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VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SPRING MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

APRIL 9, 2015

Members Present:

- Bruce Dale, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Pete Probasco, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association
- Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
- Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
- Taqulik Hepa, North Slope Region, Barrow
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior
- Myron Naneng, Association of Village Presidents

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

Recorded and Transcribed by:
Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668 - sahile@gci.net

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

2
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 4/9/2015)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good morning. It
8 sounds like we had some productive meetings this
9 morning. It's just a little before 10:00 o'clock on
10 Thursday, April 9th.

11
12 Yesterday we had some unfinished
13 business that went back to the committees. One was the
14 Handicraft that's chaired by Todd. The other one was
15 the wanton waste language that Joeneal produced and we
16 gave to Law Enforcement to go back and identify any
17 potential problems. The concept they supported, the
18 Service supported, so working on that. Both Bruce and
19 I had a homework assignment as far as the House Bill
20 that's before the State legislature dealing with
21 license fees and stamps. Before we report on that I'd
22 like to open the floor up for Council members or other
23 Board members to provide any updates or info that they
24 think is pertinent. With that, I'll recognize any of
25 you.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. I also want
30 to give an opportunity for any public members that
31 would like to speak before we start.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: And do we have
36 anybody online?

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: The line is open,
41 Eric, but they haven't called in. Okay. The issue as
42 far as the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
43 Council's ability to lobby, either the Federal or the
44 State side, I talked to our solicitor Ken Lord on the
45 Federal side and because of the Hatch Act.....

46
47 OPERATOR: Someone has joined the
48 conference.

49
50 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good morning. We

1 just started. Would you identify yourself, please.

2

3 MS. LEE: Hi, this is Tonya Lee from
4 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'm just testing the
5 teleconference out. I have someone else who couldn't
6 log on earlier, so I'm going to give her that
7 information as well.

8

9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Tonya,
10 and good morning. This is Pete Probasco.

11

12 MS. LEE: Good morning, Pete. How are
13 you?

14

15 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'm doing fine. So
16 we just started the meeting. We ask people online to
17 put on mute. If you'd like to speak, just take it off
18 mute and try to get my attention.

19

20 MS. LEE: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So back to the
23 lobbying. Both the State or Federal side solicitor,
24 Ken Lord, the AMBCC as a body cannot do that because of
25 the Hatch Act; however, it does not prevent any of the
26 Council members or Myron to put forward a letter either
27 as an individual or as the tribal entity or, in Myron's
28 case, AVCP, but we can't do it as an AMBCC group. Are
29 there any questions on that.

30

31 MS. HEPA: Does that include the Native
32 caucus? Because I think in our regular -- it's not
33 referenced in our little policy book here, but as a
34 Native caucus we could build a coalition and submit
35 something?

36

37 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Patty said yes.

38

39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That's the strategy
40 we used for the Duck Stamp legislation.

41

42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Myron.

43

44 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Pete. You
45 know, one of the things that we really need to be
46 involved in as Native participants on the Alaska
47 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council is an opportunity
48 to review any proposed regulation or interpretation of
49 any of the rules and regulations or laws by Fish and
50 Wildlife Service. You know, it's not very good for us

1 to sit here and get a proposed rule and interpretation
2 by Fish and Wildlife Service when it's directly
3 impacting our way of life.

4
5 I'm not sure if I would agree with Ken
6 Lord because we've had at some points, not only at the
7 migratory bird issues, but other issues, not
8 necessarily agree to the interpretations that come up
9 from Fish and Wildlife Service or from the Department
10 of Interior for that matter.

11
12 So I would really appreciate that if
13 any rules and regulations are being proposed or
14 promulgated that we have an opportunity to review them
15 before Fish and Wildlife comes out with the position
16 saying that this is how the rule is interpreted and
17 it's done without participation of people that are
18 directly impacted.

19
20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Myron.
21 What I will do -- you make some good points. I will
22 have Ken Lord draft a document that addresses this
23 issue as far as us being able to, as an AMBCC body,
24 lobby either the Federal Congress or the State
25 Legislature and we'll provide that to Patty to send out
26 to us. Okay?

27
28 Any other comments. Gayla, please.

29
30 MS. HOSETH: I guess we can table this
31 just for a little bit longer. I'd like to put
32 something on the record, but I need a little bit more
33 time.

34
35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We don't need to
36 table it. We'll just come back when you're ready.

37
38 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: All right, thanks.
41 What's the wishes of the group? We had two items that
42 we still need to address, the handicraft and the wanton
43 waste. Ryan had to step out, but he did give me the
44 language on the wanton waste one and I know he shared
45 information with Todd on handicraft. Do we want to
46 table those to the end of the meeting or take them up
47 now? Ryan will be back after lunch.

48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So the wanton waste
2 one and the handicrafts we'll do after lunch. Is that
3 okay?

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: No objections.
8 That's what we'll do. So let's go to our agenda. Next
9 is Eric Taylor under new business.

10
11 OPERATOR: Someone has joined the
12 conference.

13
14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Excuse me.

15
16 (All microphones off)

17
18 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So we're going to
19 go to new business. Mr. Eric Taylor, our Division
20 Chief for Region 7's Migratory Birds, will give us
21 status and trends on bird populations here in Region 7.

22
23 Thank you, Eric.

24
25 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, Eric. Do we
26 have copies of your presentation?

27
28 DR. TAYLOR: It should be in your
29 binder. If not, there are hard copies on the back
30 table.

31
32 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It should be under
33 Tab 7, I believe. It's under Tab 4 after the harvest
34 survey information. There's a yellow sheet in between
35 the two documents.

36
37 DR. TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm Eric
38 Taylor. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
39 the Division of Migratory Bird Management. Again,
40 thank you for the opportunity to provide the Council
41 updates on the status of migratory birds that are
42 important to you and others in rural Alaska.

43
44 In terms of the outline of the
45 presentation, kind of two major topics. One is I'm
46 going to just have a couple slides on migratory birds
47 that are commonly harvested by subsistence hunters. I
48 base that on Liliana's report in 2009 where she
49 summarized some data from across 10 regions and the
50 data collected from 2004 to 2007.

1 I'll just give you an idea of why I'm
2 going to present that information because I'm hoping
3 that all of you will take it back and talk to your
4 council and Native representatives, circle the birds
5 that I'm not going to talk about today, and then come
6 back to me and say, Eric, we would really like next
7 time that you either give this presentation or you come
8 to our region to talk about the species that we
9 commonly harvest.

10
11 The second aspect, the major aspect of
12 the presentation, I'll provide a summary of the
13 population objective, abundance and trend and concerns
14 for some of the birds that are going to be identified
15 in this next slide. Due to the time limitation, this
16 will only be a very partial list.

17
18 So, as I said, this is the list -- when
19 I looked at Lili's report from 2009 and looked across
20 the regions, this 21 species, this list of 21 species,
21 16 ducks and 5 species of geese, are the most commonly
22 harvested birds. In fact, they make up 80 percent of
23 the birds that you harvest across all regions. I see
24 Myron's hand up already.

25
26 MR. NANENG: At some point you're going
27 to have to put Emperor Geese on that list of five
28 geese, along with those five geese. You can't concede
29 to say that there's 76,000 when your survey method is
30 not accurate.

31
32 DR. TAYLOR: Hold that thought, Myron.
33 We're going to get to that later in the presentation.
34 So, again, if we just look at this and I pick on
35 Taqulik for example and I look at the North Slope
36 region, those two species, Greater White-Fronted Geese
37 and King Eider, are the two species that actually make
38 up 80 percent of the harvest from the North Slope. In
39 fact, the goose soup that you enjoyed yesterday that
40 Mike Pederson graciously prepared is from that Greater
41 White-Fronted Geese from the Mid-Continent population.

42
43 Again, the important point is I'm not
44 going to hit all these. I will hit Emperor Geese later
45 on, but I'm not going to talk about hardly any of the
46 duck species. As Pete mentioned yesterday, our shop is
47 certainly willing and ready, given a little bit of
48 notice, to come out. Just like Gayla did this year, we
49 were able to come out and I thought it was a very
50 productive meeting. I think we also went to Kodiak

1 where Julian gave a presentation to the Kodiak Regional
2 Advisory Council and Donna went to Kodiak as well. I
3 think only benefits will accrue if we get increased
4 communication about the resources that are important to
5 subsistence hunters.

6
7 The data that I'm going to present
8 today are not my own. It's the result of these group
9 of individuals that comprise the Waterfowl Management
10 Branch. We have three pilot biologists. In fact, all
11 three are here today; Heather Wilson, Brad Shults and
12 Anna Anderson. We have five observers, several which
13 are here today. Tamara Zeller and Chris Dau.

14
15 We have also a suite of other
16 individuals that help out with statistics, data
17 analysis, map making, outreach and education. In fact,
18 we have two new statisticians that are arriving this
19 month that we hired since Bob Stehn left our shop in
20 May of last year. We finally got through the human
21 resource process and we have two really gifted
22 statisticians that arrive in April and May that will
23 start work.

24
25 We do our surveys primarily using
26 Cessna 206 amphib aircraft. We have two of them at the
27 present time. These are specially equipped aircraft
28 that are set up to record our observations. Both the
29 pilot in the left seat and the observer in the right
30 seat record information. That information is recorded
31 instantaneously on a computer that records the GPS
32 location. So the species and whether it's a breeding
33 pair or whether it's a flock and the location are all
34 recorded at the same time.

35
36 Typically what we do are straight line
37 transects. If you look at that computer in the lower
38 left, you can see those lines going across. We also do
39 like circling surveys and like for the Emperor Goose
40 survey we do a coastline survey associated with that.

41
42 Before I go too much further, if folks
43 have any questions, don't hesitate. If I don't see
44 your hand, just go ahead and interrupt me. This map is
45 a bit confusing because it shows all Canada Geese and
46 Cackling Canada Geese for North America. What I want
47 to talk about are Cackling Canada Geese which nest
48 exclusively on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. They used to
49 migrate down to the central valley of California prior
50 to the 1990s, at which time they started shifting

1 northward and now they reside primarily in southwest
2 Washington and northwest Oregon in the Willamette
3 Valley. That you're going to see has caused some
4 problems that Myron is well aware of relative to
5 depredation of crops.

6
7 You'll see this figure a couple times.
8 On the left side, in this case, is the estimated fall
9 population, from 0 to 400,000. Across the horizontal
10 axis is the years. In this case, from 1965 to 2014.
11 The black line is the three-year average. So in this
12 case the last point that we have up there represents
13 2014, '13 and '12. So it's the average of those three
14 years. For Cackling Canada Geese, the population
15 objective is 250,000. You can see from that three-year
16 average that we are above that. The other two levels
17 that I've indicated are the harvest thresholds or the
18 harvest strategy, that was agreed upon in the Yukon-
19 Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan and, in this
20 case, the Pacific Flyway Management Plan.

21
22 So there's an indication of some
23 Cacklers in Oregon that are feeding on an agricultural
24 field. As I've stated, the birds have shifted from
25 California and they're now in Oregon and parts of
26 Washington. They are causing some problems to farmers
27 there, particularly for crops such as turf grass, peas
28 and other agricultural crops.

29
30 In summary, the population objective is
31 250. The three-year average is 265,281, so we're above
32 the population objective at this time. Relatively, in
33 terms of the population growth rate in terms of the
34 last 10 years, the population is still slightly
35 increasing. As I said and as this picture depicts,
36 there's crop depredation in Oregon and Washington
37 during winter.

38
39 We just got emails. Myron probably
40 didn't see it yet. But in April and possibly May of
41 this year, one of those two months, Oregon State
42 University is going to convene the Department of Fish
43 and Game, the Association of Village Council
44 Presidents, Fish and Wildlife Service Regions 1, that's
45 Oregon and Washington, and Region 7 for Alaska, the
46 Oregon Farm Bureau, OFB, the Oregon Department of Fish
47 and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Fish and
48 Wildlife, all the people that are concerned with
49 Cacklers, to compare their views and values and
50 preferences.

1 There is a real interest by the Oregon
2 Farm Bureau as well as the Oregon Department of Fish
3 and Wildlife to reduce the population objective of
4 Cacklers and by reducing the population objective
5 and/or increasing the liberalization of hunting, they
6 hope to decrease the amount of depredation pressuring
7 the agricultural crops. In essence, there's just not
8 enough public land that is public National Wildlife
9 Refuges to support Cacklers as well as the other
10 subspecies of Canada Geese that occur in this area. So
11 Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Department of Fish
12 and Wildlife's recommendation is just decrease the
13 numbers of birds.

14
15 Pacific Black Brant, another species
16 that Myron is well acquainted with, about 80 percent
17 nest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Again, the same
18 sort of figure before this goes from 1950 to 2015. The
19 population objective, as agreed upon in the Pacific
20 Flyway Management Plan, is 162,000. In this case,
21 we're just a little bit below, but in the previous
22 three of the last four years we've been above the
23 population objective. So right now we're about 158,000
24 birds, just slightly below the population objective.
25 Brant, the last 10 years are increasing.

26
27 Here are some concerns. These are
28 things that we are working on together with the
29 Department of Fish and Game as well as the U.S.
30 Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center. Heather
31 Wilson, who does our videography of the five historic
32 Brant colonies on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

33
34 OPERATOR: Someone has joined the
35 conference.

36
37 DR. TAYLOR: Hi there, this is Eric
38 Taylor. Can you identify yourself, please.

39
40 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral Chernoff
41 from Kodiak.

42
43 DR. TAYLOR: Hi, Coral. I obviously
44 can't see your hand and you probably do not have the
45 presentation, but if you have any questions, don't
46 hesitate to interrupt me.

47
48 So one thing that we have documented,
49 Heather has documented, that's of interest to the
50 Refuge -- by the way, Brian McCaffrey is here as the

1 supervisory wildlife biologist from Yukon Delta Refuge
2 -- is that we have seen a decline. We have thought in
3 the past that Brant, the vast majority, somewhere
4 around 70 to 80 percent of the Brant have stayed on
5 those colonies. We're now seeing the birds kind of
6 move off those colonies to more dispersed areas.

7
8 Also based on our Arctic Coastal Plain
9 survey that I'll talk about in a minute, we're seeing
10 more Brant on the North Slope than we have in the past.
11 One of the most obvious changes in Brant population,
12 demographics, as well as migration is a tenfold
13 increase in the numbers of birds that are staying in
14 Alaska as opposed to migrating south to Mexico,
15 California, Washington and Oregon.

16
17 When I finished my master's degree, I
18 went out to Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and worked
19 there for a couple months. In fact, that was the year
20 I was there and Chris Dau, who is also in the audience
21 today, was there as a wildlife biologist. About 5,000
22 birds overwintered. When Heather just finished this
23 survey here this year in 2015, she counted 50,000
24 birds. So a tenfold increase in the numbers of birds
25 that are not migrating to California or Mexico
26 primarily. So now Alaska has become the second most
27 important wintering grounds for Brant compared to the
28 Lower 48.

29
30 We've got some studies underway
31 associated with USGS Alaska Science Center relative to
32 the eelgrass beds that are at Izembek that Peter is
33 well acquainted with to monitor how Brant are doing in
34 terms of the eelgrass community out there and in terms
35 of watching Brant when they return back to Myron's neck
36 of the woods, what kind of condition they're in in
37 terms of their ability to lay nest and their timing of
38 nesting. So, again, it's something that we did not
39 predict, but I think it is an indication of a changing
40 climate that all of you are experiencing. Certainly
41 this winter we experienced it. This is something we
42 didn't plan for.

43
44 Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese.
45 Again the birds nest -- about 90 percent nest on the
46 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta there in that yellow oval. Some
47 additional birds are in the Bristol Bay lowlands as
48 well as the Innoko River drainage, but the majority,
49 about 95 percent, nest on the Y-K Delta. They migrate
50 along the coast and winter in the Sacramento Valley of

1 California.

2

3 This population, just like Cacklers,
4 has done very well. The population objective agreed
5 upon in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan
6 and the Pacific Flyway Management Plan was 300,000. We
7 are now twice that in terms of that population, over
8 600,000 of Greater White-Fronted Geese occur on the
9 Delta every year. So the three-year average, the
10 population objective is 300,000. We're twice that at
11 627,108. Ten-year average, these birds are still
12 increasing.

13

14 As a result and no surprise, similar to
15 Cacklers, as birds increase they've got to find habitat
16 both on the breeding grounds and the wintering grounds
17 in this case. Concerns are starting to appear in
18 California relative to crop depredation damages. In
19 fact, in the last couple years, farmers have requested
20 permits from the Fish and Wildlife Service from Region
21 8 there in California asking for permits to phase birds
22 or collect birds, shoot birds off of crops during the
23 winter.

24

25 Mid-Continent Greater White-Fronted
26 Geese are the population that occurs to the west of
27 that small white line there. So these are birds that
28 occur on the Arctic Coastal Plain of the North Slope,
29 the Boreal Forest of Interior Alaska and all across the
30 Arctic Taiga habitats of Canada. So this is the
31 population that Mike harvested and supplied in his
32 goose soup yesterday. So there's the breeding range of
33 Mid-Continents.

34

35 These birds migrate across the
36 continental United States. Winter in Louisiana, Texas
37 and Mexico. We monitor Mid-Continents on our Arctic
38 Coastal Plain survey, so this is an index to the birds.
39 The primary index that we use is from the Arctic
40 Coastal Plain survey that occurs from Point Lay over
41 toward Canada. You can see in the three-year average
42 this population is increasing. In fact, on the North
43 Slope, we're seeing as an index about 230,000 birds.

44

45 Like Greater White-Fronted Geese, the
46 population that occur on the Y-K Delta, the birds that
47 are occurring on the North Slope are also increasing.
48 The North American population objective based on a fall
49 staging survey that occurs in Saskatchewan is 650. The
50 latest three-year population average again is 700,000,

1 so again over the population objective just like
2 Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese that occur on the
3 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. So both White-Front populations
4 that occur in Alaska are increasing and both are doing
5 very well.

6
7 Recently Dan has had a major role in
8 revising the Mid-Continent Greater White-Fronted Goose
9 Management Plan and Dan has worked with the Central
10 Flyway representative. It's a plan that is adopted by
11 both the Pacific Flyway and the Central Flyway because,
12 as you remember from that map, those birds go through
13 the Central Flyway. They worked together to revise the
14 management plan and it's expected to be delivered to
15 both the Pacific Flyway Council and the Central Flyway
16 Council in July and approved this year.

17
18 Okay. Emperor Geese, a topic that we
19 spent some time on yesterday. This presentation, the
20 next few slides, based on the information that we
21 received in the subcommittee, is a little bit different
22 than what you have in your handout, but I will provide
23 hard copies as well as electronic copies of whatever
24 new slides I'm going to present today.

25
26 So I kind of thought what I would do is
27 start out with what we know or trying to figure out, so
28 you're kind of going to get some punch lines here
29 before I go into the data because I think it's really
30 important to kind of step back and say.....

31
32 MR. NANENG: (Indiscernible - mic off)

33
34 DR. TAYLOR: Yeah. There's something
35 else in there too. This is like -- what's the name of
36 that thing, Where's Waldo. So where's the Black
37 Scoter.

38
39 MR. FAGERSTROM: Down at the bottom.

40
41 DR. TAYLOR: Yeah, you got it. That's
42 a great picture. One of our technicians took that out
43 at Izembek. I'll be happy to provide that if any of
44 you would like to have a copy of it or use it in any of
45 your presentations.

46
47 Okay. So what do we know and what are
48 we trying to figure out. Dan said, and we're in
49 complete agreement, that is the Fish and Wildlife
50 Service and certainly all the people around the table,

1 we want a healthy Emperor Goose population. We want
2 one that is strong enough to sustain a harvest. I
3 don't think there's any argument there.

4
5 As Sonny said as well as Tim Andrew in
6 the past and Pat Holmes said from Kodiak, I think we're
7 all in agreement that we want harvest not to result in
8 any population decline. We want a sustainable harvest.
9 Myron has lived through the time period where the
10 species on the Y-K Delta were not in the greatest
11 condition. When we open up Emperors to harvest, we
12 don't want to go back there.

13
14 In terms of how Emperors have done
15 since 1986, as we know the subsistence harvest season
16 was closed. It was closed and we've seen a slow
17 increase in that population since then. So it was
18 closed to fall harvest in '86 and subsistence harvest
19 in '87. So this seems to imply that the population has
20 responded to harvest being closed. In fact, there's
21 several other pieces of evidence that seem to point to
22 the same thing.

23
24 In fact, Bob Stehn indicated in the
25 Emperor Goose Subcommittee meeting that based on his
26 analyses that this population appears very sensitive to
27 harvest and it's something that was actually first
28 reported back in 2008 in an article in the Journal of
29 Wildlife Management by Jerry Hupp and some co-authors
30 from the Alaska Science Center. Also Josh Dooley, who
31 is here today, I'll talk about Josh's work in terms of
32 the contract that we're asking him to look at. Josh's
33 results indicate that Emperors are indeed sensitive to
34 harvest.

35
36 So where we're at is certainly we
37 believe it's prudent. We think it's smart that the
38 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council has all the
39 information it needs -- as Myron says, real data that
40 it needs in terms of making wise informed proposals to
41 open Emperors to harvest.

42
43 So all of you have posed questions,
44 particularly the four regions that have submitted
45 proposals to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
46 Council in terms of opening up Emperors. Several of
47 you have stated we're seeing Emperors where we haven't
48 seen them before. We're seeing more birds in your
49 particular area.

50

1 In response, back in October I reported
2 -- actually in September, but we actually got the
3 contract award in 2014, our shop awarded Josh Dooley a
4 contract to look at four areas. One is, like you, we
5 were concerned and wanted someone independent to look
6 at all of our surveys, including the spring staging
7 survey. So, as Dan mentioned yesterday, we do four
8 surveys to monitor the health of Emperor Geese, a fall
9 staging survey, a spring staging survey. A spring
10 staging survey is when, of course, birds are returning
11 back from the Izembek and Aleutian Islands and stage
12 along the Alaska Peninsula before going back to the
13 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to nest.

14
15 We also do a breeding pairs survey, an
16 aerial survey on the Y-K Delta. Then Julian Fischer,
17 who is here today, is the principal investigator on a
18 ground survey that looks at nesting birds on the Y-K
19 Delta. We asked Josh to look at all those surveys and
20 compare them. We also asked him to look at those
21 surveys in terms of how they're reporting population
22 trend. Are they all showing the same sort of trend or
23 is there some differences among them. If there are
24 differences among them, does that tell us where perhaps
25 some of the population may be incurring some additional
26 stresses or limitations.

27
28 We also asked him to look at the number
29 of Emperor Geese that could be harvested. Sometimes
30 this is referred to as the harvest potential. But we
31 know that based on Liliana's surveys about 3,000 birds
32 are being illegally taken every year at the present
33 time. So we asked Josh to look at about what that
34 number means in terms of the population, so we know the
35 population is slowly growing. Somewhere around 1.6 or
36 so and around 2 percent per year. So it appears that
37 population can handle the harvest that's occurring. We
38 wanted to know, based on those other two alternatives
39 or the objectives there, what's the number of birds
40 that could be harvested and still maintain population
41 growth.

42
43 Much like Bob Stehn and Steve
44 Fleischman reported at the Emperor Goose Subcommittee,
45 we asked Josh to develop a population model that
46 incorporates all the survey data. One of the reasons I
47 asked Josh to come up for the Emperor Goose
48 Subcommittee was to sit down with Bob and Steve and
49 compare notes in terms of what they're doing relative
50 to the analyses of our survey data and collaborate on a

1 population model.

2

3 So where we're at in July of this year.
4 So we awarded that contract to Josh in 2014. Josh will
5 have a draft report. We're currently reviewing it in
6 shop at the present time. We wanted to review it prior
7 to releasing it to the AMBCC subcommittee as well as in
8 July it will be ready to be released to the
9 subcommittee and the AMBCC in total, Fish and Game,
10 USGS and we'll have other people review it, like our
11 statisticians in our shop and Migratory Bird
12 Management.

13

14 Even though we thought we would give
15 Josh until November to get the report, we're going to
16 throw the fire to him and ask for permission from his
17 supervisor to allow him additional time. Right now
18 Josh has left the consulting company that he worked for
19 out of Portland, Harris Environmental. He's now been
20 hired as the goose specialist, a position that's been
21 open for three years in the Migratory Bird Management.

22

23

24 I have gained permission from the
25 Migratory Bird chief as well as the other flyway
26 representatives to allow Josh to concentrate on this
27 analysis. So he'll have a final report to the AMBCC
28 and Council members will be able to review and refine
29 or submit proposals based on that analysis. Josh has
30 also met with Bob Stehn and Steve Fleischman and will
31 collaborate with them in terms of where they're at with
32 their model and what Josh has done and I think produce
33 a more powerful product at the end.

34

35 MR. DEVINE: Eric.

36

37 DR. TAYLOR: Yeah.

38

39 MR. DEVINE: Peter Devine here. You
40 said that's a draft report that's going to come out,
41 but I mean it's a draft report, but how can it be a co-
42 management process if you guys are going to get it and
43 then tweak it to whatever and then send it back out?

44

45 DR. TAYLOR: So the process depends on
46 -- any report that we do, Peter, we always do an
47 internal review process. We look for typos or spelling
48 errors or formatting errors. We double and triple
49 check the data to make sure that, indeed, the right
50 calculations have been used. So that's the process

1 that we're doing. Josh was on contract to the Fish and
2 Wildlife Service and has obligations that that report
3 has to meet and that's the process that we're doing.

4
5 So there's an internal review process
6 just like any agency does. The State agency or the
7 Federal agency or a consulting firm or whoever to make
8 sure the product is of a quality that you don't get it
9 and say, jeez, Eric, the first sentence doesn't even
10 make sense. So that's what we're doing. We're just
11 getting the report in good shape, that we're confident
12 that it will meet your expectations.

13
14 Then we will deliver it in July and
15 then provide the AMBCC as well as the Department of
16 Fish and Game and others a period anywhere from a month
17 to two months' time to read it and make comments and
18 say we don't understand this, why didn't you address
19 this, this is still unclear, you didn't address this
20 question. We'll take those comments and then revise
21 the report and distribute it in September.

22
23 Does that help?

24
25 MR. DEVINE: Yeah, that helps. So
26 we'll be able to see it in July before the fall meeting
27 then?

28
29 DR. TAYLOR: Absolutely. And you'll be
30 able to provide comments and those comments will be
31 addressed. Actually the comments will be addressed
32 back to the author. So if you submit comments and you
33 can scribble on the hard copy, you can do it on a
34 computer, you can call me, whatever your comments the
35 format, it doesn't make any difference. It's that I
36 want to make sure that this report meets the Department
37 of Fish and Game's expectations, the Migratory Bird Co-
38 Management Council's expectations.

39
40 Yes.

41
42 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Eric. I have a
43 question with the studies or the model that the State
44 is working on. How is that information going to be
45 incorporated to your report and what was the outcome of
46 their meeting that they had the other day as to how the
47 data is going to be shared and accepted and working as
48 co-management?

49
50 DR. TAYLOR: Okay. Good question,

1 Gayla. Maybe what I'll do is -- I wasn't on the
2 conversation that Josh had. I had a conflict. Josh,
3 do you mind coming up and kind of giving a summary of
4 your conversation with Bob and Steve.

5
6 MR. DOOLEY: My name is Josh Dooley.
7 I'm the goose biologist with the Fish and Wildlife
8 Service. Yeah, I definitely want to take the
9 opportunity here to just express my thanks for having
10 the opportunity to come here and meet with everyone. I
11 think this was a tremendous opportunity and
12 particularly maybe one of the best meetings to be at
13 just to kind of get a little bit more about the history
14 of the AMBCC and really see the great work that has
15 been done up to this point and get a better
16 understanding of all the people that have been
17 involved, all the projects that everyone has been
18 working on and kind of where we can go from there.

19
20 I think it was particularly great to be
21 there at the subcommittee meeting and hear some of
22 these concerns firsthand that everyone has about this
23 issue. I've been getting a lot of the information
24 vetted from the AMBCC, through Fish and Wildlife
25 Service, about the real concerns that we're trying to
26 address. These are the big objectives that we're
27 looking at and we're trying to get the best information
28 back to everyone who has concerns so that there's, you
29 know, the real opportunity to make a really informed
30 decision here about moving forward. So I appreciate
31 the opportunity. I'm really happy to be working on
32 this project and I look forward to working with
33 everyone in the future.

34
35 Specifically about our meeting it was
36 very productive. So after our AMBCC subcommittee
37 meeting I was able to meet with Bob Stehn and Steve
38 Fleischman and we worked there for about three or four
39 hours just about the specifics of the model and how
40 these two efforts are going to come together. So far
41 we've had very complimentary efforts with regard to --
42 the first thing I was looking at, which was evaluated
43 here, was to dig into the actual survey data and figure
44 out some of these issues about what could be
45 potentially biasing the surveys and potentially which
46 surveys are providing the best information.

47
48 So those questions right there are
49 going to be able to be used in this model and framework
50 that Bob and Steve have developed. So a big part of

1 that is what you saw in their presentation is that the
2 model that they built are based off those indexes. So
3 the information that are talked about and the
4 information that we can give a lot of credit to, all
5 the personnel that have spent a lot of time collecting
6 that data, that those are the indices that this model
7 is based off of.

8

9 What I think the real challenge here is
10 is to dig into that data and see if it's correct. I
11 think that's what we're looking to do with our efforts.
12 We're going to combine that to have a more robust
13 modeling approach. Then the second piece is really
14 looking at this harvest potential and that's a totally
15 kind of separate issue. Once we have this survey index
16 information we still need to know what does that mean
17 for the population.

18

19 In the report that you guys will see
20 coming out in July -- and, again, just like Eric
21 commented on, I'm very looking forward to getting
22 everyone's comments on that and getting the feedback
23 and how we can make that basically the best product
24 that you guys need to make a decision on. So the
25 harvest potential aspect of that is that we're going to
26 develop a model here and what Steve and Bob and those
27 guys are doing, we're going to be able to use those
28 estimates to try to come up with essentially what is
29 this harvest potential of the species. So what is kind
30 of the min and max range that we can look at and try to
31 consider before we're going to have an issue with
32 potentially the population decreasing.

33

34 So that's what we definitely want to
35 guard against and that's what I think everyone here can
36 agree upon. We have some historic inference here with
37 this population that we have good data going back 30
38 years. We've had a lot of people involved in this
39 effort over multiple decades. I think it's a real
40 responsibility here of everyone involved to just kind
41 of take a step of where we're at, just consider where
42 we're trying to go so that we don't repeat potential
43 things that happened multiple decades ago. We have a
44 lot better information now.

45

46 So, in summary, I talked with Bob,
47 talked with Steve. We're going to be able to combine
48 these efforts. We're talking about what their next
49 step was, was to take their preliminary modeling that
50 they've done. They're going to look to write up some

1 of those key points about what they've done so we can
2 start sharing that information back and forth and then
3 we're going to be able to combine those estimates
4 together to come up with a combined product.

5
6 MR. NANENG: So all you're considering
7 or looking at is what potentially can be harvested for
8 subsistence. I know in the past prior to the
9 consideration of the -- prior to 1984 when we started
10 talking about migratory birds being on the decline,
11 there was also a lot of sport harvest. Not only on
12 Cacklers, but there was a large number done on White-
13 Fronted Geese as well as Black Brant. There was also
14 sport hunting in the Aleutians during the wintertime
15 while they wintered down there.

16
17 Do you have any information -- it seems
18 like right now with the information that you're trying
19 to put together is that, you know, it will criminalize
20 subsistence users yet we wouldn't say anything about
21 the sport hunters.

22
23 MR. DOOLEY: Myron, thank you very much
24 for your question. That is a tremendous question.
25 Basically I would like to clarify what the analysis
26 would be. So the analysis that we would be looking at
27 for looking at a harvest potential would be for the
28 total population. So this is just taking the numbers
29 and saying what is the population size, what is the
30 growth that we're seeing, given those two numbers
31 here's an expected harvest that that population could
32 likely sustain so that it's continuing to grow.

33
34 It has nothing to do with allocation of
35 that harvest. So that is, I think, the management body
36 decision about what everyone wants to do with that
37 harvest. On the technical aspect, we can come up with
38 a number, but the real decision, you know, is for the
39 management body to really figure out how does that
40 harvest happen and how can we do it that it's fair
41 allocation across all users.

42
43 So there's a lot involved just with any
44 of these species. I mean you've seen Eric's
45 presentation. Emperor Geese are very unique that they
46 are an Alaskan species that kind of migrated across,
47 whereas with some of these other species we have them
48 migrating across multiple states, multiple countries,
49 so there's potentially less complexity with Emperor
50 Geese in regards to how they migrate, but they're still

1 within the given state there's multiple users that we
2 have to consider here.

3

4 So I think that's a big thing for this
5 group to consider, is that if you do look at potential
6 legalizing harvest and moving in that direction, what
7 is the expectation from the sport hunting community.

8

9 MR. NANENG: A final comment. You
10 know, we've seen the population objectives and lists
11 where it states that we're going to get to the certain
12 number for Emperor Geese it says when you get above
13 80,000 it's open to hunting, but you still have a
14 population objective above that. As far as the Y-K
15 Delta is concerned, whenever we have a number that's
16 above that certain area, regardless of what species it
17 is, it is open to hunting under the Goose Management
18 Plan. That's what our people have sacrificed over the
19 years to try and get to that objective.

20

21 It seems like the surveys done by Fish
22 and Wildlife Service have tried to keep the numbers
23 down to the point where they don't want our people to
24 hunt. Our people are being disturbed during the
25 springtime when they go seal hunting by planes flying
26 around. I'd like to know from the pilots as well, do
27 you guys see boats of people that are seal hunting out
28 on the coast during the springtime when you do your
29 aerial surveys? Is it only limited to that timeframe
30 or do you have survey numbers of the reproduction of
31 Emperor Geese during the fall time before they migrate
32 back to the Aleutians?

33

34 DR. TAYLOR: Thanks, Myron. You've
35 asked a bunch of questions there. One of which I'll
36 ask for your patience and I'll address it here in the
37 next couple slides relative to the spring index and
38 what that means and what was agreed upon in the Goose
39 Management Plan that you reference as well as the
40 Pacific Flyway Plan.

41

42 Relative to potential disturbance, and
43 so on your handout you've got pictures and I think the
44 plane numbers are legible. If not, I can go back to
45 that slide so you can record the tail numbers of those
46 aircraft. But you asked a specific question of when we
47 do aerial surveys during the summer, I assume that you
48 have asked whether we see seal hunters on the Y-K
49 Delta, is that correct?

50

1 MR. NANENG: It is during the
2 springtime. Every time we have a Waterfowl
3 Conservation Committee meeting somebody brings up the
4 concern that there's an airplane flying around low
5 enough to disturb them when they're hunting seals and
6 this is during the time when the Emperor Geese are
7 migrating north. All the reports that we've heard
8 during our Waterfowl Conservation Committee meetings is
9 that the aerial surveys are done when the birds are
10 migrating north and it has an impact on coastal people
11 that are trying to harvest seals for food as well and
12 trying to avoid shooting Emperor Geese. It's
13 consistent year after year after year. That's what
14 we've heard since about 1986.

15
16 I want to be able to tell our people
17 that your hunt is not being disturbed by Fish and
18 Wildlife Service. It might be a rogue airplane that's
19 chasing birds out in the coastal areas. You know,
20 we've had people that are no longer with us that have
21 raised that concern, God bless their souls. They're in
22 the graves right now and they continue. I've raised
23 that concern year after year and brought it up through
24 our Waterfowl Conservation Committee members at our
25 meetings.

26
27 DR. TAYLOR: Maybe what I'll do is I'll
28 either ask Heather Wilson, who is one of the pilot
29 biologists that conducts our aerial surveys on the
30 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as well as the spring staging
31 survey along the Alaska Peninsula, to either comment or
32 I'll ask her supervisor, Julian Fischer, who supervises
33 the pilot biologist group, to comment on when we do our
34 surveys and where we're at and what the potential is in
35 terms of any observations they have seen in terms of
36 disturbance to seal hunters.

37
38 MR. NANENG: And I'd also like to see
39 the map of the areas. I know I've seen it before and
40 for information of other people who probably have never
41 seen it, it would be good to see where the surveys are
42 done and you can see what I'm talking about.

43
44 DR. TAYLOR: That's a good question In
45 fact, we have not attended a Waterfowl Conservation
46 Committee, AVCP meeting in a while, but that's the sort
47 of information that I presented in the past that was
48 helpful. Heather or Julian, do you want to comment in
49 terms of the surveys that we do on the Y-K Delta and
50 what the potential might be in terms of addressing

1 Myron's concern.

2

3 MS. WILSON: Hi, I'm Heather Wilson.
4 I'm a pilot biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife
5 Service. I'm happy to be here and thanks for your
6 question, Myron. I've only been on the survey the last
7 few years. I'd really like to have Chris Dau, who
8 happens to be here and has been on every survey but one
9 since 1981, comment on where the survey has gone. It's
10 changed a bit over the years.

11

12 In the years that I've been involved
13 with it, particularly the last five years, we're
14 basically starting in Goodnews Bay and working our way
15 south. The range is from, for the entire survey over
16 the years that's been done since 1981, 23 April to 6
17 May. In the time I have done it, I have not seen seal
18 hunters out there, but I think Chris would be better
19 equipped to answer for the entire length of the survey
20 since he's been on every single one. The normal time
21 period that we are doing it in on average is between
22 24, 25 April through 2 May. Sometimes we can get it
23 much shorter than that. So we're spending a pretty
24 brief time period on the southern Y-K Delta. Most of
25 the time is spent around -- heading farther down the
26 Alaska Peninsula, the bays in the southern delta.

27

28 MR. NANENG: You didn't answer my
29 question, but you did answer the question about where
30 you start your surveys. Most of the complaints that we
31 get from our people are from the KK villages, Kuskokwim
32 or Kwigluk, Kanakanak and Kipnuk and also the villages
33 further north, like into Nelson Island and sometimes
34 around Hooper Bay. You know, it would be good to know
35 so we can tell our people in the Y-K Delta that go seal
36 hunting during springtime because we know that some of
37 these surveys are done further than beyond the dates
38 that you've mentioned. And more often than not some of
39 the birds, the Emperor Geese, are flying over water,
40 not necessarily overland until they start getting close
41 to their nesting areas.

42

43 MS. WILSON: Okay. So if I understand
44 your question, you want to know where we are and when.

45

46 MR. NANENG: Yes.

47

48 MS. WILSON: Okay. So what I'm trying
49 to tell you is in the past that there has been a -- the
50 survey was started further north in the early part of

1 the survey, up around Hooper Bay, but the timing hasn't
2 changed. It's always been very late April, basically
3 the last week of April, is when it occurs. So can you
4 explain to me just so I know how that overlaps with
5 seal hunting.

6
7 MR. NANENG: Seal hunting starts at
8 around early April and ends around the middle of May.
9 So it does affect a lot of people from our coastal
10 villages that rely on seal hunting for food as well as
11 for being able to store other types of food that they
12 gather during the summertime.

13
14 DR. TAYLOR: Heather, would you go into
15 the dates of the Yukon Delta breeding pairs survey. I
16 think that may be what, in terms of overlap with the
17 geographic regions, Myron is talking about.

18
19 MS. WILSON: So the other survey that
20 occurs on the Delta where there's extensive flying is
21 the breeding pair survey in June. I do not personally
22 fly that survey, but the basic dates of that are
23 between 1 and 10 June. They are exclusively flying
24 overland, ending their transect lines, they're flying
25 east to west, and turning back and coastal. They're
26 tide transect lines.

27
28 They're doing a lot of flying over the
29 coast versus the Emperor Goose survey, which basically,
30 again, the last eight years, is starting at Goodnews
31 Bay and heading along the coast covering those southern
32 areas. There's very little overflight time during
33 that. I would like to have Chris comment on whether
34 he's seen seal hunters out there during the entire
35 course of the survey that's been done, but in my time
36 we have not.

37
38 We could let -- if you have suggestions
39 on better ways we can communicate or who we should
40 communicate with about when we will be where. You
41 know, we're waiting on weather to find good periods,
42 but we could let people know. We could improve that to
43 see if there's an area we should avoid and send the
44 tracks to people ahead of time so they know exactly
45 where we'll be.

46
47 MR. NANENG: I think that's been
48 requested for many, many years, but it has not been
49 consistently announced when Fish and Wildlife Service
50 is going to be doing aerial surveys. Be consistent.

1 Don't say that we're going to do it certain time of the
2 -- you know, these certain timeframes during this year,
3 but do it year after year so that we can have our
4 people feel comfortable.

5
6 You know, you ask our people to
7 cooperate with you on some of these things, but when we
8 don't get responses that make our people feel like
9 they're part of the solution, but you consistently make
10 them feel like they're the problem. It doesn't work
11 that way. It has to work both ways. We have concerns
12 about population levels. It's our food source. It's
13 our food security. But when something is going on that
14 affects our other food sources and ability to gather
15 other food sources for food security, it causes a
16 disturbance and concerns by our people that live in the
17 village.

18
19 Everybody would like to be successful
20 in their hunts, but with the price of fuel that people
21 are paying in the villages you can't afford to not be
22 able to come home with something. You've got to be
23 able to get something like a seal or something like
24 that that you're hunting and not be disturbed by an
25 aircraft that comes around and chases game away.

26
27 The other thing that I've heard from
28 some of our people, not necessarily out in the coast,
29 is that, you know, we go hunting during the fall time
30 and an airplane comes around and chases game away that
31 we're stalking so that we can hunt and bring back as
32 food for our people back in the village. It's not only
33 happening on seal hunts, but it's also happening pretty
34 much throughout the year.

35
36 DR. TAYLOR: Myron, you raise a good
37 point. It's a concern or problem we can easily fix.
38 It's very easy for us to provide you the aircraft
39 description, the tail number, the pilot biologist and
40 the observer when they're going to start the survey and
41 whether it starts. If you could provide me the contact
42 information and the best way, whether I write you or
43 Tim or others in the AVCP, in terms of sending out that
44 information ahead of time, we can do that on a regular
45 basis. The same thing for the Emperor Goose survey as
46 well as the Yukon Delta breeding pair survey as well as
47 the ground nest plot survey. We can provide those
48 dates, the personnel and a description.

49
50 It would really be helpful that,

1 indeed, if you get a complaint relative to an aircraft
2 disturbing a hunter, whether they're hunting seals or
3 caribou or waterfowl, it would really be helpful to me
4 if I knew the plane description and the tail number,
5 then we can tell you right away whether it's one of our
6 aircraft or possibly Brian could tell you whether it
7 was a Refuge aircraft. The important point is, and I
8 think you make it, is communication needs to increase
9 on a regular basis and we can certainly do that.

10

11 MS. HOSETH: I have a question.
12 Meeting after meeting we've heard that the birds are
13 seen farther north than where you guys start your
14 survey. When are you going to start going farther
15 north as your starting point versus always starting at
16 the same spot because Emperor Geese are reported
17 farther north than where you're starting?

18

19 DR. TAYLOR: Well, Gayla we have not
20 heard that. As Heather has indicated, Chris Dau has
21 been with the survey for 30 years just about. One
22 important point is we're certainly hearing that Emperor
23 Geese are occurring other places and that's exactly why
24 we're looking at our surveys to answer that question to
25 say are we missing birds with the current survey
26 design.

27

28 In terms of specific locations saying
29 you start your survey in late April, let's say the 28th
30 of April, it would be really helpful for us, for
31 example, if I got an email from you saying, hey, we see
32 5,000 Emperor Geese here, did you count them, are they
33 part of your survey or did you miss them. So that
34 information would be very helpful. If you have
35 specific locations and what species, particularly
36 Emperor Geese, it would be helpful to the analysis.
37 I'm sure Josh as well as Bob Stehn and Steve Fleischman
38 would be interested in knowing that.

39

40 We're certainly willing to -- I mean
41 part of the analysis that both Bob and Steve and Josh
42 are doing is to look at our current survey design
43 relative to both it's geographic coverage and the time
44 that it's done to answer that very question.

45

46 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. It has been on
47 the record and reported almost every meeting that I've
48 been here that Emperor Geese are seen farther north and
49 these same comments have been brought to us. I think
50 that Peter also made a comment that, you know, the

1 birds are not being counted in his area or areas where
2 the birds are. So these Emperor Geese aren't being
3 counted where the birds are and that's just really
4 frustrating because if they did fly farther north, we
5 probably could be above our index and capture 2,000
6 more birds than we need.

7

8 So I guess the report is here and we
9 could hear from the people from Brandon's region that
10 birds are being seen up there and maybe can you guys
11 include that in your survey process this year?

12

13 DR. TAYLOR: Absolutely. If it's safe
14 to fly and it's reasonable in terms of distance-wise,
15 Heather and Chris will be doing the survey this year.
16 When Ed Mallek was here a couple years ago, we made a
17 similar sort of promise to the AMBCC that when we do
18 the survey in late April, if, indeed, Peter or others
19 or you see Emperors in areas that -- and I'll show you
20 the map of what we -- it's, in fact, in your handout of
21 what we cover. If you are seeing birds in areas that
22 we're not covering, by all means, if it's possible and
23 safe, we'll go count them.

24

25 Your point is a good one relative to
26 the question of has the distribution of Emperors
27 changed. We've heard from Bob and Steve and, indeed,
28 Josh's analysis and our own data show that there are
29 birds out there that we're not picking up on the spring
30 staging survey. That's been the official survey for
31 the Emperor Geese Management Plan. So the question is
32 where are they and that's what we're trying to figure
33 out.

34

35 If our survey occurs -- Heather, you
36 got a date when you expect you and Chris will leave on
37 the Emperor survey?

38

39 MS. WILSON: Like I said, the average
40 date is April 24th. The last week of April every year.
41 I mean we are in a period, all of us, of adjusting to
42 changes and basically due to climate and what the birds
43 are doing. We're trying to be sensitive to accommodate
44 those changes if they are moving farther north, there's
45 distributional changes or date changes, things are
46 happening earlier, while also trying to maintain
47 consistency in the survey, so the index is the index of
48 the same thing, not additional. So when we add
49 additional areas, we just have to be really careful
50 about how we put those in the mix.

1 So we can absolutely fly them, but we
2 just need to know exactly where people think we should
3 go that they're seeing those birds. So if I can see on
4 a map where those consistent observations are occurring
5 and when, then we can plan it in to how we can start up
6 there. There's some logistical things we have to
7 consider too just in terms of fuel, timing, weather and
8 making all the pieces fit together. Logistically we
9 can do that if we know where exactly we should be
10 going.

11
12 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Can I follow up
13 with that really quick? I mean just for consistency if
14 you wanted to keep that same data with that report
15 that's been happening or the survey that's been
16 happening year after year, then maybe start a new one
17 in areas where the birds are being sighted and seen and
18 include that in your data because -- I mean it's just
19 really frustrating that they're not being counted in
20 areas where the birds are.

21
22 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you for bringing
23 that up. We've had numerous reports from our reps on
24 the island and some from Wales that there are nesting
25 birds there, molting also. Our people on the island
26 are seeing a lot in their migration routes. I don't
27 envy you figuring out how you're going to go to St.
28 Lawrence Island and count, but certainly there are
29 birds there and they should be counted when looking at
30 how short are we. I believe you can find them birds up
31 there.

32
33 We can get dates, I believe. Brandon
34 can go home and call people and find out exactly when
35 they're seeing them. We'll get that information to you
36 and hopefully you'll utilize it. I know you've got
37 floats on your single engine airplane, but I think
38 you're going to need a twin to get to some of them
39 areas.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 And I've got a couple questions on
44 Swans and Brants. Can I ask them later when you get to
45 them?

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. DOOLEY: I'd like to make a comment
50 real quick. This is Josh Dooley. I think what you're

1 saying, yeah, it's tremendous that right here these are
2 the questions that I think as a management body that we
3 need to come together and think about. Just like
4 everyone is saying, that here's the real concern.
5 We're seeing geese in other areas. How can we come
6 together to bring that information together to use in
7 an informative way.

8
9 So I feel specifically like the task
10 we've been tasked with is on the technical side to hear
11 people's concerns and then for basically me and others
12 who we're collaborating with to try to come up with the
13 best survey design that's going to give the information
14 that everybody wants. So that as we do move into any
15 kind of management strategy or any change that when we
16 go five years from now or 10 years from now that we can
17 all agree upon what are these levels and things that
18 we've established and what is the information that
19 we're getting and we can all believe in it.

20
21 So I think there's really good
22 opportunity here. It seems like there's a lot of
23 interest. There's a lot of people expressing concern
24 about it, so I think there's a good point here that we
25 can come together and get the information we need to
26 move together.

27
28 MR. SQUARTSOFF: You say every year
29 they increase by 1 or 2 percent? You mentioned that?

30
31 DR. TAYLOR: Yeah, based on the spring
32 index as well as actually the breeding pair index on
33 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as well as the nest plot
34 survey. All three of those surveys are showing a
35 population growth, but the spring index is showing
36 about a 2 percent, 1.6 percent increase, for the last
37 10 years.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Okay. In the last 10
40 years, if that's true, then it should have been open
41 probably five years ago if it's been on the increase,
42 but the numbers are still staying the same. You guys
43 don't increase the numbers.

44
45 DR. TAYLOR: If we looked at the last
46 10-year period, Sonny, from 2014 back, we looked at
47 that 10-year time period, the average increase over
48 that 10-year time period is about 2 percent per year.
49 So the population was lower back around 2004, 2003 and
50 it has slowly increased just 2 percent per year to

1 where we're at right now. You can see that on this
2 figure that I'll show you. We're still below -- I mean
3 the point I think you're concerned with is we're still
4 below that 80,000 threshold the current flyway
5 management plans would allow a legalized hunt.

6

7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: You guys had 80,000 a
8 few years back. After that it should have been above
9 80 every year if it's increasing.

10

11 DR. TAYLOR: So what we'll do is we'll
12 go to that figure and take a look at it and maybe that
13 will help.

14

15 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Oh, Peter, I'm
16 sorry. Go ahead.

17

18 MR. DEVINE: Yes, sir. On page 8 you
19 have a statewide subsistence harvest of Emperor Geese
20 and you go back as far as 1960. In 1995, I
21 participated in a household survey and the surveyor
22 asked me how many birds I had and she wanted numbers,
23 so I gave her a number. I gave her a breakdown of how
24 many birds I had. No, we don't want that. We just
25 want a number. But here you guys go all the way back
26 to 1960 and you supposedly have numbers on how much
27 were harvested, but we keep asking -- I mean we're only
28 one user group. How many were taken by sport hunters
29 prior to the closure or was that survey conducted the
30 same as ours? No, don't tell us number of birds, just
31 give us a number.

32

33 DR. TAYLOR: Peter, the question is
34 relative to the person that interviewed you in terms of
35 whether they asked for species breakdown, ducks, geese
36 or particular species of geese versus a total number.
37 I'm not familiar with the survey method at that time or
38 who the surveyor was. I think you're familiar with
39 Liliana's survey at the present time, the Department of
40 Fish and Game survey that does ask for species based on
41 the harvest guide with the pictures and the ability to
42 put down the numbers of birds. So at least during
43 recent times we've asked for species.

44

45 In terms of the sport harvest, we do --
46 it's reported, called the Harvest Information Program.
47 When a person purchases a State Stamp and a Federal
48 Duck Stamp, they are asked to put down the number of
49 birds that they're harvesting.

50

1 MR. DEVINE: That's back to my concern.
2 We keep asking for those numbers, but all we keep
3 getting is subsistence numbers. We would like to know
4 how many was actually taken by the whole group and not
5 just one little segment of it. I mean if we were
6 consuming 8,000 birds in 1960, I mean how many were the
7 sport hunters taking? You know, were they taking
8 100,000? Is there any kind of numbers out there that
9 shows what they're -- I guess it wouldn't be
10 traditional numbers, but -- historical numbers or
11 whatever is what I'm looking for.

12
13 DR. TAYLOR: So your question is what
14 has been the sport harvest. When the season was open
15 in Alaska, what were the numbers of birds and numbers
16 of Emperor Geese that were taken by fall or sport
17 hunters. We can provide that information. I can work
18 with Dan as well as Christie Wilkins, who is in charge
19 of our Harvest Information Program in Patuxent and get
20 an estimate for you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I want to interrupt
23 here. Part of the job of the Chair is try to keep us
24 on the agenda. We do have to be out of here by 4:30
25 unfortunately, so our time is compressed. I'm going to
26 ask Eric to speed up his presentation and we'll go
27 through that because we still have to wade through
28 after lunch our handicraft proposal and our wanton
29 waste proposal. So if that's okay with everybody,
30 we'll ask Eric to finish up his report concise and then
31 we'll ask one more round of questions then we'll
32 proceed. Okay.

33
34 DR. TAYLOR: All right. Thanks, Pete.
35 I'm not going to counter my supervisor, but, you know,
36 questions like Gayla has posed and Peter have posed are
37 really good and I think if for some reason I can't get
38 to them on the microphone today, please jot them down
39 and share them with Dan and myself and I'll either meet
40 with you individually or certainly provide a response.
41 I think if something triggers a question, please write
42 it down and we'll try to get it.

43
44 So, quickly, I kind of gave you a
45 summary of where we are and where we want to go and I'm
46 going to quickly go through this information that you
47 have seen before, particularly Gayla, who just saw this
48 information last week. For breeding, what we know
49 about Emperors, about 90 percent nest on the Yukon-
50 Kuskokwim Delta. We're estimating that less than 10

1 percent nest in other areas. Seward Peninsula, up
2 near Jack's country on St. Lawrence Island and also in
3 Russia. They winter on the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak
4 Island and along the Alaska Peninsula, so that whole
5 red polygon there along the Alaska Peninsula and
6 Aleutian Islands.

7

8 There's been a lot of discussion about
9 this in terms of how did we get to 150,000 for a
10 population objective. Why was 80,000 set to consider
11 reopening for a legalized harvest and 60,000, if it hit
12 that level, that we would close it. Those levels and
13 the objectives were set by subsistence hunters as well
14 as the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and
15 Wildlife Service back when the Hooper Bay Agreement was
16 drafted in 1984. One year later it became the Yukon
17 Delta Goose Management Plan in 1985 and was adopted by
18 the Pacific Flyway in 1988 and revised a couple times
19 since then. The most recent version is 2006.

20

21 Those groups, the State of Alaska and
22 the Federal government and Alaska subsistence hunters,
23 I think the representatives were Tim Andrew, Ralph
24 Anderson, I think, Peter, you were on that group and
25 Austin Ahmasuk, I believe, participated when those
26 plans were derived. The point I want to make here is -
27 - and Dan made this point that is an excellent one that
28 I want this group to make sure you realize, that this
29 was a plan written back in 1984.

30

31 It's been followed up to the present
32 date, but we've heard new information this week. We've
33 got two efforts going on right now by the State of
34 Alaska and a former Fish and Wildlife Service employee
35 that worked in our shop and then Josh. What we're
36 going to do, as I said, we'll have a draft report in
37 July. Bob and Steve will have a draft report and they
38 collaborating together to look at the information to
39 say are any of these numbers still pertinent or should
40 they be revised. Obviously you all will be involved
41 with that process.

42

43 This is the spring index, the survey
44 that we have used. Those plans start in 1984 and
45 adopted by the flyway in 1988. All those plans said
46 this is the survey we should use to monitor Emperor
47 Geese. The reason that those plans adopted this survey
48 was that the historic data back from 1964 that showed
49 139,000 Emperor Geese in this area, so we've got some
50 historic data from this area, and also because it was

1 felt that birds stage and concentrate in this area and
2 are visible.

3

4 So, as opposed to some other methods
5 that we used to monitor geese, whether it's on the
6 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta during nesting or like the mid-
7 winter survey for Brant in Mexico and elsewhere along
8 the coast, this survey, which is a bit different from
9 any other survey in the sense that we're doing it
10 during the staging period. So this is when birds are
11 migrating back to the Y-K Delta. This is what we use
12 to estimate and keep an index.

13

14 I want to make sure folks understand an
15 index. An index is not a total population. It is a
16 measure of a certain point of the population at a
17 certain time. It's kind of like your fuel gauge. When
18 you look at your fuel gauge when you jump in your car
19 for lunch and it says half full and you have a 20-
20 gallon tank, you're thinking I've got about 10 gallons,
21 so I can drive back to Palmer two or three times or
22 whatever. But you don't really know whether it's 9.5
23 or 10.5. That fuel gauge is kind of an index to how
24 much fuel you have.

25

26 Similar to an index for a population,
27 we know that this is not estimating the entire
28 population. The point that Heather was trying to make
29 that I should have made is that if you do the survey at
30 the same time of year in the same geographic area and
31 then you control for other things, you use the same
32 sort of aircraft, the same pilot biologist, the same
33 observer, you try to coordinate that survey at the
34 right time of year in terms of when those birds are
35 there, you do the survey following a standard protocol
36 for weather conditions so you don't survey when winds
37 are high and the waves are choppy and they're hiding
38 birds, but you do it at a certain wind level and
39 obviously bringing safety into consideration, then you
40 should get an index of that population that you can
41 follow over time in terms of trend.

42

43 So, in this case, this survey has been
44 adopted by those plans. It goes from Jack Smith Bay up
45 along the coast and then over to Bristol Bay, goes
46 along the northern part of the Alaska Peninsula to
47 Bechevin Bay, crosses over to Izembek and then goes
48 along the southern part of the Alaska Peninsula to Wide
49 Bay. As Heather mentioned, on average we do the survey
50 about the 24th of April.

1 The point that Gayla has made, which is
2 a good one, is that we are assuming that the
3 distribution of Emperors has not changed. If it
4 changed significantly during that time period, then you
5 are correct. It could be that we're not getting a
6 standardized survey for Emperor Geese. We have no
7 indication of that at the present time. Certainly we
8 have observations from you and others, but in terms of
9 our surveys and the numbers that we're seeing we
10 haven't. So we've been pretty comfortable, but I think
11 that is the reason that question that Gayla posed is
12 the reason we hired Josh. And Steve Fleischman and Bob
13 Stehn are looking at it to see is this still a good
14 survey. If it's not, what should we be doing.

15
16 So this is the figure that Sonny asked
17 about in terms of we've looked at based on the spring
18 index. So if you go from about 2005 to 2014, you can
19 see that that population of Emperors have increased
20 slowly 2 percent over that time period. This figure
21 shows the population objective at 150,000. The closure
22 in red there at 60,000 and the resumed hunting at
23 80,000. You can see the far bar to that left is at
24 139,000, is that historic survey that occurred on the
25 Alaska Peninsula.

26
27 There was a lot of debate back then, my
28 understanding in looking at the notes, of what to set
29 the population objective and it was felt that 139,000
30 count was a partial count, so that's how the population
31 objective -- some felt the population objective should
32 be higher than 150,000, but it was settled upon at 150.

33
34 So I just want to quickly talk about
35 what limits grow. So we are incurring a population
36 growth of 2 percent, but the point I want to make with
37 this slide is there an ability to grow more Emperor
38 Geese and, in fact, get even a more robust population.
39 So obviously in the first line if recruitments, that is
40 the number of goslings that grow up to be breeding
41 adults, is greater than mortality, you're going to have
42 population grown. If recruitment is less than
43 mortality, if more birds are dying than what are
44 growing into the population, you have a population
45 decline. Right now we're showing slow population
46 growth.

47
48 We know based on studies on the Yukon-
49 Kuskokwim Delta that goslings recruitment becoming
50 breeding adults is influenced by predation and food.

1 We had a study that was done by Tim Bowman in the late
2 1990s that show that on average gulls take around
3 20,000 to 50,000 Emperor goslings per year. So gulls
4 are certainly a predator as well as foxes. We also
5 know, based on work from the Alaska Science Center,
6 food is really important to goslings. Those goslings
7 that nest or hatch early and have nutritious food grow
8 faster and leave the Delta at a heavier body weight and
9 those birds are more likely to make it to adults.

10

11 In terms of adult mortality, it too is
12 influenced by food, both on the wintering grounds along
13 the Aleutians Islands and Alaska Peninsula, but also on
14 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. When they return to nest,
15 green up, the levels of protein and the forage is very
16 important for those birds to maintain body fat and have
17 the protein to produce a clutch of eggs.

18

19 Some interesting work done by Joel
20 Schmutz at the Alaska Science Center is looking at
21 parasites, blood parasites of Emperors, and it appears
22 that Emperors from preliminary results are more
23 susceptible and have higher parasite loads in their
24 blood compared to the other species of geese that are
25 on the Y-K Delta. It appears that a parasite load may
26 have an influence on clutch size.

27

28 Then finally harvest, as Bob Stehn
29 indicated at the Emperor Goose Subcommittee as well as
30 this publication by Jerry Hupp in 2008 that stated
31 reduction of subsistence harvest could result in an
32 improved rate of population growth and an increase in
33 population size.

34

35 So this is the figure that Peter cited.
36 This is a statewide subsistence harvest from the 1960s
37 to the 2000s and you can see over the last 60 years
38 subsistence harvest has declined over that time period.
39 Right now it's around 3,000. So during this same time
40 period we've seen Emperors grow.

41

42 So what's the current work underway.
43 I'll quickly go through this. Both Bob Stehn and Steve
44 Fleischman as well as Josh are looking at aerial and
45 ground survey methods in terms of are they rigorous,
46 are they robust and are they telling us the same thing.
47 The Pacific Flyway Council has taken the request by the
48 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and made a
49 revision of the Emperor Goose Management Plan a
50 priority. As I mentioned, Joel Schmutz is continuing

1 work on parasites and disease as potential limiting
2 factors and our shop is still monitoring Emperor Geese
3 by the four surveys that we have stated we would
4 continue to do. And right now you heard from Colorado
5 State University in terms of the Migratory Bird Harvest
6 Survey that's currently under review.

7
8 Okay. In terms of summary, the point
9 was the management plans that we are following were
10 developed collaboratively by subsistence hunters, by
11 the State of Alaska and Fish and Wildlife Service. The
12 2006 Flyway Plan will be revised starting in 2015. This
13 group as well as the Department of Fish and Game and
14 Fish and Wildlife Service, as Dan mentioned, there's
15 kind of two official members of the Emperor Goose
16 Subcommittee because the only two people involved with
17 Emperor Geese are here in Alaska, Dan and myself, as
18 opposed to other flyway plans like the Brant Plan has a
19 whole slough of people from California, Washington and
20 Oregon.

21
22 The three surveys that we have indicate
23 population is slowly increasing. As I mentioned,
24 again, new analyses and modeling results will guide a
25 revised survey and assessment method. The important
26 point is the population objective and the harvest
27 strategy are all under review and certainly can be
28 revised or will be revised based on the information
29 that Bob, Steve and Josh are doing.

30
31 The last point is an important one.
32 The only success -- if we're going to have success,
33 it's going to be dependant upon collaboration and
34 trust. This is a critical one. I think all of us are
35 wondering why the spring survey doesn't perhaps monitor
36 the population as well as it should. Similarly,
37 there's some concern about the subsistence harvest
38 information that we're getting on some species. So
39 until we build that collaboration and trust and
40 support, both in terms of monitoring this population as
41 well as setting up the harvest strategy, we're going to
42 be challenged. That's a key one.

43
44 Additional survey data show positive
45 growth. The harvest that we're still seeing is about
46 3,000 per bird. Based on Bob's report to the Emperor
47 Goose Subcommittee, Jerry Hupp's publication and Josh's
48 work, that harvest could be slowing population growth.

49
50

1 The management plan will be revised
2 with all of you. So how do we build a strategy for
3 consensus. How do we move forward as a group. There's
4 two critical components that I think we all need to
5 come to grips with. The first one is to complete the
6 technical review by the three individuals that have
7 started; Bob, Steve and Josh. Josh indicated the
8 expectation clearly is that all three will collaborate
9 on their report. Those reports will look at abundance
10 monitoring. How we monitor that population as well as
11 the harvest potential.

12
13 The second thing that we need to agree
14 upon, and this is something that the group has talked
15 about briefly, but I think it's going to be really
16 incumbent upon all the members of the AMBCC and that is
17 a harvest strategy. What's the harvest allocation.
18 There's various regions that want to collect or harvest
19 Emperor Geese from Kodiak all the way up to Jack's
20 region, Bering Strait/Norton Sound. The challenge will
21 be how to allocate that harvest. Then agreement on
22 when a restriction or closure are necessary.

23
24 So the first thing we have to agree
25 upon is do we have a really good monitoring method and
26 do we trust that monitoring method. If that monitoring
27 method shows that the population is decreasing, is
28 there agreement that harvest should be restricted.

29
30 Okay. That's it for Emperors. I'm
31 going to quickly go through a couple species just
32 because there's been interest of these from either how
33 they're doing in the breeding areas that they occur as
34 well as some reintroduction of Steller's later on.
35 Five minutes, Pete says.

36
37 Steller's were listed as threatened in
38 1993 and closed. They were closed because the Yukon
39 Delta population decreased 96 percent from 50,000 pairs
40 to 1,700. Spectacled Eiders occur in two breeding
41 areas, primarily the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the
42 Arctic Coastal Plain. Indeed, we monitor both of those
43 populations. There's molting birds in Norton Sound and
44 Ledyard Bay in that orange area. Jack's well familiar
45 with the wintering ground for the whole world's
46 population of Spectacled Eiders.

47
48 The survey's indicate we have about
49 6,000 birds plus or minus a few hundred on the Arctic
50 Coastal Plain and the Yukon Delta Coastal. This is a

1 breeding index, breeding pairs and flocks. What's
2 interesting, we have two different population growth
3 rates. The Arctic Coastal Plain is relatively stable
4 versus Myron's neck of the woods where we're seeing a
5 substantive increase of Spectacled Eiders. The reasons
6 for the increase, possibly decrease of lead shot and
7 the lead shot is settling out and not causing
8 poisoning, decrease in harvest and possibly the high
9 numbers of Cacklers are providing a prey buffer to
10 foxes and other predators.

11
12 Steller's Eiders, North American
13 breeding population was listed as threatened in 1997
14 and closed. They're sparsely distributed across the
15 North Slope, but the highest density is in Taqulik's
16 neighborhood near Barrow. Alaska breeding population
17 based on our Arctic Coastal Plain survey is about five
18 to six hundred birds. The 10-year average it shows
19 it's relatively stable.

20
21 Finally, Yellow-Billed Loon, which has
22 been a species of concern to this group as well as the
23 Fish and Wildlife Service and others. Yellow-Billed
24 Loons occur from Point Lay to the Canning River. They
25 also nest on St. Lawrence Island and Seward Peninsula.
26 We do a survey on the Arctic Coastal Plain every year
27 to monitor it's population, the three-year index,
28 around 2,400 birds. Our best estimate of Yellow-Billed
29 Loons total population on the Arctic Coastal Plains
30 around 3-4,000.

31
32 The good news is, based upon the 10-
33 year average, they're increasing. They were closed to
34 subsistence harvest since the first harvest season in
35 2003. We were petitioned, we being the Fish and
36 Wildlife Service, back in 2009 to list the
37 Yellow-Billed Loon under the Endangered Species Act.
38 In collaboration with Liliana and Tamara, they did a
39 species-specific subsistence harvest survey on St.
40 Lawrence Island and Gambell and Savoonga, looked at
41 subsistence harvest and determined it was not a
42 contributing factor to the recovery of this bird. Last
43 year the Service announced its decision to not list.

44
45 I don't know if I made five minutes or
46 not, but it had to be close. There's my contact
47 information. As I said, there are several slides that
48 are not in your handbook because I created them last
49 night as a result of some discussion of the Emperor
50 Goose. If we're out of time or do we have time for

1 questions?

2

3 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'm going to take a
4 few questions, but I am going to keep it to a minimum,
5 please. Go ahead, Myron.

6

7 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 The report on the Emperor Goose reminds me of a story
9 that was told to me by a good friend of mine. He
10 bought two geese from a person that was going to be
11 leaving his area and the former owners told him that
12 the geese would lay eggs in April, May, June. The
13 owner observed all during those months that there were
14 no eggs laid. So out of concern he brings these two
15 geese to the veterinarian. The veterinarian tells the
16 new owner, sorry, the geese cannot lay any eggs because
17 they're both males. Gay ganders.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: You got anymore,
22 Myron? Thank you. Jack, please.

23

24 MR. FAGERSTROM: Looking at your
25 numbers on Black Brant. When I was growing up compared
26 to today, today we see maybe a quarter of what we used
27 to see. Looking at the numbers, they pretty much
28 stayed even although it's gone up and down, the first
29 and the last are almost level. Growing up also, the
30 swans, we had a \$1,000 fine if we shot one. Right now
31 in our staging area in Golovin Bay the Swans are pretty
32 much taking over everything. They bully. I guess I'll
33 repeat it again, they'll bully a whole flock out of a
34 good feeding spot.

35

36 With an increase in a species, they
37 compete. The stronger will win. I think there needs
38 to be a little more study put in to realize that the
39 Brant winter, or used to, primarily in Mexico,
40 California and Washington. Now they're starting to
41 stay in Alaska. We got you say Black Brant. My first
42 question -- I'm going to ask two questions, Pete,
43 excuse me. We've got a little Brown Brant and we've
44 got a bigger Brant that's darker and they come at
45 different times. I think this spring we'll get a
46 couple samples and we'll send them to you.

47

48 Other people have asked this question.
49 Is there any affect from the Swans bullying the Brant,
50 why we're seeing less Brant in noticeable numbers?

1 Like I said, we see approximately a quarter now what
2 we've seen before. A little study would probably allay
3 their fears. Enough of that. I harped on Swans
4 enough.

5
6 One more. The second question is ocean
7 acidification. Does that have an effect on our Eiders
8 and our Emperor Geese? Thank you for listening.

9
10 DR. TAYLOR: Both good questions, Jack.
11 Your observations are correct. Migratory birds,
12 including waterfowl, have a dominance hierarchy. Some
13 birds are more aggressive. Size always isn't
14 necessarily an indication of dominance. There are some
15 birds that are smaller that are very aggressive toward
16 predators, for example, or other birds. In the case
17 that you're seeing in Swans, their mere size combined
18 with their aggressiveness would make them dominant. In
19 terms of if a nesting area or a nesting territory was
20 important, they would drive out other species,
21 including Brant. There are not any studies in terms of
22 whether that's occurring in a wide area or not, so I
23 can't really comment in terms of whether you're just
24 seeing it locally around Golovin or whether it's
25 occurring elsewhere on the Arctic Coastal Plain.

26
27 I will tell you there is something else
28 that we're keeping close track of in Alaska that we
29 didn't expect and that's Lesser Snow Geese on the
30 Arctic Coastal Plain. You probably heard of the
31 problems in the Central Flyway with Greater Snow Geese
32 and the substantive numbers of birds that are now
33 destroying their breeding habitat as well as
34 potentially having an impact on shorebirds, for
35 example, just because their population growth and their
36 dominance and their ability to destroy habitat combined
37 are causing problems in that ecosystem.

38
39 In the case of Snow Geese, both the
40 Canadian Wildlife Service and the Fish and Wildlife
41 Service are frustrated that even with extremely liberal
42 regulations we can't keep that population in check.
43 Similarly, we are seeing a substantive increase of Snow
44 Geese in Alaska on the Arctic Coastal Plain. USGS
45 Alaska Science Center has seen it on the Copper River
46 Delta and we are picking it up on the Arctic Coastal
47 Plain. That is a dominant bird that would also
48 displace Brant that are nesting. So that is something
49 we're keeping track on.

50

1 In terms of your question on
2 acidification of marine environments, I'm not familiar
3 with what the literature is showing either for the
4 Chukchi or Bering Sea for example and what effect that
5 may be having on Spectacled Eiders that are wintering
6 south of St. Lawrence Island. We are concerned that
7 oceans are changing in terms of climate change and it's
8 potential impacts on the bivalves and mollusks that
9 Spectacled Eiders rely on as a wintering food source.
10 I have to plead ignorance in terms of really being able
11 to say whether it's an issue or not. I'll be happy to
12 look into that and send you an email.

13

14 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Eric, I want
17 to thank you. Great presentation. I just wanted to
18 share with the group my plan is to allow Todd -- and,
19 Todd, you're just going to get the next 20 minutes
20 before lunch to finish your presentation. We're going
21 to take a break until 1:00 o'clock and as soon as we
22 get back at 1:00, Todd, you're going to be up first
23 with the handicraft and we'll follow that with the
24 wanton waste and then we'll see where we're at. Those
25 two items we need to get out of the hopper before we
26 adjourn at 4:30. I understand a lot of people are
27 leaving, so the odds of us being able to meet tomorrow
28 would be very slim. Everybody okay with that plan of
29 attack? Bruce?

30

31 MR. DALE: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Myron? Okay, thank
34 you. All right, Todd, you've got 20 minutes or less.

35

36 DR. SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 My name is Todd Sanders. I'm the Pacific Flyway
38 representative for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
39 and I work for the National Migratory Bird Program. I
40 want to brief you on an issue that is of national
41 importance.

42

43 The Service Regulation Committee is
44 considering changing the timing of their meetings. The
45 Fish and Wildlife Service has a committee that
46 considers all recommendations for migratory bird
47 hunting in the United States. That committee is called
48 the Service Regulations Committee. It's a five-member
49 committee. This committee receives the recommendations
50 that come from the AMBCC and they also receive the

1 recommendations that come from all the flyway councils.
2 So they consider those recommendations and then they
3 make a recommendation to the Director of the Fish and
4 Wildlife Service and the Secretary of Interior for
5 adoption.

6
7 To find some efficiencies in the
8 process, this committee has decided to meet only one
9 time a year instead of two times a year. This has no
10 implications to the AMBCC regulatory setting process
11 and the recommendations that come from this body will
12 be considered by this committee. They'll be given full
13 consideration just like they would in the previous
14 process. I don't anticipate that there's any
15 implications for the AMBCC. However, the Fish and
16 Wildlife Service is committed to working with the
17 AMBCC, but also the flyway councils to make sure that
18 if any issues arise that were unanticipated that we
19 would make sure we work with you to work those issues
20 out.

21
22 So I want to take a look at the
23 regulatory process for the AMBCC. Typically we think
24 of the regulatory process starting in the fall, so you
25 generally have a September meeting and essentially it's
26 a non-regulatory meeting. At that meeting, that's when
27 the migratory bird status information reports are
28 presented by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Then, in
29 November and December, proposals for regulation for
30 migratory bird hunting are submitted. Then the AMBCC
31 meets in the spring to consider recommendations and
32 making those recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife
33 Service's Service Regulation Committee.

34
35 So basically a three-step process
36 there. From there, those recommendations go to the
37 flyway councils for review and those flyway councils
38 typically used to meet in July, but now they're going
39 to shift their meeting to September. So it's just a
40 little bit later process. Then from there your
41 recommendations would then go to the Service Regulation
42 Committee. They previously met in July, but now
43 they're going to meet in October.

44
45 So no implications for the AMBCC
46 regulatory or recommendation process. It's just that
47 there's a little bit of a delay of when your
48 recommendations go to the flyway councils and also to
49 the Service Regulation Committee. Then, of course,
50 seasons start in April.

1 With that, are there any questions
2 about the timing of the Service Regulation Committee
3 meetings?

4
5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: One of the issues
6 that was brought up previously, maybe it's been
7 resolved, is the limited amount of time it will take to
8 publish the regulations. Has that been resolved, Todd?

9
10 DR. SANDERS: Yeah, we recognize that
11 by having the Service Regulation Committee moved back a
12 couple of months, three months, it does shorten the
13 time that we have to produce those regulatory documents
14 before the seasons start in April. So instead of
15 having eight months to produce the proposed and final
16 regulations, now we only have five months. But we've
17 worked through the process, we thought about how we
18 will work to make sure that gets done and we're
19 committed to making sure it gets done and we believe we
20 can do it without any problem.

21
22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. So this year
23 the Service Regulations Committee is going to meet in
24 July, but then it's also going to meet in October, is
25 that correct?

26
27 DR. SANDERS: Yes, that is correct.

28
29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So the October
30 meeting will be to address not our regulations but the
31 rest of the flyways?

32
33 DR. SANDERS: That's correct. So they
34 will be considering the recommendations from the four
35 flyway councils. It turns out that we need to work --
36 for the flyway councils, we need to work through the
37 current process, but also the new process this year.
38 So for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
39 we can submit our recommendations in the usual process
40 this year, but starting next year we will need to
41 adjust to meet this new schedule.

42
43 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. So here's a
44 question. For this year, since we're working on
45 handicrafts, wanton waste and some of the other issues
46 that we're trying to get approved at this meeting, if
47 something happens where we need extra time to work
48 through those issues, would we be able to present them
49 to the SRC in October?

50

1 DR. SANDERS: Yes, the SRC will be
2 meeting in October, so there would be an opportunity to
3 present any recommendation to them and it would be
4 considered by the SRC at that time.

5
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Thanks.

7
8 DR. SANDERS: So I would mention that
9 the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council has at
10 least two representatives that typically attend the
11 flyway meetings but also the SRC meetings. I know
12 Patty normally goes to these meetings and Joeneal
13 typically goes to these meetings. So possibly by these
14 meetings shifting back it may be possible, it may be
15 easier for representatives from this committee to
16 attend some of those meetings. So if you're looking
17 for a trip to Washington, D.C. and want to find out who
18 the SRC is, we'd welcome the opportunity to have you
19 there.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22
23 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Todd.
24 Tamara, will you give us a quick on the centennial,
25 please.

26
27 MS. ZELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Tamara Zeller. I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
29 Service, Division of Migratory Birds. I have prepared
30 a presentation, but in consideration of time I'll give
31 you the five-minute version.

32
33 In 2016, the Migratory Bird Treaty will
34 turn 100 years old. I think we all in this room
35 realize what the treaty has done and its limitations
36 and its accomplishments. I want to invite everybody in
37 this room as well as reaching out to your communities
38 to be involved in the process of how we're going to
39 celebrate to make sure all the perspectives and history
40 is incorporated.

41
42 So that was -- I had a longer
43 presentation, but to learn more about it, I brought a
44 fact sheet. I tried to get this to Patty ahead of
45 time, but I was a little laid up. I did put some on
46 the back counter, but I will also send a link to a
47 webinar that will give the full presentation and where
48 we are in the planning process and how I see folks
49 getting involved. That will happen on April 29th from
50 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and I will send Patty the link and

1 reach out to folks so that you may attend and provide
2 input. I look forward to working with everybody on
3 this celebration. So that was my quick and dirty
4 version.

5
6 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Don't go yet,
7 Tamara. Any questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: This is a great
12 opportunity to celebrate this. In your mind, I know
13 you've been thinking on it, how we would highlight
14 AMBCC in that process. Do you have any ideas you want
15 to share with the group?

16
17 MS. ZELLER: I'm just at the starting
18 stage on that. I was going to use this opportunity to
19 just start gathering those ideas, so it's a really
20 relevant questions and I think we're at the very
21 beginning part or stage of that. So I think the
22 celebration yesterday of 15 years of where AMBCC has --
23 from the beginning to the end or where we're at now is
24 really relevant.

25
26 I think sharing the message of how the
27 Migratory Bird Treaty impacted the lives of subsistence
28 hunters and where the 80 years of trying to get the
29 amendment ratified and all that I think is a really
30 important message to get out there. I'm on the
31 national team and often bring up the subject and I get
32 a lot of silence. I don't think there's a lot of
33 communication in the Lower 48 about what this body
34 does. So I think it's a really great opportunity to
35 share that. So good question. At the very beginning,
36 so I would love input.

37
38 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Tamara.
39 We definitely need input and also that we are going to
40 make an effort to showcase the AMBCC process.

41
42 Myron, please.

43
44 MR. NANENG: Yeah, I think more
45 emphasis should be placed on the Protocol Amendment
46 that allowed for legalization of spring and summer hunt
47 for Alaska Natives as well as our brothers and sisters
48 in Canada. In essence, even though it saved a lot of
49 birds around 1916, we're still trying to make sure
50 through this process that everything that we seem to do

1 has to be legal. It just gets so frustrating. Our
2 customary and traditional use of birds and hunting of
3 birds there always seems to be something wrong. Even
4 though I want to celebrate, having to go through that
5 process makes me a little frustrated. Not just a
6 little frustrated but very frustrated.

7

8 MS. ZELLER: Point well taken, Myron,
9 and I expect you to be on this call then.

10

11 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Myron.
12 Very good comments. Sonny.

13

14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: How are you supposed
15 to celebrate? Who is supposed to celebrate? Because I
16 don't see no celebrations coming for us.

17

18 MS. ZELLER: That can be part of the
19 process in the messaging and say -- it's the chance to
20 express what the treaty has meant to all users or not
21 meant and its limitation. Celebrate might be the wrong
22 word to be using. This is exactly the point we're at
23 where we need to think carefully about those messages
24 and I hear you. I totally understand where you're
25 coming from, Sonny, and it's a good point.

26

27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Sonny.
28 Okay. Thank you, Tamara. We're going to break for
29 lunch. Please everybody be back by 1:00 o'clock, so
30 shoot for 10 to 1:00. Right off the bat, Todd, you're
31 going to be up, okay. Any questions before we go?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. We're going
42 to get started. We're not sure if Myron had to go back
43 to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, but
44 Gayla will sit in as the other Board member. Todd, you
45 might as well start making your way up to the table. I
46 appreciate you handing those handouts out prior to
47 coming back.

48

49 DR. SFORMO: Thanks. So I'm happy to
50 announce that the Handicraft Committee has made enough

1 progress that language -- for a change in the
2 regulation that we are able to submit this to the AMBCC
3 Council. I just wanted to mention a few things. This
4 Committee was more than willing to discuss these
5 details over and over and over again. It was a very
6 good Committee. There's a lot of openness and
7 willingness to listen to various ideas. So, as of now,
8 what you have before you is recommendations from the
9 Handicraft Committee and it's out of the Committee and
10 into your hands.

11
12 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Todd, thank you. I
13 know it was -- you showed a lot of patience,
14 particularly with myself and the Service and getting
15 stuff maybe not as expedient as we'd like, but I do
16 appreciate the language that you have before you and
17 it's the version dated April 9th, 2015. My
18 understanding is this version did go back to the Native
19 caucus as well, so we have the Handicraft Committee and
20 the Native caucus looking at this language.

21
22 So a motion is appropriate to take this
23 tabled motion from Committee and put it before us.

24
25 MR. HICKS: I so move, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Joeneal.
28 Is there a second.

29
30 MS. HOSETH: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Any objections.

33
34 (No objections)

35
36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Hearing none, the
37 proposal is now before us and thank you, Todd. Patty,
38 my understanding is that this proposal has gone through
39 our process from start and then the AMBCC at a prior
40 date elected to give it to the Committee for the work
41 that is before us. We now have their product and it is
42 up to us to either adopt this or amend it or we can
43 give it back to the Committee if we don't like it. So
44 that's the options.

45
46 The way I like to do this business is
47 the voting members on a proposal is the three executive
48 committee, but before I do that I want to make sure
49 that the Councils have an opportunity to ask questions
50 and I want to get a sense if they're comfortable with

1 the language before us. Council representatives,
2 speaking to the language that the Handicraft Committee
3 provided us.

4
5 MR. HICKS: I don't know where
6 everybody else disappeared to, but I have no problem
7 with it. I feel comfortable with it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Sonny.

10
11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Roger.

12
13 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Sonny likes it.
14 Jack.

15
16 MR. FAGERSTROM: (Indiscernible).

17
18 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'm sorry? Okay.
19 Jim.

20
21 MR. UJIOKA: Yep.

22
23 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: All right. Board
24 members, at this time it's either -- well, first we
25 should have a motion to put it before us.

26
27 MS. HOSETH: I'll make that motion, Mr.
28 Chairman, for the handicraft language.

29
30 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: A second would be
31 appropriate.

32
33 MR. HICKS: I second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you.
36 Discussion. Patty.

37
38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Has Law Enforcement
39 had a chance to look at this language? I don't know if
40 Ryan is here.

41
42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Ryan, would you
43 speak to that, please.

44
45 MR. NOEL: Good afternoon. Ryan Noel,
46 Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement. I just had
47 a chance to look at this literally two minutes ago. It
48 is very similar to the language that we discussed in
49 committee yesterday or Tuesday and also language that I
50 had provided to the Committee as well with some minor

1 differences. I don't know -- I guess I would ask for
2 clarification from the Council at this point. If this
3 motion were to pass, would there be -- is this the
4 exact language that would be forwarded to the SRC right
5 before codification?
6

7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: As within the SRC
8 process, this is intent language. Of course, it will
9 go to the regulation specialist and that language may
10 be tweaked without losing the intent of the past
11 language.
12

13 MR. NOEL: But to answer your question
14 everything that I see here is in kind with exactly what
15 the Committee and Law Enforcement approved, yes.
16

17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Patty, any
18 questions of Ryan. For Randy and Taqulik, the Alaska
19 Migratory Bird Handicraft Committee has submitted their
20 work. It has been taken off the table and now it's
21 before the Board for -- a motion has been made to
22 adopt. We are in the discussion phase. All the
23 Council members that were present except you two
24 endorsed the language before us. So I'd like to give
25 you the opportunity before we take action on this
26 language. If you support it, say so. If not, let us
27 know why and what you would recommend.
28

29 MS. HEPA: Yes, I also endorse the
30 language based on our discussion at our Native caucus.
31

32 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Randy.
33

34 MR. MAYO: I concur.
35

36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, sir.
37 Bruce and Gayla, it's back to us.
38

39 MS. HOSETH: I have a question, Mr.
40 Chairman. So if it's intent language and the language
41 gets modified, will we have a chance to review that
42 language before it's submitted?
43

44 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: The process then
45 would result in a proposed rule with opportunity to
46 comment. Usually the changes are just for
47 clarification. Again, the intent is not changed. I
48 would ask Donna to come forward and speak to what
49 changes, if any, have occurred in the past to some of
50 our language.

1 MS. DEWHURST: Most of the time it's
2 wordsmithing, but there have been some -- I don't want
3 to say substantial changes, but the solicitor has made
4 changes that were a little more significant than
5 wordsmithing. You usually try to keep the intent, but
6 it felt like there was different legal ways of phrasing
7 it. At that point we cannot put it out to the public
8 until it's published in the proposed rule.

9
10 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Donna
11 and Gayla. Once we submit this proposal through the
12 process through the flyway councils and into the SRC it
13 becomes their proposal. Most of the time they follow
14 it, but, as Donna said, there are some changes the
15 solicitor may recommend. Bruce, please.

16
17 MR. DALE: But once it's published in
18 the proposed rule, then the public and members of this
19 body could comment on it.

20
21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: That is correct.
22 Something else, Donna.

23
24 MS. DEWHURST: Well, just to let folks
25 know with the new schedule we probably will be going
26 from a 60-day comment period to a 30-day comment
27 period, so that's the only difference, but it's still a
28 fair amount of time to comment.

29
30 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: With help from
31 Donna, our office, if there were significant changes
32 made to this language, we would make sure that Patty is
33 notified to get the word out. Bruce.

34
35 MR. DALE: Just for clarification, the
36 way I read section A(1) is that -- where it says only
37 Alaska Natives may sell an authentic handicraft, then
38 if it was sold to a non-Native, they cannot resell it,
39 is that correct?

40
41 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: That is correct.
42 That was Ryan's review of that language.

43
44 MR. DALE: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: If you look under
47 definitions, to support that only Alaska Natives can
48 sell, Alaska Native that's selling must also possess a
49 tribal enrollment card or a BIA card so somebody
50 couldn't pretend they were Native and try to sell

1 something unless they had that card.

2

3 Ryan, come on up.

4

5 MR. NOEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ryan
6 Noel, Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement. I
7 just wanted to make a note. This came up -- I guess the
8 question dawned on me as we were having our discussions
9 this week that we didn't have a specific allowance for
10 sharing the actual edible portion of the migratory
11 birds that's harvested during the spring/summer
12 subsistence season.

13

14 There is, if you look on this
15 definition at 92.6(a) under eligible persons, the very
16 last sentence refers to the nonedible byproducts, but
17 doesn't specifically then authorize the edible
18 portions. I would ask the Council to consider adding a
19 sentence at the very end to say edible portions of
20 migratory birds may be given to others by eligible
21 persons. This would allow for the sharing from an
22 eligible person in a village to say an invited guest,
23 invited person.

24

25 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Ryan, tell me. So
26 that last sentence could it read edible and nonedible
27 products taken consistent with this section or
28 something to that effect?

29

30 MR. NOEL: The intent of the last --
31 what's currently on your draft, the last sentence, the
32 intent was there, I believe, for the handicrafting
33 purposes to be able to provide the nonedible portions
34 of the migratory birds for fashioning handicrafts.
35 That's why it's limited to eligible people, any
36 eligible person living in an included area because
37 anybody living in an included area can make handicrafts
38 and use them, but then it could be provide for any
39 Alaska Native because then they could sell it. I'm not
40 sure that by adding edible and nonedible that we're
41 meeting the same intent.

42

43 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So you'd want a
44 standalone sentence addressing edible?

45

46 MR. NOEL: I think we have to because
47 who you can give the edible portions to are much
48 broader than that sentence allows. In this case,
49 nonedible byproducts may be given to other eligible
50 persons or Alaska Natives where the edible portions

1 could be given to anybody.

2

3 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Why don't we stand
4 down for five minutes and you can talk with Todd and
5 come back with what language you'd recommend for that
6 part. I think it's a good catch and I want to just get
7 it right.

8

9 Before we do, Taqulik.

10

11 MS. HEPA: Is it a necessary catch or
12 are you just.....

13

14 MR. NOEL: Well, if I may, we realize
15 this wasn't -- this should have been probably more
16 appropriately caught when we wrote the transportation
17 regulation. I'm sorry, not transportation, the
18 invitation regulation last year, that's probably where
19 that should have been placed, but this is a really good
20 place to put it because it's still referring to who may
21 have the inedible and edible portions of ducks outside
22 of the fall season.

23

24 So, necessary, I believe it is, but
25 that's up to the Council to decide.

26

27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik, I believe
28 it is too. Gayla and I were having a conversation
29 before we came back in session on where can we find
30 clarifying language if you were to travel into
31 Anchorage and wanted to give edible birds to your
32 relatives that were residents of Anchorage, where do we
33 find that? Where can they do that. And this would
34 provide for that.

35

36 Okay, we'll stand down five minutes.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (On record)

41

42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'd like to bring
43 us back in session. If we look at the paperwork that
44 was handed out by Ryan, and I just confirmed this with
45 Ryan, ignore that section that says 92.6(a)(1). For
46 further discussing the language that Todd presented
47 captures the intent of what Ryan had read. So ignore
48 that. But what's important is under eligible persons,
49 the definition, is that last sentence in red. Edible
50 portions of migratory birds may be given to others by

1 eligible persons. It gets at that question that I said
2 or responded back to Taqulik on if one of you travels
3 to an excluded area and had wanted to give birds to
4 somebody there, a friend, family, this allows for that.
5 We don't have anywhere at this time in regulations
6 where it provides for that clarification. So we're
7 just taking an opportunity to do that.

8
9 So, to incorporate that last sentence
10 into the language we currently have before us by a
11 motion, we would need an amendment to the motion on the
12 table.

13
14 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
15 make a motion that we add under Section 92.6(a) a last
16 sentence that reads edible portions of migratory birds
17 may be given to others by eligible persons.

18
19 MR. HICKS: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: It's been moved and
22 second. So we have an amendment before us.
23 Discussion. Jim, please.

24
25 MR. UJIOKA: Under Section (a) eligible
26 persons, what's the meaning of the blue letters?

27
28 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Ryan, please.

29
30 MR. NOEL: Yes, Mr. Chair. The blue
31 was just an attempt for me to be able to describe the
32 difference between nonedible and edible. This was a
33 working draft. It wasn't really intended for this
34 purpose, so it was just for the Committee to review.

35
36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Jim, that blue
37 language is identical to what Todd gave us on his
38 draft.

39
40 MR. UJIOKA: No, I understand, but is
41 that -- I understand the amendment we're discussing now
42 is in red. There will be further discussion for the
43 second in blue?

44
45 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: The section in blue
46 is already before us with the original motion.

47
48 MR. UJIOKA: Right. And we haven't had
49 that discussion yet, correct?

50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We're talking to
2 the amendment, then we would go back and discuss the
3 motion as amended. Thank you, Jim, for the
4 clarification. On the amendment, any further
5 discussion.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Patty, roll call,
10 please, for the three Board members. On the amendment
11 to add the language edible portions of migratory birds
12 may be given to others by eligible persons.
13
14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: State of Alaska.
15
16 MR. DALE: Yes.
17
18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and
19 Wildlife Service.
20
21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Yes.
22
23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native caucus.
24
25 MS. HOSETH: Yes.
26
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. The
28 motion is before us as amended dealing with subpart (a)
29 general provisions. I'll just categorize it as the
30 handicraft language. Further discussion. Jim, please.
31
32 MR. UJIOKA: Just for clarification, I
33 don't know if it needs to go to Ryan or you, but the
34 blue area, nonedible byproducts taken and given to
35 other eligible persons or Alaska Natives. Just for
36 clarifications, that means Alaska Natives that don't
37 live in an included area.
38
39 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: That is correct.
40
41 MR. UJIOKA: Okay. I just wanted to
42 clarify.
43
44 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you for that
45 clarification. Other questions, discussions.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Roll call, please,
50 Patty, on the motion before us as amended.

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: On the motion as
2 amended. State of Alaska.
3
4 MR. DALE: Yes.
5
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Service.
8
9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Yes.
10
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native caucus.
12
13 MS. HOSETH: Yes.
14
15 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you.
16 Handicraft Committee, your work is completed. I thank
17 you for that.
18
19 (Applause)
20
21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So one down.
22
23 MR. UJIOKA: Mr. Chair.
24
25 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Jim, please.
26
27 MR. UJIOKA: Back on this handicraft,
28 we're striking the whole bottom paragraph.
29
30 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We're not even
31 messing with that.
32
33 MR. UJIOKA: Okay.
34
35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Next on
36 our docket is the tabled proposal dealing with wanton
37 waste. Do we have final language from the Committee on
38 that one?
39
40 MR. HICKS: Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead.
43
44 MR. HICKS: Yesterday, let's see, we
45 forwarded a proposal with specific language to the
46 Council for consideration. Several issues I guess you
47 could say came up. One was whether or not it would be
48 referred back to the Committee. The other one was --
49 anyway, there was a comment made in regards to what
50 retain means. We were then asked if we could take a

1 break on this particular issue so that both Fish and
2 Game and Wildlife Service could consider it in their
3 own, I guess, through their agency staff or whatever,
4 and that's where it was left off.

5
6 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Patty, could you
7 help us. Do we have the language that Chairman Joeneal
8 from the Committee provided us yesterday? Just this
9 one?

10
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman. The
12 discussion yesterday, the language that was offered by
13 the Native caucus was presented. There was discussion
14 of referring this back to the Committee so they could
15 answer questions of the Native caucus and the Council
16 decided to leave it at the Council level. I guess
17 there was assumed to be some back and forth between law
18 enforcement and the Law Enforcement Committee to see if
19 this language was okay. I do not know if that
20 occurred.

21
22 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Ryan. Donna, you
23 might want to come up too, please. First, let me go to
24 Donna. This wanton waste language would still reside
25 in Section 92?

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Let's take another
30 five minutes.....

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: No, we're okay. It's
33 actually in the same section. It's the 92. It's under
34 eligible persons. We just read that paragraph 92.6(a),
35 if you look under there where that language is is that
36 first line where it says must be done using non-
37 wasteful taking. That's where it is. And then under
38 definitions we define non-wasteful taking. So the two
39 places it would be in the regs would be this section
40 and the definitions.

41
42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. So we
43 would have a definition to clarify wanton waste
44 language and then we'd also be providing an additional
45 language for 92.6.

46
47 MS. DEWHURST: No, I think the 92.6
48 would stand. What we would have to do is amend the
49 definition.

50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Just the
2 definitions. Okay. Thank you. So we're looking at
3 just definitions. Everybody clear? So, Donna, if this
4 language that came from the Native caucus, there would
5 be two definitions then, is that correct?

6
7 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I guess it would
8 be. It would be non-wasteful taking and then edible
9 meat.

10
11 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Okay.
12 Ryan, comments, please.

13
14 MR. NOEL: Regarding the process of the
15 question that Patty posed, that is correct. I believe
16 the assignment by the Chair was for Donna and I to
17 speak about some language that either would be added to
18 or provided to contribute to the proposed definition by
19 the Native caucus and we did do that. What you may
20 have before you is what we propose. You don't have
21 that?

22
23 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I have the paper
24 that was given to us this morning that's dated April
25 7th, offered by the Native caucus. It says non-
26 wasteful taking and edible meat. Is that the one
27 you're speaking to, Ryan?

28
29 MR. NOEL: That's not. It was the one
30 I gave you the stack with the paperclip.

31
32 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Blue paperclip,
33 which -- don't look here, Gayla. It's right here.
34 Sorry.

35
36 MR. NOEL: That's okay. I apologize.
37 I had to leave this morning for personal business.
38 That was my fault for not being able to distribute it
39 myself.

40
41 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I fumbled. Sorry.

42
43 MS. HOSETH: And I saw it and he seen
44 that I seen it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So we have two
47 pieces of paper before us offered by the Native caucus
48 and efforts from Ryan and Donna over the evening
49 provided. Ryan, would you speak to the difference in
50 what was presented yesterday and what you guys provided

1 us this morning.

2

3 MR. NOEL? Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
4 everybody gets a copy and has a chance to read it, I
5 think what you'll see the difference is. We built off
6 of the original definition that's already in. I think
7 it's 92.4 definition section. Taking the intent that
8 we thought of what we heard yesterday from the Native
9 caucus and from our chair of our committee, taking from
10 that language we added this, the language to this
11 definition, which we feel.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Stop. Let's make
14 sure Joeneal has the right piece of paper. Which one
15 do you have, Peter?

16

17 MR. DEVINE: We have this one, but we
18 need one more.

19

20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: What's that one?

21

22 MR. DEVINE: (Indiscernible - mic off)

23

24 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Handicraft is done.
25 Are you there, Pete? Are you there, Joeneal?

26

27 MR. HICKS: I think so.

28

29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Please
30 proceed, Ryan.

31

32 MR. NOEL: Thank you, sir. What I was
33 saying was the language that is added to this
34 definition is what we feel is important to make this
35 enforceable and the definition was proposed by the
36 Native caucus. Not materially wrong at all. It lacks
37 an element of provability and that it requires a state
38 of mind. To give you an example, the definition that I
39 have from the Native caucus, unless that's changed, it
40 says means making a reasonable effort to retrieve all
41 birds killed or wounded and retaining the edible meat
42 for human consumption or preservation for food. That
43 requires an intent. You're retaining it for the intent
44 of eating it or for human consumption or preservation
45 of food.

46

47 We believe that that intent could
48 change with a person's mindset and that even though a
49 person may have harvested the bird for the intent of
50 that and has retained that birds, at some point they

1 may change their mind and not want that bird anymore.
2 They still have lawfully harvested it, they still
3 lawfully possessed it and they terminated their
4 possession at that time and that could be 15 minutes
5 after they shoot it or a day later.

6
7 So to make this something that we feel
8 could be enforceable, we built off of the original
9 definition that's in 92.4 to say making a reasonable
10 effort to retrieve all birds killed or wounded and
11 retaining the edible meat until the birds have been
12 transported to the location where the birds will be
13 consumed as or preserved as human food.

14
15 We heard that the intent for -- the
16 changed language from the Native caucus was at least
17 twofold. One was to make sure it was used for human
18 food and, two, that it was -- a large portion of the
19 birds was retained and not just the breast. So then
20 the next step was to define edible meat and we proposed
21 the definition under edible meat means, at a minimum,
22 the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings,
23 gizzard and heart.

24
25 The reason this is stated the way it is
26 is we thought it was a little more clear and it says
27 exactly what you must keep instead of what you don't
28 have to keep and then what you do have to keep and also
29 to meet the intent of the way Federal government now
30 makes regulations, which is a much more friendly way of
31 writing things in the positive, so this is a positive
32 sentence and more in kind with current rulemaking
33 process.

34
35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Ryan.
36 So is it safe for me to assume that the intent of the
37 Native caucus is still captured in your language with
38 the one change making it enforceable as far as where
39 the bird has to be retained to the place where it will
40 be either eaten or preserved?

41
42 MR. NOEL: This adds a location and,
43 yes, sir, we believe this is materially identical to
44 what was proposed with that single change.

45
46 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik.

47
48 MS. HEPA: Again, can you just clarify
49 why the language that has have been transported to the
50 location where the bird is and why we took it out and

1 why you think it was important to keep it in there.

2

3 MR. NOEL: Yes, ma'am. Because we felt
4 that it gives us a physical location to be able to
5 determine if that bird arrived there. If it's a camp,
6 if you're at duck camp, and it's merely just a tent and
7 a fire in the fire pit on the ground, then that
8 suffices. Whereas in Part 20 regulation we talk about
9 personal abode and things like that. We weren't going
10 to define where it had to go to, but it had to go to
11 the place where it was -- where it will be consumed or
12 it will be preserved as human food.

13

14 So that's the physical location
15 somewhere that we, as an enforcement officer, can
16 determine if it's made it there yet, not somewhere en
17 route from where it was harvested and the place where
18 it will be consumed.

19

20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Gayla,
21 and then I'll follow up.

22

23 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 My question is then will all of these pieces, the
25 breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart
26 need to be with the birds for transportation even if we
27 were bringing those birds to Anchorage, do we need to
28 have all of these pieces? No?

29

30 MR. NOEL: I'm drawing back to Part 20
31 wanton waste and regulation, which your possession of
32 all those things would terminate once you got to your
33 personal abode, your home. Here, it would be to the
34 place where it will be consumed or preserved as human
35 food. At that point this definition would not require
36 you to keep those parts together to transport them
37 beyond that point. To that point all those pieces
38 would have to be together.

39

40 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good question.
41 Ryan, you jump in and keep me on track. A good example
42 is if I was out harvesting birds and I harvested a
43 bird, started coming back and only got the one and I
44 didn't feel like cleaning it. I shot it, I retained
45 it, but I didn't have to take it home. I said that's
46 good enough. I just left it in the field. It would
47 still be legal with what the Native caucus language
48 provided and would not meet the intent that you guys
49 were speaking to and making sure the bird is consumed
50 or brought back to the place where it will be consumed.

1 So we have the Committee work before
2 us. Thank you, Joeneal. Good job. Joeneal and the
3 Council yesterday took the opportunity for the evening
4 to have the Service and LE take a look at it and they
5 have provided their review and we've had a Q&A on that.
6 So we have a tabled proposal. The first course of
7 action is to take that proposal if so desired and bring
8 it before us, so we need a motion to that effect.

9

10 MR. HICKS: I so move, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Joeneal.
13 Is there a second.

14

15 MR. DALE: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: It's been moved and
18 second, so we have the wanton waste issue before us.
19 The next appropriate action would be to identify which
20 language we would like to work with and make that as a
21 motion. So what we took off the table was the issue of
22 wanton waste. Now lets get specific to what language
23 we want to put into motion and discuss.

24

25 Gayla.

26

27 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 I think that we wanted to identify the retaining the
29 head, neck and feet and other internal organs and skin
30 is optional. A lot of people and a lot of our Native
31 caucus does retain the head and the neck and we wanted
32 to have that in the language. We have the or, so we
33 have your two definitions, edible meat and then or
34 edible meat, but now we're just talking about what else
35 we want to add in the first edible meat section, is
36 that correct?

37

38 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Right now, Gayla,
39 it's your option on what you want to propose, so we're
40 not amending anything. We're just trying to find the
41 language that we want to make as a motion dealing with
42 wanton waste.

43

44 MS. HOSETH: I think that in our
45 discussion during the Native caucus we wanted to have
46 retaining the head, neck, feet and other internal
47 organs, skin is optional. If we can include that in
48 the language. I don't know if somebody wants -- do we
49 need it in the form of a motion or just discussion
50 right now?

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Let's take it apart
2 before we get the motion to avoid a whole bunch of
3 amendments.

4

5 MS. HOSETH: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So Gayla has
8 proposed that if you look at the paper handed out by
9 Ryan, she's looking at the second definition of edible
10 meat that reads the entire bird including gizzard and
11 heart; however, retaining the head, neck, feet, other
12 internal organs, skin and feathers is optional,
13 correct?

14

15 MS. HOSETH: We do not want the
16 feathers in there, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. So what
19 would you strike in what I just read?

20

21 MS. HOSETH: And feathers.

22

23 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So skin would be in
24 there.

25

26 MS. HOSETH: Uh-huh.

27

28 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Questions on
29 that part first. Bruce.

30

31 MR. DALE: Thank you. My question
32 would be that in the simpler language that was brought
33 for us by law enforcement, those things aren't
34 specifically mentioned that are optional, but they are
35 optional by default. You can always bring them home,
36 but at a minimum you must get the meat from the breast,
37 back, thighs, legs, wings gizzard and heart. I was
38 wondering what was wrong with that language. It was
39 preferred by Law Enforcement because the other stuff is
40 optional by implication. You can always bring it home.
41 It's a part of the duck.

42

43 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Gayla.

44

45 MS. HOSETH: I think it would be that
46 it is edible to eat the head and the neck and other
47 organs and the skin and people use the feet in the soup
48 for flavor and I think we just want it in there that
49 these items are considered edible.

50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Bruce,
2 follow up.

3
4 MR. DALE: So my question would be for
5 Law Enforcement then. If we had language that said
6 edible meat means at a minimum the meat from the
7 breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart,
8 which is the affirmative clear statement of what is
9 required by law and then add retain the head, neck,
10 feet and other internal organs. Skin is optional.
11 Would that meet the interest of Law Enforcement?

12
13 MR. NOEL: I believe it would. I would
14 then -- I guess I'd have to read it a couple times to
15 see if we need the beginning of that sentence, which is
16 at a minimum to retain. It may be being redundant.
17 Maybe we need to just say means the meat from the
18 breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart
19 and then the language that you proposed.

20
21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I think if we stick
22 to the intent and leave the wordsmithing for the
23 regulation specialist, we'd be good. I think they'll
24 strike that. Go ahead, Taqulik.

25
26 MS. HEPA: No, I agree with you. I
27 think that we can leave the wordsmithing and I think
28 Gayla's point about including the retaining of these is
29 also important, so capturing both would be good.

30
31 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Bruce.

32
33 MR. DALE: Yeah, so if I could
34 summarize that just to make sure I'm getting it clear
35 and everybody -- you know, if we got it wrong, we can
36 talk about where we want to fix it. It reads something
37 like edible meat means the meat from the breast, back,
38 thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart; however,
39 retaining the head, neck, feet and other internal
40 organs and skin is optional. That's what I understand
41 we're saying is the intent now.

42
43 MR. HICKS: Is that correct?

44
45 MS. HEPA: Yes.

46
47 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Any objections to
48 Gayla and how Bruce summarized it as far as defining
49 edible meat? I got a nod from Ryan that that was okay.
50 I think Bruce took Gayla's intent and clarified it.

1 Are we good?

2

3 MR. HICKS: Mr. Chair. Could you read
4 that once again so I can write that down.

5

6 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Bruce, please do.

7

8 MR. DALE: Edible meat means the meat
9 from the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and
10 heart; however, retaining the head, neck, feet, other
11 internal organs and skin is optional.

12

13 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. We got that
14 part as far as the definition. I'll just go to non-
15 wasteful taking. We have the intent from the Native
16 caucus as modified by LE to make it more enforceable.
17 Ryan.

18

19 MR. NOEL: Mr. Chair. If I could just
20 real quick address the last sentence. Looking at where
21 this -- this is in the definition section and referring
22 to the term edible meat. We're defining what edible
23 meat is and we define that as the entire bird,
24 including the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings,
25 gizzard and heart, and then to go on and says retaining
26 the head, neck, feet or other internal organs and skin
27 is optional. If I'm thinking correctly, that's not a
28 definition. That would be a regulation to require
29 something. It would be a requirement rather than just
30 a definition. So I'm not sure that we couldn't
31 wordsmith it to make it correct, but I don't think that
32 is part of how I've seen definitions written in the
33 past.

34

35 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I'm not sure I
36 agree on that one. I think that that could just be a
37 clarification sentence or a clarification clause.
38 Because we're really not -- it isn't saying anything
39 that the first sentence doesn't say. The first
40 sentence says it's what you must have, which is already
41 -- like Bruce said, that's already inferred. The other
42 stuff is optional. So this is just a clarification.
43 It's not anything additional.

44

45 MR. NOEL: I think it's a matter of
46 wordsmithing and we can do that later.

47

48 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I think that would
49 be a good idea. Other comments on that definition.
50 Gayla.

1 MS. HOSETH: Would we want to take out
2 the words retaining? Does that.....
3
4 MR. NOEL: That is where the problem
5 comes in. Now you're requiring something and that's
6 not usually part of the definition.
7
8 MS. HOSETH: So maybe however the head,
9 neck, feet and other internal organs and skin is
10 option.
11
12 MR. NOEL: Yeah.
13
14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Retaining
15 will be struck.
16
17 MR. HICKS: Read that one more time so
18 we all.....
19
20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Bruce, please.
21
22 MR. DALE: Edible meat means the meat
23 from the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and
24 heart; however, the head, neck, feet and other internal
25 organs and skin are optional.
26
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. I think we
28 got that. Let's go to the definition. My intent is
29 once we reach consensus on both language, then we'll do
30 a motion for both of them. Is that okay? Okay. Non-
31 wasteful taking. I won't repeat myself. My intent is
32 to provide language that meets the Native caucus's
33 intent but also captures what's enforceable. So I'm
34 leaning towards the language that took the Native
35 caucus language and provided that caveat. Ryan's
36 paper.
37
38 Comments, questions. Bruce.
39
40 MR. DALE: Well, I think the question
41 is whether there's any objection to that language. I
42 think that captures it. It contains the intent. I
43 understand it just clarified the final place, the
44 destination that the edible meat has to get to and
45 clarifies that for law enforcement purposes and I think
46 that was the intent that I heard all along.
47
48 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Joeneal is nodding
49 yes. Taqulik.
50

1 MS. HEPA: I just want to make sure the
2 Native caucus is good with that. I know we had an in-
3 depth discussion about that exact language. Maybe if
4 we could take a two minute Native caucus in that corner
5 over there just to make sure that we're thinking things
6 out as you did with Ryan.

7
8 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'll give you five.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (On record)

13
14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So I'm going to
15 turn the floor over to Gayla and you can report on your
16 brief recess.

17
18 MS. HOSETH: All right. Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. After discussion we would like to add -- I
20 could just read it how we would like it read for the
21 non-wasteful taking. Making a reasonable effort to
22 retrieve all birds killed or wounded and retaining the
23 edible meat until the birds have been transported to
24 the location where the birds will be consumed,
25 processed or preserved as human food.

26
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So you're adding
28 the word processed.

29
30 MS. HOSETH: That is correct, Mr.
31 Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Ryan.

34
35 MR. NOEL: Just for clarification,
36 Gayla, did you say and or or? I didn't catch that.

37
38 MS. HOSETH: It is or. Our concern was
39 when we have people on the coast and when we go there
40 to process we don't want to have -- there's a
41 difference between processing food and preserving food.

42
43 MR. NOEL: Okay. Thank you.

44
45 MS. DEWHURST: Pardon my white person
46 ignorance, what's the difference? What would be an
47 example of something that would be processed versus
48 preserved? It's just my own trying to understand it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Joeneal.

1 MR. HICKS: I'll try to give you an
2 example. If it was me, for instance, when I go out
3 there and hunt for migratory birds, it's not just
4 migratory birds alone, it's muskrat and whatever like
5 that. It's all included in it. But let's say if I
6 were to take a bird, and if I didn't want to
7 necessarily eat it right now, I would process -- not
8 process it, I guess. Well, process it to preserve it I
9 guess you could say. In other words, I would pluck it,
10 I would singe it, gut it and hang it up. Then, when
11 I'm ready, transport it home several days later. So in
12 other words I would -- I mean that term process would
13 be processing it for human consumption once I get it
14 home. Throw it in the freezer or whatever.

15
16 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Joeneal.
17 Any other questions or comments on the definition of
18 non-wasteful taking. What we've taken is the language
19 that LE enhanced for enforcability and add the word
20 processed. A motion at this time is appropriate to
21 take both definitions and make a motion, please.

22
23 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 I'd like to make a motion for the wanton waste
25 definition. Would you like me to read it?

26
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Both of them.

28
29 MS. HOSETH: Okay. The definition of
30 being non-wasteful taking: Making a reasonable effort
31 to retrieve all birds killed or wounded and retaining
32 the edible meat until the birds have been transported
33 to the location where the birds will be consumed,
34 processed or preserved as human food.

35
36 Edible meat means the meat from the
37 breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart;
38 however, the head, neck, feet, other internal organs
39 and skin are optional.

40
41 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: The motion before
42 us. Is there a second.

43
44 MR. HICKS: I second, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Joeneal.
47 Any further discussion on the motion before us.

48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Roll call,
2 please, Patty.
3
4 MS. SCHWALENBERG: State of Alaska.
5
6 MR. DALE: Yes.
7
8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and
9 Wildlife Service.
10
11 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Yes.
12
13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And Native caucus.
14
15 MS. HOSETH: Yes.
16
17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you.
18
19 (Applause)
20
21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Joeneal,
22 for your Committee's work. Your Committee is now done.
23 So at this time, Patty, we have two proposals that were
24 tabled and acted upon by the Board and we'll go forward
25 in our process. Is there other tabled items that we
26 need to address before we move on in our agenda?
27
28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No.
29
30 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Gayla.
31
32 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 I wanted to bring back an issue on the Duck Stamp that
34 we were going to bring back and talk about.
35
36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Gayla, hold that
37 thought. Go ahead, Ryan.
38
39 MR. NOEL: I understand there was a
40 question before -- again, I apologize for not being
41 here this morning, about the Duck Stamp Act amendment.
42
43 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We're going to get
44 to that. I just wanted to make sure that we didn't
45 have any other tabled. The answer is no, so I'm going
46 to turn the mic to Gayla, who is going to introduce the
47 Duck Stamp and then you get to answer.
48
49 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 I guess the question that we had was I guess we wanted

1 further clarification about the Duck Stamp exemption.
2 It's in the form of a question. Will a hunter living
3 in Fairbanks who is invited back to his village need a
4 Federal Duck Stamp?

5
6 MR. NOEL: Thank you, ma'am, for the
7 question. The answer is yes. A person living in an
8 excluded area would have to purchase a Duck Stamp.

9
10 MS. HOSETH: Even if they have the
11 invitation from their village council? It's because
12 they live in an excluded area?

13
14 MR. NOEL: That's correct. If you look
15 at -- the language in the amended act was pretty
16 minimal; however, it did have two key features to it.
17 The first, and I'll read it to you exactly as it's
18 written, no Stamp described in paragraph one shall be
19 required for the taking of migratory waterfowl by, one,
20 a rural Alaskan resident; two, for subsistence uses.
21 So even though the invited guest is going back for
22 subsistence uses, that part is clear. The fact that
23 they're not a rural Alaska resident is the first part
24 of that requirement and not something we thought we
25 could extend to somebody living in an excluded area.

26
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Randy.

28
29 MR. MAYO: Yeah, I guess I'm one of
30 those nonrural people. My mailbox is in Fairbanks
31 along with -- like here in Anchorage, I don't know how
32 many other thousands tribal members that have a P.O.
33 Box in the excluded area. I guess I'll get a Duck
34 Stamp and invite myself back home in a few days.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Other comments.
39 Further clarification, Gayla?

40
41 MS. HOSETH: No. And I guess we wanted
42 to bring back the State Duck Stamp and we would like
43 for that to be on the AMBCC agenda regarding the need
44 to issue a State license and a State Duck Stamp for our
45 next meeting. Is there anything that we need to do to
46 accomplish this to get this on the agenda?

47
48 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: One question,
49 Gayla. The intent is for what? It's an agenda item,
50 but what do we prepare for?

1 MS. HOSETH: Addressing the need to
2 have a State Duck Stamp.

3
4 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Bruce, comment.

5
6 MR. DALE: Thank you. Similar to the
7 statement that Chairman Probasco made earlier today,
8 the State of Alaska would be in a similar position
9 where we would not be able to actively lobby for that
10 as part of the AMBCC or otherwise. So the suggestion
11 from, I think, Chairman Probasco was that would be a
12 Native caucus and Fish and Wildlife Service wouldn't
13 either, so that would leave that as a Native caucus
14 initiative.

15
16 MS. HOSETH: It wouldn't be to lobby
17 the state, Mr. Dale.

18
19 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: A follow up, Gayla,
20 and I agree with what Bruce said. If the intent is to
21 capture a better understanding of the requirements of a
22 State Duck Stamp and a State license, where it applies
23 and why the Federal. Also regulations require those
24 type. Yes, we could provide that information and have
25 that discussion.

26
27 MS. HOSETH: Okay, great. We'll be
28 able to have that on our next agenda then?

29
30 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Bruce.

31
32 MR. DALE: Yeah, just to clarify what I
33 was discussing. I thought it was relative to the State
34 statute that requires an initiative through the State
35 Legislature to change that statute. That's what I was
36 referring to.

37
38 MS. HOSETH: Okay. As long as we'd be
39 able to have it on the agenda for our next meeting for
40 further discussion that would be great.

41
42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Patty's got it, so
43 it will be on our fall agenda. I guess Bruce and my
44 homework is to come back with that discussion as
45 outlined by Gayla and I will work closely with Bruce to
46 put that information together.

47
48 Joeneal.

49
50 MR. HICKS: I just want to say that as

1 for the Federal Duck Stamp -- in other words, I believe
2 the original intent of the Native caucus was that all
3 Alaska Natives be excluded from having to get a Duck
4 Stamp. Now we're saying that, no, certain people from
5 the included areas if they live there have to have one
6 if they want to return back to their village or the
7 community where they want to hunt. It just doesn't
8 seem right to me.

9

10 The other fact now is that most --
11 let's say for instance in my region. I told them that
12 now we don't need a Federal Duck Stamp. I gave them
13 the wrong information. I guess an educational process
14 needs to be put underway as to just exactly what does
15 that law allow so people don't interpret in two
16 different ways.

17

18 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Joeneal.
19 Taqulik. Do you have follow up or can I respond to
20 Joeneal.

21

22 MS. HEPA: Go ahead.

23

24 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. One, I
25 do agree that we need to do further outreach and
26 education. The legislation that passed by Congressman
27 Young in support from many did exempt those individuals
28 that live in rural areas either under ANILCA or under
29 the -- so, no, you do not have to have a Federal Stamp.
30 That's specifically to the Federal Duck Stamp Act. It
31 does not address the State Stamp. The State Stamp is
32 under the State of Alaska and that would be a whole
33 other process to get that exemption.

34

35 So technically right now before that
36 was passed you and I going hunting would have to have
37 those two stamps; a State Stamp and a Federal Stamp.
38 The exemption addressed only the Federal Stamp. The
39 State Stamp is under State law.

40

41 MR. HICKS: Something doesn't seem
42 right. As discussed earlier, didn't you say that Randy
43 now has to go back home with a Federal Duck Stamp?

44

45 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Randy resides.....

46

47 MR. HICKS: In an excluded area.

48

49 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Even though he's
50 originally from an included area, he now lives in an

1 excluded area, Fairbanks, and he's a resident of that
2 area. If you're a resident of an excluded area, you
3 still have to have a Duck Stamp.

4
5 MR. HICKS: A Federal Duck Stamp.

6
7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: A Federal Duck
8 Stamp.

9
10 MR. HICKS: That's just what I'm
11 saying, it doesn't -- I mean I think the original
12 intent was not for that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We're dealing with
15 the language as passed by Congress. I can agree or
16 disagree with you, Joeneal But that's what we have to
17 deal with.

18
19 MR. HICKS: Well, it's just that I need
20 to go back to my regional management ob and explain
21 just exactly what was said here.

22
23 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We'll help you with
24 getting that information out as well. Taquilik.

25
26 MS. HEPA: He hit on exactly what I
27 wanted to bring up. I think us, as the Native caucus,
28 need to do some brainstorming. If that is what has
29 come out of Congress, that it doesn't include Alaska
30 Natives living in urban areas to be exempt from the
31 Duck Stamp exemption, then we need to make sure that
32 that's what it does say exactly and figure out what we
33 want to do to address the situation that Randy is in
34 and many others, Alaska Natives.

35
36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I think you set the
37 course of action very accurately. Peter.

38
39 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Along with the information you're going to provide at
41 the fall meeting can we have a copy of how many dollars
42 are generated from the State Duck Stamp.

43
44 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: You bet. State and
45 Federal or just State?

46
47 MR. DEVINE: Just State because we no
48 longer need Federal, but I'd like to know how many
49 dollars are generated in the State, you know, so that
50 when they tell us no, we know how many dollars are

1 coming in.

2

3 MR. DALE: I'll be glad to provide that
4 information.

5

6 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Gayla, please.

7

8 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 I just wanted to say it is really confusing especially
10 when you live in an area that is dually managed. Even
11 in the paper today, we talked about this earlier, Mr.
12 Chairman, about what was written in the paper about how
13 -- regarding our subsistence hunters won't need a
14 Federal Duck Stamp. On the second page it says hunters
15 will still need a State Duck Stamp for the fall hunt.
16 That's confusing to the people out there reading the
17 paper as it doesn't address the spring hunt with the
18 State Duck Stamp.

19

20 So if we could have some kind of
21 publication as to what is being required in terms for
22 the spring/summer subsistence hunt so just for
23 clarification, educational purposes, so that it is
24 crystal clear to the subsistence hunter out there
25 hunting for the season.

26

27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Gayla.
28 Donna, do you have something to say?

29

30 MS. DEWHURST: Just that the
31 information is all in the booklet, which we are paying
32 to mail out 34,000 copies as I speak at a cost of about
33 \$23,000. So we spent a lot of money to get those
34 booklets out to every box holder in our eligible area.
35 We can't force them to open them, but the information
36 is in there.

37

38 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you. So are
39 these already mailed out or are they being mailed out?

40

41 MS. DEWHURST: They are being mailed
42 out as we speak.

43

44 MS. HOSETH: So they're in the mail.

45

46 MS. DEWHURST: They're supposed to be.

47

48 MS. HOSETH: Because it would be nice
49 if we had them in the mail before the hunt. I know
50 there's deadlines on printing and publications, but if

1 the season opens on this date and we don't have this
2 information -- I know it is available online and you
3 have people in rural Alaska that don't have internet
4 connections. It's really hard to get that information
5 out so that the people have the info.

6
7 MS. DEWHURST: The issue came up --
8 Taqulik might be able to help me on this one, but the
9 issue came up many years ago as to when to mail them
10 out. The problem is we can't do successional mail. We
11 have to mail them out at the same time. The concern
12 was raised that if we mail them out too early in the
13 season before the birds have even arrived, people won't
14 read them. They'll just throw them out. This year
15 they're a smidge late because the post office -- they
16 were printed in Kansas and shipped via the post office
17 and the post office damaged 1,000 copies, so we're
18 trying to settle that and it has delayed the mailout
19 probably by a couple days. Nothing significant.

20
21 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. And I know
22 they are available online and I printed it before our
23 meeting that we had a couple weeks ago, so that's nice
24 of the availability online.

25
26 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Gayla
27 and Donna. I think in addition to what's provided in
28 our Handy Dandy I'll call it on the Federal Duck Stamp,
29 I agree with you that some additional information, i.e.
30 a Q&A, would be appropriate and we will provide that as
31 well.

32
33 Bruce.

34
35 MR. DALE: Thank you. We'll do our
36 part on the State side too and I'll make sure all our
37 front desks and area offices have the Federal and State
38 requirements. I think we can still probably put the
39 requirements for the fall waterfowl regulations and
40 make sure that we're all speaking in exactly the same
41 way.

42
43 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik.

46
47 MS. HEPA: It might be good for us to
48 consider commenting to the newspaper because it is very
49 confusing and I know a lot of people did read what was
50 written in the newspaper, but just for clarification as

1 a comment it might be good to send a message just for
2 clarification you do need a State Duck Stamp if you are
3 a subsistence hunter of migratory birds.

4

5 MS. HOSETH: That brings up a good
6 point. Would AMBCC be able to put out a publication as
7 what is absolutely required for this hunt?

8

9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'm sorry, say it
10 again.

11

12 MS. HOSETH: Would AMBCC be able to put
13 out a notice in the paper of outlining the process of
14 the Q&A that you're talking about?

15

16 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I don't think we'd
17 get that for free, so I'm not going to make a
18 commitment, okay. We will do our best to get the word
19 out on this. That's as far as I'll go at this point
20 until I learn more.

21

22 Peter.

23

24 MR. DEVINE: Well, instead of paying
25 advertising maybe just send a letter to the editor.

26

27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I was also thinking
28 of possibly an opinion piece, but neither of those are
29 guaranteed they'll be published. A compass piece,
30 there we go. Are we done with the Duck Stamp?

31

32 (Council nods)

33

34 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Let's go to
35 our agenda and, Patty, under new business we still have
36 -- what do you got? I'm trying to get through the
37 agenda.

38

39 MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk,
40 subsistence director for Kawerak. I had a question.
41 During the spring/summer subsistence harvest does the
42 State of Alaska have rules, regulations for that
43 particular hunt?

44

45 MR. DALE: No, we don't.

46

47 MR. AHMASUK: Second question. Why do
48 you require a State Duck Stamp when you have no rules
49 or regulations for the hunt?

50

1 MR. DALE: So I believe I misspoke. I
2 didn't understand exactly and it wasn't clear. I
3 believe the statute requires a State Duck Stamp for
4 hunting waterfowl, migratory birds. So, for whatever
5 seasons or bag limits exist there would be a State
6 requirement for that.

7
8 MR. AHMASUK: Yes, but your rules for
9 your hunt are in the fall/winter hunt, but the
10 subsistence hunt is an entirely different hunt. In my
11 mind, I'm just trying to get clarification. Why would
12 you require a State Duck Stamp for a hunt that you have
13 no rules or regulations for?

14
15 MR. DALE: That's a good question. I'm
16 going to have to figure that out and clarify that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Dan, please.

19
20 DR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg, Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game. It's hunting. The State
22 only has a hunting license and so all hunting, whether
23 it be spring/summer subsistence hunting or fall hunting
24 is covered by that license. That's why it's different
25 for hunting than it is for fishing because the State
26 has a commercial fishing license and a sport fishing
27 license, but it doesn't have a subsistence fishing
28 license. It's left out of the equation. But for
29 hunting there is only a hunting license and to hunt you
30 have to -- waterfowl, you have to have a State Duck
31 Stamp. Now that's how it was explained to me by a
32 lawyer, but I don't know if that's true, but that's how
33 it was explained.

34
35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik and then --
36 do I dare do this? Sky, you can come up.

37
38 MS. HEPA: I think that they're double
39 charging us because we have to have a hunting license
40 to hunt migratory birds and you have to have a Duck
41 Stamp too? I think they're double charging us.

42
43 DR. ROSENBERG: I don't follow.

44
45 MS. HEPA: Because the way that I
46 understood it to be legal you have to have a hunting
47 license from the State of Alaska, a State Duck Stamp
48 and until recently a Federal Duck Stamp. So you had to
49 have three pieces of paper. If you need two pieces of
50 paper that you pay for from the State, then I think

1 you're double charging the migratory bird hunters.

2

3 DR. ROSENBERG: I can't answer that
4 question. I understand what your saying, but I have no
5 answer.

6

7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay, Sky.

8

9 MR. STARKEY: Sky Starkey. I don't
10 necessarily want to say anything definitive, but for
11 the purposes of the agenda item, I think one of the
12 main things for discussion is and to look at is, okay,
13 migratory bird hunting is completely different. It's
14 like whaling. There's no State jurisdiction over
15 whaling. There's no State jurisdiction over marine
16 mammals. A marine mammal hunter, no matter where
17 they're hunting, it could be up a river. For beluga,
18 it could be wherever. They do not need a hunting
19 license to hunt marine mammals.

20

21 The same is true about migratory birds
22 if there's a regulation adopted by the Federal
23 government which says -- because migratory birds is
24 completely under Federal jurisdiction. There's a
25 framework the Federal government lays out. Any State
26 regulations need to be consistent with that. So if the
27 Federal government adopted a regulation that said for
28 the purposes of those eligible to hunt under the
29 protocol do not need a hunting license or State Duck
30 Stamp. In my view, that would be a way, an approach to
31 eliminate that requirement without having to go to the
32 State statute.

33

34 So that is one issue that should be on
35 the agenda for next time. I think that's what Gayla
36 was trying to express. I think we're all thinking that
37 it needs a statutory change at the State, which would
38 be one way to do it, but I think there's another way.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So Sky, if I may,
43 Federal regulations for migratory bird hunts falls in
44 two categories, Part 92 and Part 20. This body focuses
45 strictly on Part 92, subsistence. So this body, our
46 ability -- this is my opinion and you can correct me --
47 would focus strictly on the spring/summer hunt.

48

49 MR. STARKEY: That's under the current
50 regulation and under the current interpretation of the

1 treaty I think that would be right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Thank you.
4 Any more on the Federal/State Duck Stamp?

5

6 MS. HEPA: Good discussion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: It was a very good
9 discussion and I appreciate Sky coming up and speaking
10 to that. So we're going to move back to our agenda.
11 It is 10 to 3:00, so I'm going back to new business and
12 the consent agenda item 2016 regulations. Patty.

13

14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman. The consent agenda items are the 2016
16 regulations that have been proposed annually by the
17 individual regional management bodies. They have not
18 changed since probably 2003. So we've lumped them into
19 one section called consent agenda items, so we would
20 need a motion to approve so those can go forward to the
21 Service Regulations Committee in July.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. DEVINE: Motion to approve.

26

27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Peter.
28 Peter made the motion as articulated by Patty. Is
29 there a second on the consent agenda items.

30

31 MS. HEPA: Second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: It's been moved and
34 second. Discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I ask for unanimous
39 consent both from the Councils and Boards. Is there
40 any objections to that?

41

42 (No objections)

43

44 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Hearing none, it
45 goes forward, Patty. Okay. Item 12 I'm going to take
46 up all in one lump as far as A and B, the budgets and
47 grants update. I presented this during the work
48 session. As per request from our Executive Director
49 and the State of Alaska, I added some additional
50 information. You'll see an FY14, what we actually

1 spent as far as the AMBCC functions. FY15 I provide
2 the current status. I added the State of Alaska
3 contribution to that and also in the Y-K Delta survey I
4 have a zero. I just wanted to emphasize that the
5 intent of the Service is to conduct that survey and we
6 are learning more of the funding source for that
7 survey. I can actually break it out into two fiscal
8 years, '15 and '14. The survey is going to occur. I
9 have to determine how much money I'm going to provide
10 for the FY15 portion.

11
12 All the grants, Donna is our lead and
13 she has completed the grants for the various councils
14 and the amounts that you will anticipate receiving are
15 listed there on the right-hand side. As far as
16 projected for 2016, I wish I could tell you. We did
17 not get final figures until the latter part of February
18 this year. If you remember in '14, we never really got
19 final figures. It was just a continuing resolution.

20
21 FY16 I believe is going to be probably
22 possibly more challenging than FY15 in that the Service
23 has priorities that reside outside of Alaska in the
24 Lower 48. That funding may be directed towards that.
25 To meet some of those priorities this year, my budget
26 was reduced to \$120,000 specifically to meet the Gulf
27 oil spill, sage grouse and one other I can't recall
28 right now off the top of my head, but those are
29 priorities established by the National headquarters in
30 Washington, D.C.

31
32 So that's my budget summary.
33 Questions. Jim.

34
35 MR. UJIOKA: I probably should know
36 this, but I don't. You have footnote number 5, but you
37 don't have five footnotes on the bottom.

38
39 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I remember that
40 one. Number five, and Patty can help me with this, but
41 in number five a request for the Chugach Regional
42 Resource Committee was not made at that time, so there
43 was no funding provided.

44
45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Don't ask me.

46
47 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Huh? Oh, that's
48 not correct? I don't remember it. Go, Patty.

49
50 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sorry, Pete. An

1 additional funding request was actually made during
2 that time and we received additional funding from the
3 Fish and Wildlife Service, but in that negotiation
4 process that our 14.4 that we normally receive was not
5 included in that total budget amount. So you're right
6 in that we did not receive the 14.4 that year, but we
7 did receive additional funding to assume the management
8 of the AMBCC.

9

10 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Patty.
11 Other questions on the budget.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Next on our agenda
16 is 12C and 12D, Y-K Delta survey plans and 2016 survey
17 plans. Do we have any additional information at this
18 time on that?

19

20 Go ahead, Taqulik.

21

22 MS. HEPA: I'm going to go back to the
23 budget and I just wanted to -- maybe this goes back to
24 Mr. Devine's request from the State. When we do
25 purchase a State Duck Stamp and we wanted to know what
26 was that amount, but what is that money used for and
27 can some of that money be used to help with this co-
28 management effort? I think that would be great if you
29 could come back to the meeting with some information on
30 that because it makes sense that if you're gaining some
31 revenue from migratory bird hunting that it should be
32 put back into this co-management process.

33

34 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Gayla.

35

36 MS. HOSETH: And it would also be
37 interesting to see what the hunting license fees, what
38 the amount is for that. With the State contributing,
39 what is the contribution from Fish and Game to our
40 budget?

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: 83.

43

44 MS. HOSETH: \$80,000. There's a lot of
45 money that comes to the State for hunting licenses. It
46 would be nice to have more contribution from the State
47 of Alaska to this co-management.

48

49 MR. DALE: I'll provide that
50 information. What we asked to correct on this budget

1 sheet from yesterday or two days ago was that we
2 contribute 80,000 for the harvest surveys and in
3 addition 100,000 to the program. Just for
4 clarification.

5

6 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Jack.

7

8 MR. FAGERSTROM: I don't know if this
9 is the right time to bring it up, but you're talking
10 about hunting licenses and fees. Our elders have a
11 permanent license to hunt and fish. Now do they have
12 to take money out of their pocket to go buy a Duck
13 Stamp or is there some way we can exempt them from
14 spending money on a Duck Stamp since they've got a
15 permanent hunting license already?

16

17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Bruce.

18

19 MR. DALE: Okay. If I'm reading Dan's
20 body language correctly, you're not required -- once
21 you have a permanent ID, the 60-year-old and older
22 license, you don't need a Duck Stamp.

23

24 MR. FAGERSTROM: That's State?

25

26 MR. DALE: The State Duck Stamp.

27

28 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay. So springtime
29 my elders don't need to go buy a Duck Stamp.

30

31 MR. DALE: That's correct.

32

33 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Thanks, Dan.
36 I think we'll provide that information too when we do
37 that summary. I learned something. I want to be 60 so
38 I don't need a State Stamp. Cool. Patty, 12C and D,
39 what was the intent of that agenda item?

40

41 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Well, it was related
42 to the budget in that we were wanting to find out if
43 the Fish and Wildlife Service is planning to support a
44 survey in 2016. At the time the agenda was done, we
45 did not know what the plans were for the 1015 Y-K Delta
46 survey.

47

48 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. So the
49 Y-K Delta -- I can't commit to the 2016 without knowing
50 what my figures will be, but for 2015 that will occur

1 with funds from both FY15 and 16. Okay. Any public
2 members that would like to speak please come up.

3

4 MS. WENTWORTH: My name is Cynthia
5 Wentworth. I'm a cultural anthropologist and I was a
6 coordinator of subsistence migratory bird harvest
7 surveys from 1989 to 2007. Yesterday afternoon I got a
8 call from Ron Stanek. Ron helped me coordinate the
9 harvest survey from the 1990s until 2007. He asked me
10 to speak on his behalf. He wants to give credit to the
11 RITs and all the other village workers, surveyors, for
12 the success of the harvest survey over the years and
13 also to give credit to the village councils for the
14 approval of the survey and for their support.

15

16 I also wanted to reiterate what I said
17 during the work session. I'd like to see the spending
18 detail every year for every meeting broken out by how
19 much of this money goes for jobs in rural Alaska.
20 There are areas of rural Alaska that are the most cash
21 poor in the whole country and the jobs are really very
22 important. As I said before, they're natural resource
23 oriented jobs. They're not just any jobs. They teach
24 people about natural resources. They're environmental
25 education tools.

26

27 We hear a lot from -- you know, just
28 speaking now as a private citizen, Lisa Murkowski
29 talking about the high suicide rates, yet she also
30 talks about cutting Federal budgets. You know, what
31 are we going to do about these high suicide rates.
32 One of the big things is jobs and I really want to see
33 how much the subsistence harvest surveys contribute to
34 jobs in rural Alaska in every area.

35

36 Thanks.

37

38 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Cynthia.
39 Any questions?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Any other public
44 would like to speak?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Committee
49 appointments and assignments. Patty.

50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: During the work
2 session we asked the Native caucus, the State of Alaska
3 and the Fish and Wildlife Service to review the
4 committee list and come prepared to announce any
5 changes that they want to make to any of the
6 committees. So that would be the process we want to go
7 through.

8

9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: What tab was that
10 under?

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: 10. Sorry.

13

14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Tab 10. Okay. I'm
15 just going to start from the top. The Technical
16 Committee, Carol Brown. Who is replacing her?

17

18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Can the Native
19 caucus identify someone for the Technical Committee?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Then we'll just be
24 removing her from the list.

25

26 MS. HOSETH: I can volunteer for that
27 committee.

28

29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Gayla would like to
30 take on the Technical Committee. Thank you, Gayla.
31 Subcommittees, Emperor Goose Management replacing Carol
32 Brown. Sonny. Subcommittee Exclusion is complete.
33 Subcommittee Invitation is complete. Harvest Survey
34 Committee replacing Carol Brown. Dan.

35

36 DR. ROSENBERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd
37 just like to revisit the Emperor Goose Subcommittee and
38 suggest that because Carol Brown was a member from the
39 Y-K Delta and because the Y-K Delta is such an
40 important place for Emperor Geese that we have a member
41 from the Y-K Delta representing that area on the
42 Emperor Goose Subcommittee.

43

44 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. In addition
45 to Sonny, who would like to from the Y-K Delta.

46

47 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Patty.

50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I would suggest
2 Myron Naneng since he's the Council member and then he
3 can designate his staff if need be.
4
5 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I think it's
6 totally fair if somebody is not present we can nominate
7 him to any committee.
8
9 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Especially if it's
10 Myron.
11
12 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So we will put
13 Myron down. You're supposed to keep me out of trouble.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Back to the Harvest
18 Survey Committee. Replacing Carol Brown. Any
19 suggestions?
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Operating
24 Procedures Committee replacing Carol Brown.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. No one. Law
29 Enforcement, replacing Gary Young and Gene Peltola.
30 Ryan, please.
31
32 MR. NOEL: Thank you, sir. I would
33 like to for the Board to consider nominating Rory Stark
34 for Gary Young and Jim Hjelmgren for Gene Peltola. Do
35 you want me to spell that for you?
36
37 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Rory Stark and Jim
38 Hjelmgren. H-E-L-M-G-R-E-N?
39
40 MR. NOEL: H-J-E-L-M-G-R-E-N, I
41 believe.
42
43 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We'll get the right
44 spelling. Okay.
45
46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I have a question.
47
48 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Please.
49
50 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So it's okay to keep

1 you on the Committee, Ryan or is Roy taking your place
2 also?

3

4 MR. NOEL: I don't have a copy of that.
5 Am I on the list?

6

7 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You are on the list.
8 Do you want to remain on the list?

9

10 MR. NOEL: Yes, please.

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good. I was going
15 to object if you said yes. Okay. Government to
16 government.....

17

18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The Budget Ad Hoc.

19

20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Budget Ad Hoc I see
21 no one to replace.

22

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, sorry.

24

25 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We can always add
26 Gayla. Anyone else want to sit on the Budget Ad Hoc
27 Committee?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Handicraft
32 Committee is fairly large and their work is currently
33 completed, but we'll keep them in the back field there
34 in case we've got to call them up again. Government to
35 government. Bruce said he would be replacing Doug
36 Vincent-Lang. Co-management Principals, replacement
37 for Carol Brown.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. So changes
42 were as noted. Technical Committee will be Gayla.
43 Subcommittee Emperor Geese will be Sonny and Myron.
44 Law Enforcement will be Rory and Jim Hjelmgren.
45 Government-to-Government will be Bruce Dale. Gayla.

46

47 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 I'd like to be added to the Fall/Winter Subsistence
49 Harvest Season Committee, please.

50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We will add Gayla
2 to the Fall/Winter Subsistence. Okay. Jack.

3
4 MR. FAGERSTROM: Can I be on the
5 Emperor Goose Subcommittee.

6
7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We're going to add
8 Jack to the Emperor Goose Management. Others?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Changes as
13 noted, Patty. Back to the agenda. I'm going to take
14 one out of order. Date and place of next meeting.
15 Suggestions, Patty.

16
17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman. Under Tab 10, the very last document, there
19 are two calendars. One for September and one for
20 October for the fall meeting of the AMBCC.

21
22 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: September is
23 hunting season.

24
25 MR. HICKS: The end of September is
26 also the end of the fiscal year. I would like to see
27 us stay out of October if we could. The first two
28 weeks I have almost pretty much booked as far as
29 meetings.

30
31 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: For October.

32
33 MR. HICKS: Yes.

34
35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Brandon.

36
37 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Brandon Ahmasuk, Subsistence Director, Kawerak. I
39 agree with what Peter just said. For budgeting
40 purposes, if we could have the fall meeting at least
41 two to three weeks before the end of September due to
42 budgeting. Like last fall I came down for the fall
43 meeting. Basically we had three, four days to spend a
44 lot of money. By the time I got back to my office it
45 was getting into October and there was a little bit
46 that wasn't spent, so we didn't get that extra this
47 year. It was too close, so I'm just requesting if we
48 could have that fall meeting sooner rather than later.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I know I'm not
2 available until after September 20th. Donna.

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: Last year there was a
5 change too in how that was done. Two years ago they
6 absolutely had to spend their money by the end of the
7 September. Last year Budget and Finance changed that a
8 little bit and said you actually have 90 days to spend
9 your money after the end of the fiscal year. You can
10 still spend money down. It delays getting the next
11 grant, but it is possible. They aren't on the time
12 constraint they were at in the past.

13
14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Donna.
15 Gayla.

16
17 MS. HOSETH: I had a question. Will we
18 be on a new -- with the new schedule changes, any
19 changes need to be in by October so we would want to
20 make sure that we meet before we needed to submit
21 anything before the October deadline?

22
23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It looks as though
24 we resolved everything, so we probably would not have a
25 need to go to the SRC meeting or the PFC meeting in
26 October and November, so I think we're okay.

27
28 MS. HOSETH: Unless something happens
29 with Emperor Goose.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: One can only hope.

34
35 MS. HEPA: How's the week of September
36 28th?

37
38 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik's proposed
39 the week of September 28th. That works for me. It
40 doesn't work for Donna.

41
42 MS. DEWHURST: I apologize for bringing
43 this bureaucratic issue up, but if we're actually
44 having the meeting dates in October, that poses a
45 problem. You can spend money past the fiscal year, but
46 the money -- you can claim money that was spent, but
47 only money that was spent up to September 30th. So the
48 money has to have been spent by September 30th, but you
49 can claim it after September 30th if you can follow
50 that. So we can't have the meeting in October. It

1 would go against your next year's grant. I'm sorry.
2 The bureaucracy never fails to amaze me too.

3
4 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik.

5
6 MS. HEPA: I was going to say September
7 21, the week of September. It doesn't have to be on
8 the 21st.

9
10 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: September 21, that
11 week works for me. Bruce.

12
13 MR. DALE: As far as I know, that's a
14 good date. I couldn't see anything on my calendar.

15
16 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: It works for Gayla.
17 Randy.

18
19 MR. MAYO: I'll be done hunting by
20 then.

21
22 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We hope to be,
23 yeah. Jim.

24
25 MR. UJIOKA: It doesn't matter.

26
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Jack.

28
29 MR. FAGERSTROM: I was going to get
30 married, but now I'll put it off.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: We can have a
35 wedding here. Joeneal. Peter. Sonny.

36
37 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I would like it on the
38 14th (Indiscernible) starting the 25th.

39
40 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: The 25th is Friday.
41 I promise you we won't have it on Friday.

42
43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, but I've got to
44 get down and get ready and be over there a couple days
45 ahead of time.

46
47 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: The 14th is
48 problematic for a lot of us. Patty, does it work for
49 you?

50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. I would just
2 need to know if the Council would like to meet
3 Wednesday and Thursday or Thursday, Friday.

4
5 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I would say let's
6 shoot for Wednesday, Thursday. So we're going to try
7 to schedule a meeting for the week of the 21st focusing
8 on Wednesday and Thursday as the meeting. Okay.
9 Location. Patty.

10
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The Council would
12 request to have our spring meeting in Fairbanks this
13 year and we weren't able to work that out, so I did
14 make a commitment to Randy that we would attempt to try
15 to have the meeting in Fairbanks for the fall.

16
17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Any objections to
18 having the meeting in Fairbanks. I assume Anchorage is
19 the fallback. Any objections to that.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik is
24 thinking.

25
26 MS. HEPA: I'm only thinking because we
27 have limited flights from Barrow to Fairbanks nowadays
28 and it takes -- yeah, we'll make it work. It doesn't
29 go to Barrow most times now. We've got to go through
30 Anchorage to get to Fairbanks.

31
32 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Council and
33 Staff comments. This is your opportunity. We'll
34 conclude after our comments. I'll start with you,
35 Taqulik.

36
37 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
38 members of the AMBCC. I thought this was a very
39 productive meeting. I enjoyed being here again. I am
40 a true believe in true management and having
41 representation from each of our regions is so key and
42 commend all the people who have taken time away from
43 their families to be here and work. I look forward to
44 focusing in on those important discussions we had
45 throughout this meeting. I know that will only bring
46 us forward in the endeavors that we have through the
47 AMBCC.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Randy.

2

3 MR. MAYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
4 just kind of echoing previous statements throughout the
5 agenda. I'm glad to be here. This Council here can
6 work towards some resolve, but also disappointed not
7 only for myself, but for and on behalf of all the
8 tribal membership that don't reside in their home
9 community, how we have to jump through that extra hoop.

10

11

12 As far as the tribal community goes,
13 that just drives a wedge between our people. Until all
14 these rules and regulations, you know, we don't exclude
15 anybody. We're all relatives. That's my
16 disappointment with the system, but with a lot of
17 strong resolves. For the Native caucus, start working
18 towards resolving some of these issues for the next
19 generation.

20

21 Like I stated earlier, I'll never not
22 be a true tribal advocate and work towards true tribal
23 hunting and fishing rights and true co-management
24 regimes. Maybe one day those rights will be restored
25 so we don't have to put this wedge between our people
26 here. You never exclude anybody. So thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Randy.

29 Jim.

30

31 MR. UJIOKA: I just want to wish
32 everybody a safe trip home or safe travels wherever
33 you're going. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Jim.

36

37 MR. FAGERSTROM: Everybody said what I
38 wanted to say, but couldn't figure out how to say it.
39 I agree with everything they said. I think somehow
40 with the elder situation a lot of them aren't able to
41 hunt, so some form of proxy hunt should be put in place
42 so they can get their food. Hopefully or children's
43 children's children can hunt easier than we do.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. UJIOKA: What about rescheduling
48 the wedding?

49

50 MR. FAGERSTROM: Maybe in the next

1 life.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thanks, Jack.

6 Joeneal.

7

8 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do
9 enjoy this meeting. I think we've come a long way than
10 where we were 15 years ago. I'll tell you that. I
11 meant to say yesterday also that I remember when I
12 first got here during that day in Girdwood and I kind
13 of like asked myself -- that's the second time I've
14 asked myself that particular question, the first time
15 when I was in boot camp, Joe, Joe, what in the heck did
16 you get yourself into anyway.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. HICKS: But, like I said, we've
21 come a long way. I really think we should try to focus
22 on education and outreach. Like I said, the Duck Stamp
23 issue. I gave my region, like I said, the wrong
24 information and I need to go back and correct it now.
25 Education and stuff like that needs to be really, to
26 me, focused on there. I would really encourage that I
27 guess you could say.

28

29 Anyhow, I enjoyed the meeting. Thanks
30 to everybody in the public for listening and sharing.
31 Safe travels. See you next year or this fall.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thanks, Joeneal.

36 Peter.

37

38 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Members of AMBCC. A thank you to Bruce. Welcome
40 aboard. I'm a short-timer here, considering, you know,
41 but after doing the numbers I found out I've been here
42 13 years and 26,000 miles, \$200,000 later, still get to
43 go home and say, no, we can't hunt the goose. That's
44 just the way it goes, I guess.

45

46 I remember there was a time where we
47 couldn't even look at each other, you know, without
48 wanting to fricken -- you know, I mean it was bad.
49 When I first got here, the tension in the room was so
50 astronomical. I mean if you put a box of knives in the

1 middle of the room, everybody would have just jumped,
2 you know. We've come a long ways since then.

3
4 I remember one time it kind of took an
5 act of the Native caucus to play an April Fool's joke.
6 I don't know if you all remember, but Herman was Chair
7 that year and we made the motion to adjourn and you
8 could have heard every intake of breath that was
9 happening. It was kind of a funny thing at the time.
10 I mean we're all slapping our books together, you know,
11 mad and they're all looking at you, can they do that.
12 Well, we had the floor, so. And they were like, okay,
13 this is only the first day and they just adjourned the
14 meeting, what are we going to do. We all come back
15 into the room and kind of worked out out differences.
16 That's pretty big of all of us.

17
18 Then we get numbers. I mean we don't
19 ever agree with numbers because we're out there, we see
20 them. I mean this morning we get new information that
21 they've been gathering numbers since 1960, but as far
22 as I recall we still had the mail boats until 1970. I
23 mean we didn't even have airplanes in our region. So
24 how did that information come about.

25
26 I enjoy coming up and doing this and
27 representing my people. As long as I stay healthy, I
28 guess, or the stint don't block up I'll keep doing it.
29 I'd like to wish everyone safe travels and thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Peter.
32 Sonny.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I've been here
35 for a couple meetings now and the first two went very
36 agreeable but this one here seems like it changed, a
37 few people changed in a way and it seems like we can
38 maybe make a little progress. Maybe for the future.
39 Maybe it will work out. I don't know. Thanks.

40
41 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Sonny.
42 Patty.

43
44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'm not a Council
45 member.

46
47 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: But oh so very
48 important.

49
50 MS. SCHWALENBERG: And you're the boss.

1 I just want to thank everyone for coming and
2 participating and those that had issues on the agenda
3 were here and explained the things that we needed
4 explained to us in a good way. The celebration went
5 off without a hitch basically, so I thank all the
6 people that had a hand in that.

7
8 One of the things that Myron said
9 yesterday resonated with me. He said, when he was
10 talking about the Duck Stamp Act, that the Native
11 people had to have perseverance and that's really what
12 it is. Like Peter just said, 13 years and we still
13 haven't been able to hunt Emperor Geese. Well, it was
14 over 15 for the Duck Stamp, so it does take time and it
15 does take a lot of effort and wading through legal
16 documents and trying to understand language and
17 interpretation.

18
19 The Native people are going to be here
20 for a long, long time, so perseverance is what's going
21 to get us to where we need to be and cooperation and
22 coordination. So I appreciate the fact that everyone
23 is still willing to come to the table and discuss some
24 of these difficult issues. We still have a long way to
25 go, but we've accomplished so much so far. So thank
26 you everyone.

27
28 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Patty.
29 Bruce.

30
31 MR. DALE: Well, first off, I want to
32 say thanks to everybody for being so nice to me. I
33 really enjoyed my time here. This was previously done
34 by the Deputy Director and the Acting Director and it's
35 done by me and I've already made the decision I want to
36 keep on with this process because it's good to meet new
37 people and see some old people I haven't seen -- or not
38 old, I haven't seen them in a long time. Some of them
39 are old, but not that old.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. DALE: I know that the State and
44 Federal have differences in regulations and the State
45 regulations in particular can really complicate
46 management and I find this process really important and
47 a good way to work towards what's a good thing. I'll
48 do my best to help on the State side of things.

49
50 Like I say, I was really impressed with

1 the -- I guess it's kind of professionalism really that
2 all the members of the Council and Staff bring to this.
3 It really makes it a lot better when it's this kind of
4 environment rather than how it maybe was earlier. I
5 think we can get a lot more done that way.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Bruce.

10 Gayla.

11

12 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 I would just like to say when I first started here
14 Frank was our primary representative for Bristol Bay
15 and I would sit in the back and watch and learn. When
16 he left, coming to the table and getting to know
17 everybody here, it's a sense of somewhat family. I
18 mean we've all been working together now for -- I mean
19 this is like three years that I've been coming here,
20 but it's really nice to get to know everybody from
21 different regions.

22

23 And having my little boy here and
24 having him meet people from all over Alaska. I think
25 that he enjoyed talking with people and making new
26 friends. I was explaining in the car when we go home
27 like where people are from and the different foods that
28 we eat and I think our potluck really brought people
29 together too and I'd like us to do that to where we do
30 a potluck maybe on the first day of every meeting.
31 Taqulik and I talked about that. I can help organize,
32 Patty. And we would bring different foods from our
33 region. It's really good and the food was really
34 great. I think building relationships with those that
35 we work with with migratory birds is really also
36 important.

37

38 One of the joke things that I said when
39 we were getting ready for these meetings, you know,
40 we're here and after a while people do start to remind
41 me of birds and we were supposed to pick which bird --
42 as a part of our 15-year celebration, which bird
43 everybody was. You know, the funny thing is everybody
44 comes here with our feathers all nicely nice and fixed
45 on the first day and then our feathers get ruffled and
46 some of us go home with no feathers.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MS. HOSETH: But that was just kind of

1 a funny analogy of how I look at this meeting sometimes
2 because our feathers do get ruffled. I think that when
3 we do walk out those doors that everybody kind of comes
4 together when we do work together and I think that the
5 co-management does work. I'm happy and sad on some of
6 the things. You know, like for the Duck Stamp how it
7 excludes people, you know, that is a sad part and then
8 it's also a good part that it's no longer a
9 requirement.

10

11 And also the wanton waste proposal. I
12 know that Bristol Bay was one of the authors of that
13 proposal and that's going to be a good thing that we
14 have a wanton waste definition. I was happy about
15 that. I look forward to work in regards to the Emperor
16 Goose and seeing what happens with the models and the
17 populations on that issue because it's always a heated
18 topic.

19

20 I wanted to thank everybody and safe
21 travels as well going home and we will see you in the
22 fall.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Gayla,
27 I really did enjoy Kenton here. That was really nice.
28 I think all of us have been involved in numerous
29 regulatory process from the Board of Fish, Board of
30 Game, North Pacific Fishery Management Council and this
31 process is no different. Regulatory processes never
32 work as fast as we would like, but I think we do need
33 to look back at the successes.

34

35 I think particularly -- Sonny and I
36 were talking at lunch and how much progress this
37 meeting seemed to have made and I attribute that to the
38 hard work particularly of the two committees that
39 produced their proposals this time. There was a lot of
40 work behind the scenes there. So my hat is off to that
41 committee process.

42

43 Persistence, as Myron said, is
44 important in a regulatory process. Randy, we probably
45 don't have the Duck Stamp exactly where we want it, but
46 that was a big step getting to where we're at with that
47 Federal Duck Stamp now. So let's keep at it.

48

49 Also I want to recognize for these
50 meetings to pull off takes a lot of work and there's

1 particularly two individuals who work very hard and
2 that's Patty and Donna. They make this happen and I'm
3 very appreciative that they're there to make sure our
4 meetings run very well. So I want to thank you both
5 for that.

6

7 With that, thank you all. I look
8 forward to the results in July from the first phase of
9 the harvest survey and as we work towards that. So
10 safe travels and take care. Taqulik, before we
11 adjourn.

12

13 MS. HEPA: Maybe just one announcement.
14 We are going to Native caucus, so if people could move
15 to the lobby, we're going to have after discussion so
16 we could get right to business.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So you want us to
21 move out of here and we'll do that.

22

23 MS. HEPA: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: A motion to adjourn
26 is appropriate.

27

28 MR. HICKS: Move to adjourn.

29

30 MR. DEVINE: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: It's been moved and
33 seconded. Any objections.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Adjourned.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

