

30
31 MR. KATCHEAK: But I would support it
32 because if there's any escapement of fish they should
33 also harvest the fish.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have a choice to
36 either act in support or oppose or we can take no
37 action.

38
39 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'd rather
40 take no action.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do I have consensus on
43 that.

44
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. Since there is
46 two opposition and one support and they can support or
47 oppose their proposal. I'd suggest no action.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I need to
50 hear from people on the phone or people in the room

1 here whether they're with tribes or ANCSA corporations,
2 agencies, ADF&G, Federal agencies, Native, tribal,
3 village or other, Interagency Staff Committees. Also
4 advisory group comments, other Regional Councils, Fish
5 and Game Advisory Committees, Subsistence Resource
6 Commissions. And public testimony.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't see anyone in
11 the room here. How about on the phone.

12

13 MS. WESSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 This is Maria Wessel. I'm the Federal subsistence
15 liaison with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
16 we do have some comments I could read.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You have the floor.

19

20 MS. WESSEL: Thank you. This proposal
21 requests to allow harvest of early arriving chinook
22 salmon in Subdistrict 5D until subsistence fishing is
23 closed to protect the first pulse of chinook salmon.
24 State regulations direct that the subsistence fishery
25 in the Yukon River drainage be based on a schedule
26 implemented chronologically consistent with migratory
27 timing as the salmon run progresses upstream.

28

29 Additionally, a provision adopted in
30 2013 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries requires first
31 pulse protection or the prohibition of fishing on the
32 first chinook salmon pulse entering the river in order
33 to account for the uncertainty in the pre-season run
34 projection. This prohibition may be relaxed in
35 District 3 through 6 if run assessment information
36 suggests sufficient abundance.

37

38 In practice, the fishery is already
39 being managed to allow an opportunity to harvest early
40 arriving chinook salmon in Subdistrict 5D in order to
41 offset the lack of opportunity for chinook salmon later
42 in the season when management takes conservative
43 measures in this district because there are few summer
44 chum and the majority of chinook salmon caught in the
45 subdistrict are Canadian origin.

46

47 Formalizing this management approach in
48 regulation however would reduce flexibility.
49 Additionally, users from Subdistrict 5C or other
50 subdistricts could travel to Subdistrict 5D to fish,

1 which may cause concerns in communities on a local
2 level.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 That's all I have.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, ma'am. Are
9 there any other comments on the line.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I think
14 we move on to the Regional Council recommendation. The
15 motion is whether we support or we oppose or we just
16 take no action. Earlier, when I asked Council if there
17 was consensus, it seemed like we had consensus to take
18 no action.

19

20 So our process is we have to take a
21 vote on a friendly motion to the proposal and then our
22 decision is whether to take no action. So we've got a
23 motion on the floor, right?

24

25 MR. SEETOT: No.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, we didn't have
28 one. We were discussing that. So I'll have a friendly
29 motion.

30

31 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. So moved.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron. Is there a
34 second.

35

36 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. So
39 under discussion. It sounds to me like we have
40 consensus not to take any action there. We'll take a
41 vote on that just to verify. So a yes is to support, a
42 no vote is to oppose and take no action.

43

44 Go ahead, Mr. Rivard.

45

46 MR. RIVARD: You can make a motion to
47 just take no action. If you say support, where do you
48 put in the no action. You can right off the bat make a
49 motion to take no action or you can make a motion to
50 table. You don't have to support necessarily.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So what I'm going to
2 ask for is the maker of the motion and the second if
3 they'd rescind their motion.

4
5 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. I so move to
6 rescind my motion.

7
8 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second to rescind the
9 motion.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Now I'm
12 entertaining a motion to take no action.

13
14 MR. KATCHEAK: It's Ted. I move that
15 we take no action.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second.

18
19 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk. Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of
22 taking no action say aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
27 sign.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
32 passes. Mr. Rivard.

33
34 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 We're going to move on now to Proposal FP17-03. That
36 starts on Page 69 in your book. This one is a little
37 closer to home, to your region.

38
39 Proposal FP17-03 was submitted by the
40 Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
41 Council and seeks to allow subsistence drift gillnet
42 fishing for chum salmon in the lower portion of the
43 Yukon River Subdistrict 4A annually between June 10th
44 and August 2nd.

45
46 If you look on Page 72 in your book, we
47 can look at this area a little bit more. The
48 proponent's intent is to amend the current Federal
49 regulations to be consistent with the State regulations
50 for Subdistrict 4A downstream of the mouth of Stink

1 Creek. You can see that's right in the middle of the
2 page there. Stink Creek kind of separates the upper
3 and lower portions of 4A. So we're talking about
4 initially downstream of Stink Creek.

5

6 The core of the proposal is to get rid
7 of the inconsistency between State and Federal
8 regulations pertaining to Subdistrict 4A.

9

10 In March 2015, the Alaska Board of
11 Fisheries adopted a new regulation that allowed the use
12 of drift gillnets to harvest summer chum salmon for
13 subsistence purposes during times of chinook salmon
14 conservation from June 10th through August 2nd, by
15 emergency order, in the upper portion of Subdistrict
16 4A. In January 2016, the Alaska Board of Fisheries
17 adopted the same regulations in the lower portion of
18 the Subdistrict 4A.

19

20 So they covered all of 4A by allowing
21 the use of drift gillnets to harvest summer chum salmon
22 during times of chinook salmon conversation for the
23 dates of June 10th through August 2nd.

24

25 The proposed Federal change would make
26 State and Federal regulations consistent by allowing
27 Federally qualified subsistence users in the lower
28 section of Subdistrict 4A to have the same subsistence
29 opportunities as State subsistence users for targeting
30 summer chum salmon with drift gillnets during times of
31 chinook salmon conservation.

32

33 So this proposal before you for the
34 Federal side is just for -- the proposal itself was
35 just for the lower portion of 4A below Stink Creek.
36 We're going to talk a little bit more about that upper
37 section here in a second.

38

39 If adopted, this proposal would make
40 Federal regulations consistent with current State
41 regulations in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4A.
42 The proposal does not change the inconsistencies
43 between Federal and State regulations in the upper
44 portion of District 4A.

45

46 If the proposal is supported with
47 modification to include the same regulatory language in
48 the upper portion of Subdistrict 4A, it would make all
49 of the subdistrict consistent in Federal and State
50 regulations. However, if this is done, the upper

1 portion of the subdistrict is still allowed to harvest
2 chum salmon via gillnet after August 2nd while the
3 lower portion does not.

4

5 Effects on summer chum salmon and
6 chinook salmon would likely be negligible as the State
7 already allows drift gillnets in Subdistrict 4A during
8 times of chinook salmon conservation.

9

10 So Mr. Chair and Council Members, the
11 OSM preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal FP17-
12 03 with modification to include the same regulatory
13 language for the upper section of
14 Subdistrict 4A.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all I
17 have. I'll read now the other Council's
18 recommendations. All three, the Western Interior
19 Alaska Regional Advisory Council, the Yukon-Kuskokwim
20 Delta Regional Advisory Council and the Eastern
21 Interior Regional Advisory Council all supported this
22 proposal as modified by the Office of Subsistence
23 Management.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Rivard.
28 So at this point I would ask for any consultations for
29 the tribes or ANCSA corporations, inviting Agency
30 comments, ADF&G, Federal agencies, Native, tribal,
31 village or other, Interagency Staff Committee, and
32 advisory group comments, other Regional Councils, fish
33 and game advisory council members, Subsistence Resource
34 Commissions or public testimony.

35

36 In the room.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On the phone.

41

42 MS. WESSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 This is Maria Wessel again with the Alaska Department
44 of Fish and Game. We have the following comments.
45 This proposal would allow subsistence drift gillnet
46 fishing for chum salmon downstream of Stink Creek in
47 Subdistrict 4A of the Yukon River between June 10th and
48 August 2nd, which would align Federal and State
49 regulations and allow subsistence users the opportunity
50 to target summer chum salmon with drift gillnets during

1 times of chinook salmon conservation.

2

3

4 The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted
5 this regulation in March of 2015. Additionally, the
6 modification suggested by the Office of Subsistence
7 management adding waters upstream of Stink Creek to the
8 proposed change is consistent with regulations adopted
9 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in January of 2016.
10 This change would reduce complexity in the regulations
11 by aligning Federal and State regulations.

11

12

13 The Department of Fish and Game
14 supports this proposal.

14

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, ma'am. Are
19 there any other comments online.

19

20

20 (No comments)

21

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. It's to
24 my Council Members here. We can make a motion to
25 support or oppose or we can also make a motion to take
26 no action. So I'd ask for a motion at this time.

26

27

28 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair, I move to
29 support and approve Proposal FP17-03 with modification.

29

30

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

31

32

32 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second the motion.

33

34

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any discussion.

35

36

36 (No comments)

37

38

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Call for question.

39

40

40 MR. SEETOT: Question.

41

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
44 called. All those in favor say aye.

44

45

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
49 sign.

49

50

50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
2 passes. Back to you, Mr. Rivard.

3
4 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
5 final fishery proposal before your Council is FP17-04.
6 The analysis for that begins on Page 85 in your Council
7 book. There's a couple of maps on Page 87 and 88 that
8 show where this area is. This is the Huslia River,
9 which is a tributary of the Koyukuk River, which is a
10 tributary of the Yukon River. So this is mainly around
11 the village of Huslia that we're talking about.

12
13 Proposal FP17-04, submitted by the
14 Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
15 Council, requests that the Federal Subsistence Board
16 allow an increase in the portion of Racetrack Slough on
17 the Koyukuk River and sloughs of the Huslia River
18 drainage that may be covered with a gillnet to provide
19 more subsistence harvest opportunity for northern pike
20 between ice out and June 15.

21
22 The Council submitted this proposal to
23 be more consistent with State regulations approved by
24 the Alaska Board of Fisheries in January 2016. The
25 proposed regulatory changes would provide more
26 subsistence harvest opportunity for northern pike in
27 Racetrack Slough on the Koyukuk River and sloughs of
28 the Huslia River drainage, primarily residents of
29 Huslia. Federal subsistence regulations currently allow
30 for a fishery at this time; however, gillnets may not
31 obstruct more than one-half of the width of any
32 stream.

33
34 So this proposal would allow gillnets
35 to cover all but 20 feet of the distance across the
36 slough, which would match State subsistence regulation
37 changes.

38
39 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
40 support Fisheries Proposal FP17-04. If adopted, this
41 would allow Federally qualified subsistence users the
42 same opportunities as subsistence users under State
43 regulations. It would likely increase the
44 harvest of northern pike and other local fish during
45 this time period. The season for this gear change
46 would end prior to the arrival of salmon into these
47 systems.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 And now I'll read what the other
2 Councils voted on for this. The Western Interior Alaska
3 Regional Advisory Council, which is the proponent for
4 this proposal, supported with modification and I'll get
5 into the modification here. It's a bit complex because
6 in discussion at their meeting they realized -- well,
7 let me just read what it says here.

8
9 The Council noted gillnets may not be
10 closer than 20 feet from the opposite bank unless
11 closed by Federal Special Action, while sloughs that
12 are less than 40 feet may have three-fourths coverage
13 of net. The Council highlighted a need to accommodate
14 customary practices without becoming mired in the
15 distance from the bank. The Council recommended
16 starting a navigation provision to prevent the
17 obstruction of vehicle passage and promote the
18 flexibility of enforcement. The Council added a
19 concern to address the predation. The Council
20 emphasized that pike need to be utilized for non-
21 wasteful consumptive subsistence use. So they
22 supported with modification.

23
24 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
25 Advisory Council just supported the proposal as written
26 and the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council took
27 no action.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Rivard.
32 At this time I would ask if there's any tribes or ANCSA
33 corporations have any comment.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Agency comments,
38 ADF&G, Federal agencies, Native, tribal, village or
39 other. Interagency Staff Committee members. Advisory
40 Group comments, other Regional Councils, fish and game
41 advisory committee members. Subsistence Resource
42 Commissions. Also public testimony at this time. Is
43 there anybody in the room?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Seeing none. On the
48 line.

49
50 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,

1 Office of Subsistence Management. I'd like to clarify
2 what the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
3 did.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You have it, George.
6 You have the floor.

7

8 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning or good noon-
9 ish. The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
10 does have a member from the community that this would
11 impact. It was presented to them as Don explained, as
12 written under State regulation, you could use a gillnet
13 to go all the way within 20 feet of the opposite shore
14 of a river or slough in this area as laid out in your
15 book there on Page 86.

16

17 But what they wanted -- the concern
18 from the locals was what happens when you're fishing in
19 a slough that's 26-foot wide. In accordance to a
20 strict interpretation of the regulation being proposed
21 to you, you can only use a six-foot net because 20 feet
22 had to be open. So they modified it to say exactly
23 what you see in your proposal book on Page 86, but also
24 to add or 75 percent across the river. So, in other
25 words, if you're in a 40-foot wide slough, then you can
26 use 30 feet of net and that will allow 10 feet for boat
27 passage.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, George. So
32 the question I have is that just to be consistent with
33 the State reg? Did I get that clear?

34

35 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. The original
36 intent of this proposal from the RAC was to be
37 consistent with the new regulation that the Board of
38 Fish adopted, but the Western Interior's modification
39 would make the Federal subsistence fisheries more
40 liberal by allowing a larger net coverage in the
41 smaller sloughs that are under 40-feet wide.

42

43 In theory, if you look at a strict
44 interpretation, if you have a 40-foot wide river, then
45 you can use a 20-foot net. If it's 30 feet wide, you
46 can use 10 feet of net, et cetera. They wanted to be
47 able to use 75 percent closure of a slough because some
48 of the sloughs they're going to be fishing are under 20
49 feet, then in theory you couldn't use a net if you did
50 strict interpretation of the State regulation.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, George.
4 Are there any other comments or public testimony
5 online.

6

7 MS. WESSEL: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
8 Maria Wessel with the Alaska Department of Fish and
9 Game. We do have the following comments. The original
10 proposal requests to allow gillnets to obstruct more
11 than one-half the width of Racetrack Slough on the
12 Koyukuk River and sloughs of the Huslia River drainage
13 between ice-out and June 15th and would align Federal
14 regulations with State regulations allowing subsistence
15 users more harvest opportunity for northern pike in
16 Racetrack Slough on the Koyukuk River and the sloughs
17 of the Huslia River drainage.

18

19 The modification proposed by the
20 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, however,
21 would bring Federal and State regulations further out
22 of alignment and would increase complexity for
23 subsistence users and law enforcement.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, ma'am. Are
28 there any others online.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. This
33 brings us to the point for Council recommendation.
34 Considering this is about pike, so it's about
35 predation. We have a choice to support or oppose or
36 also again take no action. What's the choice of the
37 Council? There's also the support with modification,
38 excuse me, from the Western Interior RAC.

39

40 Go ahead.

41

42 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, you brought that
43 up already, there is also the support with
44 modification.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. Myself, I'm
47 not -- I would vote to not even meddle in their
48 business up there.

49

50 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. Make a

1 motion to take no action on FP17-04.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.
4
5 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any more discussion.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Someone call for the
12 question.
13
14 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.
15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
17 called. All those in favor of the motion to take no
18 action say aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
23 sign.
24
25 (No opposing votes)
26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
28 is take no action. I think Karen is getting hungry.
29 She said it's lunchtime. How long do we take for
30 lunch?
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: However long the Chair
33 desires.
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted, you had concerns
36 about a presentation you had to make.
37
38 MR. KATCHEAK: Yeah. I'm not sure what
39 time I'm supposed to make my.....
40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's the hours?
42
43 MR. KATCHEAK: Between 1:00 and 3:00.
44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We've got some more
46 items here, but we might be able to work with you on
47 that.
48
49 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'll be able
50 to go make my presentation after 1:30.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: After 1:30?
2
3 MR. KATCHEAK: Yeah. So we have time
4 to go to lunch. How long is our lunch?
5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: An hour, hour and a
7 half for lunch. 12:15 to 1:45 return.
8
9 (Off record)
10
11 (On record)
12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ladies and gentlemen,
14 I'd like to call the meeting back to order at 1:49.
15 Before we do that we have some folks on the line
16 possibly. If you could introduce yourselves to the
17 crew here. Anybody still online?
18
19 MS. WESSEL: This is Maria Wessel with
20 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
21
22 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner at the Office
23 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
24
25 MS. INGLES: Palma Ingles, OSM in
26 Anchorage.
27
28 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM in
29 Anchorage.
30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else?
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for
36 announcing yourselves. So before us we have Mr. Don
37 Rivard to present the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
38 Program Priority Information Needs. That's a mouthful.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Council Members. Again,
44 Don Rivard. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
45 Management. We're going to go through priority
46 information needs for the 2018 notice of funding
47 opportunity, also known as call for proposals. This
48 starts in your book on Page 94. I'm going to give a
49 little bit of background information on the program
50 just to refresh everybody's mind and then we'll focus

1 in on the priority information needs for this region.

2

3 Section 812 of ANILCA directs the
4 Departments of the Interior and Agriculture,
5 cooperating with the State of Alaska and other Federal
6 agencies, to undertake research on fish and wildlife
7 and subsistence uses on Federal public lands. To
8 increase the quantity and quality of information
9 available for management of subsistence fisheries, the
10 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program was established
11 within the Office of
12 Subsistence Management.

13

14 The Monitoring Program was envisioned
15 as a collaborative interagency, interdisciplinary
16 approach to enhance existing fisheries research and
17 monitoring, and effectively communicate information
18 needed for subsistence fisheries management on Federal
19 public lands.

20

21 To implement the Monitoring Program, a
22 collaborative approach is utilized in which five
23 Federal agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
24 the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park
25 Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S.
26 Forest Service, work with the Alaska Department of Fish
27 and Game, Regional Advisory Councils, Alaska Native
28 Organizations, and other organizations in the state.

29

30 An interagency Technical Review
31 Committee provides scientific evaluation of project
32 proposals submitted for funding
33 consideration. The Regional Advisory Councils provide
34 strategic priorities and recommendations, and public
35 comment is also invited to provide comment. The
36 Interagency Staff Committee also provides
37 recommendations. The Federal Subsistence Board takes
38 into consideration all these recommendations and
39 comments from the process and forwards the successful
40 proposals on to the Assistant Regional Director for the
41 Office of Subsistence Management for final approval and
42 funding. Gene Peltola is the Assistant Regional
43 Director for OSM and he's here today.

44

45 During each biennial funding cycle, the
46 Monitoring Program budget funds ongoing multi-year
47 projects for two, three or four years, as well as new
48 projects. Budget guidelines have been established by
49 geographic region, and you can see that in Table 1 at
50 the bottom of Page 94. These are just guidelines about

1 how the allocations are funded by region. For the
2 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program there are six
3 regions in the state. They're different than your
4 Council regions, which there's 10 of those.

5

6 Budget guidelines provide an initial
7 target for planning; however, they are not final
8 allocations and will be adjusted annually as needed.
9 There are two primary types of research projects that
10 are solicited for the Monitoring Program including
11 Harvest Monitoring/Traditional Ecological Knowledge and
12 Stock, Status and Trends projects, although projects
13 that combine these approaches are also encouraged. You
14 can see the definitions of the two project types on the
15 top of Page 95.

16

17 In the current climate of increasing
18 conservation concerns and subsistence needs, it is
19 imperative that the Monitoring Program prioritizes high
20 quality projects that address critical subsistence
21 questions. Projects are selected for funding through an
22 evaluation and review process that is designed to
23 advance projects that are strategically important for
24 the Federal Subsistence Program, technically sound,
25 administratively
26 competent and they promote partnerships and capacity
27 building, and are also cost effective.

28

29 There are five criteria that are used
30 to evaluate projects. They start at the bottom of Page
31 95 in your book. One is Strategic Priority, which
32 means studies must be responsive to identified issues
33 and priority information needs. And all projects must
34 have a direct linkage to Federal public lands and/or
35 waters to be eligible for funding under the Monitoring
36 Program.

37

38 The proposals must be technically and
39 scientifically sound and have merit. The technical
40 quality of the study design must meet accepted
41 standards for information collection, compilation,
42 analysis, and reporting.

43

44 Continuing on the top of Page 96.
45 Another criteria is Investigator Ability and Resources.
46 Investigators must demonstrate that they are capable of
47 successfully completing the proposed study by providing
48 information on the ability and resources they possess
49 to conduct the work.

50

1 Four is Partnership-Capacity Building.
2 Partnerships and capacity building are priorities of
3 the Monitoring Program. ANILCA mandates that rural
4 residents be afforded a meaningful role in the
5 management of Federal subsistence fisheries.
6 Investigators are requested to include a strategy for
7 integrating local capacity development in their
8 investigation plans.

9
10 Finally the fifth criterium is Cost
11 Benefit. Each proposal is evaluated for best value and
12 overall project costs.

13
14 So if you look on Table 2 there
15 starting on Page 96 and then continuing on to Page 97,
16 you'll see all the projects that have been funded in
17 your region, the Northern Alaska Region, since the year
18 2000. The first two numbers of the project are the
19 years, so you can see as it progresses how many have
20 been done.

21
22 Most notably here has been the chinook
23 assessment projects on the Unalakleet River. I'm going
24 to go back up just a little bit. Now we're going to
25 talk about priority information needs themselves.

26
27 The Office of Subsistence Management
28 staff works with the Regional Advisory Councils,
29 Federal and State fishery managers and land managers to
30 ensure the Monitoring Program focuses on the highest
31 priority information needs for management of Federal
32 subsistence fisheries. Input from the Regional
33 Advisory Councils is utilized to develop the Priority
34 Information Needs by identifying issues of local
35 concern and knowledge gaps related
36 to subsistence fisheries.

37
38 MR. KATCHEAK: Don, can you tell us
39 where you're at.

40
41 MR. RIVARD: I went back to Page 95 and
42 I'm talking about the priority information needs. I'm
43 sorry. I wanted to save this section for last because
44 this is what we're going to be focusing on. So the
45 middle of Page 95.

46
47 The Priority Information Needs provide
48 a framework for evaluating and selecting project
49 proposal. Successful project proposal selection may
50 not be limited to the identified Priority

1 Information Needs but project proposals not addressing
2 a priority information need must include compelling
3 justification with respect to strategic importance.

4

5 So this is a chance now for your
6 Council to provide us with priority information needs
7 in your region. This is a topic that's come up in the
8 past with your Council. Robbin LaVine compiled a list
9 of things you discussed a year ago when you were
10 talking about this. I can provide you with that list
11 if you would like to hear that and refresh your
12 memories a little bit as well as other things you may
13 have since then.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Don. Any
18 questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I would ask for that
23 list. That would help.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Okay. This is coming from
26 your fall 2015 meeting, so a year ago. Here are some
27 of the things that your Council expressed as a need for
28 more research in your region.

29

30 The first one is the beaver population
31 is increasing, so what impacts does this have on
32 resident and anadromous fish populations of the Seward
33 Peninsula.

34

35 The second point. There are algae in
36 Imuruk Basin. Is this a result of upriver
37 fertilization and what impacts do algae have on fish in
38 the watershed.

39

40 The third point. This year, 2015, the
41 salmon return was the strongest in recent memory, at
42 least on the Pilgrim River. What happened? We need to
43 research to figure out what went right.

44

45 The next point. Traditional ecological
46 knowledge teaches not to argue about the resources.
47 Perhaps it is for this reason the salmon had a strong
48 return. I guess that was somebody's comment to that
49 last point.

50

1 The next point. The seasons are
2 changing and timing of runs and harvest opportunity is
3 changing. In Brevig Mission, the ice used to arrive
4 much earlier than today. How do warming temperatures
5 impact the salmon. How does the changing climate
6 impact the water ecosystem of the salmon. That kind of
7 touches a little bit on what you guys first talked
8 about today about climate change.

9

10 The next point. What will the
11 residents of Unit 22D in Port Clarence Bay do if there
12 are no more salmon.

13

14 The next point. In Teller, the harvest
15 of large mammals, such as moose, caribou and muskox,
16 was poor. Fish and marine resources are even more
17 important during times like these.

18

19 Next point. Members are interested in
20 a project that would document all species migration
21 patterns for the Seward Peninsula.

22 The last point from your meeting a year
23 ago. King salmon, and this is in quotes, have gone
24 extinct, unquote, in our region. Is there any way that
25 kind salmon can be restored.

26

27 That's your list from a year ago, Mr.
28 Chair. I've got an extra copy. I'll bring it to you
29 here.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. I missed out
32 on this one. Any comments from Council.

33

34 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, Mr. Chair. Ted.
35 I've noticed over the years we've heard different
36 forecasts on salmon and then what happened the fish go
37 in cycle and when we start to think there is no more
38 salmon, they come back. So they're there. They just
39 have to go through cycle. That's what I think might be
40 the true theory.

41

42 And I'm guessing because of the lack of
43 ice and this warm temperature in the water is going to
44 keep salmon because we catch salmon in the winter in
45 our rivers. Chum, silver, they're there. Like I said,
46 I think they go in cycle.

47

48 Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

1 Elmer.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: I think concerning Imuruk
4 Basin algae, I know ever since I remember growing up
5 there was always algae around Imuruk Basin, but there
6 was more toward the upper regions or around the mouth
7 of the Kuzitrin River. One that I understand is that
8 Imuruk Basin is shallow and that sunshine, when it
9 heats up something -- I mean when it heats the water,
10 you know, it produces algae. I see that pretty much
11 all over Brevig Mission land. Even water that is
12 standing summertime in my front yard, it produces
13 algae. So that's a recurring thing.

14

15 The major concern I had at that time
16 was fertilization of Salmon Lake for the red salmon.
17 It supposedly helped them with their breeding or with
18 their growth. What I questioned at that time what side
19 effects does the fertilization have on the water system
20 from Salmon Lake on down to the Kuzitrin River. Does
21 it have any adverse effects to other species, what's in
22 the water system. My concern is that if it does get
23 too weedy in and around the Kuzitrin River system and
24 the Pilgrim River the pike are going to multiply.

25

26 Like I said, growing up around the
27 river system even though it was 50 miles away that was
28 our summer harvest area for berries, especially
29 salmonberries in and around northeast side of Imuruk
30 Lake, around Kuzitrin River and also it was an
31 opportunity to harvest pike. The majority of pike
32 consumers were people from Mary's Igloo, from Teller
33 area, because I used to run into the elders fishing in
34 springtime and they used to fish and then slit the
35 belly to have pike eggs. That was my big remembrance
36 with the elders 10, 15 years ago. They were a major
37 factor I think in controlling the population of the
38 pike in that area.

39

40 Now with beaver coming into play, what
41 hinders progress of certain species of salmon instead
42 of going all the way to certain areas. I notice that
43 beaver do a lot of damage to the water system. It used
44 to be that we drank directly from Kuzitrin River when
45 we went berry picking. Now we have to boil the water.
46 Why? Because there was no beavers at that time. There
47 was no concern for us 40 years ago from the beavers.

48

49 Everything went into cycles at that
50 time. The climate was more controlled in the way the

1 weather came as it was predicted. Like we'd have high
2 pressure for a month or so without any interruption
3 with the low. Now we have all kinds of low systems
4 that make the weather unpredictable. Warmer
5 temperatures will bring something from the south.
6 Invasive species, what are they? What else does
7 piggyback on the bottom of the barges to deposit into
8 our water. So that was some of the concerns that I had
9 in discussion at that time, especially the algae and
10 the CDC and then the fishery.

11
12 They really haven't changed over the
13 years. I think like Ted was saying, they came into
14 cycles. The past two years now that we have seen
15 chinook salmon being caught. Five or about 10 to 15
16 years, within that period, we did have a lot of spring
17 ice when it first broke up and we weren't too sure on
18 the chinook salmon because we knew that they did come
19 in first, but we still had ice along the shoreline.
20 That was, I think, one of the indicators that might
21 have been that there was no salmon at that time because
22 we weren't able to fish under the ice.

23
24 The first fish we caught were probably
25 chum and reds. I knew that there was chum in there,
26 just that the ice melt came in pretty late and then
27 kind of overlapped with the chinook coming in when the
28 fish come in. Nowadays, with the weather we have right
29 now, Imuruk, Port Clarence Bay being ice free, I think
30 it won't get no more than three feet thick at times and
31 makes travel dangerous for spring hunters. I assumed
32 that since the water goes out early we're able to catch
33 the chinook and then go through the cycle. In years
34 past, it was just that we got chum salmon first.

35
36 For those that really didn't know, we
37 raised a big ballyhoo on Area M and other intercept
38 fisheries. There might have been other things into
39 play, but we're just starting to understand part of
40 that system. I think TEK does work. The more you
41 holler the less resources will be there in the future.
42 I know for it to be true. If you waste the resources,
43 it happened to me with the marine mammals. I really
44 didn't respect them.

45
46 When you're young and you think you can
47 conquer everything, but there's some setbacks to it.
48 You just need to listen to the elders to get you back
49 in place and that was my problem. Since I had a high
50 school education and stuff like that, I thought I knew

1 everything, but what I didn't know is that there's
2 something behind our upbringing that didn't come to the
3 forefront at that time, which was traditional knowledge
4 that was handed down. I probably just put it on the
5 back burner for a while.

6

7 I know that it is true from my
8 standpoint, TEK. It's pretty much dos and don'ts of
9 wildlife resources, what we're taught from an early age
10 what and whatnot to do. My big sticking point was that
11 algae did come all the way down to Grantley Harbor 15
12 years ago I guess directly and then I'm not really too
13 sure. I think they probably overdosed. Salmon Lake
14 was fertilized or something else came into being and
15 then that was one of the things that we're kind of
16 concerned about.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

21

22 It's all yours.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Members of the
25 Council. I just wanted to clarify -- oh, for the
26 record my name is Robbin LaVine with the Office of
27 Subsistence Management. The list that Don read was not
28 necessarily your priority information needs for the
29 FRMP program. That was just a summary of your
30 comments, similar to what you're providing now. We are
31 actually here to get hopefully a very short list.
32 Ideally, the more concise the better of what you think
33 is a priority for research on Federal public lands and
34 waters in your region.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin.
39 I'll take a stab at it here. What I've learned, I've
40 been back and forth between here and Washington and
41 I've seen their program down there for hatcheries and
42 how the tribes and the governments working together
43 down there. One of the things that I stumbled across
44 was a research that had been done in the '80s. I can't
45 think of the man's name, but his presentation was about
46 the Pacific Rim and he talks about the connection of
47 salmon to the existence of who we are today pretty
48 much.

49

50 One of the things I'm concerned with is

1 they've done these genetic studies, Jim and Lisa Seeb.
2 I can't remember the whole title to that one. They
3 didn't really point to specific runs. They couldn't
4 take a chum salmon and say it came from the Pilgrim
5 River or the Yukon River. It was all mixed up. Having
6 said that, that must mean that 10,000 years isn't
7 enough time for any of these salmon stocks to become
8 one river only. The other thing is that we know that
9 salmon stray.

10
11 The one salmon that doesn't stray is
12 the hatchery fish. We know this. There's many salmon
13 hatcheries in the state of Alaska. Many of them on the
14 west coast of the United States now from California,
15 Oregon and Washington. What I want to see -- and I'm
16 tying the Feds to the State on this one because our
17 salmon spawn in the river systems, terminal streams of
18 Alaskan waters, State managed.

19
20 They swim out to the Bering Sea or
21 wherever they rear for the years that they need to
22 mature to come back to spawn again, and that's in
23 Federal waters. It would seem to me that there would
24 be some kind of collaboration between the State and the
25 Feds to do some kind of migration studies. The only
26 way you're going to do something like that is by
27 operating and making hatchery fish so you have marked
28 fish.

29
30 Talking to upper staff there at the
31 State level, you thermal-mark fish, you catch them in
32 the Area M fishery, you have biological scientific
33 data. You catch them in the pollock industry. You
34 have biological scientific data and you can trace these
35 things. None of that's ever been done. I imagine
36 because of the impacts of big fisheries like these down
37 there, you start getting that kind of information
38 people get worried. Maybe that's a deterrent to being
39 able to do these besides money.

40
41 My idea is that's the way to study a
42 salmon migration. Then we'll know something. Waiting
43 for fish to come back to our rivers -- I know the State
44 did a tagging study here just recently on eastern
45 Norton Sound or maybe it's this part of Norton Sound
46 they did it, but only that contributes to the fact that
47 these fish were in the ocean right close to the rivers
48 they swam up. Why not go down to the southeast part of
49 the Sound and do something there.

50

1 One of the arguments that was made by
2 Area M fisheries people was that the analysis said how
3 could you blame a fishery 1,000 miles away. Well,
4 you're right, because we don't have any data. The same
5 sense as Eastern Norton Sound. How can we blame them.
6 Are they part of the problem? Without any knowledge of
7 any of these migrations we're not going to ever get to
8 the bottom of this.

9

10 My big thing is doing research with the
11 States and the Feds together has to be done with a form
12 of hatchery work. So I'll leave it. I believe Don
13 wants to come out and say something.

14

15 Thank you, Don.

16

17 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One
18 of the things that this program does not do is hatchery
19 propagation of fish. We don't fund those kind of
20 projects. I just want to make that real clear that
21 that's part of our criteria.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Having said that, like
24 I said, nobody does it. It's all private work now.
25 That's my take on salmon. The other part is our
26 ungulates. We talked about that earlier. We talked
27 about predation. A comment by Kawerak's Roy
28 Ashenfelter was he was taken up by that idea that there
29 is a possibility that somebody could put in for that
30 and there's a process. I didn't know about it either.
31 The fact is, there's got to be some type of research
32 done. My sense and the way I take it is that you have
33 to do something like that, predation studies. You're
34 not going to know anything without doing the research.

35

36 Don.

37

38 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. If you're
39 talking about predation of fish.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No. Ungulates.

42

43 MR. RIVARD: If it's predation of
44 mammals, that's not part of this Fisheries Resource
45 Monitoring Program.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 With respect to research projects for fisheries, Mr.
3 Rivard is correct. This is just for fisheries
4 programs, but if you recall there was a joint letter
5 that went to the Board from all the Councils that came
6 out of our all-Councils meeting and one of the things
7 that was being asked for is a similar program for
8 looking at terrestrial animals and having research
9 funding available to do that. That is before the
10 Board. It was signed by all of our Councils requesting
11 to look at the feasibility of that kind of program.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I went around the
16 corner. I was talking about research. I guess I went
17 a little bit overboard there. I was talking about it's
18 necessary to do research to find out what the problem
19 is. You're not going to get the answer unless you, it
20 seems like, artificially do something. Anyway, that's
21 my opinion.

22
23 Ted.

24
25 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Some time
26 ago I heard information that I thought was pretty
27 pertinent and that was where the salmon biomass is and
28 where it stays all winter long before it comes out. I
29 understand it's somewhere down in the Aleutian, in the
30 south side, out in the ocean where the biomass that
31 comes to Alaska is. I can't prove it. I haven't seen
32 any study, but that's what I heard.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. We
37 have Roy over there. Did you want to make a comment,
38 Roy.

39
40 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 My name is Roy Ashenfelter. I represent Kawerak. I
42 was looking at the number of projects that were
43 currently already funded since '01 to 2014. There's
44 been nine of them. I hope some day you'll get a report
45 on these different projects. For example, the last one
46 that was funded and studied was Unalakleet River
47 chinook salmon escapement assessment. Before that was
48 one funded in 2010, Bering Straits non-salmon fish
49 local ecological knowledge.

50

1 Anyway, there has been fishery projects
2 funded here. The one thing I would offer as a
3 suggestion is there is going to be -- and recently,
4 within the last three or four years or so -- a new
5 aquaculture association for our region has been formed
6 and the regional planning team has been formed. The
7 current meeting is scheduled November 28th and 29th.

8
9 Just to give you background on the
10 aquaculture association membership. It's a membership
11 of all the fishery villages in our region that are part
12 of the aquaculture association. In order to get this
13 aquaculture association off the ground, a meeting was
14 set up in every village as to what they thought their
15 needs were for different salmon.

16
17 For example, Unalakleet, Stebbins,
18 St. Michael, specifically Unalakleet and Shaktoolik,
19 they would like to see chinook. Up around here we'd
20 probably want to see more chum. Up around Brevig,
21 Teller, I'm just throwing out examples, they'll
22 probably want to see red salmon. So there's different
23 species of salmon depending on what part of Norton
24 Sound you are living in. Of course out in St. Lawrence
25 Island they have a different need there too.

26
27 But the idea there was to go out to
28 every village and ask that question and have public
29 meetings. From that is what's called a regional
30 planning team and that team is three local people and
31 three State people that would review and assess all
32 fishery ideas that would come before them that would be
33 Norton Sound related, whether it's from Teller and
34 Brevig or from Stebbins and St. Michael, any place in
35 between.

36
37 If you have an idea for a project, this
38 group, aquaculture association, RPT, which is planning
39 to meet the end of this month, 28th and 29th, would
40 review in their validity to try to make sure whatever
41 that information is that you want to learn about in
42 regards to salmon can be done in a way that would have
43 everybody's input. Understanding that there's not
44 enough money to do everybody's projects and that's the
45 reason for aquaculture association, RPT.

46
47 Hopefully someday -- understanding that
48 the Federalies here have some money, I think there's
49 even a comment back here someplace where I saw it would
50 be beneficial to do a joint study. Those, to me, would

1 be something that I would really plan on for the
2 benefit of our region. You go to aquaculture
3 association, you go to the RPT, because that's where --
4 believe it or not, the regional planning team is the
5 organization that is funded and managed through the
6 State fish permitting process to do fishery research.
7 If you don't get that permit from the State, they're
8 the only ones that can give it out regardless of the
9 Federalies. They're the only ones that can give this
10 permit out.

11
12 It really helps and it would help
13 everyone to get on board and get something that would
14 help identify specific needs in regards to salmon,
15 whether it's chum, pink, chinook. Some of these
16 freshwater fish streams are more of a Federal thing. I
17 think the State would throw holy water on it anyway.

18
19 But at the end of the day the point I'm
20 trying to make is that there's the aquaculture
21 association, there's the RPT. They're planning a
22 meeting at the end of this month. This will be the
23 first meeting since the RPT and the aquaculture
24 association has been reformed over a year ago. So now
25 new things are coming or old reports that were out
26 there will come before the aquaculture association and
27 then hopefully something will come out from that.

28
29 I would offer, since I'm planning on
30 being there, I would offer maybe providing whatever
31 bubbles up. If it has monies and projects and times
32 attaches that we would send this to the Federal agency,
33 whoever is involved with fisheries, and see if they
34 could tack on to be a partner in whatever plan would be
35 beneficial to our region.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy. The
38 regional planning team. I was going to ask you a
39 question. Roy, what was the reason for reforming over
40 a year ago the aquaculture association? I didn't know
41 anything about it. That was just one question I had.

42
43 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. The reason for
44 reforming or reorganizing a regional planning team is
45 just for that. It's because in order for the State to
46 bless a fishery project, you need to have -- it would
47 be really helpful for them to know that this idea is
48 coming from that region, that it has all the village
49 memberships on there saying this is a good thing to
50 happen.

1 So the regional planning team is the
2 organization that is in the place of some guy sitting
3 in Juneau that permits fishery projects throughout the
4 state. So the idea behind a regional planning team
5 working group is to review and assess any fishery
6 projects they feel would be beneficial in this case to
7 all our region.

8
9 With all the pertinent information, if
10 you get the right biologist, the right people who could
11 do numeration counts and all the budgeting and stuff
12 and potential goals and objectives to be reaches within
13 whatever plan you want to do, that's what you're
14 looking for. So the regional planning team is designed
15 to be a vehicle if you will to offer to the State to
16 say this is a good project to do and here's the reasons
17 why and it has the backing of the region and the
18 aquaculture association.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess Ted has a
21 question for you, Roy.

22
23 MR. KATCHEAK: Just one question. How
24 is this aquaculture formed and how many are being
25 chosen?

26
27 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. So a village
28 chooses their own aquaculture association member. I
29 believe we start at Brevig. There's a member from
30 every village including Stebbins and St. Lawrence
31 Island, I believe, but all the salmon villages have a
32 member in the aquaculture association, including
33 Stebbins and St. Michael.

34
35 Each village gets to choose their own
36 person, not the aquaculture association, so the message
37 would go out to say -- I don't remember the names from
38 Stebbins or St. Michael on the aquaculture association.
39 So to answer your question, Ted, it's the village that
40 selects their own member to the aquaculture
41 association.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred.

44
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, it's Fred. Does
46 that include Shishmaref? We're in different waters.
47 We're in Chukchi Sea. We're not a Norton Sound
48 community.

49
50 MR. ASHENFELTER: Very good question.

1 The answer is no, it doesn't include Shishmaref because
2 of what you just said, it's in the Chukchi Sea. So the
3 aquaculture association I believe the furthest north
4 village, and I could be wrong, it's either Brevig or
5 Wales. I know it includes Brevig, but I don't know if
6 it includes Wales. I doubt it. And it don't include
7 Diomedes either. So anything north of Brevig I believe
8 is not a member of the aquaculture association because
9 of the specific salmon identified within the region is
10 from Brevig south if you will.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there reports on
13 the web through ADF&G? So if these fellows got any
14 questions on the Council they could look through the
15 internet.

16
17 MR. ASHENFELTER: I don't know about on
18 the web, but I know the person you get a hold of is
19 Charlie Lean here in Nome. He works over at NSEDC as a
20 contractor. So the best way to do it is to dial NSEDC
21 here in Nome and they would have a way to get a hold of
22 him and then he'd be able to provide the information.
23 I don't know if there's any of this information on the
24 web or even if a web has been created.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy. Any
27 other questions of Roy.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy.

32
33 Robbin.

34
35 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Members of the Council. I wanted to give you a little
37 bit more information in regards to considering the
38 priority information needs for the communities that are
39 covered by your Council. We're looking for a list of
40 research needs, priority information needs, from your
41 region for the FRMP.

42
43 Now the FRMP is divided into I believe
44 six regions statewide. There are 10 Regional Advisory
45 Councils. That means in some case, like in the case of
46 your own area, you share a region and you share
47 priority information needs.

48
49 For the 2016 notice of funding
50 opportunity, we have a list of priority information

1 needs from two years ago. Let me just read them to you
2 to give you an idea of what the priority information
3 needs look like and I'm going to run down a little bit
4 as far as the projects that were approved to address
5 some of those needs.

6

7 So the Northern Alaska Region, which is
8 your region, is divided into three areas which reflect
9 the geographic areas of the three Northern Regional
10 Advisory Councils, so that's the Seward Peninsula,
11 Northwest Arctic and the North Slope. Together the
12 three areas comprise most of northern Alaska and
13 contain substantial Federal public lands.

14

15 The most recent call, the 2016 notice
16 of funding availability, was focused on this list and
17 it covers not just your area, but of course Northwest
18 Arctic and the North Slope. They are understanding
19 differences in cultural knowledge, beliefs and
20 perceptions of subsistence resources between fishery
21 managers and subsistence users in Northwestern Alaska.
22 Document rural residents' beliefs, attitudes and
23 knowledge about beavers and perceptions of changes to
24 fish habitat related to beavers, spawning locations for
25 broad whitefish in the Northwest Arctic region,
26 traditional knowledge of subsistence fish, including
27 application to Federal subsistence management such as
28 identifying critical habitat, refining range maps and
29 shedding light on ecological relationships. There was
30 some sub-bullet points to that as far as specific to
31 communities throughout the region. The Selawik River
32 clams, description and analysis of sharing networks and
33 customary trade of salmon in villages in northern
34 Alaska, documentation of longevity, age of maturity and
35 abundance of fish in a given size range and maturity
36 status for lake trout in the Upper Anaktuvuk River.
37 Temporal changes in subsistence harvest patterns of
38 broad whitefish, Arctic cisco and burbot in the Niukluk
39 River. Again, broad and round whitefish and climate
40 change on the Meade River, description of environmental
41 conditions leading to increased expression of fungus in
42 broad whitefish on the Colville River drainage,
43 identification of overwintering areas for Dolly Varden
44 and reliable estimates of chinook salmon escapement for
45 the Unalakleet River draining.

46

47 This was the call that went out two
48 years ago. We funded seven projects to meet some of
49 those needs. They are Canning River Dolly Varden
50 overwintering habitats radiotelemetry, Kobuk River

1 Dolly Varden population genetic diversity, Selawik
2 River inconnu age structure and spawning population
3 abundance, Kobuk River sheefish spawning abundance,
4 North Slope overwintering Dolly Varden aerial
5 monitoring, Chandler Lake trout spawning aggregations,
6 and Meade River changes in subsistence fish. Those
7 projects have started this year and are now ongoing.

8
9 Before we continue, because this is a
10 long list and I haven't actually struck the bullet
11 points that might actually have been addressed by these
12 projects. The one thing I'd like to mention is that
13 starting about a year ago some of the Regional Advisory
14 Councils formed working groups.

15
16 That means one or two members from each
17 Council -- this is especially useful for sharing
18 regions for priority information needs -- would get
19 together let's say by telephone and identify and trim
20 down their list of priority information needs to focus
21 primarily on those critical research and information
22 needs that the working group identified and then you
23 come up with a draft and you bring it back to the
24 Council and then you can approve those lists of
25 research needs.

26
27 It's something we didn't do with this
28 Council or I think Northwest Arctic or the North Slope.
29 I believe there are only two regions that actually did
30 the working group. It's really helpful. It helps us
31 get kind of a head start on the priority information
32 needs for your area. That's something you guys might
33 want to do for the future. But for now we're looking
34 to have you approve or discuss a few points of
35 interesting concern for your area.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin.

40
41 Don.

42
43 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Part of what
44 we like to do, we're trying to do this more, is to make
45 sure that the Councils and the land managers discuss
46 priority information needs. It's my understanding that
47 the Park Service folks here have some ideas that they'd
48 like to share with you. If you'd like to do that now,
49 it would probably be a good time.

50

1 MS. WOODY: For the record, this is
2 Carol Ann Woody with the National Park Service. I'm
3 out of the regional office and part of my job is to
4 help look at a regional fisheries program. I'm very
5 familiar with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
6 Program. I worked in it a long time ago when I was a
7 scientist with USGS.

8
9 Something that I find really
10 fascinating about the Bering Land Bridge National
11 Preserve, and for those of you who may live in
12 Shishmaref, Deering and I think it's Wales area, is in
13 the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve there hasn't
14 really been a good inventory of the freshwater fish
15 species in that area. We have some information on the
16 anadromous fish or the salmon that go in the larger
17 rivers, but nobody has really done an inventory there
18 and it's not documented.

19
20 I've been looking for information in
21 Fish and Game's catalogues and other areas and one of
22 the projects that we started discussing with Jeanette
23 that we thought would be good to talk about with tying
24 in TEK from people of Shishmaref, Deering and Wales
25 would be to gather TEK from people, what do people know
26 about the freshwater species in the area, and then get
27 that information documented and then actually set up a
28 good survey working with people from the region to get
29 that information documented.

30
31 We'll be talking about that in the
32 future, but I wanted to get that on the record here
33 because it's the perfect opportunity.
34 It's very surprising to me that there's this big blank
35 space on the freshwater fish inventory for that region.
36 Anyway, I just wanted to point that out.

37
38 Thank you for the opportunity.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Carol.
41 That's good information. It might have something to do
42 with my fellow Council members over here from that
43 area. It might be something you want to look at.

44
45 I guess I hammer on salmon a lot. I've
46 been dealing with salmon for many, many years since
47 early '90s. Everybody knows about all the big battles
48 and Board of Fish meetings. One thing I wanted to talk
49 about real shortly is the fact that the North Pacific
50 Fisheries are based on salmon. It takes salmon to go

1 up these rivers to keep ecosystems rolling. The
2 species that live in the freshwater depend on salmon
3 and I know that people know that.

4

5 Having said that, to me it makes sense
6 to study salmon, study migratory patterns of the salmon
7 so that we understand what's going on with salmon. Are
8 we doing studies for water temperature in the Bering
9 Sea, the Bering Straits, the rivers that are under
10 Federal jurisdiction? I don't know.

11

12 It's interesting to note that Carol
13 brings up the fact that the freshwater species haven't
14 even been tackled yet on the Seward Peninsula, so
15 that's enlightening. There's a possibility of
16 something there. I still want to come back to salmon.
17 Salmon is a keystone species in the Pacific Rim and
18 we're part of that.

19

20 What I also learned about salmon there
21 are two salmon production areas in the state in Western
22 Alaska. One is Bristol Bay everybody knows.
23 Interestingly enough, the other one is the Norton
24 Sound. The Norton Sound is not so wonderful. I've
25 been around here for a good 50 years and seen the way
26 runs have come and gone. It would really make a lot of
27 sense to find some way to study salmon migrations
28 because there has never been a real serious study done.

29

30 If you're going to study freshwater,
31 you might want to study anadromous species also because
32 we all know that salmon contribute a lot more to this
33 region than is talked about.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 We've got a question over here from
38 Fred.

39

40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, before we move
41 away from the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, I
42 was just wondering, you know, the priorities, there's a
43 recommendation for the priorities to come from this
44 table and was just wondering if the priorities can also
45 come from the tribal organization for a recommendation
46 for a project in this program.

47

48 MR. RIVARD: The answer to that is yes.
49 It's really helpful if it kind of comes from them to
50 you so you can make the recommendation as a priority

1 information need. It gives it a little bit more weight
2 because we rely on our Councils to give us that.
3 We're open to anything, but we really prefer that it be
4 through the Councils and the land managers, but we're
5 open to hearing from other groups as well.

6

7 So if somebody did do that, some tribal
8 entity did that and then you endorsed it as a Council,
9 that makes it that much more stronger of a priority
10 information need recommendation.

11

12 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay. Thank you. Then
13 it would be you or somebody else doing the application
14 process.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Well, the way it works is
17 we put out a call for proposals, which we now call the
18 Federal -- the term now is Notice of Funding
19 Opportunity. There's money available to do research in
20 certain areas. That's a solicitation basically to
21 receive proposals from all sorts of organizations; the
22 State, other Federal agencies, tribal organizations.
23 They then submit a proposal to our program and all the
24 requirements for that is all laid out in the notice
25 itself that comes out in the Federal Register.

26

27 If they meet all the criteria for
28 what's needed for a proposal, that's given further
29 consideration for all these other criteria that I told
30 you about, the five that I mentioned, and goes through
31 the review process and ultimately it will be the
32 Federal Subsistence Board that weighs in on it and a
33 recommendation and then our Assistant Regional Director
34 that actually is the Federal official that finalizes
35 and authorizes the funding for particular projects.

36

37 MR. ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Don, what was the
40 deadline on those funding proposals? I forgot.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Well, we're trying to get
43 the call out, the notice of funding opportunity. We're
44 targeting a date of November 18th for the announcement
45 to come out. I think people will be given like about
46 90 to 120 days to actually submit proposals. I think
47 we're looking at sometime in March. So there's plenty
48 of time for people to be able to write the proposals
49 themselves and get it back to us. So I don't have a
50 definite deadline yet because it hasn't hit the streets

1 yet.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. The reason I ask is if a tribe were to write a proposal, I was wondering if it would have enough time to get to this table in our next meeting, which is I think in March, around the first week or so.

8

9

MR. RIVARD: Well, you're not going to see these proposals until -- I've got to think of the timing now. You'll see them, I believe, a year from now, that you'd actually see what the process has been, what they've gone through, what's been qualified. We've got a Technical Review Committee that weighs in on these proposals. So we bring them back to the Councils to let them know the results of that process and they give you a chance to comment on it as well so that your comments can then go to the Federal Subsistence Board. They will make their decision in like January of 2018.

21

22

Thank you.

23

24

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So that would give anyone who wanted to write one of these from the tribe level a chance to go through the process and then possibly come to the Council for a -- what's the word you used?

29

30

MR. RIVARD: Again, we're going to make a call for proposals. The notice of funding opportunity is going to be hitting the streets something this month hopefully. We're going to try and get it out by November 18th. The announcement itself will say you have X number of days to submit a proposal to our program. I think it's going to be up to three or four months. So that's the time they have to write the proposal and submit it to us for further consideration.

40

41

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

42

43

Amee.

44

45

MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. Council Members. I just wanted to add a bit of clarification. Fred -- I cannot say your last name, so I apologize. Member Fred. So your initial question was whether or not the tribes can weigh in on the priority information needs. Don answered correctly in that if the tribes

1 wanted to weight in on the priority information needs,
2 the strongest way to do that is through the Council or
3 let the Council know what they want to do. They could
4 request formal consultation with Orville Lind. There
5 are some other things that can happen building up to
6 these Council meetings.

7

8 We do have the information go out
9 early. This is going to become a process that's going
10 to get easier and much smoother for everyone involved.
11 So that's the first area where the tribes can have a
12 meaningful input on the priority information needs.
13 Our PINs, what we're asking for today are coming from
14 the Councils and that's going to lead into and add
15 information to the notice of funding opportunity
16 because the Council priority information needs will be
17 what the Technical Committee puts out.

18

19 This is what we're looking for
20 projects, these are the priorities from the region, and
21 then we'll wait that time period, accept proposals from
22 every organization, tribe, entity, person, then those
23 will be examined, analyzed by the TRC and then again in
24 a year they'll be in front of the Councils, the ones
25 that make it through that process. We'll come back to
26 the Councils for your recommendations and comments.

27

28 So there are two very separate orbits
29 right here. So we have the priority information needs
30 and the best way for the tribes is either to request
31 formal consultation prior to the RAC meeting or come
32 and participate at the Council meeting or talk to a
33 member of the Council beforehand, so there's that
34 aspect in the pre-planning process. And they can
35 participate, of course, and we would absolutely welcome
36 all tribes to put in proposals for FRMP.

37

38 MR. ENINGOWUK: Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. ENINGOWUK: So then it would be a
43 stronger proposal if there was a recommendation from
44 the tribe, but a priority can come from this table to
45 do an inventory in our area, is that correct?

46

47 MS. HOWARD: Well, I think you, as a
48 Council Member, can put forward to the Council that
49 desire to have inventory in your area to be one of your
50 priority information needs. That would come from the

1 Council and then you could vote on it, agree, get a
2 consensus, discuss it. So that's one way.

3
4 Then the proposal is asking for
5 funding. So here's the project that we would like
6 funded, so that's the next step. Right now we're in
7 the priority information needs part of it. If you know
8 that that is a concern for your tribe, then right now
9 is the time to discuss it with the Council and then
10 perhaps have it added to your list that's going to go
11 forward. So do that step first. If it becomes the
12 consensus of the Council as a priority information
13 need, then your tribe will know that proposal could be
14 put in for that need.

15
16 Does that -- it sounds very circular, I
17 know.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: At this point we have
20 the opportunity as a Council to say, Carol, we like
21 your idea. We like your idea, Carol. How does the
22 rest of the Council feel. So, anyway, Karen has
23 something to add.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. So what
26 the Council is doing is saying we have these
27 priorities. These are important to us. And then you
28 put that out there and projects are invited to help
29 meet those priorities. That's it in a simple form.
30 So, for example, if you thought Carol's project was a
31 project that would be important and a priority, because
32 the fewer the priorities the better chance you have of
33 getting them funded or at least one funded, and also
34 the better chance you have of reigning in what could be
35 a large number of proposals that come in for funding.

36
37 So you guys can decide on a handful of
38 priorities. If you like the one Carol has, you put it
39 down as a need and then it's up to the Park Service to
40 come forth with a proposal. They can use partners, but
41 they would come up with a proposal to meet that need.
42 You don't have to worry about the proposals. You just
43 decide what you want.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred.

46
47 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, I would accept
48 that and currently I do believe we have eight
49 priorities from our RAC and a suggestion to add one
50 more project or proposal to have fish inventory in the

1 Bering Land Bridge Preserve.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Don, go ahead. I've
4 got Roy wanting to make a comment back there, but I'll
5 let you go first.

6

7 MR. RIVARD: So far all I've heard is
8 one priority information need, what you just stated.
9 Whatever seven or eight you talked about, those may
10 have been the points that I brought up, but those were
11 just kind of discussion points. They're not priority
12 information needs yet. You have to decide if you want
13 to do any of those or all of them or whatever. Right
14 now all we've heard so far is one priority information
15 need, basically what Carol Ann Woody brought up.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You heard two.

18

19 MR. RIVARD: Two?

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Salmon. Migration of
22 salmon. The Bering Sea and the Bering Strait and the
23 Seward Peninsula. Anyway. Roy, shoot.

24

25 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
26 Chair. Let me withdraw the opportunity for joining in
27 on the RPT and the aquaculture association. The reason
28 I offered that is because the meeting that's coming up
29 at the end of the month is just to do that for the
30 whole region. It's going to be similar to what the
31 Federal program has just announced. It takes a while
32 to get the funding to do whatever you want to do.
33 We're nowhere near that yet.

34

35 So I offer that in the future, maybe
36 two years from now or maybe next year there will be a
37 better plan coming from the aquaculture association and
38 RPT that is supported by the region and then you would
39 be able to present that to Federal program to see if
40 you could join in on things that would be appropriate.
41 So I offer that as a recommendation not to do anything
42 with the aquaculture association or RPT.

43

44 I do support the priority for inventory
45 research for freshwater fish study in the Shishmaref
46 area. That's a huge gap. If you look at all the
47 fishery projects that were funded from 2000 to 2016,
48 the area that's missing that was just pointed out by
49 Carol is the Shishmaref/Wales area. There's no
50 studies. There has not been a study there. There's

1 been studies all the way from Kotzebue to North Slope.
2 This is a real opportunity to learn more about our
3 region and what these people used to survive on for
4 freshwater fish. I support the idea that that be a
5 priority for our region.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy. So
8 I'm going to ask for a motion because I think it's an
9 action item for this one priority.

10

11 Don.

12

13 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. A couple
14 things. You could wait until you've got your full list
15 and then do a motion. You could do one priority
16 information need at a time if you so choose.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Blanket coverage.

19

20 MR. RIVARD: The other thing I would
21 ask is that you've talked about salmon migration
22 patterns, a study of that. It would be helpful-- I
23 think you mentioned it already, but maybe I didn't
24 capture exactly where you want to see that done.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You don't want to get
27 me started. We'll be at this a long time. Anyway,
28 these guys know me.

29

30 MR. RIVARD: As long as it's in your
31 region and not outside it.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Seattle.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Seattle. No,
38 I'm kidding. I'm just being baited here. It would
39 have to be like -- if you're going to do a migration
40 pattern of salmon stocks in our region, you'd have to
41 go to the southeast end to where you'd do your tagging.
42 There has been some of that done already. And it would
43 have to cover terminal streams. You want to know where
44 they're going. So then you've got State involved.
45 It's kind of broad. I went from the Bering Sea and the
46 rearing grounds all the way to the southern of our
47 area, our region, which is down there (pointing to
48 map).

49

50 MR. RIVARD: So when you said

1 southeast, you meant southeast what?
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Southeast region here,
4 Bering Straits region. Sorry, I wasn't clear on that.
5
6
7 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted, go ahead.
10
11 MR. KATCHEAK: I'm kind of confused
12 there. You said southeast. In Norton sound or.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Maybe I should
15 just say south because there's no south. Salmon coming
16 up from up from down here, which is kind of southwest
17 actually. I've got to put my compass up there.
18
19 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.
20
21 MR. RIVARD: Basically you're talking
22 about all of Norton Sound.
23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Southern Norton Sound
25 is where you'd want to do the initial beginning of the
26 study, tagging. Fred has one more thing.
27
28 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. I don't
29 want to be selfish or anything, but the preserve is
30 also -- in the Deering area there is also the Lane
31 River and the Goodhope River in the Bering Land Bridge
32 also, so if inventory of that area can be done also.
33 We shouldn't as members be thinking of only ourselves
34 and our own community. We should be looking out for
35 everybody else also too.
36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Fred. Carol.
38
39 MS. WOODY: I wanted to make sure that
40 everybody did understand that first, before this, part
41 of the whole point was to start first with the
42 traditional ecological knowledge of people in
43 Shishmaref, in Deering and in Wales and make sure that
44 we work with them first and gather information there on
45 what do people know here, what have they seen, what are
46 the changes, what are the most important resources to
47 people here. That helps prioritize the studies you do.
48 Doing an inventory is not that difficult. We can do a
49 freshwater inventory.
50

1 And I wasn't discounting salmon
2 completely. I didn't want you to get that impression.
3 I do realize how important they are. But I also think
4 it's very important to know what we have in this Land
5 Bridge because it's changing so rapidly now. How do we
6 know what we'd lose if we don't even have an inventory.
7 We don't have a basic inventory. We don't even know
8 what the temperatures are, what the water quality is.
9 I mean we need that basic information of this very
10 important special place. So I think that's a very
11 important thing.

12
13 I didn't want to lose the fact that we
14 need that TEK information and that educational
15 component and working together with capacity building
16 before we actually go out and do these inventories and
17 that will help prioritize future work. So I didn't
18 want to make it seem like we're just going to do a fish
19 inventory and that's it.

20
21 So, okay. I'm done.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank, Carol, for your
26 clarification. We talked about a motion here earlier
27 and I got held up. Did you have something to add.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: I'll comment here. I
30 guess when they're trying to determine fish population
31 within a certain area does the Agency or the partners
32 collaborate, like U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with
33 the RAC? They also provide money for the marine
34 mammals. Do you collaborate with Fish and Wildlife
35 Service -- I mean with marine mammals agency or the
36 program to see what's the average -- or what do certain
37 species eat and then what's the total takeaway from the
38 biomass itself or is it just too insignificantly low to
39 consider that?

40
41 We eat fish. I know the beluga,
42 according to Charles Saccheus, eat about 11 salmon per
43 day, so that's a big take out of the salmon and yet we
44 as human beings tend to blame each other. People down
45 in Area M because there's people fishing down there.
46 Do you take into consideration the take by marine
47 mammals for this and that to determine the total amount
48 out there or does that come into play? Does that every
49 come into consideration or we just start blaming the
50 other people group?

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I would say if anybody
2 had an answer to any studies done with seals and
3 belugas and stuff, any type of natural intercept. Roy,
4 do you have any comments on that through Kawerak? I
5 know that Kawerak has been a part of some of those
6 studies with counting walrus, counting seals. Has
7 there ever been any kind of information out there about
8 the consumption that these critters add to the problem
9 like with salmon or whatnot? I'm reaching.

10
11 MR. SEETOT: Do these people
12 collaborate with marine mammals section.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer, knowing that
15 this thing is about -- it's not about mammals, but I
16 know what your question is. That's why I was trying to
17 route it through Roy because he might have an answer
18 there from Kawerak's past work.

19
20 MR. ASHENFELTER: So the study done at
21 Kawerak was mostly just on consumption, not the
22 enumeration of any marine mammals. Just the
23 consumption of marine mammals throughout the region.
24 So different areas of the region take marine mammals.

25
26 A real good example, a simple example
27 is St. Lawrence Island. They get two or three bowhead.
28 You know what they're eating for the next year.
29 Shishmaref is very heavily towards oogrük seals. All
30 the villages hunt seals. All of them. So different
31 parts of the -- so to answer your question the study
32 that was done was only on the amount of marine mammals
33 foods for homes. There was no study done on the
34 enumeration of marine mammals that exist in the region.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy. That
37 means human consumption of the animals. So it doesn't
38 sound like there was any numbers out there for what
39 Elmer is asking about, the animals themselves consuming
40 salmon and whatnot.

41
42 Fred.

43
44 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, Chair. This is
45 Fred. I don't know for exactly how many years, but
46 Shishmaref -- there was a seal sampling project with
47 Fish and Game where we send out the frozen stomachs,
48 some meat, part of the kidney, part of the liver, the
49 whiskers and a claw. The Fish and Game has data on
50 that. We send in the whole stomachs and they know the

1 contents of the stomachs. We do have those posted in
2 our community what each mammal species feed on. So
3 there is existing data on basically how much the marine
4 mammal subsist on fish and other -- not only fish.
5 They subsist on a lot of things on the sea floor.

6

7 So there is data out there. We've just
8 got to find the right channel to get that information.
9 That's what Fish and Game out of Fairbanks and I
10 believe the individual name is Justin Crawford who we
11 send the seal samples to. I don't know how many years
12 of data that we've been doing this in Shishmaref

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. For
15 purposes of moving forward here, this presentation that
16 Don is working with us on, I think Karen's got three
17 priorities she's going to read to us and we can vote on
18 that as a Council and put that forward to the Office of
19 Subsistence Management to start working on to form
20 proposals.

21

22 So, Karen, read the list, please.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I'm going
25 to read these and then ask for any additional
26 information from Don Rivard in case I've missed
27 something here.

28

29 The first thing is the salmon migration
30 patterns on the southwest end of the Bering Straits to
31 where there is tagging. We'll make these sound better
32 when we formulate them for the actual priority
33 information needs.

34

35 The second one is to gather TEK
36 information from Shishmaref, Deering and Koyuk on the
37 use of freshwater species.

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: I believe that was
40 Wales.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Wales, I'm sorry.
43 Wales. And then -- because I broke those out into two
44 things, which may or may not work for you, Carol Ann,
45 but I thought maybe to put that one first and then the
46 second part of that project would actually be to do a
47 freshwater inventory for areas of Shishmaref, Deering
48 and -- what was the other?

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Wales, not Koyuk.

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Wales. Not Koyuk,
2 Wales. So those are the three that I've captured from
3 this discussion so far. Having two or three is
4 actually very good because what you're doing is you're
5 focusing your needs. So if a project comes from left
6 field that really is not a project that you feel is
7 important for your region, then that will have a
8 bearing on whether that project is funded, the fact
9 that you haven't included it as one of your needs. So
10 in this case less is more, okay. We've been
11 encouraging all our Councils to kind of hone in on
12 those real important issues for them at this time. So
13 those are the three that I have.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Don.

16
17 MR. RIVARD: I'll maybe word it a
18 little bit differently because what Carol Ann Woody was
19 talking about was probably a multi-year project. We're
20 talking about information needs here now, not getting
21 into the projects and how they would be set up. What I
22 heard her say was it could be a multi-year project
23 where the first part of that project is the TEK part of
24 surveying the villages and then maybe the final two
25 years of a four-year project, whatever it might be,
26 would be actually doing the inventory out there after
27 they've gotten good local knowledge as to where they
28 ought to be looking in the first place.

29
30 So that's all basically one information
31 need. The other one that the Chair talked about is a
32 study on salmon migration in all of Norton Sound. When
33 you start talking about tagging in the south part,
34 that's one of the methodologies, so it's just basically
35 salmon migration patterns in Norton Sound might capture
36 it, okay.

37
38 And then I wanted to bring up another
39 one because it's been important in your region and it's
40 going to be in its final year in 2017, the Unalakleet
41 River salmon assessment. So if that's something that
42 your Council thinks is important to continue, you
43 probably want to include that as one of your priority
44 information needs.

45
46 If you look on Page 97 in your book,
47 you'll see it says -- it's the first '14 project.
48 Unalakleet River chinook salmon escapement assessment.
49 So that project runs through '17, but if you think it's
50 important to continue that project, then this is the

1 time to point that out for the 2018 projects that start
2 up. That's when it would need to continue. Does that
3 make sense?

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Don, for
8 clarification there. I tend to go along with the
9 Unalakleet River study of the chinook for extending it
10 and show that as a priority from our Council unless
11 somebody has -- Fred.

12

13 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. There is
14 a Project 10-151, Bering Strait non-salmon fish local
15 ecological knowledge and Shishmaref was part of that
16 project. So as long as that project is not duplicated
17 on the TEK freshwater species.

18

19 MR. RIVARD: Thank you for pointing
20 that out. That's an excellent point. It's also maybe
21 some information that the project leader or researcher
22 could look at that project and get some ideas from that
23 as well in formulating their new project.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Council.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No comments. So in
32 the form of a motion I would be asking for -- so you've
33 got the salmon migration of all Norton Sound, you've
34 got the tech from Shishmaref, Deering and Wales is
35 number two. Number three, I would think that it would
36 be prudent to follow along with that Unalakleet River
37 chinook study. Unless somebody has a different opinion
38 on number three. Once we decide this, then we could put
39 it in the form of a motion and vote on it to have the
40 staff take it from there. That would be our
41 recommendation of our most important priorities.
42 Anybody have anything to add to that?

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I would ask for a
47 motion at this time then. Oops. Yeah, we've got to go
48 through the process.

49

50 MR. RIVARD: No, we don't. This is not

1 the same as a fisheries proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, okay. This is a
4 contribution from the Council to the staff. Okay.
5 We're doing good here. We've got enough information.

6

7 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. It's your
8 option if you want to hear from the public or other
9 agencies, but it's not the same process as the fishery
10 proposal recommendations.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. I think we've
13 had Staff giving us enough information to make this
14 motion. I haven't worded it very clearly. Is it clear
15 in your mind what we'd be voting on now, the top three
16 priorities from the Council's point of view? Are we
17 all in agreement on that? We will find out. So I'd
18 ask for a motion. How do we word that? It's kind of a
19 mouthful.

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Do you want me to read
22 the three?

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: This would be a motion
27 to accept as the Seward Peninsula Council's priority
28 information needs for the 2018 call for proposals. One
29 would be the salmon migration patterns in all of Norton
30 Sound. Two would be a multi-year project where the
31 first part could be the TEK use of freshwater fish for
32 the Shishmaref, Deering and Wales, then the subsequent
33 years would be doing actual inventory for fish in those
34 areas. Keeping in mind that the 10-151 Bering Strait
35 non-salmon fish local knowledge work has been done in
36 the past. The third would be the Unalakleet River
37 chinook salmon assessment.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I need a motion and a
40 second.

41

42 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk. So
43 moved.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

46 Second.

47

48 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I second,
49 Ted.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. Any
2 discussion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Discussed it. Call
7 for the question.
8
9 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.
10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
12 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
17 sign.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
22 passes. Thank you, Staff.
23
24 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 That's very helpful what you guys just did.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So that brings us to
30 Item C under new business, WSA 16-03. Robbin. Are we
31 going to be bringing up 16-07 also?
32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: After that.
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: After. Okay. You're
36 on, Robbin.
37
38 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
40 Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist for the Office
41 of Subsistence Management. I am going to summarize for
42 you the analysis of Special Action Request 16-03. You
43 should have two documents in front of you. A copy of
44 the analysis and also a copy of the original request.
45 I will summarize both for you. Additionally, for those
46 in the audience there are copies on the table by the
47 front of the room.
48
49 Last April the Federal Subsistence
50 Board approved Special Action Request 16-01 and closed

1 Federal public lands in Unit 23. This is a bit of a
2 background and to get you to where we are today. By
3 the way, this is a supplemental and it should be in the
4 supplemental materials behind the supplemental tab of
5 your Council book.

6

7

CHAIRMAN GREEN: First page.

8

9

MS. LAVINE: So last year the Federal
10 Subsistence Board approved Wildlife Special Action 16-
11 01 and closed Federal public lands in Unit 23 to the
12 harvest of caribou except by Federally qualified
13 subsistence users. The closure was intended to remain
14 in place until June 30th, 2017. Federally qualified
15 subsistence users or residents of those communities
16 listed in Table 1 on Page 7 of your analysis.

17

18

Last June the State of Alaska through
19 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted a
20 Special Action Request to the Federal Subsistence Board
21 asking that Federal public lands in Unit 23 be
22 reopened to caribou hunting. The Board has not acted
23 on 16-03 for several reasons. One being that currently
24 the Board does not have a Chair and cannot take action
25 or they did not at the time. There is an interim
26 Chair. The former Chair, Tim Towarak, left the Board
27 in September. We are asking you to take action on the
28 State's request of Special Action 16-03.

29

30

At its fall 2015 meeting, the Northwest
31 Arctic Council submitted Wildlife Special Action 16-01
32 requesting that the Board close Federal public lands in
33 Unit 23 to the harvest of caribou except by Federally
34 qualified subsistence users. The Council approved the
35 submission of 160-01 because of the uncertainty of how
36 newly approved regulations would impact the herd along
37 with the State's inability to produce accurate
38 population estimates for the year due to poor light
39 conditions encountered during aerial surveys and the
40 degradation of meaningful subsistence activities due to
41 user conflicts.

42

43

Council Members acknowledged that the
44 special action was a tool provided to them by Title
45 VIII of ANILCA to protect subsistence uses and it would
46 represent a one-year trial after which the action's
47 effects would be evaluated. In March, 2016, all 10
48 Councils met in Anchorage. The Northwest Arctic and
49 North Slope Councils recommended the Board approve 16-
50 01, the Seward Peninsula Council opposed the action and

1 the Western Interior Council abstained from voting.

2

3 At its public meeting in April 2016,
4 the Board approved 16-01 closing Federal public lands
5 in Unit 23 to the harvest of caribou by non-Federally
6 qualified users for the July 1st, 2016 through June
7 30th, 2017 regulatory year.

8

9 The Board determined that there was
10 sufficient evidence indicating that the closure was
11 necessary to allow for the continuation of subsistence
12 uses for conservation of the healthy caribou population
13 as mandated under ANILCA Section 815. Evidence
14 included public testimony expressed to the Board by
15 residents of the area, the position of two affected
16 Councils, the Northwest Arctic and North Slope and the
17 current status of the herd.

18

19 The Board concluded that a closure to
20 all but Federally qualified subsistence users was
21 consistent with providing a subsistence priority and
22 assurance that a rural preference was being provided.
23 The Board also concluded that the closure recognized
24 the cultural and social aspects of subsistence
25 activities, which may be hampered by direct interaction
26 between local and non-local users.

27

28 In the current request, Wildlife
29 Special Action 16-03, the State said that new
30 information indicated improvements in the Western
31 Arctic Caribou Herd calf production, recruitment,
32 survival and weight. Adult females exhibited very good
33 body conditions and high pregnancy rates in 2015 and
34 '16 and the WACH population estimate for the fall of
35 2015 was 206,000 caribou falling within the WACH
36 management plans, conservative harvest management
37 strategy.

38

39 From now on I will refer to the Western
40 Arctic Caribou Herd as the WACH. The WACH management
41 plan strategies are described on Page 15 of your
42 analysis. You can find them in Table 2. There you can
43 see where they describe the conservative management
44 strategy versus the preservative.

45

46 The proposed Federal regulation is on
47 Page 3 of your analysis. Federal public lands, which
48 are currently closed, comprise about 69 percent or a
49 little over two-thirds of Unit 23.

50

1 Regulatory history. As described in
2 the previous analysis for 16-01, since 1988 the Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Bureau of Land
4 Management, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service have discussed, researched and
6 implemented regulations to address user conflicts in
7 Unit 23.

8
9 Two examples shows on Page 6, Map 2,
10 are the Board of Game's Noatak Controlled Use Area in
11 Noatak National Park and Preserve's Special Commercial
12 Use Area. The Noatak Controlled use area is closed
13 from August 15 through September 30th to the use of
14 aircraft to transport big game hunters into the area.

15
16 In the Noatak Special Commercial Use
17 Area, commercial transporters can transport caribou
18 hunters only after September 15th in order to allow a
19 sufficient number of caribou to cross the Noatak River,
20 establish migration routes and allow local hunters the
21 first opportunity to harvest caribou in that area.
22 However, Federally qualified subsistence users have
23 consistently reported conflicts with non-local caribou
24 hunters and observed aircraft affecting the behavior of
25 individual and groups of caribou in areas of Unit 23.
26 This is summarized in the user conflict section of the
27 analysis beginning on Page 35.

28
29 For the biological background, the WACH
30 working group developed a management table for this
31 herd, which we've represented in Table 2 on Page 15 of
32 the analysis. Caribou populations naturally fluctuate
33 over time. Since peaking at 490,000 animals in 2003,
34 the WACH population has declined over 55 percent. The
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game completed a photo
36 census of the herd this July, which yielded a
37 population estimate of 200,928 caribou. The rate of
38 decline has decreased.

39
40 Harvest history. The harvest of
41 caribou from the Western Arctic Herd has been
42 relatively stable between 1990 and 2013 and is shown on
43 Page 22 in Figure 5. From 1999 to 2013 the average
44 annual estimated harvest was 11,984 caribou, ranging
45 from 10,666 to 13,537 caribou a year. Local hunters
46 have taken about 95 percent of the harvest of the WACH
47 since late 1990s. Based on harvest reports to ADF&G in
48 2000 and 2013 regulatory years, the reported harvest
49 from the WACH by non-local hunters were 520 caribou and
50 397 caribou respectively.

1 We looked at a number of non-Federally
2 qualified subsistence hunters hunting in different
3 parts of Unit 23 and this is depicted by Map 8 on Page
4 31. You can see the darker the area, the higher the
5 use. On Page 40, Map 10 shows land status in Unit 23.
6 The crosshatched areas are Federal Public lands that
7 are currently closed to the harvest of caribou by
8 non-Federally qualified subsistence users. State lands,
9 which have remained open, are indicated in pink or the
10 darker shade of gray on copies that are not in color.

11
12 I'll now summarize current events. The
13 Office of Subsistence Management held public meetings
14 in Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome in July of 2016 and
15 accepted comments to the Board concerning Special
16 Action 16-03. Consultation between tribes and the
17 Board was held in August for Wildlife Special Action
18 16-03 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional
19 office in Anchorage in person and by teleconference.
20 An opportunity for ANCSA corporations to consult with
21 the Board was also held in August at the regional
22 office in Anchorage in person and by teleconference.
23 Comments from these meetings are described beginning on
24 Page 44 of the analysis.

25
26 The Northwest Arctic Council and
27 Western Interior Council were briefed on the special
28 action at their meetings earlier this month. Both
29 voted unanimously to oppose Special Action 16-03.
30 Currently pending are two proposals submitted to the
31 Alaska Board of Game by the Noatak, Kivalina and
32 Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committees. The
33 proposals to be considered in January of 2017 seek an
34 extension to the boundaries of the Noatak Controlled
35 Use Area.

36
37 Effects of proposal. If the Board
38 approves Wildlife Special Action 16-03, Federal public
39 lands in Unit 23 will reopen to caribou hunting by
40 non-Federally qualified subsistence users. In its
41 request to the Board, Wildlife Special Action 16-03,
42 the State said that new information indicated
43 improvements in caribou calf production, but calf
44 production has likely had little influence on the WACH
45 population decline.

46
47 Decreased calf survival through summer
48 and fall and decreased recruitment into the herd have
49 likely contributed to the population decline. New
50 information indicated improvements in WACH caribou

1 recruitment, survival and weight. Recent research
2 demonstrated that 2015 and the 2016 cohorts make up a
3 large portion of the herd. Because of their young age
4 they remain somewhat vulnerable to winter conditions.
5 Evaluating the overwinter survival rates of the large
6 cohort of 2016 will help to put the demographic
7 potential of this cohort into context.

8

9 Increase cow mortality has likely
10 affected herd decline. New information indicated that
11 adult females exhibited very good body conditions and
12 high pregnancy rates in 2015 and '16 and new data
13 demonstrated decreasing annual cow mortality rates in
14 three of the past four years.

15

16 Results of a July 1, 2016 photo census
17 survey resulted in a WACH population estimate of
18 200,928 caribou.

19 Results of this census indicate an average annual
20 decline of 5 percent per year between 2013 and 2015,
21 representing a lower rate of decline than the annual 15
22 percent between 2011 and 2013.

23

24 While there is substantial uncertainty
25 in the harvestable surplus estimates, the overall trend
26 is decreasing as the population declines. If
27 population projections and harvest estimates are
28 accurate, the harvestable surplus is likely already
29 being exceeded. The preliminary OSM conclusion at this
30 time is neutral on temporary Special Action Request 16-
31 03. This analysis has demonstrated that there are many
32 valid arguments for both supporting and rejecting 16-
33 03; however, data gaps also exist that hinder a
34 complete understanding of the complex biological and
35 anthropological components surrounding this issue.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members of the
38 Council. I will do my best to answer questions, but I
39 do believe we have our OSM wildlife biologist and other
40 anthropologist who participated in the analysis online
41 to assist.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin.
46 I'm looking at Council to see if this generated any
47 questions at this point.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I have one
2 for myself here. This hunt took place this fall. I
3 realize there was a lot of people grieving over the
4 fact that they couldn't do something. They had a
5 bucket list to do. What happened with the hunt? What
6 did it show? The majority of the hunt is probably over
7 with. So did it show that there was problems for
8 people to hunt on State lands only that were non-
9 qualified? In other words, I guess the question is how
10 many animals did they take, for one? What was their
11 success rate?

12
13 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is
14 there anyone online who might have that answer?

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner. I'm
19 an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
20 Management. We do not have an early assessment of how
21 many caribou were taken. We have been listening at the
22 Northwest Alaska Council meeting and there was
23 testimony there from Council members and the public
24 where caribou were seen and fewer flights were seen.
25 Other than that we only have little bits and pieces of
26 information from different people who attended that
27 meeting and no clear picture of what they know what the
28 season looks like so far.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Do you
33 have a count on the number of non-qualified hunters
34 that were involved?

35
36 MS. KENNER: No, we don't. I did get a
37 preliminary assessment from just talking to people who
38 knew who those transporters were, but again it's just a
39 preliminary report. We do know that some trips that
40 would have been made by non-local hunters weren't. But
41 we also know that some transporters and guides continue
42 to be active.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I guess
45 one other question to anybody that can answer. Some of
46 this that generated this was a question of migration
47 patterns of these caribou coming through and I think in
48 my mind that was one of the issues that the Northwest
49 group had. So I was wondering if there was anything
50 notable in any changes of the migration patterns. It

1 sounded like less aircraft flying, more caribou seen by
2 locals.

3

4 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. It's Chris
5 McKee.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Chris.

8

9 MR. MCKEE: I do know the Park Service
10 is pretty close to coming out with a report on a study
11 that they did looking at migration pattern of the herd
12 in relation to sport hunters, but I think they're not
13 planning on presenting that until probably the last
14 round of working group meeting because I don't think
15 it's gone through the full review process. We don't
16 have any definitive information on how the closure may
17 or may not have affected the migration. It would be
18 next to impossible to say at this point.

19

20 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Chris. I'll
21 add to that. This is Pippa again with OSM. That's
22 true what Chris is saying. Also when we had the
23 managers in the room from some of the different
24 agencies, the non-resident hunt was still -- the season
25 was still open. I think as a general rule those
26 managers are hesitant to talk about where the herd is
27 migrating while that season is still open.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So when does the
30 season close on the State lands up there for nonrural
31 residents or non-qualified.

32

33 MR. MCKEE: Did you just ask when the
34 State season ends?

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Correct. That's still
37 going on, I think, is what I heard, that the State
38 season is still taking place for non-Federally
39 recognized hunters.

40

41 MR. MCKEE: The State season ended on
42 October 14th.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

45

46 MS. KENNER: And then the Northwest
47 Arctic Council met the week before.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I just see this as
50 asking for a motion here to make a determination and I

1 just asked three key questions here that would enable
2 me to make an informed decision and I can't make that
3 decision at this point because I didn't get any
4 answers. I mean that's my gut feeling. I wouldn't
5 want to change anything until I had the information to
6 do it with for myself. I don't know about the other
7 members of the Council.

8

9 Any of you fellows have anything to
10 add? Fred.

11

12 MR. ENINGOWUK: I don't know. Probably
13 a no action.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Other Council members.
16 I don't have enough information to make a decision on
17 this other than say keep it status quo.

18

19 Elmer.

20

21 MR. SEETOT: Unlike the sport hunters
22 that use open date to get caribou, I'm one of those few
23 that don't have the resources to go up to Kotzebue or
24 the area to hunt bulls that are fat. I wouldn't mind
25 having a fat caribou or stuff like that for the winter.
26 I would think that since the majority of their calves
27 rearing up is up on the North Slope that it's part of
28 their responsibility to take care of the deer whether
29 it be environmental, whether it be manmade or stuff
30 like that because we are the caretakers or gatekeepers
31 of the salmon that go into Salmon Lake being
32 environmentally sound, doing this and that.

33

34 So I would say I feel like it doesn't
35 bother me at all, you know. We've got different
36 resources throughout the season. We do harvest through
37 the year, especially during the summer and fall months
38 for these resources. But I'm left also in the blind
39 like the sport hunters. Wow, those people are getting
40 all the good caribou. Good for them because they've
41 been here before. The State protects the sport hunters
42 because that's where they get their money from for the
43 licenses and stuff like that. I'm not bad-mouthing. I
44 just know it for a fact. That's the best way I can
45 just put it and that's my opinion.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I
50 think 16-03 only deals with Unit 23 and it doesn't

1 apply to the caribou that come into the Unit 22.

2

3 Go ahead, Fred.

4

5 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, I'll correct you
6 on that. They do come into 22 because we subsist on
7 caribou and they came back to our backyards and that's
8 part of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Their caribou
9 is part of our caribou. That's the same group of
10 animals that they're talking about. So, you know,
11 there is interest in our RAC because we are neighbors
12 to them.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. I
15 guess what I was trying to say was that you -- I'm
16 talking like Donald Trump. I'm using the gestures.
17 Oh, my goodness.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm watching too much
22 TV. Excuse me. What's happening now in this
23 regulation in this special 16-03 is it's only in Unit
24 23 is where this is taking place. It doesn't affect
25 Unit 22 as far as non-qualified. There's no such thing
26 as non-qualified users in 22. So the caribou that we
27 share with them comes through them and comes to the
28 northern Seward Peninsula to us, but we're not in the
29 same -- we're utilizing the same resources, yes, like
30 Fred says, but what I'm saying is that the rules apply
31 to only 23. Not to 22. So it's my impression because
32 there's not enough information for me to change
33 anything that I see, I'm okay with status quo at this
34 point, but that's my opinion. Mine only.

35

36 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.

39

40 MR. KATCHEAK: I move to leave as
41 status quo on the caribou. Is it okay, Fred? Do you
42 think it's.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We need to clarify
45 this thing so we've got it right before we create a
46 motion.

47

48 Go ahead, Karen. You've got something
49 to add.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen. If the
2 Council feels this is not an issue that's important to
3 them, the motion that we'd make is to take no action on
4 this issue. Status quo is not a motion and it's not an
5 effective way to -- you either support it, you oppose
6 it or you take no action on this proposal or this
7 special action.

8
9 You can't even do status quo on this
10 action because you haven't made a motion on this
11 action. This is a brand-new response. This isn't 16-
12 01 where you did take action before where you opposed
13 16-01. This is a response to 16-01 from the State of
14 Alaska and it is a special action to reverse what
15 happened in 16-01 and we call this 16-03. If you don't
16 feel this affects you, you can take no action or you
17 can oppose it or support it.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Under 16-
22 01 we made a decision in Anchorage before analysis if
23 I'm right because I went into a meeting and heard
24 numbers after the fact.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. If I
27 recall, you were not at the meeting where they did the
28 analysis for 16-01. Was that in the fall? Oh, I'm
29 sorry then. The meeting in Anchorage, if I recall,
30 excuse me, Mr. Chair, the Council at first decided to
31 take no action and then a couple Council members spoke
32 and the Council voted to oppose 16-01. So they were
33 against the original proposal that would not allow non-
34 qualified users to hunt caribou in Unit 23. You all
35 were opposed to that as a Council and that's what was
36 on the record.

37
38 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner. May
39 I interrupt, Mr. Chair?

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

42
43 MS. KENNER: At the Board meeting, the
44 Federal Subsistence Board approved Special Action 16-01
45 and the closure. It was made clear at that meeting
46 that the Seward Pen wasn't aware of all the information
47 that they felt they needed to have made a decision. If
48 they had had that information, they might have voted
49 differently.

50

1 As far as this special action, you can
2 make the motion in the positive because by this special
3 action if you made a motion to oppose, it would mean
4 that you would vote and a yes would mean oppose and a
5 no would mean approve. So in order to make it easier
6 for Council members, I suggest if you are going to make
7 a motion, to make it in the positive; I move to approve
8 or recommend adopting or supporting this special action
9 and then take your vote.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that. I
12 make decisions on information and this thing has taken
13 place already. Most of the hunt is completed. I guess
14 the State hunt is over with. Now it's all about
15 subsistence users and what is the subsistence hunt up
16 there. That's open continuously, correct?

17

18 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
19 thinking, Mr. Chair, that question might have been to
20 me. I do have the regulations right in front of me.
21 The (indiscernible) continuously as July 1st when
22 restrictions were placed on the season. So for caribou
23 in Unit 23 and there's different seasons for.....

24

25 MS. HOWARD: Pippa, this is Amee. Can
26 I have you just hold for just a second so I can give
27 the Chair a regulation book and we can discuss it here.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Yes.

30

31 MS. HOWARD: Thank you.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So what I'm getting is
36 that as of October 14th the guided hunts or
37 transporters are all out of business now. It's done.
38 So it doesn't apply forward. In other words, I'm
39 saying subsistence is going to continue to happen. To
40 me, like I ask questions why would I want to vote for
41 something or oppose to something that's already
42 happened? There's nothing relevant to me. Subsistence
43 is what we're about. Subsistence is going to continue.
44 I'm good with that.

45

46 You have something to add, Amee.

47

48 MS. HOWARD: Just a quick
49 clarification, kind of going back to the idea of status
50 quo, which Karen was correct in explaining. So what

1 Special Action 16-01 did was a year-long making the
2 hunt prohibited to non-Federally qualified users. So
3 what this new special action is asking is to rescind
4 that, reverse it, like Karen stated and Robbin stated.

5
6 So a vote to oppose WSA 16-03 would
7 essentially keep 16-01 as is.

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Keep it in place.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Keep it in place. So
12 if we oppose 16-03, fellows, then everything stays.....

13
14 MR. KIRK: The same.

15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Status quo.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Status quo. I used
19 the term loosely. I was just trying to.....

20
21 MS. HOWARD: So just to add the
22 clarification there. To get to perhaps that goal
23 process-wise, that's how it would lay out.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So if I'm going to
26 vote for 16-03 to oppose it, then it reverts back to
27 16-01 and continues to June.

28
29 MS. HOWARD: 16-01 is in place unless
30 16-03 is approved by the Board.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I'm fine with
33 opposing 16-03. Other members.

34
35 MS. HOWARD: So one more
36 recommendation. Sorry to interrupt, Mr. Chair. As
37 Pippa was going into, again we want to do a motion in
38 the positive. So it would be -- a recommendation would
39 be the positive would be to support or adopt WSA16-03,
40 then you would have a vote in favor, a nay vote would
41 result in the Council opposing.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You folks got that?
44 It's Robert's Rules.

45
46 MS. HOWARD: It is Robert.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I would like to have

1 that motion.
2
3 MR. ENINGOWUK: Make a motion to
4 support WSA 16-03.
5
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second.
7
8 MR. SEETOT: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second by Elmer.
11 Discussion.
12
13 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.
14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
16 called.
17
18 MR. ASHENFELTER: Hey.
19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're in discussion.
21 Roy wants to comment or have a discussion.
22
23 MR. ASHENFELTER: Then I believe you're
24 supposed to go down your list asking everybody. So
25 anyway, this is Roy Ashenfelter. I represent Kawerak.
26 Maybe just a question for the Federal agencies. So
27 this 16-01 expires June of '17, is that correct?
28
29 MS. HOWARD: Yes.
30
31 MR. ASHENFELTER: So once it expires
32 any organization would have to resubmit a similar
33 proposal for fall of 2017.
34
35 MS. HOWARD: Uh-huh (affirmative).
36
37 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. All right. I
38 don't have any -- I was just trying to get something in
39 my mind to clear on.
40
41 MS. HOWARD: Want me to add one thing,
42 Roy. Through the Chair. Mr. Ashenfelter is correct.
43 WSA 16-01 is good through June 30th, so this regulatory
44 year. What we anticipate happening is another special
45 action request from the Council and we also anticipate
46 a wildlife proposal coming in to make it a permanent
47 change because we will be entering into a wildlife
48 cycle beginning in the winter and spring.
49
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Roy. Thanks,

1 Amee. So my comments are based on best information.
2 The information isn't there yet. It's not developed.
3 It's only going to June. There's no numbers in there
4 for me to even consider anything in the future, so I'm
5 not going to say one way or the other. I'll keep you
6 guessing. The thought is to continue the way things
7 are. I'm in favor of 16-01 to continue until the time
8 runs out in June 30th, 2017.

9

10 Does somebody need to add something.

11 Amee.

12

13 MS. HOWARD: Just to touch on the
14 process, that would be my only recommendation, to be
15 sure there's no one on the phone.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the phone
18 from any tribes or ANCSA corporations.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Agency comments,
23 ADF&G, Federal agencies.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Native, tribal,
28 village or other.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Interagency Staff
33 Committee members.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any advisory groups,
38 other Regional Councils. Fish and Game advisory
39 committees.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Subsistence Resource
44 Commissions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Public. We heard Roy.
49 Are there any others online.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll
4 proceed to our action. So we've got a motion on the
5 floor and went into discussion. Did we get a second?
6 I think we did, didn't we?
7
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.
9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So this is the
11 positive for support of 16-03. A nay vote will revert
12 things back to 16-01 to continue to June 30th, 2017.
13 Having said that, the question has been called. Do you
14 need to discuss?
15
16 MR. KATCHEAK: No. Just the question
17 to stop the discussion.
18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Stop me.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of
24 16-03 say aye.
25
26 MR. KATCHEAK: Aye.
27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: To support 16-03.
29
30 MR. KATCHEAK: No. I'm sorry. I take
31 that back.
32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
34 sign.
35
36 IN UNISON: Nay.
37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion fails to
39 support 16-03. Thank you. I think people deserve a
40 little break here, so we'll take a 10 minute.
41
42 (Off record)
43
44 (On record)
45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'll call the meeting
47 back to order. Ted was called away to do a
48 presentation for a class, so he's been excused. As far
49 as any action items, I think we've got enough to fill
50 the rest of the afternoon until 5:00, right? We're

1 going until 5:00?

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sure.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It never says the

6 ending.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: We never end.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So we've got a couple

11 things that Ameer wants to run across the table with.

12 So, Ameer, it's your turn again.

13

14 M. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 Council Members. For the record, I am Ameer Howard,

16 Policy Coordinator. Mr. Chair, did you want to do the

17 revision of the MOU, that's where we're at?

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, ma'am, that's

20 where we're at. We're going to hold off on 16-07 until

21 tomorrow when Ted Katchek is back. So we're moving on

22 to item D, revisions of the MOU with the State of

23 Alaska.

24

25 MS. HOWARD: Thank you for the

26 clarification. So turn to Page 98 in your meeting

27 materials. Currently OSM and the Forest Service, BLM

28 and the State of Alaska team have been working on

29 updating and reviving efforts on the MOU, Memorandum of

30 Understanding, for coordinated interagency fish and

31 wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal

32 public lands in Alaska. It's between the Federal

33 Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska.

34

35 So a little bit of history. All the

36 Council have essentially seen this document before. So

37 back in 2012 and 2013 is my understanding the last time

38 the Council saw it. This version of the document has

39 all of the comments and edits at that time incorporated

40 into it.

41

42 Essentially the history that I have

43 been told and my understanding is that version in 2013

44 cannot get agreed upon and signed between the Federal

45 Subsistence Board and the State. So this is reviving

46 efforts. It was brought up at the Board of Game and

47 Board of Fish where they definitely wanted to revive

48 efforts at the April wildlife meeting for the Federal

49 Subsistence Board. They also reiterated the importance

50 of reviving and finalizing an MOU.

1 So this Draft MOU builds on the July
2 18th, 2012 draft, which incorporated recommended
3 changes from not only the Regional Advisory Councils
4 but the Subsistence Resource Commissions and the State
5 Advisory Committees. The subcommittee working on this
6 MOU again is made up of representatives from OSM, BLM,
7 the Forest Service and the State.

8
9 The intent of this MOU is to provide a
10 foundation to build on with the State to coordinate the
11 management of fish and wildlife resources for
12 subsistence uses. It is not expected to address the
13 variety of issues between the Federal program and the
14 State, but to provide a framework so that specific
15 issues may be worked on in the future. So that's
16 important to note.

17
18 This isn't going to end up being a list
19 of you can do this and you can't do that. It's more an
20 MOU to understand the framework that when there is an
21 issue that either the Federal side takes or the State
22 takes, this will provide us with the framework of how
23 to address that issue.

24
25 So we would like you to review the
26 document. I believe it's only five pages. Much in the
27 same way that you offer recommendations on the Draft
28 Nonrural Policy, we would like the Council to offer
29 recommendations, comments and feedback on the MOU.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen's got something
32 to offer. Thank you, Ameer.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair and Members
35 of the Council. Again, you have the opportunity to
36 either just offer comments on this or if you feel like
37 you would like to make a motion to oppose or support
38 the Draft MOU, that is also an option.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This might be a little
43 bit of homework for us to do here tonight because Ted
44 will be back with us tomorrow if we're going to have
45 any kind of a vote.

46
47 (Mr. Katcheak is present)

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, there he is.
50 Speak of the angel.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Maybe you ought to
4 just give him a pinch of it there. Ted, she's going to
5 say something to you. Ameer, you have the floor.
6
7 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, Ameer.
8
9 MS. HOWARD: Thank you. Through the
10 Chair. Welcome back, Ted.
11
12 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.
13
14 MS. HOWARD: So on Page 98 of your
15 meeting materials we're discussing the Draft MOU that
16 the Federal program and the State of Alaska are
17 revisiting this effort to finalize an MOU between the
18 two programs.
19
20 The intent of the MOU is to provide a
21 foundation to build on with the State to coordinate the
22 management of fish and wildlife resources for
23 subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska. It
24 is not expected to address the variety of issues
25 between the Federal program and the State, but to
26 provide a framework so that specific issues may be
27 worked on in the future. So that's really key.
28
29 One recommendation I would have for the
30 Council is to look at section 3, the guiding
31 principles. Because guiding principles, whenever you
32 have that terminology in any of our documents that we
33 present to you definitely is going to be the core or
34 the heart of the MOU. And then section 4 is the
35 Federal Subsistence Board and State of Alaska mutually
36 agree.
37
38 So section 3 and section 4 I think
39 would be of great interest and feedback and comments on
40 those particular items would be very beneficial moving
41 forward.
42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ameer. Any
44 questions on the Council side.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think people are
49 trying to consume some of these words.
50

1 (Pause)
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: For those of you on
4 the phone, the Council is reviewing the MOU. It should
5 just take another minute or two.
6
7 Thank you.
8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Another minute or so
10 and then we'll discuss.
11
12 (Pause)
13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'll break the
15 silence. We have a choice here to make, whether we
16 want to support, take no action, oppose or give
17 comments. There's all these four things there we can
18 do. My feeling is that -- it's my opinion that I've
19 been wanting to see something like this for a long time
20 between the States and the Feds. I think I've been
21 pretty clear about that all along for different
22 meetings, different levels. I can do whatever the
23 Council wants. Any other members have an opinion on
24 it? I'd appreciate to hear it. It's a lot of reading.
25
26 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Ted.
27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.
29
30 MR. KATCHEAK: I haven't seen a
31 memorandum agreement for a long time and I think this
32 is a step to working with the State of Alaska. I will
33 be in favor of approving this MOU.
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. Any
36 other comments by Council. Fred. You're studying it
37 pretty good and hard. You got a comment? He's
38 cautious. Cautious Clay.
39
40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, just wondering
41 who submitted this MOU. Was it the State or the
42 Federal or both entities working on this together?
43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: A mee.
45
46 MS. HOWARD: Through the Chair, Fred.
47 It was both. This is a product of both the
48 representatives of the Federal program and
49 representatives from the State working on drafting this
50 MOU. This work began in 2012 and again went through

1 some review with the Councils and the Councils provided
2 recommendations and comments, which were incorporated
3 and are now in this version of the MOU as well.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ameer.

6

7 Don.

8

9 MR. RIVARD: I just have an example of
10 something you might consider that's not in here right
11 now but it could be. That is something like -- I'm
12 looking under section 4. I think is where this might
13 fit. But this kind of struck me when I was just
14 reading through this. Something like cooperatively --
15 this is between the State and the Board again.
16 Cooperatively develop or modify escapement goals for
17 fish populations. Right now it's something that is
18 mostly the responsibility of the State, so this would
19 formalize something like that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Don.

22

23 Ameer.

24

25 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Don, for the
26 recommendation, but we do want to be careful because
27 again the MOU is built not to address the specific
28 issues, but to set up that framework. So if we wanted
29 to address escapement goals or limits or things like
30 that, then we want a more general statement for it if
31 that makes sense. We have to think about in the world
32 of the MOU and how -- it's the big generalization on
33 how the Board is going to interact with the State.

34

35 For example, there are things in here,
36 use the best available information including
37 scientific, cultural and local knowledge. So those are
38 tenants or guidelines for this is what each program is
39 agreeing to do when approaching this issue.

40

41 So I think if we wanted to add specific
42 biological milestones, goals, things of that nature, we
43 could just add in there -- was it cooperatively develop
44 and modify? So you could maybe add cooperatively
45 develop and modify where regulations allow because,
46 again, we have to think of that regulatory complexity
47 that comes in that isn't going to be addressed through
48 this. Develop and modify biological goals. Something
49 in that realm would be able to be added if that makes
50 sense.

1 So anything really specific, a specific
2 issue, the MOU isn't necessarily the place for it
3 because, again, it can't be a list on either side.
4 This is the two sides and we will come together, we
5 will all be at the table and we agree to almost act or
6 carry out our business in this way to address whatever
7 issue is at hand.

8

9 Did I muddy it or did I clear it up?

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You just tied my
12 hands. Go ahead, Fred.

13

14 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, I do believe that
15 clearly states it on number 4-9 to designate the
16 liaison where policy and program communications and
17 coordination between the State and Federal program. So
18 there would be a liaison that would work between the
19 State and the Federal program so that we can work
20 together with Fish and Game.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I told you he was
23 cautious and steady. Well, we can make a motion to
24 support, to oppose. I'm asking for a motion at this
25 time if you feel comfortable. If somebody makes a
26 motion and nobody seconds it, it fails

27

28 MR. ENINGOWUK: Make a motion to
29 support MOU or coordinated interagency fish and
30 wildlife management for subsistence use on Federal
31 public lands in Alaska between the Federal Subsistence
32 Board and the State of Alaska.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. Is
35 there a second.

36

37 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Any
40 discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Call for question.

45

46 MR. KATCHEAK: Question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
49 called. All those in favor of supporting the MOU say
50 aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. The
9 motion passes.
10
11 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
12 Council Members.
13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That brings us to Item
15 E, Tongass Submerged Lands Proposed Rule. Amee.
16
17 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Amee Howard again.
19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry. Howard.
21 You keep calling me Chairman. I haven't heard Green
22 yet.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MS. HOWARD: Chairman Green. Thank
27 you. So if you turn to Page 105 in your meeting
28 materials, you'll see the Federal registration notice.
29 What this is discussing is a proposed rule, so it's a
30 subsistence management regulation for public lands in
31 Alaska for Tongass National Forest submerged lands.
32
33 This proposed rule will change portions
34 of the regulations that are under Secretarial
35 authority. Since this proposed rule is under
36 Secretarial authority, it is being presented at all 10
37 of the Regional Advisory Councils.
38
39 In the proposed rule it states that we,
40 being the Federal Subsistence Program, will provide the
41 opportunity to have a public hearing or public meeting
42 for the Tongass Submerged Lands Proposed Rule at each
43 of the Regional Advisory Council meetings.
44
45 So my recommendation to you, Chairman
46 Green, is to formally open a public meeting. While
47 that public meeting is open we can give an opportunity
48 to anyone in the audience, anyone on the phone, to
49 provide public comments if they have any on the Tongass
50 Submerged Lands Proposed Rule.

1 Also, once the public meeting is open,
2 I can read some summary information that goes into
3 further detail explaining what the proposed rule is
4 about. Once we've gotten comments, then you can
5 formally close the meeting and then at that time
6 provide opportunity for the Council to make any
7 recommendations that they would make. In doing so, we
8 would fulfill our responsibilities outlined in the
9 proposed rule to hold a public meeting for the Tongass
10 submerged lands.

11
12 That would be my recommendation.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ameer
15 Howard. I guess my question is, is the public ready to
16 make comment. I have this information. Has it been
17 circulating for quite some time?

18
19 MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. It has been
20 circulating. It was originally published in the
21 Federal Register June 8th, 2016. It also has been
22 included in every one of our Regional Advisory Council
23 meeting material books. So it's been quite circulated.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: At this time I'd like
26 to open the Tongass Submerged Lands Proposed Rule and
27 ask for public input, comment.

28
29 MS. HOWARD: With your permission, Mr.
30 Chair, Chairman Green, I would like to offer a summary
31 of the proposed rule. That may further assist any.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's probably a
34 great idea.

35
36 MS. HOWARD: So if you'd look at Page
37 105, the summary that I'll be reading will just be
38 right under the title box in that middle column.

39
40 The U.S. District Court for Alaska in
41 its October 17, 2011, order in Peratrovich et al. v.
42 United States and the State of Alaska, enjoined the
43 United States to promptly initiate regulatory
44 proceedings for the purpose of implementing the
45 subsistence provisions in Title VIII of the Alaska
46 National Interest Lands Conservation Act with respect
47 to submerged public lands within Tongass National
48 Forest and directed entry of judgment. To comply with
49 the order, the Federal Subsistence Board must initiate
50 a regulatory proceeding to identify those submerged

1 lands within the Tongass National Forest that did not
2 pass to the State of Alaska at statehood and,
3 therefore, remain Federal public lands subject to the
4 subsistence provisions of ANILCA.

5
6 Following the Courts decision, the
7 Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service
8 started a review of hundreds of potential pre-statehood
9 withdrawals in the marine waters of the
10 Tongass National Forest. In April and October of 2015,
11 BLM submitted initial lists of submerged public lands
12 to the Board. This proposed rule would add those
13 submerged parcels to the subsistence regulations to
14 ensure compliance with the Court order.

15
16 Additional listings will be published
17 as BLM and the Forest Service continue their review of
18 pre-statehood withdrawals. So this will be the first
19 of those proposed rules and you will see more in the
20 future.

21
22 One other thing I would like to add.
23 In discussions with representatives in Southeast
24 working for the Forest Service, many of the submerged
25 lands on the list are aids to navigation. There aren't
26 any large parcels. Most of them are relatively small
27 in size. So just to keep that in mind as well.

28
29 That's all I have.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Would you say that
32 again.

33
34 MS. HOWARD: They informed us that most
35 of the lands that are listed here are aids to
36 navigation, so markers through the waterway. Some of
37 them can come and go with the tide. So just to keep in
38 mind we're not talking about thousands of acres. We're
39 talking about small areas that were missed, so that's
40 the list that BLM and the Forest Service are going
41 through to find those small areas on the map that need
42 to be identified and added to regulation.

43
44 So that's the purpose behind creating
45 these proposed rules.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that is to be
48 under Federal regs or did I miss something?

49
50 MS. HOWARD: No, you're correct. It

1 will be added to the Federal regulations.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Council Members, any
4 questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have people on the
9 phone. We have maybe somebody in the room here that
10 might want to make comment or ask questions. So we
11 would be asking tribes, ANCSA corporations, Agency
12 comments, ADF&G, Federal agencies, Native, tribal,
13 village, other. Interagency Staff Committee members.
14 Advisory group comments, other Regional Councils, fish
15 and game advisory committee members, Subsistence
16 Resource Commission members and public comments and
17 public testimony.

18

19 Is there anybody online that would want
20 to comment?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. There
25 doesn't seem to be anyone in the room here.

26

27 MS. HOWARD: So, Mr. Chair, hearing no
28 public comment online or in the room, it would be
29 appropriate to formally close the public meeting.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: At this time I'd like
32 to close this public meeting. So at this point what
33 are you asking of the Council?

34

35 MS. HOWARD: Through the Chair. Just
36 whether or not they have comments or questions. This
37 is the opportunity for the Council to weigh in.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Back to you
40 fellows. Any questions or comments on this?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It seems kind of
45 self-explanatory. Well, we don't have any more input
46 to add to it.

47

48 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Council Members. See, quick and easy public meeting.

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It seems like we're
4 getting close to the 5:00 o'clock hour here. Do you
5 want to save any fun for tomorrow? Karen, what's your
6 advice.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: You're the Chair,
9 Chairman Green.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I knew you were going
12 to say that.

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We're going to
17 take Items F and G and hold those off until tomorrow.
18 It sounds like they're going to be lengthy. The
19 Council Member honorarium under Item H Karen will speak
20 to.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Members of the Council. We had a Council Member that
24 requested that this issue be put on the agenda. So it
25 was handed out in the supplemental materials in your
26 book, a few items which will clarify compensation to
27 Council Members for the participation in Council
28 meetings at this point twice a year.

29

30 So on the question of honorarium, I'm
31 going to read here just a short paragraph and I want to
32 read this in the spirit of recognizing that all our
33 Council members are volunteers and very much
34 appreciated, the time and energy that they put into
35 speaking on these very important issues for their
36 communities and also their help to the Federal
37 Subsistence Board.

38

39 On the question of honorariums, Council
40 Members are not compensated for their time on the
41 Council. This is outlined in the Council Charter on
42 Page 131, Section 12 of your meeting books. It is also
43 outlined in the Council Member Manual, Page 31,
44 provided as a supplemental document, and in the Council
45 Member application booklet on the first page also
46 provided as a supplemental document.

47

48 What the Federal Subsistence Management
49 Program does do, however, is we do cover all of your
50 travel costs, including accommodations, air travel and

1 a per diem to help you support your subsistence when
2 you're attending these meetings. Once again I wanted
3 to reiterate that as volunteers you are incredibly
4 important to the Federal Subsistence Management Program
5 and we very much appreciate your input on behalf of our
6 office as well as the Federal Subsistence Board.

7

8 So if you have any questions about
9 this, you can let me know, but we did provide those
10 three items to clarify that the Council Members are not
11 compensated for the time that they serve on the
12 Council, only for their travel costs.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: To put it in layman's
17 terms, she said you signed the bottom line that says
18 you're going to do this for free. So there you go.

19

20 I think we should conclude the meeting
21 for today and take it back up at 9:00 o'clock tomorrow
22 morning. So we're going to go into recess.

23

24 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Lights
27 are on. These guys are whistling at me.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, there's some
30 questions?

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. One at a time.
33 Mr. Kirk.

34

35 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. I was the one
36 that brought this honorarium to table. My concern is
37 -- like we're getting compensated for today and
38 tomorrow. What happens when we run out of these funds
39 and we get storm bound in a city or a village and we
40 run out of funds to say go to the restaurant and feed
41 ourselves. How do we compensate for that if we're
42 storm bound in the city and we run out of this
43 honorarium or this per diem you have given us is
44 extinct?

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen's got the
47 answer.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Kirk, through the
50 Chair. We do compensate you for any time that you are

1 held up in any area during your travel from point to
2 point. So if you are held up in an area trying to get
3 back, you are paid a per diem for every day that you
4 are on travel to get home. So that's definitely
5 covered as well we will pay you per diem, as well as
6 your accommodations. So if you got stuck in Nome for
7 three days extra, we would pay you those three days
8 extra as well as the accommodations required.

9

10 As far as the per diem in advance, we
11 do give you a portion of your advance for every
12 meeting. It's not the whole per diem, but we do give
13 you a portion of that to help you have some funds when
14 you are on the ground to be able to get food and be
15 able to buy the things you need while you're staying in
16 town, but we are not allowed to give you the entire per
17 diem until after we get back and complete the travel.

18

19 Generally a per diem is not prepaid.
20 For example, as an employee, I don't get my per diem
21 before I start the trip. I actually pay for what I
22 need to pay for when I'm here. We do this for you
23 because we recognize that some people may not have the
24 funding to support themselves during the whole trip, so
25 what we do is we provide an advance to give you some
26 pocket money while you're on location.

27

28 MR. KIRK: Another question is what --
29 my main concern is what happens when that funding is
30 out? Do you have it right there available for us that
31 day or do we have to wait?

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Kirk, through the
34 Chair. No, we do not have funding available for you
35 that day. You would have to wait until you got back
36 into town. It is our hope that the per diem that we
37 provide or the advance we provide will get you through
38 more than the couple days that you're here because we
39 generally provide more than the daily per diem for just
40 two days. So it's our hope that that will cover as
41 much as possible.

42

43 You know, if you're out in the village
44 and you're stuck, a lot of times we could get the
45 village to come through and they're very supportive in
46 some of our villages to help feed people. We've been
47 fortunate not to have had many opportunities, at least
48 during my time, where people are stuck for lengthy
49 periods of times in areas. I got out of Dutch Harbor
50 like the day I was supposed to. It was amazing because

1 that's one of the most difficult regions to travel in.
2
3 So that's what I can tell you at this
4 point.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. KIRK: It almost clarifies it, but
9 my concern is what if we get storm bound, like in a
10 city like Nome. If we get rained in today and
11 tomorrow, the airlines are going to shut down because
12 of icing conditions. What happens then?

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair, Mr.
15 Kirk. That's a question I can certainly ask when I get
16 back to the office and find out how we might
17 accommodate because I don't know a direct answer for
18 instant accommodation. So it's certainly something I
19 would be more than happy to ask back at our office what
20 would we do under those circumstances so that you'd
21 feel more comfortable about traveling on behalf of the
22 government.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. KIRK: Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted, did you have
29 anything?

30
31 MR. KATCHEAK: No.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Recess until
34 9:00 a.m. in the morning.

35
36 MR. KATCHEAK: Oops, sorry. They are
37 closed, the class, and they put me on in the morning to
38 do my.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What time?

41
42 MR. KATCHEAK: 9:00 o'clock. It's
43 about a half hour, I think, my presentation to the
44 class.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll do stuff to
47 accommodate your absence. Just hurry back, but not as
48 fast as you did today. You caught me off guard.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was just sticking up
2 for you. I had your back. Thank you everybody online.
3 Thank you everybody in the room. It's okay to leave
4 all your stuff on the table.

5
6 (Off record)

7
8 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 117 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 1st day of November at Nome, 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 25th day of November 2016.

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