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ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING REGULATORY MEETING

APRIL 2, 2008

Members Present:

- Ron Clarke, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Chair
- Herman Squartsoff, Kodiak Area Native Association
- Doug Alcorn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Sandy Tahbone, Kawerak, Incorporated
- Taqulik Hepa, North Slope Borough
- Myron Naneng, AVCP, YK-Delta Region
- Ida Hildebrand, Chugach Regional Resource Commission
- Molly Chythlook, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands
- Matt Kookesh, Southeast Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Hazel Apok, Maniilaq Association
- Fred Armstrong, Executive Director

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage - 4/2/2008)

(On record - 9:01 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining us this morning for this meeting of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. My name is Ron Clarke with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and it's the State's turn in the rotation to chair the meeting today, so we'll be rolling along there.

If you're a visitor or an interested member of the public, please sign in at the front door there and make sure you get your name on the list for the record. Make sure you have your cell phones turned off or set to vibrate so we don't interrupt the proceedings.

There will be several opportunities for the public to testify. When you do come up to talk to the council, be sure you turn the microphone on and identify yourself. State your name and your affiliation, if any, for the record.

With that, according to our normal tradition, we'll begin the meeting with a moment of silence, please.

(Moment of silence)

CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much. Our thoughts are especially with Patty Schwalenberg who is unable to join us today. She's got a family medical emergency and our thoughts are with her this morning.

The next order of business is to seat alternates for a couple of the entities with us today. Ida Hildebrand is here representing the Chugach Regional Resources Commission. Hazel Apok is representing Maniilaq. We hope she'll join us shortly. And Sandy Tahbone is here with Kawerak. Member Chythlook, Molly, you expressed an interest in appointing Frank Woods as an alternate if you are called away.

MS. CHYTHLOOK: I talked to Doug and he said to submit a letter to Fred.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: For purposes of this
2 meeting today?
3
4 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No, not for the purpose
5 of the meeting. It's just when I'm not available.
6 Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are there any other
9 alternates to be seated.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there any
14 objection to those alternates being seated.
15
16 (No objections)
17
18 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. We
19 welcome you all to the table. In order to continue the
20 meeting, we need to establish that a quorum is present
21 and Executive Director Armstrong if you would call the
22 roll please, we'll take care of that.
23
24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Association of Village Council Presidents.
26
27 (No response)
28
29 MR. ARMSTRONG: I know Myron is here.
30 He'll be here shortly. Bristol Bay Native Association.
31
32 (No response)
33
34 MR. ARMSTRONG: Chugach Regional
35 Resource Commission.
36
37 MS. HILDEBRAND: Here.
38
39 MR. ARMSTRONG: Copper River Native
40 Association.
41
42 (No response)
43
44 MR. ARMSTRONG: Kawerak.
45
46 MS. TAHBONE: Here.
47
48 MR. ARMSTRONG: Southeast Alaska
49 Inter-tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission.
50

1 (No response)
2
3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Aleutian/Pribilof
4 Island Association.
5
6 MR. DEVINE: Here.
7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.
9
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Here.
11
12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Maniilaq.
13
14 MS. APOK: Here.
15
16 MR. ARMSTRONG: North Slope Borough.
17 Mr. Chair, I know Taqulik Hepa is here. She attended
18 the work session yesterday.
19
20 TCC. Mr. Chair, Mike Smith submitted
21 an email indicating that he had another commitment and
22 wouldn't be here. He's in Whitehorse attending a Yukon
23 fisheries meeting.
24
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
26
27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Present.
28
29 MR. ARMSTRONG: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
30 Service.
31
32 MR. ALCORN: Here.
33
34 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. You have a
35 quorum.
36
37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Fred.
38 We'd like to introduce the members of the Council for
39 the benefit of the audience here. I think it would be
40 easiest if we went around the table and give your name
41 for the record and state your association and who
42 you're representing. Hazel, would you begin, please.
43
44 MS. APOK: Sure. My name is Hazel Apok
45 and I'm the natural resources coordinator for Maniilaq
46 Association.
47
48 MS. HILDEBRAND: I'm Ida Hildebrand.
49 I'm the tribal natural resources project manager for
50 Chugach Regional Resources Commission. I'm here for

1 both the main people that are supposed to be sitting
2 here.

3
4 MS. TAHBONE: Good morning. I'm Sandy
5 Tahbone. I represent the Kawerak Region.

6
7 MR. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong.
8 Executive director for the Council.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: My name is Ron
11 Clarke. I'm the assistant director of the Division of
12 Wildlife Conservation for the Alaska Department of Fish
13 and Game.

14
15 MR. ALCORN: I'm Doug Alcorn. I'm the
16 assistant regional director for migratory birds and
17 State programs for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
18 in Anchorage.

19
20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Herman Squartsoff.
21 Sun'aq Tribal, representing the Kodiak area.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. NANENG: Myron Naneng. President
26 of the Association of Village Council Presidents.

27
28 MR. DEVINE: Peter Devine.
29 Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association.

30
31 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Molly Chythlook. BBNA
32 natural resources director.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And maybe if the
35 Staff would do the same, please.

36
37 MR. OSTRAND: Bill Ostrand, Fish and
38 Wildlife Service.

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst, Staff
41 counsel.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: And Nate is our AV
44 specialist keeping us all on the record. Let's do the
45 same, please, for members of the audience. If you
46 would give your name and who you're representing and
47 anything else you might like to add at this time.
48 Let's start over here.

49
50 MS. BROWN: Wennona Brown. Subsistence

1 coordinator for Yukon Flats, Kanuti and Arctic National
2 Wildlife Refuges, Fairbanks.

3
4 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods, Bristol Bay
5 Native Association.

6
7 MR. LIEDBERG: Paul Liedberg
8 representing Togiak National Wildlife Refuges.

9
10 MR. ROTHE: Tom Rothe, waterfowl
11 coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

12
13 MR. STARK: Rory Stark, U.S. Fish and
14 Wildlife Service law enforcement, Anchorage.

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Tim Andrew.

17
18 MR. IRONS: David Irons.

19
20 MR. OATES: Russ Oates. I'm the chief
21 of Fish and Migratory Bird Management, Fish and
22 Wildlife Service in Anchorage.

23
24 MR. SIMON: Jim Simon, regional program
25 manager of the Northern Region, Division of
26 Subsistence, Department of Fish and Game.

27
28 MS. BROWN: Vickie Brown, Subsistence
29 Division, Fairbanks.

30
31 MR. TROST: I'm Bob Trost, Fish and
32 Wildlife Service, and I'm a Pacific Flyway
33 representative.

34
35 MR. SUYDAM: Good morning. My name is
36 Robert Suydam. I'm with the North Slope Borough
37 Department of Wildlife Management.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you all very
40 much for joining us this morning. At eight minutes
41 into the meeting, we're going to take a short break.
42 I'm going to have a five-minute break so the Native
43 voting rep can be selected and we do have a caucus room
44 over here. So if you want to take about a five-minute
45 break, we'll be back on the record at 14 minutes past
46 9:00.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We'll go back on the
4 record at 9:35. Have you selected a voting
5 representative?

6

7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. With our
8 Native caucus we did come to an agreement that I would
9 be the person representing. Herman Squartsoff.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thanks, Herman. Next
12 on our agenda we need to adopt the agenda. You've got
13 a fairly complete agenda in front of you. I would make
14 two suggestions if I might. Under other business we'd
15 like to have a report by Kim Trust on the plans for
16 avian influenza work in the 2008 season and then under
17 new business I'd like to suggest we add a report on
18 species of concern by Fish and Game and Fish and
19 Wildlife Service, Tom Rothe and Russ Oates, as the
20 first item under new business to have the benefit of
21 that information before we consider proposals. Does
22 anyone else have any suggestions for additions or
23 changes to the agenda? Mr. Oates.

24

25 MR. OATES: Mr. Chair. Just a quick
26 comment. I don't see Kim here. I'll give a call and
27 see if I can find her.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That would be under
30 other business, which is quite a ways down the agenda,
31 so I think we're okay for now, but thank you. If we
32 get close to that, the Chair will probably take you up
33 on that offer.

34

35 Are there any objections to the amended
36 agenda as proposed.

37

38 (No objections)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none, we will
41 assume that that agenda is adopted and operable for
42 purposes of our meeting today. Next on the agenda is
43 our first of two opportunities for public comment.
44 Again, if you're joining us as a member of the public,
45 we'd ask you to sign in at the sheet on the table at
46 the front door. If you have a topic to address the
47 Council on, if you would come to the microphone, turn
48 the microphone on and state your name and affiliation
49 for the record. With that, I'd ask if there's any
50 public comment at this time.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none, we'll
4 move along on the agenda. The first item is the
5 adoption of Council action items from the fall meeting,
6 September 28th of 2007. It can be found under Tab 1 of
7 your packet. Give everybody a moment to quickly review
8 those actions. When everyone has had a chance to look
9 at that, I would entertain a motion to adopt those
10 action items as reported in the draft minutes as it
11 were.

12

13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I so move.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
16 Squartsoff. Is there a second.

17

18 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Is there
21 any discussion.

22

23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I'd like
24 to know, did that letter get sent out to the Park
25 Service there for the Hoonah Committee?

26

27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
28 Squartsoff. Mr. Armstrong or Staff members, did that
29 letter go?

30

31 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst. Getting
32 with Southeast and the Park Service, the Park Service
33 is in the process of doing an EIS on opening the park
34 for subsistence egging, so it's due out any time. So
35 the decision was made with talking to Southeast that we
36 would just wait to do a letter as part of the official
37 comments on the EIS instead of doing one before the EIS
38 came out. So that's the plan.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Donna.
41 Any further discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there any
46 objection to adopting the action items from the fall
47 meeting as written.

48

49 (No objections)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
2 motion carries. Let's move on to reports from our
3 regions. I think we can just go around the table and
4 tackle regional reports that way. Member Chythlook,
5 would you like to begin with your regional report,
6 please.

7
8 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No. I'll start.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thanks.

11
12 MS. CHYTHLOOK: My name is Molly
13 Chythlook, BBNA. First off, I'd like to introduce the
14 subsistence coordinator that we hired a year ago March,
15 I guess, is Frank Woods. Then the other one I'd like
16 to recognize is Paul Liedberg. He's from our Togiak
17 National Wildlife Refuge. He's been one of the key
18 people that have been very supportive within our region
19 in Togiak. When I travel to the communities, it's been
20 encouraging to have people recognize him to be pretty
21 open and patient as far as them trying to recognize and
22 understand the different regulations that come about.
23 So, Paul Liedberg.

24
25 This year, since our last meeting,
26 we've had two regional meetings, one in April of '07
27 and then we just went through another one March of '08.
28 Normally our regional meetings are held in Dillingham
29 for the cost purposes because it's so expensive to get
30 some of our members to Dillingham, but because of the
31 Naknek proposal we decided to have our regional meeting
32 at Naknek so that we'll be available for Naknek people
33 to attend to address the Naknek River closure proposal,
34 and that worked out okay.

35
36 I'll just go over some of the concerns
37 from our regional representatives. When I first came
38 on, what I started was to have our regional membership
39 to give a regional report, which is very helpful
40 because we have 31 communities and it's widespread.
41 Even within BBNA, I just know my area and it was hard
42 for me to understand and get the information from the
43 outlying regions. So I'll just go by villages with
44 their reports.

45
46 Lake Iliamna Region reported that the
47 swans -- this is in '07 -- the swans and geese arrived
48 as normal, but the ducks hadn't arrived due to late
49 spring. The hunters, I guess, hunted as usual in spite
50 of the avian flu scare that they have. One of the

1 concerns for migration routes and habitat and resting
2 locations was, of course, the Pebble Mine. That's one
3 of our biggest concerns for all the regions because
4 that's going to offset a lot of our resources over
5 there once it's established.

6
7 The Naknek rep mentioned that the
8 elders suggested no spring hunt and no summer hunt
9 because they indicated that the spring hunts bring eggs
10 to the region and they want to preserve that so that
11 hopefully through protecting the eggings the birds will
12 multiply, but the fall hunt was permissible for the
13 community there.

14
15 The Togiak Region, 20 years ago the
16 birds were plenty as far as their observations were
17 concerned. The younger people today aren't hunting due
18 to, I guess, lack of resources as far as
19 transportation, gas and whatnot, and that's pretty
20 normal. With the elders getting out of the picture,
21 they expect the younger generation to perform the
22 hunting, but the Togiak representative also noted that
23 the younger generation's diet is changing and that's
24 affecting the hunt, not only for migratory birds but
25 other resources. And they're still having a problem
26 with duck stamps and needed more education. I know
27 that Togiak National Refuge personnel have been going
28 to the schools, but I think the older and middle-aged
29 people are still having a hard time understanding that.

30
31 And our Alaska Peninsula
32 representative, harvesting birds appear healthy, but
33 the avian flu still is a concern for their region.
34 Although they're still hunting, the avian flu has
35 impacted the harvest for that region.

36
37 Nushagak River rep has four communities
38 that he represents and I guess one of the main
39 education that he's been trying to implement is no lead
40 shot when hunting birds. Their main traditional
41 harvesting is spring. His reasoning is in the spring
42 migration the birds tend to fly lower than the fall
43 outgoing birds that tend to fly higher, so they prefer
44 to harvest birds in the spring. He appreciated the
45 fact that Fish and Wildlife personnel come to the
46 communities to teach about avian flu and the last visit
47 they had had 40 people attending to learn about the
48 avian flu.

49
50 These communities are, I guess,

1 starting to accept the duck stamp and sort of
2 understanding it, but they still have a concern about
3 duck stamps. Then he mentioned they had an early
4 spring breakup of the ice and the migration of the
5 birds, especially New Stuyahok, which is the middle
6 community between Ekwok and Koliganek. The migration
7 of the birds in that section of the community is
8 changing and this year, in his report, he mentioned
9 that because of the HUD home buildings that were built
10 right in kind of an area where the migration routes
11 usually take place, he assumed that maybe the birds
12 were distracted by the shiny roofs of the HUD homes
13 that were built right through their flyway. He said
14 there's usually two groups of flyways over their
15 communities and the last three years that has changed
16 to one.

17
18 One of the LRA's from Togiak,
19 originally from Nelson Island, that made some comments
20 about migration flyways that he noticed when he went up
21 to Nelson Island to hunt. He said he went to his
22 traditional location to hunt, but because of traffic
23 there were no birds. The elders that he talked to up
24 there told him that there was just too much traffic,
25 airplanes. I guess traditionally they used to have one
26 mail run into the communities once a month, but now
27 it's not only mail runs but passenger airplanes coming
28 in and out.

29
30 And then I'm down to our 2007 migratory
31 bird survey and that's completed with 17 communities.
32 This is my first year dealing with migratory bird
33 surveys under BBNA. Normally we had 15 communities,
34 but four Alaska Peninsula villages were added to our
35 survey, so now we have 17. Of course, Togiak National
36 Wildlife Refuge surveys three Bristol Bay villages,
37 which is Manokotak, Togiak and Twin Hills. We're ready
38 to start our 2008 surveys for our region.

39
40 This year was different. Normally the
41 Bristol Bay survey is alternating years. The
42 alternating years were okay as far as the budget was
43 concerned, but because we're doing a back to back this
44 year, the budget is going to be something I really need
45 to watch. With the alternating years, we were able to
46 pick up kind of an overspent from the survey year, but
47 this year we're not going to have that window as far as
48 picking up possibly overspent on the survey year
49 regarding '08.

50

1 There were a couple recommendations
2 that came out from this last meeting. When you look at
3 your regulation books on Page 12, Bristol Bay, when the
4 regional reps looked at the opening of egging for
5 Bristol Bay, they thought that July 15 was too late
6 into the season because as soon as the birds start -- I
7 don't know what that term is -- when the embryo start
8 to the point where they're starting to form, then the
9 majority of the people don't harvest. Although I've
10 been gotten after by my folks when they were alive when
11 I would go collect eggs, I'd collect the cleanest eggs
12 I'd find in the nests, but my folks would get after me
13 for picking what they called green eggs because they
14 also like the eggs with water in them. So the regional
15 group thought that July 15 was too late, but maybe June
16 15 might be a possible drop dead day for the closure.
17

18 Then the other discussion, kind of an
19 issue, they didn't really make a recommendation, but
20 the issue when we were talking about bird closures was
21 -- I don't know what the term would be, but wanton
22 waste of taking of birds. According to our tradition,
23 when we harvest a bird, we eat everything. What the
24 regional group didn't like was the fact that when
25 somebody harvests a bird they just take the breast and
26 waste the other edible parts of the bird. The
27 discussion was that maybe at some point when there's a
28 concern about certain birds, that use of the whole bird
29 be implemented versus just taking the breast meat.
30

31 That's all I have. Thank you.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Do the
34 Members have any questions for Member Chythlook.
35

36 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Very good
37 report, Molly. Touched a lot of good points and a lot
38 of concerns in our area, too.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Anyone else? With
43 that, Member Devine, would you pass along what's going
44 on in the Aleutians and the Pribilofs, please.
45

46 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not
47 too much going on. At our RMBC regional management
48 body meeting, we had four villages out of 13 respond.
49 Of those four there wasn't too much hunting activity
50 due to the weather. It's either too nice or too windy.

1 You can't get a medium ground. So there hasn't been a
2 lot of activity.

3
4 One of the things we've done in the
5 Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association is Karen
6 Pletnikoff is working on getting something to where we
7 can recognize an oiled bird and she's got funding for
8 the bands and I guess because of cost she couldn't get
9 as many bands as she wanted to, but this is going to be
10 a first-time purchase and then after that whoever
11 spills the oil will be responsible for replacing the
12 bands and they'll be housed with Fish and Game or
13 Department of Interior, whoever handles that. So she's
14 been working on that ever since that oil spill out in
15 Unalaska with -- I can't pronounce the name, but you
16 all know what boat it is. It's the Selendang Ayu. But
17 there was no way for the hunters to recognize if they
18 had an oiled bird, so she's been working on it and it's
19 almost finalized.

20
21 If anybody has any extra money, she
22 could use it. When I talked to her last week, she said
23 it was pretty close to it happening. So, for the next
24 oil spill, hopefully we won't have one, but there will
25 be something in place for when they're cleaning up the
26 birds and rehabilitating them, they'll be able to band
27 them and the hunters be able to recognize that this is
28 an oiled bird.

29
30 That's it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
33 questions. Would you tell us that woman's name again,
34 please.

35
36 MR. DEVINE: It's Karen Pletnikoff and
37 she works at the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Anyone
40 else?

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much.
45 With that, Member Naneng, would you give your report,
46 please.

47
48 MR. NANENG: Thank you. My name is
49 Myron Naneng. First off, I think that the YK Delta
50 National Wildlife Refuge is at a loss without a leader

1 at the refuge itself. They have not hired a new refuge
2 manager since Mike took the lead in the Science and
3 Engineering Department in Fish and Wildlife Service and
4 we haven't had a Waterfowl Conservation Committee
5 meeting for the last two years. With the region that
6 has led the state in many of the waterfowl issues for
7 the last 20 some odd years, we feel that we're no
8 longer participating in any of the waterfowl issues
9 that are coming forward within the state and that's a
10 shame.

11
12 One of the proposals that came forward
13 from Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement was to
14 eliminate any reference to subsistence in our migratory
15 bird -- the YK Delta Goose Management Plan. That
16 document was put together back in 1984 and the proposal
17 to eliminate any reference to subsistence is a
18 non-negotiable item in the eyes of many of our people
19 in the YK Delta, especially for those people who have
20 made sacrifices to conserve in rebuilding the four
21 Arctic nesting geese species; the Cackling Canada
22 Goose, the Emperor Goose, which is still an ongoing
23 concern. We haven't had any current updates regarding
24 that. The White Fronted Goose, which has increased
25 dramatically in the population and the Cackling Canada
26 Geese, and the Black Brant.

27
28 We still have an issue with the State
29 of Alaska law enforcement stopping people and asking if
30 they have a hunting license for ptarmigan hunting
31 during springtime. That's creating a tension between
32 the villages and State of Alaska law enforcement or
33 fish and wildlife protection officers. I hope that
34 Fish and Wildlife Service is not a party to that. If
35 that continues on, I don't know if the YK Delta will
36 want to participate any longer with the Alaska
37 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.

38
39 We've given all our hearts and efforts
40 to try and make this happen, but with all of that
41 coming about, you know, they need to sit down with us,
42 work with us to address these concerns and issues. For
43 a region that has been looked at to have the largest
44 waterfowl population in the state of Alaska and being
45 treated that way, that's not fair to our people in the
46 YK Delta. Warnings have been given to our boaters who
47 hunt Black Ducks every spring as long as we can
48 remember.

49
50 One of the good things that happened is

1 that out in one of the prime nesting areas working with
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA,
3 National Conservation Resource Service Area, our
4 village corporation, and the people that have worked
5 there for the four Federal agencies are going to be
6 getting a national recognition later on this month in
7 Washington, D.C. for addressing all-terrain vehicle
8 habitat depredation right there at Kokechik Bay, which
9 has the largest nesting population of Black Brant and
10 other waterfowl species. Our community got together
11 and started working on the road project, the trail
12 project that is now being used as an example for the
13 other villages in the YK Delta.

14
15 One of the things that happened, to
16 give a short history, back in 2003 we saw a lot of
17 trails on the Kokechik Bay prime nesting area for
18 waterfowl. At that time, when they did inventory or
19 did an aerial count of nesting pairs of Black Brants,
20 there were only like a little over 400 nesting pairs.
21 A couple years after that implementation of our village
22 working with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the nesting
23 pairs increased up to over 4,000 nesting pairs. That's
24 from people who made the effort to conserve the
25 resource that they rely on, yet, at the same time, it's
26 just getting to the point where we feel that we're not
27 being treated with respect for our efforts in our
28 villages. At the same time, they want to recognize the
29 village for having made the contribution.

30
31 So Fish and Wildlife Service will be
32 there as well as our village corporation and the four -
33 - the other two National Park Service and National
34 Conservation Resource Service representatives will be
35 getting a national award for working on that project.
36 But I would like to say that we haven't had a waterfowl
37 conservation committee meeting for the last couple of
38 years and we had done that on an annual basis. We
39 haven't had a survey done for the last couple years of
40 the harvest, so we're in limbo.

41
42 Are we going to get to the point where
43 our region is no longer going to be a major player
44 after making many years of sacrifices to help rebuild
45 the waterfowl species. If that happens, that's a
46 shame. So I just wanted to let the Council know that
47 we would like to continue to participate as
48 co-management council, but in light of some of these
49 issues that are coming forward, it's just getting to
50 the point where I think that attitudes from law

1 enforcement and people with service need to change.

2

3 One of the other items that I'd like to
4 point out is 50.CFR.20. Within there there's some
5 regulations that are migratory bird hunting regulations
6 that are stated in there and we have our spring/summer
7 migratory bird hunt under AMBCC and if Tim would hand
8 that out. There's some proposed language in there that
9 will make it illegal for many of our people in the YK
10 Delta to completely stop some of the things they've
11 done since time immemorial.

12

13 One is if my younger brother or my son
14 had a problem carrying some of the waterfowl that he
15 caught, it would be illegal for me to help transport
16 them back to the village if I took him out hunting.
17 Out there in the YK Delta you don't travel alone,
18 otherwise you're asking for trouble. So there's no
19 common sense in some of these proposed regulations,
20 especially for people that live in the YK Delta or any
21 part of the state for that matter.

22

23 Such language like from a blind or
24 other place of concealment camouflaged with natural
25 vegetation. You know, natural vegetation has been used
26 as camouflage by our people since time immemorial.
27 Even before Alaska became a state. Even before our
28 land became a national wildlife refuge. So is it going
29 to be illegal for people to use that anymore in the
30 future.

31

32 When I made that comment yesterday, one
33 of our elders in the village said let -- you know, we
34 use no S in natural camouflage. We'd like to ask them
35 to send us out those white paint suits from Fish and
36 Wildlife or the State of Alaska if they're going to put
37 that in the regulation. That's not an unreasonable
38 request. But for such proposed language like this,
39 that makes it difficult for the very people who have
40 survived off these resources. It's not common sense.

41

42 So some of these things we need to take
43 a look at and review and at some point in the future if
44 you want our people to participate in the conservation
45 of these resources that everybody holds so valuable as
46 across the nation as well as within our own villages, I
47 think everybody has to play fair with everyone. So I
48 just want to report on those and hopefully we can have
49 a better report in the future because we haven't had
50 Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting for a couple

1 years. We're at limbo right now in our own region.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
6 questions for Member Naneng. Mr. Alcorn.

7

8 MR. ALCORN: Myron, I'm a little
9 confused about -- you said you haven't had a WCC
10 meeting. Is the WCC meeting something the refuge
11 organizes or something you organize?

12

13 MR. NANENG: It's coordinated with the
14 refuge and we haven't had it since Mike left. I'm not
15 sure who the real refuge representative is. Is it Doug
16 Staller or is it some guy that's on TDY from the
17 regional office?

18

19 MR. ALCORN: Oh, I don't know. Paul
20 might know. Paul, do you know, is there an acting
21 refuge manager or is it Doug?

22

23 MR. LIEDBERG: Paul Liedberg, manager
24 of the Togiak Refuge. Doug Staller is the acting
25 manager and I'm sure you can deal with him on any of
26 those issues for getting a WCC meeting established or
27 any other issues.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Myron, perhaps I was confused thinking that the WCC
33 meeting was at the call of AVCP, the regional
34 representative, coordinator, whoever that might be, you
35 or Tim. So when I would ask Fred is the WCC going to
36 meet before the AMBCC meeting and the answer was we
37 don't know, I was assuming that it was at your call.
38 If you are wanting the Service to help coordinate that,
39 we'd be glad to. I just needed to understand that and
40 I didn't, so it's my fault.

41

42 MR. NANENG: In response to that, we
43 have to coordinate with not just the refuge there in
44 Bethel, but we have to coordinate with Bob Trost and
45 the State of Alaska as well as some of the other
46 research members within the Fish and Wildlife Service.
47 We can call a meeting, but it's at the convenience of
48 all the other people who work like for the State of
49 Alaska and with Fish and Wildlife Service.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions.

2

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4

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member Squartsoff.

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MR. SQUARTSOFF: Herman Squartsoff, Sun'ag Tribe, Kodiak Region. We just had our regional meeting a few weeks ago down there in Kodiak and it turned out fairly well, even with the weather, and we were able to get a quorum and everything. John introduced himself. He's my alternate sitting back there, who came up here with me. My right-hand man.

In our meeting we discussed -- or some of the concerns that the people had down there too are also what Molly mentioned, the duck stamp license and all that. It's not a traditional thing. A hunting license and a duck stamp is not a traditional harvesting and gathering tool that we used in the past and we don't really like to use right now either. That's an issue that we're still fighting.

We put in a proposal last year and had to withdraw it on the registration and all that, but we're still working on it. Bill and Donna came up with a lot of good language stuff that got sent down. The regional director finally signed off and sent out to the solicitor. That's in transit right now. I don't know when we're going to get a response back on that. Actually, that's where Bill went, to get the paperwork that they sent me so I could show everybody on that if you didn't get it via email.

To me, some of it looks positive, it looks good, if it will work on changing it where we can go in as a community, be included as a community in the villages. It might even help work towards, if we register and all that, eliminating hopefully the duck stamp and the license. It's a possibility. I'm not going to say it's going to go there, but I mean it's something that we're working on and still trying to establish, so hopefully that will work out.

Then also the survey reports that we got back were not what I was requesting when we brought it up here at the Council for it to go back to the regions -- once we did our surveys, to have them come

1 back to the regions to see if they were very accurate
2 or how accurate they could be. The one that I got back
3 was one that was done with EVOS Trustees Council, not
4 the ones that we did. I don't know what happened
5 there. That's not the way that we wanted to look at
6 it. We wanted to look at it to where we did the actual
7 survey with the people in the villages and all that to
8 see how many ducks were actually harvested. It shows
9 who the gatherers are in that community, who gets the
10 most ducks and things like that, the providers and
11 gatherers, and it shows that. The one with the EVOS
12 Trustees Council did not. I'm going to recommend again
13 and hopefully it will turn out and we get kind of what
14 we asked for. I think this was last year when we asked
15 for this with the Council for it to go back. I'm not
16 sure if it was last year or the year before. But we
17 didn't get what we asked for anyway.

18

19 And then one other item that we
20 discussed down there, we went over the proposals from
21 Yakutat and North Slope. When that issue comes up, the
22 item agenda, we are planning on supporting them. We
23 all agreed down there to support Yakutat and North
24 Slope on their proposals.

25

26 One other item was besides the
27 springtime, and I know it took a long time to amend the
28 treaty, but more into the wintertime too is a lot of
29 times when we want to take our ducks or take them. We
30 actually do take some. I'm going to be the first one
31 to admit it. You know, I'm not going to hide anything.
32 We do that and that is still part of our tradition.
33 Where Molly was saying we won't take as much in the
34 spring and the summer, it's mainly egg gathering. It's
35 a lot more towards the winter months that we gather
36 also. That was another big concern down there. I did
37 tell them that it will take another act of working with
38 the protocol and all that to be able to change that.

39

40 I was instructed to start working on
41 it. That's what they told me to do, so I guess I'm
42 going to have to start working on it. With John's
43 help, I think we can get something rolling on that, but
44 it will take a while. I wasn't planning on being on
45 the Council that long, so I don't know how it's going
46 to work out.

47

48 Mr. Chair, that's all I've got. Thank
49 you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Are there
2 any questions for Member Squartsoff.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Vice-Chair Alcorn, do
7 you have anything to add at this point of regional
8 nature?

9

10 MR. ALCORN: No, I don't have anything
11 to add, but I do want to offer, Myron particularly, if
12 there's a sense that the Fish and Wildlife Service is
13 not operating in a way that's satisfactory, I would
14 like to offer my telephone number for anybody that
15 wants to call and I can be a liaison. One of the
16 things that I think is important to understand is that
17 the Service is a very large organization with multiple
18 divisions, with multiple responsibilities that are not
19 within my purview. They are all within the purview of
20 the regional director. I have a direct link with the
21 regional director through my supervisor. I'm one step
22 removed from the regional director, so I can get
23 information to him quickly. The folks that are
24 managing the programs that you referred to, the law
25 enforcement program, and we'll be hearing also from
26 other program staff on some other work we're doing on
27 the North Slope, those are managers in the organization
28 that are at my level, so they're my colleagues that I
29 can take your concerns to and we can have those
30 discussions. So I'm willing to be a point of contact
31 for anyone that wants to call. If you feel like you
32 have too many phone numbers to have to call, too many
33 people that you may not know, I'm willing to take those
34 calls. My number is (907) 786-3545.

35

36 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Squartsoff.

39

40 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Can I add one more
41 thing. I just got handed the thing that Bill went
42 after. It was the thing that was submitted from the
43 regional director to the regional solicitor of Alaska
44 region. The subject is recognition of tribes and a
45 permit system to limit entry into the subsistence
46 harvest of migratory birds. The first question is can
47 we implement in the registration of harvesters that is
48 similar to the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) a
49 Subsistence Habitat Registration Card, also known as
50 the SHARC card. That's the thing I said we brought up

1 last year and we have to withdraw it because of a legal
2 thing.

3

4 The second question was, do Federally
5 recognized Alaska Native tribes fit the definition of a
6 community and/or village. The third question was, can
7 Federal regulations be selective among users without
8 inappropriately excluding intended participants. It
9 does go on to define these three questions. I'm not
10 going to read it all right now.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
15 questions. Mr. Oates.

16

17 MR. OATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Russ Oates for the Fish and Wildlife Service. I just
19 wanted to provide a clarification regarding Mr.
20 Naneng's concerns that he expressed in 50.CFR.20. I
21 was reviewing the highlighted material in the handouts
22 provided by Mr. Naneng and it appears that there's been
23 a misinterpretation on at least one of these
24 highlighted items.

25

26 With regard to 20.2.1 on the handout,
27 page 9 of 36, towards the bottom third of the page,
28 item number one, there appears to be some confusion.
29 If you look at item I above item number one there, it's
30 giving a prohibition you can't take birds by the aid of
31 baiting or over any baited area where a person knows or
32 reasonably should know that the area is or has been
33 baited, and there's a period there. The next sentence
34 starts out, however, nothing in this paragraph
35 prohibits and that applies to item one and the lettered
36 items below that. The second one which is highlighted
37 here in the handout, one of the items that is
38 explicitly not prohibited by this language is hunting
39 from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged
40 with natural vegetation. So I think there may have
41 been a misinterpretation there. So I just want to make
42 sure Mr. Naneng understands that this regulation is not
43 prohibiting hunting from a blind made with natural
44 vegetation. I just wanted to clarify that.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Oates.
49 Any other questions or comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: On behalf of the
4 State of Alaska, I would echo Mr. Alcorn's remarks and
5 if any members of the Council ever have any concerns or
6 difficulty with the State role in any of the meetings
7 or any relations whatsoever with the State, by all
8 means feel free to call me. You've all got my card in
9 front of you by your name plate there with my direct
10 telephone line. I'd be more than happy to hear from
11 you and I'd do anything I could to smooth the way. The
12 State is always willing to help. Member Hepa, will you
13 continue, please.

14

15 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
16 have had a request from this end of the table to take a
17 two-minute break. We did miss our opportunity to use
18 the restroom during our Native caucus.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I would never want to
21 get in the way of that important matter. Let's come
22 back on the record in 10 minutes at 10:35.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Let's go back on the
29 record, please, at 10:37. We'll continue with our
30 regional reports. Before we get to the North Slope
31 Borough, Member Chythlook wanted to add one thing that
32 she neglected to mention in the first part of her
33 report. If you would, please.

34

35 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 In my rattling I forgot to include the most important.
37 The regional bodies dealt with the Proposals 1, 2 and 3
38 and they opposed the Naknek River closure and at that
39 time it was still ongoing. They supported the Yakutat
40 Tern eggling proposal and the Yellow-Billed Loon
41 proposal. They referred it to North Slope saying that
42 they'd rather have the North Slope work on this, but
43 we're supportive of whatever outcome of this proposal.

44

45 Thank you. That's all I had.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much.
48 Continue with the regional reports with Member Hepa.
49 Before you begin, the Chair would like to recognize you
50 for bringing muktuk to the meeting today. It's a real

1 treat.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 (Applause)

6

7 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
8 try to be very brief with my report from the villages.
9 We just had a meeting last week in Barrow. We were
10 real fortunate to have Fred Armstrong attend our
11 meeting, so thank you for coming and being a part of
12 our meeting. He did miss the second day, which was the
13 most important day of our discussion, so I would like
14 to give a brief update of that.

15

16 Our Fish and Game Management Committee,
17 a regional management body for this group, did pass the
18 resolution reaffirming our opposition to the
19 requirement for duck stamps, licenses and permits for
20 the spring and summer subsistence migratory bird
21 hunting and egg gathering. There was a lot of
22 discussion around that, in particular the concerns
23 about having duck stamps and hunting licenses is not
24 customary and traditional. We feel very strongly about
25 that. I think this is a concern that has re-heightened
26 because law enforcement is going to be giving -- we are
27 advised that they are going to be giving written
28 violations to our people on the North Slope over the
29 coming summer. Last year they did verbal warnings.
30 Over the next two years they have plans to give written
31 warnings.

32

33 We submitted our annual Yellow-Billed
34 Loon proposal, which will be introduced later on in the
35 agenda, so I won't talk too much about that at this
36 time.

37

38 There has been a request from the
39 members of our regional body to have meetings in each
40 of the villages every year. Last year we had a meeting
41 in Wainwright, Alaska, which was a very good turnout.
42 The evening before our regular meeting we had an
43 evening meeting where members of the community came and
44 we talked about a variety of different topics. Our
45 next meeting in the village is going to be in Nuiqsut
46 hopefully this summer and the year after that Point
47 Hope has invited us to have a meeting in their
48 community to bring their residents up to speed in this
49 process.

50

1 In 2007, hunting was a good year.
2 We've had reports of healthy birds that were harvested.
3 We participated in the 2007 Migratory Bird Survey.
4 That went very well. There were a few concerns that
5 came up.

6
7 I just wanted to make a very clear
8 point that being involved in this co-management process
9 is a good thing. I view it as a good thing. It
10 enables our regions to have a foot in the door to be
11 able to participate and have our say through this
12 process.

13
14 Over the last year that there has been
15 an increase of law enforcement on the North Slope that
16 has caused some concern. I don't want to go into the
17 details, but it has caused concern to where our people
18 are questioning our involvement in the process.
19 Because of that, we have advised law enforcement to
20 take a step back and for us to increase our outreach
21 efforts through talking with the community members and
22 spending more time doing that because I really think we
23 have made a lot of progress, in particular with the
24 lead shot issue over the last 10 or so years.

25
26 I think progress has been made. It's
27 been slow. If law enforcement is going to have an
28 increased presence, you know, there is the potential
29 for this to step back. I was thankful that Tom Melius
30 and some of his higher-up staff did come to Barrow and
31 talked to the North Slope Borough mayor and our staff
32 about this issue.

33
34 I really hope they take this message to
35 heart. I really don't want to move backwards in the
36 process but continue to move forward and for law
37 enforcement to be considerate of that request.

38
39 In regards to outreach, we had a recent
40 North Slope outreach meeting. We didn't get too much
41 into making progress but a couple things that did come
42 out was the mayor did submit a letter to all the stores
43 on the North Slope that sell ammunition indicating to
44 people and letting them know it is illegal to sell lead
45 shot. The feedback from that has been very positive,
46 where the store managers have called our office to let
47 us know what they had in stock and if there was
48 opportunities to do some type of exchange. Thanks to
49 Neesha Wendling, who works out of the Fairbanks Fish
50 and Wildlife Service Office, she helped us get money to

1 do a lead shot exchange and I hope that we continue
2 that.

3

4 Again, like I said, we were doing the
5 lead shot exchange and we had to be very cautious how
6 we did that because law enforcement was out there where
7 our migratory bird hunters were hunting. When they see
8 us coming, they thought we were the same people.
9 Instead of going out to the hunters at duck camp, we
10 had the hunters come to our office to offer that
11 exchange.

12

13 Neesha will also be holding a duck camp
14 on the North Slope this summer with our youth. Last
15 year I believe she went to Point Lay, which was a good
16 turnout, and I highly encourage that camp to continue.
17 I know that there are plans to have another one this
18 summer.

19

20 We are also looking at an opportunity
21 to do a .410 shotgun lead shot exchange. It's very
22 hard to get .410 steel shot and working with Tom Rothe
23 and Robert Suydam that we found a place in the United
24 Kingdom that actually sells it. So we're looking at
25 opportunities to be able to purchase a bulk of that and
26 provide it to our people on the North Slope. So I
27 really think that's going to be an important one.

28

29 I think that's all I have. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
32 questions of Member Hepa. Mr. Squartsoff.

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I want to thank
35 Taqulik for that awesome muktuk and it sounds like you
36 guys are moving ahead on a lot of good things,
37 especially lead shot stuff, and I commend to all for
38 doing that.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Just for the record,
43 for those of you who didn't attend the work session
44 yesterday, we had a fairly lengthy discussion on lead
45 shot and I'd like to echo that comment to Member Hepa
46 and the North Slope Borough. They're doing a lot of
47 good work on lead shot and I'm encouraged by the all-
48 around attitude by the whole Council to keep this issue
49 in the forefront and make sure people are aware of it.

50

1 We heard a report and I think we'll
2 hear similar information a little later in the day that
3 the residual shot that's still out there, even though
4 people to a large extent aren't using it anymore, but
5 the stuff that's still in the environment is still a
6 problem and we need to keep that uppermost in people's
7 minds and keep working on replacing lead shot. Member
8 Chythlook and then Member Squartsoff.

9
10 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'm Molly. I would
11 like to maybe be informed with that bulk purchase of
12 lead shot. I think that would be a good step for the
13 regions if that's successful, so I'd like to be
14 informed of that.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Is there a
19 possibility of maybe a re-visit of the lead shot
20 clinics they did in the past? I think it was like
21 three, four years ago they came down to our village
22 area. Maybe if they can probably do something like
23 that one more time might help.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
28 Squartsoff. I think there's general enthusiasm for
29 exactly that sort of thing. Certainly this Chair will
30 support any efforts along those lines as we can. I
31 know the State has been active and will continue to be
32 active and working on that.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36
37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions.
38 Member Hepa.

39
40 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 just wanted to re-emphasize that I truly believe in the
42 Co-Management process, you know, having our voices at
43 the table to make very important decisions. Through
44 this process I truly believe that one of my goals is to
45 make our traditional hunting practices the regulations
46 and that's going to take time. There was a few
47 citations written and some of them I do agree with.
48 Others I do not. The very strong comments I heard from
49 our people is why are we involved with this process
50 when it's making our people into criminals or people,

1 when they get citations, they're put into this system
2 that is very strict and has some consequences.

3

4 A good example of that is law
5 enforcement was doing a follow up on an outstanding
6 citation and I was informed that if this individual was
7 not able to pay by the end of the day when Alaska
8 Airlines leaves, they were going to take him with them.
9 That's pretty serious. All I said was that this person
10 is not a criminal.

11

12 When we put these regulations into our
13 booklets, they take that to heart because that is law
14 enforcement's responsibility and I respect that, but
15 our people and through this process we need to make
16 sure that we get our traditional practices into this.

17

18 One very strong comment my staff had
19 heard is maybe we should just go back to being illegal
20 hunters to end all of this. So that's the heightened
21 sense of concern that I am faced with when our people
22 start questioning my involvement in this process and
23 being unwilling to share their harvest information
24 because of the fear that something is going to change
25 the regulations to again make our people criminals.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
28 questions or comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
33 Tahbone, would you continue, please.

34

35 MS. TAHBONE: Good morning. I'll try
36 to be brief. I just recently was hired, March 3rd or
37 4th, to assume the role that Austin had at Kawerak,
38 which is the director of our subsistence program.
39 Austin, we really looked to his knowledge and
40 leadership that he brought forward to this forum. He
41 now is working for the Nome Eskimo Committee in a new
42 tribal resource position, which we're really excited
43 about.

44

45 The Bering Strait/Norton Sound
46 Migratory Bird Council has not had a meeting since 2006
47 due to weather and meeting commitments of members.
48 We're looking to have a meeting on the 16th and 17th of
49 this month. We completed the harvest survey for our
50 region, which 12 communities were involved. The

1 community tribal governments continue to support that
2 effort.

3

4 We've been involved in the avian
5 influenza sampling program. We're going into our third
6 year this year. We're looking to work with Kim and her
7 staff to do three communities.

8

9 We're also looking toward the stamp
10 with the MPRB. We haven't received the contract yet
11 for that, but we're looking to do Gull, Glaucous Gull
12 and Murre on 14 sites. The license and duck stamp
13 issue continues as well as what's been echoed with the
14 previous Council Members. We continue to look to
15 resolution to resolve this. As well as the lead shot
16 issue, we continue to seek more education and outreach.
17 Our issues are the same as that that have been raised.

18

19 The lack of resources that we receive
20 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife to carry out the objectives
21 of the co-management effort continues to be an issue.
22 Everybody is well aware of why we're in this
23 predicament, but we would like to continue to raise
24 that as a concern.

25

26 We did a phone poll prior to coming to
27 this meeting to seek the position of our Council
28 Members and they support the Yakutat and North Slope
29 proposals. They waited to see what BBNA's position was
30 regarding the Naknek proposal.

31

32 Regarding the request of the 2004 and
33 2005 survey information, it was kind of hard to brief
34 the Council Members via fax, via phone, information the
35 way we received it to see whether or not they would
36 accept as presented. The way we approached it was
37 through consultation with Austin, was review comparing
38 it to our data and it was similar and there wasn't
39 anything that would raise too much concern if it was to
40 be -- the way it was presented to us to accept it as
41 presented, so our Council did accept it as presented,
42 whatever that means.

43

44 One of the concerns that was raised is
45 for a layman, for a hunter, for just someone to be able
46 to pick up that information and view it and understand
47 it, it's very difficult and there needs to be some type
48 of simplicity put to it to be able to understand how
49 those numbers are arrived at and how they are going to
50 be utilized.

1 I believe that's it, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Are there
4 any questions for Member Tahbone.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. Move on
9 to Member Hildebrand, please.

10

11 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 As I'm replacing Patty on short notice, I wasn't
13 prepared to give a report, but I plan to call during
14 the lunch hour and ascertain whether or not we do have
15 a report.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: That would be fine.
18 Thank you very much. Member Apok, would you continue,
19 please.

20

21 MS. APOK: My name is Hazel Apok and
22 I'm the natural resources coordinator for Maniilaq
23 Association. I'm new to my position, six months old,
24 and I'm the only staff person working on all
25 subsistence issues, so those of you regions who have
26 staff you know where I'm at as far as being the only
27 person.

28

29 We are waiting for the president of our
30 association to sign the grant to hold our meeting. I
31 haven't had a chance to review anything about migratory
32 bird issues being the only staff person, so I have
33 nothing to report at this time from our area.

34

35 I do want to provide a comment being
36 new to this Council that I viewed this -- this is my
37 first time working in this kind of process as a co-
38 management council person and I view it as an equal
39 partnership with the State. Some of the things that
40 I've already seen, just scanning, I feel like asking
41 can I breathe now, you know. Of all the regulations
42 that I've seen on all species, this seems to be the one
43 that puts me in a corner. You can't do this or you
44 have to do it that way, and I feel like our people
45 haven't been included in bringing these regulations.

46

47 As an example, this little sheet that
48 says in the opinion of the net owner. Whoever wrote
49 this didn't come out to us and ask us and it's been
50 changed to fisherman, which is what it is. You know, I

1 might be the net owner that allowed my nephew to go out
2 and he got the fish. So language like this, you know,
3 what I see is we need more of that partnership between
4 the Federal and the State agencies and the local
5 people.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much.
10 Any questions for Member Apok.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. We'll
15 move down the agenda. Under old business, our first
16 item we'll take up momentarily. For the record, let me
17 make sure everybody is clear. It's my intent to be
18 able to get through all our business today. We
19 certainly don't want to rush anything or short-change
20 any topic, but a number of people have airplane
21 reservations for this evening and if there's any way we
22 can do it, I'd like to conclude our business today, so
23 we'll try and move things along as efficiently as we
24 can.

25

26 With that, let's move to the State of
27 Alaska's analysis of harvest survey and
28 recommendations. Joining us at the front table will be
29 Marianne See and Liliana Naves.

30

31 MS. SEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
32 the record, my name is Marianne See, assistant director
33 with Division of Subsistence in Anchorage at Fish and
34 Game.

35

36 For the benefit of some of the folks
37 who were not here yesterday, we're going to be
38 presenting information that we did, in fact, discuss as
39 an overview yesterday as well. I think it's helpful to
40 do that because it's important that everyone on the
41 Council really have an understanding of kind of where
42 we are right now in working with the methodology of the
43 harvest survey itself.

44

45 One of the things I didn't mention
46 yesterday, which I will note today, is that the
47 Division of Subsistence is an active partner in both
48 implementing the survey as well as doing the analysis
49 of all the survey results, so we've been involved in it
50 for some time. When the harvest survey was developed

1 in its present form, there was a plan to come back
2 after a few years of actual results and evaluate the
3 methodology and to see whether or not recommendations
4 would be appropriate for future modifications or any
5 other kinds of changes to help improve the results and
6 the utility of those results.

7
8 So now we're at a point where with
9 support from and close coordination with the Harvest
10 Survey Committee, which is a technical committee, the
11 Division of Subsistence is conducting a very detailed
12 review of the methodology itself for the harvest
13 survey. That analysis is in progress. We're not done
14 with that analysis yet, although we would have liked to
15 have been able to present you with definitive
16 recommendations at this meeting. We're still
17 developing them and we do have to complete some
18 specific analyses before we can get those specific
19 recommendations.

20
21 Today we want to offer a summary of
22 some of the key issues that we're finding as we do this
23 analysis and that we think will lead to some very
24 specific recommendations with the goal of improving the
25 quality and the accuracy of the data that are collected
26 and to provide options to use the funds, which we
27 consider very limited in this program, to gather
28 reliable information from around the state.

29
30 We want to commend the fact that there
31 has been a very widespread effort to get survey
32 information with a very constrained budget over the
33 years, but to make sure those funds are really buying
34 what's needed, it's really important to do this
35 analysis at this stage.

36
37 One of the things we noted yesterday
38 too is that it will be helpful and actually fairly
39 critical at some point to get feedback from the policy
40 level Council activities to really ensure that we know
41 what's intended for the use of the data and to make
42 sure that when we make our recommendations that the
43 Council has an opportunity to really think about what
44 are the most important things you need to get from the
45 survey so that when you decide on either accepting or
46 not accepting some of those recommendations for change
47 that you really have an end in sight about what the
48 data really need to be used for.

49
50 The issues that we're finding are

1 important to consider not only for future improvements
2 to the harvest survey itself, but also to recognize
3 that the changes won't be in place for this coming
4 summer season. The 2008 survey, which will be a very
5 limited geographical effort, will be using existing
6 methodology with maybe just a few modifications.
7 That's because there isn't enough time in the time
8 frame we're under here to develop the recommendations,
9 have full consideration by the Harvest Survey Committee
10 and the Council, make the changes, potentially change
11 forms, which involves OMB, Office of Management and
12 Budget, Federal approval, and that can take more than a
13 year.

14
15 So the implementation of any changes
16 that are adopted, at best, would be 2009 and
17 potentially might miss that window and not be in place
18 until 2010. So it's important to just understand these
19 changes that may come may not be in place until 2010.
20 Ideally they'd be in place sooner, but we'll have to
21 see once we get to that stage of proposing and having
22 recommendations even under consideration.

23
24 So the preview today is to give you an
25 opportunity to see some of the things we're finding and
26 ask us questions about them, not to give you a full
27 picture of the full analysis because there's a lot of
28 pretty detailed math involved in this, which we don't
29 expect anybody to be interested in frankly. The
30 results of what we're looking at issue-wise is what
31 we're really focusing on here this morning and just
32 giving you a snapshot of some of those key things that
33 we want you to be thinking about and be able to give us
34 feedback on as well.

35
36 So, with that, I will introduce
37 Liliana, who is our lead research analyst to conduct
38 the methodology review along with other specialists in
39 our division. Liliana.

40
41 DR. NAVES: Thank you, Marianne. So I
42 present here today a field selected results,
43 preliminary results that follow the work plan that was
44 developed to conduct this assessment and this task
45 numbers refer to task numbers in the work plan. We
46 select a field task that could be of more interest at
47 this moment, so I will start with the evaluation of the
48 effectiveness of seasonal data collection.

49
50 The question I'm asking here is how

1 well we're performing in collecting complete sets of
2 surveys. This means that three pages of this survey,
3 the spring, summer and fall or fall and winter, and the
4 interesting thing that I found here we have in this
5 table the number of communities, the number in
6 proportion of communities that return in all of each of
7 the seasonal survey pages and have the years in the
8 lines.

9

10 In the gray column, we have an overall
11 for all seasons together. So we see that for 2004 in
12 80 percent of the communities all households return the
13 three pages of seasonal data. That proportion drop to
14 59 percent in 2005 and to 32 percent in 2006. So
15 what's happening here? Is it a problem in the survey
16 protocol or is it a problem of survey implementation?
17 Why we cannot have a complete set of seasonal data.
18 We're interested also in annual estimates of harvest.
19 So if we don't have data for all the seasons, we're
20 having problems in there.

21

22 It seems as if it was exactly a problem
23 of survey protocol. If you not start with a better
24 performance in data collection, then in the third year
25 of the survey, so what can do to improve data
26 collection. This is the kind of question that you are
27 asking during the assessment of the survey is doing the
28 evaluation of the data collection for the three
29 seasons. We took a look on the timing of data
30 collection. The survey protocol call for in-season
31 data collection. This means that at the end of each
32 harvest season there is a period of two weeks after the
33 end of that season, so survey forms are collected.

34

35 We have heard and seen in some of the
36 administrative documents that a proportion of the
37 surveys have been done by recall and there is a little
38 difference in interpreting data from the recall from
39 the in-season surveys.

40

41 So, to quantify the timing of data
42 collection we turn to the dates of the household
43 permission slips that define the onset of the survey at
44 each household. So we have criteria to define a
45 household as having done by recall. The first of it is
46 that the date on the permission slip was -- the year on
47 the permission slip was posterior to the year of
48 harvest, so we consider that as been done by recall.
49 The second criteria is that if the date in the
50 permission slip is posterior to September, that's also

1 done by recall because the first spring season starts
2 on April, so if the permission slip has the date of
3 September, the spring and summer have been done by
4 recall, so we found that 72 percent of the surveys have
5 been done by recall, that does not fit exactly the
6 survey protocol.

7
8 The first step is to be aware that
9 that's happening, that most surveys are done by recall.
10 How to address the particularity, you have to
11 understand better cost of benefits of doing it by
12 recall to assess our ability of doing an in-season
13 survey. If the co-management council decides to go for
14 recall survey, which can be done to have an accurate
15 interpretation of this results for instance to come
16 with correction factors for (indiscernible) and other
17 sort of (indiscernible) to recall survey. The
18 (indiscernible) part of the recommendations you have to
19 decide, discuss how the final lines of those
20 recommendations.

21
22 And here, jump to Task 5, that is an
23 evaluation of the stratification -- the protocol is
24 based on a three-level stratification. The
25 stratification refers to harvest level, so we have no
26 harvest, low harvest level (1 to 10 birds harvested in
27 general) and the high for households that harvest more
28 than 10 birds. This protocol was borrowed straight
29 from the HIP (ph) survey. It's part hunting survey.
30 And we wanted to see how it fit with hunting.

31
32 So in the columns you have the years
33 '04, '05 and '06 and then the lines, the harvest level,
34 so we see that -- and here we analyze it the actual
35 harvest of the household and how that household -- and
36 whether that household fit into the stratum that had
37 been assigned to it beforehand.

38
39 We see that between 74 and 80 percent
40 of households assigned to the none stratum, indeed they
41 didn't harvest birds, that's not so bad. In the
42 intermediary harvest level, we see that between 17 and
43 25 percent of the households only harvested between 1
44 and 10 birds. In the high harvest level, between 64
45 and 69 percent of the households fit into the stratum
46 they had been assigned to.

47
48 A first conclusion here is that it has
49 been difficult to deal with the intermediary harvest
50 level and maybe or likely it's cause the protocol, the

1 stratification does not fit the subsistence harvest
2 pattern.

3
4 In the same task at this time we wanted
5 to see the proportion of harvesters and no-harvesters
6 in each harvest level. We made one for the harvest
7 years and you see that 22 percent of households
8 assigned to the none stratum indeed harvest birds that
9 an average of 35 percent households assigned to the low
10 stratum did not harvest birds and about 20 percent of
11 households assigned to the high harvest level also did
12 not harvest birds.

13
14 So at this point we started to focus on
15 a two-strata design (harvester and non-harvester)
16 instead of three-strata design. If you aggregate here
17 low and high harvest levels, we'll still have a 26
18 percent of misclassification of households assigned to
19 a harvester strata and a 22 percent of
20 misclassification in a non-harvester strata.

21
22 So the bottom line here is that the
23 three-strata design apparently does not fit subsistence
24 harvest patterns and even on a three-strata design we
25 should prepare to deal with a high degree of
26 misclassification of households into a strata.

27
28 Still assessing how a two-strata design
29 could fit our needs, we took a look at previous data in
30 the community subsistence information system that was
31 database on Subsistence Division website that has data
32 from 20 to 30 years of work of the Division. What you
33 want to look at there is the proportion of harvesting
34 households, especially for communities where there is
35 data for multiple years. So here we see the case of
36 Akhiok, where there is five years of data, and the
37 proportion of harvesting households varied between 16
38 and 95 percent. So participation in the harvest is
39 very variable in the same household between years.

40
41 So we can think about the three
42 scenarios of a profile of communities for communities
43 who have household harvesters, communities where a
44 majority of households harvest and the communities
45 where a majority of households are non-harvesters.
46 Whatever sampling protocol the committee may decide to
47 go for, it showed accommodate for this within year and
48 within community variation in the proportion of
49 harvesting households, this has to do with the
50 proportion of households to sample in each strata.

1 At this point we are comparing how a
2 random sampling performs and how three-strata design
3 performs in terms of accuracy of harvest estimates. We
4 don't know yet which one will be our best option. We
5 are working on that at this point.

6
7 The last task I will talk about today
8 is review of the survey handbook. We understand the
9 handbook is a main tool for training, troubleshooting
10 and documentation of the survey methods. There should
11 be a single version of the handbook that can be used by
12 all regions and all personnel involved in the survey.
13 So we have been working on a review of the whole text
14 of the handbook to make clear the roles of the players
15 there; the survey coordinator, the assistant survey
16 coordinators, field coordinators and surveyors. To
17 have shorter sections that address independent topics
18 so people can quickly find answers to their questions.
19 And understand also the need to have compact
20 instructions that can quickly go to the point when
21 people have questions or doubts how to conduct the
22 survey.

23
24 This review of the handbook also covers
25 the non-OMB controlled forms to make sure there is
26 enough room to fill in the information, that they are
27 clear and organized and space, and that there are no
28 confusing fields and so on. They need to have a
29 document that serves the needs and that is easy to use.

30
31 That is what I have for today. An
32 important aspect of this assessment of the survey is
33 that it should be (indiscernible) so your suggestions
34 and comments are the most welcome.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Marianne
39 and Liliana for your report. Are there questions or
40 comments from any Council Members. Mr. Squartsoff.

41
42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I've got a
43 couple. I was kind of lost. What was the deal on the
44 recall? Were you talking about they went and did
45 surveys again or did more or what? I didn't follow
46 that.

47
48 DR. NAVES: The in-season data
49 collection is something that's done in real time, so
50 the data is collected just after harvest happen. The

1 survey has an in-season protocol, so data collection
2 for spring is done two weeks after the end of the
3 spring, the collection for summer two weeks after the
4 end of the summer, but in some cases data collection
5 happen many months after the end of the harvest season,
6 so this is where sometimes in-season and recall data is
7 not directly comparable because people may forget what
8 they harvest or there are other events that may
9 modulate memory of people. So that's the deal.

10

11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you. One other
12 one I had, up here, the first one on that first page,
13 there was a big drop from all the households that
14 returned all three seasons surveys. In '04 it was 80
15 percent and down in '06 it was down to 32. Do you guys
16 have any possibilities on why it dropped so much or
17 they weren't returning the surveys?

18

19 DR. NAVES: These proportions refer to
20 communities where all households returned all three
21 pages of the form, so the first year was not so bad and
22 80 percent of communities returned all the pages.
23 Apparently it's not a problem with the forms or how the
24 data collection is scheduled. It seems there's a
25 problem that people may have been losing interest on
26 the survey. Contracting with the surveyors may have
27 become more difficult. The households may be less
28 interested in participating on the survey. Maybe
29 outreach had not been enough. So there is probably
30 more than one cause in there, but more likely a problem
31 of implementation.

32

33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Nothing like maybe
34 enforcement, anything like that, where they're trying
35 to come down on them a little more and making them not
36 want to report or anything like that. Nothing like
37 that has been thought of or said or anything?

38

39 DR. NAVES: When I said that maybe
40 there is multiple causes, enforcement may have
41 contributed to reduce popularity of the survey in
42 certain areas, but maybe that's not true for all areas.

43

44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Naneng.

47

48 MR. NANENG: Yes. Do you have a sample
49 of your survey in front of you?

50

1 DR. NAVES: No, I don't.
2
3 MR. NANENG: I would appreciate getting
4 a sample of that and a sample of your survey, the type
5 of information that you're getting out to gather this
6 information.
7
8 DR. NAVES: Would you like to see the
9 results or the survey forms itself?
10
11 MR. NANENG: The survey forms.
12
13 DR. NAVES: Just by chance I have here
14 today -- well, I don't have the survey forms, that's
15 what you're asking for. We can provide them to you. I
16 can make an effort to bring that this afternoon. Oh,
17 very good, Molly.
18
19 Thank you very much, Molly.
20
21 MR. NANENG: The other thing too that
22 Fish and Wildlife usually sends out are harvest
23 calendars that they've done out in the YK Delta. I
24 know this is for the fall information gathering.
25 Harvest calendars are used by Fish and Game for salmon
26 and also in some instances I've seen Fish and Wildlife
27 use harvest calendars for waterfowl in the past.
28
29 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.
30
31 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 think we have two different pieces of printed material
33 that we produce and supply. One, I believe, is a
34 poster with pictures and names of the waterfowl and the
35 birds that are harvested and the other used to be what
36 we call the goose calendar and I believe now it's
37 referred to as the waterfowl calendar. Are you
38 referring to the poster I think Cynthia Wentworth and
39 Bill, Donna may have worked to get printed and
40 distributed?
41
42 MR. NANENG: Well, that would also be
43 good information for the -- the poster would be good
44 information for the AMBCC to take a look at to see if
45 there's success in the conservation efforts that are
46 being done by various regions. I think that
47 information had been helpful in the past for many of
48 the people who are involved in the conservation
49 efforts. But also, at the same time, I'd like to know
50 -- I know that you're trying to get information of how

1 much has been harvested by subsistence users. The
2 subsistence users, not including the non-indigenous
3 people that have moved into villages under the Protocol
4 Amendment.

5
6 I hope that the information gathered is
7 not going to create limits because at the time we
8 negotiated that Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol
9 Amendment, the only focus was on the Native subsistence
10 use. When the U.S. Senate adopted the Protocol
11 Amendment, it became all inclusive where the surveys
12 were never done on non-indigenous people, so that has
13 not even been factored into the amount of migratory
14 birds that are currently being harvested.

15
16 So that's just what I'd like to remind
17 people because at the time that we negotiated the
18 Migratory Bird Treaty it was only the Native
19 subsistence harvest that they were concerned about, but
20 when it got to the Senate approval of the Protocol
21 Amendment, it became all inclusive. So I hope that
22 this information will not be used to limit or start
23 using it to create regulations that are further
24 limiting the subsistence harvest of migratory birds by
25 people that had customary and traditional use of it.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
28 comments. Member Apok.

29
30 MS. APOK: I'm wondering did you use
31 local people when you do the harvest surveys? We found
32 that to get accurate data you have to partner with the
33 local tribes because they know the local people and who
34 will give truthful information and who won't. I'm just
35 curious if you hired local people to do it. I was
36 looking at your formula here on Page 2 of your handout
37 and I know when you're making models it's based on data
38 and if you're going to create any models, I think you
39 need to go back and look at your data and make sure
40 that's accurate.

41
42 MS. SEE: Through the Chair, Member
43 Apok. We would be happy separately to give you a lot
44 more background information on how this is all done.
45 It's a very highly cooperative survey effort with many,
46 many partners. Fish and Game is a very small part of
47 the implementation in most regions of the actual survey
48 because of that. There are many, many local partners,
49 regional partners involved. You're absolutely right,
50 the Subsistence Division has a long record of using a

1 cooperative approach to surveys for just the reasons
2 you described. It does provide a much better way to
3 get good information and get interest and cooperation,
4 so we certainly agree with you on that point and that
5 is how these are done.

6
7 And that's a point that actually
8 relates to a review of the methodology. Because so
9 many participants are involved and so many
10 organizations and so many places, it's a very
11 decentralized kind of survey and that means it really
12 has to be done consistently, instructions have to be
13 clear and the types of errors that occur should be
14 fairly limited. There shouldn't be very many kinds of
15 errors that would plague a survey like this. That
16 means it really has to be designed with that in mind
17 and I think that's one of the areas in which we're
18 going to be able to see some recommendations for
19 improvement.

20
21 The more complicated it is, and it is
22 complicated at this point in time. The handbook is one
23 example. The handbook for those who have seen it is a
24 pretty complicated document. No one intended that it
25 would be that way, but it sort of grew that way. The
26 more of that that happens, the more potential for
27 people to misinterpret or interpret differently, and
28 then you get information that's not comparable and not
29 accurate.

30
31 So this is a really appropriate time to
32 go back and make that kind of review and really make
33 these kinds of improvements so that everyone, all the
34 partners, all the players, because that is the way
35 these things work best have the same understanding of
36 how to implement the survey and what the questions mean
37 and how to turn them in.

38
39 One of the things that Member Naneng
40 mentioned earlier about the seasonality or I think
41 actually it might have been another question that came
42 in about the seasonal aspect of this, one of the goals
43 of the survey had been to get information right after
44 different seasonal harvest periods. That's a very
45 expensive thing to do and it also can result in sort of
46 a burn-out factor by both the surveyors and the people
47 being surveyed.

48
49 So we were really interested and
50 surprised to find that so many of the surveys were

1 actually coming in as recall at the end of all harvest
2 periods. That would have been something that we would
3 have probably recommended in the first place because
4 that's how a lot of Subsistence Division surveys are
5 done, but there's interest because of the way migratory
6 birds migrate and are harvested. We realize there's
7 interest in looking more specifically at improving the
8 accuracy and getting harvest information closer to when
9 the harvest occurs. That may not really be worth the
10 effort and time in practical terms because of so many
11 drawbacks.

12
13 So that's the kind of thing we're
14 evaluating in this methodology review and making our
15 observations and recommendations. Some of these things
16 are going to be trade-offs and they won't have a clear-
17 cut answer. There will have to be some choices made
18 about how to invest the limited survey dollars to get
19 the information that the Council really feels is most
20 useful. I hope those answers are helpful.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
23 Apok, I believe you had a follow up.

24
25 MS. APOK: Yes. Thank you. The other
26 thing that concerns me is I'm a non-harvester. I'm
27 part of that 80 percent, but migratory birds are
28 important to me and to all of my extended family. To
29 every one of those 80 percent, you know, you can't
30 discount them just because we're non-harvesters. We
31 still eat. It's our custom to share. When you go out
32 spring hunting, you don't just come back with one bird
33 like you might do with one caribou, you come back with
34 a load and you share it with all the elders. So your
35 focus on saying a non-harvester, it's the first thing I
36 read, and it seems to me you're focusing on that when
37 that's not the case. It's important to all of us.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 DR. NAVES: It's not by chance that the
42 non-harvesters is the first thing you see because they
43 are equally important in survey as the harvesters. The
44 seasonal and annual harvest estimates are done as an
45 average of all the households in the community, so
46 results are only valid if you have an accurate
47 representation of harvesters and also non-harvester
48 households. If you sample only harvest households,
49 your estimates would be way too high because lots of
50 households in the community did not harvest and the

1 harvest of households is being applied to the
2 no-harvest households. Protocol for that collection
3 tries to balance proportions of harvesters and no-
4 harvest households to get to the final estimation.
5 Part of explaining how to conduct the survey is to
6 explain how the preservation of the no-harvest
7 households is important.

8

9 MS. APOK: I think what I would prefer
10 to know is how many birds there are and how many we
11 took and not what household got surveyed. I think
12 that's the focus we should all have. What's the
13 population out there, what's the health of it and what
14 was the take this year and what should be the take for
15 next year and not concentrate on households. That's
16 what we're all here for, for the health and to conserve
17 the population. When we get too into how to define a
18 household or who doesn't catch, you know, I think we're
19 getting sidetracked from what our purpose is, thank
20 you.

21

22 MS. SEE: If I could just respond to
23 that. I think that's exactly the kind of information
24 that the survey provides. When we pull that
25 information all together, to get the information we
26 have to go to a unit of harvest and that's where the
27 household survey methodology really has to focus. So
28 these are sort of details of the survey itself, but the
29 result of this, which we didn't talk about at all, what
30 you should see as a result is how many birds are used
31 in this area or this community and that's exactly what
32 I think I heard you say, is that you want to see those
33 numbers. That wasn't our intent today, to talk about
34 level. We were sort of down in the weeds of how you
35 actually get the numbers. Ultimately, you would never
36 see this kind of information if you're looking at a
37 summary. You'd see the result of all these efforts in
38 actual information about the pattern of use by areas.

39

40 DR. NAVES: As part of the agreement of
41 conducting this survey, the level of the geographic
42 results are reported, there is no report at community
43 level. The results are reported as sub-region and
44 region levels. That's to keep the privacy of
45 households and communities. We have to start surveying
46 at a certain level, but the results in this level was
47 the household is the base key unit of sampling, but the
48 results are reported only at sub-region and region
49 level and statewide.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. We have
2 several more questions. Member Naneng, then Member
3 Hepa, Member Hildebrand and Vice-Chair Alcorn. Member
4 Naneng.

5
6 MR. NANENG: The list of communities
7 that you showed on this survey, are those the only
8 communities that you did the survey at, from Akhiok all
9 the way down to Chenega Bay?

10
11 DR. NAVES: This data there does not
12 include data of the subsistence harvest survey. Those
13 are other studies developed by the Division of
14 Subsistence across the years, but here we have no data
15 from the Subsistence Harvest Survey.

16
17 MR. NANENG: The reason why I asked
18 that is if you're using that data from those
19 communities. I know it does not necessarily apply
20 across some of our villages in the YK Delta that do a
21 lot more harvest of migratory birds. So I would hope
22 that when you use that data you don't use it to
23 restrict our people in the YK Delta from being able to
24 harvest. It always seems that when you gather data,
25 you use it to apply across the board when it does not
26 necessarily apply to one region.

27
28 DR. NAVES: Data from the previous
29 studies are not used in harvest estimates for the
30 purpose of the survey. Here is just a sample table to
31 show that the proportion of harvest households vary a
32 lot in the same community between years. It's part of
33 understanding subsistence harvest pattern in different
34 areas of the state.

35
36 MR. NANENG: And you have in '04 85 and
37 in '06 53 house communities and I would like to see
38 what communities were surveyed so that we can have a
39 better idea of how you came up with the results that
40 you came up with for those years. That would be
41 helpful.

42
43 DR. NAVES: I have just by chance a
44 list of the communities that had been surveyed every
45 year here, but I cannot tell you right now which
46 community in each year, if that's what you're asking
47 me. Is it?

48
49 MR. NANENG: When they do harvest
50 surveys in the YK Delta, they try and do at least a

1 survey in each and every one of the communities and
2 they do list the villages where they're doing the
3 survey and if you're coming up with information like
4 this, it would be helpful to list those communities
5 that were surveyed because not each village has the
6 same amount of harvest like the others. Like the
7 sampling that you used may not necessarily be
8 harvesting the same amount of waterfowl that people in
9 the YK Delta. So I'm just asking that information so
10 that we would be able to get a better interpretation of
11 how you came up with the results.

12
13 DR. NAVES: Are you referring to Table
14 1 in the handout?

15
16 MR. NANENG: Yes.

17
18 DR. NAVES: This table was put together
19 for a specific proposal that was to see the proportion
20 of communities that returns complete sets of surveys.
21 Different kinds of tables will be prepared to answer
22 different questions. I think the question here was
23 another one.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Simon, do you
26 have information to add.

27
28 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
29 just want to take this opportunity. I'm acting
30 director of the Division now and I just want to provide
31 some clarification for the Council Members. There's a
32 lot of very good questions being asked. Some of those
33 questions are actually pertaining to the Harvest Survey
34 Committee, your committee's method that was adopted.
35 What Dr. Naves and Ms. See are speaking to is
36 evaluating the methods used to produce those annual
37 estimates. So it's important to keep those separate.
38 The actual development of the harvest estimates for
39 2004 and 2005 are not specifically what's being
40 addressed in this review.

41
42 With respect to the example of the
43 communities that Dr. Naves presented to you to look at
44 how subsistence patterns in those samples of
45 communities is to simply demonstrate that a high
46 harvesting household in one particular year may not be
47 a high harvesting household in the following year and
48 we see that in other subsistence studies also.
49 Actually, Member Tahbone has co-authored a report on
50 that in looking at salmon use for example in the Norton

1 Sound area.

2

3 So I think it's important to keep it
4 separate and I realize that some members are new and
5 they may not recognize that we are simply using your
6 forms. These are not our forms. And this is your
7 method that we are evaluating and reporting back to you
8 and that's a very important distinction. This is not a
9 Division of Subsistence, Department of Fish and Game
10 method that we have imposed on this Council.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Go ahead.

15

16 DR. NAVES: I'd like to recall that the
17 assessment of this survey was requested by the Harvest
18 Committee of the AMBCC just to reinforce that we were
19 doing a service that you requested to perform.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Hepa.

22

23 MS. HEPA: Oftentimes I have to remind
24 myself of the overall objective of why we're doing
25 these surveys and I think it's important to mention
26 while we have new members here, but to my understanding
27 what we're trying to do is document the regional,
28 cultural and nutritional needs by region and I think
29 this relates to the 1996 protocol amendment stipulation
30 and it reads the parties do not intend to cause
31 significant increases in the take of the species of
32 migratory birds and then it goes on. But that's the
33 whole intent, is to get baseline information on what
34 the cultural and nutritional need is by a region, not
35 by community and not by households.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
38 Hepa. Member Hildebrand.

39

40 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr.
41 Chairman. I was just going to comment that there seems
42 to be some confusion. When you refer to a household as
43 non-hunters or whatever the exact language was, the
44 confusion is for people out in the villages who are
45 looking at these surveys or looking at these questions
46 as that although they are non-hunters they are still
47 users and that needs to be clarified because you'll get
48 different data depending on how they understand that.
49 That's a major concern. Although I don't hunt, I still
50 eat ducks and geese and et cetera. That's a concern of

1 all elders in all the regions, but it's a concern of
2 young people who also hunt for the elders, who are the
3 non-hunters but are users.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Vice-
8 Chair Alcorn.

9

10 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 The comment that Jim made was a comment that I was
12 going to refer to, that this analysis was at the
13 request of an action item that we had from our fall
14 meeting, which was to have the Harvest Survey Committee
15 work with the Department of Fish and Game and others
16 that are in the business of conducting these surveys to
17 take a look at our survey and to recommend ways that we
18 can make it better, we would get better data, and
19 potentially more efficient, less expensive. So that's
20 the purpose of this report. As an action item after
21 the close of discussion, and I'm ready to make a motion
22 on how we would respond to this.

23

24 The second point, it gets to the
25 comment that you made, Hazel, sort of what is the
26 application of this information. I'm going to try to
27 address that in the next presentation in using and
28 applying this information to make heads or tails, some
29 sense of this information, to see if we're doing what
30 Taqulik read from the treaty letter of submittal.
31 Maybe it will help clarify.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
34 comments or questions. Member Chythlook.

35

36 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you. This is
37 Molly. When I first came on a couple years ago and had
38 my first regional meeting and was asked to report the
39 harvest data similar to the one you have under Tab 4, I
40 had a hard time making heads or tails of it, so I'm
41 hoping through this process we'll be able to, not only
42 in the regional body but within the village, make the
43 harvest data readable and it will be more useable than
44 how it is right now.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
49 comments or questions. Acting Director Simon -- Member
50 Tahbone.

1 MS. TAHBONE: I just wanted to thank --
2 this is the third time I've heard your report, so I
3 should be able to give a pretty good presentation when
4 I return. I just wanted to thank you for all the work
5 that you have done and I look forward to your final
6 report.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you.

9
10 DR. NAVES: Thank you, Sandra. I at
11 least try to change the background color every time it
12 comes on.

13
14 MS. SEE: Through the Chair. We
15 appreciate all the questions and comments here. If you
16 think of other ones as you think more about how these
17 are actually implemented, please don't hesitate to
18 contact us, me or Liliana, directly and we can give you
19 that contact information. We do want to hear your
20 insights, your comments about this. We work closely
21 with the Harvest Survey Committee. Other entities,
22 other questions are always welcome because there's many
23 different perspectives in all of this that we want to
24 consider carefully. We do want to make sure -- again,
25 these are very limited dollars for the survey work
26 that's done, that we really get the information and we
27 craft our recommendations in a way that the committee
28 and the council members can really feel like whatever
29 changes you want to make are really going to give a
30 good result. So we want to be very thorough.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

35
36 MR. ALCORN: Is discussion through?
37 I'm ready to make a motion.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I believe we're
40 pretty close to that. I was just going to thank Acting
41 Director Simon and Assistant Director See and Dr. Naves
42 for their presentation today. I would note for the
43 record I'm pretty much totally intimidated by the
44 formulas on Page 2, but I'm very glad there are people
45 working with us that aren't. Mr. Alcorn.

46
47 MR. ALCORN: Well, maybe Sandy can
48 explain the formulas to us later.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. ALCORN: Thanks for that report. I
2 would like to move that the Council accept the report
3 in draft, awaiting a final report that I understand is
4 imminent, and that we would forward the report to the
5 Harvest Survey Committee for discussion and reporting
6 back to the Council for the purposes of completing the
7 action item that we approved that was in our fall list
8 of actions.

9
10 It was a motion that we have the Survey
11 Committee work to make a recommendation to the Council
12 on the best way to implement the Harvest Survey
13 Program. The program is larger than just the survey.
14 It includes the coordinator, the staff position that
15 the Co-Management Council staff Fred Armstrong
16 supervises, it includes the grant work that we do with
17 the State, it's the entire suite of projects that we
18 have and the way we've managed that in the past and
19 that's a recommendation that we are looking to from the
20 services looking to from the Council on how best to go
21 about accomplishing that need. So that's the end use
22 of this report. The report is just the first or maybe
23 the second step in the whole discussion of how to best
24 go about that.

25
26 So it's a long motion and I would
27 repeat the motion to say we accept the draft report,
28 awaiting the final report, and then comment it to the
29 Committee.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We have a motion on
32 the floor. Is there a second.

33
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Is there
37 any discussion. Member Naneng.

38
39 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
40 just want to make a comment that I appreciate the
41 report that was done by the two ladies here, but after
42 all the years of having worked with the YK Delta Goose
43 Management Plan I kind of get suspicious of every time
44 people put something together because of the fact that
45 our people out in the YK Delta have a tendency of
46 making comments, well, they're putting something
47 together that's going to try and limit our use of
48 customary and traditional use of the resources that
49 we've lived on for centuries and that's the reason I
50 asked those questions. I understand the purpose of

1 this, but I just wanted to let you know that when new
2 things come about, we don't want to see any limitations
3 or restrictions that are being used by these methods on
4 the customary and traditional use of the subsistence
5 resource that our people live off of out in the YK
6 Delta.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
11 comments, questions, discussion. Are we ready for the
12 question.

13

14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: All in favor signify
17 by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: All opposed signify
22 by saying no.

23

24 MR. DEVINE: No.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: The motion carries.
27 It is six minutes to noon. Mr. Alcorn.

28

29 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chairman. The fact
30 that we have an opposing vote or an opposing no, that
31 means we don't have consensus.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Correct. Thank you.

34

35 MR. ALCORN:and the bylaws
36 suggest that's the role of the chair to try to reach
37 consensus. So I would suggest that we postpone calling
38 the question and allow some further discussion or
39 caucus to find out why there's opposition.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
42 Alcorn. That's an excellent point. Why don't we --
43 it's six minutes before noon. Let's stand down for a
44 brief caucus and lunch and reconvene at 1:15.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We'll come back on

1 the record at 1:15. This is the Alaska Migratory Bird
2 Co-Management Council spring regulatory meeting.

3

4 Before we get back to our work at hand,
5 I wanted to bring everybody's attention to the poster
6 on the table over here. If all members of the Council
7 would sign that, that's for Austin, who we didn't
8 really get a chance to thank appropriately before he
9 went on his way. So if you would take a moment either
10 during the breaks this afternoon or at the end of the
11 meeting today and sign in the lighter areas of that
12 poster for Austin, we'll make sure that he gets that.

13

14 With that, let's get back to the
15 business at hand. I'll begin by apologizing for losing
16 track of the fact that this Council operates on
17 consensus. I shouldn't have taken that vote. I
18 understand that in caucus whatever concerns there were
19 have been alleviated. I'd like to entertain a motion
20 to rescind our previous action, that being the vote on
21 the motion that Mr. Alcorn put forward and then have
22 that motion taken up again and then hopefully adopted
23 by consensus. So if someone would care to make that
24 motion.

25

26 MS. HEPA: So move.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
29 Hepa. Is there a second.

30

31 MR. ALCORN: I'll second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
34 Alcorn. Is there any discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. HEPA: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Is there
41 any objection.

42

43 (No objections)

44

45 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
46 Council has rescinded its previous action. Mr. Alcorn,
47 if you would repeat your earlier motion, please, and
48 we'll take it up.

49

50 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I move that the Council receive the draft report from
2 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence
3 Division, awaiting the final report, and when that
4 final report is received, to forward that report to the
5 Harvest Survey Committee for recommendation back to the
6 Council on how we would address that recommendation.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Alcorn. Is there a second.

10
11 MS. TAHBONE: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
14 discussion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MR. ALCORN: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there any
21 objection.

22
23 (No objections)

24
25 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
26 motion carries. Thank you very much for bailing out
27 your Chair for forgetting that. We'll move to the next
28 item under old business and we're going to hear a
29 report from Doug Alcorn. The floor is yours.

30
31 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 I'd like to thank the Co-Management Council and I'll
33 give you a little background on what this evaluation
34 was and what this project was and why it came about.

35
36 I've been enrolled for three years at
37 University of Alaska Anchorage, UAA, in a master's
38 program, a master's degree in public administration,
39 and a final project is required. It's what's referred
40 to as an applied degree and they want you to do a
41 project that has some application for public policy.
42 You're supposed to have a client and you're not
43 supposed to do it for your agency or for your employer.
44 It's supposed to be outside your area of professional
45 involvement.

46
47 What I felt like was timely for me and
48 fairly fitting, I think, for my professional interest,
49 was to look at the policy of the treaty protocol, the
50 amended treaty that established the co-management

1 process. I proposed a method to evaluate the protocol
2 amendment to the Executive Committee, which was Ron
3 Clarke and Austin Ahmasuk, and I proposed that back in
4 early January when this class first began and it was
5 supposed to be a 16-week project. That's the duration
6 of a semester. It was actually begun in a course
7 earlier in the fall that I had taken and I developed
8 the proposal and then I decided to submit it to the
9 AMBCC. I submitted it as a student and not as an
10 employee of the Fish and Wildlife Service. There was
11 to be a clear distinction between that. One reason is
12 because we're not supposed to be doing our professional
13 work as a student. The other reason, and I guess it's
14 a technicality, that is if you're going to obtain
15 information and you do it as a Federal employee using
16 Federal funds, you have to have OMB clearance. Number
17 one, I didn't want to use any Federal funds to do it
18 and, two, I didn't want to have to go through OMB and
19 wait 13 months for clearance or 12 months for
20 clearance. I opted to do it separately and as a
21 student, private citizen. So you all on the Council,
22 when you received a survey I put together and sent to
23 you, you received it from my wife's email, Della
24 Alcorn, I'm sure some of you who saw that were probably
25 questioning who that person was, but I think it came
26 with her name on it.

27

28 I do want to thank the Executive
29 Committee for signing me up or committing to be a
30 client for this. It came at no cost. And thank those
31 of you who did respond to a survey I sent out, and I'll
32 describe that in a bit, to help me draw some
33 conclusions in the questions that I asked.

34

35 Let me start by moving into this. This
36 is a shortened version of a presentation I'll be making
37 to my advisory committee in two weeks. So what I've
38 done is kind of cut into the middle of it and
39 eliminated the introductory background information that
40 talks about the amendment occurring in 1996 and the
41 purposes for that and the goals that were described in
42 the letter of transmittal that are stated in the
43 protocol amendment.

44

45 The two goals that I am focusing on in
46 this evaluation are the goals that we have for
47 conserving birds and for protecting customs and
48 cultures of subsistence hunters for migratory birds.
49 The other two goals that I describe in the paper that's
50 in your binder, the back pocket of your binder, is a

1 draft paper that I've already submitted to my
2 committee.

3

4 The first goal is to legalize spring
5 and summer hunting of migratory birds and the second
6 goal is to ensure that regulations that are designed
7 comply with international treaties that guide how we
8 harvest birds in North America and in the United
9 States.

10

11 So the second two goals were the two
12 that I felt particularly interested in that I could
13 address in this evaluation project primarily because
14 the first two goals are sort of met by default, number
15 one, by establishing the regulations that legalize the
16 harvest in the spring and summer and the second,
17 through the legal review that our regulations go and
18 the proposed and final rules go through, part of that
19 review is to ensure that we are in compliance with
20 other treaties.

21

22 Focusing on the third and the fourth
23 goals, the third goal for purposes of this presentation
24 is the perpetuation or the protection of customs and
25 traditions, and the fourth goal is protection of the
26 birds or conservation of the birds.

27

28 So my research project is essentially
29 as shown on the screen. Is the management and
30 regulatory approach to implementing the 1996 Migratory
31 Bird Treaty Act Protocol Amendment achieving goals
32 three (the perpetuation of the customs and cultures)
33 and goal four, conserving birds as set forth by the
34 United States Congress.

35

36 To address those questions and to
37 potentially answer the questions, I established some
38 research objectives. The first, to address the customs
39 and culture question, I decided to do that with a
40 qualitative survey, qualitative analysis, and there
41 were basically two objectives. The first objective was
42 to identify subsistence parameters. In reviewing the
43 published literature and potentially some gray
44 literature, what parameters of subsistence hunting
45 define a subsistence economy or basically how do you
46 define the custom and the culture in essence.

47

48 The second objective then is to survey
49 subsistence hunters. I chose as my survey group
50 current and past members of the Co-Management Council.

1 Remember, this is not a master's thesis, it's a 16-week
2 research project that I found out later was constrained
3 to 10 weeks. So my advisor on my committee said the
4 prize goes to those that finish. Unfortunately, my
5 sample size had to be very much constrained, so I
6 thought probably the most informed people to ask the
7 questions that we developed were you all that sit on
8 the Co-Management Council or former members of the Co-
9 Management Council.

10

11 The second goal, are we conserving
12 birds. The second question fundamentally. The
13 objective for that was to perform a statistical T test
14 on harvest data as well as population data. Hazel, I
15 think maybe this gets to the statement that you made,
16 how do you apply that harvest survey data. This is my
17 attempt to apply it. What I did in consultation with
18 Dr. Robert Stan of Russ's staff -- when I told him
19 that's the question that I'm asking, have we changed or
20 affected bird populations, how could we tell whether or
21 not we are conserving bird populations, and he said the
22 best thing to do would be to establish a T test looking
23 at pre-regulation populations and the means of those
24 populations by species, by area, and compared the pre-
25 regulation populations with the post-regulation
26 populations.

27

28 The regulations were established in
29 2003, so he advised me to go as far back as we could
30 and look at population estimates that, by consequence,
31 dated back to -- I think I found data sets starting in
32 1989 and complemented those 1989 data sets for
33 population estimates on the YK Delta with harvest
34 survey estimates for the same areas or generally the
35 same area. The objective was to compare the pre and
36 the post survey data and harvest survey data and
37 population survey data. The way to do that was
38 establish a ratio of the harvest to the population
39 estimate for each year for each specie. It turns out
40 that I looked at 16 species that we have data sets for
41 and I'll go into that in a moment.

42

43 Going back to the qualitative method,
44 back to goal three, are we protecting the customs and
45 traditions. In reviewing the literature and, again,
46 taking the advice of my advisor, to try to keep this as
47 constrained as possible and still make something
48 meaningful and reviewing a publication by I think
49 Thomas or Tom Lawner (ph) that's dated back to 1980 and
50 a couple other papers that were published by the

1 Subsistence Division.

2

3 I worked with an anthropologist, Dr.
4 Don Calloway of the National Park Service, to sort of
5 whittle down a lot of the parameters that are
6 identified in subsistence economies to something that I
7 could develop questions around those parameters. I
8 whittled it down to basically five. The reasons that I
9 chose those five is because they seemed to be fairly
10 distinct and fairly clearly understood. I remember
11 talking with Herman and trying to identify what some of
12 those parameters will be.

13

14 From that discussion and from looking
15 at the literature, I boiled it down to frequency of
16 hunting, how often do you hunt and has that frequency
17 changed prior and post 2003. Then the amount of effort
18 that you have to expend to obtain the water birds that
19 you do harvest. The participation by family and
20 friends, another indicator of the custom. Then the
21 fourth there is social events where, for example, the
22 Interior potlatches occur and sharing. We've heard
23 talked about today that a lot of times birds are
24 brought back to a village and shared with elders. The
25 number of occasions where that occurs was something I
26 felt would be a good indicator of whether or not the
27 custom was being protected. Finally, I asked a suite
28 of questions in the survey that really tried to focus
29 on the attitude towards whether or not subsistence
30 hunters -- you all on the Co-Management Council believe
31 that this work that we are doing is going to work for
32 the good, protection, of your long-term and historic
33 rights and historic practices. So there were a number
34 of questions that tried to focus in on that.

35

36 Those of you that returned the surveys,
37 I want to thank you for it. I sent 16 surveys to
38 current and past members and received 10 back, so all
39 of these findings are based on a sample size of 10 or a
40 return of 10, so keep that in the back of your minds
41 when I do draw some inferences from that.

42

43 So I did develop a survey with those
44 parameters in mind and I used phrases that were
45 relative, not asking people to quantify. I didn't feel
46 like that was as important as looking at relative
47 events or how frequent things occurring, more, less or
48 about the same pre and post 2003 when the regulations
49 were put in place. Of course I've already mentioned I
50 sent it to the 16 AMBCC members.

1 So that's the qualitative method for
2 addressing goal three. Goal four, the question is are
3 we conserving the birds. That's where I opted to do
4 the T test, pre and post 2003 data sets and then, to my
5 chagrin, having not done statistics in many, many
6 years, was told that I had to do a power analysis to
7 sort of qualify the value of that T test and then,
8 after that, look at maybe combining means and analyzing
9 those to see if there were more meaningful results
10 coming out of that. I'll get into that briefly, in a
11 minute. That's sort of the methodology and the
12 stepping down of the statistical analysis.

13
14 What I chose to do, this is a photo of
15 the YK Delta and I chose to use data sets from the YK
16 Delta for a couple reasons. One, that's the area that
17 we have the largest or longest survived record of
18 harvest survey information and where we have an
19 extensive set of harvest aerial survey information.
20 What you probably can't see well in this photo are
21 these colored transect lines starting in the lower
22 center of the photo, working up. There are transects
23 highlighted in red, then yellow, then orange and then
24 maybe another one in orange at the top. Those
25 transects are flown annually and then there's an
26 estimate of breeding birds that's made from those
27 observations every year. Those surveys go back, I
28 believe, to about 1985.

29
30 What I wanted to do was calculate the
31 rate of harvest estimate to the rate of the birds seen
32 in the survey. Excuse me, it's not a harvest rate,
33 it's a ratio. I guess there's a distinction there.
34 The harvest rate would imply that they're taking so
35 much out of the population estimate. The fact is, it's
36 not a population estimate. It's only an estimate of
37 breeding birds that are seen in the surveys and the
38 harvest survey is for the YK Delta.

39
40 So I had to make some pretty broad
41 assumptions in analyzing this, but this is the way that
42 I chose to do it because of the consistent methodology
43 in the aerial surveys and the final estimates of
44 harvest survey and the years of these surveys. They
45 dated back to 1989, when I could actually get harvest
46 survey information and aerial survey population
47 information and calculate a ratio. I did that for 16
48 species.

49
50 Let's go back to the results. I'm kind

1 of flip-flopping between the two questions. I've
2 talked about the methodology of the goal three and the
3 qualitative survey. I've got five bullets of the
4 results of that. The first finding that I have is that
5 three of those five parameters appear to be unchanged.
6 The way the survey was designed, and this is what Dr.
7 Calloway helped me design, is you ask the event or the
8 fact or the phenomenon you're interested in did you
9 hunt more, less or about the same in frequency as you
10 did prior to 2003 versus afterwards.

11
12 The next question that follows that, if
13 someone says I hunted more, then you ask was it a
14 result of the 2003 regulations. To try to find out
15 that if change did occur is it attributed to the
16 regulations or is it attributed to something else. So
17 three of those five parameters that I asked the
18 questions on were somewhat unchanged and I'll go
19 through the results for those five.

20
21 The first question, since 2003 do you
22 hunt less, about the same or more frequently. Then you
23 can see the results. Six people said the same, three
24 people said less, one more; so the majority of the
25 folks said we hunt about the same. The follow-up
26 question, did you attribute it to the regulations. In
27 fact, if you are interested in following along, I don't
28 have the follow-up slide, I didn't want to get too
29 caught up in that, but I do have them in the paper on
30 Page 15. Only one person attributed those hunting less
31 to the regulations. Other reasons for hunting less
32 were primarily cost. It just costs a lot more money to
33 get out nowadays. A couple folks said they're
34 concerned about diseases, bird flu. So the first of
35 the five questions relatively unchanged. Remembering
36 that this is asking is the change due to the
37 regulations.

38
39 The second question, since the
40 regulations have been in place, it takes less, about
41 the same or more effort to meet my subsistence needs
42 for waterfowl. You can see 7 of the 10 respondents
43 said about the same. Again, how many would attribute
44 the change, the more, more effort. How many of those
45 attributed that change to the regulations. No one
46 attributed the fact that it takes more effort to the
47 regulations that were in place.

48
49 MS. APOK: Excuse me, Doug. Do you
50 have that presentation somewhere? You were referring

1 to a page.

2

3 MR. ALCORN: Yeah. Well, it's a paper.
4 I think it's in the back pocket there, Hazel. Go to
5 Page 15 and you'll see all of these pie charts. The
6 way they're arranged, the odd numbered questions are
7 the questions asking of the event or the occurrence and
8 then the follow-up question are even numbered questions
9 down through about 14, I think, was that change due to
10 the regulations. That's the pattern that I tried to
11 establish.

12

13 So question three, again, not
14 significant change and I say significant loosely. This
15 is not a statistical test with only 10 respondents, but
16 the majority of the folks said it's pretty much the
17 same. Those that did say they've changed didn't
18 attribute it to the regulations.

19

20 The third parameter was since 2003 are
21 there fewer, more or about the same social get-
22 togethers where waterfowl are eaten. You can see that
23 most people said about the same. One said fewer, one
24 said more. Again, both of the folks that did respond
25 to the change, were those changes attributed to the
26 regulations, and neither of those responses attributed
27 the change to the regulations.

28

29 These are the two of the five that did
30 -- that the same wasn't necessarily the majority. You
31 can see how they're split and they're exactly split
32 evenly. Some folks said they're same, the majority of
33 folks said that they're changed, but some folks said
34 fewer and some folks said more. So I would say that
35 they're not very definitive is about all I could infer
36 from looking at the responses there. But the questions
37 were since the 2003 regulations are there fewer, the
38 same or more family and friends participating in this
39 activity as an indicator of whether or not the custom
40 and the culture is being protected and perpetuated.

41

42 Question 11. Since the same time, my
43 village's long-range opportunity for hunting is worse,
44 the same or better. This is one of a series of three
45 or four questions that kind of focused on an attitude
46 of whether or not you feel that regulations are
47 protecting the resource, protecting the opportunities,
48 and whether or not you welcome hunters into your
49 village or into your community to hunt. Those results
50 were generally supportive.

1 There were some outliers, as you might
2 expect, because there was not unanimity on anything
3 other than -- all but one, I think, person said that it
4 does cost more money to hunt. There was a strong
5 majority in that. There was another very strong
6 majority on the question do you welcome new hunters
7 into your community. I think 8 of 10 people said yes,
8 I would welcome new hunters that are characterized as
9 indigenous inhabitants to hunt in the community.

10
11 Those were the findings from those
12 questions and the survey that I have is actually
13 attached on Pages 38 and 39 of the paper. Again, this
14 is a draft paper. It's not quite finalized yet. I'm
15 waiting on comments from my committee.

16
17 Fundamentally, the change that we did
18 that I was able to decipher was generally not
19 attributed to the regulations but for other purposes.
20 This is the second of the bullets of the results of the
21 qualitative responses that I got. The majority of
22 responders seemed to be positive about this co-
23 management protecting rights and providing local say
24 from regions and villages in the regulatory process. A
25 very strong majority welcomed new hunters. Fourth
26 bullet is that rising costs and fear of disease were
27 cited as reasons for the decline in some cases for
28 change.

29
30 This one, it bears mentioning, and it's
31 consistent with what we've heard here, that there's a
32 strong aversion to the requirement of duck stamps.
33 That was mentioned in the section that I allowed for
34 additional comments. Quite a few of the responders
35 said that this is an issue that this Council needs to
36 deal with and that we can't ignore. To maintain
37 fidelity for my offer for you to provide insight and
38 comments, that's in there.

39
40 Now let's go to the quantitative
41 results. The T test is designed to test the means of
42 two sets of data, the averages, and the result that you
43 get is a value and it's a value less than one. It
44 basically is the probability of falsely rejecting a
45 null hypothesis. The null hypothesis is that there is
46 no difference between the pre-2003 rate of harvest to
47 population estimates to the post-2003 harvest to
48 population estimates and it's broken down by the 16
49 species that you see listed there. The threshold that
50 I chose was the probability of making the error needed

1 to be less than 10 percent.

2

3 You can see that, looking across the
4 suite of species there, that Northern Shoveler was the
5 only species of waterfowl that the T test results came
6 back with a probability of less than 10 percent of
7 making an erroneous call. Making an error of this type
8 basically is saying there is a difference when there is
9 no statistical difference. It's referred to in
10 statistics textbooks as a type one error.

11

12 So everything below that red line would
13 qualify as a significant difference. So you can see
14 that the 15 of the 16 species are above that red line,
15 so I could detect no significant difference from the
16 pre-regulation 2003 period to the post-2003 time
17 period.

18

19 This arrow points to -- this is a
20 combined T test result. One of the things I did in
21 applying what's known as the central limit theorem in
22 statistical analysis is a mean of the sample means of
23 all of the 16 species. It's not an averaging of those
24 purple bars, but it's a mean of the rate that I was
25 able to calculate that are in the actual analyses.
26 Then I run that mean through the T test and you can see
27 that the T test value was about 24 percent. Meaning
28 that for all of the species studied that I looked at on
29 the YK Delta and did the math for, there's a 24 percent
30 chance that if I were to say that there was a
31 statistical difference in the harvest ratio, that I
32 have a 24 percent chance of making an erroneous call.
33 So it's above that red line, above the 10 percent
34 threshold, so I would say that I failed, based on this
35 number, failed to reject the T test -- excuse me, the
36 null hypothesis, meaning that I accept that it's true
37 that there is no difference between the pre and the
38 post 2003 harvest rate. That's the mathematical
39 finding that I was able to get out of doing this
40 analysis.

41

42 The second phase of the analysis is to
43 calculate the power of your analysis and whether or not
44 it's powerful enough to detect a change. If a change
45 did, in fact, occur, how precise is your data and can
46 you detect that difference. There's a little bit of a
47 different kind of a threshold and a different logic
48 that's used in looking at a power analysis, but suffice
49 to say I was looking -- and based it on published
50 literature and biological sampling. Looking at an 80

1 percent chance of being sure that we could detect a 50
2 percent change in the harvest ratio.

3
4 What you can see from this figure is
5 that the red bars are to detect a 50 percent increase.
6 Recall the language that Taqulik read earlier and I
7 cite that same language in my paper on Page 33 in the
8 conclusions. The language that we have in the Protocol
9 Amendment is that it is not the intent of the United
10 States and Canada to, quote, cause significant
11 increases in the take of species of migratory birds
12 relative to their continental population size. The
13 relative to their continental population size is the
14 reason why I calculated the rate of harvest to the
15 population estimate -- excuse me, the breeding bird
16 estimate for that area.

17
18 The test here is to look at the
19 increase. It's to check whether or not we have
20 increased the harvest. In fact, when I looked at the
21 rate, the post-2003 rate was actually less. What this
22 power test on this figure does is tell you whether or
23 not you have precise enough data to actually say that's
24 a good test. To check for an increase in the rate, the
25 species that are indicated with a red bar above the red
26 line, you can see the purple bars or the darker bars
27 that exceed the red line of .8, that's indicating that
28 we had good precision to identify a 50 percent change
29 in that harvest ratio for those particular species.
30 The species that fall below the red line, we don't have
31 good power to detect an increase. Now I did the same
32 test for detecting a decrease of 50 percent and that's
33 these lavender colored bars and you can see that all
34 but Cackling Canada Goose fall below that level. So
35 detecting a decrease in the harvest we don't have very
36 good statistical power to detect that, but we certainly
37 have power with the data that I used to see an
38 increase. In fact, my data suggests that there's
39 actually a decrease in the numbers.

40
41 So this begs the question what does it
42 take to get these numbers higher. It takes actually
43 smaller variance in the data sets, but you can also
44 analyze more years of data. I developed an algebraic
45 model that just basically held all the factors constant
46 and leaving as a variable for the algebraic question
47 just the number of years of data to analyze. I found
48 that to detect a decrease, assuming the variances would
49 stay the same for the data sets, I found an additional
50 one year of data. I actually only had two years of

1 post-2003 harvest estimates to compare and that was for
2 2004 and 2005. An additional year of information,
3 saying everything else remained constant, would make
4 the power to detect a decrease of 50 percent of that
5 ratio and it would get us above the .8 coefficient of
6 value. So it would basically say in another year of
7 analysis we would have enough power to make that call.
8 We're already there for detecting an increase.

9
10 Let me go back to this slide here. The
11 arrow there is indicating this is the corporate
12 analysis of these 16 species and you can see that
13 corporately I have good statistical power to detect an
14 increase if an increase were to have occurred. Don't
15 have good power to detect a decrease. In fact, there
16 was not an increase detected, so that leads me to say
17 that I could not detect an increase in harvest and
18 that's the mandate that we've been given by the
19 Protocol Amendment and the writers and the Congress
20 when they ratified it.

21
22 I think, as a conclusion, that going
23 back to the qualitative conclusion, I believe that
24 AMBCC members are optimistic about co-management, they
25 are very cautious and some of those cautions have been
26 expressed here today, and those have been borne out, I
27 think, in my findings, but I think there is hope that
28 this co-management process will get us to where we need
29 to be in protecting the customs and cultures and
30 perpetuating those.

31
32 The quantitative analysis was that I
33 was unable to detect an increase and I think the
34 statistics indicate that I had the power to detect that
35 increase. If we do this analysis another time,
36 incorporating another year of harvest survey data, we
37 might certainly have enough power to detect what the
38 decrease would be and then draw a conclusion from that.

39
40 So the real question, going back to
41 sort of the management question, are we meeting the
42 intent of the treaty protocol and are we achieving the
43 goals, perpetuating the customs and cultures, and are
44 we conserving birds, I give it a qualified yes. I don't
45 think that this particular analysis is conclusive for
46 the entire state. It's only an indicator because it is
47 using indicator data and it's only a snapshot in time.
48 Every year that we are able to do this type of analysis
49 or certainly more comprehensive analysis will let us
50 have probably a more comprehensive answer and a more

1 qualified answer.

2

3 But that's the findings that I came up
4 with and concluded. I think that no recommendations
5 are really coming out of this paper or this assessment,
6 but I certainly see the need for continued collection
7 of harvest survey information and population survey
8 information. That's sort of my findings in a nutshell.
9 Sorry I went so long. I'm glad to take any questions
10 or comments.

11

12 MS. APOK: When you mentioned
13 subsistence economies, I'm not sure what page it's on,
14 but under effort did you take into account the cost of
15 going out and doing subsistence activities?

16

17 MR. ALCORN: Yes, Hazel, that was a
18 question and it was question five and the way the
19 question reads, it's on Page 17, since 2003 it cost me
20 less, about the same or more money to harvest enough
21 waterfowl to meet my own subsistence needs. The
22 answers that came out are on Page 15. Nine out of 10
23 people said it cost more, one person said it cost about
24 the same. I didn't burrow down into much detail at all
25 because I was trying to be aware and sensitive to the
26 fact that I've heard people say survey burnout, we're
27 surveyed all the time, and I certainly didn't want to
28 create a survey with tens of questions. I wanted to
29 keep it as short and concise as I could. I felt like
30 17 questions was fairly short. It took about 10
31 minutes to do.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Squartsoff and
34 then Member Naneng.

35

36 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Doug, I
37 apologize for not responding to that. My excuse is not
38 having time. Still, when we had the talk in your
39 office where I stressed that it was not fitting the
40 needs of the Native community and the people because of
41 -- one of the main ones was, which is not one of our
42 tools for gathering and harvesting, is the duck stamp
43 and the license. It put a lot more pressure on some of
44 the people that way thinking that we're finally legal,
45 we get to do what we've always practiced for thousands
46 of years, and then we're still not in that situation,
47 kind of like Taqulik mentioned some of their elders
48 thinking we're basically going back to being illegal if
49 pressure gets put on us that way.

50

1 I don't think they should come down and
2 try to put pressure on us that way to say that we have
3 to have that duck stamp, the license and all that.
4 We're not doing our subsistence hunt. We're still in a
5 sport hunt, which we don't do. We do traditional
6 hunting, harvesting and gathering. I don't even like
7 to use the word subsistence and you know that. But
8 that's the way I felt about it. I wanted to at least
9 be able to express that here when you gave that report
10 since I wasn't able to fill out that survey.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Naneng.

15

16 MR. NANENG: Thanks, Doug, for your
17 analysis, but one of the comments I'd like to make is
18 when you used the term anecdotal it kind of makes your
19 report not really real. The fact that our people have
20 lived off this land for many years and when scientists
21 or biologists come out to our villages telling them
22 it's only providing anecdotal information. When a
23 biologist comes out to our region and does a study for
24 five years and he says it's no longer anecdotal, but
25 our people have lived there for many, many years,
26 observed the seasons, observed the snow conditions,
27 observed the waterfowl population return to the area
28 and then from their years of observations without
29 putting it on record, say it's not a good year for the
30 birds because of floods or snow conditions or some
31 things like that that has been observed by our people
32 for many years. Those aren't anecdotal.

33

34 The other concern that I have regarding
35 the report is that in the YK Delta we've had many years
36 of conservation concerns. In '84, when the Goose
37 Management Plan was established, we had a concern of
38 Cackling Canada Goose. There's a population decline
39 down to about 25,000. At that time our people made a
40 concerted effort to conserve and up to this date have
41 not even re-established some of their harvesting or
42 gone back to the way they used to harvest. They used
43 to harvest eggs. Many of them are no longer harvesting
44 eggs because of the conservation concern.

45

46 The Emperor Geese. Since '86, the
47 population has not increased from around 52,000. Many
48 of our people are not hunting them like they used to
49 because of that conservation concern. We haven't been
50 able to come up with the answer of why they have not

1 increased in numbers since then.

2

3 The Spectacled Eiders recently were
4 added to that list of conservation concerns and we have
5 a document that asks our people in the YK Delta not to
6 hunt Spectacled Eiders where they used to gather quite
7 a number during springtime year after year before 2003.

8

9 Black Brant. A constant concern every
10 year because of changing wintering habitats down in the
11 Lower 48.

12

13 White Fronts. I think we can say that
14 White Fronts have increased substantially in population
15 from the time our people also made conservation efforts
16 in about the mid '80s, early '90s, when they were down
17 to about 200,000. The last estimates I saw about two
18 years ago, they're over 400,000.

19

20 I think your report is good, but all
21 those factors have not been included in the analysis.
22 But overall I think our people in the YK Delta have not
23 decreased in their hunting efforts but have done so
24 because of the conservation concerns and I think that
25 has to be kept in mind as you put this analysis
26 forward. Our people have made many sacrifices over the
27 years and whatever information you gather from them,
28 please don't consider them anecdotal.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

33

34 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Myron. I
35 appreciate that. I certainly didn't mean to imply that
36 anecdotal wasn't important. If it's considered
37 offensive, I'll be glad to change it and talk with you.
38 I don't want this to be something that is offensive. I
39 characterized this as this is not the answer to the
40 entire question. This is a very qualified, meaning a
41 very narrow look at some indicators and I think that
42 your statements about the fact that there are lots of
43 things that you're not doing now that were implemented
44 before 1989 when that data set -- when I began to
45 analyze that, that's a very good point and I would like
46 to talk to you further about that and I think that does
47 need to be mentioned in this. So, thanks.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Chythlook.

50

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman. When I was working for Subsistence Division,
3 it took several years to have the agencies quit using
4 that anecdotal any time traditional and ecological
5 knowledge was gathered. I have kind of the same
6 feelings as Myron. If the subsistence harvest hunter
7 information is anecdotal, then your report isn't
8 qualified. It's not 100 percent true because anecdotal
9 isn't true, it's just something that's made up.

10
11 The other concern I have is we know
12 within our board here and the Service people we're
13 represented as regions, but it doesn't mention it here.
14 So in your -- it doesn't really spell out -- especially
15 the words same and better hunting. Because each region
16 is so different with our hunting methods, practices and
17 seasons, that I think that needs to be clarified.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other comments or
22 questions for Mr. Alcorn.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: If not, thank you
27 very much. In the interest of scheduling, I know we
28 have one member leaving about 3:00 o'clock. Who else
29 is scheduled to leave today?

30
31 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I'm going
32 out at 5:00.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Anybody else leaving
35 today? I don't want to lose our quorum and I want to
36 make sure we get to the material we need to get to with
37 a quorum.

38
39 We've had a request for a break to have
40 a Native caucus and we're happy to do that right now.
41 When we come back, we'll see where we go from there.
42 At six minutes past 2:00, let's stand down for a
43 caucus. Mr. Rothe.

44
45 MR. ROTHE: Please make sure you sign
46 the poster for Austin.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yes, please do sign
49 that before you leave, the poster for Austin Ahmasuk.
50 We'll stand down for Native caucus.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Back on the record at
6 2:50. We thank Member Naneng for his attendance. He
7 has to depart, but Tim Andrew will be sitting in for
8 him. We welcome Member Andrew.

9

10 Moving along on the agenda, we've made
11 it to new business and we'll be taking up the three
12 proposals that are on the agenda, but first we're going
13 to hear from Tom Rothe from the Alaska Department of
14 Fish and Game and Russ Oates from the U.S. Fish and
15 Wildlife Service with a report on species of concern.
16 While they're setting up, let me just mention as we get
17 into the proposals the format we're going to follow is
18 for the regional representative or the sponsor to
19 introduce the proposal or the proposed action. That
20 will be followed by the Alaska Department of Fish and
21 Game Staff analysis. That will be followed by U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff analysis. That will be
23 followed by any Technical Committee analysis, public
24 comments and then finally Council discussion and
25 recommendation.

26

27 With that, Tom and Russ, the floor is
28 yours, gentlemen.

29

30 MR. ROTHE: I'm Tom Rothe and Russ
31 Oates and I are going to give you a real quick overview
32 of a couple species of concern that we've looked at
33 over the years just to give you an idea of population
34 status and some of the current issues. Taqulik said I
35 had to make it fast, so I'll go through this as quickly
36 as I can. We did this yesterday, so half of you have
37 seen this show already.

38

39 Emperor Geese, as Myron mentioned, have
40 been a concern since the mid 1980's and they stay in
41 Alaska, wintering in the Aleutians and breeding mostly
42 on the YK Delta. It looks like there's a slight
43 increasing trend in the breeding birds on the YK Delta
44 breeding grounds. As you can see, over the long term
45 since the Goose Management Plan was implemented in
46 1994, we've never really gotten that population going.
47 It's just kind of popped up a little bit and then
48 bubbled along somewhere around 60-70,000 birds.

49

50 Our goal is 150,000 and our Goose Plan

1 says we won't consider hunting until the three-year
2 average is at least 80,000, so we've got a ways to go
3 with Emperor Geese. The red bars are the ones we use
4 to determine our management action. You can see the
5 last three years don't get us to 80,000 yet.

6
7 Continuing issues are that we're below
8 our goal. We know that eggs and birds are harvested
9 still in some areas despite the closure in the Goose
10 Management Plan and regulations and we know that young
11 Emperor Geese don't survive as well as other species do
12 on the wintering grounds because they go to the
13 Aleutians where the weather is pretty rugged, so
14 they're not a very productive population.

15
16 Black Brant. As you know, we were
17 really worried a couple years ago when we had these low
18 counts and triggered some restrictions, but as you can
19 see the population has been coming up nicely and we're
20 at about 147,000 this year. Three-year average is
21 138,000. What this means is that in the Flyway
22 Management Plan we're above 135,000, so we can increase
23 harvest somewhat according to that. We proposed fall
24 regulations of a daily bag limit of three instead of
25 two. In July, Washington, Oregon and California will
26 make proposals at the flyway meeting and we'll see what
27 they want to do. They might want longer seasons or a
28 higher bag limit. I don't think anybody expects to try
29 to increase harvest a lot. We know that we don't want
30 to overharvest Brant right now.

31
32 Over the long term, Brant have just
33 kind of chugged along with a few good years and maybe a
34 slight hint of decline over the long term. So we're
35 still a little bit below our goal of 150,000.

36
37 Western High Arctic Brant is a small
38 population of birds, 10 or 12,000 that nest very far
39 north in the Canadian Arctic and they winter in Puget
40 Sound, Washington. The only time we get to see them is
41 when they migrate back in fall across the North Slope
42 and down into Izembek Lagoon at Cold Bay and then move
43 south. You just need to keep in mind that this small
44 population is part of the mix that shows up in Alaska
45 in the fall.

46
47 Brant, like I said, we're at 138,000
48 compared to our goal of 150. We've got habitat
49 problems in the wintering grounds. We don't have a
50 good idea of what Brant harvest is in Mexico recently

1 and maybe other outlying parts of Alaska. Subsistence
2 harvest for eggs is closed on the YK Delta and the
3 North Slope.

4
5 Cackling Geese. Again, it was one of
6 the goose populations that was affected in the mid
7 '80s. Our Goose Management Plan and harvest
8 restrictions down south really got the population going
9 pretty well. Harvest was closed until 1994. You can
10 see the population built up really nicely between '85
11 and '94. We started kind of a moderate harvest in all
12 the states and you can see the population leveled off
13 and stopped growing. Here's a breeding ground index,
14 so you can see that since '98 there hasn't been any
15 progress. The population has been hanging in there
16 with a good number of birds, but they're not growing
17 toward 250,000.

18
19 This is the harvest in Washington and
20 Oregon permit zone in the western parts of the states.
21 You can see their harvest went up pretty significantly
22 after '94. We were concerned that this level of
23 harvest in recent years may have stopped the growth
24 rate of the population, so restrictions were put in
25 place in 2005 to try and get more growth going.

26
27 So right now the last couple years in
28 areas of Alaska where Cacklers are and in western
29 Washington and Oregon we've had a two bird limit. I
30 think we're comfortable that we'll hang in there with
31 that for a while and see if the population starts to
32 increase again because that's what we want to
33 accomplish. We've still got a pretty good number of
34 birds. It's not a crisis, but we'd like to see the
35 growth continue. We're still below our objective by at
36 least 100,000 birds.

37
38 Some of you have met with the farmers
39 in Oregon and you know all about the crop eating
40 problem they have down there. Washington and Oregon
41 have tried to hunt geese as much as they can definitely
42 without shooting Dusky Canada Geese from Cordova. It's
43 the smallest population. We're just keeping an eye on
44 how many Cacklers get harvested in this area. The
45 problem is there's over a quarter million geese in the
46 Willamette Valley and there's not enough public land on
47 refuges and wildlife areas to keep the geese out of the
48 farmers' fields. So it's a long-term problem down
49 there.

50

1 Myron referred to the great success
2 story with Pacific White-Fronted Geese. In summer
3 2007, our estimate was 605,000. This is a tremendous
4 number of birds, over double our goal, so we've got
5 lots and lots of White Fronts and all the White Front
6 hunters are happy. Those are birds from the YK Delta
7 that winter in California mainly.

8
9 This is Mid-Continent White-Fronts from
10 the North Slope and Interior Alaska. Right in here we
11 have a harvest strategy that applies to the Canadian
12 prairies and the central flyway in Texas. We
13 deliberately harvested a lot and then the population
14 went down, so restrictions were put in place here and
15 now they're starting to come back up. So we're
16 managing the way we like to manage. Detect a downturn,
17 change the regs and things improve. So they're doing
18 pretty well.

19
20 Russell is going to talk about ducks.

21
22 MR. OATES: Okay. Just a few species
23 here that we wanted to talk about. Steller's Eiders.
24 And this is the familiar range map, the red areas being
25 the current breeding range, the yellow being the
26 current molting and wintering range. You have to look
27 closely on the map to see the little red dot in western
28 Alaska on the Yukon Delta where a few birds still
29 continue to breed there. Of course, they bred there in
30 greater numbers historically.

31
32 Steller's Eiders spend the winter down
33 in the Aleutians and along the coast of the Alaska
34 Peninsula and in the spring time we count them when
35 they're preparing to head north. The birds we see in
36 the red areas, these are actual locations of where
37 birds were seen. That represents breeding birds from
38 Russia as well as Alaska. The vast majority of the
39 birds that are seen in these areas are Russian birds.
40 We've been attempting to count the birds down in the
41 area of the Alaska Peninsula and western Alaska because
42 basically it's the only place we can count them with
43 some degree of dependability. During the breeding
44 season on the North Slope they're spread so thinly up
45 there that we rarely see them on our aerial surveys up
46 there. So we count the combined populations from
47 Russia and Alaska in the spring time. In about another
48 five days we're going to launch a crew to go down and
49 count them again.

50

1 We've been trying to count these birds
2 down there since 1992. If you look at the graph here,
3 there's some blanks in the line. The dots are not
4 connected when they're missing years. Through a
5 combination of bad weather and funding, there are a
6 number of years missing. At any rate, there was at
7 least the appearance of a decline through about 2002
8 and then the numbers seem to pop back up, even though
9 these are point estimates and we don't have estimates
10 of variation around them. Had bad weather in 2006 and
11 we weren't able to complete a survey, but we did get
12 one in 2007. This is our gross estimate of the birds
13 that are present in the spring time on the Alaska
14 Peninsula and western Alaska there and it's somewhere
15 in the neighborhood of 80-90,000 birds at this point in
16 time.

17
18 MR. DEVINE: Russ. Peter Devine. I
19 know some of the birds in Sand Point were fitted with
20 transmitters and also some out in Unalaska. Are you
21 guys getting any data back from them?

22
23 MS. TRUST: I can answer that question.

24
25 MR. OATES: Please do because I'm not
26 familiar with it.

27
28 MS. TRUST: I'm Kim Trust. There is
29 actually a paper that has come out on that home range
30 information on those birds that have been radio-
31 transmitted and I can get you that citation if you'd
32 like it or I can get the paper to you if you'd like.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Kim, Herman here. Can
35 you also get that for me. There was some out of Kodiak
36 done with transmitters too, I believe, right?

37
38 MS. TRUST: The birds out of Kodiak I
39 don't know about. I think that was done from Dan
40 Rosenberg's shop from Fish and Game. If somebody gets
41 me your names, I can get you guys a reprint.

42
43 MR. ANDREW: Are we going to have an
44 opportunity to ask questions later on or do you mind us
45 asking questions?

46
47 MR. OATES: It's fine with me.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Whatever is
50 comfortable, go right ahead.

1 MR. OATES: If it's okay with the
2 Chair, it's okay with me.

3
4 MR. ANDREW: Thank you. I was just
5 wondering about the methodology utilized to do
6 Steller's Eider population estimates. Is that through
7 the flying of the transects?

8
9 MR. OATES: No. This particular survey
10 is done in the spring time aerially and basically we
11 start at the north where the water is open and work our
12 way south. The birds typically go as far north as they
13 can, so we work the open water and work south. We
14 don't always get to the south side. Most of the birds
15 are congregating on the north side of the Alaska
16 Peninsula this time of year. Basically we fly from bay
17 to bay and look for aggregations of birds and then get
18 the best estimate of total birds that we can get at
19 that time.

20
21 MR. ANDREW: I was just trying to
22 figure out the steep decline within those two years.
23 I'm not really familiar with Steller's Eiders and what
24 their habits are like or where they prefer to go, but I
25 was just wondering if that significant decline could
26 have been attributed to perhaps weather conditions or
27 with surveys at that time or do you know?

28
29 MR. OATES: Are you referring to the
30 1992 to 1993 change?

31
32 MR. ANDREW: Yeah.

33
34 MR. OATES: I'd have to see if there's
35 any information in the report associated with those two
36 time periods, but I don't have knowledge at this point
37 in time of what may have been transpiring there. When
38 we see drops at that order of magnitude, among the
39 things that come to mind is changes in distribution of
40 the birds or other sorts of factors. An actual
41 population decline of that magnitude certainly seems
42 unprecedented. We don't do anything drastic
43 management-wise. That's one of the reasons we do these
44 surveys over and over again because the more time you
45 have and the more you do this, you start to see
46 patterns emerging. It's conceivable that there may
47 have been some factors that I don't know about between
48 those two years that affected that count and we're
49 certainly open to that.

50

1 A lot of the management that we do, not
2 with this particular species necessarily, is based on
3 three-year averages just because of the kinds of
4 variability that exist in aerial-based surveys. A lot
5 of the stuff we do is on three-year averages. The
6 Emperor Goose, the Black Brant, Cackling Geese, White
7 Fronts, all the management decisions are typically
8 based on three-year averages for those things simply
9 because of the variability that exists in the methods.

10
11 A little bit about Spectacled Eiders
12 now. The red areas are current breeding grounds, the
13 white areas are the historical breeding grounds,
14 although historical includes the red and the white.
15 The green are the molting areas and the yellow is the
16 current known wintering area. We index this population
17 on the North Slope and in western Alaska on the YK
18 Delta. On the North Slope you'll see this area, red
19 lines here representing the actual area transects that
20 we fly.

21
22 This survey has been done in early June
23 since 1992. We actually flew the survey too late in
24 1992 and the males had split up with the females pretty
25 much at that point. So we learned we were flying it
26 too late, so we went out there earlier while the pairs
27 were still present because it's hard for us to see the
28 females from the airplane, but the males show up pretty
29 nicely.

30
31 At any rate, this is our current graph
32 from 1993 to 2007 for the North Slope. The red
33 vertical line on each of these bars represents the --
34 it's a measure of the uncertainty associated with the
35 estimate for any given year. The bigger that bar, the
36 more variability exists in the data and it varies from
37 year to year. So it takes a fairly substantial change
38 in the population for us to consider a change in having
39 -- for us to detect a change in the population. We're
40 saying at this point now that the population, as best
41 we can determine is relatively stable on the North
42 Slope.

43
44 Looking at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta,
45 our estimate is based on a combination of aerial survey
46 that we do across the whole coastal zone of the Yukon
47 Delta and the nest plot survey that we do in a small
48 section of the coastal zone where the majority of the
49 Spectacled Eiders nest and these little black spots are
50 the actual 400 x 800 meter nest plots that we search.

1 We combine the aerial data with the ground data to get
2 an overall estimate for the Yukon Delta nesting
3 population.

4
5 Here's the graph for that and the same
6 measures of uncertainty and variability are these black
7 vertical bars on the tops of these columns. So we
8 don't consider that significant change has occurred
9 unless there's no overlap between the bottom of one bar
10 and the top of an adjacent bar. Using this rule of
11 thumb, we would say there may have been an increase say
12 from 2004 to 2005 in nesting birds. Overall, it looks
13 like relatively stable, maybe slightly increasing on
14 the Yukon Delta there.

15
16 Another species that we're interested
17 in continentally is the Black Scoter. Long-term
18 records for this species indicate a decline over a 30,
19 40 year period, so this precipitated our interest in
20 trying to improve our ability to count these birds, so
21 we designed a special Black Scoter breeding pair survey
22 that covered areas on the Seward Peninsula, Kotzebue
23 Sound, Yukon Delta, Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula.
24 The black spots are actually where the observations
25 were made. This is a different view of the same areas
26 and the higher density areas we increase the number of
27 transects and the black lines are the actual transects
28 for these areas.

29
30 We had sort of a base survey that we
31 did in 1992. It's not 100 percent comparable, but it
32 was a similar type survey. But this survey was
33 initiated in '04 and has run through '07. The actual
34 aerial index is represented by the yellow bar and our
35 expansion into the whole survey area where our
36 transects didn't cover is represented by the gray bar
37 and the variability is represented here by the vertical
38 bars again and you can see from left to right they all
39 overlap.

40
41 We're going to continue doing this
42 survey as long as we can to try to monitor this
43 population. Here's a summary for all regions just
44 represented in a bar graph. Then the Yukon Delta,
45 Seward Peninsula and Bristol Bay and a lot of the birds
46 are present on the Yukon Delta, as you can see from the
47 left side of the graphs here.

48
49 Just a couple of quick words on Yellow-
50 Billed Loons. Those of you who were here yesterday saw

1 this picture before represented with red dots. Based
2 on our aerial survey work, this is where we believe the
3 predominant concentration areas for breeding Yellow-
4 Billed Loons to be in. There's somewhere in the
5 neighborhood of 3,300 Yellow-Billed Loons on the North
6 Slope, of which 1,100 of those we believe to be non-
7 breeding birds. We think that the North Slope
8 population at this point in time based on our survey is
9 relatively stable.

10

11 One of the things you'll notice about,
12 again, this vertical bar is these vertical bars are
13 particularly big for this species. It's because it's a
14 fairly rare species, we don't see many, and there's a
15 lot of variability in the data as a result. There
16 would have to be some fairly dramatic changes in the
17 population either up or down before we could actually
18 detect it statistically using this survey.

19

20 The survey was designed primarily as a
21 waterfowl survey, but we do count Loons, so we do
22 analyze the data, but it's not necessarily the best
23 measure for monitoring this species, but it's the best
24 we could do at the current time. That's all I have and
25 if there are any further questions for Tom or myself,
26 we'll be glad to try to answer them.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are there any
29 questions from Council Members. Member Andrew.

30

31 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A
32 question for Tom. On the activities of the Oregon and
33 Washington goose depredation efforts, is there any
34 recognizable mortality that occurs as a result of the
35 depredation activities? Like for example perhaps they
36 can't land in the agricultural areas, they have to go
37 somewhere else to eat and, unfortunately, there's very
38 little public land for them to seek refuge in. I was
39 just wondering if there was any associated mortality
40 that may have occurred as a result of those activities.

41

42 MR. ROTHE: I don't think we're aware
43 of any geese that died because they couldn't feed well
44 enough. There's lots of habitat there and they do get
45 pushed around and they burn more energy than they would
46 normally. No, I think there's plenty of habitat so
47 that we're not seeing mortalities there. Oregon State
48 University is doing some studies right now on what kind
49 of crops, how much food geese need and what kinds of
50 food benefit them and then they're going to apply those

1 lessons to how to manage the Federal and State public
2 areas to hold geese and all that. No, it looks like
3 all the geese are fairly healthy.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: If not, thank you
10 very much.

11
12 MR. ROTHE: Was that fast enough,
13 Taquulik?

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Now we'll
18 move to the proposals. Before that I think I need to
19 thank Member Chythlook for the salmon strips and the
20 berries in the back. I hesitate to announce that
21 because it probably means it's all going to disappear
22 before I get another whack at it, but thank you very
23 much for that. It's a real positive addition to the
24 meeting.

25
26 After my previous description of how
27 we're going to handle proposals, the first one out of
28 the box is, of course, completely different. It's an
29 unusual situation and I don't believe the Council has
30 dealt with it before like this where an item made it
31 onto the agenda and then the proposer of that proposal
32 asks that it be withdrawn. At the point it made it
33 onto the agenda, it seems most of us believe it becomes
34 the property of the Council and parliamentary procedure
35 would dictate that it would have to be -- it would have
36 the opportunity to come before the Council for
37 discussion. Having been advertised, we wanted to make
38 sure if anybody of the public wanted to speak to this
39 proposal that they were afforded that opportunity. Of
40 course, I would observe that if no one is here from the
41 public to speak on it and a motion is not made to bring
42 the proposal before us, that proposal would die for
43 lack of a motion.

44
45 So, with that observation in mind, I'd
46 ask is there anybody here from the public that would
47 like to speak to the Naknek River closure proposal.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none and
2 having no motion to adopt the proposal, that proposal
3 will die for lack of a motion and we'll move on to
4 Proposal B, the Yakutat Tern Egging Proposal. In the
5 absence of Member Kookesh, if we could have Staff --
6 Bill, would you like to introduce that briefly and then
7 have Staff comments.

8
9 Before Bill gets underway, I'd
10 entertain a motion to adopt this proposal.

11
12 MR. ANDREW: So moved.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
15 Andrew. Is there a second.

16
17 MR. DEVINE: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Bill, if
20 you would, please.

21
22 MR. OSTRAND: The proposal is contained
23 behind Tab 6. This is a proposal by the Yakutat
24 community or the Yakutat Tlingit tribe to expand their
25 harvest. A few years ago a group of Southeastern
26 communities petitioned successfully to become included
27 to only harvest Glaucous Winged Gull eggs. Now Yakutat
28 would like to expand their legal harvest to include
29 Tern eggs, both Aleutian and Arctic Terns. There's a
30 map of the proposed area on the next page and on the
31 back of the letter from the Tlingit tribe is the actual
32 proposal form.

33
34 That's it. It's pretty straightforward
35 what they're requesting.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are there any
38 questions from Council Members.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much.
43 Seeing no questions, let's move on to Staff analysis
44 from Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and
45 Wildlife Service.

46
47 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. As part of
48 the Technical Committee, we took a look at the proposal
49 and looked into the background of it and I consulted
50 with Subsistence Division. I think in our view of

1 this, it's a fairly clear record that harvesting of
2 tern eggs in this area has been traditional for a long
3 time, so that seems clear at least from the literature.

4
5 We have a limited amount of harvest
6 data from a 1986 study, but there's not a whole lot of
7 information to inform the size of the harvest. I guess
8 based on the criteria that the Council usually uses, we
9 conclude that it's been a traditional activity and we
10 don't see a problem with it. The only proviso that the
11 Technical Committee knows is that it would be really
12 good to have harvest survey data on it, on a new hunt.
13 I think Russ also has some things to add that we would
14 support as well as far as inventory.

15
16 MR. OATES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I've
17 asked Dr. David Irons, our seabird coordinator for the
18 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Region 7 to provide
19 a little background information and then I'd like to
20 just make a few last comments after he's provided that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Oates.
23 Dr. Irons, would you join us, please.

24
25 DR. IRONS: Given that we don't have a
26 whole lot of time here, but thank you, Mr. Chairman,
27 for letting me speak. I could give you more
28 information than you want, so maybe I'll give you less
29 information and then if you want more, you can ask me
30 questions.

31
32 In Alaska we have between 20 and 30,000
33 Aleutian Terns and several hundred thousand Arctic
34 Terns. Aleutian Terns are coastal breeders only.
35 Arctic Terns breed coastally and throughout the
36 Interior. There's hundreds of Terns colonies in
37 Alaska. Black Sand Spit is the largest one by far for
38 both Aleutians and Arctics. It has existed there since
39 at least 1923 and probably long before that. Tern
40 colonies generally move around. This has been a large,
41 apparently productive colony because it's existed there
42 for at least 80 years.

43
44 We haven't been monitoring much the
45 colony there. Terns are hard to monitor because they
46 can move their colonies, so you can't just kind of
47 monitor one colony except when it's the biggest one
48 like this. You can certainly go count that colony. If
49 it declines, it doesn't mean it's declining because
50 they could move. People, the Forest Service mostly,

1 have been monitoring the colony since about 1980.
2 Aleutian terns have kind of bounced around but been
3 relatively stable since 1980. Arctic Terns have
4 increased this colony since 1980.

5
6 The Forest Service continues to plan to
7 monitor it and they're having a graduate student work
8 on developing a technique that's better than what
9 they've been doing in the past and I'm involved in that
10 study. This cooperative between us and the Forest
11 Service and the State, we plan on monitoring that
12 colony. Again, if it goes down, it doesn't mean it's
13 declining because it could be moving. It's of limited
14 use to just monitor one colony and we are planning on
15 monitoring other colonies in that area, but Terns are
16 hard. In general, this seems like a very large,
17 productive colony for both Arctics and Aleutians.

18
19 I'll stop there and if there are any
20 questions I'll be happy to answer them or try to.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any questions from
23 Council Members. Mr. Alcorn.

24
25 MR. ALCORN: A question, David. I
26 apologize for catching you on the record. I probably
27 should have asked this earlier this week. The proposal
28 is May 15 through August 30th. There's a principal
29 nesting season closure requirement in order to comply
30 with this treaty with Japan. Do these dates that are
31 being proposed here make that accommodation?

32
33 DR. IRONS: Don't they have a closure
34 from July 15th?

35
36 MR. ALCORN: So then the question is
37 accommodating the principal nesting season. That's the
38 question. Is the July 1 through August 31 the
39 principal nesting season?

40
41 DR. IRONS: As far as egg collection
42 here, you'd be collecting before July 1. They'd be
43 hatched out by then.

44
45 MR. ALCORN: They'd be hatched out by
46 July 1?

47
48 DR. IRONS: Yes. So they want to
49 collect eggs from May 15th to July 1 is my
50 understanding. Is that correct?

1 MR. ALCORN: That's the way I read it.
2 So the question is are we protecting the principal
3 nesting season.
4
5 DR. IRONS: From July 1 to August 30th?
6
7 MR. ALCORN: Yes.
8
9 DR. IRONS: You're protecting the
10 chickering season, yeah.
11
12 MR. ALCORN: The way I understand it is
13 to harvest eggs up to a certain point and then they
14 quit harvesting them and it's based on the number of
15 eggs that they find in the nest. There's a period of
16 time and we sort of confined that to a 30-day period
17 for what we've defined as the principal nesting season.
18 Recognizing that harvest would occur up to the start of
19 that principal time when birds are on nests and it's
20 based on the timing that we know the nesting period to
21 occur. If the harvest occurs up to hatching, that
22 implies to me that you're actually harvesting up to the
23 top of that principal nesting period as opposed to the
24 start of the ramping up of the activity.
25
26 DR. IRONS: I mean obviously phenology
27 changes every year and there's a bell-shaped curve or
28 something with the average and variants that are on the
29 nesting area. I think the time they take eggs is when
30 they're just laid and fresh, so I don't think they want
31 to take them later than that. July 1 would be towards
32 the end of the egg part and the beginning of the
33 hatching part.
34
35 MR. ALCORN: Yes or no, in your
36 professional estimation that we are complying with the
37 treaty with Japan, that we're protecting the principal
38 nesting season?
39
40 DR. IRONS: Well, I'm not sure how they
41 define nesting season. I define nesting season by egg
42 being laid until the chicks hatch or till the chicks
43 fledge. So like a 60-day period.
44
45 MR. ALCORN: Right. It's a brood
46 rearing.....
47
48 DR. IRONS: Well, it's an incubation
49 period. So we're allowing harvest during the beginning
50 of the egg period. Because the phenology changes

1 between years, it's really hard to say you can only do
2 it this two-week period, so you have to have more than
3 a couple weeks. No, it looks like we have six weeks
4 here. So that would cover that period. I mean as far
5 as the treaty with Japan, they're being protected
6 during the chick stage, but it depends on the annual
7 phenology how it would be, whether they're being
8 protected after a few days after they're hatched or
9 laid, so that's a hard one to say yes or no to exactly.
10

11 MR. ALCORN: Then let me rephrase the
12 question. Is it a reasonable accommodation by setting
13 this date up through July 1, harvesting eggs from May
14 15th to July 1 essentially, is it reasonable to assume
15 that we are adequately protecting the colony and
16 allowing for productivity in the nest given the
17 tradition of stopping taking eggs when there's one --
18 or when there are two or three eggs in the nest?
19

20 DR. IRONS: I would think so, yeah.
21

22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Squartsoff.
23

24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Doug,
25 that's about the same thing we did with our proposal,
26 changing it from June 20 down to June 30th to allow us
27 more time and that's what it looks like they're doing,
28 to make sure to accommodate whatever you're saying. It
29 sounds reasonable.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Just to be clear, as
32 I read it, this would allow take of eggs from May 15th
33 through June 30th.
34

35 DR. IRONS: Right.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions.
38

39 Mr. Rothe.
40

41 MR. ROTHE: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead,
42 Fred.
43

44 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right now they have a
45 closure period from July 1st to August 31st. If we're
46 going to propose a period of egg gathering from May
47 15th to August 31, we're not in compliance. I think we
48 need to be consistent.
49

50 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
Squartsoff.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I think
2 that's all they need to do is go from May 15th and
3 change it to June 30th and take that August 31st out of
4 there and then they'll be in compliance.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: If I'm not mistaken,
7 it acknowledges the closure in the proposal of July 1st
8 through August 31st. Maybe just to make it absolutely
9 clear we should specify that it be May 15th to June
10 30th. Member Squartsoff.

11
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Then I
13 feel we should get a hold of the makers of the proposal
14 and let them know about this change.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Again, I don't think
17 that's a substantial departure from what was intended.
18 Are there any other questions or comments. Mr. Oates.

19
20 MR. OATES: Yes, Mr. Chair. I guess
21 just to kind of summarize. Given the importance of
22 this colony, it's large size and the largest known for
23 Aleutian Terns and the interest on the part of the
24 public, the broader public in this colony, we think
25 it's in everybody's best interest if we do our best to
26 ensure that this harvest is carefully managed. So the
27 Service, with cooperators in the Forest Service, is
28 committed to doing our best to monitor this colony,
29 taking into consideration the variability that's been
30 demonstrated in the size of colonies over time.

31
32 We'd also like to ask if we could get
33 the assistance of the subsistence users in this
34 community to help us to monitor the harvest as well so
35 we can kind of keep a measure on both ends of the
36 resource here so that we can make sure that it
37 continues to be a successful conservation effort on
38 behalf of the birds and the users.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
41 Oates. Mr. Squartsoff.

42
43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Mr. Oates.
44 You know, that's a very good idea, but I would not like
45 to see what they did down in the Kodiak area that one
46 time. I don't know if it was UAA or UAF when they were
47 trying to monitor the eggs down there, I can't remember
48 what kind they were, they're like the Herring Gull,
49 they lay in the middle of the island. They were
50 flagging the nests and that was not letting the birds

1 nest. So I just hope something like that doesn't
2 happen down there where they scare them away.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Mr.
5 Oates.

6

7 MR. OATES: Just in response. Dr.
8 Irons is the co-investigator on this study and I'll
9 make sure he's aware of those concerns. I think he is,
10 based on his training. He'll ensure that a situation
11 like that will not be the end result of this study.

12

13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you. So it did
14 not let the birds lay anymore, so we just kind of
15 removed the flags and they started laying again.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. It
20 appears Dr. Irons is aware of these concerns. Member
21 Chythlook.

22

23 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. If these terns have been here for -- I guess
25 the colony itself has only been here for eight years?

26

27 DR. IRONS: Eighty years.

28

29 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Eighty years?

30

31 DR. IRONS: At least.

32

33 MS. CHYTHLOOK: And they're thriving
34 and now we have a proposal from the Native community to
35 harvest eggs that they've traditionally harvested all
36 these years without being monitored. I guess it's
37 recognized there's a force to now monitor these terns.
38 It just seems like every time there's a proposal, a
39 recognition of traditional harvest, there's always
40 something attached to it to monitor whatever hasn't
41 been deprived or hasn't decreased that has been
42 traditionally harvested.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
47 Chythlook. Members Alcorn.

48

49 MR. ALCORN: I'd like to respond. I
50 think the concern that I've heard expressed --

1 apparently there was a pretty robust discussion at the
2 Technical Committee. One of the members of the
3 Technical Committee expressed some concern about the
4 harvest of the eggs of these two species in that
5 particular colony. I think what's now different and I
6 think the proposer acknowledges that if this becomes a
7 regulated, legalized harvest, the opportunity for non-
8 traditional harvesters, it's legal for them likewise to
9 harvest. So the proposer, when asked the question
10 could this potentially increase activity in the colony,
11 the answer was yes.

12
13 I think there was sort of an
14 explanation of that answer as well. I think the
15 proposer said the traditional harvesters, the
16 expectation or the observation is the activity is
17 probably in decline because of the lack of interest or
18 for whatever reason. But if it becomes legal and
19 presumably non-traditional harvesters are allowed to
20 harvest, it may potentially increase. That, I think,
21 is one of the concerns that was expressed at the
22 meeting.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Dr. Irons.

25
26 DR. IRONS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
27 didn't give much of a talk when I talked about terns,
28 so I'll just give a little more background information
29 in response to your comment. One thing is this colony
30 is large and robust. In the rest of Alaska, the terns
31 are going down in several places. Both species are a
32 species of concern to several organizations. This
33 colony is healthy, but there's also other factors going
34 on with this colony, like it's on a spit that keeps
35 changing, the habitat keeps changing and maybe that's a
36 good thing, but it could also turn into a bad thing.
37 Also, there's disturbance on this colony and there's
38 bears out there and predators and so on. Because these
39 terns are declining in other areas of Alaska and this
40 one is not and doing well and it's so huge, and there's
41 several factors that could be affecting these terns,
42 people are interested in this colony and they want to
43 keep tabs on how it's doing. That's all.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
48 questions, comments. I'm ready for the question.

49
50 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

2

3 MR. ALCORN: This is, I guess, a
4 statement that touches on the observations that Russ
5 made. The Fish and Wildlife Service, I've counseled
6 with my superiors in looking at this proposal and the
7 Fish and Wildlife Service will offer support, vote for
8 it with a couple of observations or caveats so to
9 speak. One is, and I think we heard David and Russ
10 mention it, that we monitor the harvest as well as the
11 colony itself.

12

13 The other provision or caveat before we
14 would support it is that we believe it's important that
15 this particular proposal be discussed and considered
16 annually for a while so that we have the discussion
17 about what the observations are and the status of the
18 colony and the status of the harvest. Given a few
19 years down the road, if it looks like things haven't
20 really changed, if all of a sudden lots of folks from
21 town aren't driving out there and the observation is
22 that harvest has remained pretty constant, then I would
23 say that we would be comfortable building this into a
24 permanent regulation, but for now we would like it to
25 be considered an annual proposal.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
28 Andrew.

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 don't know if he intended to go into any of the
32 deliberations that occurred in the Technical Committee.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I think Technical
35 Committee is up next. Excuse me. I was a little ahead
36 of myself. Any other questions. Member Hepa.

37

38 MS. HEPA: Just a comment. As we put
39 these stipulations into it about monitoring and to work
40 with tribal organizations, is there going to be funding
41 associated with the monitoring with the tribes?

42

43 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

44

45 MR. ALCORN: I can't comment to that
46 right now. Our budget is flat. I think any monitoring
47 effort would have to be probably at this point at the
48 expense of the harvester.

49

50 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Hepa.

1 MS. HEPA: And then I would just like
2 to note that I think through the Alaska Migratory Bird
3 Survey that it does not include this particular region.
4 So what we're asking them to do is a little bit out of
5 the ordinary. I really feel like we need to consult
6 with the locals from that organization on their
7 willingness to be able to monitor.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Dr. Irons.

10

11 DR. IRONS: Point of clarification.
12 What we're talking about is two different monitoring
13 here. One is monitoring the colony, which the Fish and
14 Wildlife Service enforcers will pay for that. They
15 will monitor the colony. The other is monitoring the
16 harvest take and that's where the tribe will probably
17 take care of that. They have a biologist on their
18 rolls there that works there and does things for the
19 tribe, so they would probably be responsible for doing
20 a survey of the harvest but not of the birds.

21

22 MS. HEPA: Through the Chair. I just
23 would like to make a point that we need to have that
24 direct consultation with the tribe to do the harvest
25 monitoring of the eggs. Without them here and
26 committing them to something we don't know if they're
27 going to follow through with is not appropriate.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
30 Hepa. We have comments from the Technical Committee.
31 Member Andrew.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
34 Technical Committee finally met on February 8th to
35 deliberate and go through the proposal and it's on Tab
36 2, Page 2. The proposal is current egg harvest in
37 Yakutat to include the taking of Arctic and Aleutian
38 Tern eggs. Currently Yakutat residents may harvest
39 Glaucous Winged Gull eggs only. The Committee observed
40 the following. The Yakutat Tern colony is the largest
41 known Aleutian Tern colony.

42

43 Number two, Aleutian Terns are on the
44 Services and Audubon's list of species of concern as
45 indicated earlier by Mr. Oates. The Yakutat colony is
46 a probable source colony. Offspring from this colony
47 is dispersed and adds to the population in other areas.

48

49

50 Action of the Committee will take on

1 the Yakutat Tern harvest proposal. The Service will
2 gather historical data on the Yakutat Tern colony by
3 the April Council meeting. The Service representative
4 to the Committee indicated that they will attempt to
5 monitor the Yakutat colony this spring.

6
7 Subsequent to the meeting the Service
8 rep and Council Staff learned that the Yakutat Ranger
9 Station of the USDA Forest Service has been awarded a
10 grant to develop protocols for monitoring terns.

11
12 The Committee formulated the following
13 questions for the Yakutat Tribe and directed Staff to
14 ask the tribe those questions and report back with the
15 answers. The Staff has called Eileen Henniger, the
16 tribe's wildlife biologist, and she gave the following
17 answers to the Committee's questions.

18
19 Is the tribe willing to participate in
20 an egg harvest survey? They are willing. Do you
21 anticipate an increase in the harvest if the proposal
22 passes into regulation? No. Discussion with tribal
23 members indicate that the number of harvesters are
24 decreasing. Are there traditional rules for egg
25 harvest similar to those recorded for the Hoonah
26 people? Yes, there are similar rules. In Eileen's
27 family, these rules applied. If there's one egg in the
28 nest, it may be taken. If there are two eggs in the
29 nest, only one may be taken. If there are three eggs
30 in the nest, a very rare occurrence according to this,
31 no eggs will be taken.

32
33 The Committee recommends the following.
34 The Committee made no further recommendations; however,
35 one of the members of the Committee recommended the
36 modeling of a sustainable level of egg taking prior to
37 legalizing the harvest.

38
39 Those were the actions of the Technical
40 Committee.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
43 Andrew. Are there any questions for Member Andrew.
44 Yes, Robert.

45
46 MR. SUYDAM: Robert Suydam with the
47 North Slope Borough and I'm also a member of the
48 Technical Committee. I just wanted to follow up on two
49 points. The first one is one that Taquik just asked
50 about, which is monitoring of the harvest. I believe,

1 Doug, you said there wouldn't be any funding likely
2 that would be able to be sent to Yakutat to help with
3 the harvest monitoring. If that's the case and given
4 your statement the desire to review this annually, if
5 Yakutat isn't able to come up with a harvest estimate
6 for 2008 or 2009 I guess it would be, how would that
7 influence discussions for renewing the proposal in the
8 future years. It seems like if it's going to be
9 renewed annually and the expectation is that harvest
10 estimates are provided, kind of what will the Service's
11 position be on that in the future.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

14

15 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. I can only
16 speculate, Robert, but I assume that based on the
17 conversations that I've had we're trying to be
18 responsive to the discussion that came out of the
19 Technical Working Group and the constituency
20 represented by that, the conservation community so to
21 speak. I think that if the proposer were to come back
22 in a year and say we were unable to make an estimate of
23 harvest, we probably, given that that condition exists,
24 we would probably withdraw our support if we were not
25 able to get any estimate of what the harvest was on
26 that particular colony.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
29 questions or comments for the Technical Committee. Mr.
30 Suydam.

31

32 MR. SUYDAM: That wasn't exactly the
33 answer I was hoping for. Anyway, the second question
34 had to do with Arctic Terns and Aleutian Terns in
35 general. Based on what Russ was saying, it sounds like
36 there's a growing conservation concern about these
37 species. It might be worthwhile kind of for me as a
38 Technical Committee person but also kind of represented
39 from the North Slope to understand if the Service is
40 thinking about kind of pushing those species to kind of
41 the species that aren't open for harvest or just kind
42 of what the thoughts are based on Russ's comments
43 earlier.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

46

47 MR. ALCORN: I don't know what the
48 answer is, Robert. All I can tell you is we have --
49 the reason for the concern at this point and the reason
50 for the conditioned support for the proposal, we have

1 two -- I don't know if they're actually published, but
2 printed data sheets for species. We probably have 40
3 or 50 species and we have them for public consumption
4 and both of those documents say the worldwide
5 populations, the best that we can determine, are in
6 decline. We also say we don't know why. Part of the
7 robustness I understand of the discussion was given
8 that we don't know why they're declining and given that
9 they are declining, the onus on us as a conservation
10 agency and a regulatory agency is to be relatively
11 confident that that colony can sustain that kind of
12 harvest.

13

14 You heard David Irons say that he's
15 fairly comfortable that that colony is healthy. We
16 defer to his expertise and his pretty good knowledge of
17 that particular colony, so that's why we're saying we,
18 as an agency, feel comfortable having a regulated hunt
19 as long as there's some information that we're getting
20 so that we can answer the questions are we being
21 responsive to the public when we have documents
22 published that say we don't know why things are
23 declining and they are declining and yet we went ahead
24 hypothetically and approved a harvest of this bird. We
25 need something to come back and say, yes, locally, we
26 have more specific data and we can make the call that
27 we believe the colony can sustain the harvest.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions.
30 Member Squartsoff.

31

32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
33 did clearly hear Doug say they may look like they may
34 be declining, they do move, and they do that down in
35 our area, too. I mean it's going to be kind of hard to
36 figure out if they are declining or not. The same with
37 Taqulik. Her question was she wasn't comfortable
38 moving something without their response, but it sounds
39 like they responded to the Technical Committee on that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Andrew.

42

43 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Given the Service's position on the recommendation to
45 closely monitor the harvesting of the tern eggs, is
46 that going to spread out into other areas? Because in
47 the YK Delta there's a pretty good take of Arctic Tern
48 eggs as well in our region. I'm not aware of any
49 particular colonies, but they are pretty widespread in
50 the area and I was just wondering if that implication

1 of harvesting Arctic Tern take in the Yakutat area is
2 going to spread out to other areas.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

5

6 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Tim, right now the answer is no. We've had no
8 discussion about that. This is my unprofessional,
9 untrained response. It seems to me that based on the
10 fact that colonies are very small and they do move,
11 that there's probably not concentrated harvest. But
12 the fact that this is a large, stable colony in one
13 place, it lends itself to potentially being harvested
14 regularly and I think that's the distinction that I
15 would at least put on it. David is here and maybe
16 David would be able to comment. Are we putting you on
17 the spot by asking you to respond to that, David?

18

19 DR. IRONS: I didn't hear the question.

20

21 MR. ALCORN: The question that Tim
22 posed is because of the concern that's been expressed
23 about potential harvest of these eggs on this colony,
24 would it translate into a concern and a further
25 restriction, I think is where Tim is going, recommended
26 in other regions. My response is I don't believe
27 there's concentrated harvest on colonies in other
28 regions that I'm aware of, so my answer is no.

29

30 DR. IRONS: Yeah, I'd agree with you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Rothe.

33

34 MR. ROTHE: Just to point out, Tim,
35 that you've got an existing harvest survey that's going
36 to be ongoing and Bristol Bay does too. That's part of
37 the harvest survey forms. If you have faith in the
38 survey, tern egg harvest should be captured in that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Devine.

41

42 MR. DEVINE: Yes. I was just looking
43 at the names of these birds. I wonder if that's where
44 the Aleutian Terns went from our region. Another
45 question is, I mean, you know, it's at 20-30,000 birds,
46 how big are we going to let it grow before they
47 collapse? That's been known to happen also.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Squartsoff.

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. What it
2 sounds like too, what Tom mentioned earlier, it's a
3 real stable colony and they've been doing it for quite
4 a few years, so you know it's not really affecting them
5 right now. And then it sounds like they're declining
6 even on people gathering. I wouldn't have any concern
7 on it.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions,
12 comments. Member Tahbone.

13
14 MS. TAHBONE: Just some clarification
15 from Staff regarding the question is the tribe willing
16 to participate in an egg harvest study. There's a
17 difference, I think, between participating and being
18 responsible for the cost of it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Oates, do you
21 have a comment.

22
23 MR. OATES: Mr. Chairman. Just a
24 little bit of background information. Dr. Irons has
25 been in communication with Eileen Henniger and we
26 thought she was going to be here and the plan was to
27 have this discussion with her before the meeting. He
28 was just on the phone here and I don't know if he was
29 talking to her or someone else, but there has been an
30 effort to work cooperatively with the tribe on this
31 question. Let's see if he's got anything to enlighten
32 us on here.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Dr.
35 Irons.

36
37 DR. IRONS: Well, what I was trying to
38 do -- your point that we can't make them agree to
39 something if they're not here, so I just called down to
40 see if Eileen was in the office because I thought she
41 was going to be here too and she's not there. Someone
42 was going to get the person in charge, I forget who it
43 was, to see if they would agree to monitor the harvest.
44 He just stepped out and he might be back in 10 minutes,
45 so if he comes back, then we can find out if the tribe
46 is willing to monitor the harvest.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Mr.
49 Alcorn.
50

1 MR. ALCORN: I would move that we table
2 discussion and move on to the next proposal and maybe
3 wait 20 minutes or so for a call back.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there a second.

6
7 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any discussion.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
14 motion is tabled until we get more information. Let's
15 move on to the next proposed item then. Proposal C.
16 Please remind me when we come back to this item that we
17 still need to get public comment on the tern egg
18 gathering proposal. Let's move on to North Slope
19 Yellow-Billed Loon. Member Hepa, will you introduce
20 the proposal.

21
22 MS. HEPA: Thank you. For introduction
23 purposes and discussion, I'd like to make a motion to
24 consider the North Slope Yellow-Billed Loon proposal.

25
26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It's been moved and
29 seconded. Please continue.

30
31 MS. HEPA: Again, this is an annual
32 proposal that we submit with allows the residents of
33 the North Slope to be able to utilize Yellow-Billed
34 Loon parts and feathers for ceremonial and cultural
35 purposes. These are Yellow-Billed Loons that have been
36 inadvertently caught in subsistence fishing nets.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
39 questions for Member Hepa.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. Let's
44 move on to Staff analysis from the Department of Fish
45 and Game.

46
47 MR. ROTHE: I'll just make a brief
48 comment that the principal issue here is what happens
49 to birds that get entangled and I think the Council is
50 prepared to have a good discussion about that. The

1 Department does share some concerns about the petition
2 for listing these birds that was filed with the Fish
3 and Wildlife Service. I think we would urge caution,
4 that the population is very small. The Service is
5 going to do its analysis hopefully by mid summer
6 sometime to determine what their thoughts are on
7 whether this bird should be listed as threatened or
8 something else. I think at this point our concern
9 would be that we would probably want to minimize
10 harvest on these birds until we have more discussions
11 and see what the Service's decision is on the listing.
12 Other than that, we don't have any problem with the
13 possession and use of dead birds that are caught in
14 nets.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Are there
17 any questions for Mr. Rothe. Mr. Squartsoff.

18
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Tom,
20 these birds aren't harvested. They're inadvertently
21 caught in a net, so they're not technically targeted
22 and harvested. The way you were saying that didn't
23 sound right to me. I saw a tech report. If the birds
24 are caught, they're still alive, they are released.
25 That was unknown to have happened last year, that some
26 were released.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
31 Squartsoff. Any other questions, comments. Member
32 Hepa.

33
34 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair. I don't know
35 when it's appropriate to talk about the proposed
36 language to the Federal Register rules and regulations.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I think once we get
39 through the testimony and get down to Council
40 recommendations and discussion we could take that up
41 then.

42
43 MS. HEPA: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other comments.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Let's move on to the
50 Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Oates.

1 MR. OATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 First of all I want to thank the North Slope Borough
3 for their efforts to provide the annual report on the
4 numbers of Yellow-Billed Loons inadvertently captured
5 in the fishing nets. We appreciate their continuing to
6 pursue that and get more extensive coverage over the
7 years as we have gone into this process of the
8 regulations on this species. I think that is very
9 helpful to the Fish and Wildlife Service assuring that
10 we are comfortable with the level of take that is
11 currently being documented.

12
13 I think everybody here is aware of the
14 request on the part of the Service Regulations
15 Committee to clarify the language associated with the
16 regulation. Given that in later parts of discussion on
17 this particular proposal that we're able to resolve
18 that, I think the Fish and Wildlife Service is
19 comfortable with the regulation. I'd defer to the
20 member representing my agency on the Council if he has
21 anything further he'd like to add. That's basically
22 all I have on this proposal.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Oates.
25 Mr. Alcorn, anything to add.

26
27 MR. ALCORN: I'll defer any discussion
28 until we have the discussion portion.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any questions for Mr.
31 Oates. Member Hepa.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 I just wanted to make a comment too that yesterday
35 during the work session we did provide a report, a
36 verbal and written report, on the reported number of
37 Yellow-Billed Loons for 2007. It was a more intense
38 effort that we did put in. Basically we reported 14
39 Yellow-Billed Loons that were reported to be harvested,
40 I guess is the term, and it was through voluntary
41 reporting interviews with fishermen and efforts through
42 the migratory bird survey. We asked individuals that
43 we were interviewing specifically about Yellow-Billed
44 Loons.

45
46 We also made the extra effort in
47 interviewing the fishermen about what do they normally
48 do when they see a Yellow-Billed Loon entangled in a
49 net. Do they harvest it or do they kill it and utilize
50 it, do they let it go, so we had some variable answers

1 to that. I think one good thing in regards to that is
2 we did have a discussion -- Josh had a discussion with
3 one of the fishermen about a technique that he used to
4 release these birds. I think we could talk amongst the
5 fishermen about that technique to see if we could
6 improve ways to release these loons if they are able to
7 survive.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
12 comments or questions for Mr. Oates.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: If not, let's move on
17 to the Technical Committee. Mr. Andrew.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 The Technical Committee portion is located in Tab 2,
21 Page 1 and 2. At the request of the Service Regulation
22 Committee, this proposal is submitted each year. This
23 year the Service Regulation Committee expressed
24 concerns about the language of the proposal and
25 requested clarification of the term caught. Questions
26 arose on what the term means and what is required if
27 the bird is found live in the net.

28

29 The Committee recommends the following.
30 The concerns of the Service Regulation Committee on the
31 regulation language be presented to the AMBCC and let
32 the Council decide if the term caught needs to be
33 changed or how to deal with a bird caught in a net that
34 are still alive. Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
37 questions for Mr. Andrew.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. Are
42 there any members of the public who would like to
43 testify on this item. Member Hepa.

44

45 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
46 just like to make a very important comment. When
47 Yellow-Billed Loons are entangled in a net, the
48 Department of Wildlife Management has a protocol that
49 we have followed for several years, learning through
50 experience that the net owners must be notified before

1 we touch or attempt to remove any birds. In most
2 cases, they will call our department. So we do have a
3 local protocol in place that each of the net owners
4 need to be notified. Through outreach, through this
5 Yellow-Billed Loon regulations, fishermen are putting
6 contact information on their nets so people can call
7 them.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much.

12 Mr. Alcorn.

13

14 MR. ALCORN: Taquilik, a question for
15 you. If your department gets a call from someone who
16 owns a net and says there's a bird tangled in it, do
17 you all offer assistance in maybe helping get that bird
18 out of that net?

19

20 MS. HEPA: Through the Chair. Yes, we
21 have staff that are willing to do that. It is a bit
22 dangerous, but we do provide assistance if asked.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other public
25 comment.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. Let's
30 move down to Council discussion. Member Hepa, if you
31 would maybe begin that discussion with your proposed
32 amendment to the language.

33

34 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Again, we had this discussion last week at our regional
36 body meeting about the word caught and trying to come
37 up with some alternate wording. The members were very
38 reluctant to change the wording because it was really
39 hard for us to try to find the right words to cover all
40 potential options that could happen. After discussions
41 in our workshop, we sat down last night and got some
42 input from members that were in the work session on
43 some appropriate wording that might be considered for
44 the Federal Register.

45

46 I would like us to turn to the Federal
47 Register on Page 13793, Tab 8, I believe. This is what
48 we proposed. All units, Yellow-Billed Loons. Annually
49 comma and we would delete up to 20 Yellow-Billed Loons.
50 We would delete the rest of that sentence and add this:

1 up to 20 Yellow-Billed Loons may be taken when caught
2 inadvertently in subsistence fishing nets in the North
3 Slope Region where, in the opinion of the fishermen,
4 the Yellow-Billed Loons cannot be safely released
5 alive. The intent of the provision is not to harvest
6 Yellow-Billed Loons, but to allow the use of those
7 Yellow-Billed Loons inadvertently caught during normal
8 subsistence fishing activities. And then individuals
9 must report -- that would be the same.

10

11 So the handout that we presented to you
12 would be our recommended change in language to clarify
13 the concerns that came from the SRC.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
16 Hepa. Are you offering that as an amendment?

17

18 MS. HEPA: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there a second.

21

22 MR. DEVINE: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. It's been
25 moved and seconded to amend the language as described.
26 Is there a discussion. Mr. Alcorn and then Mr.
27 Armstrong.

28

29 MR. ALCORN: I'm wondering if there's
30 an opportunity to have Staff discuss this language in
31 the context of the original proposal and whether or not
32 there's a sense that this might address the issue.

33

34 MR. ARMSTRONG: I was going to speak to
35 that. The first sentence you put in there, up to 20
36 Yellow-Billed Loons, et cetera, normally clarifications
37 like the intent would be in the preamble part, but it
38 would be entered somewhere. So the regulation would
39 only read up to 20 Yellow-Billed Loons may be caught
40 where you inserted that language.

41

42 MS. HEPA: So the second part of the
43 handout would not be in the regulations.

44

45 MR. ARMSTRONG: It would be in the
46 regulations, just in a different part, in the preamble.
47 The preamble usually is a section where we clarify
48 regulations and the usage.

49

50 MS. HEPA: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Oates, Mr. Rothe,
2 you have comments.

3
4 MR. ROTHE: No. I'd probably have to
5 ask maybe someone in law enforcement whether this is
6 practical language to use. To me, it sounds like the
7 intent of the amendment is really good.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Would you join us,
10 please. Please state your name and affiliation for the
11 record.

12
13 MR. STARK: My name is Rory Stark. I'm
14 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law
15 Enforcement here in Alaska. We like the intent of the
16 provision. We just need to make sure it's an
17 enforceable provision. When we leave something up to
18 the opinion of the fishermen, that leaves a lot of
19 wiggle room in there. They can say in my opinion even
20 though it was completely alive, I had to wring its neck
21 and keep it for subsistence use. I think language
22 something to the effect that if it's dead, then it
23 could be used. If it's inadvertently caught and dead,
24 then it certainly can be used for these purposes. If
25 it's not dead, then every effort should be made to
26 preserve it, be it through your agency probably coming
27 and doing some assistance to get it out of the net and
28 doing some bird rehab, sending it down to the bird
29 rehab people here.

30
31 You know, the thing is, we do this with
32 Eagles and with others. All I'm saying is this
33 obviously is a species of concern, so let's treat it
34 like a species of concern. This provision is not to
35 allow the take of it. It's an inadvertent take if
36 there is a take and I think that should only apply if
37 the bird is actually dead. Otherwise, we should take
38 every effort to preserve it. That would be my opinion.
39 And I've discussed it with other members of law
40 enforcement and that's, I think, law enforcement's
41 opinion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Stark.
44 It's my opinion that all the regs we put forward from
45 the Council receive a fairly rigorous legal review on
46 down the line. I would hope that would accommodate
47 everyone's concerns. Member Chythlook, you had a
48 question.

49
50 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I just have a comment.

1 I guess I have a problem taking a half-dead bird that's
2 alive -- I don't know where the funding is coming from.
3 It seems like we're -- we have a hard time getting
4 funding for necessary things and we're also losing
5 funding, but to spend funding to try to revive
6 something like this is not appealing to me.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
11 Hepa.

12

13 MS. HEPA: I'd like to add to what
14 Molly just stated. The way that we were raised and
15 it's our customary practice, that when you see an
16 animal suffering you need to put it out of its misery
17 and if you don't, you're being disrespectful to the
18 resource. That's not just only for birds, but for many
19 other resources. When you see an animal that is not
20 likely to survive, we do put them out of their misery.
21 I just wanted to make that comment.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
24 Squartsoff.

25

26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'll
27 echo Taqulik on that a little bit too. The same thing.
28 We're taught that practice, but over -- I don't know
29 how many years you guys had this proposal coming in,
30 but it's been stressed for law enforcement's purpose
31 that they do highly respect the animal, so they do try
32 to release the animal if it's alive in the best way and
33 it has been done. There have been birds that have been
34 released. That's it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Stark.

37

38 MR. STARK: In response to that, I
39 think that holds true for the majority of people. This
40 is what we usually see when we reinforce regulations.
41 Especially there is a strong subsistence ethic and
42 there is a preservation ethic going on for the most
43 part and I think that's good and I think that's what
44 we're talking about here in most cases. There might be
45 some cases of somebody who doesn't follow the rules
46 exactly and that's why when we make rules it's fairly
47 clear and draw a line where we can say if it's dead,
48 then that's clear and you can just take it. If it's
49 alive, let's try and preserve it. I guess that's the
50 point we're trying to make.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Stark.
2 Mr. Alcorn and then Mr. Squartsoff.

3
4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Let me respond to
5 that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Go ahead.

8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, she just told
10 you though that in respect to that animal if it is
11 still alive and in the state where it's not going to
12 live or barely live, you do have to take the animal out
13 in respect for it. The thing I'm getting from you kind
14 of is lack of trust. You've got to be able to trust
15 the fishermen or whoever is doing this. That's the
16 impression I'm getting.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

21
22 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 think what we have here is sort of a mix of mandates
24 that we have as a regulatory agency. One of our
25 mandates is to work in this co-management process and
26 to respect the customs and the cultures and to make all
27 opportunities available. We also, on the other hand,
28 as a regulatory agency, have to promulgate regulations
29 that are clearly understandable and definable for the
30 public to interpret what they mean. I'm not quite
31 sure, at least what I'm hearing from Mr. Stark, that
32 this first statement passes the bar, so to speak, and
33 is clearly defined or clearly understandable or clearly
34 implementable from a regulatory standpoint and a law
35 enforcement standpoint.

36
37 So what it does is it places my agency
38 between a real rock and a hard place by trying to
39 establish and recommend to the Secretary of the
40 Interior to establish legal regulations that cannot be
41 interpreted nor enforced. That's the problem that this
42 administrative agency gets stuck in and it's a miry
43 quagmire. But I think the intent is appropriate and
44 right and I agree with the intent. I'm wondering if
45 there is a way to make this language -- to have a
46 commitment from our agency and the North Slope Borough
47 to have sort of an iteration, a discussion on what
48 would be appropriate and acceptable so that you feel
49 like you can live with it and our agency feels like
50 it's appropriate to forward to the Secretary for

1 regulation.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions
4 or comments. Member Hepa.

5

6 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Doug,
7 I reluctantly will agree to your offer there, but I
8 just wanted to make a point. That's exactly why our
9 committee had a hard time trying to get more words into
10 something that we could barely -- that we couldn't find
11 the right words to put in. Once you put something down
12 in this regulation booklet, law enforcement will go by
13 the book. What it's going to do is it's going to get
14 our people in trouble for something that we couldn't
15 find the right words for that happens anyway. We don't
16 intentionally go out to harvest Yellow-Billed Loons.
17 If the opportunity arises, we will try to utilize those
18 Yellow-Billed Loons and we are trying to find the right
19 way and method to make this happen. I just want to
20 re-emphasize that this right here is the compromise.
21 This is a compromise that's continuing from year to
22 year.

23

24 Doug, I'd be more than willing to try
25 to find the right words to fit something that we're
26 trying to make right.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

29

30 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Taqulik. With
31 that commitment to have the discussion, we would
32 support this proposal as amended.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Andrew.

35

36 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Maybe just a comment and maybe a question for Taqulik.
38 The incidental or inadvertent harvest of Yellow-Billed
39 Loons has always been below 20, hasn't it? I just
40 don't see where the problem is. Where the fishermen
41 are not targeting Yellow-Billed Loons, they're out
42 there fishing for whitefish or whatever fish is their
43 target species and I just hate to see something like
44 that go away.

45

46 The other thing, on the flip side of
47 it, the harvested or incidentally or inadvertently
48 caught Yellow-Billed Loons being thrown away if they
49 cannot possess or take them in any manner, it seems
50 like it's a waste. It's obviously a cultural resource

1 used in cultural activities.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
4 Andrew. I guess, if nothing else, this demonstrates
5 that all the easy questions are answered. Any further
6 comments.

7

8 Member Hepa.

9

10 MS. HEPA: I don't know what more we
11 can do with the language to tell you the truth, but I
12 guess we'll wait to see what the Service has to provide
13 to us to consider. Again, it's just a real unfortunate
14 situation that we have to try to get -- you know. I
15 think we're trying to read -- I don't know. I just
16 feel like we're trying to make it right, but there are
17 so many loopholes and road blocks that you have to jump
18 over just to get our customary and traditional
19 practices into these regulations. Thanks.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Hildebrand.

22

23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 I just wanted to comment on -- I apologize for laughing
25 during testimony. I would object if anyone did that to
26 me, so I apologize. But the comment that these birds
27 and the judgment of these people who have used this for
28 a long time aren't going to survive and to fly them to
29 Anchorage is onerous. If that has to be done, then the
30 assumption of that financial burden has to go to the
31 Service or whoever is requesting this act. Tribes are
32 already strapped. We've been talking for two days that
33 nobody has money for studies. I don't think anybody
34 has money to fly birds to Anchorage from Barrow. It's
35 way beyond the scope of what they're trying to do with
36 these birds that they aren't targeting. We just stack
37 so many burdens. It just seems so unnecessary and that
38 concerns me.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
43 Hildebrand. Member Squartsoff.

44

45 MR. SQUARTSOFF: One more quick
46 comment. Last year we had to accommodate a change in a
47 word, from incidental to inadvertently. Now they're
48 trying to do it again for caught. They're doing the
49 best they can. What they could do -- and it's passed
50 for how many years now. I don't see why it shouldn't

1 go the way it is now. I think it's fine. The trust
2 has got to be put in the people. Sweet and simple.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Squartsoff. Let's stand down for five minutes here and
8 take a breather and we'll pick it up again at 4:30.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We'll go back on the
15 record at 4:33, please. I believe we've discussed this
16 one pretty thoroughly and I'll ask once more if there
17 are any additional comments or questions from Council
18 Members. I guess just to reiterate what we've got is
19 amended language to the initial proposal and an
20 agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the
21 North Slope Borough to do further work on that language
22 and try to reach a reasonable compromise. Unless there
23 are any further comments or questions, I'd say we're
24 ready for the question.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there any
29 objection.

30

31 (No objections)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none, the
34 amended motion carries. Thank you. Let's go back up
35 the agenda to the Yakutat Tern Egging Proposal. Dr.
36 Irons, can you report some progress for us, please.

37

38 DR. IRONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 Eileen Henniger is missing in action today. She's not
40 at work, she's not here. We're not sure where she is.
41 I called down there and I talked to Burt Adams, who is
42 the general manager for the tribe, and he agreed for
43 the tribe that they would agree to monitor the harvest
44 and I told him that we would do this for one year and
45 then review it next year and then do it year by year
46 for a few years. He's basically agreeing just to one
47 year, so he felt comfortable doing that until Eileen
48 gets back. So they have agreed to monitor the harvest.
49 That's all I wanted to report.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much.
2 Any questions.
3
4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No. Mr. Chair, just a
5 reminder, you have to do public comment on this.
6
7 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any
8 questions. Member Chythlook.
9
10 MS. CHYTHLOOK: There was a funding
11 issue earlier. So the tribe will be paying for the
12 monitoring?
13
14 DR. IRONS: Again, the monitoring of
15 the birds themselves will be done by the Fish and
16 Wildlife Service. The monitoring of the harvest will
17 be monitored by the tribe. So it will be like a survey
18 of the head of households there on who harvested what.
19
20 MS. CHYTHLOOK: At their own expense?
21
22 DR. IRONS: Yes.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Willingly,
25 apparently, correct?
26
27 DR. IRONS: Willingly, yeah.
28
29 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Is that what you told
30 him, that the survey -- if they do the survey, they'll
31 be under their own expense?
32
33 DR. IRONS: I asked him if they were
34 willing to do the survey. I didn't tell him.....
35
36 MS. CHYTHLOOK: You didn't mention any
37 funding?
38
39 DR. IRONS: No. I can call him back
40 and clarify that if you'd like me to.
41
42 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Dr. Irons.
43 Mr. Alcorn.
44
45 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 I believe right now that the harvest survey program we
47 have in place right now does not survey Southeast, is
48 that right?
49
50 MR. ARMSTRONG: Unh-unh.

1 MR. ALCORN: We don't? The question is
2 we have some harvest down in the Southeast, Hoonah egg
3 harvest and maybe other communities that are
4 harvesting. Are we monitoring those? Anybody know?

5
6 MR. ARMSTRONG: No.

7
8 MR. ALCORN: We're not? Okay. We're
9 not monitoring those harvests and I recall the
10 discussion of those proposals and there was no concern
11 about the population expressed by any of the agencies
12 by the Fish and Game or by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service, so we felt comfortable in approving that
14 proposal and that was about five years ago if I recall.
15 So the distinction here is that there has been
16 significant concern expressed and it was in the
17 discussion of the Technical Committee and also
18 expressed outside the Committee.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
21 Alcorn. Any other comments or questions from Council
22 Members. Member Devine.

23
24 MR. DEVINE: Yes. I just want to --
25 we've seen this proposal before and it's been referred
26 to the Inclusion/Exclusion Committee, but since we
27 haven't met on it, I would recommend to pass.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
30 comments or questions from Council Members.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there any member
35 of the public that wishes to testify on this matter.
36 Any public comment.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. We're
41 ready for final Council discussion and recommendation.
42 I have a question to begin with. The proposal as
43 written, there's been some interest expressed in having
44 it be renewable annually if we were to adopt the
45 proposal as offered. Would that be included or would
46 it have to be amended to include that? Member
47 Squartsoff.

48
49 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I think we're trying
50 to amend that one date to June 31st or something where

1 it has August.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Right. But as far as
4 the term of this, if we were to adopt it as it's
5 presently written, would it be perpetual unless we
6 amended it to say we wanted to see this renewed on an
7 annual basis for the first couple years or whatever.
8 Mr. Alcorn.

9

10 MR. ALCORN: I guess I would ask David.
11 It sounded to me like the discussion you had that he
12 was cognizant of the fact that it would be addressed
13 annually.

14

15 DR. IRONS: Well, no, I told him that.
16 I said it sounded like it could pass today if you
17 agreed to monitor the harvest take and it would pass
18 for a year and then it would be addressed again next
19 year.

20

21 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

24

25 MR. ALCORN: So, with that, in the
26 context of that discussion, it sounds to me like
27 there's full recognition that this would be re-
28 submitted next year by the proposer.

29

30 DR. IRONS: Of course, the proposer
31 doesn't know that yet, but the general manager did. I
32 think the Chairman's question was is the proposal as
33 written an annual thing and it's not, I don't think.
34 You might have to amend it or whatever. Was that your
35 question?

36

37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Dr. Irons.
38 That was my question. I would entertain an amendment
39 that would clarify the season as running from May 15th
40 to June 30th and that this proposal is active on an
41 annual basis and would come up for renewal again next
42 year.

43

44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So moved.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there a second.

47

48 MR. ALCORN: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there any

1 discussion on the amendment.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. Are you
6 ready for the question on the amendment. Is there any
7 objection.

8

9 (No objections)

10

11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
12 amendment has passed. I'd be ready to entertain any
13 further discussion on the main motion as amended. Is
14 there any further discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are you ready for the
19 question. Mr. Alcorn.

20

21 MR. ALCORN: I think it's appropriate
22 at this point in the discussion to reiterate the
23 caveated support of the Fish and Wildlife Service and
24 we've already consented to that, I believe, harvest
25 monitoring, colony monitoring and the annual
26 discussion.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Correct. Any further
29 discussion.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are you ready for the
34 question. Is there any objection.

35

36 (No objections)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
39 motion carries. Moving along in the agenda. We'd like
40 to, with the Council's agreement, move up the agenda to
41 the presentation on avian influenza. Kim Trust has to
42 leave about 5:00 o'clock, so we'd like to let her make
43 her presentation. State your name and affiliation for
44 the record, please, and the floor is yours.

45

46 MS. TRUST: I just want to say thank
47 you for changing the agenda for me. I do have to leave
48 at 5:00 this evening, so I will try and talk fast.

49

50 The first thing that I want to say is

1 on the back table there are several copies of this
2 left. There are some CD's and then some hard copies.

3
4 MS. TAHBONE: Kim, can you introduce
5 yourself.

6
7 MS. TRUST: I'm sorry. I'm Kim Trust
8 and I'm the avian influenza coordinator for Fish and
9 Wildlife Service in Alaska. I work for Migratory Bird
10 Management. Anyway, there's a couple of these left on
11 the back table and the 2007 and 2006 reports are
12 available on our website or you can contact me if you
13 need a hard copy of either one of those.

14
15 So what I'm going to do is briefly talk
16 about what we did in 2007, give you an overview of our
17 results from this year and then talk briefly about what
18 we plan on doing in 2008. Surveillance activities in
19 Alaska were similar in 2007 to what they were in 2006.
20 We have a four-part program to our surveillance
21 monitoring in Alaska. The spring subsistence harvest
22 we do a live bird sampling effort. We have a fall
23 harvest sampling effort and we also do morbidity and
24 mortality investigations.

25
26 These are the locations in 2007 where
27 we did all our surveillances that included all the
28 activities from the programs I just mentioned. As you
29 can see, we're fairly widely distributed throughout the
30 state.

31
32 In 2007 we had 28 projects funded and
33 there were 43 camps distributed around the state and we
34 collected samples from over 74 species. These are the
35 2006 and 2007 results and you'll see that the 2007
36 results are in the purple bars and the 2006 results are
37 in the maroon bars. In 2007 we collected almost 9,000
38 samples that were sent to the National Wildlife Health
39 Center in Madison, Wisconsin to do the avian influenza
40 analysis for us.

41
42 MS. HEPA: What do you mean by camps?
43 You said 43 camps.

44
45 MS. TRUST: Some projects had a couple
46 of different locations that they were sampling out of,
47 so we had 28 projects but that didn't mean we had 28
48 locations in the field. Some of those projects had
49 multiple places that they were operating out of.

50

1 So the number of harvested birds in
2 2007 were right around 2,900 and then we had about
3 5,700 samples from live birds. I'm going to focus a
4 little bit on the sampling we did of harvested birds.
5 If you'll recall, of those four programs we had a
6 spring subsistence harvest in 2007 and then a fall
7 harvest as well.

8
9 For our spring subsistence harvest we
10 worked with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation and
11 with Kawerak and the folks that helped us with our fall
12 harvest were ADF&G and the Refuge system within Fish
13 and Wildlife Service.

14
15 These were the locations that we went
16 to in the spring on the Seward Peninsula, St. Lawrence
17 Island and the YK Delta. And then our fall hunter
18 sampling locations are also highlighted here in blue.
19 I should point out that these locations we went to in
20 both 2006 and 2007.

21
22 The participating villages in 2007 you
23 can see are these 10 villages and Kawerak last year
24 helped us collect samples from these five villages. In
25 each village we targeted 300 birds per village and we
26 got a total of 2,936 samples total in 2007. In 2007
27 you can see these villages that are highlighted in
28 purple are the villages that met their 300 targets.
29 From the villages out on the Delta we got similar
30 numbers, between 2006 and 2007. On the Seward
31 Peninsula we got 1,700 in 2006 and about 400 in 2007.
32 And St. Lawrence Island, that includes both Gambell and
33 Savoonga.

34
35 MR. ANDREW: I was just wondering why
36 the significant decline in the participants in the
37 Kawerak area.

38
39 MS. TRUST: I can't answer that
40 question. I wasn't here last year, so I don't know why
41 the decline in that particular number this year, but
42 we're working with Sandy this year and we're going to
43 be boosting those numbers this year hopefully.

44
45 Fall harvest by location, these were
46 the locations as you saw on the map and we got similar
47 numbers of birds collected in the fall from all of
48 those locations as well, our total numbers of birds.

49
50 From the sampling that we did, I'm

1 going to go over the results very briefly, but first I
2 just want to briefly touch on what we're looking for in
3 this particular surveillance program. I know a lot of
4 you have heard these talks before but I just want to
5 reiterate that what we're looking for is an avian
6 influenza virus that is a disease that's found mostly
7 in birds. This virus can be found in most body fluids
8 and the feces and the transmission usually occurs in
9 the water between birds.

10

11 There are various kinds of avian
12 influenza. There are low pathogenic forms of the virus
13 and highly pathogenic forms of the virus. The way we
14 identify what virus we're looking for is based on the
15 kinds of proteins that the virus shows on the outside
16 surface of its membranes. We have H proteins and we
17 have N proteins and if you do all those various
18 combinations of all the different kinds of H's and N's
19 that are out there, you can have up to 144 different
20 combinations. And birds cannot contract all 144
21 different combinations.

22

23 What we're looking for is the H5N1.
24 What I mean by that is there's 16 different forms of
25 H's and nine different forms of N's, so you can have
26 H1N1, H1N2, et cetera. So we're looking for this one
27 particular virus H5N1 and we're also looking for the
28 highly pathogenic form of this virus. There is a low
29 pathogenic form of this virus that occurs in North
30 American birds and it's a bird disease and we're not
31 concerned about that. We're concerned specifically
32 about the highly pathogenic H5N1 version.

33

34 To date we have found no highly
35 pathogenic H5N1 anywhere in North America. However, we
36 have found some low pathogenic AI viruses in birds in
37 Alaska and in the Lower 48.

38

39 If you look at just the avian influenza
40 results, you'll see in 2006 -- remember, we had about
41 16,000 samples collected in 2006 and about 1.7 percent
42 of those birds had some form of low path avian
43 influenza. In 2007, we had about 68 birds or
44 .7 percent of those birds have some form of low path
45 AI.

46

47 I'll focus in on harvested birds again.
48 We had 23 total birds in 2007 that had some sort of AI
49 virus. Essentially we had nine birds from -- these
50 aren't all targeted species, but we had nine birds that

1 showed up with AI virus in our spring subsistence
2 sampling and we had 14 birds that showed up with some
3 form of AI virus in our fall hunter samples. You can
4 see that all of those are Dabbling Ducks.

5
6 So, in conclusion, over the last two
7 years we've collected over 25,000 samples in Alaska and
8 we found no highly pathogenic H5N1 in Alaska. What
9 we're doing in 2008 is very similar to what we did in
10 2007. The target number of samples that we're
11 collecting in 2008 is 12,500 and that's a number that's
12 given to us by the National Wildlife Health Center in
13 Madison. Our sampling strategy is going to be very
14 similar. We're going to do live birds, harvested birds
15 and then we're going to do any investigation of
16 morbidity, mortality events that are reported to us.

17
18 So basically none of the conditions
19 have changed over the last couple years. It's safe to
20 go out and hunt birds and collect them to eat. We
21 don't recommend collecting sick birds or those found
22 dead to eat, obviously. When you do collect birds,
23 just do things that you normally would. Don't eat,
24 drink or smoke while cleaning birds, keep your tools
25 clean, make sure you wash your hands and that you cook
26 your birds thoroughly. Cooking birds to 165 degrees
27 will kill any viruses that they do have.

28
29 This summer, if you find any dead birds
30 or something that is unusual that you don't normally
31 see, make sure you call the 1-800 bird flu hotline. If
32 you need any more information, you can give me a call
33 or contact me at Fish and Wildlife Service and I'd be
34 glad to help you answer any questions. Is that fast
35 enough, Taqulik?

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thanks very much,
40 Kim. Are there any questions from Council Members.

41
42 MS. APOK: I have a question, Mr.
43 Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Apok.

46
47 MS. APOK: Have you advertised this
48 bird flu number anywhere? This is the first time I'm
49 hearing there's a number to call.

50

1 MS. TRUST: Right now it's on the State
2 of Alaska website. If you Google avian flu Alaska, it
3 comes up. It has its very own website. And it's on
4 the back of the hunting regulations as well. I forgot
5 about that. Thanks, Fred.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you very much
12 for your presentation. All right. It's seven minutes
13 to 5:00. We've got a little bit of work to do yet, so
14 let's move right along. The next item is the consent
15 agenda. I think we've taken care of any possible
16 changes to regs in Bristol Bay on the North Slope and
17 in Southeast, so I would entertain a motion to adopt
18 and approve the consent agenda.

19
20 MR. DEVINE: So move.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there a second.

23
24 MR. ALCORN: Second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Is there
27 any discussion, questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: If not, I guess
32 before we vote I would note the fact that Member
33 Squartsoff had to leave. Who is the Native
34 representative who is going to be voting from here on
35 out.

36
37 MS. HEPA: Me.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Hepa. So, any
40 discussion.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are you ready for the
45 question. Is there any objection.

46
47 (No objections)

48
49 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
50 consent agenda items have been adopted. That moves us

1 to the second opportunity for public comment. Are
2 there any members of the audience that would like to
3 address the Council on any issues today. Any public
4 comment.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. We'll
9 move down to other business. We're faced with an
10 opportunity to update the committee membership rosters.
11 I guess normally how this works is the Native
12 representatives caucus and make recommendations. Given
13 the hour and the task at hand, what is your pleasure.

14

15 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I move to table.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I have a motion to
18 table. Is there a second.

19

20 MR. ALCORN: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: There's a second.
23 Any discussion. I guess, for the record, I would note
24 that unless any changes are made, the status quo will
25 remain on committees and there are a few positions that
26 are vacant. I know, with some embarrassment, a
27 majority of them are Department of Fish and Game
28 representatives. Mr. Armstrong.

29

30 MR. ARMSTRONG: There's one important
31 committee that's ongoing and that's the Harvest Survey
32 Committee. We need a Native representative on that
33 committee to complete it. There's a lot of work to be
34 done.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
37 Hepa.

38

39 MS. HEPA: I'd like to call for a two-
40 minute caucus. I think we could take care of this one
41 pretty quickly.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Very good. Thank
44 you. We'll take a two-minute caucus.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Back on the record at

1 4:59. Member Hepa.

2

3 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
4 Native caucus has made two recommended changes to the
5 committees and the first one would be in replacement of
6 Austin Ahmasuk we'd like to add Sandy Tahbone as a
7 member. Our recommendation to the Harvest Survey
8 Committee when they meet next is for Tim Andrew to be
9 acting chair until the committee gets together.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Okay. Any comments
12 from Council Members. For the Department of Fish and
13 Game, I would nominate Dr. Jim Fall to the Harvest
14 Survey Committee and also to the Technical Committee.
15 Any other changes. I would then entertain a motion to
16 appoint Dr. Jim Fall, Sandra Tahbone and Tim Andrew to
17 the Harvest Survey Committee and Dr. Jim Fall to the
18 Technical Committee.

19

20 MR. ALCORN: So moved, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there a second.

23

24 MS. TAHBONE: Tim is already on the
25 committee. He's just going to be.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Going to be chair.
28 I'd clarify that.

29

30 MS. TAHBONE: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: With the approval of
33 the maker of the motion.

34

35 MR. ALCORN: Yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are you ready for the
42 question. Is there
43 any objection.

44

45 (No objections)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none, the
48 motion carries. Thank you very much. The next item of
49 business is the Regional Harvest Survey Reports and
50 approval. Mr. Ostrand, would you join us, please.

1 MR. OSTRAND: This is Bill Ostrand.
2 This is a rather large topic to bring up here at 5:03.
3 I'm not sure how the Council will want to deal with
4 this. This refers to the data tables behind Tab 4,
5 which have been sent out to the regions for review and
6 comment, possible approval, but certainly comment and
7 discussion. At this late hour, I'm not sure how the
8 Council would like to go about addressing these.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: What's the Council's
11 pleasure. Member Tahbone.

12
13 MS. TAHBONE: It's going to take some
14 time, I know that, because there's a lot of concern and
15 I think we voiced early on we were going to try to
16 finish today, but we agreed that we do quality review
17 and attention to our agenda.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

20
21 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chairman. I believe
22 we're going to need to have a follow-up Council
23 discussion of the Harvest Survey Committee
24 recommendation sooner than the fall and perhaps we
25 could have a discussion of this to that follow-up
26 meeting that I'm going to propose later on.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
29 Alcorn. I believe we could conduct that meeting by
30 teleconference and that would give people sufficient
31 time to digest this large pile of numbers and comment.
32 Member Chythlook and then Mr. Alcorn.

33
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: If that's Doug's
35 motion, I second it.

36
37 MR. ALCORN: It's been moved.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It has been moved and
40 seconded. Mr. Alcorn.

41
42 MR. ALCORN: Bill, would you maybe
43 clarify what your expectations are for the review so
44 that folks can kind of take that back and look at it.

45
46 MR. OSTRAND: Sure, I'd like to do
47 that. When I sent these out, the only Council Member
48 that responded was Joeneal, who was a bit perturbed by
49 the numbers, so I don't expect everybody to be happy
50 with them, but that's okay. What we want to find out

1 is what your concerns are with these data. What I
2 asked of Joeneal in return was that he be very specific
3 about what his concerns are. If you're concerned about
4 the harvest of a particular species, please identify
5 that over the next few months as you're waiting for
6 Doug's meeting to be called so that you can come to us
7 and say very specifically what are the concerns.
8 Hopefully we can get to a point where eventually we can
9 approve these data so that we can start using them and
10 sharing them.

11
12 Initially when I heard back from Joe
13 his concerns were pretty broad. We talked more about
14 it and we got things kind of narrowed down and that's
15 how we'd like to hear about them.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Ostrand.

19
20 Member Devine, you have a question.

21
22 MR. DEVINE: Yes. My number one
23 concern is the year this survey was done I participated
24 and the surveyor asked me number of birds and I tried
25 to break it down for her and she said, no, we just want
26 to know the number of birds. Then we got up here and
27 it was all broke down into really big numbers. Some of
28 the birds we don't even consume in our region, so I
29 don't know where you got that information to put in
30 there. I also see that since only one village in my
31 region was involved in the survey that the numbers
32 don't matter anyway. My regional management body
33 agreed to not accept these numbers.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Ostrand.

36
37 MR. OSTRAND: Sure, that's fine, Peter.
38 There's a footnote associated with the
39 Aleutian/Pribilofs data that says harvest for 2004 is
40 based on only one survey community. Harvest estimate
41 for 2005 is based on six communities and that's on this
42 Table 1A. It does give a total number of birds
43 harvested there for the Aleutian/Pribilofs. So the
44 2005 data should be a little bit better than the 2004,
45 which I would just totally ignore with only one
46 community surveyed. I think there's a recommendation
47 later here in the second group of tables that discounts
48 those data from the first year of the APIA surveys.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Ostrand. I would note on the second page under Tab 4
2 the memo says please note that 2004 data for the
3 Aleutians/Pribilofs and the Yukon Flats National
4 Wildlife Refuge cannot be used because the expanded
5 estimates are based on only one village. So I think
6 there is a clear acknowledge of the shortcomings of the
7 available data there.

8

9 Member Apok.

10

11 MS. APOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
12 wondering if you've gone back to the Bering Straits or
13 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta with this information and got
14 any feedback from them or is this the first time?

15

16 MR. OSTRAND: Oh, no, this data has
17 been sent back to the regions. If you look on the very
18 first page, there's an email from Cynthia Wentworth
19 dated November 20th, 2006. This was the first time the
20 data was sent out and then I sent it out on February
21 20th, 2008 and I followed up with hard copies that I
22 sent out by certified mail. The purpose of sending
23 that out was so that it could be brought back to the
24 communities to be examined, but we're depending on the
25 regional reps to do that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Hepa.

28

29 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
30 just want for the record that the Fish and Game
31 Management Committee from the North Slope Borough has
32 reviewed and approved the numbers for the North Slope
33 Region.

34

35 MR. OSTRAND: Thank you, Taqulik. I
36 appreciate that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Andrew.

39

40 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 The Waterfowl Conservation Committee for the AVCP
42 Region has not had the opportunity to review these
43 numbers yet. We haven't met this spring, but I will
44 make them aware of the numbers and Myron as well.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
47 Apok.

48

49 MS. APOK: I think Mr. Devine brought
50 up a good point. Are we going to address his concern

1 about the way the survey was conducted?

2

3 MR. OSTRAND: The answer is yes. But
4 we want to know what your specific concerns are so that
5 we can address them in the future. In the case of
6 Peter's concerns, we have to do a better job when we
7 survey the Aleutians in the future.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
10 Chythlook.

11

12 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. Our Bristol Bay Regional Council looked at
14 the harvest information and they had questions and
15 didn't approve I guess until the harvests could be more
16 readable to them. It takes explanation and kind of a
17 search to identify Bristol Bay and then their concern
18 too was that if these numbers were brought back to
19 their communities, which they should be, they're just
20 too hard to read.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other questions
25 or comments from Council Members.

26

27 Mr. Ostrand.

28

29 MR. OSTRAND: Molly, I'd be glad to
30 make myself available to help interpret the tables as
31 best I can to your region.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Rothe.

34

35 MR. ROTHE: I'd just mention in terms
36 of the Harvest Survey Committee's discussions, I think
37 we're trying to work out an arrangement where our
38 Subsistence Division can do kind of a retrospective
39 report on 2004, '05 and '06. It's going to be
40 difficult to reconstruct some of the problems in some
41 of the regions because the key staff are gone and our
42 documentation isn't all that great, but I think the
43 intent is to put out a provisional report that covers
44 those years with explanations as much as we can and
45 then just kind of move on with a better process in '07.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Armstrong.

48

49 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 The intent really is -- we know there's problems

1 associated with the surveys, but in order for the State
2 to conduct its review, we kind of need the Regions
3 approval to work on them. If you have problems, try to
4 be specific and address them to Bill so that we can
5 have notations in the reports.

6

7 MR. OSTRAND: I might add that as soon
8 as you can articulate concerns, you can email me and
9 then I can be a little more prepared when we have the
10 meeting to respond if that's necessary.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Woods.

13

14 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair. As someone that
15 does surveys and then tries to decipher and disseminate
16 the information brought back to the regional board, if
17 you could be region specific and then village specific
18 almost, if that's even possible, it would clarify.
19 I've heard that more than once at this meeting, that
20 each village is interested in what their harvest
21 numbers are. Maybe even someone else could bring in
22 the population, Fish and Wildlife Service or somebody
23 else, but the harvest survey for each village specific,
24 if they're interested in harvest numbers for their
25 village, especially the regional and the sub-regionals.

26

27 MR. OSTRAND: We want to report the
28 data by region and in some areas we have data reported
29 by sub-region, but we have agreements with many of the
30 regions, if not all, that we will not report the data
31 by village.

32

33 MR. WOODS: Is that like a co-
34 management agreement? My question is I've heard that
35 more than once at this meeting and from our sub-region
36 too. You have an area representative looking at the
37 figures and trying to figure out what his village
38 caught, but if that's not what the scope of the survey
39 is for, then maybe address it some other way, be it a
40 self-reporting and/or disseminate the information to
41 get an educated guess on what might be the populations,
42 up or down. Make it general enough. I don't know what
43 the answer is. That's up to the Harvest Survey
44 Committee.

45

46 MR. OSTRAND: The reason not to report
47 the data by village, I think it's an original agreement
48 with the WCC and the YK Delta that the data not be
49 reported by village out of concerns that data reported
50 by village would lead to law enforcement activities for

1 those communities that would raise a red flag.

2

3 MR. WOODS: That's a good concern and I
4 agree with that, that might be an issue. Maybe it's a
5 big job for the Harvest Survey Committee to tackle.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Dr. Naves, did you
8 have a comment.

9

10 DR. NAVES: Liliana Naves. We cannot
11 report that at community level and this, as much as I
12 understand, was requested by the communities. As much
13 as I know, there is a formal agreement on that. I
14 never saw this document, but I'd like to see it for a
15 matter of documentation because we frequently face this
16 kind of request. If the communities have interest in
17 seeing harvest at community level, they can discuss a
18 modification of this agreement, but I think it's part
19 of it, so that we're not supposed to release that at
20 household and community level.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
25 Hepa.

26

27 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
28 curious what Doug's recommendation is going to be.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Alcorn.

31

32 MR. ALCORN: I have no opinion.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. ALCORN: Actually, the motion was
37 to table discussion of this until we have the follow-up
38 meeting. Perhaps the representatives that are looking
39 at this data would be -- I mean hearing what Bill has
40 asked for, some specific concerns, would have an
41 opportunity to go back home and take a look at these
42 and write in say bullet fashion the concerns so that
43 the Harvest Survey Committee can adequately address
44 these. I think we're probably all -- I'm certainly
45 unfamiliar with all the data the way it's collected,
46 the way it's analyzed and the way it's extrapolated and
47 I think that's probably the essence of the concern I'm
48 hearing here. I would offer that everybody go back,
49 take a look at it with their technical staff and then
50 provide that input to Bill and then the Harvest Survey

1 Committee can have that discussion and provide the
2 Council with a report when we have our next meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I think that sounds
5 good. Hopefully everybody will have a chance to look
6 at this. I would encourage people to get your thoughts
7 and ideas to Mr. Ostrand sooner rather than later and
8 hopefully the teleconference will take place, I would
9 assume, within 60 to 90 days or sooner. Any other
10 comments. Member Devine.

11

12 MR. DEVINE: Yes. I think we've
13 already addressed some of these concerns. I don't mean
14 to pick on Bill, but I still haven't eaten that many
15 birds.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. DEVINE: We've got these survey
20 cards and we became pretty much region specific with
21 them, so I think we're on the right track. We passed
22 this other way of analyzing things today, so I think
23 we'll get there.

24

25 MR. OSTRAND: Thanks, Peter.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other comments,
28 questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: We have a motion on
33 the floor to table this item until a teleconference at
34 a date uncertain, so I guess we're tabling it until
35 time certain on an undisclosed or undetermined date, if
36 that's appropriate. Any other comments or questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are you ready for the
41 question. Any objections.

42

43 (No objections)

44

45 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. The
46 motion carries. Onto the next item, which is Staff
47 reports. I'm ready to hear from any Staff members that
48 have anything to report.

49

50 MR. OSTRAND: I say this at every

1 meeting, but for the new Council Members, you have a
2 black book on your table which is a lot of historical
3 information. I have take-home copies of that. We'd
4 like to keep those here for your reference at meetings.
5 It's a good way to become oriented. It has copies of
6 all the treaties, solicitors letters and major actions
7 of the Council. I have copies over here and you can
8 grab one from me.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Armstrong.

11

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: I've been tracking the
13 duck stamp bill because there's so much concern about
14 them. HR1641 or 1643 died because of no action. That
15 was a bill where they were going to increase the cost
16 by 25 to 35 dollars. There were two bills that were
17 introduced last year both in the House and the Senate.
18 I just want to make you guys aware HR2757 was
19 introduced in June of last year. The significance of
20 that bill is that the increase is \$25 for a stamp for
21 the year 2009 to 2016 and then \$35 for each stamp from
22 2016 on. Senate Bill 1641, that's a companion bill but
23 different amounts. The amount of the duck stamp is \$22
24 from 2009 through 2015, \$29 from 2016 through 2022 and
25 \$35 from 2023 on. They have another Senate Bill 272,
26 which basically is just going to pump \$400 million into
27 the Migratory Bird Fund to go toward purchase of
28 habitat. As action is taken, I'll keep you guys
29 informed of that.

30

31 There's one other thing and that's
32 inventory of duck stamps. I've been working with the
33 post office to try to get an adequate amount and I got
34 somewhat of a skimpy report back indicating that a lot
35 of villages still need to respond to their request.
36 They had asked each post office how many duck stamps
37 they need and there hasn't been much of a response or
38 they couldn't find the list. There are some villages
39 that have an adequate supply now but most don't. If I
40 were you, when you go back to your regions, call the
41 post office in your region and ask if they requested
42 additional duck stamps because people are asking for
43 them and there's none available for sale. I'd just
44 make that point to you guys. Bethel ran out in a
45 couple days. Wainwright only had five. Just make you
46 guys aware your local people are concerned about the
47 supply and somebody needs to step forward and try to
48 act on their behalf.

49

50 The last thing is we'll probably have

1 to have a teleconference over the summer. I know
2 that's an action item, but we have to review the data
3 for one thing and the results of the State analysis.
4 We have to act on sooner than later because our Survey
5 Program is going to really rely on Council
6 recommendations. That's all I have.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Armstrong. Any questions, comments.

10

(No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Onto our next agenda
14 item. Comments from Council Members. Any last-minute
15 things to say. Mr. Alcorn.

16

17 MR. ALCORN: I would like to ask the
18 Council, I realize it's late, but this is an important
19 issue. That is that when I've gone back to represent
20 the consensus positions of the Council to the Service
21 Regulation Committee each summer, we've had some pretty
22 good discussions and it's my sense that the SRC and the
23 Council could benefit from a face to face at some point
24 in the future. I think there are a lot of issues that
25 you all raise and regularly raise and I'm not sure that
26 I give it justice when I make the presentation because
27 it just doesn't resonate when you've got a guy, a
28 career Fish and Wildlife Service employee, trying to
29 convey your message. I think last summer Herman and
30 Patty were there. They do a great job. I think it
31 would have much more impact if all of us invited the
32 SRC to Alaska on our turf to visit with us and to have
33 discussions of the subsistence harvest and some of the
34 issues that continue to nag us, bother us, we trip over
35 them and I think it would be a welcome respite from the
36 typical Washington D.C. meetings of the SRC if we were
37 able to get them to come up. With your permission or
38 consent, I would like to extend an invitation to the
39 SRC to meet with us sometime in the future. It might
40 be an ad hoc meeting. I think it could be beneficial
41 for all of us. It's just an idea.

42

43 MR. DEVINE: I'll second your motion.

44

(Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I would only add that
48 after having spent the last couple of days last week
49 with the Pacific Flyway Council and with the National
50 Flyway Council, by and large those folks really don't

1 understand much about what goes on in Alaska,
2 especially outside the regular fall hunting season.
3 They don't understand customary and traditional use.
4 It would be a huge benefit to those folks, whether to
5 come here or have more exposure of this Council at
6 those meetings. There has been talk of folks coming up
7 from various flyway councils and observing things that
8 go on in the springtime up here. I think any of that
9 kind of contact would do nothing but good. It was very
10 evident to me that those folks could use more
11 information. I think direct information from members
12 of this Council and especially direct knowledge of what
13 goes on in the field would be a big help toward getting
14 the Council's message across in places where it really
15 counts.

16

17 Mr. Armstrong and then Mr. Devine.

18

19 MR. ARMSTRONG: That just reminded me
20 that at the next Flyway Council meeting I have to give
21 a presentation on subsistence, what it's all about and
22 why we do the things we do to survive. There's a new
23 player in the group, the Non-Game Committee. Last year
24 we had to spend a lot of time educating that group on
25 the Yellow-Billed Loon proposal, the harvest of
26 shorebirds, seabirds. To them, they had never heard of
27 that before. We had a heck of a time getting through
28 that committee to try to move it on to the Pacific
29 Flyway Council.

30

31 Just to echo our Chair's concern about
32 that, it would be worth inviting them up here too.
33 They want to know what it's all about. They have to be
34 involved. Our regulations impact theirs as well as
35 vice versa.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Devine and then
38 Member Hepa and Mr. Rothe.

39

40 MR. DEVINE: Yeah, I was just going to
41 suggest instead of having them come up and meet just a
42 few people at ad hoc committee invite them to our fall
43 meeting and they can see where everybody is coming from
44 and all the dialogue that goes on with this process.
45 We're trying to work things out together. I mean it's
46 not just one group telling another group, okay, you're
47 doing this.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
50 Hepa.

1 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 agree with all of you and I would like to say it would
3 be more special if we had it in a rural community and I
4 think that Molly would be a great host.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Congratulations,
7 Member Chythlook. We're all coming over for dinner.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I was going to do an
12 invitation, but I haven't got to that point.

13
14 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. What I sense
15 is there's value in something that you could refer to
16 as like a summit where the Flyway Council, at least
17 certainly the Pacific Flyway Council, and invite the
18 SRC to meet with us and we would host them. To just
19 open their eyes to subsistence hunting because it is
20 foreign to the rest of the Lower 48 states. So, with
21 your consent, I'd be glad to start working on that and
22 contacting my counterparts in Washington D.C. and the
23 Flyway Council or if you want to work with the Flyway
24 Council, Ron, I'll volunteer you for that. I think we
25 could work something out possibly for this winter when
26 things slow down for everybody.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Rothe.

29
30 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry,
31 my mind had already adjourned. I wanted to mention
32 just so everybody has it on record the next Pacific
33 Flyway Study Committee and Council meeting is in
34 Spokane, Washington. It's the week of July 21st.
35 Usually there are three to four days of technical
36 meetings where Russ and I have introduced the proposals
37 the Co-Management Council puts forward and Fred is
38 there. The critical date for the two representatives
39 from this body is Friday, the 25th.

40
41 The other thing, a reminder just in
42 terms of coordination and increased communication, Ron
43 England from Oregon is a delegated Pacific Flyway
44 person from the Council to come up and work with the
45 Co-Management Council. He's very familiar with AVCP
46 business about geese. So make sure you work through
47 Ron in Oregon.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Rothe
50 and Mr. Alcorn. I'd be happy to participate in that.

1 Mr. Oates.

2

3 MR. OATES: Just a quick note, Mr.
4 Chairman. Just to let the Council know, there were
5 some communication problems last year with regard to
6 the Non-Game Technical Committee of the Pacific Flyway,
7 so at the March meeting three weeks ago in Newport,
8 Oregon I did go ahead and brief the Non-Game Technical
9 Committee on the three proposals that we have discussed
10 here today and I told them that they were preliminary
11 pending action by this Council. So they're aware of
12 the issues and they're aware what comes out the other
13 end of this process may not be the same as what they've
14 seen. So they were very appreciative of that and they
15 are looking forward to the end products of this
16 meeting; that is, the completed proposals being made
17 available to them prior to the July meeting.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Member
20 Hepa.

21

22 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
23 as a Council comment. I wanted to end on a happy note.
24 Last summer there was an incident with Yellow-Billed
25 Loons that were released from a fisherman's net without
26 their knowledge by Service employees and I knew of it
27 when it happened and I felt obligated to let the owner
28 of the fish net know. So I went to go tell him, oh, my
29 gosh, I have to tell you something that happened and he
30 wasn't aware of it and he was looking at me like what
31 are you talking about. The whole time he thought I was
32 talking about yellow balloons.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MS. HEPA: He was looking at me like --
37 and then I go, oh, my gosh, I'm sorry, it was Yellow-
38 Billed Loons. And his face totally changed, but for
39 the whole time I was talking to him he was looking at
40 me like yellow balloons in my nets? So, thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: I've seen some odd
43 things come up in fishing nets, but never a yellow
44 balloon. Any other Council comments. Member
45 Chythlook.

46

47 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Chair. I
48 just wanted to thank first the Council Members for
49 attending this. I know that we're busy, some of us
50 work, but this portion of the resource is dear to us,

1 so we have made commitments to attend and to learn
2 regarding this. I'd like to also thank the Staff and
3 especially Donna. It's really an awakening and it's
4 good to have Staff members attend our regional meetings
5 and this is the first Staffer that has ever attended
6 since I got on. We didn't have to go humming when
7 there was a question that Donna knew. So I want to
8 thank her for attending our last regional meeting.

9

10 Then I want to thank the public
11 agencies for giving us all this information. Some of
12 them year after year, but it's always new information
13 to us even if it's an added information. So my mind is
14 at ease.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you, Member
19 Chythlook. I think we would all join you in thanking
20 the Staff and the members of the agencies. It's always
21 an encouraging exercise to go to one of these meetings
22 seeing everybody pull together in the same direction.
23 There are a lot of issues and sometimes a lot of
24 emotions swirling around, but the foundation around all
25 of that is concern for the long-term health of the
26 resources that we all treasure.

27

28 That was the measure I tried to get
29 across. While you were out having lunch, I was getting
30 interviewed by Channel 13 at noon today. You never
31 know what little sound bite they're going to use, but I
32 tried to emphasize the cooperative and positive and
33 successful nature of the body. I'll note for the
34 record before they left I made them all eat muktuk.
35 Two of the three did so enthusiastically. The third
36 pronounced it interesting.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Any other Council
41 comments. Member Andrew.

42

43 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 was just looking through the booklet and it looks like
45 today's opening date for the spring subsistence
46 migratory bird hunt. There's no birds out there, but
47 it is opening day. I hope and pray everyone will have
48 a successful and safe spring and summer hunt, egg
49 gathering. Hope to see you all next fall in
50 Dillingham.

1 I'd just like to, like Taqulik, end on
2 a positive note and maybe share a story about a
3 situation that occurred out there in Bethel. There was
4 a person, kind of an elderly man, that was cited for --
5 I don't know if it was hunting migratory birds out of
6 season or whether it was hunting moose out of season or
7 something out of season, but this person got called
8 into court and didn't speak and understand the English
9 language very well. At that time there were no court
10 interpreters of the Yup'ik language, so they just
11 grabbed his 10-year-old grandson who was fairly well
12 versed in the English language and the court proceeding
13 started and then the court clerk told the defendant at
14 that time we need to swear you in. Of course the
15 elderly man didn't know what was going on, so he
16 consulted with his grandson and whispered in his ear
17 and he had this really strange, uncomfortable look, so
18 he leaned back and looked up at the judge and blurted
19 out the words beepity-beepity-beep.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. ANDREW: It just goes to show that
24 regulations and court proceedings and whatnot are still
25 really foreign to our people out there and it maybe
26 shows an urgency that things should be kept simple for
27 the majority of our subsistence hunters.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Thank you. Any other
32 comments from Council Members.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. Let's
37 move on to the next item and select a date and place
38 for our next meeting. Member Chythlook.

39

40 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I make the motion that
41 we have our next meeting in Dillingham, whenever that's
42 going to be.

43

44 MR. DEVINE: I'll second that motion.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It's been moved and
47 seconded to hold the next meeting of the Alaska
48 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council in Dillingham. Is
49 there any discussion. Mr. Alcorn.

50

1 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 It does about double the cost of the meeting to hold it
3 anywhere but Anchorage and I would support that if we
4 can do it this fiscal year. It would need to be done
5 before September 30th. For the reason that we have a
6 vacancy on the AMBCC Staff, so we have more money
7 available to spend on meetings this year than we will
8 next year.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Mr. Armstrong.

11
12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Generally the last week
13 of September is the one week that favors most Council
14 Members. I don't know if that's changed or not.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: The very last page of
17 your packet is a calendar. Member Hepa.

18
19 MS. HEPA: The third or fourth week
20 would be a good time. I would agree with Fred.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. ALCORN: Recommend September 22nd,
25 which is the week of Monday, the 22nd. So the
26 workshop, if we have a workshop, would be the 23rd.
27 The meeting date would be the 24th and presumably we'd
28 finish in one day.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Member Chythlook, you
31 had a comment.

32
33 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No. I just wanted to
34 invite everybody before the salmon season is over.
35 You'll still catch silvers.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Sounds good. Any
38 other comments. I guess we need to amend that motion
39 to include the dates if somebody would be willing to
40 make that amendment. Member Chythlook.

41
42 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I can amend that.
43 Also, could we plan a potluck. I can arrange a potluck
44 the first evening. When is your travel date?

45
46 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: The travel date would
47 be the 22nd of September, a Monday, workshop on Tuesday
48 and the full meeting on the 24th, a Wednesday.

49
50 MS. CHYTHLOOK: So I can arrange a

1 potluck for the evening of the 22nd.
2
3 MS. HEPA: And fiddle dance, too.
4
5 MS. CHYTHLOOK: We don't have any
6 fiddling. We don't have fiddlers. We have guitarists.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there a second.
9
10 MR. DEVINE: Second.
11
12 MS. APOK: Second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: It's been moved and
15 seconded to clear the dates of the 23rd and the 24th
16 for the next meeting. Is there any discussion.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Ready for the
21 question. Any objection.
22
23 (No objections)
24
25 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none, the
26 motion has been amended to include those dates. Any
27 discussion on the main motion.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are you ready for the
32 question. Any objection.
33
34 (No objections)
35
36 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. We'll
37 meet next time the 23rd and 24th (September) in
38 Dillingham. Thank you very much.
39
40 Is there any more business to come
41 before the Council today.
42
43 MS. HEPA: Move to adjourn.
44
45 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Is there a second.
46
47 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Second.
48
49 MR. ALCORN: The rotation of the
50 Chairmanship occurs in the fall meeting.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Yeah. I'm sorry. I
2 have an amended agenda. The rotation of the
3 chairmanship is a fall item, so that will be taken up
4 at the fall meeting. Not that I wouldn't be more than
5 happy to give anybody the gavel here. Any discussion
6 on the motion to adjourn.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Are you ready for the
11 question. Any objection.

12
13 (No objections)

14
15 CHAIRMAN CLARKE: Seeing none. We
16 stand adjourned.

17
18 Thank you very much.

19
20 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

