

1 ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2

3 SPRING WORK SESSION

4

5 APRIL 4, 2007

6

7 Members Present:

8

9 Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak, Incorporated, Chair

10 Doug Alcorn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

11 Matt Robus, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

12 Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association

13 Taqulik Hepa, North Slope Borough

14 Myron Naneng, AVCP, YK-Delta Region

15 Herman Squartsoff, Kodiak Area Native Association

16 Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resource

17 Commission

18 Molly Chythlook, Bristol Bay Native Association

19 Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands

20 Matt Kookesh, Southeast Inter-Tribal Fish and Wildlife

21 Commission

22 Caleb Pungowiyi, Maniilaq Association

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24 Fred Armstrong, Executive Director

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage - 4/4/2007)

(On record - 9:05 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Good morning. I'm Austin Ahmasuk. I'm the chair of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council. I'd like to call the meeting of the Council to order. I have 9:05 a.m. I would like to ask Patty to open up with some words in regards to Gary Kompkoff. Patty.

MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Austin. As you all know, Gary Kompkoff, president of the Tatitlek Village Council, member of the co-management council here, and on the board of the Chugach Regional Resources Commission passed away February 19th of a heart attack.

I just wanted to say a few words as a tribute to him. He was 52 years old when he passed away and in his lifetime he spent in service to his village. He was the village chief for 30 years and spent many hours traveling on behalf of tribal natural resource issues. He was on a lot of boards and councils, like the Chugach Alaska Corporation. He was the founding member of Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Housing Authority, Chugachmiut. He was on the review team for administration for Native Americans. I mean the list goes on and on.

Most of all, he was a good leader, but he was also a true friend and he was a great father and he loved his church, he loved his family. He dedicated his life to tribes being more involved in the decision-making process regarding natural resources. He was a strong advocate for tribal involvement in that decision-making process.

Through that process he also felt that in order to be more meaningfully involved in those types of issues the tribal people had to have the technical capacity to do that, so he worked with us and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to develop the first fully-accredited tribal natural resource management education program. This is the first one in the country because the classes integrate western science and traditional knowledge. This program is being delivered by UAF's college of rural Alaska. So far there's 13 students enrolled and they've earned nine credits since last September. So I think that's a great legacy to what he stood for.

1                   He wrote their tribe's tribal natural  
2 resource management plan, which is being used as a model in  
3 the other villages and spent countless hours with the Exxon  
4 Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council ensuring that the  
5 communities that were affected by the oil spill knew what  
6 was going on and that they were involved as much as  
7 possible in the research and the restoration process.  
8

9                   All these efforts that he worked so hard  
10 toward actually led to him winning the national  
11 environmental hero award in 2006, which is given by the  
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.  
13

14                   Those are just a few things that I wanted  
15 to point out. He was dedicated to preserving and wise use  
16 of the subsistence resources and making sure they were  
17 there for future generations, but also keeping the  
18 traditions and culture intact at the same time.  
19

20                   So we lost a great leader and in the  
21 Russian Orthodox Church his 40 days was last Saturday, so  
22 they had another service for him then. Henry Huntington, I  
23 don't know if many people know him, but he's worked with us  
24 on our traditional knowledge projects. He's worked up in  
25 the North Slope Borough quite a bit and he wrote a poem  
26 about Gary that I would like to read.  
27

28 He spoke passion in a whisper  
29 He was strong when he stood still  
30 Generosity to others matched his dignity and will  
31 He was the waters and the narrows, filled with energy and  
32 life  
33 Relentless as the tides flow, quiet depths amid all strife  
34 He was the islands and the mountains, the lands beneath the  
35 sun  
36 Many sides, many angles, in his character made one  
37 He was the church upon the bluff, sky blue domes glowing  
38 bright  
39 Watching gently over Tatitlek, his loved ones in his sight  
40 He spoke passion in a whisper  
41 He was strong when standing tall  
42 May he rest in peace forever  
43 May his spirit live in us all  
44

45                   Thank you. I would also like to have a  
46 moment of silence.  
47

48                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. A moment of  
49 silence, please.  
50

1 (Moment of silence)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Patty. We do  
4 have an agenda. It's almost a page and a half. I'll move  
5 to a seating of alternates. Do we have any alternates?  
6  
7 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, no, we don't.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay, no alternates.  
10 May we have roll call, please.  
11  
12 MR. ROBUS: Mr. Chairman. Association of  
13 Village Council Presidents.  
14  
15 MR. NANENG: Here.  
16  
17 MR. ROBUS: Bristol Bay Native Association.  
18  
19 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Here.  
20  
21 MR. ROBUS: Chugach Regional Resource  
22 Commission.  
23  
24 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Here.  
25  
26 MR. ROBUS: Copper River Native  
27 Association.  
28  
29 MR. HICKS: Here.  
30  
31 MR. ROBUS: Kawerak, Incorporated.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Here.  
34  
35 MR. ROBUS: Aleutian/Pribilof Islands  
36 Association.  
37  
38 MR. DEVINE: Here.  
39  
40 MR. ROBUS: Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.  
41  
42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Here.  
43  
44 MR. ROBUS: Maniilaq Association.  
45  
46 MR. PUNGOWIYI: Here.  
47  
48 MR. ROBUS: North Slope Borough.  
49  
50 MS. HEPA: Here.

1 MR. ROBUS: Tanana Chiefs Conference.  
2  
3 (No response)  
4  
5 MR. ROBUS: Southeast Inter-tribal Fish &  
6 Wildlife Commission.  
7  
8 MR. KOOKESH: Here.  
9  
10 MR. ROBUS: Mr. Chairman, we have a quorum.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Thank you. Yes,  
13 we do have a quorum.  
14  
15 MR. ROBUS: I'm sorry. What we don't have  
16 here on this list is Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
17  
18 MR. ALCORN: State of Alaska is here.  
19  
20 MR. ROBUS: And I'm representing the Fish  
21 and Wildlife Service. We're here.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay, you are here. As  
24 is customary, may we have some introductions. Start with  
25 Patty and go around the table here and then out in the  
26 audience, please.  
27  
28 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Patty Brown-  
29 Schwalenberg, executive director, Chugach Regional  
30 Resources Commission.  
31  
32 MR. PUNGOWIYI: Caleb Pungowiyi, natural  
33 resources, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue.  
34  
35 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Molly Chythlook from  
36 Bristol Bay Association, director for natural resources.  
37  
38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Herman Squartsoff, Sun'aq  
39 Tribal.  
40  
41 MR. HICKS: Joeneal Hicks, Copper River.  
42  
43 MR. ALCORN: Doug Alcorn, Fish and Wildlife  
44 Service.  
45  
46 MR. ROBUS: Matt Robus, director of  
47 Wildlife Conservation for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
48 Game.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Austin Ahmasuk,

1 subsistence director, Kawerak, Nome.

2

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong, the  
4 executive director for the Council.

5

6 MR. NANENG: Myron Naneng, chairman of the  
7 Waterfowl Conservation Committee and president of the  
8 Association of Village Council Presidents.

9

10 MS. HEPA: Taqulik Hepa, director of the  
11 North Slope Borough's Department of Wildlife Management.

12

13 MR. DEVINE: Peter Devine,  
14 Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association.

15

16 MR. KOOKESH: Matt Kookesh, chairman,  
17 Southeast Inter-tribal.

18

19 (Audience introductions away from  
20 microphone)

21

22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Thank you. Next  
23 we have adoption of agenda. Let me just quickly read  
24 through this real quick. We do have some guests that I  
25 would like to have give a few words here before we get into  
26 some of our action items.

27

28 Approval of Council action items, September  
29 28; invitation for public comments; old business (a, b, c);  
30 10 (a) through (g), Proposals 1 through 7; 11, consent  
31 agenda items (a) through (g). Those, if you remember, are  
32 a way to dispense with regulations for those regions that  
33 don't submit a proposal and we just enact their current  
34 regulations. Invitation for public comments, other  
35 business, staff reports, committee membership, Council  
36 comments, date and place of next meeting and then  
37 adjournment.

38

39 I suppose we probably should move to adopt  
40 this agenda and then we can make some changes. So I would  
41 entertain a motion to that effect.

42

43 MR. HICKS: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 MR. ROBUS: Second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Moved by Mr. Hicks,  
48 seconded by Mr. Robus to adopt the agenda. I do have some  
49 friendly amendments. As I mentioned, we have some guests.  
50 Mr. Hans Neidig, Ron Anglin, Bob Trost, and we did ask

1 Steve Arlow to attend this meeting to receive some  
2 comments. If we could have those gentlemen address us.  
3 And under old business I would propose we strike (a)  
4 through (c) and add an executive session. Any questions on  
5 that? Doug.

6  
7 MR. ALCORN: If we strike those, I know  
8 that some of these are hold-overs from prior meetings, are  
9 we just going to then table them and hold them until the  
10 fall meeting? Is that the request?

11  
12 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I suppose that would be  
13 the proper thing to do, to table those things. So it would  
14 be another consent agenda item to table those until the  
15 next meeting but add in executive session. I also propose  
16 that we move the consent agenda items after old business.  
17 Under other business, I would like to have the Council  
18 address the eagle feather issue from the Southeast Alaska  
19 Inter-tribal Wildlife Commission.

20  
21 With that, any questions.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Is there any  
26 objection to those amendments.

27  
28 MR. ARMSTRONG: A question. I think we're  
29 puzzled where the discussion with the Southeast Inter-  
30 tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission is going to occur.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: It would be under Other,  
33 Item 13. And then I just heard out of my ear here, ivory  
34 gull. Do we have someone here to speak on ivory gull? No,  
35 we don't. Okay. Any objection to those friendly  
36 amendments.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Hearing no  
41 objection to those friendly amendments on the motion to  
42 adopt the agenda, all those in favor say aye.

43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed, abstentions.

47  
48 (No opposing/abstaining votes)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Motion carries.

1 Okay. I did mention the gentlemen earlier to address the  
2 Council. May we have Mr. Hans Neidig come address the  
3 Council.

4

5 MR. NEIDIG: Good morning, Council Members.  
6 I came this morning not necessarily with prepared comments.  
7 I just wanted to come over and introduce myself. I'm the  
8 special assistant to the Secretary of Interior here in  
9 Alaska. Some may know my predecessor, Cam Toohey. I'm  
10 following Cam in that job and I just look forward to  
11 working with the Council.

12

13 I wanted to take a second also to thank you  
14 for your hard work. The Secretary and myself truly  
15 appreciate the important work that this Council does and  
16 the decisions and impacts that you have on Alaskans. This  
17 is part of one of those great things that Secretary  
18 Kempthorne really wants to work toward and that is greater  
19 communication with all of Alaskans, working  
20 collaboratively, working cooperatively. This body  
21 exemplifies those activities.

22

23 So I just want to, on behalf of the  
24 Secretary and myself again, thank you for your hard work.  
25 I'm happy to answer any questions you might have to a  
26 limit, I guess. If you had any questions about myself or  
27 if you wanted me to introduce myself a little bit further.  
28 Is that maybe proper?

29

30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: (Nods affirmatively)

31

32 MR. NEIDIG: All right, Austin. Thank you.  
33 I grew up in Palmer, Alaska. I've worked in the  
34 legislature, I worked back in the U.S. Senate, I was on the  
35 BLM Hotshot crew out of AFS out of Fairbanks for about six  
36 seasons. I've traveled, hiked, climbed, fished and hunted  
37 this state like probably only a few others have and  
38 probably many of you have here at this table. I love  
39 Alaska and I love the opportunity to serve Alaskans.

40

41 I really appreciate the opportunity to be  
42 able to come before bodies like yourself and say hello and  
43 thank you again for your hard work. I probably can't put  
44 enough emphasis on that. The work that these bodies do in  
45 reaching out to Alaskans makes a big difference in the  
46 relationships between the Federal government, the State  
47 government and all of Alaskans and I can't underscore that  
48 enough. So I really do appreciate the work that you do and  
49 just want to say thank you. Again, I'd be happy to answer  
50 any questions.



1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any  
2 questions.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. We also have  
7 Ron Anglin from Oregon. We'd appreciate any words you have  
8 as well.

9  
10 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
11 Members of the Council. It's good to be here with you  
12 again. It's been a couple of years since I was here last  
13 and I really appreciate the opportunity this time as our  
14 legislature is in session and there's been quite a few  
15 hearings going on that I've been able to escape from and  
16 just be able to handle everything over the phone and send  
17 other people into the fray to get some experience dealing  
18 with the legislature. So I appreciate the opportunity to  
19 be here.

20  
21 As the Flyway Council representative, we  
22 want to express to you our appreciation for the hard work  
23 that you're doing. We realize that a lot of these  
24 processes may be new to you and we appreciate how you've  
25 been working through them and coming together because we  
26 share a common goal, which is sustainability of the  
27 resource. Certainly you have a link to it that people in  
28 the Lower 48 probably don't appreciate to the degree you  
29 have because it is truly your livelihood and subsistence  
30 and we are appreciative of that.

31  
32 We wanted to recognize here a couple years  
33 ago when the Black Brant had lower numbers that all of us  
34 stepped forward and made some changes to regulations that  
35 had an impact and we've seen Black Brant come back. We're  
36 appreciative that the Council was willing to take some  
37 steps to address the issue as well as us and recognizing  
38 that we are in this together and that we can take some  
39 joint steps to ensure that we keep those birds at healthy  
40 levels.

41  
42 One of the things that we've talked about  
43 before with you and I know that the Council has talked  
44 about is it's really important for us to be able to  
45 understand some of your subsistence harvest levels and  
46 needs and being able to factor that into what we try and do  
47 as far as setting seasons. Sometimes it's difficult for  
48 the Council when they're weighing what options to look at  
49 in the way of seasons when they don't have all the  
50 information and it can be tough for them to make decisions

1 that may impact you and be upsetting to you when we don't  
2 know why it's upsetting. So anything you can do as a  
3 Council to really bring that data forward would be  
4 appreciated by the Flyway Council because it does play a  
5 role in some of the season setting that we need to do and  
6 the things that we consider.

7  
8 Then, finally, the Council wanted you to  
9 know that we appreciate the work that's going on here with  
10 avian influenza. Like you, a lot of us are sharing the pain  
11 as far as going out and sampling and trying to track  
12 things. Like you, we've had to work through -- in the  
13 lower states, work through all the public hype and the  
14 media attention associated with it and the fear factor and  
15 try and get it focused on what the problems really are. We  
16 recognize the role that Alaska plays as far as an early  
17 detection and we recognize the stress and the workload that  
18 that has put on a lot of people up here has been  
19 tremendous, but we are very appreciative of everything that  
20 folks have done.

21  
22 With that, Mr. Chair, I'd like to conclude  
23 and thank you for the opportunity to be here.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any  
26 questions.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Bob Trost,  
31 Pacific Flyway. As always, we appreciate your work in  
32 carrying some of our messages forward. With that, Bob.

33  
34 MR. TROST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
35 Members of the Council. It is a pleasure to have the  
36 opportunity to join you once again. I have been party to  
37 this developing regulation system up here since its onset  
38 and I've enjoyed every minute of having an opportunity to  
39 play a role in it.

40  
41 I have a couple more business-related items  
42 perhaps to relate to you than the other fellows did this  
43 morning. The first of which is, as you know, I'm also the  
44 person that's in charge of the hunting EIS and we will be  
45 addressing subsistence harvest in that EIS. We're working  
46 on a draft and the target date that we have for producing a  
47 draft for public comment is September 2008. We hope to  
48 have that together. The migratory bird staff here in  
49 Alaska in Region 7 is going to help with the drafting of  
50 that draft document and I think that you're interests and

1 concerns will be addressed in that, but we certainly  
2 solicit your review and comment of the draft when we get it  
3 done and look forward to further discussions with this  
4 particular group on various aspects that will be covered in  
5 that.

6  
7 The other thing that I guess I will mention  
8 is, as you know, in our role in the Flyway we do try to  
9 coordinate management activities between this body and the  
10 Pacific Flyway and the other three Flyways in the country.  
11 One of the issues that Ron did not mention on behalf of the  
12 Council that I feel obligated to mention is that we have  
13 still increasing depredation issues with several of the  
14 goose species that nest here in Alaska and the southern  
15 states in the winter time. Part of this is ongoing  
16 urbanization, development, putting more and more pressure  
17 on where your birds winter. This is an issue that's  
18 becoming more and more problematic and Ron, in representing  
19 the state of Oregon, is the state that's probably most  
20 impacted by this. This year for the first time we've  
21 instituted a depredation hunt on White Fronts in the  
22 southern part of the state of Oregon.

23  
24 What we're also seeing over time is  
25 gradually more and more geese are wintering further and  
26 further north. Geese that have historically wintered in  
27 California are not wintering there any longer. Those geese  
28 that are still going to California tend to be returning  
29 north a little bit earlier in the year and that returning  
30 numbers of White Fronts to southern Oregon has begun to  
31 create problems as well. So although our cooperative  
32 efforts to restore the populations of White Fronts have  
33 been very successful and our current estimates are that we  
34 have over half a million of those birds, they're beginning  
35 to attack some of the agricultural interests in new areas  
36 and we will need to continue to work together to try to  
37 address some of these problems as we go down the road.

38  
39 But other than that I thank you very much.  
40 Of course, if there's anything I can do for the Council, I  
41 hope that you will let me know. I would be happy to do  
42 whatever I can to facilitate our joint efforts here to  
43 manage the resource. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Bob. I do  
46 have a question. When the EIS comes out in '08, what kind  
47 of public reads will there be, comment periods and things  
48 like that?

49  
50 MR. TROST: Right now we anticipate having

1 a comment period that will encompass two of the -- or it  
2 will encompass through March, through the Flyway meeting.  
3 So what we plan to do is release it in September of '08,  
4 but we will have almost a seven month comment period  
5 probably on it, so there will be a fairly lengthy time.  
6 This, as you might imagine, will be a fairly massive  
7 document and a great deal of it will be directed toward the  
8 larger fall/winter seasons that we have in the Lower 48.  
9 We're also going to try to attempt to address refuge  
10 hunting and this has become an issue in the south. There's  
11 been some litigation and we're going to try to clean up  
12 some of the other administrative background issues  
13 associated with it. So it may take a while to wade through  
14 it. I hope it's a readable document in the end. That's  
15 what we're aiming for.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: And then another one is,  
18 in Council meetings past, we've heard or it's been  
19 discussed at the subsistence component there would be a  
20 supplemental statement or will all of the hunting activity  
21 be incorporated into a full-blown type of EIS or how will  
22 that work?

23  
24 MR. TROST: Yeah. This, as you might  
25 imagine, I do have a draft outline and I'm going to discuss  
26 it with Doug and some of his staff on Friday morning about  
27 how we're going to do this. Right now the draft outline  
28 basically lays it out as three separate components and a  
29 single EIS. There's the fall/winter seasons traditional  
30 hunting, there's subsistence hunting and there's refuge  
31 hunting. But one of the aspects of the litigation that was  
32 filed in the states down south was that we have failed to  
33 properly consider the overall cumulative impact of the  
34 services policy or process for issuing regulations in  
35 general. So our goal here is to take a comprehensive look  
36 at all of the regulations we offer for bird hunting.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
39 questions.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Bob. Okay.  
44 Mr. Steve Arlow. I know that we might be asking you to  
45 speak on something that you're not aware of. At  
46 yesterday's work session some law enforcement concerns were  
47 raised. The thing that I would like to do is maybe just  
48 turn it over to Myron, who raised some of those concerns,  
49 and maybe you'd have an opportunity to entertain that  
50 concern and maybe offer some feedback. It shouldn't be too

1 much of a long discussion. Myron, thank you.

2

3 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the  
4 Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting that we had last  
5 week, and it was not the first time that the issue was  
6 raised, some concern has been expressed by the level of law  
7 enforcement that's done by the State versus those of Fish  
8 and Wildlife Service, especially on State lands. The Y-K  
9 Delta Goose Management Plan represents all the villages  
10 within the Y-K Delta, including those that are located in  
11 the Upper Kuskokwim.

12

13 We've heard reports from people upriver  
14 stating that State law enforcement people are threatening  
15 to issue citations to those people that are hunting like  
16 around Sleetmute, Stone River and the Upper Kuskokwim  
17 regions and are even moose hunters who occasionally get  
18 waterfowl to cook while they're out hunting. They  
19 expressed concern that there seems to be no coordination  
20 between the State and the Feds to comply with what has been  
21 signed by the State and Federal representatives on the  
22 Goose Management Plan and the law enforcement that's been  
23 understood and been working for the last 20-plus years.

24

25 So I wanted to share that with you and we  
26 hope that in the future that whenever we have any Waterfowl  
27 Conservation Committee meetings that law enforcement  
28 representatives also from the State be there to give  
29 reports of issues that people have concerns about and to  
30 respond to questions and answers that come about as a  
31 result of a cooperative or co-management agreement that has  
32 worked for many years.

33

34 MR. ARLOW: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and  
35 Council Members. I'm Capt. Steve Arlow. I'm the  
36 operations commander for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.  
37 Just a quick background. I've been with the Department for  
38 22 years and I've had two assignments out in Western  
39 Alaska. One in 1985 and one in 2003, so I'm familiar with  
40 the area and things have changed from 1985 when I was first  
41 out there until '03 when I was out there.

42

43 But I just called out there last night and  
44 this morning just to kind of re-affirm my thoughts on how  
45 we do business out there as an enforcement agency and one  
46 thing that I will offer up to the Council is that this  
47 spring waterfowl hunt is a Federal subsistence issue and it  
48 is exactly that and we recognize it as that. We don't make  
49 that a priority in our enforcement efforts. On occasion in  
50 the springtime one of our enforcement troopers might come

1 across somebody who is spring waterfowl hunting. I've had  
2 it myself when I was out there. We'll just do the routine  
3 checks of finding out how things are going, checking for --  
4 predominantly lead shot is the main issue that we know the  
5 Federal government is concerned about and that's really our  
6 concern.

7  
8                   When we see other things, like the spring  
9 water, if there's issues with duck stamps and those things,  
10 we understand that in that region sometimes you don't get  
11 those opportunities to get duck stamps in the spring. They  
12 just aren't available out in some of those villages. So  
13 we're sensitive to that, myself included. When I was out  
14 there, you know, we were looking for predominantly lead  
15 shot. When I was out there, we were encouraging licenses  
16 because at the time it was kind of still a gray area  
17 whether we were going to enforce a license issue, so we had  
18 licenses in our possession and if somebody wanted to buy  
19 one from us, we would. But we didn't have a heavy hand out  
20 there at all in western Alaska and we only have a few folks  
21 out there. We have two troopers in Bethel, one in St.  
22 Mary's and Nome and Aniak, so it's not a big presence out  
23 there. Certainly in the springtime it is not a priority at  
24 all for us to do spring waterfowl.

25  
26                   Now I have heard on occasion and I've had  
27 to address that when I was the supervisor out there that  
28 one of our troopers would go out there and land and would  
29 have a friendly contact with a resource user for spring  
30 waterfowl and by the time it got back to the village and  
31 back to us it became almost like a rumor. If I made a  
32 statement to this young lady here, by the time that  
33 statement got over to this side, it would be changed. On  
34 occasion I found where we had made a friendly contact and  
35 it got back to the village that we had wrote citations and  
36 we seized guns and we did all this and when I really looked  
37 into it none of those things occurred. So I just want to  
38 throw that out to where -- you know, I have investigated  
39 some of those things.

40  
41                   We do have some new troopers on board and  
42 on occasion I'm not going to say that we might make some  
43 decisions maybe that maybe were not in line with what we  
44 want and when those occur we strongly encourage the  
45 villages to give us a call and the leaders of those  
46 communities call us and let us know if you think we're  
47 getting it wrong. We're willing to entertain that and  
48 educate our troopers in that. So I just want to throw that  
49 out to the members that are out there in western Alaska.  
50

1 Mr. Naneng, I've actually spoken to you  
2 before and I've written correspondences to you on these  
3 subjects, so I appreciate the fact that you're willing to  
4 engage with us and bring those things to our attention.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Arlow.  
7 Any other questions.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thanks. Here's a  
12 housecleaning item next. Approval of our Council action  
13 items for September 28, '06. It's under Tab 1. I would  
14 like to entertain a motion to approve those Council action  
15 items.

16  
17 MS. HEPA: So moved.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Moved by Taqulik.

20  
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Seconded by Herman.  
24 Okay. Discussion. Any changes. Mr. Kookesh.

25  
26 MR. KOOKESH: I wasn't here for this  
27 meeting, but I read the minutes. On page 4, on the top, I  
28 think it would be appropriate for whoever made the motion  
29 and seconded by -- Mr. Smith made the motion and second by  
30 unidentified Council Member, if you could put a Council  
31 Member in there. That's all I had.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: In that vein, let's have  
34 Staff refer to the record and put that Member in there  
35 before it gets submitted to whatever record it's going to  
36 get submitted to. Thank you. Any other questions. Donna.

37  
38 MS. DEWHURST: It isn't in the transcript.  
39 That's why it's written that way. The person didn't  
40 identify themselves when they spoke.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Let's see who was  
43 present. Let's just put Ms. Hepa there, okay. Is that  
44 fine? Okay. Any other questions.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. On the motion to  
49 approve the Council action items of September 28, all those  
50 in favor say aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Those opposed, same  
4 sign, abstentions.  
5  
6 (No opposing/abstaining votes)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. We now  
9 would like to open up the Council meeting to any invitation  
10 for public comments. Any member of the public present may  
11 make comments and address this body. With that, any person  
12 wishing to make comments please identify yourself, your  
13 affiliation, your job, whatnot, and we'll receive your  
14 comments.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Okay. Good  
19 audience. Old business. We had removed items (a) through  
20 (c), so we have just one item under old business and that  
21 is in executive session and that is just to discuss the  
22 Interior Region. At this time I would entertain a motion  
23 to go into executive session to discuss the Interior  
24 Region.  
25  
26 MS. CHYTHLOOK: So moved.  
27  
28 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Moved by Molly, seconded  
31 by Herman. All those in favor signify by saying aye.  
32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed same sign,  
36 abstentions.  
37  
38 (No opposing/abstaining votes)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. We're  
41 into executive session at 9:41.  
42  
43 (Off record)  
44  
45 (On record)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I'd like to call the  
48 meeting back to session here. Can we have a motion to go  
49 back into regular session.  
50



1 MR. DEVINE: So moved.  
2  
3 MR. ROBUS: Second.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Moved by Peter, seconded  
6 by Matt to go back into regular session at 10:22. Any  
7 discussion on the motion to go back into regular session.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: All those in favor say  
12 aye.  
13  
14 IN UNISON: Aye.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed same sign,  
17 abstentions.  
18  
19 (No opposing/abstaining votes)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. We're  
22 back on. During executive session we discussed co-  
23 management ideas for the Interior Region and we'll be  
24 taking those up before the next meeting. We now have old  
25 business items. As per suggestion earlier, the discussion  
26 was to table (a), (b), (c) until the fall meeting. Is  
27 there a motion to that effect.  
28  
29 MR. ROBUS: So moved.  
30  
31 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Moved by Matt, seconded  
34 by Herman to table the variable season closures,  
35 interpretation of the 30 day Japanese treaty closure and  
36 duck stamp exemption. Any discussion. Myron.  
37  
38 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On the  
39 duck stamp exemption, AVCP has taken the lead in putting  
40 together the draft legislation and we will put together a  
41 draft legislation that we'll circulate with AMBCC.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
44 discussion.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. On the motion to  
49 table items (a), (b), (c) old business, all those in favor  
50 say aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Those opposed same sign,  
4 abstentions.  
5  
6 (No opposing/abstaining votes)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries to table  
9 (a), (b), (c). Okay. We are moving pretty quickly. We  
10 did move the consent agenda items after old business. I  
11 would like to explain a little bit about what those are.  
12 Items (a) through (g), the consent agenda items would be  
13 the current regulations that are in this booklet or simply  
14 in the Federal Register and that would be for the APIA,  
15 Bristol Bay, Southeast Inter-tribal Wildlife Commission,  
16 Chugach, Copper River Native Association, Kawerak, Native  
17 Village of Tyonek.  
18  
19 The regulations that are currently in place  
20 have not been proposed for change, so the consent agenda  
21 items in that block there would be to carry forward last  
22 year's regulations. Does anybody have any questions on  
23 that.  
24  
25 (No comments)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. So I would  
28 entertain a motion to adopt consent agenda items (a)  
29 through (g).  
30  
31 MR. ROBUS: So moved.  
32  
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Moved by Matt, seconded  
36 by Herman to approve consent agenda items (a) through (g).  
37 We do have some processes to follow here. I believe first  
38 of all that's Staff comments. Are there any U.S. Fish &  
39 Wildlife Staff comments.  
40  
41 (No comments)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Are there any ADF&G  
44 comments.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Are there any public  
49 comments.  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Let the record show  
4 there are no public comments or any comments on consent  
5 agenda items (a) through (g). On the motion to approve  
6 consent agenda items, all those in favor say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Those opposed same sign,  
11 abstention.

12

13 (No opposing/abstaining votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. Thank  
16 you. Now, what would be Item 11 is the regional/statewide  
17 proposals for the '08 season. We'll take those in order.  
18 Just to note that Proposal No. 3 is in Tab 3 and Proposal  
19 No. 4 is in Tab 4. Proposal No. 1, seasons and closures  
20 Kodiak Region. We'll have Herman introduce the proposal  
21 and go through our process.

22

23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair, I so move that  
24 we bring in Proposal No. 1. They're a little out of order  
25 here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Motion to approve  
28 Proposal No. 1 by the Kodiak Region. Is there a second.

29

30 MS. HEPA: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Second by Taqulik Hepa.  
33 Discussion. Herman.

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Discussion. I would like  
36 to make some amendments and changes to that Proposal No. 1.

37

38 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pretty much the first four  
41 sentences, all of that was pretty much taken out. What I'm  
42 proposing to put there in its place is a season and a  
43 closure. Am I going away from the process?

44

45 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No. You're introducing  
46 your proposal and then under Tab 4 there is the process  
47 we'll follow, so you're doing the correct thing. And then  
48 keep in mind yesterday we discussed all of these proposals,  
49 so when you present your proposal, introduce it, also help  
50 us with the amended language that we talked about.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right. That's what I'm  
2 trying to do, add the amended language now.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Very good.

5  
6 MR. SQUARTSOFF: The amended language I'd  
7 like to put in there -- like I say, striking the four  
8 sentences beginning with the spring migratory bird harvest  
9 shall be open April 2nd through June 30th, striking that  
10 and the next three below it and putting in season and then  
11 it would be April 2nd to June 30 and July 31st to August  
12 31st for seabirds. Okay. And then the second sentence  
13 below that would be April 2nd to June 20 and July 22nd to  
14 August 31st for all other birds. Okay. And then below  
15 that would have the closure. The closure would be from  
16 July 1 to July 30 for seabirds. Okay. June 21st to July  
17 21st for all other birds. We are also retracting the  
18 regional bird list, taking it off of there. That's the  
19 changes that I have and amendments I'd like to make to that  
20 Proposal No. 1.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Herman. As I  
23 understand it, as you just mentioned, we're going to shift  
24 the closures and bracket the closure with the openings that  
25 you mentioned.

26  
27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: And retracting the  
30 regional bird list.

31  
32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Open season. I  
33 guess we could say open season instead of just season.  
34 Would it make any difference?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: It probably doesn't make  
37 too much of a difference. Okay. Any other comments to  
38 your proposal.

39  
40 MR. SQUARTSOFF: That's pretty much it, Mr.  
41 Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Mr. Squartsoff has  
44 introduced Proposal No. 1. Let's go to our process here.  
45 We will ask for ADF&G Staff analysis. Mr. Robus, do you  
46 have ADF&G analysis for Proposal No. 1.

47  
48 MR. ROBUS: Mr. Chair. My Staff is not  
49 able to be here today and we don't have any specific  
50 comments and I don't have any objections to what Herman is

1 proposing to do.

2

3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. U.S. Fish  
4 and Wildlife Service Staff analysis.

5

6 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd  
7 like to ask Russ Oates or Mark Bagdovitz or both to come to  
8 the table and address the Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay, that would be  
11 fine. Please introduce yourself and come to the mike and  
12 provide some comments.

13

14 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Hello, Mr. Chairman. My  
15 name is Mark Bagdovitz from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service. I'm the acting division chief for the Migratory  
17 Bird Program. I'm up here on assignment for a couple  
18 months. Normally I'm stationed in Portland, Oregon. I'm  
19 filling in for Bob Lee, who retired. Why don't you go,  
20 Russ.

21

22 MR. OATES: My name is Russ Oates. I'm  
23 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory  
24 Bird Management here in Anchorage. Mr. Chair, if you  
25 wouldn't mind, we'd like just a quick minute with our  
26 representative to the Council there just to clarify a  
27 couple of the dates. If we could just take one minute,  
28 please.

29

30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Sure. We'll just stand  
31 down for a minute.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Before we  
38 continue, it was just pointed out to me that I made a boo-  
39 boo. I had Herman introduce the proposal amended language  
40 and the public has not had an opportunity to view those  
41 amendments. May we incorporate the proposal as it is in  
42 our packet and then merely reference the earlier discussion  
43 regarding the amendments? Is there any objection to that.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. All right. Now  
48 we get back to Fish and Wildlife Service Staff analysis.  
49 Russ or Mark.

50

1 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 The purpose for our caucus was just to make sure we all  
3 understood exactly what the dates were because we kind of  
4 had different dates and I wanted to make sure we had them  
5 right. After a brief discussion, Fish and Wildlife Service  
6 does not have any objections to the proposal as amended.  
7

8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Technical  
9 Committee comments. Doug.  
10

11 MR. ALCORN: I would ask Russ or anyone  
12 else from the Technical Committee, did anyone assign or  
13 task a spokesperson for representing the Technical  
14 Committee at the Council meeting? Russ.  
15

16 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Russ.  
17

18 MR. OATES: Yes, Mr. Chair. Typically the  
19 chair of the Technical Committee would be providing this  
20 and I'm not sure what the absence means, but I think the  
21 Technical Committee was -- we had this similar discussion  
22 with regard to the dates and I think the amended proposal  
23 embraces the concepts that the Technical Committee  
24 supported.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Thank you. Are  
27 there any public comments to Proposal No. 1.  
28

29 (No comments)  
30

31 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We can now move  
32 into Council discussion, recommendations. Please note that  
33 for the future proposals the Member, if they were just to  
34 introduce the proposal and then later put in the  
35 amendments. Any discussion on the proposal. We've already  
36 voiced some amendments. Matt.  
37

38 MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chairman. Going back to  
39 our discussion yesterday, this seems to shift the seabird  
40 season a little bit later to allow the gathering of Black-  
41 legged Kittiwake eggs, which was the primary purpose of the  
42 proposal in the first place, but doing it in a way that is  
43 likely to make the SRC comfortable because it's not  
44 tweaking individual species but it's taking a whole group  
45 of birds. I think after the discussion yesterday this is  
46 about the simplest way to show seasons that will allow that  
47 use, keep the current seasons that work well for all other  
48 birds and just tie it into as simple a package as possible  
49 and it retains one-month closures for all hunted birds, so  
50 it seems to work well and seems to have a good chance of

1 going forward through the process. Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Thank you. Like  
4 you say, we had some discussion at our work session  
5 yesterday and we do have the amendments. I'll try to  
6 capture those here on the record and that is to adopt a  
7 season closure for seabirds from July 1 to July 30, adopt a  
8 non-seabird closure from June 21st to July 21st and bracket  
9 that closure with openers appropriately. Is that clear?  
10 And retract the regional bird list. Any discussion.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. On the motion to  
15 adopt Proposal No. 1, may we just consider what I just  
16 mentioned as a friendly amendments to the proposal. Any  
17 objection.

18

19 (No objections)

20

21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No objection. Proposal  
22 No. 1 as amended, all those in favor say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: All those opposed same  
27 sign, abstentions.

28

29 (No opposing/abstaining votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Proposal No. 1  
32 passes. I'll try and clean up our process that I messed up  
33 there in the first one. Herman, can you introduce Proposal  
34 No. 2.

35

36 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. Proposal  
37 No. 2. Do you want me to read the whole thing or just --  
38 what do you want me to do? Just retract it? We're  
39 planning on retracting Proposal No. 2. I would also like  
40 to ask for an ad hoc committee to work on this proposal.  
41 Can I do that at this time?

42

43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Sure. So it would be  
44 moved to deny Proposal No. 2.

45

46 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right.

47

48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Herman has moved  
49 to deny Proposal No. 2. Is there a second.

50

1 MR. ROBUS: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Seconded by Matt Robus,  
4 ADF&G. ADF&G Staff analysis.  
5  
6 MR. ROBUS: We have none.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
9 Service Staff analysis.  
10  
11 MR. ALCORN: No comment since it's being  
12 retracted.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Technical  
15 Committee analysis.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Can we assume the same,  
20 no comment. Okay. Public comment.  
21  
22 (No comments)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Council discussion and  
25 recommendation.  
26  
27 (No comments)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Without objection we can  
30 move right into voting. On the motion to deny Proposal No.  
31 2, Kodiak Region, all those in favor say aye.  
32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: All those opposed same  
36 sign.  
37  
38 MR. ALCORN: Just a question.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Well, we're in voting.  
41 Any abstentions.  
42  
43 (No opposing/abstaining votes)  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries to deny  
46 Proposal No. 2. Okay.  
47  
48 MR. ALCORN: Just a question.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Go ahead, Doug.



1 MR. ALCORN: A question regarding point of  
2 order. Herman did recommend the formation of an ad hoc  
3 committee. Is it appropriate during the discussion of the  
4 motion to consider that recommendation or do we need a  
5 stand-alone motion at this time since we're considering  
6 that particular proposal?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No, I believe we can  
9 throw that to the appropriate committee and I'll just have  
10 that as a directive that the Proposal No. 2, the ideas  
11 there, will incorporate Herman to work on this issue. Is  
12 that fine?

13  
14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. So when  
15 can we try to form this ad hoc committee.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Well, instead of an ad  
18 hoc committee, can we throw that to the Technical Committee  
19 and they can report back to us at our fall meeting.

20  
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I guess so.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. That way it will  
24 be one of their agenda items for future Technical Committee  
25 meeting.

26  
27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I would like to be part of  
28 it if I can.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Oh, yeah, you can go to  
31 those meetings. Doug.

32  
33 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
34 sorry to complicate this. I'm not convinced that the  
35 Technical Committee is the appropriate entity to consider  
36 this particular proposal. The way I understand the  
37 Technical Committee, their charge is to look at the  
38 technical aspects of proposals. When I think of technical  
39 aspects, I'm thinking more along the lines of the biology  
40 of those and maybe I'm constraining the technical role of  
41 the committee by my own interpretation of what the  
42 Technical Committee does. It seems to me that what we're  
43 talking about is more in the policy and legal issues that  
44 are going to deal with this and it's interpreting the  
45 administrative regulations that we have, it's interpreting  
46 the authorizing laws and all those sorts of documents and  
47 I'm not sure the Technical Committee is the proper entity  
48 to do that.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Do you have a suggestion

1 for one of our standing committees? Herman.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I was  
4 trying to rush things, too. The Tech Committee already  
5 went through this once already. I do think we need to have  
6 an ad hoc committee or something. I know we have a region  
7 that's interested in the same thing. I think if we could  
8 get a few people from the different regions. It doesn't  
9 have to be the Council alone. It could be anybody. If we  
10 could get someone working on this, I think it would be a  
11 lot better to have a committee like Doug was saying.

12

13 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: So we're talking about  
14 somebody like Matt or Doug to take a special look at this,  
15 toss it around a little bit. Would that be fine? Fred.

16

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: After our discussion  
18 yesterday relative to Kodiak's proposal, I think the  
19 Council agrees to perhaps work with Herman's area to  
20 identify a process to invite people back to their region.  
21 We already have a Standing Committee and Invitation  
22 Committee that could be tasked with that assignment there,  
23 plus we could add Kodiak to that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Go ahead, Matt.

26

27 MR. ROBUS: Thanks. Yeah, that sounds like  
28 a good suggestion to me. Based on the discussion  
29 yesterday, the call for a new committee was a little bit of  
30 a surprise because I thought what we were talking about  
31 yesterday, Herman, was that instead of talking about the  
32 individual qualification that instead you'd agree to go and  
33 start working on the individual invitation list to get some  
34 experience on how dealing with individuals was going to  
35 work and that kind of speaks to the Invitation Committee  
36 approach that Fred was talking about. So that might be a  
37 fruitful way to go.

38

39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Yeah, Matt, I  
40 didn't know we had this Invitation Committee either. The  
41 reason I wanted a committee besides just us going back to  
42 the region alone to work on this, I felt if we had other  
43 people it would be a lot more help and come up with better  
44 ideas. Besides just the invitation thing, you know, also  
45 work on the registration cards and go to a shark (ph) card.

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: After all that  
48 discussion, we can throw the ideas in Proposal No. 2 to the  
49 Invitation Committee and I would suggest that you  
50 coordinate your time with that committee so you can be

1 involved.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Great. Mr. Chair, also,  
4 if any other region was interested, if they could in there  
5 with us. Thank you.

6

7 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. Pete Devine,  
8 Aleutian/Pribilof Region, we would like to be included in  
9 that committee.

10

11 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No problem. Okay. So  
12 we threw that one to the Invitation Committee. Mr.  
13 Kookesh.

14

15 MR. KOOKESH: I'd like to talk a little bit  
16 about registration and permits and shark cards. I've been  
17 down that road before and I can tell you that once you go  
18 down that road some communities don't want to register, get  
19 shark cards. It would be setting a precedence here and I'd  
20 be very careful, especially when you deal with Western  
21 Alaska communities. We had some very good discussion about  
22 permits and shark cards and it could be a burden as well as  
23 a help to the system. So if it's not required under the  
24 treaty, why restrict yourself unless you're doing it for  
25 other reasons.

26

27 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We have a comment in the  
28 audience. Mr. Woods, please come to the mike and introduce  
29 yourself.

30

31 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods. I work for  
32 Bristol Bay Native Association subsistence. At closure,  
33 when we were on break from executive session, I talked to  
34 Cynthia Wentworth about -- it looks like this would be also  
35 including the duck stamp issue that's been on the table  
36 since '01. This would eliminate part of the problem, at  
37 least for the spring hunt. So maybe appoint her or  
38 somebody to represent the survey.

39

40 In regards to what I got from Cynthia, the  
41 surveys are important for us to make scientific decisions  
42 on the migratory patterns and the bird populations in  
43 Alaska that affect the regional flyways. If somebody is  
44 required to hold a card, a license, a duck stamp, you keep  
45 adding to the complication of the whole process, then  
46 you're not going to get accurate information. If people  
47 have the perception that they're illegally hunting if they  
48 don't have that card, if they don't have the duck stamp and  
49 they don't have the license and I call the household,  
50 they're not going to report accurate information because of

1 turning themselves in. It looks like this proposal is  
2 trying to eliminate that problem if I'm correct. Maybe you  
3 could add to that.

4

5 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Kind of some  
6 of that, but also what we're trying to do and to address  
7 Matt's issue on that is foreseeing a bunch of other hunters  
8 down there in the area and this will kind of curtail that a  
9 lot, you know, having that happening down there. It might  
10 work on the duck stamp issue. You know, you have this  
11 card, you're a known hunter or gatherer or whatever out  
12 there.

13

14 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Myron.

15

16 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. During  
17 the negotiations of the Migratory Bird Treaty we had a lot  
18 of discussions regarding the possibility of having tribal  
19 registration only, but that was with the senate  
20 ratification or good for all. Senator Murkowski at that  
21 time interpreted indigenous people to be all-inclusive of  
22 people out in rural Alaska. We had a lot of discussion  
23 about tribal registration of our bird hunters and that was  
24 part of the inclusion of inviting people to come out to the  
25 village because they were born and raised or they have  
26 ancestral ties to the village.

27

28 But one of the biggest issues our people  
29 have at the same time with that in our villages is the  
30 requirement of duck stamps, getting permits and all those  
31 things that's not customary and traditional. If I want to  
32 go hunting tomorrow, who do I have to go to, some local  
33 office to get a permit, register and all that stuff, which  
34 is not -- which is foreign to the way that all of us have  
35 traditionally grown up. I think at this time those are the  
36 discussions that can be made by the committee by the  
37 inclusion of the others.

38

39 At this time I understand that the proposal  
40 has been removed, so I don't think we need any further  
41 discussion, but I just wanted to point that out as some of  
42 the things we discussed during the negotiations.

43

44 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Myron.

45

46 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair. Can I be appointed  
47 to this committee and then work on the same issues. I'm  
48 interested in this not only for the -- you know, everybody  
49 has a tribal card. That might be a registration form for  
50 the spring hunt or whatever you're -- and also I'm

1 interested in the survey stuff that Cynthia has that can  
2 connect it all together.

3

4 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We'll make committee  
5 assignments at the end of our meeting.

6

7 MR. WOODS: Okay. Thanks.

8

9 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Proposal No. 3,  
10 AVCP Region. Myron.

11

12 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our  
13 Waterfall Conservation Committee adopted this proposal last  
14 week to remove the special area closures that are on the  
15 Black Brant colonies that are in the Y-K Delta. Kokechik  
16 Bay Colony, Tutakoke River Colony, Kigigak Island Colony,  
17 Baird Peninsula Colony and the Baird Island Colony to  
18 hunting and egg gathering.

19

20 The reason why we're requesting that this  
21 be done is to repeal the regulation that was adopted two  
22 years ago. We've had many years of a good working  
23 relationship between our villages hunters and the agencies  
24 and even the other states whenever we have conservation  
25 concerns. Therefore I request the committee to adopt the  
26 repeal of the special area closures. We don't any more  
27 restrictions. We can find ways to work around those in a  
28 manner that will be beneficial to the resource that we are  
29 concerned about. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I'll deem that as a  
32 motion. Is there a second.

33

34 MR. ROBUS: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Seconded by Matt, moved  
37 by Myron to adopt Proposal No. 3 by AVCP to repeal the Y-K  
38 Delta goose closures. ADF&G Staff analysis.

39

40 MR. ROBUS: Mr. Chair. We did not have any  
41 Staff remarks. I'll have remarks when we discuss the  
42 motion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
45 Staff analysis.

46

47 MR. ALCORN: I'd like to invite Mark  
48 Bagdovitz back to the table with Russ if Russ wants to  
49 accompany him.

50

1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Mark or Russ.

2

3 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 Russ is going to hand out a particular flyer that we put  
5 together on this issue. As we understand it, the proposal  
6 recommends the repeal of the special area closure for Black  
7 Brant nesting colonies on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The  
8 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports the repeal of the  
9 colony closure; however, we urge the Co-management Council  
10 to continue and to expand conservation efforts such as  
11 those taken at Kokechik Bay nesting colonies. Several  
12 years of research by Dr. Jim Sedinger suggests that the  
13 successful reproduction is a major factor in maintaining  
14 Black Brant populations.

15

16 Recent efforts by the folks down in Hooper  
17 Bay to discourage the use of off-road vehicles and hunting  
18 in Kokechik Bay nesting colony has resulted in a rapid  
19 recolonization after the colony had declined to the lowest  
20 numbers ever recorded in 2003. I believe that shows on the  
21 map. The red line, that's Kokechik Bay. It dropped to the  
22 lowest levels we have seen. Subsequently they have  
23 rebounded rather nicely after some conservation efforts had  
24 been put in place by the folks there at Hooper Bay.

25

26 In addition, the removal of foxes has  
27 helped increase nest success at the Kigigak Island and  
28 Tutakoke River nesting colonies. Continuing to expand  
29 protection of these nesting colonies is vitally important  
30 to the restoration of these Black Brant colonies.

31

32 So, in short, we would support the repeal  
33 of the colony closure, but we encourage the Co-management  
34 Council to continue the conservation efforts that we've  
35 seen. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. I have a  
38 question. On the front of this here handout it looks like  
39 the right-hand-most figure, is it 2007 figure, is that  
40 correct, and then for the other ones it goes to 2006?

41

42 MR. OATES: Yeah, Mr. Chair, let me clarify  
43 that. The chart on the front with the Brant on it is a  
44 result of the winter population survey, which is done in  
45 January, which is why we have 2007 figures for that. These  
46 are the actual number of Brant wintering in Mexico,  
47 California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. The other  
48 figures represented here are the colony counts that are  
49 done in the summertime and obviously the 2007 hasn't  
50 occurred yet.

1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any  
2 questions for Fish and Wildlife Service. Myron.

3  
4 MR. NANENG: No, I don't have a question.  
5 I just have a comment. The reason why the numbers in  
6 Kokechik Bay have gone up is because our people in the  
7 village have made a commitment to protect the lands for  
8 nesting population. At the current time, the only  
9 biological surveys that are done by Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service or any other entity is aerial photography. We  
11 don't have any biologist that stayed there all summer long.  
12 This was also done at the request of our people at the  
13 village. But we do cooperate with Fish and Wildlife  
14 Service or we co-manage with the Fish and Wildlife Service,  
15 not cooperate in terms of trying to protect the habitat of  
16 the Black Brant that nests in the Kokechik Bay area.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any other questions or  
19 comments for Fish and Wildlife Service.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Okay, thank you.  
24 Technical Committee analysis.

25  
26 MR. ALCORN: Shall we ask Russ? Are you  
27 the sole member of the Technical Committee that's here,  
28 Russ?

29  
30 MR. OATES: Mr. Chair. I would offer the  
31 co-chair to make a statement if he would like.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Tim Andrew.

34  
35 MR. ANDREW: For the record, Timothy  
36 Andrew, director of wildlife resources for AVCP and co-  
37 chair of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee  
38 held their meeting on February 20th; however, I was not  
39 able to participate at the meeting, so I can't officially  
40 report the Technical Committee results. Thank you, Mr.  
41 Chair.

42  
43 MR. OATES: I could provide a brief  
44 comment. We had considerable discussion regarding this  
45 topic and the committee did support the proposal. It did  
46 also stress the importance of continued conservation  
47 efforts on all of the colonies. I think that's all we have  
48 on that.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Thank you. Any

1 questions for the Technical Committee.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Public comments.

6 Come forward. State your name for the record, please.

7

8 MR. ANDREW: Once again for the record,

9 Timothy Andrew. I work for the Association of Village

10 Council Presidents as the director of wildlife resources.

11 We originally submitted this proposal back in 2005 in the

12 Barrow meeting. It was adopted then. Since then there

13 have been some successes with the Kokechik Bay Colony with

14 the local folks on their own initiative in banning the use

15 of four-wheelers and also prohibiting several activities

16 that go on in that Kokechik Bay nesting colony area.

17

18 Part of this proposal, I understand that

19 there's some resistance from the Agency folks to not refer

20 to the Goose Management Plan for management, but this Goose

21 Management Plan has been in existence since 1984 and we

22 have learned to work cooperatively with the villages in

23 addressing some of our conservation concerns with the Goose

24 and Spectacled Eiders, Steller's Eiders. We've managed to

25 build two of the Goose populations to where they are today.

26 In fact, one of them, the Pacific White-front currently far

27 exceeds the population objective of 300,000. I believe the

28 numbers are above 500,000 today. This is not as a result

29 of regulation. This is as a result of a working

30 partnership that we've established through AVCP, the

31 villages and Fish and Wildlife Service.

32

33 Our common objective of trying to build the

34 population of the Black Brant and also the Emperor Geese, I

35 don't think it's going to be by regulation alone that we're

36 going to build a population. We need the cooperation of

37 everybody that's involved in the Y-K Delta. A lot of these

38 people in the villages depend on the eggs, they depend on

39 the species, they have an active interest in it, they are

40 one of the major harvesters of waterfowl along the coastal

41 areas, so they have an active interest in it.

42

43 If we utilize this model that we have with

44 Kokechik Bay along with the villages that are involved in

45 the four other colonies in the area we'd be able to achieve

46 that objective in a fairly short period of time as we saw

47 in the Kokechik Bay Colony. That's basically it, Mr.

48 Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any



1 questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. I would like to commend the work of the Waterfowl Conservation Committee in the Y-K Delta and just note for the record that the Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan has been a good model for other parts of the state to follow.

10

11

I believe we can go into Council discussion. I believe, Matt, you wanted to have a crack at some comments or Doug. Okay.

14

15

MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would echo some of the comments that Mr. Andrew made that the Fish and Wildlife Service certainly does appreciate the Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan as a wonderful model in cooperative management. It was precedent-setting when it was established 23 or so years ago and it's still a valuable document. It's something that we still are willing to be a partner in and still willing to support in signing it and working with the residents of the Y-K Delta.

24

25

The only thing that I would offer in the actual proposal as written, I would hope that it's a friendly amendment. I've talked to Myron before this meeting and he understands, I believe, where we're coming from. The way that the proposal actually reads -- in one of the sections in the proposal form it says how should the new regulation read. I'll read it. It says repealed, please refer to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan.

34

35

From a legal perspective or a legal review, this statement tends to infer that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan would supersede the regulation and that's the inference that troubles us referring to a policy document in a regulation. What we would offer in full recognition of the value of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan and the historic precedent-setting nature of it as a co-management document, I would offer that there be full recognition given of it and the significance of it in a different part of the regulation.

45

46

The regulation has a number of sections in it. Rather than reading this sentence where it is and dealing with the repeal of an area closure, I would offer that we give full recognition of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan in the -- I'm not sure if it's called

1 a preamble, but the section that talks about the whole  
2 notion of co-management and the whole idea of what the  
3 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council is about, which  
4 is conservation and perpetuating customs and cultures and  
5 traditions. Those are our charges and I think there's a  
6 lot of value in referring to this document, the historic  
7 Goose Management Plan, in this way.

8  
9 So I would offer, I hope, as a friendly  
10 amendment that this language not be cited in the location  
11 that it's being regarded or recommended, but that it be  
12 cited in what I would consider a more appropriate section  
13 of the regulations.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Myron do you  
16 understand the amendment? Are you in agreement with the  
17 amendment?

18  
19 MR. NANENG: I know that if we're going to  
20 be doing that, we can take a look at the other language  
21 that they included in the regulations. They, too, are part  
22 of the Goose Management Plan, like the 30-day closures.  
23 The special area closures and the announcements as to when  
24 the closures will happen are part of the Goose Management  
25 Plan as well. So my understanding and from my memory I  
26 know that those are word for word right off the Goose  
27 Management Plan as well.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Matt, you seconded the  
30 motion. Do you understand the friendly amendment?

31  
32 MR. ROBUS: Yes.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: All right. Then I  
35 suppose concurrence. Matt, did you have something on the  
36 amendment.

37  
38 MR. ROBUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It  
39 does address the friendly amendment and the statements made  
40 by Tim. I just want to clarify the State's position.  
41 We're entirely supportive of the Goose Plan. We think it's  
42 a great example of cooperative work. We appreciate the  
43 measures taken by the villages. That is really where the  
44 conservation measures have really taken place and turned  
45 things around for the better. I don't have any resistance  
46 representing the State to the proposal to repeal the colony  
47 closures. The only -- I don't know if resistance is the  
48 right word. The concern we had was the same as what Doug  
49 has expressed, as to the appropriate place to put the  
50 reference to the Goose Management Plan. If we can put it

1 in the permanent regulations and another place and  
2 recognize its significance, I would support repealing the  
3 closures as a clean closure and not replacing it with this  
4 language, but putting the Goose Management Plan language  
5 elsewhere in a prominent place in the regulations.

6

7 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. So we understand  
8 the friendly amendment. So now we can get back to the main  
9 proposal. No objection to the friendly amendment?

10

(No objections)

12

13 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Back to the main  
14 proposal. Any discussion.

15

(No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I would like to clarify  
19 just where that would go. Would that go under  
20 supplementary information leading up to the actual  
21 regulation?

22

23 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
24 would like to invite, with the Chair's permission, Donna  
25 Dewhurst to the microphone. Maybe she can explain. She's  
26 the one that actually crafts the language and might have  
27 recommendations on an appropriate fit.

28

29 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Donna.

30

31 MS. DEWHURST: I'm not going to sit down  
32 because it's not going to be very long. Donna Dewhurst,  
33 Fish and Wildlife Service. Probably subpart (a), which is  
34 just the beginning part of the permanent regulations. As  
35 far as crafting the language, we'll have to work on that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. I just  
38 wanted to get where that's going to go. Any other  
39 discussion.

40

(No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: On the motion to approve  
44 Proposal No. 3 by AVCP, all those in favor say aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed same sign,  
49 abstentions.

50

1 (No opposing/abstaining votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. Thank  
4 you. Okay, moving along here. Proposal No. 4, statewide  
5 bird list, AMBCC Staff. Doug is here to introduce and move  
6 the proposal.

7

8 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This  
9 is a proposal, somewhat of an administrative proposal, to  
10 simplify some of the language that heretofore has been  
11 somewhat confusing in the annual regulations. This Council  
12 and the publication of annual regulations is based on a  
13 principal of the birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
14 being closed until opened annually and our actions that we  
15 take as a Council and that are then forwarded through for  
16 the Secretary's approval are to open a list of birds.

17 What we have done in the past for  
18 clarification, attempting to be clear and consistent with  
19 some of the past closure language and some of our former  
20 policy documents, the Goose Management Plan being one of  
21 those, was to list the birds that were open but we also  
22 list the birds that are closed, specifically closed. What  
23 that's done is it's caused some confusion. We've had some  
24 public inquiries asking if this is the short list of birds  
25 that are closed, does that mean all the other birds are  
26 open. The answer then is it's more complicated than that.  
27 So what we are proposing is doing away with publishing the  
28 list of birds that are closed every year but sticking  
29 solely to the list of birds that are open.

30

31 So one objective is to clarify the  
32 regulation. Another objective is, administratively, when  
33 we publish text in the Federal Register, it comes at  
34 substantial cost. We are charged by the letter or by the  
35 word and it's a significant amount. I can't tell you what  
36 the exact amount is because it changes every year based on  
37 the number. But we have a budgeted amount, I believe, of  
38 \$10,000. So it's a significant amount of money that we  
39 spend to publish text that we probably don't have to. So  
40 it would be a way of reducing costs for the AMBCC if we  
41 were to adopt this as well.

42

43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Doug, could you move the  
44 proposal. There's three options and just in your motion  
45 move one of those options.

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
48 I would move that the Council approve the proposal and  
49 adopt option one as written in the white paper or the issue  
50 paper that is offered as supplemental information in the

1 binder.

2

3 MS. HEPA: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Moved by  
6 Doug to approve U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal  
7 consolidating the migratory bird list, choosing option  
8 number one. Seconded by Taqulik. We can now get into our  
9 deliberation protocol here. ADF&G Staff analysis.

10

11 MR. ROBUS: We have none, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. U.S. Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service Staff analysis.

15

16 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll  
17 invite Mark Bagdovitz up to the microphone again.

18

19 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay, Mark.

20

21 MR. BAGDOVITZ: I don't believe we have any  
22 particular comments from the Service at this time.

23

24 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Technical  
25 Committee analysis.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No. Public comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No public comments.  
34 Okay. Council discussion now and then our recommendation.  
35 Doug.

36

37 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just  
38 as a little bit of a technicality, the motion to approve  
39 option one, just so that we understand, option one in the  
40 white paper has one additional sentence that is not in the  
41 proposal and I would read it for the record just so that we  
42 understand. So the motion is to include the additional  
43 sentence. The additional sentence is in the issue paper in  
44 the area that's in bold, some bird species were excluded  
45 from the list purely on the basis of current population  
46 concerns and will be re-opened if the population status  
47 improves.

48

49 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: In our discussions  
50 yesterday, we had talked about removing that sentence, is

1 that right?

2

3 MR. ALCORN: We actually talked about  
4 adding it because it's not in the proposal. The proposal  
5 did not include it. If you'd like, I can read the proposal  
6 and then I would read the additional sentence for clarity.  
7 Would that help?

8

9 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I don't think that's  
10 necessary. You are adding the sentence that you just read.

11

12 MR. ALCORN: That's right.

13

14 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any objection to that?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. All right. Any  
19 other discussion. Taqulik.

20

21 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for  
22 the record I wanted to state that the North Slope Borough  
23 Fish and Game Management Committee did take action to  
24 support option one in this proposal.

25

26 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
27 discussion. Herman.

28

29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Our  
30 Kodiak Region, we took option one status also.

31

32 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
33 discussion.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. I believe we're  
38 ready then. On the motion to approve the U.S. Fish and  
39 Wildlife Service proposal to consolidate the bird list with  
40 the understanding that the sentence in bold as was read is  
41 to be included for option one, all those in favor signify  
42 by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed, same sign,  
47 abstentions.

48

49 (No opposing/abstaining votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. Thank  
2 you. Proposal No. 5, Maniilaq. Caleb.

3  
4 MR. PUNGOWIYI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
5 proposal is to amend the current waterfowl egg gathering  
6 regulations to allow for gathering of gull, Glaucous Gull  
7 and Mew Gull eggs that are gathered about the same time  
8 that the waterfowl eggs are gathered but do not fall during  
9 the time the seabird egg gathering season opens. I  
10 understand there may be some problems with the 30-day  
11 closure, so I would propose an amendment after some  
12 discussion on this. So I would move for adoption of  
13 Proposal No. 5.

14  
15 MS. HEPA: Second.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Proposal by  
18 Caleb. Seconded by Taqulik. ADF&G Staff analysis.

19  
20 MR. ROBUS: None.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. U.S. Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service Staff analysis.

24  
25 MR. ALCORN: I would invite Mark Bagdovitz  
26 again to the speaker.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Mark.

29  
30 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
31 want to make sure I have the right proposal. We're  
32 proposing to change the dates for the seabird egg gathering  
33 for the Northwest Arctic Region, is that correct? Okay.  
34 And the new regulation would read May 20th to July 12th.  
35 That's what I have here.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Yes.

38  
39 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Okay. U.S. Fish and  
40 Wildlife Service doesn't have any comments at this time.  
41 We would support the regulation. Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Technical  
44 Committee analysis.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Public comments.

49  
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: There are no public  
2 comments. Council discussion, recommendation. Caleb, you  
3 mentioned an amendment, so go ahead.

4  
5 MR. PUNGOWIYI: I would offer an amendment  
6 if there was a problem as far as meeting the required 30-  
7 day closure dates, but if there's none, then I would offer  
8 no amendment.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. No  
11 amendment. Any other discussion.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No other discussion.  
16 Okay. I think we're ready. On the motion to approve  
17 Proposal No. 5 by Maniilaq on adjusting seabird egg  
18 gathering, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed, same sign,  
23 abstentions.

24  
25 (No opposing/abstaining votes)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: There are none. Motion  
28 carries. Thank you. Proposal No. 6, Yellow-billed Loon  
29 traditional use, North Slope Borough. Taqulik.

30  
31 MS. HEPA: The North Slope Borough Fish and  
32 Game Management Committee submitted two proposals and the  
33 first one is Proposal 6 and this is our annual proposal to  
34 allow the possession and use of Yellow-billed Loons that  
35 are caught incidently in subsistence gillnets on the North  
36 Slope for your consideration.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: All right. I'll deem  
39 that as a motion. Is there a second.

40  
41 MR. DEVINE: Second.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Seconded by Peter. The  
44 motion to approve Proposal No. 6 by North Slope Borough,  
45 Yellow-billed Loons, made by Taqulik, seconded by Peter.  
46 ADF&G Staff analysis.

47  
48 MR. ROBUS: We have no analysis. We  
49 understand this to be the same situation that we've dealt  
50 with through regulation annually and have no objection.



1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. U.S. Fish  
2 and Wildlife Staff analysis.

3  
4 MR. ALCORN: We would echo the same  
5 comments that Matt offered.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Technical  
8 Committee analysis.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Public comments.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Okay. Council  
17 discussion and recommendation. Any discussion. Taqulik.

18  
19 MS. HEPA: If I may, Mr. Chair. I just  
20 wanted to make note that we did follow the way the  
21 regulation read for last year that we did make contact with  
22 fishermen either through the radio, personal contacts by  
23 phone or visiting people at their fishnets to see how many  
24 Yellow-billed Loons were caught across the North Slope and  
25 Rita Acker, our subsistence research assistant, took charge  
26 of that and she did write a report to be presented to the  
27 Council. Last year it was reported that two Yellow-billed  
28 Loons were caught and killed in fishermen's nets. In  
29 addition, there was reports of six Red-throated Loons and  
30 four Pacific Loons that were also killed and then there was  
31 a couple catch and release that did occur across the North  
32 Slope. We will continue our efforts to report what happens  
33 this summer. Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. I will  
36 definitely acknowledge that we received that report and we  
37 have that information. Any other discussion.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. On the motion to  
42 approve the proposal by North Slope Borough to allow  
43 harvest of Yellow-billed Loons caught incidentally in  
44 gillnets, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

45  
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed, same sign,  
49 abstentions.

50

1 (No opposing/abstaining votes)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. Thank  
4 you. Proposal No. 7, North Slope Borough. Taqulik.  
5  
6 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd  
7 like to make a motion to approve Proposal No. 7, special  
8 Black Brant closure with an amendment.  
9  
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We'll take the amendment  
13 later. There's a motion to approve Proposal No. 7,  
14 seconded by Herman. ADF&G Staff analysis.  
15  
16 MR. ROBUS: Mr. Chairman. I don't have  
17 Staff here. We did discuss this yesterday. I guess I  
18 would like to hear the amendment before offering further  
19 comments and I can do that during Council discussion.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Thank you. U.S.  
22 Fish and Wildlife Staff analysis.  
23  
24 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
25 would invite Mark Bagdovitz and Russ Oates to the  
26 microphone.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Mark or Russ.  
29  
30 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. U.S.  
31 Fish and Wildlife Service has several concerns about this  
32 particular proposal. One of our concerns is that -- we  
33 don't have any real problems with hunting the Black Brant  
34 populations that have failed or are molting, but we have  
35 some concerns with the nesting Black Brant that are in the  
36 area where these other birds would be hunted, so we're  
37 having some difficulty, how do you sort that out. Is there  
38 going to be an effort to inform hunters of nesting birds,  
39 where they are and how do we keep the nesting birds from  
40 being disturbed. As you know, many of the Black Brants do  
41 nest near the coast, so if that's where they're going to be  
42 hunting, we have to try to figure out how we can protect  
43 them. We're open to looking at either some issues related  
44 to the time or the gear or the location to help out.  
45  
46 Do you have anything you want to add, Russ?  
47  
48 MR. OATES: Just one comment. I have here  
49 a paper published recently by scientists including one  
50 scientist from the North Slope Borough, which, among other

1 things, has a rather core scale map of the nesting Brant on  
2 the North Slope. There are some small colonies nesting on  
3 this western coastal area of the Chukchi. As you're all  
4 aware, the folks on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta have gone  
5 through considerable effort to take conservation steps to  
6 protect nesting Brant and the work by Dr. Sedinger and  
7 others has demonstrated pretty clearly the importance of  
8 protecting nesting birds to the overall status of the  
9 population.

10 So our concern here is not with the harvest  
11 of moderate numbers of migrating birds en route to the  
12 molting area, but the co-location of the nesting birds with  
13 the area in which the hunting is going to take place is  
14 what is of concern here. If there are some measures that  
15 could be taken that could ensure that the nesting birds are  
16 protected as much as possible from disturbance and  
17 certainly excluded from the hunting, we think it would  
18 benefit the overall Brant conservation effort that's going  
19 on not only in Western Alaska but also down in the Pacific  
20 Flyway. Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any questions for Russ.  
23 Taqulik.

24  
25 MS. HEPA: I thank you guys for your  
26 comments. I have two comments back to you. The first one  
27 is in regards to your question. I just wanted to make it a  
28 point that this hunt that we're trying to accommodate for  
29 the people from Wainwright is a hunt that has happened for  
30 many, many years. It's a hunt that they anticipate coming.  
31 So they refer to this hunt as the Black Brant that are  
32 migrating after they did nest, so they're aware of that.  
33 To me, that's an indication that they know that it's not  
34 the nesting birds and they specifically target these birds  
35 that are coming back in order for them to catch enough  
36 Black Brant for their spring festival that's going to take  
37 place in the mid to latter part of June. To me, that's an  
38 indication that they know these are actually migrating  
39 birds and not nesting birds. We talked with hunters from  
40 Wainwright at the Fish and Game Management Committee and  
41 talked about using the shoreline to help indicate in the  
42 regulations that we are being considerate to that.

43  
44 Then the second point about the report that  
45 you have there, I think that's just an indication that this  
46 warrants more baseline data on nesting habitat for Black  
47 Brant in that specific region and that we should report  
48 those results back to this committee to see if it is a  
49 serious concern.

50

1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Russ.

2

3 MR. OATES: Mr. Chairman. Just to follow  
4 up here. The text within the report specifically refers to  
5 the nesting within the Kasigluk Lagoon area where it says  
6 that most Brant nest on small vegetative portions of the  
7 outer spit or on islands within the lagoon itself. So it  
8 does suggest a real coastal affinity by these birds. Just  
9 given the importance of nesting birds, anything we can do  
10 to ensure that the hunters are very much aware of the  
11 concerns with regard to the nesting birds I think could  
12 make this thing work a lot better.

13

14 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any other questions.  
15 Herman.

16

17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Russ and  
18 Mark. Yeah, what Taqulik is saying and what I heard  
19 yesterday from Mike, the hunters know what they're doing  
20 and I'd like to ask you guys to take into consideration  
21 their knowledge. They know which ones to take and which  
22 ones not to. I'm just asking you to consider that. Thank  
23 you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We'll probably get to an  
26 amendment here shortly. Is there an area or time type of  
27 closure that might fit well or that U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
28 could reasonably go along with? We discussed some of that  
29 yesterday. Is there such a reasonable limit?

30

31 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. Let  
32 me just ask a question then. I have to apologize. I'm not  
33 a bird guy, I'm a fish guy, so I have to ask. How do the  
34 hunters know? I'm just trying to get a sense of their  
35 knowledge. How do they know which birds are the ones that  
36 are migrating and which ones are nesting? How can you  
37 tell?

38

39 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Taqulik.

40

41 MS. HEPA: Well, it's been my experience  
42 that birds that are nesting or when they prepare for  
43 nesting they pair up and then birds that are migrating they  
44 fly in flocks and they're coming from a certain direction.  
45 I'm not from Wainwright, but we are fortunate to have had a  
46 couple Wainwright hunters come to our meeting to give  
47 testimony in regards to this. So they are aware that Black  
48 Brants in groups will be coming.

49

50 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Thank you. That helps.

1 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any other questions for  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Technical  
7 Committee analysis.

8  
9 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chairman.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Doug.

12  
13 MR. ALCORN: Did you get an answer to your  
14 question?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We'll come around to an  
17 amendment. We haven't gotten there yet. If you folks  
18 could stay there. Technical Committee analysis.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Russ.

23  
24 MR. OATES: I just wanted to mention the  
25 Technical Committee, this was probably the most protracted  
26 discussion that occurred within the Technical Committee and  
27 we had a series of nine questions that were developed by  
28 the Committee and submitted by the co-chair to the North  
29 Slope Borough and we did receive a response to that, but  
30 the Committee was unable to meet to actually consider what  
31 the ramifications were of the response. I think what was  
32 really the key thing was clarification. We were requesting  
33 clarification on how nesting birds would be protected.  
34 Also how the Brant hunt fit into the normal cycle of  
35 subsistence activities to better understand just what the  
36 implications of regulations might be in terms of an overall  
37 subsistence activity occurring during that time period and  
38 also to get some sense of whether or not other nesting  
39 species, such as Common Eiders, might be affected by having  
40 a hunt along the coast there and places where Common Eiders  
41 nest for instance. But, like I said, the Committee was not  
42 able to get back together and consider the responses.

43  
44 So, basically, my point was there was a lot  
45 of discussion and inquiry in a lot of areas that  
46 clarification was warranted.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Did the clarification,  
49 in your opinion, suffice?

50

1 MR. OATES: Mr. Chairman. I'm going to  
2 have trouble wearing a hat other than the Fish and Wildlife  
3 hat to answer that question. What we were left with was  
4 you still -- it seems that there is a hunt in proximity to  
5 nesting birds and I understand that there's an element of  
6 -- I guess you'd just call it trust involved here. I think  
7 there's some form of reassurance that all of the hunters  
8 are aware of the situation and I don't really know how many  
9 hunters are involved, what their age groups are, how much  
10 is -- they talk about, you know, this is very traditional.  
11 I don't have experience in there, so I'm kind of on thin  
12 ice here in regard to that. I've never been on a  
13 subsistence hunt. I'm not a subsistence hunter. I've done  
14 a lot of hunting and I know that what might be common  
15 knowledge for hunters in the 48 that I'm used to, there's  
16 always exceptions or always people that don't follow the  
17 rules and there's always situations where abuses occur. I  
18 understand that there's an element of trust here, but, like  
19 I said, I can't relate as well as I would like to what the  
20 actual situation is and how it might play out. There is a  
21 concern about the proximity of nesting birds and migrating  
22 birds when the hunt occurs.

23

24 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Taqulik.

25

26 MS. HEPA: Thank you. I think it's  
27 important to mention the whole basis of submitting this  
28 proposal. Last June law enforcement officers were in  
29 Wainwright. They did not give citations, but they did  
30 inform them that they were hunting during the closed  
31 hunting season and we received several calls from people  
32 because that was the hunt that they've always been doing.

33

34 It's part of my job and our job here to  
35 make sure that we fix the regulations to match what people  
36 are doing and have traditionally done. So this is our  
37 attempt to try to correct it through this process. Next  
38 year when law enforcement come around again it might be a  
39 different story because they already gave them a verbal  
40 warning that it was a closed season. You know, we did work  
41 with law enforcement on this issue and we tried to change  
42 the regulations to make it legal for them to do what  
43 they've been doing for many years.

44

45 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Public  
46 comments. Josh. State your name for the record and  
47 affiliation. Thank you.

48

49 MR. BACON: Josh Bacon, North Slope  
50 Borough, Department of Wildlife Management biologist, here

1 representing the Department. I just wanted to address a  
2 few questions that Russ and Mark had regarding the nesting  
3 Brant that nest on the coast or in the coastal area of the  
4 southern unit. The publication that Russ was referring to  
5 shows that there are nesting Brant in the coastal area, but  
6 I don't know if I'd agree to call them colonies. The  
7 largest group of nesting Brant recorded there in the  
8 publication, there's only one group of birds that's over 25  
9 nesting pairs. So we're talking about very small numbers  
10 of Brant using this coastal area for nesting. I just  
11 wanted to emphasize that.

12  
13 I also wanted to emphasize what Taq said  
14 earlier, that this isn't a new hunt and that this hunt has  
15 been ongoing and the Brant that are nesting there have been  
16 nesting there while this hunt has been happening annually.  
17 So they have been able to co-exist with the hunt, I guess  
18 is what I'm saying. There isn't much data on how  
19 successful these Brant are that nest in this area, but  
20 there is some data that shows that they do nest there in  
21 very small numbers.

22  
23 I also wanted to emphasize that this is the  
24 only real access that residents in the southern unit get to  
25 Black Brant. There are a few that come up earlier to  
26 actually nest on the Slope, but those numbers are small.  
27 The only real access they get to the Brant is when they  
28 start flying through the failed nesters and the molting  
29 geese from the Y-K Delta.

30  
31 Also, there was a question, I think by  
32 Mark, how hunters may distinguish between nesting birds and  
33 these birds that were failed nesters or molting birds  
34 moving through. The failed nesters and the molting birds  
35 that will be migrating through, they occur in very large  
36 flocks, sometimes up to hundreds of birds in a single  
37 flock, which makes it very obvious that they're not  
38 occupying a territory and a nest. I just wanted to clarify  
39 that. Hunters can see them coming from long distances,  
40 lines on the horizon. It's very obvious that these birds  
41 aren't nesting locally.

42  
43 That was all I had. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any  
46 questions.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Thank you. Bob.

1 Name and affiliation, please.

2

3 MR. TROST: I'm Bob Trost and I'm with the  
4 Fish and Wildlife Service and I'm kind of wearing my hat  
5 here as technical staff to the SRC. I'm going to try to  
6 articulate where I think they will approach this issue from  
7 for you so you gain some appreciation, I think, for the  
8 dilemma I think this will put them in. They're going to  
9 look at this in a much broader scale. They're going to say  
10 the treaty requires a season closure during the principal  
11 nesting period and this proposal is recommending an open  
12 season during what everyone seems to agree is the principal  
13 nesting period. Recognizing that the intent is not to  
14 shoot nesting birds, they are going to be on the horns of  
15 the dilemma, which I hope we can get them by. They will  
16 not want to put a regulation in place that they feel is in  
17 conflict with their treaty obligations. So because that  
18 apparently exists here, I look forward to your amendment.  
19 What we need is some way to convince them that they are not  
20 opening the season on nesting birds. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
23 public comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We've kind of  
28 danced around the amendments, but we'll finally get to  
29 those now. Taqulik.

30

31 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
32 apologize for not being at the workshop, but Michael and  
33 Josh both briefed me and worked on some language last  
34 night. The amendment would read -- and it would be under  
35 how should the new regulation read. The amendment would be  
36 North Slope Region for the Southern Unit, special Black  
37 Brant season closure. The 30-day closure period will be  
38 from July 6 to August 6 after non- or failed-nesting Black  
39 Brant from southwestern Alaska have migrated north to  
40 molting areas. The area open includes only open water and  
41 coastal areas, shoreline inland to high water line or a  
42 quarter mile inland from the shoreline. That's the  
43 amendment.

44

45 Did you guys get copies of this amendment?

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We don't have the  
48 language, but we were aware that it would be something like  
49 that. Does everybody understand the amendment? Let's see.  
50 Herman seconded that. I would like to entertain that as a



1 friendly amendment. Any objection?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No objection. Okay.

6

7 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chairman. Could we ask  
8 Taqulik to re-read that. I was taking notes and I didn't  
9 get that since we don't all have copies.

10

11 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: That would be fine.  
12 Taqulik.

13

14 MR. ALCORN: Would it be appropriate to  
15 take a five-minute break to get copies run so we could all  
16 have copies of this.

17

18 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Can we get copies that  
19 fast. We'll move along here, but we'll get copies. I just  
20 passed you the language. Taqulik, if you could read that  
21 again, I think that will probably suffice.

22

23 MS. HEPA: The new language would read:  
24 North Slope Region for the Southern Unit, special Black  
25 Brant season closure. The 30-day closure period will be  
26 from July 6 to August 6 after non- or failed-nesting Black  
27 Brant from southwestern Alaska have migrated north to  
28 molting areas. The area open includes only open water and  
29 coastal areas, shoreline inland to high water line, and  
30 then there would be a period after that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: After having read that  
33 again, does everybody understand the amendment? Matt.

34

35 MR. ROBUS: Just to clarify. So the last  
36 phrase about quarter mile inland is struck.

37

38 MS. HEPA: Yes.

39

40 MR. ROBUS: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Now I think  
43 it's probably appropriate for ADF&G and U.S. Fish and  
44 Wildlife Service to provide analysis on the amended  
45 language. So we'll start with Fish and Game.

46

47 MR. ROBUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
48 guess what immediately occurs to me as a question is if  
49 this is going to be a special Black Brant closure, in  
50 effect that moves the Black Brant closure in the southern

1 unit from what I currently think is June 30 to July 29, to  
2 July 6 through August 6, so I guess I'd just ask maybe Josh  
3 or somebody who's knowledgeable about that area -- I mean  
4 is that still a reasonable coverage of the nesting period  
5 for Black Brant in that unit? It's supposed to be at least  
6 a 30-day closure that protects the nesting period. So it  
7 looks like about a week shift.

8

9 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I guess I would look to  
10 Josh, if you could answer that question.

11

12 MR. BACON: Matt, could you restate the  
13 question, please.

14

15 MR. ROBUS: Sure. Looking at the current  
16 regulation in the southern unit for all other birds, it's  
17 June 30 through July 29th and what was proposed in  
18 Taqulik's amendment for Black Brant would be July 6th  
19 through August 6th, which is like a week shift backwards or  
20 late. So I guess my question is does July 6th through  
21 August 6th as a closure do a good job of covering the  
22 nesting season for Black Brant in that unit?

23

24 MR. BACON: What I could say is that moving  
25 that closure period a week later there still will be  
26 nesting Black Brant within that period, so it would be  
27 protecting those Brant that are nesting or are in the  
28 practice of nesting during that later closure.

29

30 MR. ROBUS: I guess the second part of the  
31 question or continuing on from that answer is why is there  
32 a need to shift the closure in addition to doing the zoning  
33 language that we were talking about yesterday? I don't  
34 understand how they fit together into a package, I guess.

35

36 MR. BACON: The need to change the closure  
37 period later is to facilitate the hunt of migratory Black  
38 Brant coming through by residents in preparation for spring  
39 festival, which is in late June, which during the closed  
40 season as it is would not allow for that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Matt, does that help?

43

44 MR. ROBUS: Yes, it does. I guess the  
45 comment is I'm not sure that the existing closure date is a  
46 problem for that hunt in preparation for the spring  
47 festival if the right zoning language is put together. I  
48 mean all of this is a bit of judgment and guessing on how  
49 the SRC is going to receive it, but I kind of thought we  
50 had gotten to the point yesterday where the Brant closure

1 itself wasn't much of an issue, it was how to focus the  
2 hunt on these migratory non-breeders. I'm thinking that  
3 perhaps just the zoning from mean high tide open water  
4 language would be enough to make this work. I guess that's  
5 all I have for now. I just need to think about it a little  
6 bit.

7

8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: So we'll move to U.S.  
9 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff analysis. Doug.

10

11 MR. ALCORN: I'll invite Russ Oates and  
12 Mark Bagdovitz to the microphone.

13

14 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
17 This is an important one for the Fish and Wildlife Service.  
18 The original proposal was something that we were okay with,  
19 but we just needed to figure out how to protect those  
20 nesting birds. The amendment that's been put on the table  
21 I think is a step forward in that direction. I think we  
22 want to fully analyze what it means and what it says. We  
23 don't have a copy of it yet. We do want to work through  
24 this issue. We want to try to come to some resolution.  
25 I'm not sure we can do it in time for lunch, so perhaps if  
26 we have a few minutes over lunch maybe we can talk about  
27 it. We want to make sure you guys have good data on which  
28 to make a decision. I'm not sure we can do it right now.

29

30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We will break for lunch  
31 here. I think right now is a good time for that.

32

33 MR. OATES: Can I make a comment first, Mr.  
34 Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Sure. Russ, go ahead.

37

38 MR. OATES: I just wanted to clarify a  
39 little bit for Mr. Robus here. The literature that I have  
40 with regard to the nesting period for Brant on the North  
41 Slope suggests late May and June is the primary nesting  
42 period. We acknowledge that the closure -- if we have the  
43 season for the migrating Brant, we're not -- the closure is  
44 not going to work for protecting nesting Brant. It's going  
45 to have to be done as Mark here suggests, through the  
46 zoning. You acknowledge that as well. I think that's what  
47 we're looking for, is that approach. The period that would  
48 be open is during the nesting period, but that's not a  
49 show-stopper at all. It's our intent to acknowledge the  
50 importance of this hunt to the hunters of the North Slope

1 to find a way to facilitate it. I think this zoning  
2 approach here shows a lot of potential. I think we need to  
3 understand it a little bit more and have a chance to think  
4 about it and talk about it. It might be a great lunchtime  
5 activity. I think this amendment here really has a lot of  
6 potential to make this work for us.

7

8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay, Matt, and then  
9 we'll break for lunch. I would encourage Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service to work with North Slope there.

11

12 MR. ROBUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For  
13 the record, I want to acknowledge on the record that I was  
14 corrected by my colleague to the right here that I was  
15 reading off the wrong closure, so it's about a three-week  
16 shift that's being proposed rather than a one week. All  
17 that being said, I'm with Russ. I think the zoning  
18 language is where we ought to concentrate, not on shifting  
19 closure dates around. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We will break for  
22 lunch. Again, I encourage North Slope folks to work with  
23 Fish and Wildlife Service over the lunch period and iron  
24 out some language and come back. We're still on the  
25 proposal as amended. So when we come back we can begin  
26 deliberations on the proposals as amended. Let's get  
27 started back at 1:30. Thank you.

28

(Off record)

29

(On record)

30

31 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I'll call the meeting  
32 back to order here at 1:34. We recessed under discussion  
33 of the North Slope proposal for Black Brant. It was  
34 amended and our discussion is still on the amended version  
35 of the proposal that's before us. Hopefully we've had some  
36 time to think about that. What I'll do is turn it over to  
37 Taqulik to give us an update on what they might have  
38 discussed during lunch and any further amendments or  
39 discussion. Taqulik.

40

41 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and for  
42 giving us the opportunity to sit down and talk with others  
43 who had concerns about our original amendment. So we  
44 worked it out with the people from the State of Alaska and  
45 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff people. So the  
46 new amendment would read: North Slope Region for the  
47 Southern Unit, special Black Brant season closure. The 30-  
48 day closure period will be from July 6 to August 6 after

1 non- or failed-nesting Black Brant from southwestern Alaska  
2 have migrated north to molting areas. The area open  
3 includes only open water and coastal areas, shoreline  
4 inland to high water line. Specific area closures will  
5 apply and be detailed in local regulations.  
6

7 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. So it sounds like  
8 you added that little clause at the end there. How will  
9 that local determination be made? Will the regional  
10 director of Fish and Wildlife Service make those local area  
11 closures or how will that work?  
12

13 MR. BAGDOVITZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
14 do appreciate the work that went into trying to iron this  
15 out with the folks from the North Slope Borough. It was  
16 nice that we were able to come together on some language.  
17 The question was how specifically are we going to outline  
18 the areas that will be closed. As I understand it right  
19 now, we don't have that information yet in terms of where  
20 those specific Brant colonies are, but we would have to  
21 actually go up there and do some field work to try to  
22 figure out, okay, where are there. I assume we would work  
23 with the North Slope folks to outline it and they would  
24 help us. Presumably we'd have GPS coordinates and we could  
25 outline exactly where those areas are, but right now we  
26 don't have that information. We expect to get it though.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: It sounds like something  
29 that's not totally unreasonable that we can do in other  
30 areas or emergency type of regulations or something like  
31 that. Russ.  
32

33 MR. OATES: Mr. Chairman. Russ Oates, Fish  
34 and Wildlife Service. Yeah, I just want to add just a  
35 tidbit to that. We have an agreement in concept here and  
36 we're going to work together on the details. Such things  
37 as how big the buffer area needs to be around the nesting  
38 areas and that sort of thing. The intent on this of all  
39 parties is to protect the nesting birds. The idea here is  
40 to lay out a set of closed areas where Brants are nesting  
41 and provide them with enough of a buffer area that they're  
42 not vulnerable.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Taqulik.  
45

46 MS. HEPA: Speaking on behalf of the people  
47 from Wainwright, I think that that will be workable.  
48 Again, I think it's just for us to work with the system to  
49 prove that we aren't targeting those nesting birds and that  
50 North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management would

1 be willing to work with these folks to fill in those  
2 details.

3

4 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. So I hope that  
5 I've characterized the amendment. There's an amendment  
6 now. Herman, you seconded the motion. Do you concur with  
7 that amendment?

8

9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.  
10 Also, could I throw in one little thing to Russ. What he  
11 mentioned earlier was that he's never been on a subsistence  
12 hunt before. This would be a good time for you to go up  
13 there and experience it. You guys are going to go up there  
14 and do GPS stuff. To go out there and be with a couple of  
15 the hunters and see actually them hunting and what areas  
16 they're hunting and all that stuff and get the feel of it.  
17 Then you'll know their knowledge and you'll have their  
18 trust. It will work hand and foot for you. Thank you.

19

20 MR. OATES: Mr. Chairman, just in response.

21

22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. OATES: I presume that this is an  
25 invitation. I guess I'd be very interested in doing that.  
26 At this point in time, we'll have to do some internal  
27 adjustment to our budget to make this possible, but I'd  
28 certainly be interested in doing that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We all understand  
31 the amendment. Is there any other discussion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you for working  
36 that language out. Myron, did you have something.

37

38 MR. NANENG: I'll wait for my comment to be  
39 made when we have discussion under the Council.

40

41 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. As noted, that  
42 was U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff analysis of the  
43 amended proposal. Any public comments to the amended  
44 proposal of Black Brant. Do you have a comment on the  
45 Black Brant proposal?

46

47 MR. BREMNER: On the amendment.

48

49 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Yes. State your  
50 name and affiliation for the record, please.

1 MR. BREMNER: Mr. Chairman. My name Don  
2 Bremner. I'm the natural resource coordinator for the  
3 Southeast Inter-tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission. I  
4 believe the initial proposal that was presented by the  
5 group was a good proposal. It seems to me that this  
6 Council doesn't have the right to adopt something without  
7 technical knowledge in front of us. It's setting a bad  
8 precedent because they admit it, they don't know.

9  
10 We heard from a young hunter that knew, but  
11 his comments weren't recognized as valid technical  
12 knowledge. It doesn't get any better than that. It  
13 doesn't get any more pure. Even though you're saying area  
14 closure, it's just a play on words from the zoning  
15 discussion that was taking place this morning. It's just  
16 another version of the word. From our perspective and  
17 experience, once you talk like that, it's a taking of our  
18 indigenous right under the veil of this area closure that  
19 is wide open.

20  
21 Once you do this with this bird, this  
22 region, this proposal, there are hundreds of migratory  
23 birds that -- well, it's a wide-open door now if you do  
24 this. If you could do it here with this bird, with this  
25 proposal, it's wide open. Even though it's just the North  
26 Slope Region, it affects all of our regions. So I really  
27 wouldn't recommend going with this amendment. The original  
28 proposal was a good proposal. Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any  
31 questions.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. The proposal  
36 has been amended a couple times. We are now at the point  
37 of Council discussion on the proposed and amended proposal.  
38 Myron.

39  
40 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I  
41 stated yesterday, we are not opposed to anyone that  
42 practices their customary and traditional subsistence use  
43 of migratory birds regardless of where they're at.  
44 However, the Y-K Delta has for many years worked on the  
45 conservation and the perpetuation of the waterfowl  
46 population, including Black Brant. The burden of  
47 conservation for many years was placed primarily on the Y-K  
48 Delta residents. We'd like the North Slope to understand  
49 that whenever there's a conservation concern of the Black  
50 Brant, which we still have some concerns over, that they

1 understand when our people start making the sacrifices to  
2 help rebuild the population, that they to will participate,  
3 and this includes all the flyway users of the Black Brant  
4 because they not only hunt them up here in Alaska but  
5 throughout the Pacific Region.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
8 questions, comments. Matt.

9  
10 MR. ROBUS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I  
11 think the amendment does a good job of solving several of  
12 the problems that came with trying to accommodate an  
13 existing traditional hunt within the framework of  
14 regulations that we're operating under that were put  
15 together in a general region-wide way. So I think that  
16 this is the best chance, the best opportunity we have to  
17 both protect the nesters and allow a traditional hunt of  
18 failed or non-breeders, so I intend to vote in favor of the  
19 amended motion. I think in most places the regulations are  
20 allowing traditional hunts to occur. In this particular  
21 case, they didn't and this is dealing with an exceptional  
22 case in a way that -- you know, if we can make our  
23 arguments up through the system, we'll accommodate all  
24 parties and it seems to me to be a good idea to do it.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Doug.

27  
28 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
29 would like to voice my support to the proposal as amended,  
30 but I will offer that I still am unsure of whether or not  
31 the proposal as stated will pass a hurdle that the SRC will  
32 use to assess this before the SRC will vote to refer this  
33 to the secretary for regulation. One of the checks that  
34 they will check this against is whether or not there's  
35 compliance with the treaties that we operate under and the  
36 principal treaty that we're dealing with in this particular  
37 case is the Japan Treaty. The Japan Treaty says in so many  
38 words, I can't quote it, but that the birds would be  
39 protected during their principal nesting seasons.

40  
41 I think with the language that we're  
42 describing here, if there is some language that protects  
43 those birds that are breeding and nesting during that time,  
44 I think it's more acceptable but I'm still not sure that it  
45 passes that threshold. So that's the only concern that I  
46 have with it. I am willing to support it as amended and  
47 the briefings that will occur will talk about -- the SRC  
48 will certainly have that discussion because that's one of  
49 the things that they're particularly concerned about, is  
50 their role in ensuring compliance with all the treaties



1 that we operate under and that's their charge and that's  
2 what they do when they advise the Director and, of course,  
3 the Secretary of the Interior.

4  
5 With that, I'm going to support it as  
6 amended.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any other discussion.  
9 Molly.

10  
11 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I just have a comment. It  
12 seems like we're mixing the migrant birds versus the birds  
13 that are -- initially they're nesting. I heard from one of  
14 the reports when the guys go out hunting they see these  
15 birds coming over the horizon and they fly by. It sounds  
16 like there's a concern about -- or kind of a mistrust about  
17 maybe these hunters might be also hunting birds that are  
18 nesting. So I left a little bit early. I don't know if  
19 this was discussed, but it seems like we need to separate  
20 those two, the migrant birds versus the nesting. It seems  
21 like, as Doug was talking, he's mixing these two birds up.  
22 That's just a comment. Thanks.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Myron.

25  
26 MR. NANENG: I just want to clarify. These  
27 migrant birds are the ones that fail to nest in the Y-K  
28 Delta and they move up north to molt in the Teshekpuk Lake  
29 area. It affects our people in the Y-K Delta. It's our  
30 major concern because every time the population numbers go  
31 down in the nesting areas, who do they look to first to  
32 restrict on hunting of these birds. It's our people in the  
33 Y-K Delta. That's where I'm coming from. It's not migrant  
34 birds. It's birds that are supposed to have been  
35 successful nesters in the Y-K Delta and when they fail,  
36 they go up north and then when the numbers as supported in  
37 the charts that were shown this morning, if they're low,  
38 who do they go after first. So from our perspective, the  
39 AVCP, Y-K Delta Region, we don't differentiate. It's all  
40 inclusive.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
43 discussion. Taqulik.

44  
45 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just  
46 wanted to acknowledge that I welcome Myron's comments and  
47 welcome that opportunity for us to open the doors and begin  
48 our communications on working together with your  
49 conservation plan as we are hunting for one group of birds  
50 and what affects you should affect us and I welcome that

1 opportunity to continue to communicate with you on some of  
2 those issues.

3

4 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Matt, go ahead.

5

6 MR. KOOKESH: I just want to throw out some  
7 of our experiences in Southeast as Native corporations. We  
8 all know we're big landowners, 44 million acres of land.  
9 In Southeast, we had to create these buffer zones around  
10 the eagles' nests and it cost us millions of dollars and we  
11 never got compensated for it. It cost us millions of  
12 dollars to protect the streams and the eagles' nests.

13

14 So what I want to throw out there is some  
15 caution and I'm going to support the motion and the  
16 amendment, but I just want to throw out some caution about  
17 these buffer zones and be cognizant of the land ownership,  
18 people that own the lands. At least let the Native  
19 corporations know if you're going to be documenting nests  
20 on their property because there are future impacts to this  
21 decision. Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
24 discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Well, we  
29 certainly had a lot of discussion on this proposal. I  
30 think it's probably a good idea for me to ask, because each  
31 party has worked out some kind of compromise, if there's  
32 any objection to adopting the proposal as amended. And, if  
33 not, show unanimous consent. Any objection.

34

35 (No objections)

36

37 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: No objections. Okay.  
38 Let that be known there's unanimous consent for Proposal  
39 No. 7. Thank you. Okay. We are nearly done with our  
40 agenda here. That finishes off the proposals. We're at a  
41 point now, invitation for public comments. Any member of  
42 the public may comment on the matters for this meeting or  
43 for future agenda items.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. No member of the  
48 public got up or raised their hand. Other business. We  
49 added one item under other business and that was the eagle  
50 feather issue. Like I mentioned yesterday, the Alaska

1 Migratory Bird Co-management Council received a letter from  
2 the Southeast Alaska Inter-tribal Wildlife Commission in  
3 reference to their work on the eagle feather issue. In  
4 that letter the Commission asked this Council to support  
5 their efforts. I would like to defer to Matt at this time  
6 or Don or whoever and certainly provide us with the  
7 information and background and we'll go from there. Matt.

8  
9 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you, Austin. I know  
10 the question has been asked what does that have to do with  
11 this Council. Probably not much, but we do ask the support  
12 of everybody and this Council does have an interest in  
13 birds and this is a bird issue. It's also a State issue.  
14 It's a big issue for us in Southeast because it's illegal  
15 for us to pick up an eagle feather. We have many eagle  
16 feathers in our homes.

17  
18 Every other year we have about seven or  
19 eight thousand people that come to Juneau for a celebration  
20 and there's eagle feathers going from one state to the  
21 other state, from Canada to Juneau, so we're just concerned  
22 that somebody one of these days is going to enforce this  
23 regulation.

24  
25 So what we've done here so far is we've  
26 been asking for letters of support from just about  
27 everybody and trying to get some input on this legislation.  
28 So far we've held a couple meetings with our delegation.  
29 Lisa Murkowski was very much interested in it, Don Young is  
30 very much interested in helping us with this issue. We  
31 also have had some communication with the Northern Arapaho  
32 Indians. They have some issues down south on shooting the  
33 eagle, so we've been talking to them.

34  
35 The Lower 48 tribes are really excited  
36 about this legislation. So basically we decided to take  
37 this issue similar to the Native Exemption and the Marine  
38 Mammal Protection Act. We've also added some of the co-  
39 management language from the MMPA. We're concerned about  
40 hearing that the eagle may get de-listed and we don't know  
41 what's going to happen when it gets de-listed, but we think  
42 we're giving a tool to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
43 by us providing this legislation. It gives them a tool to  
44 continue to control it even if it's de-listed, yet, at the  
45 same time, protecting the culture that surrounds this  
46 feather.

47  
48 The other thing that we're doing in  
49 Southeast is we want to help with this repository problem  
50 in the Lower 48. We're going to run this by our

1 legislators again, even the State. We think a repository  
2 needs to be put in Alaska. Most of the birds are up here  
3 and I think we can do just as good a job as the Feds are  
4 doing. With that, I'll turn it over to Don to fill in  
5 whatever I missed on this issue.

6

7 MR. BREMNER: Mr. Chairman, Members of the  
8 Council. I'll begin by saying that in Tlingit-Haida-  
9 Tsimshian country and probably with the Athabaskans as well  
10 we are being made criminals and law-breakers for something  
11 that we have done for thousands of years. Like you knew  
12 more than I that almost every bird in the state of Alaska,  
13 other than the migratory bird, that we are subject to  
14 with our culture.

15

16 So, when you think about it like that, and  
17 it's coming to a head in the Lower 48 and our region, we've  
18 debated with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of  
19 Alaska whether a Bald Eagle is a migratory bird or not. So  
20 the answer to that question is still out there. I believe  
21 the State feels like there are some indigenous birds here  
22 that do not migrate. Of course, the Feds say that maybe  
23 some do.

24

25 You wonder probably why we're bringing it  
26 to this Council. We've read your regulation book over and  
27 over and you'll see that I reference it in my presentation.  
28 Our proposal is a migratory bird co-management issue and  
29 you'll see from the legislation how it's drafted. We are  
30 asking for co-management of that bird. It could be a co-  
31 management partnership which includes this Council or we  
32 may have to request a separate migratory bird council for  
33 bald eagles and other raptors and other birds that we use  
34 in our region.

35

36 We feel right now that if you read your  
37 regulation book that this group has authority to review and  
38 recommend on regulations, including raptors. I see owls,  
39 Snowy Owl and Great-horned Owl is listed in your  
40 publication here. So I believe that you do have authority  
41 to review and make recommendations on this.

42

43 The group here addresses migratory bird  
44 hunting based on  
45 customary and traditional uses. That also applies to our  
46 use of Bald Eagles and other migratory birds. You have in  
47 your regulation book on Page 3 under use and possession of  
48 migratory birds, you may not sell, offer for sale, purchase  
49 or offer to purchase migratory birds, their parts or eggs.

50

1                   See, if you look at our customary,  
2 traditional and spiritual uses of Bald Eagles and other  
3 raptor feathers and parts and whole birds, you'll see from  
4 the legislation we didn't include whole birds because the  
5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement said it's  
6 probably not a good idea. It won't sell in Washington, so  
7 we didn't include that.

8  
9                   It says in the regulation book you may take  
10 birds for human consumption only, but you also reference  
11 non-edible byproducts of birds taken for food may be used  
12 for other purposes except that taxidermy is not allowed.  
13 Well, with this bird that we could say is a migratory bird,  
14 we don't even have a right to use it. We cannot pick it  
15 up, take it, hold it, produce a non-edible product without  
16 breaking the law.

17  
18                   If you look at this Council's primary  
19 purpose, it says in the book it's to develop  
20 recommendations for the subsistence migratory bird harvest  
21 regulations. Our friend Doug here says that the purpose of  
22 this Council is also to promote conservation, customs and  
23 culture and preservation of our Native way of life, which  
24 is subsistence. If you look at your own definition of  
25 subsistence, that's a key word to this, which means on Page  
26 18 the customary and traditional harvest or use of  
27 migratory birds. That's what we do with Bald Eagle  
28 feathers, parts and other migratory birds. Use of  
29 migratory birds and their eggs by eligible users for their  
30 nutritional and other essential needs.

31  
32                   If you go to a Tlingit-Haida-Tsimshian  
33 (Native word), what the public knows as a potlatch, and you  
34 go to Indian country in the Lower 48, the feathers, the  
35 parts and sometimes even whole birds are an essential need  
36 to the custom and spirituality in our culture.

37  
38                   So we believe that this Council has the  
39 authority to weigh in on this issue, to review and  
40 recommend based on our customary and traditional uses,  
41 especially under the use and possession of migratory birds.  
42 Go to that part that says look at developing non-edible  
43 byproducts. We can't do that with this bird. So to the  
44 Tlingit-Haida-Tsimshian people this is a customary and  
45 traditional subsistence activity that this Council has a  
46 right to address.

47  
48                   Our options are limited. One of them we're  
49 going to take as this legislative amendment to these two  
50 acts so that we're exempt from those acts. We don't know

1 how it's going to come down in organizational  
2 infrastructure, but this Council can take this up and  
3 include it as part of your authority to address.  
4 Otherwise, the only other option we have is form another  
5 migratory bird council for raptors.

6  
7 That's pretty much where we're at. We've  
8 been getting support from Alaska Native organization  
9 tribes, including tribes from the Lower 48 and that's where  
10 we're at.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any  
13 questions for Mr. Bremner. Peter.

14  
15 MR. DEVINE: Yes, Don. You said you guys  
16 were after whole birds. If you could put that into your  
17 language, I believe you would have, you know, whole birds  
18 showing up. Because I know in the region I'm from we have  
19 electric company and some of the lines are still above  
20 ground, you know, and we have to send them all the way to  
21 Colorado, so that would make it easier on us if we could  
22 send them somewhere here in the state.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
25 questions. Doug.

26  
27 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A  
28 question for you, Don. This is the first time I've looked  
29 at all of this, so I'm wondering what the request is of the  
30 Council. What are you asking the Council to do?

31  
32 MR. BREMNER: Okay. This Council has the  
33 right to address the issue, so what I'd recommend this  
34 Council do is look at it and take a position with Senator  
35 Murkowski in our congressional delegations office saying,  
36 hey, look, underneath our Alaska Migratory Bird Council  
37 authority we have reviewed this and we believe this is a  
38 legitimate customary and traditional right of the Tlingit-  
39 Haida-Tsimshian people of Southeast Alaska and send in a  
40 positive letter of support. And if you don't believe that,  
41 then put it in writing so that we could address it and  
42 follow up legislation.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Any other  
45 questions. Matt, you have some discussion?

46  
47 MR. ROBUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As  
48 has happened in some previous issues that have come before  
49 the Council where it involves advocating for a policy or  
50 specially advocating for legislation, it creates a

1 difficulty and we've dealt with it before, awkwardly or  
2 not. The problem here, sitting here on the  
3 Council, I do not operate independent from my duties for  
4 the State Department of Fish and Game. Seeing this  
5 legislation personally for the first time, I'm in no  
6 position to take a position on it right now, nor do I have  
7 authority to take a position for the State of Alaska on  
8 this. So I would have difficulty voting for a resolution  
9 to write a letter advocating this just because of that kind  
10 of procedural problem. I'll let Doug speak for his  
11 position with the Federal government, but I suspect he'd  
12 say something similar.

13

14 I guess one suggestion I have so that we  
15 don't get into a situation where we can't do anything is --  
16 I don't think that it's really been done before, but one  
17 thing the rural representatives might want to consider is  
18 acting as the rural representatives to the AMBCC as kind of  
19 the Native caucus and consider writing a letter under that  
20 identification because I'm afraid my agency at least is not  
21 in a position to buy into this right now. I can certainly  
22 take it back. I know that we're engaged on the eagle issue  
23 with my Southeast Region and we do review legislation and  
24 try to take positions on it. I'm just not in a position to  
25 vote yes on this right now as a member of the Council.

26

27 So I just wanted to kind of surface that  
28 and hopefully make it understood to Don and Matt that it's  
29 not a rejection totally of the idea. It's just that I'm  
30 not in a position as a State member of this Council to vote  
31 for this right now. Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Caleb.

34

35 MR. PUNGOWIYI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don  
36 and maybe Matt. In looking at the proposed draft  
37 legislation, there's a couple things that concern me. One  
38 is the role of this Council in regards to the exemption  
39 that you're proposing, the Native American exemption. I  
40 don't quite understand where this body will play in terms  
41 of managing migratory birds and the exemption that's  
42 provided in the proposed legislation.

43

44 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Matt or Don.

45

46 MR. KOOKESH: When I started off, I said I  
47 didn't see a role for this Council and after listening to  
48 Matt I realize that the only way we could probably get  
49 support is to do it as a Native group. I think if it puts  
50 this organization in a position to support it, then I could

1 see where it would be a conflict of some people. Maybe  
2 what we need to do or what we're asking then, since we know  
3 this Council can't support it, individually, if you can  
4 take this back to your organizations and write letters of  
5 support, we'd appreciate that. Knowing what we know from  
6 Matt and Doug's position, this Council cannot support it.  
7

8 MR. BREMNER: Okay, Matt. Okay, Caleb. An  
9 exemption is an exemption, just as we have aboriginal right  
10 to get an exemption for harbor seal, marine mammals, every  
11 other food that you see that we have a right to the  
12 harvest, including using the byproducts of those marine  
13 mammals, and the bulk of them are in your country. We are  
14 now here talking for our country. This Council has a right  
15 to address it, so address it. That's what we're asking.  
16

17 This Council came around because some folks  
18 shot a duck up in your country and then all the villages  
19 went out and shot a duck, so it forced the Federal  
20 government to take action. So we can't do that and we  
21 won't do that because of our ties to this bird. It's easy  
22 enough to go take that drastic action to get heard. This  
23 bird is no different than what you guys sat around and  
24 talked about for two days.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Doug.  
27

28 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Don,  
29 I think you're making a pretty compelling argument for this  
30 being within the purview of the Council and not being an  
31 attorney I'm not in a position to debate that with you and  
32 I'm not inclined to debate it with you. I think if it is  
33 within the purview of the Council, then I would be willing  
34 to consider it, but I would be willing to consider it after  
35 I've had time to consider the request and the content of  
36 the issue that we're being asked to either support or voice  
37 some acknowledgement of.  
38

39 I'm in the same situation that Matt finds  
40 himself in, that as an agency representative I have kind of  
41 two charges. One is to understand what the agency's  
42 position is on the issues that we're discussing and would  
43 be voting on or consenting to. That's one charge and then  
44 the other charge is to make sure that I don't jump out in  
45 front in this particular case proposed legislation.  
46

47 The way the Federal agencies operate, I  
48 assume it's the same way with the State, we don't take a  
49 position in advance of proposed legislation. When we're  
50 asked by the congress or a particular congressman or woman



1 what our position is, then we would write a formal  
2 position, then I would be able to represent that position.  
3 It would be premature for me to vote to support the request  
4 as you've stated because it puts my agency in a position of  
5 supporting something that, number one, I'm not familiar  
6 with yet and, two, I don't know what the position is of my  
7 agency. So I would be remiss if I did vote to support it  
8 even though I really can't judge that at this point.

9

10 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Herman.

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair, yeah. Don,  
13 what Matt mentioned a little earlier here, you know, is  
14 taking this back to our regions and stuff like that. I  
15 kind of follow in line with that a little more, too. Not  
16 being able to really look at this and seeing it, you know,  
17 what it is, and if we are able to do this as a Council, I  
18 don't know. I don't even know if we're going to be able to  
19 do something like this as a Council itself. I support the  
20 idea of going back and looking at it with our Regional  
21 Council and stuff and then sending in a letter of support  
22 from there to you guys that way. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
25 questions.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: None. Well, I am  
30 inclined to at least say that we received a letter and that  
31 the State and Federal agencies are going to take this back  
32 and at some point either positively support their efforts  
33 or not. Certainly I think from what we've heard so far  
34 it's very appropriate for the Native bodies to do some kind  
35 of letter of support and that probably would be fairly  
36 automatic.

37

38 I would like to responsibly though say that  
39 we may be able to get a letter out indicating that we  
40 received your request and that we're working on it and  
41 that's perhaps as most as we can do on it right now and let  
42 you know it's only perhaps a temporary action or letter of  
43 support or resolution that may be in the future.

44

45 Is this the package that's going to all the  
46 legislators?

47

48 MR. BREMNER: It's gone to them already.

49

50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: It's gone to them

1 already. Okay. Herman.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Don, one  
4 more question. It's in the legislature now. When are they  
5 going to act on it, do you know? And how soon do we need  
6 to get the support in to you guys if we do from our  
7 regions?

8

9 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Don.

10

11 MR. BREMNER: Well, if you talk to Arnie  
12 and Nathan down there in Senator Murkowski's office, they  
13 are working on it. They're collaborating down there as our  
14 congressional delegation to move it forward. We just met  
15 with Hans, so he's going to call him to see where it's at.  
16 The Lower 48 tribes are connected with us with this bird.  
17 You think it's just an Alaska issue, but it's a national  
18 issue in Indian country, so that's why we had the Native  
19 American Rights Fund that is looking at this themselves to  
20 make sure the Lower 48 tribes are covered in it. So it's  
21 gone national already. I thank you for your -- I think  
22 it's a good recommendation that you made and we'll just  
23 look forward to hearing from you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
26 questions. Patty.

27

28 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Just one comment.  
29 Don, thanks for bringing this to our board. I appreciate  
30 it. I'm just wondering, the Zuni Pueblo, I don't know if  
31 you're aware of them, they have an aviary, a Bald Eagle and  
32 Golden Eagle aviary, down at the Zuni Pueblo and they have  
33 a cooperative or co-management agreement with Fish and  
34 Wildlife Service. What they've done is taken the eagle  
35 feathers and eagle parts from the aviary and they only  
36 distribute them to their own members. There's a tribe in  
37 Oklahoma and I don't know which one, but they also do a  
38 similar thing. So there's a history of Fish and Wildlife  
39 Service working with tribes to do some sort of co-  
40 management or cooperative agreements on eagle parts and  
41 feathers, so there may be a mechanism in place that you can  
42 pursue. And I can give you the name of the guy that runs  
43 the aviary when I get back to my office. I'll help any way  
44 I can. I know the backlog of eagle parts and feathers is a  
45 big issue. I'm a Native from the Lower 48 and we've been  
46 dealing with this for a long time. So I appreciate the  
47 Commission taking the initiative to bring this forward.  
48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. BREMNER: Thank you. We'll look

1 forward to it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
4 questions or comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We are pretty  
9 close now. There is a gentleman who is expected to give us  
10 a little presentation on the Ivory Gull and should be  
11 arriving shortly. Okay. 14, Staff reports. I guess Fish  
12 and Game first.

13

14 MR. ROBUS: I don't have any Staff present  
15 to give a report, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Fish and Wildlife  
18 Service Staff reports. There's probably going to be  
19 several of them. AMBCC Staff, subsistence and maybe  
20 migratory birds. Fred first.

21

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 First of all, I just want to acknowledge the work Donna has  
24 put into this meeting even though she's on crutches yet.  
25 We've been short-handed for a while and her being able to  
26 get the binders together, the meeting place together has  
27 been a real effort on her part and I appreciate it.

28

29 Before we get into the committee  
30 assignments I think it's important that we take a look at  
31 the representation to the flyway and SRC meetings this  
32 year. In the past, we've had the luxury of having our  
33 Region 7 regional director sitting on the committee, but  
34 now they rotated out, so it's more important than ever to  
35 have council members present at these meetings to add a lot  
36 of credibility to the proposals and explain them. So I'd  
37 urge that you guys take a look at those carefully.

38

39 As you guys are aware, Bill has been out of  
40 the office for quite some time tending to some family  
41 matters and hopefully he'll return next week. I rely on  
42 him heavily for a lot of the council matters and making  
43 sure the committees meet and setting everything up and I  
44 have to apologize for the law enforcement committee not  
45 being able to meet the other day, but we just don't have  
46 enough hands to go around sometimes. Hopefully that will  
47 be remedied when Bill returns.

48

49 Donna, do you have anything to report?

50

1 MS. DEWHURST: (Shakes head no)

2

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Cynthia, I know you  
4 were waving your hand.

5

6 MS. WENTWORTH: As I said yesterday at the  
7 work session, last fall the Subsistence Harvest Committee  
8 passed a resolution and then the AMBCC Council adopted it.  
9 Each regional management body needed a chance to review its  
10 data before it became final data. The Regional Councils  
11 would have over the wintertime to review it and make sure  
12 they didn't have any comments. As a result, I sent all  
13 that data out to the different regions so that their  
14 Regional Councils could have an opportunity to review it.

15

16 It was also decided if the Regional  
17 Councils didn't review it over the winter, that the AMBCC  
18 could adopt that region's preliminary data as final data.  
19 So far I haven't heard any comments from anyone except for  
20 the Tetlin Refuge. There's some problems with the data  
21 there. Our ADF&G people feel that the harvest estimates  
22 for 2004 were way too high, so the information that you  
23 have there in your hands for Tetlin we're a little unsure  
24 of it.

25

26 One of the things I did before I sent all  
27 this data out to the Regional Councils, I didn't just send  
28 them the data that we got from ADF&G data management people  
29 if it was more than one year's data. I went ahead and  
30 provided all the years' data because whenever you have an  
31 average over several years, that's a lot more meaningful  
32 than just one year's data. So you'll see in that package  
33 of stuff that I gave you that in some cases the data is  
34 directly from the ADF&G report and that's the case if  
35 there's only one year's data, but in cases where there's  
36 more than one year, then I've put it into a table. Like  
37 you're looking at me, Herman. Yours I put into a table  
38 because it's more than one year.

39

40 So I guess what I'm thinking here is that  
41 we may want a resolution from the council to go ahead and  
42 adopt these data. I don't know. I should just say, too,  
43 before you decide that most of this in this packet is just  
44 numbers, a lot of numbers, but there is a section from the  
45 Innoko Refuge that follows Innoko Refuge's data that's a  
46 section on traditional ecological knowledge that was  
47 gathered by Clara Demientieff, who is a refuge information  
48 technician with the refuge. The refuge would like to be  
49 able to release that data. She says the villages there  
50 have no problem with it, but in order to go through the

1 proper procedure because it was collected under the AMBCC  
2 methodology, we need to have a resolution or something from  
3 the council for the adoption of all these data before we  
4 can really feel okay about giving it out to people who are  
5 interested.

6

7 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Is that all?

8

9 MS. WENTWORTH: That's all I was going to  
10 say right now.

11

12 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Patty.

13

14 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Will the data be  
15 published with the household numbers on there?

16

17 MS. WENTWORTH: No, no. Never. The  
18 household numbers are always confidential. I deliberately  
19 numbered them 1, 2, 3 rather than any names and the names  
20 weren't on there anyway. Those numbers on there aren't  
21 traceable to anything. Those are just numbers that I made  
22 up.

23

24 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: First of all, I will say  
25 that this is excellent data. However, would we be amiss if  
26 we did a resolution and it wasn't specifically mentioned on  
27 our agenda? I'm a little worried about that. Doug.

28

29 MR. ALCORN: Just a point of order. You  
30 can take a motion to suspend the rule of the day. We can  
31 consider this if you want to take action to adopt the  
32 information.

33

34 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: We'll come back to that.  
35 Herman.

36

37 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair, Cynthia. If  
38 you want us to take action on something, how come you  
39 didn't give this to us sooner so we could look at it?

40

41 MS. WENTWORTH: I sent it to you last  
42 November and then I ran into you downtown and you asked me  
43 to mail it to you, so I did that, too. I mailed it to you  
44 last winter.

45

46 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, I sure don't  
47 remember recalling all this stuff, getting all this, so  
48 that's why I'm.....

49

50 MS. WENTWORTH: Well, I just sent it to you

1 for your region.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right. But you brought it  
4 in now, today. We were here yesterday. You could have  
5 given this to us at least yesterday.

6

7 MS. WENTWORTH: Well, Austin didn't think I  
8 should hand out all the detailed data yesterday and go  
9 through this whole explanation twice, so that's why I  
10 waited.

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, no, I mean you  
13 didn't have to, but you could have given it to us so we  
14 could look it over last night or something.

15

16 MS. WENTWORTH: Oh, okay. I see. I guess  
17 I just assumed that you'd want to see your own region's  
18 data. If you want time to look it over, that's fine with  
19 me.

20

21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Myron.

22

23 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 Cynthia, is the same procedure used throughout the state  
25 with the harvest survey calendars or something like that  
26 that's sent out to households. I know in the AVCP region  
27 we get pictures of birds that say how many birds did you  
28 get during springtime and how many birds did you get in the  
29 summer and how many birds did you get during the fall time.  
30 Is that same calendar sent out to all the regions?

31

32 MS. WENTWORTH: Yes.

33

34 MR. NANENG: It seems like in Holy Cross  
35 based on the report that was sent by the RIT there, it's a  
36 house-to-house survey type thing rather than the usual send  
37 out the form.

38

39 MS. WENTWORTH: These forms right here are  
40 used all over the state, except there's a slight variation  
41 for Interior Alaska and Southern Coastal Alaska. This is  
42 the Western Coastal Alaska form. It's used in the Y-K  
43 Delta. It's used all over. But as far as those comments,  
44 there's a place for those comments on every survey form.  
45 Each form is the same. The only difference is the birds  
46 that are on there. Every form has a place for comments.  
47 Sometimes we get comments like that from Y-K Delta, too.  
48 They're just not as detailed and all that. It would be  
49 possible to go over to the Yukon Delta Refuge office and go  
50 through all the forms over the last several years, even

1 before we adopted this form, and get people's comments off  
2 of the form and write them up.

3

4 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any questions. Peter.

5

6 MR. DEVINE: I was just looking at our  
7 numbers for the Aleutian/Pribilofs and I am not in  
8 agreement with these numbers. I represent 13 villages and  
9 if you break this down, they're consuming 2,000 birds in  
10 2005 per village. I believe five of our villages only have  
11 about 30 people in them, so I'd have to take this back to  
12 our regional meeting to see if they're in agreement with  
13 these numbers, but as of right now I could say that we're  
14 probably not.

15

16 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any other  
17 questions or comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Well, I think I'm  
22 going to weigh in just a little bit and say, first of all,  
23 I probably should have got this information out a little  
24 earlier. I think it's going to require a little more time  
25 for us to review. I would urge though that we do review  
26 the information, take it back, so that we're prepared the  
27 next time to take action on it. It will definitely be a  
28 future agenda item. We do have this preliminary  
29 information though and something we've been waiting for.  
30 It's useful information.

31

32 I think though that probably the proper  
33 thing to do is just not take any action at this meeting and  
34 just receive it as a staff report. That we did receive it.  
35 We will note that.

36

37 MS. WENTWORTH: Okay. I wanted to address  
38 the council about something else too, either now or before  
39 the council adjourns. I'm not sure which.

40

41 MR. ROBUS: I have a question on this.

42

43 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: On this. Okay. Matt.

44

45 MR. ROBUS: Mr. Chairman. So the fact that  
46 this remains preliminary, if we go that route and just hold  
47 this to act on the next time the council meets, does that  
48 mean this information in its preliminary form is embargoed  
49 from being shown to the Flyway Council for instance?

50

1                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: You know, I don't think  
2 so. I think it could be indicated that it is preliminary.  
3 I think a response to that question should take into  
4 consideration the very same things I do. I personally ask  
5 for preliminary information from the State or Federal  
6 government before we make it final. In that vein, no, it's  
7 not embargoed, I suppose, but it is characterized as what  
8 it is, preliminary.

9  
10                   MR. ROBUS: Thank you. The reason I ask,  
11 and I want to make sure that all the partners present  
12 understand, I think it's very important to bring this --  
13 and Doug does too, I know, because we just discussed it.  
14 It's important to begin bringing forward this type of  
15 information to the Flyway Council just keeping the  
16 credibility of this council as high as possible and showing  
17 them results from the surveys that so many of you have  
18 worked hard to get results on. So I guess I'm asking that  
19 everybody understands that we will be careful in bringing  
20 it to the Council and we'll characterize it as being  
21 preliminary and not approved for release yet. Personally,  
22 I'd like to show the other states what kind of information  
23 we're gathering.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Any other questions or  
26 disagreement with that. Herman.

27  
28                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Yeah, Cynthia,  
29 I'm not really in agreement on some of these figures for  
30 the Kodiak one either. I think some of these things are  
31 mixed up here a little bit, especially with your King  
32 Eider, Common Eider. I think somebody's not knowing the  
33 difference between the two ducks.

34  
35                   MS. WENTWORTH: Well, that could very  
36 likely be. You'll have more clarification though this fall  
37 when ADF&G gets the 2006 data out for Kodiak. I think a  
38 lot of those things will be clarified. I know we noticed a  
39 lot of differentiation there between 1999 and 2000 and then  
40 the oil spill data and the 2003, but I think a lot of that  
41 stuff will be clarified later.

42  
43                   The situation we have though on data is  
44 that we have to accept it as it's reported. We can't go  
45 back and say, well, even though that person marked down a  
46 King Eider on his form, we don't think he really took that  
47 unless the surveyor or the employee in charge -- I know  
48 Molly and Frank and I were talking about this the other  
49 day. Unless that person can actually go back to the  
50 household and say did you make a mistake, do you want to



1 fix it, but we can't second-guess the person that fills out  
2 the form I just showed you.

3

4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I know you can't second-  
5 guess that and everything else. A lot of these figures  
6 just aren't clicking, what I'm seeing and then the ducks  
7 and stuff that are taken down there just aren't looking  
8 right.

9

10 MS. WENTWORTH: Another thing you can do  
11 when you write up the data is you can qualify it. You can  
12 say, well, this doesn't seem quite right to us, but this is  
13 what the village of Old Harbor reported or Ouzinkie  
14 reported or whatever and then you can talk to the village  
15 about it. But once it gets into the hands of the data  
16 managers, there's not a lot you can do with it. But your  
17 input is very important in the interpretation, I agree.

18

19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right. Because the  
20 variation on some of these, there's a big difference and I  
21 know it's not right. I think another thing we have to do  
22 -- I know we've trained our surveyors and all that and  
23 everything else. One of the things we might want to do is  
24 either them know the identify of a lot of the ducks or  
25 something to explain or say are you sure this is the one,  
26 you know, instead of just marking it down. You know,  
27 somebody needs to know. I can see it's been misinterpreted  
28 on the type of ducks that have been taken, what it looks  
29 like to me.

30

31 MS. WENTWORTH: Yeah, education always  
32 helps.

33

34

35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Taqulik and  
36 then Fred.

37

38 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Then I  
39 was just going to add to Herman's comment. I think the  
40 more that we conduct this survey, the better the numbers  
41 are going to get over time. I know that's been our  
42 experience on the North Slope. We did get a chance to  
43 review the numbers at our last meeting that we had to deal  
44 with migratory birds and we did take action to accept the  
45 numbers as presented in the report.

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Fred.

48

49 MR. ARMSTRONG: I wanted to respond to some  
50 of the concerns Herman raised. I think you're raising

1 concerns that we forecasted at the onset of the survey  
2 project. The 300,000 doesn't go far enough to cover every  
3 region, every home and every household. You're going to  
4 have gaps in the data. That's expected. Cynthia is  
5 exactly right when she says she has to work with the  
6 numbers that are given to her. She can't alter them.  
7 That's why we give them back to the regions to look at them  
8 and certify them and identify where there's issues that can  
9 be worked on. This is not unforeseen. It's issues that we  
10 knew were going to happen. The way we're surveying right  
11 now, we're not going to be able to tell trends over time  
12 for 10, 15 years. That's how long it's going to take  
13 because we're not able to have a full survey like we should  
14 be doing.

15

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair, could I respond  
17 back to that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Yes.

20

21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I understand that  
22 very clearly, Fred, on that type of stuff, but I think some  
23 people don't know exactly what -- you know, they're looking  
24 at the survey and not knowing exactly which one they  
25 actually did take and stuff like that. And the survey  
26 itself, I feel the way the survey is done, that random  
27 thing, you're not really getting a good, accurate one  
28 anyway on the actual hunters and stuff that are actually  
29 out there hunting the most. The way it's staggered, you're  
30 not getting a good, accurate count that way anyway. I  
31 addressed that to Ron Stanek before and everything else on  
32 the way that survey is done. Thank you, Fred, though for  
33 your comments.

34

35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Molly.

36

37 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I just have a  
38 question for Cynthia. At our June meeting, you helped our  
39 regional reps go over the harvest. Since we didn't have  
40 the survey except for Togiak Region in '05 or '06, these  
41 are the numbers that were viewed by our regional reps then  
42 or are these new?

43

44 MS. WENTWORTH: Those are new. You didn't  
45 have those last June.

46

47 MS. CHYTHLOOK: So our regional reps  
48 reviewed the '04?

49

50 MS. WENTWORTH: Right. Well, they

1 reviewed '04 and before that. I did an average of the  
2 Nineties and I think 2001, whatever other years are on  
3 there, and '04. What you have now also includes '05.

4

5 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're setting up a  
6 regional meeting for the 20th, so we'll work on this then.  
7 Thanks.

8

9 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We need to bring  
10 this report back to our regions so we can take action on it  
11 at our next meeting. Any other questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. Thank you,  
16 Cynthia.

17

18 MS. WENTWORTH: There's something else I  
19 want to talk about. Is that okay?

20

21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Sure. Go ahead.

22

23 MS. WENTWORTH: I'll have 30 years with the  
24 Federal government in June and 26 of them have been with  
25 Fish and Wildlife Service and I've been the harvest survey  
26 coordinator for 18 years. So even though I haven't made a  
27 definite decision about retiring in June, this is very  
28 likely my last AMBCC meeting and I just want to say how  
29 much I've appreciated working with all the council members.

30

31

32 For so many years I used to wish for a  
33 co-management process when it wasn't very popular at the  
34 Fish and Wildlife Service and I wanted Alaska Natives to  
35 have meaningful involvement in harvest decisions. Seeing  
36 the spring hunt legalized was just a dream of my career and  
37 I'm really happy that it happened within the lifetime of my  
38 career. I feel really blessed and lucky that it did  
39 happen.

40

41 I've really appreciated working with all  
42 the people on the council, but I especially want to  
43 recognize three council members that I've worked with that  
44 I feel have done really outstanding work in the harvest  
45 survey program. I have some things for people back here,  
46 too.

47

48 The first one is Austin. I've worked with  
49 Austin practically since the formation of this council.  
50 He's been chairman of the Harvest Survey Committee since

1 2001. One thing I really admire about Austin is his  
2 extreme level-headedness, especially under pressure. When  
3 the committee has had to make difficult, complicated or  
4 contentious decisions, Austin has always stayed polite,  
5 respectful and fair, focusing on how to solve the problem.  
6 He's really an excellent chairman.

7  
8 In his other hat as subsistence director of  
9 Kawerak, Austin has conducted three successful harvest  
10 survey projects in the Bering Strait Region, 2002, 2004,  
11 2005, all under contract with the Fish and Wildlife  
12 Service. Under Austin's astute leadership, Kawerak has  
13 done an excellent job each time, even producing a well-done  
14 report in 2002 that I've distributed to several biologists  
15 and managers.

16  
17 Something else I really appreciate about  
18 Austin that council members don't see because it usually  
19 occurs on the phone is the way he sought out and listened  
20 to my opinions and advice even though he's a lot younger  
21 than me. At the same time he always stands up for his  
22 people and he doesn't just take what I say like a pushover.  
23 He's not a pushover by any means. He's a very critical  
24 engager and listener in what I have to say. I just really  
25 have appreciated that dialogue with him.

26  
27 And then two other council members who have  
28 conducted or are conducting harvest surveys have also  
29 totally turned things around in their regions as far as  
30 harvest surveys and survey accuracy. They've really  
31 improved the accuracy of the data in their regions. This,  
32 in turn, has made my job a lot more pleasurable. One of  
33 these is Taqulik Hepa of North Slope Borough, director of  
34 Wildlife Management.

35  
36 For many years biologists would ask me for  
37 harvest survey data from the North Slope. I may have said  
38 100 times we have no current comprehensive data by species  
39 from the North Slope. This was an ongoing problem that  
40 left many biologists really frustrated and left me kind of,  
41 oh, well, Cynthia, why can't you get us some good data from  
42 the North Slope that we can really use. Then in November  
43 of '04 Taqulik took ADF&G's Ron Stanek and me out to  
44 breakfast and Robert Sudan was there with her and she said,  
45 you know, Cynthia, the North Slope Borough is going to do  
46 this survey and we're going to do it right and, by gosh,  
47 she did.

48  
49 She not only did it right, but she got  
50 probably better information than I've seen on many surveys.

1 She got the information by species that we've been wanting  
2 for so many years and she also got a 92 percent overall  
3 village household response rate, which is the best response  
4 rate that has ever been documented anywhere in Alaska  
5 except for the Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge and  
6 the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge that's done by our  
7 Native employees. Taqulik really, really did a good job on  
8 the survey.

9

10 Then the second person who has really  
11 improved the harvest survey in her region already is Molly  
12 Chythlook. She's the BBNA natural resources coordinator.  
13 Molly just went to work for BBNA about a year ago. Even  
14 though BBNA didn't do a survey in the villages in 2006,  
15 Molly just really impressed me because she immediately set  
16 about educating herself on how to do the survey in 2007.  
17 She came into my office once on a Friday afternoon and was  
18 still studying the survey manual at 4:30 when I wanted to  
19 go home. I mean she is really, really good.

20

21 When Molly went to work for BBNA, we had  
22 some problems with the survey in the Bristol Bay Region.  
23 We had some data gaps and we had some other problems with  
24 the data that we couldn't use it and Molly was really a big  
25 help in resolving these problems. She sorted through the  
26 files even though she hadn't been working there when this  
27 happened and she found all the information we needed to  
28 demonstrate survey response rates to the Federal Office of  
29 Management and Budget, which were necessary for re-approval  
30 of the survey. She's also always been a big supporter of  
31 the Service's Yup'ik employees. She right away started  
32 working with the Yup'ik employees on the Togiak Refuge and  
33 that's just really a great attitude I like to see.

34

35 I've also really loved doing the training  
36 sessions with both Taqulik and Molly. They're both very  
37 diligent. They have great attitudes and they are really an  
38 immense pleasure to work with. Also, like Austin, I love  
39 the way they stand up for their people. At the same time  
40 they're not push-overs. They challenge me on things, you  
41 know.

42

43 So I really, again, appreciate working with  
44 all these three employees. As a token of my appreciation,  
45 I got these books for Austin. Then I got these cards for  
46 Molly and Taqulik. I also used my embroidery skills here  
47 to embroider them each a goose with the Yup'ik and Inupiak  
48 names. Unfortunately, they're not framed yet. If we had  
49 one more day of meetings, they'd be framed. When they're  
50 framed, I will give them to you.

1 (Applause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you very much.  
4 And thank you, Molly, and thank you, Taqulik. Fred, you  
5 wanted to say something.

6

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: We're still under Staff  
8 reports, I hope. The final rule should be published  
9 tomorrow and we'll probably send electronic versions to all  
10 of you or the ones we can. I don't know about hard copies.  
11 But they'll be put on the website. The last thing, I think  
12 I'm glad that we can share the data with the Pacific Flyway  
13 Council. They are eagerly waiting for our data to look at  
14 and help them in making management decisions.

15

16 I appreciate Ron coming all the way up  
17 here. It's always good to see him and get their  
18 perspective on how we implement our program at this level.  
19 Also Bob Trost for weighing in and helping us out on issues  
20 up here. Thanks.

21

22 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Is that it  
23 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Staff reports?

24

25 MR. ALCORN: I'm sorry, Austin. I think  
26 Russ did want to talk a little bit about his survey work  
27 this year. It won't take but a second. Did you want to  
28 come to the microphone, Russ.

29

30 MR. OATES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you  
31 know, the group that I work with is responsible for the  
32 aerial survey program to monitor the migratory bird  
33 populations that are so important to us here in Alaska and  
34 folks down in the flyways as well. I just wanted to report  
35 that we are slated to do a full suite of surveys this year  
36 consistent with what we've done in past years to ensure  
37 that we're able to collect the data to provide support to  
38 this process here and the annual flyway regulations process  
39 for down in the flyways. I wanted to thank you folks for  
40 being very good to work with and helping us when we're out  
41 in the field to get the work done that we need to do to  
42 keep an eye on these birds.

43

44 So I'll just say thank you for that and I  
45 look forward to working with you all as spring approaches  
46 and the birds return. We'll be back out there flying  
47 around or stomping around, keeping up with the birds.  
48 Thank you very much for your help and cooperation.

49

50 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, Russ. We do

1 have a gentleman here who is going to provide some  
2 information on Ivory Gulls. Ian Newhouse, is that right?

3

4 MR. STENHOUSE: Stenhouse.

5

6 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I'm sorry. Ian  
7 Stenhouse. If you could, please introduce yourself and  
8 your affiliation and provide the information on Ivory  
9 Gulls. Thank you.

10

11 MR. STENHOUSE: Mr. Chair and Members of  
12 the Council. Thank you very much for allowing me a few  
13 minutes to talk to you today. I know that these meetings  
14 get long and tiring and the last you want to hear is  
15 something else to think about. But I really appreciate the  
16 opportunity to speak to you today.

17

18 I'm Ian Stenhouse. I'm the director of  
19 bird conservation with Audubon Alaska. I really just  
20 wanted to take a few minutes of your time really to bring  
21 your attention to one species that's on the list and that's  
22 the Ivory Gull. I quickly printed off this map before I  
23 left which just indicates the breeding, wintering and  
24 migration areas for Ivory Gull just so that you'll get a  
25 look at that. I'll just pass that around.

26

27 The Ivory Gull, as I'm sure you know,  
28 breeds in the far north and fairly limited areas and  
29 migrates around the Arctic, staying in the far north  
30 throughout the year, unlike many other species. The  
31 information I have is really from the Canadian perspective  
32 a number of years ago back around 2000. The Canadian  
33 Wildlife Service were counting out traditional ecological  
34 knowledge surveys of three communities in Nunivak and they  
35 were asking hunters questions about other species, things  
36 like Harlequin Ducks and Common Eiders. At the end of the  
37 interviews, of course, they always ask do you have any  
38 other information you'd like to tell us and several people  
39 said, oh, yeah, we don't see Ivory Gulls much anymore.

40

41 So that seemed to become a common theme.  
42 It was information that we had from a number of hunters.  
43 So it really started to ring some alarm bells with the  
44 Canadians. In 2002, we initiated some surveys of Ivory Gull  
45 breeding colonies across Canada and we've been doing that  
46 every year since. The results of those surveys show that  
47 many of the colonies have completely disappeared. The few  
48 that do still exist have many fewer birds than they used to  
49 have.

50

1                   So it seems that the breeding population in  
2 Canada has undergone a significant decline since about the  
3 1980's. At that time, the estimate for the Ivory Gulls  
4 breeding in Canada was around 2,400 birds. Not a massive  
5 population by any means. In the surveys since 2002 to  
6 2005, even looking extensively over a wider and wider area  
7 each year, we can only find a fraction of these birds  
8 somewhere in the region between 100 and 300 individuals,  
9 which represents something like an 80 percent decline in  
10 Ivory Gulls breeding in Canada.

11  
12                   Some other information that we have back in  
13 the '80s, there were so many Ivory Gulls at these  
14 communities in Nunivak in the winter that you could  
15 actually catch them and band them at the refuge dumps in  
16 the communities. In the years since then, 25 of those  
17 birds have actually been returned. We actually have  
18 information for about 25 of them. Originally there was  
19 well over 1,000 birds caught and banded and released again.  
20 Over these decades, 25 of them have shown up. A number of  
21 them have been shot mostly in Greenland as they migrate  
22 through that area.

23  
24                   I'm not suggesting that that's been an  
25 influence in the decline. We think there are other things  
26 going on, a couple of really big issues. Obviously climate  
27 change is probably affecting this bird quite a bit. We  
28 know that contaminants is an issue for this species.  
29 Potentially even disturbance at some colonies. These birds  
30 appear to be easily disturbed, even a colony they use  
31 regularly.

32  
33                   Given this information, the Canadian  
34 government has actually now listed the Ivory Gull as  
35 endangered in Canada and a few other countries that have  
36 Ivory Gulls have started to look at their populations.  
37 Greenland have started some surveys. The Russians are also  
38 starting to look for their colonies, where really the bulk  
39 of the population lives. Both of these nations have  
40 suggested there are probably declines in their colonies,  
41 too, although it's been difficult to figure out just how  
42 much the birds have declined in these places.

43  
44                   Again, this does not appear to be as a  
45 result of harvest or of hunting. I think few Ivory Gulls  
46 are taken around the Arctic every year, not many. What I'd  
47 like to suggest to you since we know this population is  
48 under a lot of pressure and has declined a lot, probably  
49 due to things we don't have much control over, we may be  
50 able to try and lessen any pressure that harvesting would



1 additionally add to this population.

2

3                   You may hear more and more about the Ivory  
4 Gull over the next few years. I think it might well become  
5 a symbol for climate change in the way the polar bear has  
6 already. I don't really expect the council to be able to  
7 take any action at this point. I'm really just providing  
8 you with this as a heads-up of information. This is a  
9 species you will hear more about. And, if possible, even  
10 to encourage hunters to report sightings of Ivory Gulls,  
11 which would be useful information that we could use and  
12 just recognize that the species is under pressure and to  
13 avoid taking the species if possible. Any information  
14 would be extremely valuable.

15

16                   I'll leave it at that. Thank you very much  
17 for your time.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Any  
20 questions. Fred.

21

22                   MR. ARMSTRONG: I wanted to thank Ian for  
23 coming here on such short notice. I know he had made a  
24 request to my office to see about being on the council  
25 agenda and just having met with the executive committee  
26 yesterday, I wasn't able to get back with him. There is a  
27 proposal process and it opens November 1st to December 15.  
28 I do know there's some Ivory Gulls up on the North Slope.  
29 So maybe you could submit a proposal during that time  
30 frame. Thanks.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Russ.

33

34                   MR. OATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Russ  
35 Oates, Fish and Wildlife Service. I just had a couple  
36 quick questions for Ian here. First of all, are there any  
37 documented instances of nesting of this species in Alaska  
38 and, second of all, would you please repeat or review what  
39 times of year and locations people in the field might  
40 likely encounter the species?

41

42                   MR. STENHOUSE: Yes, of course. These are  
43 great questions. I probably should have started out  
44 providing you with a bit more information, but I didn't  
45 want to take up too much of your time. The Ivory Gull does  
46 not breed in Alaska that we know of. The nearest breeding  
47 areas are in the Canadian arctic and the Russian arctic,  
48 but they do work their way down into the Bering Sea in the  
49 winter. So the areas that are most likely to encounter  
50 Ivory Gulls are probably in North Slope, potentially birds

1 coming from either side, from Canada or Russia, birds  
2 moving across and then down into the Bering Sea. And  
3 certainly down around St. Lawrence Island, birds do winter  
4 down there. They'll build up on whale carcasses. These  
5 birds are scavengers when there are things around to  
6 scavenge. So these are the places that you would probably  
7 run into Ivory Gulls and these would be the regions most  
8 likely affected by any action.

9  
10

11 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Taqulik.

12

13 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Chair. You are  
14 correct that we do see them along the coast of the North  
15 Slope. Not in large numbers, but they are known to come  
16 annually and people take note to mention that they have  
17 seen one around out on the ice.

18

19 MR. STENHOUSE: It would be really  
20 interesting to know just where those birds come from. The  
21 nearest breeding colonies are a long way on either side of  
22 the North Slope, so we really don't know exactly where  
23 those birds come from. That would be a fascinating thing  
24 to explore. I know none of us can answer that at this  
25 point.

26

27 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. I encourage  
28 you to provide us with any information you might have in  
29 written form. Fred's office can handle that. Thank you.

30

31 MR. STENHOUSE: Thank you. I will follow  
32 through in the process and I appreciate your time today  
33 again. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We are pretty  
36 close now. The next thing would be committee membership  
37 and we need to step down for caucus to determine those  
38 things and Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G, if you have  
39 new names or changes to the committee, let us know. We  
40 will probably need 10 minutes or so. So we'll step down  
41 off the record for about 10 minutes.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. We'll come back  
48 from our brief little at ease session. The Regional  
49 Council reps, Native reps, have some committee  
50 appointments. I'll go through them now. We have no

1 changes to the Technical Committee, Harvest Survey  
2 Committee, Standard Operating Procedures Committee.

3  
4 In our Long Term Goals and Objectives, we'd  
5 like to replace Gordon with Matt Kookesh.

6  
7 Under Flyway Council/Service Regs  
8 Committee, we'd like to strike Mike Smith and just put a  
9 place-holder for TCC representative and add Herman  
10 Squartsoff so that there be four Flyway Council/SRC reps.

11  
12 Under Emperor Goose Management Plan  
13 Committee, no changes.

14  
15 Exclusion Committee, replace Mike Smith  
16 with TCC person.

17  
18 Harvest Limitations, no changes.

19  
20 Invitation Committee, same thing with Mike  
21 Smith, add Frank Woods of BBNA, add Peter Devine, add  
22 Herman Squartsoff.

23  
24 Under the Outreach Committee, replace Patty  
25 Brown-Schwalenberg with Molly Chythlook.

26  
27 Under Law Enforcement Committee, add Herman  
28 Squartsoff.

29  
30 Under Budget Ad Hoc Committee, strike Mike  
31 Smith and add a place-holder for TCC rep. Then the Native  
32 rep is still myself, with Herman Squartsoff alternate.  
33 That's all.

34  
35 Fish and Wildlife Service.

36  
37 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We  
38 would offer this, that Item F, the Emperor Goose Management  
39 Plan Committee, and G, the Exclusion Committee, those were  
40 committees that I believe were set up to address specific  
41 issues. In essence, they became ad hoc committees. I'm  
42 not sure they were standing committees. I was on the  
43 Exclusion Committee and I understand we did give our report  
44 I believe a year ago. That report was adopted. There is a  
45 process that's been approved by the Council. So I'm not  
46 sure that committee needs to be retained. I'm not quite  
47 sure about the Emperor Goose Management Plan Committee, but  
48 I think they also made a report and I don't know that there  
49 is any need for activity in that particular committee. So  
50 I would recommend that we at least talk about doing away

1 with those committees if they're no longer needed.

2

3                   Going down the second page, I would like to  
4 replace on the Invitation Committee Meg Laws with Bill  
5 Ostrand. That's the only name substitute I'd like to  
6 offer.

7

8                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. State of Alaska.

9

10                   MR. ROBUS: Thanks, Mr. Chair. We have one  
11 person -- well, Ron Stanek has announced his retirement  
12 apparently, so he'll be leaving at the end of this month if  
13 all goes as planned and he's on several committees. He is  
14 on the Technical Committee, the Harvest Survey Committee,  
15 the Invitation Committee and that's, I believe, all the  
16 places where he's listed. I don't know right now what's  
17 going to happen in terms of recruiting for his position and  
18 what the assignments within Subsistence Division will be.  
19 So I guess I propose maybe just like we did before, the  
20 places where Mike Smith was listed we put an ADF&G  
21 subsistence place-holder and then we'll have to deal with  
22 that before the next meeting.

23

24                   Additionally, Jim Simon is on a couple  
25 committees and he needs to be replaced at least  
26 provisionally with Mike Koskey and that would be in the  
27 Exclusion Committee and also the Invitation Committee. We  
28 will confirm that prior to the next meeting.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you. Doug, you  
31 had mentioned a discussion on maintaining the ad hoc status  
32 of Emperor Goose and Exclusion. I'll turn the discussion  
33 to you, I guess.

34

35                   MR. ALCORN: I'll speak to Item G, the  
36 Exclusion Committee. I do know that we were charged with a  
37 specific purpose, which was to recommend a process for  
38 exclusion and we did that. I believe it was a year ago  
39 that our recommendation was approved. I don't see a need  
40 for that committee to continue its standing. I would  
41 submit that if the issue comes back up, we could appoint  
42 new members when the issue does arise.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: May we, just for  
45 simplicity, maintain its ad hoc status for another year and  
46 then revisit? Is that fine? Then perhaps disperse that  
47 committee if it's necessary. Okay. Myron.

48

49                   MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
50 believe that the Emperor Goose Committee should still be a

1 standing committee working on that issue because we're  
2 still trying to deal with the population decreases and  
3 there's a lot of information that is still missing and some  
4 that has been reported. Annually we're getting updates to  
5 the Waterfowl Conservation Committee as to why the  
6 population has not increased. So I'd request that even at  
7 AMBCC level that the committee remain a standing committee.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Let's see here. I'm  
10 going to deem that as a motion, even if it already is, just  
11 to reaffirm the standing status of the Emperor Goose  
12 Committee. Motion by Myron.

13  
14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Second by Herman. Any  
17 discussion.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. All those in  
22 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

23  
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed same sign,  
27 abstentions.

28  
29 (No opposing/abstaining votes)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. Thank  
32 you. That's it for committee membership. Now we are at  
33 Council comments. We will start over there with Patty and  
34 work our way south.

35  
36 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I only had one  
37 comment. By the next meeting we will have replaced Gary  
38 Kompkoff. I forgot to mention that earlier this morning.  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I was hired exactly one  
42 year yesterday and as soon as I was hired I was on the  
43 plane the same day to this meeting here and I was really  
44 impressed with the job that this Committee has been doing.  
45 Since then BBNA has hired a new subsistence coordinator,  
46 Frank Woods, and I opted to bring him in so he could see  
47 the formation and get the faces of people that he'll be  
48 working with. It's been wonderful. I enjoy working with  
49 all of you. Thank you.

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Again, I  
2 appreciate being up here and working with all of you, like  
3 Molly says. I think in the last two days we've made some  
4 good headway. Things went pretty smoothly. I think it was  
5 just great, especially the last proposal we had. We were  
6 able to work it out with no problem and with no big hassles  
7 or anything. I think that shows our co-management as a  
8 team we're working together, so I think that was great, and  
9 looking forward to the next meeting. Thank you.

10

11 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
12 couldn't echo or say it any more eloquently than what  
13 Herman said, so I'll pass.

14

15 MR. ROBUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can  
16 represent the State position on this item and that is we  
17 really appreciate the partnership and the work towards  
18 refining these regulations that the Council is involved  
19 with. I'd like to complement all the members of the  
20 Council for working harmoniously and getting through the  
21 agenda. It wasn't so long ago that an agenda a page and a  
22 half long would take us three days to struggle through  
23 without it being peaceful the whole way through. So I kind  
24 of get the sense that we're starting to get the Council up  
25 on step. We've gotten through the forming and storming  
26 stages and it's a pleasure to come to a meeting and get  
27 something done and feel like it was constructive. Thank  
28 you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: I'll just say thank you  
31 and wish everybody luck.

32

33 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've  
34 got a few things that I'd like to bring up, but first of  
35 all I'd like to thank the Co-management Council, the State  
36 and Federal reps, as well as the presence of our bird  
37 biologist who came from some place down south and is  
38 learning a lot of the process that we're working with.

39

40 I have some issues that I think the Co-  
41 management Council should consider for future meetings.  
42 One, biological studies that are being proposed out there  
43 in the regions and many parts of the state. Not only the  
44 Y-K Delta, but also in other parts of the state. It became  
45 obvious in the last proposal that was discussed there's  
46 some concern with lack of information of the Black Brant  
47 species that nest up there that something needs to be done  
48 up there.

49

50 But in terms of working with the projects

1 in the regions, I believe there is a need to advertise with  
2 many of our students in our villages so that these students  
3 can get college credits by their participation in working  
4 with a biologist in the field. It's not just the money  
5 they can get, but also the ability to get some college  
6 credits if they're in high school. Many of the studies  
7 that they're currently doing involve ducks, goose studies,  
8 habitat, and I think habitat impacts is one of the things  
9 that has really become obvious the last few years.

10

11 And the climate change. Water rising at  
12 the flood level out in the Y-K Delta has been a lot higher  
13 than it has been before, for the last two years. We  
14 probably had floods that are like up to about 10 feet  
15 higher than normal, of what they considered the 100-year  
16 flood potentials.

17

18 One of the other things I'd like to see is  
19 a report from law enforcement from both the State and the  
20 Feds of what activities they've had through the year or  
21 during the summer and reported that to the group and what  
22 law enforcement activities that are planned to do during  
23 the summertime so that our groups will know what is being  
24 planned by the law enforcement during spring, summer and  
25 even the fall hunt.

26

27 I appreciate the harvest survey reports  
28 that were provided, but there are other issues that are  
29 going to be coming before the Council. Right now the  
30 Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendment only addresses the  
31 recognition of spring and summer subsistence hunt. The  
32 fall season was taken for granted that it was also a  
33 subsistence hunt for many of our people in the villages.  
34 If we end up being called sport hunters during the fall  
35 time, many of our people in the villages are not going to  
36 be sport hunters overnight because they harvest in the Y-K  
37 Delta during the fall time over 25,000 birds for the  
38 winter. That's all the villages combined. The fall season  
39 is important to provide for winter food supply. It's still  
40 a customary and traditional hunt. Nothing has changed.

41

42 One of the other updates that we'd like to  
43 see is Teshekpuk Lake development and the status of that  
44 because it impacts the Black Brant that we just had some  
45 discussions on. We would like to find out from BLM or  
46 other people that are working up there to provide an update  
47 on that because it affects all of us.

48

49 One of the other concerns that I have  
50 during the Migratory Bird Treaty negotiations that the Fish

1 and Wildlife Service and other people had a focus that  
2 three percent harvest of all hunts which is related to  
3 subsistence, three percent total of hunting of migratory  
4 birds is done by subsistence hunters, and with the  
5 definition of indigenous inhabitants. That is going to  
6 increase the number substantially and it's going to impact  
7 traditional subsistence users in many of our villages.  
8 Like for the village of Hooper Bay when I first left there  
9 back in 1960s or late '60s, the population was over 600  
10 people. Today it's over 1,200 people. So just giving that  
11 example, they increased the population of our people in the  
12 villages.

13

14 I do believe we need to take a look at the  
15 re-definition of indigenous inhabitants because that was  
16 never discussed during the negotiations with the other  
17 countries. We need to see what we can do to re-define that  
18 back to the original intent.

19

20 The last and final thing, I'm glad that  
21 Fish and Wildlife Service is now taking the stance that  
22 global warming is impacting the coastal habitat and where  
23 our birds nest and we really need to be concerned about it.

24

25 Last, but not least, under the Goose  
26 Management Plan, that we've been working on, I'd like to  
27 thank the states of Washington, Oregon and California for  
28 working with us as a partnership in many of the  
29 conservation issues and concerns that we've worked on in  
30 the Y-K Delta. Thank you.

31

32 MS. HEPA: I just wanted to thank Myron and  
33 others who have been involved with the process for a long  
34 time for sharing the history of the Migratory Bird Co-  
35 management Council and how we got here today and I  
36 encourage you to continue to share that for the newer  
37 people around the table. It's important to know the  
38 process and the history as I stated.

39

40 Then I wanted to also mention that with the  
41 harvest surveys that this is no easy task and if this is  
42 going to be Cynthia's last meeting with us here today, I  
43 just wanted to thank her for taking on this huge task of  
44 trying to conduct a statewide survey. I know doing it on  
45 the North Slope with our community is a big task as well.  
46 So I couldn't imagine all that's involved with her  
47 responsibilities, so I'd like to thank her from the North  
48 Slope people.

49

50 And also just in regards to the group that



1 I represent, the North Slope Borough Fish and Game  
2 Management Committee, that over the years through this  
3 process that they're aware through outreach and dealing  
4 with the regulations that over the last couple meetings  
5 they've been very engaged and our discussions have been  
6 very focused around migratory issues and I feel like we're  
7 making progress understanding how this Co-management  
8 Council works. I thought that was important to recognize  
9 that up on the North Slope that our people are finally  
10 getting it.

11  
12 Just to acknowledge I brought a couple new  
13 staff with us today, Michael Peterson, who is our  
14 subsistence research coordinator as well as Josh Bacon, who  
15 is a biologist, and I would like them to become more  
16 involved with migratory bird issues. I'm glad to have them  
17 here today. Thank you.

18  
19 MR. DEVINE: I would just like to say thank  
20 you and I have no additional comments. I'll leave it up to  
21 Matt to finish it up.

22  
23 MR. KOOKESH: Thank you all for a wonderful  
24 meeting, good meeting. Austin, you run a very good meeting  
25 and I commend you for that. I want to thank the Staff and  
26 everybody that provided the drinks back there, I appreciate  
27 that. I like the way it's organized with the booklets.  
28 It's very helpful.

29  
30 I have one more other issue that I want to  
31 bring up. It doesn't need to be discussed at this meeting.  
32 I have a letter addressed to Fred. Basically this is an  
33 issue that probably a lot of you do have in your region.  
34 It's the National Park Service. We have Glacier Bay  
35 National Park in Southeast. The community of Hoonah has  
36 been trying very hard to gather eggs there and it's not an  
37 easy task dealing with the Park Service. I have a bunch of  
38 -- Fred, I'll let you deal with it, but I've got copies of  
39 a letter from Wanda Culp who heads the traditional council  
40 down there. So if you can just get this out to the Council  
41 or to the members in your time, whenever you think you can  
42 review it. Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Thank you, everybody.  
45 Next item. Date and place of next meeting. Certainly the  
46 one suggestion I heard there was Fairbanks. That's  
47 probably a good idea. Then in terms of date, I'll have to  
48 refer to someone else who is more familiar with the  
49 schedule than I. How about shooting for somewhere in that  
50 last week, September 24th, 2007.

1                   One thing we discussed during our little  
2 caucus session was that the Native regional reps would like  
3 a half a day kind of in time with our work session to have  
4 a similar work session event there for us, so keep that in  
5 mind. So 25th, 26th or so. That might work, 25 to 27.  
6

7                   MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chair. Could I also add,  
8 Fairbanks, let's not talk about it anymore, let's just go  
9 up there and do it because we've mentioned this a couple  
10 times before to try for Mike's region up there and get the  
11 people in that area involved. Let's not talk about it  
12 anymore. Let's do it, Doug.  
13

14                  MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair.  
15

16                  CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Doug.  
17

18                  MR. ALCORN: I guess I have to talk about  
19 it because any time we meet outside of Anchorage it adds  
20 substantially to the cost. It about doubles the cost of  
21 the meeting to bring people in and then get them to another  
22 place. Just for your information I had to take money from  
23 other program budgets to put into Fred's budget just to pay  
24 uncontrollable cost increases this year in order to keep  
25 your regional budgets flat without showing declines because  
26 we are suffering under the continuing resolution  
27 legislation and now a budget, but that budget is not  
28 covering our uncontrollable cost increases. So if we do  
29 elect to go out, it's going to come at a cost and the only  
30 place that we have any fat, so to speak, and you all know  
31 better than I there's no fat, but it's in the cooperative  
32 agreement portion of Fred's budget. I had to add \$15,000  
33 just as an infusion to keep him from going into the red  
34 this year. So if we go to Fairbanks, it's going to come  
35 directly out of our hide.  
36

37                  MR. KOOKESH: Mr. Chair. Doug, could you  
38 kind of maybe get us a figure or something of how much that  
39 extra would be or somebody get us a figure.  
40

41                  MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. I think Fred could  
42 make an estimate of that.  
43

44                  CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Okay. So we'll look for  
45 that estimate and I guess just juggle with numbers. So  
46 that takes care of date and place of next meeting. Did you  
47 have something, Fred? So the 25th through 27th sounds  
48 pretty solid and I'll just say at this point Fairbanks  
49 seems pretty solid.  
50

1 Adjournment.  
2  
3 MR. DEVINE: So moved.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Moved by Peter to  
6 adjourn.  
7  
8 MR. PUNGOWIYI: Second.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Second by Caleb. Any  
11 discussion.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: All those in favor of  
16 adjournment signify by saying aye.  
17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Opposed same sign,  
21 abstentions.  
22  
23 (No opposing/abstaining votes)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN AHMASUK: Motion carries. We're  
26 adjourned at 3:42. Thank you everybody.  
27  
28 (Off record)  
29  
30 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 91 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 4th day of April 2007, at the Barrett Inn in Anchorage, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 17th day of April 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08