

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8
9 Pikes Landing
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 March 6, 2014
12 10:00 a.m.

13
14
15
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17
18 Sue Entsminger, Chair
19 Andy Bassich
20 Lester Erhart
21 Andrew Firmin
22 William Glanz
23 Will Koehler
24 James Roberts
25 Virgil Umphenour
26 Larry Williams
27 Donald Woodruff
28
29 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/6/2014)

(On record - 10:00 a.m.)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going to call the meeting to order. The two guys from Eagle are on their way, right? Yeah, okay. They couldn't get out yesterday because of weather.

Okay. Roll call and establishment of quorum.

Andrew.

MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, Madame Chair. For roll call we'll start with Bill Glanz.

MR. GLANZ: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin is here. James Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS: Present.

MR. FIRMIN: Virgil Umphenour.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Sue Entsminger.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Eva, you're here, right? Larry Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart.

MR. ERHART: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: And Will Koehler.

MR. KOEHLER: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: And Andy Bassich is absent. Excused I imagine. And Don Woodruff is also absent.

1 Madame Chair, we have a quorum. Were
2 they going to call in?
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're going
5 to be in.
6
7 MR. FIRMIN: Today?
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They got
10 weathered in and they're going to be on a flight today.
11
12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Yes, I got
13 a phone call from Andy and they were anticipating the
14 flight was going to make it in and they hoped to be in
15 Fairbanks about 11:30 if all goes well.
16
17 Thank you.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have an
20 invocation next. Larry, can I ask you to do that,
21 please.
22
23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll
26 all stand.
27
28 (Invocation)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
31 Larry. Okay, welcome and introduction. Let's start
32 around the room. Mute your phones out there, please.
33 I'll be saying that a lot it sounds like because
34 somebody hasn't done it yet. Over here. Tina. We're
35 introducing ourselves.
36
37 REPORTER: My name is Tina.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 REPORTER: She's been with us a very
42 long time.
43
44 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members. My
45 name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian
46 Affairs. I'm a fisheries biologist and subsistence
47 branch chief.
48
49 MS. HYER: Good morning. I'm Karen
50 Hyer. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management

1 and I'm a fisheries biologist.
2
3 MR. KRON: Tom Kron with OSM.
4
5 MR. DUDGEON: Greg Dudgeon, National
6 Park Service.
7
8 MR. MEARS: Jeremy Mears, Fish and
9 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.
10
11 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, Yukon Charlie
12 Rivers National Preserve, National Park Service.
13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: Barbara Cellarius. I'm
15 with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. I'm a
16 subsistence coordinator.
17
18 MR. LIEBICH: Trent Liebich. I'm with
19 the Office of Subsistence Management as a fish
20 biologist.
21
22 MS. HERBERT: Darlene Herbert. I'm
23 from Fairbanks/Fort Yukon. I'm a subsistence user.
24
25 MR. JIMMIE: Rondell Jimmie, Nenana
26 Native Council.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Victor's making me talk
29 first. Vince Mathews, Refuge coordinator for Yukon
30 Flats, Arctic and Kanuti.
31
32 MR. MCKENNA: Good morning. Brian
33 McKenna, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Wildlife Parks
34 Department.
35
36 MR. LORD: Victor Lord, Nenana Native
37 Council.
38
39 MS. THOMAS: Mimi Thomas, Yukon Flats
40 Refuge.
41
42 MR. BERENDZEN: Steve Berendzen, Yukon
43 Flats Refuge.
44
45 MS. YUHAS: Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game, Liaison Team. Karen, you
47 actually have an acting title, don't you?
48
49 MS. HYER: Oh, I have many titles. I'm
50 the LTD for this meeting too, but my favorite is fish

1 biologist.

2

3 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Madame
4 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Jeff
5 Estensen. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game, Yukon fall season manager for Comm Fish.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
9 guys. Did we miss anyone? I don't think so. Could I
10 get a call for who's out in teleconference land.
11 Introduce yourselves, please.

12

13 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with Bureau of
14 Land Management in Anchorage.

15

16 MS. GAMACHE: Good morning. This is
17 Jean Gamache, Alaska Native Affairs liaison for the
18 National Park Service.

19

20 MR. FOX: Good morning. This is Trevor
21 Fox with OSM in Anchorage.

22

23 MS. APGAR-KURTZ: Good morning. This
24 is Breena Apgar-Kurtz, summer season assistant manager
25 for Yukon River, Fish and Game.

26

27 MR. JENKINS: Good morning, Council.
28 This is Wayne Jenkins with Yukon River Drainage
29 Fisheries Association in Anchorage.

30

31 MR. SANDONE: Good morning. This Gene
32 Sandone representing Yukon Delta Fisheries Development
33 Association and Kwik'pak Fisheries.

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning.
36 (Indiscernible), Village of Arctic Village.

37

38 MR. JOHN: Good morning. This is Louie
39 John, Arctic Village Council.

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning.
42 This is (indiscernible) from Arctic Village.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there
45 anyone else?

46

47 MR. RICE: Good morning. This is Bud
48 Rice, National Park Service in Anchorage.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It seems like

1 your voices are breaking up slightly. Anyone else.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you want
6 to get a name?
7
8 MS. PATTON: Yeah, maybe.....
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who was the
11 last one, Park Service?
12
13 MR. RICE: I'm sorry. It's Bud Rice,
14 R-I-C-E, National Park Service in Anchorage.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
17
18 Anyone else.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. If I
23 could ask you guys, we do hear loud and clear all the
24 background noise, so if you could mute your phone it
25 would be really appreciated.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 In your board books we're going to
30 review and adopt the agenda. Have you all looked at
31 the agenda?
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: Sue.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
36 Andrew.
37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Do we want to add annual
39 report under reports if we want to make additions and
40 did we want to add further discussion on Wildlife
41 Proposal 14-48?
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I think
44 we should have this annual report always, in the
45 future, in the front end so we can always be thinking
46 about it. Any suggestions? Do you want to put it
47 under reports?
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: Put it under reports and
50 then maybe put it at the end of our agenda somewhere to

1 just bring it up again to make sure if there was
2 anything anybody else wanted to add that came up over
3 the meeting.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
6 we should always have that underneath the reports from
7 now on because we end up getting into the meat of the
8 meeting and then we forget our topics for the annual
9 report. Okay. And then we'll put it probably in front
10 of future meeting dates, we'll have annual report
11 again. The other one was discussion on.....

12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Wildlife Proposal 14-48.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that would
16 be under old business.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. Right after 14-49,
19 I suppose.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Say again.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Right after Wildlife
24 Proposal 14-49.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
27 a good place. Okay. Anyone else have any additions
28 that they'd like to put in the agenda.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
33 would suggest that if we do have something, it's okay
34 to bring it up, but this is how we're going to go. I
35 will need a motion.

36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt the
38 agenda.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
41 sorry. We're volunteers, so sometimes we suffer from
42 not remembering things. There are people that have
43 asked to -- they talk to me all the time and they ask
44 and I give my report at this certain time because I
45 can't be here during the meeting, so I think.....

46
47 (Teleconference noise)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Whoa, what's
50 going on out there. You sound like you moved some

1 furniture.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Again, for folks that are
4 online, if you push the star button on your phone and
5 then the 6, that will mute your phone so we don't hear
6 the background noise. So just push *6 if you have
7 those buttons on your phone. That would help a lot.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then *6
10 to get back on.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Right. And then just hit
13 that *6 again if you wish to speak to the Council. We
14 do have on the agenda also public and tribal comment.
15 That's coming up right after this. We'll make a call
16 out if people would like to speak at that time as well.

17

18 Madame Chair and Council. We have a
19 couple requests for presenters. We've got a lot of
20 people that are covering multiple meetings this week
21 and other Councils. The Council was going to take up
22 14-42, which was C&T for sheep, and it's to clarify the
23 action that was taken at the last meeting.

24

25 Pippa Kenner, the anthropologist with
26 OSM who participated in the analysis with the Council
27 last time, will be available on Friday. She is in Y-K
28 Delta right now, but can address both that proposal and
29 other C&T updates and questions on Friday from the
30 Council. So we would then have the customary and
31 traditional use determination update on Friday as well
32 when she can call in.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's the
35 next three items?

36

37 MS. PATTON: The sheep C&T 14-42 and
38 then customary and traditional use determination.
39 Karen is able to provide the rural determination
40 update, so we'll take that on today.

41

42 I wanted to bring to the Council's
43 attention there are four State fisheries proposals for
44 the Yukon River that were of interest to the Council.
45 So if the Council wants to take that up after the
46 Federal fisheries regulatory proposals or as it fits
47 into your flow of information.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the
50 State call.

1 MS. PATTON: State call for -- it's the
2 Board of Fish proposals if the Council wishes to make
3 recommendations on those. We did have a request from
4 one of the proponents if he could provide the Council
5 with some information. I let him know I would ask the
6 Council if you would like to hear that information,
7 some specifics on the fishery proposal.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is that?

10
11 MS. PATTON: Gene Sandone.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He wants to
14 give a report?

15
16 MS. PATTON: He had information to
17 provide and either some PowerPoint images or a handout
18 that would help explain the proposal if the Council was
19 interested.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
22 members.

23
24 MR. FIRMIN: I haven't seen it yet, but
25 I've gone over his proposals or the ones he was
26 associated with, so I would entertain it if the rest of
27 the -- if we have time, if the rest of the Council
28 wishes to do so.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's under
31 the call?

32
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We could
34 take it up after the Federal call or where the Council
35 wishes to take the State proposals up on the agenda.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you guys
38 -- who does Gene represent?

39
40 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. He's a
41 consultant with Kwik'pak Fisheries, so this is a Lower
42 Yukon commercial fishery proposal that's being
43 presented to the Board of Fish.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
46 members, do you want him to come speak to his proposal
47 now or -- if he's putting proposals in, we'll get to
48 talk about it again. So it's up to you guys if you
49 want to hear a report. Virgil.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: What these are, is
2 they're agenda change requests that the Board of
3 Fisheries accepted and scheduled for regulatory action
4 at their work session in October. That's what those
5 are, agenda change requests. I had one of them as
6 well. The Board of Fish, I'm not sure what date they
7 meet, but I'm sure someone in the audience knows. I
8 believe they meet next week, so the only thing we can
9 do is we can make our recommendation and I think we're
10 going to have to submit 20 copies of it to the Board
11 because I believe we're past the comment deadline where
12 the Board staff would actually put it in the Board
13 books, so they'll have to be RC'd at the Board meeting.

14
15 So we're going to have to have the 25
16 copies or whatever it is they require of whatever we
17 want to recommend, but we do definitely need to address
18 those ACRs because they're very important to us because
19 they pertain to commercial fishing and could have a
20 major impact on especially the king salmon coming up
21 the Yukon River.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So these are
24 only ACRs that he's going to be talking to?

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. He's got two
27 ACRs. One of them is to allow seining of chum salmon
28 in the Lower Yukon and the other one is to take away
29 the limit on the size of dipnets in the commercial
30 fishery. That's what his ACRs are.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you
33 guys want to all hear it? Lester.

34
35 MR. ERHART: We kind of voted that down
36 and YRDFA and Fort Yukon, the dipnets. Then they had
37 some kind of purse seine and we voted that down too.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you
40 guys want to take this up on our agenda?

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Well, we can vote it down
43 again.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If that's
48 what you want to do, we can put it on the agenda to
49 take those -- do we have copies of those ACRs? You
50 don't have to get it now. Yes or no?

1 MS. PATTON: Yes.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
4 Andrew.
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: I was there with Lester
7 and we heard it all before and I think Wayne Jenkins
8 with YRDFA is online also. He might be able to shed a
9 little different light. I don't know if you guys met
10 Wayne yet. He's the new Jason Hale. He's online. He
11 might be able to shed some light on that when we get
12 there. I also thought that -- I don't know if we
13 really -- we kind of read it off of the proposal book.
14 I don't know if Gene might be able to shed a different
15 light on it from his point of view, but we did have
16 members from Y1 area there speaking to it.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't need
19 to talk about the meat of it. We need to talk about is
20 it going to be on the agenda. Do you guys want it on
21 the agenda?
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Oh. Well, if it's
24 pertinent to -- yeah.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So does
27 everybody agree that we want it on the agenda?
28
29 MR. FIRMIN: Let's listen to it.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We all agree
32 then? Okay. So it's added. We're just going down
33 what you guys want and then we'll adopt the agenda.
34 That would be probably after the call. Yeah, after the
35 fisheries call for proposals. Do you want to hear it
36 before the call for Board of Fish? Yes or no? I
37 assume that's the place.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Any time.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
42 other additions?
43
44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have a
45 couple other time specific requests. If possible, Jean
46 Gamache is online today and she has been involved with
47 the draft Tribal Consultation Implementation
48 Guidelines. That's a little bit what we talked about
49 this morning, is that process. The draft is in your
50 meeting book. Jean would be able to give detail about

1 the development of those guidelines and the process.
2 So she's available today if the Council would like to
3 hear from her. She can provide that.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Only today?
6

7 MS. PATTON: Yeah. She had indicated
8 she was available later in the evening as well too if
9 we go late. That's an option for her.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12

13 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
14 Then the next requests were for tomorrow. We have
15 Bryce from Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge who is
16 going to give a report update on their study on wolf
17 predation on low density moose populations. He's
18 available to give that before noon tomorrow morning if
19 possible.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: These kind of
22 things we can just deal with, right?

23
24 MS. PATTON: Sure, sure. Just a heads
25 up in terms of timing. The other request the Council
26 had was for Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.
27 Becca Gisclair is going to be on to provide the Bering
28 Sea bycatch updates and other YRDFA updates. She is
29 available -- she said it would be easiest right after
30 lunch. She is also attending other meetings as well.
31 So those are the timing requests if the Council is
32 interested to keep those in mind.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
35 help us learn what that is and then we'll take it step
36 by step because sometimes it gets overwhelming what
37 people are asking and you spend all your time talking
38 about it and not going on with the meeting.

39
40 Okay. Agenda. We need this approval
41 with the suggested changes which requires a motion.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt the
44 proposal with all the things we've added onto it.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Stop.
47 Vince is ahhhhhhh. What am I missing? Oh, a hand.

48
49 MS. YUHAS: For your discussion Yukon
50 fisheries. I don't know if you need to add it to your

1 agenda or not, but I noticed that communications from
2 the Department that was sent in a letter form from our
3 three directors to the RAC last month is missing from
4 the correspondence and may need for Yukon and Kuskokwim
5 fisheries discussions. I can print that out for you.
6 The letter was sent from the.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It
9 sounds like something is missing from our packet that
10 we would like to have in there, but it's on the agenda.
11 It's not on the agenda.

12

13 MS. YUHAS: No.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that
16 would be under ADF&G?

17

18 MS. YUHAS: I can bring in an agency
19 report. I'll bring the letter as soon as I can get
20 back to the office.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's under
23 new business. Okay. ADF&G's reports. I will let you
24 all know that I am fairly flexible and I think we all
25 are up here. If there's something missing, we want it.
26 Please don't hesitate to let us know. Virgil, did I
27 hear you finish that motion?

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I move to adopt
30 the agenda with all the stuff that we've added to it
31 and maybe if something important comes up, we'll have
32 to add that on later.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll be
35 flexible.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: I'll second Virgil's
38 motion.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
41 discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
49 opposed.

50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
4 the minutes, same procedure. No, wait a minute. I'm
5 stepping over something. Sorry. Election of officers.
6 I will turn the Chair over to Eva.
7
8 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
9 This is the timeframe in which we hold elections for
10 officers, for the Chair and Vice Chair and Secretary of
11 the Council. Currently, as you all know, Sue is Chair
12 and Virgil Vice Chair and Andrew Secretary. So I will
13 make a call for nominations for the Chair and then once
14 that selection is voted on, then the Chair can take
15 over and hold the other nominations.
16
17 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to nominate Sue
18 for Chair.
19
20 MR. ERHART: I'll second that.
21
22 MR. FIRMIN: I'll make motion
23 nominations be closed.
24
25 MR. ERHART: Second.
26
27 MS. PATTON: All right. We have a
28 nomination for Sue Entsminger as Chair. All in support
29 of Sue Entsminger for Chair please say aye.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 MS. PATTON: All opposed same sign.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, I'll turn it
38 over to you.
39
40 MR. ERHART: She can't say aye
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can't did
43 you say? Thanks, guys, I appreciate the support. Now
44 the floor is open for Vice Chair. Do we have any
45 nominations.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to nominate Virgil
48 to stay in the same position.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear any

1 other nominations.
2
3 MR. ERHART: I nominate Andy Firmin.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's Andy
6 and there's Andrew.
7
8 MR. ERHART: Andrew Firmin.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
11 other nominations.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No other
16 nominations. Do I have a motion to close nominations.
17
18 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion we close
19 nominations.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there a
22 second.
23
24 MR. ERHART: Second.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
27 to close nominations.
28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
32 opposed.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do you want to do
37 it? Do you want to go by vote or do you want
38 to be secret? Okay. Everybody grab your
39 little blue tab and write your name on it and
40 hand it in to Eva.
41
42 We're still getting background noise.
43 *6 to mute and *6 to come back. I hear paper
44 shuffling, so if you're doing that at that second, that
45 would be the one to push *6, please.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, we have a
48 tie.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we only
2 have eight people. I don't know the procedure for a
3 tie now. Wait for two more to come in?
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Either wait for the same
6 two or I don't mind retaining my current seat if Virgil
7 wants to retain his seat unless somebody else wants to
8 be nominated for Secretary.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's up to
11 you two. Go for it. Whatever you want to do.
12
13 MS. PATTON: We can also take up the
14 vote when Andrew and Donald come in. As the Council
15 wishes.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought
18 they made boards where it was uneven. This wouldn't
19 happen. We have a 10-member board. We could do that.
20 What do you want to do, guys?
21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you want to savor
23 your act?
24
25 MR. FIRMIN: It doesn't matter. Unless
26 you want to move.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can be
29 the Secretary.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't want to be
32 Secretary.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All you have
37 to do is roll call. Okay. What do you want to do?
38 Make a decision.
39
40 MR. GLANZ: If both parties are willing
41 to stay right where they're at, I think it's over with.
42 Let's just do it that way. I nominate Andrew for
43 Secretary.
44
45 MR. ERHART: I second.
46
47 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. I think
48 we're overlooking the fact that one of the Council
49 members nominated somebody else for the Vice Chair and
50 as far as possible -- there s an even vote at the

1 moment. I'd like to see the nomination withdrawn and
2 keep everything the way it is just for the record so we
3 don't seem like we're just trivializing it. The
4 Chairman and the Vice Chairman and the Secretary are
5 positions that people deserve and work up to it and I
6 think we should be serious about this.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, did I
11 hear you right, did you want -- everything is okay, we
12 don't have to do anything different or did you want
13 something pulled?

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. I just
16 wanted to -- who will make a nomination to -- since
17 it's a tie and no way of breaking it at the moment, who
18 will make the nomination to withdraw their nomination
19 and just leave everything the way it is, the way we
20 came on board this morning?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So can we do
23 that, those that know Robert's Rules better than I?

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't know Robert's
26 Rules. I don't know anything about Robert's.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you know?

29

30 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I'll have
31 to double check myself in the case of a tie, if it
32 would require removing the motion or taking it up
33 again.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's just
36 requesting. So sometimes you can relax Robert's Rules
37 and take that suggestion. I've seen that happen.

38

39 MS. PATTON: That is an option, when
40 needed, to suspend the rules to proceed with Council's
41 wishes.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
44 to do that? Is that okay with everybody? So that
45 means we're suspending the rules and taking his request
46 to the two nominations for Vice Chair are removed. Am
47 I saying that right? Is that okay, Lester and Bill?

48

49 MR. ERHART: That's fine.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So all agree?
2
3 (Council nods affirmatively)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
6 So now I need a motion. I take that as a motion, keep
7 the same ones in place.
8
9 MR. WILLIAMS: What's that?
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I take that
12 suggestion as a motion from you.
13
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, you may take that
15 as a motion.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Keep
18 Vice Chair and Secretary the same.
19
20 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any further
23 discussion.
24 (No comments)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.
27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. Moving
33 rapidly along, as they say. Now we've got to approve
34 the minutes. Any corrections to the minutes. I did
35 see a typo, Unit 1212. I don't think we have 1212 game
36 management units. It was on Page 8 on the minutes.
37 Page 9, I'm sorry. Proposal 14-15, it says Unit 1212
38 to change the pool of Federally qualified users. I
39 just noticed that. It kind of stuck out at me.
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair. I
42 reviewed the minutes and the only mistake that I've
43 identified is what you just identified, that type of
44 1212 at the top of Page 9. Other than that, I can't
45 see any corrections that need to be made in the
46 minutes. Madame Chair.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
49 second?
50

1 MR. KOEHLER: Second.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
4 further discussion.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
9 has been called for. All in favor.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
14 opposed.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
19 Minutes were approved. Okay, Council members. We'll
20 just go around starting with Bill. Do you have any
21 reports? We used to also talk about concerns at the
22 same time. Bill.
23
24 MR. GLANZ: I don't really have a whole
25 lot of concerns other than no fishing and lack of game.
26 Our AC, we met here a while back and we discussed some
27 of the issues. I was unable to go to the State
28 meeting, so I feel bad about that, being chair of our
29 AC, but that happens. That's about all I have on my
30 mind right now, you guys, so I'll defer to Andrew.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
33
34 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I guess everybody
35 knows it's a busy time of the year and a lot of
36 different meetings to go to and stuff coming up on the
37 agenda and a lot of it overlaps. I think we'll
38 probably hear just about all my concerns and reports
39 throughout the meeting. We did have YRDFA's annual
40 meeting in Fort Yukon.
41
42 (Teleconference disconnect)
43 MR. SHARP: Hello. Yeah, somebody
44 needs to get a hold of Eva. I think the meeting
45 dropped the call and they're probably not aware of it.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody, I
48 just heard you speak. You guys need to *6, please.
49 Did you recognize that voice?
50

1 MS. PATTON: Was that Dan Sharp's
2 voice?
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
5 Sorry about that out there, but it is pretty loud, so
6 we're hearing a lot of.....
7
8 REPORTER: They can't hear you.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
11 kidding.
12
13 REPORTER: No. So apparently the call
14 got dropped. I'll redial them.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
17 mean I'm talking to no one? I'm scolding no one?
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Whoa. Okay.
22 But go ahead. Sorry, Andrew.
23
24 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you. I guess the
25 one thing -- couple things I was thinking of was one is
26 YRDFA's annual meeting, which was actually pretty good.
27 We didn't argue or fight or yell at anyone during that
28 meeting. Victor was there and Lester and a few others.
29 Some of those points will come back up. I just wanted
30 to say I think one of the main things I noticed out of
31 that meeting was a lot of folks from that Forum were
32 kind of out of ideas beyond pointing the finger at each
33 other for who to blame with fish, so I think it was
34 kind of bleak in that sense. Everybody was like what
35 do we do now kind of mentality or had that train of
36 thought going. I'm glad we all worked together and we
37 did come up with a few good resolutions. I just wanted
38 to state that there was a lot of people that were like
39 where's our direction, where do we go next.
40
41 Another one is I went to the Board of
42 Game last -- when it was here earlier this month. I
43 went there and our two proposals that we had, 79 failed
44 and 80 passed. The one that passed was for the brown
45 bear harvest over baiting.
46
47 (Reconnecting teleconference)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you need a
50 minute?

1 REPORTER: No.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So, if
4 you guys can work through all that, keep going. So
5 what were those two proposals? Are you sure you don't
6 need a minute?
7
8 REPORTER: I'm fine. You guys can
9 continue.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's hard to
12 concentrate.
13
14 REPORTER: I understand that. This is
15 what OSM wants. So go ahead and we'll connect.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
18 Andrew, help us out.
19
20 MR. FIRMIN: I think most of the ones
21 will come back up during the meeting as we go along,
22 but the one we talked about earlier in our other
23 session was with 14-48, our State proposal, and
24 response to that one, which failed in the Board of
25 Game, and our other proposal for allowing brown bears
26 to be harvested over black bear bait stations, which
27 passed. So those were the two -- I think those were
28 the only two that I was really there at the Board of
29 Game meeting for. Those were the two that referenced
30 to us anyway, to the EIRAC at that meeting. I think
31 those and other stuff will come out during the meeting
32 as we go along.
33
34 That's all.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. James.
37
38 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you for having me
39 here. I don't have much to report, but I was looking
40 carefully at this 14-49 and it was a request for the
41 winter hunt. I might look at it different than other
42 people and I look at that as a chance for people that
43 didn't get anything in the fall to hunt. If they
44 didn't get a moose or they didn't get a caribou, that's
45 a chance for them.
46
47 I talked to a lady from this area,
48 she's a Council member, and I said OSM didn't recommend
49 that they have a winter hunt. I said how about one
50 month and she was for that. So I'm really interested

1 in this 14-49. I admire a lot of people that do hunt
2 in the winter and I don't have anything against that.

3

4 I missed the last meeting, which I
5 regret. I wish I was here, so I'm trying to catch up
6 on some of this information and I hope we'll all be
7 cordial to each other and have a good meeting.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
10 James. What was that 49 topic? Just help me out real
11 quick.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Page 5.

14

15 MR. ROBERTS: It was to extend the
16 season in the fall and open one in the winter.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which GMU? I
19 thought it was the Chisana. Okay. We have a lot to
20 talk about there, so it will come up. Virgil.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: I also attended the
23 Board of Game meeting the week before last. The Board
24 -- I could be wrong, but I think I'm right, the Tanana
25 Tribal Council, which is our area, the Board extended
26 their moose season by, I believe, five days on the end
27 and then I believe they also extended their winter
28 season by five days, which was two of their proposals.
29 The Board actually -- well, I'm sure the Fairbanks AC
30 and they passed the majority of our proposals and the
31 proposals that we supported, which was their RAC -- we
32 supported the RAC proposals, the Fairbanks AC did. Of
33 course, the one being able to shoot a grizzly bear over
34 bait based.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Over black
37 bear bait.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, they changed the
40 wording to over bait from over black bear bait. That
41 got changed for our Eastern Interior RAC area and then
42 I had submitted a proposal to do that in GMU 24C and D
43 and that passed as well. But, anyway, the Board seems
44 to be more proactive on predator management than what
45 they have been in the past and I thought it was a good
46 Board meeting. The Board members, through
47 deliberations, referenced the various AC
48 representatives and their recommendations. It was
49 obvious the Board was paying attention to what the
50 public wanted and I think they did a real good job at

1 this Board meeting.

2

3 Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry. I
6 don't really have any concerns from the Village of
7 Venetie, but we were fortunate in the fact this winter
8 that we had a portion of Porcupine Caribou Herd wander
9 into our area and have been hanging out all winter. So
10 we harvest them whenever the opportunity presents
11 itself.

12

13 Also, recently we had a Yukon Flats AC
14 meeting. I'm proud to say that I'm a chairman of the
15 group. I say that in all seriousness. I'd like to put
16 it on record that I'm very proud of those people who
17 represent their communities, taking their time out of
18 their busy schedule to attend these meetings and to
19 make their voices heard, their concerns and the
20 community members, that's a chance for them to be
21 heard.

22

23 At this time, I would like to thank
24 everybody who sent cards of sympathy for our recent
25 loss of our respected elder Maggie Roberts from
26 Venetie. I'd like to thank everybody who phone called
27 and who sent the cards and their monetary support. The
28 family of Maggie really appreciates it. As soon as we
29 get our thoughts together -- it was quite a devastating
30 blow to us, to the family and to myself personally. As
31 soon as we get our thoughts together and get everybody
32 together, we can write a real thank you letter, but
33 right now this will have to suffice and you guys can
34 expect a letter in the near future.

35

36 Thank you very much.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
39 Larry. I'm sorry for your loss. Lester.

40

41 MR. ERHART: No, I don't have very
42 much, but I was wondering, you know, when we cut fish,
43 those of us that stay in fish camp, when you hang your
44 fish up, is that considered bear baiting on the rack?

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's DLP,
49 defense of life or property. Go ahead, Will.

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: No comment right now. My
2 concerns will come up during the meeting.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
7 Now my report. As an SRC member, we just had the
8 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
9 actually Monday and Tuesday -- no, Tuesday, Wednesday.
10 I wasn't able to attend yesterday because of traveling
11 up here and taking my wounded husband home. He fell
12 off a ladder and shattered his ankle, so I've been a
13 caregiver lately it seems.

14

15 I wanted to report on that SRC meeting
16 just a little bit. The Parks, and I don't think it's
17 in the Yukon Charlie because it's Preserve, hunting
18 plans. The SRC has a committee working on making that
19 hunting plan from something this thick to something
20 that's like your Handy Dandy, you know, something like
21 this to make it simpler and not have all the back-up.
22 All this back-up information is in the hunting plan and
23 our SRC would like to consolidate what you can and
24 can't do in the front and then the back-up is in the
25 back and maybe publish a little handy-dandy thing that
26 people know what they can and can't do.

27

28 That might be something you guys want
29 to work towards over in Denali because I think it's
30 really helpful because the user, they need to know what
31 they're legally allowed to do and if it's cut and dry
32 in a regulation because the Park Service is different
33 in some issues than it is in the Federal regs. Just
34 something to keep in mind. I think it's going to work
35 out really good for the people that live there and have
36 to abide by all these rules.

37

38 And I do attend the AC meetings.
39 Actually the one in the Upper Tanana Forty Mile. We
40 spend a lot of time talking about those caribou. All
41 caribou actually.

42

43 Okay. Now, I'm going to bring up this
44 annual report. We looked at that earlier this morning.
45 If there's something that you want to add to our annual
46 report. I'm going to request that that's always here
47 so we don't forget. You list your concerns on an
48 annual report. So, as we go through this meeting and
49 you have a concern -- help us out, Eva. That gets
50 written down and then they say that's a good topic to

1 go in the annual report. Sometimes I miss them. So
2 please keep that in mind as we go along.

3

4 Does anyone have anything that they
5 have burning in their heart they would add to that
6 annual report other than what's down there now? Didn't
7 I hear something earlier? Andrew.

8

9 MR. FIRMIN: Just the one I remember
10 off the top of my head was the Arctic Village sheep
11 management area in Unit 25A. It's a reoccurring
12 proposal or type of proposal and would just like to
13 note it in here as it goes before the Federal
14 Subsistence Board that we did take it up and we did
15 have dialogue involving that and plenty of public
16 testimony also.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the point
19 you would make is?

20

21 MR. FIRMIN: Just that there is still
22 plenty of opposition for it, of opening it of any kind
23 until more biological data that actually shows a good
24 reason for it to be opened other than the reason why it
25 was closed in the first place. I think that until
26 something better can come out of it then I think it's
27 kind of -- some people are like whipping a dead horse,
28 I guess. Some people just are tired of hearing it, but
29 I know there's still plenty of opposition for opening
30 that and I just want to make sure that it's in there as
31 it comes up before the Federal Subsistence Board. On
32 the cycles that they're -- you know, make sure that
33 they know that we're still out here and still have
34 plenty of dialogue involved with that and plenty of
35 public opposition to it.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does
38 anyone else have anything right now that you can recall
39 that you would want to get in there. Virgil.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Of course, this is
42 going to come up on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
43 Program later on in the agenda, but we might want to
44 put in our annual report our concerns about the
45 whitefish and having the whitefish commercial fishery
46 in the Lower River without having monitoring in the
47 Upper River because that project was not approved by
48 the Board, the one that we addressed at our last
49 meeting. If they're going to have a commercial fishery
50 down there, there needs to be monitoring of where those

1 whitefish are going and what the population status is
2 of those whitefish because they are an important
3 resource for the upriver people. Madame Chair.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So, as
6 we go along, we have these two added subject. If you
7 have more you want to add to the discussion, we can do
8 that as we go.

9
10 Larry, did you have something?

11
12 MR. WILLIAMS: I just can't recall
13 right now, but what we discussed. I forgot the
14 proposal number or anything. What we discussed
15 earlier. I'd like to bring that up and just have a
16 short discussion on it.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 25A moose.

19
20 MR. WILLIAMS: 25A moose, yeah.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll list
23 that in the annual report, your concern, and we can
24 talk about it more in the meeting.

25
26 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, that will be fine.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
29 going to come up again. What number, 14.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
32 On the agenda next after public and tribal comments is
33 old business and we'll be taking up the wildlife
34 proposals that the Council would like to discuss and we
35 can have Trevor online to provide information and ask
36 questions. So what I can do, since you wanted to
37 provide comments on that to be included in the annual
38 report is include your discussion at that time in the
39 annual report.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's 14-48?

42
43 MS. PATTON: Yes.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So the
46 next thing on the agenda is our wildlife regulatory
47 proposals. Deferred proposal WP14-49, revise season
48 dates for fall season and establish a
49 winter season for caribou in Unit 12. Andrew.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: You skipped one item on
2 the agenda, Madame Chair.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
5
6 MS. PATTON: Public and tribal
7 comments.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I wrote
10 over the top of them. Sorry. Forgive me. Public and
11 tribal comments on non-agenda items available each
12 morning, so this is the time.
13
14 REPORTER: Actually, before you do
15 that, there was people online that might want to talk,
16 so I'm going to have to reconnect them. If we can
17 stand down for a minute.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need to
20 stand down for technical difficulties.
21
22 (Off record)
23
24 (On record)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
27 back to order. Eva, just let them know.
28
29 MS. PATTON: Welcome folks online. We
30 were able to reconnect, but again we do request for
31 those folks that are online to please push *6 to mute
32 your phones. There's a lot of background noise. If it
33 sounds like it's disconnected again, pipe up and say
34 we're disconnected and we'll reconnect, but I think we
35 got everyone online. Just push *6 until you're ready
36 to speak.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
41 short report. This is the Chair, Sue, speaking. In
42 the event of a tie, the motion is lost. Good job,
43 Larry. The motion is lost, so you start all over
44 again, which is what we did. Okay. I thought that was
45 good information. We need parliamentarians around
46 here.
47
48 All right. We are under public and
49 tribal comment on non-agenda items. So the process.
50 My coordinator, help me out.

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
2 We have this opportunity at the beginning of the
3 meeting on both days so that any public members or
4 tribal members who are present to speak in person at
5 the meeting or who have joined us online. You have an
6 opportunity to address the Council on any questions,
7 concerns or comments that's not on the agenda.
8 Anything of interest that you'd like to address the
9 Council on subsistence for the region.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we have
12 anyone who has any non-agenda items, public and tribal,
13 that would like to speak to it.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you're
18 online, you've got to push your *6 again. I'm not sure
19 if that was on or off.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. For the
22 folks that are online, if there's anyone joining us by
23 teleconference and you would like to address the
24 Council on any questions or comments or concerns, go
25 ahead and just speak up now. If you've got your phone
26 muted, just hit *6 again and you can address the
27 Council.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. PATTON: Maybe I should just check
32 in with the public online. Can we get a reply. Are
33 folks able to hear okay right now with the
34 teleconference line?

35

36 MR. SHARP: Hi, Eva. Yeah, we can hear
37 you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
40 So if somebody did want to speak and you're having
41 trouble with your phone, you've just got to break in
42 and let me know, okay. Throughout the meeting you'll
43 have a chance to speak to these proposals.

44

45 Now we're under old business and we're
46 under wildlife regulatory proposals. Now we are taking
47 up deferred action on 14-49, the revision of fall
48 season and establish a winter season for caribou in
49 Unit 12. Is it Trevor that's speaking to this and he's
50 online?

1 MS. PATTON: Yes.
2
3 MR. FOX: Yeah, this is Trevor.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
6 Trevor, go ahead.
7
8 MR. FOX: Okay. Thank you, Madame
9 Chair. Can you guys hear me okay?
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very good
12
13 MR. FOX: Okay, great. For the record,
14 my name is Trevor Fox. I'm a wildlife biologist with
15 OSM in Anchorage. The proposal WP14-49 begins on Page
16 6 of your meeting book. The proposal was submitted by
17 Gillam Joe and requests modification of the fall season
18 dates for the Unit 12 caribou hunt that takes place
19 east of the Nabesna River and Nabesna Glacier and south
20 of the winter trail, and also requests the
21 establishment of a winter hunt and a meat on the bone
22 requirement. The proposal requests that the fall season
23 be changed from September 1 to September 30 to August
24 10 through September 20. The proposed winter season
25 dates would be February 1 through March 31.
26
27 The proponent states that the fall
28 season dates should be adjusted to provide Federally
29 qualified subsistence users an opportunity to harvest
30 caribou before the rut, as the rut approaches in late
31 September, meat quality declines significantly.
32 Additionally, the proponent states that establishing a
33 winter hunt would give subsistence users more
34 opportunity and easier access to hunt the Chisana
35 caribou herd since the affected area is remote and
36 difficult to access without the aid of a snowmachine.
37 The proponent finally states the meat on the bone
38 requirement will ensure that all the edible meat is
39 removed from the field.
40
41 A five-year management plan for the
42 Chisana Caribou Herd has been developed through a
43 cooperative effort between the
44 Government of Yukon, Alaska Department of Fish and
45 Game, White River First Nation, Kluane First Nation,
46 National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
47 Service. The plan was finalized in October of 2012 and
48 provides a framework for monitoring the Chisana Caribou
49 Herd population and criteria for implementing a hunt
50 through 2015.

1 In addition to a stable or increasing
2 population trend, the plan also requires the observed
3 bull:cow ratio be no less than 35 bulls per 100 cows
4 with a three year calf:cow ratio above 15 calves per
5 100 cows. If the Chisana Caribou Herd population falls
6 below these guidelines, no harvest will be allowed. If
7 population goals indicate a harvest is sustainable, the
8 plan calls for an annual bulls-only harvest not
9 exceeding 2 percent of the estimated population, with
10 the harvest being equally distributed among the Yukon
11 and Alaska.

12
13 The Chisana Caribou Herd increased
14 through the 1980s and reached a peak of 1,900 caribou
15 in 1988. Beginning in 1990,
16 the Chisana Caribou Herd experienced a decline in
17 population size. Concern over the decline led to
18 implementation of an intensive captive rearing program
19 in Canada, conducted between 2003 to 2006.

20
21 Past declines were attributed to poor
22 calf recruitment and high adult mortality associated
23 with adverse weather conditions, poor habitat and
24 predation. Results from the 2010 census show the
25 Chisana Caribou Herd population is stable, with an
26 estimated herd size of 682 caribou.

27
28 The 3-year average bull:cow ratio of
29 43:100 is above the minimum 35:100 ratio stated in the
30 Management Plan. The number of calves in the herd
31 increased in 2010, but decreased again in 2011. The
32 3-year average calf:cow ratio of 18:100 is above the
33 minimum 15:100 ratio set in the Management Plan.

34
35 Just a side note. I talked to Barbara
36 Cellarius with the Park Service and she mentioned that
37 there has been some recent data that's preliminary.
38 The preliminary analysis shows that more caribou are
39 counted in this recent survey, but the results aren't
40 final, but it seems to potentially show that the
41 population remains stable. Maybe somebody from the
42 Park Service can add to that after this summary.

43
44 At its January 2012 meeting, the
45 Federal Subsistence Board authorized a limited harvest
46 of the Chisana Caribou Herd consistent with the herd's
47 management plan. The Board delegated authority to the
48 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
49 Superintendent to open the season, announce the harvest
50 quota, the number of permits to be issued and the

1 reporting period, and to close the season.

2

3 Based on the estimated population size
4 and the guidance in the management plan, the harvest
5 quota for the 2012 was set at seven animals. The
6 number of permits was limited to 14 and the reporting
7 period requirement was set at within three days of
8 harvest. In 2012, nine permits were issued with two
9 animals being reportedly harvested. In 2013, the most
10 recent data I've seen is nine permits were issued again
11 with a harvest of three reported.

12

13 An overall summary, the current data on
14 the Chisana Caribou Herd indicates that the population
15 is stable. Bull:cow and calf:cow ratios are above the
16 minimum thresholds needed to have a harvest on the
17 population.

18

19 I don't want to get too far ahead of
20 myself here, however the most recent survey data is
21 getting to be three years old. I did mention that
22 there was a recent survey, but that data is not fully
23 released yet, so management decisions should be
24 conservative in nature.

25

26 Moving the fall season dates to earlier
27 in the season should satisfy the proponent's concerns
28 about the quality of meat and being so close to the
29 rut. The winter hunt would provide easier access for
30 hunters and could lead to increased hunting success.
31 However, establishment of a winter season is not
32 advisable at this time due to the lack of more recent
33 population data.

34

35 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
36 support Proposal WP14-49 with modification to change
37 the fall seasons to the dates requested in the proposal
38 but not to establish a winter season. The modified
39 regulatory language can be found on Page 10 of your
40 meeting book.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
45 of Trevor.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
50 quick one, Trevor, and I'm looking on Page 9 of our

1 book and I'm looking at all this data and I'm curious
2 why a couple of those columns, percent of calves,
3 percent of cows, percent of bulls, doesn't add up to
4 100 percent. On 2011 it adds up to 105 percent. So
5 that makes me wonder who is short, calves, cows or
6 bulls.

7

8 MR. FOX: Yeah, Madame Chair. I would
9 have to look at that. As you know, your usual biologist
10 is Chris McKee and unfortunately he was called out for
11 jury duty, so I'm filling in here. I could take a look
12 at this really quick and try to come up with a little
13 bit more information. I think, in general, the
14 percentages might not add up because it's potentially
15 based on the estimated herd size and that might throw
16 off the percentages a little bit.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Trevor, I'm
19 sorry, but you're breaking up horribly. For some
20 reason we were hearing you loud and clear and then all
21 of a sudden it sounded like you got a distance away
22 from the mic or something happened there. Did you
23 change your position from the mic?

24

25 MR. FOX: I didn't, but I mean.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's good
28 now.

29

30 MR. FOX: Okay, great.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I
33 heard everything but the last little bit. You can talk
34 to somebody or you can look at it and get back to me,
35 is that what I'm hearing?

36

37 MR. FOX: Yeah, I can do that. One
38 thing I was thinking of potentially that it's based on
39 the estimated herd size, so maybe that's throwing off
40 the percentages a little bit, but I'll look into that
41 and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it should
44 -- I mean all the other ones but maybe one was 101
45 percent, one was 99 percent, but I would assume that if
46 you're going to go by percent, it should be 100
47 percent, am I right?

48

49 MR. FOX: I would have to hurry and
50 look at the data a little more closely to see why

1 that's off.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
4 would be good to know. For biology, to know if it's
5 calves or cows or bulls. Okay. I mean maybe I could
6 do the math, but I'm not a biologist to figure out how
7 you do that.

8

9 Any other questions of the biologist.
10 James.

11

12 MR. ROBERTS: This is just a comment.
13 Too much we look at the biologist side of the view and
14 we don't look at the people of these communities. You
15 look at parents with a bunch of kids. There's a herd
16 there. They've been hunting these caribou forever and
17 now they're saying we can't because of some biological
18 thing. As a parent, trying to feed kids, it's pretty
19 hard. This time of year we're all going through a real
20 hard time. That's why I would support a winter hunt
21 just for that reason, for the people and we take the
22 people out of the factor all the time.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.
25 You're going to have to repeat that because right now
26 we're going through the process of getting our reports
27 and then we'll get into discussion. I really
28 appreciate that and I'm sorry to interrupt. Right now
29 we're going through all the reports and then we're
30 going to get into that discussion when we take it up.
31 Okay.

32

33 I think, Barbara, you have the new data
34 to present.

35

36 MS. CELLARIUS: I do. Thank you,
37 Madame Chair. I gave Eva copies of the Park's wildlife
38 report and it does include some more recent data on the
39 Chisana Caribou Herd. A population census of the herd
40 was completed in October of 2013. We don't have the
41 population estimate. However, I do know that -- and I
42 think there's a typo in this paragraph because if you
43 look at the table, it says that they actually observed
44 631 animals resulting in 16 calves and 49 bulls per 100
45 cows and both of those ratios are above the minimums
46 that are described in the management plan. While we
47 don't have the population estimate, the preliminary
48 conclusion from that is it does look like the herd is
49 stable.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
2 questions of Barbara.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my gosh.
7 I feel like I don't understand things. I'm looking at
8 a total of bulls per 100 cows in this Park Service
9 report and I'm looking at total bulls per 100 cows on
10 Page 9 of our book from OSM and they're not the same.
11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: If you look at the data
13 for 2010, bulls per 100 cows, it's 42 and that matches
14 the Table 1 in the analysis.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But 54 and 38
17 don't match for 2011.
18
19 MS. CELLARIUS: So you need to -- and I
20 don't know -- I'm not sure -- I know that Judy provided
21 information to OSM. This is the data that we have from
22 a wildlife biologist and I'm afraid I can't tell you
23 what the differences are between the sets of numbers.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, 38 and
26 54 is significant to me. Somebody might want to.....
27
28 MS. CELLARIUS: I do know that they
29 weren't able to do -- they didn't do a complete census,
30 I don't believe, in 2011.
31
32 MR. FOX: Madame Chair. This is Trevor
33 again.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
36 ahead.
37
38 MR. FOX: I don't have the Park Service
39 handout. If somebody could email that to me, I could
40 try to compare it with whatever we have on file here.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, the
43 only thing that's hitting me like a red blinking light
44 is 2011, on your report, it says 38, Park Service says
45 54. That's total bulls per 100 cows.
46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: I've been trying to get
48 an electronic copy of this. I have not obtained it
49 yet.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
2 that's something maybe you guys could check out as we
3 move along in our process.
4 What was that?

5
6 MR. KOEHLER: Dual management. We get
7 a different set of numbers from two sources.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they're
10 both with the government. All right. But these
11 percentages I think is good to know if it's 9 percent
12 calves and 66 or whatever they add up to because
13 there's 5 percent less.

14
15 The next thing that we hear from is
16 report on board consultation with tribes and ANCSA
17 corporations. That comes from Eva.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. During the
20 direct consultation we didn't have comment on this. We
21 do have written comments provided that will come later.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next will be
26 any agency comments. First is Fish and Game.

27
28 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and
30 Game. For Proposal 14-49 the Department is neutral on
31 the meat on bone requirement and we have to support the
32 recent changes by the Alaska Board of Game, which I'm
33 hoping maybe Rita can speak to more specifically. They
34 recently took this up and decided what they would
35 support on the State side, so that's what we're bound
36 to and things have been moving pretty fast. The
37 Federal side can take the action that it wants to
38 though and it doesn't always match up with the State
39 actions.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you don't
42 have a briefing of what the State -- it would have been
43 what they took up two years ago, right?

44
45 MS. YUHAS: No, two weeks ago.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, they
48 had taken it up also two years ago, so it's probably
49 similar.

50

1 MS. YUHAS: We're frantically
2 scrambling through our electronic devices back there
3 trying to pull things up. You're moving fast today.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Really? I
6 thought we were slow. Okay. It would be interesting,
7 but, unfortunately, the hunt, as it is, is a Federal
8 hunt only and if the State comes up with something, it
9 would be for a different -- something entirely
10 different, yeah. But if it comes up between now and
11 the end of this discussion, please let me know, okay.

12
13 MS. YUHAS (Nods affirmatively)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
16 else, Jennifer?

17
18 MS. YUHAS: Not on this proposal,
19 Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
22 questions.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,
27 Jennifer. Next is Federal agencies. Any comments from
28 Federal agencies. This is Park land, so we're going to
29 hear from Barbara from Wrangell-St. Elias.

30
31 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
32 Chair. The Park Service doesn't have a problem with
33 extending the fall season or making changes to the fall
34 season; however, we are very concerned about the
35 proposal to implement a winter season. As you've seen
36 from looking at the data, the caribou population is
37 very close to the minimum where we can allow a harvest
38 under the provisions of the management plan. We're
39 concerned about possible impacts to the herd from
40 having a winter hunt. The animals are stressed at that
41 point in the year. Without antlers, you would have to
42 get fairly close to the animals and able to identify a
43 bull from a cow. We have significant conservation
44 concerns with the winter hunt.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
47 members, any questions. Go ahead.

48
49 MR. ROBERTS: I'd like you to refer to
50 my statements that I said earlier.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
2 your time to ask a question regarding the Federal Park
3 Service here. Go ahead, Andrew.

4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Is there a concern that
6 you think the success rate will go up, like they're be
7 able to go up there with a snow-go in the wintertime
8 and you think they'd have a higher than a 25 percent
9 success rate or 30, whatever it is?

10
11 MS. CELLARIUS: We fairly closely
12 manage the hunt with the harvest quota and we ask
13 hunters to call us within three days of the harvest, so
14 I think the way we manage the hunt in a way that the
15 harvest would stay within the quota, but we think that
16 there would be additional stress on the animals if we
17 were to hold a hunt during the winter months.

18
19 MR. FIRMIN: So basically the nine
20 permits issued last year or seven actually went hunting
21 and three were harvested, do you think if the winter
22 hunt was there do you think that all nine permits would
23 have been filled is what I'm saying?

24
25 MS. CELLARIUS: It's hard to say. It's
26 a difficult area to access. It certainly would be
27 easier if you could do so on snowmachines. The way
28 we've managed the hunt in the past -- and it's not in
29 my report this time because I gave you a report on the
30 management of the hunt at the last meeting, but we've
31 set the maximum number of permits for the last two
32 years at 14. We haven't issued all of the permits that
33 we have -- we haven't issued that number, but it is
34 interesting to me that most of the people who have
35 gotten permits have tried to hunt. Yeah, with easier
36 access there might be additional interest in getting
37 the permits.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
40 questions. James.

41
42 MR. ROBERTS: How is the moose
43 population in this area and how successful are the
44 people that hunt them there?

45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: This is an extremely
47 remote area. There is not road access to the area.
48 The reporting on the moose harvest is actually under a
49 State harvest report, so I have less good access to
50 that data. We don't really know how many people

1 intended to hunt there versus what the harvest was. I
2 think in -- let me look at something here. Oh, I gave
3 my report to Vince so he could fax it to Trevor. But
4 there is some information about our moose survey sort
5 of generally in the back of the report, although I'm
6 not sure that that specific area is included in the
7 harvest area -- thank you.

8

9 Yeah, we do a geospatial moose survey
10 every three years and there's information from some
11 specific areas, but you'll see that area in Unit 12
12 isn't included in that moose survey that we did, so we
13 would be relying on harvest data to give you specific
14 information and I don't have that at my fingertips
15 right now. But it's a very, very remote area. It's
16 essentially fly in unless you live there. Will is
17 pretty familiar with the area as well.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
20 other questions. Will, did you have one.

21

22 MR. KOEHLER: Not necessarily a
23 question, but just to add something to James.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, what we
26 need to do here is we need to get all the reports in
27 and then we'll go in to adopt or not adopt or whatever
28 and then we discuss the actual meat of the proposal.
29 So right now we're just getting information. So a good
30 question to ask about that. You know, I've been in
31 this area and I can assure you it's pretty remote.
32 It's very, very remote. It's a tough place to hunt.
33 We'll get into that and the meat of it and hopefully we
34 won't miss anything.

35

36 Native, tribal, village or other. Do
37 we have any comments.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Interagency
42 Staff Committee, any comments.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
47 group comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
2 Regional Councils first and then Fish and Game
3 Committees and Subsistence Resource Commissions. So,
4 first, other Regional Councils.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did any.....

9
10 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Not on 14-
11 49. We have AC comments on other proposals. Not on
12 this one at this time.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No other
15 Regional Council or Fish and Game AC?

16
17 MS. PATTON: Unh-unh. (Negative)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, all
20 right. Then Subsistence Resource Commission, which I
21 am on. When we deliberate, I can even elaborate more,
22 but I'll let Barbara give the report from the SRC.

23
24 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm trying to remember
25 if Southcentral commented on this proposal.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can't
28 imagine that they didn't.

29
30 MS. CELLARIUS: It was on their agenda.
31 I just don't recall what their comment was. It was at
32 least on their agenda because they're a crossover.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

35
36 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
37 Cellarius. I'm the subsistence coordinator for
38 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. What
39 I'm going to present to you is a comment from the
40 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.
41 It's a complicated comment, but let me preface it by
42 saying that in the fall of 2013 the commission met in
43 Chistochina, which is where the proponent lives and the
44 proponent came to the meeting. The commission did have
45 a conversation with the proponent about this proposal.

46
47 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
48 Subsistence Resource Commission unanimously supports
49 the proposal with the following modifications. First,
50 the fall season would open on August 10th and close on

1 September 30th. Second, the winter season would not be
2 adopted. Third, the meat on the bone requirement would
3 not be adopted.

4
5 Expanding the fall season would provide
6 additional subsistence opportunities. Hunters who
7 prefer to hunt during August, well before the rut,
8 would be able to do so. Hunters for whom meat storage
9 is easier later in the season when the weather is
10 cooler could hunt at the end of September.

11
12 Establishing a winter season is not
13 supported at this time due to the small harvest quota
14 and the lack of good data about where animals are
15 during the winter. Regarding the meat on the bone
16 requirements, there's no evidence of a meat spoilage
17 problem and the SRC members agree that individual
18 hunters should be able to decide whether or not to keep
19 the meat on the bone.

20
21 Hunters who make use of the bones or
22 otherwise prefer to keep the meat on the bone could do
23 so, but hunters who harvest meat in locations requiring
24 long distance packing would have the option of leaving
25 some of the bones behind.

26
27 That concludes their comment.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I was
30 at the meeting at the SRC and Gillam is highly
31 respected and he actually agreed with the SRC,
32 Subsistence Resource Commission. So do we have any
33 other questions regarding that meeting with the SRC.
34 James.

35
36 MR. ROBERTS: Well, what it sounds like
37 to me is, talking to you guys from that area, you're
38 saying it's super difficult and by closing it and not
39 having a winter season makes it more difficult. So it
40 sounds like it's a pretty tough place to live to me.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll get
43 into it as we deliberate. Okay, we're continuing on
44 with our process. Summary of written public comments.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
47 We have three written comments that were submitted in
48 advance and included in the book. We have one written
49 comment in support, one in opposition and one comment
50 that is neutral. You'll find those written public

1 comments starting on Page 16 of your meeting book.

2

3 A very brief summary of those written
4 comments. Ahtna Inc. Customary and Traditional Use
5 Committee supports Proposal 14-49 to modify the season
6 dates, citing that Federally qualified subsistence
7 users will be able to access hunting areas to harvest a
8 caribou during the winter months. Snow machines could
9 be used to hunt with during the winter months to
10 harvest a Unit 12 caribou in this remote, inaccessible
11 area.

12

13 Jessica Braga, who is from Ptarmigan
14 Lake, requests that if the proposal submitted by Gillam
15 Joe recommending an additional winter hunt period is
16 adopted, that the language similar to WP14-45 be added
17 to include all qualified residents of the hunt area in
18 any future hunts.

19

20 We have one opposition to Proposal 14-
21 49 that there should not be a Chisana Caribou harvest
22 for the following concerns: limited biological data,
23 poor calf populations, adverse weather conditions,
24 continued harvest would reduce the current small
25 population, there has not been any caribou hunting
26 since 1994, harvest information indicates that most of
27 the past harvest was taken by non-residents, a proposed
28 winter hunt is questionable with only limited data on a
29 small herd, concerns about displacing the caribou from
30 their natural winter habitat causing more stress,
31 survey information is critical to understand herd
32 dynamics, and the final point is if the proposed hunt
33 takes place Ahtna Native members should be given
34 priority for customary and traditional use of the
35 caribou resource similar to First Nation People in the
36 Yukon Territory. That was submitted by Jim Hannah.

37

38 Madame Chair, we did have one other
39 comment that was provided. Adam Smitholum, who had
40 emailed, addressing the Council. He wrote regarding
41 proposed changes to the Chisana Caribou Herd that he
42 lives in Chisana and disagrees with the proposal to
43 change the season dates.

44

45 First, it would be more difficult for
46 subsistence users to keep the meat seeing that they do
47 not have a freezer, as well as in August it would not
48 keep the meat in a shed for any length of time. He
49 said they can preserve the meat and eat as much as they
50 can while it hangs fresh. If anything, a later season

1 would allow them to keep the meat in a shed without
2 having to can it.

3
4 Secondly, he notes changing the dates
5 to align with the sheep season, even if that was not
6 the intent of the proposal, would encourage more trophy
7 hunters and not subsistence hunters on the herd. He
8 notes he has other comments and you have to charter a
9 plane or rent horses, which most subsistence users are
10 not able to do.

11
12 He also disagrees with the proposed
13 idea to split the season to create a second one from
14 February 1st to March 31st. There are few animals
15 allowed to be taken. He doesn't know how you could
16 split up those few permits and which season would come
17 first. If the fall quota was met, would one season be
18 cancelled. He thanks the Council for taking the time
19 for these comments.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I have any
22 public testimony.

23
24 MR. LORD: I have a comment.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Come forward.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. LORD: Victor Lord, Nenana Native
31 Tribe. I just had to comment on this winter hunt. It
32 seemed like kind of a pretty remote area. Two points I
33 wanted to tell this board. One, I agree with James
34 over here about the winter hunt being accessible to
35 some people in some areas to where you don't get a
36 moose and it opens up that opportunity for a skilled
37 hunter. In my village, most of the skilled hunters
38 will go out and help whoever didn't get a moose and
39 they'll bring back a good moose. A lot of people don't
40 get moose around the 60 miles downriver now because
41 it's so crowded during the hunting season. It's like a
42 fair is going on or something. All your hunting area
43 is getting crowded out and you can't really hunt in
44 your own domain. So that winter hunt did come in handy
45 for us as a pass, you know. We're keeping our eyes --
46 we monitor very closely, you know, our local fish and
47 game. I see where he's coming from about the local
48 winter hunt. I just wanted to comment on that.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
2 of Victor.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
7 Victor. Any other public testimony.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt WP14-49.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As written?

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: As amended.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As amended.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. In the book.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As amended in
24 the book being -- all right. Virgil, pick it up and
25 make sure we understand what your motion is.

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The amendment
28 was -- this is the recommended amendment by the staff
29 for the modification. You must leave all edible meat
30 on the bones of the front quarters, hind quarters, and
31 ribs of the caribou until you remove the meat from the
32 field or process it for human consumption. And then
33 the season would be August 10th to September 20th.
34 Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That is your
37 motion.

38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just making
42 everybody clear that was the amendment. What about the
43 winter season? That's part of this, right? That's
44 what I mean. Let's be clear what we're voting on or
45 what the motion is.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I'm looking at is
48 Page 10 of our meeting book at the bottom. It says the
49 modified regulations should read and that is what my
50 motion was. I'll read it again.

1 You must leave all edible meat on the bones of the
2 front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs of the caribou
3 until you remove the meat from the field or process it
4 for human consumption. And then it gives a description
5 of the hunt area. That portion east of the Nabesna
6 River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter
7 Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the
8 Canadian border 1 bull by Federal registration permit
9 only. Season August 10th to September 20th. Madame
10 Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which does
13 not allow a winter season.

14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, the season would
16 only be August 10th.....

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR:to September 20th.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just
23 making sure we understand where we're at, okay. Do I
24 hear a second.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that, Madame
27 Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

30
31 MR. FIRMIN: I have a question.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Is this the same area
36 where we have -- I don't see it in this proposal, but
37 in the past, user conflicts between people going in on
38 horseback and people that have to hike in and basically
39 part of it was they didn't -- like how would that
40 affect you if you had to walk a caribou out with all
41 the meat on the bone versus somebody that, say, goes in
42 there now on horseback and don't really care if they
43 leave the meat on the bone or not.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can let
46 Will talk to it, but I can assure you there's not
47 caribou being packed out all the way to the road.

48
49 MR. KOEHLER: No one's walking in
50 there.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No one is
2 doing that. You have to get in there by aircraft and
3 even once you get to Chisana you're still not with the
4 caribou. You have a long ways to get there. It's a
5 very remote -- go ahead. Would you like to answer
6 that? He lives over there now.

7
8 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, there's nobody
9 there that is walking in after one of these caribou.
10 One point to make, these Chisana Caribou are mountain
11 caribou, so they're quite a bit bigger bodied than our
12 barren lands caribou and they're a heck of a load.
13 It's like packing out a small moose, one of those real
14 big bulls. Yeah, it's not a back-packers dream at all.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If that
17 answers your question. Yes, it is the same area. I
18 wish we had some of the maps that we had when -- it's
19 just so small to really give you a picture of how
20 remote that area is. I hunted those caribou in 1980
21 with my son when he was eight years old or 10 I guess
22 he was and you have to fly out there and we knew a
23 guide at the time and we were working for him, so we
24 were helping him and we went to Wolf Lake. We were with
25 Bud Conkle. I mean even once you get out there you're
26 still not -- even at Wolf Lake we still had to go a
27 long ways to get the caribou. I think most of the
28 people were using horses on top of getting out there.

29
30 Barbara.

31
32 MS. CELLARIUS: Madame Chair. I don't
33 have any printed out copies of the map, but I have a
34 copy of the map on my computer if someone would like to
35 see it. It's the map we give hunters to show them the
36 location of the hunt area. If any of the Council
37 members would like to see that map.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
40 members, would you like to see the map.

41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't know if.....

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's just so
45 small to really get a picture. Northway is where
46 people fly in from. Will can speak to the access.
47 You're over -- why don't you talk about where you're at
48 and where you see those caribou and how you get in
49 there.

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: So this is probably maybe
2 one of the -- it's a very, very rare proposal that I
3 might be actually qualified to actually comment on a
4 little bit. I've grown up around these caribou and
5 they don't move around very much. They don't migrate
6 very much. They pretty much stay within the same
7 valley which I live in. I access it from May to
8 December. I have to access the area via airplane.

9
10 The only way to access it with horses
11 is you actually have to come in from Canada. So with
12 the amount of paperwork getting equines to cross an
13 undesignated border, it's just a mess. So the only
14 practical way to access the area in the summer and
15 early winter months is by aircraft.

16
17 We don't usually get enough ice and
18 snow to start accessing it by snowmobile until about
19 January, early January, around Christmas or so, and
20 then the access points are -- it's still quite a long
21 ways to get in there.

22
23 One of the concerns about the winter
24 hunt is that the access points where you would come
25 into the hunt area for snowmachines, as you're going
26 into that hunt area and within that hunt area,
27 especially up north by the Pickerel Trail, we see other
28 caribou herds coming in there. We see over towards the
29 Nabesna there's strings of Mentasta Caribou and up by
30 the Pickerel Lake Trail, you know, you get kind of
31 close to where some of those Nelchina Caribou are
32 coming in.

33
34 So one of our concerns with the winter
35 hunt is that people on the way to get into the hunt
36 area will likely be taking caribou that are not Chisana
37 Caribou and just all the more skewing the numbers that
38 we have, which already we're dealing with such a small
39 herd to begin with, just skewing our numbers all the
40 more.

41
42 Again, the access for the winter is
43 very, very difficult and someone is going to shoot the
44 first caribou they see. It's a good chance it wouldn't
45 be a Chisana Caribou Herd because they don't -- you
46 don't actually get into that herd until you get right
47 into the center and even the southern part of the hunt
48 area, which is the most difficult area to access unless
49 you live directly in the area.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More
2 discussion.

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: How many people actually
5 qualify for these permits? There's only, what, six
6 villages and whoever lives there.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, the way
9 they're given out, they just go into each area and give
10 two per and they're actually going to village councils
11 and then they choose who the hunters might be. I mean
12 it's just such a remote area. If you look at the
13 statistics, it's been two seasons and they've issued
14 nine, eight individuals hunting in 2012 and seven in
15 '13 and then it was two and three. It's such a limited
16 hunt. I will tell you that a lot of these people
17 qualify for the Nelchina hunt, so there's other caribou
18 they can be hunting and it's not as remote. I mean
19 it's a road access caribou hunt.

20
21 James.

22
23 MR. ROBERTS: So, in actuality, the
24 only ones who get to hunt those caribou are the wolves,
25 right, all winter. They get a permit though, right?

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very good
32 point. There was a program -- since you guys weren't
33 on when -- oh, gosh, I think it's already five plus
34 years ago the Canadians put up some kind of fence and
35 they captured these cows and they let them hang out
36 there so the wolves wouldn't eat them and it did bring
37 up the cow/calf ratio. It was about three years I
38 remember, Barbara.

39
40 MS. CELLARIUS: Something like that.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Three years.
43 I think it ended already five-plus years ago. So,
44 yeah, you're right. It's in the Park and the Park
45 doesn't do any -- the only thing that can happen is
46 trappers.

47
48 MR. ROBERTS: So, in essence, we're
49 limiting the humans and letting the wolves have their
50 way, right?

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
4
5 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you.
6
7 MR. FIRMIN: I just had one more thing
8 to add. I think that it's so remote, there's only
9 seven or eight people hunting them, I mean what
10 difference does it make if it's in the wintertime or
11 not. They're the local people. They should know the
12 difference
13 between which caribou herd is which or at least in the
14 general area. I mean if you're out hunting in the
15 middle of winter, you're not.....
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like
18 you guys to see the recommendation from the SRC. I
19 just asked Eva if we could get a copy of that for the
20 Council. I see it's 12:11. I'd just like you guys to
21 look at that because the SRC are the people that live
22 there and the people that have a deep concern for the
23 caribou too. The Fish and Game people came to the
24 meeting and there is a big concern as with the Park
25 Service of bothering these guys in the winter hunt.
26 Gillam Joe, who put the proposal in, we talked at
27 length with him at that meeting, and he agreed it was
28 probably not a good idea. And it is a long snowmachine
29 ride to get in there. It isn't like it's going to be a
30 piece of cake.
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It is
35 limiting.
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: The other thing I was
38 thinking was if you're worried about harassing them or
39 bothering them, isn't anybody trapping in there or
40 nobody goes in there in the wintertime for other
41 purposes?
42
43 MR. KOEHLER: I've never seen anybody
44 other than me yet.
45
46 MR. FIRMIN: I was just thinking like
47 if there's somebody up there trapping wolves, what's
48 the difference between him zooming around with a snow-
49 go or driving around with a snow-go than somebody
50 that's looking for a caribou. You're going to be

1 looking at the same animal whether you're there to hunt
2 him or not. You're going to be scoping him out. I
3 don't see what difference -- the only difference in
4 harassment is whether or not you're shooting at him or
5 not, I guess.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
8 there is a lot of trappers up there.

9
10 MR. KOEHLER: No, I don't see much for
11 -- I see zero competition.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hear
14 people, some of the guides that live there, even Urban
15 Rahoï, he talks about getting people out there to go
16 trapping.

17
18 MR. KOEHLER: He talks.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, yeah.
23 And it doesn't happen. I think his son Striker might
24 have tried it, but they're tough. They're tough to get
25 out and get after and they're on a snowmachine trail.

26
27 MR. KOEHLER: I think Striker's in
28 Hawaii during the trapping season anymore these days.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, he is.
31 You know, I'm a trapper and I'll tell you, if you get
32 your butt out there on that snowmachine and do a lot of
33 work, you're -- we're working hard, aren't we, Lester?

34
35 MR. ERHART: You bet we are.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we don't
38 catch as many as you think. They're harassing us more
39 than we're harassing them.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're
44 running around our traps instead of getting in them
45 sometimes. You've got to be really a good trapper, I
46 think. And the wolves have to be on your line where
47 you're at. You're not always where they are when
48 you're out there trapping.

49
50 At any rate, would you guys be okay

1 with -- I'm going to get a copy of this, what the SRC
2 did, and compare it to this one and we'll come back
3 after lunch and finish this up. Is that okay?

4

5 Will.

6

7 MR. KOEHLER: Just one more comment on
8 this proposal that hasn't been brought up yet is that
9 the management plan for this caribou herd -- we share
10 this herd. Fifty percent of the harvest quota we share
11 with Canada. The First Nations people, the Native
12 people in the Yukon Territory, have had a voluntary no
13 harvest on this herd for many, many years and they're
14 still not harvesting this herd. Right now some of
15 those caribou are getting down on the White River and
16 coming down into the border where they are accessible
17 to the people there, but they're still not harvesting
18 this caribou herd because they want to see it grow.

19

20 We've had a really good partnership
21 working with them and I would like to not see an
22 expansion of this season out of respect for their --
23 because they're also local users even though they're in
24 a different country and they've done a very, very good
25 job at restricting their own harvest voluntarily
26 because in Canada, especially the First Nations people,
27 hunting is a right for them, not a privilege, so they
28 can go in there and hunt those animals. There's no
29 regulation that can close down hunting for them, so
30 they have to voluntarily stop hunting and they have
31 been doing that.

32

33 So out of respect for them I would like
34 to see this herd grow just a little bit more before we
35 start opening a winter season. That's all.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Are we going to go to
40 lunch?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I did
43 say that, but that's pretty good information. The
44 wishes of the Council right now.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: If you want us to look
47 at what the SRC did, then we should go to lunch so
48 Barbara can make copies and et cetera and then we can
49 look at that after lunch and finish deliberations.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
2 that all agreeable?

3

4 MR. GLANZ: To me it is.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Come
7 back at 1:30. I guess that's an hour and 15. Thanks,
8 guys.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: While they're
15 working on that, we're going to come back to order.
16 Virgil has more of an emergency. His wife is having
17 chemo and he needs to be over at the hospital. He
18 might not be back this afternoon, but he said he'd be
19 here tomorrow.

20

21 Where we left off was we have a motion
22 on the floor and it was seconded. We're in discussion
23 on 14-49. That motion, if you look at Page 10, the
24 motion is to adopt the OSM preliminary conclusion for
25 those of you who just arrived. I asked for the
26 Subsistence Resource Commission for the Park, what they
27 adopted at their last meeting. Well, it was the
28 meeting before last actually. Did you guys have that
29 letter in front of you? It's slightly different than
30 this one. I'd like to have you read it with me here.
31 I think Barbara did read it once, but it's different
32 than this motion before us and I would like to consider
33 that.

34

35 So we're discussing the motion before
36 us and just before break Will had some information. Do
37 you want to reiterate that, Will. Help out the two new
38 ones to bring them up to speed with us and we'll
39 continue.

40

41 Well, there's a map, all right, but
42 it's still quite small.

43

44 MS. CELLARIUS: Is my (indiscernible)
45 in the way?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. I think
48 we can see it and I have a feeling that's the hunt
49 area.

50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: At the very top -- do
2 you want me to do it here?
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know, if
5 you have this map too, you guys, and look at that, you
6 see the road system.
7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: It's just that one map.
9 Yeah, you can't really see it very well. At the top of
10 the slide you can see the word Northway, but to get to
11 that dark area -- how far is it from the end of the
12 Nabesna Road?
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: From the end
15 of the Nabesna Road? Ask Will, he snowmachines it
16 sometimes. How long of a ride is that?
17
18 MR. KOEHLER: That's the closest access
19 is probably from Nabesna.
20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: But it's a tough ride
22 over Cooper Pass.
23
24 MR. KOEHLER: Yes. You've got to go
25 across the Nabesna River and over Cooper Pass. Right
26 now it's impassable because there's no snow at the top
27 of the pass. It's all blown free, so you can't even
28 get through that way. But when you can get through
29 that way, I think Chisana is, oh, 40 miles -- no, not
30 that much. Maybe 30-something miles.
31
32 MS. CELLARIUS: So it's a good long
33 ride.
34
35 MR. KOEHLER: It's two days because,
36 boy, it's really hard on horse's feet going that way.
37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: I was thinking with the
39 snowmachine.
40
41 MR. KOEHLER: With a snowmachine, it's
42 a long day. When there's not much snow, boy, you're
43 sure beating up your machine.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That gets you
46 to the western side of it.
47
48 MS. CELLARIUS: Right.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It doesn't

1 get you to all of it.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: You could also go
4 around Pickerel Lake rather than going over Cooper
5 Pass, but any way you get there it's going to take a
6 while to get from any road to that hunt area.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The other way
9 closest way is to go into Beaver Creek, right?

10

11 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Come in to
14 the White.

15

16 MR. KOEHLER: And that's about 40
17 miles.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's about
20 the same, yeah. Again, you're still not there where
21 the caribou are once you hit the boundary.

22

23 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. You've
26 still got some motoring to do. So it's a completely
27 remote area and we've got to keep that in our mind.

28

29 Speaking to the motion, do we have
30 other discussion. Go for it, Andrew.

31

32 MR. FIRMIN: I may not feel wholly
33 thinking to close it, but we are only talking about
34 five caribou, so I would like to just go with what the
35 SRC's recommendation is as they live there and they're
36 the users and just go with their recommendation of
37 passing it as amended -- as the motion is stated.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
40 SRC and the motion are different.

41

42 MR. KOEHLER: Yes, they are.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, they
45 are. The motion is different than the SRC. The motion
46 leaves the meat on the bone.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I'm for our motion
49 then. I didn't see that. I didn't notice you guys
50 took the meat on the bone portion out.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
2 There's so much hiking involved, they just felt like
3 let it be up to the individual if they wanted to keep
4 the meat on the bone.

5
6 At Southcentral, we learned right after
7 we broke, they did comment on it and they commented on
8 the SRC, which is the one that's not before us. We
9 have the OSM before us and the SRC was different. They
10 added the August 10th and kept the September 30, which
11 is different, and they got rid of meat on the bone in
12 the winter season. Do you see how they differ? They
13 differ quite a bit.

14
15 For me, personally, after spending five
16 years or seven years working on this and being at both
17 the Upper Forty Mile, Tanana Advisory Committee
18 meetings, taking hours and hours on this and then being
19 on the Subsistence Resource Commission and spending
20 hours and hours on this and working with Gillam Joe and
21 him agreeing to what the SRC did, I have to tell you
22 that I would support what the SRC did.

23
24 Will.

25
26 MR. KOEHLER: I would agree with that,
27 so it seems like what we need to do is oppose the
28 motion that we have in front of us, take up the motion
29 of the SRC and approve that.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If we all
32 agree. Is there a call for the question or do we have
33 more discussion?

34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll call for question.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
38 has been called for. Do you want a roll call vote or
39 just vote.

40
41 MR. ROBERTS: Just vote.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
44 of the motion before us, which is the OSM preliminary
45 conclusion say aye.

46
47 (No aye votes)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
50 say aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it passes
4 -- I mean it fails. Sorry about that. That motion
5 fails. Are we ready for another motion? Who wants to
6 make it?
7
8 MR. KOEHLER: How do I say this? Teach
9 me here again or remind me. I make a motion that we
10 adopt the amended -- we amend 14-49 as per the SRC. Is
11 that how I would say that?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. As
14 long as everybody understands it. Do we all understand
15 it?
16
17 MR. KOEHLER: I make that motion.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion
20 has been made.
21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And seconded.
25 More discussion.
26
27 MR. BASSICH: I have a question. I
28 wasn't around for some of the other discussion. Is
29 this strictly a walk in or snowmachine and horse
30 access? Do they allow any aircraft access to this
31 hunt?
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, because
34 it's in the Preserve. You can use -- aircraft is
35 allowed.
36
37 MR. BASSICH: What's the percentage of
38 people taking animals
39 via air as opposed to hiking or snowmachine?
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the only
42 way in is air.
43
44 MR. KOEHLER: During the hunt season.
45
46 MR. BASSICH: During the hunt -- during
47 the fall season it's pretty much only air access.
48
49 MR. KOEHLER: Unless you live there,
50 yes.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You need to
2 turn your mic on each time.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: So what is the problem
5 with keeping the meat on the bone then if most of the
6 access is going to be hauling or transporting the meat
7 back out with airplane? Is it that once you land you
8 still have a fairly long hike?
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Quite a
11 bit.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I was just
14 trying to inform myself of how that takes place.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
17 other discussion.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for the question.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
22 has been called for. All in favor say aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
27 opposed.
28
29 (No opposing votes)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion
32 passes. Now we're going to take up 14-48. That's in
33 our book. Eva.
34
35 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I'll just
36 check in online to see if Trevor has joined us.
37
38 MR. FOX: Yes, Madame Chair, I'm
39 online. I guess I would ask what the Chair would
40 prefer for Proposal 14-48. There's already a
41 recommendation by the Council, so I guess I'm just
42 trying to get some direction if you want me to go
43 through the whole proposal or if the Council just
44 wanted to discuss the proposal and what's already been
45 recommended.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm having a
48 brain split here.
49
50 MR. FOX: In the fall meeting, the

1 Council already took action on Proposal 14-48 and the
2 Council recommendation was to oppose.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Trevor, is
5 this in our book? Can you give us a page number or
6 not? Oh, we got a handout here because it's not in our
7 book. Sorry about that. Just to get our heads wrapped
8 around this. Trevor, just give us an update where
9 we're at and then I have to be reminded why it's back
10 on the agenda.

11

12 MR. FOX: Okay. So Proposal 14-48 was
13 submitted by ?? and requested a portion of Federal land
14 in Unit 25A be closed to the taking of moose except by
15 residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, Chalkyitsik and
16 Fort Yukon with a Federal registration permit and that
17 a harvest quota be established for that portion of a
18 unit and then just a brief description. The OSM
19 preliminary conclusion on this one was to oppose 14-48
20 and the justification was that moose populations on the
21 Sheenjek and Colleen Rivers in Unit 25A had experienced
22 declines over the last 20 years and have remained low
23 but stable for the last 10 years. The moose in the
24 area are a migratory population that moved between
25 Alaska and the Old Crow Flats of Canada during summer
26 and winter and winter with high fidelity to the
27 migration route, rutting areas and winter ranges.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're really
30 breaking up.

31

32 MR. FOX: Okay. Maybe I'll just --
33 hopefully folks can remember this.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we do
36 now. Trevor, I'm going to take over for just a minute.
37 The vote was -- was it 5/1? Do you guys remember? I
38 think it was 5/1. It's in our minutes. 5/1/1, yes.
39 Larry was online, but he couldn't get a feeling of
40 things. Right now this is on the agenda, I think, if I
41 understand you right, Larry, to understand it better
42 and why people voted the way they did and maybe get
43 your concern about low moose density in our annual
44 report for that area. So would you like to expound on
45 that right now.

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. We met
48 this morning and in October I couldn't be here because
49 of medical problems that I had, but I was participating
50 by teleconference. I was telling the board members

1 here that, you know, I have to be here to try to make
2 my point across of why this is of importance to me and
3 the people I represent on the Yukon Flats. I couldn't
4 really get a handle on what was going on or what was
5 being said because I take all my signals from the body
6 language and the facial expressions that goes on
7 between people, so I can make up my mind pretty much
8 what people are thinking and what is important on a
9 certain proposal.

10

11 We've been hearing for years and years
12 about the low moose population in the Yukon Flats.
13 I've been hearing local concerns of biological concerns
14 and the habitat. The habitat can support way more
15 moose than is currently in the Yukon Flats. We've been
16 talking about it and we try and in Yukon Flats I'm
17 proud to say that we've been trying to do our part,
18 whatever part we can do, like not harvesting cow moose
19 and things like that that will hopefully make a
20 difference in the next six, seven years.

21

22 Anyway, this area that we're talking
23 about, we're talking about migratory moose. In the
24 area that -- I'm not familiar with area. I'm just
25 mostly guessing. It's an educational guess,
26 guesstimation. Anyway, it's migratory moose. Has any
27 study been done on where those moose go?

28

29 For example, in Arctic Village, we
30 never used to have moose because I knew. I hunted up
31 there in the middle '60s and all we had was caribou.
32 Very occasional moose. Very rare. Now all of a sudden
33 they got moose population up there. They hunt them
34 every fall. Where did those moose come from? Do they
35 wander around maybe over to Yukon Flats or the mainstem
36 of the Yukon or the Yukon River tributaries? Has
37 anybody done any studies on that? That's what I was
38 asking this morning.

39

40 I think we were trying to rush into
41 something that we don't quite understand, me most of
42 all. That's how come I want to come back and revisit
43 this so we can discuss it more and maybe ask some
44 questions of what I just said. Where do they go, how
45 many are there, what's the bull to cow ratio, what's
46 the calf survivability and all that scientific,
47 biologist stuff in combination with traditional
48 knowledge can give us more information that we can deal
49 with in a manner that can fit in with what we're trying
50 to represent to our people.

1 The moose is a stable thing up there
2 that everybody wants in the fall. Like I said, this
3 hasn't been given enough study as far as I'm concerned.
4 Maybe somebody else will feel different and I'll
5 respect that. But that's what I wanted. If somebody
6 can answer those questions I would appreciate it.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry, I hear
11 two requests. One, I hear one for more data. I
12 brought my book from last meeting with and I remember
13 taking and highlighting that area from 25A and then
14 putting in some of the data -- because remember we were
15 talking and you'd like to know more of where people are
16 hunting and what villages qualify for subsistence.

17

18 I understand we had quite a bit of
19 reports at that meeting. Fish and Game came and OSM
20 had their report. Could you hear any of that at that
21 time?

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I couldn't hear
24 nothing.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Turn your mic
27 on.

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: At that time I tried to
30 listen in by teleconference, like I said, but I
31 couldn't get everything because where we were staying
32 at that time people were coming -- they were visitors
33 mostly. They'd come in and slam the door and talk in a
34 loud voice. I was sitting right in the kitchen, so
35 people were trying to cook and banging pots and pans
36 around, so really I couldn't hear nothing, you know.
37 So finally I just gave up and tried to hear the most
38 important things. I couldn't hear none of the stuff
39 that was being taken and nobody mailed me a report of
40 what was said at that last meeting, so I couldn't even
41 get an idea of what was said.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I hear
46 two requests. I hear one to take it up again and I
47 hear one for more data. So how would you like to
48 handle it. Donald.

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 If you look at your book and the data you have there,
2 does it give any harvest information from Arctic
3 Village which Larry is concerned about in this
4 particular 25A hunt area where they go back and forth
5 into Canada on the Firth?

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you mean
8 not people's harvest, but what the animals are doing?
9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: As I look at the map,
11 one fork of the Sheenjek goes almost to Arctic Village
12 and if those moose are following any kind of geographic
13 area, they would be there seasonally. Maybe not
14 necessarily when Arctic Village people are hunting, but
15 they obviously are using the Sheenjek drainage and then
16 going back and forth over the course of the winter and
17 the fall. When Fran gave us that discussion, it was
18 almost a year ago. We had a whole projection. It was
19 almost like a 30-minute presentation.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And
22 it was my understanding that's old data from 12 or 15
23 years ago.

24
25 MR. WOODRUFF: That was from the '90s
26 or '80s.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So
29 what I'm hearing is Larry would like to see more data.
30 For that, Larry, I would have -- that's what we want in
31 our annual report. We want more data on what's going
32 on in that moose population up there. So that's one
33 issue. I think we can all agree on that.

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Some of that data Don was
36 talking about is in the handout. I think Page 141
37 shows only 61 moose were harvested in that proposed
38 hunt area and they were all from Fort Yukon.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
41 the harvest data. So as far as the migration of moose,
42 that data is -- we need more data.

43
44 MR. FOX: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
47 ahead.

48
49 MR. FOX: This is Trevor. Hopefully
50 I'm coming through a little better.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right now you
2 are.

3
4 MR. FOX: Okay. There's some
5 information on migration on the second paragraph of
6 biological background.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What page is
9 it on?

10
11 MR. FOX: My pages are different, but
12 it should be the fourth page of the analysis.

13
14 MS. PATTON: On Page 126, Council,
15 under biological background.

16
17 MR. FOX: And that talks about the
18 migratory behavior that Fran Mauer had in his
19 publication between 1995 and 1998. Then there's also
20 been a more recent study that was done by Yukon
21 Environment over in Canada and that was from 2007 to
22 2009 and the results from that are preliminary, but
23 they basically corroborate the seasonal movement
24 identified in Fran's data.

25
26 Another thing to mention though is this
27 area does have that migratory population, but there's
28 also a resident population there and a lot of the data
29 presented in here with fishing data is from a pretty
30 limited portion of the hunt area.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
33 having difficulty.

34
35 MR. FOX: I'm going to try jumping on a
36 different phone and I'll call right back in.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, this is
39 really bad. Sorry.

40 So what I got out of that in and out 126 under
41 biological data does show there's resident moose
42 population and a migrant moose population. I guess
43 he's the only one in the audience who can speak to
44 this, is that correct, the one that's online?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. For OSM
47 biologist, Trevor is the only one available in the
48 office today. We have some overlapping meetings and
49 staff out. We put in a request if he can change to
50 another phone in the office and see if we can get

1 better resolution. I apologize for the sound quality.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
4 I need from one of the requests -- did you have
5 something?
6
7 MR. BASSICH: I just wanted to ask a
8 question. I was just reading up here on some of the
9 harvest history and listening to Larry. I'm trying to
10 understand his perspective, but what I'm getting out of
11 Page 28 under harvest history is that the bulk of the
12 harvest in this area is coming from non-resident
13 hunters and it's not from guided hunts. It's probably
14 more from the air taxi aspect of access into the area.
15 If you look at Page 139 there's a.....
16
17 (Teleconference interruption)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Man, then
20 your train of thought is gone.
21
22 MR. FOX: Madame Chair.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Are you back on a new
25 phone, Trevor?
26
27 MR. FOX: I am. Can you hear me any
28 better?
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right now we
31 do.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Now it's clear. Thank
34 you.
35
36 MR. FOX: Okay. So I don't know if you
37 guys are ahead of where I left off, but if you would
38 like I could go through a summary of the analysis.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As the Chair,
41 we have to do things by procedure. So I'm a little bit
42 lost, Staff. How do I handle this? We've got two
43 things. We have a request to take it up again, so if
44 we have to take it up again, then I have to figure out
45 procedurally how I do that because it has to be with a
46 descending vote, is what I remember in my Robert's
47 Rules if we take it up again. So are we cool with
48 discussing right now? Go ahead.
49
50 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Tom Kron with

1 OSM. You were correct this morning. Somebody on the
2 prevailing side needs to bring it back for
3 reconsideration and then again you can reconsider your
4 earlier vote, but it has to be somebody from the
5 prevailing side, somebody that voted for this motion
6 back in the fall.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, I'm
11 sorry. All this distraction kind of blows me away.
12 So, Larry, you had your hand up. Go ahead.

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: I kind of lost my train
15 of thought right now, but I'll try to take it up again
16 later. I didn't really want to revisit this per se, to
17 bring it up again. I just wanted a written report of
18 something, how this Council voted. A written report
19 where I can have it in my possession and I can read it
20 and comprehend what I'm reading. You know, that's all
21 I wanted.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: I didn't want to make a
26 big complicated thing out of it where we take up two or
27 three hours of our time. You know, that's it. That's
28 all I want. If any of my constituents back there ask
29 me what went on and if they happened to mention that
30 moose population, that transient moose population, I
31 can say this is how the Council voted and this is how I
32 voted and we discussed it again and again and there's
33 the written report and that's it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So
36 what I think you can do for him, Eva, is get him a copy
37 of the transcript of our meeting.

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: That's all I want.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's all
42 you want. Works for me. I'm sure it works for
43 everybody here. So if you could get him a copy of the
44 transcript of that proposal.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. That's fine.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
49 then again, I still think it's wise for us to put more
50 data in our -- would you agree to that, all of you?

1 (Council nods affirmatively)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
4 Sounds good. Donald.
5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 Andrew, I was wondering are you supporting this
8 proposal and.....
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you mean
11 how did we vote last time?
12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: I can't remember how we
14 voted last time. I think we voted not to close it.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's right.
17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. And I just saw
19 that 61 people, households, hunt that area from your
20 village and I was wondering if you could speak to that
21 just a little bit.
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: I believe those numbers
24 came from ADF&G's and Fish and Wildlife's household
25 harvest data surveys and those numbers, while they are
26 correct, I would say may not grasp that whole area.
27 You might want to notice that those numbers are taken
28 over a 20-year period, from '83 to 2010. All those
29 numbers would have been on the Sheenjek and Colleen
30 Rivers.
31
32 I think that there are people that
33 utilize these moose, I know there are, and I think one
34 of the biggest effects people are seeing is that in
35 OSM's conclusion or summary it says that the reason
36 they're seeing a shortage of moose or they're seeing
37 less hunter success rates is because the air taxis are
38 dumping so many people in this area. Then it becomes a
39 user conflict with local people. How are you going to
40 go moose hunting when there's 20 guys in rafts going by
41 one after another and you're waiting for your chance to
42 go hunting.
43
44 I also believe that people in the local
45 area see this as a migratory population, but if you've
46 got unlimited number of outfitters dumping unlimited
47 numbers of people in these areas, that that migratory
48 population doesn't get a chance or they scare them from
49 their natural roots in the areas that local people
50 could harvest more.

1 Like Larry was saying, maybe these
2 guys, there's so many in there, they're driving moose
3 into Arctic now because they don't want to go over
4 there anymore. Maybe they're shooting the resident
5 population and the migratory population -- nobody
6 really knows what's going on with them because there's
7 no real current or long-standing studies along with
8 them.

9
10 But it's the local feeling that people
11 there are not -- that the influx of outside hunters are
12 ruining it for everybody else. So they're not
13 migrating into the drainages that they normally would
14 where more local hunters would have a chance to harvest
15 them. They're cutting everybody off with airplanes.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
18 think we're getting off on a tangent again and I didn't
19 think Larry wanted to do that if I heard him correctly.

20
21 MR. WILLIAMS: I didn't want to do
22 that. I didn't want to make a big.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. He
25 wants a copy of the transcript.

26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: If they can keep it
28 short, simple and to the point, you know.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because
31 we're going to get back into a debate and we don't have
32 anything on the floor. He requested what he requested
33 and Eva can provide that for him and we're going to put
34 in our concerns in our annual report. We're just going
35 to get on a tangent, I think. Are we okay on this now?

36
37 MR. GLANZ: I have one about his
38 concern there with outfitters. The good news is one of
39 the primary outfitters that was hauling all those
40 people in there is dead.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm aware of
45 that.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. But I
50 think more data and what we're requesting is vital and

1 we're going to have that in the annual report.

2

3 All right. Years ago when I was a
4 newcomer somebody would -- the Chair would say moving
5 rapidly along. That's what we're doing right now. All
6 right. I just wanted to be sure we took care of your
7 concerns, Larry.

8

9 Now we have -- the next one is going to
10 be tomorrow, clarification of action on Council
11 recommendation for 14-42 because Pippa needs to be here
12 and the same for the next topic of customary and
13 traditional use determination.

14

15 Rural determination process review.
16 Somebody is here for that, is that correct? Yes.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
19 if I may. Trevor had just a brief update on the
20 Council's action on the Board of Game proposals if the
21 Council wishes to hear that, the two proposals.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
24 That was one of my train of thoughts that escaped me.
25 On that last topic, we put in a proposal to the Board
26 of Game and Andrew said it didn't pass
27 and we talked about that this morning. Now this is an
28 update on the Board of Game?

29

30 MS. PATTON: Those same two proposals,
31 correct. So Trevor, who is online, our OSM biologist,
32 attended the recent Board of Game meeting. So he had a
33 summary on the Board's actions on the two proposals
34 that this Council submitted to the State Board of Game.
35 One was Proposal 79, which was to create a new hunt
36 area for moose in 25A and establish seasons and dates
37 and bag limits, which the Council established as a
38 conservation measure in that region and then Proposal
39 80 was to allow harvest of brown bears over black bear
40 bait in Unit 25D. If the Council wishes, Trevor is
41 online and he could provide an update on the Board's
42 actions.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think the
45 question we had is we thought we put that proposal, a
46 joint proposal to the Federal Board, 79, was it?

47

48 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. There was a
49 companion proposal for Number 80.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But 79.....
2
3 MS. PATTON: But 79 did not have a
4 companion proposal.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that
7 sound right?
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: I thought for sure we put
10 one in the Federal side, but maybe we didn't get to it
11 because it would have been out of cycle.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we put
14 one in for the brown bear. Why wouldn't we have put 79
15 in? This is what's confusing. I would like Staff to
16 research that because we were sure we put in that 79.
17 I kind of remember that. All right, that's an update.
18 I'm sorry we're dragging that out. We'll get a report
19 on that later.
20
21 Next is Karen on our rural
22 determination process.
23
24 MS. HYER: Madame Chair, Council
25 members. If you turn to Page 53 in your book, you'll
26 see comments summarizing some of the thoughts of the
27 Councils. In our fall set of meetings, we went out and
28 talked to the Councils and then had the extra public
29 meetings to gather information. Not on determining
30 rural and nonrural, but questions about the process of
31 how we determine it. We're still in -- not an
32 information gathering process, but we're actually now
33 coalescing the information and putting it into some
34 understandable format.
35
36 So the Office of Subsistence Management
37 is working on reviewing the transcripts of the meetings
38 and we will have those done for the Federal Subsistence
39 Board. Right here you can see in your meeting book
40 some of what has been consolidated. There's more to
41 come and that will -- our timeline now is we're hoping
42 to have that done by the Federal Subsistence Board in
43 April.
44
45 Madame Chair, that's all I had.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there an
48 action from us?
49
50 MS. HYER: I think this is just an

1 informational.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
4 questions, Council members.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
9 guess not. Thank you. A briefing on Fisheries
10 Resource Monitoring Program.

11

12 MR. LIEBICH: Good afternoon, Madame
13 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Trent
14 Liebich and I'm a fish biologist in the Office of
15 Subsistence Management. I'll give you a briefing on
16 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, some of the
17 timelines, the decisions that were made under this last
18 funding cycle and then also the priority information
19 needs will be the next discussion topic.

20

21 If you turn to Page 61 in your meeting
22 book, you'll see there's an overview of the Fisheries
23 Resource Monitoring Program provided. I'll highlight
24 the points in there. This funding cycle is every two
25 years and we completed a funding cycle in 2014, so
26 we'll be making a call for proposals coming up for the
27 2016 funding cycle. We'll get into that next.

28

29 In the 2014 funding cycle that was just
30 completed, I also have a handout each of you should
31 have on your desk and it was an overview. It has the
32 salmon on the cover. It's just a two-page handout.
33 This is an overview of the funding decisions that were
34 made in this 2014 funding cycle for the Yukon River.

35

36 There was about a million dollars
37 recommended for funding in the Yukon River and there
38 was nine projects funded and I think there was 12
39 projects proposed. One of those projects is the Gisasa
40 River Salmon Weir. They're doing a video integration
41 into that salmon weir. There's an East Fork Andreafsky
42 Chinook and Summer Chum Abundance. Also the Gisasa
43 River Salmon Weir is being funded again. The Yukon
44 River Coho Salmon Micro-satellite Baseline Project, a
45 Yukon River Chum Salmon Mixed Stock Analysis, a Koyukuk
46 River Chum Salmon Radio Telemetry Project, a Henshaw
47 Creek Adult Salmon Abundance and Run Timing Project,
48 and the Lower Yukon River Whitefish Harvest Monitoring,
49 and also the Upper Yukon River Area Customary Trade
50 Project.

1 The three projects that weren't funded
2 was a project proposing Anvik River sonar, the Yukon
3 River Bering cisco spawning using the DIDSON sonar and
4 the Upper Yukon River oral history project.

5
6 So that's the summary from the 2014
7 funded projects. If you would like, we could talk
8 about the upcoming priority information needs, which I
9 believe is the next agenda item. Should I move into
10 that?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unless the
13 Council has any questions. Andy.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Maybe not so much a
16 question, but a comment. One of the things I was going
17 to bring to the attention of this Council is what I
18 feel is a really strong need to document some of the
19 TEK, traditional ecological knowledge, of chinook
20 salmon in the Upper Yukon region. When I'm speaking to
21 this specifically, what needs to be gathered is both
22 oral and pictorial information to document the size
23 change of the salmon over the years.

24
25 I think it's going to be proven to be
26 very valuable information in the future for both
27 management decisions and just general knowledge of the
28 history. One of the things I'm observing that's been
29 taking place in my 14 years of working on this Council
30 is that many of the people, like Lester, Larry, Don,
31 myself, Bill Glanz, we've been around a long time and
32 we've seen a lot of changes. Everything that we bring
33 to the table, if we can't back it up with a scientific
34 analysis, it carries no weight.

35
36 A big part of what this resource
37 monitoring program does is supposed to be traditional
38 ecological knowledge and we need to keep pushing that
39 as a Council because there's really no way -- when we
40 had the debates on the changing fish size, what came to
41 light in my mind is that there was no biological data
42 to support that. We all saw what happened, but because
43 of the way the data was collected over the years and
44 because sometimes the long-term datasets weren't there,
45 we had no physical data to say that the fish were
46 getting smaller, so the conclusion to the Board of Fish
47 was that the fish have gotten a little smaller but not
48 that much.

49
50 I'm looking at Lester here. He's just

1 smiling. He's seen it probably more than any of us and
2 yet we have no way of documenting this, we have no way
3 of putting this in an archival manner to be used in the
4 future. A lot of our long-term management projects in
5 the future are going to need this information.

6

7 So I'm just speaking up right now
8 because in the next funding cycle, if I'm still on this
9 Council, I'm going to pushing really hard to get some
10 of this collected before all of us old farts die
11 because we're losing it. We're losing the fisheries
12 and we're losing it because we have a lot of young
13 people coming in who were not around during the heyday
14 of the fisheries on the Yukon River. It's just a
15 natural progression of things. Biologists come and go
16 and it's happening more and more quickly now. They're
17 here for a couple years and then they leave.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: So I just to bring that
22 to the attention of the Council. It's not only with
23 the fisheries. It's with all of these game issues.
24 The things that are impacting people out in the Bush
25 are social changes too. We were just touching on that
26 in the prior discussion. You know, the impacts of
27 other people coming in and competing with people living
28 in rural areas. This is the only sounding board we
29 really have to protect people in the Bush and we really
30 need to carry a strong voice.

31

32 There's going to be a lot of push-back
33 because we're a minority in this state, people living
34 out in remote areas. But if we don't step up and start
35 really making some of these issues important issues and
36 coming up with some long-term decisions, in my opinion,
37 we are kind of wasting our time here because we are all
38 being slowly taken apart out in the Bush.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okey-dokey.
41 Yeah, government works pretty bloody slow, is what I've
42 seen. Any other questions of him. That wasn't a
43 question, but.....

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that's
48 where we're at. Go ahead then, unless -- what are you
49 making, a gesture over there, Donald. No question?
50 Okay. Go ahead, Trent.

1 MR. LIEBICH: Thank you. That s a
2 perfect tie-in to the next issue. The priority
3 information needs, as I mentioned, this is a two-year
4 funding cycle or every two years this notice of funding
5 comes out. So the next funding cycle coming up for
6 2016 we'll begin developing or expanding upon existing
7 priority information needs. If you look, there's a
8 second handout alongside the handout with the salmon.
9 There's another one with a picture of some fish strips
10 on the cover and it's a one-page handout.

11
12 In there, on that handout, is a
13 bulleted list and this is the Yukon Region, the
14 previous set of priority information needs that were
15 used in the 2014 funding cycle. So they're bulleted
16 out and I won't read through all of them, but, for
17 example, this first one, the reliable estimates of
18 chinook and chum salmon escapements. Examples being
19 weir projects, sonar projects, mark recapture methods.

20
21 In the italicized font below some of
22 those bullets are projects that are either ongoing or
23 have been funded addressing those priority information
24 needs. So you see most of these bullets that are in
25 regular font are priority information needs that don't
26 currently have projects addressing them. So we have in
27 this coming year the opportunity to add to that list of
28 priority information needs, stick with what's existing
29 or remove things from the list as well.

30
31 I've begun taking notes on what I've
32 heard, discussions with the Fish and Wildlife Service,
33 fisheries staff yesterday, in particular on the Bering
34 cisco issue that's come up. I have some other notes
35 here. So I have Bering cisco listed and the concerns
36 over those populations and the harvest. There was a
37 mention of lamprey this morning in a discussion, so I
38 made that note. King salmon in the Chandalar River, I
39 have that noted here. And now Andy has just brought up
40 the oral and pictorial documentation of salmon in the
41 Yukon River. I think that ties also -- it sounded like
42 he was describing also the quality of escapement of
43 those fish and, in particular, tying that quality of
44 escapement into the oral/pictorial history to describe
45 that quality.

46
47 Does that accurately reflect that?

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.
50

1 MR. LIEBICH: So those are the types of
2 notes I'm taking now and if anybody has other
3 information needs that come to mind right now, I'd be
4 happy to hear them and add them to the list and we'll
5 begin working through this process in the coming
6 months.

7
8 That's all I have for now. So if
9 anybody has anything they'd like to add, it would
10 excellent.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I saw one
15 hand. Andy.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I appreciate
18 that. One additional thing that we need to start
19 looking at, and this would probably have to be in
20 working with the State, but we really need to start
21 looking more closely at how we gather escapement data,
22 the methodologies of it. There's a lot of bias that
23 takes place in some of the data sampling. Some of it,
24 it's pretty hard not to have a little bit of bias, but
25 there are certainly techniques that we could be
26 cleaning up the science of our data collection so that
27 we get a full picture of what's going by.

28
29 What I'm referring to in particular is
30 the Eagle sonar that test drift fisheries is conducted
31 in a manner in which it does not accurately count the
32 smaller fish coming up the river and they're present in
33 the run. So what it's essentially doing is skewing the
34 numbers in size and quality artificially.

35
36 So I guess maybe an analysis of some of
37 the methodologies for collecting escapement data should
38 be looked at to make sure that it's kind of truth, that
39 it's accurate, that it's good science being done and as
40 few biases are being captured in the methodology.

41
42 I guess, bottom line, methodology of
43 how we're collecting that data really needs to be
44 looked at. There are definitely some biases there that
45 are impacting the data that's presented to the Board of
46 Fish and to everybody on the river and that changes
47 oftentimes the regulation that's going to go into
48 effect is. I hope I'm clear on what I was saying
49 there.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Trent.

2

3 MR. LIEBICH: Andy, you mentioned the
4 Eagle test fishery specifically. Is that a concern
5 only at Eagle for you or is it all test fisheries?

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Well, the same
8 methodology is used at Pilot Station on the Yukon
9 River, so those two sites definitely. I know Fish and
10 Game does the best they can with what they have, but
11 they have limited resources and limited time and they
12 tend to want to go with what they've been doing in the
13 past, but times are changing, techniques are changing,
14 technology is changing, so all these things maybe need
15 to be reevaluated so that we can improve the data
16 collection is what I'm looking at. So some kind of an
17 analysis of how it's being collected and what might be
18 done to better improve the collection of raw data is
19 really critical.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22 Donald.

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew's got something.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: I just noticed that, one,
27 the Inseason Salmon Management Teleconference, was that
28 not funded or was that brushed aside and somebody else
29 will fund it? OSM 12-251.

30

31 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah. 14-251, the Upper
32 Yukon River Oral History is what I have provided here.
33 That project was not funded under this funding cycle.

34

35 MR. FIRMIN: Another comment I just
36 had, while I respect the nature of some of the -- like
37 14-252 and 253 and I support those kind of projects, it
38 would have been nice maybe at another time or maybe we
39 did see that in another meeting was other projects that
40 the Council might have thought had more priority over
41 them than these. I guess one of them was the Bering
42 cisco DIDSON sonar one that we talked about last
43 meeting.

44

45 I'm just starting to look at what was
46 actually funded now and think that there might have
47 been other projects that might have had more bearing on
48 the nature of the -- like our current salmon runs and
49 stuff, but yet we're going to go ask grandma and
50 grandpa about whitefish in Nunam Iqua and we're going

1 to go ask grandma and grandpa how they used to sell
2 fish in Fort Yukon and those are like historical
3 projects. I mean isn't there another way to fund those
4 when we can get a different, maybe more immediate
5 projects that might provide better data for the need at
6 hand other than asking grandpa stories? Just my
7 comment.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: One project that I think
12 is going to be critical to the Yukon is that as the
13 chinook continue to decline, and I can't see them
14 recovering in my lifetime, then the whitefish on the
15 whole Yukon is going to become a critical resource for
16 people to put on the table. If we have a better idea
17 of the populations up and down the whole Yukon, then
18 that would give us a better understanding of alternate
19 resources. I think pretty soon the discussion at this
20 table anyway could go towards a total moratorium on
21 chinook harvest instead of just reduction, reduction,
22 reduction, because it doesn't seem to work. We haven't
23 met escapement five out of seven years. We need
24 another resource and whitefish is going to be it.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. LIEBICH: Thanks, Donald. Are
29 there any whitefish species in particular that you're
30 concerned with or just whitefish in general?

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: Just whitefish in
33 general.

34

35 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester.

38

39 MR. ERHART: Yeah. I see a decline in
40 whitefish now than what they used to be. The ciscos
41 are way down.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
44 Andrew.

45

46 MR. FIRMIN: To just kind of sum up
47 everybody's comments, I think one of the things I'd
48 like to add is just that while managers are telling
49 subsistence users to find other resources and switch to
50 alternative methods.....

1 (Teleconference disconnect)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you hear
4 us? This is Sue. Can any of you hear us in Fairbanks
5 at the meeting? Trevor can you hear us?

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we lost
10 them again. They can hear each other but they can't
11 hear us. It's probably coming from Thailand, the
12 service. Yeah, satellite. I'm sorry for the
13 interruption. Andrew, can you bring yourself back to
14 where your train of thought was.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: I think so. I think my
17 biggest point is that while managers have been telling
18 subsistence users to switch to alternative resources
19 besides king salmon in the past, that while we're doing
20 that or while we're making those changes, it seems like
21 there's several proposals every time for commercial
22 entities to take more summer chum, more fall chum, more
23 whitefish, lamprey, everything else, and there's no
24 real good studies behind those abundances.

25

26 Like what Don was saying and Andy and
27 we've always been saying that is more pressure from
28 subsistence users fall and summer and fall chum and yet
29 we need to be careful to have the commercial entity
30 side of that taking more of -- you know, not taking
31 into account what subsistence users may or will take in
32 the future and having the studies to back some of those
33 up as we've noticed with whitefish in particular as
34 they're commercially fishing them, yet now we're being
35 told to take them too.

36

37 So, now as we become more dependent on
38 the whitefish, then nobody half the time liked sheefish
39 and Bering cisco and some of them. They said, oh, they
40 spawn over there somewhere. We're not sure. They like
41 this kind of stuff. Well, let's find out before we
42 start commercial fishing them and let's find out before
43 we start eating the heck out of them because there's no
44 more salmon left in the river to eat.

45

46 I guess that kind of sums up my point
47 anyway. I think those could be done more in a
48 technical manner than asking grandpa stories, I guess.
49 Let's go find out. It's a start, but I just think that
50 you'll get more done doing research on the ground and

1 the rivers than you will asking people. And do
2 multiple studies at the same time because a lot of
3 surveys and research I see people say, oh, that's not
4 my job, I'm only doing this part of the research,
5 that's somebody else's. It's like why can't the same
6 person ask 50 different questions or somebody's good
7 point may end up a footnote in a technical report when
8 actually it had a lot of merit to what they were trying
9 to say, but it seems like it gets shoved aside or it
10 doesn't make it to the main point of the story, I
11 guess.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All very good
14 points, Andrew. Our elders are shaking their head in
15 agreement. Trent.

16

17 MR. LIEBICH: Thanks, Andrew. I just
18 want to make sure I capture that correctly. What I got
19 out of that is I guess you're interested in seeing a
20 prioritization of stock status and trends technical
21 information over historical or traditional knowledge.
22 I'm cautious saying that because I don't want to say
23 one is better than the other.

24

25 MR. FIRMIN: Kind of. I think TEK data
26 is the starting point and then -- but don't just go ask
27 everybody questions and write a technical paper and
28 then in five years it's going to say, oh, yeah, well,
29 they used to eat whitefish or they used to sell fish.
30 We know that. So make it a broader scope. Figure out
31 -- you know, don't just go ask them questions about
32 what they used to do and then add it as just another
33 piece of a larger project, I guess is what my point is.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Another piece
36 and have one big project.

37

38 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. Don't come back in
39 10 years and ask for money to go out -- we need to go
40 figure out how many it was next time, you know, kind of
41 thing, I guess. If that makes any sense.

42

43 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. So I'll try again
44 then. You're saying have stronger ties between these
45 traditional knowledge projects and the data used for
46 management, make, I guess, a broader scope. I'll stick
47 with that for now.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This
2 is what you're looking for is some ideas.

3
4 MR. LIEBICH: This is excellent.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
7 else. We didn't miss anything from this morning,
8 right? All right. I hear a lot of concerns, talk that
9 sometimes aren't on the record. I don't want to see
10 them lost. Okay. Nothing. Larry, then Andrew.

11
12 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 This morning, when we had these discussions on the
14 various subjects that we covered, one of the things I
15 mentioned was king salmon up the Chandalar River.
16 There was some people back home that wanted kind of a
17 study done on them, how many there are. At best it
18 will be a guesstimation, but at least we'll have
19 something on paper saying, you know, this is how much
20 approximately goes up there. Where do they spawn and
21 stuff like that that's more scientific.

22
23 You can also have that combined with
24 traditional knowledge while we still have some elders
25 left. It's all going to be lost. If it's not written
26 down, nobody will ever know anything about it. That's
27 how come it's good to remember the past. Don't dwell
28 on it, but remember it.

29
30 I'd like to have more studies done on
31 where that king salmon came from and what year it
32 started because people said we never used to get king
33 salmon up there. Where did they come from? What year
34 did they start approximately and how many there are and
35 who's utilizing it? You can ask each household who
36 utilizes, how many they get on average and questions
37 like that so we can have more knowledge of that
38 resource that we utilize comes from.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what I'm
43 hearing is it seems like it would be wise to have your
44 TEK and data and put them together so it's not lost.

45
46 Yeah, did you have something? Sure,
47 you're the public. Is it something related to this?

48
49 MS. HERBERT: Yes.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure. Does
2 the Council have any trouble? You've got to come up.

3
4 MS. HERBERT: I talk loud enough, but
5 I'll come up.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They like to
8 hear a mic.

9
10 MS. HERBERT: Oh, okay. My name is
11 Darlene Herbert and I'm from Fort Yukon/Fairbanks. I
12 believe that we have a climate change and a lot of
13 things in this world is going to change. You see that
14 right now. We're losing our fish, we're losing our
15 salmon and that's not the only thing we're going to
16 lose.

17
18 This guy here, he gets paid to do what
19 he's doing, so he should figure it out. I mean you
20 guys are there to help him, but not to do his job for
21 him. I think that saying how many fish are there -- I
22 mean when you go to a village, you don't see that many
23 elders there anymore. I mean we have some people that
24 have knowledge of knowing the stories from the elders
25 and usually they're correct, but we don't have all the
26 answers. When we live in the village, we live by what
27 goes on in our surroundings. We watch how the animals
28 act and we watch how many there is. Usually the
29 Natives know when to hunt and when not to hunt, but if
30 you're hungry, you are going to hunt, no matter what
31 rules you put out there.

32
33 I think that making decisions for the
34 future you'll have to count in the climate change also.
35 For this guy to be counting fish, I mean maybe he has
36 to stand there and count it. I mean, sure, go in the
37 village and talk to the elders. There's not very many
38 left. And then on top of that, like I said, the
39 weather is way different than when I was growing up.
40 When I was growing up, I was bundled up even today. I
41 mean I went to BIA school and it was very, very cold
42 and it's not like that anymore. The animals are
43 changing with the weather also, so you have to put all
44 that into consideration.

45
46 As for the fish, I think that, you know
47 -- and hunting and everything like that, when I go --
48 when there's moose hunting, I'll go out to the airport.
49 You will see hunters galore with their big fancy guns
50 and their fancy green fatigues on. I mean not only

1 there, I mean every village you will see them, and on
2 the boats or wherever.

3

4 For the fishing, we need to stop the
5 commercial fishing and also all these people that are
6 dipnetting. That needs to be stopped because there's
7 people in Seattle talking about coming up to Alaska and
8 getting pounds and pounds and pounds of salmon because
9 it costs too much in Seattle.

10

11 I think that people that live in the
12 rural areas and depend on subsistence, they don't do
13 things like that. They get enough to survive for the
14 winter and that's how we live. I don't think that it
15 would be the village's fault if they're disappearing,
16 but I imagine it's going to happen anyway because of
17 the climate change.

18

19 That's all I got to say.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Madame chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ideas? Okay.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I was
28 just looking through on your third bullet on this one,
29 the effects of diminishing salmon abundance on
30 contemporary economic strategies and I'm not sure,
31 reading this, if this is covered, but I think one of
32 the most important things to document is the impacts of
33 failed inseason fishery runs on Upper Yukon subsistence
34 fishermen.

35

36 To elaborate on that, what I mean by
37 that is when we are counting on a specific stock,
38 whether it be chinook salmon in the past or now it's
39 fall chum, when those runs don't come up, there is no
40 alternative and it's too late in the year to seek
41 another resource to make up the difference and that's
42 what we're fighting and that's what I see happening to
43 a much greater extent in the future.

44

45 So I'd like to see some kind of a
46 documentation on what those impacts are because they're
47 tremendous impacts to the people in the Upper Yukon.
48 I'm speaking primarily from Tanana upriver to the
49 Canadian border is where we're seeing some pretty
50 dramatic impacts. So if that could be included in

1 possible Mrs. Moncrieff's study or included in another
2 study, I think that's actually one of the key essential
3 things that needs to be documented and understood for
4 the Board of Fisheries and also the Federal Subsistence
5 Board to understand those impacts to subsistence users.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
10 else.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
15 Let's move on unless you guys need a break. Want a
16 break? Okay. We'll take a 10-minute break. Be back
17 at 3:00.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our 10
24 minutes are up.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
29 Calling back to order. The next thing on the agenda is
30 Partner briefing, preview of call for proposals.

31

32 MS. INGLES: Good afternoon, Madame
33 Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good
36 afternoon.

37

38 MS. INGLES: Can you hear me?

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, good.

41

42 MS. INGLES: Okay. It's echoing on my
43 end, so I can't tell what you're hearing.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this is?

46

47 MS. INGLES: My name is Palma Ingles,
48 for the record. I'm an anthropologist and I'm also the
49 coordinator of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
50 Program here at OSM. During the fall RAC meeting I

1 gave you a brief overview of the Partner's Program.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Paula.
4 First we hear you really good and then things just go
5 bad.
6
7 MS. INGLES: Really? I'm holding the
8 phone. Can you hear me better now?
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, right
11 now for that five words.
12
13 MS. INGLES: I will try not to move.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You could
16 give it a try and then I guess we're going to try
17 something else if it doesn't work out.
18
19 MS. INGLES: Okay. This is very brief.
20 Just to remind everybody our next call for proposals
21 will come out in November this year. I will give
22 another update for the fall RAC meetings and give you
23 more specifics on the call for proposals.
24
25 If you look on Page 64 of your
26 program.....
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it's
29 not working.
30
31 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Palma. I
32 don't think the connection is going to work for this.
33 Trent is here and he can provide this brief update for
34 the Council. Thanks for.....
35
36 MS. INGLES: That works for me. Thank
37 you, Madame Chair.
38
39 MS. PATTON:your efforts.
40
41 MS. INGLES: All right. Good luck.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
44
45 Go ahead, Trent.
46
47 MR. LIEBICH: Good afternoon again.
48 This is Trent with Subsistence Program in Anchorage.
49 I'll try to capture what Palma was saying. At least I
50 know the end point there, what she was describing. If

1 you'll turn to Page 64 in your meeting book, you'll see
2 the one-page summary there of the Partners for
3 Fisheries monitoring.

4
5 They go through a funding cycle similar
6 to what I was describing with the Fisheries Resource
7 Monitoring Plan. The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
8 is a separate program and they also have a funding
9 cycle and this 2016 to 2019 funding cycle is the next
10 one that's coming up. So there will be a call for
11 proposals announced sometime in November this coming
12 year, so November of 2014.

13
14 The call for proposals will come out
15 and then the due date for those proposals will occur in
16 May of 2015. Those dates aren't set yet, but they'll
17 be announced prior to that call for proposals we'll
18 find out. But it was November 2014 and then receipt of
19 proposals in May of 2015.

20
21 Palma Ingles is the contact for that.
22 She's the coordinator of the Partners Program.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's her
27 first name again?

28
29 MR. LIEBICH: It's Palma, P-A-L-M-A.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Palma. I
32 wrote Paula. Okay.

33
34 MR. LIEBICH: Are there any questions?

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
37 members, any questions.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
44 Next on the agenda. We talked about this ADF&G report
45 and following that would be the Yukon River preseason
46 salmon management review. Who's first?

47
48 MR. MEARS: Good morning, Madame Chair.
49 Members of the Council. My name is.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it's
2 afternoon, but that's okay.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. MEARS: I guess you're right. My
7 name is Jeremy Mears. I work with the Fish and Wildlife
8 Service here in Fairbanks with the Subsistence
9 Fisheries. The information I'll be presenting to you
10 was given to you in this handout that you received
11 earlier. I'd also like to check to see if Eric Newland
12 is online still.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eric Newland,
15 are you online?

16
17 MR. NEWLAND: Madame Chair. This is
18 Eric Newland with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
19 I am on the teleconference.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
22 hear about every -- we hear three out of four words
23 probably. Sorry guys.

24
25 MR. MEARS: Chinook salmon runs on the
26 Yukon River have been low in recent years and managers
27 have taken actions to try to meet escapement goals and
28 provide for subsistence users and, when possible, allow
29 for commercial opportunity on abundant summer chum.

30
31 If you look at Page 2 on the handout,
32 the top graph shows that chinook salmon commercial
33 harvests have been greatly reduced since 1998 in order
34 to protect subsistence. The middle graph depicts
35 subsistence harvest since 1982 and shows that these
36 harvests held steady up until 2012 and 2013 when severe
37 restrictions were applied to meet escapement needs.

38
39 The severe restrictions implemented on
40 subsistence fishing in 2013 resulted in a total harvest
41 of approximately 12,500 chinook salmon, which is
42 roughly 75 percent below the average subsistence
43 harvest. The bottom graph shows chinook salmon
44 estimated total run sizes have declined steadily since
45 2007.

46
47 Pages 3 and 4 we have included to give
48 you some idea of some other escapement projects within
49 the drainage. I won't be speaking specifically to any
50 of those right now. This is just background

1 information so you can see that some populations have
2 held steady and others have declined.

3

4 Now if you'll turn to the top graph on
5 Page 5. This shows salmon run timing on the Yukon
6 River. The red line indicates summer chum salmon and
7 the blue line indicates chinook salmon. It's been a
8 major challenge for managers to allow fishermen to
9 harvest the abundant summer chum while protecting the
10 overlapping chinook salmon.

11

12 This graph shows four species of salmon
13 as they pass the sonar at Pilot Station. In contrast,
14 to visualize the upper river districts, District 5 in
15 particular, you can see that almost the entire red line
16 representing summer chum would be absent. This
17 presents a challenge in that these fish aren't
18 available, so as the chinook move into these upper
19 river districts and we have these low abundances, if
20 we're seeing that we're not going to meet escapement,
21 we really have to protect these fish to make it to the
22 border. We understand this puts an undue hardship on
23 these upper river districts, but we really need to make
24 biological escapement.

25

26 Now if you'll look at the graphic on
27 the bottom, what we're looking at is basically the
28 complexity of the chinook run as it moves upriver.
29 Basically what it's depicting is that the lower river
30 communities do see 100 percent of the stocks that come
31 into the river and as you move upriver, the stocks are
32 splitting off. As we move further and further up, we're
33 talking about fewer and fewer fish as we get to the
34 Canadian border. It's a complex fishery and it's a
35 difficult one to manage.

36

37 The fifth page summarizes the
38 management activities for 2013. We covered most of
39 this at the fall meeting. What's really important to
40 note is that, again, we didn't meet escapement. We
41 didn't meet our treaty objectives in 2013. We also
42 didn't meet escapement objectives in four out of seven
43 projects within the Yukon.

44

45 Now the final page is really kind of
46 our outlook for 2014, keeping in mind that these
47 numbers are preliminary right now and the final numbers
48 should be available later this month. What we're
49 really looking at is a run similar to what we saw in
50 2012 and 2013. Chinook salmon run being poor to below

1 average and a relatively good summer chum run and fall
2 chum run.

3

4 If you look down past the bulleted
5 points -- actually I should stop on this. So, again,
6 the management goals for 2014 really are to achieve
7 chinook salmon escapement goals and border passage
8 objectives and to allow opportunity on the abundant
9 summer chum and fall chum stocks while avoiding and
10 minimizing chinook salmon mortality.

11

12 Now if you go to the last point on that
13 back page, these are some suggestions that we are
14 weighing right now as management options for 2014.
15 Among them are manage the coastal fisheries to conserve
16 chinook salmon.

17

18 Should there be some subsistence
19 fishing periods closed in the coastal areas similar to
20 what's done with inriver closures.

21

22 Second point being when should the
23 start of the subsistence fishing schedule be announced
24 and implemented.

25

26 Should gillnet fishing be closed
27 earlier in the season to protect the start of the run.
28 This raises issues on users' ability to harvest other
29 species.

30

31 Should gillnets be restricted to six
32 inch or smaller mesh during subsistence fishing
33 periods.

34

35 Should we apply dipnets, beach seines
36 to the subsistence fishery.

37

38 Should there be separate subsistence-
39 only dipnet and beach seine openings in Districts 1 and
40 2.

41

42 Would there be interest in some of the
43 upriver districts to also allow some of these
44 techniques.

45

46 Should we continue to allow fishwheels
47 to harvest summer chum salmon with the requirement for
48 live release of chinook salmon. Are fishermen in
49 Districts 4 through 6 utilizing this option.

50

1 Finally, should 4-inch mesh size gear
2 be allowed to be used during subsistence closure for
3 non-salmon species. Does this leave a loophole for
4 fishermen to target salmon with the gear that's not
5 intended for salmon.

6
7 We have one Federally-specific question
8 I'd like to ask and it's one that we -- it's an option
9 we haven't used since 2009. Should we restrict Federal
10 waters to Federally qualified users only. Would this
11 put an additional burden on users who are adjacent to
12 Federal waters. This would not allow them to have
13 family members to come in from nonrural areas to help
14 with harvest.

15
16 With that, I'd like to ask if the State
17 has anything to add.

18
19 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. For the
20 record, my name is Jeff Estensen. I'm with the Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game. I manage the fall season
22 for the Yukon area. I just wanted to add one thing too
23 regarding fall chum. I'm sure the questions are going
24 to go back to chinook, but I just wanted to get this
25 out of here before we forgot.

26
27 No secret, the very bright spot for the
28 Yukon in the last number of years has been fall chum.
29 Our outlook for the 2013 -- or 2014 season is looking
30 at a run that's very similar to what we saw last year.
31 By all indications it looks like the production for the
32 fall chum is looking good and remaining good. So I'm
33 very happy to be able to say that.

34
35 We've been asking folks for the last
36 number of years to look at other species as targeting
37 for subsistence and we're really seeing that with fall
38 chum. Prior to I think it was 2011 the average for the
39 previous five years before that was about 80,000 fall
40 chum. We've seen it increase substantially since then.
41 Right now this is very preliminary. Don't quote this
42 number, but we're looking at going from 80,000 in 2011
43 to last year being about 114-115,000. So people are
44 switching to fall chum or taking more fall chum and
45 that's good.

46
47 I'm glad -- I speak for the Department
48 and for my colleagues at Fish and Wildlife that were
49 glad we're able to provide that opportunity for them.
50 It is being noticed that people are taking more fall

1 chum. They very well may be taking more in 2014.

2

3 I know there's been some concerns that
4 I've heard in the last hour here about other species
5 that we're switching to and not knowing a lot about it.
6 I just want to point out that as a manager and having
7 talked with Fred, my colleague in the U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife Service, that we're well aware of this, that
9 the harvest is increasing. Without a doubt, first and
10 foremost, our priority of managing the fisheries for
11 escapement and for getting fish upriver for subsistence
12 needs. We're taking into account that the harvest is
13 increasing and we're figuring that into our management
14 plan specifically looking at how many fish we need to
15 get upriver and making those available for the folks
16 upriver.

17

18 So I just wanted to point that out to
19 you and just something that I thought you might be
20 interested in.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
23 questions.

24

25 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. I had one for Jeff.
26 How many commercial openings you guys had on fall chum
27 last year.

28

29 MR. ESTENSEN: I don't have the exact
30 number in front of me. I want to say it was something
31 ballpark of 15 commercial openings in both Districts 1
32 and 2. That's where the majority of the harvest
33 occurs, of course. Then we had some commercial fishing
34 in District -- we had one period in District 5 where we
35 had one delivery in 5B and C. Of course we had some
36 fishing in District 6. I think between the two
37 districts there was probably a total of maybe 30
38 commercial openings, 32 or something like that. I
39 don't have the exact number in front of me.

40

41 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Another question
42 was you said there was 114 estimated taken in
43 subsistence. How much would you estimate taken in the
44 commercial fishery?

45

46 MR. ESTENSEN: The total -- again, this
47 is a ballpark number. I don't have the exact number in
48 front of me, but I think the total fall chum harvest
49 was about 238,000.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
2 questions. Andrew.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: I just had one comment. I
5 was thinking about it. I know this isn't correct, but
6 like say for me like four chum salmon would equal like
7 one king salmon. So if I normally want about 25 kings,
8 I'm going to have to go catch 400 chum salmon because
9 about 100 of those might be edible and that would equal
10 to about 25 fish altogether. So instead of catching 10
11 or 20 kings, I'm going to need to go get 400 chums and
12 you just times that. I know you've been good about
13 thinking that subsistence take, taking it into account,
14 but I don't know if you've ever thought of it that way
15 before taking 10 kings and taking a few hundred chums
16 is a big leap though.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester.
19
20 MR. ERHART: I don't know if you want
21 to hear what I've got to say.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd love to
26 hear what you've got to say.
27
28 MR. ERHART: Back in the '80s they got
29 in trouble when they opened the driftnetting. These
30 boys downriver got good at it. The only way you're
31 going to meet escapement is you have to stop it. Let
32 them make setnets in eddies like they used to do before
33 that. As of right now you're not going to see no
34 escapement because they're so good at driftnetting, you
35 ain't going to get your escapement up there.
36
37 I brought this up at the last meeting
38 and all Fish and Game did was point at me and said
39 you're hired.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but how
44 do you go about doing it?
45
46 MR. ERHART: Well, you've got to stop
47 it.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
50

1 MR. ERHART: And then you'll get your
2 escapement.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds like a
5 proposal for the Board. We have a call for proposals
6 coming up.
7
8 MR. ERHART: But they've also got this
9 customary trade at the same time.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
12 Donald. You ask a lot of questions on the back of this
13 paper. Are you wanting answers?
14
15 MR. MEARS: We're putting those out
16 there now. We don't need answers right now, but we'd
17 like to hear from you now or in the future.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When's the
20 deadline?
21
22 MR. MEARS: The 28th.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait a
25 minute. You want to hear from us now or in the
26 future.....
27
28 MR. MEARS: Oh, no, no, no. I'm sorry.
29 I misspoke. These are management options we have for
30 the 2014 season. What we're looking for is input today
31 and leading up to the summer season on what options
32 you'd prefer us to use. We need feedback.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
35 can all be thinking about that as Donald goes first.
36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: A couple things I wanted
38 to point out is that Lester requested that we put this
39 issue of the driftnet fishery in our annual report.
40 The other one is that you asked for suggestions at the
41 last meeting. That was one of the suggestions that
42 Lester and I both thought would be critical for this
43 coming season.
44
45 The other point I'd like to point out
46 is something that Andy touched on, is that when we're
47 counting fish and we're using test net fisheries to
48 apportion what the escapement is, whether it be
49 whitefish or salmon, and if you've got a 10 or 20
50 percent jack run or small fish and you're counting them

1 as part of the escapement goal, to me those are non-
2 breeders, whether they be male or female.

3

4 So say you've got 30,000 in Eagle or
5 32,000 in Eagle this year and escapement goals 45,000
6 and 10 percent of those are non-breeders, you've got to
7 deduct those and that doesn't seem to be happening.
8 So what you're projecting as an escapement goal is
9 actually more realistically 10 or 20 percent less than
10 what's really getting there and doing anything positive
11 except to say, oh, we made escapement goal across the
12 border. Make the Canadians happy. But it's not really
13 increasing the population.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. MEARS: Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 I'm just going to build on Don since he started us down
23 this road. I'll be very brief. Not only are you
24 counting 10 percent of the run as non-breeders, you're
25 also passing a quality of escapement as probably
26 somewhere in the neighborhood of 25 percent less
27 fecundity than we used to have in the past and that's
28 the key issue here and that's why our run has been
29 declining I think in many of our minds. It doesn't
30 matter how many fish you put across, it's how many eggs
31 you put across the border. We're missing the point
32 here and we have been for a long time.

33

34 But, Madame Chair, if you want to move
35 on, I have a few comments regarding some of his
36 bulletin points. I'd be happy to share.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I'm going to start
41 at the bottom. Number 8, should 4-inch mesh size be
42 allowed during subsistence closures. If you look at
43 last year's closures for the chinook harvest in
44 District 5, we were pretty much closed the entire
45 season. I think there was, what, two openings or three
46 openings. Only two or three openings for very short
47 periods of time throughout the entire summer. We were
48 the most heavily restricted fisheries on the entire
49 Yukon. So if you close us to 4-inch mesh, we have no
50 opportunity to catch any fish. There are no summer

1 chum there. The only thing we can go after is
2 sheefish, whitefish, burbot and pike. That's it.

3

4 So do we catch incidentally caught
5 chinooks? Yes, you will. So maybe the answer is to --
6 in areas that are heavily restricted with chinook to
7 allow opportunity for subsistence users to fish, they
8 should be allowed to continue to use the 4-inch, but in
9 other areas where summer chum is present, restrict
10 them. That would be my recommendation to you. Because
11 there's no need to fish in areas where the summer chum
12 are there. The Upper Yukon from Tanana up there is no
13 other resource during the summer except for chinook.
14 So that would be the first bullet point.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does the
17 rest of the Council agree with that? Do you want to go
18 one by one or how do you want to do it, gang?

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: I totally agree with that.
21 That's a good idea, Andy. Actually, it was one 24-hour
22 period and I think in the last five to seven years
23 we've been closed 96 to 99 percent of our fishing
24 season.

25

26 MR. ROBERTS: I'd like to support that
27 4-inch mesh also because I use that all summer. We're
28 closed so much and that's the only way I can feed my
29 animals.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
32 can all agree on this?

33

34 (Council nods affirmatively)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
37 Andy, do you want to keep going.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'm on a roll. So
40 for the second, number 7, continue to allow fishwheels
41 to harvest summer chum salmon with the requirement for
42 live release of chinook salmon. Are fishermen in
43 Districts 4 through 6 utilizing this option.

44

45 Well, for the most part there's no
46 summer chum in those districts, so they're really not
47 utilizing it for summer chum during those areas, so I
48 don't even know why that is even there. Maybe you
49 could elaborate on why that's an option. But District
50 4, that's Upper Tanana. I'm sorry, District 6 is Upper

1 Tanana. District 5, there's basically virtually no
2 summer chum that's edible. So I'm not really sure what
3 the strategy is behind that.

4

5 As far as dipnets and beach seines go,
6 I think that allowing -- if the goal is to harvest more
7 summer chum without impacting chinook salmon, I think
8 the handheld traditional dipnet has proven that it's
9 very effective. I believe almost half of the
10 commercial harvest last year or close to half of the
11 commercial harvest was captured in that means with very
12 limited retention of any chinook or damage to chinook
13 salmon.

14

15 So I think that in its present
16 configuration is a viable option that we know is
17 effective for catching summer chum and if it can allow
18 for subsistence harvesters to also harvest those
19 surplus fish as you call them, then I think by all
20 means that should be allowed.

21

22 One thing I will not be in support of
23 in any manner is any modification of this type of gear
24 type. I don't want to see it going to huge dipnets
25 that two or three people operate. That becomes
26 dredging at that point. I don't want to see anything
27 become mechanical. When people think of a dipnet, they
28 think of a round hoop on a long pole that you use by
29 hand and it's quite effective once a person gets good
30 at doing it and I think it's a very viable option for
31 the situation we're in.

32

33 So I would be in support of that.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like
36 to have a consensus as we move along. Lester.

37

38 MR. ERHART: I don't think they should
39 have it more than 10 feet. They were talking about
40 this before. They were going to make big ones.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you would
43 have a limit of 10 feet.

44

45 MR. ERHART: Yes. I'm with him.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: I'd say leave it where it
48 is at 5 feet. Also
49 there goes my one basket fishwheel idea, Andy.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are you
4 all going to agree on five feet?
5
6 MR. GLANZ: I do on the five foot, yes.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Five feet is the current
9 regulation and there's an ACR now for making it
10 unrestricted and allowing the beach seines or the purse
11 seine, which we'll probably take up later.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. That's
14 what you guys were talking about, those two ACRs.
15
16 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
19 So we all agree five feet. Don't make any changes.
20
21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. On a
24 roll.
25
26 MR. FIRMIN: I have a question.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
29
30 MR. FIRMIN: In number 6, why isn't
31 District 6 included there? Is that because it's close
32 to Fairbanks and you don't want every yahoo in
33 Fairbanks lining the Tanana with a dipnet?
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yahoo? Be
36 nice.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Person.
41 Changing seats or adding a seat.
42
43 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Fred Bue, Fish
44 and Wildlife Service.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't step on
47 the cord.
48
49 MR. BUE: Maybe it will work better.
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's right.
4 That's the problem all along.

5

6 MR. BUE: That might have been the
7 problem all along, yeah.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. BUE: Andrew, Mr. Firmin, as far as
12 District 6, a lot of these papers are just really
13 brief. We wanted to throw something together quick to
14 give you something to look at. That was an oversight.
15 Part of our focus was subsistence, personal use. You
16 know, we think of Upper Tanana, but, you're right,
17 there is the Nenana/Manley area that does subsistence.

18

19 I guess there was also the question
20 about, maybe it was Andy, why we even have fishwheels
21 on here if it's live release. Why would we have a
22 fishing period where you'd release kings. That is a
23 question in District 4. We went through a lot of hoops
24 trying to find some way for people to catch some fish.
25 We knew we had some major closures. Some people,
26 they've invested in their fishwheel. That's all they
27 have, so maybe they don't have a net. They have
28 traditional fishing sites.

29

30 And the question is does somebody out
31 there actually use a fishwheel to catch something other
32 than a king during this timeframe. Is it enough fish
33 to feed their dog team that's sitting on the riverbank.
34 Can they use it for something else. So our question
35 there is, is this a worthwhile thing because it takes a
36 lot of work to get information to these remote
37 fishermen in time, so that was the basis of that
38 question.

39

40 Madame Chair.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess I would
43 just follow up with how are you going to enforce it.
44 If it's something that's done in a remote area, we all
45 know the implications of trying to enforce the entire
46 Yukon River. I'm not trying to say that everybody is
47 going to be out there trying to cheat, but, quite
48 frankly, it's just one of those things that's pretty
49 hard to police. It's a big, long river. I think the
50 opportunity to harvest with a fishwheel at a much

1 greater extent is much higher than a person standing on
2 the beach with a dipnet. That would be my argument
3 against it.

4
5 However, I am in support of anybody who
6 wants to try and feed themselves with any other type of
7 species, but I think we have to be cautious about how
8 we open things up. We're going through a lot of
9 changes right now in the fisheries with the decline of
10 the kings and I know everybody is scrambling and trying
11 to make the most of what's left, but we have to be very
12 cautious in my opinion about the types of regulations
13 we put in place because fishermen are really good at
14 manipulating and looking at regulations and getting
15 around things. It currently now takes three years to
16 change things once something is adopted and a lot of
17 damage can be done in three years' time. So I guess
18 I'm just trying to.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
21 skipped over 7 as far as I could see. We didn't really
22 have a consensus. So are you saying no fishwheels to
23 harvest summer chum?

24
25 MR. BASSICH: I don't know. I'm on the
26 fence with it. I don't think it's.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do the
29 rest of you guys.....

30
31 MR. BASSICH: As far as 7, I don't see
32 any need for it, myself. Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
35 have any input on that one? Andrew.

36
37 MR. FIRMIN: Not at the moment, but,
38 like Andy said, if there's no summer chum, but after
39 what Fred said, I guess that leaves it open for people
40 that may only have that option. Maybe we could leave
41 that one for now.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
44 want to keep going then unless anybody has any input
45 here.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Bullet number 5, the last
2 paragraph there, how and when should 5.5 mesh/30 mesh
3 deep option be used in the Lower Yukon commercial
4 fisheries.

5
6 I don't have any real strong data on
7 how it is at conserving chinook, but I know it's going
8 to be better than 6-inch. Quite frankly, anything we
9 can do in the commercial fisheries to reduce impacts on
10 chinook is good. It seems that the abundance of summer
11 chum is so tremendous right now in the river that you
12 could pretty much throw anything out there and catch
13 summer chum.

14
15 So I would be in support of limiting it
16 to 5.5. The argument I always hear is people don't
17 have it and they can't afford to buy the new gear.

18
19 Speaking about gear, mesh size, I would
20 also speak towards bullet point 4, which is limiting
21 gillnets to 6 inch or smaller. I think we should have
22 passed that at the Board of Fisheries three years ago
23 or whenever we did it. That was an oversight on our
24 part, I think. On everybody's part.

25
26 So I would say keep the mesh
27 restrictions as low as possible in both commercial and
28 subsistence fisheries during the summer chum -- to
29 target summer chum. Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The rest of
32 you guys, how do you feel on that one?

33
34 MR. FIRMIN: I was just going to add I
35 think that 6 inch or smaller mesh was something the
36 Eastern RAC was pushing since before I was even on the
37 RAC.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can agree
40 on that for sure.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: A 10-year-old subject
43 there.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
46 right. I'm not a fisherman up there, so this is not my
47 expertise, but why is it -- how and when for 5.5 then?
48 Help me understand this.

49
50 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Fred Bue

1 again. The 5.5, that really relates to the State
2 commercial fishing gear. That's a commercial gear.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.

5

6 MR. BUE: For your reference, if
7 everybody has -- you can go back to that colored sheet.
8 For your reference, these are all tools that are
9 already in regulation and what it is is between State
10 and Federal managers have the authority for time in an
11 area and we have a way of manipulating when we turn
12 these things on and off and these are the options.

13

14 So just to give you an idea, if you
15 look at the top graph about July 7th, that's where they
16 started with the 6 inch commercial chum fishing.
17 Essentially that's after that fourth pulse or that last
18 pulse of chinook went by. So, yeah, we have these
19 options and we can do it after we think most of the
20 kings are by or when the -- the problem is there's some
21 trade-offs. Some of these other opportunities go away
22 too. So that's why we're getting a feeling for how
23 this group feels. It's not just you. We ask this to
24 all the RACs. We ask this to all the village fishermen
25 when we go and meet them.

26

27 There's going to be a meeting April 8th
28 here in Fairbanks. Tribal leaders, fishermen, bring
29 those people to Fairbanks and talk about this same
30 suite of options. We're going to have a salmon summit
31 the 9th and 10th here in Fairbanks also. So there's
32 still a lot of communication and we're just taking this
33 opportunity to hear from you.

34

35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36

37 MR. FIRMIN: What was your opinion in
38 '09 when they closed the Federal waters. I know I kind
39 of had my own opinion. It's neither good or bad. How
40 much actual water would that close beyond the Flats? I
41 know it closes the Flats. Would that be like the
42 National Parks and everything up above?

43

44 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Mr. Firmin.
45 Again, I'd point to that map with the migratory path.
46 It just kind of gives you an idea. The big blue area
47 is the Yukon drainage. Those green patches are the
48 Federal management units. So those are the waters that
49 are adjacent -- the Federal management units adjacent
50 to the Yukon River that we'd have authority to do a

1 special action where we restrict subsistence chinook
2 harvest where we might ask everybody to release all
3 their kings they take.

4

5 So those are the places that would be
6 applied through the Yukon Flats. It's quite a bit, but
7 then again Circle has an open spot there would not
8 apply to, Eagle same thing. Also going through the
9 rapids, you know, that section, Tanana community,
10 Rampart. The Haul Road, that's not part of that area.
11 So it is a patchwork. There are some good harvesting
12 opportunities outside where we have jurisdiction. So
13 when we apply those sorts of rules, it doesn't affect
14 everybody and some people will be affected more than
15 others I'm sure.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, go
18 ahead.

19

20 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to address
21 issue number 3. I was just talking to a couple
22 fishermen in our village and they said they would like
23 to get one king for the table and I said, yeah, but
24 there's 6,000 households up and down the Yukon and if
25 one person got one king, that would be 6,000 to 10,000
26 or 12,000 kings. I said when are we going to stop
27 fishing the very last king.

28

29 So I should think that just like the
30 upper river Area 5 is going to be closed all season, I
31 predict this year, and I think it should stay that way
32 indefinitely.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I have a question
41 for maybe Fred. Maybe you could answer this. On the
42 lower river it seems like the chinook run timing is
43 getting later and later coming in in recent years. In
44 talking about closing subsistence fisheries in the
45 Lower Yukon early on, in recent years, I'm speaking
46 maybe the last four years, has there been much in the
47 way of chinook salmon coming up early? It seems like
48 the run timing is much later. It's my understanding
49 that that has kind of traditionally been a heavy
50 sheefish harvest timeframe right when the ice goes out

1 until the chinook begin to run.

2

3 So I'd like a little bit more
4 information or your perspective on that because it
5 seems like that's an opportunity that those people have
6 been trying to utilize to not harvest chinook salmon
7 and I know they've had to suffer a little bit down
8 there with some of these early closures prior to the
9 seasons. I'm kind of on the fence with it, but it
10 seemed like the run timing is cooperating with us a
11 little bit more on that realm.

12

13 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Mr. Bassich.
14 Yeah, you're right. People have been observing the run
15 has been late the last few years. It seems like it's
16 been getting later. Part of what we're looking at is
17 the Bering Sea ice seems to have been going a lot
18 further south and it takes quite a while for it to
19 recede back up past the mouth of the Yukon. It seems
20 like the fish are stacking up more and waiting for the
21 ice to move.

22

23 Again, that graph with the timing, this
24 was last year and you see that the chinook and summer
25 chum are overlapping really close. If you talk to
26 people in the lower river normally, there's a little
27 bit more of a spread between summer chum and chinook.
28 Chinook always seem to be the first ones that come in
29 the river, but with that ice delaying things, now what
30 we're looking at, ice maps and the ocean, it looks like
31 the ice isn't nearly as far south. So it could be that
32 it's more of a normal timing this year. If that's the
33 case, I would guess that the runs will spread out a
34 little bit more, but you never know until you get to
35 break-up time. It's always different.

36

37 But as far as sheefish goes, that
38 bullet number 3, what we've tried to do -- it's a toss
39 up. A lot of fishermen want to know what they're going
40 to do, when should they plan to go to camp. So the
41 last couple years we asked them do we put it on a
42 calendar date so they can plan around it. They know
43 when they can take leave from work and go fishing or
44 what, but last year we got chewed out. People in the
45 lower river said how come you're starting the windows
46 and there's still ice in the water. So, yeah, that was
47 kind of weird. You know, why would we restrict it.

48

49 So when there's ice in the main river,
50 a lot of times it will break up, the ice will be

1 jammed, but the sloughs may be open and they can fish
2 for whitefish and things on the side sloughs. It just
3 depends on the severity of the breakup at the mouth.
4 It wasn't too bad last year. They could fish some of
5 those. Every year is different, I guess, is all I can
6 say.

7
8 I think that's what we're kind of
9 coming to, is that restrictions are so severe right now
10 that we're probably going to have to find opportunities
11 to fish where we can but protect chinook. Right now
12 we're looking at a no net fishing for chinook from the
13 beginning. So, if there's other opportunities, we'll
14 look for them, but time and area we're going to avoid
15 them as best we can.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Just a follow up. The
18 whitefish fisheries down there, is that performed with
19 4-inch mesh gear or 5? Or sheefish, I'm sorry.
20 They're sheefish. It's fairly large fish. What gear
21 type are they using for mesh?

22
23 MR. BUE: They prefer meshes larger
24 than 6 inch for sheefish. Last year we didn't allow
25 that and they accepted that. It was just more of the
26 fishing time was really difficult for them.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Well, I guess my
29 recommendation would be that -- you know, it's an in-
30 season call. I know they're trying to put dates on the
31 calendar right now, but if the ice is still in the
32 river but it's opening up and allowing for sheefish
33 opportunities before the chinook come, I'd be all in
34 favor of allowing the people to fish for sheefish down
35 there. It's going to take that much more pressure off
36 of salmon species.

37
38 If the river breaks up at its normal
39 time and the run timing is very similar to 2000s and
40 the '90s, then I would say start the windows early.
41 That would be my recommendation to them. Protect the
42 chinook but allow as much sheefish opportunity as
43 possible.

44
45 They seem to be doing a very good job
46 of understanding these early chinook pulses too because
47 they were allowing fishing in certain mouths last year
48 where there weren't as many chinook. So the Department
49 is getting much better at isolating where these pulses
50 are coming in and then protecting them.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. So,
2 the rest of you guys, how do you feel on this one? In
3 agreement? Lester, you're smiling.

4
5 MR. ERHART: Well, maybe that's why
6 there was more sheefish this year. The first year
7 there was way more. Maybe that's because of the 6-inch
8 mesh because there was a lot coming up in our area.
9 The biggest run I ever saw.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's good
12 information, Lester. Anything else you guys want to
13 agree or disagree with here.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: I don't know if we had a
16 consensus from the Council here on the last talking
17 point though on the sheefish, opening that up or
18 closing it down or whatever. Basically what I just
19 talked about. I didn't hear a consensus from the
20 Council.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was seeing
23 some nodding of heads.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How about any
28 agreement or disagreement. Andrew.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I think that's
31 something that's got to be a call made in-season in-
32 river on the spot down there as conditions require.

33
34 The other one I just wanted to ask is
35 the coastal fisheries, how much monitoring or catch,
36 you know, harvest data do they have from those folks
37 down there? I mean would that be worth it or would
38 that be something -- how hard do those guys fish out
39 there? I mean they're subsistence fishing also, right?

40
41 (Telephone interruption)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can anyone in
44 the teleconference hear us? This is the Chair. Anyone
45 hear us?

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's go on
50 with our discussion here. Where are we? Are we in

1 agreement on this last topic? Andrew.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: I was just asking for a
4 little more info on the coastal fisheries on topic 1.

5 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. I guess what
6 we're looking at is all of AYK as a chinook problem;
7 Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound. We're all seeing some
8 problems with chinook. We do monitor -- Fish and Game
9 does a household survey out in Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay,
10 Chevak, you know, well south of the mouth of the Yukon
11 but north of Kuskokwim.

12

13 Norton Sound does a survey or harvest
14 estimates in Stebbins, St. Michael. What we're looking
15 at is some years the fish come up from the south, some
16 years they come up from the north or come down from the
17 north in those coastal communities. We know they do
18 harvest pretty good numbers of chinook salmon, but we
19 don't regulate them as rigorous as we do in-river
20 because we're not sure where they're actually bound
21 for. Some of them may be going past the Yukon to the
22 Kuskokwim or past the Yukon to Norton Sound.

23

24 We haven't regulated them nearly as
25 much. They also have a coastal environment that really
26 messes with them a lot. The last couple years -- well,
27 I don't know if the last couple years, but they do --
28 when the ice has been really late, it seems like it's
29 receding off the coast on the south side, it seems like
30 it's channeling chinook into the Hooper Bay, Scammon
31 Bay, holding tight to the coast, so they have been
32 doing some reasonably good harvests. It's not high
33 harvests, but they've been catching some chinook with
34 their 6-inch nets. We've been restricting them out
35 there.

36

37 Now we're looking at, well, we have
38 this Western Alaska problem and so maybe we need to
39 start managing them more, including them in this. It's
40 not only for the Yukon, but there's these other areas
41 that also have a need for conserving chinook. We've
42 pretty much left them alone in the past. Now we're
43 starting to include them in this conservation effort.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
46 questions. Donald.

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Does the Kuskokwim have similar issues that we have on
50 the Yukon as far as failure of the chinook?

1 MR. BUE: Yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How long?

4

5 MR. BUE: Well, it's more of a recent
6 thing. They've seen a decline, but now they're getting
7 down to the nitty gritty, the place where we've been
8 for a number of years. They're getting to that point.
9 So this year they are looking at no subsistence harvest
10 also. So it's pretty serious there.

11

12 But they've been restricting and last
13 year their escapement goal was lowered, so they thought
14 they had some more opportunity, but it turned out they
15 fell pretty short of their escapement goals, so they're
16 looking at pretty drastic restrictions for them and
17 something we've been dealing with.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Have we
20 covered everything? Except the last one that I wrote
21 down, the hard one. In 2009, should you restrict
22 Federal waters to Federally qualified subsistence. You
23 said you added that.

24

25 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. I always ask
26 this. I think we're probably past that point right now
27 this year because we're not really managing for
28 subsistence king fishing, we're managing for chum and
29 so that Federally qualified would pertain to chinook.
30 We're not trying to reduce chum harvest. If they
31 caught a chinook in their subsistence harvest, we would
32 release it.

33

34 In 2009, we did do that. A lot of
35 people were pretty frustrated. It caught them off
36 guard and it goes kind of both ways. We have some
37 people from Fairbanks that would go out to the other
38 rural Yukon River and help fish. Some of them would be
39 fishing on their own, but others would be helping their
40 family members and some of those rural people community
41 people rely on that help.

42

43 More recently, I think with all the
44 closures we have there's very few people from outside
45 the area that travel to those communities just for a
46 one day opportunity to fish and it's a hit and miss.
47 It's not like they can go out there and expect to fish
48 sometime during the week. If they go out there,
49 there's a good chance they might not fish at all. So I
50 don't think that's necessarily the case at the point

1 that we're at right now.

2

3 Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6 Anything else, guys. Covered it. Any other questions
7 of these guys.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: I had one other
10 question.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Page 3, the
15 Eagle sonar, it says converted to sonar units. So is
16 this basically taking your data and your comparison
17 between Eagle sonar and what it's seen and trying to
18 recalculate what the mark recapture would have been?
19 I'm trying to understand what this converted to sonar
20 units means.

21

22 MR. BUE: Yes, and I think that's why
23 you see the escapement goals. They do not go back in
24 time because even though we had objectives in those
25 border passage or Canadian escapements, those are
26 really difficult to convert. This was our -- like you
27 say, we converted it from the mark recapture numbers to
28 a standardized sonar unit. When we ran the two
29 projects overlapping, we got a comparison or relatively
30 good feeling of how they compared and extrapolated
31 backwards.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'm glad
34 that that got clarified because that just goes to what
35 I was bringing up a little bit earlier about this. I
36 know that there was a fairly tight correlation when
37 they did it, but they did it for -- I think it was five
38 years or three years, something like that.

39

40 The thing that I'm concerned about with
41 all the data collection that we're doing is the amount
42 of extrapolation that's being done with raw data and if
43 raw data comes in a little bit skewed than the
44 extrapolation, those numbers expanded, it becomes even
45 less accurate very, very quickly. The trend is,
46 because of funding in the future, to go towards more
47 and more modeling for how we're going to look at
48 monitoring and projecting our runs for management.
49 This gives me a great deal of concern because models
50 rely on very, very clean data and models, even in the

1 best situation, are very poor. I think most people
2 will understand that when you start understanding the
3 statistical aspects of modeling.

4
5 So, in short, what I'm trying to bring
6 up is that this is something that we really have to
7 clean up on the Yukon River and really take a close
8 look at because the trend is going to come back to hurt
9 us in the future, I think, and the way we're going to
10 be managing our fisheries if we go down the modeling
11 and our data is not clean.

12
13 Thank you for clarifying that.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, did you
16 see that at all in our annual report? It sounds like a
17 concern that we might want to mention.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I think, you know,
20 in our reports it goes back to the fisheries
21 monitoring. I think maybe that's one of the places
22 that the money seems to be at to do that kind of work.
23 So I think.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the
26 modeling and the projection is what you're talking
27 about, right?

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, well, it all goes
30 -- it's all hand in hand. It's all in the way we're
31 starting to manage our fisheries, the way we're doing
32 our analysis on data. It's all based on extrapolation.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right, and it
35 could be skewed.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: It's very skewed. It can
38 be very skewed. I'm not saying that it is, but I think
39 it's something we really need to take an outside look
40 at. How are we collecting the data.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Is it clean.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just
47 saying it could be listed in the annual report.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Right. Because the
50 implications -- what I'm concerned about and what I've

1 witnessed happen many, many times is that when data
2 then goes to the Board of Fish, who is going to make a
3 decision on a regulation, whether or not it works, they
4 may be getting data that's fairly skewed, but it's
5 presented as factual and very clean. Unless you know
6 how that data was collected, then it's pretty hard to
7 identify whether there's problems with it.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. We
10 have that in other issues too.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: That's just basic
13 science. It's not just fisheries. It's game, it's
14 everything out there. It's the same thing. The
15 tendency with computers now is to model everything.
16 Everybody wants to model everything because you can do
17 that much cheaper than going out in the field and
18 collecting tons and tons of data. So that's going to
19 be the future of how we manage things more and more.
20 That's why it's so important right now that we start
21 cleaning up methodologies for data collection.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
24 something else?

25

26 MR. BUE: No. I have to agree with
27 Andy. You know, I think any biologist or any manager
28 wants the best data possible.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So I
31 see you guys's job when you are testifying before
32 boards that you make that clear. I'm serious because a
33 lot of times in some cases in the Board of Game it's
34 not made clear about subsistence studies and people are
35 eliminated because of something that wasn't made clear.
36 Not enough data and they don't make it clear that,
37 okay, that's just one year. So your job is to do a
38 good job because you're paid to do it.

39

40 Okay. Anything else guys?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
45 to take a short break? Everybody's yawning, so I think
46 we better get up and walk around for a few minutes.
47 We'll be back in 10.

48

49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next on the
4 agenda is the call for fisheries regulatory proposals
5 and I'd say that's Federal. I was just talking to
6 Trent at break and he said it might be him that's
7 presenting it because George is having trouble with the
8 phone line. George Pappas was the State liaison and
9 now he's Federal. Talk about people changing hats.
10 I've got one coming in here. Where's Andrew?

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we're
15 going to go and hope he comes back shortly. Go ahead,
16 Trent.

17

18 MR. LIEBICH: Good afternoon again,
19 Madame Chair and members of the Council. I'm Trent
20 Liebich with the Office of Subsistence Management and
21 I'm going to cover the call for proposals that's open
22 and coming to an end this month. If you turn to Page
23 65 in your meeting book, you'll see the call for
24 proposals. It's just the front and the back, Page 65
25 and 66.

26

27 The Federal Subsistence Board is
28 accepting proposals through March 28, 2014, so the end
29 of this month, so there's about three weeks left to do
30 this, and these are proposals to change Federal
31 regulations for the subsistence harvest of fish and
32 shellfish for the 2015-2017 regulatory years, which is
33 April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2017.

34

35 These proposals can be to change
36 Federal fishing seasons, harvest limits, methods of
37 harvest, and customary and traditional use
38 determinations. You can also submit proposals for
39 individual customary and traditional use determinations
40 from residents of National Park and National Monument
41 resident zone communities, or those who already hold a
42 Section 13.440 subsistence use permit.

43

44 There's three ways to submit proposals.
45 The first would be mail or hand delivery and you would
46 actually deliver those comments to the Office of
47 Subsistence Management to Theo Matuskowitz. We're
48 accepting comments also here at the Regional Advisory
49 Council meeting and this is the blue sheet of paper.
50 If anybody has comments and want to write them down

1 today or tomorrow we can take those back with us.
2 That's on the table by the door when you come in and it
3 just says call for Federal subsistence fish and
4 shellfish regulatory proposals on the cover of that
5 piece of paper.

6
7 The third option, you could go online
8 also and go to the website provided on Page 66 of the
9 meeting book and submit comments there as well. That's
10 all the information I have on the regulatory proposals.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is
15 the call. Have any of you thought of a fisheries
16 proposal you want to put in for this call knowing full
17 well it's two years until you can do it again.
18 Things must be working. We didn't have any at the SRC
19 either.

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: I thought of one of
22 spacing research fishwheels and research projects away
23 from subsistence fishermen.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Spacing?

26
27 MR. FIRMIN: Like a one-mile buffer
28 zone from a test wheel. What if you're catching and
29 releasing fish and somebody's got a net in front of
30 that wheel or another wheel and they're coming out of
31 there rum dumb, just took a free ride, and the same
32 with the commercial wheels, add those in there just for
33 a spacing requirement.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One mile?

36
37 MR. FIRMIN: I just would ask if
38 anybody else had input on the spacing of the distance.
39 But a few of the people I talked to didn't have a.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester.

42
43 MR. ERHART: Right now it's 200 feet
44 between fishwheels.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Including a
47 test fishwheel. So is there an interest to put in a
48 proposal or one mile or.....

49
50 MR. ERHART: Leave well enough alone.

1 If it's not broke, don't fix it.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what
4 Frank said with his broken foot at the meeting. Will,
5 you had your hand up earlier.

6

7 MR. KOEHLER: I was just wondering if
8 -- Lester could probably answer this, if Charlie
9 Campbell still has that fishwheel. I always knew that
10 that 200 feet was awful close and that test wheel was
11 real close and I was wondering is that kind of what you
12 were kind of thinking of? Where they're in that live
13 pot and they get dumped back in and they go up the
14 river 200 feet and get caught again.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. You've got your --
17 or if they're flopping out of a 16-foot basket, hit the
18 bottom, flop into a box, back in the river and then
19 there's another wheel right there turning, so I mean
20 that's just like dunking your head under the water and
21 slapping you around and making you walk a straight
22 line, you know. It's not going to work. So why not
23 have a buffer zone between those wheels, let them catch
24 their breath before they -- you know, what's the -- I
25 don't know what other people might have a feeling on
26 that, but why have a test wheel and then you've got
27 three wheels before it and three wheels after it and
28 you're just checking the one guy in the middle. I mean
29 how good is that data you're getting out of that wheel?

30

31 The other thing I thought of was the
32 same -- I don't know if -- I don't think it's really a
33 problem from what I understand, but like the Kaltag
34 fishery where they're commercial fishing with all their
35 wheels and they're catching and releasing king salmon
36 in the same manner and then they go up to the next
37 wheel, ploop, and then they're going up to the next
38 wheel. I mean it might not be a problem, but it's
39 something I have questions about and it's something
40 that I've asked about enforcement on. Lo and behold
41 it's not really being enforced what they're doing out
42 there as it is. That's my question.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
45 saying it's less than 200 feet possibly.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Well, not only that. I've
48 always thought it was 100 feet really, but I'm not
49 certain.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Lester,
2 go ahead.

3
4 MR. ERHART: As of right now, you know,
5 they don't really open it up until the king salmon go
6 by in our area. Once they're gone by, then they open
7 it up. By that time there's nothing to test, so
8 they're gone. I didn't open my wheel until August 1st.
9 I couldn't run it the whole time.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So his idea
12 you're not really.....

13
14 MR. ERHART: Well, why make a law when
15 we ain't gonna use it. It's not practical, you know
16 what I mean? They don't open that fishery until the
17 king salmon are gone.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't forget
20 to push your button.

21
22 MR. ERHART: Don't forget, okay.

23
24 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, but if they have a
25 48-hour opener and you're sitting right there, I mean
26 why not.....

27
28 MR. ERHART: They don't have it in our
29 area.

30
31 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, it's my understanding
32 they do, but I'm not down there.

33
34 MR. ERHART: Like I said, I didn't run
35 my wheel until August 1st. That's when they opened it
36 up, the 1st.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have
39 some information for us?

40
41 MR. BUE: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
42 Chair. Fred Bue. As far as the test fishing, if test
43 fishing is a concern, we have flexibility to put
44 boundaries and markers, back-sets from those places. I
45 think every situation is a little bit different. If
46 you have concerns or know specific places, we like to
47 work with the project and the people that fish in that
48 area.

49
50 An example, for instance, was the Pilot

1 Station sonar last summer and fishing. You know, we
2 had some problems with commercial activity in front of
3 the sonar, so the State was setting markers where they
4 thought it would get community support because we rely
5 on the fishing community to work on this stuff. So I
6 think every place is unique and different as far as
7 test fishing.

8

9 As far as back-sets from commercial
10 gear or subsistence gear, I think those are written in
11 regulation, but test fishing is something that the
12 agencies can work with local people to work that out.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so you
15 guys have some discretion on that. It probably doesn't
16 need to be a proposal is what I'm hearing. Unless,
17 like you say, you know something specific where there's
18 a problem.

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: I just know that there's a
21 lot of wheels that could climb close to each other and
22 if one of them is a test wheel and you're running a
23 wheel right next to it during an opener, how does that
24 affect your salmon going through there.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is a
27 good point.

28

29 MR. FIRMIN: I mean it's almost like a
30 -- I don't know. It seems to me like that's like.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is this
33 happening downriver? Is that where your concern is?

34

35 MR. FIRMIN: It's happening around
36 every test wheel in the Yukon and Tanana and every test
37 spot around it seems to me. How wide do you space your
38 gear. There's no law to say I can't stand in front of
39 a test wheel where they're getting thrown back into the
40 river with a dipnet and dip them back out of the river.
41 Why not separate the gear. See what I'm saying?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: That's what I'm getting
46 at. I'm just asking for input from other Council
47 members.

48

49 MR. ERHART: Most test wheels I see
50 they've got a live box there. I don't know how long

1 they keep them in.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
4 When they're releasing them, they check -- they do
5 their thing and then they release them. They need to
6 release them in the middle of the water.

7

8 MR. FIRMIN: Throw them back in the
9 fishwheel.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Keep them
14 alive, test them again.
15 Andy.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, well, I think
18 Andrew is bringing up kind of an interesting point, not
19 only just with the test wheel fisheries but also with
20 the use of fishwheels for harvesting summer chum and
21 releasing chinook. It's pretty well documented that
22 fishwheels have an impact on fish even that are live
23 released.

24

25 If this becomes a very popular form of
26 trying to fish for summer chum in some of the lower or
27 middle districts, my experience with fishwheels has
28 been they're pretty site specific. So once you find a
29 bank where the fish are good for fishing with a
30 fishwheel, people will pile that gear in pretty tight
31 to take advantage of it. That seems to happen
32 everywhere because there aren't that many really good
33 fishwheel spots and it's my understanding in the lower
34 river there's even fewer.

35

36 So I think one of the points that
37 Andrew is bringing up may apply even to our attempts to
38 allow for greater summer chum harvest, but what are the
39 impacts to these live fish getting released out of
40 these wheels if they get caught multiple times.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're all
43 tagged, aren't they?

44

45 MR. BASSICH: No, no. They're not
46 tagged.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, they tag
49 a lot of them down our way.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: So, you know, the whole
2 idea of having live release wheels for the chinook to
3 go through when they're targeting summer chum is to do
4 as little harm as possible to chinook salmon. The
5 aggregation of being caught multiple times is going to
6 have a pretty dramatic effect on salmon and will, no
7 doubt, affect their migration patterns and their
8 ability to make it to the spawning grounds.

9
10 I guess, in short, I think it's pretty
11 interesting what you're bringing up. I hadn't really
12 thought about it that way as an implication of what
13 might happen in the future when people fish with
14 fishwheels.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess what
17 it brought up into my mind was -- and you're next then
18 -- if there's a dipnet fishery. Am I hearing that as a
19 concern? Maybe if somebody is over there, oh, they're
20 releasing the test fish, let's go get them. I don't
21 know. Is that what you were thinking?

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: In a sense, but there's
24 nothing to really stop them unless, like Fred said,
25 they go put a marker out. But I'm saying -- go ahead.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.

28
29 MR. ROBERTS: From what I understand,
30 the test wheel runs pretty much 24/7 at Rapids. When
31 they do open up fishing for the other fishwheels, Stan
32 will throw a box in there and keep all the fish, so
33 none of the fish go in the water back to the other
34 wheel because Stan puts a board in there and keeps
35 every fish and counts them for Fish and Game.

36
37 MR. ERHART: He's supposed to give them
38 away, but he never does.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see. Want
43 to say that again? What were you guys going back and
44 forth over here?

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: We're looking at a
47 proposal.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are
50 you still talking about it?

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Lester, do you want to
2 speak to it?
3
4 MR. ERHART: It was what I was talking
5 about, that we should go back to setnets and do away
6 with this driftnetting because this is what's got us in
7 trouble in the beginning. We'd like to have it on the
8 whole Yukon.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we can do
11 that, right? That would be just.....
12
13 MR. ERHART: They always tell me, no,
14 we can't.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. ERHART: If you opened it, why
19 can't you close it? Don't make sense to me.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well.....
22
23 MR. ERHART: When they hire me, then
24 I'll close it.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go, man, go.
29 If I understand it correctly, this is a call for
30 fishery proposals on the Federal subsistence. So are
31 they fishing with their gillnets for subsistence?
32
33 MR. ERHART: Not in the Federal area.
34 Mostly Federal waters -- oops, there I go again -- is
35 from Stevens Village up, in that area. Like they were
36 talking, they were closed all year. That's it.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your
39 proposal.....
40
41 MR. ERHART: We're on a different
42 proposal.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This
45 subject about that, do you want it.....
46
47 MR. ERHART: Oh, we drifted away from
48 that.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know we

1 did, but I kind of felt like we drifted away for a
2 reason, that we didn't think it was necessary. Am I
3 correct in thinking that?

4
5 MR. ERHART: It's not in our area or any
6 area. By the time they test fish, the king salmon is
7 already gone. I don't know what you're talking about.

8
9
10 MR. FIRMIN: It's too late. We caught
11 them all already, I guess.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. ERHART: They already went by.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds
18 like it. Okay. So that one I assume we're done.

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: We'll visit it at another
21 time. We're waiting for Virgil. He'll tell us all
22 about it maybe. We'll have another story. But, like I
23 said, I was just throwing ideas out there to see what
24 other folks thought. Maybe something will come to
25 overnight.

26
27 MR. ROBERTS: Well, I have a hard time
28 with it because me and Lester and a couple other fish
29 are pretty much elbow to elbow
30 in one area and this is well after the kings are gone.
31 Like he said, he never started until August 1st and I
32 never started until around the 20th of August. As far
33 as conserving kings, it's a non-issue.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go to
36 the next idea of a proposal where we would hire you.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. ERHART: No more driftnet in the
41 Yukon.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we can
44 put that proposal in, right? Okay. I heard that as a
45 motion.

46
47 MR. ERHART: Yes, you did.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did. Did I
50 hear a second.

1 MR. ROBERTS: I'll second it.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got
4 a motion to say no more -- and this would be for the
5 Federal only. You understand that, right?
6
7 MR. ERHART: First step.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.
10 Is it for subsistence fisheries, no more driftnets.
11 They've got to go on the beach like everybody else.
12
13 MR. ERHART: Setnets.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Setnets.
16 Okay. I understand the proposal. Eva might not.
17
18 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Council.
19 For the record, could you please restate your proposal
20 in full. Oh, we have it in writing.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fantastic.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
25 For the record, I'll read this into the record and
26 Council can make their final motion and vote.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion's
29 on the floor.
30
31 MS. PATTON: The motion is on the floor
32 and we can take the final vote. So for the details,
33 the questions that are asked for the Federal fisheries
34 proposal consideration, which regulation do you wish to
35 change, is to change driftnet fisheries to setnets for
36 chinook in District 1 through 6.
37
38 Then how should the new regulation read
39 and we'll discuss that for the detail of the motion.
40
41 Why should this regulation be made?
42 Five out of seven years of escapement has not been met
43 for chinook.
44
45 Question number 4, what impact will
46 this change have on fish or shellfish populations? The
47 population of chinook will have a better chance to
48 recover and meet escapement goals or needs.
49
50 Question number 5, how will this change

1 affect subsistence uses? Over the long run, more
2 chinook will be available for future generations.

3
4 Question number 6, how will this change
5 affect other uses, i.e. sport, recreational or
6 commercial? The comment is no effect there.

7
8 And how should the new regulation read
9 would be.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can deal
12 with that. They understand the proposal, I know they
13 do, or the motion. I might not. Tell me guys, this is
14 for chinook for subsistence fishing. When is the last
15 time they were able to do that?

16
17 MR. ERHART: Every year.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're still
20 putting their nets in for subsistence. I thought
21 subsistence was closed the last couple years.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: We have openings.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
26 then that's good. I love it. Fred.

27
28 MR. BUE: Yeah, Madame Chair. We do it
29 by time and area. Last year we had all four pulses
30 closed for chinook. We only allowed 6-inch nets when
31 we did open in between those pulses to target summer
32 chum. So, effectively, we had all of drift fishing
33 closed last summer for chinook. So we can do it. It's
34 within our authority. This would be a formalized
35 regulation.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. More
38 discussion.

39
40 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Who's
43 speaking?

44
45 MR. PAPPAS: This is George Pappas,
46 OSM. Good afternoon.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good
49 afternoon. We can hear you.

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: I'm on (indiscernible) --
2 if you're just talking about chinook, the Federal
3 regulations do change to allow for chum salmon after
4 August 2nd. So if you're just specifically want the
5 proposal to discuss chinook, please identify the.....
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: George, we
8 could hear you and now you started breaking up and
9 we're hearing every other word.
10

11 MR. PAPPAS: Here, how about this? The
12 recommendation you can consider if you want to discuss
13 just chinook salmon, then identify that on the record.
14 There are chum salmon driftnet fisheries that can be
15 taking place I believe after August 2nd in District 4A.
16 So please just identify if you want driftnets done for
17 the whole year or just during the king season.
18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Lester, would you put that on the record, please.
23

24 MR. ERHART: Yeah, it would be only for
25 the king season.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
28 for the king season because it says specifically for
29 chinook Districts 1 through 6.
30

31 MR. BASSICH: Federal waters.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal
34 waters. How many State waters is left? I saw that map
35 once. I don't know how you guys do it.
36

37 MR. GLANZ: There's a little bit by
38 Circle.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. This
41 wouldn't affect State waters.
42

43 MR. BUE: The sun is in my eyes. I
44 can't tell if you're asking me or George.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. I'm
47 asking you. Sorry. Whoever will answer.
48

49 MR. BUE: I apologize. Yes, this is a
50 proposal for water adjacent to Federal management

1 units.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what
4 happens if.....
5
6 MR. BUE: But I guess also to add to
7 that is the clarification was just for then the chinook
8 are in the river or are you talking about meshes larger
9 than 6 inch because the chum overlap with chinook. So
10 that would be my additional question.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you
13 understand that question?
14
15 MR. ERHART: (Nods affirmatively)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the
18 answer?
19
20 MR. WOODRUFF: King season
21
22 MR. ERHART: King season.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: King season?
25 Two people said king season without their mics on.
26
27 MR. ERHART: King season.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So is
30 there any other clarification we have to have, Staff?
31 Again, if there was a subsistence opening, State waters
32 would be less restrictive then. They would still be
33 able to use a gillnet?
34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Sure.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
38 Donald.
39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to comment on
41 what Fred said. When he said that they had one through
42 four pulse protections, that works well, but as the
43 fish move upstream the pulses spread out. So by the
44 time they get up to us in the upper river, middle
45 river, whatever you want to call it, there isn't as
46 predominate spikes in the pulse. So I think that
47 having a closure, although we don't driftnet fish
48 there, having a closure on just the pulses is not as
49 effective as if it's over a period of time, say just
50 the king season.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
2 discussion. Because it will have to go in our
3 justification. This is a proposal. Okay. This is a
4 proposal, so we don't have to go forever on it. Okay.
5 I have a motion to put this forward as a proposal for
6 the next cycle and a second. Is there any other
7 discussion.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: So this is going to say no
10 driftnet fishing in 1 through 6 for the duration kings
11 are in the river? Is that how that's going to be?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You guys know
14 it better than me.
15
16 MR. GLANZ: Well, we won't have any
17 drift fishing past -- what area is that?
18
19 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, after 4, I think.
20 So what I'm saying is, I guess, if you wanted chum
21 during a subsistence opener, you'd have to go use a
22 setnet, right?
23
24 MR. ERHART: Yep.
25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.
27
28 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. I just wanted to
29 clarify that.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
32
33 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'm not going to
34 support this. As much as I would love to see this
35 happen, the realities of the fishing on the Yukon
36 River, the lack of setnet sites in the lower river and
37 the amount of people that need to make their
38 subsistence harvest in a very, very short period to go
39 and set a net for a six-hour opening or even an eight-
40 hour opening, which is what it's like down there, is
41 pretty ridiculous to ask a fishermen to go out and find
42 a site, compete with other people for a site, go set a
43 net, fish for four hours and then pull all your gear
44 and go home.
45
46 I think we have to live with the fact
47 that drift fishing is here, it's been here. I
48 understand what Lester is saying. Before drift fishing
49 came, we didn't have issues. I do agree that it's a
50 contributor to the problem, but it's also a fact that

1 there's a lot of households in the Lower Yukon that
2 rely on this summer chum. We're trying to take a
3 surplus of summer chum and reduce king harvest.

4
5 By reducing the gear types that there's
6 no drift fishing, you're not going to be able to even
7 begin to touch what's out there as far as summer chum
8 goes for harvesting that surplus. So it's not doing
9 anything to help the people down there and I really
10 don't see that it's an effective tool in saving king
11 salmon. I think you'd be better off restricting mesh
12 depths or restricting mesh size, but saying that you
13 can't fish with a driftnet is not going to achieve what
14 we're trying to achieve and benefit subsistence users
15 down there.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: I'm just trying to think
20 about.....

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, again,
23 I don't think we have to debate it forever and ever. I
24 think we need to say this is -- we have a proposal in
25 front of us and you're not supporting it.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: At the same time, Madame
28 Chair, I'm just trying to bring out some points that
29 maybe other Council members may not understand about
30 the fisheries throughout the Yukon. It's very
31 different. In every different part of the Yukon it's
32 very different how people fish and how they rely on it.
33 So when you make a proposal that's going to affect all
34 the people, you have to also understand the way those
35 people utilize the fishery, just like we would hope
36 they would do the same for us when they make their
37 proposals.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I
40 understand that.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: So I'm just trying to
43 bring that out on the table and voice that opinion
44 because I think it's very, very important when you're
45 going to make a proposal that you think it through very
46 clearly and that it has a chance of doing something
47 positive and that it's not going to hurt other
48 subsistence users. I think this would do that.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester then

1 Will.

2

3 MR. ERHART: So what are you going to
4 do about the poachers, huh?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. ERHART: You know every village has
9 a poacher.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Will
12 and then James.

13

14 MR. KOEHLER: So I understand and very
15 much appreciate what you're saying because, yeah, I
16 didn't have a clear understanding of that. So what do
17 you offer as a -- so if you oppose this proposal, you
18 offer as a replacement something like gear restriction?

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Well, I think we've
21 already covered some of that. Some of the bullet
22 points that we were talking about earlier are things
23 that are in the toolboxes that are in regulation now
24 that Fish and Game and the Federal agencies have at
25 their disposal to use as conservation measures on
26 chinook salmon while still allowing targeted harvest of
27 excess summer chum. I think that's the right road to
28 go through because that's the point of getting people
29 on the river together and working through these
30 problems, is understanding different methodologies,
31 different techniques, different needs that people have
32 in different parts of the river and then trying to come
33 up with solutions that provide the greatest
34 conservation where you want it with the least amount of
35 harm or difficulties for those subsistence users. I
36 think we've been going down that road now quite
37 successfully for quite a few years.

38

39 I think we're getting to the point now
40 where we're starting to make some real progress in
41 using some of these tools. I think managers are
42 getting more and more comfortable with it and I don't
43 see the need to start a war, is what I don't want to
44 see, because I think right now relations up and down
45 the river, given the chinook crisis, are probably at an
46 all-time high as far as understanding the crisis and
47 trying to work together.

48

49 Are we making progress? Yes. Is it
50 fast enough for some of us? Probably not.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: But we are making
4 progress and I don't want to see us go backwards and I
5 think this would be a very backwards move. This would
6 start a fish war again and we would be battling all
7 kinds of proposals in the future against the way we
8 fish up here. That's what I see happening.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.
11
12 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. Okay. What
13 you're saying on one hand is you're crying about little
14 fish getting across the border, but here's an
15 opportunity to stop the people from catching the big
16 fish. This could be a tool also to protect the bigger
17 fish.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: Understood.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
22 want to give you my observation. What year was it, '97
23 or '98, I had -- I sold it -- a commercial beach seine
24 operation in Norton Sound. I wanted to make some other
25 money, so I decided to go tender on the Yukon. Well,
26 the year I chose to tender on the Yukon is when the
27 fish went away and then I saw the people in the Lower
28 Yukon in those big boats that they have and I saw the
29 opportunities that they have and I saw an array of
30 fishermen, you know, up and down -- I think it's 1
31 through 3. We were up as far as St. Mary's.
32
33 So this is my limited experience on the
34 Yukon. Then I continued to fish in Norton Sound for
35 herring for many years and met a lot of those same
36 people fishing for herring that fish in the Lower
37 Yukon. In the history of being on this Council and
38 listening to everything that's going on, I guess I have
39 compassion for Lester and all you guys on the river and
40 I understand what you're saying, Andy, but at the same
41 time -- I don't know.
42
43 I understand that when a fishery is in
44 really big, big trouble and this is so effective, you
45 can see where sometimes you have to restrict. I don't
46 know. It comes across to me like that. I don't call
47 it a war. I wish people would use some common sense
48 and logic. I mean I'd have to ask those guys do you
49 want to take the last bloody fish on the river. And I
50 don't fish there, but I have a lot of compassion for

1 you and I kind of have a pretty good understanding that
2 the resource is vital and important for the future. I
3 mean -- I don't know. That's kind of where I'm at. I
4 have a deep understanding.

5
6 I want to hear from the rest of you
7 because you're all there on the Yukon.

8
9 MR. FIRMIN: I totally see how that
10 would work and I kind of like the idea of it, but maybe
11 not to just wipe them off the map for fishing
12 altogether. Why not pull a period of drift fishing
13 because I can see what Andy says, how are you going to
14 go find a spot to set a net and fish for four hours.
15 Well, last summer I only had 24 hours to go find a spot
16 and fish it. So maybe we're just leveling the playing
17 field. I mean I've got to wait for somebody to drop
18 dead or drive 30 miles to find a place to set a net in
19 Fort Yukon.

20
21 So I just kind of think, while I
22 respect the proposal and I'm actually in support of it,
23 but to make it fly up and down the river a little
24 better maybe you could pull some of those periods the
25 same as they pull some of our wheel periods and say,
26 oh, you can only run your wheel if you're releasing
27 kings. Okay, well do that down there but say you can
28 only run your -- you can't run drift gear during this
29 opening because basically they're running commercial
30 gear in the subsistence opener and that's why they get
31 a bunch of kings while targeting chums.

32
33 Let's not kid yourself, Andy, they're
34 not targeting chums most of the time, they're targeting
35 kings.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I know that.

38
39 MR. FIRMIN: So I mean there are good
40 people out there trying to do the right thing, but at
41 the same time I couldn't see it hurting the run at all
42 if they pulled one or two of their periods and said,
43 well, you have your opening, but you can only run
44 setnet gear or dipnet gear or something. They're
45 catching more chum today with a dipnet than I do all
46 summer, so what's the problem with pulling their drift
47 gear for one period or two. I think that's something
48 that the managers should keep in mind for this coming
49 season and while this proposal goes through maybe try
50 it out.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They actually
2 did a thing on the Copper River where they wouldn't let
3 the commercial people fish for a longer period of time
4 and more fish for the people upriver. I mean it made a
5 big difference. I'm hearing a good idea there. I have
6 to ask you guys where you're at.

7

8 Larry.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. I'm in
11 the same situation you are. I just voluntarily gave up
12 fishing about 10 years ago when the runs started
13 declining to do my small part in conserving the fish.
14 I just target fall chum now for my dogs. Anyway, I
15 maintain a fish camp on the Yukon river about 30 miles
16 above Beaver or so.

17

18 I'm kind of supporting Lester's
19 proposal because he was telling me a little bit about
20 it a while ago because I don't know that much about how
21 they operate downriver. In fact, I don't know
22 anything. All I know is the Middle Yukon and Upper
23 Yukon how they operate there.

24

25 So I'm going to have to get more
26 information to how those people down there feel about
27 it and how they fish and what this proposal will have
28 an effect on the families, like Andy was saying, who
29 subsist and who depend on these fish for subsistence.
30 So that's what I have to say, Madame Chair.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, did
35 you have your hand up.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, Madame Chair. I'm
38 afraid that the politics gets involved when it should
39 be science. I know that Fish and Game and OSM and
40 these fisheries biologists don't like to make these
41 hard decisions. So I think it's up to us to sort of
42 kick the football down the field. You know, the
43 Federal Subsistence Board doesn't have to accept our
44 proposal if they feel it an undue hardship on people.

45

46 I don't know when they started the
47 driftnet fishery, but they used to setnet fish, so they
48 know about all these sites that they used to use. So I
49 don't think that it's -- it's time to stop pussyfooting
50 around and sort of tell people that we're serious about

1 this chinook issue and it's not going away and I don't
2 see it going away in my lifetime.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we've
5 been on this -- I've been on this thing for 12 years
6 and it's just steadily gone downhill. Lester.

7

8 MR. ERHART: Yeah. There was another
9 thing I found out too when I was in the meeting there
10 in Fort Yukon. They compensate them for their fishery,
11 you know. Like the pollock fishery pays the fishery
12 guys downriver 100 miles into the Yukon. They all get
13 paid for that. Well, we got a little upset about it.
14 We said, hey, we're suffering too. We should get
15 something. When they got upset and said, oh, you want
16 a piece of our pie, huh, and I said, yeah, we do.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
21 it is important.

22

23 MR. ERHART: So they get favors too.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they get
26 that \$100 from that pollock fishery or whatever.....

27

28 MR. ERHART: They didn't -- oh, how
29 much? They wouldn't tell us.

30

31 MR. WILLIAMS: They didn't pay \$100.
32 He said 100 miles.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or 100 miles,
35 yeah. And get paid for something.

36

37 MR. ERHART: Get paid for fish they
38 didn't catch.

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: They were given new 7.5-
41 inch mesh and got paid to change it out of their own
42 nets. Let's put it that way.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you guys
45 weren't.

46

47 MR. ERHART: No.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I can
50 understand the animosity that you guys have. Who's on

1 that? There's three of you, right? You three. So
2 tell me about this working relationship with the
3 downriver guys.
4
5 MR. GLANZ: The tri-council, you mean?
6 You're speaking of that?
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, yeah.
9 Aren't you guys.....
10
11 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, us three right here.
12 We were on the tri-council. We're still on it.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you
15 haven't met in what, two years?
16
17 MR. GLANZ: Is it two? Yeah,
18 everything we met on got sorted out when it went
19 through the system up here.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But all of
22 you guys were working with this in-season stuff, right
23
24 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you
27 think you have a good working relationship right now
28 with the Lower Yukon?
29
30 MR. GLANZ: Well, they went along with
31 us, Mr. Wilde and all them down there, the older guys,
32 and Western went along with us, until we went into the
33 ACs and RACs and it just got all tore up. And that's
34 what Donald was stating there. One time we made a move
35 against the driftnets and, my goodness, we had all
36 kinds of regulations they put through the Alaska State
37 Fish Board. What was it, no fishwheels and they were
38 starting on the 5-inch mesh. They were giving all
39 kinds of laws out they wanted passed because, like Andy
40 said, they started a war.
41
42 We've got to start somewhere. I've
43 been on this nine years and we've been discussing these
44 fish every meeting I've been to and they keep getting
45 worse and worse. If I stay another nine years, which I
46 ain't.....
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MR. GLANZ: but there won't be

1 none left, so we can stop talking about salmon.

2

3 MR. ERHART: I agree.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I mean
6 -- Andy, your concern is it's going to start a war. Do
7 you guys feel like it's going to start a war?

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Let me clarify something.
10 One thing I want to clarify is I don't see how this can
11 be implemented. If you really look at the way the
12 fisheries is being run and managed, how do you take
13 away drift fisheries from the Lower Yukon and expect
14 any kind of harvest when setnet sites are limited, when
15 the growth of the villages has been growing instead of
16 shrinking. In the Upper Yukon it's shrinking. Down
17 there, the population is getting bigger. There's more
18 economic dependence on the fisheries now than there has
19 been in the past.

20

21 The fact that it's something that is
22 just going to be in Federal waters as opposed to the
23 entire Yukon concerns me. If it was something that was
24 adopted by both the State and the Federal management
25 entities, then I'd probably be in support of it, but I
26 just don't see how you can actually make this happen
27 the way the waters are divided. Some communities would
28 be allowed to, some communities wouldn't. So I just
29 think it's going to unduly complicate management with
30 very little gain.

31

32 And I understand where they're coming
33 from on the conservation and I'm fully behind
34 conservation of chinook salmon. I just think we have
35 better tools and better ways of achieving it without
36 creating hardship to subsistence users. But I am in
37 support of full -- I understand why this proposal is on
38 the table and why people feel it's important and, to a
39 certain extent, I'm very supportive of that. I just
40 don't think this achieves what the ultimate goal is.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, anymore
43 discussion. There's a motion on the floor. Unless you
44 make an amendment to it, this is the motion that we'd
45 be voting on.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Possibly -- I don't know.
48 Maybe we could work with Fred and put this on one of
49 your bullet points for the preseason planning meeting
50 and see how that would work. I mean could we pull one

1 drift period for a subsistence opening in the Lower
2 River in all four of them. The same thing with -- I
3 don't know. Do you see what I'm getting at?

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
6 Fred.

7

8 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Maybe I wasn't
9 very clear. I apologize. Currently we don't have the
10 discretion between driftnets and subsistence nets in
11 the lower river. So when I mentioned we closed drift
12 fishing, I meant we closed all gillnets at that time
13 period. So we do not have the authority to
14 discriminate between driftnets and setnets in the lower
15 river. We have -- in times of conservation, we can
16 adjust the mesh size, in times of conservation we can
17 address releasing chinook out of the wheel or chum out
18 of the wheel, but we don't have the discretion to
19 differentiate between drift and setnet, so that is not
20 an option for this coming season just for managers to
21 do this.

22

23 Madame Chair.

24

25 MR. FIRMIN: Well let's make it one
26 then so they can differentiate between gear. You can
27 differentiate between what type of wheel you're running
28 for kings or chums and they're both the same thing.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Explain
31 yourself. Just pass this or come up with something
32 else?

33

34 MR. FIRMIN: I'm saying give the in-
35 season managers the power to differentiate between
36 gear. You can only use dipnets today. Tomorrow you
37 can only use setnets. Day after that you can only use
38 fishwheels. If they can't do it now, the difference
39 between type of gillnet.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can that be a
42 proposal?

43

44 MR. FIRMIN: That's what I'm saying. I
45 guess I would have to go -- maybe have to take a
46 different route.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you hear
49 what he was saying? Can that be done? Can we put a
50 proposal forth to say that?

1 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. You can --
2 well, that's what this opportunity is. This is.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To give you
5 the authority.

6
7 MR. BUE: Yes. It goes to -- the
8 Federal Subsistence Board you can do it. You can
9 submit a proposal in the future to the Board of Fish.
10 That's what your authority is. It's not up to the
11 management to make those allocative decisions is what
12 it amounts to. That's your realm. Madame Chair.

13
14 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George
15 Pappas.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Go
18 ahead, George.

19
20 MR. PAPPAS: Yes. Fred has delegated
21 authority to do certain things and it's laid out within
22 the framework established by the Federal Subsistence
23 Board.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The first
26 sentence is great. The rest of it is garbled.

27
28 MR. PAPPAS: I'm sorry. I'll work on
29 this. Fred has the delegated in-season authority to do
30 certain things within the framework established by the
31 Federal Subsistence Board. If you express intent on
32 record here that you want Fred to have the ability to
33 differentiate between gear types, you can put a generic
34 proposal in like this and Fred and I can work on this
35 and see what's legally possible or not. You'll have a
36 chance to review a full Federal analysis at the fall
37 meeting before by it goes to the Federal Subsistence
38 Board or you could actually modify it at that time, but
39 your intent is pretty much being captured here on
40 record at this time.

41
42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Who's
45 going to recap that for me? Fred, you can, can't you?

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. BUE: I think essentially he said
50 that's what you do, is make a proposal, it goes to the

1 Board and then, through the Board, gives me delegated
2 authority to implement.....

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But
5 our timeline right now is that this call is up here in
6 a couple.....

7

8 MR. BUE: Right. And what you're
9 speaking to is the record. So, if that's captured in
10 what you've discussed here, then we can craft it into a
11 proposal and put it forward.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we just
14 say what our intent is and go forward, yeah. And I
15 think you pretty much did it right there. But we'd
16 have to have that as an amendment or.....

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I would
19 recommend we take a vote on what's on the table and
20 then, if we want to address what Andrew was bringing up
21 in giving the power of differentiating gear types, we
22 make that a separate motion.

23

24 My understanding of what Mr. Pappas was
25 saying was that basically OSM needs the intent of what
26 it is we're trying to do. They will do a full analysis
27 and then they will maybe work with us to craft the
28 proposal, the wording.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

31

32 MR. KOEHLER: Does this motion have a
33 second?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It did have a
36 second.

37

38 MR. KOEHLER: Can we -- we seem to be
39 kind of getting around the axle. Can we call the
40 question and move on or not?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Certainly.
43 Is everybody ready for the question.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: We haven't heard our
46 fearless vice-president's opinion yet. First thing in
47 the morning.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So does that
50 mean you want to table it?

1 MR. FIRMIN: We could table it and see
2 what he says.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
5 that's the word.
6
7 MR. GLANZ: Recess it or something.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we'll
10 just.....
11
12 MR. ROBERTS: Call it a day and start
13 tomorrow.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, call it
16 a day and start tomorrow. Does that sound like a plan?
17
18 MR. GLANZ: Sounds like a plan to me.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One minute.
21 Is there someone online who we can't understand.....
22
23 MS. PATTON: Jeff is here and he can
24 present an overview.....
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. On
27 the call for fisheries proposals? Because right now
28 they're both up, State and Federal. At a meeting I
29 learned that -- it's nine years before this will happen
30 again, but they both come up the same year.
31
32 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Madame Chair.
33 Jeff Estensen with Fish and Game. If it pleases the
34 Chair and members of the Council, if you want me to, I
35 could discuss the four proposals at the upcoming
36 meeting that are going to be up there and I could give
37 you the Department's Staff comments if you like. It's
38 up to you.
39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, it's very
41 important.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
44 to do it tonight, guys, or do you want to go for it in
45 the morning? These four proposals.
46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: It's up to you.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it's up
50 to you.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Let's keep going.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
4
5 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. I think
6 we can make it fairly quick.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
9 answer is yes.
10
11 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George
12 Pappas. This took about 45 minutes to the other two
13 Regional Advisory Councils. I think there's a
14 presentation to associate with it from Gene Sandone.
15
16 Thank you, Madame Chair.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We heard the
19 45 minutes at the other Councils. The rest of it we
20 didn't hear. Do you want to continue?
21
22 MR. PAPPAS: Sure. At the other two
23 Councils, the Western Interior and the YKD RAC, there
24 was a presentation made by the proponent of the
25 proposal and then the Federal Subsistence Program
26 weighed in and then the State weighed in on the
27 proposals going to the Board of Fish.
28
29 Thank you, Madame Chair.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ahhhhh.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Vince took
34 notes at Western Interior. He might be able to provide
35 that information.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andrew
38 was signaling me that this 372 was put in by Virgil.
39 Wait for him for that one.
40
41 MR. ERHART: Yeah.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, you
44 were preparing to do something. But you were saying
45 this is quick. I want to see that.
46
47 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Actually
48 I can very quickly give you what the proposal is and
49 what our Staff comments is. Depending on your
50 discussion, it's entirely up to -- so it's your choice.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's try
2 one.

3
4 MR. ESTENSEN: I mean it could
5 potentially take half an hour or, as George says, 45
6 minutes, maybe even longer. I really can't say.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
9 just try one and see what happens. Then you can tell
10 me if you want to go on, gang.

11
12 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay. So, Madame Chair.
13 Again, Jeff Estensen, Alaska Department of Fish and
14 Game. I guess is it for me to read them in or is
15 George supposed to do that or I'm not really sure what
16 the process is.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: George can't
19 do that because we'd never understand him.

20
21 MR. ESTENSEN: George can't do it.
22 Exactly. Okay. So why don't I just go ahead and go
23 through the order here unless there's a better way to
24 do this. So, anyway, the first one is Proposal 371,
25 which is formerly ACR-3. This was submitted by the
26 Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association.
27 Essentially what this is doing is looking to remove
28 dipnet size restrictions for the Yukon area Districts 1
29 through 3 commercial summer chum fisheries.

30
31 Just some background. Currently right
32 now there is a size restriction on the dipnets, which
33 we discussed earlier or the group here discussed
34 earlier, the Council, which is up to 5 feet. That's the
35 maximum measured across. All the depth of it has to be
36 at least one-half of the maximum width of it and it has
37 to be 4.5-inch mesh. What this proposal is seeking to
38 do is remove the size restrictions from these
39 completely.

40
41 Just real quickly, the Department is
42 opposed to -- completely opposes this proposal as it's
43 written. We're definitely opposed to completely
44 removing any dipnet size restrictions from what's there
45 right now.

46
47 The reason why they want to remove the
48 restrictions is this proposal looks to increase the
49 harvest efficiency of summer chum and the Department
50 feels that by doing so you would also increase the

1 potential or increase the incidental harvest of chinook
2 salmon.

3

4 Currently the specs -- and, as we've
5 observed on the Yukon with the fishery we saw last year
6 and also here getting information from around other
7 areas of the state, that the current specs right now do
8 allow and have shown to be able to allow the safe
9 return of kings to the water when they're harvested in
10 the dipnet.

11

12 As it stands right now, as I mentioned,
13 this proposal is the complete removal of size
14 restrictions on the dipnets and the Department would
15 potentially be interested in maybe looking at specific
16 aspects of modifying the dipnets, but as it's written
17 right now with just removing everything, we're opposed
18 to it.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
21 There's all kinds of things happening out here. Right
22 now questions is all I'm looking for and then I think
23 we're getting some other reports, okay. Questions.

24

25 Andy.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: I just want to be clear.
28 Are we going to take a vote on whether we support these
29 or not tonight or are we just going to discuss these
30 tonight? Because I'm ready to just make a motion to
31 support this, have a brief discussion and then either
32 pass support for this or not.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I would
35 say when we start this process, that's where we go. So
36 do you guys want to go ahead? We're trying one. We're
37 going for it.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I'd like to make a
40 motion that.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now wait a
43 minute. We've got to hear from everybody. We've got
44 to hear from the State.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have this
49 process here we're supposed to follow, okay.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: I'm getting ahead of
2 myself.
3
4 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Do you
5 want me to read through them all and then you'll take
6 action on them or do you want to take action one at a
7 time?
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One at a
10 time.
11
12 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George
13 Pappas, Federal Subsistence Program.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
16
17 MR. PAPPAS: Yeah, we have a position
18 on this. Also the proponent of this proposal has a
19 presentation to make on this. I believe you have
20 (indiscernible).
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We get one
23 sentence out of you and then it goes haywire. I did
24 hear that OSM has a position.
25
26 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it was?
29
30 MR. PAPPAS: The OSM Federal
31 Subsistence Management Program opposes using the
32 larger, more effective dipnets in the chum salmon
33 commercial fishery during times of low abundance
34 because we don't know what the impacts will be to the
35 kings at the very least. I have a lot more, but
36 that's.....
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
39 enough.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. PAPPAS: Okay. The proponent for
44 the proposal is online.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry. We
47 got the gist of that.
48
49 MS. PATTON: The proponent is online.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who's the
2 proponent? Gene Sandone.
3
4 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I think so.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
7 following my procedure. The next one is ADF&G. You
8 already said it, right?
9
10 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. I already
11 stated our position that the Department is opposed to
12 this.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal
15 agencies. Native, tribal, village or other.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
20 ACs that took this up?
21
22 MR. LORD: We opposed it.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nenana
25 opposed it.
26
27 MR. BASSICH: Eagle opposed it.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did Tanana
30 take it up, you guys?
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: Yukon Flats AC opposed it
33 and we opposed it at the last YRDFA meeting also.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You guys took
36 it up too, right?
37
38 MR. ERHART: I'm not on the AC.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you're
41 not? I thought you were, Lester. I thought you were
42 the Chair. Okay.
43
44 MR. ESTENSEN: Also FYI, Madame Chair,
45 that the Fairbanks AC opposed this proposal as well.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
48
49 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair. George
50 Pappas. The Western Interior RAC and the Yukon Delta

1 RAC supported this proposal.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: Of course.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How fun is
6 that. Okey-dokey. All right. I got it. I think we
7 got it. That we understood. Is there any public
8 testimony on this.
9
10 MR. SANDONE: Madame Chair. Gene
11 Sandone.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
14
15 MR. SANDONE: This is Gene Sandone.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I heard
18 you. So you are public and you're going to speak.
19
20 MR. SANDONE: I do have a presentation
21 and I believe you have handouts for the two proposals.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
24 going to get our handouts here.
25
26 MR. SANDONE: Shall I go forward with
27 the presentation, ma'am.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
30 cutting out. We're having serious trouble here.
31
32 MR. SANDONE: I said should I go
33 forward with the presentation.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We want to
36 look at your handout, okay.
37
38 MR. SANDONE: Okay. The one you want
39 to look at is Yukon Area Proposals to the Alaska Board
40 of Fisheries March 2014. The other one is just for
41 your information. It shows how we conducted the test
42 fishery last year.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
45 heard we're supposed to look at March 13. I think
46 that's what we heard here.
47
48 MR. SANDONE: It's the Yukon Area
49 Proposals to the Alaska Board of Fisheries March 2014.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 2014. I
2 wonder if our teleconferencing is going to get any
3 better tomorrow. It's the phone line. Yeah, one
4 sentence works and the rest of it is history. I've
5 been Skyping and it's been 100 percent great. Yes.

6
7 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Jeff
8 Estensen, Fish and Game. I'm sorry. I should have
9 mentioned this before we started that Jennifer Yuhas
10 should have distributed to all the Council members a
11 copy of our Staff comments, so you should have received
12 a copy of that. Then Jeremy Mears with the U.S. Fish
13 and Wildlife Service should have provided you with a
14 copy of all the proposals that we're going to be
15 covering so you do have copies of those materials.

16
17 MS. PATTON: This is Gene's.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody has
20 Gene's? Okay. No wonder it takes 45 minutes. All
21 right. I'm going to ask you a question, Andrew.
22 Earlier we asked about this and you wanted the handout.
23 Do you have some specific questions?

24
25 MR. FIRMIN: No, not really. I just
26 thought that Gene would probably bring more insight to
27 it than reading off a one-pager out of the Board of
28 Fish book. That was why I wanted to see this.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not sure
31 we're going to be able to understand him.

32
33 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, we haven't been able
34 to hear anybody all day on teleconference, but perhaps
35 we could take this up tomorrow.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
38 want to take this up tomorrow and ask questions or do
39 you want to try to ask questions. I'm here for you.
40 What do you want to do?

41
42 MR. GLANZ: Come back tomorrow. As
43 soon as they get this going, we can talk to people.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Gene,
46 we're having serious difficulties understanding the
47 teleconferencing. We get five to seven words and then
48 we can't understand. So the Council members are
49 talking about looking at the handout and trying to deal
50 with this in the morning. I'm wondering, are you

1 available in the morning?
2
3 MR. SANDONE: Yes, I am, Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got
6 it. Do we want to start at 8:30 in the morning?
7
8 MR. GLANZ: That's good.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 8:30 in the
11 morning. We'll stand down till then.
12
13 MR. SANDONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14
15 Appreciate it.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
18
19 (Off record)
20
21 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 141 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 6th day of March 2014;

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 6th day of April 2014.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14