

1 EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME II

8  
9 Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Hall  
10 Fort Yukon, Alaska  
11 October 26, 2016  
12 9:00 a.m.

13  
14  
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 16  
17 Sue Entsminger, Chair  
18 Lester Erhart  
19 Andrew Firmin  
20 William Glanz  
21 Will Koehler  
22 Rhonda Pitka  
23 Virgil Umphenour  
24 Donald Woodruff  
25  
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Katerina Wessels

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fort Yukon, Alaska - 10/26/2016)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....give you a report. Lester has got a ride to the clinic, he was awoken by a pain in his foot and do not know what it is, he doesn't know what he did to cause it to happen. So we're concerned about him and Richard Carroll who used to be on the RAC came in to visit and he's going to take him over to the clinic.

So Lester is not here. I got a quick note from Andrew saying start the show without him, he'll be there shortly.

So we have a quorum, six of us out of 10. So we'll get going. And I will remind people to sign in, whoever wants to speak, I have two in front of me now. And.....

MS. WESSELS: And the sign-in sheet is there on the public table, please sign in even if you signed in yesterday, please sign in today.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Phillip Solomon, you testified yesterday, right? Is he here?

MS. PITKA: No, I don't think he's here, I think that was from yesterday.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it's from yesterday I'm pretty sure, yeah.

Okay. Every morning we ask if people have any nonagenda items, want to testify. And I have two cards here so I will call on them first.

Shannon Guthrie.

There's a little button, silver button at the bottom, push to turn the mic on and state your name.

MS. GUTHRIE: Hi, my name is Shannon Guthrie. I'm from Beaver. My parents are Maggie Tugosiak and James Guthrie. My grandparents are Nancy Tugosiak and John Tugosiak, Sr. I'm in ninth grade, I go to Cruikshank School. I am Rhonda Pitka's intern.

1 I would like to thank you for coming to  
2 Fort Yukon and I would also like to thank CATG and the  
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for sponsoring me.

4  
5 In conclusion I would like to thank you  
6 for your discussions and concerns about the future. I am  
7 part of the future generation.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you very  
12 much and welcome, it's good to have you.

13  
14 I have one more. Albert Thomas.

15  
16 MR. THOMAS: Hi, my name's Albert Thomas,  
17 I live here in Fort Yukon. I like to -- I'm here to  
18 represent the Fort Yukon School. I like to run dogs,  
19 fish, hunt and live off the land.

20  
21 And that's it.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I'm  
24 with you, I like to hunt, fish and live off the land.

25  
26 Next is James Kelly.

27  
28 MR. KELLY: Good morning. I'd like to  
29 just talk a little bit about, you know, a proposal from  
30 yesterday, but not directly to it, I'd just like to do it  
31 more to go out and encourage people to look at things  
32 different. And I think this is important too because the  
33 proposal yesterday with -- that addressed residents  
34 within 5D to be able to fish on the front of the first  
35 pulse. People had all kinds of terms for them, they call  
36 them front runners and everything else, but I think  
37 through the years when we look at it a lot of the issues  
38 that were there before this finally came to the table  
39 where all the villages got together, agreeing to sit  
40 together to address their issues and concerns. So, you  
41 know, there was a lot of friction, people had different  
42 -- there was a lot of confrontation between one region to  
43 another to the other and.....

44  
45 Okay. I'll speak up. Thanks. Maybe I  
46 should put it closer.

47  
48 Anyway, you know, we don't want to go  
49 back to those times, you know, we want to move forward.  
50 And I was able to speak to a gentleman here that -- he

1 analyzed or provided the analyzed information on the  
2 proposals and he said that Western Interior which  
3 apparently went on record to oppose that proposal, but we  
4 did have support on that Board. So that's good to know,  
5 it really helped because I was pretty disappointed that  
6 they object to the proposal, but I think as we move  
7 forward we have a big challenge ahead of us to educate  
8 people about what we have to deal with. And I think  
9 Virgil kind of hit on it yesterday too which I would like  
10 to thank Virgil for bringing it out was that this is a  
11 totally different area, you know, the fishing, the  
12 practices we use up here to fish is different, you know,  
13 our area has changed a lot, you know, it's not like  
14 further downriver that the majority of the people have a  
15 good selected spot and they live with it. They live  
16 there year after year, they move out there and they do  
17 their fishing. We recognize that. So I think it's  
18 always important to put that out on the table and let  
19 everybody know that. You know, it took a lot for people  
20 to hold back a lot of times in our area when fishing is  
21 going good on the lower Yukon then we get hit with a  
22 closure. And it takes a lot to keep people in check  
23 saying we just got to make sure the fish get to the  
24 spawning. And I really appreciate the effort you're  
25 putting forward here to bring that out, to really educate  
26 each other and, you know, listen to each other and it's  
27 really gratifying to a lot of people I think when they  
28 hear that there is support there of us. We sometimes  
29 feel like we're fighting an uphill battle. And we don't  
30 want -- like I said we do not want to go back to having  
31 to -- the lower Yukon saying there's a lot of fish today,  
32 let's fish until we get to the point where we got to go  
33 back to, you know, creating a moratorium or shutting down  
34 fishing all together and that's not the thing that I want  
35 to see in my time.

36

37                               And I know that you heard Shannon and  
38 Albert Thomas both talk about, you know, their concerns  
39 and where they're from and they are the future  
40 generation. It's good to hear them step forward and say  
41 that. And I think that's what we need more -- to  
42 encourage more and also see younger -- our younger  
43 generation, their representation should be at these  
44 Council meetings too to where that they sit in just to  
45 listen to the issues and bring it back to their peers,  
46 you know, get the word out because it's really critical  
47 that they -- they do talk among themselves, you know,  
48 what they won't say to us they'll talk among themselves  
49 and I think that's -- you know, I went through, I think  
50 we all went through it, that's how we were when we were

1 young.

2

3

4                   And I think it's just come to that and,  
5 you know, like I said sometimes the future or what was  
6 put out on the table at meetings like this sometimes is  
7 not -- doesn't represent the full picture. We found that  
8 -- I found that out this morning. Western RAC we had  
9 four votes supporting that proposal and, you know, I  
10 thought that was a good move because they want -- we are  
11 neighbors and we want to move forward together. We'll  
12 support them, they support us, we're supporting our  
13 Canadian neighbors and, you know, that's really  
14 important, you know, it's what brought us back to where  
15 we're at today, bigger numbers coming in, people that  
16 fished this summer, you know, they were getting better  
17 fish, they were getting more than what they had  
18 previously gotten in prior years and I think that really  
19 made a difference for a lot of families, you know, it was  
20 just -- it was there for them, they were able to bring  
21 home more and I think a lot of people felt good this  
22 summer. Sure we always want to fish until we get tired  
23 of fishing, but, you know, these times we can't do it and  
24 we have to learn to adjust to that and hope for better  
25 years down the road. And I think that's what Shannon,  
26 when she said she is part of that future generation,  
27 that's what we want to leave for them, you know, it's a  
28 legacy that Councils such as this, Boards, other Boards,  
29 they work to leave a legacy and I think when we see it  
30 and when we hear, we know that everybody's done the best  
31 they can.

31

32

33                   And I want to, you know, commend everyone  
34 here for being open, for being willing to share their  
35 thoughts and to look at, you know, however you vote, you  
36 know, it'll still come that you voted what you thought  
37 was the best way. And it was for your people.

37

38

39                   So with that I'd just like to thank you,  
40 I hope you had a good stay last night and, you know, hope  
41 you have another productive meeting day.

41

42

42                   Thank you.

43

44

45                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
46 James. As your Chair I don't always get things done  
47 right. I failed to have people online introduce  
48 themselves again or identify themselves. And then there  
49 is some background noise out in that phone land that  
50 people have to mute their phones, so please remember to  
51 do that. So I'm opening it up to who is online.

is Jeff Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish  
3 and Game, fall season manager for the Department here in  
4 Fairbanks.

5  
6 MS. CARROLL: Madam Chair, this is Holly  
7 Carroll, I'm the Yukon area summer season manager, I  
8 manage the chinook and chum on the Yukon and I'm based  
9 here in Anchorage.

10  
11 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein. I'm  
12 online, also Alaska Department of Fish and Game, based in  
13 Anchorage, commissioner's office.

14  
15 MR. SALMON: Edward Salmon, Arctic  
16 Village.

17  
18 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with Bureau  
19 of Land Management in Anchorage.

20  
21 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan. (In  
22 Native).

23  
24 MS. OKADA: Good morning, this is Marcy  
25 Okada with Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there anyone  
28 else? I heard a voice. Edward Salmon, Arctic Village.  
29 Hi, how are you.

30  
31 MR. SALMON: Good morning.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning.

34  
35 MR. SALMON: Good morning, Madam Chair.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He loves  
38 calling me Madam Chair. Good morning to you. Good  
39 morning to all.

40  
41 Is there anyone online that has any  
42 nonagenda items that would like to speak? Now is your  
43 chance.

44  
45 MR. SALMON: Edward Salmon.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

48  
49 MR. SALMON: Edward Salmon, Arctic  
50 Village.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
2 Edward.

3  
4 MR. SALMON: I'm Edward Salmon, Arctic  
5 Village. I lived around here. I live a subsistence way  
6 of life and I hear from Mr. Lee -- I hear a lot of good  
7 comments of people from Fort Yukon area.

8  
9 I'd like to mention this morning -- I'm  
10 just freelance reporting on the sheep population out of  
11 BIA law. Also I've been working at sheep -- Arctic  
12 Village sheep management for the last 31 years. And I'd  
13 like to report from September 11th of 2011, from that on  
14 I kind -- it got to my mind that mother nature took a  
15 large affect on wildlife in our area. From freelance  
16 research from sports -- like guides from other area like  
17 Bettles, if the rain that came January of 2011 and it  
18 caused a large freeze-up after the rain. And there from  
19 a pipeline over the -- 90 miles east of Arctic -- of the  
20 pipeline, 50 percent of sheep have starved to death.  
21 Actually it's 70 percent from pipeline west. That's in  
22 the Brooks Range, 70 percent of sheep have frozen or  
23 starved to death. 50 percent of sheep have been starved  
24 to death because of the rain and freeze-up over their  
25 feeding grounds on the mountain. And 50 percent of moose  
26 have (indiscernible - distortion). And to this date I  
27 have no report from the Fish and Wildlife of how many  
28 population of the sheep was before 2011. And maybe I've  
29 seen little reports from your Wildlife and so I'm just  
30 questioning here. So it's been hard. You know, I seen  
31 this report that got information on a 13th, 2013, two  
32 years after all this rainfall and all the wildlife lost.  
33 So the question is I hope on the 22nd of October,  
34 Honorable Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, wanted to  
35 -- the younger generation to get involved with local  
36 councils of their communities and compromise. Honorable  
37 Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made it short on me  
38 because I was going to be seen reporting right here.  
39 Since it's called in the BIA, Bureau of Indian Affair,  
40 (indiscernible - distortion) where the agency is and  
41 that's Wildlife and the Fish and Game have to compromise  
42 with local Tribal communities, there's 226 Tribal  
43 communities in State of Alaska. And each one of them has  
44 members, mainly the young ones (indiscernible -  
45 distortion) future that we could make decision on the  
46 time of experienced elders who have lived a subsistence  
47 way of life. So it would be great if the young  
48 generations get involved and, you know, make decision on  
49 their own terms from the elder and get help from.  
50

1 (Indiscernible - distortion) issue that  
2 I want to address and I want to thank you for your time  
3 and I'll take some questions.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
8 Edward. Any questions?

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No questions.  
13 Was there anyone else online that wanted to speak to  
14 nonagenda items?

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. At one  
19 of my first meetings I went to they'd say moving rapidly  
20 along was the next thing we'd say.

21  
22 Okay. On the agenda -- are we down to  
23 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program?

24  
25 MS. WESSELS: Uh-huh.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

28  
29 MR. STONE: Good morning, Madam Chair and  
30 members of the Council. For the record my name is Jarred  
31 Stone and I'm a student trainee with the Office of  
32 Subsistence Management.

33  
34 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
35 materials begin on page 119 of your Council books. Today  
36 I'm here to provide you with a brief overview of the  
37 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. This portion of  
38 my presentation is not an action item.

39  
40 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
41 was established in 2000. One of its purposes is to  
42 provide information for the management of subsistence  
43 fisheries on Federal public lands in Alaska. We  
44 encourage partnerships between Tribes, rural  
45 organizations, universities Federal and State agencies.  
46 Since 2000 the Monitoring Program has funded 453 projects  
47 statewide. You can see a list of the completed or  
48 ongoing projects in this region on page 119 of your  
49 Council books.

50



1                   The State is divided into six regions for  
2 the purpose of the Monitoring Program which are the  
3 following. Northern Alaska, the Yukon drainage,  
4 Kuskokwim drainage, Southwest Alaska, Southcentral Alaska  
5 and Southeast Alaska. For each of these six regions OSM  
6 Staff works with the Regional Advisory Councils, Federal  
7 and State fishery managers and land managers to ensure  
8 the monitoring program focuses on the highest priority  
9 information needs for management of Federal subsistence  
10 fisheries.

11  
12                   This is where you come in. Input and  
13 guidance from the Regional Advisory Councils are used to  
14 develop the priority information needs by identifying  
15 issues of local concerns and knowledge gaps related to  
16 subsistence fisheries. The program requests new projects  
17 every two years. When the call for proposals is issued  
18 two primary types of research projects are solicited,  
19 harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge  
20 projects and stock, status and trends projects. Selected  
21 projects can run from two to four years. A technical  
22 review committee evaluates and rates each proposed  
23 project based on a five criteria strategic priority,  
24 technical scientific merit, investigator ability and  
25 resources and partnerships and capacity building and also  
26 cost benefit. Regional Advisory Councils provide  
27 recommendations and public comment is invited. The  
28 Federal Subsistence Board takes into consideration  
29 recommendations and comments from this process and  
30 forwards the successful proposals on to the assistant  
31 regional director of OSM for final approval and funding.

32  
33                   We are here today to work with you and to  
34 lead up to the new notice of funding opportunity for  
35 projects starting in 2018. During the all council  
36 meeting this last spring we began addressing the priority  
37 information needs for your region. Staff took notes from  
38 the discussions during the spring meetings and some  
39 Councils formed working groups to better address the  
40 needs of their area.

41  
42                   My colleague, Pippa Kenner, will provide  
43 an overview of the 2016 priority information needs and  
44 some of the projects that are currently funded.

45  
46                   MS. KENNER: Thank you, Jarred. Madam  
47 Chair, this is Pippa Kenner with the Office of  
48 Subsistence Management. This portion of our presentation  
49 will end -- is an action item, that is we would like the  
50 Council to take action on the list of priority

1 information needs that we develop together. Before I  
2 answer any more questions I think I'll just go on and  
3 that will probably answer a lot of the outstanding  
4 questions.

5

6                   Before you you have -- I asked Katya to  
7 hand out a piece of paper, at the top it says Yukon  
8 Region Priority Information Needs. Okay. Katya's  
9 handing that out now.

10

11                   Thank you.

12

13                   There's also some on the back table for  
14 people in the audience who'd like a copy.

15

16                   I'm going to go ahead and just read this.  
17 These are the priority information needs for the 2016  
18 notice of funding availability. Now to help with some  
19 confusion I want you to know that we call the notice of  
20 funding, we call it a NOFA which is notice of funding  
21 availability, we call it a NOFO which is a notice of  
22 funding opportunity and we also call it the call for  
23 proposals. And this is the list of priority information  
24 needs that you developed with us in 2014 for the funding  
25 that has just begun for projects that started this spring  
26 in 2016. So this is the previous one that's been made  
27 public that was sent out with all the information about  
28 funding that was going to start this past spring, 2016.

29

30

31                   At the top it says since its inception  
32 the Monitoring Plan for the Yukon region has been  
33 directed at information needs identified by the three  
34 Yukon River Regional Advisory Councils. Those are the  
35 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior and Eastern  
36 Interior Councils and with input from Federal agencies.  
37 The U.S. Canada Yukon River Salmon Joint Technical  
38 Committee Plan and the Sustainable Salmon Funds Arctic,  
39 Yukon-Kuskokwim Chinook Salmon Research Action Plan have  
40 been used to prioritize salmon monitoring projects in the  
41 Alaska portion of the Yukon River drainage. Additionally  
42 a research plan for whitefish has identified priority  
43 information needs for whitefish species in the Yukon and  
44 Kuskokwim River drainages.

45

46                   So for the Yukon region in the 2016  
47 notice of funding availability, it was focused on the  
48 following priority information needs.

49

50                   The first one is reliable estimates of

1 salmon escapement. For example projects using weir,  
2 sonar or mark recapture methods.

3           The next one is geographic distribution  
4 of salmon and whitefish species. Of specific interest  
5 are the Nulato River, Salmon Fork of the Black River,  
6 Porcupine River and Chandalar River.

7  
8           The next one is an indexing method for  
9 estimating species specific whitefish harvests on an  
10 annual basis for the Yukon drainage. Researchers should  
11 explore and evaluate an approach where subregional  
12 clusters of community harvest can be evaluated for  
13 regular surveying with results being extrapolated to the  
14 rest of the cluster, contributing to drainage-wide  
15 harvest estimates.

16  
17           The next one is methods for including  
18 quality of escapement measures, for example, potential  
19 egg deposition, sex and size composition of spawners and  
20 spawning habitat utilization, in establishing chinook  
21 salmon spawning goals and determining the reproductive  
22 potential and genetic diversity of spawning escapements.

23  
24           The next one is a review of escapement  
25 data collection methods throughout the Yukon drainage to  
26 ensure that test fisheries are accurately accounting for  
27 size distribution and abundance of fish, for example are  
28 they small -- are smaller chinook salmon being counted  
29 accurately.

30  
31           Almost to the bottom. The next one is  
32 assessment of incidental mortality with gillnets with  
33 particular consideration for delayed mortality from  
34 entanglement or direct mortality from dropouts such as  
35 loss of chinook salmon from six inch mesh chum fisheries.

36  
37           The next one is harvest and spawning  
38 escapement changes through time in relation to changes in  
39 gillnet construction and use, for example set versus  
40 drift fishing, mesh size and mesh size changes for  
41 chinook salmon subsistence harvests in the main stem  
42 Yukon River.

43  
44           Second to last is Bering cisco population  
45 assessment and monitoring.

46  
47           And finally burbot population assessment  
48 in lakes and rivers known to support subsistence fishery.

49  
50           So as I mentioned earlier over the last

1 two weeks we have been going through the funding process.  
2 So in spring of 2016 a group of projects started in this  
3 region for the Yukon River region of the FRMP. And if  
4 you look at the table that ends on page 124 in your  
5 meeting book, the last list of projects that all start  
6 with 16 are the projects that we, all of us, just started  
7 funding and I'm going to go through them really quickly.

8  
9 The first priority information need asks  
10 for things such as weirs and in 2016 the Henshaw Creek  
11 weir was funded for four years. Somebody will probably  
12 be applying to continue that funding, but not until 2020.  
13 And on the second one, the geographic distribution of  
14 salmon and whitefishes. There was a project funding that  
15 did not -- was accidentally omitted from the list, it's  
16 project 16-752 and it's working with coastal communities  
17 such as Scammon Bay in the Yukon area to look at the  
18 distribution of whitefishes and other non-salmon fish.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What was that  
21 number again?

22  
23 MS. KENNER: I gave you the number, but  
24 unfortunately it is not in the table, it's one that was  
25 omitted from the table.

26  
27 Now because there is currently a project  
28 that we funded that has to do with the distribution of  
29 whitefish in the lower river, doesn't necessarily mean  
30 that that priority information need needs to come off the  
31 list. I'm just trying to report to you what was funded.

32  
33 The -- all the other projects that I'm  
34 going to talk about are on the list.

35  
36 The indexing method priority information  
37 need for whitefish harvest, this priority information  
38 need did come from the SPDRW, strategic plan to direct  
39 research on whitefishes. And it was rather than doing a  
40 yearly harvest survey up and down the river it was to  
41 start using statistics and just interviewing a few  
42 communities and using that information to expand an  
43 estimate to the entire river. We do have a project now  
44 that's about to end that has been addressing that, but  
45 only in lower river communities. And the report isn't  
46 due yet and I'm not sure how successfully that -- they  
47 were at doing that, at developing those methods.

48  
49 One of the last ones is a Bering cisco  
50 population assessment monitoring. We did start a project

1 this spring, the number is 16-203, and it's looking at  
2 Bering cisco populations in the upper Yukon Flats area.

3

4                   And the last two projects that started  
5 this spring, burbot population assessments and we have  
6 two projects, 16-251 which is working with peoples of  
7 Pilot Point, Galena and Fort Yukon and talking to them  
8 about the distribution of burbot in their area. And we  
9 also have another one, 16-205, which is a population  
10 assessment of burbot in the Tanana and upper Yukon  
11 Rivers. As I think you know, burbot is actually quite a  
12 popular subsistence species and the people heavily rely  
13 on burbot in certain Yukon River communities. Not a lot  
14 is known about those populations.

15

16                   In addition to that two YRDFA projects  
17 were re-funded in the spring, one is 16-255 and we're  
18 talking about the in-season Community Surveyor Program  
19 that Dr. Moncrieff talked about yesterday and the other  
20 one is 16-256 and it's the Yukon River and it's the  
21 salmon management teleconferences.

22

23                   I know I'm throwing a lot of information  
24 at you, but I just want to tell you what's going on and  
25 how these are -- this is an active list and we've been  
26 doing a lot of good funding, directing funds to a lot of  
27 good projects. Now at your meeting in the spring there  
28 were two priority information needs that came up that we  
29 should probably either make sure are on the list already  
30 or add. And one was the need to continue Stan Zuray's  
31 test fishery in what we called the middle river which is  
32 at the rapids. And I understand in 2016 that project  
33 wasn't picked up and I'd like to know from you if that's  
34 still a project that you would like to make sure is  
35 included in the priority information needs.

36

37                   The second one that is talked about is  
38 the quality of escapement past Eagle and how many jacks  
39 are being counted in the escapement, wanted there to be  
40 research into exactly what the -- better understanding of  
41 what the quality of that escapement is.

42

43                   I'll go ahead and stop now. This is an  
44 action item. One of the things you can do is have a good  
45 conversations about these priority information needs, of  
46 course we should hear from the public and then in a  
47 motion what you might want to do is just ask that the  
48 preceding conversation be included in the motion rather  
49 than going through these one by one.

50

1 I'll stop now and ask if you have  
2 questions and also I know there are people in the public  
3 who would like to comment to you about what they think  
4 you should include in your priority information needs.

5  
6 Thank you. Madam Chair, members of the  
7 Council.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

10  
11 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

14  
15 MS. PITKA: How much more funding is  
16 available?

17  
18 MS. KENNER: It is not clear right now  
19 because this is funding that won't be starting for two  
20 years. It is not clear right now what that funding will  
21 be, we get funded year to year. First of all when we get  
22 our Monitoring Program funding we'll fund all the  
23 projects that we already have ongoing, they get funded  
24 one year at a time even if they're four year projects,  
25 and what's left over will go to new starts. Just to give  
26 you an idea of what it'll be, it'll be somewhere between  
27 one and two million and what I mean is it's not going to  
28 be 10 million, but it's not going to be 100,000 either,  
29 it's going to be somewhere in that range probably.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

32  
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil. And  
36 then Donald.

37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. This list of  
39 projects that ends of page 124, it's got the name of the  
40 project, well, the number so I guess the first two  
41 numbers are the year and then it has how much -- you  
42 know, a money figure over there. That's not how much  
43 they've actually spent on those projects, is it?

44  
45 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question.  
46 Through the Chair, Mr. Umphenour. It is. And what we  
47 must remember is that also these were up to -- usually  
48 they are four year projects so they were money that was  
49 spent over four years.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So it could be a  
2 project that actually lasted four years?

3  
4 MS. KENNER: That's correct. But, no,  
5 those are the amounts that our Monitoring Program funded  
6 those projects. Often -- for many of these projects  
7 there was a match and that is the organization that  
8 requested the money also provided funds. So these might  
9 not be the cost of the entire program particularly for  
10 weirs. Generally the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
11 will fund weirs at 50 percent of any ADF&G weir that we  
12 are fund -- helping to fund.

13  
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm -- the  
15 acoustics in this room are really difficult for me.  
16 Normally what we do and maybe it's next meeting, but we  
17 have a list of the projects that want to recommend to be  
18 funded and a total description of the project, is that  
19 going to happen at our next meeting?

20  
21 MS. KENNER: Again very good question.  
22 Thank you, Mr. Umphenour. Through the Chair. What will  
23 happen is that we are in the development of the notice of  
24 funding opportunity and we have not received any projects  
25 yet. The notice of funding opportunity has not gone out  
26 yet. Before it goes out we develop a list of priority  
27 information needs and when we're ranking those projects  
28 based on how good they are technically, one of the things  
29 they will get ranked on is how strategically important it  
30 is to fund that project and they will be ranked higher if  
31 they're addressing something that's on the list for  
32 developing now. So you're right, probably in two  
33 meetings or -- two or three meetings we will be bringing  
34 you all the projects that we -- that we got and their  
35 evaluations and what they are and details of their  
36 budgets.

37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that'll be in about a  
39 year and a half from now?

40  
41 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Uh-huh, a year, year  
42 and a half.

43  
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: And then this priority  
45 information needs sheet that we got handed out, that's  
46 what they're -- the request for proposals is going to --  
47 give them this thing and then all the RACs will get to  
48 look at it and decide which proposals they want to see go  
49 forward after they know how much money there is, correct?  
50

1 MS. KENNER: And after they see the  
2 proposals that we got.

3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madam Chair.

5  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hate to act  
8 like I don't know what's going on, but every time this  
9 stuff comes up it's a little confusing to me so I  
10 apologize. Can you just outline, unless everybody else  
11 understand, exactly what our -- what you're asking us to  
12 do as an action item now?

13  
14 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair, for  
15 that question. What we're asking right now is for you to  
16 review the list of priority information needs for the  
17 Yukon River.....

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

20  
21 MS. KENNER: .....and advise if any of  
22 those should come off the list, that is that people on  
23 your Council, people that you're hearing from, do not  
24 think that is a priority information need that we should  
25 be funding. And to include bullets or give us  
26 information where we can devise bullets for you of what  
27 you feel is an important priority information need. So  
28 to give a -- kind of a gross idea of what that might be,  
29 it could be that there are people on the Council who feel  
30 that salmon and chinook salmon are so important we  
31 shouldn't be funding projects for non-salmon fish like  
32 burbot or cisco, that there's a limited number of funds  
33 and we need all that money to be studying our salmon  
34 problem. However there are other people who think -- who  
35 rely heavily on whitefishes and we don't know a lot about  
36 whitefishes in the drainage or how much or where people  
37 are using them. And they feel like we may be getting to  
38 the -- getting -- you know, there maybe conservation  
39 concerns about some of those non-salmon species that we  
40 don't know about, but people in the villages are seeing.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I feel  
43 a little bit bad that Andrew's not here. He has some  
44 personal things that he had to deal with. But I know he  
45 probably would have some input here.

46  
47 And you're telling us also that there's  
48 public that would want to talk that's here?

49  
50 MS. KENNER: Yeah, maybe we should move



1 on -- do you want to -- what -- Madam Chair, this is  
2 Pippa Kenner again. One suggestion because Andrew is  
3 gone is that maybe we could drop this for now and come  
4 back to it when he's here.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would --  
7 Council?

8  
9 MS. PITKA: I wouldn't feel okay with,  
10 you know, excluding him from the conversation because he  
11 couldn't be here this morning. If he's going to be back  
12 later in the day then that would be a good idea to  
13 postpone the discussion.

14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

18  
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. This is kind of  
20 another process question and that is, okay, this priority  
21 information needs that is going to go out with the call  
22 for proposals, there is no -- this is just a list of them  
23 and the order that they're in is not what's considered  
24 the most important. When we finally get the proposals in  
25 and review the proposals is when we're going to decide  
26 which is the most important thing, correct?

27  
28 MS. KENNER: That's correct. These are  
29 not in order of priority, it's just a list.

30  
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That's good.

32  
33 Madam Chair.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you're  
36 asking us to figure out what the priority is, to take out  
37 or add?

38  
39 MS. KENNER: (Inaudible response)

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No?

42  
43 MS. KENNER: Yes, I am asking you that.  
44 I thought you were going to say what priority this list  
45 should be in. I.....

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What should be  
48 in it or out or added?

49  
50 MS. KENNER: Yeah, and maybe.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Out or in.  
2  
3 MS. KENNER: And this is Pippa Kenner  
4 again. Maybe to help clarify more is that this is to  
5 guide people who are -- investigators who are submitting  
6 investigation plans for research. We do have instances  
7 where people submit an investigation plan about a topic  
8 to research a question that is not in a priority  
9 information need. And we have funded those before if  
10 they address a point that we've just missed, but  
11 everybody agrees is a strategic priority. It's a  
12 particularly good plan, very timely, well put together.  
13 So it's not that you have to address a priority  
14 information need on the list, but in general you will get  
15 ranked higher and if you don't address a priority  
16 information need that isn't seen that way by people in  
17 the region, you are likely not to get funded.  
18  
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So maybe -- I  
20 don't know whether I understood this, whether I fully  
21 comprehend it or not. So what you would like is for the  
22 RAC to go through this list of these things and then if  
23 there's things we feel very strongly about we should say  
24 that now or we should just wait until we see what  
25 proposals show up?  
26  
27 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Thank you for  
28 the question. Through the Chair. We would like to --  
29 for you to do it now or if we break when we meet later.  
30  
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you. One of  
32 our most important people isn't here right now, I was  
33 wondering if maybe -- I don't know what Andrew's  
34 situation is, but maybe we should table this issue and  
35 later on in the day when we have Andrew here because he's  
36 the local guy.....  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're  
39 agreeing?  
40  
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....we can have a  
42 discussion and.....  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're agreeing  
45 with Rhonda, it might not.....  
46  
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....then take action on  
48 it at that point.....  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....in time we can --  
2 because we need to discuss this among ourselves, not just  
3 have it here and look at it and try to make a decision,  
4 we need to kind of education ourselves a little bit on  
5 each one of these points before we say what we think  
6 should be the priorities I think. So I move to.....  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You don't need  
9 to move, we'll just take.....  
10  
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....her  
14 suggestion, we'll take this up when Andrew is back.  
15  
16 You know what, after 15 years of being on  
17 this thing this still is very confusing. I'm sorry if  
18 it's just me, I hope -- if it's just me I want to hear  
19 about it.  
20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, it's -- let me  
22 say.....  
23  
24 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair.  
25  
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....no, it's not  
27 confusing, this is confusing no matter what, I don't care  
28 how long you've been doing it. The Salmon Treaty process  
29 is the same way and I've been doing it for 28 years.  
30 This is always super darn confusing.....  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
33  
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....and so that's why we  
35 don't need to get in a hurry, we need to try to digest it  
36 before we make any recommendations.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Virgil,  
39 I thought I was abnormal for a while.  
40  
41 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair, Staff  
42 appreciate that the Council could probably use some time  
43 to deliberate on it and we appreciate the time and the  
44 seriousness the Council is giving to the issue.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll  
47 figure that out at break, how we're going to go about  
48 that.  
49  
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Maybe we should take a

1 break.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
4 have a break after 30 minutes?

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm call  
9 -- Virgil would like a break for 10 minutes.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this is an  
16 information item. At noon the local people told me that  
17 there's a transit van that if we can get our sandwich  
18 they would be here at 12:10 and eight people would be  
19 available to go in it for a dollar apiece, have a little  
20 tour of Fort Yukon. And we really need to know how many  
21 so, I don't know, just think about it and then maybe a  
22 show of hands, is -- at 12:00 noon is anyone wanting to  
23 go on this tour, show me your hands?

24

25 Okay. That's one van load. So there --  
26 if anyone else wants to go there's another one at --  
27 that'll hold six. So between now and 12:00 you got to  
28 let us know so we can tell them how many van loads, okay?

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 Timing-wise the next thing on the agenda  
33 and Andrew keeps contacting me and he says -- he says 20  
34 minutes 20 minutes ago so let's hope he gets here  
35 shortly.

36

37 Rhonda.

38

39 MS. PITKA: I just had a brief comment  
40 about one of the priority information needs. It lists  
41 Salmon Fork of the Black River. The rightful name of  
42 that river is the Draanjik. So, yeah, that is.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is.....

45

46 MS. PITKA: .....that's the proper name  
47 for that river.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

50

1 MS. PITKA: The name has been changed.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I get a lot  
4 of people coming and telling me timing schedule and  
5 YRDFA's -- and talk to you, Don, about there is some  
6 testimony for this here in the audience and she has to  
7 leave at noon. Would you like to take that testimony now  
8 or would you like to wait until Andrew gets here?  
9  
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: How long before he gets  
11 here.  
12  
13 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair, why don't we  
14 just do it all at one time.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we'll  
17 wait for Andrew and I think it'll get -- if.....  
18  
19 MR. GLANZ: I'd say wait on him.  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....he isn't  
22 by 11:00 we're going to take your testimony.  
23  
24 Okay. And if I think of any other timing  
25 -- oh, Tetlin Refuge has to leave at 4:00 so they're --  
26 we got to get -- make sure their report gets in.  
27  
28 All right. Thank you.  
29  
30 Tom.  
31  
32 MR. KRON: Madam Chair, members of the  
33 Council. The next item on the agenda is a review of the  
34 memorandum of understanding between.....  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom, could you  
37 pull the mic closer.  
38  
39 MR. KRON: Okay. I didn't want it to  
40 squeal on us, but I'll.....  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know,  
43 but.....  
44  
45 MR. KRON: .....I'll take chances here.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:  
48 .....something's changed since yesterday.  
49  
50 MR. KRON: Okay. Madam Chair, members of

1 the Council. The next item on the agenda is a memorandum  
2 of understanding between the Federal Board and the State  
3 of Alaska. Many of you were on the Council will remember  
4 that we had an earlier agreement. This expired several  
5 years ago. Right before it expired we asked the Councils  
6 for their comments, the State Advisory Committees were  
7 asked for their comments and it ended up expiring. What  
8 they've done now, the -- my understanding is the Chair of  
9 the -- past Chair of the Board of Fish, Mr. Jensen, is  
10 interested in revitalizing the memorandum of  
11 understanding. The Federal Board is interested in  
12 working with the State on this, but we want to hear what  
13 the Councils have to say. My understanding is the  
14 Advisory Committees are going to be asked as well.

15  
16                   What's on page 125 is the earlier draft  
17 from a couple years ago, there were comments that had  
18 come in from the Fish and Game Advisory Committees as  
19 well as all 10 Councils. And my understanding is that  
20 all those comments have been incorporated in the draft  
21 that's before you. What we're doing is asking at all 10  
22 council meetings if you have any more comments. So again  
23 we've we've incorporated all the comments that you made  
24 earlier and again many of you are very familiar with this  
25 long process, but if you have any additional comments we  
26 would like to hear them. Again this is listed as an  
27 action on your agenda. It starts on page 125.

28  
29                   Thank you. Madam Chair.

30  
31                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Tom.  
32 And I would like to report that we took it up, the  
33 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission and  
34 I'm just going to read to you the notes from the -- our  
35 meeting. The Commission has grave concern about  
36 paragraph number 2 under guiding principles which regard  
37 to wildlife management in general, not just subsistence.  
38 Regulations for wildlife management, method and means,  
39 seasons and harvest limits should be set by the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board and the Alaska Board of Game, not by  
41 individual Federal agencies, whether National Park  
42 Service, Bureau of Land Management or Fish and Wildlife  
43 Service. Any changes to these regulations need to be in  
44 compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act  
45 especially when it comes to notifying for public comment.  
46 The Subsistence Resource Commission feels strongly that  
47 the authority of the Boards to manage wildlife, to  
48 provide for subsistence needs through increased abundance  
49 also needs to be included in the MOU.

50

1                               That was the comments that come from the  
2 SRC. FYI.  
3  
4                               All right. So if you look at it it was  
5 -- number 2 was -- was it policy?  
6  
7                               MR. KRON: Madam Chair, that would be  
8 126, page 126.....  
9  
10                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 126.  
11  
12                              MR. KRON: .....at the bottom.  
13  
14                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. And  
15 someone on the phone needs to mute their phone, I'm  
16 hearing a lot of background noise. And it's star six to  
17 mute your phone and it's star six to come back on.  
18  
19                              Thank you.  
20  
21                              Virgil, did you have something?  
22  
23                              MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.  
24  
25                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.  
26  
27                              MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I would like for  
28 us to discuss this. I'm going to put a motion on the  
29 floor to -- my motion is that the Eastern Interior RAC  
30 support the comments made by the Wrangell-St. Elias  
31 Resource Subsistence Council.  
32  
33                              Thank you.  
34  
35                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a  
36 motion. Is there a second?  
37  
38                              MR. WOODRUFF: Second.  
39  
40                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
41 Discussion.  
42  
43                              MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I want to speak to  
44 the motion. Can you hear me okay back there?  
45  
46                              MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess it's  
47 just me that can't hear you, sitting next to you.  
48  
49                              MR. UMPHENOUR: Everyone can hear me?  
50 Good.

1                   Okay. I'm going to read this second  
2 guiding principle and I'm going to read it very slow so  
3 that you can absorb it.

4  
5                   REPORTER: You're muffled.

6  
7                   MR. UMPHENOUR: You can hear me? I'm too  
8 loud? Okay. People that -- I've been.....

9  
10                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now he has to  
11 move it back.

12  
13                  MR. UMPHENOUR: .....I've been accused of  
14 that before, but.....

15  
16                  REPORTER: Perfect right there. Perfect.

17  
18                  MR. UMPHENOUR: You know, in my former  
19 life I was in the Marine Corps and I was an army infantry  
20 officer and when you're -- really what an officer in the  
21 military is is a teacher. And so if your students don't  
22 understand what you're saying you're a total failure as  
23 a teacher. And most of the time it's due to people  
24 mumbling when they talk, not being loud enough. So I  
25 want to make sure people can hear what I'm saying and  
26 understand what I'm saying. So I'm going to read this  
27 very slowly so that people can try to understand it.  
28 It's real short. It's number 2 on the guiding  
29 principles.

30  
31                  Recognize that wildlife management  
32 activities on Federal public lands other than the  
33 subsistence take and use of fish and wildlife remain  
34 within the authority of the individual land management  
35 agencies.

36  
37                  What they're saying is that the only  
38 thing that goes through the Administrative Procedures Act  
39 which is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United  
40 States, Administrative Procedures Act, is that -- is  
41 subsistence take of fish and wildlife. So they're saying  
42 that they -- the Federal land manager can totally ignore  
43 the Constitution of the United States of America, totally  
44 ignore the Constitution, and manage all the wildlife  
45 management activities anyway they feel like it and  
46 totally ignore the public process which is guaranteed by  
47 our Constitution. That's what they are objecting to.  
48 That means that this does not go through the RACs, the  
49 Federal Subsistence Board, the State Fish and Game  
50 Advisory Committees, the Board of Game and Fish, that



1 they can just do what they feel like doing and if you  
2 don't like it it's just too bad. That's what that issue  
3 is.

4

5                   So I totally agree 100 percent, we just  
6 had the Refuge Service and the National Park Service both  
7 pass rules that circumvent, just override regulations  
8 that were passed by the State Board of Game. And this  
9 RAC was involved in some of those proposals and some of  
10 them actually apply to this region right here, game  
11 management unit 25 that were circumvented. Where they  
12 took different ways and hunting seasons away from the  
13 people that live in the Fort Yukon area. And so -- that  
14 went through the public process over multiple year  
15 periods to get these regulations changed because that's  
16 what the people wanted, and then the Refuge Service  
17 decides we don't like this so we're not going to let you  
18 do it anyway. And if you don't like it that's just too  
19 bad, that's exactly what happened. And so that is why  
20 I'm 100 percent myself personally behind what the  
21 Resource Council for Wrangell-St. Elias put in their  
22 comments.

23

24                   Thank you. Madam Chair.

25

26                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. We  
27 read you loud and clear.

28

29                   Carl, procedure.

30

31                   MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I  
32 think I'm going to make a point of clarification on this  
33 language that might be helpful and also a correction. So  
34 this language relates specifically -- if you recall this  
35 is an MOU between the State and the Federal Subsistence  
36 Board. And the Federal Subsistence Board's authority  
37 under Title VIII is limited to managing subsistence use  
38 as that is defined in Title VIII.

39

40                   Now if you recall from previous  
41 discussions on the Board's predator control policy that  
42 subsistence use definition is cited as a reason why the  
43 Board can only regulate subsistence use and since the  
44 taking of predators for the sole purpose of boosting  
45 ungulate populations is not itself a subsistence use  
46 that's why the Board always says it's the land managers  
47 who have to manage that population in that way. What  
48 this language is saying is only the Board does  
49 subsistence use of fish and wildlife regulations, other  
50 uses will be managed as they always have been by the land

1 managers. And they will still have a remaining  
2 obligation under the Administrative Procedures Act to go  
3 through a public process if they are ever going to adopt  
4 any regulations which they did, in fact, follow when they  
5 went through and I know this Council and several other  
6 Councils didn't like what the Refuge's proposed rule and  
7 now the final rule did, but they actually did go through  
8 a public process under the Administrative Procedures  
9 Act.....

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I need to  
12 interrupt.

13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: .....when they adopted  
15 that. So that's kind of the distinction in the language  
16 I'm trying to clarify here.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But this is an  
19 MOU between the State and the Federal and we are giving  
20 comments to that MOU and what we see and what you're  
21 saying, we might totally disagree with what you're  
22 saying.

23  
24 Virgil.

25  
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And I'm glad you  
27 brought that point up, Carl, because the difference of  
28 opinion between some of us on the State side and people  
29 on the Federal side and whenever they first started all  
30 this stuff, I was on the Board of Fisheries and I was on  
31 the group that did the original one of these things back  
32 in the late '90s. I was on the State Board of Fisheries  
33 at the time and they had the State Board of Fisheries,  
34 State Board of Game, a couple members from each Board  
35 meeting with people from the Federal Subsistence Board  
36 and the commissioner -- you know, the head of the Fish  
37 and Wildlife Service, all these various people to come up  
38 with the original MOU. But anyway what the point is is  
39 that your def or say the Refuge's definition, the Fish  
40 and Wildlife Service definition, of predator control and  
41 the State's are two totally different thing. In predator  
42 control with the State it has to be an approved special  
43 program and we have multiple examples of that that goes  
44 through a very extensive vetting process with the public  
45 because we know that we will be sued by all the tree  
46 huggers, the anti hunters, the people that want to  
47 totally disarm the American public, do away with the  
48 Second Amendment to our Constitution. We know we're  
49 going to get sued by those people. And so we have to go  
50 through a very extensive vetting that will stand up

1 before the Supreme Court, we have to do that. So that is  
2 a predator control program. What the Refuge Service did  
3 was made a special rule that circumvented not only  
4 predator control program, but that circumvented standard  
5 methods, means and seasons for hunting.....

6

7

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

8

9

MR. UMPHENOUR: .....is what they did.

10 It had nothing to do with predator control, it was not a  
11 predator control program, nothing to do with it. So the  
12 definition, what they -- they're applying what they  
13 consider the definition of predator control so loosely  
14 that it's unreal. And that is what sticks in the craw of  
15 people like me and many other people that sit on this  
16 Council and that spend and devote a lot of public service  
17 to the management of our fish and wildlife in this State.  
18 Because I know for a fact that because I used to  
19 represent the State of Alaska at the Western Association  
20 of Fish and Wildlife Agency meetings in the lower 48 a  
21 couple of times a year, I did that for several years when  
22 I was on the Board of Fisheries that I know that we have  
23 the best management programs for fish and wildlife of any  
24 state of all 50 states, the most public process of any of  
25 them where the public is involved and gets to have input  
26 on how our fish and wildlife are managed. I know that we  
27 have the best program of anywhere.

28

29

And so for this program to be  
30 circumvented in this way, number 2 of the guiding  
31 principles, needs to be changed because the -- what the  
32 Refuge Service calls predator control, they call regular  
33 standard methods and means that went through the  
34 Administrative Procedures Act process which is guaranteed  
35 by the United States Constitution, they want to ignore  
36 that and that is what really sticks in my craw.

37

38

Thank you.

39

40

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry, but  
41 I don't think we need to get into discussion what you  
42 think and what he thinks. I think what we're being asked  
43 -- we are being asked to give comments to an MOU which is  
44 probably going to be a two year process. And if anyone  
45 else wants to discuss the motion on the floor to adopt  
46 the language that I just read you from the Wrangell-St.  
47 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission, that is on the  
48 floor for discussion.

49

50

So anyone have any other discussion?

1 (No comments)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I want to  
4 say one thing that I remember being your Chair, being at  
5 the Federal Board meetings, this comes to me -- it was  
6 Western and Greg Roczicka was there representing the  
7 Western -- whatever, not Western, YK Delta. And he --  
8 Mike Fleagle was the Chair at the time and he went into  
9 reading ANILCA and saying that he could argue with them.  
10 And I thought it was kind of cool, but it fell apart, he  
11 could argue them -- to them about ways to keep  
12 populations for subsistence. And Mike finally got it, he  
13 said -- he read right from ANILCA. I'm not an attorney,  
14 I can't even tell you how it was said, but I thought it  
15 was really sad that he made a really good point arguing  
16 that we could do stuff and then we see these hammer down  
17 things like the predator con or the bear baiting thing by  
18 the -- and we saw it in (indiscernible) years ago. The  
19 agencies make their own decisions based on Washington.  
20 So if we decide that's -- we don't want to see that,  
21 that's our comments to this MOU.

22

23

Anyone else have anything?

24

25

MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair.

26

27

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

28

29

MR. GLANZ: Yes, I have one. Years ago  
30 I was on a department and we went on strike against the  
31 city and after about a couple of weeks the city came out  
32 with an MOU for the -- for all the people that was on  
33 strike with me and we got it signed. And about a year  
34 later we said no, no, no, our MOU says this, it says that  
35 and that. We went to court and the court said, no, MOU  
36 have no bearing, they're just -- you can break an MOU, it  
37 don't mean -- it's not a contract, it's just a memorandum  
38 of understanding, either side can change without a  
39 problem. Well, we didn't like that so we went to the  
40 appellate court and they said we agree with the local  
41 courts, MOUs are worthless. So I don't even know why  
42 we're wasting our time on this stuff, from my experience  
43 with that. WE didn't go to the Supreme Court, we knew it  
44 wouldn't work. So we went to the Supreme Court on one  
45 thing, last hire, first fire, and we beat that because we  
46 had a contract. And the United States Supreme Court  
47 ruled with us on that, we had a contract, not an MOU, a  
48 signed contract. So I don't know why we're wasting our  
49 time, you guys, it's worthless, anybody can break it at  
50 anytime, just walk away from it. We haven't had one for

1 two years and I don't see the world falling down around  
2 our shoulders.

3

4 So anyway that's just my comments.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Call for question.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a  
9 motion on the floor to adopt the language from the  
10 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission and  
11 it's been seconded and the question called for. All in  
12 favor say aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes  
21 unanimous. Now Andrew's here, do you guys want to take  
22 up this other one or -- first of all I think I would like  
23 to have YRDFA testify.

24

25 Ms. Kenner: Madam Chair, this is Pippa  
26 Kenner. YRDFA and others.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And others,  
29 yes, I'm sorry. I.....

30

31 MS. KENNER: No, it just makes.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there anyone  
34 else that wants to testify on this priority thing  
35 and.....

36

37 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Chair and RAC  
38 members. I thank you for this opportunity to provide  
39 some suggestions from YRDFA from people we've heard from  
40 on the river and other ideas about things that you might  
41 consider in your suggestion for the priority information  
42 needs for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

43

44 REPORTER: State your name.

45

46 Oh, sorry, this is Catherine Moncrieff  
47 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

48

49 So one of the first ideas is something to  
50 do with the Anadromous Waters Catalog. We hear a lot and

1 we have done project in the past talking with people from  
2 the river, elders who live maybe in the headwaters, and  
3 talking to them about where they have -- where they know  
4 that salmon spawn and contributing to the Anadromous  
5 Waters Catalog through talking with people on the river  
6 or other means.

7

8                   A second idea is we think it's always a  
9 good idea to be able to hire people from the communities  
10 to work on projects related to assessment of salmon or  
11 test fisheries or anything like that and if there's a way  
12 to assist with these projects by providing local hire, I  
13 think that may have been done by the Fisheries Resource  
14 Monitoring Program in the past.

15

16                   A third idea that we -- you know, we hear  
17 a lot about is the importance of including traditional  
18 knowledge in management decision making process. And I'm  
19 not sure I see anything directly related to traditional  
20 knowledge on the priority information list right now.

21

22                   And then finally as I mentioned in my  
23 report on our activities with out in-season salmon survey  
24 we heard suggestions that perhaps it could be expanded to  
25 include chum salmon. So I guess I'm hearing that maybe  
26 there's more opportunity to look at chum salmon and I  
27 don't know if that's something that could be addressed  
28 through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

29

30                   But that's -- those are my suggestions  
31 and I wanted to just provide those ideas for you to  
32 consider.

33

34                   Thank you.

35

36                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

37

38                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

39

40                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

41

42                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes, did you have this  
43 list that we were just given today?

44

45                   MS. MONCRIEFF: I also saw it today. I  
46 did not see it before today.

47

48                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.

49

50                   MS. MONCRIEFF: I mean, I don't think I

1 did.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: So YRDFA has went over  
4 this list basically?

5

6 MS. MONCRIEFF: Well, yes, I guess  
7 actually this did come, this was available for the 2016  
8 notice of funding availability. This is the previous  
9 list that I think you're being asked to build on and  
10 revise for the next notice of funding availability.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: So has YRDFA came up with  
13 kind of a priority of these, how they would rank them?

14

15 MS. MONCRIEFF: No, we have not done  
16 that.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madam Chair.

19

20 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
23 questions?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andrew,  
28 did you have a chance to look at that?

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: I did and I'm looking at it  
31 now.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,  
34 Pippa gave a report earlier that you missed and we didn't  
35 feel comfortable talking about this until you were here.  
36 So if you have any questions that would be a good time to  
37 ask.

38

39 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you for waiting on me,  
40 I was walking out the door and surprised by a -- I forgot  
41 that the restoration crew was coming by my house to work  
42 on it this morning, to rearrange my kitchen and bathroom  
43 real quick.

44

45 But I noticed there was the assessment of  
46 mortality with gillnets, that's a interesting one, I  
47 don't know how they're going to study that. But I'd like  
48 to see something with that. I'll have to think on that  
49 for a while there.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We had no  
2 discussion yet and we didn't want to do it without you.  
3 So if there's any -- you know, that's a good question  
4 actually.

5  
6 Pippa.

7  
8 MS. KENNER: Yeah, maybe while Andrew --  
9 this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Maybe while Andrew  
10 continues to look at that so that he can provide more  
11 input I'll point out a few things.

12  
13 I was asked to remind the Council that  
14 the process for funding with the Monitoring Program  
15 begins with the priority information needs, the  
16 development of them. And this is the one area where the  
17 Council is most fully involved and has their chance to  
18 communicate with potential -- with people applying for  
19 the money and Staff and the Board what the priorities are  
20 for research. So in that sense this is a very important  
21 process.

22  
23 The other thing is in the earlier  
24 discussion I did not -- what little discussion there was,  
25 I have not heard anybody say they wanted anything to come  
26 off the list, but they also agreed that we need to  
27 incorporate the so called middle Yukon assessment test  
28 fishery that used to be run by Stan Zuray needs to be  
29 included and also an assessment of the quality of the  
30 escapement through the Eagle sonar and therefore into  
31 Canada. And I would be interested in hearing your  
32 comments on the list of three or four points that we just  
33 heard from YRDFA.

34  
35 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

38  
39 MS. PITKA: Hi. Okay. So I wanted to  
40 comment and make sure that we all understand the proper  
41 name of the Draanjik, the Black River, is now Draanjik.  
42 That's -- it's -- the name has been changed a couple of  
43 years ago. D-R-A-A-N-J-I-K.

44  
45 And you were asking for deletions also.  
46 And I don't know, this one always comes up and it always  
47 sort of bothers me, it's the Bering cisco population  
48 assessment and monitoring. I understand that other  
49 people see the need for it, but the local people don't  
50 see the need for that particular study.



1 I agree that we need to continue the test  
2 fishery for the mid river, that's an important test  
3 fishery that needs to continue.

4  
5 And I also agree with YRDFA's comment  
6 about traditional knowledge inclusion.

7  
8 And I think that Andy Bassich if he was  
9 here would talk more about chum salmon, you know,  
10 increasing studies on chum salmon.

11  
12 And I also agree that we should hire  
13 local in test fisheries whenever possible. It's a good  
14 way to increase local participation in management.

15  
16 And there was more note. I'll look at my  
17 notes again for it.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MR. FIRMIN: Not to be argumentative, but  
22 the Bering cisco population was one of the ones that I  
23 think I might have pushed in -- onto this list and that  
24 was because I asked them where do they spawn and they  
25 said somewhere between there and up that way. And  
26 they're actually doing this now I think, the CTG and  
27 somewhat and.....

28  
29 MS. PITKA: No.

30  
31 MR. FIRMIN: Well, they're helping in  
32 some capacity. But there was -- when the king salmon  
33 commercial market in the lower river started on the  
34 downward trends they started commercially harvesting  
35 Bering cisco and said well, geez, we sold 20,000 pounds  
36 last year in Japan. So we're going to sell, 30,000  
37 pounds this year. Well, wait a minute, where do these  
38 fish go and where are they coming from. Well, somewhere  
39 up that way in the Yukon Flats. Well, how many do you --  
40 you're just arbitrarily saying you're going to just start  
41 selling these fish on the market and you don't know where  
42 they come from, where they spawn, no abundance, no what  
43 role they play in the ecosystem, they're just out there.  
44 And now you're automatically we sold so much we're going  
45 to catch more this year. And that was where a lot of  
46 that -- that's where that study basically came from. And  
47 I think the burbot population assessment was another one  
48 that spawned from this RAC when Frank Gertner from Manley  
49 was saying how come -- it's a lack of people actually out  
50 there fishing for burbot, what do they eat all year and

1 how much -- what is their populations doing, are they  
2 expanding and do they eat -- you know, do they eat fry,  
3 do they eat small king salmon, do they eat -- they're  
4 living on something and if nobody's fishing them they're  
5 population is either going to expand or, you know, it's  
6 going to go off on its own. And that was another  
7 question because there's not as much people up there  
8 living off the land are fishing -- targeting those fish  
9 as much as previously.

10  
11 So that was where those two bottom ones  
12 came from and I'd like to see -- maybe they don't need to  
13 be on the list anymore because there's actually studies  
14 I see from our list up here in 2016 going on right now.  
15 So maybe those don't need to be priorities on there until  
16 we see the studies finished and get to see them in front  
17 of us in the future, next couple years when they --  
18 projects get done.

19  
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

23  
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I know that Lenny  
25 Brown was working on -- he's been working on whitefish  
26 for quite a while and so I don't know who's funding that  
27 or what's funding it, just his regular duties or not, but  
28 maybe Fred does. But anyway it would be nice to know  
29 that, whether any of that funding -- because I've  
30 actually been at the rapids when he was there when his  
31 Didson sonar and they really got some neat stuff on that  
32 Didson sonar that you could look at on the computer of  
33 actually fall chums and whitefish and burbot coming up  
34 the river. Pretty neat.

35  
36 But I think to me the most important  
37 thing is the quality of escapement and the reliability of  
38 the analysis of the quality of escapement and the  
39 escapement numbers. And when I say that, I mean, we have  
40 a double standard in this State on escapement on chinook  
41 salmon. In southeast Alaska they have 655 millimeters  
42 before they count as a king salmon on the spawning  
43 grounds, that's 25 and three-quarter inches from the  
44 center of the eyeball to the center of the tail. So  
45 that's about an eight or nine pound king salmon is what  
46 it is. And most of those king salmon are all males.  
47 And so in southeast they don't count as escapement on the  
48 spawning grounds in the escapement goal. But on the  
49 Yukon River and in all of western Alaska a king salmon is  
50 a king salmon, it can be a 12 ounce king salmon and it

1 still counts as escapement and border passage in our  
2 salmon treaty as well.

3  
4                   And so I know that there was a weir on  
5 the Tozitna River that BLM ran for I believe six years.  
6 And they ran it in the early 2000s. And I know that the  
7 data from that weir on age classes of chinook salmon was  
8 about the same as the harvest on the Tanana River in that  
9 80 percent of the fish that went past that weir and got  
10 on the spawning grounds were five year olds and younger  
11 and that's about what we were catching in fish wheels on  
12 the Tanana River and then of course I always had a giant  
13 argument with some of the biologists that fishwheels  
14 don't catch big fish, they'd try to say. But I do know  
15 from my records of buying salmon and fishing with the  
16 fishwheel for damn near 30 -- well, for over 30 years  
17 now, that a fishwheel will catch the biggest king salmon.  
18 Many times -- because about half of the king salmon I  
19 used to buy in district 5 that were coming up the Yukon  
20 that about half of them would be caught in fishwheels and  
21 about half of them would be caught in set nets. And I do  
22 know that the majority of the time the largest king  
23 salmon of the year would be caught in a fishwheel,  
24 they'll catch 50 pound king salmon. And so those fish  
25 that are only -- you know, the ones under five years old,  
26 the majority of them weigh less than 10 pounds. And so  
27 if 80 percent of the fish getting on the spawning grounds  
28 are what scientists call the precocious male which means  
29 the real aggressive horny teenage boy that's not  
30 producing anything on the spawning grounds because his  
31 genes are going to be passed on to the progeny, that's  
32 the ones that come back. And so -- and the University of  
33 Washington did studies.....

34  
35                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going on  
36 priorities.

37  
38                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. No, what I'm  
39 saying is why this is so darn important. It we put --  
40 you know, make our spawning objective indicator, let's  
41 say 42,500 fish actually are on the spawning grounds, but  
42 80 percent of them are teenage boys and only 20 percent  
43 of them are women, we didn't really put that many eggs  
44 into the gravel. And if all those little boys fertilize  
45 those eggs then three-fourths of the fish that come back  
46 are going to be the same thing, they're going to be young  
47 boys when they go up to the spawning grounds. And so  
48 that's why I think that should be our number 1 priority  
49 is quality of escapement and quality of the assessment  
50 project because I know that Oregon State University's put

1 out all kinds of data on do not believe these damn  
2 spawning ground surveys, they are totally unrealistic.  
3 And the reason why is because a large -- they give a  
4 really flawed percentage of males to females, because the  
5 largest fish are the big old females. And so a big old  
6 female, it's a lot harder for a fox or a seagull to haul  
7 it off plus the females guard their red after they lay  
8 the eggs, the male is a male, he services the female and  
9 then he tries to go find another woman, another  
10 female.....

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13  
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....just like a moose  
15 does.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18  
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Same thing.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't need  
22 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

23  
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: As so they go off to rape  
25 in the spawning grounds and then.....

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, come  
28 on.

29  
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: No. No, I'm telling you  
31 why it's so important and this is just simple science.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You did, I  
34 think.

35  
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oregon State University's  
37 conclusion is you should never believe that. You have to  
38 have a weir project such as -- we've got a really nice  
39 handout.....

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

42  
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....here on the one on  
44 the Henshaw Creek.....

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

47  
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....a project like that  
49 that gives you accurate information and like the one that  
50 BLM ran on the Tozitna River. We need those kind of

1 projects so we actually know what the quality of  
2 escapement is, how many of those king salmon, how many  
3 are large males and how many are little runt males.....

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Escapement is  
6 important.

7  
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....and we have to know  
9 that. That is the most important thing that we should  
10 focus on as far as the science.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Escapement is  
13 important.

14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the  
18 short version.

19  
20 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

23  
24 MS. PITKA: I'd just to acknowledge that  
25 Chief Nancy James of Fort Yukon is here also, Chief  
26 Nancy.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where? Hi.

29  
30 CHIEF JAMES: Sorry, I'm late, but I  
31 (indiscernible - away from microphone). Thank you for  
32 coming in and taking the time to come and have a meeting  
33 here. And I really.....

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We would like  
36 you to step up to the mic.

37  
38 CHIEF JAMES: .....in the middle of the  
39 agenda, but I'd like to thank everybody for coming in and  
40 taking the time to (indiscernible - away from  
41 microphone).....

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're doing  
44 fine.

45  
46 CHIEF JAMES: It's just a welcome and  
47 thanking you for coming and taking the time to come up to  
48 Gwitch'in country and to have your meeting here. It's  
49 really important and I hope that you will have local  
50 participation in your agenda.

1 I'd also like to make a comment though on  
2 -- one on AFN. We had one resolution concerning  
3 (indiscernible) in the Eastern Interior and we've been  
4 working on that for the last eight years. And it was  
5 tabled for -- we were told for the year, political year,  
6 but we have gone to the White House and have traveled  
7 back and forth three times on this project as a Gwitch'in  
8 and also as a Chalkyitsik and thank you for the support  
9 of CTG, TCC, Rural Cap. But it's really important that  
10 we consider that and I hope that our representative would  
11 take the time to talk about the discussion on just why it  
12 is important. And it think the Anchorage (indiscernible)  
13 news really did a nice article on what (indiscernible)  
14 and what the issue is and it just came out and making the  
15 Native Village of -- making that available today for your  
16 information. But I would hope that you would consider  
17 and support it, it's really important. When we say  
18 (indiscernible) original Black River, I know in the  
19 mainstream we sort of changed into our Gwitch'in  
20 terminology which is good.

21

22 And I'd just like to say thank you for  
23 taking the time to come in. It's hard for me to come in  
24 in the middle of the agenda and hear the discussion, but  
25 we do have representatives Andrew and Rhonda, and thank  
26 you for sitting on it.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

29

30 CHIEF JAMES: Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: I was just looking at our  
35 list and I notice about one, two, three, four, five, six,  
36 seven, seven or eight test fisheries and some of them are  
37 like about a hundred miles apart. I don't understand why  
38 we're wasting so much money on salmon test fisheries.  
39 One's for the lower Yukon, 359,000. I mean, you just go  
40 to this 177,000 on the lower Yukon again. I mean, I know  
41 it's employment for a lot of locals, but this is kind of  
42 crazy to me. And there's another one down here, test  
43 boundary, lower Yukon again, whitefish, 458,000. Thank  
44 god we're rich and we can spend all this money.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 As reviewing this priority needs list I think that  
2 assessments of incidental mortality, number -- the sixth  
3 bullet down, is going to be an almost impossible project  
4 to process. I think the dropouts are pretty  
5 insignificant. When I check my net to keep from dropping  
6 any fish I purse the lead line up to the float line and  
7 then pull the whole shebang in the boat. And I just want  
8 to pass that information on to people that if they don't  
9 know, if they're always just jerking up on the float line  
10 they are -- they can drop out fish, those big whitefish  
11 will drop out of a chum net. But if I purse the lead  
12 line up I don't have any drops. I don't think this is a  
13 really significant problem. I think it's somewhat  
14 political.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Council  
19 members, how do you want to deal with it, just give them  
20 the comments that we're saying right now and consider it  
21 our input or do you want a motion?

22

23 Pippa.

24

25 MS. KENNER: If there are no more  
26 comments to us right now I'd like to ask a couple of  
27 questions about what I've heard.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there more  
30 comments?

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want to ask a question  
33 and then comment maybe.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil. Did  
36 you say.....

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I think I heard  
39 you say when you were -- initially went over this was you  
40 wanted to know about that Stan Zuray did not put in to  
41 operate his fishwheel assessment project, he didn't  
42 operate it this year. Did you want comments on that, I  
43 thought I heard you say something about that?

44

45 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Umphenour,  
46 through the Chair. No, I got what I needed, you -- I saw  
47 a lot of heads going, yes, that would be have a priority  
48 information need to get information from what we call a  
49 middle river test fishery. And it will be on -- it will  
50 be in the priority information needs unless I hear

1 something else.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Because I  
4 have spent a lot of time at that project in the past and  
5 it's -- I think it was one of the best assessment  
6 projects -- well, I know it was, that we had on the river  
7 as far as knowing what's coming up the river and helping  
8 the managers have a good idea of what's coming and the  
9 Canadians as well, and it was -- it had a extremely low  
10 mortality rate because of the way the fishwheel is built,  
11 fish friendly, and the fish just go right back in the  
12 water and get video of them. And so there's a number of  
13 reasons why he didn't apply to put in for that again, but  
14 anyway that -- a project like that would really be good.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other input  
19 from the Council so she can ask questions?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Pippa,  
24 you had some questions.

25

26 MS. KENNER: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair.  
27 Mr. Glanz, talking about so many test fisheries, yeah.  
28 And I was trying to track what you were talking about and  
29 I think you were talking about from the history of the  
30 Monitoring Program from 2000?

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Page 122 and 123.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Okay. So that was kind of  
35 our former funding history and that right now in the  
36 priority information needs there is one that asks for --  
37 I guess it doesn't ask specifically for test fisheries.  
38 The first bullet is reliable estimates of salmon  
39 escapement, for example projects using weir, sonar, mark  
40 recapture methods. I guess that includes test fisheries.  
41 So were you making -- I was wondering if you were making  
42 a statement specifically about test fisheries that we  
43 have now or that are funding now or the priority  
44 information needs for the middle river test fishery?

45

46 MR. GLANZ: Negative. I'm going on this  
47 list -- I thought we was going over this list to put down  
48 what we'd like to see happen and what we are against, but  
49 you're going to -- this way. Oh. So what's this 122 and  
50 123 we got all the paperwork on.



1 MS. KENNER: Thank you. This -- Mr.  
2 Glanz, through the Chair. This is a list of -- you're  
3 right we have funded a lot of test fisheries. This is  
4 the funding from the inception of the program in 2000.  
5 So every -- the first number is the year. So it goes  
6 from 00 which is the year 2000 all the way to 2014 which  
7 is on the bottom of page 123.  
8  
9 MR. GLANZ: I have to apologize to you.  
10 I thought these were the ones we were looking over for --  
11 I'm sorry.  
12  
13 MS. KENNER: Well, they kind of are. So  
14 I was taking your comments very seriously and I think now  
15 I understand what you meant and I understand.  
16  
17 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.  
18  
19 MS. KENNER: Thank you.  
20  
21 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I don't know if it was  
22 for local employment to run all these test fisheries and  
23 every year we see some of that -- two or three a year.  
24 But anyway, okay.  
25  
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.  
29  
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me ask you a  
31 question so to make sure I'm clear. Okay. The first two  
32 numbers there means the year, 00 means the year 2000.  
33 That would be on page 121. Okay. And so if you  
34 flip.....  
35  
36 MS. KENNER: That's correct.  
37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....flip over to the  
39 bottom of page 123 the first number's 14 so that's a  
40 project that started in 2014?  
41  
42 MS. KENNER: That's correct.  
43  
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I think that is --  
45 was maybe confusing some of the Council members.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've a  
48 question. How many of these are complete, done, no more  
49 money being spent?  
50

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that question,  
2 Madam Chair. This is Pippa Kenner again. Generally the  
3 projects that were funded in 2012 and those projects are  
4 on page 124, would be reaching completion this year in  
5 2016. Final reports might be coming in after the new  
6 year in 2017. Generally the projects funded in 2014 that  
7 are for four years will be complete in 2018. And the  
8 projects that were funded in 2016, the majority are for  
9 four years and they will be completed in 2020. So.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My question is  
12 not what's going on now. Here's a list starting in 2000,  
13 I assume the effects of ichthyophonous on chinook salmon  
14 is a finished project. I want to know which ones are  
15 finished.

16

17 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
18 That's correct. Everything before 2012.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is finished.

21

22 MS. KENNER: .....is finished.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
25 the short answer. That's what I look for. Sorry. So  
26 that's what's confusing I think to a lot of us. We see  
27 a list of all this stuff, you need to tell us what's  
28 finished and what we're looking at that's being funded so  
29 it doesn't get us all confused. That's what confused me  
30 and I could feel it with Bill.

31

32 So you had more questions?

33

34 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I  
35 heard Mr. Firmin and Ms. Pitka's comments about Bering  
36 cisco. And I think it was helpful that Mr. Firmin  
37 brought up that there are commercial fisheries ongoing  
38 right now and future planned in more of the lower river  
39 and that's one of the reasons why whitefish in general  
40 have come up as a research topic for many agencies and  
41 organ -- funding organizations. We have Bering cisco  
42 population assessment monitoring, right now we have -- we  
43 have just funded a project in the upper Yukon River,  
44 Yukon Flats area. Could it be that maybe we want to  
45 rewrite this priority information need for the -- to  
46 include it in the lower river and not the upper river, is  
47 that maybe where we're going with that?

48

49 MR. FIRMIN: Looking back I just remember  
50 it's been that long ago. In 2012 they had the spawning

1 origins telemetry investigation and I think it was 2019  
2 or '9 when I first started bringing it up. So it took  
3 them three years to tell me where this fish even spawn  
4 and four more years to figure out how many of them there  
5 are. But there's a consistent commercial fishery on them  
6 and that's why I'd like -- that's why I'd like to see it  
7 completed. However if they do -- my other thought was  
8 now that they do have these studies underway then maybe  
9 it doesn't need to be a priority because now they're  
10 studying them. So if it narrows down our priority needs  
11 then if we have that information do we -- does it need to  
12 be on the list anymore or is there missing pieces now  
13 they're -- I'm not a biologist so maybe there's a --  
14 what's the next step in their Bering cisco population  
15 assessment, maybe they want to continue monitoring them  
16 as the commercial fishery goes because you never know,  
17 they're probably going to say well, geez, there's more  
18 than we thought, we can really up the quota next year.

19  
20                   You know, and it's the same thing like  
21 with the -- the lampreys, there's just a commercial  
22 fishery on it that just goes and goes and goes and  
23 there's no -- you know, people don't even know where they  
24 go or what they do or what role they play in the  
25 ecosystem, but they're just arbitrarily knocking them  
26 dead because there's a market for it. And I think in the  
27 past there has been some studies, but that would --  
28 that's another one that I've brought up in the past that  
29 how come that's not getting studied if you're selling  
30 thousands of pounds of -- I guess they're not worried  
31 about it until they get into the tons, I guess.

32  
33                   But that was where that came from and I'd  
34 either like -- and I'm kind of on the fence with that.  
35 They can either -- if they've got enough information on  
36 it then maybe it's not a priority anymore or what's the  
37 next step for them. But I'd like to see those projects  
38 completed anyway.

39  
40                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

41  
42                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

43  
44                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. That same subject.  
45 I've a question. The people that actually buy the fish  
46 and sell them which is the CDQ group in the lower Yukon,  
47 have they stepped up to the plate to fund -- help fund  
48 any research on this?

49  
50                   MR. BUE: Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife

1 Service, Federal in-season manager. They've been  
2 involved in a lot of the development of the fishery.  
3 Part of the fishery was contingent on them collecting  
4 samples out of -- you know, they would purchase fish from  
5 the fishermen, a percentage of those fish would be  
6 collected by Kwik'Pak, the CDQ fishermen, and they would  
7 transport them to Anchorage for the biologist to look at  
8 the scales and measure them and the otoliths and age  
9 them. And so they've been involved in that part of it.  
10 And also some of the test fishing and logistics I guess  
11 is part of it. They've housed the Fish and Game samplers  
12 when they're down there monitoring the fishery. So  
13 there's a lot of cooperation trying to get that  
14 information available. There's been some collecting the  
15 samples for genetic studies, you know, those have come  
16 out of the commercial sample. It's -- the fishermen  
17 collect the fish and then the fish buyer just like --  
18 you're aware that Fish and Game comes to the fish plant  
19 and gets the fish and cooperates that way and helps  
20 however they can to get those fish through for  
21 processing, processing the samples.

22

23 Does that help?

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That helps,  
26 but to be more specific about my question, I know that to  
27 do genetic samples, I believe I've been told and this has  
28 been a while back, that to analyze each one was roughly  
29 a hundred dollars. And so are they -- I don't know how  
30 many samples are being analyzed and I haven't seen  
31 anything on the results of this radio telemetry from  
32 2012, let's see, somewhere I saw it on here, chinook  
33 salmon average -- yeah, Bering cisco origins telemetry  
34 investigation, 12-207, I haven't seen a report on that,  
35 I don't know if you have either or not, but maybe you  
36 could address those issues.

37

38 MR. BUE: Yeah, I apologize, I don't have  
39 the immediate answer, but Holly Carroll is with Fish and  
40 Game, I don't know if she's still on the phone. Are you  
41 there, Holly?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. BUE: Maybe Fish and Game's no longer  
46 on the phone at this point, but they are -- they have the  
47 answers, I don't have them at this time.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Those are some of  
50 my concerns. I think if the -- if they're going to have

1 this commercial fishery we need to make sure that it's  
2 done in a responsible manner and that it's not going to  
3 impact the stock status of these fish and affect  
4 subsistence activities upriver. That's my main concern.

5

6 Thank you. Madam Chair.

7

8 MR. BUE: I think part of the genetics,  
9 some of you may be aware, but that was one of the initial  
10 concerns with the Bering cisco is that there's three main  
11 populations in the world, there's one in Cook Inlet, one  
12 in Kuskokwim and one in the Yukon River. Our concern was  
13 the commercial fishery was in the mouth of the Yukon  
14 River, that's where the fish overwinter, they're juvenile  
15 rearing fish, they come into that area to overwinter.  
16 Our concern was we weren't sure if it was a mixture of  
17 Kuskokwim and Yukon fish and so a few years ago they did  
18 conclude that they were nearly entirely all Yukon River  
19 stock there. And they did that with a genetic study and  
20 that's as far as I know, but I don't know exactly who  
21 funded that.

22

23 Madam Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: Pippa, I have one  
28 question. In our reviews in the past I remember that not  
29 all these projects are four year projects. And so if one  
30 is two year or four year, we don't know that from looking  
31 at this list.

32

33 MS. KENNER: Yes, the more recently  
34 funded projects, we can tell you the 2016 projects. I  
35 can tell you for what we call the HMTEK projects in the  
36 2014, 2012 slot I can if you'd like me to and do you know  
37 the two or four year funded projects in the SST slot?  
38 Would you like some more -- I can tell you that the  
39 majority of these projects are four year projects.

40

41 MS. PITKA: Pippa.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

44

45 MS. PITKA: My comment was that these are  
46 our subsistence priorities, correct, so in that note then  
47 the Bering Sea cisco to me goes way further down the list  
48 because we don't exactly have a subsistence need for the  
49 Bering Sea cisco at the moment. So in times of declining  
50 resources I -- you know, my suggestion would be to fund

1 those things that are very important like quality of  
2 escapement like Virgil said and the mid river test  
3 fishery because you said one to two million a year and  
4 this project is listed at 361,000 for a fish that's got  
5 a commercial fishery. I haven't seen any subsistence use  
6 of that fish or heard about it exactly so I'm not sure,  
7 maybe somebody can answer that one. But I guess to me it  
8 would just go further down the list, further down the  
9 list.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. FIRMIN: It's already at the bottom.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 Thank you for that information. Further up -- and  
21 remember this isn't -- these aren't listed by priority,  
22 they are all considered priority information needs. And  
23 so what I heard you say, Ms. Pitka, is that it's not that  
24 research into Bering cisco isn't important and hat maybe  
25 somebody should be doing it, but maybe not at this time  
26 through this program through our priorities. But I  
27 wanted to direct you to the second bullet. Second bullet  
28 says geographic distribution of salmon and whitefish  
29 species and of specific interest to the Nulato River,  
30 Salmon Fork of the Black River, Porcupine River and  
31 Chandalar River and I know -- so this does include  
32 whitefish, Bering cisco is a whitefish. This is a more  
33 general statement and need for information, but then it  
34 does highlight specific tributaries of the Yukon. Does  
35 anybody -- can anyone give me information about how they  
36 feel about these specific tributaries being priorities  
37 for research into salmon and whitefish?

38

39 MR. FIRMIN: That was one that -- I don't  
40 know if it's geographic distribution so much, but that's  
41 another one was a recent closure on the Porcupine River  
42 that -- that's their -- the management of the Porcupine  
43 River is the exact opposite of the Yukon River and it's  
44 kind of like what I've been saying for years is close the  
45 entire Yukon River and just wait until they get border  
46 escapement and then let people fish. I mean, well, that  
47 would cut off the rest of the other 2,000 miles of the  
48 Yukon River. Well, that's how they're managing the  
49 Porcupine River now is they're telling us not to fish  
50 down here in the mouth and wait until the Canadians get

1 their escapement in a fishing branch a thousand miles  
2 upriver and then, okay, now you guys can open the river  
3 again. And that's -- if it's backwards and I -- refused  
4 and get laughed at for saying to do it on the Yukon then  
5 why are they doing it on the Porcupine River. And if  
6 they need a different assessment then that's what needs  
7 to be done over there or they shouldn't bother closing it  
8 at all because there's not enough -- well, there's  
9 potential for a lot of use there. There's -- at the  
10 moment it's kind of why it's been a quiet subject is  
11 because there's -- not a lot of people use it, but the  
12 people that do, you know, you're hurting the little guy  
13 that's actually out there eking out a living out there  
14 off the land and then not knowing and when they're going  
15 to get ticketed or how they can fish for bait or their  
16 dogs or the eating food is another -- you know, what are  
17 you doing to fly up there and tell them when they can put  
18 their net in and pull it out. It's just kind of -- all  
19 those guys are remote and that's something -- like I said  
20 if it's backwards to do it on the Yukon then why are they  
21 doing it on the Porcupine, it needs -- something needs to  
22 be done for an assessment project down here at the mouth  
23 of the river instead of at the other end of the river to  
24 tell -- to tell us when we can and cannot fish over  
25 there. So that's one of the things that I like about  
26 that.

27  
28                   And as far as Bering cisco I catch them  
29 every summer, I eat them every summer and as low as the  
30 king salmon population is, if it wasn't for them I  
31 probably wouldn't catch anything at all some days, but  
32 they're commonly caught, everybody catches them and a lot  
33 of it does get used for dog food and -- but there's  
34 nothing wrong with eating them and actually they're a  
35 pretty tasty fish. So to say that those aren't used in  
36 a subsistence way is totally wrong. I think a lot of  
37 people get off the mark like Clarence was saying  
38 yesterday that before steamboats and gold miners came up  
39 here and demanded salmon that salmon weren't used as much  
40 as they were before when whitefish were used and I think  
41 that's something that was kind of a pretty true statement  
42 there. And that's one thing people shy away from some  
43 times, they all just think king salmon, that's all I  
44 want, but there's plenty of other fish out there that  
45 people just aren't utilizing as much as they were in the  
46 past. So to say that it's not a priority for me is a  
47 untrue statement because that's something I've been  
48 griping about studying since 2005 or something like that,  
49 2007. And I'd -- like I said this may not be a high  
50 priority, but it's something I'd like to see completed

1 and monitored and maybe Rhonda is correct in saying or  
2 Virgil, that they can find other ways to look for funding  
3 for that project if there's commercial fisheries for it  
4 like they do.

5

6 And the other thing with salmon though,  
7 the salmon is such a high priority that there's people  
8 just dumping money into the salmon projects out there  
9 that's -- of course it makes for a lot of other projects  
10 too. And there's -- maybe that's where some of these  
11 smaller fish projects that are important need to be  
12 funded too.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. As far as the  
19 whitefish goes, I know the whitefish are very important  
20 down at Tanana, they're important at Rampart, Stevens  
21 Village and I think that if the commercial fishery wants  
22 to continue to have this directed commercial fishery on  
23 these stocks and we don't really know what the stock  
24 status is, the commercial fishery should have to step up  
25 to the plate to pay for more of the research and the  
26 Office of Subsistence Management should not be paying for  
27 that. If the -- otherwise just close the commercial  
28 fishery and then you don't have to worry about them  
29 overharvesting.

30

31 As far as this geographic distribution of  
32 salmon like fish species, I don't know, it says specific  
33 interest are the Nulato River, Salmon Fork of Black  
34 River, Porcupine River and Chandalar River. I don't know  
35 why we need to study the Nulato River more, if someone  
36 wants it as just an index string that's fine, but we know  
37 that lots of chinook salmon go up it, they used to do  
38 aerial surveys of it all the time, the State, and lots of  
39 chum salmon go up it, summer chums, we know that and we  
40 also know that coho go up it in the fall, we know that.  
41 Salmon Fork of the Black River, this RAC maybe is the  
42 reason why that's on there, but Porcupine River, I think  
43 the Office of Subsistence Management should not spend a  
44 penny on the Porcupine River, the Salmon Treaty Panel is  
45 spending -- Fred can maybe have a better idea than me,  
46 but I'd say the last four years or so they've been  
47 spending a minimum of \$400,000 a year on that. And we  
48 don't need to throw any more money down that rat hole  
49 because I feel that the science that's been gathered from  
50 them trying to run sonars and put radio transmitters down



1 the fishers' throat and that kind of stuff has been just  
2 an absolute almost failure and waste of time. They've  
3 abandoned part of that and started using their plain old  
4 fashioned weir on the fishing branch again which is what  
5 they should have kept doing to begin with I think. So I  
6 don't think we should spend a penny on the Porcupine  
7 River. Chandalar River we already know there's a hell of  
8 a bunch of king salmon or chum salmon goes up it and king  
9 salmon, maybe a little bit of work there, but I don't  
10 think those projects are, you know, warranting spending  
11 a lot of money on whenever I think what we already talked  
12 about, our main priority, is what is the status of what's  
13 getting on the spawning grounds, I think that's much more  
14 important, of the chinook salmon because that's the one  
15 that is the biggest conservation concern. And we do want  
16 to make damn sure the whitefish are protected though  
17 because we would hate like crazy to say well, we had this  
18 commercial fishery in the lower river and we totally  
19 decimated that -- those Bering ciscos. And like Fred  
20 just said, there's only three populations of those in the  
21 world and this is one of the major ones. And they are an  
22 important subsistence food for a lot of people, maybe  
23 some villages don't use them so much, but other villages,  
24 that's kind of their mainstay when they don't have  
25 salmon. And so those are my personal priorities.

26

27 Thank you. Madam Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
30 discussion? Go ahead.

31

32 MR. FIRMIN: I just -- I know Virgil is  
33 true, what he says about the Porcupine River, but all  
34 that money they're throwing is throwing it in the Canada  
35 side, it doesn't go on this side. So I just wanted to  
36 say that. They need to count the fish down on this end  
37 of the river and not the other end.

38

39 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

42

43 MS. PITKA: I agree that we do need to  
44 study the Salmon Fork of the Draanjik, the Porcupine  
45 River and the Chandalar River. If Virgil is correct  
46 about the Nulato River then there's plenty of studies  
47 about that one.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We think  
4 you -- we covered that, right?

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: I just had one small  
7 addition is that possibly the Draanjik River is also a  
8 transboundary river even though some people live on it,  
9 so maybe the Salmon Treaty is another place they can get  
10 money for some of that. It seems like when you say the  
11 note -- it's so remote from the Canadian populations that  
12 they don't even -- they're like oh, they -- you know,  
13 they don't -- when you point out to them they don't seem  
14 to notice or care, but it is a transboundary river and  
15 maybe there's money in the treaty for that, those  
16 projects too.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have  
19 something, Fred?

20

21 MR. BUE: Yeah, I just -- since I was  
22 here, maybe it doesn't apply to this so much, but as a  
23 manager I'm curious. Coho salmon isn't listed anywhere,  
24 I haven't heard any discussion, but I know that -- maybe  
25 more so on the Tanana River what people are interested  
26 in, but I know there are other people pursuing money to  
27 look at telemetry projects on coho salmon and I was just  
28 curious if -- take the opportunity of this RAC if you had  
29 some interest in coho salmon, if you could speak to me  
30 now or at some point.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't know as people  
39 that are -- go to lots of fish meetings know we don't  
40 know much about the coho salmon in the Yukon. However I  
41 do know from personal experience -- well, they -- we only  
42 have one place where they even count them and that's over  
43 by Delta Junction. But I do know from guiding activities  
44 out of Huslia in the fall that the coho salmon are an  
45 important subsistence use there. Of course that's  
46 Western Interior's region, but there are a lot of coho  
47 salmon go up the Huslia River and go up the Koyukuk River  
48 and they don't really know where they go, but I know  
49 where some of them go. And I know that streams are not  
50 even listed in what they call the Anadromous Fisheries

1 Catalog which is a catalog that they have that says where  
2 all the salmon spawning streams are, but I know that  
3 those up the Koyukuk drainage are not even listed, but I  
4 see them there when I'm out hunting in the fall. And so  
5 that's -- I don't know whether the Western Interior's  
6 going to say anything about that or not, but it wouldn't  
7 -- if we were going to try to figure out something on the  
8 coho I know that quite a few of them do go up there  
9 because there's not that many people that actually fish,  
10 they do more sharing there in the Huslia I think, but the  
11 ones that do fish I see quite a few coho getting caught  
12 in the falltime when -- during the moose season.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Think we  
21 covered it? Okay. Let's go to the next thing on the  
22 list. And by the way, Katya, do you want to report on  
23 how Lester's doing?

24

25 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair, just really  
26 quickly, you -- next thing on the list you mean the  
27 agenda. I was wondering if we could have a motion, I --  
28 actually this is an action item and for the Council to  
29 make a motion and if it -- so if it works for you to have  
30 us incorporate the previous conversation and the  
31 testimony from YR DFA into the priority information needs  
32 would work for me.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who's ready to  
35 make the motion?

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Can we ask a question?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question,  
40 Virgil.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me ask a  
43 question. What you would like is a motion from us for  
44 the -- whoever's going to consider all these things, for  
45 them to consider our discussion that we just had and that  
46 of course will be printed out in the transcript. Is that  
47 what it is and is it called the Interagency -- what's  
48 the.....

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Staff,

1 Interagency.....

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....the people that are  
4 going to address this?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who are they?

7

8 MS. KENNER: It will be myself and my co-  
9 worker, Jarred, who's a fisheries biologist and the other  
10 people.....

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just say Staff.

13

14 MS. KENNER: .....who -- the Staff who  
15 have -- well, the Staff who have worked with the other  
16 Councils, we're all going to get together and make sure  
17 that all the priority information needs we heard here are  
18 in that list.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So wouldn't it  
21 just -- the motion can say Staff?

22

23 MS. KENNER: Yes. Oh, yes, Staff.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. My motion is for  
28 the Staff that considers how the money gets spent  
29 consider obtaining the transcript from this discussion  
30 that we've just had here and to use that when they're  
31 evaluating the various proposals on their merit,  
32 scientific merit, and that that -- all this discussion be  
33 considered whenever they rank the proposals.

34

35 Madam Chair.

36

37 MS. KENNER: And that the discussions be  
38 included in the priority information needs that go out in  
39 the notice of funding opportunity to guide research  
40 proposals that we get.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds a lot of  
43 rhetoric, but.....

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. So made.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would -- the  
48 motion is to take our transcript and put it into the  
49 Staff to make decisions on our priorities.

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: Second.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We have  
4 a second. Any other discussion?  
5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's  
9 been called for. All in favor of the motion say aye.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
14  
15 (No opposing votes)  
16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes  
18 unanimous. Okay.  
19  
20 MS. WESSELS: Okay. You want me to  
21 report on Lester's.....  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, report on  
24 Lester.  
25  
26 MS. WESSELS: Okay. This is Katya  
27 Wessels and we just got information back about the health  
28 of Lester Erhart who was not feeling well this morning.  
29 So he went to see a doctor and he's doing much better.  
30 He is right now resting at his bed and breakfast.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it was  
33 his foot and it's in a brace and they gave him some  
34 medicine for pain.  
35  
36 MR. GLANZ: And he said he wants us to  
37 bring lunch to him also. I'm sure he said -- he did.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's good  
40 news. All right. So the next thing on the agenda is  
41  
42 MS. WESSELS: I don't think we have time  
43 for the annual report. Maybe we should do the charter  
44 review first.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do what now  
47 first?  
48  
49 MS. WESSELS: Charter review.  
50

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we're  
2 just discussing is the annual report. I think we can do  
3 the annual report.

4  
5                   MS. WESSELS: Half an hour?  
6

7                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.  
8 Absolutely. All right. This is -- you remember the  
9 annual report, I -- everyone should have got the other  
10 one in the mail and the current one is probably in the  
11 book on page 132. And I'm just looking for any burning  
12 things that you would like on the report.

13  
14                   I know that James Kelly had said  
15 something and I wrote it down here about education, there  
16 needs to be some education. You all know what it is,  
17 right? Yes. One doesn't. No, you know. Okay. I think  
18 you all understand what we're doing -- working on in this  
19 annual report because we do it every -- because if anyone  
20 doesn't Katya was ready to give you the -- what we need  
21 to do. But -- okay, we know what it is.

22  
23                   Will.  
24

25                   MR. KOEHLER: Well, it just -- since Andy  
26 isn't here, one of the things that he always brings up  
27 and I tend to agree with him is calling for -- just  
28 putting in the report or asking for somebody to come up  
29 with something for hunter education, hunter ethics in the  
30 field, explaining, you know, that particularly where  
31 subsistence users and people from the urban areas come  
32 together to hunt and like in our case the Fortymile  
33 caribou area on the Taylor Highway where we have very  
34 different kinds of values in hunting, educating both  
35 sides, both -- well, different peoples, educating them on  
36 the values that other people have when they go out to  
37 hunt and tolerance for those differing values. And I  
38 know that that's something that Andy would like brought  
39 up.

40  
41                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I  
42 might add to that. I think it's important to somehow  
43 work with the same -- maybe this should be in the MOU,  
44 because all the years that I've been out hunting I've  
45 seen a lot of waste and that really probably gets under  
46 my skin the worst of anything is waste. And.....

47  
48                   MR. KOEHLER: And a lot of it is not  
49 intentional, you know. A lot of it's just based on  
50 ignorance. I mean, there's always going to be people out

1 there.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. KOEHLER: .....that just don't care.

6 And they just want to go out and shoot as much as they  
7 can and waste as much as they can and that's who they  
8 are. But for most of the people most of the waste that  
9 I have seen has been not done by people that are being  
10 purposely bad, you know, it's just ignorance.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They don't

13 know, yeah.

14

15 MR. KOEHLER: They just don't know.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We had that  
18 discussion last night, Andrew and I. Yeah. And so I  
19 guess what I keep thinking about having lived around  
20 Mentasta so long is I just feel like there has to be  
21 someway to incorporate people in the rural communities  
22 customs that people from an outside country or area come  
23 in that they respect and maybe they have parts of an  
24 animal that they would be willing to share because all  
25 the people in Mentasta would take the head meat, the  
26 whole head and be able to -- even with the antlers cut  
27 off, they love moose nose. So if there's things that  
28 people understand how to take care of and to give to  
29 someone they'll take it, but if it -- they don't know how  
30 to take care of it it isn't worth giving it to somebody.  
31 Moose stomach too, they love -- we all love moose stomach  
32 in the area. So if -- but if it wasn't taken care of  
33 properly, they say white man ruin flavor. I've heard  
34 that a lot.

35

36 But, you know, if we can incorporate  
37 things like that, that would be great. I'm pretty  
38 passionate about that.

39

40 Anyone else, other ideas that you would  
41 like to put in the annual report? And what's going to  
42 happen is she'll put these down and then we'll see it  
43 again and then we'll talk about it again before it goes  
44 out.

45

46 Will. Because.....

47

48 MR. KOEHLER: Just kind of continuing on  
49 that subject a little bit. The other thing that I notice  
50 that I think it would be good to have perhaps a

1 publication on is just talking about the different  
2 cultural values of hunting. You know, for me growing up,  
3 you know, hunting was -- is -- was very much an important  
4 way of life, it was a spiritual experience, it was  
5 defining of who we were, it defined us as being  
6 competent, it was I think very similar, probably more  
7 similar to the, you know, traditional Native values  
8 incorporated with hunting, you know, very much a part of  
9 our -- part of a way of life. And I -- when I first  
10 starting working on the Fortymile Management Coalition I  
11 spent a lot of time talking with representatives from  
12 Anchorage and the Mat-Su area and it was immediately  
13 obvious that the values they had for hunting were very  
14 different, they're hunting -- the values that they had  
15 for hunting were -- hunting was more like football, it  
16 was a sport, you know, it was -- there was -- they wanted  
17 competition, they wanted -- it was more of an intense  
18 sport. And at first I was very critical of it and found  
19 it extremely distasteful, I still find that view because  
20 it's different than mine, those values, a little bit  
21 difficult to accept, but I think one of the things I'm  
22 starting to learn and not necessarily always doing a very  
23 good job of it, is I get to see a little bit of that as  
24 a hunting guide, I get to see those differing values in  
25 some of the clients that I have, some of the clients that  
26 I have from different countries, different values that  
27 they have in hunting and trying to have -- trying to have  
28 tolerance for people that have different values,  
29 different reasons for why they go out and hunt. There's  
30 a reason why I go out and hunt and it's very much -- it's  
31 a very, very important thing to my life, the way I define  
32 myself as a person and why I want to -- it's a very  
33 important part of why I want to live the lifestyle that  
34 I choose to live right now. But there are many other  
35 values from many other cultures, people that hunt, and  
36 rather than pointing fingers and saying who has the  
37 proper value, it seems like it might just be more  
38 efficient just to try to understand each other's  
39 different reasons for going out and trying to take an  
40 animal, what are your reasons for that. Because I think  
41 if you start to understand why the other person do it,  
42 you may not completely accept it or agree with it, but  
43 you might start to -- as I've slowly come to accept that  
44 people with different values aren't necessarily inferior  
45 to me.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very well  
48 spoken. Other subjects?

49  
50 (No comments)



1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, Council  
2 members, like always if you can -- you know, as we go  
3 through the meeting jot something down and we can even go  
4 over this and -- for a thought for at the end. So if we  
5 don't -- if you miss something we'll bring it back up  
6 again at the end. Katya will help remind me.

7  
8 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

11  
12 MS. PITKA: Yeah, I would just like to  
13 reflect on the record that there have been name changes  
14 back to the traditional Gwitch'in names for several of  
15 the rivers in our region. And that should be reflected  
16 in plans like the Draanjik River was formally known as  
17 the Black River. And there are other names, there are  
18 other place names that have changed.

19  
20 I would also like to I guess correct  
21 something that I heard and it had to do with predator  
22 management, how it wasn't a subsistence practice. I  
23 think that that's an incorrect assumption. And that's  
24 because our traditional subsistence practices generally  
25 included predator management. We never called it that,  
26 but we did include those in our own practices. So I  
27 think -- I'm not sure how to include that in the report,  
28 but it's not something where we would -- I don't even  
29 know what -- he said ungulates or some strange word  
30 where.....

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's  
33 what the biologists call our moose and caribou.

34  
35 MS. PITKA: Yeah. Yeah. I think it's  
36 something like -- that really struck me. So I think it's  
37 something like -- what they say is you can't manage one  
38 species over another, but what it is is managing a  
39 balance.....

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

42  
43 MS. PITKA: .....because when you have  
44 too many bears or moose in the area then the balance is  
45 all off. And what they call predator management is  
46 really a traditional practice that we use.

47  
48 MR. GLANZ: One question for Rhonda.  
49 When -- these names that they changed, it's going to be  
50 in the game directory? What I'm trying to -- is it a

1 legal one or just one that.....

2

3 MS. PITKA: No, it's legal.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: Okay. That's what I was  
6 concerned with in that.

7

8 MS. PITKA: It's legal by U.S.  
9 Geological.....

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Okay. That's good then so I  
12 know what we're talking about when we look at a book.

13

14 Okay. Thank you.

15

16 MS. PITKA: Yeah, it's online at the U.S.  
17 Geological Place Names.....

18

18 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

19

20 MS. PITKA: .....data base.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Rhonda  
23 brings up something really important that I think is  
24 misunderstood by managers. And I think needs to be and  
25 that's -- that was really compelling, I don't remember  
26 how many meetings ago it was I was at the Federal  
27 Subsistence Board and Greg Roczicka brought that up in  
28 his way and he actually -- you know, that the Federal  
29 Board could do something for subsistence and they're not.  
30 And I guess if we could put it what you're saying in a  
31 light that there are things that could be done and  
32 they're not that we'll probably get a bunch of rhetoric  
33 back, but hey, we're -- sometimes that's what I feel like  
34 But I think it's important to say and I keep -- and  
35 pounding it, keep pounding it back because this is what  
36 I found is when you live in rural Alaska and the people  
37 that are in Anchorage or that, it's hard for them to put  
38 themselves in our shoes and think the way we think  
39 because we -- you know, and it's hard for me to go to  
40 Anchorage and think the way somebody in Anchorage thinks.  
41 So we need to keep pounding that and we'll work on that,  
42 Rhonda, she might call you.

43

44 Other topics? I know you can look at  
45 what was in our annual report before.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Sue.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

50

1                   MR. FIRMIN: I was just looking at the  
2 number 1, the fall chum management on the Porcupine River  
3 and we can point out their response was basically submit  
4 a proposal. And that just kind of doesn't fly to me as  
5 a response or maybe they missed the point of the topic.  
6 And that was basically what I was saying earlier, how  
7 they're managing the fall chum fishery on the Porcupine  
8 River backwards. It's just one of their methods, but it  
9 needs to change because like I said it's hard to get --  
10 people that were out there on the land didn't know when  
11 they could and could not fish. Sure they came to Fort  
12 Yukon and said this is why we're going to close it, where  
13 do we want to -- you know, where should the boundary be  
14 for the mouth of the Porcupine River because it's braided  
15 and there's several channels in the lower mouth. And so  
16 they sat down with a few fishermen and said, okay, this  
17 is the line. Then we kind of came to that conclusion,  
18 but now that doesn't mean they talked to every fishermen,  
19 that just means there was the two or three that came to  
20 the meeting in the middle of August before it was closed.  
21 And putting it into our annual report they just basically  
22 said well, if you want to change it submit a proposal.  
23 And that doesn't -- that's not really an answer and that  
24 wasn't what we were getting at, it's like you need to  
25 manage this different or do a different project. And  
26 I've heard, you know, the bio just or Jeff Estensen tell  
27 us, you know, his -- the hardships he faces on managing  
28 that, but we'll think outside the box I guess. And it  
29 says here we can pursue special actions or regulatory  
30 proposals as suggested above. Then like I said that was  
31 one of the things that I wanted to -- maybe we could  
32 change that up somewhat and put that to people that are  
33 out there. Legally (indiscernible) can have a different  
34 type of permit or a pass or it's only -- you know, it's  
35 only the people that live in the village or somehow that  
36 could be worded different, that people that -- because,  
37 you know, just closing the entire river, I think this  
38 year they did have a few openings on it, but how are you  
39 going to know, I mean, what are -- not everybody's  
40 sitting in their cabin in the middle of the woods waiting  
41 -- listening to the radio waiting for somebody to say you  
42 can fish now, they're probably busy doing other things.  
43 Again that's just why I did -- you know, the few folks  
44 that are out there on the river year round are -- they  
45 need -- they're not going to make or break the escapement  
46 on the fishing branch so, I mean, you know, that's just  
47 kind of ridiculous to tell those people they can't fish.  
48 Maybe that the bubble for the closure needs to be right  
49 here around Fort Yukon or something instead of closing  
50 the river from here to Canada. Something needs to be

1 done differently with that and it's just -- basically  
2 their response was write a proposal.

3

4                   So maybe that's my proposal is they  
5 should change their management style on that section on  
6 the river to include and I've mentioned it before, was  
7 give the people that are out there, say hey, I'm going  
8 out to my cabin, I'm not coming back for six months, I  
9 need a fishing permit. So these are -- you know, so they  
10 -- or here's how to get ahold of me. Don't just go up  
11 and say you're fishing illegally, you know, how would  
12 they know. That's just kind of a -- something needs to  
13 change and I'm just trying to give them suggestions, but  
14 so far none of my suggestions have been practiced. So if  
15 they're not going to use my suggestions maybe they should  
16 come up with some of their own and do something  
17 different. And that was one of the ones that I wanted to  
18 point out.

19

20                   And I do agree with Rhonda on our name  
21 changes and I think that predator management is a agency  
22 term when it's -- and that's one of the things that's  
23 more of a balance of -- a natural balance of things and  
24 that having less people out on the land year round is  
25 what skews that balance somewhat. So while that's not a  
26 traditional term, but maybe that just goes back to the  
27 hunter education portion that, you know, some people say  
28 if there's such a low moose population well, maybe some  
29 people should go shoot a bear and wolf before you're  
30 allowed to go get a moose tag. That's one idea I've  
31 heard before. But like she said though it goes back and  
32 I think it goes back to hunter education and ethics, a  
33 lot of that.

34

35                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but as  
36 she said it's very important to say that that -- when  
37 they say it's not subsistence, part of subsistence, it  
38 is.

39

40                   MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

41

42                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, uh-huh.

43

44                   MR. FIRMIN: Well, that's what I mean,  
45 when you say -- I don't know how to.....

46

47                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Word it.

48

49                   MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, other than predator  
50 management and they're like ooh, everybody said we can't

1 say that or do that. That's a big no, no here. We'll go  
2 to DC and talk about that and get banked.....

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I know,  
5 it's so frustrating.

6

7 MR. FIRMIN: .....so it's like well, I  
8 don't know what other way you want to say it, let's go  
9 shoot a few bears or something. How else do you want to  
10 word it, you know.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Seasons and bag  
13 limits on bears and wolves is just as important as  
14 anything else.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: Yep.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.  
19 And again the wording we can work on, these are the  
20 subjects that we want in.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I know with the caribou  
27 that come out with a three day -- we'll say they're  
28 opening on a Saturday and they come out with well, we're  
29 going to close it on Tuesday if it looks bad. I get in  
30 my boat and I go 50 miles up the Yukon and go to Jim  
31 Wells, where's he fishing, and what's going on, Bill,  
32 they closed fishing yesterday, he said hell, nobody told  
33 me, nobody come by in their boat to tell me. I'm 50  
34 miles up, I don't have no sat phone, I -- you know, I  
35 don't have no radio. And I have to go along with Andrew  
36 on that, if they -- with the other species they give at  
37 least a tentative date they might close it. But anyway  
38 that's just my thoughts, they don't do the fishing and  
39 the first thing they tell, what the hell did you tell me  
40 that for, it's closed.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
45 subjects?

46

47 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

50

1 MS. PITKA: I'd like to include something  
2 about youth engagement and workshops. And I'd also like  
3 to thank the Fish and Wildlife Service, our Refuge, the  
4 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, for engaging our  
5 youth today in the meeting. I really appreciate that.  
6 And, you know, we have other Refuges and other Parks here  
7 and I'd also like to ask them to also engage youth in  
8 their resource management. If the youth could please  
9 stand up I'd really appreciate it.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I bet they  
12 didn't hear you. We would like the youth to stand up,  
13 we'd like to recognize you and thank you very much for  
14 participating in our meeting.

15

16 (Applause)

17

18 MR. GLANZ: Also get involved just like  
19 you're doing.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And stay  
22 involved, yes.

23

24 MR. KOEHLER: Madam Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

27

28 MR. KOEHLER: I just wanted to kind of  
29 add a little bit more on that Porcupine River just to put  
30 on the record again and it's been said many times, there  
31 are so few people left up there, one of is -- might come  
32 in today, might fly down here today and be in for a piece  
33 of the meeting and if he does show up I'd like for him to  
34 come up and tell us, you know, how few people. I mean,  
35 it is just a handful of people. But they still live a  
36 very, very traditional life and cutting off their fish  
37 is, you know, pretty much hamstringing them. And it is  
38 such a small group of people, such a small handful, I  
39 don't know if there's even five people up there. You  
40 know, it really -- it's a huge stretch of river where  
41 there's just nobody really doing very much and shutting  
42 it down one -- shutting it down or keeping it wide open,  
43 I'm just not really convinced that there's going to be  
44 too much difference. I'm not a scientist though so I'm  
45 not saying it's exact -- that it's the -- I'm not saying  
46 that it's completely the wrong thing to do, but I think  
47 it should be thought about how much impact shutting it  
48 down or leaving it open really has because there's just  
49 nobody left up there. It's kind of that era has gone.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All  
2 across Alaska there's people -- things are changing,  
3 places I've been that people are moving out of those  
4 really remote areas.  
5  
6 Any other topics?  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See we did it.  
11  
12 MR. FIRMIN: Does Charlie still run dog  
13 -- his dog team up there?  
14  
15 MR. KOEHLER: No.  
16  
17 MR. FIRMIN: Oh.  
18  
19 MR. KOEHLER: No, no, no, his dad still  
20 has dogs, but, no, he got tired of dogs.  
21  
22 MR. FIRMIN: You could say that's a lot  
23 of Friskies to have to fly up there.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
26 What we were hoping is the lunch comes in and those that  
27 are going to go on the tour would get their sandwich and  
28 have it with them as they are driving.  
29  
30 On this Tongass submerged lands proposed  
31 rule. Tom informs me that it only took 10 minutes at  
32 other meetings, all of the ones he had been to.  
33  
34 MR. JOHNSON: I'll do the charter review.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charter review  
37 I did. Sorry.  
38  
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: What page are we on?  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I apologize, I  
42 skipped charter review. Is that a 10 minute one?  
43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: No, Madam Chair, it's a  
45 five minute one.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That works for  
48 me. That works for all of us.  
49  
50 Sorry, Tom.

1 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Thank you,  
2 Madam Chair. Carl Johnson, Office of Subsistence  
3 Management. And short version you are chartered -- you  
4 have to under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, you  
5 have to have a charter that's renewed every two years.  
6 So the year before it renews we just have a discussion to  
7 see if there's anything you want to change. Now most,  
8 I'd say 98 percent of what's in your charter is actually  
9 required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act and it's  
10 implementing policy so you can't change that stuff. But  
11 you can make changes to the name of your Council, the  
12 number of members on your Council, because all of the  
13 Councils originally started with 10 members and three of  
14 them have changed to have 13 members to reflect their  
15 regions.

16  
17 And you can also -- one thing you can  
18 modify is there's something called a membership balance.  
19 We're -- and that is, you know, what kind of a balance  
20 will you have serving on your Council to represent the  
21 regional well and all of the Councils have one -- their  
22 provision in this is that, you know, there's a goal to  
23 have 70 percent of the people on the Council represent  
24 subsistence users and 30 percent represent  
25 commercial/sport. One region, the Kodiak Aleutians  
26 Council, has actually added a geographic membership  
27 balance to say that they have a -- they want to have a  
28 goal of having four members from the Kodiak Archipelago,  
29 three from the Alaska Peninsula and three from the  
30 Aleutian Pribilof Islands because they're spread out so  
31 they want to state that having broader geographic  
32 representation is a value for them.

33  
34 So those are essentially the key  
35 provisions, those are the key things that you can make  
36 changes to. So if you're happy with everything as it is  
37 then we can go ahead and forward it.

38  
39 I will let you know as an update, if you  
40 recall two years ago you were presented with some  
41 suggested changes to how the appointment process is  
42 changing from three year to four year terms, providing  
43 for appointment of alternates and also providing for  
44 what's called a carryover term and that is if the  
45 appointment letters were late rather than your term  
46 expiring and you having an empty seat on the Council that  
47 person could stay in until an appointment letter comes  
48 in. Some of those would have required changes to the  
49 charter, but still as of yet we have not received a  
50 response back from the Secretary of the Interior as to



1 either approve or disapprove those requests. So at this  
2 point those changes will not be made to the charters  
3 unless we hear something back within the next year.

4  
5 Thank you, Madam Chair. That's my  
6 presentation. If anybody has any questions.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

9  
10 MR. KOEHLER: Madam Chair.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will

13  
14 MR. KOEHLER: What is the -- do we have  
15 a provision on our RAC for subsistence versus commercial  
16 percentage?

17  
18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, you do. It's a  
19 standard provisions in all of the charters and it is  
20 70/30. And that actually was a result of litigation and  
21 it's -- there was a thorough Register notice after that  
22 litigation that kind of set forth what that 70/30 means  
23 and how they came to 70/30. But you will find that in  
24 section 12 under membership and designation and it will  
25 say -- that big paragraph there is kind of what sets  
26 forth that 70/30.

27  
28 MR. KOEHLER: So that's not something  
29 that's adjustable, that's something that the way our RAC  
30 is set to be?

31  
32 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. And  
33 that's because the Federal Advisory Committee Act  
34 requires that advisory bodies like the Regional Advisory  
35 Council have to be representative of the interests that  
36 they will affect. And in this case the key interests are  
37 subsistence users, commercial users like guides, like  
38 yourself and Virgil, and then also sport users who live  
39 in the region and also engage in sport activities. So we  
40 rely on, you know, people to apply and when they apply  
41 they designate whether or not they want to represent  
42 commercial or -- commercial and sport or subsistence.  
43 And that's kind of what drives in many cases how many --  
44 what kind of a balance we have on the Council. For  
45 example the North Slope has never in 23 years had a  
46 single commercial/sport use applicant for that region  
47 whereas in areas like Eastern Interior or Southcentral,  
48 there's a lot more commercial and sport activities and  
49 people who live there engage in those activities so you  
50 get a higher percentage of applicants in this region.

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So if it's  
2 litigation that caused it and it's -- and they have to  
3 have it, how do they get by without 30 percent?  
4  
5                   MR. JOHNSON: Well, the way it states is  
6 that when people apply who want to represent commercial  
7 and sport use interests then there's a goal of -- you  
8 know, if you have equally qualified -- if you have people  
9 who are qualified.  
10  
11                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No more than is  
12 what is it then?  
13  
14                   MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, it's no more than 30.  
15  
16                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
17  
18                   MR. JOHNSON: And the court.....  
19  
20                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
21  
22                   MR. JOHNSON: .....and the court was very  
23 clear on that, that 60/40 would not be an appropriate  
24 ratio, that it has to be 70/30.  
25  
26                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
27  
28                   MR. KOEHLER: Speaking to that I would  
29 just like to put on the record that oftentimes we have  
30 discussions of trying to explain that -- how commercial  
31 and subsistence are not black and white, a lot of times  
32 they're very deeply intertwined and much of the  
33 subsistence life as Virgil said when we first started the  
34 meeting, the fish camp life has largely disappeared and  
35 that is mostly because the commercial viability of  
36 fishing has disappeared and so getting out to your fish  
37 camp is -- it's no longer viable and so we've lost that  
38 commercial part of our life and the subsistence part goes  
39 with it. And I can certainly speak for myself, my family  
40 spends eight to 10 months of the year in the field, very  
41 much in the bush living a pretty close to the -- close to  
42 the land and it's very much our choice, it's what we want  
43 to do, we don't make very much money from it, but it's a  
44 lifestyle choice. However if we weren't able to operate  
45 commercially where we operate we would spend zero months  
46 of the year there, it would simply be impractical to be  
47 there. It's \$1,500 just to fly out there and so -- and  
48 \$1,500 to fly back.  
49  
50                   So the commercial -- so just putting onto

1 the record that the commercial and subsistence needs of  
2 the local people are very much intertwined and I would  
3 say that we should have at least -- we should maintain  
4 that 30 percent commercial membership. That really is  
5 important to maintain on this Council because it's not --  
6 they're not separate, they're very much intertwined and  
7 they're very, very important to have both.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I guess  
10 that creates a question and I think that's why you raised  
11 your hand. We -- as long as there's 30 percent applying  
12 they get on, right?

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: I'd have them.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: And actually that is a very  
19 excellent point, Will. And it's one that right now  
20 anybody who applies, they go through this process where  
21 they're interviewed and field Staff from the regions are  
22 part of the panel that interviews them and discusses  
23 their qualifications according to five criteria. And  
24 everybody who applies, whether they're applying as a  
25 subsistence user or a commercial/sport use  
26 representative, they actually have to demonstrate  
27 knowledge of both subsistence and commercial/sport use  
28 activities. And granted if you're a subsistence user you  
29 have to know more about subsistence than commercial/sport  
30 and visa versa. But if you come in as a subsistence user  
31 and if you demonstrate no knowledge of commercial/sport  
32 use activities you'll be deemed not qualified in that  
33 category and you won't be forwarded as a nominee. So I  
34 think that the Board does recognize that there needs to  
35 be a knowledge of both and there is often a lot of this  
36 intermingling where people who are maybe primarily  
37 subsistence users, but over the course of their life  
38 they've been hunting guides, they've been fishing guides,  
39 they commercially fish in order to pay for their  
40 subsistence activities. So I -- that's very important  
41 and I think is recognized.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And I'm  
44 like you, mine is all intertwined because when Frank and  
45 I first left Fairbanks into that area where we're at all  
46 -- he was a taxidermist, we did taxidermy and when we  
47 went trapping and I ended up making fur hats for 36  
48 years. And I didn't become a guide until I got old.

49 So.....

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: Oh, I would really  
2 challenge -- I think it would -- I would challenge  
3 anybody to find someone living out in the bush today or  
4 ever that the commercial and subsistence weren't deeply  
5 intertwined because whether you went out there to.....  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.  
8  
9 MR. KOEHLER: .....trap, whether you went  
10 out there to commercial fish.....  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
13  
14 MR. KOEHLER: .....there was always a  
15 reason to be out there, to go back so that you could buy  
16 a little gas and some dried potatoes and go back out  
17 there and do the life -- live the life that you love to  
18 live. The reality is is that if you went out there and  
19 with a breach cloth and a bow and arrow to live a  
20 completely pure subsistence lifestyle that would be a  
21 very hard, very dangerous lifestyle that I do not believe  
22 anybody would volunteer for. We -- you know, there are  
23 some needs to have a few little items that we get from  
24 the hardware store and you need to pay for that somehow.  
25  
26 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.  
29  
30 MS. PITKA: Thank you. People in this  
31 area never wore breach cloths, it's very cold.  
32  
33 Thank you.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was waiting  
36 for that.  
37  
38 (Laughter)  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That was  
41 fun. But semantics, I guess.  
42  
43 So do we as a Council see anything we  
44 want to change, doesn't look like there's a lot we can  
45 change, you said our name, why would we change that?  
46  
47 MR. WOODRUFF: We could change the  
48 number.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the number,

1 yeah.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: The number of  
4 representatives.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

7

8 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

11

12 MS. PITKA: Carl mentioned something  
13 about alternates before and I think that that was brought  
14 up in the RAC.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And  
17 what he said was it has to go through the.....

18

19 MS. PITKA: Oh, okay.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....FACA,  
22 which is Federal Advisory Committee Act and Secretary.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: We're still waiting for --  
25 we have -- the Council -- the Federal Subsistence Board  
26 on behalf of the Councils has submitted a request to the  
27 Secretary to allow for a formal appointment of alternates  
28 and we're still waiting for a response.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that  
31 answer your question, Rhonda?

32

33 MS. PITKA: Okay. So we couldn't put  
34 that in the charter as of now?

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, we wouldn't be able  
37 to make that change on our own, but the request to make  
38 that change has been made.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I saw  
41 Donald and then Will.

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
44 I'm pretty happy with the way things are going. The  
45 adjustment of our appointment years, I think validates  
46 the fact that the process is slow. And if it takes a  
47 four year appointment to stay even with our business and  
48 keep a quorum and not make it so complicated that we  
49 have, you know, 10 alternates, I think that we should  
50 keep it like it is personally.

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I know  
2 there was a period of time for Eastern Interior that it  
3 was tough, but we -- we've been doing well probably for  
4 a long time already. Yeah, probably close to 10 years I  
5 think we've been having no problem getting quorums, but  
6 there was a period of time where it was really difficult  
7 to get quorums.

8

9                   Will.

10

11                   MR. KOEHLER: Just one other point to put  
12 on the record. I think that this RAC is currently doing  
13 a pretty good job having representation from our area,  
14 from across our area geographically. When I look at the  
15 people around here and who they're -- where they're from,  
16 it seems like I'm down -- way down here in this corner  
17 and Andrew's up here and Lester's over here and Virgil in  
18 the -- right in the middle. I think we're fairly well  
19 represented across our area. And when I hear people --  
20 I think we -- our -- the people in our area, the people  
21 that we have here on the RAC have pretty good local  
22 knowledge of the other people around that are using the  
23 resources. I think it's -- it seems to me that we have  
24 a fairly good team right now.

25

26                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I guess we  
27 would agree that probably we don't have any changes?

28

29                   MS. PITKA: Other than waiting on that  
30 alternate language, I think -- I don't see any changes  
31 because the only other change that we could make would be  
32 to the number of the Council and I think probably 13  
33 would be kind of unwieldy. That's my opinion.

34

35                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or one more  
36 would cause it not to be a even figure, you know,  
37 whenever you have an even vote then it doesn't pass.

38

39                   MR. GLANZ: I wonder how the logistics  
40 will work for an alternate, I mean, would they be invited  
41 to come to the meetings and I'm sorry, you're not needed  
42 so you can just sit over here in the corner. I mean, you  
43 know, like an alternate juror I understand they're  
44 sitting there and get activated to make a ruling, but I  
45 don't know how an alternate would work on these Boards.

46

47                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we had  
48 this discussion, don't you remember?

49

50                   MR. GLANZ: Yeah, kind of. And I

1 still.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're like me,  
4 you don't remember. Okay.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: No, no, I remember. When you  
7 remember -- I remember, but it doesn't sound like much of  
8 a consensus when I invoke the -- what we had at the  
9 conference, the talk over it.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have a  
12 short answer?

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: The short answer. They  
15 would be notified -- like right now people who are vetted  
16 as potential alternates are not notified. So they would  
17 be notified they're an alternate. They would only travel  
18 if it was necessary to maintain a quorum, but they would  
19 receive all materials that the Council gets so they're on  
20 top of all the acts of the Council. They would be asked  
21 or invited to participate telephonically so they could at  
22 least listen in so that if they went to the next meeting  
23 to fill in for somebody who couldn't make it they would  
24 be on top of the Council's business.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job. And  
29 then they wouldn't participate whenever that person was  
30 in their seat, they would just be listening?

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Correct, Madam. They would  
33 not vote on action unless they were actually in the room  
34 filling a vacancy to maintain quorum.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Whereas our AC I make sure  
39 the alternates are there so we can have a quorum.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: True story.  
42 Okay. Anything else?

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
47 Let's break for lunch. Quarter after 1:00 we'll come  
48 back.

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. On that  
4 -- on your special action, emergency special action, the  
5 SRC took that up and I have some language here that just  
6 says that the RACs and SRCs need to be included in  
7 something like that. We're just making sure. And I  
8 guess you said that they're supposed to be -- they are,  
9 right, in emergency special actions?

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I  
12 don't have the regulations in front of me, but the  
13 special action regulations, both of them for emergency  
14 and temporary, both of them do have information about  
15 notifying the Chair. And then at least for sure with  
16 regard to the temporary special action I can't remember  
17 off the top of my head if emergency is the case, that if  
18 a regularly scheduled meeting allows the Council should  
19 also provide a recommendation on a special action which  
20 is why temporary special action WSA 16-06 should be heard  
21 by the Council. And that's one submitted by Tetlin  
22 before you.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm  
25 talking about.....

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....an  
30 emergency special action which was one I mentioned  
31 earlier yesterday morning of -- and I know that Katya's  
32 new and she was not -- we have to worry about the  
33 crossover proposals. When somebody in unit 12 puts in a  
34 proposal for another unit where they have a C&T that  
35 Regional Advisory Council has to be noticed also. But  
36 the -- but the key is a true emergency, that's what I  
37 want to put in, that there really is a true emergency.  
38 And I -- it's just a topic for the annual report and  
39 we'll finalize it at next meeting. No need to spend a  
40 lot of time on it, that was just one topic that I forgot  
41 that I wanted to put in there.

42

43 Is that okay with you guys?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So  
48 moving rapidly along, you might hear me say that again.

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: Madam Chair.



1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't -- yes.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: I actually -- if the  
4 Council wants to hear it I do have -- I remembered that  
5 in one of your appendices in the RAC operations manual  
6 includes the regulations. Do you want to hear what it  
7 says about special actions or do you want to just move  
8 along?

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've read it.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Madam  
13 Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
16 want to hear it?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I've  
21 read it, it's in your stuff. So, no, we don't need to.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 All right. So you're going to try to  
26 keep it short, right, Tom?

27

28 MR. KRON: You bet. We'll try to keep  
29 this very short.

30

31 The next item on the agenda is the  
32 Tongass submerged lands proposed rule. This item is in  
33 all 10 of the Council agendas across the State. My  
34 understanding at Western Interior and Southcentral they  
35 only spent about 10 minutes on this topic so it shouldn't  
36 take a lot of time. But I'm going to quickly go over  
37 some of the stuff I have to go over and then you can  
38 decide how much you want to talk about it.

39

40 The U.S. District Court for Alaska  
41 basically ordered that the Federal government promptly  
42 initiate regulatory proceedings for the purpose of  
43 implementing the subsistence provisions of Title VIII for  
44 submerged public lands within the Tongass National  
45 Forest. And I'm reading from page, the middle -- the  
46 very middle of page 154. So the Forest Service and BLM  
47 have been working to check this out. They've got a list  
48 which is included starting on page 158 and my  
49 understanding is all the sites that are listed on page  
50 158, '59, '60 are basically they're old -- old and

1 current navigational cites. So not very large, but  
2 around southern/southeast Alaska my understanding is that  
3 in the next year or so there's going to be another  
4 follow-up that you will end up seeing as well and it will  
5 address log dump sites for example, historic log dump  
6 sites.

7

8 But again the Secretary directed the  
9 Board to review this at all 10 Council meetings including  
10 your Council meeting here today and to see if there's --  
11 anyone has any concerns or testimony. Again the specific  
12 sites are listed as I said on page 158, 159 and 160. And  
13 again the Board is requiring that we do this so that's  
14 why I'm here, they wanted to hear from the public or the  
15 Council and what your comments and perspective was.

16

17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Quick question.  
20 Didn't you tell me at break that the Secretary of  
21 Interior wanted us to go (indiscernible) and then the  
22 Board just passed that information down or it was the  
23 Secretary? Okay.

24

25 MR. KRON: The Secretary directed that  
26 this be -- that the Board do this and that's why I'm  
27 here. And again I don't think it'll take very long, it  
28 didn't take very long at those other two Council meetings  
29 I talked about.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And just  
32 briefly, how does this affect us?

33

34 MR. KRON: I wonder the same thing. It's  
35 southern/southeast. But if there's somebody here that  
36 has comments they want to hear if those -- they want to  
37 hear those comments, to include them in the response.  
38 But again Southcentral and Western Interior did not have  
39 any comments from the Council or the public as I  
40 understand it.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I guess in  
43 a round about way I'm asking you is there any way that  
44 this sets a precedent of how something would be acted on  
45 for us.....

46

47 MR. KRON: Maybe Mr.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....in this  
50 region when I say that?

1 MR. KRON: .....maybe Mr. Johnson could  
2 respond to that question. I -- my understanding is no,  
3 but I think he can provide it -- as a lawyer he can  
4 provide you more specific response.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That scares me.  
7  
8 MR. JOHNSON: I'm a recovering attorney  
9 for the record. This is Carl Johnson. Our understanding  
10 is this is related specifically to the Peratrovich case  
11 and the U.S. Federal District Court which deals  
12 exclusively with submerged lands in the Tongass National  
13 Forest. And so there's no.....  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No implications  
16 to lands here?  
17  
18 MR. JOHNSON: .....no implications beyond  
19 Tongass for this proposed rule.  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So my question  
22 to the Council is do you want to take it up? I'm seeing  
23 one shaking their head no and.....  
24  
25 Will and then Tom.  
26  
27 MR. KOEHLER: I think if we make any  
28 comment we should make a comment that we're -- we take no  
29 action on this because we believe it should be dealt with  
30 with the local RAC and that our comments shouldn't steer  
31 any policy one way or the other because we wouldn't want  
32 Southeast RAC to be able to steer policy for us one way  
33 or the other.....  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.  
36  
37 MR. KOEHLER: .....on an issue that  
38 didn't affect them.  
39  
40 Thank you.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
43 Will. That's a good point.  
44  
45 MS. PITKA: So moved.  
46  
47 MR. KOEHLER: Second.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that -- oh,  
50 Rhonda said so moved. That sounds like a motion to me.

1 And I think -- who seconded it, you?  
2  
3 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I  
6 thought I heard someone second it.  
7  
8 All right. Will.  
9  
10 MR. KOEHLER: I had nothing more.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I was  
13 clarifying that you seconded, the court reporter needs to  
14 know that.  
15  
16 Tom.  
17  
18 MR. KRON: Just to follow-up a little  
19 bit, I think they wanted us to ask if the public here has  
20 any comments. And again they haven't at the other two  
21 Councils, I don't -- I wouldn't imagine.....  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The public  
24 present here?  
25  
26 MR. KRON: Yeah, if -- ask if.....  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm.....  
29  
30 MR. KRON: .....if you wouldn't mind if  
31 you would ask if they.....  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.  
34  
35 MR. KRON: .....have any comments.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I must ask the  
38 public here if you have any comments on CFRs regarding  
39 Tongass submerged lands, there's a proposed rule?  
40  
41 (No comments)  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or on  
44 teleconference is there any comments?  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I apologize  
49 that we didn't have a complete report, but I guess my  
50 Council doesn't feel it's necessary because it is

1 something that doesn't affect us.

2

3 Any more discussion on the motion?

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's  
8 been called for. All in favor say aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed?

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes  
17 unanimous. Now we're looking at feedback on all council  
18 meeting.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 And I just have this on the agenda because, you know, the  
22 reason why we had the all council meeting in March is  
23 because over the years several Councils had said in many  
24 cases as part of their annual reports, we'd like to have  
25 a meeting of all the Councils. So this is just -- I want  
26 to just hear feedback from the Council members about what  
27 they thought of it, did they like it, if there's -- if  
28 there's an opportunity to do something like that again  
29 which I hope there would be, what would you like to have  
30 next time that we didn't have this time so any feedback.  
31 It's not an action item, it's just an opportunity for me  
32 to hear the Council's feedback and for the program to  
33 hear your feedback.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
38 members, feedback?

39

40 Don.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madam Chair.

43 I really enjoyed the all council meeting and especially  
44 the lieutenant governor coming and speaking with us, I  
45 think that was very beneficial. And at the TCC meeting  
46 in Eagle he was there and gave us a little talk and that  
47 was really nice. I thanked him for coming to our RAC  
48 meeting.

49

50 As far as the classes that I signed up

1 for and took, I thought that Indian Law was one of the  
2 better classes that I took. And I found that the State  
3 over and over and over again has sued the Native tribes  
4 with no luck really. So that was a lot of stuff I had no  
5 clue about and that was really beneficial.

6  
7

Thank you.

8  
9  
10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

11 MR. GLANZ: Anyway I kind of enjoyed it  
12 like Don here, I thought it was real nice. I think I  
13 enjoyed -- I liked better -- got more done with the tri-  
14 Council on salmon on the river or meeting with our  
15 western neighbors more than I enjoyed the whole works in  
16 there. Some of the classes were quite great and some of  
17 them were redundant, I mean, but I liked it. I'd do it  
18 again, I mean, you know, but I'd rather meet with our  
19 neighbor on some of the issues we have jointly.

20  
21

Thank you.

22  
23

24 MS. PITKA: Well, I was just going to say  
25 it was a really important meeting for us to go to and I  
26 really -- I enjoyed meeting with the other Councils also.  
27 The sessions that I went to were informative, but the  
28 venue itself was very, very crowded. It felt like there  
29 were a lot of people crammed into a tiny room. So that  
30 was my only sort of complaint about it. But the other  
31 thing that I wanted to add was that I also enjoyed that  
32 Indian Law class that you talked about. It was sort of  
33 my degree, but it was really beneficial to me also.

34  
35

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

36  
37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, one thing that was  
39 really good about it is -- I'm sure the people in the  
40 audience here, they don't maybe understand what we're  
41 even talking about, but our last meeting was held in  
42 Anchorage and had all the RACs from the entire State all  
43 at one place at the same time in that big convention --  
44 the Egan Center I guess is what it's called, we were at  
45 the Egan Center. So there were people from all over the  
46 State there and I saw a lot of people that I hadn't seen  
47 in years, but it was a good time to get together and for  
48 the different Council members to talk with the Council  
49 members from other Councils all over the State during the  
50 breaks. And like I said renew old acquaintances and  
compare how we operate, how the different Councils  
operate, the different Council members could get together

1 and talk about the various things important to them. I  
2 thought that part was really good.

3

4 Thank you. Madam Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have any  
7 comments, Andrew?

8

9 MR. FIRMIN: I have the same feeling as  
10 the rest of the Council. There was portions that were  
11 seemingly useful and other parts that may not have  
12 interested me, but I think that it was kind of crowded at  
13 times in there, but it was good -- it was good to touch  
14 bases with people that, you know, sometimes you -- we  
15 make decisions that are crossover proposals or the  
16 regions are so big that we don't -- we don't know enough  
17 about them to make good decisions sometimes or seems like  
18 we can be short of information. So it's good to be able  
19 to talk to other people or actually see, you know, like  
20 the Western Interior or the YK Delta people and talk to  
21 them and say okay, well, how do you guys, you know, to --  
22 like normally we just get support as written or support  
23 or half and half like your proposal. Then, you know,  
24 then you can go talk to the people and ask them why they  
25 did that or -- you know, it's easier to chat with them  
26 that way and -- and you kind of just build that rapport  
27 with other folks up and down the river so you're not  
28 strangers and it's not -- it becomes more personal when  
29 you're thinking, you know, oh, that's Robert down there,  
30 I need to call him and see what's going on instead of,  
31 you know, those downriver people. It becomes more  
32 personable that way and it builds rapport and it's good  
33 to have those types of gatherings and especially for the  
34 training purposes and stuff. So people get used to what  
35 they can and can't do.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know you  
38 weren't there, Will. For me, I guess I have mixed  
39 emotions. Actually being crowded sometimes works good  
40 because -- well, I was at a Federal Board meeting and it  
41 was held right in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and  
42 it was -- instead of this giant room with this huge U I  
43 was looking straight across at the Board members. And  
44 when it come to 25D, the joint proposal that we had put  
45 in for bear baiting and I was able to look straight in  
46 the eye at one of the Board members and I believe it  
47 passed -- helped pass that. I'm just telling you  
48 sometimes it can work in your favor. Because I said the  
49 subsistence is going to be more restrictive than the  
50 State, the State just passed it and I kept pounding it

1 and it won by three, if it had been four/four we'd have  
2 lost it. So there's ways sometimes that can work for  
3 you.

4

5                   And I think it might have been a little  
6 bit cumbersome when the floor was open to 110 people. If  
7 you really wanted to say something you were thinking  
8 what's the use of raising my hand, you know, because, you  
9 know, we really deeply respect the elders and there was  
10 a lot of elders that wanted to speak and the next thing  
11 you do is just clam up and say nothing. So I don't know,  
12 somehow or another it -- that might -- could have worked  
13 a little better for us somehow.

14

15                   But was that a -- that was three days,  
16 right, three days or two days, I forgot already.

17

18                   MR. FIRMIN: I remember it being all  
19 week.

20

21                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, that's  
22 right, it was five days. Oh, my gosh. That's hard on  
23 volunteers so I was amazed at how many people were able  
24 to be down there for five days because I could not be  
25 down there, I think I had to come late the first day and  
26 Andrew had to give the report. Yeah. But at any rate  
27 those are my input. I might have thought we talked too  
28 much about global warming, I'll tell you that, I'm going  
29 to be honest, but it seems like a new buzz word that we  
30 have to talk about all the time.

31

32                   MS. PITKA: I didn't think we talked  
33 about it enough.

34

35                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Really. I  
36 think your definition and mine might be different. But  
37 at any rate that was my input on it. It's hard when  
38 you're a volunteer and you got to try to go to all these  
39 meetings, I don't know how you guys go to all these fish  
40 meetings, that's incredible.

41

42                   Okay. Any other feedback?

43

44                   MR. FIRMIN: I remember the -- my  
45 favorite speaker was Father Aleska.

46

47                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I went to  
48 that one too.

49

50                   MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, he was quite comical,



1 I liked him.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

4

5 MR. FIRMIN: I just had to point that

6 out.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You didn't fall  
9 asleep when you sat. Yeah, he was great.

10

11 All right. Anything else?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next thing  
16 on the agenda could possibly be forever if we're not  
17 careful. State Board of Game wildlife proposals. Did  
18 anyone look at them?

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any  
23 anyone wants to take up?

24

25 Virgil.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I brought the  
28 proposal book with me, but I left it over at the bed and  
29 breakfast. But I'll say this, the Board of Game this  
30 year is -- they've gone to a three year cycle, but the  
31 meeting is going to be in Fairbanks in February which is  
32 good for us because we'll have access to the meeting a  
33 lot better than if it was in Anchorage or someplace else.  
34 And -- but anyway that's about all I got to say because  
35 I haven't really reviewed the proposals. But it will be  
36 in February, I can't remember the exact dates. That's  
37 all I've got on it.

38

39 Madam Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: We -- our AC just had a  
44 meeting on that we was going through the proposals and  
45 there was so many, we had a couple members that said how  
46 can we have another one in January before we have the  
47 main Game Board that I can take to the meeting or the  
48 RAC. And so I says that's a lot of better because some  
49 of them they have no idea, there was just so many  
50 proposals in there.

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. When  
4 does the Board of Game meet, isn't it in March?  
5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, it's February.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it's  
9 February.  
10  
11 MR. GLANZ: It was in March, but somehow  
12 it's in February this year I believe. No, wait, that's  
13 our Board meeting in February, that's what I seen on our  
14 calendar.  
15  
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Board of Game's going  
17 to meet in February too.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, yeah,  
20 since the Council.....  
21  
22 MR. GLANZ: February 17th to the 25th,  
23 Interior and Northeast Arctic Region, that's us, in  
24 Fairbanks. Pike's Waterfront. Pike's Waterfront. Huh.  
25 That's different.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The dates were  
28 what?  
29  
30 MR. GLANZ: The dates are -- what did I  
31 do, February 17th to the 25th. Nine days, but there's  
32 only like three or four days we have to be there, the  
33 ACs.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess do you  
36 guys want to take anything up here, does anything.....  
37  
38 MR. GLANZ: Well.....  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess or let  
41 your ACs hear it is all.  
42  
43 MR. GLANZ: We're.....  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to  
46 look at our schedule. What's on our schedule right now?  
47  
48 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, with -- I think I seen  
49 we're here the 2nd or 9th when we're here for -- in  
50 February, that's where our meeting is is -- where's that

1 book at in the back.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm looking for  
4 it. There it is.

5

6 MS. PITKA: 7th and 8th.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: 7th and 8th. Okay. 7th and  
9 8th is our meeting, our -- in Fairbanks.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, so we can  
12 meet before that.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: We can go over the  
15 Federal.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I'll have more in our  
20 AC because they got a couple guys in our AC that really  
21 follows them.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your ACs will  
24 be meeting before that so if you have anything burning  
25 that -- bring it before the next meeting.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And then  
30 if we feel like we have to send someone we can. We can  
31 talk about it, I don't know if we can.

32

33 All right. Agency reports. Is there any  
34 Tribal governments that have agency reports?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone on line  
39 for Tribal governments?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then Native  
44 organizations. This was -- Brian was going to come up  
45 for that one, uh-huh, Brian McKenna and his helper.

46

47 MR. MCKENNA: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
48 Madam Chair, members of the Council. My name's Brian  
49 McKenna and with me here today is Nicole Farnham. We're  
50 going to provide an overview on the activities from TCC

1 Wildlife and Parks Department. Did -- we had a  
2 presentation that we were going to provide Powerpoint.

3  
4           So I heard yesterday in the opening  
5 remarks from a number of the Council members and also  
6 during public testimony, you know, the importance of fish  
7 camp and the customary and traditional lifestyle. I just  
8 wanted to state that at TCC it's our mission to protect  
9 that cultural and traditional lifestyle and the resources  
10 that fuel it. It's our goal to help advocate for the  
11 conservation and sustainability of these customary and  
12 traditional practices so they can be continued and passed  
13 down from generation to generation. And we strive to  
14 incorporate traditional and local knowledge into current  
15 research and management systems and also to develop  
16 partnerships with other agencies, organizations and  
17 Tribes to help achieve these goals.

18  
19           So we're just going to provide a brief  
20 update on some of the current and ongoing projects within  
21 the Wildlife and Parks Department. The first one is a  
22 genetic stock identification project for Yukon River  
23 salmon populations. We'll also cover the abundance  
24 assessments and run timing trends for the Henshaw Creek  
25 weir and also our annual science and culture camp which  
26 is co-hosted by TCC and the Kanuti National Wildlife  
27 Refuge and is located at the Henshaw Creek weir.

28  
29           So we've been continuing efforts to  
30 expand upon the genetic baseline for the Yukon River  
31 salmon populations as well as other fish populations such  
32 as sheefish. We partner with State and Federal agencies  
33 to help determine the priority baseline for the needs for  
34 samples. And then also for the post-collection genetic  
35 analysis. And we also partner with local communities and  
36 fishermen to help collect these baseline samples. In the  
37 past few years some of these partnerships have included  
38 Allakaket and Alatna, helping to collect baseline samples  
39 from the Alatna River sheefish population and also the  
40 Henshaw Creek chinook salmon population. And last year  
41 and this year with Chalkyitsik and helping to collect  
42 genetic samples from chinook populations in the Traanjik.

43  
44           And I just wanted to kind of follow-up  
45 and kind of touch bases on Rhonda's comments regarding  
46 place names. So I believe and please correct me if  
47 anyone knows otherwise, but I believe that the Draanjik  
48 refers to the main stem Black River and the Traanjik is  
49 what is also known as the Salmon Fork of the Black River.  
50

1                   So this is a general representation of  
2 the current status for chinook salmon, the baseline.  
3 Don't commit this map to memory because those reporting  
4 groups you see there are not 100 percent accurate. We  
5 have yet to refine them out that far. The blue circles  
6 there, the larger blue circles, those represent baseline  
7 populations where we currently have adequate  
8 representation, we have over 200 samples from these  
9 locations. And most of you are probably familiar with a  
10 lot of those locations in blue because those are areas  
11 where we have -- either currently have or in the past  
12 have had escapement projects such as towers and weirs  
13 which makes access for gaining those samples quite a bit  
14 easier. The other circles you see there in green and  
15 yellow are other spawning locations for chinook salmon  
16 where we do have current samples, however we don't have  
17 sufficient number of samples to include or refine well  
18 enough into the genetic baseline. And then finally  
19 there's other locations out there as well where we do not  
20 have samples yet to date.

21  
22                   This is the recent priorities list for  
23 collecting samples to include into the chinook genetic  
24 baseline. This slide was provided by Jan Conitz, she's  
25 the U.S. Co-Chair to the Yukon River Panel's Joint  
26 Technical Committee. And these priority locations here  
27 are used in review of the Yukon River Panel's restoration  
28 enhancement fund. So all of the highlighted locations  
29 there in yellow, those are the top priority right now for  
30 including or going after to include more samples for the  
31 baseline. The two at the bottom there, the Colleen River  
32 and then the Black or the Draanjik River, those are the  
33 two that are in this region here and we plan this winter  
34 to sit down around a table and get everyone together,  
35 collaborate with the State, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
36 Service, CATG, the Refuge offices as well, and look at  
37 these priorities here and kind of develop a strategy  
38 moving forward into next season to see what areas we can  
39 go after and then once we've made those decisions we'll  
40 be in contact with either local organizations or Tribes  
41 to further develop, you know, best strategy for achieving  
42 these.

43  
44                   So, yeah, next -- you can go to the next  
45 slide now. Thank you. So I'll turn it over to Nicole  
46 Farnham now and she'll be providing the update for the  
47 Henshaw Creek weir.

48  
49                   MS. FARNHAM: Good afternoon, Madam Chair  
50 and members of the Council. I am Nicole Farnham and I

1 run the Henshaw Creek weir project with TCC.

2

3

4                   The Henshaw Creek weir has been operated  
5 annually since the year 2000. The Tanana Chiefs took it  
6 over in the year 2008 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The  
7 goals of this project are to determine the escapement and  
8 run timing of chinook and chum salmon, to describe the  
9 demographic composition of age, sex and length and to  
10 provide a platform for hosting a youth summer science and  
11 culture camp. There are many partners that help make  
12 this field season a success year after year. We have  
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife who provide the preseason training  
14 in motorboat safety, bear awareness and firearms  
15 training. They also help by sending out somebody to help  
16 us with our weir installation and they also do the in-  
17 season data collection from our field technicians. Every  
18 day our technicians call in with the data. The Kanuti  
19 National Wildlife Refuge and Allakaket provide the  
20 logistical support and help host the science camp during  
21 the main field service. And then postseason ADF&G  
22 provides aging analysis.

22

23

24                   The weir this year was operational from  
25 June 26th to August 1st. We got the first chinook and  
26 the first chum salmon on June 26. The total for that day  
27 was one chinook and 92 chum. Our seasonal total  
28 estimates were 1,354 chinook and 286,782 chum.

28

29

30                   This graph is depicting the passage  
31 estimates over the last 16 years of the chinook salmon.  
32 The black line is an overall average of what the run has  
33 been over the multiple years. Looking at this year's  
34 data for 2016 we are above average which is nice to see.  
35 And if we look at last year's data which was 2015, we are  
36 almost double of what we've ever been. This is our  
37 record high for kings that we have had in this creek.  
38 There was no data collected in 2006 nor 2014 due to high  
39 water events and we were unable to get the weir in.  
40 These escapements were only made possible by the  
41 sacrifices made up and down the river of people not  
42 fishing and we really appreciated that.

42

43

44                   This graph is depicting the chum passage  
45 estimates over the last 16 years. Again the black line  
46 is showing the average and you can see that over the last  
47 five years there has been a continually high trend of  
48 above average numbers. This year was the second highest  
49 recorded record in Henshaw Creek history with the high  
50 run data.

50

1                   So Henshaw Creek every year puts on a  
2 science camp and culture camp for students in this area.  
3 And we are in partners with the Kanuti National Wildlife  
4 Refuge and the Allakaket Tribal Council. The Henshaw  
5 Creek culture camp places an emphasis on teaching youth  
6 the importance of both western science and traditional  
7 knowledge and promotes active participation in the  
8 conservation of the children's natural resources. We had  
9 instructors that were Kenneth and Elsie Bergman and  
10 Pollock Simon, Sr. They were our elders at camp this  
11 year and they helped the students with the traditional  
12 learning side. Ben Wallace, Alica Morris and Vince  
13 Matthews were from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and they helped  
14 with the sciences and the other activities with the  
15 students. Susan Paskvan who is the language instructor  
16 for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District also came out and  
17 helped the students with Athabascan language lessons.  
18 And then the TCC Staff helped provide information for the  
19 fish days for science camp. The goals of this camp are  
20 to connect the youth with nature, inspire youth to become  
21 stewards and active participants in conserving their  
22 lands and resources and to help educate the youth in  
23 natural resources and traditional knowledge and  
24 techniques.

25  
26                   There are a variety of lessons that are  
27 taught at this camp. The one that the students really  
28 enjoy is fish day and this is where the students get to  
29 learn the internal and external anatomy of fish, so they  
30 get to dissect the fish. They also get to go and spend  
31 some time actually out on the weir with the TCC  
32 technicians and get to handle the fish, learn how to take  
33 a scale, learn how to measure the fish and just get the  
34 hands-on experience. They also learn how to make willow  
35 walking sticks, they learn from the elders the  
36 traditional fish cutting and drying methods. There's  
37 also dragonfly identification as well as the Athabascan  
38 language lessons. We highly value the summer science and  
39 culture camp as it is a great way for the youth to learn  
40 from elders of their communities while at the same time  
41 exposing them to future potential careers working in the  
42 natural resources and conservation.

43  
44                   I would like to thank all of the people  
45 that make all of these different projects possible. We  
46 would like to provide a special thanks to OSM for funding  
47 our partners fisheries biologist position and FRMP for  
48 funding the Henshaw Creek weir. We would also like to  
49 thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Fairbanks office, Kanuti  
50 and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and the ADF&G,

1 Allakaket, Alatna and Chalkyitsik Village Councils for  
2 their support with these projects.

3  
4 And with that we will take any questions  
5 and please let us know if you guys have any research  
6 needs or management concerns in your regions or villages.  
7 We are open to everything.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions?

12  
13 MR. GLANZ: I have one.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

16  
17 MR. GLANZ: When the -- at that weir do  
18 you milk the fish down to get the eggs and everything out  
19 of them or do you just take them out of the water and  
20 start cutting them or what do they do there when they  
21 come -- when you take them out of the water with  
22 children. I see that they're cleaning them and so forth,  
23 but there's no milking the eggs off of them or you just  
24 -- there's not a -- the reason I'm saying I know where I  
25 grew up outside of (indiscernible) there they had weirs  
26 setup to catch the coho and everything coming through and  
27 they'd take them out and they'd milk them, they'd milk  
28 the males and that -- then they put it in the hatchery  
29 stocks. But they don't -- you guys don't do any of that  
30 there then. You guys -- so the 1,100 fish you've taken  
31 out are taken out of the water and not put back in then  
32 from what I seen?

33  
34 MS. FARNHAM: No, we are just strictly  
35 counting them. That's the main goal of the project. And  
36 then every few days we sample them so we do touch them.  
37 And all we're doing is measuring from their mid eye to  
38 the tail of the fork and then pulling one scale and then  
39 we send them on their way and they just do natural  
40 spawning.

41  
42 MR. GLANZ: Excellent. Okay.

43  
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

47  
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you have the results  
49 of any of the ASL data on the chinook salmon?

50



1 MS. FARNHAM. We do. I did not provide  
2 any of that in this presentation. We can send that to  
3 you. We have all of the years from all the way up to  
4 2000 to 2015. We haven't gotten 2016 data yet. But we'd  
5 be more than happy to provide that to you and each year  
6 we do provide a report to OSM for just an overall  
7 analysis of what we collected.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Maybe for our  
10 next meeting we could have that data for us to look at.

11

12 Madam Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
15 questions?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe I  
20 shouldn't ask this so it doesn't take long, but those  
21 graphs that you had up there back to 2000, what would it  
22 look like if it went back to like 1985?

23

24 MS. FARNHAM: Good question. We actually  
25 don't have data from that far back. The earliest was in  
26 1999 when they did a counting tower up at Henshaw. So  
27 there hasn't been.....

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30

31 MS. FARNHAM: .....prior to that.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

34 Thank you. Any other questions.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Just a comment to tell them  
37 what a fine job they're doing with the youth. That's  
38 pretty neat what you're doing there.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep, hands-on  
41 is best. Yeah. Okay. Any other questions?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank  
46 you. Okay. Next is the U.S. -- unless there's other  
47 Native organization reports?

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I've talked  
2 to some of the Fish and Wildlife Service guys and we were  
3 going to put the Tetlin Refuge first because they have a  
4 4:00 o'clock flight.

5  
6 And, Nate, this is the time to bring up  
7 16-06.

8  
9 MR. BERG: My name is Nate Berg and I am  
10 the subsistence biologist at Tetlin National Wildlife  
11 Refuge. And Tim Lorenzini is new at the Refuge, I'll let  
12 himself introduce himself in a bit, but he's our  
13 environmental education specialist.

14  
15 I'm going to give a brief overview of our  
16 biological program and then I'll give a little more  
17 detailed report of one of our projects that we're  
18 embarking on and that's our lynx project.

19  
20 This last year we tried to do a moose  
21 survey, but we didn't have enough snow so we were unable  
22 to do it so we'll be embarking on that again this year  
23 and try to get that to you. Some of the other things we  
24 do at Tetlin is for the last couple decades we've been  
25 monitoring peregrine falcons, ospreys and bald eagles  
26 which we continue to do. We're also working with the  
27 State on a flycatcher project and every year we also do  
28 mixing ratio flights for Nelchina and Mentasta caribou  
29 which we'll talk about a little bit later.

30  
31 But, yeah, the lynx project, I'm going to  
32 read a little bit here about it. The primary goal -- the  
33 primary objective of this project is to determine changes  
34 and movements by lynx during the course of a snowshoe  
35 hare population cycle. It has been postulated that at  
36 large spatial scales lynx move long distances in response  
37 to a wave like decline in hare abundance across the  
38 boreal forests of North America. Lynx that locate  
39 sufficient prey resources survive and reproduce at a  
40 higher rate than lynx that moved to or remained in areas  
41 of low prey abundance. For example as hare abundance in  
42 western Alaska begins to decline some lynx residing in  
43 that region are likely to move into and across Alaska as  
44 they follow a traveling peak of hare abundance to the  
45 northern and western extents of their range. By  
46 deploying GPS collars on lynx throughout -- distributed  
47 throughout interior Alaska and western Canada we hope to  
48 collect location data and document some of these long  
49 range movements made by lynx in response to fluctuating  
50 hare abundance. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge is

1 working in collaboration with Dr. Knut Kielland at the  
2 University of Alaska Fairbanks as well as with  
3 Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge, Yukon Flats  
4 National Wildlife Refuge, Kanuti National Wildlife  
5 Refuge, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve,  
6 Fort Wainwright Military Lands as well as researchers  
7 operating in Yukon Territory to collar lynx throughout  
8 much of the northwestern boreal forest.

9

10                   The secondary objective of the project is  
11 to learn about the habitat, use, diet, reproduction,  
12 predation rates and general movement patterns of lynx on  
13 Tetlin by documenting their locations on a shorter time  
14 scale. We are using four hour GPS fixed intervals and  
15 satellite data transmissions to estimate diel movements  
16 rates and behavior patterns, home ranges and to track  
17 individuals on foot in order to measure rates of  
18 predation and identify prey items. Satellite data  
19 transmissions also notify us of mortality events enabling  
20 rapid recovery of carcasses and identification of the  
21 causes of mortality. We also plan to use genetic and  
22 isotopic analysis of biological samples, e.g. hair,  
23 whiskers, blood, feces and teeth taken from captured and  
24 deceased lynx to assist us in determining the movements  
25 and relationships between lynx populations on a regional  
26 scale.

27

28                   So this will be our third winter working  
29 on the lynx research. The first year we caught six, last  
30 year we caught 14, so far this year we've captured three.  
31 We're also documenting litters of kittens which I think  
32 is the first time that's been done in Alaska. The first  
33 year we did that we documented one litter, this summer  
34 four more litters of kittens. Each litter has four to  
35 six kittens which are huge lynx litters. But it's a  
36 pretty cool study that I thought you guys would be  
37 interested in because it's looking at the movements of  
38 these animals. We're learning that lynx can move really  
39 long distances, we're talking hundreds and maybe even a  
40 thousand plus miles in response to snowshoe hare cycle  
41 and density.

42

43                   So anyway that's my little spiel. Are  
44 there any questions?

45

46                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any  
47 questions?

48

49                   (No comments)

50

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm curious,  
2 Nate. You know there was a study like 30 years ago by  
3 Bob Stevenson?

4  
5                   MR. BERG: Yes.

6  
7                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This one's a  
8 little bit different, is that what I'm hearing?

9  
10                  MR. BERG: Yeah. Well, we have new  
11 technology now, we've got the GPS collars. So in the  
12 study that occurred before, you know, they had the VHF  
13 collars on those animals and oftentimes they'd leave the  
14 study area and then who knows where they went. But now  
15 it doesn't matter where they go, we can track those  
16 movements. And so with all these different study areas  
17 looking at these lynx movements we should get a better  
18 idea of, you know, where are these lynx coming from that  
19 you guys are trapping, you know, are they from Canada, is  
20 the area around Fort Yukon for example, is it a sink or  
21 is it a source. So those are some of the things that we  
22 should be able to get at which should be directly  
23 applicable to subsistence.

24  
25                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm also  
26 curious like I want -- I fell in love with these kittens,  
27 I want one.

28  
29                  (Laughter)

30  
31                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But, you know,  
32 they've done a lot of wolf stuff in the past or -- and  
33 sometimes the human smell of -- on the babies they might  
34 abandon them. Do you have any data on that?

35  
36                  MR. BERG: I worked on a lynx project in  
37 Colorado and to date including on that study and work in  
38 Montana, Minnesota, Washington and Alaska, that the moms  
39 -- what they do is they'll just as you approach they  
40 leave the den and they go just out of sight and they  
41 stare -- stay there the whole time, you know, that you're  
42 working up the kitten. As soon as you leave mom is right  
43 back, they never abandon so far that I'm aware of. They  
44 just come right back to the kittens.

45  
46                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you don't do  
47 anything to those kittens to track them?

48  
49                  MR. BERG: We put an ear tag in them.  
50 They're too small when we go in to find -- you know, to

1 put a collar on them.....  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
4  
5 MR. BERG: .....but we do ear tag them  
6 all. And we've had a couple of them returned by hunters  
7 which has been awesome, you know, they've shot one and  
8 they reported that ear tag to us so it's good.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Many?  
11  
12 MR. BERG: Two so far.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Okay.  
15 Any other questions?  
16  
17 MR. FIRMIN: I'd like.....  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.  
20  
21 MR. FIRMIN: .....really like this  
22 project too and I was -- this is the page I was looking  
23 for in the back, I finally found it. Just this one  
24 orange guy is the only, I guess, traveler of the pack so  
25 far?  
26  
27 MR. BERG: Yeah, that's kind of what  
28 we're expecting and why we're -- it's a 10 year study,  
29 it's supposed to go on through an entire snowshoe hare  
30 cycle. But what we're expecting is hare -- hares are  
31 high at Tetlin right now, but when they crash that's when  
32 we think those lynx are going to take off and move. And  
33 right now what we're noticing at least around Tok where  
34 we're catching them, it's a lot of single males. So I  
35 think they're coming from areas outside of Tok and  
36 reestablishing territories there. So that'll probably  
37 shift and we'll start seeing more movements as the study  
38 continues.  
39  
40 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, it would be  
41 interesting to see which way they scatter when it does --  
42 the hare population does decline. That's cool.  
43  
44 MR. BERG: Right.  
45  
46 MR. FIRMIN: Good project.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
49 questions? Rhonda, did I hear -- see your hand?  
50

1 MS. PITKA: Yeah, I had a question about  
2 the graphic. To these colors correspond to each other or  
3 are they separate areas.....  
4  
5 MR. BERG: Are you on the.....  
6  
7 MS. PITKA: .....because the purple.....  
8  
9 MR. BERG: .....are you on the back page?  
10  
11 MS. PITKA: Yeah, I'm on the back page.  
12 So there's this purple splotch over here and there's a  
13 purple splotch in Tetlin Refuge.....  
14  
15 MR. BERG: Sure. That.....  
16  
17 MS. PITKA: .....do those to correspond  
18 to each other or are they different?  
19  
20 MR. BERG: That could be a little bit  
21 confusing. Each of those colors is a different  
22 individual animal that's been collared.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it was here  
25 and then it was over there?  
26  
27 MR. BERG: Yeah, if it's the same color  
28 it moved. And there's one -- if you look right at the  
29 center of Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, our long --  
30 our longest distance mover, he moved from there all the  
31 way up basically to Tetlin Junction. So it's a hundred  
32 kilometer movement.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think  
35 they did have studies in the past too about movements  
36 being a long way away?  
37  
38 MR. BERG: They -- yeah, they did.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.  
41  
42 MR. BERG: And the study that took place  
43 on Tetlin, what they noticed is most of the individuals  
44 that moved, it seemed like they went in a northwest  
45 direction. So we're really curious if that's -- if we're  
46 going to document that again. And with the GPS collars,  
47 you know, they go to Fairbanks or beyond and we should be  
48 able to continue to track those movements.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's kind of

1 fun to see that they -- once they are in a spot they kind  
2 of have like a home range and then they move over here  
3 and then they kind of hang out right there.....

4  
5 MR. BERG: Uh-huh.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....you know.

8  
9 MR. BERG: Yep.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
12 questions?

13  
14 MR. FIRMIN: I just have one comment is  
15 Josh Kumer must be a pretty handy guy or.....

16  
17 MR. BERG: He's a good one. He's good to  
18 have on -- he fixes snowmachines and that's critical  
19 because we use backcountry cabins, we'll be out in the  
20 woods for two or three weeks at a time and.....

21  
22 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

23  
24 MR. BERG: .....it's a team project,  
25 that's one of our favorite things is a Staff at Tetlin,  
26 this is not just the biologists that are doing this  
27 project, it's the entire Staff that pull it off, we need  
28 everybody to pull it off.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are you guys  
31 still trapping down behind me or around us on the cutoff?

32  
33 MR. BERG: Not that far down.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

36  
37 MR. BERG: We're basically at Jeff --  
38 we're bothering Jeff Gross, but we don't go any farther  
39 than that. So, you know.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Catch his lynx,  
42 huh?

43  
44 MR. BERG: Yeah.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
47 Thanks.

48  
49 MR. BERG: You're welcome. So, yeah,  
50 I'll just turn it over to Tim.

1 MR. LORENZINI: Hello, my name is Tim  
2 Lorenzini. I am new to Fish and Wildlife Service as well  
3 as to Tok. I moved there from Galena, the Western  
4 Interior. So this is my first Eastern meeting. So I'm  
5 glass I was able to come here and at least see you and  
6 meet you a little bit. I am the environmental educator  
7 out at the Refuge and I'm getting my feet under me a  
8 little bit. I was actually up in Eagle recently and so  
9 I've heard a few people say this, what you guys want to  
10 see a little bit and that's my actually my intention to  
11 do those things. So it made me feel a little bit better  
12 about my plans because I want to do what the public  
13 wants. So when I was up at Eagle I did like a little  
14 intro to trapping up there, I intend to take that to a  
15 lot of the other communities. I also want to do hunter  
16 safety, water safety, give especially the younger people,  
17 but also adults, the ability and know how to go outside  
18 and have a good time and enjoy the resources. So that's  
19 a brief overview of what I intend to do and what I have  
20 been doing in my short time from getting to Tok.

21  
22 So if you have any questions for me or  
23 comments, I would love to hear those.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions?

26  
27 Will.

28  
29 MR. KOEHLER: I don't have a question,  
30 but I have a comment. We're -- I know Andy and I  
31 especially have mentioned hunter education a lot and it's  
32 really nice to have someone that is doing it. I tend to  
33 ask for things without really being willing to put  
34 forward anything I guess. So I guess what I would like  
35 to say is that for the short period of time that I'm on  
36 the highway very much if there was an opportunity to  
37 volunteer to help with any of your projects, I -- before  
38 you'd leave I'd like to give you my card.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else?  
43 Was that just feedback, Lynn.

44  
45 MR. JOHNSON: Somebody needs to mute  
46 their phone.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe  
49 somebody on the phone needs to mute their phone, star  
50 six.



1                   Did you say you're brand new to Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service?

3

4                   MR. LORENZINI: Yes, ma'am.

5

6                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Okay.  
7 Welcome. I bet we'll see each other eventually in Tok.

8

9                   MR. LORENZINI: Yeah, like I said I've  
10 already been in contact with your husband and plan on  
11 taking students down there fore the junior duck stamp, we  
12 also plan to do a migratory bird and I heard that that's  
13 the place to go as far as finding good examples for the  
14 kids. So you might be seeing me in a couple weeks.

15

16                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well, a  
17 lot of the Council members might not even realize it, but  
18 my husband has what's called a -- he's always had a  
19 collection of ducks and then he wanted to get a  
20 collection of birds of prey and there's a long store  
21 there that I could tell, but I'm not going to. He just  
22 got what's called a dead and salvage permit from the Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service so he can have them in his  
24 possession as long as the students can come and it was  
25 all tied in, he got permission. So he has a museum of  
26 birds and it's quite a large museum, it's not as large as  
27 Henry Springer's and those who might have known Henry, he  
28 has an incredible one, but Frank's pretty particular  
29 about things so it's pretty nicely done. So anyone that  
30 comes to our area, they're welcome to go see Frank's bird  
31 museum. So we had the kids come from the schools and  
32 that and it's kind of fun to share that with them.

33

34                   All right. Well, we'll see you next week  
35 on whenever that is.

36

37                   MR. LORENZINI: After the 15th.

38

39                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Yes.

40 Okay. Well, thank you. You're going to make your  
41 flight.

42

43                   And you have another topic at it's --  
44 right?

45

46                   MR. BERG: Yes. And I'm not exactly sure  
47 how to proceed with this. This is something that OSM  
48 would be reading. This is regarding the temporary  
49 special action, WSA 16-06.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I will say  
2 before we get started I got a call from the Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service, hit their boss, Sean Baylis about this  
4 special action which is what I'm told is supposed to be  
5 done. And it was in unit 12 so the Chair of the Eastern  
6 Interior RAC did get the call and it's a request to move  
7 from one to two caribou on the Nelchinas.

8

9 So what is the procedure, Carl?

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
12 I'll just -- Council members, you'll look for a handout  
13 that was put in with your materials, temporary special  
14 action WSA 16-06. For the public there are copies of  
15 this in the background.

16

17 This is just basically six bits of  
18 information about what the request is, who submitted it  
19 and some current biological information. But, you know,  
20 normally -- you know, the regulations do provide that for  
21 both emergency and special -- temporary special action  
22 requests, if there is a regularly scheduled meeting of  
23 the Council the Council should provide its  
24 recommendations. So it just so happened that the timing  
25 of this request allowed for us to bring it to the  
26 Council. So that's why it's on the agenda.

27

28 But I think that for purposes of  
29 introducing this and leaving the discussion, since Tetlin  
30 submitted it we'll just go ahead and have them state --  
31 kind of hit the high points and maybe answer questions,  
32 but I'll just state what the request is which is that  
33 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge has submitted a temporary  
34 special action request which for the public means a  
35 request that has longer than a 60 day duration. In this  
36 case the request is to increase the caribou harvest limit  
37 for the winter season in unit 12 remainder from one to  
38 two caribou for the remainder of the regulatory year. So  
39 that's why it's a temporary, it's gong to last longer  
40 than 60 days. And from that -- from this point on I'll  
41 just -- it -- the rest of this kind of reiterates what  
42 the request is and why the proponent asked for it. And  
43 since the proponent is here, Madam Chair, we'll let them  
44 go ahead and take it from here.

45

46 Thank you, Madam Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Nate.

49

50 MR. BERG: Okay. Well, I will just read

1 these highlights because they basically cover it and Carl  
2 basically covered number 1 so I'll just start with number  
3 2.

4

5           The Nelchina caribou herd exceeds  
6 population objectives and needs to be reduced.  
7 Additionally the Fortymile caribou herd has been  
8 relatively unavailable to rural residents this year and  
9 this would not be open unless -- yeah, there's snow  
10 machine access. On the Refuge we have to have a minimum  
11 of six inches of snow before we open the hunt up.

12

13           The State manages the Nelchina caribou  
14 herd for maximum sustained yield principally by annual  
15 adjustment in harvest quotas. The population of the  
16 Nelchina caribou herd has fluctuated across time,  
17 influenced primarily by harvest. Between 2001 and 2002  
18 and 2015/16, the Nelchina caribou population has ranged  
19 from 31,000 to 49,000 caribou and averaged 39,000  
20 approximately. However the herd has exceeded population  
21 objectives, 35 to 40K caribou since 2010. And this last  
22 year was the highest that it's been at 49,550.

23

24           The calving grounds for the Mentasta  
25 caribou herd which is another herd are located in  
26 northern unit 11 within the Wrangell-St. Elias National  
27 Park and Preserve. The Mentasta caribou herd disburse  
28 across unit 12 and southern unit 20E in winter, often  
29 intermingling with the Nelchina caribou herd. The  
30 Mentasta caribou herd population declined from an  
31 estimated 3,160 caribou in 1987 to an estimated 336  
32 caribou in 2010.

33

34           Winter hunts targeted for the Nelchina  
35 caribou herd may result in incidental harvest of Mentasta  
36 caribou. As the herds mix during the winter in unit 12  
37 remainder and Nelchina and Mentasta caribou cannot be  
38 differentiated. The Mentasta Caribou Herd Management  
39 Plan notes it is unrealistic to close seasons directed at  
40 other larger caribou herds as long as incidental harvest  
41 of Mentasta caribou is biologically insignificant. The  
42 Plan continues, movement patterns and aggregation  
43 behavior of collared caribou suggests the incidental  
44 harvest of Mentasta caribou is usually insignificant.

45

46           As the Tetlin National Wildlife -- as my  
47 manager has delegated authority to open/close the season,  
48 it is expected that a season will not be opened until the  
49 ratio of Nelchina and Mentasta caribou is high.

50

1                   As so I guess just to summarize that.  
2 The Nelchinas are approximately 50,000 individuals and  
3 the Mentasta on the high end would be around 500. The  
4 highest number of caribou that's ever been taken during  
5 the winter hunt is 71 and that was a few years back. So  
6 with that mixing ratio on average even if we increased to  
7 like 200 this winter caribou taken, that would equate to,  
8 you know, on average, we can't say for certain, but  
9 that's two Mentasta caribou. So as a biologist on staff  
10 I find that biologically insignificant. So I would  
11 assume that the Mentastas should be okay. Something that  
12 we do also is we do aerial surveys and we listen to radio  
13 collared Nelchinas and Mentastas and we come up with a  
14 mixing ratio. So if there's a significant number of  
15 collared Mentasta caribou near the highway in an area  
16 where they could be harvested, we can immediately take an  
17 action to close that portion of the hunt down or change  
18 it, you know, from any caribou to bulls only. So there's  
19 a lot of flexibility there in what we can do. And since  
20 I've been at Tetlin in 2010 we've taken that action one  
21 time when we had five or six Mentasta's near the highway.  
22 We went ahead and changed it to bulls only after  
23 consulting with the National Park Service.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's  
26 important to note.

27  
28                   Thank you.

29  
30                   And I did talk to Sean and I did ask him  
31 because I'm looking at number 3 on this piece of paper  
32 that I have, how to submit a special action request to  
33 the Federal Board and you're supposed to also talk to  
34 the Department of Fish and Game and the manager is Frank  
35 down in Glennallen which he has done, yeah.

36  
37                   So and he may have said it, so forgive me  
38 if I'm saying it, in talking with him they would like to  
39 see more caribou, Fish and Game would like to see more  
40 caribou taken because they weren't accessible to the  
41 people when they were on the Denali.

42  
43                   MR. BERG: That is correct. And we have  
44 been working with Frank and Jeff and Jeff in Tok and to  
45 date there's been 4,000 caribou harvested from the  
46 Nelchina herd. What they're going for is they'd like to  
47 harvest 6,000. So if they reach that quota before the  
48 caribou get to Tetlin then this action would not take  
49 place, we would just open it up to one caribou.  
50

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I do want  
2 to note that it's two caribou in unit 13 now and one of  
3 the Advisory Committee members at the Upper  
4 Tanana/Fortymile put a proposal in a while back to make  
5 it two if it ever did get open again up there and that  
6 did not pass the Federal Board at the time so now they're  
7 asking for it. So I know he'll be in favor of it. The  
8 AC has not met in our area on this yet so I have no  
9 report for that. But there is going to be a meeting on  
10 the 2nd of November.

11  
12                   MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels for  
13 the record. The public meeting is scheduled to be held  
14 on Tuesday, November 1st from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. It's  
15 going to be in Tok at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge  
16 conference room. And anyone that's interested can  
17 attend, it's a public meeting, open, the public is  
18 encouraged to attend. And the number to call is 1-877-  
19 407-8065. And the passcode, it's 8201631. So it's on  
20 the 1st, Tuesday, November 1st.

21  
22                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I -- sorry.....

23  
24                   MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

25  
26                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....I must  
27 have got the wrong notice because I remembered the 2nd.

28  
29                   Okay. So that is available if people  
30 want on, Katya can send that for the -- more information.  
31 It's a lot to write down real fast, but she can mail it  
32 to you. So if you have any -- anyone wants to get online  
33 on that you need to contact Katya.

34  
35                   Do we have any more questions?

36  
37                   (No comments)

38  
39                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we want to  
40 act on it as a RAC? Need a motion if we do.

41  
42                   (No comments)

43  
44                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nobody wants to  
45 act on it.

46  
47                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt special  
48 action WSA 16-06.

49  
50                   MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's  
2 good to act on our unit 12, we act on all the stuff on  
3 the Yukon River, you need to act on ours.  
4  
5                   Okay. Discussion. Any discussion that  
6 we need more than we have?  
7  
8                   (No comments)  
9  
10                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We will be  
11 sending notes to the Fish and Wildlife Service and then  
12 they can act on the RAC opinion.  
13  
14                  MR. UMPHENOUR: But we're not going to  
15 meet again and I don't know if anyone's going to go to  
16 this public meeting, but I don't see any reason why not,  
17 why the Board should not adopt this special action  
18 request because it's an unusual situation, a large  
19 harvestable surplus over the population objective of the  
20 herd.  
21  
22                  Madam Chair.  
23  
24                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else?  
25  
26                  MR. FIRMIN: I just.....  
27  
28                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
29 Andrew.  
30  
31                  MR. FIRMIN: I usually defer to your  
32 wisdom of the region, Sue, but in my mind that's still  
33 what like, if I'm reading it right, that's like the odds  
34 are one in 100 you're going to get a Mentasta caribou.  
35 I mean, so the.....  
36  
37                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
38  
39                  MR. FIRMIN: .....the odds are.....  
40  
41                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's their job  
42 to do a good job.  
43  
44                  MR. FIRMIN: Yes.  
45  
46                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
47  
48                  MR. FIRMIN: Seems like -- I don't know  
49 if I'm interpreting it right, that seems to be something  
50 that we could adopt.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they have  
2 a watch dog at the Park Service so they make sure that  
3 the Mentastas are protected, yeah.  
4  
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madam Chair.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.  
8  
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, the reason why this  
10 herd actually increased a lot is because there was a real  
11 State approved and managed predator control program to  
12 get that herd to increase pertaining to both brown bears  
13 and wolves.  
14  
15 Madam Chair.  
16  
17 It's predator management.....  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Management.  
20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....program.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought  
24 that's what you said.  
25  
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, that's what I said.  
27 Predator management program which meant that pilots could  
28 spot wolves from the air, they could shoot them from the  
29 air.....  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You  
32 didn't need to.....  
33  
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....but the most  
35 efficient method was actually pilots talking on the radio  
36 to guys on snowmachines that could position themselves to  
37 accurately shoot the wolves.  
38  
39 MS. PITKA: Question.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's  
42 been called for, all in favor say aye.  
43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed?  
47  
48 (No opposing votes)  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes

1 unanimously. Thanks, guys.  
2 I've got an answer to your question,  
3 Virgil, would you like it?  
4  
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, that. Actually you  
6 have the.....  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.  
9  
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....ASL data for the  
11 weir I guess.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: ASL data for  
14 the weir. They do have it. So is it okay if we get that  
15 data?  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing no  
20 opposition.  
21  
22 MR. MCKENNA: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
23 Through the Chair, Vigil. This is the data from 2015, as  
24 Nicole stated 2016 is still being processed, we can  
25 probably bring that to the next meeting. So in 2015 the  
26 total estimated run size for chinook was 2,391 and as  
27 Nicole stated that was a record run size. And remember  
28 that was in 2015 when there was little to no fishing  
29 activity going on that year. So that was a major  
30 contributor. Of that run we sampled 511 chinook salmon  
31 for age, sex and length. Our estimates here are 40  
32 percent female run size. The run was dominated by five  
33 year olds coming in at 41 percent of the run and that was  
34 followed by six year olds at 34 percent and four year  
35 olds at 25 percent.  
36  
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you have the mean  
38 lengths of the age classes by chance?  
39  
40 MR. MCKENNA: I do, yeah. They're broken  
41 out by sex. So for male chinook the four year olds, the  
42 average length was 564 millimeters, the five year old was  
43 725 and the six year olds were 780. And that was for the  
44 male. For the female the average size for four year olds  
45 was 561, for five year olds 770, and for six year olds  
46 826.  
47  
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: You actually had some  
49 four year old females?  
50



1 MR. McKENNA: One.  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That woke  
6 everybody up.  
7  
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, how many  
9 five year old?  
10  
11 MR. McKENNA: Yeah, I'll give you the  
12 sample sizes here. So this is females. The five year  
13 olds are 65 and the six year olds 123.  
14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you much.  
16 I wouldn't mind getting a copy of that. We can get it  
17 back in Fairbanks.  
18  
19 MR. McKENNA: Okay. Yeah, we can provide  
20 that for you.  
21  
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.  
23  
24 MR. McKENNA: Thanks.  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks.  
27 I lost my page. Next Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,  
28 summary of activities.  
29  
30 MR. BERENDZEN: Madam Chair, members of  
31 the Council. Vince is with the youth group doing a recap  
32 of this RAC meeting and our flight leaves at 3:00  
33 o'clock, not Vince's, but the rest of us. It was bumped  
34 up earlier so if I could go first I would really  
35 appreciate that. And I would like to hit the highlights  
36 of what we've got for Yukon Flats. The few things that  
37 are -- that have changed or the update since last  
38 spring's presentation and if you could go to page 177 in  
39 your book, it's a -- we've got a scaup brood production  
40 survey and this was the third year of that survey. What  
41 we learned is that -- or what has been concluded is that  
42 the wetter years especially if it's flooding, a lot of  
43 the wetlands we have very poor nest success. Dryer  
44 years, more stable water levels, we have very good  
45 hatchability and production of young, that's not rocket  
46 science.  
47  
48 Page 179 we have a mistake in how we did  
49 the -- or we did not have a heading for the fire program,  
50 but under the sheep survey right at the bottom of the

1 sheep photograph it stars in -- it talks about last  
2 year's fire program. That's inaccurate. What we had  
3 this year was very minimal fire activity. One thing of  
4 significance though we had a roughly 2,000 acre fire in  
5 limited suppression area just west of the Village of  
6 Venetie. And there was concern that it could get over  
7 into a full suppression designated area and possibly  
8 threaten the Village, but on the other hand we had ideal  
9 conditions to let this fire burn and we monitored it very  
10 closely, we allowed it to burn and we had 2,000 acres  
11 burned up that did a really good job of removing a lot of  
12 heavy fuel. So that will protect that area from future  
13 fires hopefully for several years down the road. So we  
14 felt that was a very beneficial, productive fire.

15  
16                   Page 180, the trail camera monitoring.  
17 We have added the additional cameras that we mentioned in  
18 here and we are hoping to tie this in with the lynx study  
19 that we were preparing to initiate this winter, a lynx  
20 study that -- very similar to what Tetlin Refuge reported  
21 on and we -- the lynx and snowshoe hare study, we will be  
22 initiating that study, hope to tie in the trail camera  
23 monitoring and in addition to that we want to do snow  
24 monitoring with the trail cameras and possibly get more  
25 information, potentially black bear information that we  
26 could use to apply on a broader scale for the Refuge.

27  
28                   And then a couple other things. We have  
29 -- we did participate along with CATG and the Bering  
30 cisco population study that was initiated this fall and  
31 just the preliminary results of that that Randy Brown has  
32 reported is that they -- the numbers of Bering cisco were  
33 significantly higher than what they had speculated. They  
34 were very pleased to get the information they got and my  
35 understanding is that they will do that again in at least  
36 one future year. But they -- that went very well.

37  
38                   And we had a open house in Fort Yukon,  
39 page 181, this summer that we felt was a really good  
40 activity with the community and a lot of activities with  
41 the youth including archery and other arts and crafts.

42  
43                   And that's I think a very brief report,  
44 but if there are any questions I'd do my best to answer  
45 those.

46  
47                   Thank you.

48  
49                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
50 Steve. And I apologize, I didn't know you had a plane

1 leaving at 3:00. If I would have known I wouldn't have  
2 done that.

3

4 MR. BERENDZEN: We just learned that, it  
5 was supposed to be a 4:30 flight.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. All  
8 right. So we're good.

9

10 Any questions?

11

12 MR. FIRMIN: Still praying for snow to do  
13 moose surveys?

14

15 MR. BERENDZEN: We -- well, we -- well,  
16 we can do moose surveys this year. We did -- we had a  
17 very successful moose survey last year and we could not  
18 afford to do it in successive years anyway. So.....

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.

21

22 MR. BERENDZEN: .....I mean, we'd like to  
23 see the snow, but no moose survey.

24

25 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. I wasn't sure if you  
26 were going to try to do them every year or it's just a  
27 every other year thing now, but that's good to know.

28

29 MS. PITKA: Madam Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

32

33 MS. PITKA: Oh, I just wanted to point  
34 out CATG held fuel, they didn't participate in the survey  
35 itself, right, like we had minimal participation in the  
36 survey?

37

38 MR. BERENDZEN: CATG provided fuel, they  
39 shuttled the fuel up to support that study, yes.

40

41 MR. FIRMIN: I -- the -- I guess this  
42 might be -- not off topic or really for you so much, but  
43 it would be interesting. I was thinking like if you're  
44 commercially fishing, you know, like you said the  
45 abundance study looked, you know, greater than it -- they  
46 expected or, you know, perceived I guess. It seems odd  
47 that it would be nice if they did do an abundance study  
48 in the future that they would do it on a year where they  
49 weren't commercial fishing. How does that -- you know,  
50 when you start harvesting something that makes it

1 healthy, for a healthier population, it kind of boosts it  
2 in some way, but it would be interesting if it -- it's  
3 just a thought that came across my mind when you said  
4 that, but that's all I have.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

9

10 MS. PITKA: Oh, is the trail camera  
11 monitoring available to the public or is it like online  
12 or something?

13

14 MR. BERENDZEN: No, we haven't. I don't  
15 think we've even considered that. We do have some  
16 photographs from the preliminary efforts last year that  
17 we could post in our -- on our FaceBook page. That might  
18 be useful to do.

19

20 Thanks for the idea.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Just a comment. I didn't  
23 know batteries would last at 43 below to take pictures.  
24 That's amazing.

25

26 MR. BERENDZEN: Lithium batteries.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have to  
29 change them at all during the winter?

30

31 MR. BERENDZEN: No, they last through the  
32 winter. I think we've been told they should last all --  
33 for a full year.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Cool. We by  
36 mistake left a camera out and it kind of stopped for a  
37 point and then it started taking again. So unless there  
38 was nothing to take a picture of. I don't know. Yeah.

39

40 What did you say on the sheet that was  
41 wrong?

42

43 MR. BERENDZEN: It wasn't the sheep, it  
44 was the -- we didn't have a heading for the fire  
45 program.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

48

49 MR. BERENDZEN: .....or the fire  
50 activities and that starts at the bottom of.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see now.  
2  
3 MR. BERENDZEN: .....the sheep  
4 photograph.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
7  
8 MR. BERENDZEN: And the information on  
9 the fire, that was last -- we totally messed up when we  
10 put that together because that was last year's report for  
11 the fire activities.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Any  
14 more questions?  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Steve.  
19 Hope you guys have a good flight.  
20  
21 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. I saw  
24 Vince running around, but I don't see him in here right  
25 now. Oh, there he is.  
26  
27 Did you have something to report, Vince?  
28  
29 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes, I do. On Arctic.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On Arctic.  
32 Okay. You're next.  
33  
34 MR. MATTHEWS: But I do want to give you  
35 an update on the youth, I just met with them. They did  
36 learn some interesting things. And the young man I  
37 promised him this will be hanging on my wall in my office  
38 when he comes in. His comments about what he learned,  
39 but he -- I made a gentleman's agreement with it, I would  
40 not read it. So you have to come to my office and see  
41 it. But you connected with that young man.  
42  
43 So if you go to page.....  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is he the one  
46 that introduced himself or the.....  
47  
48 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes, I won't incriminate  
49 him, but it's.....  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.  
2  
3 MR. MATTHEWS: .....Albert Thomas.....  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Poor kid.  
6  
7 MR. MATTHEWS: .....was the one and.....  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great.  
10  
11 MR. MATTHEWS: Anyways if you would go to  
12 page 163 I'll make this as brief as possible. As you  
13 know these are in your book ahead of time so it -- it's  
14 a chance for you to understand ahead of time what's going  
15 on and ask questions like you did with Steve. I will  
16 carry those back to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
17  
18 So for the record it's -- my name is  
19 Vince Matthews, I'm the Refuge subsistence coordinator at  
20 this moment for Arctic and Kanuti and Yukon Flats. You  
21 didn't cheer when you saw my picture at the Henshaw Creek  
22 camp there, but I was in that picture on the far right.  
23 Yeah, it was a lot of fun, but I will emphasize when I  
24 get a chance in the Arctic all the different things that  
25 the Refuges do with youth, we're kind of quiet on that.  
26 And I hope Tetlin shared some on that, I'm sure they did.  
27  
28 So if you look at page 164 we're talking  
29 about the Porcupine caribou herd. And many of you know  
30 this, but you have a large region so it's good to note  
31 that the Porcupine caribou herd is a cooperative effort  
32 including two Federal governments, three State or  
33 Territorial governments, eight Native land claims  
34 agreements, five National Parks, Preserves or Refuges,  
35 one Territorial park, two special management areas and  
36 local residents from several communities in Alaska and  
37 Canada. And that herd is obviously very important to the  
38 communities in your area and in particular Fort Yukon.  
39  
40 For those that don't understand or don't  
41 know, it's coordinated through the International  
42 Porcupine Caribou Herd Board which consists of  
43 representatives of all that I just said above. And the  
44 Board meets generally twice a year. And most recently it  
45 was held in Yellow Knife in November. So biologists from  
46 the different agencies also worked together with the  
47 Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee which reports to  
48 the International Board. So you get an idea it's a  
49 process. I won't go through all the examples of work  
50 that's being done, but you can see there for example the

1 third bullet, radio tracking and cost of satellite data  
2 processing, mainly U.S. Fish and Wildlife assistance  
3 with, I believe that acronym is Yukon Territorial  
4 Governments and others. So again there's a lot of  
5 projects monitoring that herd.

6  
7 The positive thing is on the bottom page  
8 there, especially for those that are interested in  
9 caribou especially across the northern part of the State,  
10 that after declining slowly during the 1990s and early  
11 2000s the Porcupine caribou herd has been increasing for  
12 several years. The 2010 census had the herd sized at  
13 169,000 and the 2013 census had it at 197,000 which is  
14 the highest population ever recorded for this herd. So  
15 that herd is doing well. I won't speak about the other  
16 herds on the northern coast, but they're not doing as  
17 well. So this is one that is doing well.

18  
19 And I'll go during the winter of 2015/16  
20 there were -- caribou were concentrated in three main  
21 areas and this is important to your communities, the  
22 southern Brooks Range of Alaska, mostly west of Arctic  
23 Village, and I don't know if Edward Salmon is still  
24 online, but he may want to comment, extending north and  
25 west of Chandalar Lake and then Ogilve River basin in  
26 Yukon Territory and then the Richardson Mountains along  
27 the border of Yukon and Northwest Territories.

28  
29 I think you guys -- I've watched -- some  
30 of you guys were looking at that map on the next page,  
31 page 166, and that's just showing the caribou migration  
32 patterns and the importance of the calving areas. So if  
33 you have questions on that I'll take them back or maybe  
34 I can answer them, but it gives you an idea that we have  
35 a hard time with caribou, they don't recognize government  
36 agencies so if you guys can give any tips on that it  
37 would be helpful. That's what I use with the youth. I  
38 said to the youth we have fish meetings, the fish never  
39 show up, we have moose meetings, the moose never show up.  
40 But I think they got the drift, it's in our court to work  
41 on those resources. But anyway they had a good chuckle  
42 out of it.

43  
44 But anyway the long term changes in  
45 caribou distributions and abundance in Alaska Arctic, the  
46 Refuge, Arctic Refuge Staff have been providing  
47 assistance, it's kind of a neat project and hopefully if  
48 you're interested maybe it can be presented. I shouldn't  
49 speak for the University of Cincinnati, but it is an  
50 interesting project where they're collecting relative

1 abundance of Arctic caribou during the past 100 -- 800  
2 years plus. And this is looking at bones and aging them.  
3 And there's some interesting things coming out of that  
4 and the way he's aging them, and that's Dr. Miller, is  
5 develop protocols for determining ages of these samples  
6 based on predictable patterns of weathering, accumulation  
7 of lichens, mosses and other materials calibrated to ages  
8 estimated by radiocarbon dating. Maybe this is a call  
9 for TEK, traditional ecological knowledge in there and  
10 I'm sure that'll come up at some point.

11  
12 On the moose, I won't spend a lot of time  
13 on the moose, but you may have seen me in the back of the  
14 room working on something. The North Slope Regional  
15 Advisory Council requested a special report so I was  
16 scrambling back there to piece it together because  
17 they're meeting next week on Halloween.

18  
19 Anyway the Refuge Staff conducted a moose  
20 survey within the North Slope drainages of game  
21 management unit 26C. You don't have a positive C&T  
22 determination for that area, but the main point is that  
23 is a very low dense moose population, but subsistence  
24 users in Kaktovik would like to harvest that. And that's  
25 the issue that the Regional Advisory Council will be  
26 discussing in Barrow next week.

27  
28 I'll let you guys read about muskoxen, I  
29 believe some drifted down this way years ago, but I think  
30 you guys discovered them.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MR. MATTHEWS: I've got to watch what I  
35 say here, but anyway you guys do talk a lot about sheep  
36 so I hope I do a good job on this because sheep is a  
37 statewide issue, it's on page 168.

38  
39 The traditional ground base estimates of  
40 dall sheep sex and age compositions were not conducted in  
41 2016. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service  
42 biologists are collaborating on a trial of an aerial  
43 transect survey covering approximately 4,000 square miles  
44 in the center of the Refuge. What I took away from that  
45 is pretty much the last sentence there that this data  
46 will be used to estimate the total sheep abundance in an  
47 area, results will be available later this fall. Now  
48 this was put together in August, I don't know exactly  
49 where that data is, but hopefully it will be coming out  
50 in the near future. Overall sheep abundance seems to be



1 low compared to numbers seen in the past, with similar  
2 levels observed during the last few years. You spent a  
3 lot of time on dall sheep I won't have to remind you  
4 about Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.

5

6           Due to time and your energy level I'll  
7 leave it up to you to review the Pacific common Eider on  
8 the Bering Sear Barrier Islands unless you want me to  
9 cover some high points, but it is before you. Arctic  
10 Refuge does cover up in that area and common eiders is a  
11 species of concern.

12

13           Okay. If we turn to, if I can find it  
14 quick enough, page 170. I believe it was you or North  
15 Slope that asked for this and this is direct response to  
16 you. I'm pretty sure it was you guys, that the Refuge is  
17 required to regulate businesses that bring clients on the  
18 Refuge and that guides during their stays. You know, I  
19 didn't get that right, but basically that they need to  
20 require that permits be issued to businesses on the  
21 Refuge. So on 2016 the Refuge issued 19 permits for air  
22 operator businesses, 23 permits for recreational guide  
23 businesses, 19 polar bear viewing guide and/or boat  
24 operator businesses, this would be up on Barrier Island,  
25 and then 11 hunting guide businesses. And then of course  
26 obvious by the data there, interest in commercial polar  
27 bear viewing continues to increase and that -- and the  
28 Refuge Staff is evaluating options for future management  
29 of that activity. Obviously polar bears and people need  
30 to have a distance between them.

31

32           Law enforcement is just a general  
33 statement, efforts will include sheep and moose patrols.  
34 It's not in here and I apologize, maybe somebody else in  
35 the other room knows, but there has been a recent hire of  
36 law enforcement.

37

38           Education outreach. I heard Steve talk  
39 about the open house. Arctic Refuge had different Tribal  
40 Village meetings with Arctic Village and Venetie on a  
41 regular basis and provide educational activities.

42

43           When you go to page 171 while you see you  
44 should know this gentleman in the picture there, that's  
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, he comes out  
46 regularly to teach the youth how to draw. He's the  
47 manager of Creamer's Field Refuge. And I'm forgetting  
48 his name, but I'll -- it'll come to me later. But  
49 basically it is a cooperative effort with Fish and Game  
50 and the youth really learn how to identify birds because

1 they learn how to draw them.

2

3                   Refuge Staff continue working with Arctic  
4 Borderlands to collect traditional knowledge from local  
5 residents, going on for 15 years now. And so the RIT,  
6 Refuge information technician, in Arctic Village, Mildred  
7 Allen, has conducted 20 surveys and that's to capture the  
8 traditional knowledge of those residents.

9

10                   Let's see, the rest you can see there.  
11 The -- you can just see the picture of the youth that are  
12 involved and we -- there is a YCC camp with Arctic Refuge  
13 that's been going on quite a few years and that is a  
14 really good program to bring youth in. I started my  
15 career being a grant writer for YCC and I can prove to  
16 you for every dollar spent you got at least 95 cents to  
17 \$1.05 back with YCC, but it's a very good program to get  
18 youth in and I think there's some gentlemen in the room  
19 that started with the YCC program and they're here today  
20 so there's another example.

21

22                   And with that the last picture on page  
23 173 that if you ever get up to Arctic Village that is  
24 what I call -- no, they do call it that, the Arctic  
25 Village Visitor's Center. Right there at the airport, a  
26 great display area because there's a lot of people that  
27 use that runway as they are traveling through the area.

28

29                   So with that I'll see if there's any  
30 questions. And -- oh, I should end like I always do, if  
31 there's anything on any of these reports for Yukon Flats  
32 or Arctic since I'm associated with it that you'd like  
33 differently or more of or less of or whatever, please let  
34 us know. There is a lot of effort put into these and  
35 I'll be honest with you, the schedule to put these  
36 together does not match our field Staff, but they make an  
37 extra effort to get this done.

38

39                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone?  
40 Andrew.

41

42                   MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, thank you, Vince. I  
43 had one and I guess you kind of answered my one question  
44 was on the boat operators, those are all on the coast for  
45 the commercial permits?

46

47                   MR. MATTHEWS: That was my understanding  
48 there. They -- I go to three Staff meetings and they're  
49 -- they were working on making sure that the boat  
50 operators with the polar bear that there's a certain

1 distance because right now it's 30 yards they have to be  
2 away from a polar bear. And so they -- right now that  
3 seems to be working well. So my guess is it is those  
4 boat operators.

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. That's because it's  
7 got it listed right there like that, it kind of made me  
8 wonder about that.

9

10 I was curious -- I know Steve said he had  
11 to run out of the room, and that was the agent calling,  
12 said I got eight names, I don't know who any of them are  
13 so they must be up there. He was calling about the  
14 plane. But anyways I was wondering, it would be  
15 interesting to see more information on the trail camera  
16 monitoring, like in what -- I don't need to know where  
17 they're at, but what areas they're in and, you know, how  
18 often -- what do you guys see, you guys get numbers off  
19 of them I'm sure. I don't have problems crawling through  
20 thousands of pictures.

21

22 MR. MATTHEWS: Through the Chair.  
23 Andrew, I can request that. Remember you're meeting in  
24 Fairbanks so the Staff that are doing this would -- could  
25 be available without speaking for them. So we could have  
26 a small presentation I assume on this trail camera  
27 monitoring beyond just the pictures, how it's going to  
28 help with other data collection. Because I'm excited  
29 about it too because we -- it's difficult with some of  
30 the species to understand their abundance or what's going  
31 on.

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I'd just be curious to  
34 look at them and know which areas you're seeing stuff in  
35 or just curiosity, you know.

36

37 And the other question I had was could  
38 you put me on your mailing list or something for that  
39 International Porcupine Caribou Herd, I -- their website  
40 is kind of odd and dated and I don't know and they -- I  
41 always hear about their meetings months afterwards or  
42 they're at like September 2nd they had one, I think our  
43 regional representation is from Venetie. And he's  
44 actually a good guy, but I never talk to him, maybe once  
45 in a while, and when I do I'm not hitting him up about  
46 caribou, but it would be great to have more involvement  
47 or at least attendance than one person from the region in  
48 the Porcupine Caribou Board, I mean, I'd like to go or at  
49 least find somebody to go that would.....

50

1 MR. MATTHEWS: Yeah, I'll pass it on, but  
2 I think you're aware that not too long ago the United  
3 States was -- didn't make appointments to that Porcupine  
4 Caribou Herd Board and that's why they did not meet.  
5 Those appointments I think are a few years old now. But  
6 you're correct, I'll look into that. I'm not sure I'm  
7 even on their list, I was for a while, but I will check  
8 on that.

9

10 And, Madam Chair, would you like also to  
11 be on that list or just work through Andrew on getting  
12 updates on when this Board's meeting and what they're  
13 doing for Porcupine.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Through Andrew.

16

17 MR. MATTHEWS: Okay. Through Andrew.

18 Okay.

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, because I do it more  
21 for just, you know, well from being from Fort Yukon and  
22 having opportunity sometimes to harvest from that herd,  
23 but it's -- I just feel like November, 2015 was in Yellow  
24 Knife which kind of tells me that probably next month  
25 they're probably going to have a meeting here in the U.S.  
26 somewhere, Fairbanks or I don't know. Maybe, but that  
27 might be wishful thinking too.

28

29 MR. MATTHEWS: I'll check on that. They  
30 did meet a while ago in Fairbanks because I was.....

31

32 MR. FIRMIN: I think it was a couple  
33 years back in Fairbanks in September.

34

35 MR. MATTHEWS: It was and -- yes, but  
36 anyways we'll work on that. And then the -- what's his  
37 name, Haskett was the -- regional director Haskett was on  
38 there and now I assume that Greg Siekaniec will be on  
39 there -- on that group. But anyways I'll check into that  
40 and get back to you. And hopefully there is a mailing  
41 list that you can get on. And I will say for your  
42 representation on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory  
43 Council so they understand the importance of connecting.

44

45 Okay. Thank you. And again I'll be  
46 here, if you have any questions I'll.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One more.

49 Virgil.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm not going to let you  
2 off yet, Vince.  
3  
4 (Laughter)  
5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I just have a  
7 simple question. You know, we heard lots about Red Sheep  
8 Creek sheep hunt and all that stuff and then Hollis  
9 Twitchell was here a few years -- I'm not sure when.....  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, two  
12 years.  
13  
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....but anyway there  
15 were all these people that were just out enjoying hiking  
16 and taking pictures of the sheep, chasing the sheep up  
17 the mountains and so I'm wondering how many of these 23  
18 permits to recreational guide businesses, I guess that  
19 means people that are guiding people out there, doing  
20 just hiking in the mountains and taking pictures of  
21 stuff, trips. I assume that's what that is, correct?  
22  
23 MR. MATTHEWS: Well, hopefully somebody  
24 in the room will agree with me on it, that's my  
25 understanding, but I don't know if it's just for that  
26 area, it's for the whole Refuge, there's probably  
27 different areas. My guess is that's also float guides  
28 and rafts.....  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know  
31 lots of rafters that go up there.  
32  
33 MR. MATTHEWS: I mean, I can -- yeah,  
34 they do, it's a very popular -- it's a well known area  
35 for that.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the 23  
38 permits include the raft trips, right?  
39  
40 MR. MATTHEWS: Correct.  
41  
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm sure they do and I  
43 know that being as I have a Refuge -- not this Refuge,  
44 but Refuge hunting/guiding permits, you have to have a  
45 plan of operations and all this stuff, but it would be  
46 nice to know when issues like the Red Sheep Creek thing  
47 come up and et cetera, if we knew how many of those type  
48 people were out there hiking around and scaring the sheep  
49 off, those type things, it's just a -- kind of an  
50 observation and suggestion. I don't know if you have a

1 response or not, but I assume that they probably -- you  
2 know, the operation plans and everything, they have all  
3 that data so I do actually have a real question and that  
4 is do they compile any of that kind of stuff so there's  
5 kind of a synopsis of it of how many of these guide  
6 operations are doing raft trips or just plain old hiking  
7 and photography trips and in what drainages or, you know,  
8 on the order of that because that -- you know, some  
9 people may think that that doesn't leave a footprint in  
10 the wilderness, it does leave a footprint in the  
11 wilderness.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. MATTHEWS: Yeah, I'll check into it.  
16 I really don't know, but I'll turn it over to our permit  
17 person to see if they can give you a summary of the  
18 breakdown of these permits and I don't know how much they  
19 can provide after that, I don't think it's a big deal.  
20 But I will -- and you'll be in Fairbanks again so  
21 there'll be an advantage there again because the permit  
22 person is there that oversees this. And I assume the  
23 Refuge manager might be present.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. One initial thing  
26 and I do know this happened a few years back, but there  
27 was some floaters that the grizzly bear killed the couple  
28 in the tent so I'm wondering -- and I'm sure that was in  
29 the Arctic Refuge, I think it was. But anyway just  
30 interesting info out there, how many -- if they -- on  
31 these recreational permits how many bad accidents or  
32 encounters like that they may have or if you got any info  
33 on that kind of stuff.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because  
36 there was two people that drowned, wasn't that in the  
37 Arctic?

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, Vince is the guy  
40 that does all this miscellaneous stuff for the Refuges.  
41 He's the keeper of all the nice to know catch all  
42 information, right, Vince?

43

44 MR. MATTHEWS: I'm the rusty Leatherman  
45 at the bottom of the boat.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. MATTHEWS: And I'm proud of that at  
50 times, but, yeah, I mean, what I'm getting at is I'm the

1 porthole, Virgil knows this, that he'll come up and call  
2 me on different questions. And, yeah, I'll research the  
3 background, that's part of my duties, I've done it for  
4 years and I consider public service, but as far as  
5 knowing it in detail, all of this stuff, no. But that's  
6 why you have the summary and that's the tickle and that's  
7 where we go. If you didn't have the summary -- I mean,  
8 this is what you guys requested in the past. I can  
9 remember Sue saying we don't know what you do and what do  
10 you do in the Refuge for subsistence, we have no idea and  
11 then you come here and request us to give you direction  
12 on something. So this is -- this is a reply to that  
13 request many years ago. And I put in the plug for the  
14 people that put it together because it's not easy to do  
15 this because they're busy. But they -- they're doing it  
16 so that's what we have to applaud.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Now I will say, Vince, I  
19 compliment them on their report that they gave out, both  
20 the Arctic and the Yukon Flats reports.

21

22 MR. MATTHEWS: You did thank Tetlin too  
23 because I got to walk back there.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're in  
26 good shape. We already thanked them.

27

28 MR. MATTHEWS: It is great with Tetlin  
29 being here, I really -- you know, that was.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They did.....

32

33 MR. MATTHEWS: .....those are two very  
34 upcoming people that you need to support. I know.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

37

38 MR. MATTHEWS: .....Nate and I went  
39 through academy together and that's a young man that we  
40 need to keep onboard. Not that he's leaving.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He likes to  
43 trap too.

44

45 MR. MATTHEWS: Yep.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to tell  
48 you guys, ever since we've been to Arctic, Edward Salmon  
49 calls me about once a year to give me a report on the Red  
50 Sheep and Cane Creek because he actually goes up there

1 and goes hunting. Yeah, and he calls me Madam Chair.  
2 And if the phone rings and I hear Madam Chair I know it's  
3 Edward.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's kind of  
8 fun to hear him on line, yeah.

9

10 Okay. Next on the agenda -- I don't  
11 know, are you still out there Edward, it's too fun, is  
12 the Wrangell-St. Elias.

13

14 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
15 For the record my name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the  
16 subsistence coordinator and cultural anthropologist for  
17 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. And I'm  
18 going to actually start with a quick update on a  
19 Statewide Park Service proposed regulation that you had  
20 before you at the all RAC meeting and just to give you a  
21 little update.

22

23 So in January the Park Service published  
24 a draft regulation in the Federal Register. The  
25 subsistence collection provisions of the draft rule were  
26 published in response to requests from Subsistence  
27 Resource Commissions and Regional Advisory Councils and  
28 in particular I remember there was a specific request  
29 from this Council to allow the collection and use of non-  
30 edible fish and wildlife parts. And a lot of time -- for  
31 a long time we referred to this as horns and antlers, but  
32 they also include claws and teeth and also plant  
33 materials for making handicrafts that could be used,  
34 bartered or sold. The draft rule also proposed  
35 clarifying that possessing -- collecting or possessing  
36 living wildlife is generally prohibited and limiting the  
37 types of bait that could be used to take bears for  
38 subsistence uses. Approximately 30 comments were  
39 received on the draft rule during the 90 day public  
40 comment period that closed in April. And work on  
41 drafting the final rule is underway.

42

43 It's often the case with regulatory  
44 proposals that changes are made to a final rule based on  
45 comments received. It's unlikely that the final rule  
46 will be published before the end of 2016, but we  
47 anticipate that it will be published and the regulations  
48 would be in affect sometime next spring.

49

50 So that's the regulation package I think



1 this Council wrote a letter about at your last meeting.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, do we  
4 have a copy of that or are you just reading from.....

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm just -- I just wrote  
7 up some notes to share with you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. Did  
10 you say 30 comments?

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: Around about 30 public  
13 comments were received.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16

17 MS. CELLARIUS: And that includes the  
18 letter from the RAC, the letter from the SRC, there were  
19 some other RACs that commented.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that you  
22 might want to say -- did they comment on the -- that was  
23 the one that added the definition of bear bait?

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: Right. So there were  
26 three things that were covered in that proposed rule, one  
27 was the subsistence collections that we've been talking  
28 about for quite a long time and then there were two  
29 additional provisions added, the one that collecting or  
30 possessing living wildlife is generally prohibited and  
31 limiting the type of bait that may be used to take bears  
32 for subsistence uses.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And everybody  
35 commented on the bait also or did they stick to.....

36

37 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I stated there were  
38 about 30 public comments. That's the total number of  
39 comments received not without sort of doing a tally of --  
40 on who commented on what. Just over.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Some of them  
43 did not comment on the baiting definition?

44

45 MS. CELLARIUS: I would have to go  
46 back.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

49

50 MS. CELLARIUS: .....and look.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's okay.  
2 Just curious.

3  
4 MS. CELLARIUS: But just overall we got  
5 about a third -- about 30 comments. You know, there's  
6 some rules where you get thousands of comments, this one  
7 we only had about 30 comments.

8  
9 And then I will move on to the Wrangell-  
10 St. Elias report which I believe is in your notebooks.  
11 And I'm not going to go through the whole thing unless  
12 there's questions in the interest of time, but just  
13 quickly it starts with some information from our wildlife  
14 biologist on sheep, some counts in some survey units that  
15 are in unit 12. There's the data for 2016 is on page 1,  
16 there's actually on page 2 there's a map showing where  
17 the count areas are. And those -- that data is for  
18 survey units in unit 12. The park is also working on a  
19 distance sampling aerial surveys so instead of just doing  
20 straight counts it -- there's the statistical ability to  
21 do some statistical estimates. And there's -- so it's a  
22 new technique that we're looking into. This fall we're  
23 going to be doing a -- every three years we do a big  
24 moose survey so we'll be doing that this fall. We've  
25 been trying for a couple of years to do a wolf population  
26 survey in the range of the Chisana caribou herd, we  
27 weren't able to do it last year, that wasn't enough snow,  
28 but we're hoping to try again this March or April to do  
29 a wolf survey. And we do annually composition counts for  
30 the Chisana caribou herd and I haven't heard about what  
31 data -- what results are for the comp count for this  
32 year. But I do can tell you a little bit about the  
33 harvest which has been going on since 2012, we have a  
34 limited harvest of the Chisana caribou herd, there's a  
35 delegation of authority to the Park superintendent to  
36 manage that hunt.

37  
38 This year was the first year where there  
39 was no 804 so any -- when this hunt was initially  
40 established we limited the -- there was concern that  
41 there weren't enough caribou to go around for everybody  
42 who was eligible who has a positive customary and  
43 traditional use determination so the pop -- so there was  
44 a determination made on who was most dependent on the  
45 resource and the last Federal Board cycle lifted the  
46 restriction so now anyone who has C&T for caribou in unit  
47 12 is eligible to participate in that Federal hunt. Only  
48 -- there's only a Federal hunt in that area, there's not  
49 a State hunt. And so this year we issued eight permits  
50 and had one caribou taken. I've actually heard back from

1 a few more people, when it says four people hunted I only  
2 had gotten -- heard back from four of the eight  
3 permittees. I've now heard back from a couple more of the  
4 permittees. So that number of people who hunted is  
5 actually higher than four.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Six?

8

9 MS. CELLARIUS: Essentially everybody  
10 I've heard from has hunted.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13

14 MS. CELLARIUS: I think I've got one or  
15 two outstanding permits, but.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But still one  
18 was taken?

19

20 MS. CELLARIUS: But one was taken, there  
21 was a quota of seven and one was taken.

22

23 The -- I've been working with Fish and  
24 Game, this is actually a question for you. I've been  
25 working with Fish and Game for the last -- for a while  
26 actually, I think 2010 was our first one, on doing  
27 community based subsistence studies. I work with Fish  
28 and Game, we hire local research assistance.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Subsistence  
31 Division, right?

32

33 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. Yeah. Fish and  
34 Game Subsistence Division. They hire local research  
35 assistance to help with the projects. And the most  
36 recent one we did in Northway -- it was in Northway,  
37 we're going to be finishing that up by the end of the  
38 calendar year and we could have -- since the meeting is  
39 in Fairbanks and the Subsistence Division folks working  
40 on the project are in Fairbanks, if you're interested we  
41 could have them come and do a quick presentation on some  
42 of the survey results as your next meeting if you would  
43 be interested in hearing that.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that's a  
46 question. Council members, we're -- okay. They want to  
47 hear the report.

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay.

50

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we'll give  
2 it to Caroline Brown. Yeah, Caroline, is.....  
3  
4                   MS. CELLARIUS: Caroline Brown and Anna  
5 Cadune is the woman who is actually kind of leading the  
6 field crew and Caroline is the.....  
7  
8                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
9  
10                  MS. CELLARIUS: .....supervisor. So I'll  
11 let them know. And I was telling Will a little bit about  
12 this project. I'm work -- another project I'm working on  
13 with the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, it's an  
14 ethnographic report looking at different groups of people  
15 who used the Park before, sort of pre-Park, have  
16 traditionally used resources within the Park, hunting  
17 guides, trappers, miners, homesteaders and so that's an  
18 ethnographic report that will be -- it'll be finished up  
19 at the end of next year, but it's been pretty  
20 interesting, we've actually done several new interviews  
21 for that project.  
22  
23                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara.  
24  
25                  MS. CELLARIUS: Yep.  
26  
27                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry for  
28 interrupting, but how do you plan to use that?  
29  
30                  MS. CELLARIUS: So the Park Service in  
31 our cultural anthropology program we have baseline  
32 documents, they sort of look at what information is there  
33 out there that's already been written about ties of  
34 various groups to the Park. And so it -- the purpose of  
35 the report is kind of to pull together the information to  
36 identify the.....  
37  
38                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Historical  
39 patterns of use?  
40  
41                  MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, uses of resources  
42 in the Park. The Park is important to sort of these  
43 groups of people. And then it also identifies potentials  
44 for future research. We did in -- I had some researchers  
45 several years ago, it was published in 2007, an upper  
46 Tanana ethnographic overview and assessment that focused  
47 on the non-Native or the Native communities along the --  
48 with ties to the northern part of the Park. I recently  
49 finished up one from the Akutak Tlingit, but we were  
50 missing a component of traditional ties to the Park which

1 was these.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But when you  
4 said pre-Park, I guess a concern would be like somebody  
5 like Will, you know, he's continuing a tradition that was  
6 happening pre-Park and now it's -- it's only a concern  
7 not to see the Park use it as a way to get rid of people.

8

9 MS. CELLARIUS: No, no. We -- there's a  
10 concept that we have called traditionally associated  
11 peoples that goes -- groups of people who have like two  
12 generations of association with the Park. There's a  
13 very, very strong tie between hunting guides and the  
14 Park.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

17

18 MS. CELLARIUS: Whether or not -- and  
19 it's not about an individual, it's about the kind of uses  
20 of the Park that were occurring and trying to document  
21 them. So it's not specific individuals.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: .....it's more of kind of  
26 a -- the different kinds of user groups.

27

28 There's a table with results from our --  
29 we issue a lot of Federal registration permits for both  
30 hunting and fishing, that information is in here. The  
31 harvest data for this year are very preliminary because  
32 they were from a couple weeks ago and we're still  
33 receiving reports. We have three projects that are  
34 funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, two  
35 weirs in the southcentral region and then there's a  
36 burbot project that is happening in the upper Tanana  
37 drainage and this was the first year for the project so  
38 there's just a little paragraph about that here.

39

40 And then I did want to talk to you just  
41 a little bit more about our Backcountry and Wilderness  
42 Stewardship Plan. This is something that the Park has  
43 been working on for a year or so and we're -- actually  
44 maybe two years and we're working our way up to a --  
45 issuing a draft plan probably sometime next spring. The  
46 plan covers all 9.4 million acres of the Park and  
47 Preserve that are designated wilderness along with just  
48 under 2 million acres of land that is backcountry. And  
49 when we talk about backcountry what we mean is remote  
50 areas of the Park that are outside of the developed

1 country zones that are most often accessed by aircraft or  
2 if you're using surface transportation it's going to take  
3 you some time to get there. So the very final page of  
4 the handout is a map that shows the thick green line and  
5 it gets kind of fuzzy when it's crossing Native  
6 corporation land, but that thick green line is all the  
7 land inside this line is the lands that are covered by  
8 this plan. There's only two -- a couple of areas where  
9 we have significant subsistence use where there's --  
10 where we're aware of a lot of subsistence use. This  
11 isn't to say there isn't to say there isn't subsistence  
12 use going on in other places, but most of the subsistence  
13 use in the plan area is kind of the upper Kotsina which  
14 is off the McCarthy Road and then in the Black Mountain  
15 area which is off of the Nabesna Road.

16  
17                   And so they did a lot of public scoping,  
18 they put a proposed action out for public review in May  
19 and got a lot of comments and there -- we had a working  
20 group of our Subsistence Resource Commission that got  
21 together with the planning team and asked a lot of good  
22 questions about how things would impact subsistence. So  
23 as a result of that conversation they've clarified some  
24 things. So when we look at subsistence, there's stuff in  
25 the plan about airstrips, but really what's in the plan  
26 about airstrips is is the Park Service going to maintain  
27 an airstrip because the -- it's not that we're not going  
28 to -- we're going to prevent people from using an  
29 airstrip, it's more about what airstrips the Park Service  
30 is going to maintain.

31  
32                   Subsistence cabins, we really aren't  
33 changing how we manage subsistence cabins. The same  
34 thing for subsistence off road vehicle use. The  
35 management of off road vehicle use in the Black Mountain  
36 area was covered under our Nabesna Road Off Road Vehicle  
37 Plan and that has designated trails with corridors for  
38 game retrieval. And that's only in designated  
39 wilderness. So for other areas of wilderness which is  
40 basically the upper Kotsina and the Beaver Lake area  
41 we're going to monitor ORV trails and if there -- if  
42 we're seeing a growth of trail networks in wilderness we  
43 would consider trails in those areas.

44  
45                   No change for how we manage subsistence  
46 snowmachine use. No change to how we manage subsistence  
47 firewood harvest. Generally the management actions that  
48 we would take to address issues like campsite impacts  
49 would be phased in with monitoring and the monitor -- any  
50 actions would first be targeted at our commercial users,

1 our recreational visitors, subsistence users would be the  
2 last group that would be affected by the management  
3 actions.

4

5           So the Staff are now taking the comments  
6 that they received on the proposed action and revising it  
7 in developing this draft environmental assessment which  
8 we hope will come out this spring. So the other question  
9 that I had for you was whether you were interested in  
10 having a more formal briefing on that, where we are with  
11 that in the spring, if we're -- I'm not -- I'm a little  
12 fuzzy on exactly where we are, but if it looks like our  
13 EA is going to be out shortly after your meeting if you  
14 would like a more formal briefing on that.

15

16           And that concludes my report.

17

18           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions?

19

20           MR. KOEHLER: Madam Chair.

21

22           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

23

24           MR. KOEHLER: I think we've probably --  
25 I would say that it affects you and me directly enough  
26 that a formal report would be nice.

27

28           Thank you, Barbara.

29

30           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And I  
31 know a lot of times when she comes up she's one of the  
32 ones at the end and we're all tired, but, you know, and  
33 being on the Subsistence Resource Commission we cover  
34 this pretty extensively and I hope our comments mean a  
35 lot. And sometimes, you know, since it's just, you know,  
36 in unit 12 and you guys are -- concentrate on your area,  
37 it makes it hard, but the big thing I think that -- you  
38 know, a lot of times when these things come out this is  
39 a plan by the Park Service and how it affects other Parks  
40 is what affects the rest of this Council. And one of the  
41 concerns that came out about this plan by -- and we have  
42 to often say Barbara's the messenger and we are the  
43 people that have pretty strong views sometimes and we're  
44 not out to hang the messenger, but the Council -- our SRC  
45 was very concerned about how this is backcountry and how  
46 it affects us in the future. And each Park would be  
47 doing their different one and this is the one the  
48 Wrangells are doing. So they pulled in some backcountry  
49 that wasn't wilderness and that concerned the SRC.

50

1                   So, I mean, I'm just telling you that  
2 because it's something to watch out for if they're doing  
3 something in the Yukon-Charley or other Parks in your  
4 area. And a lot of times it's just a wait and see thing.  
5 So -- and they've been scoping so a lot of us have been  
6 talked to personally and visited at the home personally  
7 on it. So but we're very concerned about -- that things  
8 don't go awry and things get closed down. So.....

9

10                   MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

11

12                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

13 Question?

14

15                   MR. WOODRUFF: I just have a comment. So  
16 what we're talking about, this backcountry access and  
17 also airstrip maintenance, is all about access to public  
18 lands. And I know that the upper Charley River has a  
19 airstrip that Park Service said well, we're not going to  
20 maintain this anymore. Well, that shuts down access to  
21 the whole Charley River float -- raft float project and  
22 a lot of people -- that's a world class float and it's a  
23 shame that that happens in other places.

24

25                   That's it.

26

27                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Wasn't  
28 there one that got destroyed that they're not going to  
29 fix in the Wrangells too or am I remembering that one?  
30 Seemed like there was another one.

31

32                   MS. CELLARIUS: Well, and that happens  
33 sometimes, we have airstrips that are washed out. I  
34 don't.....

35

36                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

37

38                   MS. CELLARIUS: .....remember a specific  
39 example. And again this is which airstrip is the Park  
40 Service specifically going to maintain, that doesn't  
41 prevent a pilot from maintaining an airstrip or someone  
42 else from maintaining an airstrip. It's what we will  
43 maintain, that's the way I -- it's been described to me.

44

45                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
46 right. Anything else?

47

48                   MR. FIRMIN: I just.....

49

50                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.



1 MR. FIRMIN: .....kind of -- I guess I've  
2 been looking at the -- not looking at the big picture,  
3 but the burbot study of the Yukon drainage I just don't  
4 think of the Tanana as a part of the Yukon drainage  
5 sometimes, you've got to look at the.....

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

8  
9 MR. FIRMIN: .....big picture. It just  
10 kind of caught my eye there. But I was -- they don't --  
11 that seems kind of weird though if it's any four lakes in  
12 the Yukon they could be going anywhere in the State then  
13 just about.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

16  
17 MR. FIRMIN: Kind of curious as to what  
18 the other lakes are they're going to go look at.

19  
20 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, can I.....

21  
22 MR. FIRMIN: Well, it was just -- it was  
23 just more of a comment than.....

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Right.  
26 Right.

27  
28 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, caught my eye.

29  
30 MS. CELLARIUS: I believe we're doing the  
31 projects for lakes in Wrangell-St. Elias.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. You're  
34 right, it has no fact.

35  
36 I just got called for a break and if that  
37 -- you need more talk on that just bring it back up.

38  
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: I've got an announcement  
40 to make though.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

43  
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Hey, I brought smoked  
45 salmon for everyone and we keep going without taking a  
46 break for over two hours. I just stuck some smoked  
47 salmon over there I smoked on Saturday.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's eat.

50

1                   MR. UMPHENOUR: It's that dark looking  
2 stuff, it's teriyaki summer chum chunks.  
3  
4                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have an  
5 announcement to make.  
6  
7                   MR. UMPHENOUR: There's a little sausage  
8 over there too.  
9  
10                  MS. CELLARIUS: Madam Chair, can I just  
11 say.....  
12  
13                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So go eat it.  
14  
15                  MS. CELLARIUS: .....I just want to let  
16 you know that Amy Kramer from Denali National Park and  
17 Preserve has provided a written report and so she's not  
18 here, but I just wanted to make sure you know that you've  
19 got a report.  
20  
21                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's take a  
22 short break.  
23  
24                  (Off record)  
25  
26                  (On record)  
27  
28                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling the  
29 meeting back to order. There's a Yukon-Charley report in  
30 your book. Is that correct? No, she's online. Do we  
31 have a report in there, doesn't say the number?  
32  
33                  Marcy, are you still online?  
34  
35                  MS. OKADA: Yes, this is Marcy and I'm  
36 still online.  
37  
38                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It is  
39 your turn. Go ahead.  
40  
41                  MS. OKADA: For the record my name's  
42 Marcy Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator for Yukon-  
43 Charley Rivers National Preserve. And there's an update  
44 in your meeting materials booklet. So I'll just quickly  
45 go over the update.  
46  
47                  Two population surveys, two population  
48 wildlife surveys were conducted. For moose the  
49 population survey was conducted in November, 2015. The  
50 moose density was .37 moose per square mile which is the

1 highest ever reported. Age/sex ratios were 27 calves per  
2 100 cows, four yearling bulls per 100 cows and 64 bulls  
3 per 100 cows. Habitat enhancement from -- by wildfires  
4 in 1999 and 2004 and the 2009 spring breakup and ice  
5 scouring event are thought to have helped boost the  
6 population.

7

8                   And I believe a report was provided just  
9 explaining more about this population survey.

10

11                   Moving on to dall sheep. A population  
12 survey was conducted in July of 2015. There was a 48  
13 percent decline in the number of sheep in the core area  
14 of the preserve from the last estimate in 2009. It was  
15 by far the lowest count in the Preserve. And the  
16 proportion of rams remains low. And a report is also  
17 available for your review.

18

19                   And lastly there were four fires this  
20 past summer in Yukon-Charley Preserve. On June 26 the  
21 Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve had its first  
22 lightning ignited fire named the Kandik River fire in a  
23 limited fire management zone. The fire was located north  
24 of the Yukon River near the Kandik River. It burned  
25 about 771 acres in predominantly black spruce fuel type  
26 and no structures were threatened. On June 27th a second  
27 lightning ignited fire started near Chester Bluff north  
28 of the Yukon River. This fire was located in a limited  
29 fire management zone and named aptly the Chester fire.  
30 It burned 18 acres predominantly of white spruce fuel  
31 type. On July 14th a third lightning ignited fire named  
32 the Marie Creek fire was detected. The fire was located  
33 east of Marie Creek in a limited fire management zone and  
34 burned approximately 504 acres mostly in black spruce  
35 forest. And lastly on July 15th the Copper Creek fire  
36 started from lightning. It was in a limited fire  
37 management zone and before being declared out on July  
38 26th it burned approximately 376 acres of tundra fuel  
39 type.

40

41                   And I've included names of people that  
42 you could contact if you have any questions about this  
43 update.

44

45                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Marcy,  
46 we have a report from the Yukon-Charley in our book here  
47 that is just about moose, I guess. Did you say there's  
48 one about sheep?

49

50                   MS. OKADA: The report should be

1 available, one on moose and one on dall sheep.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see, it's  
4 separate. I'm sorry.  
5  
6 Council members, any questions?  
7  
8 MR. GLANZ: Marcy, I have a question.  
9 What's the 40 percent decline in sheep population, what  
10 are they attributing that to? This is Bill Glanz.  
11  
12 MS. OKADA: Off the top of my head I  
13 don't have the answer to that question. I'm not sure if  
14 Matt Forum is there in the public, he's our wildlife  
15 biologist for Yukon-Charley Rivers Preserve.  
16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, he had to  
18 leave for a 3:00 o'clock flight.  
19  
20 MS. OKADA: Oh, okay. I can get back to  
21 you, Bill, with the answer to that question.  
22  
23 MR. GLANZ: Okay, Marcy, thank you.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like to get  
26 that also.  
27  
28 MS. OKADA: Okay.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's Sue. Do  
31 you want it to? And Don would like it also. Anyone  
32 else? Or -- yeah, just send it to Katya and she can just  
33 send it all out to all of us.  
34  
35 MS. WESSELS: Yes, please do, Marcy, send  
36 it to me.  
37  
38 MS. OKADA: Okay.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
41 members, do you have any other questions?  
42  
43 Donald.  
44  
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Marcy, are you guys doing  
46 any bear surveys or bear population counts?  
47  
48 MS. OKADA: I'm not sure if there's one  
49 that's scheduled to be done this coming field season, but  
50 I can definitely let you know if that's up and coming.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else?  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Their heads are  
8 down and they're reading. All right. I don't hear any  
9 more questions.  
10  
11 Thank you, Marcy.  
12  
13 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe we'll see  
16 you in Fairbanks next meeting?  
17  
18 MS. OKADA: Yeah, I will be there.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
21 Thank you.  
22  
23 All right. Do we have any reports from  
24 BLM?  
25  
26 (No comments)  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or ADF&G?  
29  
30 (No comments)  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone online  
33 if you -- I'm missing you, just -- it's star six to get  
34 back on.  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or OSM, any  
39 reports, additional reports? Tom has one.  
40  
41 MR. KRON: Madam Chair, members of the  
42 Council. OSM's report is fairly short. My understanding  
43 is that this is in your supplemental material and there  
44 are copies on the back table as well, but basically it's  
45 an update on what's happened. Some Staff have moved on  
46 to other positions, other Staff have joined us and of the  
47 people that have joined us Katya is one of them. And  
48 I'll just real quickly go through. She's obviously our  
49 Regional Council coordinator for this meeting. She  
50 worked for the National Park Service as Beringia program

1 specialist for 16 years. So a lot of time there. Prior  
2 to 1999 she worked as an interpreter and historian  
3 through the Smithsonian Institute.

4

5           Also Jarred who presented the fisheries  
6 proposal. Jarred got his undergraduate degree in  
7 fisheries management. Since he's come to Alaska he's  
8 been working as a fisheries crew leader with the U.S.  
9 Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies. Right now  
10 he's in Alaska Pacific University in their Fisheries,  
11 Aquatic Science and Technology Lab and he's studying  
12 Eastern Bering Sea juvenile chinook salmon stock origin  
13 and the role of diet on growth and condition. This  
14 research will lead to a master's degree and improve his  
15 and our knowledge of juvenile chinook salmon and how they  
16 perform in the Bering Sea.

17

18           Also Frank, where's Frank? Frank's over  
19 here. And again so please take a minute to shake hands  
20 with him and talk to him before the meeting concludes.  
21 Frank was just hired, he's been with OSM for weeks -- a  
22 week now. Whoa, a week and a half. And he's got a fair  
23 amount of fisheries regulatory background in Innoko and  
24 some on the Yukon River and he's going to be working with  
25 FRMP, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program proposals.  
26 Previously he was employed by the Koyukuk/Nowitna and  
27 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. He's lived in Alaska  
28 for 20 years and has built a strong relationship with  
29 many of the users as well as a State agency staff. He's  
30 been with Fish and Wildlife Service for 14 years and  
31 brings strong fisheries experience to the program. He  
32 received his bachelor's degree and I understand he will  
33 complete his master's degree in May, 2017, right, Frank?

34

35           MR. HARRIS: Hopefully. Maybe December.

36

37           MR. KRON: So anyway again there's a  
38 handout with additional staff, but I wanted to touch on  
39 those that are here at this meeting for sure. That  
40 concludes my presentation.

41

42           Thank you, Madam Chair.

43

44           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
45 members, any questions?

46

47           (No comments)

48

49           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just a quick  
50 one, Tom. The -- of all the new hires besides Frank

1 here, was there any wildlife biologists or anything that  
2 are assigned to us that's not here?

3

4 MR. KRON: Yes, Madam Chair. We have a  
5 number of new wildlife staff as well. Let me see -- let  
6 me go through the list. Megan -- again Megan Klosterman,  
7 she's on the middle of page -- the second page so you can  
8 read about her. Joshua Ream is an anthropologist. Okay.  
9 So it looks like we've got one wildlife biologist in this  
10 list to add to the staff that are already there.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

13

14 MR. KRON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Future meeting  
17 dates. Actually before we take that up, do you guys have  
18 any more possible thoughts for the annual report, anyone?  
19 I have something.

20

21 I think the CFR, the way they notice  
22 CFRs, I don't know if we have any say in it, but, man, it  
23 seems like things can be going to the CFR and you hardly  
24 ever know about it and then there's major changes. And  
25 I -- that really bothers me because, I mean, even in my  
26 40 plus years of watching the government I've seen a lot  
27 of CFRs that it's hard for the public to really know  
28 about it. And that affects us and that's how final rules  
29 get done. So I think I'd like to have a comment on how  
30 CFRs affect us as a topic.

31

32 Is that okay?

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: Sounds good.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

37 Thank you.

38

39 Now the meeting date, this would be  
40 winter, '17, it's 184. Looks like we've already set it.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: And just approve it,  
43 confirm that date.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council  
46 members, are we happy with that? 184, on page 184. It  
47 is February 7th and 8. And topic will be taking up  
48 wildlife proposals or is this off.....

49

50 MS. WESSELS: That's.....

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we would be  
2 putting in wildlife proposals?  
3  
4                   MS. WESSELS: Yes, developing the  
5 wildlife proposals.  
6  
7                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Is  
8 that okay, everybody happy with that?  
9  
10                  MR. FIRMIN: That's fine.  
11  
12                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is  
13 that.....  
14  
15                  MR. UMPHENOUR: We'll be addressing Board  
16 of Game proposals?  
17  
18                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then we  
19 would be able to look at the Board of Game proposals.  
20  
21                  MR. FIRMIN: Okay. And my other question  
22 too.  
23  
24                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Go  
25 ahead.  
26  
27                  MR. FIRMIN: We mentioned.....  
28  
29                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Turn your mic  
30 on.  
31  
32                  MR. FIRMIN: .....I remember we mentioned  
33 it earlier, but I was -- that was -- cleared up that note  
34 in my binder here to go over when we would be able to go  
35 through that.  
36  
37                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what you  
38 guys ought to do is look at the book.....  
39  
40                  MR. FIRMIN: Read that book.  
41  
42                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....look at  
43 the book and let Katya know which ones you're interested  
44 in taking up so it's in our meeting material. Sometimes  
45 we take up a lot.  
46  
47                  Do we need a motion that we agree or is  
48 a nod of the head fine?  
49  
50                  MS. WESSELS: I think a nod of the head



1 is fine.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everyone

4 agrees?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's fine.

9 Okay. So let's move on to select the fall meeting date

10 and location. Again it's 185.

11 Do you have something to report to us?

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: Okay. This is Katya

18 Wessels and we're going to select the dates for the fall

19 of 2017 cycle. And right now the period that is open for

20 the meeting is between August 21st, 2017, open to

21 November 10th, 2017. So right now the weeks that -- the

22 dates that already have been taken is Kodiak-Aleutians

23 RAC meets September 19th, September 20th in Cold Bay. YK

24 Delta RAC meets October 11th and October 12th in Bethel.

25 Western Interior meets in Galena October 10th and 11th.

26 So that week is -- of October 8th is out completely.

27 Then AFN is October 19th, 20th and 21st in Anchorage.

28 Northwest Arctic meets in Shungnak October 25th, 26th.

29 Southeast Alaska RAC meets in Saxman October 31st,

30 November 1st, November 2nd. And Southcentral meets

31 November 6th, November 7th in Soldovia or Soldotna. So

32 you now can see what's available for you and please make

33 a proposal for which day you would like to meet and which

34 community.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: So the first week in October

37 is open then looks like, the whole week?

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Okay. That looks like a good

42 time to me. I don't see any problem.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: Are you proposing concrete

45 dates?

46

47 MS. PITKA: October 4th and 5th.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wednesday,

50 Thursday.

1 MS. PITKA: Yes.  
2  
3 MR. KOEHLER: I won't be able to make  
4 those dates, but that's -- if it works for everybody else  
5 I think probably that would probably still be a good time  
6 for Andy to come out.  
7  
8 MR. GLANZ: What October 16 and 17,  
9 somewhere in there, 17, 18.  
10  
11 MS. PITKA: Well, yeah, I usually have  
12 several meetings before AFN because of my other  
13 leadership roles.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, then  
16 there's the week of the 24th and 25th because there's  
17 only one RAC meeting that -- so we could do that also if  
18 we wanted to see Will be able to make it.  
19  
20 MR. KOEHLER: That I could make.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might want to  
23 be hunting on the 4th.  
24  
25 MR. GLANZ: Hauling wood.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, the old  
28 age hunt in Wrangell-St. Elias.  
29  
30 24th, 25th work?  
31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: What month?  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: October.  
35  
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's a bad time for  
37 Andrew to get here, isn't it, because the river's running  
38 high so he can get there.  
39  
40 MR. KOEHLER: He has better access now,  
41 doesn't he?  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I heard there's  
44 a.....  
45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's why he's not here,  
47 right?  
48  
49 MR. FIRMIN: I can't speak to that.  
50

1                   MR. GLANZ: I ain't got nothing in  
2 October, you guys pick it.  
3  
4                   MR. WOODRUFF: If we have a conflict  
5 maybe we can work on that next meeting.  
6  
7                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, let's  
8 pick two dates. This will be our first date, let's pick  
9 a second date and then we'll go from there.  
10  
11                  MR. UMPHENOUR: (Indiscernible - away  
12 from microphone).....  
13  
14                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're out in  
15 the woods then?  
16  
17                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, Will can't  
18 come.....  
19  
20                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will can't come  
21 that.....  
22  
23                  MR. UMPHENOUR: I really appreciate Will  
24 being here.  
25  
26                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I do too.  
27  
28                  MR. FIRMIN: What's going on real late in  
29 November for folks?  
30  
31                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That works for  
32 me.  
33  
34                  MR. FIRMIN: That's too late, 8 and 9?  
35  
36                  MR. KOEHLER: That'll work.  
37  
38                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what's -- do  
39 you want 24th and 25th as one date and then 8, 9 as the  
40 other or do you want to just go with one?  
41  
42                  MR. FIRMIN: 24 and 25 is fine with me,  
43 but if the 8th and 9th works for everybody that would  
44 make -- me and Andy would make it.  
45  
46                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
47  
48                  MS. PITKA: 8th and 9th work.  
49  
50                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 8th and 9th of

1 November. But you've done it before and you've made it.  
2 So.....  
3  
4 MR. JOHNSON: At least they're not  
5 overlapping.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....we'll put  
8 all of your stuff right (indiscernible - away from  
9 microphone).....  
10  
11 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't mind.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It would work,  
14 Barbara, you could still come.  
15  
16 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm going to be late.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's  
19 fine. I'm good with 8, 9.  
20  
21 MR. FIRMIN: Where are we.....  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Opposition?  
24  
25 MR. KOEHLER: 8, 9 sounds good.  
26  
27 MR. FIRMIN: Where are we having it at,  
28 Horsfeld?  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Horsfeld?  
31 Well, we can go there.  
32  
33 MS. PITKA: We're having the spring  
34 meeting in Fairbanks so maybe in one of our communities.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, which  
37 one?  
38  
39 MS. PITKA: (Indiscernible - away from  
40 microphone).....  
41  
42 MR. FIRMIN: We try to keep it to the  
43 road system for cost, but.....  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, didn't we  
46 do a little, you know, analysis that it's not much  
47 difference?  
48  
49 MS. WESSELS: Oh, yeah, I did an analysis  
50 for this place.

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it wasn't  
2 that much difference?  
3  
4                   MS. WESSELS: Well, it really wasn't that  
5 bad because the per diem was higher for Fairbanks  
6 actually than for Fort Yukon.  
7  
8                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.  
9  
10                  MS. WESSELS: You know, logistically  
11 maybe it was a little bit more complicated.  
12  
13                  MR. KOEHLER: But expense-wise, it really  
14 wasn't that much difference?  
15  
16                  MS. WESSELS: I don't think it was that  
17 much different.  
18  
19                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everyone can  
20 turn their mic on at once and talk.  
21  
22                  MR. KOEHLER: Even with the flying, huh?  
23  
24                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I  
25 understood. Am I not understanding it right.  
26  
27                  MS. WESSELS: I'm just.....  
28  
29                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is just a  
30 brief overview. What are you thinking?  
31  
32                  MR. FIRMIN: Try out.....  
33  
34                  MS. PITKA: I'm thinking Tanana.  
35  
36                  MR. FIRMIN: .....try out Tanana's new  
37 road. You should all be able to drive there now, right?  
38  
39                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you  
40 serious?  
41  
42                  MR. FIRMIN: Well, to the six miles down  
43 the river -- up the river.  
44  
45                  MS. PITKA: Well, if we go in November we  
46 won't be able to.  
47  
48                  MR. FIRMIN: We could barge across the  
49 river if we go in early October.  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That reminds me  
2 of Mongolia. That's how they get around.  
3  
4 MR. GLANZ: What's the lodging like in  
5 Tanana, that's the main thing.  
6  
7 MR. FIRMIN: I think that was the problem  
8 why we couldn't get there before, huh?  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.  
11  
12 MR. FIRMIN: The lodging and the  
13 stability to cash our checks, our per diem.  
14  
15 MS. PITKA: They have a store now and  
16 they have a few bed and breakfasts in Tanana that I know  
17 of.  
18  
19 MR. FIRMIN: Liquor store's open.  
20  
21 (Laughter)  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just for your  
24 information from 20K to 12 -- at Fairbanks -- I mean,  
25 here to 12 or 13.  
26  
27 MR. KOEHLER: Between 20 and 12, that's  
28 the comparison?  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's a  
31 big comparison in my book.  
32  
33 MS. PITKA: What is our annual budget for  
34 this Council?  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or 13. I'm  
37 sorry, what did you say?  
38  
39 MR. FIRMIN: It was -- so it was what?  
40  
41 MS. WESSELS: It was 20 here versus 12  
42 and 13.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we're  
45 rounding it off, it's 20 versus more around 13.  
46  
47 MS. PITKA: So Carl says there's no set  
48 budget per Council.  
49  
50 MR. JOHNSON: But that doesn't mean

1 there's no budget restrictions.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But that would  
4 make it hard for Barbara because of her travel because  
5 she wouldn't be able to get there that quickly.

6

7 MS. CELLARIUS: If you're in Fairbanks  
8 it's easier for me to try to be in two RAC meetings.

9

10 MR. KOEHLER: Fairbanks is certainly a  
11 lot easier for me.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And me. I  
14 think all of us maybe.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: I don't mind Fairbanks, my  
17 son lives here.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I feel kind of  
20 bad that people like you -- not you.....

21

22 MR. FIRMIN: Get the (indiscernible -  
23 simultaneous speech).....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Like Lester,  
26 Lester has to fly -- and you, you have to fly to  
27 Fairbanks and then you have to fly back to these  
28 communities. That's no big deal to you?

29

30 MS. PITKA: (Indiscernible - away from  
31 microphone).....

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: Normal.

34

35 MS. PITKA: No, really, I do it -- I do  
36 it all the time. I'm okay with the flying, I'm not --  
37 it's not that big of a deal for me. I just want to make  
38 sure that we include a lot of public comments.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know one of  
41 the things I was thinking, I hate to say it, while I was  
42 on the bathroom, I do a lot of thinking. I was thinking  
43 wouldn't it be interesting to have like the reports in a  
44 place like Fairbanks so all the people didn't have to go  
45 out to the community and then we went out to the  
46 community. I mean, we're hearing reports and then the  
47 people that have to all fly out there, they could go back  
48 and listen to us online while we talk to the community.  
49 It was just a way I thought of being economical.

50

1                   Just a thought, think it through.  
2  
3                   MR. JOHNSON: Well.....  
4  
5                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You don't have  
6 to answer me.  
7  
8                   MR. JOHNSON: .....Madam Chair, just  
9 those other agencies' budgets don't -- I mean, don't  
10 interact.....  
11  
12                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're not our  
13 concern.  
14  
15                  MR. JOHNSON: .....don't interact with  
16 our budgets so wouldn't provide a benefit to our budget.  
17  
18                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But our Staff  
19 is our budget, right?  
20  
21                  MR. JOHNSON: Right. But they're all  
22 here.  
23  
24                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I'm saying  
25 that they wouldn't have to travel to the village.  
26  
27                  MR. JOHNSON: Oh, we wouldn't have it any  
28 other way, Madam Chair.  
29  
30                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
31 trying to be economical as if it were my pocketbook. It  
32 was just a thought. But we haven't picked a place, what  
33 do you think?  
34  
35                  MR. FIRMIN: We could.....  
36  
37                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What is an  
38 easier community to get to maybe?  
39  
40                  MR. FIRMIN: .....maybe Katya can do  
41 another -- see how -- and we'll work logistically to get  
42 to Tanana because in the past there was issues that we  
43 had, but maybe.....  
44  
45                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we had to  
46 cancel one.  
47  
48                  MR. FIRMIN: .....maybe things have  
49 changed in the past few years and if not we'll just fall  
50 back to Fairbanks.



1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Out of  
2 curiosity how much is.....  
3  
4 MS. PITKA: Well, there's also Nenana or  
5 Tok.  
6  
7 MR. GLANZ: Well, we've been to Nenana  
8 and Tok.  
9  
10 MS. PITKA: Yeah.  
11  
12 MR. GLANZ: And we haven't been to Tanana  
13 for like 10, 12 years now.  
14  
15 REPORTER: Would you turn your mics on,  
16 please.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, turn your  
19 mics on every time you speak because we're supposed to be  
20 recording this. Turn them all on and then you can just  
21 talk back and forth.  
22  
23 MR. GLANZ: Okay.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we were to  
26 Tanana, I just -- now I remembered it.  
27  
28 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Was it 12 years  
31 ago?  
32  
33 MR. GLANZ: I think 14.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's where  
36 Gerald's from.  
37  
38 MR. GLANZ: Yes.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Our  
41 past Chair.  
42  
43 MR. GLANZ: Uh-huh.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were you at  
46 that meeting?  
47  
48 MR. FIRMIN: I'd stayed with McDonalds in  
49 Tanana.  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. FIRMIN: That was a good start.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic's not  
6 on either. Okay. So we will pick Tanana and then let's  
7 go for an alternative. And what's the alternative or the  
8 second choice?  
9  
10 MR. KOEHLER: My mic won't turn on, but  
11 how about Copper Center and then Barbara wouldn't have to  
12 travel very far.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not even  
15 in our region.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 MR. GLANZ: Other than that it was a good  
20 idea.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be  
23 Tok.  
24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, we're talking about  
26 Tanana or where else?  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I -- you know,  
29 I don't know -- do you really have to record this kind of  
30 discussion?  
31  
32 REPORTER: Yes.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.  
35  
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Tanana's fine with me.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Leave  
39 that one on because she can pick it up on that side and  
40 we can pick it up on this side.  
41  
42 REPORTER: One on this side, one on that  
43 side.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That'll work,  
46 right?  
47  
48 REPORTER: Sure.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.

1 So we're back to Tanana as number 1 and number 2 was Tok?  
2  
3 MS. PITKA: Tok.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's see now,  
6 this is in the falltime. Okay. Because if you do fish  
7 in Tok it's not worth going there.  
8  
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Have we decided a date  
10 yet?  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm serious,  
13 they don't have near the -- it needs to be out in these  
14 areas when it's wildlife.  
15  
16 Is that all good?  
17  
18 MS. WESSELS: So Tanana's your first  
19 choice, and second one is Tok.  
20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: And November.....  
22  
23 MR. GLANZ: November 8th and 9th.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll do a B&B.  
26  
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Tanana and Tok. November  
28 7th?  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 8th and 9th.  
31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: 8 and 9.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara can get  
35 there. You can fly to.....  
36  
37 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So November 8th and  
38 9th in Tanana, is that what you just said?  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Tanana is  
41 a first choice, Tok is a second choice. I don't have to  
42 go to Fairbanks that way.  
43  
44 Are we happy or we still discussing?  
45  
46 MR. KOEHLER: Thrilled.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're thrilled.  
49 All right. I want to go to Horsfeld.  
50

1                   Okay. Closing comments. In the past  
2 we'd go around the room and let everybody say a little  
3 bit, do you want to do it that way or -- start with you,  
4 Donald.

5  
6                   MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. I want to thank  
7 all.....

8  
9                   REPORTER: Turn on your mic, please.

10  
11                  MR. WOODRUFF: It's working now. I want  
12 to thank all the folks in Fort Yukon for inviting us and  
13 I hope that we have helped the local people understand  
14 this process and one individual did come up to me and  
15 thank me for helping him with writing a proposal so  
16 that's a big step forward. It's not difficult, it's in  
17 the book how to write a proposal. And you can call Katya  
18 if you have any problems and she'd walk you through it  
19 and the local resource people also know how to do that.  
20 And it's very important to have your input on these  
21 proposals. Anything you're sitting around the kitchen  
22 talking about that you have problems with, fishing,  
23 hunting, whatever, get it on paper, send it to us and  
24 we'll respond to it.

25  
26                  Thank you.

27  
28                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I want to  
29 thank the people from Fort Yukon for their hospitality  
30 and it's good to have a lot of the local people come to  
31 our meeting and hang out to the bitter end. We got -- a  
32 lot of times people don't hang out to the bitter end  
33 because this can get pretty boring at times. But I've  
34 enjoyed being here and like Donald said if you have  
35 issues, don't hesitate to get hold of us. And remember  
36 that the Board of Game meeting is coming up in February  
37 in Fairbanks. And I think we're basically all on the  
38 same page, we want to have resources that are  
39 sustainable, both the fisheries and the game resources,  
40 we want them to be managed in a responsible manner so  
41 that people can utilize them. That's our main goal is  
42 that people can utilize the resources and that we are  
43 managed properly so that our grandchildren will be able  
44 to partake of the resources. But anyway I want to thank  
45 all the public for being here and I've enjoyed it and I'm  
46 finished.

47  
48                  Thank you.

49  
50                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I'm glad we got to  
2 come out and be in a village again, I think this was the  
3 last village we were in five years ago, six years ago.  
4 Yeah, and it's good to get back out. I know it gets  
5 easy -- it's easy to travel and it's nice to go to  
6 Fairbanks, but it's good to get back out in the village  
7 and actually host another meeting and I was glad we got  
8 to have it here and hope we were good hosts for everybody  
9 and hopefully it'll all close out the same way and I  
10 can't wait to do it again in Tanana next year.

11  
12 MS. PITKA: Thank you. I really always  
13 appreciate coming to Fort Yukon. I really like it here  
14 and I get to come here several times a year so it's sort  
15 of a bonus for me.

16  
17 I'd like to thank everybody from the  
18 community for coming out and speaking. Community  
19 engagement is a really important part of the public  
20 process and I definitely appreciate it. That's why I  
21 really sort of push for Tanana or at least, you know, a  
22 village in our region besides Fairbanks because a lot of  
23 times people from our own communities aren't able to make  
24 it. And, you know, we don't get as much public comment  
25 as we want and I really appreciate it.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 And I would ask CATG next time to please  
30 submit an agency report.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 MR. GLANZ: I was stationed out here for  
35 15 years at the BLM helo base over across the street here  
36 and I apologize to a lot of people that come talk to me  
37 and I don't remember their names, but it's been eight  
38 years since I've been retired. But thank you for  
39 inviting us back and we had a pretty good, interesting  
40 meeting.

41  
42 Thank you all.

43  
44 MR. KOEHLER: Had very excellent  
45 hospitality here.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And I  
50 want to also -- you can't say thank you enough to the

1 community. Andrew, you did a good job, we really  
2 appreciate all your work to help us out here. And ditto  
3 all of the comments here and I really -- it's been fun to  
4 see the people that we saw the last time we were here and  
5 hope that I -- we do some good for the people, that means  
6 a lot to us.

7

8 And thank you very much and we'll go for  
9 adjournment. I need a motion.

10

11 MS. PITKA: Motion to adjourn.

12

13 MR. KOEHLER: Second.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank

20 you all.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 157 through 207 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 26th day of October at Fort Yukon, 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 22nd day of November 2016.

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