

00001

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 Aurora Inn  
5 Nome, Alaska  
6 September 25, 2003  
7 9:00 o'clock a.m.

8  
9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11

12 Grace Cross, Chairman

13 Peter Buck

14 Leonard Kobuk

15 Jake Olanna

16 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

17 Myron Savetilik

18

19 Coordinator; Tim Jennings

00002

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 (Nome, Alaska - 9/25/2003)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I will call the

8 meeting of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional

9 Advisory Council to order. The time is now 8:45 a.m.

10 Today is September 25, 2003.

11

12 Roll call, please.

13

14 Leonard.

15

16 MR. KOBUK: Okay, just a second. Johnson

17 Eningowuk. Grace Cross.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Here.

20

21 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, here. William

22 Johnson. Peter Buck.

23

24 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

25

26 MR. KOBUK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: Here.

29

30 MR. KOBUK: Myron Savetilik.

31

32 MR. SAVETILIK: Here.

33

34 MR. KOBUK: Preston Rookok. And Jack

35 Olanna, Sr.

36

37 MR. OLANNA: Here.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We have a quorum. I

40 want to welcome everybody that's here to the meeting.

41 And I think at this point we can -- there's a few of us

42 here so we'll do some introductions, we'll start with the

43 RAC beginning from Elmer.

44

45 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig

46 Mission.

47

48 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, St.

49 Michael/Stebbins representative.

50

00003

1 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik,  
2 Shaktoolik.

3  
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Grace Cross, I Chair  
5 the RAC.

6  
7 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna,  
8 Nome/Shishmaref.

9  
10 MR. HILE: Nathan Hile, Computer Matrix.

11  
12 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings, with the  
13 Office of Subsistence Management. And I'd also like to  
14 mention, Madame Chair, that Barbara Armstrong, your  
15 coordinator, is unable to attend the meeting because of a  
16 medical problem, she's not able to fly for a few days and  
17 she sends her regrets. And me, and my Staff will do  
18 everything we can to help the meeting run smoothly.

19  
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

21  
22 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg. I'm the fisheries  
23 regulatory biologist out of the Office of Subsistence  
24 Management. Glad to be here this morning.

25  
26 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried from the Office  
27 of Subsistence Management. Good morning.

28  
29 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean for the National  
30 Park Service, fisheries.

31  
32 MR. LEBLING: Tim Lebling, the Alaska  
33 SeaLife Center Rescue and Rehabilitation Program.

34  
35 MR. SPARKS: Tom Sparks, Norton Field  
36 Office, BLM.

37  
38 MR. BATES: I'm John Bates.

39  
40 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and Game,  
41 Kotzebue.

42  
43 MS. DUNWELL: Karen Dunwell, Kawerak fish  
44 biologist.

45  
46 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife  
47 biologist, OSM.

48  
49 MR. WHITE: Clinton White.

50

00004

1 MS. HOPKIN: Julie Hopkin,  
2 Superintendent, Western Arctic National Parklands,  
3 Kotzebue.

4  
5 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch,  
6 National Park Service and Staff Committee to the Federal  
7 Subsistence Board.

8  
9 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons, wildlife  
10 biologist, Fish and Game, Nome.

11  
12 MR. DeCICCO: Fred DeCicco, fisheries  
13 biologist, Nome/Kotzebue.

14  
15 MS. BAILEY: June Bailey, field manager,  
16 BLM in Anchorage.

17  
18 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton, wildlife  
19 biologist, Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

20  
21 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
22 Park Service, Subsistence Program Management for Western  
23 Arctic National Parklands, Nome.

24  
25 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Ralph Anungazuk from  
26 Wales.

27  
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. I welcome  
29 every one of you to our meeting.

30  
31 Next on the agenda is review and adoption  
32 of the minutes. There are some changes in the minutes.  
33 Would you like to introduce the people in there, the  
34 change of names?

35  
36 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Madame Chair, this is  
37 for the agenda, which I'd like to point out it's the  
38 green colored sheet. It's separate, it's over here at  
39 the table. It's a little bit different than the one  
40 that's in your Council book.

41  
42 Since Barbara Armstrong is not here,  
43 anywhere you see Barbara Armstrong's name, you could  
44 cross that out and put down Tim Jennings.

45  
46 On Page 1 there, the first page under  
47 Item 9, Proposal F2004-01, the closure of guided  
48 sportfishing on the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River,  
49 that proposal has been withdrawn by the proponent, Weaver  
50 Ivanof. There is a letter in your packet, Council

00005

1 members, there's also copies of the letter on the table  
2 here withdrawing that proposal, so we will not address  
3 that one today.

4

5                   On Page 2, under Item 12, Fisheries  
6 Information Services Program, strike out Polly Wheeler  
7 and put in the name Steve Fried, F-R-I-E-D.

8

9                   Under Item 13, as I mentioned wherever  
10 you see Barbara Armstrong put my name, Tim Jennings, and  
11 then under Item D, Staff Committee Role, strike out Peggy  
12 Fox and insert Sandy Rabinowitch, who's also handling the  
13 item directly above there, the predator management  
14 policy.

15

16                   And, Madame Chair, those are the changes  
17 I'm aware of. There may be others but those are the ones  
18 I'm aware of.

19

20                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Are there  
21 any additions to the agenda?

22

23                   MR. DeCICCO: Madame Chair, under agency  
24 reports, the Department of Fish and Game, Jim Menard is  
25 going to come over and give the fisheries report.

26

27                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jim Menard, okay.  
28 That's 13(b)(c).

29

30                   MR. DeCICCO: 13(c)(c).

31

32                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Jim Menard. Any  
33 more additions.

34

35                   MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

36

37                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

38

39                   MR. SEETOT: I'd like to add the Western  
40 Arctic Caribou Herd report somewhere in the agenda.

41

42                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

43

44                   MR. KOBUK: Under new business.

45

46                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, we'll add it to  
47 14, then, Western Arctic Caribou Herd report by Elmer  
48 Seetot. Okay, does anybody else have anything to add?

49

50                   I'll entertain a motion to adopt the

00006

1 agenda as amended.

2

3 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that motion.

4

5 MR. BUCK: Second it.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is in favor  
8 signify by stating aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

13 Council reports, we'll start with Elmer again.

14

15 MR. SEETOT: Not much happening in  
16 Federal land for muskox harvest. I don't think any has  
17 been caught to date. Fishing, food gathering activities  
18 happen during the summer. I think it went pretty well.  
19 Other than that we're still continuing subsistence food  
20 gathering resources at this time.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

23

24 MR. KOBUK: For St. Michael area,  
25 Stebbins, the berries, blackberries seem to be the only  
26 thing that was scarce and hard to find this summer. I'm  
27 starting to notice a lot of change in the tundra in the  
28 color because some places you can see like the ground has  
29 died or something and nothing has grown in that area.  
30 And I'd sure like to hear how the Pikmiktalik study went  
31 and I'm curious as to -- I was kind of hoping Marshall  
32 Oshonik (ph) would have been here for that. And he's  
33 told me that, I guess, it's extended another two more  
34 years, am I correct on that? No? So it's -- okay. All  
35 right.

36

37 Other than that everything at St.  
38 Michael's seems -- the moose season, from what I'm  
39 hearing is they're starting to see a lot of moose and  
40 catching what they need. And I sure hope the caribou  
41 show up this year, it's been, what, three years or two  
42 years they haven't shown up. So I'm looking forward to  
43 that, I hope they come.

44

45 Other than that, our subsistence has been  
46 pretty good, both in catching beluga, birds, fish. So  
47 other than that everything's fine.

48

49 MR. SAVETILIK: There hasn't been much  
50 just for the subsistence in Shaktoolik. They've been

00007

1 able to pick berries this year, this time. The  
2 blackberries seems like they have to look for them, too.  
3 Fish and the subsistence was pretty good this year. The  
4 beluga, they've been catching. And there's been a few  
5 moose that were caught.

6

7                   That's all I have.

8

9                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I didn't mean to rush  
10 the agenda, it looks like I skipped review and adoption  
11 of the agenda. We'll get to that right after we do our  
12 reports.

13

14                   I'm not sure how the moose season in Nome  
15 is going on. I've been under medical care so I have not  
16 really kept up with what's going. But I do know that  
17 there was a few people that got fish this summer,  
18 including me. And I haven't heard of caribou coming,  
19 like I said, I've not kept track of what's going on and  
20 I've been under a doctor's care so pretty much I've been  
21 kind of out of the loop and letting everybody else take  
22 care of it. Maybe Jake knows a little bit better.

23

24                   But there's a lot of berries this year.  
25 So it's been good for everybody. Other than that, I  
26 don't have much to report.

27

28                   MR. OLANNA: Yeah, Grace, I'm pretty much  
29 out of the loop in Nome, too, because I've been at home  
30 all summer, since January I've been in Shishmaref.  
31 Shishmaref has had a pretty good season overall.

32

33                   People have been real fortunate in  
34 hunting caribou this season because caribou are nice and  
35 fat this year. We had a pretty decent summer in  
36 Shishmaref. Berry picking and all the other activities  
37 have been real successful this year. But one thing I'm  
38 hearing from my people is the seasons have -- they seem  
39 to have been starting real early, as far as the growth of  
40 berries and this and that. Otherwise they had a good  
41 fishing season, so Shishmaref is -- they're pretty happy  
42 up there. And Grace, I'll be back in three weeks to  
43 Nome, so maybe I'll get back in the room here.

44

45                   Thank you.

46

47                   MR. BUCK: White Mountain, the fishing  
48 season was pretty successful, we were surprised at that.  
49 So we put away quite a few fish this summer. But the  
50 silvers didn't show up, very few silvers. A lot of

00008

1 blueberries. No blackberries. No salmonberries. No  
2 cranberries. The moose season was pretty -- just was  
3 okay.

4

5 Other than that, pretty good season for  
6 White Mountain.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much  
9 all of you. Now, we'll go back to item number 4, review  
10 and adoption of the agenda. Leonard.

11

12 MR. KOBUK: Okay, starting on Page 7, is  
13 there any corrections that need to be made on Page number  
14 7?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, go to Page 8.  
19 Any corrections or additions or changes that need to be  
20 made?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. KOBUK: And let me know if I'm going  
25 too fast. Page 9.....

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: On Page 9, where it  
28 says Nome/Shishmaref, where it says fishing for tom cod  
29 was late due to fishing -- due to ice not freezing in the  
30 lagoon, I wasn't sure which lagoon it's referring to  
31 because he was also talking about Nome. So can we  
32 clarify at Shishmaref Lagoon, the lagoon at Shishmaref,  
33 because I was kind of, the lagoon in Nome or the lagoon  
34 in Shishmaref.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. KOBUK: Okay. Any more corrections  
39 on that page?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. KOBUK: Okay, going to Page 10.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, go on to Page  
48 11.

49

50 (No comments)



00009

1 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 12.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 13.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 14.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. KOBUK: Page 15.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MR. KOBUK: Page 16.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MR. KOBUK: Page 17.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. KOBUK: Page 18.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. KOBUK: Page 19.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. KOBUK: So if there's no corrections

34 or additions to the pages, I guess we'll move on.

35

36 MR. OLANNA: I make a motion to accept

37 the minutes of February 11th, 2003.

38

39 MR. BUCK: Second.

40

41 MR. OLANNA: And that one amendment in my

42 report.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

45

46 MR. OLANNA: Okay.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There is a motion on

49 the floor to accept the adoption of the minutes of our

50 last meeting, as amended. All is in favor signify by

00010

1 saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

6 same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Okay,

11 now we move on to number 7 on the agenda, which is the

12 Chair's report. It's pretty much self-explanatory.

13 There's an .805 letter that's attached to your agenda,

14 and there's also a 2002 annual report response, which is

15 also in Item B. And other than that it's been -- I

16 haven't really involved myself extensively with the RAC

17 this year. Whenever issues came about, the other RAC

18 members have handled many things. Midi did a lot of work

19 with BLM and Unalakleet and other organizations that were

20 involved in it. There was extensive work done on that.

21 And then BLM will be covering that later on.

22

23 There hasn't been -- I haven't been

24 around that much so not many issues have been brought to

25 me. So it's been kind of a slow year for myself, but it

26 has been busy for some of the other RAC members. And

27 that's basically all my report because I don't have much

28 to report.

29

30 Public testimony is open throughout the

31 meeting. At this point we had one request and that's by

32 Tim Lebling.

33

34 MR. LEBLING: Lebling.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Lebling, sorry. And

37 after that is Tom Sparks. Mr. Lebling.

38

39 MR. LEBLING: Well, good morning, and

40 thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here at

41 the Council. I represent the Alaska SeaLife Center

42 Rescue and Rehabilitation Program.

43

44 The Alaska SeaLife Center is a non-profit

45 organization established five years ago in 1998, that its

46 mission statement is to maintain and understand the

47 integrity of the Alaska ecosystem, and that is through

48 research, rehabilitation and education. And our visit

49 here today in Nome has been multi-focused towards -- or

50 multi-tasked towards public education. We've been into

00011

1 the school systems, talking with the school kids about  
2 marine science and about rehabilitation, about the  
3 research that we do at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

4

5 My main task here was to release a baby  
6 ring seal that was picked up here in Nome three months  
7 ago and was transported to the Alaska SeaLife Center. We  
8 received two animals from Nome, and actually Nome has  
9 become our second most popular area where we have been  
10 receiving animals, after Homer. And this kicks off my  
11 outreach for the rehabilitation program. We have  
12 established a toll free, 800 number, that -- and mainly  
13 what I would like to throw out today is that if you are  
14 concerned about an injured animal or feel like there is  
15 something that needs to be transported to the SeaLife  
16 Center, what our big focus is to just tell people to call  
17 us first, or call one of the governing agencies, so that  
18 we can act accordingly. But more importantly, I just  
19 want to give people an outlet that if they have any  
20 questions about marine science, about marine mammal  
21 rehabilitation or just have any questions about any of  
22 the populations that are here at the Bering Sea, feel  
23 free to call that 800 number. If you can do me a favor  
24 by spreading -- there's some brochures, there's going to  
25 be some signs in Nome posted, if you feel like there's --  
26 if that's something that you may want in your community  
27 with a metal sign posted out where people may be able to  
28 see this or if there's brochures that you want that  
29 number posted, I will provide that. And I also would  
30 like to provide any questions that anyone here or the  
31 Council may have about the rehabilitation program.

32

33 The seal that we did release this week  
34 does have a satellite tag attached. And this will stay  
35 on for up to a year and this will give us information as  
36 far as location and dive data, exactly how well this  
37 animal is doing. And this is part of the research that  
38 we're doing to continue to monitor and study the ring  
39 seal population.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions.

44 Comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

49

50 MR. LEBLING: Thank you.

00012

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom Sparks.

2

3 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
4 have a proposal, and I want to preface this by saying I'm  
5 taking off my BLM hat and putting on my Tom Sparks hat.  
6 I know a lot of you personally. It's a pleasure to be  
7 here. This is the first time testifying in front of this  
8 Board. I have a proposal that's in front of the Board  
9 and want to give some background on it.

10

11 Originally I had put in a request to  
12 change the customary and traditional use for Nome  
13 residents for muskox in Subunits 22(B) and 22(D), and I  
14 was contacted by someone with the Federal Subsistence  
15 Management, and they convinced me to put in the language  
16 that's in front of you now, is to strike out some  
17 language in current regulation. And I was involved in  
18 the Muskox Cooperators meeting yesterday, there was no  
19 consensus reached on that.

20

21 So what I'm going to do is I'm going to,  
22 in writing, withdraw that proposal in front of you and  
23 I'm going to put one in, as I did originally, which is to  
24 ask for a customary and traditional use determination for  
25 Nome residents of 22(B) and (D) for muskox.

26

27 I'd be happy to answer any questions.  
28 Sorry, I didn't get to write that up last night but I'll  
29 be submitting that shortly. I think I have until about  
30 the end of October or thereabouts to do so.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we'll be addressing  
33 that in our next meeting? Not here not now? When you  
34 propose it later we won't be addressing it at this  
35 meeting, we'll be addressing it at the next meeting?

36

37 MR. SPARKS: I assume so.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It would make sense.  
40 Go ahead, Tim.

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Madame Chair, that  
43 would be the process. Any proposals, including the one  
44 that Tom mentioned that he would submit for wildlife will  
45 come back to the Council at the next winter meeting.  
46 We'll have a Staff analysis and Tom can come back at that  
47 meeting, if he chooses, and address the Council in terms  
48 of his proposal and then the Council can make a  
49 recommendation on their views of the proposals, and then  
50 those wildlife proposals would be acted on by the Board,

00013

1 the Federal Board, in May of 2004.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The reason I asked is  
4 he said he was going to resubmit the original proposal,  
5 which the work has been done, am I mistaken somehow?

6

7 MR. SPARKS: I don't think that any work  
8 had been done on that original one. I'm not too sure,  
9 Madame Chair.

10

11 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Madame Chair, as Tom  
12 mentioned, there was some discussion between our office  
13 and Mr. Sparks regarding his proposal. And as he  
14 indicated it evolved to where it was to remove the  
15 restrictions on Federal lands to non-Federally qualified  
16 users. He's indicated he's going to withdraw that  
17 proposal and resubmit a proposal focused on the current  
18 customary and traditional use determination to expand  
19 that to include Nome for Units 22(B) and (D). So that  
20 will require Staff to do a different type of analysis, so  
21 you'll see new information at your next meeting.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Thank you,  
24 Tom.

25

26 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Richard Kuzuguk.

29

30 MR. KUZUGUK: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
31 I'm from Shishmaref and I'm not on this Board or anything  
32 and I'm not affiliated with the IRA or anybody. But I  
33 kind of speak out, mainly because of our elders concerns.  
34 I don't know if this is the appropriate place to undress  
35 this but I think this Board would be able to help  
36 Shishmaref as far as customary and traditional use on  
37 caribou.

38

39 This is an issue that's been going on for  
40 awhile, and there's a big conflict between subsistence  
41 and Reindeer Herder's Association. And when we had a  
42 meeting yesterday with the Muskox Cooperators and there  
43 was a description on customary and traditional uses, I  
44 don't -- I was kind of upset because nobody is looking  
45 after our traditional use for caribou back home. And I'd  
46 like to see our subsistence rights being recognized as a  
47 priority. I think the elders back home would back me up  
48 and I try to mainly speak out for them because they  
49 always talk to me about what they want me to say, mainly  
50 about their right to subsist caribou because of the moose

00014

1 population going down and the muskox population going up  
2 and the caribou is available. They're instructed to take  
3 caribou in some district areas, there's a boundary line  
4 and this issue has been going on for awhile. And I'd  
5 still like somebody to recognize our subsistence  
6 priorities.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Richard, I got a  
11 question for you. Are we talking about the boundaries or  
12 the dates when you hunt? Can you be a little more  
13 specific on what the elder's concerns are? Are you  
14 talking about the boundaries of where you can hunt.....

15

16 MR. KUZUGUK: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: .....or the dates when  
19 you can hunt?

20

21 MR. KUZUGUK: Currently in Shishmaref the  
22 caribou are open up to a place called Jealousy Creek and  
23 west of that it's closed due to one of the reindeer  
24 herders. And the thing we have is, the elders, every  
25 time they go west of that boundary, they're not allowed  
26 to take caribou even though there's caribou there. And  
27 this is a process that goes through the State, through --  
28 by emergency order, but I don't know I just think our  
29 subsistence rights are not being looked after. And  
30 there's a conflict with the Reindeer Herder's  
31 Association. And I guess Kawerak's always endorsed that  
32 association and from what I've gathered, they've always  
33 considered that a private entity or special interest,  
34 they've considered reindeer private property for the  
35 villages for the reindeer herders but -- and the purpose  
36 of that was to provide a viable source of meat back in  
37 1936, I think. And we can't afford to buy reindeer from  
38 that, there's other means of meat source which is caribou  
39 as well as muskox through permit applications.

40

41 And I don't know it just don't make sense  
42 to me to keep the area closed when the elders back home  
43 want to subsist on caribou.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Were they talking  
46 about a specific time period?

47

48 MR. KUZUGUK: No, I'm not talking about a  
49 specific time, I'm mainly talking about the restrictions  
50 on our boundary lines. I mean if the people back home

00015

1 want to subsist caribou, there's a boundary line that  
2 they have to go by and a majority of the elders feel  
3 that's not right because of the documented customary and  
4 traditional uses. And we feel that our rights to subsist  
5 are not being recognized.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Has this issue been  
8 brought to the reindeer herder's, too, you discussed it  
9 with them?

10

11 MR. KUZUGUK: No. I don't know what the  
12 process is for Reindeer Herder's Association's meetings.

13

14 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

17

18 MR. OLANNA: Richard, you know, in the  
19 past when I drafted proposals for caribou hunting in  
20 Shishmaref we had a user conflict meeting with the  
21 reindeer herder's in Shishmaref and I don't know if you  
22 were there in Shishmaref, but the boundary that is there  
23 in the regulation is with the consensus of the reindeer  
24 herders and the people in Shishmaref. That Jealous Creek  
25 is an appropriate place because of the availability of  
26 caribou in the Serpentine River, so that's why that  
27 boundary is there.

28

29 And to my knowledge, I know recently I  
30 was in Niknik and I know there's lots of reindeer on the  
31 west side of Shishmaref, so to please the reindeer  
32 herders and the hunters in Shishmaref, we broke into  
33 committees -- well, not committees but when we reached  
34 that consensus, the people and the reindeer herders,  
35 Clifford and Fred Goodhope, we were all there, Kate was  
36 there, too, so that was the consensus of -- at that  
37 meeting. I don't know if you were there, Dick, but it's  
38 a line that was reached in mutual agreement with the  
39 reindeer herders and the people of Shishmaref.

40

41 Just a point of clarification. And we do  
42 have customary and traditional use for caribou in 22(E).  
43 Okay.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Richard.

46

47 MR. KUZUGUK: Thank you. Yeah, I was  
48 there at that meeting. And thank you Jake for suggesting  
49 that, however, that meeting took place back home and I  
50 still have to say this, though, that the elders still

00016

1 feel that their subsistence rights are not being  
2 recognized, mainly because of the Reindeer Herder's  
3 Association and it's endorsed by Kawerak. I know they  
4 have lobbyists worth a lot of money and stuff, but they  
5 still want me to voice out that our subsistence rights  
6 are not being attended to.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, very much  
11 Richard. I would probably make a recommendation that if  
12 there are issues, that a letter or maybe something be  
13 drafted from concerned citizens of Shishmaref and send it  
14 on to the Reindeer Herder's Association and see if you  
15 could work something out.

16

17 I wasn't clear as to whether or not he  
18 was meaning that subsistence needs are not being met or  
19 recognized.

20

21 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

24

25 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, like I was  
26 telling Richard here, we do have positive C&T for caribou  
27 in all of 22(E). The portions of the -- of west of  
28 Sinenivuk (ph) River, and I don't know what Wales is --  
29 is there any type of concerns from Wales that perhaps  
30 Ralph might address? Because if it's a boundary issue, I  
31 don't know, I think it would take another, perhaps joint  
32 meeting with the reindeer herders and with the people in  
33 those two villages. I don't know if that's feasible.  
34 But if there's any boundary -- you know, we could do it  
35 in a form of a proposal perhaps, you know, with Dick's  
36 concerns, and I don't know what Wales feels about caribou  
37 hunting. I don't know if there's any down there.

38

39 MR. ANUNGAZUK: It's just once in awhile  
40 the caribou come in. I haven't seen one since last year.  
41 So we hardly ever see caribou at Wales.

42

43 MR. OLANNA: You want to state your name.

44

45 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Ralph Anungazuk from  
46 Wales.

47

48 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

49

50 MR. ANUNGAZUK: I just got another



00017

1 concern.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Richard.

4 Ralph Anungazuk.

5

6 MR. ANUNGAZUK: We need a wildlife tagger  
7 at Wales because one guy at Wales got a brown bear last  
8 year, he's unable to do anything with the fur until after  
9 it's tagged. So we haven't had one since our last  
10 tagger. Is this concern all right?

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Kate. I guess Kate's  
13 going to answer that, a little bit better than me,  
14 because I'm not even sure where that bear was taken.

15

16 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I'd just like to let  
17 you know any time anyone in any of the villages gets a  
18 brown bear, just call Fish and Game and let us know and  
19 one of us or somebody from the Division of Wildlife --  
20 what is it, the Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement will come  
21 and take care of the sealing.

22

23 MR. ANUNGAZUK: He said he's called twice  
24 and nobody's.....

25

26 MS. PERSONS: He hasn't -- tell him he  
27 needs to call and talk to me.

28

29 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Okay.

30

31 MS. PERSONS: He hasn't talked to me.

32

33 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Kate.  
36 Well, maybe you'll get a tag for that. Roy Ashenfelter.

37

38 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Madame  
39 Chair. I'm speaking for myself. I'm speaking to the  
40 issue about the caribou reindeer conflict in Shishmaref.  
41 Kawerak is neutral on that issue. We have a reindeer  
42 herder program, we have a subsistence program at Kawerak.

43

44 The issue was discussed at Kawerak  
45 because Kawerak has both those programs in place. The  
46 recommendation is we stay neutral on that and those  
47 people up there work it out themselves and that was the  
48 result. Kawerak did not take any position either for the  
49 Herder's Association or for the hunters at -- or the  
50 caribou hunters in Shishmaref.

00018

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Roy. Like  
2 I said, the process of public testimony is ongoing for  
3 the rest of the day. And all that people need to do is  
4 to fill one of these and I'll call on you as we go along.

5  
6 Before we go to the fish proposals, I'm  
7 going to ask for a 15 minute break because we do need  
8 Leonard Kobuk to meet with Charlie Lean and the other  
9 fisheries biologists to weed out some of the proposals we  
10 need not address, if there are any, and address the ones  
11 we need to, and those are the proposals that came from  
12 Yukon River. So I'll ask for a 15 minute break at this  
13 time so they can discuss that with Leonard and we'll be  
14 back promptly in 15 minutes.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 (Off record)

19  
20 (On record)

21  
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm going to call the  
23 meeting back to order, it's 10:00 now. We're at number  
24 9, there's a request to address the Council, however,  
25 Kate Persons also wants to talk about this when we  
26 address wildlife proposals. So we'll wait to call you  
27 then, uh? Okay. You're going to wait until we do  
28 wildlife proposals, right, on this?

29  
30 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So we'll wait  
33 to hear from her after wildlife proposals -- or when we  
34 address wildlife proposals. The next on the agenda is  
35 fish proposals for Council review and recommendation to  
36 the Federal Subsistence Board, which is Tab C, and I'll  
37 call on Mr. Jerry Berg to please come up and do those.  
38 There was a little meeting between Charlie Lean and Jerry  
39 Berg on our break. Okay.

40  
41 MR. BERG: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
42 Members of the Council. My name is Jerry Berg and I'm  
43 glad to join your Council. I'm your Staff regulatory  
44 fishery biologist. We had some reassignments in our  
45 office and Rich Uberuaga has been reassigned to the  
46 Kuskokwim area and I got reassigned to the Yukon and the  
47 Seward Penn region, so that's why we've had this change  
48 over in our office. So I'm glad to be involved with your  
49 Council. I've been in the Federal Subsistence Program  
50 since 1996 and am pretty familiar with the process and

00019

1 some of the background there.

2

3                   So we did meet with Leonard at the break  
4 and I think we've decided, it sounds like, we're going to  
5 address Proposal 8, which deals with a proposal to close  
6 commercial fishing for six years on the Yukon and  
7 Proposal 12, which deals with what color of buoy you can  
8 use for your subsistence nets on the Yukon. And the  
9 reason that these are crossover proposals, the reason  
10 that this Council would address these proposals is  
11 because the community of Stebbins has C&T for salmon on  
12 the Yukon.

13

14                   So with that, I'll direct your attention  
15 to Proposal 8, which is under Tab C and starts on Page  
16 87.

17

18                   So as I was saying, Proposal 8 was  
19 submitted by the Native Village of Fort Yukon, so the  
20 upper river portion of the Yukon, residents from that  
21 area, and they requested that Federal public waters of  
22 the Yukon River be closed to the commercial harvest of  
23 chinook and chum salmon for six years to help rebuild  
24 these salmon stocks. They requested this moratorium on  
25 commercial fishing to help rebuild the stocks and to  
26 provide more subsistence opportunity for upper river  
27 Yukon subsistence users. They felt that a closure for  
28 six years would allow for a full chinook salmon lifecycle  
29 to be protected without being subjected to a commercial  
30 harvest.

31

32                   Both chinook and chum salmon, as you  
33 probably know, those fisheries have experienced below  
34 average returns in recent years. There's really been  
35 very little directed commercial fishery for chum salmon,  
36 except for this past year, there actually was some  
37 directed commercial harvest for chum salmon. But the  
38 recent shortages for chum salmon and no directed chum  
39 harvest has really resulted in very little to no  
40 commercial harvest for chums. And so our analysis really  
41 focused on chinook salmon for the Yukon.

42

43                   Now, I think you probably know that the  
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has direct primary  
45 responsibility for management of commercial fishing on  
46 the Yukon, including Federal public waters. However, the  
47 Federal Subsistence Board does have the authority and  
48 responsibility to close Federal public lands and waters  
49 to the non-subsistence taking of fish to ensure that fish  
50 and wildlife for subsistence uses is given the priority.

00020

1 And there's only certain situations that the Federal  
2 Board can close non-subsistence uses such as commercial  
3 fishing and those restrictions are listed on the bottom  
4 of that paragraph on Page 87 so the Federal Board can  
5 only close or reopen the taking of fish for non-  
6 subsistence uses for the conservation of healthy  
7 populations, so if there's a conservation concern for  
8 reasons of public safety or administration or to continue  
9 the viability of a particular fish population or to  
10 continue subsistence uses of those populations.

11

12           As I said, this proposal is before your  
13 Council because the community of Stebbins has C&T for  
14 salmon on the Yukon. Currently, the subsistence salmon  
15 management system between the Federal and State agencies  
16 is a cooperative effort to minimize the impacts of the  
17 two sets of regulations on subsistence users. As you  
18 probably are aware, there's been an interim memorandum of  
19 agreement signed between the State and Federal agencies  
20 stating that the Federal program will follow the existing  
21 State fishery management plans unless they do not provide  
22 for the Federal Subsistence Board priority or a separate  
23 plan is developed by the Federal Board, which they have  
24 not yet done for the Yukon, or any other area of the  
25 state for that matter.

26

27           The Federal and State agencies have also  
28 adopted a detailed plan outlining how they will work  
29 cooperatively in-season to manage salmon runs under a  
30 dual management system for the Yukon, and that plan is  
31 called the Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon  
32 Fishery Management Protocols, with a protocol of how the  
33 managers will work together in-season. It identifies  
34 pre-season planning, in-season management decisions that  
35 are made and post-season evaluation of how the season  
36 went, and then adjustments for the next season as it  
37 comes up.

38

39           I won't go into too much detail here. I  
40 guess I'll direct your attention, on Page 93, there's a  
41 graph that kind of illustrates kind of the stock status  
42 and how the commercial fishery management has reacted to  
43 the stock status. Those numbers don't indicate the  
44 complete run on the Yukon, but they do indicate the  
45 Canadian border passage numbers, which is a good  
46 indicator of the run strength on the Yukon. And as you  
47 can see on that graph in Figure 1, that the poorest years  
48 were the three years of '98, '99 and 2000. And the  
49 commercial harvest did drop in response to those poor  
50 runs and the past few years have been somewhat better.

00021

1 In fact, it's got 2001 and 2002 shown there and then if  
2 you look at what I think will come out for 2003, will be  
3 somewhat similar in between what 2001 and 2002 showed.  
4 So the last three years actually have been somewhat  
5 better and there has been a little bit more commercial  
6 fishing opportunity allowed because of the return of  
7 those stocks.

8

9 Now, if you look at, I guess I'll direct  
10 your attention a little bit to Table 2 which shows the  
11 subsistence harvest by district based on the subsistence  
12 harvest data by district. District 5 is typically the  
13 largest chinook salmon subsistence fishery on the Yukon  
14 River, so if you look at that column under District 5 you  
15 can see that those numbers are significantly higher than  
16 the other districts. And if you look at those years, '98  
17 to 2002, those numbers have been somewhat lower, so the  
18 up river districts have had a significantly lower  
19 subsistence harvest than in past years. And on the  
20 average, about 27 percent below what they were prior to  
21 1998. In fact, the prior years, 1988 to '92, so it was  
22 about 27 percent below that in those past years. Where  
23 if you look at some of the other districts they were  
24 somewhat similar to what their normal harvest has been.  
25 So I think that's probably why you're seeing this  
26 proposal come out from that up river -- from some of  
27 those residents in the upper river.

28

29 There's really a need to better  
30 understand the full scope of the effects to the  
31 subsistence users with the changing harvest patterns on  
32 the Yukon, and the effects of the change on subsistence  
33 use opportunities. And a proposal to study the cultural  
34 aspects of the Yukon River fishery issues will be  
35 submitted to our office in the Fisheries Information  
36 Services Division this year to help better understand  
37 some of those subsistence harvest pattern changes.

38

39 So adoption of this proposal to close the  
40 commercial harvest of chinook and chum salmon on the  
41 Yukon would principally affect chinooks salmon commercial  
42 fisheries since there's been very little commercial  
43 harvest of chum salmon. Without commercial harvest of  
44 chinook salmon in the lower Yukon River more fish may be  
45 distributed throughout the river and into the spawning  
46 areas if those fish were allowed to pass through the  
47 lower river. However, the State could also just decide  
48 that they want to continue to allow a commercial fishery  
49 outside of Federal waters on State waters so it really  
50 could create some major disruptions to the current

00022

1 commercial fishing practices. The current flexible  
2 management system of pre-season planning and in-season  
3 management decision that have been developed through the  
4 protocol and the MOA have been responsive to restricting  
5 commercial fisheries to help meet the escapement needs in  
6 most of the subsistence harvest, although there have been  
7 some reductions in subsistence harvest.

8

9           If this proposal were adopted it would  
10 preempt the State's management authority for State  
11 fisheries on those portions of the Yukon River within  
12 Federal jurisdiction. And it would undermine the current  
13 Federal and State stakeholder cooperative management  
14 efforts that I just mentioned. Then a goal of the  
15 current fisheries management is to be responsive to the  
16 information as it becomes available and react in-season  
17 as the information comes in so we did have those poor  
18 years and the management was rached down but now the  
19 past few years the runs have come back up and I think the  
20 management has been responsive to that.

21

22           And so the preliminary conclusion for the  
23 Staff analysis is to oppose the proposal and recommend  
24 that the Federal Board draft a letter to the Alaska Board  
25 of Fisheries requesting a collaborative process between  
26 the two boards occur to address the broader resource and  
27 subsistence concerns that are raised in this and other  
28 regulator proposals for the Yukon. There's other similar  
29 proposals to this that are being submitted to the State  
30 Board of Fisheries and it's recommended that the Chairs  
31 of the three Yukon Regional Advisory Councils participate  
32 in the January Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting that's  
33 occurring in Fairbanks this year, and that they report  
34 back to their Councils at their winter meetings as to how  
35 that meeting went and then they can develop further  
36 recommendations for the Board if they feel that's  
37 necessary for the May meeting that's going to occur next  
38 spring.

39

40           So that's all I have. I'd be happy to  
41 answer any other questions if the Council has any.

42

43           Thank you.

44

45           CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions or comments  
46 from the Council.

47

48           MR. KOBUK: My name is Leonard Kobuk and  
49 I represent St. Michael and Stebbins. I'm kind of  
50 opposed to Proposal 2004-08 because I know there are some

00023

1 fishermen in Stebbins, not only in Stebbins but I just  
2 remembered some Unalakleet men and also Shaktoolik and if  
3 I'm correct, also, I know of a couple that always go  
4 every spring to Yukon to go commercial fish -- I think  
5 they're from Elim.

6  
7 I haven't heard any concerns, like I told  
8 Jerry and Charlie, from the residents of Stebbins on this  
9 proposal here because until I hear from them or what  
10 their concerns about this proposal will be then I'll have  
11 to oppose Proposal F2004-08 until I hear from those  
12 fishermen that go down there to fish.

13  
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard.  
15 Myron, you got anything.

16  
17 MR. SAVETILIK: (Shakes head negatively)

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
20 Berg. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are there any agency  
25 comments on this proposal?

26  
27 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, for the  
28 record, I would just point out in your book on Page 99,  
29 that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game does have  
30 some written comments on this proposal and they do not  
31 support the proposal.

32  
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Public  
34 comments on this, is there any written ones?

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

41  
42 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, the other  
43 proposal, F2004-12.....

44  
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Wait, wait, let's  
46 finish this one first.

47  
48 MR. KOBUK: Okay.

49  
50 MR. DENTON: Yeah, Jeff Denton with BLM.

00024

1 And we have no Federal waters involved here, I just have  
2 a question for Jerry. Are we talking commercial fishing  
3 on the Yukon River only or all the river systems  
4 connected within the Yukon northern area? There seems to  
5 be, looking at the Fish and Game comments and looking at  
6 -- it seems like it's kind of unclear whether we're  
7 talking only the mainstem Yukon River or if we're talking  
8 the tributaries of the Yukon River within that management  
9 area? And it seems, looking at some of the comments,  
10 that that confusion is also unclear to some other folks.

11

12 MR. BERG: Yeah, the proposal would apply  
13 to the mainstem Yukon River. That's where the commercial  
14 fishing districts are, in the mainstem Yukon River. And  
15 primarily for the residents from Stebbins, it would  
16 primarily be in District 1.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Does  
19 anybody else have anything to say about this?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So I think my  
24 question, I guess, would be directed to Leonard as to  
25 what do you want us to do? Do you want us to go into  
26 deliberation and make a recommendation or do you want to  
27 check with other people in Stebbins and address that when  
28 the tri-Councils meet?

29

30 MR. KOBUK: Yeah. I guess that would be  
31 the best way to go about it. I would like to see what  
32 the people there in Stebbins, those that do commercial  
33 fishing have to say because like I say, they have not  
34 contacted me on this issue. I'm pretty sure that the  
35 Stebbins IRA received the proposals that I received and I  
36 was just glancing through them and I don't know why it  
37 didn't catch my eye or my mind that that would affect the  
38 residents, some fishermen there in that area.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So I think my next  
41 question is going to be to the Regional Council members  
42 as to give kind of latitude, maybe, to Leonard or  
43 whomever is going to be addressing this issue at the tri-  
44 Council's meeting, as to voice, giving him latitude to  
45 voice what Stebbins and St. -- or the people of Stebbins  
46 want regarding this proposal, and have the recommendation  
47 come from those communities that are affected, instead of  
48 from the RAC? That we just support whatever those  
49 communities want.

50



00025

1                   Because, Leonard, in a sense is saying  
2 that he doesn't want a decision made now as to pro and  
3 con, but that he would like to talk to the other  
4 fishermen that are commercial fishermen that are going to  
5 be affected by this and then that would be presented at  
6 the tri-Council's meeting. I think what I want from the  
7 Council is to go ahead and allow whoever is going to  
8 represent -- or come to a discussion on Proposal 08 to  
9 represent what Stebbins and St. Michael want and their  
10 arguments be presented at that meeting, instead of going  
11 through a lengthy discussion here.

12

13                   MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

14

15                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

16

17                   MR. OLANNA: Leonard, like you said, the  
18 Stebbins IRA should have had this proposal available to  
19 them. Is it possible you can call them, is there an  
20 administrator there you can talk with to see if they got  
21 a position on this? In reality we should defer this  
22 action until such time that you talk with Stebbins.

23

24                   MR. KOBUK: Yeah, I think that would be  
25 the best way to go about it. Because I would like to  
26 hear what the Stebbins residents would have to say about  
27 this proposal and their concerns as to how they want to  
28 approach this issue or what their comments are. Probably  
29 could have the IRA in Stebbins write a letter to our  
30 Board stating whether they oppose or not oppose this  
31 proposal. I think that would be the best way because I  
32 sure don't want to make a decision for them because this  
33 will affect those people there.

34

35                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We have kind of a time  
36 crunch on that one, the tri-Council's meeting will be  
37 held October 13th through the 17th. There was a meeting  
38 that was -- there was a teleconference meeting that was  
39 conducted, wasn't Stebbins involved in it, Charlie, or  
40 whoever attended the meeting? Jerry Berg.

41

42                   MR. BERG: Yes, we did have a  
43 teleconference with Barb Armstrong and I can't remember  
44 the gentleman's name, there was a gentleman from  
45 Stebbins.....

46

47                   MR. KOBUK: Morris.

48

49                   MR. BERG: Morris, that's right, Morris  
50 from Stebbins was on that teleconference. But we didn't

00026

1 really -- we just presented him kind of the issues and  
2 then sent him the Staff analysis and we never -- we still  
3 have yet to hear back from them. So I think it would be  
4 helpful if there could be a letter drafted from the  
5 Village of Stebbins and/or St. Michael's to clarify their  
6 position for the tri-Council meeting. But as Grace  
7 mentioned, that meeting's coming up here in a couple  
8 weeks, so it's coming up fairly quickly.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think one of the  
11 things that I would recommend is before the end of the  
12 day somebody call up Morris and see if anything is  
13 happening with this proposal or if they had any other  
14 concerns on the other proposals. Like I said, time is a  
15 crunch. Leonard was not going to go to the meeting  
16 because of work, I asked to go, but not really committed  
17 because I'm not sure -- I just wanted to preserve it and  
18 ask if I could go to the meeting, I'm approved to go,  
19 however, if there's no big issue and if that can be done  
20 by writing I'd prefer not to go. I'd prefer that they  
21 handle it in a different manner. But if there's some  
22 strong opinions that need to be voiced, I will go. So I  
23 really would like to find out before, maybe something can  
24 talk to Tim Jennings or somebody, or Mr. Berg can call up  
25 Morris, before the end of the day, talk to him and see  
26 what's happening and where -- maybe discuss what we are  
27 talking about and that we are trying to find some  
28 direction as to whether to travel to the tri-Council's  
29 meeting or whether they want to do it in writing and  
30 maybe give them another option as to whether or not they  
31 want to be connected by a teleconference when this issue  
32 comes up, and we may have to talk about that in the other  
33 proposal, which is 12Y. But after we get done with  
34 Proposal 12Y, maybe it would be a good time to give him a  
35 call and see whether they have discussed it at all or  
36 maybe encourage them to have a meeting prior to that with  
37 the people that are going to be affected by this proposal  
38 and see if they could come up with a recommendation,  
39 either by writing or instruct somebody to go to voice  
40 their opinion.

41

42 MR. BERG: Yes, I think, Madame Chair,  
43 that's an excellent idea, is to, I can try to get a hold  
44 of them today or in the next couple of days to try to  
45 clarify their position and find out if they want to draft  
46 some written comments or if they want to be connected to  
47 the tri-Council meeting by teleconference.

48

49 If the Seward Penn Council doesn't come  
50 up with an actual recommendation, then I think it'd

00027

1 probably be better to go that route because then if you  
2 went to the meeting as the Chair of the Council, you  
3 wouldn't actually have a recommendation to present on  
4 behalf of the Council so it would make more sense for one  
5 or both of those communities to either submit written  
6 comments or participate by teleconference at the tri-  
7 Council meeting. So we can work with those communities  
8 and I'll do that and see which way they'd like to go on  
9 that.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And I think I can  
12 safely say that whatever decision the communities make  
13 over there will be supported by the RAC. We pretty much,  
14 in the past, have left a lot of issues to the communities  
15 and then follow the recommendations. Sometimes we will  
16 give advice, but most of the time we like to refer things  
17 to the home communities where the problem is, the people  
18 that are going to be affected, and I still feel the same  
19 way about that. And that's the reason why I was  
20 encouraging to have a meeting with these two communities  
21 when these proposals came out, to find out -- let them  
22 know this is going on so they understand what the  
23 proposals mean and then provide input. So I really would  
24 appreciate it if we could try to get a hold of Morris and  
25 then see -- before the end of the day and see what's  
26 happening and encourage them to meet on it and come back  
27 and call Barbara or call you or call somebody regarding  
28 it.

29

30 Jake, you were going to say something?

31

32 MR. OLANNA: No.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anybody else has any  
35 comments? Leonard.

36

37 MR. KOBUK: No, I have no comments. It's  
38 like I said, just rather that Stebbins be a part of this  
39 proposal because it would affect those men there that do  
40 commercial fishing.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything further on  
43 Proposal 08?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Mr. Berg.

48

49 MR. BERG: Thank you, Madame Chair. With  
50 that, I guess we'll move on to Proposal 12. That



00029

1 of this proposal. I never knew there was a color  
2 restriction on subsistence fishing with red buoys because  
3 that's all I've used. I bring my own buoys that I use  
4 for my herring commercial fishing because I didn't want  
5 to ask my relatives or my friends to use their buoys  
6 because -- that's what I've always used is the red buoys  
7 so I would be in support of this proposal here.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Does the Department  
10 have anything to add to their comments on Page 141?

11

12 MR. DeCICCO: Madame Chair, no, we  
13 supported this proposal as indicated in the comments.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Are there  
16 any other Federal, State or tribal comments?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nope. Fish and Game  
21 Advisory.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nope. I don't think  
26 there are any -- are there written public comments on  
27 this?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nope. Other than  
32 Leonard, any public testimony.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regional Council.

37

38 MR. BUCK: I make a motion to support  
39 Proposal 12.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion to  
42 support Proposal 12.

43

44 MR. OLANNA: Second the motion.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a second?

47

48 MR. KOBUK: I'll second.

49

50 MR. SAVETILIK: Question.

00030

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: He already seconded.

2 Comments.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is in favor of the  
7 motion signify by saying aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
12 same sign.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

17 These were the two proposals that were identified by  
18 Leonard, Charlie and Mr. Berg to discuss at length with  
19 the Council. Proposal No. F2004-01, I understand has  
20 been withdrawn.

21

22 Does anybody have any questions on  
23 Proposals 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11, or would like to bring  
24 one of them up for discussion? And those are all on the  
25 Yukon River. Mr. Berg, do you want to discuss any one of  
26 them?

27

28 MR. BERG: Well, Madame Chair, I'm  
29 prepared to address any of them if anybody on the Council  
30 or anybody would like to address any of them, but I don't  
31 have any specific comments unless someone would like me  
32 to address them.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anybody on the Council  
35 or anybody from the floor. Charlie.

36

37 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean with the Park  
38 Service. Madame Chair, since we're going to call  
39 Stebbins, it's possible that they would have comments on  
40 one of these but I don't anticipate that, but it's a  
41 possibility. So if that were the case, I guess we'd try  
42 to get back to you here.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So if Stebbins had any  
45 comments on any of these proposals that I mentioned, 2,  
46 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11, we'll bring that back issue after a  
47 call to Stebbins has been made. Is that agreeable with  
48 the Council?

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

00031

1 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, I'm in agreement with  
2 that.

3  
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Yes.

5  
6 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, I'd like to  
7 request clarification on your motion on this last  
8 proposal, No. 12, Peter, did you intend to support the  
9 proposal as submitted or with the modification as  
10 recommended by Jerry to make it applicable to the entire  
11 Yukon. I believe you stated to support the proposal, we  
12 just want to be sure on the record that we have your  
13 intention accurately captured.

14  
15 MR. BUCK: I overlooked that part. I  
16 would make it to include all, with the recommendation.

17  
18 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you.

19  
20 MR. BUCK: So with the recommendation  
21 that it include all of the -- well, with your  
22 recommendation that it include all of Yukon River.

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there any  
25 opposition from any of the RAC members on that?

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake, you had your  
30 light on.

31  
32 MR. OLANNA: No, I was just going to ask  
33 Peter to rephrase his motion as amended, maybe.

34  
35 MR. BUCK: Yeah, as amended.

36  
37 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

38  
39 MR. BUCK: Sorry.

40  
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: My impression was the  
42 way he said it so I guess I guess we should have made it  
43 a little more clearer. So my vote was originally for the  
44 -- like he had recommended, how about the rest of you?

45  
46 MR. SAVETILIK: So do we want to vote on  
47 that amended motion, okay. Okay, we'll vote on the  
48 amended motion. All those in favor of the amended  
49 motion, please signify by stating aye.

50

00032

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
4 same sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Okay,  
9 do we have anything else on the Yukon River districts?

10

11 MR. BERG: Madame Chair, I think that  
12 completes the Yukon River fishery proposals unless, as  
13 Charlie indicated, if hear anything else from Stebbins  
14 today we'll bring that forward and let you know as soon  
15 as possible. So I'll go and try to get a hold of  
16 Stebbins here right away.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And we'll stick you  
19 under new business, I guess, right after -- so we can go  
20 through all the agency reports and then we'll come back  
21 to you and see, that should give you ample time to try to  
22 get a hold of Stebbins and we'll come back to you and see  
23 if you have talked to anybody in Stebbins.

24

25 We're now moving on along to number 10,  
26 wildlife temporary special actions. Defer muskox  
27 proposal. Mr. Ardizzone.

28

29 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning. I'll be  
30 discussing Proposal 03-03 and 03-09, they can be found in  
31 Tab, on Page 143. And in the interest of brevity I'm  
32 going to cover these together since they both deal with  
33 the Wales Dance Festival. It's just they were split out,  
34 these have been split things out by species.

35

36 WSA-03-03 and WSA, which is wildlife  
37 special action 03-9 were submitted by the Native Village  
38 of Wales and they requested the harvest dates for 03,  
39 requested the harvest dates for moose taken for the dance  
40 festival be changed and WSA03-09 requests that the  
41 harvest dates for muskox taken for the dance festival be  
42 changed. The harvest dates are currently November 15th  
43 through December 31st and the requested changes would  
44 make the harvest season run from January 1st through  
45 March 15th.

46

47 These changes would allow designated  
48 hunters to hunt during optimal winter conditions when  
49 snow coverage is generally at its best and there is  
50 increased daylight hours which make it safer for the



00033

1 hunters.

2

3

4 In February 2003 there was a special  
5 action submitted and it was approved to extend the muskox  
6 season until January 15th to provide additional  
7 opportunity to harvest muskox for the dance festival  
8 which was earlier this year.

8

9

10 The current regulation for moose allows  
11 harvest of moose in all of Unit 22 but through  
12 correspondence with the president of the Village of  
13 Wales, the language is modified to limit moose harvest to  
14 Unit 22(E), this would avoid problems with moose quota  
15 issues in the other subunits of 22.

15

16

17 These two special actions are before the  
18 Regional Council this morning because of a requirement  
19 that any special actions that are going to be effective  
20 for more than 60 days, they must be approved by the  
21 Federal Subsistence Board after consultation with the  
22 State, the appropriate Regional Advisory Council and  
23 adequate notice and public hearing. And because both of  
24 these proposals fall under this category they are being  
25 presented today.

25

26

27 The only native village that would be  
28 affected by these changes would be the Native Village of  
29 Wales. Biological background and harvest information for  
30 moose in 22(E) can be found on Pages 146 and 147 of your  
31 Council books. In the interest of brevity, I'll just  
32 point you to those pages and biological background for  
33 muskox in 22(E) can be found on Page 155 of your Council  
34 book.

34

35

36 The effects of these proposals, WSA03-03  
37 would have little effect on the overall moose population  
38 in Unit 22. Change in the harvest dates could leave to  
39 inadvertent harvest of a cow as most moose will be  
40 antlerless during this time of year. However, if great  
41 care is taken to ensure only a bull moose is harvested,  
42 there should be little effect on the moose population.

42

43

44 A change in the season dates would  
45 benefit subsistence users in Wales, making it easier to  
46 harvest moose for their dance festival.

46

47

48 WSA-03-09 would have minimal effects on  
49 the muskox herd in Unit 22(E). The harvest would be by  
50 permit and would count against an established quota for  
the area. The change would also benefit the subsistence

00034

1 users in Wales allowing harvest when weather conditions  
2 are better for travel and there is more daylight hours.

3

4                   The conclusion for both these proposals  
5 would be to support the proposals. And this, like I  
6 said, would just be a temporary action for this year.  
7 And just to make these changes permanent I will be in  
8 contact with the Native Village of Wales to ensure that  
9 we get another submission for this for this regulatory  
10 year to make a permanent change.

11

12                   That concludes my presentation.

13

14                   Any questions.

15

16                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If I remember  
17 correctly, in the last -- I seem to have kind of maybe  
18 forgotten what we said about muskox, this is for one bull  
19 moose and for muskox. I can't remember, did we have any  
20 detail discussion on male/female or was there no concern  
21 or what?

22

23                   MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't believe we had a  
24 discussion about the sex of the muskox, we just -- they  
25 just wanted an extension so they could harvest the muskox  
26 for the festival dance.

27

28                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, thanks.

29

30                   MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, speaking to  
31 this proposal. Chuck, I introduced you to Ralph here  
32 earlier, is it possible, Ralph, that Wales could perhaps  
33 submit a proposal to make this a permanent regulation  
34 because, you know, like Chuck said it has to be done  
35 annually. And I know the festival's traditional and in  
36 that case, I think it'd be appropriate that instead of  
37 doing this as a special action, that Wales or perhaps you  
38 and I can work on a proposal to make this a permanent  
39 regulation.

40

41                   Okay, thank you.

42

43                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Chuck, I understood  
44 earlier you were going to be talking to somebody there.

45

46                   MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, I did talk  
47 to Ralph just to make sure he would mention it to Winton  
48 or Luther in the village just as a head's up and I will  
49 call them next week just to ensure that they will submit  
50 a permanent change.

00035

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

2

3 MR. OLANNA: I'm glad you did communicate  
4 with Ralph, and as a matter of record, they did the  
5 special request last year after talking with Winton, and  
6 I don't know, Chuck did you get a hold of Winton since  
7 the last meeting? How did he feel about making this  
8 permanent?

9

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: I've talked to Winton and  
11 Luther since our last meeting about these regulations and  
12 told them that we need to submit a permanent change but I  
13 have not talked to them recently and I have not seen a  
14 change come across my desk so I'll make sure I call them.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any other questions or  
17 comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Does the Department  
22 have anything to say about this?

23

24 MS. PERSONS: Fish and Game supports the  
25 proposal.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any other  
28 Federal, State or tribal comments.

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken.

33

34 MR. ADKISSON: National Park Service has.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ken Adkisson.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council  
39 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. The  
40 National Park Service supports those proposals. And as a  
41 side we handle the permitting process for the community.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Fish and  
44 Game Advisory Committee comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nothing. I don't  
49 think there's any written public comments, any public  
50 testimony.

00036

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regional Council.

4

5 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I make a

6 motion to accept the proposal.

7

8 MR. BUCK: Second.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on

11 the floor and seconded by Peter Buck. All is in favor of

12 the motion signify by saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

17 same sign.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Thank

22 you very much.

23

24 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, just as a

25 stickler for detail, there are two proposals, so, I ,

26 again, assume that you support both proposals?

27

28 MR. OLANNA: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Both the muskoxen and

31 the moose proposals.

32

33 MR. OLANNA: And the moose proposal, yes.

34

35 MR. BUCK: And second it for moose

36 proposal.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor

39 signify by saying aye for both proposals.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

44 same sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Now,

49 we're going to call for proposals for Federal Subsistence

50 wildlife regulations -- no, excuse me, we're at number 12

00037

1 -- and does Kate want to come and talk now.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: It's up to you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think so before we  
6 lose you somewhere along the line.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Okay.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Kate Persons had asked  
11 to address the Council on 22(A) moose.

12

13 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
14 Council. Midi Johnson has been working closely with the  
15 Department and BLM, and he's the Chair of the Southern  
16 Norton Sound Advisory Committee to address a situation  
17 with a declining moose population in Unit 22(A). And on  
18 the phone he had said he was going to submit to you a  
19 similar proposal to what the Southern Norton Sound  
20 Advisory Committee developed for State lands in 22(A) and  
21 since he's not here I would like to just inform you about  
22 the situation.

23

24 The four-page handout shows biological  
25 and harvest information that has been collected about  
26 moose in 22(A) and the other one page handout shows the  
27 proposal that was developed by the Southern Norton Sound  
28 Advisory Committee. And if the regulations are going to  
29 be effective since there is a lot of Federal land in  
30 22(A) it will be important to have similar regulations on  
31 Federal lands. And since he's not here, you may want to  
32 wait for him to submit a proposal.

33

34 But I want to explain the situation to  
35 you so you are aware of it.

36

37 22(A) is a really difficult place to  
38 count moose because of the very rugged forested terrain.  
39 This is in the northern part, Unalakleet drainage,  
40 Shaktoolik, Ungalik, and also it's hard to find clear  
41 days in the winter when the wind's not blowing and you  
42 have to get right down at tree-top level with these  
43 little planes, and so over the years we've actually only  
44 collected data, meaningful data down there in two  
45 censuses. And the first one was in 1989 and the census  
46 only was part-way completed, looked at a little over  
47 1,100 square miles of the Unalakleet drainage and  
48 estimated in that area 325 moose. And then it wasn't  
49 until last spring when BLM and Fish and Game went back,  
50 that we were able to complete for the first time a census

00038

1 of the entire Unalakleet drainage. And unfortunately  
2 that census came up with a count of only 75 moose in the  
3 entire drainage. And that's pretty alarming.

4

5           In addition to the censuses, there have  
6 been what we call recruitment surveys that have been done  
7 in the springtime where we fly up and down major  
8 drainages and get the percentage of yearlings in the  
9 population. We're not trying to determine, like, how  
10 many moose there are, but just the percentage of  
11 yearlings which gives an indication of whether enough are  
12 being produced each year to maintain a stable population.  
13 And the table at the bottom of this first page shows  
14 results from composition surveys, recruitment surveys  
15 that we did in a number of drainages in Unit 22(A) in  
16 2000 and 2003.

17

18           And in the northern drainages, in the  
19 Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, and Ungalik drainages, the last  
20 year we just had a hard time even finding moose. And the  
21 recruitment, the percentage of yearlings was up somewhat  
22 but still not enough given all the predators to likely be  
23 maintaining the population.

24

25           On the second page of your handout  
26 there's a table that shows reported harvest. And  
27 reported harvest is what we get on those green harvest  
28 tickets. And a lot of people in the villages don't fill  
29 them out and so this isn't a very complete record of  
30 harvest for village residents but it is a pretty accurate  
31 report of non-resident harvest. And one thing that --  
32 well, with the resident harvest, though, you can see a  
33 trend of less resident harvest over the last 12 years and  
34 an increasing amount of non-resident harvest, although  
35 still the non-resident harvest in Unit 22(A) is quite  
36 low.

37

38           But we have better resident harvest data  
39 than this because we work with Kawerak to do the village  
40 harvest surveys in selected villages each year, and we  
41 have surveys from Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, and Stebbins  
42 now. And the surveys that we did in Shaktoolik in 1999  
43 and 2000 showed that only about -- one year, five  
44 percent of the harvest had been reported on the harvest  
45 tickets and the other year 14 percent of the harvest was  
46 reported, and so that just tells you that the harvest up  
47 here on the graph shown in blue, resident harvest is  
48 actually much, much more than what is shown on this  
49 graph, and that moose are a much more important  
50 subsistence resource for people than would be indicated

00039

1 by just this harvest ticket data.

2

3                   If you look at where the harvest has  
4 occurred, on the next page, Unit 22(A) is divided up by  
5 drainages and under each drainage name there are a couple  
6 number is the number of moose harvested by non-residents  
7 since 1992 and the second number is the total reported  
8 moose harvest. And you see there the places that really  
9 have had -- well, the Golsovia drainage is the place  
10 where most of the non-resident moose harvest occurs and  
11 half of the total reported harvest in that drainage has  
12 been by non-residents. But in these other drainages,  
13 non-resident harvest is really very small.

14

15                   On the next page there are some charts  
16 that show harvest timing. And you can see from this that  
17 in each of the villages where we have the door-to-door  
18 harvest survey data there's a very different harvest  
19 pattern. And in Unalakleet, September is the month when  
20 most of the moose harvest occurs. In Shaktoolik, August  
21 is the month that's most important. And over there in  
22 Stebbins, December is the month when most of the harvest  
23 was reported.

24

25                   And, okay, I forgot to mention something.  
26 Back here on the first page, when we were looking at this  
27 table of results of our recruitment surveys, you notice  
28 that in the southern drainages, the Golsovia drainage and  
29 the Pikmiktalik, actually the situation in those  
30 drainages looks perhaps to be somewhat improved this last  
31 year than it was in 2000. So because the biological  
32 situation appears to be different in different parts of  
33 22(A) and because of these differences in harvest  
34 patterns, the proposal dealing with 22(A) divides it up  
35 into three separate areas and has differing regulations  
36 in three separate areas of 22(A) to try and accommodate  
37 these differences.

38

39                   The whole process that went into  
40 developing this Proposal 8, was Tony and I went to each  
41 of the villages in 22(A) and attended public meetings and  
42 discussed the biological information, asked the community  
43 to make recommendations and then to present  
44 recommendations at the Southern Norton Sound Advisory  
45 Committee meeting which was in Unalakleet at the end of  
46 July. And out of that meeting came this Proposal 8 which  
47 I'll explain to you.

48

49                   As I said, it divides the area into three  
50 different areas. There is an area from the Tagagawik

00040

1 (ph) drainage north so that would be Tagagawik, and I'm  
2 probably saying that really wrong, the Shaktoolik River  
3 and the Ungalik River, that would be one area. The  
4 Unalakleet River drainages and the little drainages that  
5 flow into Norton Sound alongside the Unalakleet drainage  
6 are in another area. And then the Golsovia River  
7 drainage and areas to the southwest are a third area.  
8 And it would shorten the resident moose season throughout  
9 Unit 22(A). And the northernmost part, the Shaktoolik  
10 area, it would take the last half off the month of  
11 September, it would be August 1 through the middle of  
12 September. In the Unalakleet drainage, it would be  
13 August 15th through the end of September. And there  
14 would be no change to the summer season in the Golsovia  
15 drainage south.

16

17 The winter season would be eliminated in  
18 both of the northern areas and it would be shortened to  
19 the month of December in the Golsovia south. And it  
20 would eliminate the non-residents north of the Golsovia  
21 River drainage and it would change the resident bag limit  
22 to one antlered bull. And there is an error in the  
23 proposal as its published, this Proposal No. 8, the  
24 intent of the advisory committee was to shorten the  
25 resident winter season in the area south of Golsovia to  
26 December 1 through December 30th. And that proposal, as  
27 it was typed up didn't reflect that intention.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What was that date  
30 again, I'm sorry?

31

32 MS. PERSONS: December 1 through the end  
33 of the month, December 31st. December 1 through December  
34 31st.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: On the first page  
39 there, on Page 1 it still shows it's through September  
40 30th, on Proposal 8.

41

42

43 MS. PERSONS: So there you have it. It  
44 should be to the September 15th, yes.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The northern portion.

47

48 MS. PERSONS: The northern portion, yep,  
49 uh-huh. Very good catch, thank you. You don't know how  
50 many eyes have looked this thing over and not caught



00041

1 that.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Everything else  
4 remains the same except for the -- 22 -- southern  
5 portion.

6

7 MS. PERSONS: Yes. That is the proposal  
8 that was submitted by the Southern Norton Sound Advisory  
9 Committee. The Department does have one amendment that  
10 we're going to recommend to this proposal.

11

12 This proposal, as it's written, makes no  
13 change to the non-resident moose season south of the  
14 Golsovia River drainage and we are going to recommend  
15 shortening it to the September 5 through 25. And  
16 actually also under duress, we are going to -- in the  
17 northern most portion we're not going to recommend  
18 completely eliminating the non-resident season but  
19 shortening it to the 1st through the 14th of September,  
20 but we are going to recommend closing it in the  
21 Unalakleet drainage and those small drainages going into  
22 Norton Sound.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So my understanding  
25 from you was Midi was going to be submitting a proposal  
26 to the RAC?

27

28 MS. PERSONS: That's, yeah, my  
29 understanding.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And you're  
32 recommendation was?

33

34 MS. PERSONS: Well, our recommended  
35 changes will be given to the Board.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But we're talking  
38 about what Midi was going to do versus what we should do,  
39 you had made a recommendation?

40

41 MS. PERSONS: Well, I suppose since the  
42 proposal deadline isn't until, you know, later in October  
43 -- I mean I'm not sure what you should do or what you  
44 want to do. But certainly there would be still  
45 opportunity for Midi to submit a similar proposal to the  
46 -- it can't be identical because the Federal system has a  
47 different mechanism for dealing with non-resident  
48 harvest. I mean it doesn't deal specifically with non-  
49 resident harvest, it can only deal with non-qualified  
50 subsistence users. So it wouldn't be exactly the same as

00042

1 this one.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tim, do you know if  
4 there was any correspondence between Barb and Midi about  
5 this?

6

7 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, I'm not  
8 aware of that. What we can do is, Chuck, may have talked  
9 with Midi, Chuck do you want to address that?

10

11 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, I do know  
12 that Barb had been corresponding, via e-mail with Midi  
13 about this whole situation. I'm not sure where things  
14 stand but I can check on that when I get back to the  
15 office.

16

17 MR. JENNINGS: So, Madame Chair, we'll  
18 follow up with Kate to ensure that the changes that she's  
19 mentioned today on the resident seasons gets conveyed to  
20 Midi so if it's intention to make it consistent with the  
21 State proposal, he'll have those most recent changes and  
22 we'll work with him to ensure if he wants to submit a  
23 proposal, that he has it done and submitted to us by the  
24 24th of October which is our deadline, so we'll follow up  
25 on that.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think my  
28 recommendation would be to try to contact Midi today and  
29 see what's happening. Our meeting is going to end by the  
30 end of the day and how do we handle this new proposal, do  
31 we wait for the next meeting around, do we have a special  
32 action, what?

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, there's a  
35 couple ways we can do that. We can follow up with Midi  
36 today, I'll ask Chuck to see if he can do that. I've  
37 talked with Barb and she was following up with him to  
38 ensure that he wasn't still intending to come to the  
39 meeting and I got a message that he was not going to be  
40 here today, so we've confirmed that.

41

42 The proposal could come from him as an  
43 individual. It could come from him as a Council member,  
44 or it could come from you as a Council. So if you're  
45 comfortable with having him submit it as a Council member  
46 or as an individual, the Council wouldn't need to do  
47 anything except to let him work with Kate and us to  
48 submit the proposal. And we could clarify what's his  
49 intention if we can get a hold of him today.

50

00043

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, so what is the  
2 wish of the Council, should we wait to see if we hear  
3 from Midi?

4  
5 MR. KOBUK: Yes.

6  
7 MR. OLANNA: Yes.

8  
9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10  
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, we're just going  
12 to table this until we hear from Midi or whenever. Kate.  
13

14 MS. PERSONS: Just one other thing I'd  
15 like to mention is that next week we're going back to  
16 Unalakleet to fly some fall surveys which we've never  
17 done before. There was a pretty wide spread agreement  
18 that moose numbers in the Unalakleet drainage had  
19 declined, but there was skepticism about the actual  
20 census count that we got, only 75 moose and there was a  
21 feeling on the part of some residents that in the fall  
22 time there are a lot more moose present in the drainage  
23 than in the wintertime and so we're going back and  
24 actually some of the advisory committee members are going  
25 to take part in our survey flights next week and we're  
26 going to try and get some kind of an assessment of what  
27 fall numbers look like there. And so there could be some  
28 adjustments before this proposal goes to the Board of  
29 Game, depending on what comes out of those, you know,  
30 recent upcoming survey flights.

31  
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Keep in contact with  
33 Chuck, right, keep him informed. Yes, Tim.

34  
35 MR. JENNINGS: Say, Kate, when would the  
36 Board of Game take this up?

37  
38 MS. PERSONS: November 1 through 4.

39  
40 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. So then if they  
41 take action, it would be in effect, for any changes would  
42 be in effect for the winter season this year or do you  
43 know when the effective date would be, or would it be the  
44 next fall and winter season?

45  
46 MS. PERSONS: It would be the next  
47 regulatory year but we are planning to do an emergency  
48 order closure of the winter season.

49  
50 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. Well, then to

00044

1 clarify on the Federal side, if the State does an  
2 emergency order, we would evaluate the need to do  
3 something on the Federal side as well if there's a  
4 request to do so and we feel there's a need, either by  
5 the land manager or by the Department.

6  
7 And I wanted to clarify the process for  
8 the Council, evaluating this proposal as submitted by  
9 Midi. We would take it back up at the next winter  
10 meeting and we would have a Staff analysis and then we  
11 would be looking for a Council recommendation at that  
12 time to take to the Federal Board in May.

13  
14 So if the Federal Board makes a change it  
15 would be effective the next regulatory year as well  
16 unless we take some sort of temporary, what we call a  
17 special action or an emergency order.

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Tim. Kate,  
20 anything further?

21  
22 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, one more issue if I  
23 could ask Tony to join me.

24  
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

26  
27 MS. PERSONS: Two years ago after the  
28 really sweeping changes that the Board of Game made to  
29 moose hunting in Unit 22, we brought the changes to the  
30 attention of this Council. One of the changes that the  
31 Board made was to shorten, by two weeks, the season in  
32 the remainder of 22(D) and that's the American Agiapuk  
33 area and a little portion of land south of Imuruk Basin  
34 between Canyon Creek and the Cobblestone River. And the  
35 Board of Game did that because they were concerned that  
36 there would be an increase in hunting activity when  
37 people were displaced for the Nome road system. And we  
38 brought this up to the Council two years ago and the  
39 Council decided at that time that since it hadn't  
40 happened this was speculative, that no action needed to  
41 be taken but we were asked to keep you informed of any  
42 effect, if it happened, and so we just wanted to present  
43 the harvest data for that remainder of 22(D) which does  
44 show an increase.

45  
46 Tony.

47  
48 MR. GORN: Well, essentially what we've  
49 seen with the population in Unit 22 remainder is a stable  
50 population from 1993. And 10 year harvest for both non-

00045

1 residents and residents have fluctuated slightly over the  
2 last 10 years but have basically remained pretty  
3 consistent until the year 2000. And you'll see from the  
4 table in front of you that the last three years, both  
5 resident and non-resident hunting has increased  
6 dramatically.

7

8                   So that's really all I wanted to present  
9 to you.

10

11                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any  
12 questions from anybody or comments.

13

14                   MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

15

16                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

17

18                   MR. SEETOT: On the resident moose  
19 harvest, I would think that the actual harvest tickets  
20 aren't turned in of the actual kill around these areas.  
21 You're also looking at other factors. I think, fire,  
22 predation from wolves and bears, and maybe this migratory  
23 habits of the moose. I know that there's a lot of moose  
24 around that area. Do you take those into consideration,  
25 mortality, out-migration, other effects from maybe smoke,  
26 temperature when you're looking at declining population  
27 of a certain species, such as moose in the American  
28 Agiapuk drainages.

29

30                   MS. PERSONS: Okay, thanks, Elmer. First  
31 of all about your comment about this not being a complete  
32 picture of harvest, you're absolutely right. This is the  
33 reported harvest data from the harvest ticket reports and  
34 I don't know, your harvest ticket is probably the only  
35 one we have from Brevig. And we do have door-to-door  
36 survey data from Brevig and Teller that gives a more  
37 accurate picture. So this reflects probably -- the  
38 resident harvest here reflects mostly harvest by Nome  
39 residents, other Alaska residents and then of course the  
40 blue is non-residents.

41

42                   But, yeah, when we do the censuses we try  
43 to encompass a large enough area that captures migratory  
44 movements. But we haven't done a very good job of that  
45 to date in the American Agiapuk because there's a lot of  
46 movement between there and Unit 22(E). And I mentioned  
47 yesterday at the cooperator's meeting that we were  
48 changing a bunch of things about the way we're doing our  
49 moose work. And in the future we're going to be doing  
50 two areas each year and we're going to do 22(E) and 22(D)

00046

1 on the same years so we catch that migratory movement.  
2 and when we do the census, that just gives us trend  
3 information about the population and it doesn't tell us  
4 why the population is going up or down. And the other  
5 survey work that we do, the composition survey where we  
6 get bull/cow ratios and the proportion of young moose in  
7 the population helps to fill in the picture about why we  
8 see the trends that we see. And we do have information --  
9 composition and recruitment information from the  
10 American Agiapuk, but I sure don't want to paint a gloomy  
11 picture about the American Agiapuk, that is probably the  
12 healthiest system that we have going for moose in all of  
13 Unit 22. It's not as productive as 22(C), but it's got a  
14 much better bull/cow ratio and as Tony said, the  
15 population there has been stable. Everyplace else it's  
16 been just going down the tubes. And so this is a very  
17 healthy system and we want to keep it that way.

18

19 MR. GORN: Well, I think it's important  
20 to note, too, that probably one of the main factors that  
21 we've seen an increase in harvest in this area is the  
22 regulation changes that have taken effect in other areas  
23 of Unit 22 the last couple years. So undoubtedly that's  
24 increased hunter pressure and inevitably harvest from the  
25 American.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MS. PERSONS: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Before you sit down  
32 are there any questions for Kate.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: One more comment, I guess to  
35 get the -- for Fish and Game biologists or for wildlife  
36 biologists to get the actual number of a certain species  
37 in a certain area, you need the numbers to set a limit on  
38 harvestable animals. It stated in this flier, harvest  
39 data shows an 11 year average annual harvest area is 11  
40 moose per year, I know that's pretty much averages over  
41 the year but I think that if you're looking at a small  
42 number, then you're thinking with other data from other  
43 years, you know, that you see a big decline. But I think  
44 with the low reporting by moose, the harvesters, or the  
45 ones that take the moose, you know, that it would show a  
46 constant rate of moose harvested by people that record or  
47 send the harvest tickets, I would say about 50 percent of  
48 the moose that is harvested in subunit 22(D) the American  
49 Agiapuk River drainages, you know, is not being reported  
50 by residents.

00047

1 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: I know it would be mandatory  
4 for non-residents to report whether they got a moose or  
5 not in that subunit because, you know, they have to go to  
6 Fish and Game for a non-resident tag.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. SEETOT: And the State does take away  
11 property, you know, from illegal game, from poaching,  
12 equipment, property, whatever. And I don't think ADF&G  
13 has a policy, you know, on providing incentives, you  
14 know, for turning in harvest data from hunters.

15

16 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with  
17 some of the marine species such as walrus, you know, the  
18 hunters, they provided data and then they also give them  
19 a chance to enter, you know, in special drawings for  
20 communities or for hunters within these communities for  
21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to get necessary data that  
22 they're requesting.

23

24 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: ADF&G is, I guess, just more  
27 strict or they don't have no policy on providing  
28 incentives, you know, for people that turn their harvest  
29 tickets in, and they'll continue to be that way or has  
30 Department found other ways to increase reporting, you  
31 know, the harvest of certain species?

32

33 MS. PERSONS: Thanks, Elmer. In Unit 18  
34 Roger Savoy, the area biologist has started a harvest  
35 ticket reporting incentive program and he does enter the  
36 names of all the people who turn in their harvest reports  
37 into a lottery and he's pretty happy with the way that's  
38 gone. It really has improved reporting.

39

40 I guess here we've kind of taken a  
41 different path by working with Kawerak and doing these  
42 village harvest surveys and relying on that to provide  
43 the data rather than an incentive program.

44

45 But, yeah, I don't know, we just made a  
46 different choice about how to collect the data. We're  
47 able to get more data and more really useful data and  
48 have more communication with people, the hunters that are  
49 actually out in the field by doing these door-to-door  
50 surveys. It's been a really positive thing for us. So

00048

1 we'll probably continue that.

2

3 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, can I ask a  
4 question?

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sure.

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, Kate and Tony,  
9 you guys brought this to our attention, to the Board's  
10 attention, but you didn't really say whether you thought  
11 it was good or bad or not a problem yet, at least I  
12 didn't hear it. With this increase in harvest in this  
13 area is the forerunner of the problem or not?

14

15 MS. PERSONS: We brought it to your  
16 attention because you asked us a couple years ago to let  
17 us know what happens with this. And as I said, this area  
18 does have a healthy moose population, recruitment's good.  
19 It probably can withstand some additional harvest but at  
20 some point it may become too much and I just wanted you  
21 to -- I don't think -- we don't have data yet to show,  
22 you know, adverse effects from this current harvest level  
23 but I just wanted you to be aware that it is increasing  
24 as a result of the actions that were taken to restrict  
25 other areas.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are there any special  
28 concerns from just people observing what's going on?

29

30 MR. SEETOT: No, no, Madame Chair, no, it  
31 was just that I think the majority of hunters in our area  
32 do harvest moose but they don't report the actual numbers  
33 for a certain area. Unit 22(D) is a heavy use area, you  
34 know, with Imuruk Basin, I think being the central point  
35 and then everything draining into Imuruk Basin, just a  
36 matter of preference of users of a certain species, you  
37 know, where to hunt and stuff like that.

38

39 American River is not being used that  
40 much by residents of Teller and Brevig except when they  
41 can get to it, especially during the winter time. The  
42 Agiapuk can be used when the season first opens by  
43 residents of Teller and Brevig, but that kind of places a  
44 restriction just on outboard motor use, at least, for our  
45 area. So there are certain areas that moose can be  
46 harvested but it kind of also restricts, you know, the  
47 harvest season for moose in those areas. It's just that  
48 it is a good habitat for all wildlife, the American  
49 Agiapuk, it's just that I think that the migration of  
50 moose using the American Agiapuk River, just that numbers



00049

1 seem kind of low for the moose harvested in that area.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer.

6 Questions for Kate.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No. Thanks, Kate.

11 Ken Adkisson.

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council  
14 Members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I thought  
15 I'd just add an information note to what Kate has said.  
16 Since when the regulatory changes took place there was  
17 some discussion and concern about the difference in  
18 seasons in that 22(D) remainder area and the fact that  
19 the Federal season was essentially longer and that that  
20 would draw Nome hunters into the area and increase the  
21 harvest.

22

23 The Park Service shares responsibility  
24 for implementing and managing that hunt through the  
25 permit system along with Bureau of Land Management,  
26 Northern District. And I'll just give you a brief -- I  
27 was going to do this later but I'll do it now in  
28 conjunction with Kate's information.

29

30 Last year we issued three Federal permits  
31 for that hunt area and there was no reported harvest.  
32 This year the permits that we've actually issued have  
33 probably doubled, at least, as of this point, but are  
34 still probably under a dozen permits. I don't have the  
35 exact number right now. And we have no reported harvest  
36 to date. But it could be that that hunt is, as people  
37 become more aware of it, it is catching on and people  
38 realize they can take advantage of the different season  
39 dates and so forth. I don't think it's anything to be  
40 concerned about right now, but it's probably something  
41 worth watching and Park Service and BLM will continue to  
42 report to you on the harvest results and so forth and the  
43 permit numbers and things from that hunt area.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Any  
48 further comments or information on this issue?

49

50 (No comments)

00050

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nope, I guess not.  
2 Mr. Aumostk.

3  
4 MR. AUMOSTK: Austin Aumostk. I have  
5 some comments regarding moose harvest overall in Unit 22.

6  
7 It's noted here in this handout that  
8 there's been a 40 percent decrease in moose populations  
9 between 1988 and 1993. My work has shown that harvests  
10 have decreased as well by as much as 50 percent overall  
11 in Unit 22. And the situation in Unit 22(D) is a symptom  
12 of a problem in Unit 22 of decreased harvest.

13  
14 I've lived in Nome all my life and  
15 utilized moose and it is a good resource, however, the  
16 opportunity has decreased, it's fairly competitive, and I  
17 don't believe that non-residents should be afforded the  
18 opportunity to hunt in Unit 22. The State Constitution  
19 does not provide a place or a priority of non-residents  
20 over residents or even equally. Alaskan residents have  
21 the priority. And above that, subsistence is a priority.

22  
23 So that while it's noted there that the  
24 harvest have maintained a level of above average, I  
25 believe that there's a symptom there that's already been  
26 noted and that is focused diverted hunting pressure in  
27 this area.

28  
29 And in consideration of how difficult it  
30 is to capture moose now for residents when we have to  
31 compete at the level that we do and the fact that non-  
32 residents are there, I would just like to bring it to  
33 your attention that this may be a symptom of a problem  
34 that everybody recognizes and that is decreased hunting  
35 opportunity.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, very much.  
40 Anybody else have anything else.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nope. I guess at this  
45 point we'll go to number 11 on call for proposals to  
46 change Federal Subsistence Wildlife regulations. There  
47 was a deferred muskox, Proposal 41, that I believe was  
48 withdrawn and a new one will be submitted, right, that's  
49 the same one we're talking about. Do we want to go into  
50 that, Chuck, or no? Where is he?

00051

1 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, I think  
2 Chuck stepped out to see if he could contact Midi. I  
3 don't believe, unless Mr. Sparks would like to address it  
4 any further, that we need to spend any more time on that  
5 proposal. He has submitted a letter withdrawing Proposal  
6 41 and he intends to resubmit a C&T proposal.

7  
8 Additionally, I'll just bring to your  
9 attention, under Tab E, there is the wildlife proposal  
10 form in your books. The Federal deadline for submitting  
11 Federal proposals is October 24th. And I need to make  
12 one note of correction, on the second page of this  
13 proposal there is an error. Under the portion that says  
14 to submit your proposal, you can mail it to an address  
15 or you can e-mail it to an address. The e-mail address  
16 is incorrect. The e-mail should be subsistence@fws.gov,  
17 if anybody chooses to e-mail. Again that's  
18 subsistence@fws.gov. Strike out alaska.net. Also  
19 electronic forms of this wildlife proposal form for those  
20 who have internet access, there's the internet address  
21 there for you to go to our home page and access the form  
22 there.

23  
24 That's all I have Madame Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I imagine corrections  
27 will be sent out statewide, too, I mean at least for  
28 fws.gov.

29  
30 I don't know what the wish of the Council  
31 are, but I think before we go into fisheries, we can deal  
32 with that this afternoon and take a longer lunch period.  
33 We're almost through. So if there's no objection to the  
34 Council, we can come back at 1:00 and take an earlier  
35 lunch.

36  
37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I don't think the rest  
40 of this is going to go fast. I think we're kind of  
41 looking at two more hours after this, so, at the most.

42  
43 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

46  
47 MR. JENNINGS: Jerry Berg has been able  
48 to contact Stebbins and he has some follow up information  
49 regarding the Yukon River proposals that he'll be  
50 prepared to address this afternoon.

00052

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, let's go ahead  
2 and break for lunch, we'll be back at 1:00. Happy Lunch  
3 everybody.

4  
5 (Off record)

6  
7 (On record)

8  
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm going to call the  
10 meeting back to order. It is now 1:10 a.m. [sic], and I  
11 believe we were done with number 11, unless somebody has  
12 another proposal. Oh, Kate, is waving her arm.

13  
14 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I'm embarrassed to  
15 say that I misspoke this morning and I want to set the  
16 record straight about the dates that were proposed by the  
17 Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee. On that  
18 Proposal No. 8 that I passed around this morning. What  
19 was written for the northern portion of Unit 22(A),  
20 August 1 through September 30th is correct, and I was  
21 confused with another version. This proposal has been  
22 through a lot of different versions. But the correction  
23 to the winter season for the Golsovia south is as I  
24 stated, it should just be December 1 through December  
25 31st.

26  
27 Thank you. I'm sorry for the confusion.

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thanks. Okay, we'll  
30 move onto Fisheries Information Service Program, Steve  
31 Fried, and that's in Tab D of our packet.

32  
33 MR. FRIED: Good afternoon. My name is  
34 Steve Fried. I'm from the Office of Subsistence  
35 Management. And let's see the information I've got to  
36 discuss is actually under Tab F, it says Tab D on the  
37 green new agenda but it's actually under Tab F.

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

40  
41 MR. FRIED: And the first thing I'd like  
42 to bring to the council's attention is the 2004 Draft  
43 Fisheries Monitoring Plan which consists of the studies  
44 that would be funded in 2004 under the Fisheries Resource  
45 Monitoring Program.

46  
47 The purpose of this program is to fund  
48 technically sound projects that address high priority  
49 subsistence fishery issues and which have broad public  
50 support. Part of the process that occurs is that these

00053

1 project proposals are reviewed by an Inter-Agency  
2 Technical Review Committee and they make their  
3 recommendations and then we bring the recommendations  
4 before the Councils and they get to take a look at those  
5 and decide whether or not, you know, they agree with the  
6 recommendations or they'd like to change them and, you  
7 know, make another set of recommendations. And the final  
8 part of the process is the Federal Subsistence Board  
9 considers all of the recommendations from the Councils  
10 and the Technical Review Committee and the public and  
11 they finally adopt what they call a final plan of the  
12 projects that will be funded beginning in 2004. This  
13 will happen either this December or this coming January.

14

15           As far as the program goes, there's an  
16 introduction that begins under Tab F on Page 161.  
17 There's a little map on Page 165 that shows that the  
18 State's been divided into six study regions. And this  
19 Council is part of what has been called the  
20 Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound region which actually covers  
21 area that is under three different Councils.

22

23           In 2004, if you look at the table under  
24 that map, there is a total of about \$6.1 million  
25 available to fund studies. Some of the money is being  
26 used to fund continuing studies, studies that were funded  
27 either in 2003 or 2002 that are more than one year, so  
28 some of that money will be used to fund that. And 13.2  
29 percent of the available money is actually used for the  
30 Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound region and in 2004 that  
31 equates to \$811,000 available for studies.

32

33           We had 81 projects that were submitted  
34 and that's statewide. And of those, there are nine  
35 within this study region. And they're listed on Table 2  
36 on Page 169.

37

38           The Technical Review Committee basically  
39 makes their recommendations based on four main ranking  
40 factors. Strategic priority. In other words, you know,  
41 how important is this to Federal Subsistence fisheries  
42 management, you know, how important is this particular  
43 resource. Is there a conservation problem, are people  
44 having problems meeting their needs. Also the technical  
45 and scientific merit, the past performance and  
46 administrative expertise of the applicant. And also the  
47 partnership and capacity building component of the study.

48

49           For 2004, the TRC recommended funding 64  
50 of the 81 projects, and that included eight out of the

00054

1 nine for this region. The total cost of these 64  
2 projects is \$5.7 million, which is about 400,000 less  
3 than the actual available total. But these remaining  
4 funds will be used to cover any increased costs for  
5 modified plans. A lot of these studies are recommended  
6 but there's some changes that need to be made and also  
7 any remaining studies -- any remaining costs is then used  
8 to fund, not just the first year, but sometimes the  
9 second and third year of some of the studies, which  
10 actually frees up money that would be available in 2005  
11 for more studies.

12

13                   For an overview of the studies for the  
14 Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound region, that starts on Page  
15 173 in your books. And basically part of the strategic  
16 priority studies and part of what's used to evaluate  
17 studies is using the information and the issues and  
18 information needs that are compiled. And the Councils  
19 have a very important part to play in this because  
20 they're basically coordinating and funneling all the  
21 issues and information needs that they collect from the  
22 local users and the local communities and, you know,  
23 provide that to the list, and then the managers also have  
24 input to the list, hopefully through the Council process,  
25 so that we're identifying all the needs that we have for  
26 the region so we can pick out studies that actually meet  
27 these needs.

28

29                   For this area, for Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton  
30 Sound region it seems like the important needs seem to be  
31 Unalakleet River char and salmon, evaluating subsistence  
32 harvest surveys design and the documentation of  
33 traditional knowledge, and those are really the three  
34 issues that seem to be on the -- that were on the list in  
35 2004 that were important.

36

37                   There were actually 10 projects that were  
38 forwarded for investigation plans, one was withdraw, it  
39 didn't really concern this particular area. It was a TEK  
40 study for Colville River whitefish.

41

42                   The nine projects that are being  
43 considered for funding in 2004 you can find on a map on  
44 Page 176 so you can see where they're located. Three of  
45 these studies really concern this Norton Sound area. One  
46 is a project that would continue work on Pikmiktalik  
47 River which is a tower and partial weir that's used to  
48 count and sample, at this point, chum, chinook and pink  
49 salmon and collect subsistence harvest information. Also  
50 there's a request from the investigators to extend the

00055

1 season so that we can also count coho salmon there.

2

3                   The second project would obtain  
4 information on customary trade of fish in the Seward  
5 Peninsula area. And this has become a very important  
6 regulatory and social and economic issue.

7

8                   The third project would document the  
9 subsistence fishery information from pre-commercial times  
10 for the Seward Penn area and this would be done by  
11 extracting information from interviews that were done  
12 during the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. And you  
13 can find more descriptions of these studies on the pages  
14 that start on 187 for all these regions, but basically  
15 the Pikmiktalik information is on Page 193, the customary  
16 trade study is on 201, and the information on  
17 precommercial subsistence fishery uses is on, I think,  
18 Page 99 -- no, that can't be right, 153.

19

20                   The TRC is recommending, as I mentioned,  
21 eight of the nine projects to be funded and this includes  
22 all three projects that would occur within Norton Sound.  
23 So the Pikmiktalik project, the customary trade project  
24 and documenting the ANCSA interviews are all recommended  
25 by funding by the TRC. And in addition, they did  
26 recommend that the Pikmiktalik project be funded for a  
27 large enough amount so they could extend their season to  
28 see if they could count coho also on that project, and  
29 that would be a two year study on Pikmiktalik.

30

31                   The cost for all eight of these projects  
32 within this whole study area for 2004 is \$666,477 which  
33 is actually about \$144,000 less than the total available  
34 for the region. But as I mentioned before, you know,  
35 this doesn't include the cost for modified studies and so  
36 if we do need more money to extend the project in  
37 Pikmiktalik, so some of that would be taken out of this  
38 money and also we'd use some of this money to cover some  
39 of the additional years cost for these so that we'd have  
40 more money to use in 2005 to fund new studies.

41

42                   I know that the Pikmiktalik study is  
43 being done by Kawerak, Inc., and there are people in the  
44 audience, you know, if you'd like some more details on  
45 how the project has gone in the past. Basically in 2002  
46 there was a one year study funded just to find a site to  
47 see whether or not there's a good site to count salmon.  
48 And this past summer actually ran a tower and weir and  
49 actually got counts and it was a very successful program.

50

00056

1                   This proposal here would actually extend  
2 that for two more years and actually extend the season so  
3 that cohos could be counted.

4  
5                   I guess at this point I'd ask the Council  
6 if they had any questions or wanted more information and,  
7 you know, at that point when they felt comfortable that  
8 they understood what was involved, you could take action  
9 to either support the TRC recommendation which would fund  
10 all those -- you know, either the three projects in your  
11 region or all of the projects in the rest of this whole  
12 study region, or make modifications or if you have other  
13 types of recommendations.

14  
15                   So I don't know what the Council's wishes  
16 are.

17  
18                   MR. KOBUK:  Madame Chair.

19  
20                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:  Leonard.

21  
22                   MR. KOBUK:  I was just kind of wondering  
23 where you have that tower, is that the best place for it  
24 to be?  Because I know in that river there's another  
25 river that comes in I think a little bit past where they  
26 normally do the counting?

27  
28                   MR. FRIED:  It's actually really close to  
29 where, I think, St. Michael's ran a tower several years  
30 ago.  It's pretty close to that same site.  And it's not  
31 very far up river from where a lot of the summer  
32 subsistence cabins are that people use.  So we tried to  
33 put it low enough down so that we didn't have a lot of  
34 spawning below it, but high enough up so we didn't have  
35 enough tidal effects and fish milling back and forth.

36  
37                   MR. LEAN:  Madame Chair.  Leonard.  
38 Charlie Lean with the Park Service.  There were some  
39 little creeks that do come in further up stream but those  
40 were out there on the coastal plain and those are pretty  
41 mud-bottomed streams, not really suitable for salmon to  
42 spawn in so we made the determination or assumption that  
43 they weren't -- that we believe that some fish might go  
44 in there and hold but we think eventually they'll make  
45 their way up onto the gravel to spawn and therefore we're  
46 not missing anything there.

47  
48                   MR. KOBUK:  Okay.  Because I know as you  
49 come into Pikmiktalik River from the Bering Sea, there's  
50 another little creek that goes through there, it's not



00057

1 very deep but it goes on up and comes up a little bit, I  
2 think, about that counting tower, I'm not -- it's in  
3 Pikmiktalik, as you're going from the mouth, you make  
4 maybe about a bend and then there's a little creek that  
5 goes up -- I mean it still goes into Pikmiktalik River  
6 there and comes but I know it's.....

7

8 MR. LEAN: You're saying it's a slough,  
9 it bypasses the tower? The creek goes up into the main  
10 Pikmiktalik above?

11

12 MR. KOBUK: Yeah. The one that's a  
13 little bit above that where they're doing the counting.

14

15 MR. LEAN: I guess we could see that from  
16 the air. We were there in slightly below normal water  
17 levels and it was dry when we were there. When that  
18 might happen, and that didn't happen last year so I don't  
19 think it's a -- many towers have that problem, you know,  
20 extremely high water it can be bypassed and part of the  
21 reason for placing the tower where it is is it's the  
22 lower extent of spawning gravel for salmon and if we move  
23 the tower upstream then we miss fish that spawn below the  
24 tower and it's a tradeoff, we had to make a decision.

25

26 MR. KOBUK: So they do spawn below the  
27 tower, then, in that shallow -- I know when it gets high  
28 tide, you can go up there with a boat, but when it gets  
29 low tide, then you can barely come out of it.

30

31 MR. LEAN: Right. You can see the  
32 suitable spawning gravels do continue down to Foxy's  
33 Camp, which is a couple hundred yards below the tower.  
34 But you know, virtually no chum salmon spawn below the  
35 tower, maybe a few pinks would but we don't think we  
36 missed anything there.

37

38 If we put the tower upstream above where  
39 that slough could bypass the tower, then we would miss a  
40 significant piece of spawning gravel and so it was a  
41 tradeoff, do we want to miss a few fish that only in high  
42 water sneak around or do we want to miss fish  
43 consistently in this area that we count now. And we made  
44 the choice to put it where it was, you know, and things,  
45 sometimes you just have to do what you do, I think.

46

47 MR. KOBUK: Well, that was just a  
48 question. I thought maybe they were going -- the fish  
49 were going through there when it gets high.

50

00058

1 MR. LEAN: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik. The  
4 research that you guys have been doing, is there any  
5 evidence like for a project to say do you find enough  
6 information on a yearly or two year when you get the  
7 data?

8

9 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I'm not sure I'm  
10 understanding.

11

12 MR. SAVETILIK: Okay.

13

14 MR. FRIED: Are you asking whether one or  
15 two years is enough?

16

17 MR. SAVETILIK: Yeah, one or two years is  
18 enough for a project, to get the data that's needed for  
19 your information or for our information?

20

21 MR. FRIED: It depends on the project.  
22 Sometimes a year is fine, sometimes you need two years.  
23 We don't really provide funding for more than three years  
24 at a time, and at the end of three years, what we do is  
25 we'd like to evaluate how it's going and at that point,  
26 might, you know, ask for another proposal for three more  
27 years. So basically what we're looking at is even for a  
28 longer term project, we like to evaluate it pretty  
29 thoroughly ever three years.

30

31 Does that help?

32

33 MR. SAVETILIK: Yeah. Thanks.

34

35 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. OLANNA: The data you're collecting,  
40 I mean counting the fish, is that available? Is there a  
41 web site or something that is available to users,  
42 perhaps, that are just curious to see how much fish are  
43 going up these test sites?

44

45 MR. FRIED: Yeah, all the reports that we  
46 get, the annual reports or the final reports are posted  
47 on the Federal Subsistence website. And the only report  
48 we have up there right now is just on the site selection  
49 for Pikmiktalik because the annual report from last year  
50 isn't written yet. But as soon as it is and it's

00059

1 approved, then we'll put it up on the site. Some of the  
2 information also shows up, depending on the investigator,  
3 on Department or, kind of websites, or sometimes other  
4 types of websites, but we do put all our reports that we  
5 get so it does have all the information.

6

7 MR. OLANNA: Thank you. I know Kawerak  
8 has been running most of these counting towers in our  
9 region here. And Kate, is there someone in your office  
10 that has those numbers perhaps that I might be able to  
11 check out before I go back?

12

13 MR. PERSONS: Jim Menard.

14

15 MR. OLANNA: Okay, thank you.

16

17 MR. KOBUK: I noticed you guys didn't do  
18 it very long this summer, but you said you were going to  
19 extend it like how many, a month later or longer than  
20 that?

21

22 MR. FRIED: Yeah. The summer project was  
23 really based on just counting chums. And I know that  
24 when -- even the earlier proposals for this worked,  
25 actually with the count all salmon, but we thought that,  
26 you know, once they get started and we talked to some of  
27 the people in Stebbins about this, let's try and see if  
28 we can just do it for chum, and once we can do that,  
29 let's see, you know, maybe later on we can try for coho.  
30 Because sometimes coho doesn't work very well. It  
31 depends on the migratory behavior.

32

33 So, yeah, it would extend it probably  
34 about another month and a half or so.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

37

38 MS. DUNWELL: Madame Chair, if I may.  
39 I'm Karen Dunwell, the Kawerak fish biologist. I have  
40 preliminary numbers from the Pikmiktalik project, if I  
41 may pass them out. Those numbers will give you an  
42 indication of how many fish we counted at the Pikmiktalik  
43 project. We only started counting the cohos, that's why  
44 there's such a low number. They were just showing up and  
45 we -- the project was finished for this year. And as I  
46 said, and hopefully next year, we may be able to count  
47 through the coho season.

48

49 MR. KOBUK: I know I listen to every  
50 morning, the workers there would call Stebbins on the VHF

00060

1 and I was amazed at how much whitefish and dolly varden  
2 were going there when they were giving out those numbers  
3 over the VHF. So I know this number on this coho's got  
4 to be a lot more, it's like you said you just quit this  
5 when they were just showing up.

6  
7 MS. DUNWELL: Exactly. And it's also not  
8 part of the project to count the whitefish, we just did  
9 that as an aside to see what would happen, and we were  
10 impressed with the numbers of whitefish in the  
11 Pikmiktalik River.

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thanks. Steve.

14  
15 MR. FRIED: No, I guess, the only thing I  
16 bring before the Council is the fact that in the whole  
17 study region, the Technical Review Committee recommended  
18 all these studies be funded except for one so I guess  
19 maybe the main thing you might want to look at is to go  
20 to Page 211, the study that's not recommended for funding  
21 and see if you agree or disagree. You know, unless there  
22 are some studies that are recommended that you would not  
23 want to see funded.

24  
25 So the study that wasn't recommended was  
26 actually called subsistence fish harvest on northern  
27 Seward Peninsula communities. It was going to collect  
28 one year of harvest data on salmon and other fishery  
29 resources in three villages, Wales, Shishmaref, Deering,  
30 and do, you know, there were some other objectives also.  
31 But when the TRC looked into this and discussed it, they  
32 were -- they just didn't think it had a strong enough  
33 connection to Federal management and they thought it had  
34 very limited strategic priority and they didn't think  
35 that the partnership capacity building components were  
36 adequate and they thought the budget was high and the  
37 investigator's past performance, though, was very good.  
38 But they just thought there were enough minuses on this  
39 one especially the connection to Federal Subsistence  
40 Management that they didn't recommend it for funding.

41  
42 MR. SAVETILIK: Going back on your  
43 project. This is Myron Savetilik. I heard about the  
44 Shaktoolik River being funded again. I'm not too sure.  
45 They were saying that they were putting up a weir again.  
46 And I'm just wondering where it's at right now?

47  
48 MR. FRIED: I didn't catch what -- what  
49 system was that?

50

00061

1 MR. SAVETILIK: I think I got it right  
2 here, thanks.

3  
4 MR. FRIED: Okay. Yeah, the only tower  
5 we're running here through our program is Pikmiktalik at  
6 this point. There actually was a proposal for Unalakleet  
7 that was put before us but it was withdrawn because  
8 they'd also asked for money for another source and they  
9 didn't get it and so they didn't have enough money, even  
10 if we provided them with the money to run a weir, so that  
11 one didn't get anywhere.

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anymore questions.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Steve, you have  
18 anything further?

19  
20 MR. FRIED: No, I just -- well, I've got  
21 some inter-regional proposals to discuss but I was  
22 wondering if the Council would, at this point, would they  
23 like to hear the inter-regional or would you like to make  
24 a motion on whether or not you accept these  
25 recommendations from the TRC or adopt some of your own  
26 recommendations?

27  
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Before we even go at  
29 that, there's two letters that were just handed to me.  
30 One was in September -- written September 23rd and it was  
31 in support of FIS 04-151, customary trade of fish in  
32 Seward Peninsula from the Native Village of Teller,  
33 Teller Traditional Council. There's no copies because I  
34 just got this today. And then there's another one from  
35 the Native Village of Shaktoolik on the same, FIS 04-151,  
36 customary trade of fish in Seward Peninsula and it's  
37 supporting that and it comes from the Native Village of  
38 Shaktoolik.

39  
40 I'll just pass them around for the RAC as  
41 he talks more and we can look at it.

42  
43 Okay, go ahead.

44  
45 MR. FRIED: Yes, and the TRC did  
46 recommend that one for funding. And actually the  
47 investigators are here in the audience if you wanted to  
48 hear some more about that study, Jim Magdanz and Sandra  
49 Tahbone.

50

00062

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes, they're here, I  
2 just got this letter, and if they want to say something  
3 about it, fine, before we go to the other issues before  
4 we vote to support or non-support.

5  
6 MS. TAHBONE: I just wanted to state that  
7 those letters are continuing to come in. We have verbal  
8 support from several communities and the letters will be  
9 sent to you from my understanding. I'll make room for  
10 Jim.

11  
12 We were a little late in getting our  
13 request out to the communities in the region. Letters  
14 were forwarded to all the tribal councils providing them  
15 a copy of the investigation plan and requesting their  
16 support of the project.

17  
18 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. Jim Magdanz  
19 with Fish and Game in Kotzebue. We proposed this project  
20 after listening to the discussions over the last several  
21 years at the Regional Council meetings and the Federal  
22 Board. And one of the issues that -- or one of the  
23 challenges that we all faced in those discussions was  
24 just knowing where customary trade was occurring, what  
25 species were involved and how much was being traded and  
26 the networks of trade and where the products were coming  
27 from and where the products were going.

28  
29 And we have added a question to the  
30 salmon survey that Kawerak and Fish and Game conduct in  
31 the villages each fall, a new question that's new this  
32 year and ask people just whether or not their household  
33 is involved in barter and trade.

34  
35 Kind of as a prelude to this study, just  
36 to get an idea of which communities are most involved in  
37 customary trade and barter and we think that information  
38 will be useful in kind of guiding our direction in this  
39 project. We think it's a good project and I've enjoyed  
40 working with Sandy on several other projects, we have a  
41 good working relationship and we think this would be good  
42 project.

43  
44 MS. TAHBONE: In addition, I think, a  
45 real important component of this project as well will be  
46 our ability to inform the communities exactly what the  
47 regulations are. With the dual management that we have  
48 it's -- there's a lot of misinformation out there,  
49 misunderstanding as to actually what's legal and what's  
50 illegal under the two, the State and the Federal

00063

1 regulations. So I think it will be a real opportunity  
2 for us to get out there to the communities and provide  
3 them that information.

4

5 On a side note, in addition to that  
6 question, we're also asking other questions on this  
7 survey, trying to get an indication from the communities  
8 what their concerns are regarding fish and that  
9 information will be provided to you in hopes of  
10 identifying future research projects.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, I could see that  
13 Kawerak put a certain amount of work in the last paper,  
14 the name of the paper I never could pronounce, you know  
15 which one I'm talking about, it comes from Norton Sound  
16 and Kawerak, they have a section on customary trade and I  
17 said, who, that's pretty good. Thanks you guys.

18

19 Are there any questions.

20

21 MR. OLANNA: Good job.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Good job. So do we  
24 want to deal with the three that we have before we go on  
25 for any others, the ones that are for region, to either  
26 support or not support those projects that are going to  
27 be funded. There was only one that wasn't he said.

28

29 MR. SAVETILIK: I make a motion to  
30 support the projects that are being presented to us.

31

32 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna, second.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
35 the floor of the projects, there are three right -- were  
36 those the three that we were talking about?

37

38 MR. FRIED: Okay, yeah, that was Projects  
39 04-105, which is Pikmiktalik; 04-151, which is the  
40 customary trade on the Seward Peninsula; and 04-153 which  
41 documents precommercial subsistence fishery information  
42 from the Seward Peninsula. Those are the three and  
43 they're all recommended for funding by the TRC.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. And he's  
46 mentioned the numbers of the projects that have been  
47 recommended for funding, there's a motion on the floor to  
48 support those. All is in favor signify by saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00064

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
2 same sign.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And  
7 now we can go back with Mr. Fried.

8  
9 MR. FRIED: Okay. I can either move on  
10 to interregional or you can discuss further these other  
11 projects and decide whether or not you want to make any  
12 comments or recommendations for these other ones. And  
13 like I said, there's only one project, 04-158 that's on  
14 Page 211 that the TRC did not recommend for funding. And  
15 that would involve the villages of -- there's three  
16 villages it would study for a year, Wales, Shishmaref and  
17 Deering.

18  
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any comments or  
20 questions on the project that was not recommended for  
21 funding?

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I don't hear any so I  
26 guess we'll move on to the inter-regional overviews.

27  
28 MR. FRIED: Okay, that starts on Page  
29 215. And inter-regional projects basically five percent  
30 of the available monies are put forward for the inter-  
31 regional projects and these are projects that are either  
32 of statewide importance or they kind of crossed the  
33 regional boundaries of the study regions.

34  
35 And for 2004 there'd be about \$300,000  
36 available for inter-regional projects. There were three  
37 projects that are being considered for funding in 2004  
38 and two of them actually do involve this region. These  
39 are projects 04-701 which continues work that was started  
40 in 2000 on a shared fishery database for the State's  
41 Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim region which includes Norton  
42 Sound. Basically it's a database that would put salmon  
43 escapement information and salmon size and age and sex  
44 information all up on a database, and they've been  
45 collecting information that hasn't been entered and  
46 proofing it for errors and so I think this one would  
47 actually get the database up and running. Before that a  
48 lot of it was just collecting the data and error checking  
49 it and doing inventory on the information.

50



00065

1                   The other project, 04-751 continues work  
2 on the Alaska subsistence fisheries database that's  
3 managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
4 Division of Subsistence. And what this would do is  
5 include information on non-salmon fin fish and on marine  
6 vertebrate so it would actually increase the amount of  
7 information that's available on this database.

8  
9                   The TRC recommended funding these two  
10 projects plus the third one which has to do with ulecon.  
11 And the total cost for the projects in 2004 would be  
12 \$177,000, and again this was less than available but as I  
13 mentioned before, this additional -- the money that's not  
14 spent on a project will be used either to fund additional  
15 years for the projects that were funded or to help us  
16 fund any kind of modified increased costs of projects.

17  
18                   I'll take questions on these and I guess  
19 we could just handle it the same way. But basically the  
20 TRC's recommending funding all three. So I guess the  
21 question is, do you also support that or is there a  
22 project you don't want to see funded or is there  
23 something about one of these projects you'd like to see  
24 done that isn't there as an objective?

25  
26                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No questions or no  
27 comments.

28  
29                   (Pause)

30  
31                   MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair.

32  
33                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

34  
35                   MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik. I  
36 propose that we support these projects that are before us  
37 here.

38  
39                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And that's a motion?

40  
41                   MR. SAVETILIK: Yes.

42  
43                   MR. KOBUK: I'll second it. Leonard.

44  
45                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
46 the floor to support the three projects, 04-701, 04, 703  
47 and 04, 751. All is in favor signify by saying aye.

48  
49                   IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00066

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
2 same sign.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Mr.  
7 Fried.

8  
9 MR. FRIED: I've got just two more topics  
10 here to discuss with you. One is we're getting ready to  
11 put out a call for 2005 proposals in November. And what  
12 I've done is given everybody a copy of the issues and  
13 information needs for this study area. Hopefully -- it's  
14 not in the book but it's a separate handout that we used  
15 for 2004. And I guess the questions I've got now is, you  
16 know, are there any additional issues that have come up  
17 now that need to be on the list because what this list is  
18 used by is these people who apply for funding for  
19 proposals, they use the list and they try to tailor their  
20 projects to hit the issues. And, you know, it's also  
21 used by the TRC when they make their recommendations to  
22 make sure that they're funding the highest priority  
23 projects.

24  
25 I've got three comments about the 2004  
26 list is, one, it doesn't contain any the need or issue of  
27 customary trade on it. Although, you know, there are  
28 some proposals here that are recommended for funding that  
29 hit customary trade. And I was wondering if the Council  
30 wanted to include something on their list for that or  
31 not.

32  
33 A lot of the lists don't contain an  
34 explicit need to determine where and when subsistence  
35 harvest occur, within Federal Conservation Units, you  
36 know, or how important these harvests are for the units.  
37 And I think that's basically the base of this whole  
38 program, is to make sure that we're meeting, you know,  
39 the subsistence users are meeting their needs in Federal  
40 subsistence fisheries and that management is able to  
41 sustain the fisheries and those resources.

42  
43 And the third item I wanted to bring to  
44 your attention is that one of the issues on the list I  
45 think has already been met. It was to monitor trends in  
46 areas fished and species targeted by Nome subdistrict  
47 subsistence users resulting from declines in key salmon  
48 runs. And that was a study that was funded. There's  
49 copies on the table there. It's a good study. I don't  
50 know if it needs to be on the list anymore since the

00067

1 study's done. I think we've answered the questions and  
2 basically it doesn't really appear that any of those Nome  
3 subdistrict users are actually going to Federal fishery  
4 conservation units to meet their needs. So I think that  
5 question might be answered. It's probably a good idea to  
6 take it off the list for 2005.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The Nome study was  
9 repropose or what?

10

11 MR. FRIED: No. But it's on the list and  
12 it's very possible that when we put the call out in 2005  
13 somebody picks up this list and says, oh, you're looking  
14 for that kind of study and they're going to write a  
15 proposal and we're going to tell them, well, maybe -- you  
16 know, no thanks we've done this and we don't need it  
17 anymore. So we're just trying to make sure that  
18 everybody's efforts are focused correctly also unless  
19 people think that further study is needed.

20

21 In the handout on Page 6 is where it  
22 shows the Norton Sound/Seward Penn issues and needs, and  
23 first there's the stock, status and trends and then on  
24 Page 7 it has subsistence harvest monitoring issues and  
25 needs, and then also on Page 7 are some harvest  
26 monitoring and traditional knowledge issues and needs  
27 that have been raised that actually concern, you know,  
28 not just this Council but, you know, also the other two  
29 Councils in this region.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

34

35 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig  
36 Mission. I think one of the areas that needs to be  
37 studied or collaborated with the Alaska Department of  
38 Fish and Game, even though that we're trying to list  
39 projects within Federal lands, I think the agencies  
40 should note that within Imuruk Basin, beaver dams, beaver  
41 lodges are increasing in small creeks. The salmon  
42 fishery hasn't declined or hasn't crashed within the Port  
43 Clarence district. But with the increase of beavers  
44 blocking small creeks, especially for fish species that  
45 use these waters, I think more collaboration should be  
46 done with the Federal government and the Alaska  
47 Department of Fish and Game to study the effects of  
48 beaver dams on these rivers that are increasing in beaver  
49 numbers.

50

00068

1                   They're starting to increase in the lower  
2 portion of Imuruk Basin. These, not only produce habitat  
3 for salmon but for other species of fish that are  
4 numerous around Imuruk Lake.

5  
6                   The areas that live with beaver or trap  
7 beaver would know the effects of what beaver can do to  
8 the water. We, in the western peninsula, this is a new  
9 item for us, I guess we would need more information that  
10 what effects beaver plays on the water, on the fish  
11 population and then what it does to other species of  
12 wildlife, water fowl and others that use these local  
13 streams.

14  
15                   More collaboration should be done to  
16 study the effects of beaver dam, blockage of streams,  
17 rivers in these areas. Even though there are no Federal  
18 lands involved in these areas. But that is becoming  
19 increasingly -- I think that it will -- much like the  
20 muskox where they were introduced without the consent of  
21 the communities, first it was curiosity and then  
22 animosity and now it's something that the communities  
23 have to live with. With the beaver dams, I think we just  
24 need more information for those communities, for those  
25 residents that do not know what effects the beavers have  
26 on the water supply and/or the ecosystem.

27  
28                   Thank you.

29  
30                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

31  
32                   MR. FRIED: There is an issue on Page 6,  
33 but it just speaks to Pikmiktalik. But you know,  
34 something we do try to do with the program. I mean if  
35 there's an issue that's big and it only affects some  
36 Federal waters, I mean there's no reason why we couldn't  
37 partner with another funding source to fund a larger  
38 study.

39  
40                   But, you know, concern about beavers  
41 actually is pretty widespread in the state. We actually  
42 funded two studies on the Yukon for beavers. One was a  
43 traditional knowledge study and the other one was  
44 actually, I think, more of a biological study where they  
45 were looking at ponds with and without, and those reports  
46 should be on the web. I don't know if they've been  
47 posted yet but they've been done for a quite a while. If  
48 they're not but they'll be up there pretty soon. And if I  
49 recall properly, there were some plus and minuses. There  
50 was some good things about beaver, you know, making good

00069

1 rearing habitat for some of the species and then there  
2 were some bad things, you know, like blocking fish  
3 migration until the water came up high enough. So like  
4 everything else, there's plus and minuses. They serve a  
5 purpose but I would assume that, you know, if there get  
6 to be too many then it can be a problem.

7

8 MR. KOBUK: Wouldn't that be a thing that  
9 the Federal government could do in Pikmiktalik since  
10 you're already in that area, what effects the beaver have  
11 because that is a big concern among all the villages now  
12 within the Norton Sound and Yukon area, of what the  
13 beavers -- because it's not only affecting the fish but  
14 it's also affecting some of the villages that get their  
15 drinking water and their concern is when you drink water  
16 where the beavers are you tend to get very sick.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard, on Page 6 of  
19 that, at the bottom on number 2, no, number 1, if you  
20 look at number 1.

21

22 MR. KOBUK: Okay.

23

24 MR. FRIED: Yes, it's an issue. We  
25 haven't received any proposals for that yet. You know,  
26 and as long as there's a connection to Federal  
27 subsistence fisheries management then we'd certainly  
28 entertain a proposal and it would get reviewed. But like  
29 I said we haven't received any proposals for that in this  
30 area yet. We did fund two on the Yukon a couple years or  
31 so ago.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Those were the ones,  
34 the issues that were identified, right?

35

36 MR. KOBUK: So in other words, if St.  
37 Michael was to put in a proposal that we want a study  
38 done on the beavers in the Pikmiktalik, that's all we  
39 have to do is put in a proposal?

40

41 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I mean, and the  
42 proposal would have to show that, yes, it's important for  
43 this, for Federal fisheries management and yes, what  
44 we're proposing to do is technically sound, you know, we  
45 can do it and we've got some experience in doing this  
46 sort of stuff or we're partnering with somebody that can  
47 do that. So you know, as long as it meets all those  
48 criteria and has a connection to Federal subsistence  
49 fisheries management then, yes, you can. And like I  
50 said, a call will go out in November and the proposals

00070

1 will be -- I think usually are due like in February or  
2 March. But with the call will be a calendar with the due  
3 dates.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And who's the  
6 technical person we contact then?

7

8 MR. FRIED: Excuse me?

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Who is the technical  
11 person we contact then?

12

13 MR. FRIED: To contact for what?

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If they're interested  
16 in getting a proposal. For example, he said St. Michael  
17 is interested in getting a proposal to do a study on  
18 river dams in the Pikmiktalik River, who does he contact  
19 and who will assist him?

20

21 MR. FRIED: Well, to some extent that's  
22 up to the people in St. Michael. But they send the  
23 proposals to the Office of Subsistence Management, you  
24 know, there's an address and an e-mail address to receive  
25 proposals. You know, if they need assistance, you know,  
26 we can help them with some things from the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management, but if they're looking for  
28 somebody to partner with them, actually do the study with  
29 then they would have to look for -- well, like the  
30 Pikmiktalik counting, I mean it's basically kind of a  
31 partnership between Kawerak and Stebbins. And so.....

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And the reason I  
34 mention this is because these kinds of things are not  
35 something that have -- been ongoing for years and I think  
36 one of the reasons why we don't get any proposals for  
37 studies is because people just don't know how to contact,  
38 how to do, who to contact. So I figure that if the money  
39 is going to come from the Federal government with U.S.  
40 Fish and Wildlife, there ought to be some live person  
41 somewhere on the telephone that can answer questions that  
42 say, okay, in order for you to get a proposal in this is  
43 the person you contact, this is how it's done or some  
44 kind of overview or at least connect them to individuals  
45 that will be able to assist them, do things in a proper  
46 manner where they're most likely to hopefully be funded.

47

48 But the Federal program is a bit a  
49 distance away from us in many ways. So we don't have the  
50 luxury of going to the office 20 minutes from now but we

00071

1 do have access to a phone, we can call them and ask. So  
2 the reason why I was asking is because if somebody wanted  
3 to submit a subsistence fisheries monitoring issue  
4 proposal and does not know exactly who to contact, what  
5 number do they call, who do they talk to, and then they  
6 can have some general idea as to what they should do.

7

8 That's why I brought it up.

9

10 MR. FRIED: You can call me for that.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: At that 800 number?

13

14 MR. FRIED: Right. I can provide that  
15 sort of assistance and try to get them connected with  
16 another agency or investigator that could help them and I  
17 could tell them what to do, you know, what's necessary.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. That's all I  
20 wanted, thank you.

21

22 MR. FRIED: Yes, I kind of misunderstood.  
23 I thought you were actually looking for somebody to do  
24 the research with them.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, no, no. I was  
27 just.....

28

29 MR. FRIED: But as far as that goes, we  
30 could provide that assistance to anybody that needs it.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, good, thanks.

33

34 MR. FRIED: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, I'm getting  
37 grumpy, can we take a 10 minute break?

38

39 (Council nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We're taking a 10  
42 minute break.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are we ready to come  
49 back to order. Hello. Hello.

50

00072

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I'll call the  
6 meeting back to order. It's now 2:26 p.m., and we'll go  
7 back to our discussion on the fisheries proposals,  
8 monitoring issues.

9

10 MR. FRIED: Okay. I guess I'll maybe  
11 summarize where I think we are. I was just bringing the  
12 issues and information needs in front of the Council and  
13 this was the list that was used to rank the 2004  
14 proposals and also the list of people that actually wrote  
15 the proposals used, you know, as ideas to write  
16 proposals. And the question is, you know, is this list  
17 still complete? Are there issues that need to be added  
18 to it that aren't on it? And are there one or more  
19 issues that are so important that we want to emphasize  
20 them on the call?

21

22 So just making sure that we're capturing  
23 everything that's important. You know have we identified  
24 all the management problems, all the conservation  
25 problems and all the unknowns that are needed to make  
26 sure that, you know, things are being managed correctly  
27 and that fisheries and resources are being sustained.

28

29 And you know these are for studies, it's  
30 not -- the studies might provide information that would  
31 lead to a regulatory proposal but this is just for  
32 collecting information for doing a study and making  
33 recommendations.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard, you had  
36 something to add on the beaver dams?

37

38 MR. KOBUK: Well, it's like I said, since  
39 we already have a fisheries biologist there in the  
40 Pikmiktalik, I think when I get home I'll ask the IRA if  
41 we can submit a proposal for a study on the beaver dam  
42 effects have on the fish. Because I'd sure like to see  
43 the effects that beaver have not only on fish but also on  
44 the water that they contaminate.

45

46 MR. FRIED: Okay. Just to clarify  
47 though, that contamination monitoring or assessment isn't  
48 something that will be funded with money from the  
49 Fisheries Monitoring Program. We can refer you to  
50 somebody that might want to help you with that but that's



00073

1 something that the Federal Subsistence Board said that  
2 should be taken care of by another agency, a land  
3 manager, another program and not this program because  
4 that doesn't feed directly enough into a management  
5 decision. Not that it's not important to the people and  
6 the resource, it's just something that a decision is made  
7 not to fund.

8

9 MR. KOBUK: So in other words, when you  
10 say another management, wouldn't Kawerak be able to help  
11 us in the study then?

12

13 MR. FRIED: Oh, yeah, they can help you  
14 and, you know, you might want to go to -- if it's a  
15 refuge, maybe the refuge manager would be interested in  
16 doing that or maybe the State's Department of  
17 Environmental Conservation would want to be involved.  
18 I'm just saying that we wouldn't provide funding for that  
19 portion of the study. Maybe it's a study that studies  
20 beavers and the effects of fish and the effects of water  
21 quality, and maybe by combining our funding with somebody  
22 else's maybe that other aspect can be covered by another  
23 pot of money. But that's all I'm saying.

24

25 I mean there were three general areas  
26 that the Federal Subsistence Board made a policy decision  
27 on not funding. One of them was contaminants and  
28 pollutants. The other one was hatcheries, like  
29 restoration enhancement, supplementation, you know, fish  
30 stocking and fertilizing lakes. And the third one was  
31 habitat protection restoration and enhancement.

32

33 And as I said it's not because these  
34 aren't important to the resource and not important to the  
35 people but there's just so much money we have to spend in  
36 this particular program, they wanted to focus it a little  
37 bit more and they thought this was sort of getting to  
38 areas that should be covered by other programs.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess my question is  
41 whether or not -- or the limitation of the kind of fish.  
42 Was there a reason for a limitation of the kind of fish  
43 to study and effects of beaver dams? You have chinook  
44 and coho.

45

46 MR. FRIED: No, that's because those two  
47 species were the ones that were raised when this issue  
48 was first identified by the Council and the residents  
49 around here. It could be other species. I think the  
50 studies on the Yukon had to do with whitefish. So, no,

00074

1 it doesn't have to be just salmon.

2

3 I mean we could generalize that issue so  
4 it's not just that and we could just say on subsistence  
5 fisheries resources. And if you wanted to say  
6 particularly, you know, king, chum and coho or if you  
7 just don't want to even say that, I don't know. That  
8 would be what's important to the community.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So right now my  
11 understanding is number 1 and 2 on Page 6 at the bottom  
12 and then number -- the subsistence harvest monitoring --  
13 or subsistence harvest patterns has already been done?

14

15 MR. FRIED: That's my understanding, is  
16 that's, you know, was an issue that's been addressed and  
17 I'm not sure, you know, we need to address it any further  
18 or not. So it could probably be taken off or we can  
19 leave it on and then, I guess the TRC would decide  
20 whether or not they'd even want to consider recommending  
21 that and it can go on like that. And then these other  
22 ones are just general -- on Page 7 are general for Norton  
23 Sound and for Kotzebue and, you know, the Arctic/North  
24 Slope area just for the whole region.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Because I think I'm  
27 more interested in the Norton Sound.

28

29 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I think it would be a  
30 good idea to make sure you've identified all the  
31 important ones for Norton Sound, and identify any one or  
32 two that were the most important if that were the case.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And that doesn't limit  
35 us -- I mean just because we approve these -- if we  
36 approve and say we'd like to support these it doesn't  
37 limit us from supporting another project that somebody  
38 else may, at a later time submit?

39

40 MR. FRIED: No. Because we often get --  
41 well, like I said, you know, customary trade wasn't on  
42 here but it did come up as a regulatory issue and a  
43 pretty important issue in a lot of areas, so we did get  
44 proposals. Yeah, so, you know, things do happen between  
45 now and when these proposals actually are written and  
46 coming in. But, you know, hopefully we just do as good a  
47 job as we can right now to identify what we think is  
48 needed and then we can handle things later on also. It  
49 doesn't mean you can't submit other topics.

50

00075

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Can anybody think of  
2 any other issues within the Federal lands that, other  
3 than these two on Page 6?

4  
5 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair.

6  
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

8  
9 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik. I  
10 support the Norton Sound/Seward Peninsula area to our  
11 effect.

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are we also talking  
14 about this here, subsistence harvest patterns or no?

15  
16 MR. SAVETILIK: No, unh-unh.

17  
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Excluding the  
19 subsistence.....

20  
21 MR. SAVETILIK: Excluding the subsistence  
22 harvest monitoring.

23  
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are you moving to  
25 support them?

26  
27 MR. SAVETILIK: Yes, I move.

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Is there a second to  
30 support the -- on Page 6 the identified potential studies  
31 one and two.

32  
33 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that motion.

34  
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All except number 3  
36 which is on Page 7.

37  
38 Okay, there's a motion to support the  
39 identified areas of potential studies on Page 6 and just  
40 one and two, not the Federal Subsistence Board harvest  
41 monitoring, subsistence harvest patterns. All is in  
42 favor signify by saying aye.

43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45  
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
47 same sign.

48  
49 (No opposing votes)

50

00076

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

2

3 MR. FRIED: Okay, thank you. And I guess  
4 I'd point out to the Federal managers, too, that, you  
5 know, I'm hoping they're working through us, not through  
6 the Councils to make their concerns known so that, you  
7 know, anything that they need to manage better that's not  
8 on the list is put on the list also.

9

10 So thank you.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The one thing that I  
13 notice about all of the issues that are presented on this  
14 paper, I think we've been talking about quite a few of  
15 them for a number of years and I'm glad they're coming  
16 into attention, are now in writing as possibly being  
17 funded at some point in time hopefully. We have heard  
18 them for a number of years.

19

20 Thanks for somebody going through all the  
21 paperwork and finding them again.

22

23 MR. FRIED: Yes, that's what the program  
24 is supposed to do is, to support, you know, the needs.  
25 And if we're actually getting studies that are providing  
26 information then I think, you know, we're probably being  
27 successful at that.

28

29 I guess if there's nothing else more on  
30 issues and needs, there's just one more item and it will  
31 be real short. It's on Page 231, the Partners For  
32 Fisheries Monitoring Program, and there's just the little  
33 one page write up on it.

34

35 But basically these are positions that  
36 are funded through the Office of Subsistence Management,  
37 but these positions are hired through a local  
38 organization, you know, often an Alaska Native  
39 organization. And they're supposed to support the  
40 Fisheries Monitoring Program be either, you know, helping  
41 people write proposals, actually conducting the studies  
42 themselves. There have been several positions filled.  
43 There are six fishery biologists, one anthropologist and  
44 seven student interns.

45

46 Now, none of these positions -- the  
47 aren't any partner positions in this area, in the  
48 Arctic/Norton Sound or Kotzebue area, and I guess the  
49 thing I'd just like to bring up now is that there is some  
50 more money available for another position, for a social

00077

1 scientist position, and the call, I hear, is going to go  
2 out pretty soon. And if there's anybody or any  
3 organization in this area that's interested in  
4 participating then this would be a good time to, when the  
5 call comes out, to write a proposal to try to get a  
6 position in the area. I think there was a little bit of  
7 interest last time but no positions up here were funded.  
8 But you know, here you can see there are positions in  
9 Yukon, Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay and in SouthCentral. But  
10 this might be an opportunity to get a social scientist  
11 position if somebody thought they needed it and it could  
12 help, you know, up here.

13

14 MR. OLANNA: Yeah, I take it Kawerak has  
15 been notified of this program, haven't they?

16

17 MR. FRIED: I know they were last time  
18 and I think, you know, probably when the call comes out  
19 again they'll be made aware of it again.

20

21 MR. OLANNA: All right.

22

23 MR. FRIED: It's a little bit different  
24 funding decision process than they use for the studies.  
25 The Board basically gives -- basically delegates the  
26 decision to fund or not fund to a group of agency  
27 representatives and a lot of the information and their  
28 decisions are actually not shared public information when  
29 they're making them. It's more -- it's just a different  
30 process, but there will be one more position filled. And  
31 the call is going to go out and it will be statewide,  
32 except for Southeast, so, you know, Kawerak or another  
33 organization up here is perfectly welcome to put in for  
34 one.

35

36 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions for  
39 Steve.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Steve.

48

49 MR. FRIED: You're certainly welcome.

50

00078

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess we're moving  
2 pretty fast now. We're at Item No. 13, agency reports,  
3 Office of Subsistence Management, and I believe it's Tim  
4 Jennings, and that starts on Tab E unless these are  
5 mismarked.

6  
7 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Madame Chair and  
8 Council members. The first item under agency reports  
9 involves the identification of issues for 2003 annual  
10 report. And to help facilitate that I would direct your  
11 attention to Page 27 of your book. This is back under  
12 Tab B.

13  
14 This letter, beginning on Page 27, is  
15 from the Federal Subsistence Board to the Council and it  
16 responds to the Council's 2002 annual report. And as you  
17 peruse this letter you'll see that the Council in 2002  
18 identified nine issues. Some of these, I believe, have  
19 already been addressed and taken care of and so I would  
20 leave it to the Council for you to take a review of this  
21 letter and your issues from last year and decide which  
22 ones of those still remain pertinent that you'd like to  
23 carry forward, if you want to do that. So that's one  
24 part of it. And then if you want to identify any other  
25 issues, and then thirdly I can address the other item on  
26 the agenda which was a previous annual report issue,  
27 extra-territorial jurisdiction. And we can handle this  
28 all now at the meeting or you can feed those annual  
29 report issues later on to Barbara Armstrong.

30  
31 However you'd like to proceed is fine  
32 with me, Madame Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think we can look at  
35 each of the issues. I know that salmon and trout studies  
36 in the Unalakleet River, the issues in Unalakleet River  
37 are still ongoing and still being worked on. I imagine  
38 when BLM comes up to talk about what's going on they'll  
39 have some summary as to what went on this summer with the  
40 meetings in Unalakleet River. It is something that has  
41 not stopped, it's still ongoing.

42  
43 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, so keep that one on  
44 the list?

45  
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh. And then the  
47 moose issue is also -- our moose issue is ongoing also  
48 and I think it should be -- Kate was up here talking  
49 about 22(A) earlier and it's still an issue. There's  
50 going to be a proposal that's going to be submitted for

00079

1 our next issue so I think that should go in the next,  
2 it's still an issue, moose population is really down so I  
3 think we should keep that as a remaining issue.

4

5                   22(E) caribou and user conflict, I  
6 believe might be coming up again so we should keep our  
7 ears open and not take that off as an area concern. It  
8 may work itself out but we heard earlier that there may  
9 still be some problems. So what do you think, we just  
10 kind of keep it on as something that we can continue to  
11 keep our ears open on the user conflict between reindeer  
12 herders and the hunters in 22(E).

13

14                   Composition and size, we'll be talking  
15 about that with you a little bit later. It's still an  
16 issue. We actually will be addressing that when our  
17 charter, when we redo our charter. But it's still a  
18 concern, to me it's still a concern and I think it's  
19 still a concern for the rest of the members until we get  
20 a decision as to whether or not we're going to stay as a  
21 10 member Council or be increased to 13.

22

23                   And Stebbins/St. Michael, I think these  
24 are coming as a positive role in this one because now,  
25 anything and everything that happens in the Yukon River,  
26 Kuskokwim Delta region or anything in the Yukon River,  
27 that information has been filtering to St. Michael,  
28 Stebbins and the RAC. So as long as it continues I think  
29 it's an issue that, to me, has pretty much resolved, the  
30 informational basis. Office of Subsistence Management  
31 have been very good at contacting both Stebbins and St.  
32 Michael about issues that come in the Yukon River and  
33 have been working with other entities in attempting to  
34 resolve those or making sure that both communities  
35 understand that certain proposals are affecting them and  
36 they have been responding. And earlier in the meeting we  
37 were also talking about that, getting input from Morris  
38 and the tri-Council's meeting when the proposals are --  
39 that they're going to be discussing on the Yukon River.  
40 And we have heard there's some opposition. So I think  
41 that's really an issue that's -- I think we've been heard  
42 and I think we'll be continually informed as to what's  
43 going on there. So for now, I don't think it's so much  
44 of a major issue anymore, it's something that we've been  
45 provided a response up to now.

46

47                   And sportsfishing in Unalakleet, that's  
48 an ongoing issue. At some point in time maybe it will  
49 resolve itself but it's something that's still being  
50 worked on.

00080

1                   The meetings are still going on between  
2 Unalakleet residents and BLM and I'm sure BLM will update  
3 us on that. And I understand there's going to be another  
4 one soon, so I don't know if that's so much of an issue.  
5 It's maybe a report that these things have happened and  
6 just keep us informed of what's going on.

7  
8                   All-terrain vehicles. In the sense the  
9 answer that we got was that the Federal land management  
10 agencies and State of Alaska have been looking into ways  
11 to mitigate damage that happen by ATVs. I don't know, I  
12 think at this point that's the best answer we've gotten  
13 at this time, unless anybody has anything further to add.  
14 I think this issue was brought by Leonard and I'm going  
15 to kind of leave it up to him to see whether or not we  
16 should continue bringing it up or what.

17  
18                   Leonard.

19  
20                   MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, well, the  
21 concern in that area is, I mean I haven't heard anything  
22 of what's being done about the ATVs, the wear and tear  
23 that they make on the tundra or what's happening or is  
24 this something that the Federal and State, have they  
25 talked to the guide there that does the guiding, in the  
26 Golsovia area?

27  
28                   MR. JENNINGS: Leonard, I don't know. I  
29 would suggest that this is one we could get an update on  
30 from BLM during their report, if they have anything to  
31 offer there. The response from the Federal Board  
32 indicates that ATV use is primarily a land management  
33 agency issue, and under the area in concern is primarily  
34 BLM land and State lands. So I don't know, Jeff, if you  
35 have anything to offer during your agency report on that?

36  
37                   MR. DENTON: I can address that.

38  
39                   MR. JENNINGS: So Jeff will address it  
40 during his agency report.

41  
42                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

43  
44                   MR. JENNINGS: Okay.

45  
46                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And another thing,  
47 too, is that this is one that pretty much the only issues  
48 that were presented in writing from the RAC was the  
49 Unalakleet River, so in a sense nothing in writing other  
50 than discussion in the meeting was presented about all-



00081

1 terrain vehicles. At our last meeting there was  
2 discussion on it, but nothing in writing or any -- or  
3 writing -- or the concern was o be Bureau of Land  
4 Management or to the State so essentially it was just a  
5 verbal communication, that was it.

6  
7 Beaver. Well, hopefully, at least in the  
8 Pikmiktalik River, we hope that there will be a proposal  
9 that will be submitted to do a study on the impact of  
10 beaver on salmon species in the Pikmiktalik River. And I  
11 think that in a sense it would address the issue -- I  
12 think this issue would be addressed if a proposal would  
13 be submitted and we could support that and follow it  
14 through. I don't know enough -- are you kind of happy  
15 with it, if somebody submits a proposal and then we'll  
16 follow through with what studies can be done with beaver  
17 dams in Pikmiktalik River?

18  
19 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, I guess that's what we  
20 will submit that proposal, after I talk with the IRAs of  
21 both villages.

22  
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Then I think that  
24 perhaps maybe Kawerak maybe might assist or Steve Fried,  
25 you have his number and maybe he can kind of help direct  
26 the Council in the right direction as to what needs to be  
27 done.

28  
29 Are there any new issues that the  
30 Regional Advisory Council would like to add on to the  
31 issues that we have for next year? A lot of them are  
32 already being worked on we just have not seen the end  
33 results and some of them will be worked on for a long  
34 time. Are there any others that are new from any of our  
35 communities?

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think we lucked out  
40 this year.

41  
42 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Madame Chair, do you  
43 want me to address real briefly the extra-territorial  
44 jurisdiction issue?

45  
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: (Nods affirmatively)

47  
48 MR. JENNINGS: There's a packet of  
49 information before you entitled information on extra-  
50 territorial jurisdiction. There's also additional copies

00082

1 of this over here on the table.

2

3

4                   What you have before you are minutes from  
5 the Seward Peninsula meeting of March 2001 where this  
6 issue was raised. It was also raised in the 2000 annual  
7 report and there was a 2000 annual report reply from the  
8 Board, and I'd like to go to that reply, which is the  
9 second page from the end of your packet. And it would be  
10 the page of the Federal Board response that has sincerely  
11 Mitch Demientieff, Chair of the Federal Board at the  
12 bottom of the page, if you could follow over to that  
13 page.

13

14

(Pause)

15

16

17                   MR. JENNINGS: At the top of that page  
18 there's a response to Item 5, which is the extra-  
19 territorial jurisdiction. So is everybody with me?

19

20

(Council nods affirmatively)

21

22

23                   MR. JENNINGS: In there, basically the  
24 Board's response on extra-territorial jurisdiction to the  
25 Council is that the Secretaries of the Interior and  
26 Agriculture have reserved the authority to implement  
27 extra-territorial jurisdiction, in other words go beyond  
28 Federal jurisdiction for this program. And while anyone  
29 may petition the Secretaries for implementation, those  
30 petitions are held to very high standards and a favorable  
31 decision could take years.

31

32

33                   I think what the Board is trying to say  
34 is that the likelihood of that kind of an action taking  
35 place is not very high. Additionally, there would have  
36 to be a strong link to conservation or resource issues on  
37 Federal public lands. And in this region, as we know, in  
38 some of the area, most of the area, it's State land or  
39 Native corporation land. Federal public lands in this  
40 region are fairly limited.

40

41

42                   So what the Board said in this response  
43 in conclusion was that it's generally preferably for  
44 Councils and interested subsistence users to work with  
45 the managing agencies, both State and Federal rather than  
46 trying to go the extra-territorial jurisdiction route.  
47 That was the Board's response in 2000, there's really  
48 nothing new or different to report. I think my personal  
49 opinion is it still remains the position of the program  
50 of the Board and I think if you included it on your  
51 annual report for this year, I believe, you would receive

00083

1 a somewhat similar reply from the Board.

2

3 So Madame Chair, that's the summary of  
4 extra-territorial jurisdiction.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess not. We'll  
11 just go to Regional Council composition.

12

13 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Madame Chair, this  
14 is an item that we can address rather quickly. If you'd  
15 turn to Page 29, this is an issue we just discussed  
16 briefly regarding the 2002 annual report. The Board is  
17 aware of the Council's request to expand the size of this  
18 Council from 10 to 13, and what the Board has indicated  
19 in the response here on Page 29 to issue number 4, is  
20 that changing the Council's size can be and will be  
21 considered during the next review cycle for charters  
22 which will be next year in 2004.

23

24 So at that time we'll be coming to you  
25 and all the Councils around the state with charter  
26 renewal, and one of the items in the charter that can be  
27 recommended for change is the size of the Council. So  
28 2004, this issue will be before you via the charter  
29 renewal process.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do you want to finish  
32 up where your name is and then we can bring Sandy after  
33 you? It says Sandy, Glenn or Tim, which one of you is  
34 going to do the Staff Committee role?

35

36 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, Sandy  
37 Rabinowitch will address Item C and D.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: And I'll address Item E.  
42 If you'd like me to do Item E right now I can take care  
43 of that.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It seems like it would  
46 make sense to have you -- instead of having to keep  
47 changing chairs.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: I'd be happy to do that,  
50 Madame Chair. If you'd turn to Page 261 in your book.

00084

1 This is an informational item. There's no action  
2 requested or required by the Council today.

3

4                   There's a written briefing here before  
5 you where I'll summarize real quickly the outcome.  
6 Internally Staff looked at a number of issues and items,  
7 ways to further streamline the regulatory process in  
8 other issues, how improvements could be made,  
9 recommendations that came out of it are summarized there  
10 at the bottom and these recommendations were accepted by  
11 the Federal Subsistence Board. Some of them directly  
12 affect the Council, some of them you'll probably not  
13 really be aware of.

14

15                   We will extend the fall Regional Council  
16 meeting window next year later into October because we  
17 heard from some Councils that the meeting window was too  
18 narrow, too short. It impacted, conflicted with moose  
19 hunting in some regions and they wanted additional  
20 timeframe. So we intend to address that next fall by  
21 extending the fall meeting window.

22

23                   The schedule for the Federal Subsistence  
24 Board meetings will be a little bit earlier in May and  
25 then also the December meeting will be moved to mid-  
26 January. That's to address a number of issues. For the  
27 Council, you really won't see any direct impact except  
28 for your Chair who attends those meetings.

29

30                   The third item, I hope you saw a  
31 difference this fall for this meeting, to provide more  
32 time for mailout of the Council books. I hope you  
33 received your books well in advance because we mailed  
34 them out three weeks or so ago. And we know the mail is  
35 slow to rural Alaska and we kept running into issues of  
36 the mail not getting there quickly enough and people  
37 coming to the meetings without their books or had just  
38 received their books. So if you could give me some  
39 feedback now or later on about how that went we really  
40 made an extra effort to get the books out earlier and  
41 we'll continue to do that.

42

43                   The next one is make the regulations more  
44 user friendly and readable and understandable. We are  
45 undergoing, we have a committee of folks that are looking  
46 at the regulations and trying really to streamline the  
47 regulations and I hope over time this will be an ongoing  
48 process, that you will in deed see the regulations will  
49 be a little more readable and direct, to the point.

50

00085

1                   Also the next item is more geared toward  
2 making it easier for us to meet some deadlines. It will  
3 have little effect in the field where we'll shift the  
4 effective date for the fish regulations one month.

5  
6                   And then the next item is for those of  
7 you that have internet access or personal computer  
8 access, we intend to make Regional Council and Board  
9 books available on-line or by compact disk. For some  
10 people, they prefer that so they don't have to lug around  
11 big books, but for those of you who don't have internet,  
12 don't have access, we'll continue to publish the books  
13 and you'll have those available as well. And then we  
14 committed to reexamine this process, really it's ongoing,  
15 but at least every three years.

16  
17                   So that concludes the briefing there,  
18 Madame Chair, and if you have any questions I'll be happy  
19 to address them.

20  
21                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, you wanted input  
22 on the mailout of the fall Council books. You got them  
23 here in time and we were able to -- at least I was able  
24 to review them and it was nice to do that and not at the  
25 last minute, so I appreciate them being mailed out early.

26  
27                   MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Sandy, your turn.

28  
29                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Sandy.

30  
31                   MR. RABINOWITCH: If I can direct you to  
32 Tab G, as in George. And I'll just repeat that I'm Sandy  
33 Rabinowitch. I work for the National Park Service. And  
34 you occasionally hear Staff Committee referred to, I'm  
35 just going to quickly explain what the Staff Committee  
36 is.

37  
38                   Each of the six Federal Board members has  
39 one or two Staff Committee people that work for them, and  
40 that's what I am. I work for Judy Gottlieb, who's the  
41 Park Service Federal Board member. And our role is to  
42 essentially advise our Board members on all the issues  
43 and matters that are before you and the whole program.

44  
45                   So the first item that I have for you,  
46 it's at the beginning of Tab G on Page 233, and there's a  
47 lot of material here and I'm going to summarize this  
48 down. You know, if I went through all of it I could  
49 probably talk for an hour and I think that's the last  
50 thing in the world you want me to do. So I'll try to

00086

1 keep it short and to the point. But I'm happy to take  
2 questions, please interrupt me if you have questions as I  
3 go along.

4

5           So the first item is a draft policy that  
6 the Federal Board is taking out to all the Councils. The  
7 Federal Board really doesn't have a lot of policies so  
8 you haven't seen very many of these over the years. But  
9 here we have one and the subject is predator management.

10

11           As I'm sure probably everybody in the  
12 room is aware, predator management, predator control is a  
13 controversial topic in a lot of parts of the state. And  
14 the Federal Board has, over the years, had a number of  
15 proposals brought to it from different regions that get  
16 into the subject and the Federal Board's had a hard time  
17 with those, it's wrestled with them. And so that's the  
18 reason that a couple of years ago now the Federal Board  
19 asked the Staff and the Office of Subsistence Management  
20 to do some homework, do some research and craft a draft  
21 policy, and this is the culmination of that. What this  
22 first page tells you is a little bit of the history.

23

24           In 2002 the Federal Board had a work  
25 session on this subject. The Board sent the Staff back  
26 to do some more work, answer more questions, and in  
27 August of 2003, just recently, the Board approved the  
28 draft policy that I'll take you to here in a moment.

29

30           It's important for me to tell you that  
31 the Board intends to adopt a policy. They're very clear,  
32 I think, on their thinking. They want to adopt a policy  
33 and this is their draft version of it. So they've given  
34 themselves pretty good direction, they've thought about  
35 this a lot. And the goal of the Board ultimately is to  
36 provide clarification for everybody about what the Board  
37 will and won't do on that subject.

38

39           So with that, let me flip the page to  
40 235, and I'm going to just highlight Page 235, a few  
41 points on 235 and 236. And I'll just tell you what  
42 paragraph I'm working from. I'll start with the second  
43 paragraph, actually at the end of the second paragraph  
44 and there were two questions that the Board asked the  
45 Staff to focus on. And if you can find them at the  
46 bottom of the paragraph, numbers 1 and 2, first one was,  
47 is it necessary to distinguish between the types of  
48 requests and, two, should the Federal Subsistence Board  
49 take action to control predator species for the  
50 beneficial harvest of another desired species.

00087

1                   Let me tell you what this draft policy,  
2 how it's answered those questions.

3  
4                   The first one, is it necessary to  
5 distinguish between two types of requests, the policy  
6 basically decided, yes, it is necessary. And on the  
7 second one, should the Board take action to control one  
8 species for the benefit of another species, the policy  
9 basically says no. Okay, that they shouldn't do that.

10  
11                   And I'll walk you through the policy in a  
12 moment. But those were the two key questions and those  
13 were sort of the place that the Board has gotten so far.  
14 Flipping the page to 236, again, a couple items in the  
15 second paragraph. The Board went back to a document,  
16 environmental impact statement that was done in 1992,  
17 there's several thick volumes, brown covered volumes that  
18 are probably three inches thick when you pile them all  
19 together that were written in 1992 about the beginning of  
20 this program, when this program first came into place.  
21 And what we found is that those documents addressed this  
22 topic of predator control head-on. It was anticipated  
23 and it was addressed head-on. And what the documents  
24 basically say is that predator control and actually  
25 habitat management, the two were lumped together, are the  
26 responsibility of the individual agencies of the Board.  
27 So the agency I work for, the Park Service, means we're  
28 responsible on Park Service land, BLM's responsible on  
29 BLM land, et cetera. But that the Federal Board, itself,  
30 doesn't have the responsibility in terms of habitat  
31 management.

32  
33                   And the analysis that the Staff did that  
34 I've already referred to and that's in your book here,  
35 basically thinks that that still holds true, nothing's  
36 changed as far as anyone on the Staff or for that matter,  
37 Staff Committee can see.

38  
39                   So then if I go to Page 237 on this one  
40 page, on Page 237 you have the draft policy. So, you  
41 know, when you want to know what's the bottom line, Page  
42 237 is it. And I'll just briefly explain that and then  
43 I'm just about done on this topic. Page 237, first  
44 paragraph really is just an introduction, the second  
45 paragraph gives you some of the legal authorities, where  
46 this draft position comes from and then at the bottom of  
47 the page, labeled A and B, those are really the policy.  
48 And let me just read a couple pieces of those.

49  
50                   Under Item A, it says that the Board will

00088

1 consider all Federal proposals to regulate seasons and  
2 dates, methods and means, harvest limits, customary and  
3 traditional use determinations for subsistence take of  
4 fish and wildlife. And the Board will ensure that the  
5 primary effect of its decisions is to provide for  
6 subsistence take and use of the species. And that's what  
7 you all are quite familiar with and used to, you know,  
8 various proposals for wildlife, furbearers, fish, et  
9 cetera. So in that regard, there's really no change,  
10 there's really no change on that part.

11

12                   The second part, Item B, is that the  
13 Board will direct the Office of Subsistence Management to  
14 return proposals to the proponents of all Federal  
15 proposals that specifically indicate that the reason for  
16 their proposal is to reduce a predator population to  
17 benefit a prey population. And probably the easiest  
18 example would be that if -- I'll pick on Elmer because  
19 he's sitting closest to me, but if Elmer put in a  
20 proposal say I want to increase the wolf hunting limit  
21 to, I don't know, a hundred a year, I'm just making  
22 numbers up, just making a big number up, you know, I want  
23 to increase it to a hundred a year and the reason I want  
24 to do it is because the wolves are taking too many of the  
25 moose and what I really want is I want to have more  
26 moose, and Elmer thinks the way to do that is to take  
27 more wolves. That's an example of what -- and if Elmer  
28 wrote, you know, all that down, that's his reasoning, you  
29 know, that's the kind of proposal the Board would send  
30 back and say we don't deal with proposals like that.  
31 Contrastingly, if Elmer said I'd like to up the bag limit  
32 five more wolves a year or 10 more wolves a year, you  
33 know, some small number, we have a lot of them, price of  
34 pelts is going up, the Board would deal with that as it  
35 has in the past.

36

37                   So I make that example up just to try to  
38 illustrate. I think I'll stop right there and ask if  
39 I've confused anybody or if there's any questions. As I  
40 said the Board's interested in your comments on this.  
41 there are 16 more pages, if you flip one more page to  
42 239, there's 16 pages here of an analysis of this. My  
43 sense is that you don't want me to go through all these  
44 16 pages and so I won't do that unless you specifically  
45 want me to. These 16 pages are the written material that  
46 led the Board to that conclusion. And so there may be  
47 information in there that -- well, that you could either  
48 add to, there may be information that's mistaken, maybe  
49 there's something missing, there's sort of a lot of  
50 possibilities. The Board is interested in any and all



00089

1 input you've got. And the Board recognizes that some  
2 Councils, you know, are going to have concerns about this  
3 policy. In some regions of the state I think there's an  
4 interest for more effort into predator control.

5  
6 I think I'll stop there.

7  
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions or  
9 comments on this?

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess not. I could  
14 see why it came about, because I've been at enough  
15 Federal Subsistence Board meetings when this issue  
16 because a day and a half when one proposals ends up being  
17 two or three days maybe sometimes.

18  
19 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. If you do have  
20 questions during the rest of the day or whatever, I'll be  
21 here and certainly feel free to ask me at a break or if  
22 you have any comments.

23  
24 I'll move on then to the second item so  
25 I'm still in Tab G and I'm now on Page 257, so I'll give  
26 you a moment to get to 257.

27  
28 This is a very different topic. And what  
29 I'm going to do again is just highlight some things on  
30 the next three pages here. The Board is interested in if  
31 you have any comments about this or -- well, any kind of  
32 concerns, any kind of comments and that's, of course, up  
33 to the Council. So here the subject is concerns about  
34 the role of the Staff Committee, that's, again, the group  
35 that I'm part of. And some Council chairs have expressed  
36 concerns to the Board, particularly at the last Board  
37 meeting, about things that they are uncomfortable about,  
38 don't like, that the perceived that the Staff Committee  
39 is the problem or part of the problem, if you will.

40  
41 And so there was a discussion, somewhat  
42 lengthy discussion at the May Federal Board meeting on  
43 this subject and I think it was acknowledged that some  
44 Council Chairs perceive that the Staff Committee is  
45 having too much influence on the Board. And as a result  
46 in the decision-making process and as a result of that,  
47 how the, you know, the outcome of proposals. So the  
48 Chairman, Mitch Demientieff, asked the Staff, and keep in  
49 mind the Staff and the Staff Committee are not, you know,  
50 always the same, I mean are not the same, asked the Staff

00090

1 Committee to review this, to think about it and see if it  
2 had any suggestions. So Staff Committee did what the  
3 Chairman asked and that's what this paper is about.

4

5           The Board will take up this subject at  
6 its December meeting, so just in a couple of months here.  
7 And what they'll do, I'm not sure, but what I'm going to  
8 do is quickly walk you through proposals that they'll  
9 have in front of them. And bear with me if I kind of  
10 walk through these, there's number of them, but I'll try  
11 to do it quickly.

12

13           The first two, I think I can summarize  
14 number 1 and number 2 are a suggestion that the Staff  
15 Committee actually engage more with the Regional Council.  
16 So a good example of that is me sitting here interacting  
17 with you on some of these subjects and giving you all an  
18 opportunity to ask somebody from the Staff Committee  
19 questions if you like. I think some of this has been  
20 done, there's 10 or 11 or 12 Staff Committee members, I  
21 have to actually look at a list to count up, I happen to  
22 be the only one here today, often times there'll be more  
23 than one of us that are here. And so these first two  
24 suggestions are some specific ways that the Staff  
25 Committee can increase its engagement with Councils.

26

27           The third item, I'm turning the page now  
28 to 258, the third suggestion comes from the way that  
29 regulatory proposals actually get back to you. And  
30 everybody may not understand it but the proposal analyses  
31 are done in the Office of Subsistence Management, they're  
32 reviewed by the leadership of that office, people like  
33 Tim Jennings, for example, is part of that leadership and  
34 part of that review, and then the Staff Committee that I  
35 sit on also reviews those proposals. And I think a lot  
36 of people maybe don't understand that. So the suggestion  
37 in number 3 is that if the Staff Committee has concerns  
38 on proposals, that it will write those down and bring  
39 them to you, for example, at your winter meeting about  
40 wildlife proposals. So the idea is to try to communicate  
41 sooner about any kinds of concerns that might exist.

42

43           The fourth one is that the -- well,  
44 actually this is real, exactly what I'm doing, that the  
45 Staff Committee representatives will conduct briefings to  
46 the Council and seek Council comments. So what I just  
47 did about predator control is an example of that.

48

49           Some of these things, I don't think are  
50 completely new, but they're trying to indicate doing more

00091

1 of it or increase emphasis.

2

3

4                   The fifth item is that the Board itself  
5 modify its meeting procedures. And of course if you  
6 haven't been to a Board meeting this one might be a  
7 little hard to understand. But the Board operates, it  
8 sort of has a routine of how it does its business just  
9 like you all do. And so this suggestion is that those  
10 procedures be modified to focus more and try to increase  
11 interaction between the Council Chairs, like Grace, who  
12 are there representing you and the Board itself. Look  
13 for ways to increase that communication. And the Board  
14 has already been talking about how it specifically might  
15 do that and change how it operates and increase that  
16 communication.

16

17

18                   And bear with me for a second here. Then  
19 on 5(A) because there's an A and a B here. Another one  
20 of the items, again, as Grace is familiar, at those  
21 Federal Board meetings, all the different positions about  
22 proposals are presented. The proponent's proposal is  
23 presented, the Staff view is presented, the Staff  
24 Committee is represented, the Fish and Game is  
25 represented and really any other organization or anybody  
26 that wants to testify. What's being proposed in 5A is  
27 that the Staff Committee recommendation would no longer  
28 be formally presented to the Board, but it wouldn't be  
29 formally presented.

29

30

31                   And then 5B is that, again, a process  
32 suggestion where the Board would begin its deliberations  
33 on a proposal, when they're discussing the merits, you  
34 know, whether they're going to support something or  
35 reject something, that they would begin by having a  
36 motion that was based on the Regional Council's  
37 recommendation. So for example, if you had a proposal  
38 today and you all, say, voted in favor of what that  
39 proposal was, that the Board will use that as a starting  
40 point, starting motion, they'll take your recommendation  
41 as opposed to the Staff Committee's or the proponents or  
42 Fish and Game whoever else's. So it's just kind of a way  
43 to -- again, it's a process thing and it's a way to focus  
44 attention on the recommendations from Councils, like  
45 yours.

45

46

47                   On the next page is a summary table, I'm  
48 not going to go through that, it's an attempt to  
49 summarize everything that I've just walked you through,  
50 and for the most part is repeats. And so that brings to  
an end what I think I need to tell you about this. I

00092

1 hope I haven't gone on too long. If you have specific  
2 things that you like and want to encourage, you know,  
3 about these suggestions, it would be great to hear it.  
4 If you have things that you don't like it'd be great to  
5 hear that, too. And if you have any other kind of  
6 comment we'd be happy to have them. And, again, this  
7 will come up in front of the Board at its December  
8 meeting.

9

10 So it's up to you if you want to jump in.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: When I was at the  
13 meeting, one of the main -- well, the main concern that I  
14 heard from the other regions is that sometimes a proposal  
15 is submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board, by the  
16 time the Staff Committee is done with it and it goes back  
17 to the Board it doesn't resemble the original proposal,  
18 and actually in some instances, I guess it's changed the  
19 purpose of the proposal by the time it gets to the Board.  
20 So consequently the Board doesn't get the -- I guess a  
21 good example is I write a proposal and by the time the  
22 Staff Committee went through it and would present it to  
23 the Board, I would look at the proposal and say, wait a  
24 minute, that's not what I meant, but it's still discussed  
25 and then it goes back to the board that originally  
26 written it and it changes back to where it was, so there  
27 is a lot of, I guess, creates a redundancy and there was  
28 some complaints and concerns about how things changed  
29 from the local level by the time it was presented to the  
30 Board.

31

32 I could see some of it then, but I think  
33 it's good that they're returning, they're going back to  
34 where the original proposal is and everybody can put in  
35 their versions of the proposals and the way that they  
36 understand it should go, but the original proposal, from  
37 either a community, individual or the RAC can remain the  
38 same so the Federal Board can look at it and say, okay,  
39 this is what they want, there may be interpretations of  
40 it and variations, but I believe the original intent is  
41 there. Sometimes original intents may not necessarily  
42 comply with certain things but they can be changed then.

43

44 I think it opens more communication, not  
45 just from the Regional Advisory Councils, but from the  
46 different people in communities in rural Alaska. I'm  
47 glad this is coming into being.

48

49 Is that it?

50

00093

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's it.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions for  
4 Sandy.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nope. Thanks, Sandy.  
9 you guys want to take a break? It looks like over there  
10 wants to take a break before he snores.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We'll take a five to  
15 10 minute break.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm calling the  
22 meeting back to order, it is now almost 3:45 and we're  
23 going to move along to BLM, Jeff Denton.

24

25 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 Council members. My name is Jeff Denton, I work with the  
27 Anchorage Field Office, BLM. And I will cover the  
28 Anchorage Field Office part of this and then I'll defer  
29 Mr. Sparks to cover the Northern Field Office  
30 considerations for BLM.

31

32 So the Unalakleet situation's been  
33 brought up several times. There's a lot of activity  
34 there. Actually through the actions of this Board,  
35 you've got our attention, we're meeting with the  
36 Unalakleet folks on a quarterly basis to identify issues,  
37 possible projects, partnerships to try to get a good  
38 long-term working relationship there. We're also looking  
39 at a coho distribution study in the Unalakleet with  
40 radio'd fish with Fish and Game to try to assess some of  
41 these fish stocks.

42

43 And the moose work we've covered for  
44 22(A) through a whole bunch of different things, I don't  
45 think I need to go into that, we are working with Fish  
46 and Game to keep track of that regulation changes, the  
47 monitoring, the flight work and we're cooperating with  
48 Fish and Game, actually participating in those surveys.

49

50 We still are, we're in the eighth year of

00094

1 the stream gage work on the Unalakleet with USGS for in-  
2 stream flow for protection of spawning habitat in the  
3 Unalakleet River. In 10 years, I think what we have, is  
4 the minimum time, we have to do that work before we can  
5 apply for those in-stream flows, so two years to three  
6 years to go and maybe we'll be there.

7

8 We've mentioned the Golsovia off road  
9 vehicle damage there, we've been well aware of that for  
10 some time. We now have a hydrologist on board who will  
11 help us evaluate that. We're going to try to get some  
12 work and evaluate that and get back to you when we can  
13 get that organized. Part of the problem there is that is  
14 State selected land and it may or may not stay in BLM  
15 management for a long time so the investment of a large  
16 amount of money in terms of restoration, you know, we may  
17 be a little reluctant until we know the status of that  
18 land in the long run because to pour a lot of money into  
19 it and then have it go to the State, may not be a prudent  
20 investment of our dollars. But we'll certainly look into  
21 it and see, you know, see what we need to potentially do  
22 there, and we'll get back to you on that.

23

24 I'll just leave it at that and make it  
25 quick. Do you have any questions or concerns, other  
26 concerns in that region?

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. DENTON: All right, I'll defer to Mr.  
33 Sparks to cover the Northern Field Office end of the  
34 world here.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thanks.

37

38 MR. DENTON: Thanks.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And thanks for all the  
41 work. Austin.

42

43 MR. AUMOSTK: I have a question for this  
44 gentleman.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

47

48 MR. AUMOSTK: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
49 Regarding the in-stream flow work on the wild and scenic  
50 river, are there plans for in-stream flow reservations in

00095

1 that river with the work you're doing or have you already  
2 done that or is that part of the project?

3

4 MR. DENTON: Yeah. The process that's  
5 identified by the State is you have to have stream gage  
6 data for a 10 year period before you can apply, we're  
7 getting through that 10 year period and the intent then  
8 is to get an in-stream flow reservation for the --  
9 basically a conservation of spawning fisheries-type  
10 concerns there.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

15

16 MR. SPARKS: Well, I'll make my report  
17 even briefer. On Page 263 there's a written report, it's  
18 by Jeannie Cole and Dave Parker. Jeannie's the wildlife  
19 biologist and Dave Parker is the fisheries biologist for  
20 the Northern Field Office. There's a magic line at  
21 Unalakleet and the Northern Field Office is north of  
22 there and the Anchorage office is south of there, I just  
23 started with BLM so I don't know the history about that  
24 line, but I know there is discussions about perhaps  
25 changing that line in the future.

26

27 I just wanted to let you know that the  
28 Nome office is now open. It's been vacant for quite some  
29 time. My number is 443-2177. We're in the phone book.  
30 There's no toll free number currently. All the BLM folks  
31 are on-line, if you want to send an e-mail, it's first  
32 name, underscore, last name, at ak.blm.gov. I just want  
33 to let you know my primary duties here in Nome are to  
34 administer the special recreation permits that BLM  
35 administers on Federal lands, and that's generally the  
36 hunting guides. There are currently 15 that are issued  
37 in the northern region. That's my primary  
38 responsibility. I'll also be helping with the various  
39 land issues and as well as trying to assist Jeannie Cole  
40 and Dave Parker.

41

42 One other thing I think that's very  
43 exciting is what's been happening with Salmon Lake and  
44 Glacial Lake. You know we saw a great increase in the  
45 red salmon last year and so we're hoping that that trend  
46 continues. If there's some issues that I can help the  
47 Board out with or if you have some specific concerns, I'd  
48 like to hear from you and see how BLM may be able to  
49 help.

50

00096

1 I'll just leave it at that. Thank you  
2 very much.

3  
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Tom. Now,  
5 we'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kate  
6 Persons.

7  
8 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
9 Council. We've covered Unit 22(A) moose. I don't really  
10 have anything in particular to say about muskox, Ken will  
11 brief you a little bit on the cooperator's meeting. And  
12 Tony Gorn, my assistant, has prepared a handout for you  
13 on our latest population and harvest data and he'll just  
14 give you a very brief summary of that report.

15  
16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Tony.

17  
18 MR. GORN: Thanks, Kate. Thank you,  
19 Madame Chair and Council members. I'll just briefly  
20 cover some Unit 22 activities from the 2002 regulatory  
21 year and the beginning of the 2003 year.

22  
23 Our harvest data indicates brown bear  
24 harvest has decreased about 25 percent over the last two  
25 years. Fewer independent bears in the field and poor  
26 spring hunting conditions have contributed to the  
27 decrease in harvest. With that, cub production still  
28 appears to be high and the bear population appears to be  
29 healthy in Unit 22.

30  
31 As we speak, caribou are moving south  
32 through the eastern section of the Selawik Refuge.  
33 They're about two to three weeks behind what we're  
34 considering a normal migration pattern over the past few  
35 years. Most notably this year they're further east than  
36 what we've seen in the past several years so that's  
37 pretty interesting.

38  
39 We completed a census this past July at  
40 Eagle Creek on the Western Arctic Herd. Last year's  
41 census was cancelled due to weather and we expect results  
42 this next spring or summer.

43  
44 The last thing I'll mention as far as the  
45 Western Arctic Herd's concerned, is that calf production  
46 is still high. The herd still appears to be healthy.  
47 Last June during calving surveys we came up with 78  
48 calves per 100 cows, so business as usual for the Western  
49 Arctic Herd.

50



00097

1                   As Kate discussed earlier, moose numbers  
2 in Unit 22(A) are low. Our March census produced an  
3 estimate of 75 moose in the Unalakleet River drainage and  
4 similar surveys completed in Unit 22(A) during that time  
5 also resulted in low numbers. I should take a quick  
6 moment and just thank BLM, particularly, Jeff Denton, for  
7 his effort in the Unit 22(A) moose projects last year.  
8 Recruitment rates in western Unit 22(B) are still about  
9 nine percent, which is what we've seen in that part of  
10 Unit 22(B) for, you know, 10 years. Nine percent is too  
11 low to support the areas moose population. The  
12 registration hunt in that area ended a week ago and  
13 hunters -- or wait, actually in western 22(B), that hunt  
14 just ended this week, and hunters harvested 35 of 42  
15 moose. so there'll be a winter hunt in that area this  
16 December.

17

18                   MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh -- no, January.

19

20                   MR. GORN: January, with a harvest quota  
21 of approximately 10 moose.

22

23                   Moose production in Unit 22(C) continues  
24 to be high. Composition surveys completed last fall  
25 resulted in 26 percent calves. Moose recruitment in Unit  
26 22(D) is improving and composition surveys completed last  
27 March resulted in 20 percent calves and that includes 16  
28 percent calves in the Kuzitrin drainage which is an  
29 improvement. That hunt in Unit 22(D) ended September  
30 14th and hunters harvested 37 bulls from the registration  
31 hunt area.

32

33                   Lastly, for moose, moose numbers also  
34 appear to be improving in Unit 22(E). We completed a  
35 census in 22(E) last March and came up with a recruitment  
36 rate of 20 percent.

37

38                   And I should mention that there's more  
39 details for all these surveys and censuses in your  
40 packets so more information can be found there.

41

42                   The last thing I'll discuss is muskox  
43 data, just briefly. Last April we completed a muskox  
44 census on the Peninsula and that resulted in an estimate  
45 of 2,050 which is a seven percent annual increase from  
46 the 2000 estimate. It's worth mentioning that the seven  
47 percent increase deviates from what we've seen  
48 historically in that population where historically we've  
49 seen a 14 percent annual growth rate in the muskox  
50 population. Tier II hunters had a 64 percent success

00098

1 rate in 2002, 73 hunters were successful. And about 60  
2 percent, four of our seven drawing hunt hunters were  
3 successful in the first year of the Unit 22(E) drawing  
4 hunt.

5

6 So that concludes our Unit 22 report.

7

8 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

11

12 MR. KOBUK: In our area the hunters this  
13 fall, they say they seen a lot more moose this year and a  
14 lot of female and a lot of calves, and they seem to be  
15 doing pretty good on the hunting. So the hunters are  
16 saying that they're seeing more moose than they generally  
17 would see in the previous years in our area. So that was  
18 good news to hear from them.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: Concerning the Western  
25 Arctic Caribou Herd, you mentioned that they were kind of  
26 east of Selawik area. From what I heard locally from  
27 different sources, that there were numbers of about  
28 45,000 caribou toward the Taylor and Serpentine Hot  
29 Springs, and then you keep track of the caribou by their  
30 collars, any -- can that be backed up, that there were  
31 that many around that area that weren't shown by collars?

32

33 MR. GORN: Well, this summer we estimated  
34 probably about 2,000 caribou around the Serpentine area  
35 -- 45,000 I think is too high of an estimate for what we  
36 saw in that area this summer, as far as summering caribou  
37 on the Seward Peninsula.

38

39 We deployed, let's see, 13 collars two  
40 weeks ago at Onion Portage, so those are the new  
41 additions to the Western Arctic Herd collaring project.  
42 And it is worth mentioning that most of the Western  
43 Arctic Herd is still north around the Kobuk River, it's  
44 just those very first animals that have gone past the  
45 Selawik Refuge are still east but it's still pretty early  
46 to see what they're going to do as far as where they're  
47 going to go and winter.

48

49 MR. SEETOT: But there's a possibility  
50 that some of the caribou do not migrate with the main

00099

1 migration towards the Brooks Range during the spring,  
2 they might be a mixture of reindeer and caribou.

3

4 MR. GORN: Well, it's -- I think it's  
5 well known that there's caribou that do summer around the  
6 Seward Peninsula. This fall we attempted to actually  
7 collar summering caribou that remained on the Seward  
8 Peninsula, but due to weather and then the lack of  
9 availability of a helicopter during the window that we  
10 could do this, that got -- that project got cancelled.  
11 So anyway, I mean there are -- there are definitely  
12 caribou that summer on the Seward Peninsula and I think  
13 that probably began in the late '90s after they made that  
14 first initial push westward in the mid-90s.

15

16 MR. SEETOT: Concerning muskoxen, you  
17 mentioned that there was slow growth also. What about  
18 out-migration from subunit 22(D), you know, after you  
19 count so many and then all of a sudden there's a drop,  
20 would that be attributed to out-migration from subunit  
21 22(D) because 22(C) has really grown in the number  
22 compared to about 10 years ago. And then they're saying  
23 that 23(C), southwest, is seeing a migration of muskox  
24 from that area, you know, to other places. And for 22(D)  
25 to see a significant drop in the population, would you  
26 kind of think that some do migrate outside, you know,  
27 after a high count and then all of a sudden you get a low  
28 count?

29

30 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, Elmer, yesterday I  
31 was trying to explain, you know, exactly what you said,  
32 but, yeah, we think that in 22(D), there actually hasn't  
33 been a decline, there's just been a leveling off. The  
34 population has been stable for about four years. And  
35 that's exactly what we think is happening, that there are  
36 still muskox being produced but that they're leaving.  
37 For some reason they're not staying in 22(D), they're  
38 leaving and going particularly to C and to E, because  
39 those areas have had a tremendous increase in growth, it  
40 can't be explained just by reproduction.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: One of the things you can  
43 probably look at is probably human pressure on the  
44 population itself. I think they would kind of be mostly  
45 pressured, you know, during the wintertime because you  
46 can pretty much ride over anything as compared to the  
47 summer -- spring to summer months with four-wheelers, you  
48 know, it's tough terrain but with a snowmachine you can  
49 get pretty close to the animals themselves, you know, in  
50 order to -- or you know, there's a possibility that

00100

1 they're being pressured into other areas by people that  
2 just don't like muskox, period.

3

4 MS. PERSONS: You know, it certainly is  
5 possible that human pressure is causing displacement or  
6 movement of muskox, contributing to their movements for  
7 sure. Yep, good point. Muskox recruitment is actually  
8 really high everywhere -- in 2002 when we did our last  
9 work, the recruitment was high everywhere except in 23  
10 southwest in the Buckland and Deering area. And there,  
11 for some reason they weren't nearly as many of the  
12 yearlings as in other areas but it was consistent and  
13 very high everywhere else.

14

15 MR. SEETOT: Thanks.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more comments or  
18 questions for Kate, or Alaska Department of Fish and  
19 Game.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Hearing none, thanks.

24

25 MS. PERSONS: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Alaska Department of  
28 Fish and Game Fisheries, Jim Menard, the bearer of bad  
29 news.

30

31 MR. MENARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
32 Members of the Board. I'm Jim Menard, I'm the area  
33 management biologist for the Norton Sound and Kotzebue  
34 areas. And I think many of you have already seen the bad  
35 news this summer and I know you're on the e-mail list, I  
36 do put out a weekly update and if you want to look at  
37 those updates you can always go to the State of Alaska  
38 home page, it's on the web posted there, but it comes out  
39 about once a week and you can follow the season, how it  
40 went there.

41

42 Usually I get in the Fish and Game  
43 projects, BLM, Kawerak, Fish and Wildlife, there's the  
44 Native Village of Unalakleet, all the information that  
45 comes in, people call the office. We do have a toll free  
46 number and make their comments. And once a week I do try  
47 to update what the fishery is looking like.

48

49 As you saw this year coming in we did  
50 except a poor return coming off the 1999 age class, which

00101

1 was very poor. That was the last year we closed Tier II  
2 fishing in the Nome Subdistrict. And we encourage those  
3 Tier II permit holders to get out and fish early as it  
4 may close mid-season. It came in bad, probably worse  
5 than we thought. Both the chinook run down to the south,  
6 we did expect that to be poor. That did prove true down  
7 in Unalakleet and Shaktoolik. Once again we did not have  
8 commercial fishing down there for the chinook and chum  
9 season. And this year we actually instituted subsistence  
10 closures in the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik River  
11 drainages.

12

13           Then Eek was the one exception, we did  
14 have a very good pink run. Unfortunately for commercial  
15 fishermen there is not a market interest at this time for  
16 pink salmon. So it came around to coho season and the  
17 1999 coho run was very poor and coho's turning as a four  
18 year old fish 2003, the run came in very poor to the  
19 north. But down to Shaktoolik, Unalakleet it came in  
20 okay, our escapements there and commercial fishing was  
21 allowed during the normal schedule of 48 hours a week  
22 there, two 48-hour periods. But up to the north, once  
23 you got past Elim, there was some real problems with the  
24 coho run. This was the lowest we'd seen on the Ukluuk and  
25 then a number of rivers in the Nome Subdistrict and so  
26 there were subsistence closures.

27

28           Fishery monitoring projects, the ones you  
29 see listed in that weekly update, and I think the most  
30 successful one was probably the Kawerak floating weir.  
31 That project that went in, if you build it they will  
32 come, and that was a record sockeye salmon run.

33

34           So what we're looking at in the future is  
35 these floating weir projects. It's very helpful -- we  
36 didn't have high water, usually they can withstand where  
37 our other weirs will get knocked out, they can still keep  
38 going or they will sink for a few days and come back up  
39 and count fish. And it's very efficient to sample a fish  
40 and get age composition. So we are looking down to the  
41 south of possible weir projects.

42

43           First we're looking at doing some more  
44 radio-telemetry. The Department had a project on the  
45 Fish River, and this was the second year and that enables  
46 us to see where in the spawnage drainage the fish are  
47 going, you know, where they're spawning in different  
48 tributaries and we would like to team up on some projects  
49 there and then get a feel possibly on the Unalakleet,  
50 Shaktoolik Rivers, where fish are going to be and then

00102

1 look at, you know, if it's feasible to put a floating  
2 weir in. We did some site evaluations on Shaktoolik and  
3 on the Unalakleet River.

4

5 And the other thing we may look at is a  
6 little video monitoring, if we can test it out at Nome  
7 weir and see if it works, then we might use it on some  
8 other nearby rivers and see if that would be cost  
9 effective to do.

10

11 Those are possible projects that the  
12 Department is looking at upcoming.

13

14 And questions.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

19

20 MR. MENARD: Thanks.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Now, we're  
23 moving along to National Park Service, Ken Adkisson.

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, Council  
26 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I don't  
27 have any written comments for you today and I'll make  
28 these oral comments quite brief. I'll limit them  
29 basically to an update on some of the Federal hunts that  
30 were engaged in and then maybe a little bit about the  
31 Muskoxen Cooperator's meeting that we had yesterday  
32 because there's an issue or two there that may still be  
33 of interest to the Council.

34

35 First in relation to the hunts there are  
36 several hunts that we're involved with, muskoxen hunts  
37 throughout the Seward Peninsula. It's largely managed  
38 through the Park Service offices. There are also several  
39 moose hunts that the Park Service shares responsibility  
40 with BLM for permit distribution and harvest monitoring  
41 and so forth.

42

43 First on this years muskoxen, overall the  
44 permit distribution on the six Federally-eligible  
45 villages went fairly well. As usual, we weren't able to  
46 get the permits out until late in July just before the  
47 season opens. The reason that that happens that way is  
48 we hold back issuing the Federal permits until we know  
49 how the State distribution goes. And then we work with  
50 the villages cooperatively to try to make the overall

00103

1 distribution equitable. As an example, Wales got fewer  
2 State permits this year than they did last year compared  
3 to Shishmaref and so we were able to use more of the  
4 Federal permits over on the Wales side to help balance it  
5 out a little bit more appropriately. As I saw everything  
6 went pretty well except that Jake brought one problem to  
7 me in Shishmaref where it seems more than one permit  
8 wound up in one household. We don't know the nature of  
9 that yet. Whether we're talking about one State permit  
10 and one Federal permit or just what but we'll be working  
11 with the folks there and looking into that and then also  
12 working with the community to evaluate the process that  
13 we use and see if we can improve it or if there's a  
14 problem that needs to be solved.

15

16                   So far on the muskoxen hunt, we've had no  
17 reported Federal harvest this year under this years hunt.

18

19                   That's basically it for muskoxen unless  
20 anybody has a question as far as the hunt and the permits  
21 go.

22

23                   On the moose, as you know, we've got  
24 three basic hunts that we're engaged in that involve  
25 Federal permitting. One in the Kuzitrin Pilgrim drainage  
26 area, one in Unit 22(D) southwest and one in Unit 22(D)  
27 remainder and Agiapuk Rivers that you've heard something  
28 about. So far permit distribution has been pretty  
29 limited. And we haven't had any reported Federal  
30 harvest. One hunt that would be maybe of interest to you  
31 is the Kuzitrin Pilgrim area, ADF&G reported to you that  
32 their season closed September 14th and there were 37  
33 moose harvested. You may recall that we share a harvest  
34 quota with them of 33 moose. Their hunt went over a  
35 little bit largely because of heavy hunter activity right  
36 at the closing end of the season and good weather. What  
37 that effectively means is the Federal season closes, too,  
38 because we share the quota. Our season runs to the end  
39 of this month.

40

41                   Basically we have no Federal permits out  
42 for that hunt. BLM in the Nome office are the only place  
43 they're distributing them. I've notified the BLM. And  
44 so rather than go through a formal Federal closure  
45 procedure for it, I've basically just opted to inform  
46 people if they come in inquiring about permits that the  
47 hunt's closed because the allowable harvest quota's been  
48 reached. Had there been permits still out we would have  
49 notified individual hunters and gone through a formal,  
50 you know, radio and media announcement that the season

00104

1 had been closed. The other two hunts that I mentioned  
2 are still open and we've issued several permits for them  
3 but no reported harvest success to date.

4

5 That's it for the Federal hunts out here.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions or comments  
8 to Ken.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. Then I'll quickly  
15 move on to the Muskoxen Cooperator's meeting yesterday.  
16 Kate mentioned some of the biology and I won't go into  
17 that again, except to say that there's some interesting  
18 things going on with the muskoxen population that I think  
19 bear watching. The cooperators were interested in the  
20 number of research areas to explore relating to habitat  
21 predation and other things because clearly the dynamics  
22 are changing out there with the population and we don't  
23 know what all of that means yet and it's way too early to  
24 really say but something's going on. And we need to  
25 keep, you know, tabs on it.

26

27 The other thing worth noting is that both  
28 right now under the State and the Federal cooperative  
29 censusing process, we're being forced to move from a  
30 census every two years to a census every three, so the  
31 next one will be 2005. Is that correct, Kate?

32

33 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

34

35 MR. ADKISSON: So I think with that in  
36 mind, we're going to have information less frequently and  
37 yet some of the biology and some of the things that are  
38 happening out there suggest that we really need  
39 information. So, you know, we're going to have to watch  
40 that, I think. And it would argue that we don't want to  
41 make any really drastic changes within the framework of  
42 muskoxen management.

43

44 Enough probably on the biology. Now, on  
45 the two issues that the cooperator's tried to deal with  
46 yesterday. There were two proposals, one was a State  
47 proposal, that was put forth by an individual named Tim  
48 Smith, and that proposal is going to the State Board of  
49 Game in November and proposes to do two things.

50



00105

1                   One, eliminate the cow hunt and, two,  
2 reduce the harvest levels in some game management areas.  
3 That proposal was basically voted down by the Northern  
4 Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee and when  
5 the cooperators took it up yesterday consensus did  
6 develop to oppose that proposal. And we will take that  
7 message to the Board of Game in November.

8  
9                   The underlying rationale for that is that  
10 there was nothing in the biology or in the existing  
11 harvest patterns, including levels of cow harvest to  
12 suggest a need for those kind of restrictions. So  
13 basically there's no merit to the proposal and we'll take  
14 that message to the Board of Game.

15  
16                   The point I would make about it and what  
17 I mentioned at the cooperators was that those harvest  
18 levels and the cow harvest levels were a product of a lot  
19 of work by the cooperators and were endorsed by the Board  
20 of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board and unless  
21 there was biological reasons or obvious harvest problems  
22 that, you know, we shouldn't mess with them very much.  
23 And it would be a restriction to subsistence uses to cut  
24 back on the cow harvest at this time, and probably an  
25 unwarranted one. So I don't know if you folks want to  
26 take that up and in some way comment to the Board of Game  
27 or endorse the cooperators or whatever or simply watch it  
28 ad be aware but the Fish and Game Advisory Committee has  
29 voted it down. I think the Department of Fish and Game  
30 will basically oppose it and the cooperators will oppose  
31 it so I don't think it will probably go anywhere, but who  
32 knows.

33  
34                   Any questions on that proposal, the State  
35 proposal?

36  
37                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions for Ken.

38  
39                   (No comments)

40  
41                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

42  
43                   MR. ADKISSON: The other one, of course,  
44 is the Tom Sparks' proposal. And that's probably a moot  
45 point at this stage and probably not worth going into  
46 since the proposal's been withdrawn and it will be  
47 resubmitted as a C&T proposal so I won't take up any time  
48 on that unless there's questions that the Council has on  
49 it. Except to say that the cooperators did not reach  
50 consensus on that proposal.

00106

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Now, we'll go under  
6 new business. The first thing is the Federal Subsistence  
7 Board composition and it's just for information only.

8

9 In July Governor Murkowski wrote a letter  
10 to Gale Norton requesting that the Secretary of Interior  
11 appoint a representative from the State of Alaska to  
12 serve as a non-voting member of the Federal Subsistence  
13 Board and there were a number of correspondences that  
14 came with it. There are two letters from Cam Toohey, I  
15 think that's the way to pronounce it to Murkowski and to  
16 Mitch Demientieff. You'll find them in this packet.  
17 There's two oppositions. One from the Alaska Federation  
18 of Natives, Julie Kitka wrote a letter opposing this kind  
19 of appointment and then there's another one from the  
20 Wilderness Society.

21

22 There's been some development since then.  
23 I don't think I have a letter that explains why the  
24 request was made. And if I remember the letter correctly  
25 there was some kind of provision that this could happen.  
26 And if Tim Jennings would come and talk about that for a  
27 very short period of time so you can be informed of  
28 what's going on. I brought this up simply because I  
29 think we should watch and see what goes on. See what the  
30 outcome could be out of it.

31

32 Tim.

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Madame Chair, I'll  
35 provide a little bit of additional information for the  
36 Council and those here at the meeting.

37

38 As you mentioned the Secretary of  
39 Interior did receive a letter from Governor Murkowski  
40 dated July 17th requesting that the Secretary of Interior  
41 appoint a State official as a non-voting member of the  
42 Federal Subsistence Board. Then Governor Murkowski's  
43 letter further requested that the appointee be the  
44 Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or  
45 his or her designee.

46

47 In considering this request we've  
48 reviewed the record of decision for the Federal  
49 Subsistence Management Program, a document that Sandy  
50 referred to earlier in his remarks involving predator

00107

1 management. And in that document there's also discussion  
2 regarding Board membership, Federal Board membership.  
3 And the record decision in 1992 provides for a State  
4 liaison to be appointed to the Federal Subsistence Board  
5 as a non-voting member.

6  
7 This is the first time that the Governor  
8 of the State of Alaska has requested or elected to  
9 nominate for such an appointment since 1992 when this  
10 record of decision was issued.

11  
12 The Secretary of Interior is aware that  
13 this is a matter of considerable sensitivity and may  
14 affect the way the Federal Board conducts its  
15 deliberative process and arriving at regulatory  
16 decisions.

17  
18 The Secretary has requested that the  
19 Federal Board meet as soon as possible to discuss the  
20 Governor's request and in fact the Board will meet  
21 tomorrow, Friday, September 26th to discuss this issue.  
22 And indications are that the Federal Board may want to  
23 hold an additional public meeting to gather more  
24 information before making a recommendation on how to  
25 implement this back to the Secretary of the Interior.

26  
27 That concludes my comments, Madame Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any questions or  
30 comments.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

35  
36 MR. JENNINGS: I guess as a follow up,  
37 the Federal Board or the Office of Subsistence Management  
38 will keep you and other Councils informed of how this  
39 develops and how it's implemented.

40  
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think I wanted to  
42 bring this only as informational purposes, something to  
43 consider in the future and kind of look at and that's  
44 basically it.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All right, Elmer, your

00108

1 Western Arctic Caribou report.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Madame Chair. As  
4 liaison to the Western Arctic Caribou herd or SPRC  
5 liaison to Western Arctic Caribou Herd, I wasn't able to  
6 make the March 25, 26 meeting due to other commitments.  
7 However, the draft management plan that was distributed  
8 to pretty much all the user groups was approved. I'm not  
9 too sure if the local governing bodies, State and Federal  
10 agencies received a copy of the Western Arctic Caribou  
11 Herd management plan.

12

13 But at that working group meeting in Nome  
14 in March, the majority of the user groups did approve of  
15 the management plan and I'm not too sure if any of the  
16 local governing bodies, city and councils, the non-profit  
17 associations, State agencies, Federal government agencies  
18 have received a copy from the Anchorage office.

19

20 Grace.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: That was my report for the  
25 WACH.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer.

28

29 MR. RABINOWITCH: I can add just a little  
30 bit and answer one of Elmer's questions. That plan did  
31 come to all the Federal agencies on the Federal  
32 Subsistence Board and I know for a fact that it was  
33 distributed to each of the Staff Committee members of the  
34 Federal Board because I helped make that happen. John  
35 Trent, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, was very  
36 helpful and very cooperative and if anyone needs copies  
37 he's the key person to reach. It's John Trent in Fish  
38 and Game at Anchorage.

39

40 John and I, at the request of the working  
41 group also got that onto the May agenda, May of this  
42 year, May 2003 agenda of the Federal Board and the  
43 Federal Board supported that plan, and actually when they  
44 were done people even applauded. I mean they were really  
45 just very very pleased with the group and the plan and  
46 all the years and years of effort that people have put  
47 into that. So I believe that John's intention would be  
48 to take that to the Board of Game in its November  
49 meeting. I haven't talked to him since the springtime  
50 about it but I believe that was his intent. So it's

00109

1 gotten through the Federal Board with support and  
2 presumably going to the Board of Game for support this  
3 November.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. And Tim,  
6 are you going to give the update on the decision of  
7 William Johnson and the contact with Stebbins regarding  
8 the Yukon proposals, or whoever contacted them?

9

10 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Madame Chair, I'd  
11 like to ask Jerry to address the Stebbins contact and  
12 Chuck to address his discussions with Midi.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Jerry.

15

16 MR. BERG: Yes, Madame Chair. Members of  
17 the Council. Charlie and I did make a couple of phone  
18 calls to Stebbins and we were able to get a hold of  
19 Morris Coffey who is a subsistence fisherman, or I mean a  
20 commercial fisherman down on the Yukon and actually  
21 Charlie ended up talking to him so I'll let Charlie give  
22 an update on what his comments were on five -- he  
23 commented on five different proposals. He did feel like  
24 he could talk to how the -- you know, how the commercial  
25 fishermen from Stebbins would feel on those proposals.  
26 So then it would be up to the Council if they wanted to  
27 make actual recommendations on those proposals based on  
28 those comments or if not, then I guess I would follow up  
29 with Morris after the meeting and see if he'd like to  
30 submit written comments from the community of Stebbins  
31 separately.

32

33 So anyway, I'll turn it over to Charlie  
34 and he can give you an update on the comments Morris made  
35 on the individual proposals.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie.

38

39 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair. Charlie Lean  
40 with the Park Service. We did attempt to talk to  
41 Stebbins IRA of Morris Nushanik. Morris Nushanik was  
42 traveling on business with the IRA and was unreachable so  
43 we fell back to Morris Coffey who I believe is president  
44 of the Stebbins Native Corporation.

45

46 I've known Morris for a number of years.  
47 He is a commercial fisherman. He's, as I said an officer  
48 with the corporation and he wanted to also say that he's  
49 commercial and subsistence fishing on the Yukon.

50

00110

1                   So the first proposal we spoke about was  
2 No. 8, which you've already heard, but that is to close  
3 the Federal public waters to commercial fishing for six  
4 years there on the Yukon. And I briefly explained that  
5 proposal to him and there was a long silence and then he  
6 emphatically said, no, I will not support that. He  
7 stated that he felt there hadn't been a conservation  
8 problem in the last several years, that the Canadian  
9 commitment had been made. And he cited the fact that  
10 there were better counting technologies than there had  
11 been in the past and therefore management was better and  
12 more responsive. And he said that conservation could be  
13 done if it was necessary and he didn't think a blanket  
14 like this was necessary.

15  
16                   So he felt that he could speak for the  
17 community of Stebbins and commercial fishermen on that  
18 point.

19  
20                   The next proposal we talked about was No.  
21 9, which reduced subsistence fishing in Subdistricts Y1,  
22 2 and 3, these are the lower Yukon subsistence fishing  
23 times and we believe in the past year that they were  
24 restricted to two 36-hour periods per week. This  
25 proposal would reduce the subsistence fishing time to two  
26 18-hour periods per week. When that was explained to  
27 Morris he thought that that was excessive. He said that,  
28 well, maybe some adjustment could be tolerated, maybe two  
29 24-hour periods but certainly not down to two 18-hour  
30 periods. He said that he felt that the proposers were  
31 not considering the fact that, especially in coastal  
32 areas, that tide plays a big role in fish migration and  
33 that, you know, if you reduce the periods to something  
34 less than the full tidal cycle then it could have a  
35 devastating effect to subsistence fishermen. And hence,  
36 I think, his 24-hour fishing period.

37  
38                   The next proposal we spoke on was No. 10.  
39 And this would cap commercial salmon harvest on the Yukon  
40 to prestatehood levels, that's 65,000 chinook per year  
41 and 80,000 chum per year. Morris thought that that  
42 wasn't necessary. He thought the management currently  
43 was sufficient. For instance, in the recent six year  
44 period that those numbers haven't been met anyway so this  
45 would only come into play on better years when there  
46 seemed to be an abundance of salmon. So he thought this  
47 was not necessary.

48  
49                   Proposal 11, basically would allow  
50 subsistence fishing throughout the day with no timing

00111

1 restrictions. Currently, I'm not clear on what the time  
2 is but you can't fish 12 hours in front of the commercial  
3 opening, during the commercial opening or some time after  
4 the commercial opening if you're subsistence fishing.  
5 And this proposal would remove those clauses so it would  
6 be basically open. Morris thought that the current  
7 system of having these closures was good and effective.  
8 He said that the fish did need time to move.

9

10                   And No. 12, you've already dealt with, it  
11 was removing the restrictions on the colors of buoys to  
12 be used by subsistence fishers, and initially he thought  
13 that was -- he kind of liked the restriction. He thought  
14 enforcement would -- that there'd be less confusion, who  
15 was subsistence and who was commercial. I informed him  
16 that the State didn't require that anymore and that you,  
17 as a body, had thought that it was okay to not have that  
18 and he said, well, I guess. He wasn't -- his opinion  
19 wasn't strong, I guess, is the best way to say that.

20

21                   And we also did mention to him that there  
22 was -- that Fish and Game had the closures before and  
23 after the openings and there was less -- there wasn't  
24 much of an enforcement issue because people were required  
25 to have all nets out of the water for certain periods and  
26 then he -- in remembering that he said, oh, yeah, I guess  
27 it isn't necessary.

28

29                   So that was, in brief, our conversation.  
30 Madame Chair.

31

32                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions.

33

34                   (No comments)

35

36                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

37

38                   MR. BERG: I guess just to follow up,  
39 Madame Chair, I'll go ahead and work with Morris after  
40 the meeting here to see if he wants to go ahead and  
41 submit written comments on these proposals on behalf of  
42 Stebbins.

43

44                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And let me know before  
45 the meeting. Until I hear from you I'll just keep things  
46 as status quo. If there's going to be a letter -- if  
47 they want to address a letter or something else is going  
48 to happen then my travel can be changed.

49

50                   MR. BERG: We'll certainly let you know

00112

1 and keep you informed on what that -- how it turns out  
2 working with Morris.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thanks.

5

6 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

9

10 MR. KOBUK: I just want to thank you both  
11 for getting a hold of somebody there in Stebbins. I  
12 wasn't sure how it was going to go and it sure helped.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you all of you  
17 for your quick work. The next one is, Chuck, regarding a  
18 contact with Midi.

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Chuck  
21 Ardizzone. I did get a hold of Midi. And he did state  
22 that he was going to submit a proposal along the same  
23 lines as what he has submitted to the State. I made him  
24 aware that there would have to be some wording changes  
25 because we don't differentiate between residents and non-  
26 residents, and I told him that I would work with him to  
27 get that together. And he said he would try and get it  
28 all finished and submitted before the deadline.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thanks.

31

32 MR. ARDIZZONE: Sure.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That was quick also.  
35 Now, we know where we stand on both issues.

36

37 The next thing on the agenda is establish  
38 time and place of next meeting. We did establish  
39 February 18th and 19th, and that would be in Nome. Are  
40 we still in three year cycle or two meeting cycle?

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: (Nods affirmatively)

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we need to select  
45 the dates for our fall 2004 meeting and you'll find that  
46 right behind the -- the window right behind the other  
47 one.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Madame Chair. We are  
50 still trying to project out two meetings in advance.



00113

1 When you make the decision, though, if you could use the  
2 new calendar for the fall 2004. There's additional ones  
3 here, there's some in your packet, it's not the one in  
4 the book. The one in the book left out September 15th.  
5 It went September 14th and then it went to September  
6 16th. So this is the correct one.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

9

10 MR. JENNINGS: The other thing I'd like  
11 to note, as you make a decision, is the North Slope  
12 Council has met and they selected September 8 and 9 to  
13 meet in Barrow. If you could avoid those dates because  
14 we have direct Staff conflicts where we need to be at  
15 both meetings. And that's it, Madame Chair, for  
16 considerations.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay, what  
19 is your wishes? When do we want to meet in September and  
20 October 2004, what dates do we want for our next meeting?

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, while you're  
23 thinking, also for North Slope Council, they requested  
24 that we provide some training, updated training for  
25 Council members at their next meeting and so we will be  
26 doing that the first day, it won't be an actual formal  
27 meeting, it will be a half a day probably of training and  
28 then go into the meeting and we would offer that  
29 opportunity for this Council as well if you so desire.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: How about the same  
32 time as this year, 22nd and 23rd.

33

34 MR. SAVETILIK: That sounds good, in  
35 Anchorage.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I don't think they're  
38 going to Anchorage, but do we want one or two -- we don't  
39 know what the agenda is, we can decide later on whether  
40 it will be a one day meeting or a two day meeting, so how  
41 about 22nd and 23rd, and then we can decide when we  
42 figure out what the agenda is going to be, whether it  
43 will be a day meeting or a couple of days or whether the  
44 RAC wants to have training.

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: Well, Madame Chair, the  
47 training we would offer would be at the next meeting, the  
48 winter meeting, if you want it then, or we could delay it  
49 until the fall. We'll have new Council member  
50 appointments from the Secretary by the end of the

00114

1 calendar year and potentially new members then or will  
2 have any new members at the next meeting, the winter  
3 meeting. We could discuss that later and you could  
4 decide.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You're talking about  
7 2005?

8

9 MR. JENNINGS: 2004.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Let's kind of  
12 discuss that for our next meeting. So it looks like  
13 September 22nd and September 23rd. Do we want it in  
14 Nome.

15

16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, Nome. In Nome.  
19 So for Tim, it's going to happen either September 22nd or  
20 23rd, whether it will be a two day meeting we'll decide  
21 later on but once we figure out what we'll be discussing,  
22 but it will be in Nome. And it looks like we'll have two  
23 meetings in a row at Nome.

24

25 MR. SAVETILIK: I'll take this  
26 opportunity to go down to 16, and I move.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion to  
29 adjourn, is there a second?

30

31 MR. KOBUK: I'll second.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is in favor  
34 signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,  
39 same sign.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And thank you  
44 everybody for coming, it was a very interesting meeting.

45

46 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00115

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

4 )ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA )

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for  
8 the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do  
9 hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 137  
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
13 SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
14 COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile  
15 on the 25th day of September 2000, beginning at the hour  
16 of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Aurora Inn in Nome, Alaska;

17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct  
19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter  
20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to  
21 the best of our knowledge and ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party  
24 interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of  
27 October 2003.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/2004 □