

VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

APRIL 6, 2017

Members Present:

Bruce Dale, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Pete Probasco, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
Mike Pederson, North Slope Region, Barrow
Gloria Stickwan, Copper River Native Association
Melissa Berns, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Roland White, Association of Village Presidents
Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior
Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilofs

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

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

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(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/6/2017)

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(On record)

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CHAIRMAN DALE: Good morning,
8 everybody. Welcome back. I look forward to a
9 productive day here. It's not as gray out there as
10 it's been the last couple of days. Maybe that's a good
11 sign. First we have an introduction that we're going
12 to start off. Karen, would you please use the table
13 there.

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MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thanks so much. Good
morning, Mr. Chair. Council. Thank you so much for
giving me and Melinda this opportunity. I'm Karen
Pletnikoff with the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands
Association. We have support for Peter Devine, our
regional rep, with AMBCC work. I wanted to make you
aware of the new position that Alaska has with the BIA
tribal climate science liaison and we've hired on
Melinda Chase. She's based out of Fairbanks.

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The goal of the climate science liaison
will be to try to bridge some of the interesting
science that's going on with climate adaptation
planning and other resilience activities for Alaska's
229 tribes. Of course in the Lower 48 they only have
like six or 20 tribes and that's quite easy to do. So
it's going to be a little bit different for us.

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Having Melinda understand the wide
breadth of the different councils and how tribes
interact at all these different levels throughout
Alaska is something that we want to make sure we're on
top of. So I just wanted to give you guys a chance to
know about this position and say hi to Melinda.

40

41

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43

44

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you very much,

Karen.

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Hi, Melinda.

MS. CHASE: Good morning. Thank you.
I'm headed into my fourth week, so just a little bit
about myself. My family is from Anvik. I maintain

1 close ties there, but I've been in Fairbanks primarily
2 working in the region there for the last 28 years, but
3 I travel quite a bit and spend a lot of time in
4 Anchorage. It's sort of the hub community for my home
5 village in Anvik area.
6

7 I'm real excited to be on. I primarily
8 worked in community planning as well as Native
9 education. The last several years I've had community
10 climate education project that I've been on and sort of
11 dove-tailed into this, working in that real space of a
12 liaison trying to work between the Native community and
13 climate scientist.
14

15 So I look forward to coming on board
16 and learning more about the different structures,
17 particularly this one. So just know that I'm around
18 and will be open to conversation and getting to know
19 the work that you're all doing.
20

21 Thank you.
22

23 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you very much.
24 We're very pleased to have you on board. Climate
25 change issues are so hard for us to deal with. We deal
26 with day-to-day problems, but it is the biggest
27 challenge and it's going to be the biggest challenge
28 for the next generation and the generation after that.
29 We can't lose focus and we can't just stop and focus on
30 day-to-day issues.
31

32 We have to address it.
33

34 So I very much appreciate this position
35 and I'm glad that you're in it and welcome.
36

37 MS. CHASE: Thank you.
38

39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Did you have something,
40 Patty.
41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Karen, maybe you
43 could share Melinda's contact information with me and
44 then we can share it with the rest of the Council,
45 email that out.
46

47 MS. PLETNIKOFF: That's great. I will
48 do that.
49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. Is there
4 any other important information we have? I have one
5 little announcement. A reminder just to make sure you
6 hit the coffee and snack jar back there. Don't take
7 anything out. Put something in would be better.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN DALE: We really appreciate
12 that. It kind of kept us going yesterday and I'm sure
13 it will do the same today, so thank you for that. With
14 that we'll move on to Julian.

15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No, I think we have
17 Handicrafts. Sorry.

18

19 CHAIRMAN DALE: Oh, I'm sorry. Todd.
20 We'll move on to Todd.

21

22 MR. PROBASCO: Wait a second. We
23 always start the meeting with an opportunity for public
24 comments.

25

26 CHAIRMAN DALE: I just had a great
27 idea.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN DALE: Let's start off -- is
32 there any public comments today that people would like
33 to share.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Well, I guess it wasn't
38 that great of an idea at all. It was Pete's then.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Guilty.

43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. So now where are
45 we. Before I announce anything I'm going to check with
46 Patty.

47

48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Handicrafts
49 Committee is next.

50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Right. We got done
2 with Liliana and Tamara, so now we're at Todd and the
3 Handicrafts Committee.
4

5 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope
6 Borough. I think Donna will be helping out too. So
7 this should go pretty quickly. About a year, year and a
8 half ago we had our final draft of the proposed
9 regulation change for handicraft and then it was sent
10 outside of AMBCC, Fish and Wildlife Region 7 to
11 Washington to be signed and for some reason in
12 Washington it seems like it got stuck or something like
13 that.
14

15 So I've made lots of calls and no one
16 really has responded that well in telling us where it
17 is. Pete has called and Donna has called me to keep us
18 up to date and I think Donna has better information now
19 where it is. So right now we're waiting.
20

21 MS. DEWHURST: I'm Donna Dewhurst. So
22 the final rule went to the Federal Register the first
23 week of January. We were all excited to try to get it
24 published before the administration change.
25 Unfortunately, over 1,000 documents went to the Federal
26 Register at the same time all trying to beat that
27 deadline and we got mired there.
28

29 We didn't make the deadline when the
30 national administration changed. The rule was
31 everything sitting at the Register got thrown out and
32 that was both the handicraft rule and the spring/summer
33 season. Both were in that pile that got tossed out.
34 Basically tossed out means you have to start all over.
35

36 You're probably wondering how did we
37 get the spring season first how did we pull that one
38 off. The national sport hunt had got thrown out with
39 everything else and that had people concerned, so we
40 pulled a fast one and put our Alaska subsistence hunt
41 as a rider on the national sport hunt and that squeaked
42 it through and that's how we got it done in time.
43

44 Now handicraft, because handicraft
45 didn't have any deadline so to speak, it wasn't date
46 sensitive, it's lost in the quagmire. The good news we
47 got late last week the current administration put out a
48 request of those regulations that got tossed out in
49 January. They wanted to know if any of those rules
50

1 were deregulatory. I quickly jumped up and said wait a
2 minute. Handicraft is deregulatory. It's getting rid
3 of regulations. It's opening up a new set of commerce.
4 So I quickly put that on that list.
5

6 So we're hoping now that handicraft is
7 back, at least people are looking at it, that it will
8 move forward again. Prior to that it just sounded like
9 it was lost in limbo-land. I haven't heard anything
10 new, but I did manage to get it on that national list
11 of deregulatory regulations. I don't know what they
12 call it. So we'll see where it goes from there. But
13 at least that was good news because prior to that all
14 my inquiries were it's dead, it's dead in the water.
15 At least I think we put some life back into it and it
16 should be moving again sometime this year.
17

18 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.
19

20 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 I do have a question. What was the delay for it
22 getting to the Federal Register?
23

24 MS. DEWHURST: Just the usual process.
25 A normal document takes six months, four to six months
26 for us. We have to go through a lot of signatories.
27 That one particularly had a lot of -- because of the
28 public comments we received and some of them were
29 complicated and complex legally, it did have some
30 issues that were being dealt with on the legal side.
31

32 MR. PROBASCO: Yeah, Donna touched on
33 it. That rule did draw attention and because of some
34 of the comments resulted in the solicitor's in DC, not
35 our local solicitors in responding and making sure that
36 the rule was in a written format that would pass
37 scrutiny, so that's what really delayed it.
38

39 Both Donna and I were very frustrated
40 at times along with Brad Bortner. It seemed to get
41 stuck in the legal, different lawyers looking at it.
42 That's done and let's hope that the momentum that we
43 just saw last week will continue. No guarantee though.
44

45 MR. SFORMO: Is there a way of getting
46 a copy of any of the changes that have taken place with
47 the different lawyers? No way of knowing the
48 whole.....
49
50

1 MS. DEWHURST: No. We're not supposed
2 to release it until it goes to publication at this
3 point.
4

5 MR. SFORMO: Could we get it after?
6

7 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, yeah, after.
8

9 MR. SFORMO: Is there a name or two of
10 the person doing the deregulation part that you
11 can.....
12

13 MS. DEWHURST: No. Just it's in the
14 process. I mean the first step is -- well, it's just
15 the Federal Register office was asking for a list of
16 what was tossed out. Now my understanding the next
17 step is we have to start the whole signatory process
18 all over with the new administration people signing it.
19 But that should go pretty quick because like when we
20 hit the Solicitor's Office they've already scrutinized
21 it and there's no changes in the Solicitor's Office, so
22 they should just sign it. But we will have to go
23 through the process of getting all those signatures
24 again and starting all over.
25

26 CHAIRMAN DALE: Go ahead, Pete.
27

28 MR. PROBASCO: And with that the
29 Secretary's Office is all brand new. We'll have a new
30 Director and we'll have to brief them as well.
31

32 So all that means time.
33

34 CHAIRMAN DALE: During a transition we
35 continually, as the State of Alaska, get asked for our
36 priorities, so we'll also put this on the list and see
37 if that helps move things along a little bit. That
38 will undoubtedly occur when a new Director is named, so
39 that will be a good one.
40

41 Gayla.
42

43 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 So it would be the same what we passed here at AMBCC
45 for handicrafts? Would there be any changes to
46 the.....
47

48 MS. DEWHURST: No, there were no
49 changes made in the regulations. All the debate with
50

1 the solicitors were dealing with the public comment we
2 received and writing responses to the public comment,
3 addressing it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: I think we just send
8 Todd down there and he can go from office to office.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you both. It was
13 a good report. Now we're going to go to the Emperor
14 Goose Technical Subcommittee with Jason Schamber.

15

16 MR. SCHAMBER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Good morning. My name is Jason Schamber. I'm with the
18 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This is a report
19 of the Emperor Goose Subcommittee that convened this
20 last Tuesday, April 4th.

21

22 The general purpose of the meeting was
23 primarily to discuss and review the current management
24 strategy and harvest regulations that were developed
25 and approved this last year. So the subcommittee began
26 by reviewing the content of the two Emperor Goose
27 Management Plans that were developed and adopted by
28 their respective Councils this last September.

29

30 The two plans are the Pacific Flyway
31 Management Plan, which specifies regulations for the
32 fall/winter hunt and the first ever AMBCC management
33 Plan for the Emperor Goose that specifies a harvest
34 strategy for the spring and summer subsistence season.

35

36 The content review included an overview
37 of the goals and objectives of both plans. The
38 population objective and population assessment methods
39 that are common to both plans. And then the harvest
40 strategies that were developed for both of those plans.
41 So this was a good opportunity to refresh the
42 collective memory of the subcommittee on the current
43 management strategy for Emperor Geese.

44

45 The next item on the agenda was a
46 review and discussion of the spring/summer and
47 fall/winter hunt structure and requirements that were
48 approved by the Federal and State regulatory
49 authorities. Rather than go into too much detail on

50

1 that here I'll mention that Julian Fischer and myself
2 will be presenting that information in the next
3 presentation on migratory bird status and trends.
4

5 Then the last item on the agenda was a
6 discussion of the widespread interest in establishing a
7 proxy hunt for Emperor Geese. So the Native Caucus
8 plans to submit a proposal to the Board of Game before
9 the May 1 deadline to seek a change in this regulation
10 at the statewide Board of Game meeting this November.
11

12 Finally, the subcommittee plans to
13 reconvene if needed this summer following an update
14 from the Y-K Delta coastal zone survey on population
15 status, which this survey is the current population
16 assessment method for Emperor Geese. The survey is
17 scheduled to be flown in early June and the data
18 released by July 15th.
19

20 So if population status has changed
21 relative to the harvest thresholds that were
22 established in the harvest strategies of both of those
23 management plans, the subcommittee will meet and
24 consider whether action needs to be taken. Otherwise
25 if population status is above those thresholds that
26 allow an open season, the subcommittee will plan to
27 meet at the next AMBCC meeting this fall.
28

29 So, with that, that concludes the
30 report on the Emperor Goose Subcommittee meeting.
31

32 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you. Jason, on
33 the proxy hunt, when would the Board take that up?
34 Would it be this coming winter cycle and then be in
35 place for the 2018 season?
36

37 MR. SCHAMBER: The Statewide meeting is
38 scheduled for November, I believe, and that would be
39 for the 2018 season, yes.
40

41 CHAIRMAN DALE: Just a note on the
42 proxy. It's not like the Federal designated hunter
43 rule. You can only carry one other permit with you
44 besides your own at a time. So Melinda couldn't carry
45 four tags and shoot five geese. She could shoot her
46 own, shoot one for somebody else, but then they would
47 have to go back and get a new proxy form.
48

49 And that's in statute, so that requires
50

1 statutory change to change that for game birds. To
2 change that someone would have to go to the legislature
3 and find a legislator that was interested.

4

5 Brandon.

6

7 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Brandon Ahmasuk. Is that just for the fall/winter? So
9 that excludes the spring/summer.

10

11 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, absolutely,
12 because there's no bag limit for the spring and summer,
13 s you can share as you see fit.

14

15 Any other questions for Jason and the
16 Emperor Goose Subcommittee.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN DALE: On behalf of all of us
21 we appreciate the work of that Subcommittee over the
22 past few years. Whenever I report to our successes,
23 the State of Alaska, to the legislator and the Board of
24 Game, the resumption of hunting of Emperor Geese is
25 really a landmark achievement.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 Okay. Now we're moving on to Julian
30 and the Migratory Bird Population Status and Trends.

31

32 Jason says now is your chance to go get
33 a cup of coffee and donate to the fund there because
34 it's going to take him a second to get set up.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN DALE: Are you ready, Julian?

39

40 MR. FISCHER: Yes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN DALE: Let's roll.

43

44 MR. FISCHER: Good morning. My name is
45 Julian Fischer. I'm with Fish and Wildlife Migratory
46 Bird Program. This presentation deals with population
47 abundance and trends of migratory birds. Some of them
48 more commonly harvested species for subsistence in
49 Alaska.

50

1 I'm going to be tag-teaming a little
2 bit with Jason here. This is a presentation that
3 covers a lot of material and in the interest of time
4 I'm going to cut it down substantially. This could
5 easily take an hour and a half or more probably even
6 without questions. So talking with the Chair at the
7 break just now I'm going to try to get this done in
8 about 30 minutes.

9
10 So you will all have lots of questions
11 about the information here and if there's anything you
12 need to know, please stop me and we can discuss it as a
13 group or if it can wait until a break, I'd be happy to
14 spend whatever amount of time necessary to explain any
15 of this.

16
17 So, with that I will attempt to get the
18 clicker to work and I will struggle. Was this working
19 for you yesterday? I think what I'm going to do is I'm
20 going to slide this table forward and just work the
21 computer directly.

22
23 Okay. Briefly an outline of what we're
24 going to talk about. I'm not going to go into much
25 detail on the survey program, but I'll mention what
26 we're about. I'm going to be touching on the Hooper
27 Bay agreement and the Yukon Delta Goose Management Plan
28 kind of throughout. I'm not going to talk about the
29 history of the plan although it was really monumental
30 in co-management, but I will be referring to it. I
31 will talk about the trend updates for some of the most
32 commonly harvested species.

33
34 Jason is going to help me describe the
35 management of the 2017 hunting season both in the
36 spring/summer and the fall/winter harvest.

37
38 Avian Mortality Response Plan is
39 actually an agenda item for later in the day, but I
40 could potentially tick it off in this presentation near
41 the end. Then I'll just describe some opportunities
42 for students if you have some in your regions that are
43 interested in getting more involved with biological
44 studies.

45
46 Okay. Just a brief background on me.
47 I'm from the remote village of Brooklyn, New York.
48 That's where I was raised.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 My parents were not from there. They
4 were from rural areas, so they made it their priority
5 to get my sister and I out to the country as much as
6 they possibly could. I realized soon in my life by
7 high school that I was not a city kid and I came to
8 Alaska in 1990 for the first time, first working in --
9 Mike, in your area up on the Arctic Refuge and then,
10 Cyrus, I was working in the Northwest Arctic for a year
11 and then spent about eight years out in the Aleutian
12 Islands where I met my wife and then we moved to
13 Anchorage in 1998 and I've been raising a family of two
14 young boys, no longer so young, but we prioritize our
15 time being outdoors and that's pretty much where we are
16 whenever we're not in school or at work.

17
18 Part of my extended family, since much
19 of my blood extended family is out of state, is the
20 folks I work with in Migratory Birds. In the Waterfowl
21 Program and in the Quantitative Ecology section of our
22 agency. These folks have specialties in flying
23 aircraft, counting birds, designing surveys, analyzing
24 data, presenting information in the form of maps and
25 reports and publications.

26
27 Our program is driven by many different
28 priorities of many different types. We have management
29 plans that guide the work that we do both from the
30 AMBCC and the flyways. We have endangered species
31 requirements that drive the work that we do as well as
32 many other influencing forces, but I must say that the
33 AMBCC and the flyway, particularly the Pacific Flyway,
34 have a huge impact on the surveys that we do every
35 year.

36
37 Our work is primarily from aircraft.
38 We're an aerial survey program. There's three aircraft
39 that are assigned to our program. They're all Cessna
40 206 aircraft on amphibious floats and we use those to
41 conduct low level aerial surveys throughout the state.

42
43 There's three surveys that we do during
44 the breeding season each year, primarily in May and
45 June, that will be coming up in the data that I show.
46 One is on the coastal zone of the Yukon Delta, one is
47 on the Arctic Coastal Plain and the other is a survey
48 that's conducted actually throughout all of North
49 America and we're responsible for the Alaska portion
50

1 and that one we're sampling the major waterfowl
2 production areas throughout the state.
3

4 Okay. The Yukon Delta, I'm going to
5 just mention it briefly here because it has a lot of
6 relevance for what we do today and it's an example of
7 our successes in co-management. The Yukon Delta, as
8 many of you know, is one of the largest wetlands -- the
9 largest wetland in North America. It attracts huge
10 densities of birds, particularly waterfowl. It's known
11 the world over. In addition to lots of birds, there's
12 lots of people. There's about 25,000 residents of the
13 Yukon Delta and most of those are Alaska Natives and
14 most of those live traditional subsistence lifestyles
15 and rely heavily on birds as well as fish, marine
16 mammals and others.
17

18 On the coast of the Yukon Delta we see
19 large proportions of the North American population of
20 these four goose species; Emperor Geese, Cackling
21 Geese, Pacific Brant and White-fronted Geese from the
22 Pacific Flyway. The vast majority of those species
23 occur right there on the coastal zone of the Yukon
24 Delta. Between the '60s and '80s there was marked
25 declines in populations of all four but particularly
26 for the Cackling Canada Geese and the Pacific Greater
27 White-fronted Geese.
28

29 I'm going to skip to the next slide
30 here. This table shows on that final column on the
31 right the amount of decline that had been observed
32 between the '60s and '80s. So, for Emperor Geese an
33 estimate of 65 percent decline, Cackling Canada Geese a
34 93 percent decline over a 20, 25 year period, a less of
35 a decline for Black Brant, but for Greater White-
36 fronted Geese it was pretty extreme, 80 percent
37 decline.
38

39 So the Alaska Native communities got
40 together with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
41 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Hooper Bay
42 and said enough is enough. We've got to do something
43 about this. The alarm bell was raised primarily by
44 subsistence hunters who had really noticed this
45 decline. It was affecting their way of life and they
46 wanted to do something about it.
47

48 So agreements were made about how this
49 should go forward. There was a closure on the
50

1 fall/winter hunt in the Lower 48 states in Oregon,
2 Washington, California as well as a voluntary closure
3 of hunting on the breeding grounds on the Yukon Delta
4 for those species.

5
6 There was agreed upon methods to
7 determine when those closures should be stopped and for
8 the Yukon Delta there was a survey established in the
9 '80s that was designed to specifically monitor those
10 populations of Cackling Canada Geese and White-fronted
11 Geese. I'm not going to go into the details of the
12 methods in the interest of time, but I'd be happy to
13 talk about that with any of you after this if we do
14 have time.

15
16 I'll just briefly say that this
17 particular survey takes about seven days to do and it
18 provides currently an index for Cackling Canada Geese,
19 White-fronts and Emperor Geese.

20
21 So I'm going to get into some results
22 here that show the long-term trends as well as kind of
23 the current estimates for some of these main species.
24 So this is a map of the distribution of all Cackling
25 and Canada Geese in North America. Cackling Canada
26 Geese breed only here on the coastal zone of the
27 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

28
29 In winter, they head down to California
30 or they formerly went down to California starting in
31 the 1990s they shifted their winter distribution up to
32 northwest Oregon, southwest Washington area and they
33 were attracted there by a change in agricultural
34 practices that really provided a lot of food for them
35 and that's the area here.

36
37 This is a figure showing the population
38 of Cackling Canada Geese through time, from the 1960s
39 through present. You can see that stark decline over
40 that 20-year period from the '60s to the '80s where
41 numbers were kind of just dropping off. The Hooper Bay
42 Agreement was signed in 1984 and this was followed by
43 an almost immediate turnaround in numbers of Cackling
44 Canada Geese.

45
46 These lines here indicate the
47 population levels that were determined to satisfy
48 hunters as well as -- well, basically the whole thing
49 is to satisfy the needs and interests of hunters so
50

1 that there would be enough birds returning to the
2 breeding grounds in perpetuity.

3
4 So a cut point of -- I think this was
5 100,000 or 110,000 would trigger a resumption of
6 hunting and it went slow at first, but the population
7 responded quickly and hunting was liberalized around
8 2000 when the population objective was reached. That
9 was followed by an observed decline in the number of
10 Cacklers. Hunting regulations were pulled back a bit
11 and the population has grown since then. Currently we
12 are well above the population objective.

13
14 So this has been pretty good news for
15 hunters and for Cacklers, of course. The population
16 objective of a quarter million birds has been
17 surpassed. We're at about 320,000. We think that the
18 population could continue to increase. So it's bad
19 news for farmers in Oregon and Washington. They've
20 been reporting crop depredation. Basically these birds
21 are coming in and reducing the crop available to them
22 for their livelihoods.

23
24 Oregon, at the most recent flyway
25 meeting did announce their interest in increasing the
26 daily bag limit within one area of Oregon from four
27 birds to six birds per day. Let me just go back to
28 that for a second. I think it's important when you
29 come up with a plan that has a population objective
30 that all parties are comfortable with, this kind of
31 points to the importance of having an agreement so that
32 when the population goes above what's necessary or
33 what's satisfactory that you can balance the needs of
34 the wide group of users.

35
36 So now that we're above the population
37 objective there might be some relief to these farmers
38 in Washington and Oregon by increasing the bag limit.
39 That will result in fewer birds potentially returning
40 to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, but by having that
41 population objective we should be able to continue to
42 adjust on an annual basis what the hunting regulations
43 are to ensure that there's sufficient birds for all.

44
45 Okay. Pacific Greater White-fronted
46 Geese. This is a map that shows the distribution
47 throughout North America. The Pacific Greater White-
48 fronted Geese are those that breed west of this white
49 line here and they migrate down the Pacific Flyway into
50

1 California each fall.

2

3 They've had a very similar story as the
4 Cacklers. From the '60s to the '80s the numbers
5 declined pretty precipitously. The Hooper Bay
6 Agreement was signed in 1984 and that was followed by a
7 pretty rapid increase in the numbers of birds. The
8 population objective was met in the mid '90s before
9 2000 and the population has continued to grow. So
10 where the population objective was 300,000 we're at
11 twice that currently. It appears that the population
12 has stabilized in the last 10 years at that level.

13

14 Emperor Geese were not part of the
15 original Hooper Bay Agreement where I think the first
16 version of the Yukon Delta Goose Management Plan, but
17 they were introduced into the plan in I think it was
18 1987, '86, '87 due to population concerns. Probably
19 everyone is familiar with where these birds are from
20 and where they go, but I'll just touch on that briefly
21 here.

22

23 Almost all of them are breeding on the
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta although we know that there are
25 some birds up on the Seward Peninsula, some out on St.
26 Lawrence breeding and there's been reports of some
27 Emperor Geese nesting along the coast of Russia, but we
28 do believe that most of them are breeding currently on
29 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

30

31 Those that fail to breed on the Yukon
32 Delta a portion of those do go up to Russia to molt
33 their feathers in June and pass by the Kawerak Region
34 and others en route and then at the end of summer all
35 the birds from the Delta and molting bird continue down
36 south to the Alaska Peninsula where they stage. By
37 October, November start heading out through the
38 Aleutians and to Kodiak Island where they winter and
39 then return in April and May the following year.

40

41 So prior to this year this population
42 was monitored using a spring staging survey along the
43 Alaska Peninsula. This has been described many years
44 here at the AMBCC. The coastal zone survey had not
45 been selected as the primary tool to monitor this
46 population because when the Emperor Geese were included
47 in the Goose Management Plan there was a historical
48 dataset dating back to the '60s and then an annual
49 survey from the '80s, from 1981 documenting their
50

1 population. So there was an interesting continuing
2 that population tool through the ages.
3

4 So the Yukon Delta Goose Management
5 Plan used the spring survey -- let me look at this
6 again. The spring survey was timed in late April to
7 the first couple days of May and covered the lower
8 Yukon Delta and the northern and southern side of the
9 Alaska Peninsula where most of the geese occurred
10 during that pre-breeding period.
11

12 This is what the population was doing
13 according to that survey. Like I mentioned there was a
14 survey done in the 1960s of that same survey area. It
15 was a very high count, around 140,000. It was not
16 repeated again until like 1981. At that time it was
17 repeated every year and there was a decline that
18 coincided with the decline of other geese on the Yukon
19 Delta.
20

21 From there we know the story. The
22 Hooper Bay Agreement was signed, the Emperor Geese were
23 not a part of that plan until '86, '87 and there was a
24 closure obviously and following the closure there was
25 an increase in the number of birds, but it kind of
26 bumped along through the '90s and early 2000s and
27 starting about 10, 15 years ago the numbers started
28 increasing according to this survey at about one or two
29 percent a year. In 2015 we surpassed the 80,000 mark
30 index that triggered the consideration of a renewed
31 harvest and here we are.
32

33 Okay. With that change in management
34 strategy there was an opportunity to improve the method
35 to monitor this population. Over the last five years
36 there have been -- 10 years I'd say, there have been a
37 lot of concerns about how well that spring survey
38 actually tracked the population. Each fall and spring
39 when the AMBCC would meet and Eric would present this
40 information or others there were a lot of concerns
41 brought to the forefront about some birds that were not
42 being counted in that survey.
43

44 So by working with the technical team
45 the Emperor Goose team we decided to move to the Yukon
46 Delta coastal zone survey as the best survey to move
47 forward with from here forward. It's been conducted
48 every year since 1985. It's a systematic transect
49 survey that covers the whole coastal zone from the
50

1 Yukon down to the Kuskokwim and it's been an index for
2 Cackling Canada Geese and Pacific Greater White-fronted
3 geese that was shown before. It's now identified in
4 both AMBCC and the Pacific Flyway Management Plans as
5 the way to go for monitoring this population.
6

7 We believe it's less biased and more
8 precise than the spring staging survey, so we're
9 hopeful that this is going to be effective in allowing
10 us to detect change if there is a change following the
11 harvest that's now open.
12

13 I'm going to show the results of that
14 survey when we get to a more in-depth discussion about
15 Emperor Goose management. The four species on the
16 Yukon Delta, Pacific Brant, are not just important to
17 subsistence hunters on the Yukon Delta but throughout
18 coastal areas of Alaska. Their breeding range extends
19 from the Lower Yukon Delta all the way up through the
20 North Slope and into the upper reaches of Canada. Also
21 over into Siberia.
22

23 In fall they stage at the Izembek
24 Refuge on the Alaska Peninsula and then move down along
25 the Pacific Coast to winter in a huge area really from
26 Baja Mexico and select areas of California, Oregon and
27 Washington, but an increasing number are overwintering
28 now at Izembek Lagoon and I'll show some of that here
29 shortly.
30

31 So this is the estimate of Pacific
32 Brant for the whole Pacific Flyway. This is based on
33 winter counts of birds throughout that whole winter
34 range from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia
35 and Mexico. So it's the sum of the survey counts from
36 all of those areas.
37

38 So we saw from the '60s through the
39 '80s a decline in the numbers counted in winter. The
40 Yukon Delta Goose Management Plan as well as Pacific
41 Flyway Management Plan identified this winter survey as
42 the appropriate tool to use to monitor the size of the
43 overall population and it established population
44 objectives and closure thresholds.
45

46 Yes.
47

48 MR. FAGERSTROM: Jack Fagerstrom from
49 Golovin, Norton Sound. You say staging areas. Can you
50

1 show some for the spring also. Another question was --
2 I was born in 1960 and we'd see thousands and thousands
3 of birds. Migration would last almost two weeks. We
4 used to go hunt on the ice with a snow machine, but due
5 to our warming, changing environment some years we have
6 to use a boat.

7
8 Growing up from the '60s to the late
9 '70s we would see flocks after flocks and flocks and
10 they would pile up in the bay and then it would be like
11 a jet taking off and they'd do this thing and they'd
12 take off to Shishmaref.

13
14 The reason behind the staging area
15 question is that we have documented increase in swans
16 and they're a bully. They're not that nice of a bird
17 to put it mildly and they're taking over a staging
18 area. Are there any studies in the habitat -- will
19 there be enough food?

20
21 MR. FISCHER: That's a great question.
22 In the next slide I've got some issues regarding brant.
23 One of those is concerns about habitat. The answer to
24 your question is no, we don't know if there's enough
25 habitat for brant and Tundra Swans to subsist together.
26 It's a great question. We know that swans are
27 increasing and I'll show some figures that our surveys
28 show numbers of swans increasing that corroborate what
29 you've been telling us and others have been telling us
30 around the state.

31
32 The primary staging areas for brant in
33 areas that we survey are the Izembek Lagoon and various
34 other locations going up to the Yukon Delta. We
35 haven't been doing staging surveys north of there.
36 Most of our surveys are now focused on breeding ground
37 surveys and wintering ground surveys.

38
39 MR. FAGERSTROM: One other follow-up
40 question. Have you guys noticed any change in
41 vegetation along the shoreline in the surveys? I know
42 our ocean level is coming up and getting more saltwater
43 inundation and that tends to mess with the vegetation.

44
45 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, that's another
46 excellent question. Using aircraft to count birds
47 comes with many challenges. Monitoring vegetation from
48 aircraft can be even harder, but there are methods to
49 do that, particularly with the satellite images and
50

1 ground sampling. It's beyond the expertise of our
2 particular shop to do that.

3
4 Although the U.S. Geological Survey has
5 been doing eel grass monitoring at least in the Alaska
6 Peninsula and the Yukon Delta area. David Ward at the
7 Science Center would be an excellent source for
8 information about whether that type of sampling has
9 occurred further north in your area. With an increase
10 in swans, Snow Geese and other species we should know
11 about what's happening in your region and how it's
12 going to affect other species like brant.

13
14 So I'll talk to him about that. Thanks
15 for bringing that up.

16
17 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you.

18
19 MR. WHITE: Julian, what was the last
20 name of David?

21
22 MR. FISCHER: Ward, W-A-R-D. I was
23 talking about the winter survey, which aggregates all
24 the counts throughout the wintering area but within
25 Alaska we are interested in what's going on with brant
26 specifically in the state. Because brant nest in
27 colonies and are clustered in relatively tight
28 aggregations we have set up a photographic survey of
29 the primary colonies on the Yukon Delta.

30
31 Using photographic methods you can
32 reduce any biases you have in misidentification and
33 estimating flock sizes. It can be a great technique
34 for certain species and certain locations. This over
35 here shows the five main colonies of the Yukon Delta.
36 Now this is not where all the brant nest on the Yukon
37 Delta. There's many birds that are not nesting within
38 these primary colonies. When this survey was
39 established in the '90s, we believed that most of them
40 were in these five colonies. Through time those
41 colonies have declined and this doesn't show the 2015
42 or '16 numbers, but they pretty much fall right along
43 that red line as they continue to decline within these
44 five colonies.

45
46 Now at the same time that that's
47 happening we've been counting more brant on the North
48 Slope in our aerial surveys up there. So there very
49 well could be a redistribution of brant throughout the
50

1 state. Jack, you brought this up many times during
2 this meeting how we should not be surprised that there
3 will be changes through time and this might be an
4 example of exactly what's happening. Birds are moving
5 into areas that might be more suitable for their
6 success.

7
8 So we need to be adaptive in the way we
9 monitor these populations and ensure that we're not
10 misunderstanding apparent decline when they might just
11 be moving to a different breeding area. So we always
12 seek to set up our surveys in a way that we will be
13 able to identify a shift outside of the core breeding
14 areas. So that's part of the survey design process.

15
16 So, like I mentioned, Pacific Brant are
17 doing okay right now. There's about 150,000 of them.
18 The objective is 162,000. Populations appear to be
19 relatively stable overall. There's going to be a
20 revision of the management plan for the Pacific Flyway
21 states in 2017. California has the lead on that
22 revision and the draft will be provided to our partners
23 including the AMBCC in late April or May. We would
24 welcome anyone's input into that.

25
26 This Flyway Plan does not establish any
27 regulations on the spring/summer subsistence harvest at
28 all, which kind of begs the question how does the AMBCC
29 want to manage brant. Do we want to set up a separate
30 subsistence plan like what was done for the Emperor
31 Goose Management Plan?

32
33 Formerly the Pacific Brant were dealt
34 with using the Yukon Delta Goose Management Plan and
35 that put in place some closure thresholds, but that
36 only deals with Yukon Delta. So the AMBCC might
37 consider establishing a committee to put together a
38 management plan that deals with subsistence harvest.

39
40 Some concerns are those declines that
41 we saw in the Yukon Delta nesting colonies and we're
42 looking into that. We want to understand if there's
43 compensation for those declines elsewhere on the Delta
44 or on the North Slope.

45
46 There's a lot more brant now
47 overwintering in Alaska. In the '80s there was about
48 5,000 there at Izembek Lagoon, now we're seeing over
49 40,000 every year and some years 50,000. That's about
50

1 a third of the whole population. Whether that lagoon
2 will be able to support brant through time and the
3 eelgrass beds if they'll be depleted, we don't know.
4 The birds are going to go where they're going to go.
5 We can't control where they're going to go, but if
6 there's things we can do to protect their habitat, we
7 need to take action.

8
9 Loss of wintering habitat. That kind
10 of touches on that, but this also touches on issues
11 related to things like an expansion of shellfish
12 farming out in California in Humboldt Bay where many of
13 the brant overwinter. Also coastal development in
14 Mexico is a concern.

15
16 Lastly, the need to understand better
17 what's going on in Mexico with regards to harvest. At
18 our work session I described there are regulations for
19 harvest in Mexico. There have been some reports in
20 some areas of Mexico where there might be very lax
21 enforcement of those regulations. So through working
22 with our partners in Mexico we're going to find out
23 more about this and see if we can't influence this.

24
25 Moving into the Interior and the North
26 Slope I'm going to talk briefly about the Mid-Continent
27 population of White-fronted Geese. These are birds
28 that are nesting in the Interior and the North Slope
29 and they do not migrate down to the Pacific Flyway.
30 They go down through the center of the continent and
31 winter in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mexico.

32
33 They're monitored in Alaska using two
34 different surveys. This is a combined count for the
35 Interior portion of the North American survey. As you
36 can see, it's highly variable. This is not an
37 appropriate survey to monitor this population with
38 precision. Currently it's all we've got to monitor
39 this group of birds in the Interior and Northwest
40 areas. Overall it's showing a highly variable but
41 somewhat stable population of about 40,000 birds
42 counted annually.

43
44 On the North Slope however we have a
45 much more precise survey that covers much more habitat
46 and the numbers have been increasing up there.
47 Currently over 250,000 in the last three years.

48
49 So the population has a North American
50

1 objective of 650,000. This is Canada and Alaska
2 combined. The three-year average of that count that
3 combines all of Canada and Alaskan birds is about a
4 million birds currently. So White-fronts are doing
5 well both in the Pacific population and the Mid-
6 Continent population.
7

8 Snow Geese. Jack, I would encourage
9 you to encourage those kids to keep plugging away at
10 them because they're increasing in Alaska at a pretty
11 alarming rate. On the North Slope these stars indicate
12 the colonies of Snow Geese and our survey up there is
13 showing an increase of Snow Geese over the last 15
14 years.
15

16 This is what it looks like. Around
17 2000 we were estimating around 1,500 birds. In 2016
18 somewhere around 40,000. These counts are highly
19 variable because these birds nest in colonies and this
20 survey is not designed to sample colonies, but overall
21 we believe there's a pretty dramatic increase in the
22 number of Snow Geese. Mike could probably speak more
23 to this. I believe the North Slope Borough is
24 conducting colony-specific surveys and is also
25 documenting pretty drastic increases in Snow Geese.
26

27 Are we concerned about it? Normally
28 we'd love to see more birds. Snow Geese is a little
29 bit of an exception in that. I'm going to skip over
30 that and jump to this slide. In Canada, Snow Geese
31 have had a huge impact on habitat. This photograph
32 shows tundra. In the center of this image is some
33 tundra that's been fenced off to prevent grazing by
34 Snow Geese and it is basically an island of remaining
35 living tundra while everything else has been completely
36 grazed out by Snow Geese.
37

38 There's about 15 million Snow Geese in
39 the population in that part of the world as opposed to
40 30,000 or so on the North Slope. So we're not looking
41 at this in the immediate future, but it's something
42 we're concerned could happen in Alaska over time. The
43 population increase in Alaska on the North Slope can't
44 be explained entirely just by production locally, so we
45 think there's birds immigrating from Canada looking for
46 new habitat to occupy.
47

48 Tundra Swans. They occur in two
49 different populations, the Western population and the
50

1 Eastern population. Westerns are those that are
2 breeding on the Yukon Delta up along the coast to about
3 the Brooks Range. The Eastern population is the North
4 Slope breeding birds and they migrate down to the East
5 Coast in winter.
6

7 Our estimates of the two populations
8 both show stable or healthy populations. The Western
9 population numbers were increasing up through about
10 2008. A slight decline there, but they've been stable
11 since 2010. On the North Slope numbers have been
12 increasing, particularly over the last 10 years. About
13 two or three percent a year.
14

15 Ducks. I'll touch briefly on those.
16 With the exception of Pintails, Mallards, Widgeon and
17 Green-wing Teal are all increasing relative to counts
18 in the '50s. Pintails have been actually stable since
19 the '80s speaking broadly. In Alaska they've been
20 relatively stable since that time too. That 34 percent
21 decline is really relative to what numbers were out
22 there in the '50s.
23

24 I'm going to move into Emperor Geese
25 management here and Jason will join me shortly. Some
26 of this I'm going to skip over in the interest of time,
27 including this outline. We talked about distribution
28 in the spring staging survey. We know that numbers
29 have been increasing and recently the U.S. Geological
30 Survey, which is basically the research wing of the
31 Department of Interior did some analyses on annual
32 survival of Emperor Geese and using band recovery
33 information showed that adults are surviving at greater
34 rates now than they were back in the '90s and it's been
35 increasing through time.
36

37 This is probably related to the fact
38 the population is growing or the increasing adult
39 survival has led to an increase in population. So this
40 explains largely why we're seeing that increase in
41 numbers of Emperor Geese and that's great news.
42

43 Why are they increasing? There's
44 various hypotheses out there. I'm not going to
45 actually go into those right now. Why did it take so
46 long for them to increase? I will touch on that.
47 Compared to Cacklers and White-fronts the population
48 has grown much more slowly. They're different
49 critters. Emperor Geese don't start breeding until
50

1 they're three or four years old whereas other geese
2 start much earlier. And adult females don't always
3 nest every year. They have relatively low survival in
4 their first winter. If they make it past that first
5 winter, they are going to live a long time.
6

7 What happened from 2012 to 2016? This
8 is the history of proposed changes to the management
9 plan which we are familiar with. I'm going to skip
10 over that right now. The point here is that two plans
11 were developed over the last couple years through the
12 involvement of many people in this room and this is a
13 conservation success that we should all be feeling very
14 good about.
15

16 The management plan for the
17 spring/summer harvest and for the fall/winter harvest
18 is directly linked to population monitoring from the
19 Yukon Delta coastal zone survey. We've identified
20 34,000 birds counted in that survey as the overall
21 objective, which is just below where we are now. If
22 the numbers were to drop below 28,000, there would be
23 some restrictive regulations considered. They are not
24 specified yet.
25

26 The AMBCC provided some thoughts on
27 what might be appropriate, but that would really be up
28 to the AMBCC to decide if we were to drop below 28,000.
29 They'd be sensitive to what is culturally -- what the
30 cultural and traditional practices are for conservation
31 in each region.
32

33 If the numbers were to drop below
34 23,000, then the spring/summer and the fall/winter hunt
35 would be closed. These are specified in the plans. So
36 spring/summer subsistence harvest is open without bag
37 limits and according to customary and traditional
38 practices whereas the fall/winter hunt does have a
39 thousand bird quota.
40

41 Before I turn it over to Jason to
42 describe the winter hunt specifics this is an image
43 showing the numbers of Emperor Geese as counted during
44 that coastal zone survey. Most recent counts showing
45 us above 34,000 by a couple hundred birds and it shows
46 the 23,000 closure threshold and the 28,000 mark where
47 restrictions would be considered that would be
48 appropriate for each region.
49
50

1 For the spring/summer the season is
2 open and it's open through the 31st of August under
3 these regulations with a 30-day closure, which is
4 highlighted in the regulations packet. It's different
5 for each region. It's a customary and traditional
6 hunting season. Everyone knows that Emperor Geese are
7 vulnerable to overharvest, so we need to move slowly
8 into this and be careful we don't overharvest and drive
9 the population down, requiring a long, slow haul back.

10
11 If necessary, there are harvest
12 restrictions that would be implemented to protect
13 Emperor Geese for hunters in the future. So, if we
14 move slowly today, we plan to be able to harvest this
15 bird every year into the future.

16
17 I'm going to turn it over to Jason.

18
19 MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Schamber, Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game. I'll start with a brief
21 introduction of myself. I too grew up in a larger
22 city, Spokane, Washington in eastern Washington state.
23 My home was in the suburbs, so the only wildlife we
24 encountered were the feral cats in the neighborhood.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 I moved up to Alaska in 1992 and I've
29 been very fortunate in that my time here has allowed me
30 to travel to many of the regions in the state and have
31 the opportunity to work with and meet a lot of
32 wonderful people. My family includes my lovely wife
33 Stacy seated there in the seat and together we had a
34 hot dog and hamburger. Jack and Olivia. As you can
35 see, they're very much into food.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 So the fall/winter hunt is regulated,
40 managed and structured much differently than the
41 spring/summer subsistence harvest that Julian just
42 described. The Federal framework allows the State of
43 Alaska a thousand bird quota statewide. The Board of
44 Game approved this hunt as a registration permit hunt
45 with a reporting requirement and this will allow us to
46 keep that harvest at 1,000 birds.

47
48 So if a hunter wishes to harvest
49 Emperor Geese during the fall/winter hunt, they will
50

1 need to obtain a registration permit. That permit
2 allows a hunter to harvest one Emperor Goose per
3 season. This hunt is open to any Alaska resident. The
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is offering an
5 unlimited number of registration permits, so any hunter
6 that wishes to obtain a permit can get a permit. One
7 requirement to obtain a registration permit is that the
8 hunter purchases a hunting license with the notable
9 exceptions that are in the regulations.

10

11 Jack.

12

13 MR. FAGERSTROM: I wish there was a way
14 for no winter hunt particularly in Cold Bay and you
15 insist they only take younger birds since they don't
16 breed for a few years.

17

18 MR. SCHAMBER: There's no requirement
19 on the age of the birds to be taken. There is a
20 conservation message that is being circulated to focus
21 on juveniles because the adult birds are the most
22 important for population.

23

24 MR. FAGERSTROM: They're just thinking
25 about the mounting potential. They're going to want an
26 adult bird.

27

28 MR. SCHAMBER: That's correct. I'll
29 get to that in a moment. These registration permits
30 will be available sometime later this summer, likely
31 after the July 1 period. These registration permits
32 can be obtained online at the Department of Fish and
33 Game website or at a Department of Fish and Game
34 office. We're also going to offer these permits at
35 licensed vendors in coastal villages where Emperor
36 Geese are hunted.

37

38 So there are seven hunt areas that have
39 been established across the range of Emperor Geese and
40 this will help us design a more equitable hunt across
41 that range to avoid a situation, for example, where the
42 thousand bird quota is met in some of those northern
43 regions before birds have migrated to southern areas.

44

45 These seven hunt areas are defined by
46 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Management Units.
47 Those are the brightly-colored areas in Western Alaska
48 you see there. The numbers are the specific Game
49 Management Unit. So Unit 23 in the northern part of

50

1 Alaska there colored beige is the Nuluk Region. South
2 of that is Unit 22, which is the Kawerak Region. Y-K
3 Delta is Unit 18 and then Bristol Bay is combined Unit
4 17 and 9. Kodiak in pink is Unit 8 and then the
5 Aleutian/Pribilofs is Unit 10.
6

7 A special area in the Cold Bay Region
8 that Jack just mentioned was also created and that's
9 defined by the Izembek State Game Refuge. That's the
10 black square you see in Unit 9 there with the expanded
11 view. That State Game Refuge boundary is outlined
12 there in red. We created this area because this is a
13 fairly popular hunt area for waterfowl hunters and we
14 anticipate a fairly high amount of interest in hunting
15 Emperor Geese in this area, so we felt we needed to
16 more closely monitor the hunt in this region.
17

18 Jack.
19

20 MR. FAGERSTROM: I just worry what's
21 going to happen to the geese that don't get harvested
22 in 22 and 23. There's going to be leftover geese and
23 the sport hunters are going to want access to them.
24 That's just a thought I had. How do we say no, you
25 ain't going to get no more. Your hundred whatever it
26 is stays there.
27

28 MR. SCHAMBER: Currently there's no
29 reallocation of that harvest quota, which I'll discuss
30 in the next slide from each of the units. So each of
31 these seven hunt areas have a specific registration
32 permit that is unique to that area. This is because
33 some of the hunt conditions differ in a minor way
34 between the hunt areas. For example the season dates,
35 as you can see on the left-hand side of the slide
36 there, are different depending on which hunt area
37 you're in. Also, for example, Kodiak has a road
38 closure, so some of the hunt conditions are different
39 for the permits.
40

41 What this also means is that a hunter
42 can possess up to seven different registration permits.
43 So they can have one permit per hunt area, but have
44 multiple permits across hunt areas. So, for example, a
45 hunter can possess a registration permit in Unit 17/9,
46 the Bristol Bay Region, and also have a permit for
47 Kodiak. But if that hunter harvests an Emperor Goose
48 in the Bristol Bay Region, the Kodiak permit is void
49 because a hunter is only allowed one Emperor Goose per
50

1 season.

2

3 The flip side of that is if a hunter
4 does not harvest their goose in Bristol Bay, they have
5 an opportunity to harvest their one Emperor Goose in
6 Kodiak.

7

8 So real briefly the season dates for
9 each of these units follow the normal regulatory dates
10 that have been in place for many, many years. So in
11 the Northern Regions the hunt begins on September 1st,
12 which is the day after the spring/summer subsistence
13 hunt ends on August 31st. So on August 31st it's a
14 customary and traditional hunt. On September 1st the
15 hunter is required to get a registration permit to
16 harvest one Emperor Goose for the season.

17

18 In Units 8 and 10, the hunt season date
19 opening is on October 8th, which is a little later, and
20 this is generally set up to follow the bird migration.
21 Then Izembek State Game Refuge has a shorter window
22 season that starts on October 16th and ends on October
23 31st. We kept this to a two-week season initially to
24 more closely monitor the hunt because this is a popular
25 hunt area.

26

27 MR. DEVINE: I have a question. Who is
28 Unit 9? Because for Aleutian/Pribilofs in Unit 10, but
29 for Sand Point we're up in Unit 9. So is that the
30 Kodiak area or Bristol Bay or whose?

31

32 MR. SCHAMBER: Unit 9 includes part of
33 Bristol Bay subsistence harvest region as well as part
34 of the Aleutian/Pribilofs subsistence harvest region.
35 We are managing the fall/winter hunt based on the Game
36 Management Units, so for purposes of that hunt the blue
37 area that you see there is the combined management
38 units of 9 and 17. So you can think of it as the
39 colored regions you see there, Unit 10 is specific to
40 those purple areas and Unit 9 will be the blue areas.
41 So you would be Unit 9.

42

43 It's been mentioned before each of
44 these areas have a quota that together add up to the
45 thousand-bird statewide quota that's in the Federal
46 framework and this was developed by the Native Caucus
47 and approved by the Board of Game this last January.

48

49 As you can see, the quota is a little

50

1 more heavily weighted toward the southern regions of
2 Units 8 and 10 because this is their opportunity to
3 harvest Emperor Geese. In the spring/summer season,
4 the migration timing of these geese is such that the
5 birds have generally moved out of the area when the
6 April 2nd subsistence harvest season has begun.

7
8 These hunt areas will be closed by
9 emergency order when each of these quotas have been
10 reached in these particular regions. We can close
11 these hunts by emergency order with a reporting
12 requirement that comes with each of these registration
13 permits. In most of the areas that reporting
14 requirement is three days. So if a hunter harvests an
15 Emperor Goose, they have three days to report that
16 harvest either by phone, there's a 1-800 number that's
17 set up that will come to a recording that is in our
18 shop here in Anchorage or online at the Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game website.

20
21 There is a shorter reporting
22 requirement in Unit 8 of Kodiak and the Izembek State
23 Game Refuge hunt area. This again is because these are
24 fairly popular hunt areas. There's an extensive guide
25 network in each of these regions. So we felt we needed
26 to more closely monitor this hunt by having a shorter
27 reporting period. We anticipate the quota could be met
28 fairly quickly in these areas.

29
30 So that's all I had for the fall/winter
31 hunt. I can open it up to questions if there are any.

32
33 Cyrus.

34
35 MR. HARRIS: Cyrus Harris. I'm not
36 really planning on going out for the fall Emperor Goose
37 hunt, but I spend a lot of time out there, so I'm going
38 to take the opportunity to get a registration permit.
39 If I didn't use it, is there a penalty if for some
40 reason I didn't turn it back in or what's the next step
41 from there if we didn't use ours?

42
43 MR. SCHAMBER: There's currently no
44 failure to report penalty, but we encourage hunters to
45 report their harvest if they're successful. If you're
46 unsuccessful in harvesting an Emperor Goose, to return
47 that report card to us at Alaska Department of Fish and
48 Game. That's important information.

49
50

1 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Another question to
2 follow along with that. Okay. I'm out at camp. I
3 don't have any kind of communication and I'm out there
4 for two weeks and the first day of that two weeks I
5 happen to get an Emperor Goose and I'm not home for two
6 weeks later to where I have communication. What
7 happens in that situation? A lot of folks in our area
8 they're not in the -- many of the people that really
9 subsist are not living in rural areas. Many of them
10 are not weekend hunters. We have a lot of village
11 folks out there who I am speaking for.

12
13 MR. SCHAMBER: We recognize that
14 there's going to be some difficulties with hunters
15 being remote and meeting these reporting requirements.
16 We ask that you just report as best you can, but make
17 sure you do report that harvest.

18
19 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you. Thanks for
20 having it on record.

21
22 CHAIRMAN DALE: Let me just add that
23 reporting is going to be very important to make sure
24 that we don't exceed the thousand birds the SRC has
25 allowed us. So reporting is going to be emphasized as
26 important. The other thing I want to mention is timely
27 reporting is going to be important, especially early on
28 in this hunt.

29
30 The other thing to notice is that we
31 have to anticipate when the quotas are going to be met
32 in each area and that's going to be tricky. We're
33 going to have to be conservative for the first couple
34 years until we get the hang of it and understand the
35 chronology of harvest, the timing of harvest and the
36 patterns that people do. So some areas are going to
37 get closed before all the birds are taken until we get
38 really good at this.

39
40 There's only one way -- we've had this
41 many times in game management across the state. It
42 takes a while for us to figure out on a new hunt how
43 you folks are going to hunt. When you're going to
44 really get after them. So there's going to be some
45 trial and error and I want to emphasize that. We'll
46 get good at it, I promise you, but this is all new so
47 don't expect it to be perfect. If we leave a couple
48 birds on the table in some places, it will probably be
49 that we go over in some other areas and we'll work on
50

1 that and improve as time goes on.

2

3

Roland.

4

5

MR. WHITE: I just have one question.

6

Earlier Julian mentioned that they don't start nesting

7

up until they're three, four years old. I was just

8

wondering how many eggs do they average to nest per

9

year if they're nesting that year.

10

11

MR. FISCHER: Emperor Geese are quite

12

variable in the number of eggs they lay each year and

13

it really depends on how well they did over the winter.

14

You and I had a discussion yesterday about how peculiar

15

these birds can be sometimes and they often will

16

actually lay eggs in the nests of other birds.

17

Generally the clutch size, the number of eggs per nest

18

for Emperor Geese is lower than that that we see for

19

Cackling Canada Geese and White-fronted Geese by about

20

one egg. So about four eggs generally is commonly

21

seen.

22

23

CHAIRMAN DALE: Brandon.

24

25

MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

Listening to the permit system, maybe I misinterpreted

27

it. There's going to be the mandatory permits, but

28

then you have a quota of 1,000 but there's no penalty

29

for reporting, is that correct?

30

31

MR. SCHAMBER: Initially there is no

32

penalty for failure to report, but we are encouraging

33

hunters to report their harvest because this is the one

34

mechanism that we have to keep that harvest within the

35

quota.

36

37

MR. AHMASUK: I don't think there's

38

anybody in this room that doesn't understand the

39

importance of this bird, but if there's no penalty to

40

report, you could very well go over the quota, correct?

41

42

MR. SCHAMBER: There is the potential

43

to go over the quota. However, if hunters are reporting

44

their harvest, that will give us the ability to keep

45

that harvest under the quota or within the quota.

46

47

MR. AHMASUK: Yes, I understand that,

48

but what I'm saying is there's no penalty. There's

49

nothing forcing someone to report.

50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: The Board of Game
2 discussed this and cited examples like Cyrus brought up
3 that there's going to be some issues in rural areas in
4 a new hunt and some places where they're not really
5 familiar with the registration hunt system, that it
6 would be probably unfair to have a reporting
7 requirement -- a failure to report penalty until some
8 later date when people can get used to the system, we
9 can get better at estimating when the quotas will be
10 filled and close the season.

11
12 As I said before, we're going to have
13 to be conservative because we don't know the timing and
14 we don't know the reporting rate that we're going to
15 get. There's unreported harvest in every hunt we have.
16 We take that into consideration. This is a new hunt.
17 We're going to be starting from scratch. So there's
18 going to probably be some unfortunate closures early.
19 We would have the ability to open it back up within the
20 season, but we probably won't in the first couple of
21 years as we sort this through. Just through trial and
22 error get it right.

23
24 The other thing is if you pick up a
25 registration permit, we'll work very hard at finding
26 you and getting your report because that's the kind of
27 information we need. We can also provide some feedback
28 to the individuals who didn't report why it's important
29 and why we have to have it. We have the potential to
30 lose this hunt and we don't want to do that. We worked
31 hard to get it.

32
33 Gayla.

34
35 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 I think there should be a reporting requirement because
37 if my memory serves me right, when we were going to
38 have the Emperor Goose opening for the spring and
39 summer subsistence harvest when we were going to be
40 allocated 3,500 birds, we had to come up with reporting
41 requirements in each different region and that's when
42 we chose to not forego the hunt because we didn't want
43 to do that. We had to ensure that we weren't going to
44 harvest 3,501. That was quite clear that we had to
45 have reporting requirements.

46
47 For now for the sport hunting to not
48 have to do mandatory reporting requirements is a
49 concern that they have more relaxed rules for the
50

1 fall/winter hunt than we were going to have on our
2 spring/summer harvest two years ago before we revised
3 the management plan.
4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: Reporting is required.
6 It is required. The other ones that have a failure to
7 report penalty would not allow you to get a permit the
8 next year. I think the Board will instate that, but
9 the Board purposely didn't to protect folks that have
10 trouble reporting because they're at camp or whatever.
11 It's a very difficult situation.
12

13 Believe me, the Department does not
14 prefer to manage wildlife in this fashion. We would
15 rather be able to set a season and a bag limit so that
16 the hunters can go and hunt and have the expectation
17 that they're going to be able to hunt and then the
18 season is closed. That is a much better way, but we
19 didn't get that. So we have to work with this system
20 that we have been allowed and we're going to do our
21 best to make that work.
22

23 We didn't want to go and disenfranchise
24 a whole bunch of folks in rural areas by failure to
25 report when we can work through time to ensure that
26 they report. That's the folks we're worried about.
27 Reporting is very high amongst the urban folks on other
28 hunts. Very high. It's basically when you get into
29 communication challenges and new systems for people who
30 aren't used to it in rural areas where we have the most
31 problems with reporting and that is why the Board chose
32 not to.
33

34 So I don't think there will be a
35 problem. Typically we don't have a problem with
36 reporting from the folks in urban areas because it's
37 easy for them to do and they're more likely to
38 encounter -- they have to report everything, so they're
39 more likely to do it as a matter of course. We have
40 24-hour reporting requirements or nearly so on moose
41 and caribou in Unit 13. It's a very different sort of
42 set up.
43

44 Believe me, we don't like to do that.
45 I think the Board reached the right conclusion. The
46 alternative is to for this body or the Native Caucus to
47 submit a proposal and ask for a failure to report
48 regulation. I think it will affect rural folks more
49 than urban folks though typically.
50

1 Peter.

2

3 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
4 question I have is will there be more enforcement in
5 these targeted areas, you know, like Izembek? I think
6 the concern I'm hearing is, you know, you're talking
7 about reporting, but what about the people who fail to
8 report. The ones who, oh, I made it home with my bird
9 yesterday, nobody checked me, I'm going to go get
10 another one today.

11

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I think that's what the concern is.

CHAIRMAN DALE: That's where outreach
becomes extremely important because people have to know
that if we abuse the system and don't adhere to the
limits and take what's needed and no more, we'll exceed
the quota and we won't be able to have a hunt. When we
exceed the quota, eventually we'll end up in a
situation where we have less numbers of birds and there
will be no hunt whatsoever again.

Outreach is the only way we're going to
prevent that. It's the only way. And everybody has to
understand it's our job as this group to do our best to
make sure everybody understands that because there's a
lot at stake. There also will be people that won't
pick up permits, that won't register. All of these
occur in all hunts we have. We really need to make
sure that we keep it to a minimum, otherwise the result
is the seasons and the bag limits become more and more
conservative. The people who don't follow the rules
get a bigger allocation than the people who follow the
rules.

Roland.

MR. WHITE: Quyana. I'm glad you
brought that up. A few of the guys back home during
our regular meeting they had concerns about the
openers, both the spring/summer, fall/winter and they
were wondering why, since we're hunting for the first
time in 30 years for this species, why there wasn't any
limits for the first few years so that we could
conserve and let the numbers grow.

We didn't quite get an answer for that
question.

1 MR. FISCHER: I'll just speak to that.
2 It was the interest of the Native Caucus in the
3 development of this regulation to have a customary and
4 traditional harvest without limits.

5
6 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

7
8 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 I did have a question. For 2018 with the 25 non-
10 resident permits that are going to be allowed and
11 that's a part of the 1,000 quota limit, how are you
12 guys going to then adjust your numbers for the 25
13 throughout the five regions?

14
15 MR. SCHAMBER: I think that's up to the
16 discretion of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
17 and we haven't made that determination yet. The 25
18 non-resident hunt is a draw hunt for Units 8, which is
19 the Kodiak Region, Units 9/17, which is the Bristol Bay
20 Region, and Unit 10, which is the Aleutian/Pribilofs.

21
22 CHAIRMAN DALE: And that hunt won't
23 occur until next year.

24
25 MR. SCHAMBER: Correct. Fall of 2018.

26
27 MR. FAGERSTROM: Is taxidermy allowed
28 in the fall?

29
30 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yes, taxidermy is not
31 regulated.

32
33 MR. SCHAMBER: Mr. Chair, if there's no
34 questions on the winter hunt, I'm not quite done. I've
35 got a few more slides.

36
37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay.

38
39 MR. FAGERSTROM: I have one more thing.
40 Sorry. I keep going back to this taxidermy thing, but
41 does anybody know how much an Emperor Goose mount is
42 worth?

43
44 CHAIRMAN DALE: The sale of trophies,
45 which would include taxidermy, of Emperor Geese is not
46 legal in Alaska. There may be an amendment to a bill
47 in the legislature now to allow that. The Department
48 of Public Safety is opposed to it. I don't know how
49 that will turn out. There is no amendment on the floor
50

1 yet. It hasn't been introduced yet, but we're
2 preparing for it.

3

4 Gayla.

5

6 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 guess if that does get amended, if you could please
8 inform Patty so that she can notify the Native Caucus
9 and the whole AMBCC here so that we could provide
10 public comment on that if it does hit the legislative
11 floor.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Will do. That's Senate
14 Bill 60 and the companion is House Bill 129.

15

16 Cyrus.

17

18 MR. HARRIS: Cyrus Harris. All these
19 years of working on getting this Emperor Goose open we
20 were really not anticipating a sport hunt, so all this
21 is really new. We've mostly developed for the
22 customary and traditional hunt. From what I understand
23 going through the Board of Game, the Board of Game
24 wouldn't quite get it open unless there was a sport
25 hunt involved, am I correct?

26

27 CHAIRMAN DALE: I don't think that's
28 accurate. There was never any intention to not open
29 it. I never heard anybody basically make that
30 requirement. They discussed the potential for a small
31 hunt for non-residents as being a way to -- they
32 discussed several things.

33

34 One is revenue, right. There will be
35 money coming in because of that and that will help
36 support waterfowl programs with the State. They also
37 discussed support and heightened awareness of this
38 species to be highly sought after, so they decided to
39 create 25 bird allocated towards that or is it permits?
40 I can't remember.

41

42 MR. SCHAMBER: It's 25 birds as a draw
43 hunt.

44

45 MR. HARRIS: Just trying to get my
46 memory back from some of our past meetings again.
47 We're concerned with the winter hunt and how do we open
48 a customary and traditional hunt for the Kodiak folks
49 during the wintertime, but that takes place throughout
50

1 the sport hunting season.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: How the State law works
4 is if the Board finds that there's not enough birds to
5 provide for subsistence, the hunt management structure
6 would change. Non-residents would not be allowed and
7 then at some point where there's not enough for
8 residents of anybody who chooses to use a subsistence
9 pattern, then it would go to a Tier II hunt. A Tier II
10 hunt is one that is basically scored on customary and
11 traditional use patterns the number of years you've
12 used the resource. The Board and AMBCC recommended
13 that this registration hunt be tried first.

14

15 MS. BERNIS: Melissa Berns, Sun'aq
16 Tribe. How is that Tier II hunt designed -- I mean if
17 it were to be in place, if this hunt was not allowed
18 for 30 years, how would you determine that use pattern?

19

20 CHAIRMAN DALE: That's essentially part
21 of the issue of going right to a registration hunt to
22 see if that would work. It was going to be very
23 difficult for the Board to partition out what -- the
24 questions basically ask how many years have you used
25 this resource or how many would you have used it had it
26 been open. So there is that provision. But it's not
27 like it's a population of moose because there's other
28 geese, so this is sort of new territory. We don't have
29 any Tier II hunts for waterfowl or small game. The
30 less complicated route and the route that was supported
31 by this body was to have a registration hunt.

32

33 All right, Julian, finish up quickly
34 here.

35

36 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
37 know I promised you a 30-minute presentation and it's
38 been about an hour and a half. I think the take-home
39 message though is that we're all celebrating a renewal
40 of an open season for Emperor Geese, but I certainly
41 sense a great deal of concern and caution and I think
42 that's appropriate. We're in new territory. We have a
43 species that everyone believes could be susceptible to
44 overharvest and it took a long time to get here and we
45 don't want to repeat that long, slow recovery.

46

47 We have talked about all of this stuff
48 on these slides, so we need to move on. This is an
49 overview of some of the messages on the outreach plan,

50

1 which we've discussed in previous portions of the
2 meeting.
3

4 Okay. This is an item that's later on
5 the agenda and since I've got the mic I might as well
6 just briefly mention this and we can skip over it later
7 if that's okay with the Chair.
8

9 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yes.
10

11 MR. FISCHER: Okay. So many of you
12 know that there was a large seabird die-off on St.
13 Lawrence Island in 2013. Members of the Savoonga and
14 Gambell communities reported this. Carcasses were sent
15 to a health lab and the first documented case of avian
16 cholera in Alaska was recorded. Thousands of birds
17 died.
18

19 There was a large seabird die-off in
20 Prince William Sound and throughout the Gulf of Alaska,
21 extending into Bristol Bay last year and the winter
22 before. 25,000 Murres were counted. We think the
23 total mortality was in the hundreds of thousands. It
24 was determined that this was not related to a disease
25 but rather starvation.
26

27 These are just two examples of why it
28 is important for us to collaborate and cooperate in
29 identifying when birds die and why they die so that we
30 can communicate those messages to subsistence hunters.
31 There was an Avian Mortality Response Plan developed
32 several years ago that is designed to provide training
33 to responders, people in the villages within wildlife
34 refuges and throughout the range of migratory birds so
35 that people can safely collect those birds, we get them
36 to a lab to find out what is going on and then we can
37 communicate the information back to the public.
38

39 So this is a map here showing where the
40 trained individuals are that went through the training
41 for response. The numbers in those red dots are the
42 number of individuals trained in each of those
43 locations. Obviously we're talking about a huge, vast
44 area and we need more people trained to respond to
45 potential die-offs. How do we do that? One option is
46 to apply for a tribal wildlife grant as a source of
47 funding. This is actually an agenda item later, so
48 there is a timeline for those.
49
50

1 The draft proposals would need to occur
2 this summer and submitted in September. It needs to be
3 done by an Alaska tribe. The Fish and Wildlife Service
4 headquarters in DC would review these and they don't
5 make their selections of successful grants until May.
6 So we would first hear about a successful grant in May
7 of 2018, one year from now.

8
9 If the proposal is successful, then we
10 would work together to put together a training event.
11 It says here summer '19. That really is going to
12 depend on how fast we can work to get such an event put
13 together. If we found out about funding and the
14 funding was made available in May of 2018, then it's
15 just going to be up to those interested in
16 participating to organize that. Potentially this could
17 be organized as early as fall of 2018. Summer of '19
18 was advised by our Native liaison, Crystal Leonetti,
19 just as a placeholder.

20
21 So I'm just mentioning that now. If
22 the Council is interested in putting a grant together,
23 then we will certainly work with you to help get that
24 done.

25
26 The last thing here. I just want to
27 mention that there's opportunities for youth to work in
28 biology. This is Saghani Stillwater. He was born in
29 Anchorage, but his heritage is Tlingit and Athabaskan.
30 He worked with Eric Taylor last summer near Fairbanks
31 on a Common Goldeneye study, but this is just a pitch
32 to you all.

33
34 If you know of some youth that are
35 interested in getting experience in wildlife biology,
36 in particular waterfowl, there's opportunities for them
37 to get involved. There's several programs for
38 internships as well as volunteer opportunities with
39 National Wildlife Refuges or Migratory Birds.

40
41 So that's what I have. I will leave it
42 to the Chair to decide whether you want to have further
43 discussion at this point, but I'm certainly available
44 and interested in talking to any of you about any
45 questions or concerns.

46
47 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any questions for
48 Julian.

49
50

1 MR. PEDERSON: Mike Pederson, North
2 Slope Borough. Thank you, Julian and Jason, for your
3 report. More of a comment. This last fall right after
4 our fall meeting we noticed a lot of Snow Geese in
5 Barrow. They were flying with the Cacklers and they
6 were eating around town and stuff like that. But, you
7 know, when they were flying together the Snow Geese
8 would be removed from the Cacklers on the ground and we
9 would see them by themselves, but as soon as the other
10 geese took off, the Snow Geese would follow.

11
12 We're trying to encourage our hunters
13 up there to harvest more Snow Geese, but I think for
14 some of them it's not a bird of choice. We're aware of
15 the depredation that is occurring on the tundra because
16 it's impacting the food that our caribou like to eat,
17 so we've been trying to encourage more harvesting of
18 Snow Geese, but it's a slow process. Maybe if we can
19 work together with the Service to do some outreach
20 saying that that's okay, it might be a little more
21 helpful.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. FISCHER: Thank you for that
26 comment and suggestion.

27
28 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any other questions for
29 Julian.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN DALE: Let's take a 10-minute
34 break, so you'll come back at 10 after. It's a 9-
35 minute break. We'll want to start promptly in 10
36 minutes. Thank you.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRMAN DALE: I'm going to jump ahead
43 on the schedule a little bit here and just knock out
44 this brant in Mexico issue.

45
46 MR. FISCHER: This is Julian Fischer,
47 Fish and Wildlife. I mentioned this during the
48 presentation just now on status of birds. In the
49 discussion about brant, one of the concerns that I

50

1 mentioned was the question of how many birds are being
2 harvested in Mexico. The U.S. monitors harvest through
3 harvest information program, which covers harvest of
4 U.S. hunters. Canada has a similar survey. Mexico
5 does not have a survey of that type.
6

7 They do have regulations and they have
8 enforcement of those regulations, but there have been
9 some reports in some locations of overharvest and I
10 don't have any details about those, but we have raised
11 the concern with Mexico through the organization Ducks
12 Unlimited Mexico, who have then elevated it to the land
13 managers in the area where that reported harvest was
14 taking place.
15

16 We're going to follow up as an agency
17 by working with a trilateral group, which is Canadian,
18 U.S. and Mexico Natural Resource officials to bring up
19 issues of conservation concern. This being one of
20 them. We will raise it at the next meeting and I'll
21 share any outcome from those discussions at the next
22 AMBCC meeting.
23

24 That's all I had on that.
25

26 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any questions for
27 Julian.
28

29 (No comments)
30

31 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. So now
32 we're going to move on to proposals. 2018-1. Melissa,
33 would you like to introduce that proposal.
34

35 MS. BERNES: Certainly. Melissa Bernes,
36 Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. This year we have three
37 proposals that we have before you for consideration
38 today. Proposal 2018-1, rescind the Kodiak Island road
39 area closure. This is Tab 6 in your book. Proposal
40 2018-2, Aleutian and Arctic Tern closure. And Proposal
41 2018-3, Emperor Goose harvest closed on the road system
42 and within 500 feet offshore.
43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay, thank you. Now
45 we ask for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff
46 analysis on Proposal 1.
47

48 MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Chamber, Alaska
49 Department of Fish and Game. The Department has no
50

1 further additions to this proposal. We participated in
2 the Technical Committee review.

3

4 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. U.S. Fish
5 and Wildlife Service staff analysis.

6

7 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Fish and
8 Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife Service has
9 reviewed the proposal to remove the closure of the
10 Kodiak roaded area for spring and summer subsistence.
11 The Service supports traditional harvest of migratory
12 birds and will continue working with this body to
13 promote that to ensure a sustainable harvest continues
14 into the future. So with that perspective in mind
15 about continuing traditional harvest into the future,
16 the Fish and Wildlife Service has some concerns about
17 this proposal as currently worded.

18

19 I'm going to touch on four points. The
20 first is that removal of the road area closure will
21 increase harvest of migratory birds and their eggs
22 relative to the traditional harvest thereby reducing
23 availability of migratory birds for subsistence users
24 on Kodiak and in other subsistence regions.

25

26 To follow up on that point, the road
27 area closure was first recommended by the Sun'aq tribe
28 in 2001. Herman Squartsoff, the tribe representative
29 or the representative for the region at the time
30 conducted public hearings in 2002 and he reported there
31 was wide support for the closure at that time. The
32 primary input that he received was concern among
33 residents that the road being open to everyone in
34 Kodiak would increase the number of non-customary and
35 traditional hunters into this legal hunt. The Fish and
36 Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska at the time
37 had similar concerns. The AMBCC discussed it and
38 passed that road closure in 2003 unanimously.

39

40 So part of that concern about
41 increasing harvest relative to the past is related to
42 the amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which
43 is intended to allow for a customary and traditional
44 subsistence harvest and make legal what has been done
45 in the past without increasing the harvest above what
46 was done in the past. So Fish and Wildlife Service has
47 the same concern now as it did then with regards to a
48 potential increase in harvest.

49

50

1 The second point is that the removal of
2 that road area closure could create conflict between
3 the subsistence users and other members of the public
4 that use that road area during the spring and summer.
5

6 There's about 14,000 people on the
7 island of Kodiak, so there's a lot of users of the
8 land. The number actually should be considered
9 relative to that first point that there's a lot of
10 people, so it would be reasonable to assume that there
11 would be an increase of users of that area for
12 subsistence harvest even if it's not necessarily
13 subsistence harvest. It's allowing take by people that
14 didn't have a customary and traditional use.
15

16 The second point is that there could be
17 conflict between the subsistence users and other
18 members of the public in the roaded area. In 2003 the
19 State of Alaska had raised that concern. Interest in
20 safety and just general conflict between hunters and
21 other users in the roaded area and the Service had a
22 similar concern then and maintains the same concern
23 now.
24

25 The third concern about the proposal as
26 worded is that removal of the road area closure will
27 not solve the problem of inaccessibility to many gull
28 nests and I think that's one of the main reasons the
29 proposal is trying to solve. The Glaucus-winged Gulls,
30 if eggging is the preferred food source of
31 Glaucus-winged Gulls, they're nesting on nearby islands
32 which are currently open to harvest by all members of
33 the Kodiak Community. There's a few Glaucus-winged
34 Gulls in the roaded area and there's some Mew Gull
35 nests within the roaded area, but they nest among
36 Aleutian and Arctic Tern colonies.
37

38 That brings me to the fourth point,
39 which is the high concern that the Service has for
40 Aleutian Terns and Arctic Terns currently. There's
41 about 5,500 Aleutian Terns in the state of Alaska.
42 They've experienced declines as high as 93 percent over
43 the last 30 years. Arctic Terns, similar to Aleutian
44 Terns, are also a bird of concern in the state of
45 Alaska where the coastal populations are about 11,000,
46 the best estimates currently. Declines in Arctic Terns
47 are about 90 percent over the last 30 years, similar to
48 Aleutian Terns within the Gulf.
49
50

1 Causes of those declines are not clear,
2 but visits by humans, especially accompanied by dogs,
3 create a lot of disturbance within colonies, which
4 causes the birds to fly off the nest, back onto the
5 nest, off the nest, back onto the nest, which can cause
6 disturbance -- it's obviously disturbing, but also the
7 eggs are cooling and warming up repeatedly, which can
8 cause nest failure.

9
10 So, in summary, the two concerns that
11 led the Fish and Wildlife Service to support the road
12 closure 14 years ago remain a concern. Those being the
13 potential for increased harvest because of the
14 increased participation by non-traditional users and
15 the creation of conflicts between hunters and non-
16 hunters in a relatively high populated area. And then
17 two new concerns about these two species of
18 conservation concerns. So those are some concerns the
19 Service has about the proposal as worded.

20
21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Patty Schwalenberg.
22 Julian, does the 30-day closure for nesting address the
23 concern about disturbance to the Aleutian and Arctic
24 Tern nests or how does that affect your concern about
25 the interruption of the nesting period and bothering
26 their nests?

27
28 MR. FISCHER: It's hard to separate
29 this from the next two proposals. Hypothetically, if
30 there was not a closure on the tern colonies, would the
31 30-day closure -- well, so there's a difference in
32 dates between hunting and eggging. So the 30-day
33 closure of eggging within the tern colonies that would
34 only affect the tern colony areas.

35
36 So the concerns about terns would be
37 reduced because there's a closure on eggging, but
38 they're still going to be hunting in the early part of
39 the eggging period and then there's all the areas
40 outside of the tern colonies that would -- the concerns
41 would still be there for public conflicts with
42 subsistence hunters and a general increase in overall
43 harvest in the roaded area due to more hunters
44 participating.

45
46 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria.

47
48 MS. STICKWAN: You said something about
49 relatively high area that's used a lot, this area right
50

1 now. You said relatively high area. I didn't
2 understand that part. If that area is being used a lot
3 right now, it seems to me like there would be a concern
4 right now. I mean is it affecting the Arctic Terns
5 right now?
6

7 MR. FISCHER: I think I referred to a
8 relatively high use area in the context of a relatively
9 high populated area by members of Kodiak. Kodiak is a
10 relatively high populated area compared to other parts
11 of the state.
12

13 MS. STICKWAN: And there's user
14 conflicts right now?
15

16 MR. FISCHER: The conflicts --
17 currently there's not an open eggging season in the tern
18 colonies. Regardless of whether there's subsistence
19 hunting or not, disturbance to tern colonies are of
20 concern to the Fish and Wildlife Service, absolutely.
21

22 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.
23

24 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Peter Devine. It sounds like we need a study on Arctic
26 Terns because just personally I know that this is the
27 most aggressive bird on the planet. I tried to go out
28 eggging one time without telling my family where I was
29 going and them things had me pinned down for 15, 20
30 minutes with my jacket over my head. I mean you ever
31 watch Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds?
32

33 (Laughter)
34

35 MR. DEVINE: That's the way these
36 things are, you know. I don't understand how they can
37 be in decline. I mean a couple years ago we had 22,000
38 down in Yakutat, the nesting area. But I've seen terns
39 drive eagles into the water. I mean four or five of
40 them, once the predator comes in their area, they're on
41 him. I mean you've got two of them that keep driving
42 them down lower and lower until the thing is swimming,
43 you know.
44

45 So I think we need a study.
46

47 MR. FISCHER: I've seen Arctic Terns in
48 action and I agree. They're extremely aggressive and
49 effective at moving predators away from their nests.
50

1 You mentioned Yakutat. There are Aleutian Terns in
2 Yakutat area. That's the largest Aleutian Tern colony.
3 It's currently estimated at about 2,500 and it's been
4 stable over the last 30 years. It's the one colony
5 where there's been no documented declines. So about
6 half the birds in the state are there.

7
8 Other colonies around the state have
9 all been declining. A number of Aleutian Tern and
10 Arctic Tern colonies on Kodiak are now completely gone.
11 Certainly we could study them and if there's specific
12 questions that you think we should be looking at, we're
13 all ears.

14
15 MR. DEVINE: Okay, just a follow up.
16 One thing I'm puzzling is with this Murre die-off. I
17 mean you know those are birds that dive for their food,
18 their fish. The same as Arctic Terns, the same as
19 Herring Gulls. Are these algae blooms associated with
20 the decline? If it is, where are they? Why aren't
21 they washing up on the beaches like the Murres?

22
23 MR. FISCHER: That's a great question.
24 I don't have a whole lot of expertise in seabirds, but
25 I do know that in the case of Murres they are a diving
26 bird. They dive down pretty deep for their forage
27 fish. Arctic Terns, like other species in the gull
28 family, they are diving, but they're catching forage
29 fish that are close to the surface. There might be a
30 difference in how this warm Gulf water has affected the
31 deeper water forage fish compared to the surface
32 feeding birds.

33
34 There's also hundreds of thousands of
35 Murres out there. There might have been terns dying
36 that we just didn't detect because of their numbers.
37 Also terns migrate to the southern hemisphere in the
38 winter whereas the Murres are spending their winter
39 here, so they were available to be seen starving and
40 dying.

41
42 That's a couple things I can think of,
43 but it's a great question. Understanding more about
44 what affects the population size of these seabirds is
45 needed.

46
47 CHAIRMAN DALE: Jack.

48
49 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you. Jack
50

1 Fagerstrom. Have you noticed a difference in return
2 timing with the realization that everything is pretty
3 much a month earlier in our area? Break up is like a
4 month early. Our berries are like a month earlier.
5 Just looking at the timing, they might not get up here
6 at the most opportune moment for their foraging
7 ability. In our area they feed primarily on
8 fingerlings and smolt that come out of the rivers
9 during the spring. We've noticed a marked decline in
10 those.

11
12 In our regional reports, our whole
13 region from Stebbins to Wales have noticed a decline.
14 We've got rising ocean levels. There appears to be a
15 colony right across the bay on a sand spit, but that
16 sand spit has since been washed out, so there's no more
17 colony there. It was suggested to me that it might be
18 all timing related. They get up here too late.
19 There's shore birds that are going to Barrow weeks
20 earlier than normal. Our berries are a month earlier.
21 We get storm surges that affect our nesting areas up
22 there in our estuaries. There may be the availability
23 of their forage.

24
25 I'm just wondering if you guys took
26 that into consideration or not because that's a low
27 number.

28
29 CHAIRMAN DALE: Jack and Peter. The
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has initiated a
31 study of Aleutian Terns. One of the questions we'll be
32 asking is whether or not they have high site fidelity
33 to those colonies other than Yakutat and whether or not
34 they swap around or are they some place else. With the
35 changes you mentioned, are there changes in timing.
36 We'll have researchers Kelly Nesvacil. We'll have her
37 on the agenda for the next meeting and give you an
38 update on that study.

39
40 Travis, is there anything I need to
41 add?

42
43 MR. BOONS: No.

44
45 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Melissa.

46
47 MS. BERNS: Just a couple of, I guess,
48 more or less comments to your concerns and things that
49 we have discussed in the Kodiak region was that the
50

1 proposal presented by Mr. Squartsoff in 2001 was
2 primarily based on personal concern and was passed in
3 2003 after having public hearing, but with no
4 scientific data and evidence to back it up. This was a
5 big concern for us that such a drastic measure was
6 taken without concern for the C&T users in that area.
7

8 In regards to safety, there continues
9 to be hunting on the road system for other species of
10 animals, including deer and bear and rabbit and fox,
11 and those are utilizing high-powered rifles, which
12 would appear to be to me more of a concern than
13 harvesting birds utilizing shotguns.
14

15 There is the potential for increased
16 harvest, but that's something that we will never know
17 unless a chance is given to those people of that area.
18 The tribal members in the hub of Kodiak they don't have
19 the equal opportunity that we have in rural Alaska. I
20 know that the tribal members in that area fought really
21 hard for their rural designation, which they were
22 awarded and they came in the masses because their
23 traditional lifestyle is important to them as a people.
24 It's important to them to pass on those traditions.
25

26 I lived in Kodiak for several years and
27 I had my family send me birds and shellfish. There's a
28 big difference. Yes, you're meeting the need of that
29 nourishment, but there's a spiritual need of the people
30 to harvest and to provide for their own families and to
31 pass on those traditions to their children that they
32 don't have right now and it's not fair. It really
33 isn't.
34

35 My son, he's the provider of my family
36 right now. He went out, he filled my freezer, we have
37 goat, we have deer, we have ducks, we have clams. He
38 gets me seals. Those are the things that I take pride
39 in, being able to pass on to him so that he can
40 continue those traditions that the people in Kodiak do
41 not have.
42

43 I have a lot of tribal members from my
44 own tribe, the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor, that reside
45 in Kodiak that don't have the same rights that I do in
46 my village and the remainder of the villages around the
47 island, so that's really something that's near and dear
48 to my heart that I believe strongly that they deserve
49 that opportunity. Whether it be instating a permit
50

1 system or something along the lines of what was done in
2 Cordova, they deserve that chance and they deserve that
3 opportunity as the rest of us do.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 MR. FISCHER: I just want to comment
8 that everyone on Kodiak is an eligible subsistence
9 hunter in the spring and summer, period. It's an area
10 closure that was instated in 2003. So all Kodiak
11 residents can participate in the hunt.
12

13 MS. BERNS: But not for the birds.
14

15 MR. FISCHER: If I misspoke, I want
16 Pete to help me clarify that. It was my understanding
17 that all residents of Kodiak, regardless of where they
18 reside, can participate in the subsistence hunt. Just
19 not within that roaded area. They cannot hunt within
20 the roaded area, is that correct?
21

22 MS. BERNS: I understand that and along
23 that roaded area you have a lot of Native corporation
24 land that is owned by Natives of Kodiak, that is owned
25 by Ouzinkie Native Corporation, that is owned by Koniag
26 and also by Leisnoi Inc. These are tribal lands and
27 they are not allowed to harvest on their tribal lands.
28

29 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. I just have a
30 question. So can those corporations regulate who's
31 able to give permission through a permit system on
32 their lands?
33

34 MS. BERNS: They do. They do. There
35 is a permitting system. People wishing to harvest on
36 those areas have to go to the Native corporations to
37 obtain land use licenses and their regulations vary
38 depending on corporation.
39

40 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.
41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 appreciate your comments, Melissa. I just want
44 everybody -- because there's still a lot of information
45 to come and we're actually starting to get into what we
46 would call Council discussions where we have this. So
47 there's still information I'd like to hear before we
48 get into that. After Julian then we have the Technical
49 Committee and the opportunity for public and then
50

1 debating back and forth at that time would be
2 appropriate. Mr. Chair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria.

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: I had a question. Since
7 you brought up it's corporation land, Native land, do
8 you have a percentage of how many Natives there are
9 that could possibly be hunting on that land or egging?

10

11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Fifteen percent.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: Is 15 percent a concern
14 to you? It doesn't seem like it's a high number to me.

15

16 MR. FISCHER: The proposal as written
17 is to open the harvest for all.....

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: But is corporation -- if
20 they own the land along the road, they could close it
21 to people that are not shareholders, which is what
22 Ahtna does.

23

24 MR. FISCHER: My comments were
25 regarding the currently worded proposal, which doesn't
26 include any permitting system that we would restrict
27 the hunt to those permitted to enter those lands. So
28 my comments were not -- this is a different proposal.

29

30 CHAIRMAN DALE: Go ahead, Pete.

31

32 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Julian, Arctic Terns as far as being listed, how are
34 they listed?

35

36 MR. FISCHER: Aleutian Terns are on
37 several different lists of conservation concern. They
38 are not protected under the Endangered Species Act
39 although under the IUCN guidelines, which is somewhat
40 related to the Endangered Species Act.....

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: IUCN?

43

44 MR. FISCHER: IUCN, International Union
45 Conservation Network. A species is critically
46 imperiled when it drops more than 90 percent in three
47 generations, which is what Aleutian Terns have done.
48 The Fish and Wildlife Service has not pursued an
49 endangered species listing for this species at this

50

1 time. The Aleutian Tern is listed as an Alaska region
2 Fish and Wildlife Service priority species based on its
3 change in abundance. It's also recognized by the
4 Pacific Seabird Group as a species of high conservation
5 concern. Alaska Audubon has listed it on their watch
6 list for species of conservation concern.
7

8 The Arctic Tern is on all of those as
9 well with the exception of it was not selected as an
10 Alaska priority species because of other species that
11 made it to that list.
12

13 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you.
14

15 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any other questions for
16 Julian.
17

18 (No comments)
19

20 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We'll move on to
21 the Technical Committee report.
22

23 DR. FALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 This is Jim Fall with the Division of Subsistence, Fish
25 and Game. I'm a member of the Technical Committee and
26 I'm substituting for Eric Taylor, the Committee Chair
27 who couldn't be here today. The Committee met in
28 person in teleconference on March 6th to talk about
29 these three proposals and a summary of the Committee's
30 discussions can be found under Tab 6 in your book. If
31 any other members of the Committee have additional
32 comments, I'd ask them to offer them after I'm finished
33 here.
34

35 A reminder is that the Technical
36 Committee doesn't take a position on regulatory
37 proposals. The purpose of the Technical Committee is
38 to raise any technical issues related to background
39 information, potential consequences of the regulatory
40 change and also to suggest any alternative approaches,
41 possible amendments to address those issues.
42

43 The Technical Committee mostly
44 discussed all three proposals at once within the
45 context of the first proposal. Our basic question that
46 we ask to ourselves is what has changed since 2003 when
47 the closure was adopted. We understood that there were
48 some basic conservation issues raised when the closure
49 was first discussed mostly having to do with the
50

1 relatively large, eligible population living along the
2 road system of about 13,000 people. That was the
3 population back then and it's the population right now.
4

5 Especially given that there are now
6 these concerns about impacts on nesting Arctic and
7 Aleutian Terns that are also addressed in Proposal 2
8 and potential disturbance of Emperor Geese, which is
9 addressed in Proposal 3. So we thought that these same
10 issues were still existing for this area, so then we
11 talked about, well, what potential amendments could
12 there be to Proposal 1 or to the other two proposals to
13 try to address some of these concerns.
14

15 Regarding the conservation concerns
16 related to Arctic and Aleutian Terns, the possible
17 amendment would be to close the entire area to all
18 eggging given that there's a mixture of species, not
19 just the Arctic and Aleutian Terns there, but closing
20 those areas just to the eggging for those species and
21 leaving it open to the Mew Gulls would probably result
22 in disturbance to the terns as well.
23

24 Another issue we had related to that is
25 that there could be a difficulty in identifying where
26 these tern colonies are over time. It was discussed
27 that identifying the boundaries of the colonies could
28 be an issue, especially if they change and shift. So
29 if this area were opened up for general hunting, a
30 consideration would be closing the area in its entirety
31 to eggging.
32

33 A second possible amendment has to do
34 with the concern about the level of harvest that might
35 occur and the general requirement that harvest levels
36 stay within that which is traditional. We note that
37 the Sun'aq Tribe suggested that they could establish a
38 24-hour hotline to report harvests, which we
39 appreciated, but we thought that if indeed this was
40 open something much more systematic and comprehensive
41 would be needed to address this concern about the
42 possible increase in harvest.
43

44 The model is probably that it's now in
45 place for the Cordova area where a permit is required.
46 This is not an access permit, but a hunting permit.
47 Anybody who wanted to hunt in that area in the
48 springtime would need to get a permit from some entity
49 and, secondly, a required reporting of the harvest.
50

1 We also were supportive of an outreach
2 effort if this would happen and probably also a
3 consideration of a sunset clause that if indeed this
4 were opened up have the regulations expire after X
5 number of years, perhaps three years, and take an
6 account of how things are going and decide if it's
7 warranted to continue.

8
9 I think that's pretty much it. I would
10 just end by saying that these comments really pertain
11 to the second and third proposals as well. If members
12 of the Committee have any other comments, they can
13 offer them and also again the full notes from the
14 Technical Committee meeting are available to the
15 Council. That's all I have.

16
17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. Any
18 questions for Dr. Fall?

19
20 Pete.

21
22 MR. PROBASCO: Jim, do we have a
23 written report in our notes or not?

24
25 DR. FALL: Yes. It's behind Tab 6.

26
27 MR. PROBASCO: I couldn't find it.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It's after the
32 proposals.

33
34 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks, Patty.

35
36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Is there an estimate of
37 -- this would be open to anybody, I guess, the
38 proportion of private land within the road closed area?

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN DALE: We might try and dig
43 that up over lunch. I think that's a relevant piece of
44 information. The other question I had was what species
45 would likely be targeted within that area, the road
46 closed area?

47
48 MS. KRUEGER: Kelly Krueger, Sun'aaq
49 Tribe of Kodiak. From what the comments in the
50

1 meetings were it sounds like they mainly want to target
2 gull species, but really open to anything that's on the
3 road system.

4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: I have a question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN DALE: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 So is the issue egging or is it also harvest of birds?

13

14 MS. KRUEGER: It's both.

15

16 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. Thank you.

17

18 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst, Fish and
19 Wildlife. So you received packets on Tuesday, the
20 Council did. There's 11 public comments from
21 individuals. We're not going to read them into the
22 record, but they will get attached to the
23 administrative record. It would take too long to read
24 this huge volume. Hopefully some of you have had a
25 chance to look it over since you've had it for a couple
26 of days, look these over.

27

28 So we had 11 private individual
29 comments all opposing opening the road and one letter
30 from the Pacific Seabird Group, which also opposes
31 opening the road. So these will be added to the
32 administrative record and it will be attached to the
33 transcripts. Unless somebody requests that we read
34 these, we aren't going to read these.

35

36 Just for a little history, there's not
37 too many of us that have been around the whole length
38 of time. Patty is probably one of them and myself that
39 have been around since the 2002, 2003 period. I did
40 look through transcripts to refresh my memory. It's
41 not as good as it used to be.

42

43 The history of this proposal, it was
44 introduced back in 2001, back when we were just first
45 starting this whole program, and we were trying to
46 decide if any areas would be out, wouldn't be included
47 as subsistence areas. There was talk about the Nome
48 road system, there was talk about the Kodiak road
49 system. Nome got saved because there's only 3,000-plus
50

1 people.

2

3 When Kodiak came up back then, I think
4 it was 11 or 12,000 people for the town of Kodiak
5 including the Coast Guard base. There was some
6 movement to totally take out the town as
7 non-subsistence and there was a lot of debate. It went
8 on for over a year in different meetings. Herman
9 Squartsoff, who was the representative from Kodiak at
10 the time, tried hard to come up with a middle ground
11 and the middle ground was the road closure. Everybody
12 at the time thought that was a good compromise to the
13 problem of the number of people and that was instituted
14 in 2003.

15

16 Then in 2003 it was brought up they
17 didn't feel that was enough closure, so they added the
18 500 feet from the coast. That section was added and
19 went into place in 2004. We did have a fair number of
20 public comments when I went back and looked at the rule
21 documents. All of the public comments we received at
22 the time four were pro the conservation buffers we had
23 put in. Nothing against it at the time. We did have
24 public meetings. I only remember one in Kodiak per se,
25 but as we were establishing the whole AMBCC, which this
26 was at the same time, we had public meetings all over
27 the state. I think there were two in Anchorage and one
28 in Kodiak. This was addressed back then.

29

30 So I just thought I'd offer a little
31 bit of general history on where this all came from and
32 how it got started. So this has been around since the
33 very beginning of the AMBCC.

34

35 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you, Donna. Any
36 questions for Donna.

37

38 MR. DEVINE: Hey, Donna. Peter Devine.
39 Of them 10 comments that you got, were those people
40 that reside in the area or were they from outside
41 interest?

42

43 MS. DEWHURST: I seem to recall there
44 was one person that lived in Fairbanks. Yeah. It
45 sounds like they visit Kodiak a lot. I don't know if
46 they used to live there or not. So out of the 11 there
47 was one person from Fairbanks. Everybody else were
48 Kodiak residents.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And out of those do
4 you know or maybe Kelly knows how many participated in
5 the community meetings and in the Committee meetings.

6

7 MS. BERNS: Of the people who submitted
8 letter two of them had participated in our group
9 discussions and in our road committee meetings. The
10 other ones I know several of them very well as members
11 of the Kodiak Audubon Society.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We're past noon,
14 but I think we'll ask and see if there are any public
15 comments on these proposals and we have someone online
16 as well. Who else is going to want to make public
17 comments. Okay, we'll knock that off before we take
18 lunch.

19

20 MS. KRUEGER: Kelly Krueger, Sun'aq
21 Tribe of Kodiak. I just have a few comments about the
22 public comments and about the Technical Committee
23 meeting minutes. We were just talking about the Arctic
24 Tern and Aleutian Tern colonies and there was a
25 question about baseline population data, the Kodiak
26 National Wildlife Refuge does do surveys of both tern
27 colonies and those reports are available online. When
28 we were drafting Proposal 2, we were talking to Robin
29 Corcoran, the Refuge bird biologist a lot, so she was
30 the one who provided the data. So if anyone is
31 interested, that's online.

32

33 My second comment, this is more of a
34 frustration. I know we're all supposed to work
35 together and the Technical Committee on page 3 says the
36 comments would be provided in advance to both myself
37 and John Reft in case we wanted to amend the proposal
38 and we did not receive these comments in advance. So
39 that's a little bit of a frustration.

40

41 Going to our meeting that Melissa just
42 said, two of the people who submitted the comments
43 attended the meetings. I just wanted to say on the
44 record that our meetings were advertised on social
45 media, including Facebook, our website, the newspaper,
46 the radio and also on our community calendar for
47 several weeks before each meeting took place so people
48 were able to know in advance and attend the meetings if
49 they were able to.

50

1 Then regarding the public comments, I
2 mentioned this yesterday, but I just wanted to say it
3 again, I would encourage everyone to read the public
4 comments all the way through. There's one in
5 particular that I wanted to mention on the record. I
6 think it's number eight. I can't recognize the name,
7 but it says we here on the island have many more
8 resources for food via our stores and ways to earn
9 money to afford that food. So just taking this with a
10 bit of a grain of salt, if that's what they think about
11 subsistence, then I would just take it with a grain of
12 salt.

13
14 That's it for my public comments.
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete, do you have a
18 question for Kelly.

19
20 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks, Kelly. What
21 time of the day were your meetings?

22
23 MS. KRUEGER: Depending on the village
24 flight schedule, normally they were at noon or 1:00
25 p.m.

26
27 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. The reason I
28 asked that, if you look at Fish and Game Advisory
29 Committees and people working, they always purposely
30 held them in the evening so you could get that
31 participation. I'm looking at the comments and a lot
32 of these people.....

33
34 MS. KRUEGER: I'm sure a lot of them
35 are working. The way we do it is we try to get the
36 people in from the villages and out on the same day
37 just for weather issues. Small budget.

38
39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

40
41 MS. HOSETH: I guess just for the
42 record in our region our Advisory Committee meetings
43 are held during the day, so we're not held in the
44 evening time for Nushagak A.C.

45
46 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Do we have public
49 testimony anyone else.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: How about on the phone,
4 is there someone calling in?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We'll close
9 public testimony. Any further before we break for
10 lunch.

11

12 Gayla.

13

14 MS. HOSETH: No, I don't think so, but
15 we do want to have a Native Caucus. I guess we'll
16 lunch together.

17

18 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks, Gayla. I think
19 it might be wise to have the Native Caucus after we
20 discuss as a Council so you can get all the information
21 that's out there. I had some questions and points that
22 I would like to raise so at least you know where I'm
23 coming from before you have that.

24

25 MS. HOSETH: Okay. That sounds good.

26

27 CHAIRMAN DALE: Cyrus.

28

29 MR. HARRIS: Cyrus Harris. Thank you,
30 Mr. Chairman. Before we break for lunch I'd like to
31 ask to be excused for this afternoon. I need to go
32 check out and catch my plane early this afternoon.
33 Before we leave though, just for the record, we did
34 review Kodiak's three proposals at our regional
35 management body back in Kotzebue and we do support
36 these proposals.

37

38 I've got Brittany back there who will
39 be sitting in for me this afternoon and there's a
40 couple other -- on the agenda she'll be able to answer
41 some other information from our area.

42

43 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Thank you,
44 Cyrus.

45

46 MR. HARRIS: Thank you very much.

47

48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Safe travels.

49

50

1 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Thank you. Nice
2 meeting everybody.

3
4 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. We'll break
5 for lunch and resume at 1:30.

6
7 (Off record)

8
9 (On record)

10
11 CHAIRMAN DALE: I'll call the meeting
12 back to order. Please, Donna.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: There's a card going
15 around. Meredith, who is our court reporter this
16 morning. I know Pete and I and Patty, there's several
17 of us that have been around for a while. Meredith has
18 been doing subsistence meetings for 20 years, something
19 like that. Quite a long time. She's gone out to a lot
20 of villages. Anyway, she happened to accidentally share
21 with Patty and I that today is her birthday and she
22 turned 70. She was sitting over there. She does not
23 look like that. She might be mad at me for sharing.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: Anyway, there's a card
28 going around, got her some flowers. Our current court
29 reporter promised he's going to deliver the flowers to
30 her. Anyway, there's a card going around if you want
31 to sign it, fine. If not, fine, but it's going around.

32
33 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Thanks, Donna.
34 I had asked a question about how much corporation land
35 there was within the road closed area and I believe we
36 have an answer to that.

37
38 MS. KRUEGER: Kelly Krueger, Sun'aq
39 Tribe. I have a couple maps and a little more
40 information to share, so I'll just quickly turn it on
41 and go from there.

42
43 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay.

44
45 MS. KRUEGER: Okay. So there's a
46 couple maps here. This is the first one that I'll show
47 you guys. Hopefully everybody can see it. This is a
48 trail map of Kodiak, but it also has all the
49 differential -- or differentiates between all the
50

1 different kinds of lands. So the colors are a little
2 bit hard to distinguish between.

3
4 Kodiak city is right here and then the
5 road system goes all the way up here and then all the
6 way down here. So all of this land right in here is
7 mostly Leisnoi Incorporated land. The green land is
8 State land. So you can see that makes up a majority of
9 the road system. The red is Mental Health Trust land
10 and then of course in the city there's city land and
11 there's a couple small sections of Borough land in
12 there too. The road system goes out here too. This is
13 mostly Ouzinkie you can see really tiny, but that's
14 Ouzinkie Native Corporation land up there.

15
16 So that's one thing. If you're
17 interested in specific sections, this is our borough
18 GIS map and this also shows if you click on it what
19 land is what. So this is Womens Bay right here, Coast
20 Guard land, Borough land, Leisnoi, just based on where
21 you are, but a lot of it is Leisnoi land. There's a
22 couple segments over here I think that are Borough. So
23 if you're interested in knowing exactly where it's
24 kiborough.maps.arcgis.com or if you just search for
25 Kodiak Borough GIS on Google you can find it.

26
27 Leisnoi owns approximately 50,000 acres
28 on Kodiak and then Natives of Kodiak owns about 23,000
29 acres on both Kodiak and Afognak. Their land is going
30 to be in this region right here. If anyone is curious,
31 permits for Leisnoi they're free for shareholders,
32 spouses and decedents. If you are not, they are \$200
33 per person for any deer or small game hunting. Of
34 course it's more for bear and other things like that.
35 Just if you're curious.

36
37 I talked to one of our elders earlier
38 today about the question of what specific species that
39 people would want to be harvesting and the answer I got
40 was Buffleheads, Mallards, Goldeneyes, Eiders, Pintails
41 and Long-tailed Ducks. They're good eating before they
42 get fishy in the summertime. He was more interested in
43 hunting rather than egging, but for egging he was
44 interested in seagull eggs. I talked to John Reft and
45 he said just for the record he never received the
46 Technical Committee comments either.

47
48 So does anybody have any questions. I
49 think that was it.

50

1 MR. PROBASCO: Kelly, show them the
2 line on the east side where that road system stops.

3
4 MS. KRUEGER: So this might be the
5 better map, like right here. I think it's this point
6 right here all the way down to Saltry, this point right
7 over here. That's the road system closure.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any questions for Kelly
12 on that.

13
14 MS. KRUEGER: I do have one more thing
15 to note. Sorry about that. I recently found out that
16 much of Womens Bay is actually closed to hunting from a
17 separate closure that the U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak
18 has. I have a picture of the closure here too. It's
19 not really that great of a map, but this is what they
20 provided.

21
22 So this is Womens Bay and all of this
23 area in green is closed to hunting and then the yellow
24 is bow only, but that's inland. So this is
25 approximately where Buskin River comes out and then
26 straight over to Cliff Point and then much of inland
27 into Womens Bay. So they can't hunt. Even if the 500-
28 foot rule was lifted they still can't hunt there.

29
30 I just wanted to let everyone know.

31
32 MS. HOSETH: I have a question, Mr.
33 Chair. On that other map could you show us where the
34 road is and where that closure area is.

35
36 MS. KRUEGER: On this one?

37
38 MS. HOSETH: Yeah.

39
40 MS. KRUEGER: Sure. Okay. So, like I
41 said before, this is the boundary right here up at
42 Anton Larsen Bay straight down to Saltry Cove. I think
43 it's this point right here. Everything over. And then
44 up here it goes a straight shot from here over to
45 Termination Point, which is right here, a straight
46 line. And then everything else including this whole
47 area and then down here too.

48
49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Where does the
50

1 traditional customary hunting usually occur? Do you
2 know what areas people normally go that live on the
3 roaded system or maybe Melissa can answer.
4

5 MS. KRUEGER: Yeah, from what I've
6 heard from John Reft Womens Bay, Middle Bay, just
7 wherever it's easily accessible without a boat. Those
8 are the two regions that he said. I'm not sure if
9 Melissa knows more than that.
10

11 Down here, Pasagshak Bay a little bit
12 and then Anton Larsen Bay I know for sure that people
13 get tern eggs off of one of the little islands in there
14 and there's also a lot of birds that are in here. It's
15 pretty protected.
16

17 This is Ouzinkie Native Corporation
18 land over on this side and then on this side too, I
19 believe, and some Kodiak land. Even over here is
20 Ouzinkie land too. It's really hard to see on the map,
21 but there is some. And then Leisnoi land over here
22 too.
23

24 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any other questions.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you very much for
29 presenting that.
30

31 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.
32

33 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We need to
34 continue or begin Council discussion on Proposal 1.
35

36 Peter.
37

38 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Peter Devine. Just a comment. I heard a statement
40 earlier on why the road system should be closed and it
41 was said that, well, they have other islands that they
42 could get these eggs from, which in my view is wrong
43 because not everybody has a skiff or a boat to go to
44 these other islands.
45

46 For instance in Sand Point we had an
47 island right out in our front yard where we used to go
48 gather eggs and because it was in direct line with the
49 airport the FAA sprayed that island to where the birds
50

1 no long nest on that island, therefore displacing them
2 and bringing them into the swamp on Popof Island.
3 That's turned into quite a colony in the last 20 years.
4 So I just wanted to say I didn't agree with the
5 statement that they could get them on other islands.
6

7 CHAIRMAN DALE:
8

9 MS. BERNS: I apologize earlier for
10 making my comments a little early. I now have the
11 protocol in front of me. I think that my message was
12 clear in that there are subsistence users, customary
13 and traditional users that value their traditional
14 foods and upbringing.
15

16 I think it's important enough to the
17 tribal members of Sun'ag and the tribal members of the
18 other tribes residing in the Kodiak proper area that
19 they have access so much that they brought it to Sun'ag
20 Tribe to write these proposals on their behalf.
21

22 I know that when this was -- when the
23 first proposal was presented by Mr. Reft it may not
24 have been worded in ways that made people comfortable
25 with it, but I believe we've done our due diligence in
26 meeting with all of the stakeholders, meeting with
27 departments and to have community outreach so that we
28 can craft a proposal that does take into consideration
29 conservation and it does take into consideration the
30 needs of the people.
31

32 I just think it's something very
33 important to them and something that's been taken away
34 from them. We didn't ask to have a Coast Guard base in
35 our front yard or a Navy base in our front yard that
36 led to the Coast Guard base. You know, it's just
37 something that happened. Through that we're faced with
38 having these regulations that prohibit us from living
39 our subsistence way of life.
40

41 I just feel it's important for you to
42 take that into consideration and to look at ways that
43 we can come up with solutions to make this work whether
44 it be permitting systems similar to what was done in
45 the Cordova area that I hear is quite successful. But
46 to give these people a chance to continue their
47 traditional practices.
48

49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 That sort of puts me in a tough spot because Kodiak has
5 been my home for 20-plus years. I moved off the island
6 in July of 2000. All three of my children went there
7 from primary school all the way through high school.
8 They all graduated. Melissa will attest I was very
9 active in the community.

10

11 I can attest too that the Native
12 community not only within Kodiak but outside of Kodiak
13 in villages played a very important part not only with
14 my children but also with my job as well as being very
15 good friends. So it's difficult, especially when you
16 recognize that there's a lot of very significant
17 customary and traditional values on Kodiak.

18

19 I want to remind that this is a co-
20 management council board and all of us, like myself and
21 Bruce, our first charge is conservation. We have to
22 look at conservation first, then we look at uses with
23 subsistence being the priority use in rural areas and
24 within the state of Alaska for the residents.

25

26 So when I look at the city of Kodiak,
27 you're looking at a population of people of
28 approximately 12,000 individuals all on the road
29 system. This is a very diverse community. It has very
30 many different cultures; Asian cultures, like me
31 Scandinavian cultures, but a very diverse culture.
32 Many of them are very active users on this road system.

33

34 When you look at the actual habitats
35 and what makes up the Kodiak road system and where we
36 want to harvest and the number of people there, all of
37 a sudden these populations of birds become very
38 susceptible during critical periods of time, i.e.
39 nesting. We have two species of birds, the Arctic Tern
40 and Aleutian Tern, that have various categories as far
41 as conservation concerns. Where we want to egg for
42 these other species, not terns but for Glaucus Gulls
43 and Murres, they reside right within these tern
44 colonies.

45

46 In addition, the waterfowl populations
47 at springtime in Kodiak the habitat is currently closed
48 where a lot of these nesting occurs and the population
49 of other waterfowl species on Kodiak during this period

50

1 of time are not large like other communities. So that
2 population of birds would also be very susceptible to
3 overharvest because all of a sudden the inland areas
4 are open.

5
6 Our program cannot just select a user
7 and say it's only open for them. It has to be open for
8 all people. In this case, all approximately 12,000
9 residents on Kodiak would have the opportunity. If we
10 design a permit system, which is something we should
11 look at but it's not something we're going to be able
12 to do at this meeting, it has to take into
13 consideration that everybody has equal access to that
14 permitting system regardless where it takes place,
15 private land or State land.

16
17 On the road system, as Kelly pointed
18 out, there's a lot of land that's currently occupied by
19 various Native communities. In some cases permits are
20 required, but there's also a lot of State land and
21 Borough land, which is open.

22
23 So what I struggle with when I look at
24 this, recognizing that there's individuals that do have
25 a customary and traditional practice and want to
26 maintain that, Melissa said very well, being able to
27 pass it on to their youth, their grandchildren, their
28 children, that's important. But then when I put the
29 overall factors into place, the size of the population
30 really drives it.

31
32 That 500-foot closure around the Kodiak
33 road system where you can't harvest within that 500
34 feet protects those areas like Kelly was pointing out,
35 the Womens Bay flats area. Very key area of gathering
36 both Emperors, other waterfowl and other shorebirds.
37 That's protected. You currently can't hunt there. The
38 areas that people are currently egging are open, a lot
39 of the surrounding islands.

40
41 So I find it difficult to support this
42 proposal, but as far as the conservation concerns and
43 the strong probability of overharvest, I would have to
44 vote in opposition.

45
46 Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Other comments.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: I've got one more.

4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: I think Melissa brought
8 it up, the possibility of looking at a permit system.
9 I think that's something we need to look at if we're
10 really going to pursue this and how and where we would
11 implement it, but it's going to take time. Much like
12 we did with other issues, the handicraft or dealing
13 with the Emperor Goose. It's not something we're going
14 to be able to do here today.

15

16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. Any other
19 comments.

20

21 Gayla.

22

23 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 guess if we do look at a permitting system, look at the
25 definition of indigenous inhabitants in the 1997
26 Canadian protocol. It states it's for Alaska Natives,
27 non-Natives, permanent residents with a legitimate
28 subsistence need. So that's just something to bear in
29 mind about.

30

31 MR. PROBASCO: Good point, Gayla, but
32 unfortunately the regulations that make up what we deal
33 collectively as the AMBCC Co-Management body does not
34 allow us to separate by tribe, by community. We have
35 to look at all those individuals. So in the Kodiak
36 situation all those individuals residing in Kodiak are
37 eligible. We couldn't pick out from that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

40

41 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Peter Devine here again. I just want to voice my
43 frustration on this whole thing. I mean we have a list
44 of birds of concern that we haven't seen in a few
45 years, but now that some society says that these birds
46 -- I mean the State of Alaska has never told us these
47 birds are of concern or in danger, but now that Kodiak
48 wants to open the road system it sounds like it's
49 because of the disturbance that's going to be created

50

1 for the Arctic Terns.

2

3 I mean that's never even been on our
4 radar.

5

6 CHAIRMAN DALE: The State did list
7 terns in its statewide action plan and that actually is
8 the vehicle by which the funding for the research that
9 the State is conducting was developed. That research
10 project predated these proposals. There's a lot of
11 species on that statewide action plan list, which was
12 just recently reapproved. Some of it are not --
13 they're a direct concerns, but there's little known
14 about the species. The recent trends in tern numbers
15 resulted in that research effort on behalf of the
16 State.

17

18 Gayla.

19

20 MS. HOSETH: If it's okay, Mr. Chair,
21 I'd like to call Anna up to the Council to elaborate a
22 little bit more on the definition of indigenous
23 inhabitants.

24

25 CHAIRMAN DALE: Sure.

26

27 MS. CRARY: Hi. Thank you. My name is
28 Anna Crary. I'm an attorney with Landye, Bennett,
29 Blumstein. I provide counsel to the Native Caucus of
30 the AMBCC. I appreciate the opportunity to be here
31 today to listen to the discussion and to participate.

32

33 I know that we here understand that the
34 basis for what this body does is the Migratory Bird
35 Treaty Act. We have statutes and we have our treaties
36 that have been amended by protocols. Everyone here
37 also is no doubt familiar with the 1997 protocols
38 amending that original Act between both Canada and the
39 U.S. and Mexico and the United States.

40

41 The definition in the letter of
42 submittal for the 1997 protocol between the U.S. and
43 Canada provides a very distinct definition of what an
44 indigenous inhabitant is. It defines that as both an
45 Alaska Native living in a village in a subsistence area
46 and also as a non-Native permanent resident with
47 legitimate subsistence needs.

48

49 As these regulations are drafted right

50

1 now, you know, a permanent resident is defined as
2 anybody who has lived in that subsistence area for at
3 least 12 months. So no doubt there are a larger number
4 of indigenous inhabitants in Kodiak, however I don't
5 know if all 12,000 of those people would have been
6 there for the full calendar year. So the number of
7 people potentially eligible to participate in this
8 harvest I think is smaller than what we are concerned
9 with at this point in time.

10

11 I think that also under a reading of
12 these regulations it's possible to reduce our concerns
13 regarding conservation by giving credence to that
14 language in the protocol, which is very important. It
15 appears in both protocols, it appears in the entire
16 legislative history of these treaties and of these
17 amendments and it recognizes the twin goals of these
18 treaties and of the protocols amending them as being
19 both conservation of this resource, but also
20 conservation of the way of life, specifically a
21 subsistence way of life.

22

23 So I think that it is possible for this
24 Council to come together and to discuss a way to give
25 an opportunity to harvest to both the Alaska Natives
26 who are trying just to maintain their customary and
27 traditional uses of this resource, but also do it
28 consistent with how that language is defined in the
29 treaties and how the contracting members to those
30 treaties understood that language would be included.

31

32 I'm happy to answer any questions at
33 this point regarding these sources and how we are
34 interpreting them.

35

36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.

37

38 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks, Anna, for your
39 testimony. We've been down this path as far as who is
40 eligible and can we separate based on what you're
41 implying there and we've been told we can't. So
42 regardless of if you're Alaska Native or you're
43 Filipino or if you're Caucasian and you live in the
44 communities that are recognized, you have to provide
45 equal opportunity.

46

47 I mean when they went down the path to
48 originally look at these regulations that may not have
49 been the case, but what we have now and what's before

50

1 us is what we have to deal with. As far as residents
2 in Kodiak, they may not be 12,000, but I'll bet you
3 it's 11,855 that live there more than 12 months out of
4 the year. It's a substantial community and a lot of
5 people live there for many years. If you look at all
6 of our communities that participate, it's the largest.

7
8 MS. CRARY: Thank you for that comment.
9 I do wish to clarify that my comment regarding the
10 definition of indigenous inhabitant doesn't
11 differentiate with regard to race or ethnicity.
12 Furthermore, tribal designations here are political
13 designations, so it's a permissible differentiation to
14 make when you are defining an indigenous inhabitant.
15 So just to clarify that in my original comment.

16
17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

18
19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So for the Fish and
20 -- this question is for Fish and Wildlife Service. A
21 comment was made that no new information has really
22 been presented to convince the Service to support this
23 proposal. I'm wondering what kind of information would
24 be helpful for the Service to consider, additional
25 information.

26
27 MR. PROBASCO: I think you're speaking
28 to what Julian said and then my comments would echo. I
29 would step back to what I said first, is that when we
30 look at these situations, particularly with a
31 population like we have in Kodiak and the very limited
32 resource and the high probability of overharvest, that
33 is what this board faced when it first was brought
34 forth in 2001 and then finally adopted, I believe, in
35 2003. I listened and that hasn't changed. In fact, I
36 believe the population of Kodiak has increased. On top
37 of that we have continued and increased concerns for
38 some populations of terns, both Arctic and Aleutian.

39
40 So what would have to change? Well,
41 we'd have to be able to have a process that would allow
42 a take that would not jeopardize any of those stocks of
43 birds that we're concerned with.

44
45 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

46
47 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 just had a question just to clarify with Pete on who
49 was it that said that about the indigenous inhabitants.

50

1 Was it the SRC? You said they said that you couldn't.
2 I just want to know who they is.
3

4 MR. PROBASCO: Well, I'd have to go
5 back to my OSM days and ANILCA and I'm not a new kid on
6 the block here on this, but this has been challenged a
7 number of times and it's what the solicitors and what
8 the final outcome was. Who the individuals were are
9 many.
10

11 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria and then Anna.
12

13 MS. STICKWAN: I'd like to know -- you
14 probably have records of how many hunters hunt on that
15 road. You have permits reported, so how many hunters
16 are in the area right now affecting these Arctic Terns
17 we're concerned about?
18

19 MR. PROBASCO: Gloria, like your area,
20 there's not permits provided for. This is a
21 spring/summer subsistence hunt. The road.....
22

23 MS. STICKWAN: No, I'm talking about
24 other hunters out there that are hunting for deer like
25 she said earlier. How many hunters are hunting for
26 deer and rabbit and whatever animals are out there
27 right now disturbing the terns? Why are we allowing
28 them to hunt if they're going to be disturbing the
29 Arctic terns.
30

31 MR. PROBASCO: Well, deer season occurs
32 in the fall, which starts I believe August 1st or
33 August 10th. We're talking about springtime and we're
34 looking at colonies of terns that additional
35 disturbance would have a negative impact on them if
36 you're going in there to egg and/or hunt.
37

38 MS. CRARY: How many tern colonies are
39 located on the road system? I know a lot that are on
40 the islands that are offshore that people access, but
41 how many are on the road system that we're concerned
42 about?
43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: Does staff have data on
45 that? Can we address that? Travis.
46

47 MR. BOONS: Thank you. Travis Boons,
48 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It's a pleasure to
49 address all of you. I had discussion with Robin
50

1 Corcoran of the Kodiak Fish and Wildlife Service prior
2 to this meeting. My understanding is that there are
3 two to three tern colonies within the road closure area
4 that they're primarily interested in and concerned
5 about. Those are the largest tern colonies that they
6 know of on Kodiak Island and those are about 100 birds
7 each year, although that varies annually.
8

9 MR. FAGERSTROM: Are they both Arctic
10 and Aleutian?
11

12 MR. BOONS: My understanding is that
13 there's a mixture of both, but those are primarily
14 Aleutian Terns in those colonies. There are 12 to 18
15 other colonies for Aleutian Terns that are known in
16 other parts of the Kodiak Island, but those are like a
17 dozen birds, very small numbers mixed with Arctic Terns
18 as well. That's my understanding.
19

20 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.
21

22 MR. PROBASCO: Yes. I asked Rob Calor,
23 anticipating some of these questions, and he emailed me
24 and said Arctic Terns are listed as a bird of
25 conservation concern. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009
26 Alaska Seabird Conservation Plan. Owing to a large
27 decline of more than 90 percent in the Gulf of Alaska,
28 including the complete disappearance of 14 colonies on
29 Kodiak Island of which there are still two to three
30 active on the Kodiak road system.
31

32 MR. BOONS: Correct. That's my
33 understand as well. Those are the largest colonies on
34 the island that they know of on the road system.
35

36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.
37

38 MR. DEVINE: Okay. Back to Yakutat
39 again. I mean two years ago we got information where
40 there was 22,000 birds in that area and I raised the
41 question, well, if they're Aleutian Terns, what are
42 they doing down there. I mean it sounds like these
43 colonies are moving and going to where a better food
44 source is. With that many colonies how are we going to
45 really track and know which colonies these birds are
46 from if there's no baseline data?
47

48 I'm just having a hard time with
49 numbers. When we did the Yakutat eggging thing, that
50

1 was two years ago, I believe. At that time they had
2 22,000 Aleutian Terns. Here we are two years later and
3 we hear it's down 2,500. I mean that would have been
4 over 95 percent decrease. But when Yakutat wanted
5 their eggging area, they told us about this colony that
6 was there. So just frustrated.

7
8 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope
9 Borough. I think it would be really helpful if Fish
10 and Wildlife could just provide to the Native Caucus
11 and some of the other committees for the AMBCC how
12 actually -- the solicitor's argument in how they define
13 or consider the legitimate subsistence needs within
14 that definition. There's other committees that are
15 also looking at that definition and I was just
16 wondering how legitimate subsistence needs is actually
17 considered in creating an indigenous inhabitant.

18
19 MS. CRARY: If I may, just to answer
20 Gayla's question. I think that the history -- to the
21 question that you asked goes back to 2005 solicitor
22 opinion. I think the question that was asked
23 specifically to that solicitor in that case was can a
24 hunt exclude everyone except for Alaska Natives and the
25 answer was no.

26
27 I think the question that's being posed
28 to the Council today is different. The proposal
29 doesn't suggest excluding everyone but for Alaska
30 Natives. The proposal doesn't suggest excluding
31 everyone but for Alaska Natives. The proposal includes
32 the language Kodiak resident.

33
34 I think what is within the power of the
35 Council to do is to limit the number of people who are
36 able to access that hunt through a permitting system
37 based on that definition of indigenous inhabitant,
38 which to my knowledge the definition of legitimate
39 subsistence needs has not been considered, has not been
40 discussed and is not defined in the regulations. So to
41 answer that question.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN DALE: Roland.

46
47 MR. WHITE: Roland White. I just am
48 having a really hard time absorbing what you guys have
49 been talking about, primarily the disturbance of
50

1 nesting terns and whatnot. The argument that I've been
2 hearing is all these hunters, if the road opens, will
3 be disturbing the nesting terns. Isn't that already
4 happening today?

5
6 I don't know much about the Kodiak
7 area, the road system, but having been there for a
8 couple years attending school down there every now and
9 then we'd go out and then go for a walk in the fields
10 out there for fresh air. While we were walking we'd
11 see many people doing the same thing with their dogs
12 and whatnot. Like I said, I'm trying to grasp
13 everything that's being said, especially about the
14 disturbance of these Arctic Tern nesters and the nests.

15
16 So you guys, from my understanding,
17 just a broad understanding, you guys are going to
18 enforce -- if this doesn't go through, are you guys
19 going to enforce the rules stating that you can't
20 disturb the nests of these Arctic Terns from just
21 individual bystanders who are walking their dogs or
22 just going out for fresh air and accidentally coming
23 across terns and disturbing them practically almost
24 every day?

25
26 CHAIRMAN DALE: That's a good point. I
27 don't know the degree to -- I guess I was under the
28 impression that the disturbance would be related to the
29 taking of Mew Gull eggs that are mixed in with the tern
30 colonies. Hunting other birds with shotguns during the
31 nesting season would be a disturbance level that's not
32 experienced now. That was my impression from the
33 Technical Committee report.

34
35 Peter.

36
37 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. Sorry, but
38 when I go egging I don't take a gun.

39
40 CHAIRMAN DALE: I was not implying that
41 that was the case, but there's also a hunting season
42 proposed as well, right? Basically we're talking about
43 ducks mostly as being targeted and I don't know if they
44 exist near the tern colonies or not.

45
46 MS. CRARY: That was my next question.
47 In knowing where these two tern colonies on the road
48 system are of concern, are they anywhere near the low
49 wetlands where people would be hunting?

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Do you have information
2 on where the tern colonies are located?

3
4 MS. KRUEGER: Kelly Krueger, Sun'aq
5 Tribe of Kodiak. I'm going to pull it up really quick,
6 so it's going to be a minute.

7
8 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria.

9
10 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering if
11 people hunt bears down there in the springtime and do
12 they have records of that? State, they should.

13
14 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yes.

15
16 MS. STICKWAN: So they're probably
17 disturbing the Arctic Terns then too right now.

18
19 CHAIRMAN DALE: I don't know if
20 the.....

21
22 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know.

23
24 CHAIRMAN DALE: I don't know if the
25 colonies.....

26
27 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know. I'm
28 just.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN DALE:are in the same
31 places where likely bear hunters are or not.

32
33 Roland.

34
35 MR. WHITE: Thank you. One more
36 question. I think in my area most birds nest about the
37 same timeframe. At a certain time after going out
38 eggng, in my area at least, we quit eggng after a few
39 days to a week, we quit eggng and we quit hunting. So
40 are the birds any different down in the Kodiak area?
41 Do they nest at different times like these different
42 birds?

43
44 The reason I bring that up is isn't
45 there a 30-day closure throughout the nesting season?

46
47 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, Roland, there is a
48 30-day closure, but keep in mind what the Technical
49 Committee as well as what Julian said, there's nesting
50

1 occurs before and after that period as well, but there
2 is that 30-day closure.
3

4 MS. KRUEGER: This is Kelly Krueger,
5 Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. This is a report that Robin
6 Corcoran from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
7 provided to me and I sent this to Eric Taylor on March
8 7th. It's a little bit long, so bear with me while I
9 scroll through this.

10

11 Okay. So this is Aleutian and Arctic
12 Tern -- this is the road system colonies. The Aleutian
13 Tern is the green rectangle and the Arctic Tern
14 colonies are in the red triangle. So along the road
15 system these are the areas. There's a little more
16 specific information on the number that they found in
17 each one of these colonies last year.

18

19 So Middle Bay you can see different
20 dates, 10 in May and then 92 in early June. They were
21 surveying all the way into August. So Middle Bay,
22 Kalsin Bay, Pasagshak, Burton Ranch, all these are on
23 the road system. The most right here is Pasagshak
24 River, 175 on June 7th.

25

26 So high counts it looks like 92 to 175
27 right here in Middle Bay and then Pasagshak River right
28 there and then for Arctic it looks like 65 to 104 over
29 in Kalsin. There's a picture a little bit later on
30 about where they are on Kalsin. This report includes
31 all the noted human disturbances as well. This looks
32 like that's all on the other side of the island.

33

34 So the nesting sites from last year,
35 Burton Ranch, Pasagshak River, Kalsin Bay, Middle Bay
36 for -- well, Middle, Kalsin and Pasagshak for all three
37 -- or for both species and then Arctic Terns nesting at
38 Burton Ranch as well.

39

40 Here's Middle Bay, American River on
41 the northwest side. You can see the nesting sites are
42 really right on the beach and this is a very popular
43 site for people fishing and camping and recreating, as
44 Pete knows in the summertime. So right on the beach
45 with the litter right there. I guess that's a little
46 bit more specific information.

47

48 I did want to scroll down here a little
49 bit more. There's an aerial view of Kalsin Bay again

50

1 right on the beach. A few Mew Gulls and then Aleutian
2 Terns in there as well.

3

4 It has been brought up at our meetings
5 before about the human disturbances just because of all
6 the ATVs. Like I said, the people recreating along
7 these areas. In addition, it's a huge farming area out
8 there. You can see the cows and the terns in the
9 foreground as well as the horses and people camping and
10 RVs and stuff.

11

12 I think that's it for this report, but
13 just a little bit of a better idea of what's happening
14 out there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you very much,
17 Kelly. Any questions for Kelly on that.

18

19 MS. KRUEGER: Robin Corcoran would be
20 the one to talk to. I just read the report.

21

22 CHAIRMAN DALE: You were prepared.
23 That's what we're thanking you for.

24

25 MS. BERNS: There was a question about
26 bear hunting on the road system and I was told by the
27 ADF&G biologist for Kodiak area that they may issue up
28 to 130 bear permits and the season is April 1st through
29 May 1st. So to answer your question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN DALE: With all those people
32 recreating along those beaches I doubt that that's a
33 big bear hunting area.

34

35 MS. BERNS: I don't think the nesting
36 period coincides with the hunting season is the point.

37

38 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. I did not
39 catch that. That's a good point. I think we've
40 focused in on the terns significantly and it is an
41 important resource and there is concern there. The
42 Technical Committee also brought up the question of the
43 potential for overharvest of some of the species that
44 would be targeted and that was the basis for my
45 question of that, local depletion of the populations.
46 There hasn't been as much discussion about that. I'd
47 like to address that.

48

49 Gloria.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to bring up
2 -- I know ANILCA doesn't have anything to do with
3 Migratory Birds Treaty Act, but similar situation. We
4 have Chisana Caribou. They're at a very low
5 population. So what they did was they gave permits to
6 the village councils and they give them so many permits
7 with a quota and that seemed to work and everybody is
8 happy with it. It seems to me that something like that
9 could work here too. I'm talking about the Federal
10 hunt.

11
12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, I didn't realize
13 that that occurred. Pete.

14
15 MR. DEVINE: Which one?
16

17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete first.
18

19 MR. PROBASCO: I had the same problem
20 with my father, same name. To me, you know, it's good
21 that we focused and discussed on the two tern species,
22 but I think people are missing the main point that I
23 was presenting, was that we've got to look at the
24 potential for harvest and the number of participants.
25 I think, like some of the other areas that the Federal
26 Subsistence Board went down, like Gloria talks about,
27 where you have a very limited harvest and more users
28 than what could be allowed for that harvest, the permit
29 system was implemented.

30
31 I think if we are going to really look
32 hard at the Kodiak road system, we have to acknowledge
33 that the number of participants would rapidly exceed
34 the available harvest. To me, the only option to
35 explore would be how to reduce the number of harvesters
36 to take the limited harvest. What that would look like
37 I have no idea, but to me that's probably the only
38 possible option to look at.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

43
44 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Legend has it back when we started in 2000, I came on
46 board in 2002, and at that time we were being allowed
47 to hunt from April 2nd to August 31st, but in that
48 hunting period we had to put in a 30-day egg closure to
49 help conserve nesting birds. At that time we thought
50

1 30 days -- we didn't really need a 30-day closure
2 because we only harvest them the first two weeks.
3 After that they're no good. I just wanted to point
4 that out. So we have taken measures to reduce our
5 hunting time to conserve birds that were nesting.
6

7 CHAIRMAN DALE: To me one of the big --
8 it's really an unknown. It seems to me that it seems
9 very likely that this would be embraced by many of the
10 inhabitants of Kodiak and pursued. My limited
11 knowledge of the place, but I think it would be, you
12 know, very popular, but I may be wrong on that. It
13 just seems likely to me. But it seems like there may
14 be ways to get at that.
15

16 I don't know if funding or what the
17 restrictions are on something like this, but when we
18 need additional information we usually try and go get
19 it. A survey of Kodiak residents to estimate how many
20 people would participate and what level of harvest they
21 would take relative to what the Service and the State
22 things the resources are would be a step that would, I
23 think, make us more comfortable.
24

25 We just had a couple of different
26 discussions on limiting participation. One that Anna
27 brought and Gayla as well as what Pete just said. I
28 think there's recognition there that that's potentially
29 a problem, is too many people willing to participate.
30 So it seems like we could probably survey residents
31 there some reasonable fashion and determine whether
32 that is likely to be very popular or whether or not we
33 would have to restrict in some other way.
34

35 Gayla.
36

37 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Just for discussion what about if we did a partial road
39 closure and not opening up the entire road system?
40

41 CHAIRMAN DALE: That would certainly be
42 a possibility. It looked like it would be able to --
43 it occurred to me too that some of the closures along
44 the tern nesting areas would be -- remaining there
45 might be a way to help with that issue, but that might
46 affect -- exacerbate any potential for overharvest of
47 species that are taken in the remaining areas. It
48 still doesn't address that problem. Although it would
49 provide some refuge if it was close to everything in
50

1 some areas.

2

3 Patty.

4

5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Can someone, maybe
6 Julian, tell us what the health of the populations of
7 those species that Kelly listed that they are proposing
8 to harvest.

9

10 MR. FISCHER: If I recall correctly --
11 this is Julian Fischer, Fish and Wildlife Service --
12 the species that are selected for harvest or that were
13 identified for harvest were Common Goldeneye, Eiders,
14 which is a group of several species that would be
15 occurring there.

16

17 MS. KRUEGER: I'll just read them
18 again. Kelly Krueger, Sun'ag Tribe of Kodiak.
19 Buffleheads, Mallards, Goldeneye, Pintail and Long-
20 tailed Ducks.

21

22 MR. FISCHER: So, of those species, we
23 do not have estimates on an annual basis from Kodiak.
24 We just don't have them. Kodiak is not one of the
25 primary waterfowl production areas in Alaska that the
26 Service surveys on an annual basis. The Kodiak Refuge
27 might have some data on it. I don't have that
28 available to me at this time. I didn't have this list
29 until just now.

30

31 Steller's Eiders, of course, are a
32 threatened species. They're closed to all harvest
33 anyway already. Common Eiders, if those are one of the
34 species, are open to harvest. They are a species of
35 some management concern in some locations. Pintails,
36 on a continental basis, like I mentioned earlier, they
37 are relatively stable throughout North America. Long-
38 tailed Ducks are actually a species of high
39 conservation concern.

40

41 I attended a RAC meeting in Kodiak a
42 couple years ago and I know there were some concerns
43 voiced by attendants there about sea ducks on Kodiak.

44

45 MS. KRUEGER: Harlequin on the west
46 side?

47

48 MR. FISCHER: Well, it was Harlequins,
49 but it was also on the east side. There was concerns

50

1 in one of the bays and I can't remember what it was.
2 I'm thinking about one of the bays where there was
3 members of the public that were concerned that the
4 numbers of sea ducks overall had declined on Kodiak
5 Island. They were worried about human disturbance and
6 what was going on there. They were hoping for new
7 studies to be initiated to look into the sea duck
8 situation.

9

10 That's all I have to offer to answer
11 that question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DALE: I had one other thought
14 regarding -- I guess the concern that was addressed
15 resulting in these proposals that concerned me the most
16 was the lack of passing on customs and traditions and
17 that's something that should concern all people who
18 consumptively use wildlife of all races and places.

19

20 When we talk about ways to limit
21 hunters, one thing that might be considered would be a
22 youth hunt where they had to be accompanied by an
23 adult, but that would allow for that. It would
24 probably greatly reduce the number of people who were
25 involved in it and it would be probably people who
26 really want their children to grow up and that would be
27 another area to explore.

28

29 It would be kind of outside the box for
30 this group, but it's something we do in game management
31 all the time now. If it was in a limited area and
32 limited participation, that would be a way other than a
33 survey to gauge how many people really are going to get
34 after these resources in the spring and summer.

35

36 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 To me that's the kind of thinking that I would like to
38 see if we are really going to pursue a hunt of this
39 type on an area with this number of people that could
40 hunt this.

41

42 I'm not sure, Mr. Chair, where you want
43 to go with this and I'm not sure where Melissa wants to
44 go with this. One thought as we get towards taking
45 action on this proposal we may want to consider. I
46 don't know how the vote is going to come out either,
47 but you've heard where I'm at on this.

48

49 One possibility is to take this

50

1 proposal and have further work looking at and
2 addressing some of the concerns versus voting it up or
3 down, Mr. Chair. In other words, send it to a
4 committee to work on.

5

6 CHAIRMAN DALE: I would like to hear
7 some more on those suggestions.

8

9 MS. HOSETH: If it would be okay, Mr.
10 Chair, if we could break into Native Caucus and then we
11 could discuss it and bring forward some ideas of what
12 we come out of Caucus.

13

14 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah. Just to give you
15 something to work with there. My concern about the
16 number of hunters and the potential to over-exploit the
17 resource are a problem for me at this juncture, but I
18 very much am sympathetic to the arguments that have
19 been brought forward and would like to explore other
20 options. So I wouldn't want to be in a position where
21 I felt like I needed to vote this down for conservation
22 purposes. I don't think the issue is going to go away
23 regardless.

24

25 So I think maybe where I'm coming from
26 is some of these ideas be pursued in committee, a
27 survey, other options for hunts and closing,
28 considerations of season lengths and other areas that
29 would be not open. So I just wanted you to have that
30 information as you go into Caucus.

31

32 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
33 we did differ this to a committee, we would have to
34 have action on it before the Pacific Flyway meeting,
35 right, for a 2018 regulation. So how would we
36 reconvene a vote if we're not meeting before the
37 Pacific Flyway meets?

38

39 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair and Gayla. I
40 don't know if I would want to put us on that type of
41 time constraint. I think this is going to take some
42 careful thought. We may not be able to make the SRC
43 meeting, but that does not preclude us from continuing
44 to work on this proposal, much like the Emperor Geese,
45 and bring it back once we're ready.

46

47 This is a challenging one. We've got
48 to do it right because the ramifications are
49 significant and could be very severe for some species.

50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

2

3 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 I was wondering if -- I know when I go out to get
5 seagull eggs that I'm two miles away from any nests and
6 the terns and Herring Gulls are on me before I even
7 actually step on the road. So I don't see how a
8 500-foot buffer is going to protect them if you're
9 going to protect them. I would suggest -- if they
10 wanted to send us along the way, maybe add a friendly
11 amendment closing off them nesting areas so there is no
12 conflict.

13

14 CHAIRMAN DALE: We're going to recess
15 for Native Caucus.

16

17 MR. PROBASCO: Patty, are we on the
18 same time constraints as yesterday?

19

20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. Let's say 30
21 minutes max for Native Caucus.

22

23 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. Thank you.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN DALE: We're missing a few
30 people here. I guess Cyrus is gone now. Here comes
31 Roland. Mike is here still. Good. We'll continue on.

32

33 Gayla.

34

35 MS. HOSETH: All right. Thank you, Mr.
36 Chair. And thank you for allowing us for the break to
37 go into Native Caucus. During Native Caucus we just
38 want to make sure that it's voiced that the people are
39 not able to meet their customary and traditional needs
40 and it's really important for the people in Kodiak.
41 Therefore, we'd like to create a new subcommittee under
42 the Technical Committee with the Kodiak Road
43 Subcommittee and table it to that subcommittee for this
44 proposal. I'd like to make that in the form of a
45 motion.

46

47 MR. PROBASCO: I would second that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We have a motion

50

1 to table this Proposal No. 01 to a Technical Committee.

2

3

4 MR. PROBASCO: Defer to the committee.

5

6 MS. HOSETH: Did I say table?

7

8 MR. DEVINE: Yes.

9

10 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I'd like to submit
11 it to a subcommittee.

12

13 MR. DEVINE: Yeah, that would be defer.

14

15 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, deferred.

16

17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. So I understand
18 that this would create a subcommittee and move the
19 proposal to the subcommittee.

20

21 Pete.

22

23 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
24 offer a friendly amendment to include Proposal 2 and 3
25 because of how they're linked. Even though they're not
26 before us all three proposals are addressing a very
27 important area and in order to address Proposal 1 I
28 think Proposal 2 and 3 would need to be also deferred
29 to committee. So I would like to make that amendment.

30

31 MS. HOSETH: I agree to the amendment
32 and I was going to originally make that on there, but
33 since No. 1 was on the floor I was only voting for No.
34 1. So that was what we were planning on doing. We
35 were waiting until they got to No. 2 and I was going to
36 combine 2 and 3. So that will work for us and I agree
37 to the amendment.

38

39 MR. DEVINE: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. So now it's
42 Proposals 1 through 3, create a subcommittee of the
43 Technical Committee for the Kodiak closed road area and
44 defer Proposals 1 through 3 to that committee.

45

46 Is there any objection to that?

47

48 (No objections)

49

50

1 MR. PROBASCO: Voice vote.
2
3 CHAIRMAN DALE: What's that?
4
5 MR. PROBASCO: Voice vote.
6
7 CHAIRMAN DALE: Voice vote. All those
8 in favor.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 CHAIRMAN DALE: All opposed.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 CHAIRMAN DALE: So moved. I think
17 that's a good solution. I think there's some options
18 out there that we haven't considered yet and we can
19 probably -- I'm optimistic actually that we can find
20 some way to provide for at least some of the need
21 that's been expressed here.
22
23 So that concludes regulatory proposals
24 and then we move on to consent agenda.
25
26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
27 The consent agenda is a list of regulations that have
28 been in place since the AMBCC started and they have not
29 changed over the years, so the AMBCC early on agreed to
30 include all the regional proposals as a suite of
31 proposals so we will just need one motion and one vote
32 to approve these regulations.
33
34 MR. DEVINE: Make a motion to approve
35 the consent agenda Aleutian/Pribilofs.
36
37 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
38 to -- that would be for 2017 regulations, correct, and
39 not 2018?
40
41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No, it's 2018, for
42 next year. We've already gotten the ones approved for
43 this year.
44
45 MS. HOSETH: Oh, right. Okay. Thank
46 you. I'll second Peter's motion.
47
48 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. It's been moved
49 and seconded that we adopt the consent agendas for the
50

1 2018 regulations. Further comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: We'll call for the
6 question. All those in favor say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN DALE: Opposed.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN DALE: Hearing none. That
15 will be the action of this board.

16

17 Now the next item we have on our agenda
18 is the Migratory Bird Program review.

19

20 MR. PROBASCO: I think Julian has two
21 hours on this one.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Do you have a
26 PowerPoint?

27

28 MR. FISCHER: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
29 don't need a PowerPoint. This will be brief. On
30 Tuesday during the work session we discussed an ongoing
31 process within the Migratory Bird Program nationally
32 whereby a new 10-year strategic plan is being
33 developed. The purpose of this document is to provide
34 general guiding principles for all regions of migratory
35 birds in the Fish and Wildlife Service and a way of
36 developing priorities for the program.

37

38 To accomplish that the headquarters of
39 Migratory Birds contracted a consulting firm to
40 basically do scoping both within and among partners to
41 figure out what the priorities of the program should
42 be. Five AMBCC regional representatives and Patty
43 Schwalenberg were invited to attend the Partner meeting
44 one week ago. It feels like three weeks ago.

45

46 I think there was about 50 individuals
47 total invited and they comprised AMBCC, Pacific Flyway
48 representatives from various different states, some
49 NGOs, various different agencies within the Department

50

1 of Interior and outside of the Department of Interior
2 and some State agencies as well to provide input in
3 person and also if those folks could not attend
4 personally they could call in and I know that we had
5 several folks here that did call in.
6

7 There was also an online survey that
8 this consultant set out to provide input about what's
9 important to them for our program to continue or shift
10 into a different direction. That survey is open for
11 all partners to participate in. There was a request
12 on Tuesday that I provide the questions of that survey
13 and I have printouts of those to hand out to the
14 Council members right now.
15

16 I want to emphasize that in this online
17 survey these are kind of general broad categories and
18 there's lots of opportunity for just open comments that
19 don't have to answer one of these specific questions.
20 So if there's something that partners want to express,
21 there's plenty of opportunity for you to do so on this.
22

23 I'm going to send these around. There
24 was also a request to see the previous strategic plan
25 that migratory birds nationally followed and I made
26 copies of those for the Council members and I'll pass
27 those around as well.
28

29 That's all I have for this topic. I'd
30 be happy to answer any questions.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35

36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. I actually
37 took the survey early this morning and it emphasized
38 that you respond for your organization. It's very
39 difficult when, as Patty's experienced, that the survey
40 goes away once you take it and I couldn't get my whole
41 organization, the State of Alaska, behind my phone this
42 morning when I took the survey.
43

44 (Laughter)
45

46 CHAIRMAN DALE: So it was kind of
47 frustrating that way and I don't know if others -- it
48 would be pretty difficult for this group to spend a lot
49 of time as a group and get information into that. I
50

1 guess I'd pass that information along, that
2 frustration, and that really you're not going to be
3 able to get good organizational information and
4 certainly the State wasn't able to because we haven't
5 been able to take this back and talk about it
6 collectively as a group, just as this body has not
7 talked about it collectively as a group. And something
8 I may think is important everybody else may understand
9 it in a different way.

10

11 So I think it diminished input from
12 certain groups where an individual couldn't speak
13 freely on behalf of all if they didn't have advance
14 information. I'm not sure what to do about it. You
15 know, with some of these things the timelines,
16 especially with the change in administration could
17 change quite dramatically when the information is
18 assembled. Somebody back in Washington may not like it
19 and it's going to sit on a shelf forever.

20

21 So I'm not sure exactly what to do on
22 behalf of the State. I don't know if this body would
23 like to make that comment as well, but I throw it out
24 there. I think this is -- when you're talking about a
25 10-year Migratory Bird Plan, this is something I would
26 think this group would be extremely interested in. The
27 timeframe we've been given it's not really been -- we
28 have not had the opportunity to do that.

29

30 MR. FISCHER: Just a response to the
31 timeline question. The timeline was discussed actually
32 internally as well. It's important that the program
33 identifies priorities before they're made for us by a
34 new administration. There's not a Director in place
35 yet, so coming to the table with a plan in place would
36 be a good starting place. If there's not a strategic
37 plan in place before a change in leadership in Fish and
38 Wildlife Service, then the voices of all of us here
39 might not be heard. So that is something I can offer
40 for the urgency of getting it done quickly.

41

42 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: Very good comments, Mr.
45 Chair. I think the only -- outside of what Julian
46 said, we are supposedly -- the Migratory Bird Program
47 is meeting in June, all regions. We're to review that
48 draft. What I could do, Bruce, is work with you and
49 Patty prior to that and bring forward comments and

50

1 concerns during the review of that draft if you'd like.
2 That would mean you and I would have to talk on the
3 phone again.
4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: That might be a deal
6 killer for me.
7

8 (Laughter)
9

10 MR. FISCHER: I might also offer that
11 individual regions could contribute ideas that are
12 independent of the AMBCC as a whole. So that might
13 provide a bigger bang for your buck too. There would
14 be more voices coming various messages. So the AMBCC
15 can speak as a voice as well as each individual region.
16

17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.
18

19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Is there a link to
20 that survey on this document?
21

22 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, I sent it to you
23 two days ago. It's not on there, no.
24

25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'll make sure and
26 email that out to the Council members again and if you
27 guys have time to consider completing the online
28 survey. I think it was really helpful to see things on
29 paper too and people can have time to think about these
30 questions before they sign on to the survey.
31

32 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.
33

34 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
35 in this revision is this the spot where I would put in
36 my request for a fall and winter hunt?
37

38 MR. FISCHER: This is going to be a
39 document that's 10 to 12 pages that's going to
40 represent the entire Fish and Wildlife Service's
41 Migratory Bird Program nationally. So details like
42 that will probably not make it into the plan, but
43 general concepts about the importance that the Fish and
44 Wildlife Service should place on working on subsistence
45 harvest issues, that kind of thing might rise to the
46 top.
47

48 So if you could emphasize your desire
49 to work as a co-management team and that the Fish and
50

1 Wildlife Service should focus on co-management, that's
2 the kind of message that I think would be valuable.
3 Details about specific proposals are too specific I
4 guess. Does that make sense?
5

6 MR. DEVINE: Yes. Thank you. I guess
7 what I'm looking for is -- well, we could put it in
8 there, but we won't have any timelines. What I'm
9 seeking is to be able to hunt in my traditional and
10 cultural times when I usually hunt, not the spring and
11 summer when they say we can. In our area we hunt the
12 birds in the winter.
13

14 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.
15

16 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
17 and Peter and Patty. Am I mistaken that the Native
18 Caucus is working on that topic, exploring what may
19 possibly be feasible for fall subsistence hunts?
20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, we are bringing
22 that issue back up on the table since we've dealt with
23 handicrafts and Federal Duck Stamp. So that's coming
24 back up on the table for the Native Caucus. This
25 survey will also be discussed during our monthly Native
26 Caucus teleconference.
27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: I'd like to make one
29 point here. I was trying to figure out how I could do
30 it cryptically, but I realized I don't have to because
31 when we were asked for transition priorities, the State
32 of Alaska, one of our top priorities put forth by
33 Subsistence Division and our Wildlife Division was
34 continue to enhance funding for AMBCC.
35

36 It seems to me that from what I've
37 heard in this meeting many of you folks have cited
38 specific things that will require more money that we
39 haven't had. You might want to keep that in mind when
40 you answer the questions to like number 3 and number 9.
41 There's some open-ended areas there that you could say
42 what are the challenges we're going to have, the
43 challenges we have right now are limited amounts of
44 funding for survey information and that sort of thing.
45

46
47 The way to put that would be, I think
48 as Julian just mentioned, kind of keep it at a high
49 level, but funding is going to be an issue for this
50

1 body and for this program and that's a challenge that
2 we all share. It's important for everybody to consider
3 that when they take the survey because I think that's
4 where we're at timewise. I don't think we could come
5 up with collective answers to these seven questions as
6 a group. There's simply not time.

7

8

Anything else on this topic?

9

10

(No comments)

11

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CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. Thank you, Julian. So the last issue we have under new business is the invitation by Audubon to assist in opposing a proposal to increase the size of a shellfish farm, Humboldt Bay. What we did in preparation for this is Jason Schamber -- we actually received yesterday afternoon late a draft of the letter in opposition to expanding the shellfish farm by the Pacific Flyway Council for the purpose of maintaining eelgrass beds and use of those beds by brant.

If you would, Jason, would you maybe briefly paraphrase that letter. And then with that information I'll ask this board if they would like to take a position and submit a letter. Basically this was the Pacific Flyway's conclusion. It is a draft. We're actually voting on it right now. The State of Alaska voted in support of the draft to oppose the shellfish farm, the expansion of it.

MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Schamber, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The letter that Bruce referenced was submitted to Council yesterday afternoon and they will be voting whether to pass this letter on to the Army Corps of Engineers by April 18th. A point of clarification. That comment period was extended to April 20th as Patty had mentioned.

The letter begins by noting the Council's belief that the expansion of operations into an additional 256 acres of intertidal mud flat will have significant negative effects on eelgrass and species dependent upon eelgrass, specifically Black Brant. So it is a letter of opposition.

The Council's opposition to the project is based on the following considerations and it lists a number of considerations that the Council has made with

1 regard to this project. Primarily dealing with the
2 loss of habitat in Humboldt Bay regarding eelgrass and
3 brants' reliance on eelgrass during the winter, spring
4 staging and fall staging periods.
5

6 The letter concludes by stating that
7 the Council believes the project, if approved and
8 implemented, will result in significant negative
9 impacts to Black Brant and essential eelgrass habitats.
10 The Council appreciates the opportunity to provide
11 comments in the public notice.
12

13 Julian just handed me a map of birds
14 that are harvested in Humboldt Bay and the breeding
15 locations that they came from we can pass out. Brant
16 that pass through Humboldt Bay either during spring
17 staging, fall staging or the wintering period come from
18 a number of breeding locations in Alaska and northern
19 Canada. So it's a broad representation of breeding
20 brant.
21

22 MR. PROBASCO: Jason, that red area on
23 the map is that Humboldt?
24

25 MR. SCHAMBER: That is Humboldt Bay,
26 yes.
27

28 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Fish and
29 Wildlife. Just to clarify what we're looking at here,
30 the area denoted in red is in Humboldt Bay area. Those
31 are brant that were either recaptured or shot by
32 hunters that had been banded with leg bands. The blue
33 dots are locations where those bands had been
34 originally put on at some point in the past. So what
35 you're seeing is the locations of where -- the
36 connection between Humboldt Bay and the breeding
37 grounds.
38

39 So all the areas in blue are where
40 those birds eventually ended up in Humboldt they came
41 from. So you'll see a large cluster around Yukon
42 Delta, across the North Slope. In the upper left area
43 that's on Wrangell Island in Russia. Then to the
44 northeast there that's various places in Canada. So
45 birds that use Humboldt Bay come from basically
46 throughout the range of Pacific Brant.
47

48 MR. FAGERSTROM: How many more acres
49 would there be?
50

1 MR. SCHAMBER: 256 additional acres.

2

3 MR. FAGERSTROM: I'd just ask that to
4 kind of get a picture in my mind how extensive that
5 would be.

6

7 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

8

9 MS. HOSETH: I think it was 256
10 additional acres.

11

12 MR. SCHAMBER: Correct.

13

14 MR. FAGERSTROM: So just picture 250
15 football fields. That's how much bigger they're going
16 to make it, correct? Approximately.

17

18 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah.

19

20 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay. That's just
21 what I wanted to picture.

22

23 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

24

25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Patty Schwalenberg.
26 So are brant the only species that people are concerned
27 about or are there other species affected by the
28 potential disappearance of the eelgrass?

29

30 MR. SCHAMBER: There's a number of
31 shorebird species that go through there and use those
32 intertidal mud flat areas as well.

33

34 CHAIRMAN DALE: so is there any
35 interest on the part of the Council in developing a
36 letter or taking a position on this?

37

38 Brandon. I see heads nodding. We can
39 put that on the record. They're nodding up and down.

40

41 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
42 I heard that the Pacific Flyway Council is against
43 this. Does that also mean that the Service is against
44 this?

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Brandon, thanks for the
47 question. In fact, I was going to sit down with my
48 staff next week along with the Regional Director and
49 see if it's possible for us to draft a letter. I'm not

50

1 sure -- let me just leave it that way. I want to first
2 check to see if we're in bounds to do that.

3

4 MR. AHMASUK: Maybe I'm just asking for
5 too much, but it was my understanding the Service is
6 obligated to protect the birds. That's why I was
7 asking.

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: That's correct. The
10 reason you see me hesitant is I'm not sure of the
11 protocol as far as the Service. If the region can do
12 it or if somebody as a whole within the Service at
13 headquarters is doing that. I don't have an answer,
14 but I did jot it down, so I'll explore that.

15

16 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

19

20 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
21 way I'm reading this is it's an invitation by Audubon
22 to assist in opposing a proposal. That they should
23 have done is sent us their letter opposing the proposal
24 and asked us for a letter of support instead of asking
25 us to write it for them.

26

27 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.

28

29 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
30 and thank you, Peter. Actually the Audubon did draft a
31 letter and they were just making us aware of the Corps
32 of Engineers' process and asking us to join if we share
33 the same concerns. So that was the first we heard of
34 it as far as my office and then we shared that with
35 Patty and others. So I appreciate the Audubon giving
36 us the heads up that that was coming our way.

37

38 CHAIRMAN DALE: Patty.

39

40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Patty Schwalenberg.
41 One other request that they had was to have one of the
42 tribes or several of the tribes request tribal
43 consultation with the Corps of Engineers. We hadn't
44 raised that at the Native Caucus, but that's one thing
45 that they were wanting to see, if they could get -- one
46 of the tribes said to get some consultation with the
47 Corps and find out if they can have any effect on the
48 decision they're making.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: One other way this
2 could be done as we've done in the past is that instead
3 of waiting for the State and the Federal government to
4 endorse this letter, the Native Caucus could send a
5 letter of the AMBCC and they could ask for tribal
6 consultation if you so chose.

7
8 Patty.

9
10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Only a tribal
11 government can ask for tribal consultation, but members
12 of the Native Caucus could go to their tribal
13 governments and have them request tribal consultation.
14 As Executive Director, I guess I would recommend that
15 the letter come from the AMBCC as a whole. I think it
16 would be stronger and it would also be a good
17 illustration of our partnership and strength in our co-
18 management system.

19
20 CHAIRMAN DALE: You may want to
21 consider having it from the Native Caucus as a fallback
22 if we can't get that permission in time as a practical
23 matter.

24
25 Pete.

26
27 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I support
28 that as well because at times when you and I find
29 ourselves sitting in a chair there are limitations what
30 we can do representing our respective agencies versus
31 what Gayla can do representing the Native Caucus. So I
32 think we need to have both options there on the table
33 and move forward. Whatever we find out have that
34 person sign.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

39
40 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do
41 you have the map that shows the wintering and breeding
42 grounds for the Pacific Brant?

43
44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: There's this.

45
46 MS. HOSETH: No, that was where they
47 banded them. Julian said that's where they banded the
48 birds. Is that where their wintering grounds are then
49 -- I mean the.....
50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

2

3 MS. HOSETH: That's where the nesting
4 grounds are?

5

6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRMAN DALE: No, that's -- there's
9 some winter there I understand, but that's a staging
10 area and they winter -- you saw the map that Julian
11 presented earlier down in the Baja and basically along
12 that coast quite a ways.

13

14 MR. FISCHER: Just to clarify. So
15 those red marks that's in Humboldt Bay. That's one of
16 several wintering locations for the species. The blue
17 areas are where there happen to be banding stations,
18 but overall those pretty much represent the general
19 distribution of the breeding range of the species.
20 What this does illustrate is that there are birds that
21 use Humboldt Bay that breed throughout the range of
22 Pacific Brant in many locations, from Canada to Russia
23 to the Yukon Delta, North Slope.

24

25 Did that answer the question?

26

27 MS. HOSETH: Yes, thank you. And I
28 found the -- I was looking from your handout slide
29 presentation that you gave so I could see the overall
30 pictures that I was looking for, but I found it.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. SCHAMBER: I'll just add if I may
35 that Humboldt Bay can host up to 60 percent of the
36 brant population at any given time during the year, in
37 the fall, spring and winter period.

38

39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Does that include
40 staging birds that are going further south to winter?

41

42 MR. SCHAMBER: Fall and spring staging
43 birds, yes, correct.

44

45 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. I guess it's
46 probably time to ask for a motion if somebody wants to
47 make one.

48

49 MS. BERNS: So this is just for the --

50

1 but not to include -- I know that you guys were
2 hesitant on your limitation, so are we making a motion
3 for this to come from the Native Caucus? I guess I
4 need clarification of what your limitations are and
5 your involvement in this letter.
6

7 CHAIRMAN DALE: So if I may suggest,
8 you might make a motion to write a letter in opposition
9 that would be signed either by AMBCC as a whole or, if
10 that's not possible, by the Native Caucus to make the
11 comment deadline.
12

13 MS. BERNS: I'd make that motion.
14

15 (Laughter)
16

17 MS. HOSETH: Second.
18

19 CHAIRMAN DALE: Is there any more
20 discussion on this.
21

22 (No comments)
23

24 CHAIRMAN DALE: All those in favor say
25 aye.
26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28

29 CHAIRMAN DALE: Opposed.
30

31 MR. DEVINE: (Raises hand)
32

33 CHAIRMAN DALE: That will be the action
34 of this board. Okay. One last call for public
35 comments. Oh, I'm sorry. Gayla.
36

37 MR. DEVINE: She just wanted to point
38 out that I did vote no.
39

40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: On the last motion?
41

42 MR. DEVINE: Yes.
43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. We did not
45 catch that.
46

47 Anyone for public comments at this
48 time.
49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN DALE: Seeing none, we'll
4 close public comments. Patty.

5

6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman. The
7 next thing on the agenda is committee appointments and
8 assignments. So if you would go to Tab 10 in your
9 binders the second page lists the committees and their
10 members that were current as of August 2016. So if we
11 could maybe just go around the room and people can let
12 us know what changes they'd like to see in each of the
13 committees. I've highlighted those areas where I know
14 people are no longer with their organizations, so
15 however the Council wants to handle this.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. PROBASCO: Patty, do we want to
20 form our subcommittee at this time for the three
21 proposals?

22

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Uh-huh
24 (affirmative).

25

26 MS. BERNS: Yes, I would be interested
27 in serving on the Technical Committee as well as the
28 subcommittee in regards to the Kodiak roads.

29

30 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We're going to
31 go one by one starting with A and we'll end up with J,
32 which will be the new Kodiak Committee. We have a
33 nomination of Melissa for the Technical Committee. I
34 would add that we put Jason Schamber.....

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: In place of Dan.

37

38 CHAIRMAN DALE: For Dan Rosenberg. If
39 we have to go one by one for all the rest of them where
40 Dan's name is in. If anybody has any recommendations
41 for changes, we'll change them. We'll basically adopt
42 them. The highlighted ones we have to address because
43 Dan is.....

44

45 MR. PROBASCO: Late.

46

47 CHAIRMAN DALE:late.

48

49 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. I think it

50

1 would just be easier if we just take it one by one.
2
3 MR. PROBASCO: Start with the Technical
4 Committee.
5
6 MS. HOSETH: Yes.
7
8 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. So we've got
9 Jason in for Dan.
10
11 MR. PROBASCO: And Melissa.
12
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: And Melissa. Any other
14 changes to the Technical Committee?
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Then the
19 Subcommittee on Emperor Goose Management. Again, Jason
20 for Dan. Suggestions for the vacant AVCP spots.
21
22 MS. HOSETH: Roland, do you want to be
23 on the Emperor Goose Subcommittee?
24
25 MS. BERNS: I'd be interested in
26 serving on the Emperor Goose Subcommittee as well.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. That would be a
31 replacement for Sonny's spot. Okay.
32
33 MR. PROBASCO: Roland, do you have
34 another suggestion?
35
36 MR. WHITE: Seeing there's two AVCP
37 slots under this Emperor Goose Management Subcommittee,
38 one would probably be myself and the other one probably
39 would be Jennifer.
40
41 CHAIRMAN DALE: How does that sound,
42 Jennifer?
43
44 (No comment)
45
46 MR. PROBASCO: She's hiding.
47
48
49 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any other suggestions
50

1 for the Emperor Goose.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN DALE: All right. Moving on.
6 Exclusion. Jason for Dan. Any other changes for that.

7

8 MS. STICKWAN: I'd like to add Roy on
9 there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN DALE: Roy Ewan, sure. Okay.
12 Any other changes.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN DALE: Invitation. Jason for
17 Dan. Anybody else.

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: Roy on that one too.

20

21 CHAIRMAN DALE: Does Roy know about
22 this?

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: He's not here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: That's what you get,
29 right? Pete.

30

31 MR. PROBASCO: Patty, is Sky still
32 active or what's he up to?

33

34 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, he is, but he
35 is planning on retiring at some point this year. Anna
36 Crary has been assisting us also, but I don't think
37 we're ready to make a change at this point.

38

39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Is the Kodiak
40 Subcommittee a subcommittee of the Technical Committee?

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: So let's throw that in
45 there. I was mistaken about it being J.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: Can I just say Copper
48 Basin and they'll decide who's going to?

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yes.
2
3 MS. STICKWAN: Okay. I'll just say
4 that.
5
6 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. That's okay,
7 isn't it?
8
9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: (Nods affirmatively)
10
11 CHAIRMAN DALE: Volunteers for the
12 Kodiak Road System Closure Subcommittee. I volunteer
13 Jason. I love this part.
14
15 MS. BERNS: I would also like to invite
16 Robin Corcoran, who is the bird biologist with Kodiak
17 Wildlife Refuge, to join us in that committee. I think
18 she has a lot of valuable information and would be
19 welcomed at the table.
20
21 MR. PROBASCO: I think that's good.
22 David Safine.
23
24 MR. SAFINE: (Nods affirmatively)
25
26 MR. PROBASCO: Okay.
27
28 MS. BERNS: If I'm allowed, I would
29 also like to invite our vice chair Coral Chernoff to
30 the table. She's a Kodiak resident and harvester.
31
32 MS. HOSETH: And Kelly Krueger.
33
34 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I have Melissa
35 Berns, Kelly Krueger, Jason Schamber, Robin Corcoran,
36 David Safine and Coral Chernoff.
37
38 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Just for
39 clarification, with all of our committees, when the
40 committee needs other people that may bring additional
41 information or other experts I guess you'd call it as
42 far as species and that that the committee can invite
43 other members as well.
44
45 CHAIRMAN DALE: I'd like to add Travis
46 Boons to that subcommittee from Fish and Game. Okay.
47 Are we done with that one? We can make revisions to
48 that later if we need to. As Pete pointed out, nobody
49 is going to be excluded.
50

1 Okay. The Harvest Survey Committee.
2
3 MR. PROBASCO: That's Mike's committee.
4
5 MR. PEDERSON: I would invite Gayla to
6 join me on the Harvest Survey Committee and I'm not
7 sure if Liliana or Eric have any other additions.
8
9 MR. PROBASCO: Do you want Jason on
10 there?
11
12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, we'll have Jason
13 for Dan. Okay. Any more changes to that committee.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Standard Operating
18 Procedures.
19
20 MR. PROBASCO: That's you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN DALE: That's me?
23
24 MR. PROBASCO: Bruce.
25
26 CHAIRMAN DALE: Huh. The reason I'm on
27 that committee is because I'm going to need to learn
28 the standard operating procedures here.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 CHAIRMAN DALE: It's going to be
33 remedial and talk very slowly and say things more than
34 once and I'll try my best. Anybody else want to be on
35 that?
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN DALE: Long Term Goals and
40 Objectives Committee. I'll put myself on that one.
41 It's kind of a cheap way of saying it's going to be
42 Jason.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 CHAIRMAN DALE: At least I owned up to
47 it, right. Okay. Flyway Council/Service Regulations
48 Committee representatives. So we've got a vacant seat
49 for AVCP.
50

1 MR. WHITE: I want Jennifer to be on
2 that one.

3
4 CHAIRMAN DALE: Any other changes?
5 Anybody else?

6
7 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We also need to
8 remove Joeneal Hicks.

9
10 CHAIRMAN DALE: Right.

11
12 MS. HOSETH: So if we could have
13 clarification on the participation at the Flyway
14 Council and Service Regulations Committee as
15 representatives for our AMBCC. How is funding for
16 these meetings for attendance?

17
18 CHAIRMAN DALE: Skinny.

19
20 MR. PEDERSON: From my experience in
21 working with Donna several years ago we just asked for
22 an increase in our grant amount so that in our grant
23 travel funds would be made available for our
24 participation. So that's how I did it in the past.

25
26 CHAIRMAN DALE: So I guess I would add
27 is that something that's been done on an as-needed
28 basis in the past or is that regular participation?

29
30 MR. PEDERSON: That was regular
31 participation. We did bring it up at one Council
32 meeting and Donna took the initiative to increase our
33 grant the next year.

34
35 MS. STICKWAN: Is it possible to leave
36 that vacant and whoever has the most pressing need for
37 proposal to be brought before the Flyway that we send
38 that person? Give them a chance to go down there and
39 argue for their proposal.

40
41 MR. PEDERSON: That's a good idea. In
42 the past we've allowed other people to attend the PFC
43 and the SRC meetings if they wanted to. I'm fine
44 either way with that. The only thing I would comment
45 on is -- you know the process like at the PFC they have
46 week-long meetings with other committee meetings as
47 well, so there would be a learning process.

48
49 If it changes from year to year, I
50

1 think that would be good, but I think there's people
2 where we've worked with in the past that we have a
3 working relationship with some of the chairs of the
4 committees over there and stuff like that. The same
5 thing at the SRC. You bring up a good point as well,
6 but in the past I think both me and Joeneal and I
7 forget who it was before Joeneal.

8

9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sandy Tawbone.

10

11 MR. PEDERSON: Sandy Tawbone. We went
12 there united with our proposals from the AMBCC and
13 presented information to both the PFC and SRC because
14 we were in the deliberations at this table when those
15 proposals were being presented and we did the same
16 thing at PFC and SRC. We were dealing with the Emperor
17 Goose thing last year and new information was provided
18 to us at the PFC, so we took that initiative to work
19 with our representatives to get the Emperor Goose thing
20 done. Not last year, two years ago. So that was
21 something that came up all of a sudden.

22

23 So even though we have no Emperor Goose
24 from my region, I was able to work with Patty and
25 Joeneal to get things rolling. So working together on
26 issues.

27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla.

29

30 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 wouldn't mind moving to the primary position since I
32 was an alternate and replaced Joeneal. However, with
33 funding, I will not be able to do it out of my budget
34 that I currently have for our Bristol Bay region. So
35 if somebody has an excess of money if they wanted to
36 take that position or if we can look for funding to go,
37 but that's the only way I would be able to attend as a
38 representative for AMBCC.

39

40 CHAIRMAN DALE: I've got a couple ideas
41 there and would like to hear what the pleasure of the
42 Council is. We've got Jennifer as an alternate, Gayla
43 moved to the primary and then we still have Joeneal on
44 here and there was suggestions that we could replace it
45 with somebody from that region or we could leave it
46 variable so that other people get a chance to
47 participate and travel as well as the obvious person
48 when there's a need for a specific individual because
49 of their expertise or regional expertise to fill that
50

1 position.

2

3

Which way do you guys want to go?

4

5

6

MR. PROBASCO: I like that idea, Mr. Chair. We know well in advance the issues before the Flyway Council, so we could act in a timely manner.

7

8

9

10

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19

CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, I like it too. It gives some other people some insight in how the Flyway Council and the SRC work and I think that would make them more effective back here as Mike's been and others that understand that process and what we're kind of up against when we go to that next body. So I think that would be a good thing.

So that will be it unless there's opposition.

19

20

21

22

MS. STICKWAN: I don't understand what you're saying. Are you saying keep it vacant?

23

24

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN DALE: Yes. We keep it as a variable position and people can take turns or when it's region specific or area of expertise or an area they have interest in.

28

29

30

31

32

Okay. Law Enforcement. I need a replacement for Sonny and I said I would check in to the Department of Public Safety seat and we'll leave it as is for now.

33

34

35

36

MS. SCHWALENBERG: And Joeneal Hicks also will be removed from that committee and he was the chair.

37

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN DALE: Oh. So do we have some replacements for Joeneal and for Sonny, Law Enforcement Committee.

41

42

43

44

45

MR. DEVINE: No, I don't want to get on a committee, but I see we've also got Sky there.

46

47

48

CHAIRMAN DALE: We'll keep Sky on there until he actually does pull the pin.

49

50

Melissa, please.

1 MS. BERNS: I would be willing to serve
2 on that committee as well.

3
4 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yay. So now we need
5 somebody to nominate a chair.

6
7 MS. STICKWAN: Doesn't the committee
8 select their own chair?

9
10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, they can
11 select a chair at their own meeting.

12
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Great. All
14 right. We're moving on to Budget. So we have both
15 Joeneal and Myron.

16
17 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to keep
18 somebody on from the Copper Basin for Joeneal.

19
20 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We'll just put
21 Roy down and then he can delegate or whatever. Does
22 AVCP want to put somebody back on the Budget Committee?

23
24 Ahh, Jennifer, I saw the nod. It was
25 very slight, but I'm pretty sure I saw it.

26
27 MR. WHITE: I saw the same thing.

28
29 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay, then it's
30 settled.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN DALE: Perfect. And
35 Handicrafts.

36
37 MR. PROBASCO: Melissa.

38
39 MS. BERNS: I would like to add Coral
40 Chernoff to serve on that committee.

41
42 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. And Jason. So
43 then I see Joeneal again on Outreach and Education.
44 Mike.

45
46 MR. PEDERSON: I'd like to add Leslie
47 Pearce from our office.

48
49 CHAIRMAN DALE: Oh, Jennifer. Okay.

50

1 That sounds like a good one.
2
3 MS. BERNS: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN DALE: Melissa.
6
7 MS. BERNS: I would also like to add
8 Tonya Lee with Sun'aq Tribe to Outreach and Education
9 Committee.
10
11 CHAIRMAN DALE: Great. What's next,
12 Patty?
13
14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Make a motion to
15 approve all the new appointees.
16
17 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. I need a motion
18 to -- Gayla.
19
20 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. One thing that
21 I wanted to maybe look at a committee is to look at
22 redesigning the regulatory book to make it flow a
23 little bit better where you're reading which region and
24 just to -- we were looking up for like -- just to look
25 to see if the book needs to be revised, if people also
26 feel the same as revising the flow through and the
27 layout of the booklet.
28
29 MR. PROBASCO: So you want to form a
30 new committee.
31
32 MS. HOSETH: I do want to form a new
33 committee.
34
35 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Anybody opposed
36 to forming a new committee on making the regulation
37 book fun.
38
39 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair.
40
41 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.
42
43 MR. PROBASCO: I won't oppose it as
44 long as Gayla chairs it.
45
46 CHAIRMAN DALE: I have her down as the
47 chair.
48
49 MR. PROBASCO: I would also like to
50

1 have Donna.
2

3 MS. DEWHURST: I can be a floater, but
4 I can't officially serve on a committee.
5

6 MR. PROBASCO: Okay. I was going down
7 as other duties as assigned.
8

9 MS. DEWHURST: Well, I mean I'll be
10 there anyway, but I'm just not a voting member.
11

12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Gayla, would it be
13 simpler to assign that as a task for the Outreach and
14 Education Committee?
15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That would be
17 appropriate.
18

19 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, that would be good.
20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You're thinking.
22

23 CHAIRMAN DALE: Yeah, where did that
24 come from.
25

26 (Laughter)
27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: So that's a motion?
29

30 MS. HOSETH: Yes, that will be a
31 motion.
32

33 MS. BERNS: I'll second that motion.
34

35 CHAIRMAN DALE: Seconded. Any opposed.
36

37 (No opposing votes)
38

39 CHAIRMAN DALE: That will be the action
40 of this board. No committee.
41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair.
43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.
45

46 MR. PROBASCO: I'd like to make a
47 motion that we approve the committee appointments and
48 assignments as just previously discussed.
49
50

1 MS. BERNS: I'll second that motion.
2
3 CHAIRMAN DALE: Moved and second. Any
4 opposed.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN DALE: That will be the action
9 of this board. Please go to the calendar in the back
10 of your booklet and let's pick a date.
11
12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman. It
13 should also be noted that the Bristol Bay YKC Migratory
14 Bird Committee will be meeting on August 10th.
15
16 MS. HOSETH: I think that's the first
17 ever that we're first for our meeting date.
18
19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. Ever.
20
21 MS. HOSETH: We're very proud of
22 ourselves.
23
24 CHAIRMAN DALE: Suggestion for a date,
25 please. The 2nd and the 3rd are out for me of August.
26
27 MS. HOSETH: Would the week of August
28 14th work for people so we could get things -- do we
29 need to have it before the Pacific Flyway Council
30 meeting?
31
32 CHAIRMAN DALE: I believe so.
33
34 MR. PEDERSON: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CHAIRMAN DALE: Mike.
37
38 MR. PEDERSON: The week of August 14th
39 and the week of August 21st won't work for us. Do we
40 have to meet before the PFC?
41
42 MS. HOSETH: It depends if there's any
43 movement with that committee that we just formed for
44 those proposals to be in place for 2018, if there's any
45 action.
46
47 MR. PEDERSON: I'll work with Taqulik
48 and see if we can change our previous commitment. It's
49 still early yet.
50

1 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. That was a
2 problem that we all ran into last year was being able
3 to get a quorum together to have our regional body
4 meetings in time before an earlier meeting that we met
5 last year in August because our AMBCC was earlier than
6 usual because we usually met at the end of September
7 and I think we met the last week of August last year
8 and that was hard for all the regional bodies to meet
9 because people are out hunting, it's moose season,
10 people are berry gathering, people are out
11 subsistencing.
12

13 So if we don't need to meet before the
14 Pacific Flyway then I'm open for any other dates. Do
15 you think we would get anywhere with the new committee
16 that we formed for the Pacific Flyway Council meeting
17 for a decision this year?
18

19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Since the fall
20 meeting is not a regulatory meeting normally, absent
21 the Kodiak proposals, we don't necessarily need the
22 regional management bodies to meet prior to the full
23 AMBCC fall meeting. It's more important in the spring
24 so that everyone has an opportunity to vet the
25 proposals that were submitted in the previous December.
26 So if the regional management bodies meet in September
27 and we have our fall meeting in August, I don't see a
28 problem with that.
29

30 MS. HOSETH: Personally I like to meet
31 with my Regional Council before we do come here if
32 there are any questions or concerns that we bring it to
33 this management body since it only meets twice a year
34 versus giving them information that happened.
35

36 MR. PROBASCO: I'm not sure if we could
37 have a meeting prior to the 21st of August, but if we
38 were looking at the last week of September this would
39 allow the Councils to meet. Keep in mind that gives
40 those Councils the opportunity to develop any proposals
41 before the December deadline. So that's something to
42 consider.
43

44 CHAIRMAN DALE: So I've got a proposal
45 for the last week of September. Donna.
46

47 MS. DEWHURST: I don't know if this
48 will change anything, but the original design of the
49 spring and fall meetings, the fall meeting was supposed
50

1 to be presenting new population information that we get
2 from surveys and highlight any problem, conservation
3 concerns, whatever and get that information out to the
4 Councils so that if they wanted to develop proposals
5 for the next regulatory year, they could.
6

7 So the original thought with the fall
8 meeting was that you'd do the fall meeting before the
9 Regional meetings. With that information they get at
10 the fall meeting, they could then meet regionally and
11 decide if they wanted to create a proposal to change
12 the regulations. So it was the exact opposite of what
13 you were talking about, Gayla.
14

15 CHAIRMAN DALE: Melissa.
16

17 MS. BERNS: Looking at my calendar, the
18 last week of September, the 25th through the 28th, the
19 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC will be meeting in Cold Bay during
20 that time.
21

22 CHAIRMAN DALE: We need another
23 proposal then.
24

25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The week of the
26 18th.
27

28 CHAIRMAN DALE: The week of the 18th.
29 Going, going, gone. Anybody opposed?
30

31 (No opposing votes)
32

33 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. We'll do it the
34 week of the 18th of September. The next question is
35 where.
36

37 Pete.
38

39 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Like this
40 meeting, I believe we were going to try to meet in
41 Fairbanks. Regardless, I charge both Patty and Donna
42 because of the budget situation to find a location that
43 would be the least expensive. September, I think the
44 challenges are even going to be greater. I would just
45 respectfully ask that when we look at a location we
46 take cost into consideration.
47

48 MS. HOSETH: You know, that makes a
49 good point. If we're not pressed to have a meeting --
50

1 because it used to be where we had to have our meeting
2 before the Pacific Flyway and the SRC was meeting.
3 Once the per diem rates change, whatever date that is,
4 is that we hold our meeting after the per diem rates
5 because per diem rate for the summertime is \$400 a day
6 to come here into Anchorage. That eats up a lot of our
7 budget.

8
9 It used to be after Labor Day that the
10 per diem rates changed, but I think it's October 1st
11 now. So that would save on a lot of our budgets if
12 we're not having to be pressed to meet in the fall so
13 soon. I would suggest that maybe we do it when the per
14 diem rates go back down to winter rates. But then
15 again we're getting into next year's budget grant
16 money. So I think that's why we were having it by the
17 end of September.

18
19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

20
21 MS. HOSETH: So I guess never mind.

22
23 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chair. I've got to
24 excuse myself and get to the airport.

25
26 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Thanks, Randy.
27 Safe travels.

28
29 MS. DEWHURST: This is the end of the
30 existing five-year grant for all these folks. We can
31 meet in October, but the burden would be on their
32 groups to make all their travel arrangements prior to
33 October. So it's possible, but it just puts a little
34 more burden on their admin people to have their act
35 together and get everything done the week before.

36
37 CHAIRMAN DALE: Peter.

38
39 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 October is out of the picture for me. I have two weeks
41 of meetings already in that month. September 18th
42 would be more in the timeline where I would be
43 available.

44
45 CHAIRMAN DALE: So let's stick with the
46 week of September 18th for now and we'll try to leave a
47 little more time to put this on the agenda for how we
48 want to schedule the fall meeting in the future at the
49 next meeting. Everybody good with that?
50

1 (Council nods affirmatively)
2
3 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Anything else?
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks everybody for
8 the hard work you put in, the preparation all year. I
9 really appreciate it and putting up with me.
10
11 MR. PROBASCO: Good job, Bruce.
12
13 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you all again.
14
15 We'll look forward to seeing you soon.
16
17 MR. PROBASCO: Wait, wait.
18
19 MS. HOSETH: We're not done.
20
21 CHAIRMAN DALE: We're not?
22
23 MR. WHITE: Mr. Chair. Like Randy, I
24 have to excuse myself to go to the airport.
25
26 CHAIRMAN DALE: Okay. Thanks.
27
28 MR. PROBASCO: Roland, it was good to
29 have you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN DALE: Very good to have you,
32 Roland. Thanks. Safe travels.
33
34 MR. PROBASCO: You too, Jennifer.
35
36 MS. HOSETH: Well, when we start the
37 meetings and end the meetings, we usually start with
38 Council comments and we usually end with Council
39 comments about how the meeting went, anything that we
40 wanted to discuss. I know time is a constraint. I
41 don't want to add any more, but I just wanted to thank
42 everybody for their hard work. I know the Emperor
43 Goose spring and summer and fall and winter harvest
44 took a lot of work and a lot of effort and I just
45 wanted to thank everybody and happy that we could be
46 here for that.
47
48 Also for our website I was wanting to
49 add that our transcripts of the meetings are available
50

1 online and any minutes that we have from meetings that
2 we do have that they're accessible online so that we're
3 not having to hunt those down.
4

5 One of the things I did want to state
6 on the record is that when we get to the harvest survey
7 time that BBNA would like to do the harvest surveys for
8 the Bristol Bay Region for this next coming year and
9 whatever process we need to go into place to make sure
10 that we get that done for BBNA this year. I'm happy
11 that we'll be looking at reviewing the Pacific Flyway
12 Council proposals that might affect us here in Alaska.
13

14 So those are just my quick closing
15 comments.
16

17 MS. DEWHURST: As the web master, the
18 issue on transcripts has come up before. I hate to
19 bring an issue that's been hotly debated back up on the
20 table, but it might have to go to a Council vote. The
21 issue that has been brought up before is people did not
22 want their names publicly available on the transcripts
23 and everything they said publicly available for
24 whoever.
25

26 That was an issue that's come up at
27 least twice since I've been doing the web and the
28 request was just to have them available upon request.
29 Anybody that wants them can get them, but not to
30 publicly post them on the website for the general
31 public. And there's no way for me to put them there so
32 that only like Council members could access them
33 without the general public accessing them.
34

35 I'm just letting you know why it is the
36 way it is. It could be changed if the Council wishes,
37 but it's come up twice in the past and there was a lot
38 of concern about having public access to everything.
39

40 CHAIRMAN DALE: Pete.
41

42 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. I respect
43 Donna's comments. So, Gayla, what I would like the
44 Native Caucus to do -- you meet monthly?
45

46 MS. HOSETH: Uh-huh (affirmative).
47

48 MR. PROBASCO: If you get approval from
49 your Native Caucus, it will be there.
50

1 MS. HOSETH: All right. Thank you.
2 Just for the record this is a public meeting and I
3 don't see any reason why the public transcripts can't
4 be available online especially when we are trying to go
5 back and look for a prior meeting transcript as to what
6 was discussed on meetings like we do at the Federal
7 Subsistence Board. I could pull that up and look at
8 the transcript with people's names on it. We'll talk
9 about that in Native Caucus, but I like to do research
10 and history and look things up without having to -- I
11 mean and then it's there, but that's personally me.
12

13 MS. DEWHURST: That's fine. I agree
14 with Pete. I would feel more comfortable doing it if I
15 knew it had a positive vote from everybody that would
16 be involved in having their information out there.
17

18 MS. BERNS: Well, I want to thank you
19 all for welcoming me to the AMBCC. I had an enjoyable
20 learning experience here for my first meeting and look
21 forward to future meetings.
22

23 A couple of comments that I have is
24 that working on our proposals for our region we would
25 like to see better communication between the Technical
26 Committee and their comments and that those come back
27 so that we're better prepared moving forward.
28

29 Also I would like to see as we're
30 working on proposals and whether it's in my region or
31 anybody else's region that the biologists that are
32 involved in that area be involved in the process either
33 invited to be here present in person and/or be
34 available on the phone to answer some of those
35 questions that we may have as we encountered today in
36 regards to the Arctic Terns in the Kodiak Archipelago
37 area.
38

39 I think that's it.
40

41 Qu yana.
42

43 CHAIRMAN DALE: Mike.
44

45 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 just want to briefly inform you guys that we saw our
47 first flock of Eider ducks in early February, which was
48 quite unusual, and we kept getting phone calls from the
49 public that there's a flock of ducks on the tundra or
50

1 flying around.

2

3 Secondly, tomorrow we are doing our
4 Migratory Bird Fair in conjunction with the Barrow and
5 Fairbanks Field Offices with the Service and also with
6 the Fairbanks Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
7 thing is called Welcome Back to the Migratory Bird and
8 Bowhead Whale Fair. It's part of our spring
9 activities.

10

11 There was a third thing I was going to
12 mention, but I forget what that was.

13

14 Thank you for a good meeting again.

15

16 CHAIRMAN DALE: Two out of three is
17 pretty good for this late in the day there, Mike. I
18 just wanted to thank the Staff too. I think you guys
19 did a remarkable job. I wanted to comment on Melissa.
20 We actually discussed both those items when you were in
21 Native Caucus. The first one was an unfortunate. I'm
22 not sure exactly how that happened.

23

24 We also didn't anticipate, probably
25 should have, but the local biologist would have been
26 pretty handy to have here. We scrambled to get
27 information and I think we did that. The way things
28 worked out, we'll be able to make sure that they're
29 involved in the process going forward. Thanks again
30 everybody.

31

32 Any other comments. Peter.

33

34 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Fellow board members and new board members. We've got
36 a pretty good group here. Melissa, that was some --
37 your testimony was pretty -- I mean my heart is still
38 twitching. There was a lot of compassion in there.
39 It's unfortunate it didn't get to pass again, but we'll
40 keep hammering away at it. Welcome aboard. Kodiak has
41 a very good rep.

42

43 CHAIRMAN DALE: I would second that,
44 yes. Welcome. Jack.

45

46 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thanks for all the
47 hard work every one of you has done. Welcome to the
48 process. I know there have been some pretty
49 contentious days in the last few years to where there
50

1 were some pretty hard feelings. When I first came to
2 this I thought you guys were the bad guys. You're not
3 too bad after all.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. FAGERSTROM: Seriously. You've got
8 a good heart. We're all fighting for a way of life.
9 Our way of life. You guys got your job. You've got to
10 do your job.

11

12 Thank you for being flexible.

13

14 There are two things that I have a
15 slight problem with. One is the survey and the makeup
16 of it. Like I stated, there's a couple communities
17 that are the biggest harvesters of Snow Geese and
18 that's some vital information that's going to be
19 needed. The two communities out on St. Lawrence Island
20 are going to be hardly surveyed and those are probably
21 the biggest utilizers of seabird eggs.

22

23 Also they harvest a bunch of birds that
24 nobody else harvests. I feel that this won't be very
25 representative of our total take because of those
26 villages that are left out. I could see them being
27 left out one year or two years, but not totally left
28 out.

29

30 The second thing is this book,
31 Prohibited Harvest Methods and Means. It's broadly
32 interpreted. Most people do not have access to the
33 internet in the village. They can't go on to the
34 Federal Register and really look at this. Using any
35 vehicle, aircraft or boat to concentrate, drive, rally
36 or stir up any migratory birds, that's prohibited.
37 However, boats may be used to position a hunter.

38

39 The proposal brought forth with the
40 motor you have to lift up, what if you're pointed
41 downstream and your motor ain't lifted up, your motor
42 is shut off and there's places where it states as long
43 as there's no wake. You can get blown across the lake
44 and that's forward motion. With the high cost of
45 everything in our communities, I appreciate the liberal
46 things we can get away with. It is a safety issue and
47 I sympathize with those people. A long winter eating
48 no birds. You finally get a bird and you want to go
49 get it. But those are just problems that I have with
50

1 interpretation.

2

3

4 The reason I keep harping on the
5 harvest is we're going to eventually get regulated on
6 the information that goes into these harvests. They're
7 going to set limits on us. This is how much you take
8 in the past. Well, how can your village say you took
9 so much when it hasn't even been surveyed. That's a
10 work in progress and it can be better and it will be
11 better.

12

13

14 Again, looking around the room, I'd
15 like to thank all of you for all your hard work. If
16 you see Dan, tap him on the head, pat him on the back.
17 He did good. Thank you for all your hard work. You
18 guys have been a very patient group of people. You
19 disagree, but at the end of the day most of the time
20 you're good.

21

22

Thanks.

23

24

CHAIRMAN DALE: Gloria.

25

26

27

28

29

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MS. STICKWAN: I'd just say thank you.
I sat here in the very beginning and then got off, so
this is like a learning process for me. The thing I
think should be done, I know there's a budget problem,
but for new members that haven't been involved in this
process they're going to be lost about previous
discussions that took place, so some kind of training
or something should be done for them. I'm just
thinking of Roy who hasn't been involved in this at
all. He's going to be new to this and won't know
what's going on and what discussions took place.

MS. SCHWALENBERG: We did actually do a
30-minute training with Roland and Jennifer after the
Native Caucus on Monday, but it wasn't well advertised.
They asked me, so I put something together for them,
but we really do need to have a training once a year
for whoever is interested on the AMBCC and the workings
and the regulatory process.

So thanks for bringing that up.

MS. HOSETH: One more quick little
thing. That's a good point. Maybe we could do that
Monday morning as an orientation day on the beginning
day or something. I'm just going to keep Patty busy.

1 Just a reminder. It looks like AMBCC
2 Native Caucus is going to be submitting four proposals
3 to the Board of Game, so we have lots of work to do in
4 the next few weeks, so I'm excited about that and
5 hopefully we could get some headway with the proposals
6 we'll be pushing forward.

7
8 MS. BERNES: Move to adjourn.

9
10 MR. DEVINE: Second.

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12 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thanks everybody.

13
14 (Off record)

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16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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