

1 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD
2
3 PUBLIC REGULATORY MEETING
4

5
6 VOLUME I
7

8
9 DENA'INA Civic & Convention Center
10 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
11

12 January 21, 2015
13 11:00 o'clock a.m.
14

15 MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 16
17 Tim Towarak, Chairman
18 Charles Brower
19 Anthony Christianson
20 Bud Cribley, Bureau of Land Management
21 Geoff Haskett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
22 Joel Hard, National Park Service
23 Keith Kahklen, Bureau of Indian Affairs
24 Beth Pendleton, U.S. Forest Service
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28 Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office
29 Dawn Collinsworth, USDA Office of General Counsel
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 1/21/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Good morning. I'd like to get this Subsistence Board meeting going.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I will call the Federal Subsistence Board public meeting to order. We have an agenda in front of us and we typically start every Board meeting with introductions, and I'd like to introduce myself.

I'm Tim Towarak. I'm the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board, and I'm from Unalakleet and the Seward Peninsula. I've been the Chairman for a little over three years, I think it is, and I appreciate everybody coming in today for our public meeting regarding fish regulations.

We will continue the introductions then, starting with my left and going around the table, and then those behind the table after that.

MR. PELTOLA: Hello all. Gene Peltola, Jr., the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. HASKETT: Good morning. Geoff Haskett, Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service for Alaska.

MS. PENDLETON: Hello. Beth Pendleton, Regional Forester for the US Forest Service based in Juneau, Alaska, responsibilities for Southcentral, the Chugach National Forest as well as the Tongass and Southeast Alaska. Good morning.

MR. KAHKLEN: Good morning. Keith Kahklen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm the Natural Resources manager. I'm sitting in for the Regional Director Weldon Laudermilk.

MR. HARD: Good morning. Joel Hard, Deputy Regional Director for the National Park Service representing Bert Frost, the Regional Director for the

1 National Park Service.

2

3 MR. LOHSE: Good morning. Ralph Lohse,
4 Chair of Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.
5 Resident of the Copper River Watershed.

6

7 MR. SHIEDT: Good morning. Attamuk.
8 Enoch Shiedt. Northwest Alaska Chair.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: Good morning. Lester
11 Wilde, Chair of the YKRAC.

12

13 MR. R. WALKER: Good morning. Robert
14 Walker. I'm sitting in for Jack Reakoff at this time.
15 And also I'm from Anvik in the Western Interior, and
16 also the second chief for our tribe. Thank you.

17

18 MS. YUHAS: Good morning. Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman. Jennifer Yuhas for the State of Alaska.
20 I am the State's liaison to the Board and the designee
21 for the program. Thank you.

22

23 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
24 name is Michael Bangs. I'm the acting Chair for the
25 Southeast Regional Advisory Council.

26

27 MR. H. BROWER: Good morning, Mr.
28 Chairman. My name is Harry Brower, Jr. I'm the Chair
29 of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

30

31 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Good morning, Mr.
32 Chairman. I'm Molly Chythlook and I'm Chairman for
33 Bristol Bay RAC. Good morning, glad to be here.

34

35 MR. FIRMIN: Hello. I'm Andrew Firmin
36 of Fort Yukon. I'm here sitting in for Sue Enstminger
37 on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.

38

39 MR. GREEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
40 Staff, members of the public. My name is Louis Green,
41 Jr., I'm the RAC Chair for the Seward Peninsula.

42

43 MR. GREEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
44 Council members. I'm Tim Smith. I'm the vice Chair of
45 the Seward Peninsula RAC and I'm here to help Louis
46 out.

47

48 MR. CRIBLEY: Good morning. I'm Bud
49 Cribley. I'm the State Director for the Bureau of Land
50 Management here in Anchorage, Alaska.

1 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Anthony
2 Christianson. I'm the rural representative on the
3 Board. I'm from Hydaburg, Alaska. I serve as the
4 Mayor there. I also run the tribal natural resource
5 program.

6
7 MR. C. BROWER: Good morning. Charles
8 Brower from Barrow, rural representative.

9
10 MR. LORD: Good morning. My name is
11 Ken Lord. I'm with the Solicitor's Office at the
12 Department of Interior, which translated into English,
13 means I'm a legal advisor to the program.

14
15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. And
16 let's get the Staff introduced behind us, they play an
17 important role in our process.

18
19 (Staff introductions - microphones not
20 on for all of it - Dawn Collinsworth, Dan Sharp,
21 Orville Lind)

22
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning. Chuck
24 Ardizzone, Office of Subsistence Management.

25
26 MR. FOX: Good morning. Trevor Fox
27 with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

28
29 MR. CASIPIT: Good morning. My name is
30 Calvin Casipit. I'm the subsistence Staff biologist
31 for the Forest Service.

32
33 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. I'm Tom
34 Whitford with the Forest Service.

35
36 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. I'm Pat
37 Petrivelli, the BIA subsistence anthropologist.

38
39 MS. MCBURNEY: Good morning. I'm Mary
40 McBurney with the National Park Service.

41
42 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: I'm Theo Matuskowitz.
43 Fish and Wildlife Service, regulations specialist.

44
45 MR. MCKEE: I'm Chris McKee. I'm the
46 wildlife Division Chief in the Office of Subsistence
47 Management.

48
49 MR. EVANS: Good morning. I work as a
50 wildlife biologist for the Office of Subsistence

1 Management.

2

3 MR. HILDRETH: I'm Derrick Hildreth.
4 I'm the permitting specialist for Office of Subsistence
5 Management.

6

7 MR. KRON: Tom Kron with OSM.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Is there
10 anyone in the crowd that would like to be recognized.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you very much
15 for coming.

16

17 We had a tribal consultation process
18 from 8:30 until 10:00 this morning. And it was an
19 experiment in redesigning how we consult with tribes in
20 the village and regional corporations and we're still
21 trying to refine the process and we will continue
22 experimenting to find ways that will make it most
23 comfortable for both the corporations, the tribes and
24 our Board to communicate with each other. So we
25 appreciate those that attended this morning.

26

27 We will continue then with the agenda.
28 I'd like to know if there are any corrections or
29 additions to the agenda in front of the Board.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If there aren't any,
34 is there a motion to adopt the agenda?

35

36 MR. C. BROWER: So moved, Mr. Chair.

37

38 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Second.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion
41 and a second, any discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any, all
46 those in favor of the motion say aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed, say

1 nay.

2

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(No nay votes)

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CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Motion passes unanimously. We come to Item No. 3, which is called information sharing. I'd like to know if there are any Board members that would like to, or RAC Chairs, would like to share anything at this point regarding your particular area.

MS. PENDLETON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Beth Pendleton, Regional Forester for the Forest Service. I did want to just make a couple of staffing changes and acknowledge Steve Kessler's retirement after 12 years as our subsistence program leader for the Forest Service, and give a warm welcome to Tom Whitford, who now takes over that role, and also as a member of the InterAgency Staff Committee. This is Tom's first meeting, but he's been with the Forest Service over 30 years. He's worked in wildlife as a biologist and a district ranger. Tom is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana and just let folks know, and we're really just excited to have Tom here with that program.

Also just wanted to make an acknowledgement to Gene Peltola, and it's really struck me, of all the new Staff, and just acknowledge the efforts of the Office of Subsistence Management in filling some of these key positions, so, thank you, for those efforts.

And then also wanted to just briefly acknowledge and grateful to have Michael here, but also to acknowledge that after many, many years, Bert Adams, was not reappointed to the Southeast Regional Advisory Council, and just give an acknowledgement to Bert for his many, many years of service. He served on the RAC since 1999 and in a leadership position since 2006. So we will miss him. It is a very strong Regional Advisory Committee, thank you, Michael, for stepping up in that role, and our acknowledgements to Bert for his many years of service to that Regional Advisory Committee.

And then I also just briefly wanted to introduce, we have a group of students here from Southeast Alaska and wanted Justin Koller and Joel Markis maybe just to step forward and to introduce the

1 students.

2

3 MR. KOLLER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
4 My name's Justin Koller. I'm a subsistence biologist
5 with the Forest Service in Sitka, Alaska. For the past
6 several fisheries cycles we've been partnering with the
7 University of Alaska-Southeast in Sitka with their
8 fisheries program to bring students up and expose them
9 to the Federal Subsistence Board process as it regards
10 to the fisheries proposals. I would like to introduce
11 Joel Markis, who will give you a brief overview of his
12 course and then we'll introduce the students, if that's
13 okay with you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

16

17 MR. MARKIS: Thanks, Justin, and thank
18 you guys for the opportunity. My name is Joel Markis.
19 I'm an assistant professor in the fisheries technology
20 program at the University of Alaska-Southeast. Over
21 the last few years we've developed a course that
22 focuses on fisheries policy, and so we bring a group of
23 students here, and we've done it in the past, and just
24 try and expose them to the Federal Subsistence Board
25 process so that they can see how the Board process
26 works and how proposals move through the Board process.
27 And so I think it's a great opportunity and really
28 appreciate the opportunity to bring students here.
29 We've got seven students from all over the state and I
30 would love it if they would come up and just introduce
31 themselves briefly and tell you guys where they're
32 from, if that works.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. MARKIS: Thank you.

37

38 MR. PANARELLI: Good morning. I
39 appreciate the opportunity to be here. My name is
40 Steve Panarelli and I live in Homer and I kind of got
41 introduced to the fisheries program just as a trying to
42 ways to -- find out where my food comes from in Alaska
43 and just to kind of have a better understanding of
44 policy.

45

46 Thanks.

47

48 MS. BLAIR: Hello. Good morning. My
49 name is Maureen Blair. I'm from here in Anchorage but
50 I'm currently attending the school in Juneau. And I'm

1 in the fisheries technology program and so I'm just
2 excited to be here and learn and take in as much as I
3 possibly can, so, thank you.

4

5 MS. REBERT: Hi. Good morning. My
6 name's April. April Rebert. And I work for Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game in Juneau. I work in age
8 determination for groundfish and I'm really excited to
9 learn about this process. Thanks for the opportunity.

10

11 MR. SHAFRAN: Hello. I'm Richard
12 Shafran. I came up here from Sitka. And I'm also
13 attending the UAS fisheries program. And I'm just
14 interested in learning about the political aspects of
15 fisheries management. Thank you for this opportunity.

16

17 MR. LEDONNE: Hello. My name is Ryan
18 LeDonne. I'm from the Eagle River area. I'm a fish
19 tech student. I come from a large sportfishing
20 background and so I'm just interested to learn about
21 the subsistence program.

22

23 MS. COOPER: Good morning. My name is
24 Alexis Cooper. I'm from Cordova. I work for Cordova
25 District Fishermen United. We represent the salmon
26 fishermen in Cordova. And I'm just interested in
27 learning more about the Federal Board process. I'm a
28 little familiar with the State process but this is my
29 first experience with the Federal process and I'm
30 appreciative of UAF -- UAS for offering the opportunity
31 for this type of introduction. Thank you.

32

33 MS. GILL: Good morning. My name is
34 Jessica Gill. I am a fisheries biologist with the
35 Sitka Tribe of Alaska. And I am taking this class to
36 learn a little bit more about the Board process and how
37 exactly tribes can fit in, into the process.

38

39 MR. MARKIS: Thank you guys. I
40 appreciate the opportunity. And I know that myself and
41 the students are excited to be a part of this.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you very much.
44 And it is a practice of the Federal Subsistence Board
45 to invite young students as much as possible to observe
46 and to learn the process. We try to promote the public
47 knowing as much about the process as we can. I know in
48 Alaska it's very confusing to have both the State and
49 the Federal government involved in management of
50 subsistence and the resources. So we know it's a

1 confusing situation but through participation of
2 students, like yourselves, throughout the year, we
3 hope, eventually, there'll be a decent understanding of
4 what processes we use and what processes the State
5 uses. So thank you very much for being here.

6

7 Is there any other information sharing
8 from the rest of the Board, or the RACs.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And I wanted to
13 point out before I turn it over to the Forest Service,
14 is that, I, too, will miss Bert Adams. He has been a
15 very active part of our Board process, and he'd been
16 here almost 20 years longer than I have and it was
17 through, I think, his involvement with the process for
18 so many years that he knew a lot about the Federal
19 Subsistence Board process. And I'd like for those of
20 you going back, especially to Yakutat, to send him my
21 best regards.

22

23 Go ahead.

24

25 MR. HARD: Mr. Chairman. During the
26 consultation I wanted to acknowledge Alvin Boskofsky,
27 the long-term member of the Aniakchak National Monument
28 Subsistence Resource Commission, who passed away in
29 December, much along the lines of what you just said.
30 There are many good people that come through the
31 Subsistence Program, and he's one of them. He was
32 around for a long time. He was the Chairman at the
33 time of his passing. He brought a frankness about him,
34 and humor about him. And I thought it appropriate to
35 make sure that we acknowledge him at this formal
36 setting of the Board meeting, and express our
37 appreciation for his long service to the resource, to
38 the people he represented and to his strong stewardship
39 values.

40

41 Thank you, sir.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, too. And
44 I did appreciate his participation in our past
45 meetings.

46

47 Molly.

48

49 MS. CHYTHLOOK: My name is Molly
50 Chythlook and I'm Bristol Bay RAC. I'd also like to

1 acknowledge Alvin. I didn't get involved with the
2 Bristol Bay RAC until about -- shortly after 2006.
3 And, of course, Alvin was on board, and one thing about
4 Alvin, he tirelessly worked to protect the subsistence
5 lifestyle for Chignik area. And when I worked for
6 State of Alaska as a subsistence resource person I
7 wasn't -- although I worked with the other areas in the
8 Bristol Bay area to collect baseline surveys, I missed
9 out on that area, and so I'm not really familiar with
10 the use area for the salmon that Alvin has been
11 tirelessly working to protect and to have for their
12 residents, their subsistence users. And looking
13 through the regulations on how subsistence users are
14 supposed to harvest resources for salmon, it's
15 complicated. There's areas within the Chignik Lake
16 River and then there's other areas that each major
17 three sections of the area there have their own
18 regulations and I guess the last regulation proposal
19 that Alvin wrote, which was opposed due to conservation
20 issue, was to submit or propose a seine method of
21 harvesting salmon in the Chignik River area. And I've
22 just really admired his ambitious -- and his work to
23 protect the salmon resources for his people down there.

24
25 And, again, I'd like to just
26 respectfully acknowledge and thank his work within our
27 Bristol Bay RAC.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr.
32 Brower.

33
34 MR. H. BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman. I just wanted to thank the Board for the
36 movement in regards to bringing students into the
37 process. It's something I strive for in my region to
38 seek young students still in high school to learn more
39 about the Federal Subsistence Management Program. I
40 have to say it's not an easy process to learn with all
41 the Federal agencies and the mandates that drive the
42 agencies. These are very complicated issues for areas
43 to cover as a student if you've not learned or
44 understood Federal subsistence management. You know, I
45 just wanted to share my appreciation with the Board and
46 the students that are here to learn about what it takes
47 to be involved in fisheries management, as one
48 resource. Multiple resources when you talk about fish,
49 of the different species. But when you really get into
50 the subsistence use of all the other resources as well

1 it gets a little bit more, how do I say, it's not
2 convoluted, but it's inclusive of all the other
3 resources that are used for subsistence, fisheries
4 being one, you know, the different species of fish, in
5 different areas of the state.

6

7 And I just wanted to share my
8 appreciation for the Federal Subsistence Board to
9 continue that. Because I try and promote that in my
10 region because of the.....

11

12 MR. TRITT: What's your region? How do
13 you guys do it?

14

15 MR. H. BROWER: Because of the
16 importance of the communications that needs to occur to
17 the younger generation, which has been lacking for
18 quite some time and needs to be elevated.

19

20 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.
23 Brower. I wanted to point out that your region
24 probably has the biggest fish in the ocean called the
25 bowhead.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: But thank you very
30 much for your comments.

31

32 Mr. Smith.

33

34 MR. SMITH: I'm sorry I'm going to have
35 to run off here pretty shortly but one of the main
36 reasons we're here is my wife needs to get some medical
37 care done so I'll be in and out and, you know, we paid
38 our own way to the meeting but I want to do my best.

39

40 The situation we're finding ourselves
41 in now is we have a really, really good RAC, we just
42 added Joe Garney to our RAC and he's from Teller and
43 he's going to be a very good contributor and all the
44 guys on the RAC are ready to do something. We're
45 running into these jurisdictional issues. The same
46 issue we run into with salmon and now with wildlife,
47 the -- the State has abandoned Western Alaska over the
48 years. It's not doing anything for us. They're barely
49 doing survey and inventory work on some species and
50 that's just not enough. You know, we'll have -- you

1 know, kind of a debatable history on how badly we did
2 on managing our fish and game in the Seward Peninsula
3 and that's all we're going to have and it's going to be
4 questionable. We need to find some way to fund some
5 real programs.

6
7 One thing that we're going to be
8 talking about at this meeting and try to get the ball
9 rolling is for years, you know, the local people,
10 throughout our area have agreed that predators are --
11 the relationship between predators and prey is a big
12 problem for management. We have no data on that.
13 There's no science behind that at all, you know. When
14 we first started talking about this, people started
15 telling me about Yellowstone Park, it's not relevant to
16 the Seward Peninsula, you know, and until we get some
17 actual data we're not going to -- we're dead in the
18 water, we can't really do management. And so I'm here
19 imploring -- you know, and we can't come to the State,
20 we know that, the State's not going to have money for a
21 long time to do anything, imploring the Federal
22 agencies to find some way to fund a predator/prey study
23 on the Seward Peninsula so we can finally find out what
24 the situation is.

25
26 And, sorry, but I'm going to have to
27 run off. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. And one
30 last thing about Mr. Boskofsky, I want to point out to
31 the public that the Regional Advisory Council members
32 all serve on a voluntary basis. They do not receive
33 any pay for the work that they do, it's all volunteer.
34 And the Federal Subsistence Board pays for the travel
35 and per diem for members to attend meetings typically
36 at a regional community. And Mr. Boskofsky, I think,
37 is a good example of the dedication of some of these
38 Board members, some have served for more than 20 years
39 as volunteers and we appreciate that type of input into
40 the process.

41
42 One final introduction I would like to
43 make is for Mr. Pat Pourchot to stand up and be
44 recognized. Pat is the Special Assistant to the
45 Secretary of the Interior.

46
47 Welcome to the meeting, Pat.

48
49 MR. POURCHOT: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If there are no
2 further -- go ahead.

3
4 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
5 behalf of the Southeast Council, I, too, would like to
6 recognize Mr. Adams, Bert, for his exemplary job that
7 he did for not only the Council, but for bringing our
8 message to the Board. And I think it was a shock to
9 our Council when he wasn't reappointed. And it leaves
10 us wondering how the process works when someone of his
11 stature has been in this program for a long time and
12 done a lot of good work and then he doesn't get
13 reappointed and there's no reason that's been conveyed
14 to him. And I just want to hear what other Council
15 Chairs think about this because it's disheartening to
16 the rest of our Council and they're wondering, you
17 know, should they even reapply. There's just something
18 wrong. And I just wanted to convey that to the Board
19 and the rest of the Council Chairs.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you very much
24 for those comments. And with that regard the Secretary
25 of the Interior administratively appoints all of us
26 that are here on the Board and the regulation process
27 allows -- also allows him to appoint all of the
28 Regional Advisory Councils. So we, too, are surprised
29 at Bert's non-appointment after all the years, but, my
30 understanding is there was some personal reasons for
31 that situation but if you don't mind, perhaps, you
32 could get together with one of the Staff members,
33 through Gene, or one of the other Staff members to
34 discuss -- or answer any questions you might have on
35 his situation.

36
37 In general, my plans are to break for
38 lunch as close to noon as possible and then reconvene
39 at 1:30. The bulk of our meeting will probably begin
40 then. But in the meantime I would like to go through,
41 perhaps two or three of the agenda topics that are
42 mostly procedural. Did you have a comment, Mr. Enoch.

43
44 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

47
48 MR. SHIEDT: Enoch Shied with Northwest
49 Alaska. On informational sharing, I wanted to talk
50 about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

1 Because we have a -- since -- between
2 2011 there was a 27 percent decline in caribou and from
3 the year of 2003, between 2003 and '13 there was 50
4 percent decline in our caribou, and, we, when we have
5 our Northwest Arctic Borough meeting, we try to put it
6 out on the radio so our villages could hear what we're
7 talking about and I get a lot of input that we need to
8 start worrying about our Western Arctic Caribou Herd
9 because we depend heavily on it. And what we need to
10 do is put in a proposal to work out, that we need to
11 combine our take of caribou -- under the State we take
12 five caribou a day and under the Federal we take 15,
13 and we need to combine them and try to work together to
14 make the regulation easier for the Natives in Alaska to
15 take five caribou a day. But that's as -- as we talk
16 we need to start worrying about the female take due to
17 the decline because it is crashing. And I tell you one
18 thing, Mother Nature is trying to tell us what's going
19 on. We, in Northwest Alaska, not only have a decline
20 in caribou, we have a decline in sheep and moose.
21 Mother Nature is trying to tell us something and we
22 need to worry about it.

23
24 And it's scary because we need to do
25 something quick and fast because -- and also back to
26 the students for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, we
27 have students from different villages, the way the
28 caribou migrate to help with the satellite tagging at
29 Onion Portage. So far I have three calls from
30 different villages that have students they're going to
31 go to school to become biologists, so it's working,
32 taking students to be in part of the process, how you
33 do things, and how they -- how the Western world do,
34 you know, when they do studies, they do samples, and
35 they take students, it's going to help the Natives, it
36 -- it helps.

37
38 I tell you one thing we have a scare
39 for the Western Arctic Caribou, we depend heavily on
40 it. Because as I do surveys for Northwest Alaska for
41 Maniilaq, we take 14 caribou a year just to survive
42 because we -- that's our liveli -- and that's our
43 steak, that's everything to us, is Western Arctic
44 Caribou Herd. And if they keep declining, if they keep
45 declining, what other resources could we take. We
46 can't take moose because some areas are declining,
47 heavily, and so we need to start worrying about because
48 under the State level, we are not being recognized and
49 we try to bring up these issues, they won't hear -- the
50 State won't hear us, the Federal is trying. And when

1 we put it on the radio station it makes a big
2 difference.

3

4 And I'd like to thank Jim Dau again for
5 taking students out when the students are willing to
6 become biologists, that's a big help forward to us,
7 maybe it will help in the decline.

8

9 And if I can change the subject a
10 little bit, on our fisheries, when we tried to fish as
11 a commercial fisherman last summer we tried to tell the
12 State that if the salmon keep coming in in numbers they
13 going to crash and you could see news on it and this is
14 three weeks before that salmon made the news at Upper
15 Kobuk. We tried to tell them that you need to open the
16 commercial fishing to take the salmon otherwise they're
17 going to die in the river and they did not believe us
18 and they said, how do we know, we know when elder calls
19 me and tells me, and say Enoch we need to do something
20 and when we try to go see the State they did not want
21 to hear us.

22

23 We are the eyes of the north because we
24 live and we live that life.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Enoch.
29 And being from Unalakleet we are the southern terminus
30 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, and we've noticed
31 the changes in migration patterns and the different
32 things that have taken place with that herd and we
33 share your concerns also.

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. I got to add this
36 for your information.

37

38 Even the caribou -- even they're
39 declining, they're real healthy for the last two years,
40 plenty fat, so tell me, why are they declining, that's
41 our big question. We need to -- and we need to
42 conserve and probably take less females too.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And I don't know how
45 it was determined but I think -- and if anybody knows
46 the answer to it, Gene, but the State, I think, plays
47 the major role on management of the Western Arctic
48 Caribou Herd.

49

50 Any thoughts?

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Is that the
4 consensus from.....
5
6 MR. TRITT: (Away from microphone)
7
8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Could you come up
9 and use the mic if you're going to make a statement.
10 Could someone turn that microphone on.
11
12 MR. TRITT: The same thing with Arctic
13 Village when you blocked Arctic Village off, up there
14 in Red Sheep Creek, when Gideon James made that
15 statement, because all those planes are coming in
16 there, same thing, that's what happened out there right
17 now. They're chasing the caribou away. We had that
18 problem before and it's -- you know, it's not funny so
19 -- my name's Albert Tritt so.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Could you state your
22 name into the microphone.
23
24 MR. TRITT: Albert Tritt.
25
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And you're from
27 Arctic Village?
28
29 MR. TRITT: Arctic Village, yes.
30
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you very much.
32 We.....
33
34 MR. TRITT: And that's the only way you
35 guys could do it, you know, stop some of those planes
36 coming in. He knows me, that guy right there.
37
38 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your
39 comments.
40
41 MR. TRITT: Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Jennifer, you have a
44 comment.
45
46 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Are we still at the portion of the agenda for general
48 information sharing before we get into the agenda? I
49 just have a few items from the State, thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: Thank you. You may have
4 read in the paper that we have a new Commissioner. He
5 was appointed as acting and forwarded by the Boards of
6 Game and Boards of Fish to the Governor for appointment
7 and was appointed to the position and so he's just
8 waiting confirmation by the Legislature. His name is
9 Sam Cotten. His last name is spelled with an E instead
10 of an O, like the cotten that we're familiar with.

11

12 We also have a new Deputy Commissioner
13 and that's Charlie Swanton. He had been our sportfish
14 director for a long time. He will be taking over the
15 work that you may be familiar with, David Bedford and
16 Stephanie Mooreland, working on the treaty and a few
17 other things. He had hoped to try and be here at the
18 start of the meeting but we are, once, again, competing
19 with another regulatory body with the Board of Fish,
20 and so that didn't work out this time.

21

22 Kelly Hepler, who you used to see at
23 these meetings has moved on and taken a job with South
24 Dakota. His title is Secretary. He's actually the
25 equivalent of the Commissioner for their state fish and
26 game right now, which also includes parks. That's an
27 interesting idea that they have all three of those
28 combined in South Dakota.

29

30 I am still here as the State liaison.
31 I am also the designee to the Program. You'll notice
32 I'm flying solo, my right-hand man had a medical
33 emergency and won't be attending the meeting, so we'll
34 be missing Drew this time.

35

36 Just a couple of comments regarding the
37 changes that are out there.

38

39 We have a new Governor. We have a new
40 Commissioner. We have some new Board members. We have
41 some new agency heads. And really just taking a look
42 at the landscape, I've been paying attention to this
43 Program since 1992 when I attended my first Federal
44 Subsistence Board meeting, just as a citizen, still in
45 dental assisting school at the time, and we've gone
46 through a lot of iterations in this Program of big
47 fancy ideas to try and fix everything and spending a
48 lot of years -- what really amounts to picking at the
49 details, and we have a lot of people that care about
50 the users and care about the resources in this Program

1 but I really see a timeframe coming over the next few
2 years, it's pretty exciting, that, while we have to
3 manage the details, that we have more knowledge about
4 some things, we have more experience and I think
5 there's a lot of people in place who are ready to take
6 a look at the bigger fixes and try to actually make
7 something happen at these major issues that we keep
8 complaining about not working for the users and not
9 really working for all of the agencies and so I just
10 think that's a pretty exciting time.

11
12 With the students. I'm really still
13 hoping that once we've got all our vacancies filled at
14 OSM and we can work some more on long-term planning,
15 that I've still got this crazy idea that more than just
16 coming to a meeting, that we may be able to get the ISC
17 members and the other support Staff to take a group of
18 students through the process, maybe over the course of
19 a semester. I've talked about it with the Department
20 and I'd be open to having someone, you know, shadow the
21 State's perspective while someone shadows the other
22 agencies and there's probably a way we can work that
23 out with one of the natural resource programs so that
24 people are really getting a taste of, if you want to go
25 into management it's about more than managing the
26 critters, and that the Boards are the ones who make the
27 management and the regulatory decisions, in some
28 instances, that you have to implement, once you get
29 that degree.

30
31 Thanks to Gene for the last year and a
32 half of working together. I think that communication
33 has been very good between the two programs, especially
34 when it's needed to be rapid and urgent. I can always
35 get a hold of him and just wanted to cite that that has
36 been improvement. We still have long-term planning to
37 get to but the State's in transition and so is OSM and
38 I'm sure we'll get there.

39
40 So thanks for the opportunity, Mr.
41 Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. I
44 recently signed a letter that was sent to the
45 Commissioner and invited him to -- we left -- I wanted
46 it to be an open invitation for the Commissioner to
47 join our meeting wherever we are if we are in session,
48 I'd like to have him address the Board whenever it's
49 available. And we know his schedule is busy,
50 especially now, but the invitation is open whenever

1 he's available.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: That invitation was well
4 received and is intended to be fulfilled. There just
5 was a significant scheduling conflict with the opening
6 of the Legislature and the Board of Fish meeting. When
7 we get him a teleporter maybe this will be easier
8 but.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Well, thank you.
11 And we appreciate the State's participation in our
12 Program and the relationship has always been good and I
13 think -- I look forward for it to continue to -- I
14 think it's imperative that we work together to make it
15 less confusing for the actual subsistence users. We
16 appreciate that.

17

18 Anything else further.

19

20 MR. PELTOLA: Just one thing.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Gene.

23

24 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
25 Chair.

26

27 One thing we experienced this morning
28 during the tribal consultation session is that we found
29 out that our audio, the teleconference line isn't as
30 good as it should be, you know, when new technology
31 comes up, we have a new software program that was
32 supposed to make things work perfect in a perfect
33 world, well, that's having a hard time interfacing with
34 the lines we have going out to rural sites, so we're
35 aware of it, we apologize for that. But on this end
36 whenever anybody speaks into the mic, the closer you
37 are, the better it's received on the opposite end.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. We are
40 going to.....

41

42 MR. C. BROWER: One more down here, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'm sorry. Go
46 ahead, Louis.

47

48 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Louis Green, Chairman of the Seward Peninsula RAC.

50

1 You know we're here talking about
2 problems all over the state. You hear game and fish
3 issues all the time at the table. One of the things I
4 want to bring up to the table is that the salmon issue
5 is detrimental in our area.

6
7 The Seward Peninsula should be
8 flourishing but it is not. Salmon have gone to
9 disarray. Moose. Caribou. Even reindeer. Muskox is
10 getting to be an issue there that, you know, the
11 numbers are depleting.

12
13 So one of the things that I wanted to
14 bring to the table, and maybe I'll be able to discuss
15 things with Staff here, is that at some point in time
16 here the State and the Feds need to share the
17 responsibility of our subsistence management here. I
18 mean they've got to come together. I've been involved
19 in the process at the Board of Fish since back in
20 '90/93 and I always here that, well, that's a Federal
21 issue, or that's a State issue always at the table,
22 when are we going to close the gap and come together
23 and start relieving ourselves of these problems we
24 witness.

25
26 In my area, and Tim's, we have --
27 there's been identified two salmon production areas in
28 our part of the world over there, one of them's Bristol
29 Bay, everybody knows all about that. The other one
30 just happens to be the Norton Sound, and that's a
31 contribution to the Pacific Rim, the health of the
32 Pacific Rim depends on salmon. So when we talk about
33 salmon problems those are really serious problems.
34 They may be causing the problems of our other species
35 of concern. I think salmon are a keystone species.
36 And the environment depends on them. The ecology of
37 the river systems depend on them. So I emphasize the
38 idea that the State and Feds need to lock together, not
39 lock horns, but work together to bring about the change
40 that we need.

41
42 There's 7 Billion people in the world,
43 we all need to eat. I like the idea of going off of my
44 doorstep and catching a salmon, which is Omega-3 rich,
45 the best stuff you can get, and that's what I say,
46 thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Louis.

49
50 Any further comments.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'd like to go
4 through this one last agenda topic No. 4 Board
5 discussion of Council topics with Regional Advisory
6 Council Chairs or their designees and I believe we have
7 one with -- Gene -- with Jack Reakoff.

8

9 MR. PELTOLA: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And, Jack, are you
12 on line?

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: I am on line. It's been
15 very frustrating to listen. I'm getting a break every
16 10, 15 seconds for about 10 or 15 seconds.

17

18 So I would reiterate what Enoch was
19 talking about, the caribou, we're really concerned
20 about that. The Western Arctic Caribou and Teshekpuk
21 is used heavily by the Northern part of the Western
22 Interior Region. And I also would reiterate that the
23 dall sheep problem is also very concerning and so a
24 head's up to the Board on proposals in the next round
25 to address those issues.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.
30 Reakoff. And we apologize for the bad microphone
31 system. We found that out this morning with the tribal
32 consultation process, that we need to speak right into
33 the phone for it to work properly.

34

35 Are there any Regional Chairs that
36 would like to address the Board.

37

38 Go ahead, Mr. Adams.

39

40 I mean Mr. Walker.

41

42 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Robert Walker. I'm sitting in for Jack. I'm from
44 Anvik.

45

46 There's a couple issues that we're very
47 concerned about. Was one is why we have to, on the
48 Yukon, change our ways for our diet from chinook salmon
49 to other sources. The chinook salmon has been a main
50 source of our food for the last hundred years that's

1 been recorded. Why is the high seas fisheries
2 intercepting so many and why are we letting the bycatch
3 be so high? Why isn't the -- we are the Federal, why
4 don't we shorten their seasons? I mean there's things
5 here that -- realize that, you know, you can beat a
6 horse until it can run no more, I mean we're taking a
7 beating back here. We have to change our ways. You
8 know people don't want to live out of a can. When we
9 look at our potlatches nowadays, there's a lot more
10 turkeys and chicken than there used to be fish and
11 moose meat. Why? Because I don't think the Federal
12 government is really taking care or taking a real hard
13 look at the way our life is. We have the greatest food
14 source in the world and we have to retain to beef and
15 canned food. Wait a minute, there's something wrong
16 with this picture. This is 2016 [sic]. We have lived
17 there for a hundred years, hundreds and hundreds years,
18 you know that, everybody on the Board knows that. The
19 moose is going to be depleted in awhile because we have
20 too many outside hunters, our management is not working
21 the way it should be working. Our enforcement for
22 wanton waste is we have one State game warden that runs
23 177,000 square miles. I mean he can't take care of
24 everything. Wanton waste is such a big issue here back
25 in our neck of the woods and I understand it runs all
26 the way up to the Koyukuk River all the way up to
27 Canada. Antlers is a priority, meat is not a priority
28 for these people. These people who come in have
29 hundreds of thousands of dollars, and all they want is
30 the antlers. Somewhere along the line here the Federal
31 Board is going to have to stand up for Federal lands
32 and say, hey, you want to take a moose on this land
33 here you have to either give it to somebody or take
34 care of it and bring it home, whatever. Because I was
35 talking to a pilot out here at Lake Hood, he said the
36 trash containers are nothing but rotten moose meat and
37 caribou out there. What is this? They haul it into
38 town here to throw it in the dump. This is real
39 shameful. You guys got to take a real harder look at
40 this.

41
42 Our way of life is going to change
43 dramatically. Cancer is on the line. A lot of
44 diseases that we never had before are on the rise.
45 Why? Our natural foods was our natural foods. You
46 don't see a beaver or a moose shot up full of hormones,
47 they don't have that. They feed off the country and
48 that's where we feed.

49
50 The fisheries, some people have abused

1 it, sure, I'll admit to that. But there's a lot of
2 people who use it to sustain their way of life. Trade
3 and barter, and, et cetera. I trade with some people,
4 my fish for their beluga, I do that, because it is
5 customary and traditional.

6
7 So when you really try to look at a lot
8 of issues here that is brought before you, our way of
9 life is going to be gone and you're the ones that are
10 supposed to be taking care of us. You know, I got no
11 disrespect for the State but, you know, the four
12 fishermen that did protest down in the Lower Yukon last
13 summer, it was almost like a police date to them, they
14 arrested them because they were protesting fishing,
15 took their boats away, this is not a police state, this
16 is Alaska, this is where we all live, we're a very
17 diverse people. Tribes. People who move in.
18 Something -- there's really got to be the bottom line
19 where you have to do something to change this way. I
20 know a man who was standing on the bank, watching a
21 boat go by, come out of Innoko River, Federal land,
22 seven antlers, no meat. He said what did those guys
23 do, eat up all the meat up there? Funny joke. It's
24 not a joke anymore.

25
26 I'm looking at you -- this is my first
27 time I've ever been at a Board of Game meeting for the
28 Feds, I hope it's my last time, because I don't want to
29 have to sit here and say the same thing again next time
30 I come through.

31
32 We have a proposal that's going to come
33 through through Tanana Chiefs, one of the things that
34 was really brought to my attention was how come there's
35 no Federal Game Wardens out here patrolling the Federal
36 lands? Why? You know, no disrespect to our
37 government, but why do we spend a billion dollars over
38 in Iraq, Afghanistan, and not spend \$1 here for Federal
39 Game Wardens? There's a lot of why's here.

40
41 I'm not chewing you out, but this just
42 gives you a head's up where, you know, you guys are
43 going to have to sit down together with, not only the
44 RACs, but the people too, they're the ones who are
45 going to make the comments. A lot of people are really
46 afraid because I'm just a Native, or I'm just one
47 individual, but if you have a group of people working,
48 hey, you can have some kind of a resolution here or
49 some kind of resolve, and that's my comment.

50

1 Thank you for your time.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for those
4 comments, Mr. Walker. We've challenged ourselves with
5 trying to answer some of the questions that you asked
6 and try to handle the -- the overall situation on
7 subsistence but, as you know, between the State of
8 Alaska and the Federal government, it is a confusing
9 process. And I think a solution eventually will be to
10 have just one management system and that would mean a
11 major change in a real fundamental issue, either on the
12 State's part or on the Federal government's part to
13 make it one management system. So I'm sure that we
14 hear you and that we, too, are concerned about the
15 changes that have taken place just in our lifetime
16 which is only, you know, one cycle, and, you know,
17 people have been living in our region -- we've found
18 10,000 year old nets made out of sinew, so we know
19 people have been fishing for 10,000 years at least, so
20 -- and the changes that have taken place over the years
21 are tremendous.

22

23 What we can do, in some ways, our hands
24 are somewhat tied with the politics of how game is
25 managed in Alaska. So, I think, with that I won't
26 digress.

27

28 But, Mr. Walker, go ahead.

29

30 MR. R. WALKER: One more thing, Mr.
31 Towarak, here, is that when we get down to the bison --
32 wood bison here, that's going to be tried to
33 reintroduced into our area, 21E, is that this is the
34 first time that I ever sat down with a very diverse
35 group of people other than just Federal qualified
36 people. We had Board of Game, Safari Club, Outdoor
37 Council, we had people that were really there to listen
38 and I think it's really time to really push the
39 State/Federal issue. Because a lot of us went out of
40 the way to campaign for a new Governor, which we got,
41 thank you, you know, and I think that change is going
42 to be coming here and I think that we should push this
43 issue here, you and your Staff should do a lot more
44 writing and kind of like, let's kind of like be on the
45 same page because every time you look in your game
46 book, you know, you shoot a wolverine out on Federal
47 land, you go over to State land, you know, it's closed,
48 so these are issues where we have to resolve before I
49 get too old and I want to make sure that my grandkids
50 quit getting in trouble, or something, my people.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
4 there any other comments from the Regional Chairs.

5

6 Go ahead.

7

8 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
9 wanted to express our Councils pleasure with OSM
10 stepping up to the plate and getting our meeting
11 materials to us ahead of time. It went from the day of
12 the meeting we would get our books to now it's weeks
13 ahead and I really think that our -- we really
14 appreciate that, that was a big kudos to the OSM.

15

16 And also the appointments were made in
17 a real timely manner, which made it easier for the
18 coordinators and travel and all that, so that was
19 appreciated by the Council as well.

20

21 There was a couple of concerns that the
22 Council expressed at our last meeting and the most
23 pressing issue is the possible negative impacts of
24 Canadian mining on TransBoundary rivers. And I think
25 this is going to affect more than just Southeast, but
26 it's something that we're really concerned about and
27 it's starting to come into the media a lot more and I
28 think it's something that we need to push on our
29 Secretary of State to reach out to the Canadians and
30 make sure that our fish are protected and our
31 watershed. So that was a real big issue that we had.

32

33 And the Council was also concerned
34 about the ETJ process with Kootznoowoo. And we want to
35 know if we can be more involved to help resolve the
36 issue and we'd also like to know if there's -- we'd
37 like a detailed report as far as the condition of where
38 we're at in the process and has there been anything
39 done. We really haven't heard much. We've heard from
40 Kootznoowoo teleconference into our meeting. This is
41 an important issue in Southeast, and we would really
42 like the Board to stay on track with what is happening
43 with that, with that petition and relay the
44 information, if they would, to our Council.

45

46 And the other issue that we were -- we
47 did receive a letter from the North Pacific Fisheries
48 Management Council about representation and I know some
49 of the other Chairs and their Councils are concerned
50 about this and we're hoping that if we keep squeaking

1 the wheel they'll help us out and get some
2 representation from the subsistence side of things. I
3 think it's very important that they affect -- their
4 decisions affect us more than you would imagine in some
5 regions. That's one of the points that I hope everyone
6 else can relate to and keep on this, you know, this
7 process.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. And for
12 your information we will be getting a briefing on the
13 EJ -- extra -- ETJ process at the end of our meeting.

14

15 Anything further.

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 We have the same concerns in the YKRAC as our friend
19 from the Western Interior has on the Yukon River with
20 our chinooks, the disaster that we are having with our
21 chinook salmon in both rivers, in both the Kuskokwim
22 and the Yukon River.

23

24 Another concern that we have is the
25 Kilbuck Caribou Herd decline in the Kuskokwim area.
26 And one of our elders told us a long time ago that, you
27 know, the world is heating up. This year has been the
28 warmest it's been throughout the world and you can tell
29 that in the amount of snowfall that we're getting here
30 in Anchorage, not just here in Anchorage but all over
31 the state of Alaska, and one of the problems that we've
32 noticed, as our elders told us, is that, salmon will
33 only spawn in a certain temperature or under a certain
34 temperature. Our streams are getting warmer, as is the
35 ocean. I don't think that we, as humans, will be able
36 to do anything about our salmon situation. Due to the
37 warming of the entryways into the Yukon River, you
38 know, when the Yukon River had -- we had a lot of ice
39 on the Yukon River and the river was cold mostly during
40 the summertime, all during the summer, right now the
41 entryways where the tide goes out, when the tide goes
42 out, the shallow mouths to the Yukon River are shallow
43 and that shallow water absorbs that sun and heats up
44 that water, and our elders felt that, you know, because
45 the salmon needed cool water to be able to go in and
46 spawn that that is probably some of -- one of the
47 reasons that we're having a problem with salmon in both
48 of the rivers. There isn't anything that we can do as
49 far as the climate of the world.

50

1 But there are things that we can do as
2 far as conservation but I don't believe in my
3 discussion with our elders that that would help either.
4 Because according to the people that I've talked to,
5 our resources come in cycles, there used to be at one
6 time a large number of moose on the Lower Yukon and
7 they totally declined, but in the last few years we
8 have so many moose, they came back after the moratorium
9 that we had on the Lower Yukon, we have so many moose
10 roaming the Lower Yukon now we can't even give them
11 away. And I wish some of those people who are having
12 problems with their moose population were able to come
13 down and harvest some of those because that group of
14 moose is not going to be there forever. The group of
15 moose is growing so fast that they're -- the biologists
16 feel that they're going to eat themselves out of house
17 and home.

18
19 So as far as the YK Delta is concerned,
20 there's other reasons that we could discuss, but I feel
21 that the -- our concerns with the salmon, and with the
22 Kilbuck need to be checked into. But as far as our
23 salmon is concerned, I don't think we're going to see
24 -- whatever humans, whatever we, as human people, can
25 do to increase -- or want to do to increase the chinook
26 resources, that we're going to see it get worse before
27 it gets -- if it gets any better.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.
32 Wilde. And I echo the general feeling of both the
33 regions. And I think there's one other issue that
34 should be in our minds, if anything, because of the
35 warming of the oceans, the ice is moving further north,
36 it's opening up a new trading route and shipping route
37 and those of us from the Bering Strait region are very
38 concerned about the amount of traffic of ships and the
39 disasters that it could put on to our ocean resources,
40 you know, the seals, the walrus, the bowhead, the
41 salmon, it's all going to be affected, I think, by the
42 increase in ocean traffic through the Bering Strait
43 region and the Arctic Ocean in general.

44
45 Go ahead.

46
47 MR. L. WILDE: If I may say something
48 also on the Kuskokwim River there's a group of people,
49 or people in the upper river that are going to be
50 around the area of the Donlin Creek Mine that have the

1 same concern with traffic, river traffic coming up and
2 down the river because of the barges that are going to
3 be used to go up and down that Kuskokwim River, so we
4 have that concern also on the Kuskokwim.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Well, thank you. If
9 there isn't -- Mr. Lohse, did you have a comment, I'm
10 sorry.

11
12 MR. LOHSE: Just a short one and this
13 is a little bit different.

14
15 You know we've talked in the past, at
16 least our Council, Southeastern has talked a lot, we've
17 talked about the due deference, we've talked about
18 information and things like that, and I'd like to just
19 thank the OSM for a head's up on a couple of the
20 proposals we had, of some of the new information that's
21 come up on it and some of the ideas that have come up
22 on it and I really thank them for the head's up and the
23 sharing of that new information so it doesn't come as a
24 surprise in the middle of the meeting. And, again, I
25 would like to say, that, while we recognize, as a
26 Council, and we've talked a lot about due deference to
27 Regional Councils, we also recognize that the highest
28 priority is conservation and our Council's always
29 pushed for conservation and we always will. So from
30 that standpoint, I just would like to thank the Board
31 and OSM for the information that they passed on to me.

32
33 And I would like to echo what he was
34 saying, is the fact that we're living in a very
35 changing world and maybe the world is changing faster
36 than we think it is, and while we can't change the big
37 things, we can at least work on the little things that
38 we do effect on for the time that we're here. And none
39 of us are going to change temperature regimes, none of
40 us are going to change the shift in temperature in the
41 ocean or anything like that, but we can try to adjust
42 what we're doing with the resources that we have at
43 this point in time, and that's all that we're capable
44 of doing. And I just thank him for his candor on that.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. If there
49 are no further issues to be brought up under this
50 agenda topic, I'd like to call for a recess for lunch

1 and we will reconvene as close to 1:30 as possible.
2 Originally I was hoping that we would leave here by
3 noon, but it's 12:15, so if we -- between 1:30 and 1:45
4 we'll reconvene.

5
6 (Off record)

7
8 (On record)

9
10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Let's get started.

11
12 (Pause)

13
14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'm going to call
15 this meeting back to order. We were on, I think,
16 agenda topic No. 4, we're going into No. 5, public
17 comment period on non-agenda items. This is an
18 opportunity available at the beginning of each day for
19 any topics. The next one will be for consensus agenda
20 items. So I would like to start with -- we're going to
21 start with Geoff -- Mr. Haskett, Geoff Haskett, and
22 then Myron Naneng, number 2, and then anyone else
23 later.

24
25 MR. HASKETT: So, thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 So this is not, obviously, a public comment, but I do
27 want to take note that this morning I heard a bunch of
28 compliments for the OSM Staff, so I want to go ahead
29 and memorialize that.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. HASKETT: I really want to
34 appreciate the fact that people said that OSM is well
35 represented, a bunch of great new hires, that we moved
36 quickly to get that done, people appreciated that in
37 response of early materials, and so I want to go ahead
38 and point that out to the group and thank you all for
39 making those comments but especially thank Gene Peltola
40 and his OSM Staff, who have done such a great job.

41
42 So thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Is Myron
45 Naneng here. We'll give you the floor.

46
47 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 Members of the Board. Regional Advisory Council
49 Chairmans. My name is Myron Naneng, Sr. I'm the
50 president of the Association of Village Council

1 Presidents, which represents 56 villages on the Yukon
2 Kuskokwim Delta, the size of the state of Oregon. We
3 always say that over and over again to Fish and
4 Wildlife Service, because we have a big area to work
5 with and so whenever we go down to Oregon we always
6 say, well, we're in a state that's as big as our
7 region.

8

9 But first of all I'd like to thank you
10 for the opportunity to make some comments on some of
11 the issues that you've heard before and report on some
12 of the things that AVCP has been doing for both the
13 Yukon and the Kuskokwim Rivers on the chinook salmon
14 concerns.

15

16 One. The first thing I wanted to say
17 is that I was told that I needed to fill out a green
18 card in order to testify. I thought I was an alien in
19 my own country.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. NANENG: Because I've heard about
24 the green cards for people that want to be able to work
25 on jobs within the United States.

26

27 Well, AVCP's a tribal consortium that
28 represents 56 villages on the Yukon and Kuskokwim
29 Rivers. And there's some villages that have given
30 authorization to AVCP to speak on their behalf on many
31 of the issues that we have, some of them natural
32 resources, social services and other things,
33 employment, training and other programs. I heard this
34 morning that there was a tribal consultation. When
35 there's a tribal consultation I think you got to
36 respect the fact that some of our villages have given
37 us an authorization to speak on their behalf. One
38 Federal agency recognizes it and then you go to another
39 place, another Federal agency says, we don't recognize
40 the authority that the tribes have given you to speak
41 on their behalf. And I think that is wrong. If one
42 Federal agency recognizes you as a group, or a tribal
43 consortium, what's wrong with the other Federal
44 agencies that are supposed to be working with those
45 agencies and they're all sitting around here on the
46 table, and they look at that as if we shouldn't be
47 speaking on behalf of our people and our villages. And
48 I thought that we were working with the US government,
49 overall, on these subsistence issues that our people
50 rely on for food. And, you know, sometimes I wonder if

1 the Federal agencies, even sitting at a table like this
2 together are really coordinating their efforts to work
3 with the people that live out in the areas that they're
4 responsible for, to gather food from the land, the
5 seas, the waters, the lakes, the airs, because we do
6 have a lot of programs within our region that involve
7 other states, like the migratory birds, the salmon and
8 other land mammals that come to our lands. And as
9 villages, our villages have really made a concerted
10 effort to make more food available on their lands.

11
12 You've heard this morning from some of
13 the RAC members. That moose moratorium was implemented
14 down on the Lower Yukon. It was in coordination with
15 the State of Alaska as well as Fish and Wildlife
16 Service, but our own people from the villages added two
17 more additional years on their own. And today I think
18 the fruits of that work has really reflected on the
19 fact that our people on the Lower Yukon can hunt for a
20 bull moose, a cow and a calf as well as being able to
21 harvest two of them. So that reflects that regardless
22 of what rules and regulations any agency comes up with,
23 the people that you rely on to help increase the
24 population of food that we live off of are the people
25 who live in the villages.

26
27 I'll give you one example again. 1984
28 Cackling Canada geese fell down to about the population
29 of 24 to 25,000. The villages got together working
30 with the states of Washington, Oregon and California to
31 put a conservation plan together and now the population
32 is up to about 160,000 and now the only people that are
33 complaining about too many birds are the farmers down
34 in Oregon because it impacts their plants during
35 springtime before they migrate to our lands out in the
36 YK Delta to reproduce more so that we can have more
37 birds and our people can have the ability to hunt and
38 fish, hunt for them whenever they want to.

39
40 And some of the other things that we've
41 worked on within AVCP is that we've worked on the
42 Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendment that now
43 recognizes the fact that our people throughout Alaska
44 can hunt for migratory birds without having to buy duck
45 stamps, a Federal duck stamp. I don't know what
46 they're going to do with the State of Alaska. But as
47 far as I'm concerned I've grown up without a duck stamp
48 and I'm going to continue to hunt without a duck stamp.

49
50 A couple of years ago we had some

1 issues on the Kuskokwim River and I think it also goes
2 back to 2009 where the concern of chinook salmon, it's
3 still ongoing. Some of our people went out to fish
4 because they wanted that food. You know the Federal
5 Fish and Wildlife Service worked with some State agency
6 and issued one citation at Marshall, which they
7 dropped, but then on the Kuskokwim in 2012 we had some
8 of our people cited by the State of Alaska for fishing
9 for food within the Federal waters. I think if we're
10 going to say that you can't speak on behalf of your
11 people, as a regional organization, I think the Feds
12 also have to take the responsibility to carry out their
13 duties under Title VIII of ANILCA. And I think that
14 OSM is moving in that direction but it probably would
15 have avoided having some of our people have to pay
16 fines and if we had known better about it back then we
17 would have stated that the Federal government did not
18 carry out it's responsibility back in 2012 because it
19 didn't do an .804 assessment on the Kuskokwim River and
20 the State of Alaska issued citations, the court
21 recognized that we have the religious right to that
22 salmon as Native people and today it's going through
23 the State court system, but we know that if we happen
24 to bring it to the Federal courts we know that State
25 citations would have been dropped, and can still be
26 dropped today if we pursued that.

27
28 Last spring at St. Mary's, we invited villages,
29 in coordination with Tanana Chiefs from Fairbanks, for
30 villages that rely on the chinook salmon on the Yukon.
31 We had representatives from Hooper Bay all the way up
32 to Fort Yukon. We had a total of about pretty close to
33 30 villages that were present at that meeting. AVCP
34 and Tanana Chiefs may have coordinated that meeting but
35 the tribes on their own came up with a resolution that
36 they shared as tribal representatives that they were
37 going to do a moratorium on themselves for 2014 fishing
38 season on chinook salmon. Have we heard of any
39 moratorium that's being done by State of Alaska on
40 salmon. No. The only thing that we've heard from both
41 State and the Feds, is we'll do an emergency order to
42 close the fisheries for both subsistence and commercial
43 fisheries. And that's not fair. This past spring we
44 made a petition to North Pacific Fisheries Management
45 Council that if State of Alaska as well as the Federal
46 managers can do emergency order on the in-river
47 subsistence users, that they should also impose
48 emergency orders on the Bering Sea trawl fleet who have
49 a bycatch allocation of 60,000 chinook salmon and a
50 trigger for them to start watching, what they should do

1 is about 47,000. On the other end there's a Canadian
2 Treaty obligation where we should allow 42,000 chinook
3 salmon to go up to the Yukon River and spawn in Canada.
4 We've surpassed that number a few times at the expense
5 of our people on the river system to not fish at all
6 for those foods that they value. That chinook salmon.
7 And as stated by one of the doctors in the past, you
8 know, our people are going through some health issues
9 because they're not able to get some of the food that
10 they've historically harvested as food.

11
12 You know once upon a time I came before
13 this Board and I called the Board grocery shoppers and
14 if our people in the villages started shopping for
15 food, buying food, it doesn't provide as much nutrition
16 as the food that we gather off the lands, the waters
17 and the seas.

18
19 With that moratorium that our villages
20 imposed on themselves for 2014, it has sent a signal to
21 both State of Alaska as well as to the North Pacific
22 Fisheries Management Council, that they got to do
23 something to reduce the bycatch. And, you know, a lot
24 of people in our villages say, you know, if there's
25 money involved, the people who are in regulatory
26 positions will support those people that make more
27 money off those resources than they would for families
28 that totally rely on that resource for food. And
29 that's what we've observed on many of these meetings
30 that they had and I've attended many Board of Fish
31 meetings and I see the same thing. I see the same
32 thing with North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.
33 And I hope that that does not occur at some point in
34 the future with the Federal Subsistence Board but I do
35 believe that it's moving slowly in the direction of
36 trying to find ways to work together with the people
37 that are directly impacted to help them in perpetuating
38 the resources that we live off of.

39
40 You know, the reason why we brought up
41 the meeting that we had last year, as well as there was
42 another meeting on the Kuskokwim River, where some of
43 the tribal representatives also imposed a moratorium on
44 themselves. You know many people in the villages don't
45 agree but they also are concerned about the fact that
46 we have a conservation concern. And if we can work
47 together with these villages and the tribal members I
48 think we can go a long ways.

49
50 One of the things that AVCP's working

1 on, along with Tanana Chiefs, is to establish inter-
2 tribal fish commissions. How can we build capacity for
3 many of our people in the villages that are directly
4 impacted on these resources. And the reasons why we're
5 bringing that up, both for the Kuskokwim and the Yukon
6 is that the managers of these river systems, like the
7 ones in Bethel, you know, I always come up with names
8 for some of these, but they're just like bears,
9 hibernators, they show up in April or May, and then
10 they disappear in October. Do they live in our
11 villages, in Bethel or in the area year-round to
12 observe the environmental happenings that are impacting
13 some of these resources? No, they don't. They
14 probably take a look at the weather report and say, oh,
15 today there's snow falling, but tomorrow it's going to
16 rain, but they don't really observe maybe the ice
17 conditions that are causing some of the resources to be
18 impacted by that. And the best way to really learn
19 about these resources and why they might be declining
20 or increasing is to live there. And people that have
21 the traditional knowledge should be respected because
22 you don't learn everything about the environment or
23 what you live off of or what you're trying to manage
24 out of a book. You know, I took natural resources when
25 I was in college, but the best training place for
26 natural resources that I saw was always out in the
27 field. Where my dad took me out hunting; where my dad
28 -- for migratory birds, marine mammals, and even
29 fishing. He was the one that taught me and I learned a
30 lot more from him than what I ever learned from the
31 university system.

32
33 So I'd encourage people that if they're
34 going to be working as resource managers, that I think
35 that they ought to live there and work with the local
36 people who are directly affected and more often than
37 not who are directly asked to make sacrifices in order
38 to perpetuate some of these resources. It has to work
39 both ways.

40
41 The other thing that came up as a
42 result of our efforts to do the inter-tribal fish
43 commissions is now the Department of Interior,
44 Assistant Secretary Connor, at the AFN Convention,
45 announced the demonstration project for the Kuskokwim
46 River. We'd like to also see that for the Yukon River.
47 The demonstration project, as they call it, which we
48 called the inter-tribal fish commission, is something
49 that we know that by working together with our people
50 we can really make a difference on some of these

1 resources that may be having some issues. We know that
2 there are other problems that are affecting why some of
3 these resource are on the decline.

4

5 You know, I believe in August Geoff
6 Haskett and I, we were at Hooper Bay, and I pointed out
7 to him, you know, I used to be able to walk straight
8 down from the village to the sand dunes out towards the
9 bay at a short distance, kind of like a direct line to
10 the beach. Today that area that we used to walk on,
11 you have to go like about half a mile in towards the
12 airport, another half a mile back towards the beach.
13 We're losing some of the vegetation on lands out there
14 near our villages. Some of it's caused by maybe
15 climate change. We're losing some of the lands that
16 have been producing areas where birds have nested
17 before, and we're observing that along many of the
18 coastal areas in our area. So there are a lot of
19 impacts and it's not, for us that live in the village,
20 it's not an abstract, it's what we're observing. This
21 morning there was communication between my brother and
22 someone that he's working with with one of the Federal
23 agencies, we know that the land is slowly sinking
24 because of the fact that we're losing permafrost out in
25 many areas of our region. And if some of you have been
26 involved with construction, especially having to dig
27 quite a ways down to put some type of structure, people
28 are talking about warm permafrost. So these are things
29 that are happening and I think that when you make a
30 decision about resources, you also have to consider
31 those environmental concerns that our people have in
32 villages that are probably never thought of by people
33 who are managing some of these resources by never
34 having been out in the places where people gather their
35 food.

36

37 So, Mr. Chairman, that's the extent of
38 my comments.

39

40 I think for one more information for
41 you, we're planning on having a second meeting of the
42 Yukon villages sometime within the next two months up
43 in Tanana. It's going to be a follow up meeting with
44 the tribal representatives from the villages. And I
45 believe that our villages are going to talk about
46 putting together their own management plans from the
47 local level, you know, information has been gathered by
48 biologists and other social scientists about some of
49 these things, but I think that our villages feel that
50 it's about time that we work on our own and if the

1 State and the Feds want to work with us we'll be more
2 than welcome to invite them in. And I know that if
3 Tanana Chiefs President Victor Joseph was here he would
4 be saying the same thing. And we've met with OSM in
5 December to start talking about some of these things
6 that we plan on working on.

7

8 So just giving you an update of some of
9 the things that we're working on as AVCP for the food
10 security of our people in the YK Delta.

11

12 With that, thank you very much.

13

14 Any questions.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Myron.

17 Are there any questions -- Mr. Haskett.

18

19 MR. HASKETT: Thank you, Myron. Very
20 eloquent as always.

21

22 So when you mentioned that you're going
23 to have, I think two meetings, with you and the Tanana
24 Chiefs, would it be possible for us to send a
25 representative to be there to be part of those
26 discussions?

27

28 MR. NANENG: I will ask my
29 counterparts, both are at Tanana Chiefs, to see if
30 they're willing to get some information that can be
31 provided to them regarding what's going on but most of
32 the information that we had last summer was the fact
33 that our people in the villages were feeling that they
34 seem to be bearing more of the burden of conservation
35 while all these other things are happening and that
36 really need to be taken a look at like the bycatch of
37 chinook salmon out in the Bering Sea. And we know that
38 our own people are also impactors, so I think that also
39 needs to get a better understanding of it, too. But
40 we'll let the Federal agencies know and I will probably
41 send the information through Buzzy, Buzzy Peltola.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. NANENG: That's what we call him in
46 Bethel so we don't know him by any other name because
47 he's a junior.

48

49 MR. HASKETT: Mr. Chair, may I.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If we get angry
2 we'll all him Buzzy.
3
4 MR. HASKETT: I was going to say the
5 only time anybody calls him Buzzy they're mad at him,
6 so.....
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MR. NANENG: Well, that's good. We're
11 not mad at him when we call him Buzzy but we're.....
12
13 MR. HASKETT: Okay.
14
15 MR. NANENG:mad at him when we
16 call him Gene, Jr.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. HASKETT: Okay, Gene, Jr., did you
21 get that.
22
23 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 MR. HASKETT: Okay.
28
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
30 questions.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Myron.
35 Is there anyone else who would like the mic to discuss
36 any non-agenda items.
37
38 We have Rosemary in Barrow, would you
39 like to address the Board on the consultation policy
40 and the North Slope RAC issues?
41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm on for the
43 tribal consultation process and I'm really glad that
44 this discussion is happening and I really appreciate
45 the effort to try to communicate -- the speakers to
46 communicate directly into the mics because that does
47 help us in hearing what's occurring. I thank you
48 everyone and I'll be available for that discussion.
49
50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay. We apologize

1 Rosemary for the bad connection. You had wanted to
2 make some comments on the consultation process.

3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm the co-Chair for
5 the tribal consultation policy so that's why I'm on for
6 that part and also in general, for some comments on the
7 North Slope section.

8
9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay. We'll make
10 note that you'll address us in a later part of the
11 agenda.

12
13 We have another request from Roy
14 Ashenfelter, you had the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
15 discussion.

16
17 MR. ASHENFELTER: Good afternoon, Mr.
18 Chairman. Members of the Council. I'm Roy
19 Ashenfelter. I live and work in Nome.

20
21 I represent a couple different
22 positions. I participate on the drafting of the tribal
23 consultation language. My role there is through the
24 ANCSA Corporations.

25
26 Just a little bit about Kawerak,
27 similar to what Myron had to say. Kawerak would not be
28 in existence if it didn't have a resolution from the
29 tribes asking them to represent them through Kawerak.
30 And that's important because if you put all your money
31 together you can then go to D.C., you can then go to
32 different places and use those resources to advocate
33 for the tribes that ask you to represent them. So I
34 feel that it's the non-profits that have the
35 resolutions from the tribes to represent them can also
36 participate in the tribal consultation. They're asked
37 to do that throughout the state. I'm asked to do that
38 for Kawerak on many fishery issues.

39
40 So those are basically a few things.

41
42 On the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
43 working group, they did have their meeting in December.
44 I didn't participate but I used to be the Chair of that
45 committee for quite a few years. What's important
46 about that organization is that it has representations
47 from Arctic all the way to Seward Peninsula members.
48 It also has non-member organizations, like AC reps from
49 Anchorage, from Fairbanks, a sporting group,
50 conservation, any organization out there that feels it

1 has a role in participating in the working group can
2 join and we ask them -- factors -- we added the fliers,
3 what do they call those guys that fly in, they don't
4 actually charter or guide, but they actually fly in and
5 so, anyway.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Transporters.

8

9 MR. ASHENFELTER; Yeah, transporters.
10 And so we asked them to join because in Unit 23, in the
11 NANA region there was many issues in regards and
12 questions about the role of the transporters and so we
13 asked them to join and they joined.

14

15 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
16 Group, again, the other part of it that's really
17 important is all the agencies are part of the group,
18 State, BLM, SCUs, Federal, you know, all the agencies
19 work together and the reason for this huge process is
20 the caribou migrate, again from the Arctic to Seward
21 Peninsula and it crosses many boundaries, many land
22 owners and is very huge and it is in decline.

23

24 So the reason I bring that up is
25 because probably what will come before this Federal
26 Subsistence Board later on this year is some action
27 items as a result of the declining herd. So a head's
28 up about different things that'll be asked for the
29 Federal Subsistence Board to consider along with the
30 State.

31

32 And the last thing I want to talk about
33 is the importance of, you know, trying to -- this
34 coming year will be the new round, if you will, with
35 the Board of Fish. It doesn't have really a lot to do
36 with the Federal Subsistence Board but there would be,
37 I think, some role, someone participating at the Board
38 of Fish and the Board of Game meetings to get a general
39 understanding about what some of the issues that will
40 be impacting us. In Seward Peninsula we have very
41 limited Federal lands. We have mostly State lands so
42 most of our issues are dealt with through the Board of
43 Game and Board of Fish.

44

45 Those are my comments to the Federal
46 Subsistence Board on the non-agenda items. I
47 appreciate the opportunity to talk.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Roy. Are
2 there any questions of Mr. Ashenfelter. Go ahead Mr.
3 Shiedt.

4
5 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, Enoch -- Attamuk
6 with Northwest Alaska.

7
8 Just for your information, to concur
9 with what Roy is saying, the transporters and
10 outfitters, there's two guides that quite guiding to
11 become transporters and outfitters because they make
12 more money. That's how bad it's getting in Northwest
13 Alaska, and one transporter alone had 71 spike camps at
14 the Noatak River. Just for your information.

15
16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any
17 further questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Roy, for
22 your participation.

23
24 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We have another
27 testimony request from Courtenay Carty from Dillingham.

28
29 MS. CARTY: Good afternoon, Mr.
30 Chairman. Members of the Board. And our lovely RAC
31 Chairs. Thank you for having me today. For the record
32 my name is Courtenay Carty. I'm the Director of
33 Natural Resources at the Bristol Bay Native Association
34 in Dillingham.

35
36 BBNA, like Kawerak, and AVCP before us
37 is the regional non-profit consortium. We represent 31
38 tribes in Bristol Bay.

39
40 Today I'm here to talk with you a
41 little bit about myself and my experience in the
42 Federal Subsistence Management Program as well as the
43 work that BBNA does with our RAC Program through the
44 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program and our nexus
45 with the FRMP Program, which is also on your agenda.

46
47 So I've been working in Federal
48 Subsistence Management for 12 years now. My first
49 field season was in 2002 with the Togiak Refuge. And I
50 served as our partners biologist subsistence fisheries

1 scientist for four years. I was the first person to go
2 from being a partners intern to managing a partners
3 program. And to date the only other person to do that
4 within the system was also a worker at BBNA. I now
5 have replaced Molly as our director of natural
6 resources but we still work closely together with the
7 RAC and that's what I'd like to talk with you guys
8 about today.

9
10 So since 2001 BBNA has served as co-
11 investigators on projects with our State and Federal
12 agency partners through the FRMP Program providing
13 local capacity building and expertise, logistics on
14 stock, status, trends and HMTEK projects with those
15 units and our tribes, especially when money was high,
16 we had a lot of projects and as Federal budget cuts
17 came in slowly we started feeling like we were getting
18 written out of the process. Refuge Staffing capacity
19 within our land units decreased and the King Salmon
20 Fisheries Field Office closed and those positions were
21 absorbed here in Anchorage. We feel strongly that the
22 urbanization of resource managers, in general, either
23 through the Federal system or the State system
24 definitely disenfranchises local harvesters and our
25 ability to be effective in the public process. So as
26 we've kind of scaled back our efforts on working on the
27 research projects we've definitely maximized our
28 partnerships with our RAC and working very much
29 involved in the Federal process and also the State
30 processes of Board of Fish and Board of Game.

31
32 We've also maintained an internship
33 program with our FRMP Projects that we do have and work
34 regularly with the RAC. When Federal funds have
35 diminished like Lake Clark National Park, that used to
36 be a priority information need under FRMP and was
37 funded through the FRMP Project but because that money
38 shrunk up, Lake Clark still found a way to fund that
39 tower although this year there's no funds for that
40 counting tower.

41
42 As research dollars -- as Federal
43 capacity to participate in your own program diminish
44 through lack of research dollars and adequate Staff, we
45 the partner, in our region, have responded by shifting
46 our energy, as I said, to working with the systems that
47 we do have in place, the public process, through the
48 RAC and by investing in educational opportunities and
49 work skill development with our interns. To-date, and
50 you guys might have seen the Partners Program flier,

1 BBNA has hosted over 75 internships, 74 of them were
2 for college students and this year we held our first
3 high school intern.

4

5 The Bristol Bay RAC and BBNA, we feel,
6 are true partners in Federal co-management within the
7 system in our region. Our RAC members are active and
8 knowledgeable about the history and current status of
9 our resources. They document changes, trends and
10 concerns in regards to fish and wildlife in Bristol Bay
11 regardless of the boundaries placed on us, on our maps,
12 the funding sources attached to those resources, as
13 well as which regulatory system we're harvesting under.
14 Our people will continue to harvest the food that they
15 need by the method which works when the food is
16 available. Through all the bureaucratic tape that
17 compartmentalizes our ability to harvest resources and
18 live off the land in the way that we always have, it's
19 become increasing impossible to conduct the research
20 necessary to document changes happening to those
21 resources or our ability to harvest them.

22

23 For example, I'll go into the priority
24 information needs and the FRMP section of your agenda
25 focusing on the Southwest Alaska priority information
26 needs.

27

28 I've already mentioned briefly the Lake
29 Clark National Park Newhalen River counting tower that
30 was previously an FRMP funded project and is listed
31 with four priority information needs, really citing the
32 concerns coming out of that region in regards to
33 sockeye in that system. Our biggest, which is actually
34 kind of down on the bottom of the list right now that
35 our RAC has been working on and BBNA for awhile, is the
36 monitoring of chinook salmon in the Togiak district.
37 Adequate monitoring of that system has not happened
38 since 2012 when our FRMP project was over, but the lack
39 of methodological, logistical and financial strains in
40 the systems has resulted in an inability to accurately
41 obtain reliable escapement estimates for chinook in the
42 Togiak district. Meanwhile across the state chinook
43 resources are declining but, yet, our escapement goal
44 for Togiak chinook was eliminated at the 2012 Alaska
45 Board of Fish meeting. However, our commercial fishery
46 in the Togiak district harvests five times more salmon
47 than the subsistence harvesters in that community. The
48 current FRMP priority information need for Togiak is
49 for a stock, status, trends project. But given the
50 financial realities and changing dynamics of that

1 fishery BBNA is going to be working with our Federal
2 agencies and the State Department of Fish and Game,
3 Division of Subsistence to respond to that priority
4 information need with an HMTEK project that would allow
5 us to better understand how chinook is being harvested
6 in the district while there is no research ongoing
7 regards to the escapement and that way we can then try
8 to make more informed decisions by the Boards, and
9 insure that salmon, chinook salmon specifically, are
10 returning to that districts in numbers able to, not
11 only, support the subsistence harvest but also to allow
12 for the vibrant economy for our local commercial
13 fishermen who are also our subsistence harvesters as
14 well as for the sportfishing outfits in Togiak, one of
15 which is owned by the tribe.

16
17 Understanding and responding to these
18 changes in our fisheries is exactly what our RAC is
19 trying to accomplish by designating the priority
20 information need titled description and analysis of
21 social networks in Bristol Bay and Chignik Areas. Our
22 people's ability to harvest, process and share fish is
23 changing just as our environment and economies are. We
24 need to know how these changes are affecting our
25 ability to meet the subsistence priority for Bristol
26 Bay residents.

27
28 The community of Port Heiden is facing
29 similar concerns in regards to their chinook resources
30 just like Togiak. They're not sure that they're able
31 to maintain their customary harvest rates or even get
32 enough kings to feed their family in one summer.

33
34 Similar changes and a lack of
35 monitoring around Bristol Bay are causing concerns on
36 our rivers throughout our region which is why our RAC
37 has also cited research needs for the spawning stocks
38 of the Naknek, Alagnak, Chignik, and even the Nushagak,
39 which customarily does not fall under Federal
40 jurisdiction. But our RAC realizes that this is very
41 important and so therefore they put it in the priority
42 information needs.

43
44 BBNA will continue working with our
45 RACs, tribes, State and Federal agencies to respond to
46 the priority information needs as outlined in the 2016
47 FRMP call and we look forward to working with you and
48 your Staff on subsistence issues in our region.

49
50 We'd also like to encourage you guys to

1 come back out to the RAC meetings and reinstate that
2 travel policy where Federal Subsistence Board members
3 were traveling to the RACs to hear concerns within
4 communities, and, not only in those communities or at
5 those RACs facing pressing issues, but also with the
6 RACs that might not have a lot of regulatory proposals
7 in front of you because then you can see examples of
8 where we're working well on a day to day basis.

9

10 Thank you so much for your time and
11 opportunity to testify today.

12

13 I'm leaving tonight and will be on the
14 phone, hopefully it'll be able to work.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
17 there any Board members with questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your
22 time.

23

24 Do we have anyone on teleconference
25 that would like to address the Board on non-agenda
26 items.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any,
31 then we will conclude that portion of the agenda.

32

33 Our next topic on the agenda is public
34 comment period on consensus agenda items.

35

36 Chuck are you.....

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck
39 Ardizzone for the record. I was just going to read what
40 the consensus agenda items are so people are aware of
41 those.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: The proposals can be
46 found on Page 2 of your agenda for the Board and have
47 been included on the consensus agenda. These are
48 proposals for which there is agreement among Federal
49 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the Federal
50 Inter-Agency Staff Committee and Alaska Department of

1 Fish and Game concerning Board action. Anyone
2 disputing the recommendation on a proposal may request
3 that the Board remove the proposal from the consensus
4 agenda and place it on the regular agenda. The Board
5 retains final authority for removal of proposals from
6 the consensus agenda. The Board will make final action
7 on the consensus agenda after deliberation and
8 decisions on other proposals.

9

10 And for the record I'll read the
11 proposal numbers and the recommendations.

12

13 Proposal 15-01, the recommendation is
14 support with modification. And just
15 for clarify on this proposal the
16 modification recommended by several
17 Councils and should read:

18

19 Hook means a single shanked fish hook
20 with a single eye constructed with one
21 or more points with or without barbs.
22 A hook without a barb means a hook is
23 manufactured without a barb or the barb
24 has been completely removed or
25 compressed so the barb is in complete
26 contact with the shaft of the hook.

27

28 FP15-02 the recommendation is to
29 oppose.

30

31 FP15-04 the recommendation is to take
32 no action.

33

34 FP15-05 the recommendation is to
35 oppose.

36

37 FP15-08 the recommendation is to
38 oppose.

39

40 FP15-09 the recommendation is to
41 oppose.

42

43 FP15-12 the recommendation is to
44 oppose.

45

46 FP15-15 the recommendation is to
47 support.

48

49 So that is the proposals and the
50 recommendations that are on the consensus agenda for

1 people.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any
4 questions or comments from the Board or the RAC Chairs.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then as was
9 stated, the Board will take final action on the
10 consensus agenda after deliberations and decisions on
11 all other proposals. So this discussion will come up
12 again at the end of our deliberations probably tomorrow
13 or the day after.

14

15 The floor is now open for any public
16 comments on the consensus agenda items.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Is there anyone on
21 line that would like to make any comments regarding the
22 consensus agenda items.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we will
27 proceed, thank you, on to Item No. 7, which begins our
28 2015-17 Subpart C and D Proposals Fisheries
29 Regulations. Would you like to make an introduction to
30 that.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay. Just an
35 explanation of the process here. We are going through
36 the non-consensus agenda items and we've got a specific
37 procedure for doing these proposals.

38

39 The first step is to do an analysis
40 presentation and the Staff of the
41 Federal Subsistence Division will make
42 that presentation.

43

44 No. 2 we will have a summary of the
45 written comments that were received by
46 the -- and this will be done by the
47 Regional Council Coordinators for each
48 specific proposal.

49

50 No. 3 we'll have a summary of the

1 tribal consultation provided by the
2 Native Liaison.
3
4 No. 4 we will open the floor for public
5 testimony.
6
7 No. 5 we will have Regional Council
8 recommendations by the Chair or his/her
9 designee.
10
11 No. 6 will be the Department of Fish
12 and Game comments.
13
14 No. 7 will be the Inter-Agency Staff
15 Committee comments as provided by the
16 ISC Chair.
17
18 No. 8 there will be Board discussions
19 with the Council Chairs and State
20 liaison.
21
22 No. 9 will be the final action by the
23 Federal Subsistence Board.
24
25 So we have 10 proposals this year, and
26 I don't know if everyone in the crowd has a copy of the
27 agenda but we have the -- the first group -- I'm sorry,
28 go ahead, did you have a question.
29
30 MR. THOMAS: When is the tribal
31 consultation going to be held?
32
33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I think we are
34 talking about step No. 4, I will open the floor for
35 public testimony and that's 'when, if you have any
36 comments on each specific proposal that's when you
37 could come up to the table and make your presentation.
38
39 MR. THOMAS: Backing up a step, so the
40 consensus items.
41
42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Oh, consensus.
43
44 MR. THOMAS: Do you want those later,
45 the tribal.....
46
47 REPORTER: Sam, go to the microphone
48 please, I'm not picking you up back there.
49
50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay, the next time

1 it will be open will be tomorrow morning at the
2 beginning.

3

4 MR. THOMAS: At the beginning?

5

6 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Yeah.

7

8 MR. THOMAS: Isn't that just for non-
9 agenda items?

10

11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If you have comments
12 now we can give you the floor.

13

14 MR. THOMAS: Okay, thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman. My name is Sam Thomas. I'm a tribal council
16 members for the Craig Tribal Association. And on FP15-
17 15, the Craig Tribal Association supports the actions
18 by the RAC and their actions. It's been an ongoing
19 issue with the depleting resources for the Klawock
20 system that people are trying to find other means of
21 getting fish for their households, but it also --
22 they're also putting a huge impact on the resources
23 there so by closing the waters above the bridge and
24 within the Klawock sub-basins, it's a good proactive
25 approach to saving the resources that are at jeopardy
26 there. And we've been trying to get the sockeye stocks
27 up to a good sustainable level, even though there's a
28 huge amount of cohos within that system also.

29

30 Thank you that's my testimony on FP15-
31 15.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. And what
34 did you say your organization was?

35

36 MR. THOMAS; I am here representing the
37 Craig Tribal Association.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Okay.

40

41 MR. THOMAS:on beautiful Prince
42 of Wales Island.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.

45

46 And for information to the public, we
47 will start each morning with any other public comments
48 on non-agenda items and also a public comment period on
49 consensus agenda items. So if you didn't get an
50 opportunity today you'll have an opportunity tomorrow.

1 I assume that we'll still be going tomorrow.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We're then back to
6 Item No. 6, the public comment period on consensus
7 agenda items. Our first proposal is 15 -- FP15-03 for
8 the Board members, it's on Page 89, and we'll -- the
9 general description of the proposal is FP15-03 requests
10 the elimination of the use of drift gillnets fishing
11 gear for the targeting of chinook salmon in Yukon River
12 Districts 1 through 4 submitted by the Eastern Interior
13 Regional Advisory Council. Could we have the Staff go
14 ahead and give your presentation.

15

16 MR. LIEBICH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
17 and Members of the Board. My name is Trent Liebich.
18 I'm a fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence
19 Management. Is everybody able to hear me all right,
20 folks on line as well, on the telephone.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. I'll assume that's
25 a yes.

26

27 So I'll talk through 15-03, I'm just
28 going to give maybe a two minute summary here of the
29 proposal and then if you guys have questions we can try
30 to get into more details, if needed.

31

32 So this regulatory change, as
33 mentioned, this is requesting the elimination of the
34 use of drift gillnet fishing gear for the targeting of
35 chinook salmon in Yukon River Districts 1 through 4,
36 and this was submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional
37 Advisory Council.

38

39 And the proposed regulatory change is:
40 This is intended to eliminate the use of the driftnets
41 for the targeting of chinook in the Yukon and the
42 reason for this is that the proponent, in this case,
43 the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council, they're
44 concerned -- the escapement goals have not been met for
45 chinook salmon in recent years, and believe that the
46 change in regulation should provide additional
47 protections for chinook salmon that could improve the
48 overall escapement throughout much of the Yukon River
49 drainage.

50

1 So if adopted, the proposal would
2 remove drift gillnets as a gear type for the Federal
3 subsistence harvest of chinook in the Yukon River. And
4 the driftnets right now, currently, are not allowed in
5 Yukon Districts 5 and 6, however, they are allowed in
6 Districts 1 through 3 and parts of District 4 under
7 Federal regulation. Similarly, under State
8 regulations, drift gillnets are allowed in Districts 1
9 through 4.

10
11 So the elimination of the drift
12 gillnets could benefit chinook salmon during times of
13 conservation, if the removal of the drift gillnets as a
14 gear type was effective in reducing harvest efficiency
15 of chinook to the extent that it reduced the overall
16 harvest. Conversely, elimination of the drift gillnets
17 could also be a potential detriment to subsistence
18 users whose harvest of chinook salmon may be more
19 effective with the use of drift gillnets during strong
20 chinook salmon years.

21
22 This proposal would remove a fishing
23 gear option that is currently relied on by one segment
24 of the fishing community, it would not affect the
25 fishing practices of others.

26
27 Additionally, if drift gillnets were
28 eliminated as a gear type in Federal waters, Federally-
29 qualified subsistence users would still be able to fish
30 in areas under State regulations that allowed
31 utilization of the drift gillnets in State waters. So
32 as I mentioned in Districts 1 through 4 you would still
33 be able to fish under State regulation in State waters
34 using drift gillnets even if eliminated under Federal
35 regulation.

36
37 And, lastly, it's also worth noting,
38 two things. Set gillnets would still be allowed
39 throughout the entire Yukon drainage. And then also
40 worth noting a significant piece of information for
41 this discussion, is that, if appropriate we still have
42 the Federal in-season manager for the Yukon River
43 currently has the delegated authority to accomplish
44 what's being proposed in 15-03 by having that delegated
45 authority for opening and closing the Federal
46 subsistence fishing periods or areas provided under
47 regulations and the ability to specify the methods and
48 means.

49
50 So at this point OSM's conclusion is to

1 oppose this proposal. That ends my summary of the
2 analysis.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any
7 questions of the Staff.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for that
12 analysis. We will then move on to the summary of the
13 public comments by the Regional Council coordinator.

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Members of the Board. My name is Carl Johnson. I'm
17 the Council Coordination Division Chief at the Office
18 of Subsistence Management. Normally for proposals you
19 might have a single subsistence Council coordinator up
20 here representing their region, and just as a point of
21 education for those in the room who may not be familiar
22 with this process, I will be the one who will do any of
23 the summary of written public comments for any of the
24 multi-regional crossover proposals and any statewide
25 proposals.

26

27 And in this case, for this proposal,
28 there are no written public comments that have been
29 submitted.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Go
34 ahead.

35

36 MR. HASKETT: So this morning -- thank
37 you, Mr. Chair. This morning actually there were some
38 written comments that were going to be submitted by
39 Peter and Arnold Demoski, I think, that were going to
40 be made part of the record. This just happened this
41 morning, if they're still here.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The Staff are going
44 out to make copies?

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, there's
47 somebody going out to the desk to grab a copy right now
48 and I will summarize that into the record.

49

50 (Pause)

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Mr. Demoski, we have
2 people going out to make copies of your letter and you
3 will have an opportunity to give your testimony in the
4 next step.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Have you got -- in
9 the interest of time, have you got your analysis, a
10 summary of his testimony?

11
12 MR. JOHNSON: No, Mr. Chair. Mr.
13 Haskett, when he just mentioned it, was the first time
14 I was aware that there was a written public comment on
15 this proposal that had been submitted.

16
17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We could ask Mr.
18 Demoski to summarize your position.

19
20 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes, thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22
23 I want to acknowledge the Board, the
24 RAC Chairmanship. And I'd also like to acknowledge
25 these young students behind me who will some day be the
26 biologists working for the State and regulating our use
27 of subsistence resources.

28
29 The Nulato Tribal Council has directed
30 me to express opposition to FP15-03 which proposes to
31 eliminate drift gillnet fishing in Districts 1 through
32 4. In 2012 the Koyukuk subsistence fishermen
33 recommended that the first pulse of chinook salmon be
34 closed, this was done. Since 2012 the Nulato
35 subsistence fishermen recommended a moratorium on
36 chinook salmon along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. I
37 was Nulato's spokesperson. This moratorium occurred in
38 2014 after the historic meeting that Myron Naneng
39 mentioned before with the Yukon and Koyukuk and
40 Kuskokwim villages. We, the subsistence fishermen, in
41 District 4 have accepted a very small portion of blame
42 for the decline of chinook salmon and have accepted
43 huge sacrifices for the preservation and conservation
44 of chinook salmon.

45
46 District 4A makes recommendations that
47 affect all districts along the Yukon and Kuskokwim
48 Rivers. District 4A does not advocate recommendations
49 that are proposed to benefit one district at the
50 expense of another district. This is what FP15-03 is

1 going to do.

2

3 In 2014 137 chinook salmon swam through
4 the Pilot Station Sonar as of June 30th, 2014. This
5 far exceeded the projection of 64,000 to 121,000 by the
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In 2014 55,000
7 chinook swam through the Eagle Sonar into Canada,
8 exceeding the target escapement of 42,500. This should
9 not be inferred that the moratorium is the answer after
10 only one year. The moratorium demonstrated that the
11 desired escapement into Canada can be achieved. The
12 moratorium does not demonstrate that we can rely on
13 projections of numbers swimming by the Pilot Station
14 Sonar. In 2014 up to 80,000 chinook must have swam
15 into tributaries of the Yukon River drainage,
16 tributaries like the Anvik River, Nulato River, Gisasa
17 River, Tanana River. This exceeds the total number of
18 chinook traditionally harvested by the Yukon River
19 subsistence fishermen. Drift gillnet fishing, while
20 admittedly the most successful method for harvesting
21 chinook in District 4, the numbers traditionally
22 harvested would not dramatically affect the escapement
23 into Canada.

24

25 Is the factual numbers of chinook that
26 swim by the Pilot Station Sonar that is the determining
27 factor that tells us can we harvest or not harvest
28 chinook salmon. This is Alaska's Fish and Game
29 Department's best scientific reliance on projected
30 runs, which we have seen, can have an error rate of 12
31 percent to 53 percent. It has already been proven that
32 a high escapement into Canada does not always foretell
33 a high projection number five or six years in the
34 future. Neither does a low escapement into Canada
35 always foretell a low projection number five or six
36 years in the future.

37

38 For these reasons, Nulato Tribal
39 Council opposes FP15-03.

40

41 I might also add that the Fairbanks
42 Daily News Miner and the Anchorage Dispatch papers,
43 yesterday, both reported an escapement of 64,000
44 chinook salmon that went by the Eagle Sonar. So those
45 9,000 fish that exceeded the projection of 55,000 as
46 reported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
47 could easily have fulfilled the harvest needs of
48 District 1 in any given year.

49

50 My final comment is we're all trying to

1 work together for the preservation and conservation of
2 chinook salmon. The Federal agencies, the State
3 agencies and the tribal governments. Now, as a
4 representative of a tribal government, I find it hard
5 to work with the State when their numbers do not
6 coincide with other reported numbers. And I don't know
7 if that's a means of bolstering their conservation
8 methods at the expense of us fishermen, but that's what
9 it looks like to me.

10

Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
14 there any questions from the Board of Mr. Demoski?

15

(No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.
19 Demoski. Okay, we will -- Chuck, have you got any more
20 to add to the presentation or are there any questions
21 about the presentation from the Board.

22

(No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not, then we will
26 accept his reentry of the testimony into the record.

27

28 Are there any -- I'm going to move on
29 then to No. 3, opening the floor to public testimony,
30 is there anyone else that would like to testify on
31 FP15-03.

32

Go ahead, Mr. Andrew.

34

35 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 I did submit a green card a little late. For the
37 record my name is Timothy Andrew. I'm the director of
38 natural resources for the Association of Village
39 Council Presidents. We represent the 19 communities
40 within Districts 1, 2 and 3 with the exception of Holy
41 Cross, so Russian Mission on down to Kotlik on the
42 northern end and also communities of Hooper Bay and
43 Chevak on the southern end of District 1, coastal
44 district.

45

46 We've experienced reductions in our
47 gear a number of times in the past. We've gone from
48 unrestricted gear down to a maximum mesh of 7.5 inch
49 within the last four or five years, and we've also
50 experienced extreme conservation concerns with our

1 chinook salmon, both on the Yukon, Kuskokwim River, but
2 more so on the Yukon River since 1998. And 2007 was
3 the last commercially directed fishery for chinook
4 salmon. And it also changed within the subsistence
5 fishing arena as well. We are currently not targeting
6 chinook salmon for subsistence any longer in an effort
7 to try and meet our escapement obligations into Canada
8 and also to provide for escapement further up the Yukon
9 River. Much of the fishermen utilize six inch gear to
10 harvest primarily smaller fish like the chum salmon,
11 sheefish, whitefish and other species that run at the
12 same time chinook salmon does or later.

13

14 So the issue of the elimination of
15 drift gear would severely impact our communities within
16 the lower Yukon district. We remain optimistic just
17 like everyone else that our chinook salmon stocks will
18 return to abundant numbers to provide for not only
19 escapement but also for subsistence and a limited
20 commercial fishery. And we really look forward to the
21 works of the inter-tribal fisheries commission that
22 Myron had indicated earlier and our work with the
23 Tanana Chiefs Conference in rebuilding the chinook
24 salmon stocks.

25

26 And so in the end, AVCP opposes FP15-
27 03.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be happy to
30 answer any questions.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
33 there any questions of Mr. Andrew.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your
38 presentation.

39

40 We have another testimony request from
41 Stanislaus Shephard of Mountain Village.

42

43 MR. SHEPHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Board members. My name is Stanislaus Shephard. I grew
45 up subsistence way of life. Born and raised on the
46 Yukon River dependent on that salmon. My folks and my
47 grandparents heavily used that fish for subsistence to
48 feed us.

49

50 This proposal to restrict gillnets on

1 the Yukon River, like they said earlier, they have
2 found sinew used to make nets to harvest fish, you
3 know, and that's grandfathered down to us. And in the
4 past two years, going on third year now, Department of
5 Fish and Game restricted Districts 3 down to 1, coastal
6 villages, restrictions of six inches or smaller mesh,
7 only four inch was allowed for the lamprey ocean
8 whitefish, we call (In Yup'ik), it has a lot of oil
9 content in it. And they came up with this use of
10 dipnets on the lower Yukon River, and a majority of the
11 elders were not agreeing with that and them saying
12 that, you know, we're doing everything that the Federal
13 and State wanted us to do to conserve the salmon, king
14 salmon, chinook escapement.

15
16 And switching over to dipnet, it's
17 unheard of. Majority of the elders back home, believe
18 it or not, make a big joke about maybe next year or
19 within the next three years we're going to be
20 restricted down to rod and reel to harvest our
21 subsistence salmon. And, you know, the way things are
22 running now, that just might come to pass.

23
24 Mr. Wilde and his brother over there,
25 Mountain Village, Harry Wilde, are known for, you know,
26 fighting for our subsistence rights and being on the
27 Federal Subsistence Board RAC, they would very -- you
28 know, give a hardship on harvesting subsistence. Right
29 now it's even harder using the dipnet. Only when the
30 Department of Fish and Game, the Pilot Station Sonar,
31 which barely is reliable, a number of years it's been
32 pointing down and only counting about an eighth of the
33 pulse that come in and then later on finding out that,
34 you know, just like we have up there in Eagle, the
35 papers, just like Peter Demoski mentioned, that there's
36 an abundance of their estimated escapement. We -- it
37 would -- after that escapement is reached and a little
38 bit above in Pilot Station Sonar, then they allow us to
39 restrict -- they restrict our fishing hours, six hours,
40 12 hours with six inch or smaller. By that time when
41 we -- they allow us to use the gillnets for our
42 subsistence, 99.9 percent of the chinook run is up near
43 Tanana or above Holy Cross, maybe Nulato, up there, we
44 get stragglers like some of the salmon are coming in.
45 My cousin on the Yukon River, Mountain Village, he told
46 me he caught a coho, can you believe it, under the ice
47 last week. Those kind of stragglers we barely get.
48 And it was nice enough for the Department of Fish and
49 Game, the test fisheries in Emo to send some of the
50 salmon they catch for their -- you know, to do their

1 studies, instead of just the villages surrounding Emo,
2 they had the tribe write a letter to the Department of
3 Fish and Game to distribute it up river instead of just
4 keeping them down river. So it would hurt harvesting,
5 subsistence, dramatically.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
10 there any questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Do we
15 have any further public comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Chuck
20 [sic].

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 just wanted to update the record and reference Mr.
24 Demoski's comments on behalf of the Nulato Tribal
25 Council. We do have a written copy that's been
26 provided for the court reporter for inclusion in the
27 administrative record.

28

29 And I just want to make a distinction,
30 too, for the record, the written public comments that
31 the Council coordinators typically summarize for the
32 Board are written public comments that are submitted
33 during the public comment period following the release
34 of the proposal book, and I want to distinguish that
35 from tribal comments that are submitted directly to the
36 Board as part of the government to government process.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. If there
41 aren't any further public comments then we will go on
42 to the Regional coordinator -- I'm sorry, Regional
43 Council recommendations.

44

45 Mr. Firmin.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
50 Council supported this proposal and we voted 8-for and

1 2-against the proposal to eliminate the use of drift
2 gillnet gear for the targeting of chinook salmon in
3 Districts 1 through 4 of the Yukon River, was also
4 submitted by the Eastern Interior RAC.

5
6 The Council supports this proposal due
7 to overriding conservation concerns for Yukon River
8 chinook declines and cited the efficiency of the drift
9 gillnets to catch larger, older and female salmon. The
10 Council discussed that elimination of drift gillnets
11 during the chinook run in the lower river will allow
12 greater passage of chinook and increase overall
13 escapement to support rebuilding the population, which
14 will benefit all subsistence communities on the Yukon
15 River in the long run.

16
17 The Council noted that efforts for
18 chinook salmon conservation are needed by all users
19 along the Yukon River and it also discussed that the up
20 river has long since experienced the declining numbers
21 and smaller kings for many years and have been making
22 strong efforts to reduce the king harvest with very
23 limited fishing periods in recent years.

24
25 I'd also like to point out that, while
26 this will -- there is a mechanism for management to
27 remove this gear type as they see fit, they have never
28 used that tool in their management scheme to-date. And
29 that would be something that the RAC would like to see
30 in some years due to the efficiency of -- that it's --
31 they're using commercial gear in subsistence openings.

32
33 And I'd also like to say that the
34 proposal does not show any favoritism to any one
35 district or area, it's the same -- it would create a
36 fairness throughout the river system and that's one
37 thing that management always puts out there is they say
38 we want to see fairness, you have fairness in amount of
39 time to fish and amount of this and that but they have
40 -- those lower four districts have multiple other gear
41 types available to them that are not available to up
42 river fishermen and that would also go into that whole
43 fairness issue that they like to talk about.

44
45 And I'd also like to point out that in
46 -- while other people noted, like Mr. Andrew noted,
47 that there was recent mesh size changes, well, I know
48 for over the past 10 years or more, the Eastern
49 Interior RAC wanted to go to six inch mesh and those
50 didn't pass through and now that it did get reduced to

1 7.5 and six these were some things the Council feels
2 was too little, too late, and these are -- you know,
3 those are things that we'd like to -- we've wanted to
4 see accomplished in many years past.

5
6 And I'd also like to point out that
7 this only is for chinook salmon. There'd still be
8 driftnetting for other species and it's only a
9 conservation a concern while the chinook salmon are in
10 the river and there's many other gear types that they
11 could use like they were saying, setnets, there's
12 dipnetting, beach seining, I mean fish traps, whatever
13 they always use, there's many other places.

14
15 And the Council also feels that this
16 past summer that the reason that the escapement was
17 high and exceeded escapement on the Canadian border for
18 passage was that because the river wasn't full of
19 commercial gear being used for subsistence fishing.
20 And also to point out on Page 99 in your book, there's
21 two -- Tables 1 and 2, you could see in District 5,
22 compared to District 4 and 5, those are the two --
23 there's twice as many villages in those areas than in
24 the lower river. And on Table 2, if you look, the
25 lower district consistently catch the same numbers of
26 fish throughout the year, and -- well, as the years go
27 by and in District 5 you can see, as they said, after
28 2007 when they stopped commercial fishing for kings,
29 all the subsistence numbers went up but then from then
30 on District 5 has continually gone down and have
31 reduced their harvest more than any other district on
32 those tables. And District 5 is also the largest
33 district on the Yukon River.

34
35 I believe that's about all I have for
36 now but if anybody has any questions, thank you, Mr.
37 Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any
40 questions of Mr. Firmin. Go ahead, Mr. Haskett.

41
42 MR. HASKETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 So the in-season manager does have the
45 authority to do this, specifying the means of harvest,
46 but I understand what you're saying, it's never been
47 done before, but I mean certainly that could be part of
48 the conversation in upcoming years, if that's something
49 that was decided needed to be done, would that be
50 something that you all would be interested in further

1 conversations along those lines at some point?

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: Yes. The Council would
4 like to see them use those tools more and more.
5 Basically when they have an 18-hour opener in the lower
6 river it takes some lower river fishermen two hours to
7 catch their summer's catch and then they're done.
8 Well, that might take the same person on the other end
9 of the river, you know, two weeks, a month to catch
10 that many fish just due to the river conditions, types
11 of gear we're using and, yet, we get the same amount of
12 time as openers and that's one of the reasons the upper
13 river fishermen say, well, you want to make it fair and
14 reduce the number of fish being caught, let's all use
15 the same type of gear, although we do understand that
16 that's not always a solution but part of the reason
17 there was some frustration amongst the Council, and
18 like the two that opposed it, because it would make the
19 Federal system, I guess more restrictive than the
20 State, but if the State's not going to take initiative
21 and do something then maybe the Federal system should
22 and that was why we kind of pushed the issue through
23 it. And also when we tried to go to six inch mesh, I
24 don't even remember, since before I was on the Council,
25 then, you know, look how long that took to pass, before
26 anybody -- how many years before anybody even listened
27 to us so that was why we started bringing these
28 proposals before the Board to garner more attention to
29 use some of these tools that are available to
30 management.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
35 there any further comments. Mr. Demoski, do you have
36 a.....

37

38 MR. DEMOSKI: I don't know if Mr.
39 Firmin knows.....

40

41 REPORTER: Mr. Demoski, come up to the
42 mic please.

43

44 MR. DEMOSKI:that Galena is in
45 District 5, yet all.....

46

47 REPORTER: Mr. Demoski.

48

49 MR. H. BROWER: Come up to the mic.

50

1 MR. DEMOSKI: Oh, I'm sorry.

2

3 REPORTER: Thanks.

4

5 MR. DEMOSKI: I don't know if Mr.
6 Firmin knows that Galena is in District 5, it's the
7 largest village in the middle Yukon River and all their
8 subsistence fishermen come into District 4, our area,
9 to drift gillnet every summer. I don't know if Mr.
10 Firmin is aware. So the elimination of drift fishing
11 gear only applies to District 1 through 4, yet District
12 5 fishermen are coming in our area with that fishing
13 gear.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: At this point I'm
18 going to ask Jack Reakoff, who is on the line, if he
19 would like to speak in regards to 15-03. Mr. Reakoff,
20 you have the floor.

21

22 (Technical issues)

23

24 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: It almost sounds
25 like we're having technical difficulties and if Mr.
26 Reakoff cannot get through, I guess we're going to ask
27 Mr. Walker to make his comments -- I mean.....

28

29 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Hello, Mr. Chairman. I
32 cannot hear you. I am going to speak in the dark, the
33 sound system's been terrible today.

34

35 The Western Interior Regional Council
36 is opposed to FP15-03. The Council believes that the
37 proposed action is detrimental to subsistence users.
38 Mechanisms already exist for in-season managers to
39 eliminate drift gillnet, if necessary, and the Council
40 feels the existing system is adequate to address the
41 conservation concern of this resource. If a chinook is
42 not strong, Federally-qualified users should retain the
43 opportunity to utilize drift gillnets as a tool. In
44 times of severe restrictions, the in-season manager
45 should look at elimination of drift gillnet and go to
46 beach oriented gear to protect salmon to the highest
47 degree.

48

49 I feel that the Federal Subsistence
50 Board should encourage the in-season manager to

1 eliminate drift gillnet if the run is weak to protect
2 the resource, but as far as subsistence users in the
3 Western Interior region and the YK Delta, we feel that
4 drift gillnet gear is a traditional method of harvest.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.
9 Reakoff. And are there any Board members that have
10 questions of Mr. Reakoff.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr.
15 Walker.

16
17 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Jack.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: And it's been
21 suggested that you get as close to your mic as possible
22 because that's the only way it will get through to the
23 people on the public end.

24
25 MR. R. WALKER: Thank you for reminding
26 me, Mr. Chair.

27
28 Jack, if you're listening, if you go
29 back to when Tim Andrew was speaking also from Alaska
30 Village Council Presidents, he only mentioned far as to
31 Russian Mission but, you know, we have to remember too,
32 that Holy Cross is in Y3, but they are also in Region
33 6, so when we do speak we have to speak for Holy Cross,
34 too, also, even though they're in Y3.

35
36 Mr. Chair. Thank you.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
39 clarify one issue for the Board.

40
41 Galena's in District 4 but drift
42 gillnet gear can only be used in 4A, which is from the
43 mouth of the Koyukuk River down river and 4B and C, by
44 Galena, are closed and above are closed to drift
45 gillnet.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Could the Staff make
50 that a little bit more clear. I think I -- it sounded

1 like there's a 4A, 4B and 4C.

2

3 MR. LIEBICH: Yes, that's correct, on
4 the Yukon, there are Districts 4A, 4B and 4C and I can
5 read through the definitions within each of those.

6

7 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: So which portions
8 are allowed to use driftnets and which are not?

9

10 MR. LIEBICH: So right now existing
11 Federal regulation, I'll just read through it, for
12 Yukon Northern Area:

13

14 You may take salmon only by gillnet,
15 beach seine, fishwheel, or rod and reel
16 subject to restrictions set forth in
17 this section.

18

19 In Districts 4, 5 and 6 you may not
20 take salmon for subsistence purposes by
21 drift gillnets except as follows:

22

23 In Subdistrict 4A, up stream from the
24 mouth of Stink Creek you may take
25 chinook salmon by drift gillnets less
26 than 150 feet in length from June 10th
27 to July 14th, and chum salmon by drift
28 gillnets after August 2nd.

29

30 In Subdistrict 4A down stream from the
31 mouth of Stink Creek, you may take
32 chinook salmon by drift gillnets less
33 than 150 feet in length from June 10th
34 through July 14th.

35

36 In the Yukon River mainstem,
37 Subdistricts 4B and 4C, you may take
38 chinook salmon during the weekly
39 subsistence fishing openings by drift
40 gillnets no more than 150 feet in
41 length and no more than 35 meshes deep
42 from June 10th through July 14th.

43

44 So it's variations within District 4
45 and 4A, 4B and 4C.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you.

48

49 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes, I'm sorry, he
50 corrected me. Galena's in District 4B.

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any other
2 Regional Chairs that would like to make a comment with
3 regards to this.

4
5

6 (No comments)

7
8

9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we will
10 -- oh, okay, go ahead.

11
12

13 MR. SMITH: Louis asked me to speak on
14 this because I chaired the meeting.....

15
16

17 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Would you move
18 closer to the microphone.

19
20

21 MR. SMITH: Yes, Louis asked me to
22 speak on this because I chaired the meeting where this
23 issue came up. And we have -- you know the Seward
24 Peninsula RAC has residents down on the southern part
25 of our district that are on the mouth of the Yukon,
26 Stebbins and St. Michael's and some of those people are
27 commercial Yukon River fishermen and subsistence
28 fishermen and so we spent some time talking about this.
29 And then it's an issue that's very close to me
30 personally because I started out on the Yukon. I
31 bought my first commercial fishing license in 1975 to
32 fish with my father-in-law Don Hunter down in Marshall
33 and he drift -- drift gillnetting was still fairly new
34 in those days. You know, he kind of pioneered the
35 process and the method in his area.

36
37

38 But what we felt about this is, I think
39 it's a way of -- I certainly understand the motions
40 associated with this. I mean I think what's happening
41 on the Yukon is an absolute tragedy and everybody wants
42 to do something about it and everybody wants to keep
43 doing what they've been doing in the past, which is
44 harvesting fish for subsistence, and nobody's kind of
45 come to grips with that, that we may never be able to
46 do that again and so they're fishing around trying to
47 find ways to solve it. But regulations like this are
48 much more appropriate to sportfishing than they are to
49 subsistence fishing. Subsistence fishing is
50 characterized by efficiency and so you use whatever
51 methods are best to harvest the fish. If you want to
52 regulate the fish or if you want to allocate the fish
53 between districts just do that, don't do it by
54 sportfishing methods. The idea behind sportfishing is
55 you go out and fish with a barbless fly, you get to

1 cast a lot more with a barbless fly than if you go out
2 there with a snagging hook, and so the idea is to
3 maximize the amount of enjoyment of fishing. Well,
4 that's not what we're doing with subsistence, with
5 subsistence you're going out to get food. You don't
6 ask a farmer to do it inefficiently. They use the best
7 methods they have.

8

9 If you want to allocate or if you want
10 to control the harvest you just do it. You set
11 allocation limits, but not by methods.

12

13 So we're opposed to this proposal.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Go ahead
16 Mr. Wilde.

17

18 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
20 Council opposes this proposal because due to the fact
21 that this is the only method of harvesting subsistence
22 salmon for many users in the region to provide food for
23 their families in the winter.

24

25 Eliminating this tool would be
26 detrimental to some Federal qualified users.

27

28 And the reason that this is being used
29 for subsistence in our area is for the simple fact that
30 there are not enough eddies for every subsistence
31 fisherman to have a set net and that is the reason why
32 the drift gillnet is so important to most of our people
33 in our region. Because as you know, as most of our
34 fishermen know, that our fish are usually resting in
35 the eddies and that's where the most -- the area where
36 the setnets are. Well, in our area there is only a
37 certain amount of those eddies. And that is the reason
38 why -- one of the reasons why the Yukon Subsistence
39 Advisory Council [sic] opposed this.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any other regions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we will
48 move to the tribal Alaska Native Corporation
49 comments.....

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I'm sorry, go ahead,
4 Mr. Firmin.

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 just had one more thing to add, I guess, or maybe two.

8

9 But in the past the State and
10 management not using some of those tools and having --
11 when they use the efficient gear types like that, and
12 when they're -- sometimes, you know, it's a gambling,
13 guessing game as the fish come up the river and the
14 allocation process, like the gentleman to my left
15 stated, which sounds good now, but I guess what I'm
16 trying to say is when they run up through the river
17 like that, they're still guessing -- it's still a
18 guessing game on their -- they have to rely on their
19 run projections, and by the time the fish get up the
20 river and they're saying, oh, well, we're running out
21 and you guys -- while the lower river in their openers
22 are already using their commercial gear, knock them
23 dead, and then by the time they get up into District 5,
24 well, geez, we thought there was going to be more fish
25 than this, but there isn't, so you guys don't get to
26 fish, while the rest of the river benefits from this
27 and benefits from the fishing and while that allocation
28 process would work, us being on the other end of the
29 river, that still wouldn't affect us in a -- I guess in
30 a positive way. And reduction of this gear type, well,
31 I guess a lot of it would be -- we would like to bring
32 it to the attention of that.

33

34 And in the past, I was just reading in
35 our meeting minutes from the last -- in our meeting
36 book, the last one, the State had a comment dated 2001,
37 that it says it -- the possible increase in the use of
38 drift gillnets could seriously impact both conservation
39 and allocation of salmon stocks which were being
40 harvested at maximum levels and the State also
41 suggested at the time it did not appear necessary to
42 provide drift gillnets or the need for drift gillnets
43 to provide adequate subsistence opportunity. And
44 that's in 2001, a State comment that was in our last
45 meeting book. But I'd just like to point out that
46 there are -- I could see this being a contentious issue
47 and I hope it brought light to people's eyes on, you
48 know, just a differentiation between gear types and
49 while the lower river is constantly adding gear types
50 to things, we're just still sitting here wishing, you

1 know, the up river just wants to throw a net in the
2 river and well there's -- well now they have five
3 separate types of gear to use to harvest king salmon
4 with, although there hasn't been any directed fisheries
5 lately.

6

7

Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. We will
10 -- we had our tribal consultation this morning and we
11 had received one and we also included it into our
12 public comments and I don't -- so I don't think there's
13 anyone unless there's someone on line.

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: It doesn't look like
18 we have anyone from the Yukon on line so we will move
19 on to the Department of Fish and Game comments.

20

21

Jennifer.

22

23

MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Jennifer Yuhas from the State of Alaska.

25

26

You've heard two different opinions
27 from some of the RACs and the State is one in any --
28 with two different opinions on this proposal. I think
29 it is good that it was put in so that we could discuss
30 some things further, that our managers are paying
31 attention to those discussions Mr. Firmin brought up,
32 that we need to have closer discussions mid-season
33 about closing those gear opportunities in the event
34 that we have to manage for those conservation concerns.
35 We don't want to see the gear type go away as an
36 option. You know when the fish come home people would
37 like to be able to let folks fish in those areas.

38

39

For Districts -- the Department is
40 opposed to this for Districts 1 through 3 and
41 Subdistrict 4A because we'd like to see it remain in
42 place. However, there is a conflict with the State
43 closure for 4B and 4C. The Federal Program has a very
44 limited opening but there is a conflict between those
45 that does create an enforcement issue when it's closed
46 the rest of the time.

47

48

So we're opposed for Districts 1
49 through 3 and Subdistrict 4A, but if you wanted to --
50 people don't like to hear about alignment but when

1 you've got so many enforcement conservation concerns at
2 the same time up there, 4B and 4C are closed by the
3 State right now.

4
5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions of the
6 State. Go ahead.

7
8 MR. SMITH: I think I understood you
9 said that some people in the Department are in favor of
10 this?

11
12 MS. YUHAS: I did not say -- through
13 the Chair, that some people in the Department are in
14 favor of the proposal, there's a portion of the
15 proposal that would make sense for enforcement, and
16 that's for 4C and 4B.

17
18 MR. SMITH: Okay, that clears that up,
19 I wasn't listening carefully, I guess.

20
21 But does the Department believe that
22 this is needed as a conservation measure, would this do
23 anything for conservation of king salmon, which, of
24 course, we all support?

25
26 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I think
27 we all know that any measure of restriction does some
28 good for conservation, however, we are still opposed to
29 adopting this for Districts 1 through 3 and Subpart 4A.
30 We see that it would make sense for the very limited
31 opportunity that there already is to eliminate the
32 enforcement confusion for 4B and 4C.

33
34 MR. SMITH: Well, maybe, again, I'm
35 confused but I thought the idea was to save fish from
36 the lower Yukon to make them available farther up the
37 river and so you have no net gain unless we think this
38 will somehow reduce the total of overall harvest.

39
40 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. While
41 those principles are sound I'm confused by the
42 question.

43
44 MR. SMITH: I'm just wondering how it
45 would be a conservation method if the proponents get
46 what they want the -- what the proponents want to do is
47 make more fish available for subsistence fishermen
48 farther up river, if that works, how will there be any
49 conservation affect, how will that affect the net
50 harvest of king salmon on the Yukon?

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. SMITH: Okay, I can see that I'm
4 not -- the proponents are trying to -- if I understand
5 this correctly, the proponents are trying to move fish
6 -- move the harvest up river, that too much of the
7 harvest is taking place down river because of the
8 efficiency of gillnet fishing on the lower river. If
9 you eliminate that, or you reduce some of the harvest
10 on the lower river the proponents are saying that that
11 will make more fish available for harvest farther up
12 the river. Well, the fish will still get harvested.
13 And so my question is, does the Department think that
14 there will be a net conservation effect from this
15 proposal.

16

17 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I'm not
18 sure that the lead up actually followed the -- the
19 final question, and I'm seeing a nod from the Chairman
20 here. With the idea that conservation can be promoted
21 through an in-season decision, we're not seeing the
22 need for eliminating gear type through this proposal.

23

24 MR. SMITH: Could I try one more time,
25 Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I don't want to --
28 is it clear to the rest of the Board -- yes, I -- I
29 think -- I think that discussion -- closed -- I'd like
30 to move on if we could. I'd like to get the comments
31 from the Inter-Agency Staff Committee.

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck
34 Ardizzone. The Inter-Agency Staff Committee found the
35 Staff analysis to be a thorough and accurate evaluation
36 of the proposal and that it provides sufficient basis
37 for the Regional Advisory Council's recommendations and
38 the Federal Subsistence Board action on the proposal.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any
41 questions.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not the floor is
46 open for Board discussion with the Council Chairs and
47 State liaison on 15-03.

48

49 Mr. Haskett.

50

1 MR. HASKETT: Mr. Chair. I'm prepared
2 to make a motion but if you're calling for more
3 discussion.

4
5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Yeah, we're not at
6 No. 9 action yet.

7
8 MR. HASKETT: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: A general discussion
11 by the Board with Chairs or the State liaison.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any then
16 we will do Item 9, the Federal Subsistence Board
17 action.

18
19 Mr. Haskett.

20
21 MR. HASKETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 So I'm going to make a motion to adopt
24 Proposal FP15-03 but I'm going to provide my
25 justification as why I intend to oppose this proposal
26 as recommended by three Regional Advisory Councils if I
27 get a second.

28
29 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion
32 and seconded by Mr. Brower. The floor is open for
33 discussion.

34
35 Mr. Haskett.

36
37 MR. HASKETT: So for my justification,
38 I do understand the fairness question that Mr. Firmin
39 has addressed for upper river people and the amount of
40 fish that they get and what their concern is and what
41 they were trying to do here. I think, as he said, this
42 maybe brings light to people's eyes about the needs of
43 upper river people and I think that's a good thing and
44 we should continue to have conversations about that.

45
46 But as it's been said, the proposal
47 would remove a fishing gear type that's currently
48 relied on by one segment of the fishing community and
49 would not affect other users. As has already been
50 stated there are already authorities delegated to the

1 in-season manager to address the conservation concerns,
2 including the opening or closing of fishing periods or
3 areas and specifying methods and means of harvest. And
4 I think Jack Reakoff also made a point that we should
5 be taking a hard look at that in times when those
6 concerns are there and, clearly, we're there, so I
7 think we need to mean that seriously, that the in-
8 season manager will look at that kind of thing.

9

10 But motion is in concurrence with the
11 Yukon Delta, Western Interior and Seward Peninsula
12 Councils. The recommendation of the Eastern Interior
13 Regional Advisory Council would be detrimental to the
14 satisfaction of subsistence needs. So that's my
15 recommend -- my justification, again, recognizing, I
16 think we need to have a lot of future discussion about
17 this.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
20 discussion.

21

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open
26 for calling for the question.

27

28 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been
31 called for, we're going to have a roll call vote on
32 this.

33

34

35 Gene.

36

37 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, for clarification
38 the motion was in support of but then Regional Director
39 has given justification for his opposition to, so a yea
40 vote would be to support as written and a nay vote
41 would be in opposition.

42

43 So roll call.

44

45 Fish and Wildlife Service.

46

47 MR. HASKETT: Nay.

48

49 MR. PELTOLA: Forest Service.

50

MS. PENDLETON: Nay.

1 MR. PELTOLA: National Park Service.
2
3 MR. HARD: Nay.
4
5 MR. PELTOLA: Public member Brower.
6
7 MR. C. BROWER: Nay.
8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Public member
10 Christianson.
11
12 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Nay.
13
14 MR. PELTOLA: BIA.
15
16 MR. KAHKLEN: Nay.
17
18 MR. PELTOLA: And BLM.
19
20 MR. CRIBLEY: Nay.
21
22 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Nay.
25
26 MR. PELTOLA: Unanimous in opposition.
27
28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. I'm
29 going to request maybe a 10 minute break. We will
30 reconvene at 10 minutes to 3:00 -- 10 minutes to 4:00.
31 It's already a long day.
32
33 (Off record)
34
35 (On record)
36
37 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Could I ask people
38 to regather here so we can proceed with the meeting.
39
40 (Pause)
41
42 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: As we are getting
43 our chairs filled up here I'd like to make a note to
44 the Board that I'm planning to rearrange our proposal
45 process. We're going to do one more proposal for the
46 Kuskokwim -- Yukon Kuskokwim, we're going to combine
47 two proposals that are basically the same, so we're
48 going to combine 15-06 and 15-07.
49
50 The next on the schedule were two from

1 Cook Inlet but we've been told that there are people
2 from Ninilchik that would like to be here and they
3 didn't think we would get to their proposals until
4 tomorrow so they're going to be the first ones that we
5 do tomorrow morning. So rather than doing 15-11 and
6 15-10, we're going to jump down to the Southeast Alaska
7 Proposal 15-13, 14 and as far as we can go until 5:00
8 o'clock this evening.

9

10 Are there any questions on that
11 process.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: So if we're ready to
16 resume the meeting.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We will proceed then
21 on with Proposal 15-06 and 15-07, which are going to be
22 combined. Could we get the report from the Staff
23 please.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
26 Board members. Council representatives. My name is
27 Don Rivard. I'm a fish biologist with the Office of
28 Subsistence Management.

29

30 The analysis for 15-06 and 15-07 starts
31 on Page 109 in your book.

32

33 Proposal FP15-06 submitted by the Yukon
34 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and Proposal FP15-07
35 submitted by Lisa Feyereisen requests that dipnets be
36 authorized as legal gear for the harvest of salmon in
37 the Kuskokwim River drainage. Additionally, FP15-07
38 requests inclusion of the following provision:

39

40 "All king salmon captured with a dipnet
41 must be immediately released back to
42 the water."

43

44 Since both proposals seek similar
45 regulatory action they were analyzed together.

46

47 The proponent of FP15-06 states that:

48

49 "The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
50 Working Group and the State of Alaska

1 successfully petitioned the Alaska
2 Board of Fisheries to implement dipnets
3 as a legal gear type in the Kuskokwim
4 management area for the 2014 salmon
5 fishing season. This proposal, if
6 passed, would make the permanent the
7 allowance of dipnets in the Kuskokwim
8 management area."
9

10 The proponent for FP15-07 states that:

11
12 "Dipnets will likely only be used when
13 restrictions for king salmon are
14 implemented, consequently the harvest
15 of chum and sockeye salmon with dipnets
16 will be much lower than in typical
17 years when gillnets are the preferred
18 method because dipnets are a very
19 inefficient means of fishing."
20

21 In February 2014 the Kuskokwim River
22 Salmon Management Working Group submitted Fishery
23 Special Action Request FSA14-01 requesting that the
24 Federal Subsistence Board to add dipnets as legal gear
25 for the harvest of salmon in the Kuskokwim River
26 drainage for the 2014 subsistence salmon fishing season
27 with an effective date start May 24th. Part of the
28 request included the following provision, again:
29

30 "All king salmon caught with a dipnet
31 must be released alive to the water."
32

33 The Board adopted Special Action 14-01
34 with a modification that all chinook salmon caught with
35 a dipnet must be released immediately to the water and
36 to leave the effective date to the discretion of the
37 in-season manager. The Alaska Board of Fisheries met
38 in March 2014 and approved the use of dipnets to
39 harvest salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage during
40 the 2014 salmon fishing season, in conjunction with
41 approving the emergency petition, the Alaska Board of
42 Fisheries also gave the Commissioner of the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game the authority to make this
44 regulation permanent.
45

46 If this proposal is adopted, Federally-
47 qualified subsistence users would be allowed to utilize
48 dipnets to harvest salmon within and adjacent to the
49 boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
50 This addition could broaden fishers opportunities to

1 provide for their families by allowing them to attempt
2 to harvest salmon especially when gillnet restrictions
3 are in place.

4
5 The Federal Subsistence Board and the
6 Alaska Board of Fisheries, again, authorized dipnets as
7 a legal gear type in the Kuskokwim management area for
8 the 2014 subsistence salmon fishing season.

9
10 These proposals, if adopted by the
11 Board, would add dipnets as a legal gear type for the
12 harvest of salmon in the Kuskokwim management area in
13 Federal subsistence salmon fishing regulations.

14
15 The provision requested in FP15-07 that
16 all king salmon captured with a dipnet must be
17 immediately released back to the water is unnecessary.
18 The in-season manager has the authority to implement
19 that provision, if necessary, such as in times of
20 chinook salmon conservation.

21
22 Mr. Chair, the OSM conclusion is to
23 support FP15-06 and to take no action on FP15-07.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Are there any
28 questions of the Staff on the proposal.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then thank
33 you for that analysis and we will move on to getting
34 the summary of the public comments from the -- from
35 Chuck -- or Carl, rather.

36
37 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Carl Johnson, Office of Subsistence Management. There
39 are no written public comments that have been submitted
40 on either of these proposals.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. We will
45 open the floor then to any public testimony. Do we
46 have any green cards for FP15-06. We have Chanton
47 Epchock from Kwethluk. We've been requested that when
48 you use the phone system if you could get your mouth as
49 close to the mic as possible, pull that -- thank you
50 very much.

1 MR. EPCHOCK: Good afternoon Chairman
2 and Board members of the Federal Subsistence Board.

3
4 Regarding the 15-06, in our area in
5 lower portion of the Kuskokwim River, we do not use
6 dipnets and that practice is something new in our area
7 for subsistence of salmon. The only time that we use
8 dipnets is during smelt season and that is a very short
9 window that we use that dipnets for smelt. And I'm --
10 right now I'm not in support of these two 15-06 and 15-
11 07 just because of the dipnets, that language included
12 in this proposal.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.
17 Epchock. Is there any questions of Mr. Epchock from
18 the Board.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your
23 comments.

24
25 We have another request from Mr.
26 Reakoff, if you are on line, you may have the floor.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: If you can hear me, Mr.
29 Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We can hear you very
32 good.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: The Western Interior
35 Regional Advisory Council supports Proposal FP15-06 and
36 recommends take no action on Proposal FP15-07.

37
38 The Council recognizes there was
39 reluctance in some portions of the river to try this
40 new gear type. It's important to have a dipnet as an
41 additional tool, especially during times of
42 conservation concerns. This Council is inclined to
43 align with the YK Delta recommendation and actions
44 since they spent so much time deliberating on the
45 proposals.

46
47 I commend the other proposal, 15-07,
48 but that proposal would not allow, if there's
49 conservation, managers could actually allow limited
50 take with dipnet of chinook salmon, but would be

1 reluctant to use -- on that gear.

2

3 So I feel that this is a very warranted
4 proposal.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
9 there any questions of Mr. Reakoff.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any
14 we'll move on then to the -- okay, we've got the
15 Regional Council recommendations, are there any other
16 regions other than the Western RAC from Mr. Reakoff.

17

18 Mr. Wilde.

19

20 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
22 Council supports Proposal FP15-06 and advised to take
23 no action on Proposal FP15-07.

24

25 Some of the areas of the river were
26 more successful than others in using the dipnet this
27 year that it was tested. This proposal adds another
28 tool to the tool box with adding dipnet as a legal gear
29 type for those who wish to use it. But it can -- from
30 experience on the Yukon, the dipnet is only good for
31 some areas and it's a good tool to be used in times of
32 conservation but it can only -- as the fishers on the
33 Yukon River found out that there are some areas where
34 dipnet can't be used at all because of the current and
35 all the obstructions and can only be used in some
36 areas.

37

38 So it's just -- the reason why the YK
39 Delta supported 06 was to give the subsistence users
40 another tool.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
45 there any questions of Mr. Wilde.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your
50 comments. Any other region or Regional Council Chairs

1 who would like to make any comments regarding the
2 proposal.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. If not
7 then we will move on to the tribal Native Corporation
8 comments capsulation from our Native liaison.

9

10 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM.

12

13 We had conducted tribal and ANCSA
14 consultations last summer, the last one was September
15 19th. And we did have a Chefornak elder comment on
16 this proposal. And his concerns, he mentioned that the
17 Kuskokwim is a wide river and trying to catch large
18 fish using a dipnet is difficult, difficult work.
19 Families will be frustrated if they are not catching
20 their resources and they need to take into
21 consideration, taking a small net and trying to catch
22 fish in a wide river. And the elder believed that this
23 is short notice and not appropriate and they feel that
24 they need to reconsider the situation.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
29 there any questions or comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We'll open the floor
34 then for any other tribal members. I notice Mr. Andrew
35 and Mr. Roczicka.

36

37 MR. ANDREW: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
38 Members of the Board. My name is Timothy Andrew.
39 Director of natural resources for the Association of
40 Village Council Presidents.

41

42 I don't really have a position one way
43 or the other but I'd just like to express some concerns
44 that I have with the proposal. And many of the public
45 forums that we've had regarding the Kuskokwim River
46 salmon fishery, many of our tribal members expressed a
47 pretty high level of frustration in trying to use
48 dipnets to harvest, other than chinook salmon, on the
49 Kuskokwim River, and also other than the smelt. On the
50 Yukon River I've heard some great successes in various

1 locations and that's primarily due to the large volume
2 of chum salmon that are migrating up the river.
3 Whenever you have five million chum salmon going up the
4 river at any one time, yeah, the opportunity to harvest
5 chum salmon with a dipnet is -- I mean the chances of
6 getting chum salmon far exceeds -- I mean it's very,
7 very beneficial. But on the Kuskokwim River we don't
8 have the high volumes of chum going up -- chum or reds
9 going up at any given time. They trickle in and at
10 some points there might be some pulses large enough to
11 perhaps harvest one or two utilizing a dipnet within,
12 you know, probably an extended period of time.

13

14 The other concern that I'd like to
15 express about this proposal is how this tool could
16 possibly be used by managers in providing the
17 opportunity for -- for subsistence opportunity.

18

19 You know, if the managers are feeling
20 that they are going to provide a subsistence
21 opportunity with dipnets, in some cases it would be
22 extremely extremely a meaningless gesture for
23 subsistence users to be provided that opportunity. And
24 it's really important that that be known, you know, any
25 of the managers could likely come up to the table and
26 say, yeah, we provided subsistence opportunity with 25,
27 48 hours, you know, five days or something like that
28 with a dipnet and meanwhile people who go out there and
29 try within that time period to try and harvest non-
30 chinook with a dipnet and they don't get anything, it's
31 totally meaningless.

32

33 The other thing is last summer the
34 State managers, since -- this was regarding non-chinook
35 provided the opportunity for people on the Kuskokwim to
36 harvest non-chinook with a dipnet and just extremely
37 very few people went out and tried it. In that regard,
38 you know, it's a wonderful additional tool as long as
39 the volume of fish are there, but if they're not there,
40 it's just a totally meaningless opportunity.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you, Mr.
45 Andrew. Are there any questions of Mr. Andrew.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Mr. Smith.

50

1 MR. SMITH: Yeah, Tim, I share your
2 concerns, you know. You know, I've seen bait and
3 switches before. But in this case are you opposing the
4 -- Tim, I didn't really understand, are you opposing
5 both of these proposals or not?
6

7 MR. ANDREW: I was just making known
8 that the possible consequences of adopting this and the
9 issues behind it. You know the organization is not
10 going one way or the other, remaining neutral on this
11 issue, just making those issues known.
12

13 And if I may add, Mr. Chair, the
14 Kuskokwim district also includes the north Kuskokwim
15 Bay, which is primarily the Bering Sea and if this
16 regulation were utilized in that area, we have the
17 expanse of the Bering Sea within the three mile State
18 -- or regulatory limit, it would be meaningless in that
19 area as well.
20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Go
22 ahead.
23

24 MR. LORD: Tim, if you don't mind
25 clarifying, in your comments you were talking about my
26 opinion and I and then just now you said the
27 organization doesn't go one way or the other. I just
28 would like to know if you're wearing your AVCP hat or
29 you're Tim Andrew hat?
30

31 MR. ANDREW: This is AVCP.
32

33 MR. LORD: Gotcha, okay.
34

35 MR. ANDREW: I should start wearing an
36 AVCP hat whenever I'm.....
37

38 (Laughter)
39

40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
41 questions of Mr. Andrew.
42

43 (No comments)
44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your
46 comments.
47

48 MR. ANDREW: Go Seahawks.
49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Greg, with
2 ONC.

3
4 MR. ROCZICKA: I took off my Kuskokwim
5 300 Race hat here, my ONC hat's back at the hotel.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Anyway, for the record
10 Greg Roczicka. I'm the director of the natural
11 resource program for the Orutsararmiut Native Council,
12 which is a tribal governing body in Bethel. And we
13 have a subsistence committee made up of 10 individual
14 tribal members and I'm pushing 60 here but I'm one of
15 the youngest people in the room, there's only one or
16 two guys that are younger than me.

17
18 But we discussed this issue at length
19 in various context, both State and Federal and the
20 whole concern we have with the king salmon conservation
21 situation. And it was really mixed. At the end we did
22 come out in support for this proposal. Essentially
23 what everyone's mentioned already about having that
24 other tool in the box. Last year was the first year
25 that this has come into place. We had several people
26 that did go out and try, with mixed success, a lot of
27 people got skunked, other people got one or two. We
28 did have one young fellow that really put some effort
29 into it though in trying to figure out how to get it
30 done and he was able to get 15 to 16 in a trip. And
31 what he did -- what he found out was that the effective
32 time to use them was on the tide switch, whether it's
33 on the high -- like he said an hour and a half to maybe
34 two hour max window on the tide switch, whether you're
35 on the high tide or the low tide. That's the only time
36 that it's really -- that he caught.

37
38 And I don't believe it's something
39 that's a regulatory that you would need to do but
40 perhaps the area manager, last year, when they put the
41 dipnet openings or opportunity in place, it was put on
42 the -- I think it was 9:00 in the morning until 9:00 at
43 night, which doesn't necessarily jive with what the
44 tides were doing. Given that this dipnet tool is made
45 to basically be non-mortality, zero mortality for kings
46 having them released in the water, there's no reason
47 why it shouldn't be open straight on through. So
48 that's something to take into consideration for the
49 manager.

50

1 But the overall summation of our
2 discussions on this, is it is a new tool that people
3 need to learn how to use and adapt to just as they did
4 with the 8 inch gear that came in with commercial
5 fisheries back in the 1960s and 50 fathom nets that
6 were never used for subsistence prior to that time for
7 the 29,998 generations that came before, if you want to
8 use 10,000 years as a point of reference.

9
10 So, anyway, for my Council, we
11 supported it.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
16 there any questions of Greg.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for your
21 comments.

22
23 Is there anyone on line that would like
24 -- do we have anyone on line from the Kuskokwim --
25 Yukon Kuskokwim region.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: It doesn't look like
30 it. Then we will move on to the Department of Fish and
31 Game comments.

32
33 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Jennifer Yuhas with the State of Alaska.

35
36 There's really two questions here. One
37 is the tool and the other is the distinction between
38 the two proposals. The Department has this tool and we
39 were able to use it last year, so adopting either of
40 the proposals will give the Federal Program the ability
41 to use this tool. As many of you know, the regulatory
42 body for the State for these issues is the Board of
43 Fish and so once they've taken a position, that is the
44 position that the Department supports, that's our
45 current regulation. So the Department has supported
46 15-07, the public member's proposal, in lieu of 15-06,
47 the agency's proposal.

48
49 We actually thought we were on board
50 with one of the RACs, the YKD RAC met late and took up

1 some reconsideration, I nearly gave Don a heart attack
2 by -- by just opposing what we thought their positions
3 were last -- the previous evening when several folks
4 were trying to pay attention to that but -- adopting
5 either of these will give the Program the tool and the
6 State supports 07.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
9 there any questions of the State.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead, Tim.

14

15 MR. SMITH: Has the Department
16 collected any data on compliance with the requirement
17 to release chinook salmon, is there any independent
18 data other than, you know, the self-reported stuff on
19 how well people are doing at releasing the chinook
20 salmon unharmed?

21

22 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. If
23 independent data is different than what the Department
24 has then I wouldn't be privy to that yet. The
25 Department simply has the self-reporting, as you
26 stated, and a lot of that is collected through
27 household interviews or in-season.

28

29 Of note, Mr. Chairman, the tool of the
30 dipnets in this region was not as embraced as it was on
31 the Yukon. And just as a note for some of the folks
32 here, the Department has some folks who were willing to
33 go out into the area and give some clinics because it's
34 something that hasn't been used there, and there's
35 techniques that some folks who live in other parts of
36 the state know, with dipnetting, there's a way you do
37 it at the mouth, there's a way you do it up river,
38 there's a way you do it in high water, there's a way
39 you do it in low water, and -- and we're still very
40 interested in going out and providing that if people
41 are interested. But it just wasn't as embraced as a
42 tool last year. We're still available and happy to go
43 out there.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
46 there any further questions.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for those

1 comments. We will move on then to the Inter-Agency
2 Staff Committee comments.

3

4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. There are
5 several of the proposals that have, what we would call
6 the ISC standard comment, I'll read it one more time
7 and then I won't have to read it again.

8

9 But for Proposal FP15-06, the Inter-
10 Agency Staff Committee found the Staff analysis to be a
11 thorough and accurate evaluation of the proposal and
12 that it provided sufficient basis for the Regional
13 Council's recommendations and the Federal Subsistence
14 Board's action on the proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
17 there any questions of the Staff.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any,
22 Board discussion with Council Chairs and the State
23 liaison.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
28 discussion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Not hearing any,
33 then we're ready for Federal Board action.

34

35 Mr. Haskett.

36

37 MR. HASKETT: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
38 make a motion to adopt FP15-06 and take no action on
39 FP15-07 as recommended by the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and
40 Western Interior Councils. If I get a second, and I
41 would like to point out that this one almost made it to
42 the consensus agenda except for a fairly minor
43 difference.

44

45 MR. KAHKLEN: Second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion
48 and the second.

49

50 Any further discussion.

1 Mr. Haskett.

2

3 MR. HASKETT: So my justification is
4 that adoption of the proposal will provide another
5 opportunity to harvest salmon, especially when gillnet
6 restrictions are in place. The use of dipnets was
7 temporarily approved for the 2014 seasons under both
8 State and Federal regulations. While the proposal
9 submitted by Ms. -- I hope I get her name right, Ms.
10 Feyereisen, has merit, the additional provision to
11 release chinook salmon caught in dipnets is not
12 necessary because, as in our last discussion, the same
13 thing, the in-season manager already has the authority
14 to implement that provision.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
17 discussions or questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The floor is open
22 for call of the question.

23

24 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been
27 called for by Mr. -- by Mr. Tony -- Mr. Christianson.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Let's have a roll
32 call vote.

33

34 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, Mr. Chair.

35

36 The motion was to adopt FP07, take no
37 action -- no, excuse me -- adopt FP06 and take no
38 action on FP07. A yea vote will affirm that action and
39 a nay will oppose.

40

41 Fish and Wildlife Service.

42

43 MR. HASKETT: Yes.

44

45 MR. PELTOLA: Forest Service.

46

47 MS. PENDLETON: Yes.

48

49 MR. PELTOLA: National Park Service.

50

1 MR. HARD: Yes.
2
3 MR. PELTOLA: Public member Brower.
4
5 MR. C. BROWER: Yes.
6
7 MR. PELTOLA: Public member
8 Christianson.
9
10 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yea.
11
12 MR. PELTOLA: BIA.
13
14 MR. KAHKLEN: Yes.
15
16 MR. PELTOLA: BLM.
17
18 MR. CRIBLEY: Yes.
19
20 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.
21
22 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Yes.
23
24 MR. PELTOLA: Passes unanimously.
25
26 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you very much.
27 We will then skip the next two proposals and handle
28 those first thing in the morning, and we will move to
29 the Southeast Alaska Proposal 15-13 and we will go
30 until 5:00 o'clock, another half an hour.
31
32 FP15-13 and FP15-14 are on Page 151, so
33 we will ask for the Staff analysis.
34
35 Mr. Larson.
36
37 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
38 name is Robert Larson. I work for the Forest Service. I
39 live in Petersburg. I have a role with that agency,
40 both as a subsistence fisheries biologist and the
41 Southeast Council's coordinator.
42
43 As referenced by your Chairman, the
44 executive summary begins on Page 151 of your Board
45 book. There are five issues that are wrapped up in
46 this single proposal.
47
48 The first is to establish harvest
49 quotas. Those quotas would be -- that would be for
50 both FP15-13 and FP15-14. The first of those issues

1 would be establishing a harvest quota of 125 chinook
2 salmon, 2,000 sockeyes and 400 coho salmon.

3
4 The next provision would be to require
5 that annual individual harvest limits in subsequent
6 years be reduced if the annual harvest limit in any one
7 year exceeds those quotas.

8
9 The third provision is reporting,
10 requiring the day, location, species and number of fish
11 harvested by recorded prior to leaving the fishing
12 location.

13
14 The fourth issue is establishing a
15 daily fishing schedule, that subsistence fishing would
16 be allowed only from 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., daily.

17
18 The fifth issue is net tending. This
19 is where Proposal 13 differs somewhat from 14.

20
21 Issue 13, which is submitted by the
22 Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee suggests
23 that nets be tended such that a member of a household
24 listed on the permit must be available within two
25 hours.

26
27 FP15-14 submitted by the Wrangell Fish
28 and Game Advisory Committee recommends that a person
29 remain with their net as long as it is fishing, and no
30 particular time schedule for when the net would be
31 checked, just that that fisherman is available at the
32 fishing site when the net is in the water.

33
34 I would note that there is a deferred
35 proposal, that's FP13-19, and that was submitted by the
36 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
37 and at that point, which was during our last fisheries
38 cycle, the Southeast Regional Advisory Council was
39 talking about changing the guideline harvest levels and
40 their recommendation for 13-19 would be to change the
41 guideline harvest -- or the proposal was to change it
42 to 2,000 fish, their recommendation at the end of the
43 day was to eliminate it. I suggest that your actions
44 this day on 15-13 or 15-14 will likely negate any
45 action on 13-19.

46
47 The Stikine River subsistence salmon
48 fishery targets stocks of Canadian origin on the
49 Stikine River. It happens on the mainstem of the
50 Stikine River, it is not allowed in the clearwater

1 tributaries. The Stikine River is one of the three
2 TransBoundary rivers in the Southeast region, the other
3 two are the Taku and the Alsek. Because it's a
4 TransBoundary river it is also governed by provisions
5 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Pacific Salmon
6 Treaty is implemented through the Pacific Salmon
7 Commission. That Treaty is between the United States
8 and the government of Canada.

9

10 Right now the Stikine River has a
11 guideline harvest level of 125 chinook, 600 sockeyes
12 and 400 salmon. There are no regulations in place that
13 specify a daily fishing schedule or how a person would
14 check the net.

15

16 Background for this fishery is that it
17 was first implemented under Federal rules in 2004 for
18 sockeyes only. The chinook and coho fisheries were
19 subsequently approved in 2005. And we need to
20 understand that Federal subsistence fisheries rules
21 that you may adopt, that are not in conflict with the
22 Pacific Salmon Treaty can be changed and implemented by
23 the Board. Changes to Federal regulations that may
24 affect Treaty requirements for those three
25 TransBoundary rivers can be initiated by the Board, but
26 they are subject to review and final approval by the
27 Pacific Salmon Commission prior to having Treaty
28 language changed. The Treaty language that governs the
29 TransBoundary rivers is reauthorized every 10 years.
30 So the last time it was authorized was in 2009, that
31 means that we'll have new Treaty language in 2019.

32

33 Mr. Gene Peltola and I attended the
34 post season meeting of the Pacific Salmon Commission
35 just last week. And at that meeting it was made clear
36 that there would be no implementation of changes to the
37 Treaty prior to the full implementation of the
38 TransBoundary river annex. They also indicated to us
39 that the provisions governing the subsistence fishery
40 are open and on the table and they're ready to talk
41 about them and to make subsequent changes to the
42 Treaty. So the timeliness of this proposal couldn't be
43 better. We're starting the negotiating process with
44 the US section of the Pacific Salmon Commission and in
45 a bilateral way with Canadians. As we speak they're
46 having their annual meeting next month and at that
47 meeting they will exchange positions about which items
48 are going to be up for negotiation and the Stikine
49 River subsistence fishery will be on that list.

50

1 All five species of Pacific salmon
2 spawn in the Stikine River. This fishery is targeted
3 at fish that originate in Canada. We have a general
4 subsistence fishing permit that targets those fish in
5 the waters that are generated that produce fish in the
6 United States. There are some stocks that are part of
7 a directed fishery and I think this is an important
8 concept, that these fish are fully allocated right now
9 between the United States and Canada, the Federal
10 subsistence fishery is part of the US allocation, and
11 it's not a separate item at all. So if there is an
12 allocation that results in an allowable catch, then
13 there is provision to have an allowable -- or a
14 directed harvest, and these are for sockeyes and
15 chinook salmon. So this fishery is highly regulated.
16 All fisheries, except the Federal subsistence fishery
17 are sampled, they do genetic stock analysis to
18 determine stock of origins and on a weekly basis,
19 there's huge amounts of money invested in doing stock
20 of origin in catches and weekly in-season harvest
21 estimates -- weekly in-season return abundance
22 estimates. There's a lot of people involved in
23 managing the Stikine River fishery.

24
25 We report to the US managers on a
26 weekly basis our subsistence harvest. We also provide
27 them with an annual summary of subsistence harvests and
28 the conduct of our fisheries.

29
30 There's a number of tables in the book.
31 Table 1 talks about returns of chinook salmon. Table 2
32 talks about returns of sockeye salmon. Coho salmon is
33 referenced in Table 3. The subsistence salmon harvests
34 are in Tables 5, 6 and 7. And we can talk about those
35 if you would like. The directed harvest is not the
36 total harvest. Directed harvest is only those fish
37 that are harvested within the season. So, for
38 instance, we caught three fish in our directed fishery
39 but our total was 50-some fish. But that's -- the 50-
40 some fish isn't what we report to the Canadians as our
41 stock, we only report those fish that are caught before
42 Week 29, we report only those fish caught before Week
43 29 because we don't sample those fish. So the number
44 of fish we report as caught in the subsistence fishery,
45 it's not the total number of king salmon because we
46 only count fish that are more than 30 inches in total
47 length, and it's not the directed harvest because
48 that's only those fish that are caught before June 20th
49 and it's not the total harvest of our chinook, it's
50 those fish that are caught before Week 29.

1 So just suffices to say that all these
2 numbers mean something to people somewhere else. It's
3 not particularly meaningful in this regard, but I would
4 like to convey the fact that it's complicated, it's a
5 little bit complex and it's of interest to a fairly
6 influential bunch of people in both Canada and the
7 United States.

8
9 So the effects of these proposals would
10 be to have harvest quotas and just fully implementation
11 would be to have a variable harvest limit and weekly --
12 or a daily harvest schedule.

13
14 The fishers, as is, check their nets as
15 it is most beneficial to them. The catch rates in this
16 fishery are fairly low. It takes many hours to
17 accumulate a few fish most times. So these are not
18 face paced fisheries. So a person harvests and checks
19 their nets as it benefits their particular
20 circumstances. And some places accumulate more debris
21 than other places and some places there's more
22 competition for fishing sites than other places. So
23 there's not a standard for how long a person checks
24 their nets. But there is a general realization that
25 people do whatever they need to to be the most
26 efficient. The idea is to go there engage in this
27 fishery so they can catch fish.

28
29 Preliminary conclusion from the OSM to
30 eliminate the subsistence guideline harvest levels from
31 regulations. We don't change the annual harvest
32 levels. We do have, already on the books, a regulation
33 that requires reporting so that Item 3 is actually
34 moot, we require that already. We don't need a daily
35 fishing schedule. That doesn't seem to be helpful for
36 any reason. And the OSM recommendation is that these
37 nets be checked at least once each day.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are
42 there any questions of the Staff.

43
44 Go ahead.

45
46 MR. HARD: I have one question relative
47 to the enforcement issue I'm trying to reconcile. If
48 the nets only need to be checked once per day without a
49 time constraint, how do we require the permit
50 inspection within a two hour period. I guess I'm

1 trying to wrap my head around that.

2

3 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. It's our
4 understanding and it's my personal observation that
5 people check nets regularly and at the schedule that
6 fits and benefits them most. I don't know of any
7 circumstance and I'm not aware of any where checking
8 the nets -- where people don't check the nets at least
9 once a day. The issue here is that there's no
10 regulation on the books that talks about how often a
11 net needs to be checked. I think that is the concern
12 that we've heard, that, well, what if something
13 happens, what do you do if there's a net that's not
14 being fished, I mean where's the mechanism for
15 addressing that issue, so.....

16

17 MR. HARD: That's not my question, I
18 understand that part. It's the inspection of the
19 permits required within two hours where the daily
20 inspection of the net, there's just an inconsistency
21 there that I'm having a hard time wrapping my head
22 around. Why wouldn't it be the inspection of the
23 permit within a 24 hour period or the daily period or
24 is there a critical component there that I'm missing?

25

26 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. That is the
27 proposal, is that, that the permit is available for
28 inspection every two hours.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further -- Mr.
31 Smith.

32

33 MR. SMITH: Bob, do the wanton waste
34 laws do what we're trying to do here? I vaguely recall
35 that nets being left out and not checked for long
36 periods of time where they invoked the wanton waste
37 laws, I think?

38

39 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair. I think at the
40 Council meeting, our Chair put it very clearly and
41 succinctly that we've developed a solution without
42 identifying a problem. So we don't have evidence of
43 people leaving nets for long periods of time.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
46 questions -- go ahead.

47

48 MR. BANGS: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
49 Just one point of clarification, I think there's a
50 little confusion on the being available within two

1 hours. That was in the original proposal but that's
2 not what the Council decided to adopt as the proposal
3 that they wanted, and the twice a day, and once a day
4 from OSM was something that we came up with based on
5 our testimony we received from users.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
10 questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not, then thank
15 you for the analysis. Do we have any public comments
16 to summarize.

17

18 MR. LARSON: Yes, there are public
19 comments and the public comments can be found beginning
20 on Page 172.

21

22 The first is from Chris Guggenbickler
23 and he is in support of the two proposals. I'd like to
24 note that he's a member of the Wrangell Advisory
25 Committee that submitted 15-14. And his comments are
26 that some of the nets are left for large portions of
27 the summer. If you don't monitor your nets closely the
28 seals key in on that net and take the fish from that
29 net if there's nobody there. And he clarified that the
30 intent of the proposals is to curtail this loss of fish
31 so users can retain them for their own use by working
32 the net and recovering the fish before they are
33 consumed by seals. So there's the intent of the
34 proposal from the Wrangell Advisory Committee.

35

36 John Hoag is a member of the public and
37 resides in Petersburg. He's opposed to these two
38 proposals. He notes that if overnight fishing is
39 abolished it will take longer to get close to the
40 annual limits and would require multiple trips up the
41 river instead of the way they're doing it now. He
42 noted he's been going up the river since 2008 and
43 participating in this fishery and only rarely having
44 seen evidence of predation and that was during the day
45 and not during an overnight soak. He doesn't believe
46 that requiring a person to be at the net is safe.
47 There are many locations where that is just physically
48 not possible.

49

50 Page 174 there is a fairly long public

1 comment from James Edens. He's a resident of Wrangell.
2 He is also opposed to this proposal. And he's
3 concerned that by establishing a fishing quota on such
4 a small component of the harvest that it does not grant
5 a preference for subsistence uses of this resource. He
6 said there must be a provision for this cultural
7 fishery to grow. The historical tradition is there but
8 was restricted for many years. If you look at your
9 Staff analysis there's a section in there that talks
10 about historical use of the resource and how it was
11 largely not in place for some periods of the 50s, 60s
12 and 70s. I have seen personally that tending nets has
13 only a moderate impact on seal predation.

14
15 The Petersburg Vessel Owners is in
16 support of the proposal. And they suggest that these
17 fishing practices that reduce wastage of fish and fully
18 utilize fisheries should be the primary goal of the
19 Board.

20
21 If you look on Page 177 there's a
22 public comment that appears to be out of place so I
23 would suggest you just skip that because that's more
24 relevant to the Makhnati Island discussion we're going
25 to have later on at this meeting.

26
27 The Wrangell Cooperative Association is
28 the tribal entity in Wrangell and they are opposed to
29 both of these proposals. They feel that the
30 subsistence guideline harvest for this fishery, which
31 is estimated at two percent of the catch does not
32 provide a preference. The tribe objects to any cap on
33 the subsistence fisheries and believes that that would
34 be a violation of both Federal and State regulations.
35 They believe and support the establishment of a
36 reasonable time for a net to sit in the water before
37 it's checked.

38
39 The Southeast Alaska gillnetters is in
40 support of the proposals. They believe that a
41 requirement should be in place that nets be tended at
42 all times to avoid wastage of fish by seals. The Board
43 should not condone practices that result in the waste
44 of the fish in fisheries that are fully utilized.

45
46 And that completes the public comments.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Are

1 there any questions regarding the public comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not the floor is
6 open for any public testimony.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We don't have any
11 green cards.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: We don't have any
16 indication that there's any public testimony so we will
17 move on to the Regional Council recommendations.

18

19 Go ahead.

20

21 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
22 know they say a picture says a thousand words. And if
23 you look on Page 167 you'll see the conditions that
24 this fishery is conducted under. This is a very swift
25 river and there's only a half a dozen locations where
26 they're actually able to catch fish because of the
27 river conditions.

28

29 So what spurred this proposal to the
30 point where we realized that you weren't able to
31 actually physically stay there with your net, users
32 testified that they were there to catch fish and they
33 would go nearby -- there's not like beaches here and
34 there, they would go quite a ways away to an island
35 where they could -- where they possibly had cabins and
36 stay there for several hours and then go back and check
37 their nets. And the proponents of the proposal were
38 worried about nets that weren't being checked so -- and
39 the users were in agreeance that, hey, we're all for
40 having some regulation that allows the Department of
41 Law to enforce -- have a tool to say, oh, yeah, that's
42 an abandoned net and do something about it. Before, as
43 it is now, there's no regulations that restrict leaving
44 your net. So with the user saying, let's have a twice
45 a day check, they were all for it, they're serious
46 about this fishery. So that's why the Council went
47 that direction. And once you see the river conditions
48 you'd understand why the users fish the way they do.

49

50 So, thank you, and if there are any

1 questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any questions of the
4 Chair.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any
9 other region want to make any comments on the proposal.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we'll
14 move to the -- there are no tribal comments or
15 corporation comments so we'll move on to the Department
16 of Fish and Game.

17

18 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Jennifer Yuhas with the State of Alaska.

20

21 The Department is on record supporting
22 Proposal 15-13 in lieu of Proposal 15-14. Mr. Larson
23 has already articulated the mechanics of the
24 convergence of two regulatory bodies surrounding this
25 proposal and Mr. Bangs has alluded to some of the
26 specifics that the Southeast RAC has worked on as far
27 as making this actually workable. The State's position
28 is still where we were the last two times this came
29 before you. What is of greatest of importance is that
30 you clearly articulate your intent so that that intent
31 can be accurately represented before the Panel meeting.

32

33 And, on line, I was able to get a hold
34 of Charlie Swanton, I introduced him earlier in the
35 opening comments, that he is now our Deputy
36 Commissioner and is in the position that Mr. Bedford
37 was, previously, who spoke to you about representing
38 subsistence uses to the Panel, so Charlie Swanton is on
39 line right now and so is his Treaty Staff Dani Evenson,
40 and they are available for any further questions you
41 might have of the State or if you require an
42 introduction.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Any
45 questions of the State.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then we'll
50 have the Inter-Agency Staff Committee comments.

1 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. I was informed
2 there weren't any ISC comments other than the standard
3 response.

4
5 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you. Board
6 discussion with the Council Chairs and the State
7 liaison. Any further discussions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If there are no
12 discussions then the floor is open for Federal
13 Subsistence Board action.

14
15 OPERATOR: Excuse me, we do have a
16 question from Charles Swanton with Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game. Your line is open.

18
19 MR. SWANTON: Mr. Chairman. This is
20 Charlie Swanton, Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game. I don't have any
22 questions. I've been just listening and, you know, the
23 reception has been somewhat sporadic, at best, so I may
24 have missed something with regards to Ms. Yuhas but,
25 you know, I don't have any specific questions or
26 comments at this time.

27
28 Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Thank you for
31 listening in and we've heard that same complaint about
32 having poor reception through the phone system and we
33 apologize.

34
35 If there are no further comments then
36 the floor is open for Board action.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Go ahead.

41
42 MS. PENDLETON: Mr. Chair. I would
43 move to adopt Proposal FP15-13 and following a second
44 I'll go on to describe for you how I intend to address
45 the three different proposals in front of us, being
46 FP15-13, FP15-14 and deferred Proposal FP13-19.

47
48 MR. HASKETT: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion

1 and the second, the floor is open for discussion.

2

3 Ms. Pendleton.

4

5 MS. PENDLETON: So just for a minute on
6 process.

7

8 FP15-13 and FP15-14 are almost
9 identical, except for a difference in the net tending
10 requirement. Both also include changes in the
11 guideline harvest level or GHL with these proposals
12 recommending a hard cap rather than the GHL.

13

14 Deferred Proposal FP13-19 also
15 recommends a change in the guideline harvest level, and
16 I believe that we can take action on one of the
17 proposals, FP15-13 and then take no action on the other
18 two proposals because of the action taken on FP15-13.

19

20 And with that explanation and with the
21 agreement of the Chairman, I now would like to move to
22 amend my motion.

23

24 I move to amend FP15-13 with the
25 modifications made by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence
26 Regional Advisory Council. And if I get a second I
27 will provide you with my rationale for my motion.

28

29 MR. HASKETT: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: You heard the motion
32 and second by Mr. Haskett.

33

34 Discussion.

35

36 MS. PENDLETON: So for rationale, I
37 think it's quite simple and direct, the Board and the
38 comments of Mr. Bangs on Page 169 from the Southeast
39 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And I
40 find that rationale for the Council's recommendations
41 to be very convincing. The modified proposal would
42 continue subsistence uses for Federally-qualified
43 subsistence users and would not result in a
44 conservation concern. I do recognize that further
45 negotiation with Canada will be required to eliminate
46 the guideline harvest levels through the Pacific Salmon
47 Treaty process. I hope that the State of Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game would continue to be the
49 Federal Subsistence Program's partner in accomplishing
50 those changes and am encouraged by Ms. Yuhas' comments

1 and Mr. Swanton's comments as well.

2

3 And then, finally, establishing a
4 requirement for checking nets at least twice each day
5 could be implemented without any modifications to the
6 Pacific Salmon Treaty and it's TransBoundary Rivers
7 Annex, therefore, if the Board adopts that
8 recommendation, net checking could be implementing
9 starting with the upcoming regulatory year and, if
10 adopted, I would ask that the US Forest Service
11 Wrangell District Ranger, the Board's in-season manager
12 for the Stikine River to further develop, through
13 permit stipulations, any modifications needed to
14 implement this requirement.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any further
17 discussion.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: If not then I will
22 assume that a voice vote at this point would work on
23 the amendment, so all those in favor of the amendment
24 say aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Any opposed, say
29 nay.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: The amendment passes
34 unanimously.

35

36 Back to the main motion.

37

38 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
39 question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Question's been
42 called for, roll call please.

43

44 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, going down with the
45 roll call.

46

47 Fish and Wildlife Service.

48

49 MR. HASKETT: Yes.

50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Forest Service.
2
3 MS. PENDLETON: Yes.
4
5 MR. PELTOLA: National Park Service.
6
7 MR. HARD: Yes.
8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Public member Brower.
10
11 MR. C. BROWER: Yes.
12
13 MR. PELTOLA: Public member
14 Christianson.
15
16 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
17
18 MR. PELTOLA: BIA.
19
20 MR. KAHKLEN: Yes.
21
22 MR. PELTOLA: BLM.
23
24 MR. CRIBLEY: Yes.
25
26 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: Yes.
29
30 MR. PELTOLA: Passes unanimously.
31
32 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK: I had stated earlier
33 that we would be adjourning, or not adjourning, but
34 just break the meeting at 5:00 o'clock, unless there's
35 a desire to continue by the Board.....
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 CHAIRMAN TOWARAK:if not then I
40 will declare a recess then. We will reconvene at 8:30
41 tomorrow morning. And I think since we're so close to
42 the finish of the Southeast proposals, we will start
43 with the Southeast proposals first thing in the morning
44 and then we will do the Cook Inlet area last.
45
46 Thank you very much for your time
47 today.
48
49 We will reconvene at 8:30 tomorrow
50 morning.

1
2
3

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 101 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING taken electronically by our firm on the 21st day of January 2015, in Anchorage, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of January 2015.

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