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1 BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING

3
4 Volume I
5 October 13, 2000
6 1:00 p.m.
7 Borough Assembly Chambers
8 Naknek Alaska

9
10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Daniel J. O'Hara, Chair
13 H. Robin Samuelsen, Vice Chair
14 Shirley Kelly, Secretary
15 Robert Heyano, Member
16 John Christensen, Member
17 Andrew Balluta, Member
18 Peter M. Abraham, Member
19
20 Cliff Edenshaw, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 1:06 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll call the meeting to order at about 1:06, and ask Cliff if he would do the roll call, if he would, please, Council.

MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Counsel. Daniel J. O'Hara?

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: Robert Heyano?

MR. HEYANO: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: John Christensen?

MR. CHRISTENSEN: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: Andrew Balluta?

MR. BALLUTA: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: Peter Abraham?

MR. ABRAHAM: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: Robin Samuelson?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: Shirley Kelly?

MS. KELLY: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there is a quorum present.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you. I'd like to welcome you to the meeting today. And we don't have really a very heavy agenda as far as a lot of proposals are concerned, but we have the reports. And I assume that the Council will probably discuss what will be happening in a January meeting, and then what will be referred to the Federal Board, so you might keep that in mind when we get down to agenda items that we want to approve today, other than what might be on the agenda in

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1 front of you. But it's nice to have all of you here today.
2 And I think it would be good if we probably went around the
3 room and introduced ourselves so that we kind of have an
4 idea of who we have here today. So why don't we start over
5 here with Cliff and we'll go around and then out into the
6 audience.

7

8 MR. EDENSHAW: My name is Cliff Edenshaw,
9 I'm the Regional Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife.

10

11 MR. CHRISTENSEN: John Christensen,
12 subsistence.

13

14 MS. KELLY: Shirley Kelly from Egegik.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Welcome her, she's a new
17 appointed council member. I meant to do that under my
18 opening remarks this afternoon. Shirley, it's good to have
19 you on board. Dan O'Hara, Chair.

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robin Samuelson,
22 Dillingham.

23

24 MR. ABRAHAM: Pete from Togiak.

25

26 MR. BALUTTA: Andrew Balutta, Iliamna.

27

28 MR. HEYANO: Robert Heyano, Dillingham.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're on.

31

32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Wait a minute.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-oh. Oh, I'm sorry.

35

36 MR. SAMUELSEN: David.

37

38 MR. FISHER: I defer to.....

39

40 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech)

41

42 MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher, Fish and Wildlife
43 Service, Subsistence Office, Anchorage.

44

45 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings with the Office
46 of Subsistence Management, Anchorage.

47

48 MS. McCLENAHAN: Pat McClenahan, staff
49 anthropologist, Bristol Bay Region. I'm with the Office of
50 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That lady on the end
2 here. We didn't get a chance to introduce you.

3
4 MS. JURGENSEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Laura
5 Jurgensen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, staff anthropologist
6 assigned to the Y-K.

7
8 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, ranger for Alaska
9 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge.

10
11 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Subsistence
12 Division, Fish and Game.

13
14 MR. BROWNING: Tim Browning, Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division,
16 Dillingham.

17
18 MR. MORSTAD: Slim Morstad, Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fish,
20 here in King Salmon.

21
22 MR. LISAC: Mark Lisac. I'm a fisheries
23 biologist, Togiak Refuge.

24
25 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, wildlife
26 biologist, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Dillingham.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

29
30 MR. PARKER: John Park, Togiak Advisory
31 Committee, Vice Chair.

32
33 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch
34 with the National Park Service, and on the staff committee
35 for the Federal Board.

36
37 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Joe Chythlook, I'm on the
38 staff committee for the State Board.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Joseph, nice to have you
41 here today.

42
43 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Molly Chythlook,
44 Subsistence Division, Dillingham.

45
46 MR. ANDERSON: Ralph Anderson, BBNA,
47 Natural Resources.

48
49 MR. NICHOLSON: Hans Nicholson, BBNA,
50 subsistence coordinator. I work under Ralph in the Natural

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1 Resources Department.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Jim Larson, project leader,
4 King Salmon fishery resource office, Fish and Wildlife
5 Service.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan Dunaway, Bristol Bay area
8 sports fish biologist, Dillingham.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11

12 MR. BUNDY: John Bundy, Katmai National
13 Park in King Salmon.

14

15 MS. LEGGITT: Deb Leggitt, superintendent
16 of the four southwest national park areas, Aniakchak,
17 Katmai, Lake Clark and the Alagnak.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You should stand up and
20 take a bow with a title like that.

21

22 MS. LEGGITT: It's kind of like kid's day
23 and I'm always afraid I'm going to miss one.

24

25 MR. GREENWOOD: Bruce Greenwood, National
26 Park Service, Alaska Support Office in Anchorage.

27

28 MS. MCBURNEY: Mary McBurney, National Park
29 Service. subsistence program manager for Katmai, Lake
30 Clark, Aniakchak, and the Alagnak Wild River.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, Mary.

33

34 MS. STICKMAN: I'm Karen Stickman,
35 subsistence coordinator for Lake Clark National Park.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

38

39 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque, I'm the
40 refuge manager for Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

41

42 MR. LONS: Daryl Lons, refuge manager of
43 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuges, based here in King
44 Salmon.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

47

48 MR. KOEPSAL: Mark Koepsal, deputy refuge
49 manager. I work with Daryl here in King Salmon.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

2

3 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, biologist, Alaska
4 Peninsula Refuge, King Salmon.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. O'HARA: Tom O'Hara, National Park
9 Service in King Salmon.

10

11 MR. BERGELL: Chris Bergell, I'm the chief
12 ranger at Katmai National Park here in King Salmon.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Did we miss
15 somebody here today? Oh, excuse me, one -- Jeff, sorry,

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Boy, oh, boy.

18

19 MR. ADAMS: Jeff Adams with Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, King Salmon fishery office.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, Jeff.
23 Anyone else that might not have been introduced today?
24 We've just skipped over you? Okay.

25

26 We'll turn this part of the program over then to
27 Cliff Edenshaw, and he'll handle the election of officers.

28

29 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
30 office of Chair serves a one-year term, but may serve more
31 than one year if re-elected. Conducts Regional Council
32 meetings, attends and represents the Regional Council at
33 the Federal Subsistence Board meetings, and is a voting
34 member of the Council. At this time I will open up the
35 floor for nominations for Chair. Yes, Mr. Samuelson?

36

37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Nominate Dan O'Hara.

38

39 MR. ABRAHAM: Second.

40

41 MR. EDENSHAW: Dan O'Hara has been
42 nominated for Chair. Mr. Heyano?

43

44 MR. HEYANO: Move that nominations be
45 closed.

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.

48

49 MR. EDENSHAW: Second. There has been a
50 motion to close the nominations for the Chair for the

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1 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, and that one nominee
2 is Mr. Dan O'Hara. As a designated federal officer, I move
3 by unanimous consent that Mr. Dan O'Hara be elected as
4 Chair for the Bristol Bay Advisory Council, Regional
5 Advisory Council for a one-year term. Any objections?

6
7 (None opposing)

8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: So moved.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, guys.
12 Do I go from here,.....

13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: Right.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:or do you continue
17 on? Okay.

18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: I'll turn this over to you,
20 Mr. Chair, to conduct the election for vice chair and
21 secretary.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Open the
24 floor for nominations of the.....

25
26 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I nominate Robin.

27
28 MR. ABRAHAM: Second the motion.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any further
31 nominations?

32
33 MR. HEYANO: I move that nominations be
34 closed, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second?

37
38 MS. KELLY: Second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any discussion.
41 Would unanimous consent be okay?

42
43 MR. HEYANO: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Those are
46 done. We need a secretary?

47
48 MR. ABRAHAM: I nominate Shirley Kelly.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Shirley Kelly.

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1 MR. BALUTTA: I second it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any further nominations?

4

5 MR. HEYANO: Move that nominations be
6 closed, Mr. Chair.

7

8 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Second.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.

11

12 MS. KELLY: Thanks a lot, guys.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And if there's no
15 discussion unanimous consent would be okay?

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So moved, thank you very
20 much.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Now she's got to keep
23 minutes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We would like to
26 review and adoption of the agenda at this time. Council
27 members?

28

29 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, sir. Robin?

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: I move to adopt the agenda.

34

35 MR. BALUTTA: Second the motion.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Further -- yes, go
38 ahead.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have one
41 additional item. If you would like, I'd like to give a
42 report. I just concluded meetings in Sitka. Another hat I
43 wear is sitting on the North Pacific Fishery Management
44 Council, and I'd like to report the action that the council
45 took in recognizing halibut as a subsistence food.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. How about if
48 we put it under reports up here?

49

50 MR. SAMUELSEN: Under agenda number 12 I

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1 believe, any other new business.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, all right. We'll do
4 that. Okay.

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any more discussion on
9 the motion?

10

11 MR. EDENSHAW: Excuse me, Mr. Chair?

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes?

14

15 MR. EDENSHAW: Jim Larson and Jeff Adams
16 had asked -- requested earlier for their names to be
17 included on the agenda, and they work with king salmon
18 fisheries, so if we add those two gentlemen under the
19 number 12 as well?

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Jim Larson and
22 who?

23

24 MR. EDENSHAW: Jeff Adams.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jeff Adams. All right.
27 That will be fine if that's okay with -- any other items
28 that need to be added here to the agenda today, council
29 members? Okay. I think that will be fine if there's no
30 other discussion. Excuse me. Call for the question?

31

32 MR. HEYANO: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say
35 aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

40

41 (No opposing votes.)

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That will be the
44 agenda for the meeting. We have minutes of March 24 and 25
45 under Tab C of your booklet today. What are the wishes of
46 the Council as far as the minutes of March 24 and 25?

47

48 MR. HEYANO: Move to adopt the minutes of
49 March 24 and 25, Mr. Chair.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert moved to adopt the
2 -- second?

3
4 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I'd second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. John
7 seconded. Any discussion on the minutes?

8
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I -- just one thing
12 before the question there.

13
14 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They did mention in here
17 on page six they adjourned the meeting, under the second
18 paragraph. And we don't -- if we take a break, we recess,
19 we don't adjourn, because then you've got to call a whole
20 other minute. It's just a technical deal, but -- okay.
21 And that's fine. I think that's all.

22
23 MS. KELLY: I have a correction on page
24 five.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What is it,
27 Shirley?

28
29 MS. KELLY: The last paragraph under public
30 testimony, the third -- beginning of the third sentence, it
31 should say, New Stuyahok limited instead of unlimited.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There is a difference.
34 Okay.

35
36 MR. HEYANO: On that same section, Mr.
37 Chair, it's Timothy Wonhola. It should be a W instead of
38 an M.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Good. I
41 saw that. Thank you. I guess someone is reading the
42 minutes then. Any other corrections, Council members?

43
44 MS. KELLY: On page nine.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

47
48 MS. KELLY: The fourth paragraph, the end
49 of the third sentence. Instead of Robin, it should say
50 Robert.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that what happened
2 there?

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think -- Mr. Chairman?

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think what happened there
9 is that Robert addressed Alagnak, and I addressed the
10 criteria.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. SAMUELSEN: And it should be broken
15 out.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think that's what
18 happened, because I remember definitely the criteria
19 was.....

20
21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:something as far as
24 the minutes go, that I was to carry back to the Federal
25 Board when it went back. I think it's Paul Rignowski or
26 Paul Rignowski or whatever his name is, scientist, research
27 department for Bristol Bay, made a presentation to the
28 Federal Board on this very criteria item, and we felt it
29 was pretty important that that took place, so -- if you
30 like, after we have a break.....

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe Robert has.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, did you have a
35 thought on that?

36
37 MR. HEYANO: No.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No?

40
41 MR. HEYANO: My memory doesn't serve me
42 that well.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. Okay.
45 Yeah, I'm pretty sure Robin addressed the criteria part,
46 and then Robert addressed the Branch, so -- anything else?

47
48 MS. KELLY: On page 12, the seventh
49 paragraph. It's just a spelling error. It should be Ole
50 Matissen, O-l-e. And there's an extra E in his last name.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Okay. Anything
2 else, Council members on the minutes? The question's been
3 called for. All those in favor say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

8
9 (No opposing votes.)

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Got the minutes.
12 At this time I'll ask Cliff Edenshaw if he would take us to
13 805 letter and Board response to the annual report. And
14 that's under Tab D.

15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
17 the council, I went ahead when we had our booklet sent to
18 the publisher to have them bind it -- bound together, if
19 you Tab D, there's the annual, which is the response from
20 the Federal Subsistence Board. And handout I put in front
21 of you is dated June 7th, 2000, and the 805 letter's our
22 response to the May 2nd through the 4th Federal Subsistence
23 Board meeting held in Anchorage to address those proposals,
24 those actions and proposals that the Council took on. So
25 that's -- part of the legislation requires that the Federal
26 Subsistence Board respond to the Council's proposals, and
27 if there were any that were not adopted at this council
28 meet- -- at the Board meeting in May, the Secretary has the
29 responsibility to respond to the Council stating the facts
30 for any rejection of those proposals. And.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cliff, excuse me.

33
34 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This is the letter you're
37 referring to here?

38
39 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, sir.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, you
42 should have that in front of you.

43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: The top of it has the
45 Federal Subsistence Board on it,.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It says January 7th.....

48
49 MR. EDENSHAW:and this is the 805
50 letter.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Everyone should
2 have gotten a copy there in front of them.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Go ahead, Cliff.
7 Did you have more on the annual report?

8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, I think the annual
10 report is here -- didn't.....

11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. On this subsistence --
13 the one we're looking at right now, Federal Subsistence
14 Board, June 7th?

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep.

19
20 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

21
22 MR. ABRAHAM: On the back, page number 4,
23 the Napaskiak caribou, 17(A), 17(B).

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Proposal.

26
27 MR. ABRAHAM: It says over here they don't
28 participate on these hunts, and that's wrong. They do
29 participate.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What.....

32
33 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What paragraph are you
36 on?

37
38 MR. ABRAHAM: Caribou hunt.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On Napaskiak, okay.

41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: I called the Regional Council
43 over there, and they said they do hunt, you know, where
44 Akiachak and Akiak hunts. You know, that -- you know, they
45 meet up there, and they do use that area.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else on
48 the annual report, Council members?

49
50 MR. EDENSHAW: If you look into your --

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1 after Tab D, this here is the annual report, and on the top
2 it's dated August 28th, 2000. On the first issue, a
3 follow-up regarding the 1994 annual report when the
4 Regional Council submitted a request to the Board
5 requesting a positive customary and traditional use
6 determination for ORV use in Katmai National Park and
7 Preserve. And, you know, when I made up the agenda, a
8 portion of this will be covered by Deb Leggitt, the
9 superintendent, regarding this portion of the annual
10 report, as well as I believe that actually should be the
11 Alaknak, is that correct, Deb?

12
13 MS. LEGGITT: (Indiscernible - away from
14 microphone) Are we still on the January -- June 7th
15 letter?

16
17 MR. EDENSHAW: No, we're going to move into
18 the.....

19
20 MS. LEGGITT: I.....

21
22 MR. EDENSHAW:annual report response.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So what you said
25 in essence, we'll -- we will have some more on the Branch
26 and then we'll have the discussion of the.....

27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: ORV.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:ORV.....

31
32 MR. EDENSHAW: Customary and traditional
33 use.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:for Kakhonak,
36 Iguigig, Levelock? Okay. Just so we can get that in the
37 minutes. And that was from Deb Leggitt, superintendent.
38 So if you can have that in our minutes. Okay. Anything
39 else?

40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: And then getting back here
42 on the annual report, the next issue, the federal
43 subsistence fisheries MOA. We'll -- Tim Jennings will
44 provide an update regarding OSM fisheries, and then we
45 included on here a short two paragraphs regarding what the
46 current status of the MOA is and other protocols regarding
47 in-season management fisheries. You know, the training
48 that we're going to -- that will also be covered later in
49 this agenda, also will address some of those issues
50 regarding post season data collection. So Tim will provide

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1 an update regarding that issue.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Due to ignorance, I had
4 to ask Robin what OSM means? Office of.....

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: Office of Subsistence
7 Management.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I'm sorry
10 about that, but there may be someone else in the audience
11 who doesn't recognize all these initials, too, so --
12 anything else, Cliff?

13

14 MR. EDENSHAW: No. And then you can move
15 over to the next page, and for those individuals here in
16 the audience, up here on our table up here, we have some
17 information regarding -- if you'll look down this next page
18 on page three, it goes into the cooperative management,
19 federal organization structure, staffing and budget, the
20 federal/state cooperative management, and disregard number
21 6, although it's listed in here, but we do have some
22 handouts regarding an update on OSM fisheries, and that
23 will be covered later in this agenda, too.

24

25 And then if you go back -- flip over to the last
26 page, on page four, we go into customary trade, and we were
27 going to address that at the council meeting on a portion
28 of the agendas, and we went ahead and withdrew that, and if
29 the Council has any questions regarding that, Tim would be
30 able to answer, or Sandy specifically, either of those two
31 regarding customary trade.

32

33 And then issue number 8, the training and education
34 needs, that will be covered under the agenda under OSM.
35 There will be another training session in January.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any
38 questions, Council members, on the annual report? Robert?

39

40 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have a
41 question on who is the new customary trade working group?

42

43 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair?

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

46

47 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings with the Office
48 of Subsistence Management. It's still in formation. We're
49 reconstituting that working group. Pete Probasco, a new
50 employee, is going to be the chair, and we're going to try

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1 and broaden out the participation in that working group to
2 include fisheries and anthropologists and we're going to
3 bring to the January training session an update on where
4 that group stands with the work on customary trade.
5 There's still the goal to look at customary trade
6 statewide, but then to look at it on a regional basis in
7 terms of defining -- trying to get a better grip on
8 significant commercial enterprise.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cliff, is this why the
11 customary trade was taken off the agenda then? Why was it
12 removed from the agenda, just because you haven't come up
13 yet with.....

14
15 MR. JENNINGS: Because the.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:a dollar amount?

18
19 MR. JENNINGS:the status is that the
20 group is reforming, and there's really no new additional
21 information to offer at this time.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Robert? Or did
24 you have any more questions?

25
26 MR. HEYANO: Reforming. Was there an
27 existing group?

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: There was an existing group
30 within our office that had been tasked with follow-up on
31 this topic, yes.

32
33 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

36
37 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes. What -- is this
38 customary trade, where is it? I mean, is this just this
39 area here or including.....

40
41 MR. JENNINGS: It's a statewide issue.
42 It's in our regulations that allows customary trade, barter
43 and exchange as well as exchange for cash of subsistence
44 resources, as long as it -- the exchange for cash doesn't
45 constitute a significant commercial enterprise.

46
47 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. I think we discussed
48 that, what, last year, was it?

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

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1 MR. JENNINGS: We brought.....

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, last year.

4

5 MR. JENNINGS:an update last year,
6 correct.

7

8 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

9

10 MR. JENNINGS: And so this is a follow up
11 to that.

12

13 MR. ABRAHAM: I would advise your working
14 group not to change a lot, because that will -- that's
15 going to create a lot of confusion if there's some, you
16 know, major changes. You know, just study, and find out
17 and go from there. If you have -- if you make any changes,
18 a lot of the older people are going to get you know, more
19 con -- you're just going to create more confusion, because
20 it's been going on for, you know, centuries after centuries
21 of our customary trade. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin, did you
24 have a comment?

25

26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman. Over the last four years, Chairman Lauber (ph)
28 of the North Pacific Management Council appointed me as
29 chairman of the halibut of the halibut subsistence working
30 group, and over the last four years, I've met with native
31 organizations from Southeast all the way up to Kotzebue,
32 and we were the first organization to put a cap on
33 customary trade and barter, and that cap is -- was set at
34 the North Pacific Management Council at \$400 a year. Prior
35 to the council meeting, the native groups from throughout
36 the State of Alaska were requesting a minimum of \$200, but
37 at this meeting we heard compelling arguments why it should
38 be \$400. Rising costs of fuel. And I think it's very
39 important to put a maximum in there, because I'll just
40 remind the council that in Southeast Alaska a judge ruled
41 that \$19,000 worth of herring roe sales was not -- was not
42 excessive, and.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't hear very much
45 about that ruling any more, I'll guarantee you.

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Oh, yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They tried to sweep that
50 baby right under the rug, but it's on the record. And I

00018

1 think, you know, if you were to approach this council,
2 probably we would be willing to begin looking at a dollar
3 amount for customary trade. And I was thinking of \$300,
4 but 400 if you've done some extensive hearings throughout
5 the state. And it's our understanding that this will be
6 for all of the State of Alaska, not just our council or
7 Bristol Bay region saying this would be our dollar amount,
8 is that right?

9

10 MR. JENNINGS: As I understand it, the
11 initiative is to look at defining customary trade in terms
12 of the significant commercial enterprise, because as --
13 it's not defined in our regulation what the cap is, and we
14 would look at that on a statewide basis, but also on a
15 regional basis as needed. When we went to the councils
16 last year with this issue, there was a lot of input from
17 the councils that they thought it should be regionalized.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. JENNINGS: The other task of the group
22 is to continue to look at customary and traditional
23 practices for customary trade, and to be sure we have a
24 complete understanding of what kind of practices have been
25 done in the region.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead, Robin.

30

31 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chair?

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe I need to clear
34 myself. That was customary and traditional trade through
35 monetary exchange to not exceed \$400 per individual, but
36 under customary and traditional trade through nonmonetary
37 exchange, there was not a cap on that, and it could be
38 traded with anyone.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And we all
41 understand that way.

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's a dollar amount,
46 but the use of the resource other than dollar amount, there
47 really isn't an amount.

48

49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

50

00019

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Peter?

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, on the
4 last meeting in Yu -- Y-K Delta area in Quinhagak was last
5 year. They didn't discuss any dollar amount on the
6 customary trade, but they wanted to leave alone it alone as
7 it is, because, you know, like with halibut (ph), but, you
8 know, they never mentioned any dollar amount on those.
9 But, you know, I agree though it -- when we discussed that
10 kelp thing over there, you know, I don't think it's going
11 to happen, I mean, anywhere, because we have protections
12 and stuff like that, and.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How long do you think it
15 will take you to get this study done? I mean, these
16 programs can go on forever and here we sit. I think we'd
17 be almost ready to say, you know, we've looked at some
18 information or I would -- I don't want to keep dragging
19 this thing on, when we come back next year, we still
20 haven't made the decision. What are your thoughts?

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Well, I can tell you what --
23 report what the Board had discussed, and at least one Board
24 member, Federal Subsistence Board member, would like the
25 group to have the issue of defining significant commercial
26 enterprise completed by the next fishing season. So that's
27 the goal of at least one Board member.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, I'm really
30 glad we've had this discussion, because it is an important
31 issue. Any other concern, Council members, that.....

32

33 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman?

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Pete?

36

37 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes. I think it would be a
38 good idea to mention this in the regional training in
39 Anchorage I think in December is it, because you'll have
40 different.....

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: It will be in January.

43

44 MR. ABRAHAM: Or in January, yeah. A good
45 idea to bring this up at the time, because you can get
46 input from different regions right there to.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

49

50 MR. JENNINGS: I believe that's part of the

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1 game plan, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That will be good. All
4 right. That will be good. Yeah. Anything else, Council
5 members on customary trade?

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robert.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, I'm sorry.

10

11 MR. HEYANO: One more question, Mr. Chair.
12 You know, the comments says -- here says all Council chairs
13 wish to be included early in the discussion. Is there any
14 plans on how that's going to be accomplished? It's pretty
15 apparent that they haven't been included to date. Are they
16 going to be part of this working group?

17

18 MR. JENNINGS: I believe there's going to
19 be an outreach to the councils. I'm not part of this new
20 working group, so I'm not familiar with the exact specifics
21 of how that will be accomplished. But I think it still is
22 the goal of this work group to coordinate with the
23 councils, because we know that the councils have a high
24 interest in this subject.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, do you want any
27 more discussion?

28

29 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think it's a -- I
30 think it would be appropriate, Mr. Chair, that sometime
31 during the meeting that maybe we outline what our wishes
32 were on the definition to be included early in the
33 discussion.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Otherwise you
36 might come back and not recognize what you'd done. We
37 might go out and do something and then let you know.
38 That's a good idea. Will there be a Federal Board meeting
39 in December?

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are the council chairs
44 going to be at that meeting?

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I think,
49 Robert, that it would be really good if we have a
50 discussion on this prior to us ending this meeting so that

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1 attending that Federal Board meeting, we will have some
2 direction from this council on where we want to go. And I
3 think we should probably have some clear direction.
4 Anything else on this issue? We knew this was going to be
5 a good issue that we would discuss here on the annual
6 report. Thank you, Tim,.....

7
8 MR. JENNINGS: Uh-huh.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:if nothing else?
11 Okay. Cliff, what else do you have?

12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: That concluded the annual
14 report responses, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there.....

17
18 MR. EDENSHAW: Unless the Council has
19 additional question regarding the Board's responses to
20 these issues.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. You had one more
23 there. That was training/education needs and options.
24 What are your plans on that?

25
26 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, Mr. Chair, for --
27 under number 8 here on page four of the annual report, as
28 Tim mentioned, in January the 22nd through 26th, that is
29 when they're proposing to have an additional, a follow-up
30 from last year's training course. And at that time they're
31 also proposing for the councils to set aside one day for
32 them to review the resource monitoring projects. And also
33 there's been some -- I'm not sure if it's included in the
34 -- if you look under Tab G, and if you go back into -- and
35 this will be also -- I'll just touch upon this a little bit
36 here, but we're also looking for additional topics or
37 concerns the council members may have when they attend this
38 January training for items that they feel are important
39 that should be discussed at this training in January. As
40 most of you recall last year, most of the discussions
41 during the first two days were tied to -- the Alaska
42 Department of Fish and Game provided some excellent
43 presentations regarding sonar counts, some genetics and
44 other issues. So before this convenes in January, we'd
45 welcome any ideas, issues that the Council feels should be
46 addressed at this January training council.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Yes,
49 Tim, did you have more?

50

00022

1 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to
2 mention that we will cover this item later on in the agenda
3 in terms of the January training session, and be seeking
4 council input and advice on how to structure that training,
5 so it's later on in the agenda.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Any
8 other questions, Council members on the annual report?
9 Does this require an action that we accept this report?

10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chair. That was the
12 Board's response to the.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

15
16 MR. EDENSHAW:to the annual report we
17 submitted at the last RAC meeting.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. If no further
20 questions or comments, Council members, Robert, where did
21 you want to discuss the customary trade on this agenda
22 before we leave?

23
24 MR. HEYANO: Probably under item 12, Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Number 12. Okay. Okay.
28 Let's make sure we -- yeah, that herring case in Southeast
29 was very, very fascinating. I talked to the lawyer that
30 won that case, and it's -- that's pretty interesting.

31
32 At this time, if we have no more comment from the
33 Council members on the annual report, we'll go to any
34 public comment that we might have from the audience today?
35 And looking out there and seeing a sea of bureaucrats, I
36 don't imagine there's very much in the way of public
37 comment. Any public comment today from the floor? Yes.

38
39 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair, Joe Chythlook.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come up here and talk to
42 us, Joseph. If you want to speak in Yup'ik, I'm sure we
43 can have an interpreter, too, okay?

44
45 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, thank you.
46 I just wanted to comment that this year we have an MOA with
47 the Federal Subsistence Board. This is -- had board
48 support and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and because
49 of that we have one member from our advisory committee
50 system here today to testify on behalf of a proposal I

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1 think from Togiak. And we appreciate that opportunity from
2 the Board support angle. I was looking at your agenda and
3 I would like to suggest if we had this similar type thing
4 for the future, like if some other advisory committees
5 might get involved in the federal program in the future,
6 and if funding allows, we'd like to have a place in your
7 agenda in the future for advisory committee input of some
8 sort. I notice -- you know, I guess that could fit in as
9 public comment, but I would like to suggest it would be
10 nice if we're going to be working with your council, that
11 it would be nice to have a place in your agenda for our
12 advisory committee input as appropriate, you know, if we
13 have -- for instance, if Nushagak Advisory Committee or
14 south -- or Naknek had an agenda item on your -- well, for
15 action, I think it would be nice to have a place in the
16 agenda in the future. Like today Togiak is here and I
17 noticed they don't have a place for advisory committee
18 comment or whatever. So I just wanted to make that point.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Good, Joe. Any
21 questions, Council member, or any comments? We have a line
22 up here, Joe, of a whole page of reports and department
23 heads, and I think it would be great if we had a place
24 there, Cliff, that we could work on this, and for advisory
25 -- you know, the Federal Board can either accept or reject
26 whatever we want anyway, but I think so many of our people
27 who sit on this council are also involved in the advisory,
28 State of Alaska, so that would be good. And really we need
29 to work hard on seeing if we can have the federal program,
30 maybe when we've got big agenda items on here, that we
31 would have at least the chair of your advisory council or
32 somebody who could come represent that.

33
34 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Well, Board support got to
35 the tune of about \$45,000 from the federal program this
36 year to be involved in regional council meetings, and we
37 appreciate that, and we're hoping that that participation
38 will increase and we'll get some more money, so we'll see
39 more of our advisory committee members if -- I know our
40 area is kind of limited as far as, you know, federal lands
41 to where some of the advisory committees can participate
42 from, but presently it's just Togiak and Kodiak that are
43 involved for this year, but.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Yeah. Okay.
46 Yes, sir?

47
48 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman?

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pete.

00024

1 MR. ABRAHAM: I think we're lacking of
2 communication right there. I think the coordinator needs
3 to contact ADF&G and maybe even traditional councils in the
4 villages, make them aware of these things over here, and
5 then they can, you know, they can have a time to present
6 their needs and like that. I think that's a good idea what
7 you have. So we're lacking our communication.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

10
11 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Don't want to give you any
12 more work, Mr. Chair, but we'd like to be part of it.
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thank you, Joe,
16 appreciate it a lot. Any other comments under public
17 comment today? Any member of the public that would like to
18 address the council today? Okay. There will be other
19 opportunities should others come in. I know some of the
20 villages called in and said there's a possibility they'll
21 be here.

22
23 Number 9 fishery proposal review and regional
24 council recommendation. Tab E. Cliff?

25
26 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
27 for the council's -- Pat McClenahan is going to address
28 these proposals, but before she gets into that, you can see
29 under Tab E, which is where the staff analysis are, but
30 she'll start off with the introduction, biological/socio
31 analysis in that order, and then Alaska Department of Fish
32 and Game, I'm not certain if one of these individuals here
33 are going to provide ADF&G's comments regarding the
34 proposal. And then we'll go into summary of written and
35 public comments, and then any of the individuals here in
36 the public can choose to testify regarding the proposal,
37 and, of course, the regional council deliberation and
38 recommendation. And as Tim was stating earlier, the
39 Federal Subsistence Board will meet in December to finalize
40 these proposals in the first week, I think it's the 2nd
41 through 6th in Anchorage.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Pat?

44
45 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Pat McClenahan, staff anthropologist. The first item we'll
47 take up is draft staff analysis for Proposal 12. It's on
48 page five of your book under Tab E. Proposal 12 was
49 submitted by the Bristol Bay Native Association, Natural
50 Resources Department in Dillingham, and it requests a

00025

1 change in the requirement immediately to remove the hear of
2 subsistence caught coho salmon from the Togiak River after
3 August 20th. Existing federal subsistence fishing
4 regulations governing possession of subsistence caught coho
5 salmon in the Togiak section and the Togiak River drainage
6 are here on page five for you to study. Togiak River,
7 excluding its tributaries, you may also take salmon by
8 spear in the Togiak River and drainage. You may not
9 possess coho salmon for subsistence purposes after August
10 20th unless the head has been immediately removed from the
11 salmon.

12
13 This requirement is also present in state
14 regulations at this time, and it was put in place in 1979,
15 which is a correction from the draft that you have in front
16 of you. I have down that it was set in place in the early
17 80s. A request to change this requirement in state
18 regulation has also been submitted, and it will be taken up
19 in November.

20
21 Federal public lands and waters affected by this
22 proposal are limited to those administered by the Togiak
23 National Wildlife Refuge. Togiak River drainage coho
24 salmon are among the largest coho in Alaska. They've been
25 a popular target of commercial, subsistence and
26 nonsubsistence fisherman.

27
28 The reason that the -- this requirement to remove
29 the head was set in place in the first place was because
30 coho salmon were sold commercial under the guise of
31 subsistence. The requirement to remove the head made the
32 salmon immediately recognizable as subsistence-caught fish.
33 At the same time, it made them undesirable to commercial
34 buyers. According to ADF&G, state Fish and Wildlife
35 Protection and federal refuge law enforcement officials,
36 there have been no recorded violations of this regulation
37 for the past five years. And Togiak National Wildlife
38 Refuge managers and staff are not aware of any recent
39 problems. However, I talked to Major James Cockrell of
40 Fish and Wildlife Protection in August, and he reported
41 that he and Jim Browning, Alaska Department of Fish and
42 Game, received a number of complaints in 1998 from the
43 Village of Togiak and from local nonsubsistence fish
44 lodges. In September '98 Browning announced a closure due
45 to illegal fishing activity. Subsequently, Major Cockrell
46 instituted a stakeout on the river, but officers were
47 unable to document any cases of illegal fishing at that
48 time.

49
50 Bristol Bay Native Association on behalf of

00026

1 subsistence users in the Togiak region is making this
2 request because the salmon meat can easily become
3 contaminated when the head's removed. Removing the head
4 immediately after the fish is caught is not a customary
5 practice of Alaska native people on the -- in the Togiak
6 region.

7
8 While complaints about illegal fishing for coho
9 salmon have been received by the ADF&G and Fish and
10 Wildlife Protection officers, currently there are no
11 documented law enforcement cases of illegally caught coho
12 salmon in this region. And past records indicate no
13 documented cases since the early 1980s. Nowhere else in
14 Alaska is there a similar requirement in these -- in the
15 regulations. The same results may be accomplished using a
16 marking method that's less intrusive and less objectionable
17 for the subsistence users. Everywhere else in Alaska the
18 requirement is to clip the caudal fin or the dorsal fin to
19 identify subsistence caught salmon.

20
21 And so our preliminary staff conclusion is to
22 modify the proposal to request that the existing federal
23 regulation be modified to read as follows on page seven, to
24 strike out in the Togiak River and drainage, you may not
25 possess coho salmon for subsistence purposes after August
26 20th unless the head's been immediately removed from the
27 salmon, and to add no person may possess coho salmon taken
28 under the authority of a subsistence fishing permit unless
29 both lobes of the caudal fin (tail) have been immediately
30 removed from the salmon.

31
32 Justification for this are as I've said before.
33 There's no requirement to immediately remove the head of
34 subsistence caught fish anywhere else in Alaska. The
35 problem that created this regulation has not been
36 documented to have occurred for some time. There's a
37 danger of contaminating the meat of the fish removing the
38 head once the fish is caught. Alaska native fishermen do
39 not customarily immediately remove the heads of the
40 subsistence fish. Removing portions of the caudal fin
41 serves equally well to identify subsistence caught fish,
42 and it -- at the same time keeps the fish intact and avoids
43 contaminating the meat.

44
45 The Togiak National Wildlife refuge manager,
46 Bristol Bay Native Association, Natural Resources manager,
47 and state Fish and Wildlife Protection officers support the
48 proposed modification of the proposal, that is, to remove
49 portions of the caudal fin to identify subsistence caught
50 fish. The local area management biologist, Alaska

00027

1 Department of Fish and Game, does have reservations about
2 modifying the existing regulation. He believes that a law
3 enforcement problem still exists with respect to coho
4 salmon from this area reaching the commercial market. The
5 proposed modification would bring the regulation into line
6 with the existing federal regulations for other areas of
7 the state.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Pat?

10
11 MS. McCLENAHAN: That's for this one.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions,
14 council members, of Pat? Yeah, Robert?

15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, Peter.

19
20 MR. ABRAHAM: We had the problem with the
21 poaching of coho salmon in not just Togiak River, but the
22 other rivers over there. This is quite a while back. But
23 I think a couple years ago, I think I advised Jim Browning,
24 if I remember right, if there's any suspicion of poaching
25 in the river, you know, I think I advised him to
26 immediately close the commercial fishery right there.

27
28 As for beheading and identify coho salmon as
29 subsistence caught fish, that's going to be a tough thing
30 over there, because that's the -- I mean, I never see
31 anybody over there beheading silver salmon in the river,
32 unless the party is going to, you know, prepare a fish
33 right here for salting and whatever, hanging, you know, he
34 just clean it up right there in the river and take it home
35 in containers.

36
37 But I think it's going to be a tough problem I
38 think to try to enforce the heading thing over there. I
39 think the only best solution to that is like the one I gave
40 advice to Jim Browning, if there's a suspicion of poaching,
41 close the commercial fishing immediately. You know, this
42 way is the only way I think to stop the poaching over
43 there. That's all I have. Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
46 questions or comments of council? We're just having a
47 report from Pat on the introduction of the proposal. Yeah,
48 Robert?

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. What's the

00028

1 caudal fin?

2

3 MS. McCLENAHAN: The tail.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: So the -- so what this modifi

6 -- the primary conclusion is to remove the tail?

7

8 MS. McCLENAHAN: Not the whole tail, but

9 just the two lobes. The tail goes like this, so to clip

10 both sides. Not to take the whole tail off.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Just the ends?

13

14 MS. McCLENAHAN: Just the ends of the two

15 fins.

16

17 MR. ABRAHAM: Shorten -- I mean, in the

18 tail end like that? Chop those off?

19

20 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just clip.....

21

22 MS. McCLENAHAN: Just two sides, yeah. It

23 goes like this.

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Make the tail round.

26

27 MR. ABRAHAM: Instead of making.....

28

29 MS. McCLENAHAN: It's.....

30

31 MR. ABRAHAM:make -- instead of

32 looking like a standard cruiser, just make it look like a

33 kite?

34

35 MS. McCLENAHAN: Like a box.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good question.

38 Robert?

39

40 MR. HEYANO: We're talking about federal

41 waters now, right?

42

43 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes.

44

45 MR. HEYANO: So that's everything up from

46 the white into the -- anything above the white, is that

47 right?

48

49 MS. McCLENAHAN: It's.....

50

00029

1 MR. HEYANO: Is that those.....

2

3 MS. McCLENAHAN: I think that maybe your
4 little map might have a better picture, or if you have the
5 state -- the federal fishing regulations.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's everything up here,
8 yes?

9

10 MS. McCLENAHAN: I don't know if these are
11 any better. You might be able to (indiscernible).

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I've got one.

14

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: Oh, okay. You have one.

16

17 (Off record conversation, distributing maps)

18

19 MS. McCLENAHAN: The map in here might be
20 better. Dan, do you have one of these?

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, thank you.

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: But it's everything in
25 pink?

26

27 MS. McCLENAHAN: It's everything in red,
28 yeah.

29

30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Or red, or whatever the
31 color is.

32

33 MS. McCLENAHAN: I mean, the rivers would
34 be marked red.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who handles the socio,
37 economic, biological part?

38

39 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, that was.....

40

41 MR. HEYANO: I guess I've got.....

42

43 MR. EDENSHAW:that's what Pat had
44 provided.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. That
47 was Pat's.

48

49 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

50

00030

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: So my -- how much of the
4 subsistence fishing for coho salmon takes place in federal
5 waters?

6

7 MS. McCLENAHAN: I don't have a percentage.
8 I'm not sure.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's your biologist?

11

12 MS. McCLENAHAN: We don't have one right

13 now.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: For the refuge?

16

17 MS. McCLENAHAN: Oh, the refuge biologist
18 is.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, that's -- this is
21 Togiak. They should certainly have an answer to that.

22

23 MS. McCLENAHAN: We could ask Aaron.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Aaron Archibeque.

28

29 MS. McCLENAHAN: Aaron Archibeque.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Aaron?

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mark.

34

35 MS. McCLENAHAN: Or Mark.

36

37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mark is the

38 fisheries.....

39

40 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay. Why don't you come
41 up here then.

42

43 MR. LISAC: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mark
44 Lisac. I'm the fish biologist for Togiak Refuge. I guess
45 the one question is how much of this water is in federal
46 jurisdiction. My understanding is it would be all of the
47 Togiak River. As far as how much of the subsistence
48 fishing occurs within the river, we don't really have a
49 number on that. I would suspect, you know, that it's a
50 portion. Pete may have a better handle on how much coho

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1 subsistence fishing occurs actually in the Togiak River as
2 opposed to out in the commercial fishing district.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think it's a
5 tough question, but.....

6
7 MR. LISAC: Uh-huh.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:because you've got
10 both -- Robert, go ahead.

11
12 MR. HEYANO: You're saying all of Togiak
13 River is federal waters?

14
15 MR. LISAC: I believe now under -- it falls
16 underneath the federal subsistence fisheries management.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pete, did you have a
19 comment?

20
21 MR. LISAC: Right, Tim? It's.....

22
23 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

24
25 MR. LISAC:within the boundaries?

26
27 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Robert,
28 for subsistence use in Togiak I think, and I can average
29 that, I think Molly might have some information, but I can
30 I think average per home in Togiak is no more than I think
31 20 per -- I mean, during the coho season, because before
32 that, you know, when the salmon season's open, you know,
33 people cut, dry their fish and everything, and I believe
34 Molly will have more information on the subsistence catch.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, would you like a
37 little more information on that?

38
39 MR. HEYANO: No. And I think, Mr.
40 Chairman, if in fact all of Togiak River's in federal
41 water, I guess the other question doesn't -- isn't very
42 valid, but -- because I know there's been proposals
43 submitted for the State Board of Fish to consider the same
44 regulation, and if it's all in federal waters, why would
45 the state be wanting to consider it?

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin, did you have a
48 comment?

49
50 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think that -- I

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1 don't want to date myself, but when this regulation was
2 first put in by the Board of Fish, and maybe Pete could
3 correct me if I'm wrong, it -- there was some abuses in the
4 Togiak section, but there was horrendous abuses if I
5 remember correctly in the Kulukak section, that there was
6 no monitoring going on. And once monitoring did take
7 place, that Kulukak with its fragile silver run, they're
8 very easy to catch, because they enter -- come out of
9 Kulukak Bay and they -- then they basically stop in the
10 mouth of Kulukak River, and they school up there. And
11 people were round hauling them at that time,.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN:trying to market them.
16 If my memory serves me correctly. So I think we need to
17 put it in scope, it isn't just Togiak River we're talking
18 about. We're talking about the Togiak District, including
19 Kulukak.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Thank you, Mark.

22
23 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We appreciate it.

26
27 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. It's not
28 just Kulukak. It's Salsbiak (ph), Matogak. If there's any
29 fishery open during -- I mean, during the coho season, if
30 there's a boat fishing inside the river from Aktuak (ph),
31 Olohak (ph), Asbiak (ph), that's the time to mark the fish
32 right there, you know, if the fish are caught from the
33 other regions of Togiak Bay. Togiak River is the main
34 fishing place -- fish the area, but for -- in all them
35 areas, you know, I haven't seen anybody going so far to go
36 after coho salmon when the coho salmons right in the river.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other comments
39 for Pat McClenahan? All right.

40
41 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman?

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me. Robert?

44
45 MR. HEYANO: This proposal and this
46 regulation speaks specifically to the Togiak River only.
47 And it's tributaries, so it doesn't include any of the
48 other systems in the Togiak District.

49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: It should mention the other

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1 rivers, too, I think.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

4

5 MS. McCLENAHAN: Do you want to modify
6 this?

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: After public comment.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we've got a few
13 more people to talk to yet before we get to this, so we'll
14 go on. If there are no further comment, Alaska Department
15 of Fish and Game I believe which is the next one. If
16 there's anyone here who would address -- would like to
17 address that from ADF&G? Yeah.

18

19 MR. BROWNING: Mr. Chairman,.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. BROWNING:Jim Browning with
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries
25 Division, and the area biologist for Nushagak and Togiak
26 Districts.

27

28 I guess I'd start off with saying that the
29 Department as far as staff comments does not oppose the
30 proposal as currently written, would like to point out in
31 addition to that nonopposition that we feel that some
32 marking requirement clearly marking subsistence-taken fish
33 is needed in the Togiak District and the Togiak drainage.

34

35 And I guess I would also like to respond to some
36 portions in the federal analysis that are of concern.
37 There's kind of a recurrent theme through there that this
38 hasn't been a problem in a long time, and the fact is that
39 conditions kind of have to come together for coho --
40 illegal coho fishing to become a problem. In 1998 we had a
41 situation where there was no spawn on kelp fishery in the
42 Togiak district during the herring fishery. The sockeye
43 salmon fishery was restricted in the peak of the fishery,
44 so sockeye harvest were down considerably. And then we had
45 a decent coho run at the end, and so we fished coho on
46 through August and into -- towards the end middle of
47 September. So the stage was set there with some late
48 market available, a small market, but the market stayed
49 around in the Togiak district, and so the coho fishery was
50 there operating, and there was not a lot of revenue

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1 generated by the sockeye fishery. So that kind of set the
2 stage, and we started getting complaints in mid August. We
3 forwarded those complaints to Fish and Wildlife Protection
4 at that time, and then didn't hear anything for a couple of
5 weeks, and then kept commercial fishing periods going
6 weekly, at least a couple of days a week there throughout
7 that time period. And then in early September began
8 getting another round of complaints. We kind of thought it
9 was taken care of by forwarding the complaint to Fish and
10 Wildlife Protection. So in early September then with more
11 complaints, again contacting Fish and Wildlife Protection,
12 finally ended up writing an emergency order closing the
13 commercial fishery due to the illegal fishing activity in
14 the subsistence fishery. There was nets being drifted down
15 the Togiak River, and then the coho were reportedly being
16 sold when the commercial period would open. So I guess,
17 you know, I look back at this regulation and found it in
18 the original subsistence regulations that were printed in
19 the first printing in 1979, so it sounds like, you know,
20 the problem was apparent to people then, and they felt like
21 they needed that regulation in place in the Togiak District
22 in 1979.

23
24 So again, some marking requirement we feel is
25 needed. The fact that removal of both lobes of the caudal
26 fin brings this area into line, if you will with other
27 areas of the state as far as marking requirements is fine,
28 and then I guess the comment in there about no other place
29 in Bristol Bay has this marking requirement, and I guess I
30 would point out that we haven't seen the kind of illegal
31 fishing activity that we've seen in or reported in as we've
32 seen in the Togiak District, so there's a reason for that
33 marking requirement.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
36 members? Yea, Robin?

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. Jim, where were these complaints predominantly
40 coming from?

41
42 MR. BROWNING: They were pretty widespread,
43 Robin. Initially it was sport fishing lodges reporting it,
44 but I had two or three calls from residents of Togiak. One
45 was a gentleman that was associated with Togiak Traders,
46 the store, and he reported that he was seeing these fish,
47 you know, show up at the buying station. It was not just,
48 you know, isolated reports from questionable sources. It
49 was pretty wide spread, the reports that we got from
50 various I guess facets of the fishery, including local

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1 residents, so we took it pretty seriously.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
4 Council members? Jim, this is not necessarily an isolated
5 situation in Togiak, because right here in the Naknek River
6 you have, you know, ten fathoms of subsistence net and you
7 can catch four, five, 600 fish, and we know for a fact that
8 people take the subsistence fish and sell it right here to
9 Cook Inlet Salmon or Ocean Beauty, any place else. They
10 just take it and put under somebody else's permit and it's
11 sold. However, that never shut down Bristol Bay. But they
12 did one time. I was going into Anchorage and flying lower
13 Talarik, and we had ADF&G on and that's automatic
14 directional finder, we listen to, you know, music because
15 you're totally bored with everything else going on, and
16 they closed down the Naknek system, Kvichak, because these
17 guys were fishing so far out of bounds. And apparently,
18 you know, Protection goes away at a certain date and you
19 never see them any more, and so everybody else had to shut
20 down the fishery. And I'm not so sure that -- it's
21 interesting anyway. I realize it might take a lot of
22 enforcement to handle that, but it's an interesting system.
23 I appreciate you mention these comments, because it has
24 been more educational for us now to deal with this issue.

25

26 MR. BROWNING: Mr. Chairman, if I might
27 respond to that briefly, I had the opportunity to speak
28 with Protection this morning. I dropped into their office
29 before heading over here. This is the local Fish and
30 Wildlife Protection officers, and their comment was we may
31 not have the marking requirement in place anywhere else
32 currently, but that's not to say that they wouldn't like to
33 see it come into existence in other areas. As they
34 recognize it, there is a problem with subsistence-caught
35 fish entering the commercial market in other areas.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In a lot of areas, yeah.
38 Okay. Good. Thank you. I just want to make sure we got
39 that on record, because it's not an isolated case.
40 Anything else, Council members? Yeah, Robin?

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. We're -- this
43 proposal only speaks to the Togiak River. Do you have any
44 indications, Jim, that this activity is taking place in
45 Kulukak or Osviuk or any of them other river systems that
46 are associated with the Togiak District?

47

48 MR. BROWNING: Well, Robin, I guess my
49 comment to that would be I have no direct knowledge and nor
50 have I received any reports of any of this happening in

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1 those other areas. I certainly defer to Pete's local
2 knowledge and experience in the district. However, market
3 is a big issue here, and availability of the market
4 determines where and when this illegal fishing activity can
5 take place. And generally, you know, we're -- we had a
6 weekly fishing schedule in this district where you're
7 opening Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. and fishing until
8 Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. It's a known. You know,
9 you know when the buying station's going to be open. You
10 know when they're going to be there. And if you want, you
11 know, you were able to go out Saturday night or Sunday
12 night and catch the fish and be able to be at the buying
13 station that Monday morning with the fish. So if you were
14 in Kulukak and had to make that run from Kulukak, the -- by
15 that time of the year they're not putting any tenders down
16 at Kulukak, they're not putting any tenders down at Osviak.
17 So the only buying station would be right there, you know,
18 in the bay, close to the Village of Togiak. So that would
19 determine a lot of where the activity could take place?

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does that satisfy your
22 question? Pete?

23
24 MR. ABRAHAM: You know, in Togiak there's a
25 lot of skiffs, a lot of skiffs over there that, you know,
26 travels quite a bit, you know, 35 knots or so. Well, I
27 know, because I live there, you know, they go back and
28 forth between Osviak and Kulukak, you know, during the coho
29 season. I mean, sometimes Kulukak has more cohos than
30 Togiak Bay. And sometimes Osviak has more. You know,
31 there's activity all the way around that's depending on the
32 weather situation.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Counsel
35 members? Thank you very much, Jim.

36
37 MR. BROWNING: Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll take the written
40 comments, summary of written comment at this time. We'll
41 have public comment after that, and then we'll take a break
42 and come back and act on the proposal. Who's handling the
43 written comments? Jeff -- I mean, Cliff?

44
45 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there weren't any
46 written or submitted public comments regarding this
47 proposal.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And so we're down
50 to opening the floor for public comment. Any member of the

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1 public who would like to comment on this? Yes?

2

3 MR. NICHOLSON: For the record my name is
4 Hans Nicholson. I work for BBNA Natural Resources
5 Subsistence Department. I've been following the discussion
6 concerning the proposal, Proposal 12. Initially the
7 proposal asked to change the marking requirement from
8 removal of the head to removal of the caudal fin. I handed
9 Cliff a printout on the anatomy of fish there. It shows
10 the caudal fin. It's the tail.

11

12 Initially the proposal was submitted by someone
13 other than myself. I don't think the -- I don't think the
14 request is unreasonable. The question, or the issue of
15 illegal fishing activities came up, but I think there are
16 ways to address those. You know, Robin brought up, you
17 know, maybe there's been some illegal activities in the
18 Kulukak section, you know. Perhaps there has been. Maybe
19 not. But we all admit that there definitely is a need to
20 identify or separate commercial fish from the subsistence
21 fish.

22

23 I myself prefer to keep my fish whole when I'm
24 transporting it home, you know. You've already heard the
25 argument about the contamination, the quality of fish. I
26 think it would be appropriate for this Board to address
27 include the other areas of the Kulukak -- not the Kulukak,
28 but the Togiak Districts in this proposal. You know, you
29 have that authority to make those changes.

30

31 But, you know, the Board of Fish didn't totally
32 discount this proposal, because it was also submitted to
33 them, and they took the October 29 -- I mean, September 29
34 to October 1 work session in Anchorage. And they didn't
35 think it was that far out of line, and what they decided to
36 do with it is they decided to do a board generated
37 proposal, it will be listed as Proposal A, submitted by the
38 Board of Fish, that will be taken up in January. So, you
39 know, it is a concern.

40

41 The report is that there has not been any
42 violations the past five years, you know, which could lead
43 to our assumption that possibly there is no further illegal
44 activities. The other assumption could be that there is
45 not enough protection over there, you know, addressing this
46 issue. But the primary reason of the proposal is to
47 address the quality of the subsistence food that these
48 people are eating. You know, I guess the end result of my
49 discussion here is just I don't have a problem with
50 changing the marking requirement. WE all acknowledge that

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1 there is -- there should be a marking requirement. Number
2 2, you know, we've got to be thinking about the quality of
3 fish that these people are eating. So I'll keep my
4 comments short, and I guess if you have any questions, I'll
5 try to answer them.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hans, who are you
8 representing? You work for BBNA?

9
10 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, I work for BBNA.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's what you're
13 testifying for now?

14
15 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

18
19 MR. NICHOLSON: The proposal was submitted
20 by my predecessor. It went to the RAC here last March, and
21 your recommendation was present it to the Board of Fish,
22 the State Board of Fish, and then at the same time I guess,
23 it was -- it would come up for reconsideration here again.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. NICHOLSON: And apparently it will be
28 reconsidered at the winter meeting in December before the
29 regional advisory.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Do you
32 have any questions, Council members?

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman?

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Pete?

37
38 MR. ABRAHAM: Yesterday I was offended very
39 deeply from Chignik. Anthony Gregory (ph) said fish in
40 Bristol Bay taste like mud.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But he sure ate that fish
43 good though I noticed. That had nothing to do with Togiak
44 by the way. Maybe there will be somebody else here today
45 testifying from Togiak, Hans, you know, but in case they
46 don't, I'd kind of like to know how Togiak feels about this
47 as well as maybe there's a BBNA connection, since it was
48 native association, is that nonprofit arm that goes there.
49 Have you had any public hearings in Togiak on this, or have
50 you had any feedback from the people in Togiak? And maybe

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1 Pete might know, too.

2

3 MR. NICHOLSON: I haven't heard any
4 feedback from there. It's kind of been a low priority. I
5 don't think from what I've heard comments in passing is
6 that, you know, nobody really paid attention to the
7 requirement to remove the head.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay.

10

11 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think none of
12 this over here, this beheading, you know, coho thing over
13 here, has never been mentioned over in Togiak. I never --
14 I mean, I haven't heard it over there. Was it discussed
15 over in Togiak, Mr. Parker?

16

17 MR. PARKER: Mr. Chairman, when Hans is
18 done, I go up and make a comment.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.
21 Anything else, Hans?

22

23 MR. NICHOLSON: No, that would be it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you very
26 much. Appreciate that. Okay.

27

28 MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you.

29

30 MR. PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I'm John Parker,
31 Togiak Advisory Committee, and as far as the committee is
32 concerned, we have never addressed this issue at any
33 meetings. I don't want to say it's a low priority, but it
34 just -- we -- actually that's what it is. We have higher
35 priorities a lot of time, and it's never come up on our
36 agenda. I believe it's more of an enforcement problem than
37 anything. In the old days we had quite good silver runs
38 and we had markets that stayed late into the season, and so
39 that kind of gives you a pretty good opportunity to, you
40 know, to make illegal fishing more easier. You know, as
41 far as like this season, the markets pulled out early.
42 Everybody has gone, so there's not a problem with it. As
43 far as the people going up on the river and cutting the
44 heads off, I have never seen it done myself there, so I --
45 you know, and I -- to be honest with you, I haven't done it
46 either. I guess I shouldn't say that, but it's -- like Mr.
47 Browning said, it's an enforcement problem, and I think
48 maybe, you know, I won't speak for the committee until, you
49 know, I -- but I can put it on our agenda, and, you know,
50 we can talk about it. I -- that -- in my opinion, the

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1 markings a good idea, but I think it's -- I -- you know, I
2 reemphasize that it's an enforcement problem, and maybe,
3 you know, we need to address it more with -- in that issue
4 as far as maybe bringing some law enforcement over. I
5 realize there's limited funding to do that, but I think the
6 people at Togiak are, you know, trying to be honest about
7 the situation as far as, you know, if people are poaching
8 on the river, you know, they will call enforcement just
9 because they don't want to -- everybody to have a bad name,
10 you know, so.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And you're on
13 the Togiak state advisory committee?

14
15 MR. PARKER: Yes, vice chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. I see. Does
18 Togiak have a separate advisory committee from Nushagak
19 area?

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

22
23 MR. PARKER: Yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Always learning.

26
27 MR. PARKER: We have one member from Twin
28 Hills and one member from Manokotak.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, good. Okay. Good.
31 Any questions, Council members? Well, thank you,.....

32
33 MR. PARKER: You're welcome.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:John, we appreciate
36 it. Any further public comment? Yes.

37
38 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Subsistence
39 Division, Fish & Game. And Ralph, my former boss, just
40 asked me to clarify as much as I could because.....

41
42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Still working for him?

43
44 MR. KRIEG: Well, because I was the one
45 that put in the proposal, and this issue first came about
46 at -- I think they were calling them the advanced notice
47 meetings for the fisheries -- you know, assumption of
48 federal fisheries management and there was a meeting in
49 Togiak, and this came up, and for the same reasons that
50 you've heard already is that everybody kind of wondered why

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1 -- I mean, nobody did cut off the heads, so they wondered
2 why this regulation was in there. And then along with that
3 discussion, somebody, and it should be in the Fish and
4 Wildlife Service minutes or records for that meeting, but
5 somebody from Togiak, you know, brought up the point that
6 if you cut off the head, there's potential for
7 contamination. And so the whole gist of that meeting as I
8 understood it was to kind of weed out these types of
9 things, and it was sort of a procedural thing, so, you
10 know, at that point, that's how the -- you know, the
11 proposal came about. And at -- you know, initially I was
12 kind of confused about how this was all going to work, and
13 I thought it was something that was going to be taken care
14 of through another direction and not as a proposal, but
15 when it came down to the proposals were -- or the -- well,
16 yeah, proposal came out and it was like, well, did -- you
17 know, I asked, you know, why wasn't something in there
18 already, and they said, well, it needs to come in as a
19 proposal, so if that helps or confuses or whatever, that's
20 how it came about. But it came, you know, from this
21 meeting that took place in Togiak and local residents
22 there.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Any
25 questions, Council members?

26
27 MR. KRIEG: And it was -- you know, it was
28 subsistence permit. I mean, that was strictly the point,
29 is that it -- you know, it was contaminating fish if it --
30 you know, the heads were removed, so that was the point of
31 the proposal.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you
34 very much. We'll take a ten-minute break at this time.
35 Come back and then the Council can act on the proposal.

36
37 (Off record - 2:25 p.m.)

38
39 (On record - 2:37 p.m.)

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We will -- we're
42 back on record, and we'd like to ask you if you would take
43 your seats, please, so we can continue on with the Council
44 business here. We've gone through all the steps that we
45 need to to address this particular proposal. At this time
46 I'd like to ask the direction that the Council would like
47 to take on this proposal?

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
4 I'd like to make a motion, that motion would be in the
5 Togiak section, which is described as all waters from Cape
6 Pierce to Cape Constantine, you may also take salmon by
7 spear, and no person may possess coho salmon taken under
8 the authority of a subsistence fishing permit unless the
9 caudal fin or dorsal -- and/or dorsal fin have been removed
10 from the salmon.

11

12 MR. ABRAHAM: I second the motion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Would you
15 like to speak to your motion, Robin?

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has given us
19 testimony that as late as 1998 they experienced abuses in
20 this fishery, and had to take, I call it evasive action,
21 which is closing down the fishery. I was kind of leaning
22 towards just doing away with this regulation completely, I
23 think that in order to -- that it needs to stand in place
24 for a while. I'm surely not accusing that all Togiakers
25 are illegal subsistence fishermen, but I do think that
26 there's few fishermen over there that old habits are hard
27 to break, as indicated by the action taken by Fish and Game
28 in 1998. I think asking Togiak subsistence users to remove
29 the head is a step too far. From my own subsistence
30 experiences, when we put up our fish, my wife likes the
31 fish to firm up, and soak over night. They get nice and
32 firm and are easier to manage when you're cutting them up.
33 So I think the -- and I agree with what the testimony of
34 BBNA that removing the head will possibly cause
35 contamination of the gill section, and that's a nice meaty
36 part that we like to salt in subsistence. So I think this
37 would address the concerns of Fish and Game, as well as not
38 being too burdensome to the subsistence users in the Togiak
39 area.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
42 discussion, Council members? Yeah, Robert.

43

44 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I was
45 wondering if the maker of the motion would entertain a
46 friendly amendment to have the motion read both lobes of
47 the caudal fin or dorsal fin have been immed -- and insert
48 the word immediately.

49

50 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'll accept it as a

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1 friendly.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That's our
4 friendly amendment. Now, we need a second to that?

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think it's been seconded.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Huh? What's that?

9

10 MS. KELLY: I think it's been seconded.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's been seconded.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any other
17 discussion, Council members? Call for the question.

18

19 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor, say
22 aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

27

28 (No opposing votes.)

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Now, that was --
31 that takes care of the amendment, and since it's a friendly
32 amendment, takes care of the entire motion.

33

34 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Cliff?

37

38 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
39 next proposal is 13, which is an overlapping proposal, and
40 Pat McClenahan will address that one.

41

42 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Pat McClenahan, staff anthropologist.

44

45 This draft staff analysis combines the analysis for
46 Proposals 13 and 33. It was prepared by Pat Petrivelli,
47 staff anthropologist for Southcentral Region, and it also
48 is a cross over proposal. In other words, it was proposed
49 by another region.

50

00044

1 Proposal 13, submitted by Ninilchik Traditional
2 Council, Steven Vanek and Fred H. Bahr, requests a positive
3 customary and traditional use determination for all fish
4 and all shellfish in the Cook Inlet area for residents of
5 the Kenai Peninsula District. The Ninilchik Tribal Council
6 also requested that the taking and use of fish and
7 shellfish during all periods of seasonal presence be
8 allowed.

9
10 Proposal 33 was submitted by Henry Kroll, and it
11 requests a positive customary and traditional use
12 determination for herring, crabs, smelt, whitefish, razor
13 clams, and salmon in Tuxedni Bay for residents of the bay
14 only. There are maps on pages 18 and 19 of the book that
15 show these areas. And also in your fisheries regulation
16 book, on page 34, map 11, shows the area.

17
18 This analysis addresses both of these proposals.
19 The management area is the Cook Inlet Management area.
20 These proposals also request open season dates and harvest
21 methods. However, it's not our usual procedure to
22 entertain both customary and traditional use proposals and
23 methods and means proposals at the same time, so the c&t
24 will be taken up today, and the other will be addressed for
25 season and harvest in a later meeting.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In a later meeting?

28
29 MS. McCLENAHAN: I'm sorry. Will be taken
30 care of during the next federal fish proposal cycle.

31
32 Perhaps this is a good time to mention that because
33 of the Kenai rural determination request for
34 reconsideration, the Federal Subsistence Board will not be
35 taking this up at the upcoming meeting, because the --
36 there's no determine on the request -- determination on the
37 request for reconsideration yet.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else?

40
41 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, a lot else. I'm
42 sorry. This is a pretty long one. Please look at page 16.
43 You will see the existing regulation for the Cook Inlet
44 area, and you'll see the proposed regulation. And so the
45 change would read, Cook Inlet Area, all fish, residents of
46 the Kenai Peninsula District, communities that border Cook
47 Inlet, Ninilchik. Tuxedni Bay, herring, smelt, whitefish
48 and salmon, residents of Tuxedni Bay. Cook Inlet area, all
49 shellfish, residents of the Kenai Peninsula District.
50 Communities that border Cook Inlet. Ninilchik. Tuxedni

00045

1 Bay, crab and razor clams, residents of Tuxedni Bay. The
2 taking and use of fish and shellfish during all periods of
3 seasonal presence of such species is allowed by residents
4 of the Kenai Peninsula District.

5
6 At this time, this analysis will be limited
7 strictly to salmon. We're not going to take up shellfish
8 today, because of the number of communities that are
9 involved. And as it is, this is a pretty long analysis.

10
11 The current federal regulations for fisheries do
12 not allow for subsistence taking of salmon, dolly varden,
13 trout, char, grayling and burbot for customary or
14 traditional use in the Cook Inlet area. Salmon is
15 recognized as a primary resource for the affected users and
16 is a resource whose use has been well documented. The Cook
17 Inlet area, which is map one, includes portions of Lake
18 Clark National Park, and Tuxedni Bay is within the Cook
19 Inlet area. It consists of the federal waters of Tuxedni
20 Subunit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge,
21 which surrounds Chisik Island, and federal waters within
22 the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and
23 Preserve and Tuxedni Bay. And you can refer map number 2,
24 which shows you the Tuxedni Bay area.

25
26 National Park Service regulations identify
27 qualified rural -- I'm sorry, qualified local rural
28 subsistence users within national parks by identifying
29 resident zone communities, and by identifying and issuing
30 subsistence eligibility permits. The resident zone
31 communities for Lake Clark are Iliamna, Lime Village,
32 Newhalen, Nondalton, Pedro Bay and Port Allsworth. None of
33 these communities are in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Map
34 three on page 22 shows you the Kenai Peninsula Borough
35 communities and their physical relationship, if you will,
36 to the Central District, which is the district I think that
37 you'll be most interested in here.

38
39 In current state regulations there are subsistence
40 and personal use fisheries for stocks identified in table
41 three. Table three is on page 24.

42
43 When we do a customary and traditional use
44 analysis, we rely on eight factors for determining
45 customary and traditional uses. Of greatest interest to
46 the councils has been factor one and factor four, which
47 I'll go over with you now.

48
49 Factor one, a long term consistent pattern of use,
50 excluding interruptions beyond the control of the community

00046

1 or area. For the contemporary period -- well, actually
2 salmon have been used by the residents of the Kenai
3 Peninsula consistently through prehistoric, historic, and
4 modern time periods for the -- for subsistence, personal
5 use, commercial and sport use. The historic and
6 prehistoric use of salmon in that area is based in three
7 traditions: The Dena'ina, the Alutiiq, and early
8 homesteading. While the evidence for long term use of
9 salmon in the area is good, data about subsistence use
10 areas for specific groups are poor or lacking.

11
12 Tuxedni Bay. Out of the core of subsistence users
13 in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, an even smaller core of
14 these users have regularly used the Tuxedni Bay for
15 subsistence salmon. According to the proposer, Mr. Kroll,
16 the residents of the bay, two or three families, have
17 consistently used the resource. According to a random
18 telephone survey of 406 Borough residents that was done in
19 1991, 129 or 32 percent had visited or used the west side
20 of Cook Inlet. Of these users, 52.7 percent fished for
21 salmon in the area, and of these, less than five percent
22 were subsistence users. The areas visited were ranked by
23 frequency as follows: Polly Creek, 37.9 percent, Chitna
24 Bay, 25 percent, Tuxedni Bay, 20.5 percent, unspecified
25 west side, 15.2 percent, Chisik Island, 10.6 percent,
26 Silver Salmon Creek, 9.1 percent, Crescent River, 2.3
27 percent, and Clam Cove and Spring Point, .8 percent. The
28 mean number of years of use for the total area was 6.51 and
29 the maximum number of years use was 36. The majority were
30 recreational users.

31
32 The preliminary staff conclusion is to support the
33 proposal for positive customary and traditional use of
34 salmon for the residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough
35 with modification to defer consideration of other non-
36 salmon fish and shellfish to a later date. And on page 36
37 you'll see the proposed modifications. Cook Inlet area,
38 federal public lands and water in the Kenai Peninsula
39 Borough, salmon, residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough,
40 no federal season. And I'd like to particularly point out
41 that this is all rural residents of the Kenai Peninsula
42 Borough would be included in this.

43
44 Justification. The residents of the Kenai
45 Peninsula Borough have consistently harvested salmon
46 throughout the known occupation of the lands within the
47 Borough. In historic times, this harvest has occurred
48 under subsistence, personal use, commercial or sport
49 allocations. The diversity of use ranges from little of --
50 little use of salmon to a large dependence where a core

00047

1 group with significant use exists in all communities. The
2 core groups of users are throughout the Borough. These
3 users have been recognized through noncommercial,
4 nonrecreational subsistence or personal use classifications
5 over the past 50 years. When the State Board of Fisheries
6 declared the Kenai Peninsula a nonsubsistence area, they
7 also identified a personal use fishery, and an educational
8 fishery to try to accommodate these users. these uses
9 should be recognized by Federal Subsistence Board as a
10 customary and traditional use.

11
12 Tim Jennings may wish to add something about the
13 Kenai Borough RFR?

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Would you like him
16 to do that now if he would so desire, or do you want --
17 okay.

18
19 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is just
20 to give you a brief update on the status of the Kenai rural
21 determination and the request to reconsider that decision,
22 because it plays into how the Board will address this
23 proposal. There was two requests to reconsider the Kenai
24 Peninsula rural determination, one from the Safari Club and
25 some other participants, and then one from the Cooper
26 Landing Advisory Committee. There was also a letter
27 submitted by the State of Alaska, although it wasn't an
28 official request to reconsider the decision. The Federal
29 Board decided on August 15th that some of the claims
30 mentioned in the request to reconsider had merit, and they
31 wanted to reconsider their May 3rd decision, which found
32 the entire Kenai rural. And they've set out a timeline and
33 a schedule to do that, ending with a Federal Board decision
34 on the reconsideration about mid February. So in that --
35 in light of that, the Board has preliminarily decided not
36 to take up this proposal 13 and 33 until after they've made
37 the decision on the Kenai reconsideration, so they would
38 not be taking this up at the December meeting when they
39 would address all the other fisheries proposals. So that
40 -- I just wanted to give you that update.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

43
44 MR. JENNINGS: If there's any questions?

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Counsel members? Tim,
47 there was two requests, one from who? Some Sierra Club or
48 what's the.....

49
50 MR. JENNINGS: Safari Club International.

00048

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Safari Club. What's the
2 difference? I meant that as a question, okay? Take it
3 anyway you like.

4
5 MR. JENNINGS: I'm not familiar with the
6 purposes of the Safari.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9
10 MR. JENNINGS:International. I think
11 -- I believe it's a sporting,.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

14
15 MR. JENNINGS:hunting group.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's kind of what
18 I had in mind. The other one was the Cooper Landing.....

19
20 MR. JENNINGS: Cooper Landing.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Advisory?

23
24 MR. JENNINGS: Fish and Game Advisory
25 Committee.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: State of Alaska,
28 Department of Fish and Game.

29
30 MR. JENNINGS: State committee, correct.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. Good.
33 Appreciate that a lot. Okay.

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair?

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions? Yeah,
38 Robin.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Currently -- or
41 prior to the Federal Subsistence Board's ruling in the Cook
42 Inlet area, it's my understanding that Seldovia, Port
43 Graham, English Bay, them southern, right at the southern
44 tip, they had a c&t finding both under the state's
45 regulation, and under Title VIII of ANILCA. Is that
46 correct?

47
48 MR. JENNINGS: In terms of salmon I don't
49 -- in fresh water, as I understand the staff analysis, is
50 that in fresh waters on federal lands, this would be the

00049

1 first c&t, federal waters under the recent assumption of
2 fisheries. So the prior c&t would have been in regards to
3 wildlife. And then we adopted the State of Alaska c&t for
4 fish when we adopted the fisheries regulations last --
5 well, when they were implemented last October.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, maybe I could
8 rephrase my question then. Those three villages right at
9 the tip of the Kenai Peninsula, they had a rural
10 designation prior to the Federal Subsistence Board's ruling
11 under the state regulations and ANILCA criteria, and it's
12 those communities that are north of there that received the
13 c&t determination from the -- or.....

14
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Federal rule.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN:a rural designation
18 under.....

19
20 MR. JENNINGS: A rural, okay. Yeah. I
21 understand now. You're correct, the prior rural
22 designation on the Kenai included Seldovia, Port Graham,
23 English Bay or Nanwalek, and then I believe Cooper Landing,
24 and I think parts of -- there is a Ninilchik area as well.

25
26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. With those
27 communities prior to the Federal Subsistence Board ruling
28 that had a rural determination, did they have c&t on any
29 fish stocks?

30
31 MR. JENNINGS: As I understand it, on those
32 that were adopted through us adopting the state
33 regulations. And my understanding was the state did not
34 have any c&t for salmon in fresh waters. And maybe there's
35 somebody here from the state that could clarify that.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

38
39 MR. JENNINGS: As I understand the staff
40 analysis, there was no subsistence fishing on the Kenai
41 Peninsula in fresh waters under state management since
42 about statehood time period. There's been personal use
43 fisheries and educational permit fisheries.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Counsel members, any
46 questions? One more question. Since this is an
47 overlapping proposal, in other words, it goes over into
48 Lake Clark which is our area, they're not going to split
49 this proposal down into having us deal with our section,
50 and letting Cook Inlet remain separate until February, so

00050

1 it's going to remain as one proposal?

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: That's the current approach,
4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But -- yeah, but there's
7 no reason why we can't make a recommendation on what we
8 want to do on this, right,.....

9

10 MR. JENNINGS: That's correct,.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 'cause that's the
13 federal board's.....

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good.

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robert.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robert? Sorry.

22

23 MR. HEYANO: Well, if I understood, the
24 Federal Subsistence Board isn't going to be taking any
25 action on this -- on these two proposals until they make a
26 determination if they're going to reconsider?

27

28 MR. JENNINGS: Until they make the final
29 decision on the reconsideration. They've already decided
30 to reconsider the Kenai rural determination. They made
31 that decision in August. And then they will -- we are
32 currently preparing a staff analysis in regards to the
33 claims that were made under the reconsideration, and we
34 will take that to the Southcentral Council, to a public
35 meeting, and then Southcentral Council recommendations,
36 public testimony to a Board meeting approximately in mid
37 February, and that's when the Board plans to make a
38 decision on the reconsideration, on the merits of the
39 reconsideration. They could uphold their May 3rd decision
40 to find the entire Kenai rural, or they could go back to
41 the rural determination that they had prior to May 3rd,
42 which designated I think the communities that Mr. Samuelson
43 had mentioned, or they could perhaps go somewhere else in
44 between. And they have -- you're correct in that they
45 currently will not take up this proposal until after
46 they've made that final rural determination in February.

47

48 MR. HEYANO: So when is the likelihood of
49 the Federal Subsistence Board dealing with these two
50 proposals?

00051

1 MR. JENNINGS: Well, there's various
2 scenarios that have been discussed. It somewhat depends
3 upon the outcome of their rural determination decision.
4 The current analysis is written to address all Kenai
5 Peninsula residents, because they're currently under
6 regulation as rural. If the Board rolls back or changes
7 that decision, then we believe there's a need to go back
8 and to revisit the staff analysis and refocus it, which
9 would add some time into the process. There's been no
10 specific timing beyond May -- or February 15th in terms of
11 when the Board would take this up, because we're not sure
12 about the outcome and how it will play out.

13
14 MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman, if there's
15 an opportunity for us to address these proposals after the
16 Federal Subsistence Board has made their determinations, I
17 think that would be a more appropriate time.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay.

20
21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Public comment, too.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we have public
24 comment. Yeah.

25
26 MR. HEYANO: And I have one other.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Go ahead.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: Some place in here I read
31 where the Federal Subsistence Board is in the process of
32 contracting out to get some reporting back as to rural and
33 nonrural designations for them to work with. Is there
34 going to be an opportunity in this agenda to ask questions
35 to that specific item?

36
37 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, sir, we have.....

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

40
41 MR. JENNINGS:Mr. Heyano, we have --
42 that's on the agenda later on under agency reports. We
43 have a report on the statewide rural determination process.
44 Then we'll cover that.

45
46 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else? Tim, what
49 was the name of the organization, the first one, that
50 requested that they go back and reconsider? What's the

00052

1 name of that club?

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Safari Club International,
4 and then I believe there's the Alaska chapter, and there
5 may also be a Kenai Peninsula Chapter.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is Senator Murkowski a
8 member of that club, do you know? Or you don't want to
9 address that?

10

11 MR. JENNINGS: I don't know. I don't know
12 if he is or not.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nothing much to do with
15 the meeting anyway. Anything else, Council members? Okay.
16 Thank you very much.

17

18 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. Mr. Chair, and at the
19 time that it's appropriate, we can report how the
20 Southcentral Council dealt with this when they've already
21 met and discussed this proposal.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, they've already --
24 okay. Did they act on it, might we ask, or not?

25

26 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, they did.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They did? Okay. All
29 right.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: I can give you the -- well,
32 I'll wait until the appropriate time in the agenda, and I
33 can tell you what they did, or Cliff can.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Deb Leggitt, did
36 you want to make a comment here since.....

37

38 MS. LEGGITT: National Park Service has
39 comments. I don't know, does ADF&G have comments, or do
40 you want to go first on the agenda?

41

42 MR. BROWNING: There's nobody here from
43 that region, I mean, that area, so.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

46

47 MS. LEGGITT: Mr. Chair, Counsel members,
48 nice to be here as always. Deb Leggitt, National Park
49 Service.

50

00053

1 I wanted to talk with the Council today kind of
2 about my, as superintendent of Lake Clark National Park and
3 Preserve, about our concern, our broad policy concerns,
4 regarding these two proposals. And let me preface my
5 remarks by saying that there is no question I think in the
6 minds of most people in this room, that there are indeed
7 legitimate subsistence users on the Kenai Peninsula. I
8 would urge the Council today to consider tabling this until
9 the revisit of the Kenai rural decision, and until you've
10 had ample opportunity to consult with the Lake Clark
11 Subsistence Resource Council and the potential impacts of
12 the Kenai rural decision, and these two proposals on Lake
13 Clark National Park and Preserve and the subsistence users
14 and subsistence resource there.

15
16 We met with the Lake Clark SRC last week. That was
17 the first opportunity they'd had to look at these two
18 proposals as they had been meshed by staff. The two
19 proposals are -- were dramatically different in nature.
20 Hank Kroll's proposal dealt specifically with residents of
21 Tuxedni Bay, and it was, as it was originally written, I
22 just told some folks it included everything stopping just
23 short of edible rocks and trees, and everything from tide
24 land to upland. Proposal 13 originally dealt with just
25 villages along Cook Inlet. But when the proposals are
26 meshed, it suddenly becomes the entire Kenai Borough for
27 salmon.

28
29 And I'm concerned that we're painting with too
30 broad a brush. The worst case scenario is that there are
31 users in Seward who could legitimately access the
32 subsistence resource in Lake Clark National Park. It's
33 unlikely that that would be the case, but when we paint
34 with that broad a brush -- I noticed when you were elected
35 -- re-elected chair, you and the vice chair, no one handed
36 you a crystal ball. And.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you didn't see that?

39
40 MS. LEGGITT: I didn't see that. If you
41 got one, and if you have one to loan, I would appreciate
42 it. And so this is the first chance that we've had to look
43 at any proposals, at any proposals specifically related to
44 Kenai rural. And it does cross boundaries. And the
45 conversation that Andrew and Glenn Allsworth and I had last
46 week was about unintended consequences, and because my
47 crystal ball doesn't look very far down the road, I would
48 urge this council, and I would urge you to counsel the
49 Federal Board to take small steps, to be very judicious in
50 your actions as we test the water on this issue.

00054

1 I think if we paint with too broad a brush, we
2 actually put at risk the legitimate subsistence users. You
3 know, how many subsistence users are there really on the
4 Kenai Peninsula, and how many would have access.

5
6 C&T is, of course, just one piece of the equation.
7 We're aware of that, that seasons and bag limits, you know,
8 are another level, but the National Park's concern is that
9 we proceed carefully as we look at this, and potentially it
10 will become a non issue.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions of Deb
13 Leggitt? Okay. Of course, on other -- looking at it from
14 the other view, too, is if we did act on it, it would lead
15 to some credibility of keeping a rural preference for the
16 Kenai area such as the Federal Board has already done. And
17 that's what I was thinking of earlier. But I appreciate
18 your comments, they were good. Thank you very much.

19
20 Where are we at, Cliff?

21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman, in lieu of --
23 if you look on page 47, the Alaska Department of Fish and
24 Game submitted some written comments regarding Proposal 13
25 and 33. I'll just defer to those. And then if you turn
26 over to page 48, we'll go ahead and bypass ADF&G comments,
27 since there isn't anyone here to provide those, and if you
28 look on pages 48 and 49, there were six written comments,
29 and five of those opposed providing a positive c&t for
30 those and one supports.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon, what's the
33 number?

34
35 MR. EDENSHAW: Pardon?

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What was the number
38 again?

39
40 MR. EDENSHAW: That's on page 48 and
41 49.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How many for and how many
44 against?

45
46 MR. EDENSHAW:of the JAF (ph) staff
47 analysis,.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

50

00055

1 MR. EDENSHAW:and those are written
2 and public comments regarding Proposals 13 and 33. And
3 they specifically state in there each proposal they're
4 addressing. And that concludes the written and public
5 comments, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Any
8 questions or comments, Council members? We're back then
9 public comments from any members -- since there's no ADF&G,
10 are there any public comment that we -- anyone wants to
11 make on this? Yes, Ted?

12
13 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Subsistence
14 Division, Fish and Game. I do have -- I'd better read this
15 to make sure I'm doing it right. Yeah, since revised, our
16 comments based on review of the draft proposal analysis and
17 federal staff recommendations as to the action that should
18 be taken on the proposals. And that's referring to
19 Proposals 13 and 33. So this is revised comments from
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

21
22 These proposals request a positive c&t finding for
23 all fish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet Area for Kenai
24 Peninsula District residents. The State supports the
25 preliminary staff recommendation to limit the c&t finding
26 to salmon only, and to defer consideration of the other
27 species until a later time. The State asked that
28 information on the eight factors focus on areas requesting
29 positive c&t determinations.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And, Ted, who
32 are you representing today?

33
34 MR. KRIEG: Fish and Game.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Fish and Game. Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game, yeah. Yeah. We're used to
38 seeing you on the other side, too. That's fine, I just
39 wanted to clarify.

40
41 MR. KRIEG: Right. And these were sent
42 from Terry Haynes, who's -- I'm not sure of his official
43 title, but he coordinates the comments that come out from
44 Fish and Game on federal proposals.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Do we have
47 any other public comments on the proposal before us today
48 on the floor? Okay. Hearing none, what's the concerns or
49 interest of the Council? Yeah, Robin?

50

00056

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2 move that at this time we take no action and that we wait
3 until the reconsideration process is taken by the Federal
4 Subsistence Board to define the Cook Inlet area either
5 urban or rural, and that this proposal be brought back to
6 us either in our spring meeting or in our fall meeting next
7 year.....

8
9 MR. HEYANO: Second.

10
11 MR. SAMUELSEN:for consideration.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And there's a second to
14 the motion. Did you want to address your motion?

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. I don't believe that 60,000 residents of the
18 Kenai are all subsistence users in my heart. When the
19 McDowell I passed, all Alaskans became subsistence users,
20 and as a resident of Dillingham and a subsistence user in
21 -- where I gather most of my subsistence in the Nushagak
22 River, with the all Alaskan principle, or the all Alaskan
23 subsistence user now I'm seeing guided moose hunts and
24 subsistence hunts by nonresidents in the Nushagak River.
25 The resource can only stand so much pressure. This is a
26 political hot tomato, the Cook Inlet area. The hottest in
27 the State of Alaska, and you're correct, Mr. Chairman,
28 Frank Murkowski also wrote a letter objecting to the rural
29 designation in this area, and I don't think it's good to
30 get out of -- get out in front of the Federal Subsistence
31 Board as a RAC, and, you know, they made a decision that it
32 was rural, and took a lot of heat for it, and then decided
33 to reconsider, and I think we should just wait and see if
34 they reconsider or the new information keeps it rural.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other Council
37 members who would like to comment? Robert?

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm going
40 to vote in favor of the motion. I think it was just
41 brought to our attention that the Lake Clark Subsistence
42 Resource Council has some serious concerns about these two
43 proposals, and I think it's only appropriate that before we
44 act that we see what they recommend to us.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I guess since the
47 SRC which is your -- the recommendation from the Lake
48 Iliamna country has been so recent, they really haven't
49 given us anything yet to -- so it probably would be prudent
50 to do that. Any other concerns, Council members? We have

00057

1 a motion on the floor.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Call for the question.

6 All those in favor say aye?

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

11

12 (No opposing votes.)

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That I believe
15 ends the proposals that we have today. Cliff, next?

16

17 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, under item number
18 10 is call for wildlife proposals, and we'll accept those
19 from -- we started accepted those August 18th, and those
20 will continue, an open period until October 27th. And at
21 this time, if there's anyone here from the public who so
22 chooses to come forth and put forth a proposal, a hunting
23 or trapping, harvest and bag limits, with seasons, dates,
24 this is the time. I've also included copies of the
25 proposal forms here on the table. Just a little bit of
26 housecleaning, go down to agency, I'm not sure if any of
27 the Fish and Wildlife refuges here or the Department of
28 Fish and Game have any proposals, they may do so at this
29 time.

30

31 I wanted to, and perhaps Dave Fisher here, our
32 biologist on the team can answer any additional questions
33 the council may have, but under C I went ahead and included
34 in the agenda deferred Proposal 98-59 regarding a moose
35 proposal in Unit 17(A), and as you all know, the Board this
36 past summer went ahead and under D, special action requests
37 00-05, which is a fall moose hunt in Unit 17(A), the Board
38 unanimously approved that moose hunt in Unit 17(A). Right
39 before me I don't have the -- it's the specific dates and
40 bag limits and Dave can provide that information to the
41 Council.

42

43 But getting back to item number C, this was a
44 deferred proposal and at last winter's meeting we addressed
45 the moose management plan that the council went ahead and
46 approved, and I -- go ahead and -- the action the council
47 may take on this is just to go ahead and for the record
48 state that they would like this proposal, deferred Proposal
49 98-59, be pushed through this regulatory cycle so that come
50 June 2001, that this will be on the books as a permanent

00058

1 regulation.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robert. Robin.

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: I just have one comment,
6 Mr. Chairman. A lot of heartache, and a lot of work has
7 been done by this committee over the special action
8 requests of the residents of Togiak, and I would urge the
9 Togiak Wildlife Refuge staff by the October 27th deadline,
10 if there's any proposals on moose and caribou on special
11 hunts, that they assist Togiak in submitting them proposals
12 so they could go through the process instead of taking
13 special action or emergency action requests on either moose
14 seasons or caribou seasons.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Cliff, anything
17 else?

18

19 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Dave's up here, and he
20 was going to bring.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, sorry, Dave.

23

24 MR. EDENSHAW:you the -- some
25 information request.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Talk to us.

28

29 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Dave
30 Fisher with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage
31 office. What I'd like to do is just maybe just bring us up
32 to date on this, and maybe clarify a little bit of the
33 history on this 17(A) moose thing.

34

35 If you will recall, back in '97, the Board of Game
36 passed a regulation opening up the moose season in 17(A).
37 It had been closed for about 16, 17 years. The Federal
38 Subsistence Board followed with a special action to match
39 the state regulation, and you'll recall a special action is
40 just good for the -- for that year. The refuge followed
41 with this Proposal 98-59 to establish a permanent moose
42 hunting season to align with state regulations. That was
43 tabled by the Council and deferred by the Board pending
44 completion of a moose management plan. This was supposed
45 to be taken up at the last regional council and Board
46 meeting; however, Proposal 98-59 didn't appear in the
47 Federal Register when the -- at the time that statewide
48 proposals were sent out, so the public didn't get a chance
49 to review it and act -- or make comment on it, so hence it
50 was just sort of in limbo. In order to have a federal

00059

1 moose season that aligned with the state season, the
2 council passed a special action and that was in place this
3 last season.

4
5 Now what we'd like to do is again reconsider this
6 proposal and it will be -- appear in the books and
7 everything so we can act on it next time.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
10 members? Yeah, Robin?

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: So in short, Dave, you
13 concurred with what I just said?

14
15 MR. FISHER: Correct.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

18
19 MR. FISHER: I wanted to make sure that you
20 didn't have any specific questions on the -- on that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

23
24 MR. FISHER: And I think.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead?

27
28 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, that's it, Mr.
29 Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

32
33 MR. FISHER: During the agency reports, the
34 refuge will probably bring us up to date on -- a little bit
35 on the 17(A) moose.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, Dave.

38
39 MR. FISHER: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate that. Okay,
42 Cliff, where are we at here? Do we deal with this proposal
43 now?

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: No.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No? Okay. We've already
48 -- our action from the previous.....

49
50 MR. EDENSHAW: At the winter meeting when

00060

1 we.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We -- yeah.

4

5 MR. EDENSHAW:when we met and.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We gave them the
8 direction and the numbers and everything then. Then we'll
9 follow that with that proposal. Okay. Good. We're in
10 good shape. All right. And actually this is -- this was
11 information for the public as well, as -- if there were any
12 other departments here now that wanted to come forth with
13 any proposals or public members that wanted to deal with
14 game proposals, right?

15

16 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. Yes, Mr, Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah. I guess you
19 understand that from the audience? Okay. So if we don't
20 have any concerns along those lines, then we'll have --
21 we'll go down to agency reports. And the -- lead us on the
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service one here. Okay.

23

24 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I have a request
25 of the Counsel regarding the agenda. Taylor Brelsford is
26 on his way out this afternoon, and if it's okay with the
27 Council, it's your pleasure, if we could defer our agency
28 report until Taylor arrives and do that first thing in the
29 morning? If you want to proceed, I can proceed, but Taylor
30 was going to cover some of these items, and I was going to
31 cover some of the others, so I'd like -- Taylor had about
32 half of these items that he was going to cover.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want to cover your
35 half, or do you want to wait for him?

36

37 MR. JENNINGS: However you'd like to handle
38 it, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon?

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: However you would like to
43 handle it, I can do either way.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Then we'll probably, if
46 that's okay with the Council, we'll defer that until
47 tomorrow. And maybe for the next while here get into
48 reports from the Park Service since they're here and ready
49 to go. Would that be okay?

50

00061

1 MR. JENNINGS: That would be great.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. Who's
4 handling the.....

5

6 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you.
9 Who's handling the Park Service Reports?

10

11 MS. LEGGITT: Mr. Chair, we are, and we can
12 go at your pleasure.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We're ready.

15

16 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair?

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes?

19

20 MR. EDENSHAW: Before Deb gets started
21 here, if you'll look under item -- Tab H, that's for
22 informational purposes. It was migratory birds on number 2
23 and 3.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

26

27 MR. EDENSHAW: And.....

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away
30 from microphone)

31

32 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's handling that?

35

36 MR. EDENSHAW: We'll just defer until
37 tomorrow.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. There may not be a
40 tomorrow at the rate we're going now. You all may be going
41 home on a plane. All right. Who's going to be handling
42 this? Deb?

43

44 MS. LEGGITT: Mr. Chair, Deb Leggitt with
45 the National Park Service. My job's getting easier and
46 easier. I brought reinforcements.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's.....

49

50 MS. LEGGITT: And I'd like to -- I'd like

00062

1 to introduce Karen Stickman on my left who is our new
2 subsistence coordinator for Lake Clark National Park and
3 Preserve. Karen's organized the last two SRC meetings, and
4 gets rave reviews. I only suffered some slight arm
5 twisting by the SRC to make her a permanent appointment to
6 the National Park Service happen. So Karen is a new
7 addition, and if you don't already know her, you soon will.

8
9 On my right is Mary McBurney who has been hired for
10 the four southwestern National Park Service areas as our
11 subsistence coordinator. Mary is duty stationed in
12 Anchorage, but like me she's a human yo-yo. And Mary will
13 be in charge of both our fish and wildlife portions of the
14 subsistence programs. And so I'll let Karen start with the
15 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve report.

16
17 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you. Did everyone get
18 a copy?

19
20 MS. LEGGITT: Yes.

21
22 MS. STICKMAN: I'm going to review the Lake
23 Clark report. We -- the SRC subsistence regional --
24 subsistence -- I'm nervous, so forgive me if I stutter a
25 little bit.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's okay. You can do
28 that.

29
30 MS. STICKMAN: This fall the SRC met on
31 October 5th. Harvey Anelson is the new member on the SRC
32 Commission. They -- some of the things they did, they went
33 over and reviewed the final draft of the Lake Clark
34 Subsistence Users Guide, which was prepared by Janice
35 Meldrum. This guide will be sent to all the box holders in
36 the Lake Clark resident zone communities. The subsistence
37 staff, Mary McBurney and myself, held a workshop in Iliamna
38 on August 16th which we provided information on the
39 fisheries research and monitoring program on writing
40 preproposals.

41
42 Lake Clark registration permit hunts includes for
43 brown bear there were three permits issues, zero harvested.
44 For dall sheep, there were ten permits issues, zero
45 harvested. And there were zero permits for the potlatch
46 moose.

47
48 There's not a whole lot of new information to
49 submit for the sockeye salmon study Carol Ann Woody has
50 been heading, and I think she was -- gave a report at the

00063

1 last RAC meeting.

2

3 And I think that's all I have to submit.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any question, Council
6 members? Karen, you had down here three -- there was a
7 request for three brown bear permits and they didn't get a
8 harvest of the animals?

9

10 MS. STICKMAN: No harvest tickets have.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What time.....

13

14 MS. STICKMAN:been turned in.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What time of the year
17 were these permits? Was it a spring or fall hunt or summer
18 or do you remember?

19

20 MS. STICKMAN: Fall.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Fall? This last fall?

23

24 MS. STICKMAN: Yeah, this fall just past.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And then the
27 potlatch thing for moose, no -- nothing happened there
28 either. I mean, they didn't get a moose either?

29

30 MS. STICKMAN: No. No.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wow. Okay. You didn't
33 talk about whether they got any dall sheep or not?

34

35 MS. STICKMAN: Zero. Ten.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, zero?

38

39 MS. STICKMAN: Zero harvested.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Zero.

42

43 MS. STICKMAN: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I drew a complete
46 blank on that. Andy, you better get -- show those guys how
47 to do a little hunting up there or something. All right.
48 Okay.

49

50 MR. BALUTTA: Nobody hunt any more after I

00064

1 quit hunting sheep.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Too much work.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: (Indiscernible) Anything

6 else, Karen?

7

8 MS. STICKMAN: No, that's it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's it?

11

12 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No questions? Okay.

15 And, Mary, are you on next or -- okay.

16

17 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair,
18 as we pass the microphone here. For the record, my name is
19 Mary McBurney, and I am the subsistence program manager for
20 the four southwest park units.

21

22 And for the Katmai National Park and Preserve, I'll
23 just give you some quick highlights which Deb will backfill
24 and provide more information on on several points that the
25 Council has requested additional information.

26

27 And first of all, I just would like to report that
28 the initial draft of the information from the oral
29 interviews that have been conducted with residents of
30 Kokhanok has been completed. Don Callaway completed his
31 first draft of that report, and it has been forwarded to
32 the residents of Kokhanok and specifically the Kokhanok
33 Village Council, and currently Don is continuing to work
34 with the council members to go through the report, to
35 review it, and edit it. And Deb will provide a little more
36 information on that momentarily.

37

38 Following up on the fisheries research and
39 monitoring program, the park staff also conducted a
40 workshop in King Salmon on August 15th which basically as
41 we did in Iliamna was intended to get the word out to local
42 communities and individuals that had concerns about
43 subsistence fisheries, and that would -- wanted to have
44 more information on how they could participate in the new
45 fisheries research and monitoring program. And I would
46 like to add that the -- a total of 51 preproposals were
47 ultimately submitted to the Bristol Bay -- or from the
48 Bristol Bay region to the Fisheries Information Services
49 which is really quite a generous number. And so far the
50 total of preproposals is approximately \$3.6 million, and

00065

1 they broke down as follows: There were 28 proposals that
2 have been submitted for stock status and trends, for a
3 total of approximately \$2.3 million. Fourteen proposals
4 for the harvest monitoring program for about \$900,000. And
5 then finally nine proposals that have been submitted for
6 the traditional ecological knowledge for approximately \$3.6
7 hundred thousand. And we are anticipating that decisions
8 will be made within the next week regarding which proposals
9 will be invited to submit a full investigative plan. My
10 understanding is that the Fisheries Information Services
11 and the technical review committee have been working almost
12 nonstop since Wednesday going through all of the
13 preproposals, and that they will be making their
14 determination as to which ones they would like to see go
15 forward.

16
17 The last thing that I would just like to mention is
18 that also early on in the season, during the end of May,
19 park staff also convened a meeting of the regional
20 fisheries managers from ADF&G, Fish and Wildlife, and the
21 Park Service -- excuse me, that was on June 21st. We met
22 in King Salmon basically to share information from that May
23 31st training that some of you were able to attend in
24 Anchorage where the in-season management regime was
25 discussed. And this was a way to bring that information
26 back to the region and also share it with a lot of the
27 regional folks that didn't have the benefit of being at
28 that training.

29
30 So with that, that concludes my report on the
31 Katmai.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any question,
34 Council members? A lot of requests for dollars coming
35 through that system. A tremendous amount. And that was
36 just for Katmai?

37
38 MS. McBURNEY: No.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, I meant this report
41 that you've given us is for Katmai right now?

42
43 MS. McBURNEY: The report that I gave was
44 for Katmai; however, the preproposal information that I
45 included here is actually for Bristol Bay wide.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

48
49 MS. McBURNEY: So it's not just for the
50 Katmai Park and Preserve, but rather for the entire Bristol

00066

1 Bay region.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that doesn't include
4 Kodiak?

5

6 MS. MCBURNEY: No.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. All right.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair?

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, go ahead.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: And we'll have a chance to
15 comment next meeting about the preproposal proposals that
16 are coming in in the process later on in the meeting?

17

18 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes, I believe Fish and
19 Wildlife Service will be providing that.

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Where
24 do we go from here now?

25

26 MS. LEGGITT: Two more parks.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. We never run
29 out of parks, do we?

30

31 MS. LEGGITT: Before we leave that, and I
32 think that the Council is aware of that, that this is huge
33 effort that you see unfolding before you that I don't think
34 you ever saw on wildlife is this fisheries money and going
35 into projects. And there are a lot of people in this room
36 that deserve their compliments. I mean, this has kind of
37 been a wild ride as this fishery money comes and gets
38 turned loose, and we actually have people in the field
39 doing work. And I have to say that it's been great to
40 watch the federal and state agencies and BBNA and others
41 who have really just picked up the mantle. You know, the
42 two people sitting on either side of me, to assist the
43 National Park Service in that effort, have come via that
44 funding, and you can see that, you know, we've got a lot of
45 people with good projects out there. Not all of them will
46 be funded, but people are really starting to work together,
47 and you guys get to watch and nudge and push, but I don't
48 think you saw this ten years ago with wildlife.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There wasn't any money

00067

1 ten years ago or so.

2

3 MS. LEGGITT: That's right. Right.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So it's real easy what
6 didn't happen, yeah.

7

8 MS. LEGGITT: I have some brief comments on
9 the Aniakchak SRC. They met. Donald Mike headed that
10 meeting up on April 4th of 2000 to make it's
11 recommendations to you. The commission moved to support
12 roster regulations to protect the subsistence lifestyle of
13 local residents. We've certainly heard that before, and
14 I'm sure that will be a topic on the SR- -- on the chairs
15 meeting next week in Anchorage.

16

17 The SR- -- Aniakchak SRC also clarified that
18 customary trade practices should be consistent with
19 existing regulations, and that any new customary trade
20 proposals be specific to the regions and conducted only
21 between Alaska natives. We've already had conversations
22 today about that.

23

24 The Aniakchak SRC also passed motions supporting
25 the taking of furbearers using a firearm under a trapping
26 license. They approved final draft hunting recommendations
27 97-1 and 2, and supported limiting party size and drop-off
28 locations for hunting guides using the preserve.

29

30 High on Mary's list is to pick up where Donald left
31 off, and to continue to work with the Aniakchak SRC. They
32 have several other things on their wish list including an
33 access study, and we will continue that effort.

34

35 For that Alagnak Wild River, I know you're -- do
36 you want to ask questions now or.....

37

38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes, Deb.

39

40 MS. LEGGITT:do you want to wait
41 until I'm done?

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: I need a clarification.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead. Yeah.

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Deb, support roster
48 regulations. What kind of regulations are the roster
49 regulations?

50

00068

1 MS. LEGGITT: As I understand the
2 conversation, I haven't talked specifically to the
3 Aniakchak SRC, is that's a roster regul -- a roster of
4 subsistence users that be -- I might need Bruce or Sandy's
5 help on this, that could be used in times of shortage, to
6 help that SRC make a decision based on available resources.
7 The conversation that I heard last year when the National
8 Park Service met with our SRC chairs, the conversation from
9 the Denali SRC and I think the Lake Clark SRC has discussed
10 it in the past. I think folks on the subsistence resource
11 councils see a time in the future where there may be a
12 shortage of the resource, and they may have to make hard
13 decisions on how that would be distributed. And I think
14 they also understand that they're working with a federal
15 bureaucracy which moves slightly faster than glacial speed,
16 and that if there truly -- that we need to have a reg put
17 out for public comment and review because it will take
18 several years before it would hit the street in its final
19 form. And I -- after next week when the National Park
20 Service meets with its SRCs again, I'm sure that's a topic
21 on the agenda, and we'll know more about what people are
22 thinking this year.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the long answer.
25 Yeah, go ahead.

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: So what that sentence is
28 saying, the commission moved to support roster regulations
29 to protect the subsistence lifestyles of local residents.
30 I would assume that commission moved to develop and support
31 Tier II regulations to protect the lifestyle of subsistence
32 -- of the local -- subsistence lifestyles of the local
33 residents? Coming up with a Tier -- a mechanism, something
34 similar to a Tier II?

35
36 MS. LEGGITT: Something to -- similar to a
37 Tier II. Is that how you understand it, Sandy?

38
39 MR. RABINOWITCH: I would put it a little
40 different. I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park
41 Service. I'll try to keep it short, but I don't know if I
42 can.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, no, no, that's okay.

45
46 MR. RABINOWITCH:but I don't know if
47 I can succeed.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's okay.

50

00069

1 MS. LEGGITT: There's no short answer.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's fine.

4

5 MR. RABINOWITCH: If I can back up half a
6 step and try to maybe refocus the picture, the roster reg
7 that we're talking about does not have anything to do with
8 the Federal Board program. It has to do with Park Service
9 regulations. Okay?

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Your own.

12

13 MR. RABINOWITCH: Our own agency
14 regulations. That's the first point I would make that
15 maybe will help clarify a little. With that understood,
16 the roster regulation I think was first brought up by the
17 Lake Clark SRC a number of years ago. I forget how many,
18 but a lot of years ago. It never moved very far down the
19 path. No regulation was ever put into place. Some years
20 later the Denali SRC took it up. They had some interest in
21 the idea. And they've never moved it very fully down the
22 path either. So basically nothing's really ever happened.
23 It's idea, it's been discussed in different places over
24 several years, but no action's really -- never really
25 occurred.

26

27 I think they're bringing it back. The connection
28 to shortage is that those -- the people in those areas are
29 about concerned potential resource shortages. Moose
30 shortage, caribou shortage, you know, whatever. And
31 they're looking for ways, they're exploring ways, to
32 protect the users that have been in the area a long time.
33 Okay. So I just sort of offer that as background. And I
34 think as Deb said, we think they're going to be bringing
35 that back up, that they want to kind of pick that idea back
36 up and see where we can go with it.

37

38 And all of this has to do with Park Service
39 eligibility for subsistence, which is different than all
40 other federal agencies. We have an additional layer. It's
41 -- that some see as bureaucratic, others see as a
42 protection. It depends on who you are and how you look at
43 it. But it limits, it limits the people who can hunt in
44 National Park Service areas. So again some see that as a
45 protection and others probably see it as bureaucracy, but
46 does that help?

47

48 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

49

50 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

00070

1 MS. LEGGITT: Thanks, Sandy. You don't
2 have to go away. You never know, we might need you more.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Robin? Robert?

5
6 MR. HEYANO: I need to -- I need for you to
7 explain why these regulations?

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Explain what, Robert?

10
11 MR. HEYANO: The roster regulations are
12 going to be applied and not the Tier II criteria. I can't
13 make that connection.

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. Let me see if I
16 can help, though possibly someone from the state might want
17 to speak to Tier II. The roster -- first of all, there are
18 no roster regulations. Again I'll state that. There are
19 currently no roster regulations. Think of it as an idea,
20 okay? If a roster regulation were to come into affect, it
21 would have to go through the Park Service rule making,
22 which is similar to the Federal Board rule making, but
23 they're different people, and differences processes.

24
25 In terms of how it relates to Tier II, I don't
26 think I ought to get into that, because I don't really
27 understand it, and I don't work with it, except to say that
28 it's -- Tier II is the state, you know, state part of the
29 program. The state's program, not the federal program.
30 The Federal Board doesn't have Tier II.

31
32 I'll stop there. If you want to pursue it, please
33 do so.

34
35 MS. LEGGITT: So I think what we're trying
36 to share is that this concept, if you will, or this idea,
37 has also been discussed at the Aniakchak SRC. But it is
38 just a conversation at this point, and it would go through
39 an entire public vetting process before it took effect, if
40 it took effect.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Robert, go ahead.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: So Aniakchak has resident
45 communities exactly like Lake Clark, and these -- let me
46 get the correct wording here, roster regulations would only
47 apply to those resident communities?

48
49 MS. LEGGITT: It might depend.....

50

00071

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, given.....

2

3 MS. LEGGITT: It might depend upon how it
4 was written.

5

6 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, it depends how it
7 was written.

8

9 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think said villages
10 like Chignik, Ugashik, Chignik, Perryville.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ivanoff.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: Ivanoff.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Those communities that we
17 know that are in an area, those are all a resident
18 community within the Aniakchak Preserve?

19

20 MS. LEGGITT: All of them are not resident
21 zone communities. Two are missing and I can't.....

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: There's a list in my
24 briefcase.

25

26 MS. LEGGITT:off the top of my.....

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Perryville and
29 Ivanoff. Perryville and Ivanoff are missing.

30

31 MS. LEGGITT: Are missing from the list.
32 And we've had -- and Donald's had conversations with them,
33 or at least with one of those villages who would like to
34 become a resident zone community. And there's a process to
35 do that also, to go through a public process to make a
36 community -- to analyze whether a community is a resident
37 zone community and then go forward with public rule making
38 to add that community to the list.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Robert, go ahead.

41

42 MR. HEYANO: Okay. I can understand if the
43 only people who are allowed to subsistence hunt in these
44 lands are resident communities, that they get together and
45 figure out a mechanism that's going to prioritize in a time
46 of shortage, similar to Lake Clark. But if there's other
47 people, subsistence users who have c&t findings to harvest
48 in these areas, and they're not in the resident community,
49 how does that affect them? And I think as a RAC that
50 that's where we need to be aware of.

00072

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: There's -- part of the
2 Federal Board regulations articulate that Federal Board
3 regulations do not supersede agency regulations. It's true
4 for all the agencies that comprise the Federal Board.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Say that again?

7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: There's a Federal Board
9 regulation that says that the Federal Board's regulations
10 do not supersede agency regulations.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

13
14 MR. RABINOWITCH: So if the Park Service or
15 the Fish and Wildlife Service have a regulation that says
16 no, and the Federal Board says yes, on the lands that -- of
17 Fish and Wildlife or the Park Service, no wins out. The
18 Board can't.....

19
20 MS. LEGGITT: Trump.

21
22 MR. RABINOWITCH:trump the agencies.
23 Okay? Now, it -- I mean, because we all understand that,
24 and because the Board is made of those member agencies, I
25 think all the agencies and Board work pretty hard to avoid
26 those kinds of conflicts, and I think have done so pretty
27 successfully. At least in the years I've been involved.

28
29 But, you know, my -- only back a little bit more in
30 my memory here, my recollection of when Lake Clark SRC
31 first brought this up, I think there was concern in the
32 region that there were going to be a lot of people, sort of
33 newcomers moving in perhaps fairly rapidly. Okay. And I
34 think the Keys Point.....

35
36 MS. LEGGITT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

37
38 MR. RABINOWITCH:lands may have been
39 what they were concerned about. And so they were concerned
40 about a lot of, if you will, newcomers moving in, and sort
41 of overwhelming local use, local subsistence users. And so
42 they were looking for a mechanism of how to protect their
43 use, okay? And I think that was the origin of the
44 discussion. And as we've said, it's been discussed on and
45 off, but it's never really moved in, you know, fully
46 through any regulatory process. So it's still just an
47 idea.

48
49 MS. LEGGITT: And, Robert, you're right, I
50 mean, and I think that that would be one of the public

00073

1 comments would be that that roster reg couldn't just be
2 limited to people in resident zone communities. You know,
3 it would somehow have to accommodate those people that we
4 -- that live outside those resident zone communities, but
5 maybe have 13.4.4 permits and c&t, because we all know
6 there's an issue with people that live outside resident
7 zone communities.

8
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, are you happy?

12
13 MS. LEGGITT: Are you guys glad you asked
14 that question?

15
16 MR. HEYANO: I'm not happy, but I'm glad I
17 asked the question.

18
19 MR. SAMUELSEN: We'll save the battle.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is this a break
22 where we could -- or did we.....

23
24 MS. LEGGITT: We certainly could take a
25 break. I have a short Alagnak presentation, and then I was
26 anticipating questions from the Council, but I would be
27 happy to take a break.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, let's take a break
30 and come back with the Branch. Ten-minute break.

31
32 (Off record - 3:47 p.m.)

33
34 (On record - 3:59 p.m.)

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Deb and Sandy,
37 we're back on record.

38
39 MS. LEGGITT: Yeah. Deb Leggitt, National
40 Park Service. We'll resume with the Alagnak wild river
41 report from the agency, but before I forget, I forgot to
42 mention to the Council today that Lee Fink is not here
43 because he's been flat on his back for the last two weeks
44 with a case of pneumonia.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, my goodness.

47
48 MS. LEGGITT: And I don't know how he is,
49 because I instructed everyone not to take phone calls from
50 him until he returns. So -- otherwise he would be with us.

00074

1 There's been a lot of activity on Alagnak. I spent
2 some time on the Alagnak this summer. For the second
3 summer in a row the National Park Service published an
4 Alagnak Wild River newspaper, which included a map of the
5 river corridor, and included private lands on the corridor.
6 And we hope that through this -- part of this effort, we're
7 reducing trespass on private property along the river.

8
9 Our plan this winter is to put out a newsletter in
10 reference to the planning process on the Alagnak. We have
11 completed aerial photography of the Alagnak, and we will
12 soon have a photo mosaic of the river, which will be useful
13 for our planning purposes. We're in the process of
14 developing a river user survey. We had staff at Nonvianuk
15 cabin at the outlet this summer for about eight weeks with
16 a surprising amount of use. We had law enforcement rangers
17 on the river enforcing regulations related to fish and
18 hunting, and primarily doing as much visitor contact as
19 possible.

20
21 The rainbow trout catch and release study has been
22 comple -- the first year of a three-year study has been
23 completed, and sometime later this winter we'll have the
24 first results of that study. We completed a two-year water
25 quality study. Year two of a three-year on the river this
26 year. And we're in the midst of an angler effort index
27 which was a joint project supported by this RAC between the
28 National Park Service, BBNA, ADF&G and the village of
29 Levelock.

30
31 I anticipate that the National Park Service will
32 conduct late this fall or immediately after the first of
33 the year meetings with other governments, the borough, the
34 other agencies, Levelock, BBNA, to do scoping on issues on
35 the Alagnak. After we do a series of meetings with issue
36 identification, then we'll sit down to the harder work and
37 broader public scoping to see what the solutions might be.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's it?

40
41 MS. LEGGITT: And that's it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Questions,
44 Council members? Okay. Deb, this is one that doesn't have
45 anything to do with the Branch, but we kind of miss old
46 Donald Mike.

47
48 MS. LEGGITT: Yes, we do.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And we'd like that little

00075

1 seat warmed up by someone just like him. And so I -- we
2 would like you to go on record as quickly as possible.

3
4 MS. LEGGITT: Dan, I intend to reconfigure
5 my staff slightly to cover those subsistence position --
6 that subsistence position, and perhaps pair it with
7 something else, and so hopefully by the next RAC meeting, I
8 will have another warm body sitting in a seat.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Somebody who speaks
11 Yup'ik preferably, but not necessarily. Okay. I tell you,
12 you know, when use someone like Donald and Tom and these
13 kind of people, and you walk into Levelock, and we've
14 talked about this, Deb, before, and they're having a
15 potluck, and you're going to have a meeting, and this is --
16 I think this is good. This is something that we would like
17 to pass this message on to you that it's very important,
18 and we really appreciate that still your office calls up
19 our native corporation and others and say, we've got a job
20 opening here, what do you have? And so along with the
21 request, we do appreciate you making that effort. We
22 really do appreciate that a lot, and we want the public to
23 know that, that you've been very good about that, and we do
24 thank you for that.

25
26 MS. LEGGITT: Dan, one thing that -- I
27 visited with the Lake Clark SRC about last week, and I see
28 that this Council has already beaten me to the punch, but
29 one of the things that I'm interested in as with SRCs and
30 the RACs and as the National Park Service builds its own
31 staff, is to train the youth.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

34
35 MS. LEGGITT: And to reach out, if there's
36 an opening on an SRC, or on the Council to reach out and
37 bring someone along who can stand on your shoulders for a
38 few years, because I think it's important. In fact at the
39 last SRC meeting we asked them if the next time they met,
40 and I can't remember if we're meeting in Nondalton or Port
41 Allsworth, if, you know, we could bring a class from the
42 local school to watch what the SRC does to start growing
43 that capacity really young at the important work that you
44 do. So I'm also cognizant. I'm very receptive to your
45 remarks and I'm cognizant of that on my own staff.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Also, Deb, since
48 the Council members don't have any questions or comments
49 here, I just wanted to mention to you while we have you on
50 the -- on record, that ORV thing and Lake Clark, Igiugig,

00076

1 Levelock, I know Aniakchak now is -- that's become a big
2 issue down there, but probably could be taken care of in
3 maybe just one management type decision, whatever that's
4 going to be. Apparently from what you said today, this
5 report has been given back to Kokhanok now for what your
6 findings are and you're waiting for them to respond to you,
7 is that right?

8

9 MS. LEGGITT: Don Calloway did oral
10 interviews in Kokhanok, and he has put pen to paper and
11 then he provided that to the village council in Kokhanok,
12 so that we could be certain that we accurately represented
13 their comments.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

16

17 MS. LEGGITT: And Don took comments back
18 from them last week.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

21

22 MS. LEGGITT: And so we should have that
23 report complete.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

26

27 MS. LEGGITT: After reviewing that, then
28 the question will be what next, and I think I need to go
29 visit with the village council at Kokhanok first before I
30 get ahead of the game here, but I'm hoping that we will be
31 able to do that next month. Don did an excellent job on
32 that.

33

34 The Council also needs to know that interest in the
35 National Park Preserve ATV issue is growing. That the
36 Sierra Club and that the Alaska Conservation Foundation has
37 hired a former park superintendent to look at the ATV issue
38 regionwide.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

41

42 MS. LEGGITT: And I've -- my office has
43 recently received a Freedom of Information Act request
44 requesting, you know, all case incidents, final documents,
45 and those kinds of things. So there's lots of interest out
46 there in what the agency will decide and how we will move
47 forward.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Sometimes we do
50 need to get information and move according to what Kokhanok

00077

1 would like and Levelock and Igiugig and eventually Chigniks
2 or whatever, down in that area. However, we do not want to
3 miss the opportunity when it could be favorable for us to
4 make a decision on this, you know Personnel changes take
5 place, a lot of things happen. You know, you've got to go
6 through the whole process again. Someone have a -- you
7 know, protect and preserve may become stamped across their
8 forehead, and a lot of things change, so what I'm talking
9 about is sometimes it's prudent to make this decision as
10 quickly as possible without it becoming such a -- something
11 we can't handle later on down the -- I don't want to delay
12 it too long, as you've heard before I'm sure.

13
14 MS. LEGGITT: I -- well, and I understand
15 that the training and feeding of new superintendent is a
16 laborious business, and you don't want to have to do that
17 too often. I, too, have a new regional director. And I'm
18 conscious of your concern about speed, but you also need to
19 remember that we're being directly responsive to the
20 Village of Kokhanok, who asked us first to hurry up, and
21 then asked us to slow down. And to the best of my
22 knowledge, we're moving forward at the pace that they're
23 comfortable with. But the hard part comes next. You also
24 need to know that in this year's budget I have money set
25 aside, I will talk with the village council at Igiugig to
26 see if we can address this issue with them, and then I
27 think that we also will do the same kind of literature
28 survey and the start that we did at Kokhanok down at
29 Aniakchak.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Thank you.
32 And does that conclude your report?

33
34 MS. LEGGITT: That concludes my report
35 today.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. Thank
38 you very much. We have a method of, you know, feeding a
39 new superintendent, put them in the corner, or they in a
40 corner and feed them with a slingshot would be one method
41 of -- doesn't have to go on record, okay? Thank you very
42 much.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair?

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes?

47
48 MR. HEYANO: I have a question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

00078

1 MR. HEYANO: When will the public be able
2 to see a copy of that report from the ATV issue at
3 Kokhanok?

4
5 MS. LEGGITT: It depends when it's made
6 final.

7
8 MR. HEYANO: A year from now? Six months?

9
10 MS. LEGGITT: I would hope in the next
11 year. The -- making the report final is one thing, Robert.
12 Making the agency determination is another. So if -- I
13 don't -- if you're asking when will the agency make a
14 decision, I won't commit to that. But I think that in the
15 very near future, we'll have all that material, some of
16 which we've already provided to the Council to make
17 available to the public.

18
19 MR. HEYANO: No, my question was just for
20 the report.

21
22 MS. LEGGITT: Oh, yeah. Certainly within
23 the next year. I need to be sure that the community of
24 Kokhanok is satisfied with what their oral interviews
25 appearing in print, that we're accurately reflecting what
26 they told us. And I think Don's made great progress, and I
27 think that they had minor changes to make, but they were
28 over-all very pleased.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Well, we --
31 yes, Robert.

32
33 MR. HEYANO: One other, just maybe a
34 comment is my understanding of it is this body's role in
35 that decision is going to be significantly less than the
36 roll we have with the Federal Subsistence Board, correct?

37
38 MS. LEGGITT: I will always listen to the
39 advice and counsel of this board.

40
41 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, Deb.
44 We appreciate that.

45
46 MS. LEGGITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I want to tell you what
49 -- okay. All right. Robin? Sandy, you have --
50 Rabinowitch, you are -- you have the mic.

00079

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: I can't resist the
2 comment to say that this body had done a great job keeping
3 our feet to the fire on the issue you just finished talking
4 about.

5
6 I had two things, be very -- I'll be very, very
7 brief. Two things to mention. Just as a point of
8 information, about a month or so ago Judy Gotlieb, who's
9 the Park Service board member, and I came down for a quick
10 one-day visit, and did an overflight of the Alagnak or the
11 Branch River if you will, so just to share that with you.
12 And we had an excellent local pilot and guide.

13
14 And onto the other item, I'm going to tell a little
15 story about your chairman, Dan O'Hara here. He doesn't
16 know this.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go off record then.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. RABINOWITCH: Not all of you may know
23 that Dan went to St. Louis recently. The Park Service has
24 a rather large meeting once every ten years. That just
25 happened about a month ago in St. Louis. We had about 1100
26 people from the Park Service from all over the country
27 together in once place. And Dan agreed to come and join
28 us, as did Willy Goodwin from Kotzebue. So the short of it
29 is we invited Dan and he said, yes, and he came and donated
30 a week of his time. He worked very hard during that week.
31 I can attest to it. I saw him every day. He participated,
32 you know, up front at -- in front of a room on a panel
33 about subsistence with Willy Goodwin. And he did a great
34 job. And that's really the message I'm here to share with
35 you. He did do a great job, and the Park Service
36 appreciates that very much, and it's a pleasure to be able
37 to just share that with you. So that's the end of that
38 one.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I have a little
41 backpack with -- a green backpack with a Park Service stamp
42 on it, guys. Oh, look at that, see, right back there.
43 There you go. Just like that one John has back there,
44 okay.

45
46 MR. RABINOWITCH: So we really appreciate
47 what Dan did, and we just wanted to make sure you all knew
48 that.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. That was a very

00080

1 educational meeting, it really was. A great learning curve
2 for me, too. Thank you, Sandy, appreciate that.

3
4 MR. RABINOWITCH: You bet. Thank you.

5
6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Let's see here. I think
7 we're all done with the B items, and we're onto C.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Since we're going
10 to be -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife is next, C items on this?
11 Okay.

12
13 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair? I guess for
14 planning purposes, Mr. Chair, we're way ahead of schedule
15 and I guess your plans are to work until about five, 5:30,
16 take a break for dinner, then come back and fully expect to
17 be done by about 9:30 in the morning, am I correct there,
18 Mr. Chairman?

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. At the rate we're
21 going now, we could finish tonight, but we need to have a
22 report tomorrow morning that we have already set up,
23 so.....

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:along that line
28 though, we will be discussing perhaps even tonight the next
29 meeting of this Council which will probably be dealing with
30 money issues and what we want in the way of spending in the
31 Bristol Bay area. Gentlemen, thank you for being here.

32
33 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
34 name's Andy Aderman with the Togiak National Wildlife
35 Refuge. During the break I put out an information bulletin
36 in front of each of your chairs. Hopefully you've located
37 that. Mark is going to address fisheries issues first, and
38 then I will continue on with wildlife.

39
40 MR. LISAC: Thank you. Yeah, Mark Lisac,
41 fisheries biologist for Togiak Refuge. I don't know if
42 I'll address the fisheries issues, but I'll just briefly
43 give you an outline of things we've done here in the last
44 year, and maybe touch on a couple things we plan on doing.
45 A few of the projects we've been working on over the years
46 has been a -- or you may not be aware of it, we have a
47 really good working relationship with the Department, so we
48 have quite a few cooperative projects that we assist them
49 on for monitoring salmon escapement. I'm not going to read
50 through all these, but just touch on a few.

00081

1 The -- this last year we were successful in using
2 Federal Subsistence Board money through that -- you know,
3 that fast track project funding we went through last year
4 to extend the operation of a weir that the Department
5 operates on the Goodnews River to count coho salmon, and
6 also a project that's been kind of in the works on the
7 Kanektok River at the Native Village of Quinhagak, Bering
8 Sea Fishermen's, the Department, and Fish and Wildlife
9 Service have been working on. We got some of that money
10 put into that project to try to count cohos there also.

11
12 Another project that's been near and dear to my
13 heart here lately is the dolly varden life history study,
14 and I've put down some of the highlights there, but you may
15 just be interested to know that those fish that we tagged
16 in the Togiak River have turned up -- one has turned up
17 down here in Igiugig, and another all the way up in Emmonak
18 on the Yukon River, and also we've had a couple show up on
19 the Kanektok River. And another one showed up in Eek. So
20 we're not just looking at Togiak River dolly varden, and I
21 suspect that's probably true for a lot of these rivers
22 around here, that these big schools of dollies that are
23 coming in there are not born and raised, they're not natal
24 to those watersheds. They probably are from anywhere in
25 the Bering Sea, so we hope to continue on with that work
26 and expand off to the west in the next few years. And we
27 did -- we also were successful in getting money to start a
28 genetics study on the Togiak River, and have a proposal in
29 for this fiscal year 2001 to expand that throughout Bristol
30 Bay, to try to get more dolly collections there.

31
32 We started a rainbow trout radio telemetry study
33 there in the Togiak drainage again here this year, and that
34 will be on-going for the next couple years. So all of this
35 information will be available to you in years to come as
36 issues come up or concerns about any of these species.

37
38 And I guess that's all I have to say. I mean, I
39 think is a good opportunity for our programs to I guess get
40 direction from the RACs as far as when issues come up
41 through this body, we'll try to secure the funding through
42 the Federal Subsistence Board to answer the questions you
43 have.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
46 members? Yeah, Pete?

47
48 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think last
49 year you mentioned something about a weir in Togiak. Have
50 you contact the corporation over there for use of building?

00082

1 MR. LISAC: That was another project that
2 was funded by the federal subsistence funding. The first
3 year was to go out and take measurements and do an analysis
4 of whether a weir is going to work in the Togiak River, and
5 then for the next two years the plan was to try to get a
6 project in the river, and I'm not sure if Jeff and Jim are
7 already planning on discussing that later or -- are you?
8 I'll leave that for those guys to fill you in, but
9 basically that's a monster of a river and there's probably
10 not a weir design available to work yet.

11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: Thank you. And that's.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?
15 Mark, you had a pretty good sized paragraph on dolly varden
16 and just a real small on rainbow. And I was really
17 surprised just to find out that you even have rainbow trout
18 in the Togiak. I don't know why I should have been,
19 but.....

20
21 MR. LISAC: We like to keep them a secret.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was going to say that.
24 It's a good secret.

25
26 MR. LISAC: We tell everybody to come over
27 here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The -- this insert thing
30 that you're doing with these rainbow, how long ago did this
31 happen, and what kind of success have you had?

32
33 MR. LISAC: It's similar surgery that we've
34 done, you know, with the dolly varden. The rainbow trout
35 was -- that project just started this spring.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. LISAC: So after spawning. It was in
40 May and June that those transmitters were implanted.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. how often do you
43 check the location of the transmitters?

44
45 MR. LISAC: Right now it's about every two
46 weeks.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, and what kind of
49 survival rate have you had?

50

00083

1 MR. LISAC: Real good. As far as I know,
2 all the fish that assume the transmitters are still
3 working on, still operating on, we put out 50 transmitters.
4 There are three of them that we haven't heard from since
5 they were implanted, and that's fairly common with
6 telemetry studies. You have failure in the transmitters.
7 But all the other fish are still alive and active.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. LISAC: I believe early on there was
12 one fish that did die, and that transmitter was recovered
13 and put in another fish.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I know they did a similar
16 program on the Branch, and.....

17
18 MR. LISAC: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:I think some had
21 some success and then I think they had a bad bunch of
22 batteries at one time, too, which was really too bad,
23 because, you know, so much research is lost at that time.

24
25 MR. LISAC: That's correct, yeah. They
26 had, I don't know, 170 or 180 transmitters that most of the
27 batteries were bad on those.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Well, good. Thank
30 you. I appreciate that. Anything else?

31
32 MR. LISAC: That's all I have for now.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

35
36 MS. KELLY: Mr. Chair?

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, excuse me, I'm
39 sorry. Do you have -- does somebody have a question?

40
41 MR. HEYANO: Yes, a question. How much
42 money do you have in the budget on your annual budget to do
43 these fishery projects, aside from securing funding through
44 the federal subsistence?

45
46 MR. LISAC: We have -- in the last couple
47 years we have gotten I think \$59,000 from -- you'd have to
48 ask Aaron what our total budget is in the fisheries, but I
49 think it was 59 is our base fisheries budget.

50

00084

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else? Okay.

2 Thanks. Okay.

3

4 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Again, thank you. My
5 name is Andy Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and
6 I'll primarily just address caribou and moose. Starting
7 with Mulchatna caribou, we had a joint opening for hunting
8 in Unit 18 south of the Yukon in Unit 17(A) west of the
9 Togiak River, and on the east side north of Pungokebuk
10 Creek. That was a joint opening between Fish and Game in
11 Bethel and Dillingham, and the Togiak Refuge and the Yukon
12 Delta Refuge. We've assisted Fish and Game with radio
13 collaring Mulchatna caribou both locally here and up in the
14 Kilbuck Mountains, and also with the recent composition and
15 condition work.

16

17 Moving on to Nughagak caribou, we radio collared
18 ten new animals this last spring. The condition of the
19 calves was about the poorest we've seen since that herd's
20 been down there. We think that it's primarily due to the
21 amount of snow that we had last winter. The calf
22 production, the number of calves that we'd seen this
23 spring, based on only 11 adult radio collared cows, came
24 out to 91 calves per 100 cows. We just recently did a
25 composition on that herd, and that information suggested we
26 have 38 calves per 100 cows right now, and 51 bulls per 100
27 cows.

28

29 We plan to meet with the Nushagak Caribou Planning
30 Committee in early November to review the status reports of
31 the population. Some of the information I just presented
32 to you, and the harvest -- the harvest for last year thus
33 far stands as 63 caribou, and as of right now for the fall
34 hunt this year, there were five caribou reported.

35

36 Moving on to moose, at the same time that we did
37 the caribou capture, we also caught ten moose and radio
38 collared them. We had exceptional calf production this
39 year based on our radio collared animals. It came out at a
40 minimum of 157 calves per 100 cows. The twinning rate was
41 right at 60 percent, and it also included one set of
42 triplets, which is quite rate for moose.

43

44 In the two and a half years that -- since we
45 started this study, we've had 11 of those radio collared
46 moose die or an annual average adult mortality of 17
47 percent. The cause of those mortalities were attributed to
48 illegal harvest was five animals, and I might mention that
49 at least two of those were over on the Unit 18 side. Brown
50 bears took about 36 percent or four animals. And we had

00085

1 the two bulls that locked antlers.

2

3 We finished up our population count last spring
4 right -- I believe it was the day after your meeting ended.
5 We counted a total of 422 moose in Unit 17(A). We weren't
6 able to get any sex composition at that time, but we did
7 observe a minimum of 60 or 14 -- just over 14 percent
8 calves. And if you recall, this is about 20 percent less
9 than what we counted the year before when we counted 511.
10 I think some of the reasons for the lower count this last
11 March was due to survey conditions in the lower part of the
12 survey area. We had patchy show conditions. That makes
13 moose very difficult to see. And our survey conditions
14 ranged to excellent in the northern part of the unit. We
15 didn't survey every area in the area -- in Unit 17(A), so
16 it's possible that we could have missed some moose. Also,
17 our survey took place over a two-week period where in the
18 past it's usually taken place in two days. That was due to
19 weather conditions. And then the mortality that I just
20 mentioned, that's an explana -- possible explanation for an
21 actual real decrease in that population, as is moose moving
22 outside of the survey area.

23

24 Moving on to the draft moose management plan, after
25 your meeting this last March, I attended Togiak Fish and
26 Game Advisory Committee meeting, presenting them with what
27 this Council support. They were planning to have a moose
28 work session and a meeting with the elders, and I believe
29 neither of those occurred. Additionally, this August I
30 mailed out that plan, asking for comments, and to date I
31 have not received any comments.

32

33 The others -- the other items are projects that the
34 refuge is involved with. We continue our cooperation with
35 the brown bear study. That's on the northern part of the
36 refuge. We continue to monitor marine mammals and sea
37 birds out in the Cape Peirce area. There's a variety of
38 other bird projects scattered across the refuge. I just
39 made mention of what those projects were.

40

41 We continue our river ranger program on the Togiak,
42 Goodnews and Kanektok Rivers.

43

44 We also have a pretty active education and outreach
45 program. I've listed some of the projects or events that
46 the refuge has been involved with.

47

48 And the every last page of your handout is an
49 update on our comprehensive conservation plan, an
50 informational handout. We're in the process of revising

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1 that document.

2

3 And that concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any
6 questions, Council members? Yes, Pete?

7

8 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Last spring or, you
9 know, last -- yeah, last spring anyway, we had quite a bit
10 of snow in Cape Constantine area, and I went down there to
11 hunt, and there was hardly any caribou down there. But
12 later on I noticed they were right in Kulukak area. I
13 mean, majority of the herd was there I think. Did you go
14 back to Cape Constantine again?

15

16 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, I did, Pete. If you'll
17 recall, at the last meeting, I had a couple of overheads,
18 and I believe it was in February where we observed I
19 believe about 900 animals that were off the Peninsula or
20 outside of the existing hunt area, and a month later most
21 of those animals had moved back and were actually down at
22 the southern part of the Peninsula. And we had I think
23 about 150 in the Kulukak area, and most of those have moved
24 back to the Peninsula.

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: I agree, Andy. Thank you,
27 Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
30 questions, Council members? Yes.

31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Let's see. Under walrus,
33 Andy, maybe it's coming up in a different staff report.
34 Did we have a count on walrus in Stroganof or Cinnamon (ph)
35 area this year?

36

37 MR. ADERMAN: I don't believe so. I
38 understand that that camp never happened this year.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Under seals in
41 Nanvak Bay, the count was 575 August 15th. How does that
42 compare with prior years?

43

44 MR. ADERMAN: It's actually above the --
45 slightly above the ten-year average. I don't have that
46 exact figure, but looking at the graph, it's been right
47 around a little over 500 has been our peak over the last
48 ten years. Historically, there's information I believe
49 from the 70s where there were upwards of 3,000 seals
50 counted there. So -- and depending on how far you go back,

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1 it's up or its down.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. And then the moose
4 in the Togiak Refuge area, 17(A), it looks like there was
5 roughly a 20 percent decrease, and you're not sure if there
6 was a decrease there or not, because of the survey
7 conditions?

8

9 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct.

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Along this same line,
14 Andy, I've been wondering all the time, one of the things
15 that has been so favorable for that herd is there really
16 hasn't been any increase, or even very much known I guess
17 predators on that 17(A) herd. Is that true? Have they
18 increased any? Would that cause a decrease, or did you
19 just miss them?

20

21 MR. ADERMAN: Well, there are brown bears
22 and wolves that inhabit that same area. We don't have very
23 good information or estimates on their population size.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. ADERMAN: Incidental information that I
28 record when I'm out flying in that area, talking with local
29 people, I think both sources indicate that both moose and
30 -- or excuse me, both brown bears and wolves have increased
31 in recent years.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. You know,
34 flying the Alaska Peninsula as probably most of you have
35 noticed, we do have a lot of moose calves this year, and
36 even up into August and September, the survival rate looks
37 pretty good. Did -- there's a difference having a lot of
38 calves in June and then having still some in September.
39 Did you -- are you keeping -- are the calves surviving
40 okay?

41

42 MR. ADERMAN: We.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So far as you know?

45

46 MR. ADERMAN: As far as I know, they're
47 doing all right, but we really look at the October and
48 November survey, which I have to do yet to look at how many
49 of those calves are still alive.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see.

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: I get glimpses of them, you
4 know, throughout the summer, and -- but even a month ago,
5 there was quite a bit of -- quite a few leaves and lichen.
6 I won't even see the adult animals sometimes, so.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Good.
9 Any other questions, Council? Yes, Robert?

10

11 MR. HEYANO: What's the range like on the
12 Nushagak Peninsula? The habitat for the caribou?

13

14 MR. ADERMAN: We.....

15

16 MR. HEYANO: What's it showing you?

17

18 MR. ADERMAN: The range is in pretty good
19 shape yet. We did look at the range specifically last
20 year. We have some exclosure sites down there that keep
21 caribou out of a small area. We also have some areas
22 outside where caribou can feed and look at those. Local --
23 there are localized areas of heavy use, and that's both
24 from eating and/or trampling. Those tend to be the ridge
25 tops that get blown free of snow during the wintertime, but
26 overall it's -- the range is in pretty good shape, yes.

27

28 MR. ABRAHAM: One more question, Mr. Chair?

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, go ahead.

31

32 MR. ABRAHAM: What's the -- what is the
33 final count on Nushagak Peninsula herd? I mean, well,
34 let's go back from five years until next year, you know,
35 what's the ratio on the count? Do they go up and down, or
36 just about the same?

37

38 MR. ADERMAN: Are you talking the ratio of
39 calves per 100 cows, or the population numbers?

40

41 MR. ABRAHAM: The population.

42

43 MR. ADERMAN: The population -- we did not
44 get a count in this last winter. Before that, the previous
45 three counts were all right around 1300, so it appears that
46 that -- you know, the population went up rather quickly
47 until about 96/97, and it seemed to have leveled off. So
48 right now, you know, barring a count, we're estimating
49 probably about 14 to 1500 animals that are down there.

50

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1 MR. ABRAHAM: So in other words, if the
2 calving over there has increased or just kind of steady or
3 we have -- do we have a predator problem?

4
5 MR. ADERMAN: The calving has actually been
6 quite good ever since that herd's been down there and been
7 monitored. We've had -- I think our lowest calf production
8 was maybe 80 calves per 100 cows. Several years we had
9 every cow that had a radio collar have a calf. As Chairman
10 O'Hara was saying, you know, that's just one side of it,
11 and you have to look at what you have left in the fall, how
12 many of those calves survived. The estimate that I gave
13 you of 38 calves per 100 cows, that is our lowest estimate,
14 fall estimate since that herd's been down there. It could
15 be predator related. There are bears down there. There's
16 a fair number of coyotes which could kill caribou calves.
17 Or it could be condition of the caribou themselves. Again,
18 going through that hard winter, and calves could have been
19 underweight and just not made it. It could be a disease
20 problem. If there is pneumonia or lung worm, things that
21 we don't know, you know, exist, I mean, those things can,
22 you know, act unfavorably on young animals.

23
24 MR. ABRAHAM: Or are they going out of the
25 line there or some going toward somewhere else?

26
27 MR. ADERMAN: That's always a possibility.
28 Based on our radio collars, we haven't seen that where
29 they're going, you know, leaving the Peninsula and not
30 coming back. The ones that have gone off, have returned.
31 It could be maybe the bulls, which we don't radio collar,
32 possibly some of those are leaving and not returning.

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: You know, poten -- there was
35 -- remember that herd behind Twin Hills, you know, that --
36 well, they stayed over there, you know, throughout the
37 winter, like mostly they're up on top of the mountain most
38 of the time. Those are Peninsula -- part of the Peninsula
39 herd?

40
41 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

42
43 MR. ABRAHAM: So they're increasing
44 somewhere else. So your 1500 or 1400 number right there on
45 the Peninsula are expanding somewhere else, you know, like
46 maybe five, 600 in some area that.....

47
48 MR. ADERMAN: That very well could be,
49 Pete. You know, based on our calf production and
50 recruitment estimates that we see, you know, there's

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1 caribou going somewhere, whether they're leaving the
2 Peninsula, that's certainly a possibility. Another
3 possibility exists is unreported harvest.

4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: You know, when you had that
6 emergency order opening on caribou on the west side of the
7 Togiak River, people, you know, got some caribou, and they
8 were exceptionally fat, and when that herd from somewhere
9 came around. I don't know, I never asked them, you know,
10 what brand they are, whether they're Kilbuck, or Mulchatna
11 or whatever, you know, but report from the people over
12 there are saying they're lean. So there's a difference
13 between them right there, you know, resident caribou and
14 then the tourist caribou.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin?

17
18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Andy, what percent of the
19 harvest do you think is going unreported on the Nushagak
20 Peninsula caribou herd? I mean, we've had favorable,
21 excellent snowmobile conditions in the spring of the year,
22 and do we got a complacency problem with reporting?

23
24 MR. ADERMAN: I think we do. Looking at,
25 you know, what we know about caribou, and, you know,
26 population counts, number of calves produced, number of
27 calves surviving, mortality rates of radio collared
28 animals, putting that all together and then, you know,
29 incorporating the harvest, it would appear like two to
30 three times the reported harvest is -- those caribou are
31 going somewhere, whether it's all due to harvest, or
32 animals going off the Peninsula.

33
34 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, because, you know,
35 I've talked to hunters from Dillingham that went down
36 there, and the snow conditions were such that it took about
37 an hour to get down there to the animals. So, you know,
38 it's probably a half hour trip from Manokotak, 45-minute
39 trip from Manokotak. So are you planning on any
40 educational program on the importance of reporting in
41 Dillingham and Manokotak? That's primarily the two that
42 hunt down there.

43
44 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. And we -- it will be an
45 agenda item on the planning committee meeting again. If
46 you recall, last year we brought this up, and there will be
47 an increased law enforcement effort, but, you know, along
48 with that there will be an educational effort.

49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

00091

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah?

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Two -- yeah, two years ago
4 through the grapevine I heard there's some poaching from
5 Manokotak and some from Dillingham. I haven't -- you know,
6 I haven't brought it up, but, you know, there was some
7 reported from over there.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

10 Yes?

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think there's a
13 difference between pouching and not reporting your harvest.
14 Let's make that distinction there.

15

16 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, poaching and not
17 reporting.

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else,
22 Council members? Well, thanks, guys. We appreciate it.
23 Well, excuse me, go ahead, Robert.

24

25 MR. HEYANO: One question. Do you still
26 consider the moose management plan for 17(A) in draft form?

27

28 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, I do.

29

30 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Unh-huh.

33

34 MR. ABRAHAM: I think Traditional Council
35 of Togiak and Togiak advisory people are going to need help
36 maybe, you know, to contact someone or one of them maybe,
37 Mr. John Parker is the guy to contact on your proposal
38 before 27th anyway.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else,
41 Council members?

42

43 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess just as a member
44 of this RAC, Mr. Chairman, I -- our last action at our last
45 meeting, I thought we adopted the management plan. So in
46 my opinion it's not a draft any more, it's a working
47 document that's in place for our committee here anyway.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, Thank you
50 very much, guys, appreciate it. This schedule says shows

00092

1 -- says Orville Lind is next on the agenda today?

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: You're right. He made the
4 motion.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I know. So it's
7 not a working document. I mean, it's not a draft. Oh,
8 you bring the powers with you, huh, Orville? All right.

9

10 MR. LONS: Mr. Chairman, Council members,
11 Daryl Lons, refuge manager of Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
12 Refuges. We provided a written agency report in Tab J that
13 you may look at. Orville's going to make some very concise
14 remarks this afternoon to highlight those -- that agency
15 report and supplement some of the issues, but I wanted to
16 offer, if the Council would like, Ron Squibb is prepared to
17 provide a summary of the status of the Northern Alaska
18 Peninsula caribou herd, so it's your pleasure whether you
19 would like to hear that report or not. I can't guarantee
20 that that will be as concise as Orville's report, so it's
21 your pleasure.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. No, we would --
24 we'd want Orville's, and then we want Ron's, too,.....

25

26 MR. LONS: You want Ron's, too. All right.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 'cause that Northern
29 Peninsula herd I think is really important, too.

30

31 MR. LONS: Okay. Take it from there, but
32 don't do the caribou.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That was really good.
35 Okay, Orville.

36

37 MR. LIND: Thank you, Lons. Thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman, and members of the Council, I'm glad to be back
39 here. I'm just going to go under Tab J as Mr. Lons say,
40 I'm just going to go through this very briefly, touch on a
41 few items that we have going on.

42

43 Under refuge planning, our draft refuge
44 comprehensive conservation plan is -- or hopefully will be
45 released for public comment this winter, and we currently
46 have four alternatives for management direction that we are
47 considering. And the one alternative is considered current
48 management where three are action alternatives with issues
49 on predator control, helicopter access, wilderness, wild
50 and scenic river proposals. We do anticipate some changes

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1 with these alternatives based on comments we receive from
2 the public, and then we are planning to travel after the
3 plan is released to conduct the public meetings in all the
4 villages.

5
6 Moving to the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou
7 herd, Ron will address that. Ron Squibb. And I'm going to
8 give him the moose also.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hold up your sign again.

11
12 MR. LIND: The Becharof Lake Island Arm
13 monitoring in 9(E) during the moose season, refuge staff
14 flew law enforcement patrols around Becharof Lake area. At
15 Island Arm cabin, refuge staff patrolled the shores with
16 our 24-foot vessel, the Refuge Runner. Four boats were
17 observed traveling through the rapids into the lake;
18 however no contact was made with those four boats. A total
19 of four groups observed in the Becharof area. The first
20 group consisted of four hunters that were dropped off by a
21 transporter, the second group were five fishermen with
22 transporter plane at the site. And the third group were
23 locals camped at the mouth of Kajulik River. Local
24 hunters. And the fourth group was a local family.

25
26 And going onto page four, under public use surveys,
27 the refuge staff and volunteers, we continue to monitor the
28 public use camp, or public use as the Egegik River outlet,
29 and we started that on July 24th and went through September
30 8th. And again the objectives were identify users both off
31 and on refuge, as well as proportion of local and nonlocal
32 users. Last year we had a total of 581 individuals visit
33 our refuge on and off. And 45 percent of those spent their
34 time within the refuge, 53 were observed travelling through
35 the area en route to and from Becharof Lake. Currently
36 this year, total was 610 users, but the data is still being
37 compiled now, and we don't have numbers for on and off
38 users.

39
40 And that concludes my report, Mr. Chairman, if you
41 have any questions for our biologist.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions?
44 Orville, you mentioned briefly there under moose, let's
45 see, those who were dropped off to hunt moose, were they
46 just drop-off hunters?

47
48 MR. LIND: Are you talking about the party
49 of four?

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

2
3 MR. LIND: They were hunters that were
4 dropped off by transporter.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Resident of nonresident?

7
8 MR. LIND: That I don't know for sure.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't know that? Did
11 they get any animals?

12
13 MR. LIND: That we don't know also.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't know that
16 either?

17
18 MR. LIND: The report will be given out
19 toward the end of the year.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I think a big
22 concern that I have, and we'll probably be working on
23 outside this council obviously is a nonresident hunter who
24 takes a moose, I think it should be a guided hunt for a
25 nonresident, because of the tremendous waste of the
26 animals that been taking place on the -- a least on the
27 Alaska Peninsula and the Mulchatna area. I don't know
28 about your enforcement people, but I know the brown shirts
29 have just been finding a lot of violations of nonresidents
30 killing a moose five miles in and they struggle out with
31 the horns, and by the time they get back, the bear's there
32 and the meat is gone, and it just gets to be a total mess.
33 They haven't a clue what happens when they kill a 12, 1500
34 animal that far away, and then the violation involved and
35 the waste of an animal, so -- but that's okay. If you
36 don't know if they were a resident of nonresident, that's
37 fine, because I just was curious. Any other questions,
38 Council members, you might have?

39
40 MS. KELLY: I have a comment.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, sure.

43
44 MS. KELLY: When you go out to the villages
45 and promote wild and scenic rivers, I would appreciate it
46 if you would tell the people the whole story, that it just
47 doesn't protect subsistence uses, that it allows for
48 tourism to increase, and so you need to paint the whole
49 picture, not just part of it.

50

00095

1 MR. LIND: That's wild and scenic river
2 designations?

3
4 MS. KELLY: Yes. Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
7 comments, Council members? Okay. We're going to do the
8 North Peninsula caribou herd now of what is -- Ron, are you
9 going to come talk.....

10
11 MR. LIND: The wishes of the Board.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yes.

14
15 MR. SQUIBB: I'll try -- I've got a couple
16 of overheads to summarize the data, so I'll try and get
17 this thing to reach an outlet. It will take a minute
18 to.....

19
20 (Off record conversation)

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll -- Ron, we'll have
23 that in a minute. Could we just take a ten minute
24 break,.....

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, that sounds good.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:and we'll get
29 another overhead, so -- I think this Northern Peninsula
30 herd is pretty important that we get some information on
31 it. So take a ten-minute break? Okay. We'll do that.

32
33 (Off record - 4:45 p.m.)

34
35 (On record - 5:04 p.m.)

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We are on record. All
38 right. We're ready? Okay.

39
40 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, Ron
41 Squibb, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with Alaska
42 Peninsula Refuge, and I'll go with the slides on the
43 caribou discussion.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

46
47 MR. SQUIBB: This is just a general trend
48 of the counts of the Alaska Peninsula herd since we started
49 the method that we now use in the mid 70s. There's a break
50 as you can see, there's no data reflected on that for herd

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1 count between '76 and I guess that's '81. Can't quite tell
2 from here. But the herd went up to 20,000 or so and stayed
3 there between 17 and 20 for some years as you can see, and
4 began a decline that's continued since it dropped off in,
5 oh, the early/mid 90s. And last year, in the 1999 count,
6 was 8600 animals, and the count -- again, the count is done
7 post calving in late June, early July, and at that time the
8 calves can follow the herd, you know, they're out of the
9 early reach of predators, can outrun the bears, if you
10 will. And then again in this summer, 19- -- excuse me,
11 2000 count, we dropped 1600 animals to 7000 even on that
12 count approximately. So the decline does continue.

13
14 And I've got a couple of other graphs to show you
15 the changes in bull/cow ratios and calf/cow ratios. This
16 graph shows you the bull/cow ratios, and again as I said a
17 moment ago, the count that we use for the herd is taken
18 post calving in late June and -- to mid July. And the --
19 these counts for the ratios are the fall composition counts
20 which were just finished the last few days. Pat
21 Valkenberg, a research biologist for Fish and Game out of
22 Dillingham -- excuse me, out of Fairbanks, was done with a
23 helicopter and we supported him a little bit in finding
24 animals. And they just finished this count for this year.
25 And this -- again it bounced around a little bit, but these
26 are bull/cow ratios that -- I don't want to speak for Fish
27 and Game, but the -- one of the objectives is to maintain
28 sufficient bulls in order to cover all the cows and make
29 sure, you know, there's adequate bulls to carry out
30 breeding. And this is total bulls. If you -- this
31 includes the younger animals, so if you look at the -- you
32 could probably bet -- you can get by with fewer breeding
33 bulls than these, but this includes the younger, not as
34 competitive breeding bulls in the total. And there's also
35 -- since we're down to a bull only hunt in the Tier II
36 program, this is where -- these ratios are what determines
37 the harvestable surplus that generates the number of Tier
38 II permits coming out of the equation. But as you can see
39 this one bounces around even in the periods where the
40 animals -- the population's real high, you would have
41 periods when you would have lower counts. Bull/cow ratios
42 can drop and populations still be big.

43
44 Okay. This is your again this fall, just
45 completed, the October calf/cows coming out of the October
46 composition counts. And here you see the pattern does
47 reflect the population trend a little more directly. You
48 has some low cow/calf ratios it looks like in the early
49 80s, but more or less the calf - proportion of calves as
50 you can see, and this -- these are both in terms of both --

00097

1 the last one and this one were in terms of bulls or in this
2 case calves per 100 cows. And so you can see we're holding
3 up there in the 50s, 40s, and now we've declined. I
4 believe last year it was 20 even in 1999 in October, and
5 we're at 18 calves per 100 cows.

6
7 For comparison, I don't have a graph on this one,
8 but I've got the summary that Pat Valkenberg just made up
9 for us after he completed the work just yesterday, and just
10 for comparison sake, as I said, the Northern Peninsula
11 calf/cow ratio was 18 calves per 100 cows. And during the
12 same effort, we also looked at the Southern Peninsula herd.
13 As you know, the Southern Peninsula herd is coming back up.
14 And their calf/cow ratio is up to 37 calves per 100 cows.
15 So -- and that's sort of the basis of the equation is in
16 the herd, the calf -- or rather the recruitment of calves
17 into the population is not keeping up with the mortality
18 from all sources. And we've obviously cut way back on the
19 human cause of mortality, the hunter, both recreation and
20 subsistence with the Tier II program.

21
22 As everyone's aware -- excuse me, please. As you
23 all know, there's -- we certainly have a lot of predators
24 on the Alaska Peninsula. Again, we have no hard numbers
25 on the wolf population. The indications from local
26 trappers and from local people in general is that wolves
27 certainly are there in substantial numbers, and I don't
28 know the trend. The trend seems, if anything slightly
29 upward. And most -- we're in a situation where we may be
30 carrying a lot of the predators that were on this herd when
31 it was 20,000.

32
33 The bear populations we have a better handle on.
34 The densities are high, and as you know, both the -- in
35 terms of the mandates we have as the Fish and Wildlife
36 Service, it's one of our ANILCA purposes is the brown bear
37 on the Peninsula. And you're, I'm sure, aware that the
38 Fish and Game, again I don't know the details of the
39 management objectives off the top of my head, but they do
40 manage for a fairly substantial trophy bear hunt if you
41 will, so those are some of the management mandates we're
42 looking at on the predators.

43
44 And then again the predators always come to
45 everyone's mind but the information we have especially at
46 the beginning of this decline of the herd indicated that it
47 was the range condition or the forage availability or
48 forage quality that was the limiting factor. And that the
49 data that indicated that are the calf weights are down, the
50 -- you know, they're not as low as they have -- as they're

00098

1 been in some herds that went into very steep decline, but
2 they're below what they were in this herd, and they're
3 below what's typical of -- you know, well below what's
4 typical of herds that are increasing.

5
6 The -- also with the calves, we see more disease.
7 Now, lung worm prevalence, what -- they did work on this a
8 few years ago, they being the Fish and Game, and the
9 presence of lung worm in the calves has increased. The
10 incidence of pneumonia. And again we don't think that it's
11 a disease infestation of itself. It's more that the
12 animals are in poorer condition. They're being born
13 weaker, and they're more susceptible to the diseases that
14 are around anyway, so -- but that's also considered an
15 indication of the poor nutritional condition of the
16 animals.

17
18 Another indicator is the -- the first year the
19 females give come into -- or rather the first year that
20 cows give birth is on average delayed about year. Let's
21 see, in -- and I guess again, I don't have it in front of
22 my, so -- I used to work with another species where they
23 matured a year later, but I -- the data I believe indicate
24 that in a herd that would be in prime condition, and
25 perhaps Andy can help me with this on the Nushagak, I
26 believe with the two-year olds would drop -- perhaps a
27 third or so of the two-year olds would calve, and the
28 three-year olds would 89 or 90 percent calving rates. Now,
29 what we're seeing in this herd is the three-year olds are
30 down to maybe a third or quarter percent calving, and then
31 we get to the four-year olds calving, and we're getting 80
32 or 90 percent. So the prime cows are still calving at
33 reasonable rates, and -- but then, if you will, the first
34 year at which a cow gives a calf in her life is delayed by
35 about a year. So again that's given that cows only have so
36 long a productive life, that again takes out, it takes away
37 from our recruitment, and that's an indication of
38 nutritional stress in that when the female is maturing and
39 they try and they get to a certain age where they can first
40 reproduce, if they're nutritionally stressed, their
41 competing, their bodies can't both reproduce and maintain
42 body growth, and they'll forgo reproduction in order to
43 make sure that they maintain their own, you know, future
44 potential to reproduce, so they'll grow rather than forgo
45 -- you know, they won't come into estrus basically. And
46 that's an indication of nutritional stress you'll see in
47 maturing females when they're not on good range. So that's
48 sort of the background I guess of the initial cause of the
49 herd's decline.

50

00099

1 And what information we have available on the range
2 quality is limited. As you heard earlier in Andy's report
3 when they introduced Northern Peninsula animals over the
4 Nushagak, they were wise enough to establish some permanent
5 vegetation transects as well as, excuse me, please -- as
6 well some exclosures so they could see what the vegetation
7 would be if it were not grazed, and then also look at the
8 transects to what it was in the grazed areas.

9
10 So we have no such background information from when
11 the herd was high or when the herd was growing in the --
12 between the 70s and 80s when the herd was on the upswing.
13 We don't have that background vegetation data. We have had
14 some botanists that were very good in my estimation in the
15 field the last three summers, and the obvious take-home
16 information that jumps out at you as I mentioned before is
17 the percent lichen cover on the range throughout the
18 Peninsula they have observed is very low, and lichen are
19 generally considered an important winter forage plant for
20 the caribou, as well as for reindeer and up north. And
21 then in comparison, they looked at Natchamak (ph) Island in
22 the summer of '99 which had not been grazed for a long
23 time, and car -- excuse me, in the same habits, on the
24 tundra habitats and others, the lichen cover there is very,
25 very rich, and in an ungrazed environment. So there
26 should -- you know, in better times, we'd see more of that
27 when the herd is expanding. Now, what we don't have an
28 angle on is the condition of the summer range and what's
29 lacking there.

30
31 Pat Valkenberg, as I mentioned before, one of the
32 research biologists who works with us on this herd from
33 Fish and Game, has mentioned to me that it doesn't appear
34 that -- he says in some herds it's obvious, it's either
35 winter or summer range that's limiting. And if the winter
36 range is limiting, you'll see it in the calf weights in the
37 spring, and if summer range and that condition is not
38 limiting then the calves will catch up by the end of
39 summer, and in fall they'll be in good condition. He says
40 with the northern Peninsula herd, as I understood him, it's
41 sort of a balance. It's not that their winter range is
42 horrible, but that your calf weights are, but they're not
43 as low as they see in some places. But then our summer
44 range isn't great to make up the difference, because
45 they're going into the fall a little bit light as well.

46
47 So that's sort of my summary of the general
48 situation, and what I understand are the causes. So I'd
49 certainly be happy to entertain any questions.

50

00100

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
2 members? Okay, Robert?

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 The Southern Peninsula caribou herd you said is
6 recuperating?

7
8 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. The indications
9 are, as I mentioned in the ratios, the calf weights last --
10 not this spring of 2000, but spring of '99 as I've
11 mentioned in previous meetings, we work the Fish and Game,
12 and we carried out a calf mortality, a newborn calf
13 mortality study on the Southern Peninsula, and their data
14 from that study were the -- I might have my dates a little
15 bit off, but I think those were the first newborn calf
16 weights they'd had since '89, and the calf weights are
17 quite a bit up.

18
19 They actually had -- that's one thing I forgot to
20 mention, on the Southern Peninsula they had quite a bit of
21 mortality on the newborn calves that we had radio collared.
22 I believe we had more than 40 different calves collared and
23 we had -- there was I believe around 50 percent mortality.
24 I don't have that paper in front of me, in the first
25 couple, three weeks of life, and there was a wolf den right
26 in the middle of the Caribou River flats where we had a lot
27 of the calves collared.

28
29 But their weights were up. And what I wanted to
30 get at in comparison with the Northern herd in the spring
31 of 1998, a year previous to that, we did a similar study
32 areas of the northern herd, working the Sandy River area,
33 that calving area as well as the Cinder River calving area.
34 And there was initially less predation than in the Southern
35 herd in the first two weeks of life, but then he -- Dick
36 Sellers estimations of causes of mortality in the fourth
37 week of life for the calves indicated that they were dying
38 not of predation, but they -- we were getting a significant
39 amount of disease related death, and we weren't -- that
40 wasn't seen so much in the Southern herd. So again, in the
41 comparison, they still are taking a heavy level of predator
42 mortality among the newborn calves, but they're not having
43 the mortality that can be attributed to weak calves, calves
44 not being able to follow their mother, or disease.

45
46 MR. SAMUELSEN: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman.
47 On your first overhead there, Ron, you said we're down to
48 7,000 -- roughly 7,000 animals in the year 2000, and I
49 think you said it was between 1999 and 2000 was about a
50 1700 drop?

00101

1 MR. LIND: 1600.

2
3 MR. SAMUELSEN: 1600 drop?

4
5 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. If I was just
8 looking at 1999 in the North Peninsula Caribou herd, what
9 was the harvest? If I looked at that draft and I added the
10 harvest to that number?

11
12 MR. SQUIBB: Well, 1999 was the first year
13 of the Tier II if I read my dos (ph) line. So that was
14 '99, so that count was prior to Tier II, and Tier II plus
15 federal permits were 660 on the harvest, so if you would,
16 there was a human harvest, and we -- again, we don't know
17 what the -- I don't have the equations in front of me.
18 Sellers tends to be the one to manage that. I know -- I
19 can see what you're getting at, but I don't know if you can
20 conclude that the other 1,000 would be predator mortality.
21 You know, I would that it were that easy, because you have
22 to look at recruitment, and other causes of mortality.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: And the Tier II area
25 includes South Naknek all the way down the Peninsula?

26
27 MR. SQUIBB: All of 9(E).

28
29 MR. LONS: 9(E).

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: All of 9(E).

32
33 MR. SQUIBB: And the southern part of 9(C).

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: Both on state and federal
36 lands?

37
38 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Those above the Branch.

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. If this trend
43 continues, you know, and you go back five years, look where
44 we were five years ago, and try to project ahead five
45 years, something drastic is going to have to happen down
46 there.

47
48 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. I was talking with
49 Mr. Heyano about that. What we don't have is -- we know
50 it's probably vegetation driven, but we're not -- we don't

00102

1 have the knowledge, the information available to say when
2 the herd is in equilibrium with the resources. You know,
3 eventually you would see the herd declining, and your
4 classic cyclic population. The population will go down
5 until it's in equilibrium with the resources. There will
6 be enough forage, it will improve the body condition.
7 Their recruit -- the calving weights would go up, survival
8 would go up, and then the herd would start to slowly
9 increase. Now, I can't tell you whether we're in a
10 situation now of where we're at equilibrium now, whether we
11 were at equilibrium two years ago, and we have a predator
12 problem, whether it will be two years before we get into
13 equilibrium. You know, that's -- we can't address the
14 question of whether we're following the vegetation down, or
15 we followed the vegetation down to this point, and the
16 predators are pushing us down further, and until the
17 predator load gets off -- we can't answer that questions,
18 which is the critical question.

19
20 MR. SAMUELSEN: Another comment, Mr.
21 Chairman. Last winter a fellow from Port Heiden called me
22 one day and just right outside of Port Heiden he got five
23 wolves out of Port Heiden, and said there was lots around
24 Port Heiden, and, you know, maybe we've got -- there's not
25 much we could do with the wolves, but we could sure -- I
26 don't know what the bear seasons are down there, or if you
27 can only take one every four years, or whatever, but I
28 think we need to start looking at predator/ prey
29 relationships as we get down to these lower numbers and do
30 what we can to slow down the predator problem. Thank you,
31 Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep. Okay. Anything
34 else, Ron?

35
36 MR. SQUIBB: Not unless there are any other
37 questions, sir?

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members? Yes,
39 Robert? Oh, excuse me, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

40
41 MS. KELLY: Well, I was just thinking that
42 you need to do a little education in the villages about
43 making sure they only take bulls, and making sure that they
44 have a permit to do that, because I had to remind several
45 people this year in Egegik you can only have a permit to
46 hunt, and you can only take a bull, so -- and I think we
47 need to do a lot more of that on the Peninsula.

48
49 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think that's being done
50 amongst people now.

00103

1 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, I appreciate that
2 comment. I know Dick Sellers' logic on his management
3 approach, and again I don't want to speak for him, as I
4 understand it, Dick is trying to maintain as large a core
5 of primary productive aged females as possible so that when
6 we get into a situation where the -- we hit carrying
7 capacity and the range may recover, that the recovery rate
8 of the herd be as rapid as possible, and that's his logic.
9 And as you said, Shirley, that's what he -- what is
10 appreciated that the harvestable surplus he's calculating
11 out to be the bulls, and he's trying to protect the cows.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, you had a
14 comment?

15
16 MR. HEYANO: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 You make the statement here where mortality on the caribou
18 cows was substantial on the radio collared ones. I guess
19 the question to you then is can we carry that number
20 forward, or that scenario forward to apply to the cows that
21 haven't been radio collared?

22
23 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Yes, and that's
24 generally what we do on average is we presume that the
25 collared animals are representative of the ones that
26 weren't. Now, in the particular year, it was not this
27 winter just past, but the winter previous, and the animals
28 that collared prior to that winter, I don't remember the
29 exact number, 15 plus or minus, I can't recall exactly, but
30 all but one of those died over the winter. And the problem
31 with those animals is, you know, in the calf studies, we're
32 there with the helicopter, and we go out every day and
33 check them, if not twice a day, and then you can get on it
34 and determine what cause, whether it's predation or -- and
35 even what predator it was, if you can get there soon
36 enough, you can determine from the aftermath what -- or
37 rather what species did it. But on these, it's
38 impossible, the signs -- you generally go back and pick up
39 the collar a year or two later, and so it's unknown what
40 the cause was. But the subsequent winter, this last
41 winter, the survival was much better in terms of collared
42 animals, and you get anomalies in -- when you have
43 relatively small numbers of animals collared especially
44 relative to the herd. Don Mix and Pat make a real hard
45 effort to try to distribute the collars throughout the
46 herd, so they try to make it representative, but again I
47 think that's indicative of the potential for predation, but
48 again I don't think we can assign it all to predation. We
49 have pretty good survival, typical survival over this last
50 winter.

00104

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Yes, and then you made the
4 comment I think that, you know, you expect the caribou
5 populations to come down to some certain level and to level
6 out to the resource, but isn't there another scenario where
7 you could get yourself into I think the term is predator
8 pit where the predators are making such an impact that the
9 caribou won't ever come back up?

10

11 MR. SQUIBB: That's correct. And that --
12 eventually it -- they would eventually come out, but it
13 would be greatly prolonged, because the predators -- in
14 this situation it would drag on, because you have moose as
15 alternative prey, but, yeah, that's a distinct possibility
16 that we're aware of and Dick Sellers is aware of.

17

18 MR. HEYANO: Do you have any way of
19 determining that if you're in that situation?

20

21 MR. SQUIBB: Given right now our level of
22 information, there would be a lot of -- there's no way
23 where data would jump out at us and say that obviously. I
24 think we'd have to take what information we have and make
25 the best deductions we could from it, but we have not data.
26 I was talking earlier, we don't have a handle as you can
27 get up north where you have more stable snow conditions on
28 predation rates by the wolves or on wolf numbers.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Robert?

31

32 MR. HEYANO: Well, just a follow-up
33 comment, the -- and I know you'll get to the moose in your
34 next report, but in -- you know, I look at the mortality on
35 the cows, I look at the mortality on the calves, and I go
36 down and look at his report, and, you know, in this one
37 area around Nugashak Lake, he's -- six calves per 100 cows
38 for moose. I mean, here you have, you know, two different
39 species. I don't think the moose are in disease or
40 anything like that, you know, and I know there's a lot of
41 unknowns out there, we don't for sure, but I think we could
42 make reasonable deductions on what the problem is and what
43 needs to be done to at least help correct some of it. And
44 I think, you know, well, Robin touched on it there. If
45 we're serious about this, you know, we need to look at the
46 predation factor and start doing something about that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a really
49 interesting comment, and I think it would be quite a large
50 number of bears and wolves that would have to be affected

00105

1 to be -- to really begin impacting this predator thing.
2 And Sellers has been really, really sharp about, and I
3 don't want to quote him, because he's not here, but I've
4 talked with him about that, and he almost thinks it would
5 be so big that don't know if it could happen.

6
7 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. Again, this is me
8 playing around with pencil and paper and looking at other
9 reports, and so this is not anything that I -- just to give
10 you generalities, but the density of bears we carry is very
11 high on the Peninsula, as you well know. And the last
12 density estimate we had from Black Lake in 1989, from that
13 vicinity, which is a fairly high density section of the
14 Peninsula, I believe he translated it, and again looking at
15 all bears, and the reports I could show if you're
16 interested, they break it down into bears which counts --
17 you know, cubs of the year, they're with their mother, and,
18 you know, they have a real high mortality rate themselves,
19 so consider that, but I believe we had one bear for every
20 two square miles was the estimate out of that area. And
21 that's a lot. Now,.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's where we pick
24 berries.

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: Now, and that's sort of the
27 estimate we roughly use for the Peninsula. It's ten years
28 old, but that's the estimate we roughly use. And some of
29 the predator control actions that have been taken in Canada
30 and Alaska that have been well documents, in the Interior,
31 and again I'm kind of reaching here, so I don't know if,
32 Andy, or -- do you have any information on this, please
33 help me, but I believe there -- they said for bears they
34 needed to reduce it to one bear per every 36 square miles,
35 which means we'd have to eliminate 1700 or 1800 bears was
36 my rough calculation. And again that's rough. But I guess
37 the point I wanted to bring home is on those populations,
38 where they've done a lot of this, or Interior populations
39 where there are really low density bear numbers, and that
40 was on moose, and most of them are moose studies, and
41 caribou they followed was secondary to that. So in that
42 regard, you would have to decimate the bear population.

43
44 The wolf population similarly you knock the numbers
45 way, way back. You've got to -- and they're starting --
46 our wolf densities are probably comparable to what was in
47 the Interior, and so there you're knocking them down half
48 or three quarters. And again I'm grasping. I don't know
49 those numbers well. Just glancing at the literature on
50 that. But it would -- for the bears numbers to come into

00106

1 synch with what's done in the Interior, it would be
2 decimation of population. But the Interior don't have
3 salmon. The -- our bears are -- you know, our density of
4 bears is -- you know, we all know a lot of it's off the
5 salmon population, so what the numbers would be here would
6 not be so great, because we're making -- you know, the
7 resources available to bears are a lot different.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, was there
10 anything else that you had?

11
12 MR. HEYANO: I have hard time following
13 that logic, Mr. Chairman, because from my experiences that
14 information shows that predation, bears and wolves, have an
15 impact of up to roughly 80-some percent, you know, in this
16 case moose and caribou that are killed, you know, and
17 that's kind of statewide, and it's kind of a rough average,
18 or a rough rule of thumb. And what I'm saying is that if
19 we're being told that if we don't do nothing some days
20 things will go like this, and they'll come back up. So
21 what I'm saying is, we don't have to decimate the bear
22 population to help the caribou, we don't have to decimate
23 the wolf population to help the caribou. If we reduce it
24 by 30 percent or 40 percent, that's going to be a positive
25 impact for those populations to recover, you know, and
26 maybe instead of 15 years, maybe they will do it in ten. I
27 don't know. But it's got to be a positive impact. I don't
28 think you have to go to that degree.....

29
30 MR. SQUIBB: That's.....

31
32 MR. HEYANO:to do that.

33
34 MR. SQUIBB: I guess looking at the ones --
35 excuse me, those studies where they -- or the projects
36 where they have gone in and done real intensive management,
37 and that's what they did, and they got a fairly rapid
38 response in those situations. That was -- again, I just
39 want to tell you, the comparison with the Interior, because
40 we've got the salmon resource here, like you were saying, I
41 think there would be a balance here.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin, do you have
44 any other comments?

45
46 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I -- yeah, and I
47 agree with Mr. Heyano's comments. You know, we have --
48 under Title VIII, we have a trust responsibility to --
49 we're an extension of the federal government sitting on
50 this RAC, and our job is to protect and make sure

00107

1 subsistence users are afforded an equal opportunity to
2 harvest the resources that they customary and traditionally
3 have harvested. I think we have taken the -- one of the
4 major steps we took was pushing for Tier II in this area to
5 cut down on the harvest. And that was the easiest thing to
6 do. Now it's time to start looking at probably increasing
7 the bear take on the Peninsula. Maybe longer seasons.
8 Instead of one every four years, one every year. You
9 know, those little subtle changes over time would have a
10 very positive impact, so I don't know, maybe this RAC needs
11 to submit a proposal both to Federal Subsistence Board and
12 the Board of Game in this area, because -- I mean, that's a
13 terrible picture in my estimation, and based on the local
14 knowledge that I'm hearing from the people along the
15 Peninsula on the predator situation, especially in the area
16 of wolves, and you just confirmed it on bears, that with
17 the resource dwindling like that, there's really nothing we
18 can do but watch -- sit here and watch figures go down in
19 the current situation, so.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Liberalizing the bear
22 season and numbers and those type of things I'm sure would
23 have a positive effect on at least helping bring back that
24 -- There's something wrong when also a calf can be killed
25 by a bald eagle. I understand a golden eagle can kill a
26 calf, but when a bald eagle kills a calf, there's got to be
27 some real serious factors in there, too, that, you know,
28 the health of the animal that I'm sure you're working on.

29
30 How many -- do you know how many animals were taken
31 by Tier II last year? Do you know how many animals were
32 taken by Tier II? The Tier II permits, how many caribou
33 were killed on the Peninsula?

34
35 MR. SQUIBB: I haven't seen the reports. I
36 -- the -- I'd wait for Dick Sellers to answer that
37 question. The data went to his office.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So Alaska Department of
40 Fish and Game is the one who keeps those records?

41
42 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: ADF&G? Okay. Is there
45 anyone here for ADF&G that knows those answers? No? Okay.
46 Any other questions?

47
48 MR. HEYANO: Just a comment, Mr. Chairman.
49 I think if the Council does decide to do something, that
50 this would be the appropriate time, because the proposal

00108

1 deadline on the state regulatory board is the 8th of
2 December.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like to write a
5 proposal between now and 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning?

6 Yeah, Robin?

7

8 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'd like to ask staff, what
9 is the -- what is it, one every four years, a bear on the
10 Alaska Peninsula?

11

12 MR. KOEPSAL: Yeah, that's correct.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: Who has the regulations?

15

16 MR. KOEPSAL: For sports hunter, yes.
17 There are subsistence management areas where you can take
18 one bear a year. (Indiscernible)

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does he need to come up
21 here?

22

23 COURT REPORTER: He is soft.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, he needs to come to
26 come up to the mike,

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. It's one every four
29 year, and I need to know the seasons.

30

31 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think it's about ten
32 days or so.

33

34 MR. ABRAHAM: Six months.

35

36 MR. KOEPSAL: Mark Koepsal, I'm deputy
37 refuge manager. One of the comments that I would like to
38 make, you know, in the discussion of predator management,
39 the first thing you want to make sure is that it's
40 predators that are causing the problem, which means you
41 generally want your calf weights to be good, you'd want to
42 do a vegetation study to make sure that it's not your range
43 that's doing it, because if you go in and do a highly
44 controversial predator control, and it's range and food
45 that's really limiting your herd, then you're not going to
46 achieve anything. Because if the animals don't have enough
47 food, they're not reproducing because of nutrition and that
48 way, so the first thing you really want to look at is to
49 make sure that the calf weights are good, that they're
50 healthy, and that it's not range that's causing your

00109

1 animals to continue to decline.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't necessarily agree
4 with you on that, because the range may be declining, the
5 animals are declining because you do have a big increase in
6 predator population. I mean, I fly this Peninsula every
7 day, there's other pilots in here who fly this Peninsula
8 every day. We've seen the bear population increase. We
9 went moose hunting this years. We didn't see any moose,
10 but we saw five or six bears. And they are -- the
11 predators are increasing. They are taking a toll, I would
12 assume, on the animals. And I guess your logic would be,
13 well, we've got to have the numbers, but my logic is it's a
14 management plan as well to bring back a food source, you
15 know. I really would be careful about going out and
16 slaughtering a lot of bears, because that's a management
17 plan as well, you know. And if you don't have any hard
18 numbers I guess to say this is what's happening to the
19 animals, maybe we're in the dark. When you see the wolf --
20 when you go out and see -- when you see 17 wolves out of a
21 Cherokee 6, there's a lot of wolves some place. And so
22 help me, there are bears everywhere. Behind every bush.
23 Anybody else? Comment? But that's good, we want this kind
24 of feedback and comment. Appreciate it.

25

26 MR. KOEPSAL: I'm agreeing, yes, there are
27 a lot of predators, and that's a concern. But also when we
28 -- what we're saying is we don't have the information to
29 know how many animals the range can support in its present
30 condition, so we don't know if we're at the point where the
31 herd is declining because of the food source, the range,
32 the lichens and the vegetation. So there's a possibility
33 that you could eliminate the predators, and the population
34 wouldn't rebound, because there's not enough food out there
35 to feed it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Um-hum. Okay. Robin, do
38 you have a comment?

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, but we do know as a
41 RAC and local representatives of our region that
42 subsistence needs aren't being met, and that we have a --
43 the important resource that's in a crash-diving mode, and
44 I've been on this Council since its inception, and just
45 because the issue isn't sexy doesn't mean this Council
46 won't take it on. And if we think that we need to
47 liberalize the bear seasons and increase that harvest a
48 little bit to try and get some relief for these caribou,
49 which are mightily important for the subsistence users on
50 Alaska Peninsula, I think this Council will gladly welcome

00110

1 the heat whoever wants to give it to us.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, sir, Robert?

4

5 MR. HEYANO: Well, I just a follow-up
6 comment, Mr. Chairman, that if we followed the scenario
7 that was presented to us, we don't know if it's -- if the
8 range or there isn't enough food for them, then why did we
9 restrict the subsistence hunter? I mean, if we're going to
10 follow that logic, let's take the Tier II off, let's have
11 the season run from August until April, and let the
12 subsistence hunters go and harvest caribou. You know, the
13 best information shows that the humans take about 12
14 percent, predation dates 80-some percent. Why do we neck
15 down the 12 percent and let the 80 go unrestricted, so.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. I think it's
18 called political pressure, too, and in a sense, you know,
19 deals with that issue. Any other comments, Council members
20 on the North Peninsula caribou herd? Well, gentlemen --
21 okay, go ahead.

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: I would request the season
24 dates for bear hunting?

25

26 MR. KOEPSAL: The.....

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's one every four years?

29

30 MR. KOEPSAL: One every four years. It's
31 generally -- when they have it, they have a spring and then
32 a fall and then a rest period, and they just -- last year I
33 believe they extended it, the bear season, for a week, but
34 the current regs will show that it's -- there's no open
35 season, because we're now in the rest. They had a spring
36 hunt and a fall, now you -- you don't hunt. But there is a
37 subsistence bear season in the Chignik area that's a bear
38 every year for subsistence purposes, not sport hunting, and
39 that's open -- and there's one on the Big Creek, Naknek
40 River drainage, which is September 1st through October 31st
41 that goes on every year, but again it's a one harvest for
42 every four years if you do harvest one. But it's a season
43 that's open every year, whereas on the bears it's like
44 there is no fall season this year.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's every other year,
47 yeah.

48

49 MR. KOEPSAL: It's every other year. There
50 was a fall and then a spring, and then there is no fall

00111

1 season. But again it's a sport season, you're only allowed
2 to take one bear every four years.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Why is that?

5
6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: To make them bigger.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Trophy animal.

9
10 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah.

11
12 MR. KOEPSAL: It's the state that sets
13 that, and I really don't know their justification.

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you.

16
17 MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman?

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Robert.

20
21 MR. HEYANO: If I may, it's my
22 understanding that the North Peninsula is managed primarily
23 for trophy bears.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, there's no other
26 reason to cull (ph) the bears.

27
28 MR. HEYANO: And that's why your regulation
29 is such that it is, as Johnny says, it's to have a lot of
30 big bears. Trophy bears.

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Can I have that regulation
33 book? I might have some homework tonight.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Along that same line
36 while the regulation book is coming front,.....

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:I realize that I
41 believe it's the Kamchatka Peninsula over in Russia, they
42 have certainly reduced the cost of taking a bear in that
43 area, and some of our guides that I've -- that are on the
44 Alaska Peninsula have had a hard time booking any increased
45 numbers for some bears, because they're -- instead of
46 \$10,000 on the Alaska Peninsula, they're \$5,000 over in
47 Russia, if they're still allowing that, and, you know, it's
48 day to day. So there may not be a big interest in getting
49 more bears, but it might be worth our while to give this
50 some serious thought, because I think that's also a

00112

1 management tool. Any other thoughts before we go to
2 Steller's eider? Or is that all we have under the refuge
3 now as far as.....

4
5 MR. HEYANO: Moose.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay. I'll get into
8 -- are there any other questions? Okay.

9
10 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you. Ron Squibb again
11 with Alaska Peninsula Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service. And the moose report will be much briefer.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe.

15
16 MR. SQUIBB: Got lots less information. In
17 the RAC book under our report, on page five there's a
18 table, and these are all of the recent surveys we did, the
19 moose trend area surveys in recent years. Excuse me.
20 Again Dick Sellers manages a book (ph) by all trend areas
21 by whether U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service flew it, Park
22 Service flew it, or the ADF&G flew it. And these trend
23 areas I guess are areas that we count periodically. And
24 there are some in here that are newer trend areas, and
25 those are Anchor and Evan Bays down on the Pacific side in
26 the Chignik unit, and as well as in Black Lake. I listed
27 them in this table as potential trend areas. The one in
28 Black Lake looked like it would be a good one in '98 and we
29 flew it last year and the moose tended not to be in it.
30 Trend areas are an area where you can consistently get
31 about 100 animals so you get good ratios. And the counts
32 are important, but the bull/cow ratio, the calf/cow ratio
33 is sort of the more important piece of information used
34 again by Fish and Game in determining their seasons and bag
35 limits and the trend of the population in the area. So I
36 guess what we'll -- we'll continue to try and check the
37 Black Lake area, and that's particularly the Chignik, west
38 fork of the Chignik River, that side as well as the other
39 side towards Cathedral Creek and Alec River. And during
40 December see if it is stable, if that's an area where the
41 animals move through, and they don't move down through for
42 the winter and stay in the -- you know, the
43 November/December period where we get a good count on a
44 regular basis and not have too much noise in it.
45 Anchor/Evan, the drainage pattern itself, and being right
46 up against the ocean makes it look like that might turn
47 into a real good trend area. We got real good number and
48 real good ratios last year in terms of calves per 100 cows
49 and bulls per 100 cows. Then you can see some of the other
50 areas we've done over the period. And I guess in general

00113

1 we have -- don't have real large calf/cow ratios, but we
2 have -- again falling back on Dick Sellers' expertise he
3 feels we've got sufficient calves to maintain the
4 population.

5
6 A brief history of the population. It peaked in
7 the late 60s, early 70s, and then when they did in the mid
8 80s do some range analysis, browse analysis of their
9 habitat, and it appeared that the population had
10 overbrowsed their range and the numbers went down
11 dramatically during that period and stabilized, and we're
12 at that point of stabilization now. And the population, --
13 again, I don't -- I haven't been here long enough to know,
14 and I don't know if anyone -- there hasn't been an
15 estimate, a density estimate for the Peninsula as a whole
16 for some time, since it was -- the last one that was done,
17 which is after the decline, and -- but the trend areas seem
18 to indicate that the numbers are more or less stable. So
19 if you have any specific questions, that's the short moose
20 report.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council
23 members? You casually said there hasn't been a count for a
24 long time?

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: There hasn't been -- excuse
27 me, these are trend areas. I could show you a map if
28 you're interested. I do have an overhead on that of where
29 they are. I'll go and show that in a moment, but the
30 --they have -- we have methods that are more intensive
31 where we can get a better estimate of the density. In
32 other words, like with the bears, I said in 1989 they did a
33 very sophisticated survey where they radio collared some of
34 the bears and they would basically look -- go and survey
35 the area, and get the ratio of radio collared bears they
36 saw when they didn't have a receiver on. They would fly
37 over, they'd see a bear, turn on the receive, see if that
38 one was one that was radio collared or not. In other
39 words, they weren't using radios to help them find bears,
40 and then they'd get the ratio of radio collared to nonradio
41 collared within an area, and from that through some fairly
42 sophisticated statistics, they came up with an estimate
43 that allowed me to say in 1989 we estimated there was one
44 bear for every two square miles in the Black Lake area.

45
46 Now, what we have on our trends counts, --
47 similarly they can do things with moose in terms of getting
48 trend estimates, and the method they use is different than
49 the one they use for bears. It's an intensive survey
50 method with Super Cubs, and there are other options for

00114

1 that, but they're methods that give you a number that is a
2 little more reliable. There's less noise in it if you
3 will. What we do with the trend areas, we're not trying --
4 again, the trend areas were done before and after the last,
5 and I apologize, I can't remember the year, the last year
6 they did the Gazaway method is what they call it for moose
7 density estimate in the central part of the Alaska
8 Peninsula. And these trend area counts are done
9 periodically to look at a number, but as, if not more
10 importantly the ratios of bulls to cows and calves to cows
11 in terms of looking at how the population's faring. And so
12 these -- as you see, these are the ones that Fish and
13 Wildlife Service has done. And the Park Service similarly
14 they tend to fly Angle/Takiota (ph), and they've done that
15 for years. The Park Service also flies park border area,
16 which is just right out here, Granite Peak area, which the
17 Fish and Game used to do, and the Park has assumed that in
18 recent years, and similarly this open (ph) area and
19 Aniakchak we have some areas we tend to fly, like Kejulik,
20 and then we also help the Fish and Game with the
21 traditional areas that they established years ago. We'll
22 share and figure who can fly what or who -- what we can get
23 to, and then we're trying to establish some new ones
24 further down the Chignik Unit to get information on that
25 related to some of the initiatives we had, proposals we had
26 a couple years ago.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Um-hum.

29
30 MR. SQUIBB: So these things are sort of
31 monitoring, getting the trend of the population in terms of
32 composition, and numbers, but we haven't done if you will
33 an over all intensive estimate to get a density in the
34 winter habitat.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: See, that's the point I'm
37 driving at. It really was really nice to have I think it
38 was four of the six votes at the Federal Board when we
39 decided to shut down the moose hunting in the Chignik Lakes
40 area, and the guides were sitting in the back sleeping, you
41 know, and all of a suddenly they found out they weren't
42 going to have any moose hunting season, that the Federal
43 Board said there would be no hunting, you know, and you
44 could hear the 206's and super cubs crank up the next day
45 in the Park Service and the refuge service, because the
46 lower Peninsula is kind of treated like a red headed
47 stepchild. Run out of money, run out of time, we don't
48 have the weather. You poor guys, why don't we just leave
49 you sitting down there, and that's where you're at. And I
50 think that maybe you ought to start down there and work

00115

1 back up here. And for the State of Alaska and for the
2 Federal people as well, and the Park Service, whoever else
3 was involved, go down to -- what's that guy's name with a
4 cigar in his mouth all the time?

5

6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Mel Tillis.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mel. Well, starting with
9 him way down there and work back up to Aniakchak, and -- or
10 Ugashak, and then tell the guys in King Salmon, sorry, we
11 don't have money left for you guys in your -- you know,
12 Becharof -- I mean, up at the Branch area to do your moose
13 survey, and you can just sit at home. You'd find it a
14 little bit different, and I know that. And I was hoping
15 Sellers would be here because he's one of the main guys
16 that need to be talked to about that. We've got to -- I
17 think -- and I think you have somewhat of a moose
18 population, you know, but I don't think that we've really
19 been fair, and it's probably not your fault, but maybe it's
20 your boss's fault that we haven't looked at this thing like
21 we really should look at it. I mean, in all fairness to
22 the subsistence user, and the people in the Chigniks say
23 there are no moose, and then the guides say there are all
24 kinds of moose, and we had a count -- I think the last
25 count was in May 3rd or 4th or 5th, something like that, a
26 couple years ago.

27

28 MR. SQUIBB: Well, that -- again, that was
29 just -- again as you correctly stated, that was in response
30 to just to see how many were down at that time of the year,
31 but it was not -- again, that was not an intensive survey.
32 That.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. No.

35

36 MR. SQUIBB:was a reconnaissance
37 survey.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It was -- no, it was the
40 wrong time of year. I think when the snow is available and
41 that type of thing exists, it may take camping out on Boris
42 Kosbrooks for about four days to figure out how many moose
43 are in the Perryville area, but those are things -- I think
44 things we need to look at to find out where these.....

45

46 MR. SQUIBB: Well, since we're on that
47 subject, let me pull out the graph -- or rather the map of
48 trend areas. This moving the mirror is kind of hard to
49 pull off.

50

00116

1 MR. O'HARA: Ron, can I say something?

2
3 MR. SQUIBB: Sure.

4
5 MR. O'HARA: Good evening, Council, may I
6 say something?

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't think so, but I
9 -- maybe, you know, maybe somebody in the back who would
10 like to say something.

11
12 MR. O'HARA: In support of the study that
13 -- or the surveys that Ron was doing, I assisted in some of
14 the flying, and the areas that we targeted first were the
15 farthest areas away, and if we had weather for the farthest
16 areas away, we did those first. We worked with whatever
17 area we had that had decent weather. And Orville can
18 attest to the lousy weather that we flew into to get the
19 final surveys done in the closest areas even. So we did go
20 as far away as we could and then work our way back with
21 three different agencies flying all at the same time.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What time of the year was
24 that, Tom?

25
26 MR. O'HARA: November and December.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You had snow -- you had
29 snow coverage and that type of thing?

30
31 MR. O'HARA: We finally had snow in
32 November and then we had a lot of weather problems.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What areas did you
35 cover?

36
37 MR. O'HARA: I helped out with part of
38 Aniakchak, part of -- or all of the King Salmon River/Big
39 Creek area, in that area, and.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: King Salmon River going
42 into the.....

43
44 MR. O'HARA: Way up into the park and
45 to.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: King Salmon River
48 meaning.....

49
50 MR. O'HARA: Tokioto.

00117

1 MR. SQUIBB: Tokioto.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Tokioto, and.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Drain into the Ugashak?

6

7 MR. O'HARA:Contact Creek area.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Did anybody get to
10 Tillis' place or Chigniks or Ivanof or Perryville?

11

12 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, they.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They did?

15

16 MR. O'HARA:they made it down there.

17 Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I may have to make
20 a public apology then I guess here. Okay. I'll do that,
21 too, whatever it takes.

22

23 MR. O'HARA: That's all right. That's -- I
24 just had one -- to make one comments.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Tom.

27

28 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Again, we appreciate
29 your wanting us to get more information down, and we're
30 trying to address that, because you are correct, the
31 traditional trend areas are -- I'll try and get out of the
32 way of the audience, but those are the traditional trend
33 areas here going that direction. The Fish and Game trend
34 areas are -- is that in decent focus for you guys back
35 there?

36

37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Close enough.

38

39 MR. SQUIBB: Close enough? Okay. Are the
40 Pacific trend area, and again that's the only long term one
41 on the Pacific coast, and it's again from Nakalilok Bay,
42 the Yantarni and Amber Bay. Covers those drainages. So
43 then going -- then on the -- again, this is considered the
44 core area for moose habitat, and for, you know, high
45 quality or moderate quality habitat for moose in the
46 central part of the Alaska Peninsula, and that's where they
47 maintain their longer trend areas. Again, I apologize,
48 Dick Sellers would do a better job of this. He's been
49 doing it for 20 years, but, you know, so take whatever I
50 say with a grain of salt. It's my understanding. When

00118

1 they were here. So that includes the Cinder River again.
2 And again these are November/December trend areas. They're
3 flying them before the moose drop their antlers, and when
4 the snow conditions are good, so we can get good,
5 consistent sightability. And then again there's this --
6 they call them flat sections which is where the King Salmon
7 River and the Dog Salmon Rivers come together, and that was
8 set in the Mother Goose Lake/Container Creek area. The Dog
9 Salmon trend area, and then the Ugashiks trend area, which
10 we counted all the low calf ratios right in there. A very
11 large area, but really it's outside of the core prime
12 habitat. Curiously we got some real good numbers last
13 winter at the Blue Mountain trend area right here. The
14 Kajulik trend area was established by the Fish and Wildlife
15 Service, again where -- I can't remember how many years
16 ago, when they were trying to establish some trends area,
17 but we could cover. And then this is a real long term Fish
18 and Game trend area there called Park Boundary. Granite
19 Peak and that vicinity. Right close to town here. And I
20 did not, I apologize to the Park Service, I did not draw in
21 their areas. Traditionally this Angle/Takayofu area, which
22 is the headwaters of the King Salmon River drainage. So
23 --- and also they just last winter started working on an
24 Aniakchak River trend area, which would be something out at
25 Aniakchak Bay. I don't have the boundaries. So those are
26 the trend areas.

27
28 Now, again, in response to the need for information
29 in the Chignik Unit, we started working on this area, the
30 Black what we call Black Lake here, to try to see if that's
31 going to be a good area, is it consistent? Are the moose
32 going to be -- is that an area moose move through? Do we
33 catch them there or we don't? Is it in that area where
34 they congregate dependently in winter? And then it seems
35 like here, the Anchor/Evan Bay drainages, down here near
36 Perryville, we worked that in May of 1999, and as you
37 mentioned, Mr. Chairman, we flew that, and found quite a
38 few moose there, so we went back there next winter, and got
39 the ratios, and there were still quite a few -- there were
40 a lot of moose in that vicinity. And you can look on the
41 table in terms of just rough estimates of square miles on
42 this, but the last column is moose per square mile and
43 Anchor/Evan's up there above one, and there aren't that
44 many other areas that hit that very often from last year's
45 count. So that looks like it's got good potential.

46
47 And then we also would like to get down to Stepovak
48 Bay and try and see that area as well.

49
50 In addition to the trend areas in response to the

00119

1 need for information, the last two winters, flying -- Dick
2 Sellers chartered and I flew along as an observer, last
3 winter we flew from -- just to get more Pacific Coast
4 information, we flew doing a trend area like survey, but
5 not in a traditional trend area. Basically it flying to
6 get composition, you know, ratios, bull/cow, cow/calf
7 ratios. We from Nakiliak (ph) Bay around to the Wide Bay
8 before we had to go pour some more fuel in the tank. And
9 then the previous year, in November/December '99 we flew
10 from the edge of the Pacific trend area, we flew Aniakchak
11 and around all the way to -- wait a minute. Yeah, all the
12 way around to Chignik River drainage, and then we broke off
13 there for fuel. So we're trying to address those issues
14 and making -- you know, putting more energy into trying to
15 work the Chignik Unit.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What do you have for next
18 -- the rest of this -- if you were to have a count this
19 November/December, where would you look? Or are you.....

20
21 MR. SQUIBB: Again,.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:pretty finished now?

24
25 MR. SQUIBB: As Tom said, my priorities are
26 to try and get down here, because.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

29
30 MR. SQUIBB:we don't have
31 information. I want to see if these areas are going to
32 work out, and I want to get to Stepovak. But if we fly out
33 of here and we get icing conditions at Port Heiden, which
34 is not uncommon when the snow's good and the winds are good
35 enough to let you on that side to survey, if we get icing
36 there, we're going to try and pick up something else.
37 We'll break to the Dog Salmon or Mother Goose. So.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Well, good.
40 Thanks. I probably without a doubt owe you an apology
41 for.....

42
43 MR. SQUIBB: Well, I think -- I appreciate
44 your wanting us to get information there, because.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

47
48 MR. SQUIBB:we need better
49 information in that area,.....

50

00120

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: To (indiscernible -
2 simultaneous speech).

3
4 MR. SQUIBB:we're shy on that, and we
5 need better long term information to address the issues
6 you're talking about.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Any other
9 questions from the Council on that issue? Does that take
10 care of it then, Ron, as far as moose go.

11
12 MR. SQUIBB: That's all I know.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see Brelsford made it
15 here just about dinner time, so, Taylor, you're doing good.

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: Best pizza in the world.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I think if
20 it's okay with the Council, we'll break for dinner?

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come back about
25 7:15/7:20, is that okay? The D&D's across the street
26 there, and then we'll do the Steller's after that, if
27 that's okay, Sue, and then -- and if we don't have anything
28 further, then we'll continue on with Taylor's report then.

29
30 (Off record - 6:05 p.m.)

31
32 (On record - 7:54 p.m.)

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Again, we'd call the
35 meeting back to order.

36
37 COURT REPORTER: You're on the record.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On record. Okay. Oh,
40 there she is. All right. We're going to deal with the
41 Steller eider?

42
43 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That will be good.
46 All right. Thank you.

47
48 MR. SAMUELSEN: Migratory bird. Migratory
49 birds.

50

00121

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And this is -- you're
2 ready?

3
4 MS. DETWILER: Ready?

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we're ready. Go,
7 yeah.

8
9 MS. DETWILER: Okay. My name is Sue
10 Detwiler. I'm with the Fish and Wildlife Service,
11 Endangered Species Program in Anchorage. And thank you,
12 Mr. Chair, and members of the Council.

13
14 My agenda item tonight is proposed critical habitat
15 for the Steller's eider in Alaska. And I think probably
16 most everybody on the Council knows that Fish and Wildlife
17 Service proposed to designate critical habitat for the
18 Steller's eider and the spectacled eider earlier this year.
19 The spectacled eider to my knowledge does not come down
20 into the Bristol Bay region, and we certainly didn't
21 propose critical habitat in the Bristol Bay region, so my
22 comments are focused on the Steller's eider.

23
24 The Steller's eider is an arctic and subarctic sea
25 duck. It breeds primarily on the North Slope, but some
26 individual do nest in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. In the
27 falltime they move down to the lagoons and the bays north
28 of the Alaska Peninsula to molt, and most of them in the
29 wintertime then move on south of the Alaska Peninsula over
30 into the Aleutians, and as far east as Katchamak Bay where
31 they spend the winter. And then in the springtime they
32 head back up north, staging in the Kuskokwim shoals area to
33 the north, and the south of Kuskokwim Bay.

34
35 The Endangered Species Act requires us to designate
36 critical habitat for species at the time that it's listed.
37 When we listed the Steller's eider as threatened back in
38 1997, we did not designate critical habitat for it. That
39 was in keeping with our general Fish and Wildlife Service
40 approach at the time that designation of critical habitat
41 did not add anything in terms of protection to the species.
42 We felt that at the time of listing, the fact that it was
43 listed was where most if not all of the benefits of listing
44 accrued. In other words, at the time that it's listed, the
45 species is -- take of that species is prohibited. We have
46 to -- federal agencies have to consult with us if any of
47 their activities may affect the listed species. We have to
48 prepare recovery plans and that sort of thing. So we felt
49 that most of the protections accrued by virtue of the fact
50 that it was listed, and very little, if any, protections

00122

1 accrued by designating critical habitat, so we did not
2 designate critical habitat for this and most other species
3 that we listed in the U.S.

4
5 Unfortunately, the environmental groups disagreed
6 with us, and they sued multiple times challenging our
7 decisions not to designate critical habitat. And they sued
8 us multiple times, we lost consistently. The courts agreed
9 with the environmental groups and have now set forth
10 general court direction was -- which is that we will
11 designate critical habitat when a species is listed, and
12 that will be the rule rather than the exception. So from
13 now on according to the recent -- according to the
14 framework that the courts have established, we pretty much
15 have to designate critical habitat at the time a species is
16 listed.

17
18 In March of last year we were sued for our earlier
19 decision to not designate critical habitat. It was the
20 Center for Biological Diversity and Christians Caring for
21 Creation filed a suit against us challenging our decision
22 to not designate critical habitat. Our attorneys advised
23 us in light of the court rulings that rather than spend our
24 resources on litigation that would probably not be decided
25 in our favor, we should enter into a settlement agreement,
26 so -- with the plaintiffs. So we did that. And the
27 settlement agreement required us to reevaluate critical
28 habitat for the two eider species, and make a -- if we were
29 going to designate critical habitat as a result of that
30 reevaluation, then we would do so by the first of -- or
31 January the 5th of 2001. So this year in March we issued a
32 proposal to designate critical habitat, and I earlier
33 passed around the information packet that hopefully you all
34 have. It contains maps and some briefing information on
35 Steller's eider and critical habitat.

36
37 Basically the areas that we propose to designate as
38 critical habitat were the breeding areas on the North Slope
39 and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the staging areas outside of
40 Kuskokwim Bay, and the molting and wintering areas along
41 the Alaska Peninsula, and then out at -- towards the
42 Aleutian Islands as well as east towards Kachemak Bay.

43
44 So the comment period on the proposal ended on
45 September the 25th, and right now we're in the process of
46 analyzing all the comments and developing the final rule
47 for critical habitat designation. And that should be final
48 by January 5th of next year.

49
50 So that concludes my formal presentation.

00123

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members,
2 do you have any questions? Sue, I had one -- excuse me,
3 Robert, I'm sorry, go ahead.

4
5 MR. HEYANO: Go ahead.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, go ahead. Sorry.

8
9 MR. HEYANO: I would like to know what does
10 the critical habitat designation do to the people who
11 reside in those areas? What does that -- how does that
12 impact them?

13
14 MS. DETWILER: From Fish and Wildlife
15 Service protection -- or Fish and Wildlife Service's
16 perspective, it doesn't do a whole lot. The only
17 regulatory affect of a critical habitat designation is that
18 if there -- a federal agency -- if a federal agency is
19 going to permit, fund, or carry out an activity, they have
20 to consult with us, if either the species is in the area,
21 or if there's critical habitat to make sure that their
22 activity isn't going to jeopardize the continued existence
23 of that species. So the bottom line is that there's --
24 Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires federal
25 agencies to consult with us when they have activities in
26 the areas where Steller's eider are, and basically they
27 have to confer with us, tell us what their activities are,
28 and we work with them to make sure that there's no adverse
29 effects on that species. They're already required to
30 consult with us by virtue of the fact that its listed, and
31 so we're -- we've already been consulting with National
32 Marine Fishery Service, EPA, Corps of Engineers and so on.
33 And our position is that we've already been consulting, and
34 any consultation that we will continue to be doing will
35 simply have an addendum or something within that
36 consultation that addresses critical habitat.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin?

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Isn't it under Section 7
41 that say I'm from the community of Nelson Lagoon, and we're
42 going build a dock down there. And the burden of proof
43 under Section 7 is upon the City of Nelson Lagoon to prove
44 that they're not going to have an adverse effect on Steller
45 eiders. Isn't that how the process works?

46
47 MS. DETWILER: That -- yes, although I
48 would say that it's the burden of proof is on the federal
49 agency, and, you know, obviously they work with the City of
50 Nelson Lagoon. And I guess I would go further to say that

00124

1 we're already consulting on a lot of projects down here,
2 and to my knowledge there hasn't been one project in the
3 State of Alaska that has been stopped as a result of a
4 consultation. We basically work with the agencies to make
5 sure that they can do what they want to do, but in a way
6 that least effects the eiders as possible.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Sure it wasn't Steller
9 sealions? It seemed like the same map with Steller
10 sealions.

11
12 MS. DETWILER: Yeah. Yes, we watched that,
13 too. We watch the fisheries shut down because of the
14 Steller sea lion, and here -- we -- there's not much we can
15 do to control what the courts do.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one more comment. The
18 tribes north of Egegik all the way over to Togiak has
19 deemed Bristol Bay air space non-enterable by Steller
20 eider, so you're map's correct.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But the other one shows
23 it going all the way up in there.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, that's community.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm sure glad we got that
28 squared away in a hurry. Robert? I didn't mean to cut you
29 off, Robert, if you had more. I'll take two.....

30
31 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Can you tell us what
32 caused the decline on Steller Island? I mean, Steller
33 eiders?

34
35 MS. DETWILER: They don't know for sure
36 what caused the decline. Some of the speculation is maybe
37 lead shot ingestion, maybe predation, and predation up --
38 and nesting success up on the North Slope. They've got
39 some studies going on right now to look at predation by
40 foxes, and then look at the success of the eggs that are
41 hatched up there to see what they can discern from that.
42 There's some speculation maybe it's the decadal
43 oscillations, you know, just plain environmental change
44 that's out of our hands. But the bottom line is that they
45 don't know.

46
47 MR. ABRAHAM: I think I can totally suspect
48 the decline -- or the cause of the decline. Remember that
49 -- the major spill we had in Prince William Sound? Not
50 only Steller eiders, but there's the old squaw that

00125

1 migrate,.....

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. ABRAHAM:and there's that other
6 bird that feeds in the springtime, harlequin?

7

8 MS. DETWILER: Harlequin?

9

10 MR. ABRAHAM: Harlequin, yeah. That's
11 another decline right there. That's noticeable in Togiak
12 Bay in the springtime, because Steller eiders, we used to
13 watch them passing by, you know, they were kind of, you
14 know, got to be a nuisance when I wait for king eiders to
15 come by. And after that spill, we noticed old squaws and
16 these birds over here, I mean, the decline was noticeable
17 right there, you know. We don't see much on -- in the
18 springtime by Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, Cheforak area, there's
19 some mud flats that stretch about maybe 30 miles. In low
20 tide you can see when they take off, it's just like smoke.
21 So I called over there several times, you know, it sounded
22 like, you know, just the, you know, after that oil spill,
23 you know, there was quite a bit of decline. You know, we
24 don't -- we noticed that, too. So that might be the cause
25 of it.

26

27 MS. DETWILER: So long-term effects from
28 like chronic oiling as a result of the spill.

29

30 MR. ABRAHAM: That's a possibility right
31 there. That's all I've got.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: John, did you have a
34 comment?

35

36 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, but there's been a
37 decline in every -- we call them saltwater ducks, the sea
38 ducks, not the only Steller. Every bird. And you said
39 lead shot? You'd have to shoot a clam to give a Steller
40 eider lead shot. They eat clams.

41

42 MS. DETWILER: Yeah. What I -- my
43 understanding is that the lead -- the spent lead shot sits
44 on the bottom where they forage, and when they're picking
45 up clams or whatever else they're eating, they accidentally
46 pick up lead, and it resides in their liver, and it is
47 chronically toxic to them.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, you've done a good
50 job of brainwashing my grandkids, because I can't use lead

00126

1 shot any more. So.....

2
3 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, they walk in the
6 house and do a big inspection. Got to fasten my seatbelt.
7 What's this world's coming to anyway, Sue? Any other
8 questions here, Council members? Well, thank you. I had
9 one question, just a curious one. When do they molt?

10
11 MS. DETWILER: When?

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. What time of the
14 year?

15
16 MS. DETWILER: I believe it's late fall
17 like.....

18
19 MR. CHRISTENSEN: About now.

20
21 MS. DETWILER:August.
22 August/September.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No kidding? In that time
25 of year?

26
27 MS. DETWILER: Yeah. There's actually
28 quite a bit of information in that packet, some.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

31
32 MS. DETWILER:pretty good concise
33 information on their life history.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Good enough.
36 Well, thank you.

37
38 MR. ABRAHAM: We see them in Togiak Bay,
39 the mouth, you know, in small groups.....

40
41 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. ABRAHAM:you know, when they're
44 feeding in the inlets over there.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, good. Thank you.
47 We appreciate you taking time to give us.....

48
49 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Well, there's sure a lot
50 of them coming back this year. I mean,.....

00127

1 MS. DETWILER: Yeah.

2
3 MR. CHRISTENSEN:sea ducks.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Really? Yeah.

6
7 MR. CHRISTENSEN: The bay's full again.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know, Sue, it's
10 interesting. Like a few years ago we had all kinds of
11 these seabirds that died, and, I mean, they'd be floating
12 on the water for miles and miles, literally up and down the
13 whole Peninsula. And I don't know if anyone ever
14 determined why all of a sudden, you know, during the middle
15 of the fishing season all these birds were floating around
16 upside down. They were dead.

17
18 MS. DETWILER: When was this? I'm sorry.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, ten years ago. A
21 little kind of.....

22
23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Jim Ferrell time, what
24 time is that?

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

27
28 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Must be close to.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. CHRISTENSEN:15, maybe longer.
33 You're getting old.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I'm so young and
36 just time goes by so fast. Well, thank you.

37
38 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate it a lot.
41 Okay.

42
43 (Whispered conversation)

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're on a roll on down
46 here, so is there the Bureau of Land Management here today?
47 Jeff Denton? Oh, you're going to do that, be Jeff Denton
48 today there, Dave?

49
50 MR. FISHER: This will be real short, Mr.

00128

1 Chairman. Jeff Denton asked me to mention a few things
2 that the Bureau has done, or they will be doing. They've
3 entered into a contract with the Air Force to map the
4 Naknek military use area, and this area extends basically
5 from Lake Clark up to the Wood-Titchik Lakes. And this is
6 for an EIS regarding military low flight impacts, and
7 they're just going to basically cover map this area. And
8 according to Jeff, they completed the field -- some of
9 their field work this summer, so it looks -- sounds like
10 it's going to be an on-going project.

11
12 The other thing they're going to do this November
13 if the snowfall is sufficient, they're going to do some
14 moose surveys, stratification surveys to determine moose
15 habitat areas and so on.

16
17 That's basically what he would have said if he
18 would have come.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's good. I'm glad to
21 hear that. Yeah. That's good.

22
23 MR. FISHER: That's all I have.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Any questions,
26 Council members? Thanks. Appreciate it. Oh.

27
28 MR. FISHER: Thanks. Wait a minute, okay.
29 Yes, sir?

30
31 MR. HEYANO: Two questions I guess. First
32 of all, what does he mean by mapping?

33
34 MR. FISHER: Land cover mapping of
35 vegetation types, water types, so on.

36
37 MR. HEYANO: And then where is he going to
38 be conducting these moose surveys?

39
40 MR. FISHER: Basically I think on BLM lands
41 in Unit 9.

42
43 MR. HEYANO: The yellow up there?

44
45 MR. FISHER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pretty good moose habitat
48 in there. Yeah.

49
50 MR. FISHER: I think he -- at one of the

00129

1 meetings I think mentioned the fact that they hadn't done a
2 lot of -- I don't remember what proposal we were dealing
3 with, but he said that he didn't have a lot of moose data
4 on those BLM lands, and he didn't have a lot of information
5 on habitat types either, so maybe we'll get something from
6 this. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.
9 All right. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Not here.

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, we're here, but
14 do you want to go first, or (indiscernible - away from
15 microphone). Jim Wellington isn't here by the way.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who isn't?

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Jim Wellington who is
20 listed on your agenda?

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. Uh-huh.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think he was
25 planning to come over tomorrow, but we could probably call
26 him and tell him don't bother.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away
31 from microphone)

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Ted?

34

35 MR. KRIEG: Yeah. Ted Krieg, Subsistence
36 Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm just
37 going to go over two things, and I won't take a lot of
38 time. Molly Chythlook who works in our Department out in
39 -- out of Dillingham was also here, but she had to leave
40 earlier also. So I'm going to cover for her, too, but.....

41

42 I guess the first thing, and we've talked about
43 this before, but the baseline subsistence harvest study for
44 Togiak, Twin Hills, and Manokotak, it's -- we're still
45 working on that project, and that project is -- it's a
46 cooperative agreement with Fish and Wildlife Service and
47 Subsistence Division, and BBNA have been working together
48 on that. We're getting close to being done with the field
49 work. We ended up splitting it into two -- it was -- there
50 were two parts of it anyway, the paperwork recording

00130

1 subsistence harvest data, for the year April 1 of '99
2 through March 31st of 2000, and then there was mapping -- a
3 mapping component where we mapped the harvest areas for
4 caribou, moose, brown bear, and black bear for the survey
5 year, and then for the last 20 years, areas where people
6 from those communities had hunted. Let's see, we were
7 trying to do a 50 percent sample for Togiak, and a 100
8 percent sample for both Twin Hills and Manokotak. Togiak
9 and Twin Hills have never had a baseline study done. This
10 is the first time that we've had -- you know, that we've
11 worked together with them to do this. And Manokotak had
12 one done in the mid 80s, so this will be some -- you know,
13 we hope will be some valuable information. The report, the
14 technical paper will be out sometime next year.

15
16 Then the next thing is Kvichak River system, and
17 this -- well, this is a follow up to the subsistence salmon
18 permit system, but just to evaluate what happened there
19 this year. We're planning some trips to the villages,
20 Levelock, Kakhonak, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, Newhalen,
21 Nondalton, and possibly even Port Alsworth. Igiugig also.
22 And the idea there is to try to talk to a couple of the key
23 informants, key harvesters and, you know, just see what the
24 low escapement this year, what kind of impact it had on
25 their subsistence fishing.

26
27 That's all I've got, if there are any questions?

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions from
30 Council members? Ted, when you go to Iliamna, Newhalen and
31 Nondalton, and if you -- I hope you make it to Port
32 Alsworth, too, because I know some of those people up there
33 who got a little bit of fish from the bay, usually get
34 their subsistence fish at Port Alsworth, didn't even bother
35 with it this year because it was just so scarce, but I
36 thought it was rather interesting when we had the fall fish
37 conference here that a lot of people from Iliamna had to
38 come from Iliamna down over to Newhalen, you know, and
39 crowd in there with all the other subsistence users. I was
40 thinking of Burt and different ones who had to come down,
41 because there just wasn't enough fish going along the
42 shoreline. And so it would be interesting to ask them, you
43 know, if that lack of escapement -- I think they got their
44 subsistence fish, but they -- you've got to move on your
45 neighbor, and all of a sudden you're getting to be not --
46 you know, it's getting crowded, and having to compete for
47 that fish, because that's a river system that had some
48 going up, and there were places in Lake Iliamna where
49 Kakhonak had some fish, they went by, you know, below Six-
50 Mile there, they got fish there, and a little bit in the --

00131

1 up in the.....

2

3 MR. BALLUTA: Uh-huh. A little bit of
4 fish.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Tusitna.

7

8 MR. BALUTTA: But most of it is subsistence
9 users had to travel down river to get their fish. They
10 waited for the fish, but the fish was a little late, and
11 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Iliamna River didn't get
14 anything.....

15

16 MR. BALLUTA: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:at all I don't
19 think.

20

21 MR. BALUTTA: Some of them didn't get any
22 at all.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Knutson Bay got some.

25

26 MR. BALLUTA: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Kakhonak. There were
29 some here and there, you know. I know that. In a very
30 short period of time, Upper and Lower Talarik, and I
31 watched both of them, because I was almost on a charter
32 every day, through those rivers, they were there for a
33 while red and then they were gone. The bears were there
34 for a while and they were gone. So it's had quite an
35 impact on the whole system, so.....

36

37 MR. KRIEG: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much.

40

41 MR. KRIEG: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate it. Okay.
44 Bristol Bay Native Association.

45

46 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, you've got sport fish.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, sport fish. Sorry.
49 Sorry about that. Oh, my goodness. Yeah.

50

00132

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Dan Dunaway, Fish and
2 Game, Sport Fish, and I'll try to keep this pretty brief.
3 Figured I'd give you a little bit of information of what's
4 going on with sport fish.

5
6 One of the first things, in July -- as of July, we
7 established a new area sports fish manager position in
8 Bethel, which is going to relieve me of the Kuskokwim
9 duties that I've had for a couple years, and let me focus
10 on Bristol Bay, so we've got a guy named Bob Lafferty in
11 Bethel now that will deal with everything from Cape
12 Newenham north. And I'm not sure his full area. I think
13 some of the Lower Yukon as well as Kuskokwim. And it's
14 probably really good timing considering the headaches they
15 had up there this year.

16
17 I was hoping to have a season summary to hand out
18 to you today, but it's not ready yet. We're putting a
19 little more time and scrutiny into it, because it will
20 probably turn into our Board report. When it is complete in
21 the next hopefully two, three weeks we'll be trying to get
22 that out. So I'll try to touch on a few points here just
23 verbally.

24
25 One of the other things, too, to be aware of, is
26 that we had a major review of our statewide harvest mail
27 survey estimators, and there have been some changes and
28 they've -- we've gone back from revising our estimates of
29 effort, catch and harvest from '96 through '98. And so if
30 you see tables that come out here this fall, and we're just
31 starting to get them updated with different numbers, we're
32 not playing any games. We're trying to provide a better
33 estimate. There have been -- some of the estimates went
34 up, a lot of them went down, and it's kind of random. It's
35 not a consistent thing, and it has to do with corrections
36 for bias, and beyond that I don't understand it too well.
37 But I just want to get that out -- up front. If you have
38 an old table, and we see a new one here, and there's
39 different numbers, we're trying to do a better job at it.
40 And that's also why some of these -- we're going to have to
41 have -- update a lot of tables for the Board and all.

42
43 Going through some of the major fisheries for this
44 season, Togiak king salmon, we had a pretty good escapement
45 in the end. 11,000, and I believe our escapement goal is
46 ten. So I'm really pleased with that.

47
48 Nushagak kings didn't do as well as we forecast. I
49 think we were estimating 57,000 kings past the sonar
50 counter. There was no commercial fishery. The sport

00133

1 fishery wasn't restricted, but it was just knocking on the
2 edge of the door there. 55,000's the trigger, and we
3 consistently projected just above that level, and that's
4 why following their plan we didn't have any restrictions,
5 but it -- it was kind of nerve wracking. I sure wish we
6 could get back to where we're -- into our 75,000 fish in-
7 river goal and everybody was meeting their goals
8 comfortably.

9
10 The big news is the Kvichak sockeye salmon run as
11 you well know wasn't very good, and July 12 I announced I
12 announced a closure in the sport fishery. Concerned that
13 we would be interfering with the subsistence priority and
14 the biological escapement levels in the area. And now
15 that's touched off a bit of a controversy between the
16 economic trade-offs that happened. Folks that also are
17 depending on the recreational fishery for their income.
18 We're going to be working with the advisory committees in
19 that area especially getting advice on what an appropriate
20 trade off is. This is where we're really going to need
21 help and getting a lot of participation from this area in
22 to the Board telling them what's acceptable, subsistence
23 opportunity and recreational opportunity. We'd like to
24 have kind of an in-river management plan that will give me
25 a directive so I'm not making arbitrary allocative
26 decisions that I'm not supposed to do, and we want to do
27 this more as just an in-river thing, and not really involve
28 the commercial fishery. I don't want it -- I think we can
29 do that in-river. So we're hoping to gather more
30 information for this next November Board workshop where
31 they'll be evaluating the information that we collect, and
32 I think they're forwarding a proposal, or considering
33 forwarding a proposal, a Board generated proposal to
34 develop this plan.

35
36 Moving on down around the coast, some of our other
37 major king salmon fisheries, Alagnak and Naknek that the
38 escapement levels weren't particularly good. They were
39 below average. It's a real surprise in the Alagnak where
40 we had the commercial fishery for sockeyes closed for so
41 long. Usually that means a really good king escapement, so
42 it tells me our -- well, combined with the poor Nushagak
43 return, that something's going on, and we didn't get as
44 good king run as we'd like.

45
46 Moving on to coho salmon, much of the bay did
47 pretty well. We did very well in the Nushagak River, and
48 met -- well above the in-river escapement goal, and there
49 was no need to restrict any fishery.

50

00134

1 The Ugashik River coho run was a source of concern,
2 but it was very unclear. I was getting so many conflicting
3 reports, but I spent about three weeks kind of steadily
4 collecting information, and if I'd had some sort of
5 consistent indicator of really bad runs, I might have
6 restricted the sport fishery. As it is, I didn't. Just
7 yesterday Keith Wyland flew aerial surveys of the river for
8 coho escapement, and I haven't -- I didn't even know he
9 went until this morning, and I haven't found out what he
10 counted, so I'm going to be eager to do that. But I help
11 pay for those surveys so that we could all know our best
12 estimate on those. I'm hoping they ended up okay, but
13 those are really only index flights. They're not as
14 rigorous I don't think as some of our other sockeye
15 surveys. They haven't been done as long or as
16 consistently, but we will have some numbers to look at.

17
18 Probably most of you know the Board of Fish
19 meeting's scheduled in January, and they're beginning to
20 get their schedule together of what proposals they'll see
21 when. I saw a draft e-mail this morning. I was hoping --
22 Joe was going to be here to speak to board process, but all
23 I'll say is that we're going to be trying to advertise as
24 best we can, encourage participation when those
25 opportunities come. And again the Kvichak in-river plan
26 will be a big focus of my activity as well as the other
27 proposals.

28
29 Touching on projects for sport fish, this last
30 summer our biggest one was a joint creel survey on the
31 Nushagak River. It was the Department of Fish and Game and
32 Chogyung (ph) limited did kind of an experimental handshake
33 arrangement that I think worked pretty darn well, but we
34 don't -- we're just now editing the data. We did get
35 counts all the way from Black Point to Stuyahok River on a
36 pretty consistent basis. Counts of anglers, and it will be
37 real interesting to see what we get there.

38
39 We had a small scale creel survey on the McLung
40 River, and I think partly because there was no restrictions
41 on the Nushagak River, and because the Togiak River did
42 pretty well, we hardly had anything happening. Very little
43 sport fishing activity. I think probably a little less
44 than we've had in some other years.

45
46 We also had a Naknek River rainbow trout abundance
47 project. This is the second year of that. We've got a
48 grad student on that. I'm getting pretty excited, we may
49 actually be able to estimate the abundance of spawning
50 rainbow trout in the spring there. We'll be doing radio

00135

1 telemetry on that stock starting next summer, and then
2 that's supposed to be complete a year from this spring, so
3 a year from -- May of 2002 I think we should be done.

4
5 We also did Lower Talarik rainbow trout creel
6 survey, and that's more just monitoring that fishery and
7 keeping me somewhat involved with Iliamna area fisheries.
8 And it seemed to have come off normally.

9
10 We also did participate in the design, and we were
11 hoping to participate a little bit in the actually field
12 activity for the Alagnak angler index program, but
13 communications got kind of difficult, and we could never
14 coordinate to get my staff on the ground with the folks
15 doing the index. The Park Service is going to provide me
16 with a rough summary of the data here as soon as they can
17 put it together. And I hope to use that in designing an
18 Alagnak creel survey next year that will be a lot more
19 rigorous. And I've also submitted a request to the Federal
20 Subsistence projects for funding to do a much larger survey
21 than I normally would do just with state funds. And we're
22 beginning to discuss possible designs and system for
23 conducting that. And that's kind of our normal rotation,
24 that we rotate among our major salmon fisheries, and the
25 Alagnak's kind of on deck, so that's going to be our
26 centerpiece of activity next year, as well as on-going
27 Naknek rainbow trout, and other priorities as crop up at
28 the Board of Fish meetings. We'll probably make our final
29 decision in February.

30
31 And as I've mentioned, we've provided -- supplied
32 some preproposals to the federal subsistence system for
33 possible funding and probably highest on the list is this
34 Alagnak salmon creel survey.

35
36 Another one is the Bristol Bay rainbow trout
37 protocol, where we would try to evaluate our data
38 throughout the whole Bristol Bay area, come up with a
39 system of evaluating the data we have and establishing our
40 historic benchmark for each system. I know a lot of these
41 federal agencies that are doing plans have started asking
42 us to be more definite with our rainbow trout management
43 plan that just says manage for historical size and age
44 composition. And I know Mark Lisac is saying, well, what
45 is it? So we're going to hopefully -- we'll be able to say
46 what it is, or at least have a logical system for
47 establishing one, and then seeking data for those systems
48 that we don't have any data on yet.

49
50 There's other ones that have been submitted.

00136

1 Kvichak and Newhalen River sockeye creel surveys are
2 possibilities. Newhalen and Tazimina River rainbow trout
3 abundance assessment is one. Alagnak River rainbow trout
4 abundance was one we -- and I think I put in another one.
5 I can't remember what it was.

6
7 And that's the extent of my report. If you have
8 any questions, I'd be happy to answer it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, any
11 comments that -- any questions you might have? My what a
12 quiet bunch. Hey, don't leave yet now. There are about
13 three things we want to talk to you about here. One was
14 basically other than maybe not getting quite as many kings
15 as you wanted in some districts, you did fairly well other
16 than the Kvichak, you know. I know that the sports
17 fishermen in the Naknek are really, really happy and
18 impressed with what's happened with the rainbow population
19 in that river, and I've talked with several of the guides,
20 and they really had a good year. Ugashik I think got
21 escapement anyway. Egegik got plenty of escapement. And
22 Naknek probably had an overabundant escapement of reds.
23 River systems over there on the west side got fish. and
24 the Alagnak, the Branch got its million fish. And I was up
25 on the Naknek the other day, and, oh, maybe three weeks
26 ago, and those reds were spawned out, but, I mean, they
27 were just thick. They were just biting your hook almost
28 every other time.

29
30 And so I guess the thing I wanted to ask you was
31 the nasty little one on the closure of the sports thing.
32 Probably get thrown out of the meeting -- building
33 immediately upon saying this, but granted subsistence was a
34 tough one, was it five fish a day they could take on the
35 Kvichak?

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: For sport fish, yeah, that's
38 the.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY:bag limit.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Would it have
45 helped to at least give them one fish a day and still have
46 been able to get by without getting critically shot and
47 still give them a little bit of business? That -- I've
48 talked with people in the Igiugig and then I've talked with
49 some of the lodge owners. I fly for kings, and I meet a
50 lot of people and talk with a lot of people, and I know

00137

1 that they were pretty devastated in a pretty big way as, of
2 course, we all were, but how do you make a decision like
3 that anyway?

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I was.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the way I'd have
8 done it anyway.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: I was at that point right up
11 until two days before we decided to actually close, and
12 I've been hit with some pretty hard criticism in other
13 fisheries where my actions were viewed as just a token, but
14 not really substantial. I also -- I had -- did a lot of
15 learning in this process. I had thought that more of the
16 sport fishery had progressed at the date that we'd chosen.
17 I've learned I was wrong, that the fishery really goes on a
18 lot longer. So I was concerned that most of the take had
19 probably already occurred, and I felt I would need to
20 really slam it down to have any biological effect. I was
21 beginning to hear a lot more complaints from the
22 subsistence folks. When I first -- when Slim and Jeff
23 Regnart called me that, hey, things are looking really bad,
24 I started calling everybody I could think of in the lake
25 area to find out what's going on with subsistence. I tried
26 calling Andrew, and I think I talked to his wife. I talked
27 to Bill Trefon, a number of folks around the lake trying to
28 get a picture. And I was still leaning towards just a one
29 or two fish bag limit. But when I say their in-river test
30 fishery just not producing any fish, it didn't seem like
31 any were coming, and it just continued, and I guess from my
32 days of being on the tower back in '74 and '75 myself, I
33 looked at those numbers and it just -- it really shocked
34 me. And we discussed it with -- well, I understand that my
35 supervisor -- I talked with my two immediate supervisors,
36 Doug McBride and Craig Witmore, and they carried it on to
37 our director, Kelly Hepler at the time. And I think it was
38 discussed all the way to the Governor or something, and it
39 just seemed at the time, I was becoming very concerned
40 whether we were going to really see much fish at all. I
41 felt it was -- and I also heard growing concerns from the
42 subsistence fishermen. When I first called, they weren't
43 worried, but I called back three days later, and people had
44 had a chance to put their net and were getting -- Kakhonak
45 was getting concerned. And so I said, well, I'd better be
46 safe and be biologically sound and again observe that spor
47 -- the subsistence priority, and so we went to a closure.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin?

50

00138

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Dan, was there other
2 species available to these sport fishermen besides sockeye?

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, that's where it get
5 real hard. In the Kvichak there's not a whole lot,
6 particularly further up in the like Newhalen area. Now, I
7 also closed the Alagnak, because at the time there weren't
8 any fish to speak of in the Alagnak. Right after I
9 announced the closure, I started hearing there's fish
10 coming, and in fact in the end the Alagnak did very well,
11 like you say,.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY:450 some thousand, and
16 that wasn't necessary.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How many?

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: I believe Slim has estimated
21 450,000 escapement. And the thing there is at least in the
22 Alagnak they do have kings and chums and humpies as
23 alternative species, as well as rainbow and grayling.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: The Kvichak's a lot tougher
28 on folks. They do -- a lot of the people only come for the
29 reds. It's somewhat more of a meat fishery, especially at
30 Iliamna and right there at the Newhalen River at Iliamna
31 and also at Igiugig, and, you know, I've spent a lot of
32 time going what should I have really done, and this is why
33 we're looking for direction from the folks up there. A lot
34 of them are subsistence. They're subsistence users, but
35 they're economy depends heavily on recreation, so who
36 better to give the Board.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, it's two-edged
39 sword really in a lot of ways. Robin, anything else?

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I just think, you know,
42 Dan did the right thing. Hearing the -- a number of -- at
43 this table and throughout the fall even a number of people
44 up there have a hard time meeting their subsistence needs,
45 and a lot of them didn't meet their full subsistence needs,
46 got to parcel their fish, and with the sport fishing
47 effort, and recognizing that the down stream effects, you
48 know, there was no commercial fishery, we had drifters --
49 local drifters subsistence users in the fall, but during
50 the summer they're commercial fishermen, Naknek fishermen

00139

1 that historically fish the Kvichak, Naknek, and then
2 setnetters that sit on the Kvichak side, no place to go, so
3 I think everybody needs to share in the burden of
4 conservation, and surely the resource comes first, and
5 after the resource, it's subsistence users.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's a tough one.
8 Hopefully when you.....

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:come back next year,
13 you'll have better news.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think -- I'll feel a
16 lot better if we get, you know, something on the books that
17 the public up there gives us, this is the appropriate
18 trade-off, and there's a number of things could be done,
19 and we'd want to explore all options and -- for that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let me share -- excuse
22 me, go ahead.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: I've just got another
25 question about that, you know, I think you've got to look
26 at the fishery in its whole context. I mean, the people up
27 on the lake whether a subsistence or a sport user are not
28 separated from the stock that enters the river system, the
29 fish that enter the river system. So I Hope the board has
30 the foresight to look at along the fish's migratory route,
31 what's happening in Kvichak Bay, and what's happening in
32 Kvichak River, as well as in Lake Iliamna, because that
33 would be a whole different avenue we're turning, and, you
34 know, elevating sport fish above commercial. We'll all be
35 there in January.

36
37 And by the way, Mr. Chairman, we have a workshop
38 January 22nd, but we also have a Board of Fish meeting that
39 starts January 9th, and runs to February 2nd, and Bristol
40 Bay, AYK and Area M are going to be in a mega meeting.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I know where we're going
43 to be at. We know the board process. We're going to be
44 there. Yeah. Well, if there's no other comment? Yeah,
45 Pete?

46
47 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. What's the health of
48 like dolly varden, rainbow, and the other species in that
49 area? I mean, what -- what's the population look like? I
50 mean, to -- like, you know, like two, three years ago until

00140

1 today.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: In the Kvichak?

4

5 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Really don't know. We
8 haven't -- we had a 12-year rainbow trout abundance project
9 going on in -- at Igiugig, and if we'd have continued it,
10 it might have been very interesting to see, but there's a
11 time where you've got to end a project, put your money in
12 other concerns, other places, and I've discussed this Dan
13 Salmon. It's kind of regrettable that we didn't do it a
14 few more years. Talking to Gary Nielson in Kakhonak and
15 Dan Salmon in Igiugig and a few others, especially last
16 year, not this season, but 1999 season, that rainbow trout
17 behaved way differently. They didn't go into the sport
18 fishing hotspots in late August through September like they
19 normally do. They -- in Talarik Creek they finally showed
20 up in October. Gary told me they never really did in
21 Kakhonak. Copper River, I don't really know. I got the
22 impression that they did show, but very late.

23

24 I haven't looked at the data we collected on Lower
25 Talarik Creek this year. We could go back and look at
26 weight -- a comparison of weight. In the past we've done
27 that, compared the -- what we call the condition factor,
28 measure of fatness or -- of rainbow trout. It's a
29 length/weight relationship, compared it to the number of
30 sockeye salmon counted at the Igiugig tower, and they
31 seemed to track, that when you have a large number of
32 sockeye in the system, the rainbow trout in Talarik Creek
33 seem to be fatter. But that's a real loose analysis. It
34 hasn't been done rigorously. And like this year it seemed
35 like we still had a fairly abundant number of fish in
36 Talarik Creek.

37

38 In fact I've got to be careful here, but my
39 conversations with Slim seemed to indicate that a lot of
40 the stream tributaries around Lake Iliamna did okay with
41 the number of sockeyes, but where their fish were missing
42 was the lake beaches, the big beach spawners. I think also
43 some rivers didn't do particularly well. Only 180,000 in
44 the whole Newhalen system. But as -- that's the best
45 measure I have. I don't know about dolly varden or
46 grayling as far as abundance or condition factor.

47

48 MR. ABRAHAM: The reason why I ask this
49 question is because now if the fish are missing or do not
50 go up that river, or are late, by studying these other

00141

1 species, you know, you might find something, you know,
2 what's going on with the -- maybe the lake, the water. I
3 mean, it's got to do with the volcano eruptions sometimes,
4 or temperature of the water. You know, those can -- those
5 would be the factors. I mean, we're -- you know, we don't
6 know, and I -- you and I -- I don't know, but by looking
7 that route or that direction, something might click, and
8 then we might find out.

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I know the Department
11 is really scrutinizing every bit of data we have. There's
12 going to be a major meeting here I think the end of next
13 week reviewing the whole biological assessment for sockeye
14 salmon program. The Department uses smolt counts and
15 escapement surveys and such. But data I know about to
16 date, it seems to indicate that there are a large -- a good
17 number of smolt left the system. They just never came
18 back. But, yeah, what I would expect if the sockeye
19 numbers declines and stay down is we'd see all the other
20 species start declining, too. But I heard of that problem
21 yet, and what we're doing at Talarik Creek, I don't think
22 would -- it wouldn't jump out at us right away.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, did you have a
25 comment here or not?

26
27 MR. HEYANO: I had a question.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

30
31 MR. HEYANO:for Dan.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

34
35 MR. HEYANO: What's the status of the trout
36 population on Iliamna River?

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't know. We haven't
39 done any work there since we did it, what, '96 and '97, and
40 then that winter the Board of Fish adopted a catch and
41 release regulation for I think both species on that river,
42 and we haven't gone back. Typically it takes probably
43 five, six years before you can even measure a change, but
44 we do have a lot more restrictive regulations on that
45 river, and would expect that that would be about the best
46 we can do I think is cut down the effort there. I know in
47 the past when I've talked to Jeff Regnart, that was
48 probably one of the most consistent sockeye spawning
49 streams. He said he saw less variability there than a
50 number of other streams in the area. Now, I don't know --

00142

1 I haven't seen any numbers for the aerial surveys this year
2 to know if it's still in the same range that it has been or
3 not. So is that what you're getting at partly, is could
4 that be an indicator, or.....

5
6 MR. HEYANO: No. No, I -- just it.....

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY:just strictly a.....

9
10 MR. HEYANO:was brought to our
11 attention, you know, here was a river system that had a
12 very healthy population of trout, and suddenly it's
13 crashed, and you had to go to a catch and release fishery,
14 and I was just -- it seems to me when you have a system
15 like that, you'd focus some attention on it to kind of
16 monitor or baby it along, and so you don't know if it's
17 recovering or if it's still down at the low population
18 levels or.....

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: No. We didn't see that we
21 could do a whole lot more after '96 and '97. We -- our
22 catch and release, '98 was the first, let's see, '98, '99,
23 I guess 2000 here, three seasons of fishing. My experience
24 here on Naknek River when we were concerned about the
25 rainbow trout, it took five years before we even saw a hint
26 of a change in the rainbow trout there. And it took
27 another three or four before it was more readily apparent,
28 and we got the comments like Chairman O'Hara brought up
29 earlier that fishing's good now. So I -- you know, we
30 might want to look at it again in a couple of years. We
31 even funded a subsistence survey there, because there were
32 some questions whether subsistence take might have had
33 something to do with it, and it -- what I recall, Ted might
34 correct me if I'm wrong, but it sounded like people said,
35 we don't go there any more, there's not enough fish to
36 bother with, so I think it's pretty well protected right
37 now.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, thank you
40 very much, we -- oh.

41
42 MR. BALUTTA: Catch and release of salmon,
43 I notice -- a lot of people have noticed right in the
44 Village of Newhalen, they're fishing up above, and the
45 lodges said they're just catching and release, and we see a
46 lot of dead salmon floating down the river, and they say
47 it's catch and release. I don't know whether that catch
48 and release have killed the salmon.

49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm sure -- well, I --

00143

1 yes, some fish do die from catch and release, and the
2 sloppier people are about releasing or handling the fish,
3 the more likely they are to die. Something I'd really like
4 to do over there would be to, if we could get permission
5 from the Alaska Peninsula Corporation, to develop that
6 easement trail down to the Newhalen River, get some posters
7 up and such about how to properly catch and release fish.
8 I know this is a growing concern, and we're trying to look
9 into mortality estimates for sockeye on catch and release
10 fishing, but I don't -- usually it's cohos and kings are
11 what all the money's been spent on, and I don't know if
12 that compares any to sockeye. So I really don't have any
13 data to go on.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. A short report
16 that turned into a long one. And we -- no, we thank you
17 for coming and giving us the information, because this was
18 very important, these species other than what we, you know,
19 pound by pound and ton by ton is important too, and so we
20 thank you for taking the time, and we have your proposals
21 here.....

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:that came in. So
26 thanks a lot.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: All right. Thanks for the
29 opportunity. Call me if you have more questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any more fish out
32 there? BBNA?

33
34 MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, Ralph
35 Anderson, BBNA Natural Resource. Before the dinner break,
36 we heard Ron Squibb give us the sad news about the Northern
37 Alaska Peninsula caribou herd. Well, this summer I had the
38 unpleasant task of delivering 40 federal permits to the
39 Peninsula villages. Our process is outlined in the memo
40 that I wrote you. I -- just for the sake of time, I
41 wouldn't go through and read the whole thing. Basically
42 the project began on July 18th with a phone call that I
43 received from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Pat
44 McClenahan, Cliff, Darryl Lons and Dave Fisher. We
45 discussed as I recall four topics that seemed to stick with
46 me. First was the need to fast track this project due to
47 the time that we need to execute a cooperative agreement,
48 and travel to all the villages and deliver all the -- to
49 deliver the permits. We also discussed the need to contact
50 the village councils to arrange the meetings.

00144

1 Dave Fisher raised a concern about locating 28
2 federal permits from last year that disappeared. Nobody
3 seems to know where they are. They haven't been reported
4 on, for any post-hunt reports haven't been submitted.

5
6 And as I recall, Darryl Lons also raised a concern
7 that one of the villages on the Peninsula hadn't
8 distributed any of the permits that they were allocated
9 last year.

10
11 On July 28th I -- by July 28th I had contacted all
12 the villages, made arrangements, travel arrangements.
13 Cliff Edenshaw and I were scheduled to travel to all the
14 villages. And also by July 28th, I had contacted Ted Krieg
15 who had coordinated the project for BBNA last year to try
16 to figure out how they -- how the numbers came about, and
17 how they distributed the 60 last year. And based on the
18 information that I received from him, and what he explained
19 to me was that as he recalls, that the initial numbers were
20 based on the percentage of Tier II permits that were issued
21 to each of the villages, so I used that same formula for
22 the 40 permits this year. And the formula and, you know,
23 my -- the attachments to the memo describe the number of
24 permits, the percentages, and where they went. The second
25 attachment lists the permits by number by village, so that
26 we know which villages got which permit numbers. And I'm
27 not sure whether or not those kinds of records were kept
28 for last year, so some of the permits are -- you know,
29 aren't accounted for.

30
31 Basically Cliff and I flew from one end of the
32 Peninsula to the other in two days. We took a seine boat
33 around from the Lagoon to the Bay, kind of choppy weather,
34 in order to keep on schedule with our meeting that evening
35 with Ivanof and Chignik Bay. It wasn't too pleasant
36 delivering one permit to Ivanof. It wasn't very pleasant
37 delivering three permits to -- or two permits to Chignik
38 Bay, either. The last of the permits were delivered on
39 August 7th.

40
41 And as I -- when I delivered the permits at each
42 village, I want to explain the process just to make sure
43 that, you know, we all -- you know, that you all understand
44 that we just didn't go -- I just didn't go and drop the
45 permits off and say, here, have at it. What I did was I
46 explained the permit, the designated hunter forms that are
47 -- you know, that were part of it. I gave copies of the
48 spreadsheets that are attached to these, to the memo here
49 to the village councils, or to the village administrators,
50 and explained the process that I used. And I also asked

00145

1 them if there's any way that you can make it better. I
2 mean, am I going about this wrong here, or if they could
3 think of a better way to distribute the permits, and they
4 really couldn't think of any other way, and in fact said
5 that they thought that the system that I had come up with
6 was pretty good.

7
8 I also explained that they needed to advertise the
9 availability of the permits for those people who live in
10 the village that don't -- that hadn't received a State Tier
11 II permit. I also suggested a random drawing, and to
12 forward me copies of the applications once they were
13 completed.

14
15 The last of the permits like I said were delivered
16 on August 7, three days before the opening of the season.
17 I thought that was -- I set -- I wanted to get the permits
18 out before the season opened.

19
20 And Pat McClenahan and Cliff and I returned back
21 here to Naknek as you remember, Dan, on September 6th to
22 answer some questions regarding the ANILCA provisions.

23
24 There are a couple of recommendations that I have
25 here that are on the last -- on page three of the memo.
26 One is that -- or the first is that it's probably likely,
27 more than likely that the herd is still going to be in Tier
28 II status next year. I really think that some planning
29 needs to take place. I mean, I just really didn't think
30 very much of getting a phone call the end of July with the
31 season opening in the first part of August, saying, hey,
32 you know, we need some help here. We knew a year ago that
33 the herd was in trouble, being in Tier II status then. We
34 had plenty of time I think to plan for this, but nothing
35 really happened until the end of July as far as the 40
36 permits go. We were in contact with the State Subsistence
37 Division, and helping them coordinate, validating the
38 applications from the villages for state Tier II permits
39 back in May. I mean, if it's one thing, it's probably more
40 criticism -- I mean, more frustration on my part that I'm
41 voicing than anything else. You know, we -- if more
42 planning was involved, you know, we could have had, you
43 know, better preparations, the village councils would have
44 been more aware of when the activity would be taking place.
45 The village coun -- you know, we could have done -- we
46 could have done a better job in briefing them on some of
47 the regulations and procedures that we -- you know, that
48 are required.

49
50 The second recommendation that I have is that a

00146

1 conference -- another conference should be organized. In
2 1998, March of '98, the first conference was held before
3 the herd went into Tier II status, and another conference
4 -- I mean that was with all the villages on the Peninsula.
5 And another conference hasn't been held since then. And I
6 think that now that the herd -- and we've been through two
7 Tier II seasons now. We saw the graph, the chart, you
8 know, the steady decline of the herd. I think it's
9 important that the subsistence users be involved in getting
10 this information, that they know that they're able to meet
11 with the biologist and get the kind of information that
12 you're getting, that you're being presented here. I think
13 it's -- you know, I think it's also important that they be
14 involved in developing strategies to address the concerns
15 that have arisen during the past two years. I don't know,
16 and to -- and if need be, you know, come up with a permit
17 distribution system that works, if the one that I came up
18 with doesn't, that people aren't happy that -- you know, I
19 mean, just addressing a whole bunch of issues that, you
20 know, at the conference, as well as getting, you know,
21 reports that you've been hearing on the status of the herd.
22 I think it's really important for them to hear this
23 information.

24
25 That's all I have.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Questions, Council
28 members?

29
30 MR. CHRISTENSEN: What are you going to
31 hear four, five more years of Tier II?

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: Pardon?

34
35 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Tier II's going to be
36 here for four or five years. The last time they had
37 decline on caribou, back in the 30s, they released a bunch
38 of reindeer between Pilot Point and Port Heiden. They all
39 took off, mixed in with -- then the population grew.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good idea.

42
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

44
45 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Lots of caribou --
46 reindeer they released.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: From 60 to 40 permits?

49
50 MR. ANDERSON: It dropped from 60 to 40.

00147

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's because why?

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: Because the herd declined.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, I see. And why

6 weren't they issued earlier? You -- it had.....

7

8 MR. ANDERSON: I have no idea. I mean, I

9 was just called on July 18th by the Fish and Wildlife

10 Service asking for help. So I.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So who was supposed to

13 have sent them out?

14

15 MR. ANDERSON: Pardon me?

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who was supposed to have

18 sent them out?

19

20 MR. ANDERSON: It's their hunt. I mean,

21 they.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But who are they?

24

25 MR. ANDERSON: It's the Fish and Wildlife

26 Service, Pat McClenahan and -- called and -- I mean, the

27 first part of my memo, I describe that telephone call. The

28 way I see -- you know, I offered my assistance in

29 distributing the permits.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I thought BBNA -- I don't

32 know where I got the idea that BBNA did that, but it's not

33 BBNA's job though?

34

35 MR. ANDERSON: It's a federal hunt.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

38

39 MR. ANDERSON: It a federal permit hunt.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On the 40 permits.

42

43 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. But

46 the State of Alaska's responsible for the 600?

47

48 MR. ANDERSON: The Tier II permits, yes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Tier II. Yeah.

00148

1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think they're down to
2 400 now.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 400 now?

5
6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah, two -- was
9 that because of decline, or was that because.....

10
11 MR. CHRISTENSEN: (Indiscernible -
12 simultaneous speech)

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:200 were not used?

15
16 MR. ANDERSON: They said decline.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Decline. Not because 200
19 were lost? Okay. Yeah, that was rumored that 200 never
20 got turned in, and I don't know how many ever got turned
21 in, but it's because of decline of the herd.

22
23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: They're easy to get. And
24 a man from Arizona got one of those permits. Got a plane
25 to come up, and got a caribou and went home.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you.

28
29 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman?

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wait a minute.

32
33 MR. HEYANO: Didn't BBNA last year do the
34 60 Tier II permits?

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. Yes, didn't they?

37
38 MR. ANDERSON: We distributed -- they're
39 federal permits that we distributed.

40
41 MR. HEYANO: Right.

42
43 MR. ANDERSON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

44
45 MR. HEYANO: The 60.

46
47 MR. ANDERSON: And we did the same thing
48 with 40 this year.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Used the same formula, it

00149

1 just kept getting smaller.

2
3 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does that answer your
6 question, Robert?

7
8 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Okay. Is that all
11 from BBNA, or is there another report going on besides
12 that?

13
14 MR. ANDERSON: That's all I have.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No? All right. Thank
17 you very much, Ralph. Appreciate that. So we probably
18 should go back up then to that other item. Okay. U.S.
19 Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Management, and that
20 would be Taylor Brelsford.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. T.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Holler when you want a
25 break.

26
27 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Go sit in the middle.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me?

30
31 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Hey, in the middle.

32
33 MR. BRELSFORD: Sit in the middle where the
34 fun all happens. Cliff, maybe you could help me hand out
35 -- there's three items.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Taylor, about how long is
38 your report?

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I was going to
41 suggest that maybe we could do this in parts, and you can
42 decide how much time tonight. (Indiscernible, coughing)
43 2000 season.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll take a five minute
46 break while you're writing that down. Everyone's leaving
47 anyway so let's just take a five-minute break and.....

48
49 (Off record - 9:00 p.m.)

50

00150

1 (On record - 9:05 p.m.)

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Taylor, talk to us.

4

5 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Taylor Brelsford. It's certainly a lot of fun to be back
7 with the Bristol Bay Regional Council. Walking in the room
8 this even -- this afternoon was like old home week. Great
9 to see a lot of familiar faces, and I'm real pleased to be
10 able to talk with you about some important new work and
11 some important successes that we're seeing in this resource
12 monitoring program in its first years. What I'm going to
13 propose is that we talk a little bit about sort of this
14 very first year, the year 2000, what we did this current
15 summer, then look ahead at projects for 2001, and I know
16 there's a lot of interest in what was submitted, where we
17 are in terms of making decisions, and in particular when
18 the Council will have full information about the projects
19 that are advanced and have an opportunity to submit your
20 advice to the Board. And then finally I want to be sure
21 that we kind of alert you to the upcoming schedule for the
22 projects for year 2002.

23

24 So in the briefing booklet, and I'll quit at any
25 point in this, if we decide that we want to start fresh
26 tomorrow morning, okay?

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's okay. Carry on.

29

30 MR. BRELSFORD: In the briefing booklets,
31 we're at tab G. And those -- that first two-page item,
32 front and back, really gives a very quick summary of the
33 resource monitoring program, and I think most folks in the
34 Council are familiar with the fact that when the Federal
35 Subsistence Board entered into fisheries management,
36 actually the Secretary of Interior made a commitment that
37 we would create a new fisheries information program to try
38 and improve the accuracy and the extent, the scope of
39 fisheries data as a way of improving management for all
40 managers, for state and federal managers, so that over half
41 of the funding was committed to new fisheries information
42 projects.

43

44 As we've said many times with the Council, we
45 wanted to look at three different areas. One was stock
46 status and trends, another was harvest monitoring, and a
47 third was traditional ecological knowledge.

48

49 We've made quite an emphasis on this notion of
50 cooperative projects, and you'll read in the text that, you

00151

1 know, we've looked for projects that had direct involvement
2 of local communities or regional tribal associations. This
3 again was a commitment that the Secretary has made, and
4 we've -- and the Board has expressed continuing interest
5 in. Dan, I think actually you were in some of these
6 decision meetings, and you knew the scrutiny about ensuring
7 that we were providing funding to the regional
8 organizations, to existing strong programs in the State of
9 Alaska, and then to some of the programs.

10
11 The kind of head count at the end of the summer was
12 that there were 83 local hire positions, summer seasonal
13 positions in the projects this summer, and out of those 83
14 local hired, 69 were Alaska native. So we think the
15 message has gotten out to all of the partners that one of
16 the purposes of this is to create a whole new level of
17 involvement for local people in fisheries science, as a
18 result of that, more understanding, more critical insight
19 into how the fisheries management process works.

20
21 So if you look at the back of that first page, you
22 would see that we spent a total of \$5.6 million in projects
23 in the year 2000. That's 45 different studies distributed
24 among the regions and with the percentages that you see in
25 that small table. There were about 160 proposals, and we
26 went down to about 45 that we were able to fund, so about
27 20 -- about a quarter of the submissions were actually
28 successfully funded. We think it's pretty significant that
29 we were able to dedicate 38 percent of that, or \$2.2
30 million to tribal organizations and local hires. The
31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game had budgets totalling
32 about just over that amount, 2.2, or 40 percent of the
33 total budget, and the federal agencies were responsible for
34 about 22 percent of the budget, or 1.2 million.

35
36 You would find later on in the -- behind that tab
37 an outline of the individual projects that were funded last
38 summer. There were, as I recall seven projects that were
39 funded in the Bristol Bay region, and you can see the
40 titles and the distribution of funding following these one-
41 page descriptions. I think unless there are questions, I'm
42 going to simply leave it there in terms of talking about
43 individual projects from last summer.

44
45 I want to turn a couple of more pages back in the
46 book if you would with me. One of the real significant
47 projects that we took on, about ten pages back following
48 the spreadsheets, this kind of sidewise bit, you'll come to
49 a paper with a bold heading that says subsistence fisheries
50 harvest assessment working group, and then it says requests

00152

1 for comments on draft recommendations. And I think many
2 folks are familiar with the permits where you mark down how
3 many fish you've taken for subsistence purposes throughout
4 Bristol Bay, and in some areas of the state they have
5 calendars where you get it at the beginning of the season,
6 you fill them out and you send it in at the end of the
7 season. There's a lot of concern on the part of
8 subsistence users that these estimates or calculations of
9 subsistence uses have to be accurate so that when we go
10 into allocation decisions, we have accurate information.
11 There is enough concern about the validity of harvest data
12 in the subsistence area that we actually funded a request
13 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in partnership
14 with the Alaska Intertribal Council to convene this working
15 group, and their goal was to review harvest assessment
16 methods all around the state, look at the issues or the
17 problems that local people saw and talk about solutions
18 that would allow us to strengthen harvest assessment in the
19 state, to look particularly at some areas where the
20 problems were greatest, and try and use some of the good
21 ideas that were working in other places to lift the level
22 of accuracy all around.

23
24 This was a pretty important project. It's one of
25 the first times that we've actually had a substantial panel
26 of tribal representatives, so there were five
27 representatives from the tribal sector, or the village
28 communities, sitting alongside three Alaska Department of
29 Fish and Game members, and three federal representatives,
30 conducting this review and sort of working their way
31 towards some recommendations.

32
33 This letter, the cover letter describes the working
34 group and its purposes. A couple of pages back you would
35 see the membership of the working group, and then I've --
36 we've kept two pages from the actual document, just to kind
37 of highlight some of what they were suggesting. The
38 recommendations in a very general sense talk about
39 methodology. These written items or numbered items, one
40 through six talk about sort of the technical methods of
41 harvest assessment. Some of the rest look at things like
42 how local communities should be involved, and a commitment
43 to reporting results back to the community. So this would
44 be just a very simple overview of the areas in which this
45 working group has made far more detailed recommendations.
46 The full report of the working group at this point is about
47 30 pages, but this is kind of an overview.

48
49 And on the following page, you would say this
50 listing of guiding principles, and I think this is the sort

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1 of thing where working groups really add a lot of value.
2 They help us set some long-term goals about how to work
3 together in a productive and a responsible way. I guess in
4 light of the time, I'm going to be real brief and say one
5 of the breakthroughs in these guiding principles has to do
6 with strengthening the commitment to local employment in
7 the conduct of harvest assessment projects, so we're
8 looking for more systematic ways to work with regional
9 associations or local communities on calendars, permits,
10 whatever those techniques should be about improving
11 accurate harvest monitoring.

12
13 So this is just kind of the overview of what the
14 harvest -- the working group came up with. They have asked
15 for review comments back by October 25th, and if there are
16 some folks in the committee that -- in the Council that
17 would be interested in the full report, we should ave
18 copies of it on the table here, and I would welcome a
19 careful look at that, perhaps on the part of the tribal
20 association resource folks, or village natural resource
21 departments. Please do take the time to read through and
22 offer some specific feedback to the working group if you
23 can.

24
25 Still on the sort of where we are in year 2000, the
26 next page refers to staffing to implement federal
27 subsistence fisheries. And the table sort of gives you a
28 quick overview. If you looked at the right-hand column on
29 this one, it reads like -- it looks like this. Cliff,
30 maybe you can help John turn to the right page. It's
31 towards the back. Our commitment to Senator Murkowski was
32 that we were not building an empire, and that the federal
33 staffing would be the minimum necessary to fulfill the
34 responsibilities under Title VIII, and particularly in this
35 research area we would be working in the partnerships
36 rather than full-time federal employees. So what you see
37 here on the right-hand side is that the total staffing
38 planned to implement the new fisheries responsibilities
39 under the Katie John decision was 43 people spread
40 throughout the federal agencies. as of the time of this
41 writing in late August, we had hired about 21, just under
42 half of those, and we had -- we were still in the process
43 of hiring 22 or about half as well.

44
45 I don't see the figures here, but I guess there are
46 two things that we've set out to do. One is to maintain a
47 pretty strong record in Alaska native hire in the federal
48 subsistence program, and I think we've been able to elevate
49 some folks from within the program into new management
50 level positions, and to bring some new people into the

00154

1 program who have the life experience of growing up in
2 subsistence communities. And a second theme has been to
3 try and bring into the federal program from its earliest
4 months some of the career experience and expertise of ADF&G
5 staffers. So particularly in the little group that I work
6 with, the Fisheries Information Services Division, we have
7 a considerable number of career folks who have recently
8 retired after spending 20 or more years in the Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game, and so they are able to bring
10 the kind of experience and judgment, the professional
11 judgment that's involved in the fisheries management calls,
12 particularly on the complex systems like the Yukon and the
13 Kuskokwim River.

14
15 So I believe those were the key points in terms of
16 looking at where we've been up through this current season,
17 through the year 2000, I'll stop there and answer any
18 questions that you might have about that before turning to
19 the new projects and where we're going in 2001.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council
22 members?

23
24 MR. HEYANO: This subsistence harvest
25 monitoring, what does this all mean for the subsistence
26 user? More paperwork? Less paperwork?

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: I think the main thing it
29 means is a stronger commitment to accurate information so
30 that when allocation decisions are being made, we can have
31 a little more faith in the figures about contemporary
32 subsistence levels. In some areas it's going to be
33 different kinds of paperwork. I think permit systems in
34 Southeast are terrifically under reported, and I think
35 there's some interest in doing either community
36 interviewing, house-to-house interviewing, or calendars as
37 a little bit more effective method. In some other areas I
38 don't think it's going to take much change. There are
39 differences by regions in the reporting rates, you know,
40 the participation of households turning back in the permits
41 or the calendars.

42
43 Actually for Bristol -- Bristol Bay is considered
44 one of the most accurate areas in routine subsistence
45 fisheries harvest reporting. The permit system is pretty
46 well in place. I think some of the key staffers in the
47 Subsistence Division are lifelong residents, know people
48 who are helping to get the permits out in individual
49 villages, and there's -- and the phone calls to follow up,
50 ensure that the reports come back in. It's a pretty strong

00155

1 system in Bristol Bay.

2

3 It is not strong in Southeastern Alaska, and that's
4 actually the one region where we think the changes will be
5 most significant in the near term.

6

7 The other difference is I think we want to work
8 with more local partnerships in staffing the harvest
9 assessment efforts so the follow-up after season to collect
10 permits or calendars in areas where they're not coming in
11 through the mail, we want to try and work with local tribal
12 associations. So I would say maybe that's the simplest
13 answer to what we're -- what changes you might see.
14 Probably rather little in the Bristol Bay area, because
15 it's been a pretty effective system already.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

18

19 MR. HEYANO: And who would determine those
20 changes by area?

21

22 MR. BRELSFORD: Good point. The Alaska
23 Department of Fish and Game has the primary on-going system
24 for harvest reporting, and I think what we would like to do
25 is not substitute a separate federal system, but instead to
26 bring some federal resources into a joint and we hope
27 stronger program. So the Federal Board makes decisions
28 about federal funding that would go into this. It could be
29 in the form of these individual resource projects, like
30 we're going to talk about in a few minutes. It could be in
31 the form of joint contracts where ADF&G cooperates with a
32 regional organization to innovate, to make some changes in
33 the projects. I think -- our hope is that this working
34 group represents a pretty significant voice for local
35 communities in trying to guide whatever changes would come
36 down the road. In the area of things like ethics, of being
37 sure to report back to communities or providing employment
38 opportunities in the projects, those are things that I
39 think were very strong concerns to the native members of
40 the working group.

41

42 It's also true that several of the native
43 representatives on the working group were real concerned
44 about adding more traditional knowledge, more context
45 knowledge so that the harvest assessment is not just
46 numbers, but also carries something about the social
47 ramifications of harvest levels, the declines are not just
48 in the number of pounds of fish missing, but they have
49 impacts throughout the community. So that's actually
50 another kind of modification or improvement to the harvest

00156

1 pro -- harvest assessment program that came out of the
2 working group. The native reps in particular.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert?

5
6 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess my concern, Mr.
7 Chairman, is that I'm probably not knowledgeable at this
8 time or anytime in the near future to make comments on the
9 recommendations, and I could care less how some other
10 regions wants to obtain their subsistence harvest
11 information, but I guess where my concern lies is proposed
12 changes to this region, and if this working group is going
13 to make some proposed changes, then is there an opportunity
14 for us as a RAC to comment on those?

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: I think we would like to
17 ensure that the regional councils are fully informed and
18 with a little more lead time about recommendations that
19 come out of this working group. I think people have been
20 through the process of working groups, an you know that if
21 it doesn't -- if there's not good communication, and if the
22 suggestions of a working group don't square with people's
23 understandings and expectations in the region, they don't
24 work. The Nushagak caribou cooperative management working
25 group, for example, didn't have any legal authority to
26 stomp its feet and say this is how we're going to manage
27 caribou. They had to create a meaningful consensus with
28 local people. And I think this harvest assessment working
29 group is only going to succeed, we're only going to make
30 improvements if they meet with the concurrence and support
31 of local communities. So again I can say that the results
32 of the working group will be widely communicated. I don't
33 -- as I say, I don't think we're going to try and change
34 strong regions to do something different. We're not going
35 to fix what isn't broken. I think what we're going to try
36 and do is bring some of the other regions up to the same
37 standard, and in general Bristol Bay is seen as one of the
38 two or three strongest areas, so I hope that a year from
39 now you'll say calen -- the permit system looks about the
40 same as it did last year. I haven't seen any drastic
41 changes. I certainly haven't seen any backwards stats on
42 harvest monitoring.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. HEYANO: I just want to make it clear
47 that we as a RAC will be able to provide meaningful input
48 to the Federal Subsistence Board.....

49
50 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

00157

1 MR. HEYANO:when these final
2 recommendations are made, right?

3
4 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And since Bristol Bay is
7 pretty much on its way already, you can take that and put
8 it into more fish, and less committees and less expenses
9 some place else where it really should be, you know.

10
11 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, now we're onto the
12 next project, how are.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD:we going to spend the
17 money in 2001.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Let's do it.

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD: Do you want to move on?

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me look at Tim and see
26 if I missed anything on the 2000? I guess there is one
27 topic that was kind of the last paragraph, and that has to
28 do with providing staffing positions to help develop
29 resource monitoring projects in the regions. On that first
30 page, backside, bottom paragraph, it says the Federal Board
31 is planning to establish nine field positions through
32 competitive contracts with Alaska native and other
33 qualified rural organizations. The purpose of those
34 positions is to strengthen the development of projects,
35 identifying projects, putting together proposals, doing
36 some of the staff work that you've seen at BBNA or in these
37 cooperative discussions with Dan Dunaway and Troy Hammond.
38 We want to provide some core staff to regional
39 organizations to serve in that capacity. Our timeline for
40 this is to formulate the requests for proposals by the end
41 of this year and to receive bids from tribal associations,
42 regional fisheries organizations and so on, and then
43 evaluate those proposals, award contracts and we hope to
44 see these nine positions active by next summer. They would
45 be able to provide technical assistance during the summer
46 2001 field projects, and then help to design the projects
47 that would come up in the years following that.

48
49 The nine positions would be fisheries scientists.
50 They would have the same professional qualifications as if

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1 they were state or federal employees. Our view is that
2 there should be a balance between fishery biology and some
3 of the social sciences that have worked in the subsistence
4 program, so six fisheries biologists and three
5 anthropologists is the idea. They'll be distributed among
6 the regions, north to south, with a pretty heavy emphasis
7 on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers where a lot of the
8 fisheries budget, the studies budget is being spent.

9
10 So I wanted to at least make sure you were aware of
11 that. You'll hear quite a lot more about it in the January
12 training session. At that point we will be out in the
13 middle of public -- proposals will be out, we will be
14 discussing it with potential bidders at that time. So with
15 that let me stop on 2000 and if we're ready, we'll turn to
16 2001?

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's how we spend it
19 next time?

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD: Pardon me?

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's how we spend it
24 next time? You dealing with 2001?

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm sorry?

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The 2001 represents what?

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: The 2001 process represents
31 the projects that will be on the ground, on the fishing
32 grounds next summer, and we're -- we've just passed a very
33 key stage in decisionmaking as of today, so actually the --
34 again, back towards the front of the package, what you
35 would see is a schedule, and highlighted on the front page
36 are the fact that after October 16th, after Monday, we will
37 announce the finalist projects. We've solicit- -- we
38 invited proposals back in May for projects to go in the
39 water next summer. We received about 220 proposals
40 statewide on September 15th, the deadline. Those projects
41 all together represented about \$18 million worth of field
42 research. We had to screen from the first submission, the
43 big pool of everybody who sent in anything, down to a set
44 of finalists. Our goal was to advance, move on to the
45 second phase a set of the best projects in each region,
46 representing about -- at this point what we've recommended
47 is about \$10 million worth of projects for what will be an
48 \$8 million budget. So there's a little bit of play in the
49 finalist pool.

50

00159

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Were.....

2

3

4 MR. BRELSFORD: Not everybody who's a
5 finalist is going to get money, but they are the best
6 projects being advanced. The finalists are going to be
7 asked to develop these more complete research designs with
8 all of the methods, all of the analytic protocols, all of
9 the full design in it. That's about a ten to 15-page
10 document, and we wanted the folks who were in best
11 contention, most competitive to be putting that kind of
12 extra effort into it. So we will announce on Monday the
13 finalists, those projects that are advanced to the second
14 stage, and after Monday, the submitters will develop the
15 research plan and submit it back to us on November 20th for
16 the final review.

16

17

18 In January, what I want to underscore is that in
19 early January, the regional council members will receive a
20 proposed package of research for 2001. It will have the
21 projects that we think are the best ones distributed by the
22 data needs, by the geographic issues in Bristol Bay, across
23 the other regions, with the right kind of partnerships, the
24 best mix, the best balance of projects that the staff could
25 come up with, we'll go out for public review in the month
26 of January. And the critical opportunity for the regional
27 councils will occur during that week of January 22nd to
28 26th when we'll talk -- we'll go through the projects in
29 detail, we'll talk about the also rhymes and the rationale
30 for them not being advanced, and you would provide your
31 final comments and advice to the Federal Board. The Board
32 will meet in late February to make the final decisions.

32

33

34 I know there's -- we've had a tough time getting a
35 major -- a multi-million dollar research program up and
36 running in a hurry, and I know one of the concerns that the
37 Bristol Bay Council has highlighted along with others has
38 been the need for clear criteria for the purpose of ranking
39 and evaluating proposals. So I wanted to be sure that
40 folks are really aware of the ranking factors. This is a
41 list that you've actually seen several times before. It
42 highlights four major areas. The first of those has to do
43 with strategic priorities, and that is trying to ensure
44 that the focus of a project is sharp. So we need projects
45 that look at federal lands, not other lands, that look at
46 issues under the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence
47 Board. We want to address conservation issues or
48 subsistence allocation issues. That's the sort of ran --
49 those are the kinds of things that taken together tell us
50 that a project is on the mark. It is --- it has a good
51 strategic focus.

00160

1 The second area is the technical and scientific
2 method. We have to have confidence that the weir projects
3 or the telemetry projects or the community interviewing
4 projects are not duplicating something that was done
5 before, or not being done in a haphazard way so that we
6 can't trust the results. We want the methods to be sound
7 ones.

8
9 The third area looks at past performance or
10 administrative expertise. We want to be confident that
11 when we let a contract for \$400,000, folks are ready to do
12 that project, and so their track record would be one of the
13 criteria.

14
15 And then the fourth factor that we think is equally
16 important is this idea of community cooperative research,
17 that we look for building partnerships in conducting
18 projects, in bringing local people into the scientific
19 work, one step at a time. You don't drop folks in at the
20 deep end to run a weir without ever having done it before.
21 But we're looking for progressive, greater involvement on
22 the part of local folks. So those are the criteria.

23
24 What you would see on the backside of that page is
25 actually the rating sheet that was filled out when we went
26 through each of the 220 projects this last month, to pick
27 which ones were advanced and which ones would be dropped
28 back.

29
30 So I think most of you have seen the issues
31 statement which was distributed throughout the region as a
32 set of identified concerns by local communities. We were
33 asking projects to focus on these issues. I won't really
34 even go in -- open that up or go into it, but simply to
35 remind people that we tried to work from the grass roots up
36 in terms of looking for projects that addressed issues that
37 you guys and the communities recognized as important.

38
39 And then finally on the 2001 process, there's a
40 listing of the 47 projects that were submitted for the
41 Bristol Bay area, and on this handout, what you have is the
42 title of the project, and most of those give you a pretty
43 clear picture of the river system involved, the kind of
44 method, if it's a weir, telemetry project, the
45 organizations in the middle column kind of point out which
46 groups and the ways in which some of the local communities,
47 local organizations are involved, and then you would see
48 budget information in the -- on the right-hand side.

49
50 There's actually three groups buried in this long

00161

1 list. Stock status and trends is that first set of
2 projects, the largest set. Then there's a set looking at
3 harvest monitoring. And then finally there's a group that
4 look at traditional ecological knowledge.

5
6 I mentioned that we had, you know, a whole lot more
7 interest, a whole lot more good projects than we have
8 budget to fund. In Bristol Bay specifically, we had
9 \$3,300,000 worth of projects. And if you were to look at
10 the very back page of that handout, you'll see a budget
11 distribution by region and by data type, so if you go
12 halfway down, you'll see the Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula,
13 Kodiak area. We have an estimated budget for stock status
14 projects of 525 million -- \$525,000, half a million
15 dollars. We wanted to advance to the finalists' pool our
16 target for the finalists' projects was \$790,000. The
17 preliminary recommendation from the staff was to advance
18 about \$800,000, almost \$900,000 worth of projects. We felt
19 there's some compelling issues in the Bristol Bay region,
20 some strong projects, so at the staff level, we're pushing
21 the envelope a little bit.

22
23 If you keep moving over, this middle column talks
24 about harvest monitoring and TEK projects. We think we will
25 have about a quarter million dollars to spend, \$263,000.
26 Our target for finalists would have been as high as
27 \$390,000, and we actually have recommended \$262,000 worth
28 of projects.

29
30 So the grand total is we expect to spend about
31 \$788,000, three-quarters of a million dollars in projects
32 next summer, and at this point we have about 100 -- about
33 \$1.14 million in projects that have been advanced. So let
34 me stop there on the status of the 2001 program. I've gone
35 into a little more detail on this, Mr. Chairman, than in
36 other councils, because there have been some questions on
37 the phone calls before this week, and in the conversations
38 here about did we get projects, are we becoming a bit more
39 systematic about the evaluation process and so on. So I'll
40 stop and see if there are any questions or comments.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members?
43 Fellers? Yes. Robert?

44
45 MR. HEYANO: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Go ahead. Go ahead,
48 Robert.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Why are we put in with Alaska

00162

1 Peninsula and Kodiak?

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: It's a good question. And
4 it goes back to a decision that was made last summer to try
5 and organize the monitoring program ecologically. So we
6 looked at making sure that whole river systems were within
7 a management area, a monitoring area. On the Yukon and
8 Kuskokwim River, we didn't want to break it up in river
9 segments based on regional council areas, so we ended up
10 looking at the Yukon and the Kuskokwim as being one
11 management area each. So ecological completeness was one
12 criteria.

13

14 The other criteria was the extent of federal lands
15 and the extent of subsistence fisheries occurring on those
16 federal lands, so some regions have large federal
17 conservation units on the rivers with substantial direct
18 subsistence fisheries in those river systems. Other areas
19 have a lot of federal land, but the subsistence fisheries
20 are in marine waters. And some areas, like Bristol Bay and
21 Norton Sound have a small amount of federal land, it's sort
22 of dispersed and fragmented, and much of it is in headwater
23 areas. It is primarily -- it -- lot of it is spawning
24 areas rather than lower river areas where the communities
25 are located and where the fisheries are occurring. The
26 Togiak refuge would be an area in which direct fisheries
27 occur on the federal waters, but the Alaska
28 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge on this side of the bay would be
29 a federal conservation unit in which not a lot of directed
30 subsistence fisheries occurs relatively speaking. So we
31 tried to break this out in some even-handed way, a rational
32 way, and the end result was we combined the North Slope,
33 Kotzebue, and Norton Sound as one monitoring area, because
34 the total workload there was about equal to these other
35 larger regions, and then in Southwestern Alaska, we
36 combined Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak. Cook
37 Inlet and Gulf of Alaska are combined and it's a unit,
38 Southeast is a separate unit. So that was the reasoning
39 for it. It had to do with ecology and about workloads.

40

41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Go ahead.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, Taylor, I was going
46 to ask the same question. We have nothing in common with
47 the folks in Alaska Peninsula. Bristol Bay's more in line
48 with the Kuskokwim folks. I think the same arguments that
49 you take for southern boundary, Bristol Bay southern
50 boundary, could be based -- them same arguments could be

00163

1 transferred to our westward, north westward boundary with
2 the Kuskokwim folks. The people in Ivanof Bay, the
3 Chigniks, are Bristol Bay folks. They're part of Bristol
4 Bay.

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Some of us attended the RAC
9 meetings in Anchorage, and we were -- we felt mighty
10 uncomfortable being lumped in with the Alaska Peninsula and
11 Kodiak. If we go to that January meeting when AYK, Bristol
12 Bay and Area M come up, we're going to be killing each
13 other in that meeting. And if you think we're going to
14 walk into the Federal Subsistence Board meeting and sit
15 down.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Holding hands, yeah.

18
19 MR. SAMUELSEN:at the same table with
20 them, you've got to be dreaming, because you're going to
21 see tensions running so high in January. I mean, we all
22 look at it as blood month. It's going to be the worse Fish
23 Board meeting we've ever gone to,.....

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN:because they want our
28 scalp, and we want theirs.

29
30 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Throwing (indiscernible)
31 pipe bombs.

32
33 MR. SAMUELSEN: And it's going to be pretty
34 tough to get us to cooperate with the Peninsula boys on any
35 kind of federal or state meeting. We're going to have our
36 general along with us, too. So.....

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think we understand
39 the point. These are not natural alliances. If it was up
40 to you, you'd draw the map a little differently.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well,.....

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD:and probably divide
45 the money a little differently, too.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, why did we get
48 lumped in like that? I mean, that's -- it's not a matter
49 of where you drew the map and we didn't have a chance to
50 draw the map. We have less in common with Kodiak. Kodiak

00164

1 is an intercept fishery big time. I mean, like they take
2 15 percent of the Chignik fish from Igvak, and they're all
3 Kodiak fishermen permitted to go down there. And then they
4 catch Cook Inlet fish. Put them in with Cook Inlet or
5 something, and I don't know what you're going to do with
6 Peninsula. But we really do belong in the AYK and Yukon.
7 And I'm not real happy about being part of -- I don't think
8 -- go ahead.

9
10 MR. HEYANO: Well, for this process, since
11 you seem so convinced that we belong with Alaska Peninsula
12 and Kodiak, can you break it out by subdistricts so I can
13 look down here and see Bristol Bay? You know, \$885,000,
14 right, total, advanced?

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: In stock status.

17
18 MR. HEYANO: Yeah. That looks pretty good
19 to me, but if I go back and dig through, maybe Bristol Bay
20 is down here with only a small portion of that.

21
22 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.

23
24 MR. HEYANO: Then it doesn't look very good
25 to me.

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: I think that's a fair
28 point. I believe you'd find that it's actually the other
29 way around, that we have a single project in year 2000 in
30 Kodiak, and I'm not -- I don't recall whether that was even
31 advanced. It's Buskin River, and I don't even know if
32 we're going to do that again in year 2001. On the Alaska
33 Peninsula we had -- that is below Port Moller, we had
34 nothing. We are actually going to do a -- I believe we
35 will advance a project in the Dutch Harbor area this time.
36 It's pretty modest. And what you will see is time and time
37 and time again projects on both sides of the bay. I can't
38 emphasize enough that the Bristol Bay region has been very
39 active from the ground level up in these community -- grass
40 roots community consultations about what kind of issues are
41 significant, in developing projects and moving forward. So
42 I think when you see the break out by titles, -- I mean,
43 you can see at a glance that Bristol Bay is certainly not
44 the -- that would be, you know, the titles in here, Bristol
45 Bay is very, very well represented in it, and I'm confident
46 that will be the case in the final recommendations as well.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin?

49
50 MR. SAMUELSEN: A further note, under the

00165

1 state system they had the regional councils. The state
2 decided to lump Bristol Bay's.....

3

4 MR. BRELSFORD: Southwestern. Sure.

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN:regional council with
7 the folks from Area M.

8

9 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: That program arrived to us
12 dead on arrival.

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: At an impasse.

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: Dead on arrival.

17

18 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

19

20 MR. SAMUELSEN: It was totally unproductive
21 and we wouldn't attend the meetings, and they wouldn't
22 attend the meetings.

23

24 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

25

26 MR. SAMUELSEN: I mean, what's happening
27 over in Israel with the Palestinians, you can relate it
28 right here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What did you say there,
31 John? We were making.....

32

33 MS. KELLY: Pipe bombs.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're only kidding, of
36 course.

37

38 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think, you know,
39 the burden of -- the point of the comments is to emphasize
40 that you want to see Bristol Bay treated fairly in this
41 process, and you're concerned that this set of regions,
42 this set of aggregations might operate against Bristol Bay
43 being considered fully on its merits. I think I understand
44 the concern, and I'd like you to walk with us through the
45 recommendations that land in January as to how these
46 projects will be distributed across the region, and if you
47 see a short coming at that point, it's -- you have a
48 specific and a concrete reason to tell the Board that this
49 configuration doesn't work.

50

00166

1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: It's not going to work.
2 We're not going to talk.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I don't know how --
5 it's known how it is, to what the depth it's cast in stone,
6 but we would hope that maybe there can be some lateral
7 movement or somewhere, because it just may not work out.

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think I can speak
14 with real confidence for Tom Boyd and for Mitch Demientieff
15 that if this was a stupid thing, and we see outcomes that
16 are not constructive, that do disadvantage a region, that
17 are barriers to fair play between the regions, then we've
18 got to go back to the drawing board. And if we see a
19 result like that, you're not going to have trouble
20 convincing Tom Boyd and Mitch Demientieff it's time to do
21 something new. So I'm sure you guys have that kind of
22 trust in the leadership in the program.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments,
25 Council members?

26
27 MR. HEYANO: The ranking factors, these
28 will be applied to the 2001 projects in January?

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: They have been applied in
31 the screening process where we went from 200 projects to
32 roughly 100. There's a worksheet, I actually brought a
33 reference set in case people wanted to look, but these are
34 the rating sheets filled out by a staffer on each of the 50
35 projects for Bristol Bay. When we go to the next step, we
36 will have one staff technical review and one science peer
37 reviewer, an outside -- a non agency expert in weir methods
38 where it's weir projects, sonar methods for sonar projects.
39 What we're trying to do is technical reviews that are
40 fairly similar to what other science and research programs
41 do, and to answer your question, yes, that is essentially
42 -- those are the factors, those are the forms. When we
43 come to you at the regional council meeting in -- the
44 special meeting in January, what we will have is rationale
45 statements that highlight the rating, the score of the
46 projects on -- in terms of those four factors.

47
48 MR. HEYANO: So.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Anything else,

00167

1 Robert?

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, just to follow up then,
4 if I was interested in submitting a proposal,.....

5

6 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. HEYANO:I would follow this sheet
9 very closely, correct?

10

11 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

14

15 MR. BRELSFORD: You would look at the
16 issues that were identified in the region, because these
17 are the concrete targets, and then you would say, I want my
18 project to demonstrate the strategic focus, I want
19 technically sound, I want strong administrative track
20 record, and I want partnerships. That's right. All of the
21 -- these were the materials that were sent out in May to
22 the folks, the potential bidders, the potential submitters
23 of projects.

24

25 MR. HEYANO: And then did you say you had a
26 copy of what some staffer's ranking was?

27

28 MR. BRELSFORD: I brought a reference set,
29 thinking that this being Bristol Bay, you guys like to go
30 to the details.

31

32 MR. HEYANO: Well, I don't have to go to
33 the details tonight, Mr. Chairman. I would like a copy
34 though, if that's possible?

35

36 MR. BRELSFORD: If you'd like. There are
37 50 proposals, about two pages each, and then there are an
38 equivalent number of rating sheets. What we will come to
39 you with is the distillation of this same information, but
40 we'll -- there's no.....

41

42 MR. HEYANO: I just want to.....

43

44 MR. BRELSFORD:secrets. Certainly
45 happy to

46

47 MR. HEYANO:get a feel for how -- if
48 you could just give me an example or a copy of a proposal
49 that made high marks, and then an example.....

50

00168

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.

2

3 MR. HEYANO:of a proposal in Bristol
4 Bay that made low marks. That's all.....

5

6 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.

7

8 MR. HEYANO:I was looking for. And
9 you don't have to do that tonight.

10

11 MR. BRELSFORD: Darn. I was just getting
12 enthused. There's one from Nondalton that I was very proud
13 to see, and we'll save that for another time.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin, you had a
16 question?

17

18 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess as a RAC we save
19 our comments until the February meeting or.....

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD: The January special
22 meeting, that's correct. Just before the Board decides,
23 you guys have the.....

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: January 22nd.....

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD:cap stone.

28

29 MR. SAMUELSEN:meeting?

30

31 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think we were thinking
34 about looking at this money proposals in December though as
35 a RAC.

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: In future years -- I'm
38 sorry. Go ahead.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, go ahead.

41

42 MR. BRELSFORD: In -- as you know, we had a
43 sort of really scrambled schedule last year, and this year
44 we ended up revising the submission date for projects,
45 because it was originally scheduled for June, and the
46 fisheries are busy mobilizing field seasons in April, May,
47 getting -- and June, can't submit research designs, so we
48 postponed until September, and that means we're on a kind
49 of unusual schedule again this year. For the future, we
50 will be going to a schedule in which Board decisions are

00169

1 made in December of the year on the monitoring projects.
2 That -- the schedule for 2002 is actually the last and
3 final item when we turn to that, but for now the council's
4 critical role, looking over the package would occur in
5 January, this upcoming January of 2001.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert?

8
9 MR. HEYANO: As a RAC, are we going to have
10 an opportunity to get together before the January meeting
11 to go over the short list? Or is the first time we're
12 going to be able to meet is going to be at the January
13 meeting in Anchorage?

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: We'll provide you the
16 material to review in advance of the January meeting so you
17 won't see it cold. But we have not currently scheduled any
18 special meetings of councils between January 1st when the
19 package comes out, and January 22nd when the councils meet
20 together.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you have a comment,
23 Robert?

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Shirley's got a comment.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, Shirley, I'm sorry.

28
29 MS. KELLY: When are we going to get this
30 package?

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: Our commitment is to finish
33 it before the end of the year, so we have people scheduled
34 for meetings the week of the 18th of December, and staff to
35 put the package together between Christmas and New Year's
36 and have it out to you -- our obligation is to send it out
37 aft -- before January 1st.

38
39 MS. KELLY: A lot of us who sit on the RAC
40 are going to be heavily involved in the Board of Fish
41 meeting the month of January.

42
43 MR. BRELSFORD: I knew that's a.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's where we're going
46 to be at.

47
48 MR. BRELSFORD:terrific conflict, and
49 I -- we're going to have to problem solve. We're going to
50 have to figure out how to make this work. We can't delay

00170

1 the Board's decisions so late that the field teams can't
2 get in the field. That's the kind of end deadline that we
3 have to work back from. I think we are going to have to
4 look at things like -- in the regional council training
5 session the week of January 22nd, there are going to be
6 caucus meetings, so you're not going to meet with ten
7 regional councils to talk about 100 projects on every river
8 system in the state at once. You're going to meet with
9 Bristol Bay and perhaps one or two other regions will meet
10 in caucuses and to go through those regions -- those
11 projects together.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, man.

14
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We ain't going to talk
16 fish to them.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now we want to have two
19 battle fields, one in.....

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD: And we may have to adjust
22 the schedule of that in light of if the Board of Fish
23 convenes on Bristol Bay on a particular day, that's not a
24 good day to ask the Bristol Bay council to.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This one is looking like
27 a cake walk to me. Shirley, go ahead.

28
29 MS. KELLY: But you have to realize we're
30 not only going to be involved in just Bristol Bay issues.
31 Area M issues, we're going to be heavily involved in those
32 also.

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did anybody else have a
37 comment on this? Yeah, Robert?

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Is there any possibility that
40 we can have a work session, this RAC, before the January
41 meeting? Does it have to be a formal meeting? It would be
42 a work session to go over the short list.

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: I think Tom has been
45 relatively willing to solve problems, and if there's a
46 problem, if we're not going to be successful in late
47 January because the Council hasn't had the time needed to
48 review the materials, then I think that's a compelling
49 reason to ask for it. I think we want to be sure that
50 there's a clear focus, that it makes the best sense to --

00171

1 it's a necessary step towards an effective meeting in late
2 January, but if we make that case, I think we could -- I
3 wouldn't say no in advance. We've done special meetings in
4 many regions for many purposes, and.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, if we still have a
7 spouse after January, maybe we'll get together in February
8 and see if we can get -- you know, pay the alimony bill or
9 something, and -- you're not laughing, Taylor.

10
11 MR. BRELSFORD: Shirley, I.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead, Robin.

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess on this funding
16 formula, Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound, Stevens just gave
17 them \$16 million with their disaster for research up in
18 that area.

19
20 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Along comes the Federal
23 Subsistence Board, gives them say \$158,000. Looking at
24 Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, \$885,000. I guess my
25 concern is, is that we have pressing issues here in Bristol
26 Bay that are tied to subsistence.....

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

29
30 MR. SAMUELSEN:i.e. the Kvichak.....

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. SAMUELSEN:and we don't have a
35 blue print or an idea. Ten years from now when we've spent
36 \$70 million, what are we going to get for spending \$70
37 million? Do we have -- there's priorities, but you can't
38 just take the criteria that is laid out and start awarding
39 money without it seems like having a goal, an objective in
40 mind besides.....

41
42 MR. BRELSFORD: A comprehensive plan.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN:it's kind of like
45 teacher's pay. Do you ever hear of a teacher getting paid
46 enough? No. They always want more, and it gets into that
47 circle. You know, in ten years we could spend \$72 million
48 in research and still not know -- still have the same
49 problems that we have today, and not know as -- probably as
50 much. So, you know, I'm real concerned. We've got a

00172

1 window of opportunity until about 2008 when our senator,
2 senior senator retires, and then it's payback time to
3 Alaska from other senators, and all this beautiful funding
4 sources are going to drop off. And I think we have a
5 unique window of opportunity to really spend some good
6 money in some good research areas.

7

8 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'm not saying that the
11 proposals that we funded last year were bad proposals. In
12 fact, all of them were good proposals. But I think as a
13 RAC member, and trying to project and for the betterment of
14 the future, of the region, and a better understanding of
15 the resource, that what we're working on is about a 25
16 piece puzzles, but every piece is from a different puzzle.
17 And we don't have it all sorted out. And I think that's
18 Robert's question, and I think that's Dan's question, just
19 looking at the research that we funded last year, the
20 potential list of projects for this year, and I think in
21 Bristol Bay, you know, I don't care what they do in the
22 Yukon-Kuskokwim, or the other regions, but in Bristol Bay,
23 I think we need to as a RAC and the Federal Subsistence
24 Board have got to have a definitive avenue that we're going
25 to travel down.....

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

28

29 MR. SAMUELSEN:everybody knows not
30 only the criteria, but the types of projects we're going to
31 be funding.

32

33 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: And why we're -- why are we
36 funding them projects, because I'd hate to see us look back
37 ten years from now and say, boy, we spent all that money,
38 and we're worse off today than we were ten years ago.

39

40 MR. BRELSFORD: I think the focus to date
41 has been on coordination and value added We have worked
42 very carefully to ensure that no project duplicates a
43 project that's already out there, that we're working in
44 concert with the identified needs, the identified data
45 needs among all of the managers, among state Fish and Game,
46 state Sport Fish, state Subsistence Division. We've worked
47 pretty hard to do that so far, and I think the packages
48 that we put forward will reflect -- they will look a lot
49 like the kinds of research that you all have heard about
50 over the last 15 years. They will not be picked out of

00173

1 thin air. I'm struck, for example, by the fact that last
2 year sockeye on the Kvichak were a concern, and we had a
3 single project looking at that species in that system.
4 This year it's a crisis and we have a suite of projects
5 that look at recreational uses, population status,
6 traditional knowledge and harvest monitoring. I think
7 we're going to have to respond to the urgency of that
8 crisis, and I think it will demonstrate that we have
9 essentially a coordinated and a needs-driven, an issues-
10 driven research program.

11
12 There are some folks who have suggested that we
13 should have not spent the first nickel until we could
14 prepare comprehensive research plans for each region or for
15 each drainage. My sense was we couldn't tell the Congress,
16 thank you very much for the first five and a half million
17 dollars, we're thinking about what to do with it. I think
18 we had to become active right away. And my own picture is
19 that we learn as we go a little bit. That we built on the
20 identified needs, the identified research efforts that were
21 already in place before the federal program, we expand on
22 those and we continue to adapt in each year. So I hope we
23 answer -- we meet the same test that you're suggesting,
24 Robin, that every project does something significant for
25 the Federal Board's responsibilities, and that none of us
26 would look back at the end of two years, much less ten
27 years, and say that was a colossal waste of money. But how
28 to get from here to there, whether major regional planning
29 efforts is the best approach, or these kind of coordination
30 efforts within subregions, so on, I think we're still
31 experimenting a little bit on the best model to do that.
32 It is well within bounds for a tribal natural resource
33 program, or some other set of parties, to come forward and
34 say, we think a major planning effort, a major
35 comprehensive research plan is a good value, and we think
36 it would cost this much and would, you know, involve this
37 group of players. Nobody's done that yet in any of the
38 projects last year or this year. There have been these
39 subregional efforts, one of this occurred in Bristol Bay
40 last year under some other funding, so I would say if you
41 see the way to do that in a big initiative, a project
42 initiative, we'd really welcome it.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think, Mr.
45 Chairman, if I may.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Go ahead.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN:step further, getting
50 this information back to our level where we understand it.

00174

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Everybody's agreeable when
4 you're -- when they're asking you for money. And once they
5 get the money.....

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

8

9 MR. SAMUELSEN:you know, you could go
10 to Dillingham and ask what's going on up in -- or to
11 Togiak, and what studies are going on in Togiak
12 Lake, and you could have \$5 million worth of studies going
13 on in Togiak Lake, but the people that those studies are
14 going to effect, they'll know nothing about it. So
15 there's.....

16

17 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN:no reverse, there's no
20 money set aside here I see to get that money -- some of
21 that money used to take this.....

22

23 MR. BRELSFORD: Can.....

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN:information and
26 provide it to the people that's being affected. And I
27 think that's a very important part that's been.....

28

29 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

30

31 MR. SAMUELSEN:that's been

32 missing.....

33

34 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

35

36 MR. SAMUELSEN:in all the research in
37 Bristol Bay, you've got U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
38 you've got Fish and Game FRI, and you know, they all get
39 together when it's time to share the money, and once they
40 get their money, they're pretty territorial, and pretty
41 clannish within their own agencies. And I think these
42 studies need to come back down to the village level, and
43 our government level. The information's got to be
44 rewritten so we understand it. And I think Robert used the
45 phrase so we don't use it just to light fires.

46

47 MR. BRELSFORD: I agree. Communications
48 strategies is a big part of how we develop community based
49 research programs. If we don't bring results back, then
50 it's not believable, it doesn't strengthen the confidence,

00175

1 the quality of management program over all. We're trying
2 some things in some areas. Some of these projects involve
3 partnerships that are intended to increase communication
4 with local communities, but I think that is an area that we
5 still have a lot of learning to do, a lot of growing to do.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Where there's a lot of --
8 there's a lot of mistrust in Bristol Bay about gathering
9 information, because a lot of times they come in friendly
10 to gather information to use it against the native people
11 in Bristol Bay, time after time again.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
18 comments, Council members? Taylor, I think that where as
19 Bristol Bay is such a massive commercial endeavor on the
20 ex-vessel value that we talk about on fish, and yet when it
21 comes right down to the issue, subsistence is our first
22 priority. And they'll take this amount of money, I guess
23 they'll put in the terms I wouldn't want, the bottom line
24 has got to be we've got to produce more at the subsistence
25 level for this dollar amount, and that's exactly what we
26 want. And however you go about getting that without a lot
27 of bureaucracy, or less of it, we want that bottom line up
28 there, too.

29
30 Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute takes one
31 percent of our money, 40 percent of that budget goes out of
32 Bristol Bay, and we get no return for that 40 percent,
33 because they don't market any domestic salmon in America.
34 It's in England and Japan. And when I chaired the board
35 and when I chaired the salmon committee, and I said we want
36 the bottom line to affect our 40 percent represented in
37 this organization, and it never happened. The money was
38 just spent because none of our fish goes there.

39
40 And I guess that's just kind of a word picture to
41 tell you that that bottom line has got to produce more fish
42 in Lake Clark and the whole system's got to get healthier
43 because of it, because this is a lot of money to deal with.
44 I guess you get the picture.

45
46 MR. BRELSFORD: I got it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Good. What
49 else -- what's the next step here?

50

00176

1 MR. BRELSFORD: In.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're going to quit here
4 shortly and then start out tomorrow morning.....

5

6 MR. BRELSFORD: And I say.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:but we'll give you
9 what we have left.

10

11 MR. BRELSFORD:glory.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Glory.

14

15 MR. BRELSFORD: I wanted to highlight the
16 last item, which is a different schedule, a different
17 calendar for the projects that would be in the water in
18 year 2002, so it's the last item. I want people not to be
19 sort of surprised when these deadlines come looming up. It
20 -- in the pages -- we're about six or eight pages back from
21 tab E -- I'm sorry from tab G at this point. You'll see
22 one that says a new schedule for fisheries projects, 2002
23 and beyond. And kind of the crunch that we're trying to
24 avoid in the future has to do with needing a special
25 meeting for the councils to review the resource monitoring
26 projects to the Board's decisions. So last year you had to
27 do that in January with very short notice. We were really
28 scrambling. This year we end up having to convene a
29 special meeting of the councils in January to review the
30 projects. The Board acts in February. We'll still be
31 making the field season.

32

33 But we want to fix this so that the resource
34 monitoring project package comes before the council in the
35 regularly scheduled meetings, so on this top sheet you'll
36 see a couple of highlights. One is that we're going
37 to.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Everybody has this page?

40

41 MR. HEYANO: No, which page are you on?

42

43 MR. BRELSFORD: It says 2002 and beyond.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a sign. Time to
46 quit.

47

48 MR. HEYANO: Under tab G?

49

50 MR. BRELSFORD: Tab G.

00177

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Back about two or three
2 pages.

3
4 MR. BRELSFORD: It's not very far back in.
5 It's actually the third sheet.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: New schedule for
8 fisheries projects, dash 2002 and beyond. And those dates
9 there are what you're talking about?

10
11 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: So the next round of
16 projects for 2002, the next opportunity to submit projects
17 comes pretty soon. It starts in November of 2000 and the
18 deadline for submissions is February of 2001. It's not a
19 year away, it's six months away.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, that's it.

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: And if you look on the
24 following page, there's a table. This is actually out of
25 your council booklets, the operations manual, so some folks
26 might have seen this already. Running down the left-hand
27 column, if you turn -- look down to September, October,
28 what you'd see is that this monitoring -- the annual
29 resource monitoring plan, the package of proposals for the
30 regions, comes to you in your fall council meetings, so
31 after this special meeting this year, we would be coming to
32 the fall meeting each year with the annual monitoring plan,
33 the set of projects, budgets, balanced issues in the
34 regions. In order to -- we want to do that so the board
35 can make decisions in December, the same time they're
36 making regulatory decisions on fisheries, and then the
37 projects would -- we would be able to start writing
38 contracts at the first of the year, have a little head
39 start on the field seasons after that. So this is a
40 transition year, the schedule that we're working with right
41 now. In the future we want to turn -- rely on the
42 regularly scheduled regional council meetings instead.

43
44 So I think some of the details on this will be a
45 little clearer when -- in the morning and as we get
46 started, I -- the main thing is I want people to realize
47 that only a couple of months from now, we will be
48 announcing to the public the 2002 monitoring project
49 submission, the opportunity to submit new proposals. It
50 isn't a year away. It's just a few months away when we

00178

1 start all over again for 2002.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: February 1? February 1?

4

5 MR. BRELSFORD: February 1 is the deadline
6 for the first submission. And then we'll do the staff work
7 through the spring and early summer, and then in the fall
8 council meeting in September, next fall, you would have the
9 full package, the regional package for your close review.
10 So not to belabor the details, just so it doesn't come as a
11 surprise.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What else do you have for
14 us before your report's done?

15

16 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm completely and.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're completely
19 and.....

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD:thoroughly finished.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:thoroughly done.

24

25 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: I notice that one, two --
28 he's got B, C, D, E.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Statewide rural.

31

32 MR. BRELSFORD: Statewide rural? Mr.
33 Chairman, I'm finished on fisheries monitoring projects.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we got excited. B,
36 C, D, E, F, and G. I would certainly welcome a recess
37 until tomorrow. The -- there are a couple of other issues
38 from the Office of Subsistence Management. I have one
39 other area and Tim has a couple, but depending on your
40 stamina, we would be ready bright and early if you wish, or
41 we'll continue now.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the wish of the
44 Council? To keep going?

45

46 MR. CHRISTENSEN: How much more have we got
47 to go? Now much more have we got? Three?

48

49 MR. BRELSFORD: I have a one-pager on the
50 statewide rural determinations, and, Tim, you've got?

00179

1 MR. JENNINGS: I have items C and D,
2 consultation with the state and the fisheries training.
3 That will take approximately five minutes each depending
4 upon questions.

5
6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: No questions.

7
8 MR. JENNINGS: Cliff.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That will be new for this
11 council.

12
13 MR. JENNINGS: And Cliff is going to cover
14 F.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We've got another half
17 hour of work here to do.

18
19 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let's take a break
22 and then come back and pick it up. We'll work a little
23 longer.

24
25 (Off record - 10:12 p.m.)

26
27 (On record - 10:20 p.m.)

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Taylor, where are
30 we at?

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 The one remaining item that I was responsible to present to
34 you has to do with the statewide rural determinations, and
35 very generally this has to do with the fact that just
36 following the year 2000 census the regulations require a
37 review of which communities in Alaska are rural and which
38 ones are urban, so that any changes in population or in
39 economic characteristics, or in harvest patterns, any of
40 those changes that might have effected urban and rural
41 community status are given a close look. We do that every
42 ten years. It was -- the federal program began shortly
43 after 1990, so they began that -- on that schedule. In the
44 very near term, by about 2003, the Board will have to look
45 at the census data and make those kinds of determinations.
46 So the flyer, the one-pager on this is towards the very
47 back of this tab, of tab G. It actually is just before the
48 art contest picture.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thumb back.

00180

1 MR. BRELSFORD: So again, what the Board is
2 setting out to do now is to get ready for the regularly
3 scheduled rural determination review. It occurs on a ten-
4 year cycle.

5
6 What they're doing special this time, and the
7 reason we're sort of bringing it to the attention of the
8 councils is that the Board is right now developing a
9 contract request, or a request for proposals, inviting
10 third-party academic or research groups to prepare some
11 advice, to develop a set of criteria and a set of data
12 sources, the kind of data that the Board ought to be
13 looking at in order to distinguish urban from rural
14 communities.

15
16 There has been a great deal of controversy in some
17 parts of the state about rural determinations. Some of
18 those date back a few years, but most intensively the Board
19 has made a finding on the Kenai Peninsula that has been
20 challenged. Part of that challenge has to do with the
21 criteria, the analytic soundness of the approach, the
22 various measures and the validity of data that the Board
23 has used in making rural determinations, so on one case,
24 one controversial area, a whole lot of problem. Looking
25 ahead a couple of years, the Board has to do this
26 statewide, and what they're saying is we need to take a
27 fresh look at this. We need to hire an independent expert
28 contractor to review the demographic kinds of information,
29 the economic information, the harvest pattern information
30 and come up with a framework for making those decisions, a
31 set of criteria and associated measurements that will be
32 more defensible. So that's the purpose of this upcoming
33 contract, to set up an analytic framework for the Board's
34 rural determinations. And again that will -- those
35 determinations will occur later, about 2003, but in
36 preparation for that, we want to go to the -- go back to
37 the drawing board on the analytic framework.

38
39 There's some details about what the statement of
40 work is going to include. There's a technical evaluation
41 panel that has to review bids. This is a contracting
42 matter, so we anticipate some universities in Alaska, some
43 research firms in Alaska, perhaps some universities from
44 Outside would submit bids, and then there's a set of
45 criteria to evaluation the proposals and a set of -- a
46 technical evaluation panel that's responsible for that.

47
48 Of crucial importance to the councils is the fact
49 that the Board wants to include council participation in
50 reaching the decisions on how to change the rural

00181

1 determination process, how to change those criteria, so in
2 a fashion that's very similar to the participation of two
3 council chairs on the decisions implementing the fisheries
4 responsibilities, the Board is requesting that the council
5 chairs together identify some representatives that would
6 work with the Board on the rural determination issues.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: From our council?

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: From the ten councils. So
11 -- in the fisheries issue, the ten council chairs met
12 together and identified two representatives to meet with the
13 Board. Dan O'Hara has been one of the two, and Willy
14 Goodwin from the Northwest Arctic has been the other
15 representative. In a very similar way, when the Board is
16 working on the rural determination preparations and later
17 on when they're actually making those judgments, at this
18 point they're asking for the same kind of regional council
19 participation.

20

21 I guess I want to finish by saying that we're doing
22 the homework right now, but at a later time, somewhere in
23 2003, we will start this rural determination process. And
24 this is a set of federal rural making, a set of regulatory
25 decisions, so it's subject to public notice and public
26 review and public discussion in the same way that every
27 regulation decision the Board makes. So there will be
28 notices in the Federal Register, there will be notices to
29 the regional councils and to the public in general. When
30 we get to the actual decisionmaking stage on rural
31 determinations, we want to be sure that the councils
32 understand that you have an on-going role in that, as well
33 as this opportunity for some regional council chair
34 representations in the Board discussions leading up to the
35 determinations.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you.

38

39 MR. BRELSFORD: That's it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let's -- go ahead,
42 Robin. As if there's not going to be any discussion on
43 this one. Robin?

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'll use Sitka for example,
46 because I was there last week. Sitka has a population of
47 roughly 8,000 people. There's a tribal government there
48 that's probably one of the longest tribal governments
49 recognized in the State of Alaska that has roughly 3,000
50 members. Under the ANILCA criteria, they're bumping up

00182

1 against becoming an urban center. But you still have the
2 core of the community that was always there, that when the
3 first white man came and they had a little battle their
4 first week, and after that they said, okay, you can share
5 in our resources and live amongst us. And that non-native
6 population has grown much faster than the native
7 population. And you're going to hit the rural standard.
8 You're still going to have -- the government has a trust
9 responsibility to the native folks that are living there,
10 and under Title VIII of ANILCA it seems that one of the
11 changes I would like to see is that community, those
12 natives in that community that have long term customary and
13 traditional use of that resource are not deemed an urban
14 center, that they get -- somehow be recognized who they
15 are, and recognize their cultural ties to the resource.
16 You know, that's a positive change.

17
18 As far as trying to be defensible, I think that --
19 I can't remember any cases that a judge has looked at a
20 regulatory body and if that regulatory body applied the
21 eight criteria and in a true sense, and followed the eight
22 criteria to the sense of the law, that would say that that
23 decision was arbitrary and capricious. I think the eight
24 criteria since the formation of ANILCA has stood the test
25 of time, and the Board's decision to make Cook Inlet a
26 rural area surely brought everything to the forefront,
27 including the politicians screaming for reversal. It
28 shouldn't affect the 200 and some other communities of the
29 State of Alaska.

30
31 On this case of the halibut, subsistence halibut,
32 there's 118 communities out there that qualify for
33 subsistence halibut. 86,000 people roughly, 40,000 native
34 and 46,000 non-native.

35
36 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, whenever you come to
37 the Bristol Bay Council, you better be ready for details.
38 Robin has highlighted one of the kind of boundary cases
39 that represents a difficult decision. Saxman right next to
40 Ketchikan is a tough case. Sitka is a tough case. Douglas
41 right next to Juneau might be a tough case. It's --
42 there's an argument, a dispute on the part of the folks in
43 Douglas now. Kodiak is a tough case. Kenai Peninsula is a
44 tough case. Adak was easy. When the base moved away, it
45 is clear that that community is no longer urban in the way
46 that it was with 6,000 residents and a military
47 installation.

48
49 We've got a lot of sorting out to do to work out
50 criteria that are going to make clear and publicly the kind

00183

1 of decisions that the public's going to support about some
2 of these difficult cases. There's a lot of population
3 growth, a lot of economic change in many parts of the
4 state. What we're trying to do is to reach outside of the
5 federal staff at this point and turn to some folks with
6 expertise in -- I mean, there are some disciplines, rural
7 sociology, geography, sociology, to look at how
8 measurements, data can be drawn together in a coherent
9 analysis to support those decisions. I don't want to go
10 into a lot of detail, except to say, Robin, that the eight
11 factors actually refer to c&t decisions,.....

12

13 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. BRELSFORD:not to the rural
16 determinations. So in rural determinations we've talked
17 about population. As you know, below 2,500, between 2,500
18 and 7,000, and larger than 7,000, and then there's some
19 other fine print. But it really is a very separate set of
20 decisions than the eight factors for c&t determinations.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
23 comments, Council members? Yeah, Robert?

24

25 MR. HEYANO: Why did the Board decide to go
26 outside the agency? Why didn't they do it in-house with
27 the staff they had? You -- I would think that that's where
28 expertise lie.

29

30 MR. BRELSFORD: I think in general they
31 reason that Congress funds the executive branch to
32 implement the statutes is they believe the expertise is in-
33 house. that's the normal course of events. I think what
34 is special here is that there has been a lot of challenge
35 about the regulations, the measures, the indices that have
36 been used, have been developed and employed by the federal
37 staff. And it's a fairly difficult area in which a lot of
38 us don't have a lot of expertise. So the end result is the
39 Board's trying to solve two problems. One is objectivity,
40 sort of step outside of the dispute, inside the federal
41 agencies, turn to an independent third party. And the
42 other is specialization, is try to turn to strong
43 recognized research and academic programs with expertise in
44 the area, and ask for some advice.

45

46 I guess this leads me to say that the Board is not
47 forfeiting its responsibility to make the regulations or to
48 later on apply those regulations in these determinations.
49 What comes back from a contractor is advice. It's
50 recommendations. It's well-developed recommendations if

00184

1 we've chosen a good contractor, but the Board finally has
2 to make a decision, and that, too is a public process. The
3 regulations that govern rural determinations now are in the
4 Federal Register. You guys might have seen them at the
5 tail end of the council member operations manual, and if
6 the Board agrees to change those, they also have to do that
7 in a public setting with public notice, regional council
8 opportunity to be heard. So the main reason that the Board
9 has turned outside has to do with objectivity and
10 expertise. But there will be the normal Board
11 decisionmaking with public involvement before those
12 regulations would actually be changed. You don't delegate
13 to a contractor rulemaking decisions.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
16 Council members?

17
18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one follow up.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: You raised Adak as the
23 example, military base and now it's an economic center for
24 fishing activities. I don't know if it meets the rural
25 determination or not even though it's been turned over.
26 And it was slipped through on the halibut subsistence
27 proposal, but it's -- there was a motion to bring it up in
28 the December meeting to delete Adak, because Adak hasn't
29 gone through a c&t determination, nor a rural determination
30 for halibut. And I think there's different steps. And I
31 say that because Naknek has a rural determination. Naknek
32 had to go through steps to get c&t findings, the eight
33 criteria where Adak hasn't. So you can't just -- otherwise
34 we could name, I don't know if you know the gentleman,
35 Chuck Bundard at Trident Seafoods, if he decides to start a
36 new plant on an island, does he get a rural determination?
37 Does he automatically get a c&t determination on them fish
38 stocks that are around that island? No, he doesn't. And
39 we had to qual -- all out communities in Alaska has to
40 qualify. We had to qualify through two steps, a rural
41 determination, once we got that determination, then we had
42 to qualify for a c&t finding on the various stocks.....

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

45
46 MR. SAMUELSEN:that our people used.

47
48 MR. BRELSFORD: There are parallels between
49 the decisionmaking process you described -- this is the
50 International Halibut Commission that's making the

00185

1 decision, or NIMS?

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, the North Pacific
4 Halibut.....

5

6 MR. BRELSFORD: North Pacific.....

7

8 MR. SAMUELSEN:Fishery Management.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD:Fisheries Management
11 Council, sorry. There are parallels. Strictly speaking
12 the Board operates under I believe a separate statute for
13 the subsistence management purposes, and you're specific
14 point that the Board has made no new decisions regarding
15 Adak is in fact correct. That's put for another day. I
16 was trying to make the point that changes occur, and some
17 of them are fairly simple to evaluate, and other changes
18 are much more complex to evaluate.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
21 questions, Council members?

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: No.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know what, Taylor, it
26 looks to me like the Federal Board is just really afraid to
27 make a hard decision. I think that Kenai thing has scared
28 them, if I might express an opinion, and I don't think they
29 want to be faced with that political pressure. And I'm not
30 for -- you know, the word you used here earlier was
31 defensible. That says a lot when you talk about
32 defensible. And, hey, we might end up in court. It's
33 happened before. But I'm not so sure this third party -- I
34 guess when you don't know what or who they are, you're
35 always kind of concerned about what they're going to do to
36 you, you know.

37

38 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You used the word
41 university. Do you know how scary that is to have a
42 university come up and give you what might be a defensible
43 decision on subsistence? They can't hardly even run their
44 own school. I mean, I sat on the World Trade Center board,
45 and they were an extension of the university. Do you know
46 what a mess that is? You don't even want to get into it.
47 So I'm not necessarily saying, oh boy. I really want to
48 see this third-party organization because we have a
49 defensible, you know, -- Sheldon Katchetag. He's the guy
50 we need. Strike fear to everybody's heart. He's a good

00186

1 guy. Yeah.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, you know, Mr.
4 Chairman, you bring up a very valid concern, and I hope
5 Taylor would bring this back to the Federal Subsistence
6 Board is that we are extremely concerned with this type of
7 action, and where this is going. And I personally can't
8 support it at this time. I think if you want a defensible
9 position, the thing you do is you take all your money and
10 you go hire yourself the best attorney.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

13

14 MR. HEYANO: You know, your term of expert
15 is extremely frightening to me when he's going to be
16 determining, or he's going to be helping you people set
17 criteria for determining rural and non rural, and the
18 impacts that have to the people we represent. I think if
19 we can't do it, if we can't come up with a defensible
20 position in-house, maybe we need to clean the table and
21 bring some new players to sit in the chairs to take on that
22 responsibility, because that's the whole crux. Those are
23 the type of decisions that this system has to make on their
24 own. Who is more expert in Alaska?

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's just like hiring a
27 biologist from Cornell to run the Bristol Bay fishery
28 program who's never even seen a stream in Bristol Bay,
29 never been near one. It's about that farfetched. And that
30 is some of the fears we live with with the federal
31 government, is that, you know, these great big spikes here
32 and there that go on and on and on, and they build a
33 bureaucracy and here we are today. So those are just
34 little something to think about tonight, Taylor. We like
35 you personally a lot, by the way. We love having you here.

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: And I want to keep it that
38 way. That's why.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

41

42 MR. BRELSFORD:I ain't doing it. No.

43

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You do a very good
46 job.....

47

48 MR. BRELSFORD: I take the.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:making a

00187

1 presentation.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD:point and I will.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

6

7 MR. BRELSFORD:offer the feed back
8 directly and specifically to Tom about the concerns of the
9 Council. It is a Board decision. We've been given
10 directions, we're marching down the road.

11

12 I will say that Laura is the key staffer organizing
13 the preparation of materials. I actually serve on this
14 technical evaluation panel along with Jim Fall from the
15 Department of Fish and Game, Don Calloway, a colleague that
16 I believe you've all met in the Park Service, and a Forest
17 Service sociologist. Our first reaction was, oh, my God,
18 here's another low bid crisis staring us in the fact that
19 -- and we have sent our time trying to specify the
20 responsibilities and the qualifications needed for a bid to
21 ensure that folks are really focused on the ANILCA
22 framework, on implementing this statute, on recognizing the
23 context of subsistence harvest data, of the kind of
24 qualitative elements of the subsistence way of life. We're
25 doing our best to make sure that this doesn't, you know,
26 totally go off the track. But I will pass on.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: One.....

29

30 MR. BRELSFORD:your concerns.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, one last question,
33 or we -- Council can ask as many questions as they want.
34 Go ahead, Robert.

35

36 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess, you know, in
37 the future, Mr. Chairman, I think decisions like this that
38 could have tremendous impact need to start from the -- from
39 a lower level and get the RAC -- at least the RAC
40 participation before this -- before the Subsistence Board
41 makes a determination, you know. It seems to me that the
42 preferred method I would see is that if the Federal Board
43 wrote us a letter and say, you know, we're having problems
44 with this, and we're trying to resolve it, and here are
45 some of the options we're considering. We would like your
46 input.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Where's the money
49 going.....

50

00188

1 MR. HEYANO: This is.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:to come from to do
4 this?

5
6 MR. HEYANO:this is serious.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Laurie, it's \$150,000
9 that's set aside?

10
11 MS. JURGENSON: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, out of our
14 budget?

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: It comes out of the Federal
17 Subsistence -- out of the Office of Subsistence Management.
18 I think the contract amount is on the order -- it is
19 150,000 that's been set aside for this first contract to
20 develop the analytic criteria.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, anything else that
23 you've got there? We're not going to.....

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: Lord, no.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:kill the messenger
28 tonight.

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: Man, I had enough fun.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now that we're all wide
33 awake.

34
35 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's next? We can
38 hardly wait. Get up here.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD: Why don't you go do c&t.
41 It's kind.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. We've done our
44 c&t. Our c&t is done.

45
46 MR. BRELSFORD: I know. That's always a
47 crowd pleaser.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It is, our whole c&t is
50 done.

00189

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. By the way, our
4 c&t is done, right, Pat?

5

6 MS. McCLENAHAN: Someone said you don't
7 have c&t for trout.

8

9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Trouts. Oh, make her day.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We do. We.

12

13 MS. McCLENAHAN: We'll check it out.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we have.

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Rainbow trout we do.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. You're on.

20

21 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Tim Jennings with
22 the Office of Subsistence Management. I have two items,
23 and I will be brief. They are under item -- tab G. The
24 first one I will cover is consultation and coordination
25 with the State of Alaska. It follows the table on the
26 staffing to implement the federal subsistence fisheries
27 management. Several pages back in under tab G. It's
28 toward the end. It's right before the fisheries training
29 page.

30

31 MR. ABRAHAM: Tab what?

32

33 MR. JENNINGS: Under tab G.

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: G. It's right after the
36 numbers.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, consultation and
39 coordination with the State of Alaska?

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: Yes.

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

44

45 MR. JENNINGS: Does everybody have that?

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. All right.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. This is a brief
50 update in regards to the implementation of a memorandum of

00190

1 agreement between the federal program, federal agencies,
2 Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska, and
3 you'll recall the discussion that we had previously January
4 training session last year regarding the MOA. The first
5 set of bullets on this briefing paper covers the basic
6 goals of the MOA, and I'm not going to cover those
7 specifically. They're there for you to read. The second
8 set of bullets lays out the specific agreements and
9 protocols that will be worked on to implement the specifics
10 of the MOA.

11
12 And we want to give you just a brief sketch of how
13 things went the first year that we operated under this MOA
14 with the state. You know about the low returns on the
15 Yukon River, and we also had some early issues with chinook
16 salmon on the Kuskokwim River. This led to several special
17 actions by the Federal Board, in-season management
18 decisions by delegated in-season managers for the Federal
19 Board. There were some early bumps in the road with the
20 State on coordination, but those quickly were ironed out,
21 and overall things went very well. On the Yukon and the
22 Kuskokwim both where we had joint actions, there was joint
23 press release by both the state and the federal boards, and
24 the decisions were made in concert. So in looking back, we
25 felt that 2000 was a success given that it was the first
26 year, and there were challenges immediately on the Yukon
27 and the Kuskokwim.

28
29 The one think that we would like to ask in regards
30 to this MOA for the Council to consider is the specific
31 agreements, the protocols, the second set of bullets on
32 this page, in-season fisheries management, data management,
33 regulatory processes, identification of subsistence use
34 amounts, fisheries and wildlife management planning. There
35 are currently work groups that are made up of interagency
36 staff on the federal level, some involving also state
37 agency folks, and we would like to continue to invite
38 council input in any of these protocols that you may have
39 interest in. And if any of your council members have
40 interest in any of the specific protocols and want to
41 become more actively participating in the development of
42 these protocols, we would ask that you let your coordinator
43 know, and we'll get you set up with whoever wants to
44 participate with teleconference meetings, or perhaps
45 occasional travel to Anchorage. Once these protocols are
46 developed further along, they will come back before the
47 entire regional advisory councils for review. That
48 summarizes the MOA and the development of the protocols,
49 and I'll stop and see if there are questions.

50

00191

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
2 members?

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one I guess.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: It says an interim MOA. I
9 take it, is this a signed interim agreement, or is it just
10 an agreed upon agreement?

11
12 MR. JENNINGS: Well, the way it worked was
13 it was initialled by the federal agencies and the state
14 agencies, and the Board of Fish, Board of Game and the
15 Federal Subsistence Board, and the understanding is it will
16 become final when the specific agreements are put in place.

17
18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, if you kind of sit
21 there and look at each other out of the corner of your eye,
22 you know, and I'll sit on this side of the bench, and you
23 sit on that side of the bench and we'll initial the thing.
24 I thought that was really interesting that they.....

25
26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:initial that thing,
29 but that's okay. Robert?

30
31 MR. HEYANO: Is there going to be enough
32 flexibility in these -- in the protocols so each region can
33 have a different set of criteria or arrangement, and other
34 than how the state and federal people are going to
35 interact?

36
37 MR. JENNINGS: Well, I think if there's a
38 need for that, I think that there's certainly that
39 opportunity. One of the areas that was looked at in that
40 regard was in-season fisheries management decisions, how
41 they're made, who's involved. We had experience, as I
42 mentioned, on the Yukon and on the Kuskokwim this year. So
43 I believe there's an opportunity to have regional protocols
44 if it's identified that they're needed, but beyond that,
45 I'm not involved in any of the specific protocol work
46 groups, and so I'm not personally familiar with how those
47 are -- how the different protocols are currently being
48 developed.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: One thing I think that

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1 maybe the Federal Board agreed on, and Cliff probably can
2 bring us up to speed on this, was I think the Federal Board
3 decided they weren't going to do any -- had the word on the
4 tip of my tongue, any.....

5
6 MR. SAMUELSEN: In-season?

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, it was -- what's the
9 word?

10
11 MR. SAMUELSEN: In-season emergency orders?

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. They call it
14 something else in the federal program.

15
16 MR. JENNINGS: Special actions.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Special action, yeah.
19 And -- but apparently they had to up there on the Yukon,
20 and it was a joint effort. I think the state became pretty
21 sensitive about the subsistence issue with the lack of fish
22 in the Kvichak, too, and I think that's a good working
23 relationship, that they would be concerned about the
24 subsistence issue, too, so those things are good positive
25 things to bring to the Council. Anything else?

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: I've just got one more
28 comment, Mr. Chairman. I think MOAs are great, but in this
29 -- with the state out of compliance with ANILCA, you know,
30 and the Secretary -- it depends on what the Board does in
31 January with the massive conservation problems in the AYK
32 area. I fully expect a letter to come out of AYK if it's
33 not a favorable, and the Area M fisheries that -- asking
34 the Secretary to extend his jurisdiction out, it will blow
35 this MOA up with the State. So, I don't know. I think you
36 guys are on the right track, but I think them -- that kind
37 of instance is going to have a very profound effect on
38 whether you go beyond the people that initialized and are
39 signing the agreement.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's probably a good
42 place to reiterate that we really do want to solve the
43 subsistence issue, and the State of Alaska is going to have
44 to solve that issue one day. They must solve it.

45
46 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's right.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And up to this point,
49 they're working for the best of subsistence, and we
50 appreciate that. We can't overlook the push to solve the

00193

1 subsistence issue by the State of Alaska. Anything else,
2 Tim?

3

4 MR. JENNINGS: That's it on this topic.
5 I'll move on to the next if.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

8

9 MR. JENNINGS:you're ready.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

12

13 MR. JENNINGS: The next page, regional
14 council fisheries training, phase three. By way of
15 background, just real briefly you'll recall that under
16 fisheries implementation last year, there was an
17 implementation plan that was set forth by the Federal Board
18 and the agencies to implement fisheries, and one of those
19 items involved training. And phase one of the training
20 involved Federal Board members orientation and field trips
21 out to subsistence fishing sites. Phase two of the
22 training was last January when we brought all the regional
23 councils together in Anchorage to have the training session
24 and discuss the MOA and some of the other items that we
25 addressed at that time. We also had an in-season
26 management meeting at the end of May to gear up for the
27 2000 season. So the next to-around here we're calling
28 phase three as it was identified in the plan. That is to
29 look back first on the year that just past, the first year
30 of federal involvement under dual management with
31 fisheries, and then to look forward in terms of how things
32 worked, how can we improve with the following year, and
33 continue to improve our understanding of the issues and how
34 we address these important issues.

35

36 The date here as you have already been discussing
37 is in conflict with the Board of Fisheries meeting. What
38 it was tied to was the training was tied with the council
39 meeting that Taylor had mentioned for the council input on
40 the projects for 2001. So if there is some ability to move
41 and shift the dates in that regard, the training dates
42 obviously can be shifted without a problem. So one of the
43 things I've heard from other councils is that they would
44 like us to shift those dates. So that's some of the input
45 that I'm going to take back to the leadership, to Tom and
46 to see if we can't make some adjustments.

47

48 As you see, this is a draft agenda that we have
49 listed. The first items is the review of the draft
50 fisheries studies projects for 2001. That's what Taylor

00194

1 has covered in a great amount of detail. The other items
2 that follow, the other five items, they are suggested topic
3 areas, and at this time we have taken this to all the
4 council meetings, asking for input on these topics or
5 suggestions for other topics so that we can have good
6 council input in shaping the agenda so that it will
7 hopefully best meet your needs as council members in terms
8 of discussion areas and training. In addition to these
9 topic areas, we'd like to hear from you about the format of
10 -- you'll recall we had some formal presentations with
11 graphics, speakers, and then some discussion period. We
12 also had some caucus sessions where we were able to talk
13 with -- just within the council setting about issues for
14 the regions. We'd like to hear your input on that kind of
15 a setting, what -- is there a balance that needs to be
16 struck again, and any input that you would give us in terms
17 of how to develop the agenda. So I'll stop here and ask
18 for any questions, and any input if you have it, either now
19 or in the morning before you adjourn so we can move forward
20 with the agenda.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members, do
23 you have any questions or comments? Okay. Good. That's
24 it?

25
26 MR. JENNINGS: That's it, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. Appreciate
29 it. Way down to F.

30
31 MR. JENNINGS: F.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

34
35 MR. JENNINGS: Art contest, Cliff.

36
37 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, on the last topic
38 here, in our hunting and trapping regs and our new
39 subsistence regs, this art contest closes the 27th, and
40 they're going to select winners for four different grade
41 groups, and for next year, the 2001 regs books for both
42 these, we'd like to have the winners from each of those
43 grade groups utilize their drawings or -- whether it's in
44 ink, and some of these other mediums that are being
45 accepted. And the deadline for that is the 27th. Karen
46 Lovenstein in our office who does quite a bit of the work
47 with the publishers to get these books together sent out a
48 mass mailing statewide to I think it was around -- it was
49 quite a bit, but there's been a lot of PR done on that to
50 try and get participation from those grade schools to --

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1 grade school kids. And some of the -- I'm not sure if all
2 of you received your operations. We did another training
3 manual, and for some of the artwork that may be included in
4 those books as well. I know Shirley called and she said
5 that she received her's, and I brought some additional
6 copies of that here as well.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: And that closes the 27th,
11 just as our proposal period does, too.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that takes care of
14 that whole section now?

15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. We're down to
19 remaining agenda items, and tomorrow morning we're going to
20 have a report from Robin on the halibut for subsistence,
21 which passed the North Pacific Fisheries Management
22 Council.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jim and Jeff, and that's
27 Jeff Adams, they've probably gone home. Oh, they're here,
28 okay. Tomorrow morning you're going to be on as well. And
29 then we do have customary trade to deal with. Was there
30 anything else, Council members, that we had to deal with
31 now or tomorrow before we adjourn? Okay. If we are
32 thinking in terms of you guys getting that 10:00 o'clock
33 flight, you're going to have to be fleet of foot. And I
34 don't see why we can't. Those are not big items. Jim and
35 Jeff, it sounds like a signing group, but I've just been
36 listening next door over there. We'll have you on in the
37 morning, and I'm sure you'll have some exciting things for
38 us, and then we can probably take care of these items quite
39 quickly, and if we don't, we'll stay until we get done.
40 Shall we recess until 8:30 sharp tomorrow morning?

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Sounds good.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does everyone have a ride
45 to King Salmon? Council members, going to -- if you decide
46 to go to your rooms, you can go anywhere you want, but
47 we'll -- we can give you a ride, too. Some of us have
48 cars. We don't want you stumbling around in the dark, and
49 come back here tomorrow with a black eye or something.

50

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1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Cliff's going to give us a
2 ride over.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who is? Oh, Cliff? All
5 right. We'll recess.

6
7 MR. HEYANO: 8:30?

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 8:30 sharp.

10
11 (Off record - 10:58 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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4
5
6

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 196 contain a
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME I, BRISTOL BAY
13 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken
14 electronically by Meredith Downing on the 13th day of October
15 2000, beginning at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m. at the Borough
16 Assembly Chambers, Naknek, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
21 and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
24 in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 26th day of October 2000.

27
28
29
30
31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04