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VOLUME I

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

WINTER MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

OCTOBER 27, 2011

Members Present:

- Dale Rabe, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Doug Alcorn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resource Commission
- Molly Chythlook, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands
- Taqulik Hepa, North Slope
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Enoch Shiedt, Maniilaq Association
- Eric Trigg, Kawerak
- Rick Rowland, Sun'aq Tribal
- Fred Armstrong, Executive Director
- Recorded and Transcribed by:
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 10/27/2011)

4
5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Good morning
6 everybody. This is the fall meeting 2011 of the AMBCC
7 Co-management Council. I'm Dale Rabe. I'm chairing
8 this meeting for this cycle. We are guests here at the
9 Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association building. We will
10 be meeting here today and tomorrow, but tomorrow we
11 will be in a different location. I understand we'll be
12 on the third floor in the conference room up there,
13 that they had double-booked this location.

14
15 For those of you who weren't here
16 yesterday, the restrooms are out the hall and down to
17 the left. We have some beverages in the -- there's a
18 kitchen area outside of the conference area. There's
19 some treats that were provided again at the back.
20 Donna, did you provide the treats again?

21
22 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. Willy backed a
23 couple of them though. Willy helped.

24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a donation cup
26 back there to help defray the cost of those if people
27 are able to help out with that. That certainly would
28 appropriately thank them for bringing treats to the
29 session.

30
31 Reminding Council today that we are on
32 the record, so when speaking you need to press the
33 button, get the red light to come on, and then turn it
34 back off. These are not automatic I don't think, so
35 turn it back off when you're done speaking. Have I
36 forgotten anything, Fred? I think we're good to go.

37
38 We're going to -- I'm sure there's
39 going to want to be a Native caucus here shortly
40 because we need to have a designated voting member for
41 the group. Myron is not able to attend. He sent an
42 email and indicated he was dealing with some family
43 issues. So we need to do that. I think we'll do that
44 right after the introductions, item number 5. We'll
45 take a break and allow the caucus to make a selection
46 for who is going to be the voting member.

47
48 So, with that, as part of the normal
49 tradition of the group, we start off the meeting with a
50 moment of silence and personal reflection. So I would

1 ask that everybody take a minute to do that.

2

3

(Moment of silence)

4

5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you all. Item
6 number 3 is seating of alternates. I'm going to ask
7 Fred as executive director if he would notify the
8 Council of any alternates.

9

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Good morning. We have a letter from Kawerak appointing
12 Eric Billy Trigg as the alternate representative for
13 this meeting and we have a note from Mr. Doug Alcorn,
14 who is the Service representative. He will be here
15 through today and tomorrow morning, but will be unable
16 to be here tomorrow afternoon. So in the event it goes
17 that far, he's appointed Eric Taylor as the Service
18 representative for that time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. No action.
21 Do we need an action on this?

22

23

MR. ARMSTRONG: A motion.

24

25 CHAIRMAN RABE: We need a motion to
26 accept the alternates.

27

28 MS. HEPA: I'd like to make a motion,
29 Mr. Chair, to accept the alternates as presented.

30

31 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. Do we have
32 a second.

33

34

MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'll second the motion.

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a motion and a
37 second to seat the alternates to the Council. Is there
38 any discussion. Taqulik.

39

40

MS. HEPA: No.

41

42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. No discussion.
43 A vote. All in favor say aye.

44

45

IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47

CHAIRMAN RABE: Any opposed say nay.

48

49

(No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: The alternates are
2 seated then. Okay. The next order of business is the
3 roll call and establishing a quorum. Since Myron is
4 not here and that would typically be his responsibility
5 to do that, we'll ask Fred if he will go through the
6 roll call.

7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 AVCP.

10
11 (No response)

12
13 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's an excused
14 absence. Myron sent a note saying he's dealing with
15 family matters. BBNA.

16
17 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Here.

18
19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Chugach Regional
20 Resource Commission.

21
22 (No response)

23
24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Patty sent
25 a note saying that she'll be late. She's attending a
26 required training, her and her staff, and she'll join
27 us later today.

28
29 CRNA.

30
31 MR. HICKS: Here.

32
33 MR. ARMSTRONG: Kawerak.

34
35 MR. TRIGG: Here.

36
37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Aleutian/Pribilof
38 Island Association.

39
40 MR. DEVINE: Here.

41
42 MR. ARMSTRONG: Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

43
44 MR. ROWLAND: Here.

45
46 MR. ARMSTRONG: Maniilaq Association.

47
48 MR. SHIEDT: Here.

49
50 MR. ARMSTRONG: North Slope Borough.

1 MS. HEPA: Here.
2
3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Tanana Chiefs
4 Conference.
5
6 MR. MAYO: Here.
7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
9 Service.
10
11 MR. ALCORN: Here.
12
13 MR. ARMSTRONG: Alaska Department of
14 Fish and Game.
15
16 CHAIRMAN RABE: Here.
17
18 MR. ARMSTRONG: You have a quorum, Mr.
19 Chair.
20
21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Fred. With
22 the quorum, we are officially designated to continue
23 with the meeting. The next item that we have are
24 introductions. We'll do the Council first. Let's
25 start with Randy. We'll go around the Council and then
26 we'll do the public after that.
27
28 MR. MAYO: Randy Mayo, representing
29 Interior TCC region.
30
31 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk Enoch Shiedt with
32 Maniilaq Northwest Alaska.
33
34 MR. HICKS: Joeneal Hicks, Copper River
35 Region, originally from Mentasta.
36
37 MR. DEVINE: Peter Devine,
38 Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association, Sand Point.
39
40 MR. ALCORN: I'm Doug Alcorn, U.S. Fish
41 and Wildlife Service from Anchorage.
42
43 CHAIRMAN RABE: And I'm Dale Rabe,
44 Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska in Juneau.
45
46 MR. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong, the
47 executive director to the Council.
48
49 MS. HEPA: Taqulik Hepa representing
50 the North Slope communities and I live in Barrow.

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Good morning. Molly
2 Chythlook representing Bristol Bay Native Association.
3
4 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland from Sun'aq
5 Tribe representing Kodiak and the tribes.
6
7 MR. TRIGG: Eric Trigg, alternate for
8 Kawerak.
9
10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. In terms of
11 the guests from the public, let's start with Eric and
12 then go across and then to the back.
13
14 MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm Eric
15 Taylor. I'm with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
16 Division of Migratory Bird Management here in
17 Anchorage.
18
19 MR. FALL: Jim Fall with the Division
20 of Subsistence, Fish and Game, Anchorage.
21
22 MS. NAVES: Lili Naves, Division of
23 Subsistence, Fish and Game, Anchorage.
24
25 MR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg,
26 Waterfowl Program, Anchorage, Department of Fish and
27 Game.
28
29 LISA: Lisa (indiscernible), Tanana
30 Chiefs Conference
31
32 MS. LEONETTI: Crystal Leonetti, Alaska
33 Native Affairs specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service.
34
35 MS. WENTWORTH: I'm Cynthia Wentworth.
36 I retired four years ago, but Molly Chythlook asked me
37 to come back and listen.
38
39 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst, Staff to
40 the AMBCC.
41
42 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Kay Larson-Blair,
43 Staff to the AMBCC.
44
45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Thank you. I
46 guess at this point we need to step down from the
47 Council for a caucus. Taqulik, do you have a comment?
48
49 MS. HEPA: No. I was going to say do
50 we need a motion or just a call for a Native caucus.

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: I don't think you need
2 a motion.
3
4 MS. HEPA: Okay. At this time we'd
5 like to request for a Native caucus.
6
7 CHAIRMAN RABE: So granted. We'll step
8 down. So those not part of the caucus need to step out
9 for now.
10
11 (Off record)
12
13 (On record)
14
15 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. It's 10:32 and
16 we're back on the record. Do we have somebody who is
17 going to report out from the caucus in terms of a
18 voting member for the group.
19
20 MS. HEPA: Yes, Mr. Chair. We have
21 nominated and recommended for Molly Chythlook to sit in
22 Myron's place for the meeting and if she has to leave,
23 I will be her alternate.
24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'm sorry. The
26 alternate would be?
27
28 MS. HEPA: Myself.
29
30 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Very good. You
31 can either remain seated where you're at or you can
32 come up here, Molly, as you desire.
33
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'm comfortable right
35 here.
36
37 CHAIRMAN RABE: All right. So let's
38 continue on with the agenda. We're at item number 6,
39 which is the review and adoption of the agenda. I
40 think most everybody was here yesterday when we had the
41 work session and there were three additional --
42 actually four additional items that were added and so I
43 will.....
44
45 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I think we have one
46 more.
47
48 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Let me mention
49 these and then I'll ask for anything else beyond that.
50 So under old business we will add at the recommendation

1 of the group from yesterday an item (d) which would be
2 a harvest report update and that would be from Liliana
3 in terms of what she has typically done at the fall
4 meeting. And item (e), which is a fall hunting season
5 update is what I wrote. Jog my memory. What was (e)?

6

7 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Duck Stamp.

8

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: That was basically the
10 response from the Service.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN RABE: Oh, okay. Thank you.
13 And then (f) I had was the Duck Stamp, continuation of
14 the discussion on that. So I have put those three
15 additional items on. Are there other recommended
16 changes to the agenda from members of the Council?
17 Molly.

18

19 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, we'd like to go
20 into Native caucus just before -- under new business,
21 11(f). Right above that we'd like to go into a Native
22 caucus. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Are there any
25 other additions? Molly.

26

27 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I think yesterday
28 outside of the harvest report update there was a
29 mention to possibly do a motion to present a survey, a
30 presentation on a yearly basis. I don't know if that
31 got resolved. If the motion is to be placed to have
32 that on the agenda on a yearly basis. I've got a note
33 here that, I think your suggestion, that we can do a
34 motion to have not the update that.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Lili.

37

38 MS. CHYTHLOOK:Lili is going to
39 do today, but an overall survey presentation during
40 every fall meeting.

41

42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Which was to get into
43 the survey data more?

44

45 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No, to be placed on the
46 agenda.

47

48 CHAIRMAN RABE: Just on an annual
49 basis.

50

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: On an annual basis.

2

3 CHAIRMAN RABE: Parliamentary, does
4 that need to be acted on? I guess I thought we had
5 agreed to that at the Nome meeting that we were going
6 to have that. Maybe this is different. Doug.

7

8 MR. ALCORN: It seems to me that -- I
9 don't know that a motion is necessary if we want to
10 just expand the scope. We did have it set aside if I
11 recall from that meeting, that the fall meeting would
12 be a time when we would have a presentation on the
13 status of the survey and the preliminary information
14 would be presented and then I thought we would then
15 have the winter for each representative to have that
16 draft and then in the spring we would come to the
17 meeting prepared to offer any amendments or approve the
18 draft report. Is that different than what -- am I
19 remembering that correctly?

20

21 MS. CHYTHLOOK: That's different and I
22 think the difference is that the survey result
23 presentation we get the overall of all the regions that
24 were surveyed that year presented and they'd be
25 documented because I think the ones that we bring forth
26 would be kind of preliminary. Then the overall survey
27 presentation would just update us on all the regions
28 that have had surveys completed that year.

29

30 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug. I have a
31 question in my own mind, but go ahead.

32

33 MR. ALCORN: I'll yield to you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN RABE: I guess I'm still not
36 clear, Molly, whether the additional information is to
37 discuss the actual survey results from the portions of
38 the state that were included in the previous survey at
39 that level. Is that what you're asking for? Doug, I
40 think, is describing a description of the process and
41 the different steps and Liliana has done that for us
42 going back to the Nome meeting. I recall generally the
43 same as Doug in terms of committing to going through
44 the process on a regular basis, but it's still not
45 clear to me what additional information is being
46 requested to be either part of that or a different
47 presentation.

48

49 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Maybe Liliana could
50 help me because during our regional meetings we have

1 Liliana come in and give us an update on the results of
2 our Bristol Bay surveys and I don't hear it here, the
3 results of other regions. When she comes, she just
4 gives us the Bristol Bay survey result update, not the
5 other regions that may have had surveys done.

6

7 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. I think I do
8 understand it at this point. Maybe by analogy where
9 Eric gives update on the population of birds as a
10 regular report to the entire group, you're requesting
11 that the harvest data be summarized and actually
12 presented as a summary presentation to the group.
13 Okay. I understand it. I probably was the slowest at
14 getting there, I admit, but if everybody else
15 understands it.

16

17 Doug.

18

19 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
20 think maybe a question to Liliana and that is when we
21 have our regularly scheduled fall meeting it falls
22 usually in the month of September, late September,
23 early October. As I understand it, some of the survey
24 work is still being conducted in the fall. Is there
25 time for you to draft up preliminary results and make a
26 presentation?

27

28 CHAIRMAN RABE: Lili, I'm going to ask
29 you to come up to the microphone since we're on the
30 record.

31

32 MS. NAVES: Lili Naves, Fish and Game.
33 Though I think that you were talking about the most
34 recent data available, so now we have the draft report
35 for 2010. So if we were having such a presentation
36 this year, I'll be showing the 2010 preliminary result.
37 So I think that's a little bit of insight that the
38 partners can come back to their original meetings and
39 they have a better idea of what's in the report. This
40 is the data they need to revise and it will be up for
41 adoption in the spring meeting. So that's all right.
42 That's the schedule that this time of the year I expect
43 to have this data ready.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

48

49 MR. ALCORN: So I think I get it now.
50 So you wouldn't be offering the preliminary data from

1 the recently past summer, but it would be the summer
2 prior to that.

3
4 MS. NAVES: Data collection for fall we
5 start early in November, so we would be talking about
6 the middle year of the calendar.

7
8 CHAIRMAN RABE: The year before. Okay.

9
10
11 MS. CHYTHLOOK: That's what I should
12 have said.

13
14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Well, if we feel we
15 want to memorialize the decisions through a motion, we
16 probably need to do that under new business rather than
17 at this point in time. I guess we can defer to that.
18 I think it's probably adequate if we just instruct Fred
19 that that be included as part of the reports that are
20 on the agenda on an annual basis. If everybody is
21 comfortable with that, then -- Fred, we've got it
22 captured ten.

23
24 Thank you, Molly.

25
26 Taqulik.

27
28 MS. HEPA: With that said, I'd like to
29 make a motion to approve the agenda with the additions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. Do we have
32 a second.

33
34 MR. SHIEDT: Second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Enoch. Do we have any
37 discussion on the agenda with the addition of those
38 three items plus the caucus.

39
40 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Call the question. All
43 those in favor say aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any opposed nay.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have an approved
2 agenda. At this point in the meeting we open up the
3 microphone to the public for any comments from folks as
4 we get into the agenda. If there's any issues that
5 anybody wants to bring forward at this point in the
6 meeting, there will be another opportunity at the close
7 of the meeting for public comment. I'm looking to
8 acknowledge if there's anybody from the public who
9 wishes to come to the microphone and make any statement
10 or comments at this time.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Seeing none, we'll
15 assume we've met that need. We will continue on. Next
16 we have the adoption of Council action and items from
17 our June 2nd and 3rd meeting. We'll have Fred go
18 through that as executive director. We went through
19 those yesterday in detail. We can go back through
20 them. We have one new person. Rick wasn't here for
21 that discussion. Otherwise we could take a summary
22 action to approve. Rick, do you have any -- do you
23 want us to go through it in detail?

24

25 MR. ROWLAND: No, that's fine.

26

27 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Does anybody
28 else have additional discussion items based on what we
29 had as discussion yesterday?

30

31 First to Doug.

32

33 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Just one comment that under the action items, it's not
35 numbered but it's on Page 3. It's the first action
36 item, approval of consent agenda. We struck the word
37 each in the italicized red portion, so that just needs
38 to be in the record that it's struck.

39

40 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any other comments,
41 changes. Is there a motion to accept.

42

43 MS. HEPA: With that said, I'd like to
44 make a motion to approve the action item from the June
45 2 and 3, 2011 meeting with the note from Doug Alcorn.

46

47 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Taqulik. Do
48 we have a second.

49

50 MR. HICKS: Second.

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'll second the.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN RABE: Joeneal was the second.
4 Any discussion.
5
6 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. Rick from Sun'aq.
7 I have discussion.
8
9 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay.
10
11 MR. ROWLAND: You asked me if I wanted
12 to make -- have a detailed description of this agenda
13 item here. So my wonder, as far as discussion, is now
14 if we're doing something in a meeting to where we're
15 making an action on it, shouldn't that be in a meeting
16 setting? Shouldn't that -- instead of having it in a
17 workshop, have been in a meeting setting? Because I
18 wasn't aware that we were going to be doing meeting
19 setting stuff in a workshop. Most times when things
20 happen in a workshop a lot of things are said that are
21 not on record that relate to it which should be
22 connected to it. I just want to make sure that things
23 aren't occurring in workshops that should be occurring
24 in meetings.
25
26 CHAIRMAN RABE: I've got a comment,
27 but, Taqulik, do you.....
28
29 MS. HEPA: No, I (indiscernible - away
30 from microphone).
31
32 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. You know, the
33 elements of the workshop were suggested just to provide
34 some opportunity for additional discussion on the
35 premise that on an informal basis -- and, yes, it was
36 not on the record yesterday -- that gave everybody an
37 informal opportunity to be able to expand their
38 question and go through that. So everybody that was
39 here did have an opportunity.
40
41 And that's why I looked around and I
42 specifically, because you weren't here, wanted to know
43 -- if you have read those items, if you have questions
44 on any particular one, we will take the time and do it
45 on the record. Otherwise, it was written up and we
46 would just adopt that with the one word change. But
47 because of it being initially discussed yesterday, but
48 the written record is the formal document that stays as
49 part of the record we want to make sure that everybody
50 is comfortable. If appropriate, we'll go back through

1 it and discuss each one of them or you can read through
2 them and decide if you have individual questions.

3

4 Taqulik, did you.....

5

6 MS. HEPA: Yes. And then just to add
7 to that that historically without the workshops the
8 meetings could go on a lot longer and the intent of the
9 workshop was to have these more in depth discussions on
10 agenda items for the regular meeting and when we had
11 our regular meeting then actions would be brought forth
12 today like at the workshop. So we had the in-depth
13 discussion yesterday and then any action would be
14 brought forth to help minimize the time or have a
15 better timeframe for us to go through the meeting.
16 Does that make sense?

17

18 MR. ROWLAND: I understand what you
19 guys did, but I was just pointing out that if I would
20 have known that you guys were going to be working on
21 this kind of stuff which should be worked in a meeting
22 instead of a workshop, then I would have attended.
23 Because I didn't participate and I'm not going to rush
24 through it, then I'll abstain from yea or nay.

25

26 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

29

30 MR. ALCORN: I think we could probably
31 go through this in probably 10 minutes. I would
32 suggest that we go through it and then we take action
33 to approve this.

34

35 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a
36 recommendation to step through it again in a summary
37 format. Is there concurrence to do that? Molly.

38

39 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No, I was just going to
40 -- because there was a discussion about if the work
41 session is important or not yesterday because the work
42 session is when we get together and hash out everything
43 that's in front of us. We don't make any motions, we
44 don't decide on anything. We just hash out the agenda
45 items and I think it's important to be present at the
46 work session so that we'll be sitting here with
47 information about our agenda already intact so that it
48 would cut down on repeating what was hashed out
49 yesterday.

50

1 I'm going to encourage that all of us
2 make an effort to attend the work session. I hate to
3 have it be done away with because I think it's
4 important to have it in place so that we can all say
5 our piece, we can all get our questions out and talked
6 about. If we tried to do that in this organized
7 session, then -- I guess we will try to discuss the
8 important points that were discussed yesterday. Again,
9 I want to encourage everybody to make an effort to
10 attend the work sessions.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Molly. But,
15 again, I want to extend the invitation to Rick because
16 you weren't here for that. In a normal process, this is
17 equivalent to accepting the minutes from the previous
18 meeting. It's a formal step for documenting whether or
19 not the information from the last meeting was captured
20 correctly or if there were any differences. That's
21 really what we're doing. It was listed on the workshop
22 agenda. Did you receive copies of the workshop agenda?

23

24 MR. ROWLAND: It was posted online, but
25 I didn't receive a copy. I printed it. I didn't
26 realize that I was required to come to the workshop.

27

28 CHAIRMAN RABE: You're not required.
29 That's why the invitation is in two formats and I'll
30 repeat it again. If you would like, we'll do as Doug
31 suggested, which is to step through it and have Fred
32 give a verbal summary so that the whole thing is on the
33 record. That's what we did yesterday. Or we can have
34 you look at it and if you have questions on any
35 particular element, we can take the time to discuss and
36 resolve that. If you want some time, we could defer a
37 decision on this until later in the meeting to approve
38 the minutes.

39

40 MR. ROWLAND: So I appreciate all those
41 options. I think it would be sensible if there was
42 like a quick review.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN RABE: Of all of.....

45

46 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, of the highlights
47 or whatever you think is important. That way it could
48 be mentioned here on the record and then I'll be
49 comfortable with that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: The others had the
2 opportunity yesterday. We'll go through it at your
3 request because you weren't part of the group.

4

5 MR. ROWLAND: Thanks.

6

7 CHAIRMAN RABE: So I'm going to ask
8 Fred if he would step back through and highlight the
9 relevant decisions that were part of the June meeting.

10

11 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Based on the guidance provided, under Tab 1, the red
13 tab, there was a motion to have a letter written to the
14 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council on habitat
15 for Spectacled Eider in the Bering Sea. I was directed
16 as executive director to write a letter, which I did,
17 and it was submitted to NPFMS, who was meeting in Nome
18 at the time, and read into the record by one of our
19 Council member alternates Tim Andrew. A copy of that
20 letter is in the back of the action items as supporting
21 documentation.

22

23 The next action item was a motion to
24 adopt Proposal 01 for the Yellow Billed Loon regulation
25 on North Slope. As you're all aware, it's an ongoing
26 regulation. There was a different twist this year
27 where the North Slope had to collaborate with the State
28 and the Council and Fish and Wildlife Service to come
29 up with a survey that was directed towards the harvest
30 of Yellow-Billed Loons that are inadvertently entangled
31 in fishing nets and North Slope, Taqulik's office
32 worked very diligently and collaborated very well with
33 the State and the Service and came up with a survey
34 that was well received by not only the Pacific Flyway
35 Council but the Service Regulations Committee and the
36 Service Regulations Committee was very happy to see
37 that there was a lot of work put into this and it was
38 going to be implemented this past summer and they
39 really didn't have a problem once they saw the survey
40 and the work that's gone into by your group, Taqulik.

41

42 The other motion or action item was
43 Proposal 02, which was the extension of spring/summer
44 season into the fall. There was a response from the
45 Service Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and
46 after that was read and discussed there was action by
47 the Council and the Council voted that proposal down 2-
48 1. This proposal was from Bristol Bay. There actually
49 was two proposals. One wasn't brought back on by the
50 Region.

1 The next action item was a consent
2 agenda and all the regions, with the exception of AVCP
3 and Kodiak moved to support the agenda items, which is
4 basically their regulations going from the prior year
5 into the upcoming year. The reasons spelled out by
6 AVCP was that they had a problem with the Duck Stamp
7 issue and they weren't comfortable adopting regulations
8 that made the Duck Stamp a part of it. They felt that
9 shouldn't be.

10
11 Of course, Rick, you mentioned that you
12 were knew to the program and you weren't familiar with
13 the regulations and that the road closure was an issue
14 with the Aleutian, so you chose not to affirm those
15 regulations.

16
17 All those were moved forward and then
18 there was a move to suspend the rules and went into
19 discussion about the two regions. Basically what
20 happened was these recommendations moved forward as
21 they were acted on by the Council. The Regional
22 Director contacted AVCP, Myron, and explained to him
23 that they couldn't have regulations and put all the
24 other hunters at risk of hunting in a region that's not
25 regulated, as well as Mr. Alcorn contacted you
26 telephonically and left a message saying the same
27 situation applied.

28
29 The next action item was basically the
30 grants that we provide to each region annually we
31 haven't had any success at soliciting a partner for
32 Southeast, so basically what we've done, because we
33 haven't been successful, we haven't allocated any funds
34 for Southeast Alaska. Subsequent to that there was a
35 motion to have the funds that were directed towards
36 Southeast to put into the grants for the other regions
37 to ensure that we have two face-to-face meetings this
38 year. That has been done and I'll report that out in
39 the budget report.

40
41 The other highlight I should mention
42 was that there was a motion not to endorse a proposed
43 technical group concept as well as new components of
44 the updated second revision of the survey to address
45 species of conservation concern survey monitoring.
46 Basically in that discussion Russ Oates from Migratory
47 Bird Management reported out that entertain the idea of
48 creating a technical group and that experts from
49 different areas such as statistical traditional
50 ecological knowledge, harvest surveys would be a part

1 of that group. No people have been selected yet. We're
2 working forward on a scope of work that is in draft
3 stages right now that we'll put out to bid shortly to
4 try to get a person on board to coordinate this effort.
5 I have copies too that was recommended, so I'll hand
6 them out shortly.

7
8 I think those are pretty much the
9 highlights. If there's any other questions, I can
10 answer them now.

11
12 MS. HEPA: We did make a motion. If
13 there's no discussion, I'll call for the question on
14 the main motion to approve the action items from the
15 June 2 and 3 meeting.

16
17 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have a second on
18 the motion.

19
20 MS. HICKS: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Joeneal.
23 Any discussion on the motion.

24
25 MS. HEPA: Question. We had made a
26 motion. I was just calling for the question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN RABE: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm
29 sorry. Thank you. So we called for the question. All
30 those in favor say aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any opposed nay.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have adopted the
39 action items. Item number 9 on the agenda is the
40 regional representative reports. We typically go
41 around and provide an opportunity for each to provide
42 an update on things that have been happening in the
43 region or meetings that you've had relative to the
44 waterfowl regulations. I think we can do this several
45 ways, but I think it's probably easiest if we just
46 start at one corner and go around. William, would you
47 like to start or should we start over here with Randy.

48
49 MR. TRIGG: I can start.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: You're wanting to
2 start?

3
4 MR. TRIGG: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN RABE: Make sure that your
7 mike is on. Go ahead.

8
9 MR. TRIGG: My name is Eric Trigg. I'm
10 an alternate for Kawerak and I'm pretty unprepared to
11 present a report because I've been really busy on a
12 couple of projects I had to finish up. I would like to
13 see something done about the Duck Stamp issue due to
14 the cost and the cost of fuel and shells in the
15 villages and the fact that in our region there is low
16 employment and something should be done. Also in our
17 region they're hard to get too. They're not as
18 available as they should be. I personally fielded some
19 complaints and just directed them to the website. If
20 they can't get them in their village, they have to get
21 them somewhere. That's all I have.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Does anybody
26 have any questions on the report.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN RABE: Hearing none. Rick, do
31 you have a report for Kodiak?

32
33 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. Thank you. Rick
34 Rowland from Sun'aq Tribal, Kodiak, representing the
35 Kodiak migratory bird hunters. We were able to have a
36 meeting in September where members from the villages
37 came in and participated and we discussed -- it was a
38 day long meeting and we discussed a number of different
39 issues and concerns and potential ideas for proposals.
40 We talked about the issue for withdrawal consent
41 related to the closures. We talked about a number of
42 invasive species that are on Kodiak Island which we
43 consider the geese that are coming down there.
44 Traditional the south end of Kodiak Island has geese,
45 but over the past decade or so there's been increasing
46 Canadian Geese that have been brought and Emperor Geese
47 that have been brought in.

48
49 In the discussion it was determined
50 that it appears as if those geese are pushing out the

1 indigenous ducks in that area and they're overtaking
2 the habitat, so we're seeing less and less ducks down
3 there. So from that we had a discussion about let's
4 put a proposal in to do a couple things and find out
5 which ones are the priority. We did a number of
6 different ideas for proposals, but we came up with two
7 proposals and we also talked about future meetings
8 where we're eventually planning to determine what the
9 values are of the Kodiak Island bird hunters that are
10 indigenous to the area and notify individuals that come
11 in to the communities that utilize the ducks of what is
12 important when they come into our community to hunt the
13 ducks.

14
15 So it was a great meeting. We came up
16 with a couple proposals. One was related to the
17 request from community members that are concerned about
18 using feathers as a part of handicraft for either
19 bartering or traditional subsistence use. So we're
20 submitting a proposal that connects to the use of
21 migratory bird feathers on masks and I've attached some
22 examples of masks that are in our area that have been
23 sold to different regions.

24
25 Also, in forethought, this is connected to
26 future proposals that we're going to be putting in that
27 will relate to tribal members using their tribal cards
28 to hunt and then inform the tribe about the information
29 that they collected while they're hunting. So basically
30 we have a built-in survey system related to tribal card
31 and we're starting with this proposal here related to
32 the feathers on the masks. So I'll be submitting that.

33
34
35 We also have one related to the closure
36 that occurred from our last meeting and it was clear
37 that there was definite need for discussion down there
38 about what it is that really needs to occur. So we got
39 together and we sat down and drew out a map of what
40 area and we drew out a calendar of what times of the
41 year are good for migratory bird hunting and what's
42 good for egg collecting and one of the things that came
43 up you're not supposed to hunt when they're paired up.
44 All the village people know that. Sometimes it gets a
45 little confused.

46
47 Another thing that came up was the
48 elders were adamant about the use of the term road
49 system. You've got to get to Kodiak by plane or boat,
50 so to use the word road system in our terminology is

1 foreign, so they don't want to use the word road
2 system, so we simply came together and decided on a
3 bird hunting season and an egg collecting season and
4 we're submitting that proposal.

5
6 The individuals that came to the
7 meeting were enthusiastic about being able to
8 participate because apparently they hadn't had a
9 meeting where they sat down and actually put together a
10 proposal together and discussed their issues, so it was
11 a positive meeting.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Randy. Are
16 there any.....

17
18 MR. ROWLAND: Rick.

19
20 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'm sorry, Rick. Are
21 there any questions for Rick.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: Hearing none. We don't
26 entertain from the audience at this point. Continuing
27 on then, Molly, do you have a report?

28
29 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I've got a
30 written report. It looks like this. You should have
31 it in front of you. I'm just going to hit the
32 highlights. You can read the rest. Just from looking
33 at this we have a six-member board for our Yaquallrit
34 Kelutisti Council and we also have a six-member
35 alternates. The reason why we use alternates is
36 because in some areas, like for instance Alaska
37 Peninsula, sometimes one or the other isn't able to
38 make it, so we have our alternates in place.

39
40 This meeting was a little different and
41 I think it was because Doug and Fred were there and we
42 sure appreciated Doug and Fred being at the meeting.
43 But at the last minute a couple of our primary members
44 weren't able to attend. One had a death in the family
45 and the other one was requested by the Council to
46 travel for something that came up important for their
47 village, so we had one member on the telephone and then
48 the other member that came in as an alternate had a
49 hard time getting to the meeting, but eventually we
50 ended up with a quorum.

1 We had our meeting the 20th of
2 September. We have our yearly meeting schedules, as
3 seen right here. Our fall meetings we try to have last
4 week of September and our spring meetings last week of
5 March. As you may know, the Bristol Bay is conducting
6 the surveys this year. It was our time. Because we
7 have such a large area with 31 communities. We
8 normally try to do a couple of rotations between those
9 villages and cutting them in half and doing part of the
10 communities to do the survey and this year we had 17
11 communities listed, but we ended up confirming 16. So
12 they're in the process right now on their fall segment
13 of the survey. We should be wrapping up the fall
14 segment and the survey by end of mid November.

15
16 Then one important agenda item we had
17 this year was the BBNA YKC proposal. The proposal was
18 discussed during the meeting and then it was discussed
19 via phone to a couple members that weren't present
20 before the proposal was voted and signed off. You have
21 the proposal in your packet. It's under Tab 7.

22
23 So what I would like to do since it's
24 not in the agenda is to request that I be on the agenda
25 to do a PowerPoint presentation to further explain this
26 proposal to the membership. That's probably going to
27 be an action item at the end of my presentation to
28 place me on the agenda to do this PowerPoint
29 presentation to explain the proposal.

30
31 What I do with our councils is under
32 the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee they have this
33 questionnaire that they use and I really liked it and
34 have developed it and revised it to use it during our
35 meeting so that before the membership comes to the
36 meeting we normally fax this questionnaire to the
37 membership so that they would be prepared to give their
38 observations of whatever is happening in their region
39 and you could see that Pages 2 and 3 the processes of
40 this questionnaire. It works really well. What
41 happens is that each member goes through the
42 questionnaire and reports in their observations. For
43 instance, a physical environment I have here and then
44 they also discussed the migratory bird issues and then
45 other animals and other comments. I'm not going to go
46 into it. You can read it.

47
48 What was interesting this year that was
49 not really out of the ordinary because it's happened
50 before was that the killer whales -- usually it's

1 belugas and killer whales going to our river systems,
2 but this year more than one was in our river system.
3 It's been in the news. You probably saw it. The
4 killer whales weren't able to leave the Nushagak River
5 eventually one to date that I know of died. We had
6 NOAH people fly in to do a biopsy and whatever else
7 they did with those animals. It was different this
8 year because more than one entered the river and they
9 must have not been able to leave the river system. We
10 haven't heard the results of why one died. Hopefully
11 they'll let us know if one of the whales starved or
12 something happened. They died.

13

14 So that's pretty much my report. Like
15 I said, there's a lot of information in here from our
16 regional membership that you could read in your own
17 time. That's all I have.

18

19 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Molly. Are
20 there any questions for Molly.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN RABE: I guess I have a
25 question just for clarification. You want to do a
26 PowerPoint presentation of more detailed information
27 with regards to the proposal, but you don't want to do
28 it now, you want to do it later in the meeting?

29

30 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'll do it later.
31 Maybe right after this. I realize that although I had
32 sent in my proposal it didn't get into the agenda, so I
33 would like to do a PowerPoint presentation to further
34 explain probably right after the reports if possible.

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: After the regional
37 reports you're thinking?

38

39 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN RABE: We do have an agenda
42 item under new business for the harvest survey review
43 update. Is this significantly linked then to that that
44 we could cover it as part of that agenda item?

45

46 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I can do it prior to
47 that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN RABE: It is related to
50 whether or not.....

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, it's similar, but
2 I would like to do my PowerPoint presentation prior to,
3 so it would be (b) or (a), maybe (a)(i).

4
5 CHAIRMAN RABE: That would be fine, I
6 think, unless somebody has an objection, but that would
7 put the topic, which is seemingly related together with
8 information that the Service is planning on presenting
9 at the same time, so we could hear all the elements of
10 that discussion at one time. Is everybody comfortable
11 with just handling it that way? Enoch.

12
13 MR. SHIEDT: The only thing we'd have
14 to do is amend the agenda because we already accepted
15 and adopted it, so we'd have to make an amendment to
16 put it in there under new business under (a) we'll call
17 it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN RABE: We certainly can do it
20 that way. Parliamentary procedure here.

21
22 MR. SHIEDT: Suspend the rules first.

23
24 CHAIRMAN RABE: We need to suspend the
25 rule of the day, huh? Okay. I think you've walked me
26 through this before and I'm not that familiar with it.
27 I guess the first thing we need to do is a motion to
28 suspend the rule of the day to add this as an agenda
29 item. Actually my suggestion was that it's materially
30 related to an agenda item and I don't know that we have
31 to be limited to just having one person presenting
32 information under that topic, so I wasn't seeing this
33 as necessary to go through a modification of the agenda
34 because of that. If the group feels you want to do
35 that and add another agenda item in there specific to
36 have another presentation from Molly, that's fine.

37
38 So I've already suggested that we do a
39 suspension of the rule at this point, but I need a
40 motion on that if that's what you want to do.

41
42 MR. DEVINE: I'll make that motion, Mr.
43 Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a move to
46 suspend the rule of the day. Is there a second.

47
48 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Enoch. Do we have any

1 discussion on the suspension of the rule.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN RABE: All in favor of
6 suspending it say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN RABE: All opposed nay.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. So now we're
15 back to being able to open up -- I'm looking at you for
16 the Parliamentarian, Doug, in this.

17

18 MR. ALCORN: Actually, I think my
19 suspending the rule of the day what you've done is
20 you've set aside the agenda and you're going to
21 interject when you've made that motion to have that
22 discussion at that point in the agenda. So if what
23 we're talking about is having the discussion under Item
24 11.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN RABE: 11c or b.

27

28 MR. ALCORN:c, then what we've
29 done by suspending the rule of the day is I guess you
30 could have a motion now to go back in and redress the
31 agenda and to put that item in it and then we go back
32 on the agenda and you go through sequentially like it's
33 slated.

34

35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you for the help.

36

37 MS. HEPA: So since we have a motion to
38 suspend I'd like to add Molly Chythlook's presentation
39 on 11(b).

40

41 MS. CHYTHLOOK: 11(a).

42

43 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'm assuming I need to
44 do this. I don't know. We have suspended the rules,
45 so now I think we need a motion to modify the agenda.

46

47 MS. HEPA: Before I do that I have a
48 question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Go ahead.

1 MS. HEPA: Under my regional report I'm
2 going to ask for an action item support from the AMBCC.
3 Can I do that under the regional reports? Can I pose a
4 recommended action or does it have to be listed? It's
5 a recommendation from our Fish and Game Management
6 Committee.

7
8 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'm looking to you,
9 Doug. If you have any thoughts or anybody else
10 who.....

11
12 MS. HEPA: Because I was thinking that
13 when I give my report I'll say that the committee would
14 like for us to consider an action item. I think it's
15 not too controversial, but I do have copies that I'll
16 give you. I didn't want to get you distracted, but
17 I'll pass these on.

18
19 CHAIRMAN RABE: But it is a procedural
20 question now in terms of as a body, historically, how
21 have we handled things where people during the meeting
22 actually want to propose an action item that requires
23 the decision and may include information sharing as
24 part of that even though it may have been imbedded
25 under one of the other topics at that point. Frankly,
26 as not the historian, I don't know how the group as a
27 whole has handled that kind of a thing. Doug.

28
29 MR. ALCORN: It seems to me that
30 there's nothing that keeps us from taking action if
31 there's a recommendation that's going to require some
32 discussion with our leadership for the representatives.
33 For example, me and the Fish and Wildlife Service. If
34 it's something that affects the business of the Fish
35 and Wildlife Service or is a policy-related issue and I
36 would have to vet that with my leadership, then I would
37 have to abstain. That's just the way I would address
38 that. But I don't think there's anything that
39 prohibits us as a body from taking that action.

40
41 MS. HEPA: With that clarification,
42 then I'd like to make a motion to add Molly Chythlook's
43 presentation just under 11(b) and everything else shift
44 down. I mean 11(a), under 11(a). That's my motion.

45
46 MR. DEVINE: I'll second that motion.

47
48 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a second to add
49 that as an agenda item. Any discussion on adding that
50 as an agenda item.

1 (No comments)
2
3 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN RABE: The question has been
6 called. All those in favor say aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any opposed nay.
11
12 (No opposing votes)
13
14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We've added that
15 to the agenda at this point. Are there any other
16 agenda items since we're back at modifying the agenda?
17 Molly.
18
19 MS. CHYTHLOOK: So do we need to make
20 the same type of motion to add Taqulik's or is it in
21 place?
22
23 MS. HEPA: It's in place.
24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: I think we've all
26 indicated that was going to be acceptable. We don't
27 have to put it on as a specific agenda item. Okay. We
28 now have to have a motion to return to the rule of the
29 day.
30
31 MS. HEPA: So moved.
32
33 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Second.
34
35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have any
36 discussion on returning to the rule.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MS. HEPA: Question.
41
42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Called the question.
43 All those in favor say aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 CHAIRMAN RABE: All opposed nay.
48
49 (No opposing votes)
50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We're back on
2 the agenda, continuing the regional reports under
3 number 9. Molly, you had given everything that you
4 wanted to at this point, is that correct?

5
6 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes, I'm done. Thank
7 you

8
9 CHAIRMAN RABE: Then we'll continue on
10 with the North Slope. Taqulik.

11
12 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
13 to report that in regards to bird abundance, this was a
14 very good year for migratory birds. We had a huge
15 abundance of White-Fronted Goose, very healthy. They
16 arrived very fat and healthy. As they were migrating
17 back, I think this is the third or fourth season in a
18 row that they've staged within the communities, within
19 Barrow, which is unusual prior to three or four years
20 ago. They just looked so beautiful. Their feathers
21 are shiny. Historically, they would be afraid to come
22 even close to town, but I don't know why they're like
23 in between houses. They stayed for about two to three
24 weeks. I think they left the last week of September.
25 But we get like thousands of them all over. So I just
26 want to say that White-Fronted Goose are doing very
27 good.

28
29 We did have an issue with Stellers
30 Eider in the spring -- not Stellers Eider, just Eiders
31 in general, mostly Common Eiders. We got to observe a
32 number of Eiders that were totally exhausted and it
33 turned to be that because the lead was closed, the open
34 lead, that the birds were starving. So we had maybe 20
35 Eiders fly into town and just kind of plopped in. It
36 showed that they were starving. It had been during a
37 period when the open leads were closed, so I think they
38 were having a difficult time in finding food.

39
40 I hear that it was a good year for
41 Stellers Eiders nesting, which is really good. The
42 community was very happy and I'm very thankful that
43 they were able to nest this year. In relation to that,
44 we have a lot of Snowy Owls. Up until today lots of
45 young owls just hanging around the communities feeding
46 off of -- we have a lot of weasels and all kinds of
47 lemmings. So the kids at the school are -- there's a
48 couple young owls that are hanging out there. We've
49 had a lot of outreach in the schools to talk about
50 migratory birds. I hear the kids talking about the

1 owls that are staying around.

2

3 Ravens are still doing good. They did
4 come in numbers in the summer, but again most of them
5 have left and we're down to the same two birds that
6 spend the winter in Barrow. We do try to monitor and
7 mitigate the growth of Ravens in our community. Point
8 Hope has expressed another concern of increasing Ravens
9 in their area, so I have communicated with at least Ted
10 about that to maybe -- if we could provide some
11 assistance with them. There used to never be that many
12 Ravens in Point Hope. So, again, they did bring that
13 up as a concern.

14

15 For our Fish and Game Management
16 Committee we did have a meeting in late September in
17 Anaktuvuk Pass. We try to have one AMBCC meeting in a
18 different community each year, so we picked Anaktuvuk
19 Pass. There was a couple of items that were discussed
20 that's worth noting. We did look at the correspondence
21 from BBNA and have -- we didn't make a motion, but
22 there was general support for the concept that they had
23 provided.

24

25 Michael Peterson provided an overview
26 of what happened at the Pacific Flyway Council meeting
27 and the Service Regulations Committee. I'm not going
28 to go into that. There is a copy of his trip report in
29 the packet and he and Patty will provide a report to
30 the AMBCC Council.

31

32 As Fred mentioned, one of the action
33 items from the June meeting that we have worked with
34 Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish
35 and Game in coming up with a Yellow-Billed Look survey.
36 The survey has started. We completed the survey in
37 Atqasuk. We sent some people from Barrow to assist the
38 people in Atqasuk to get the survey done. I think we
39 had 100 percent compliance with the people who
40 participated.

41

42 We are currently doing the survey in
43 Barrow. I need to go back and ask the people that are
44 conducting the survey, but we have had a lot of people
45 refuse to participate in the survey. So when I go home
46 I'll sit down with him to see what is their reasoning.

47

48

49 Once we complete the Barrow survey
50 we'll send a group of people to Nuiqsut to work with

1 our subsistence assistant there, research assistant
2 there. Right now he's going through and making sure
3 that we have an accurate list of all the fishermen in
4 Nuiqsut. So those are the three communities we're
5 doing this Loon survey in.

6

7 In regards to the Subsistence Harvest
8 Estimates Report for 2009, we did table it to our next
9 meeting in January. I will share with Lili some of the
10 concerns that we had and there were four main ones. I
11 won't bring them up right now, but they were just
12 things that people felt were obviously misrepresented
13 in that report and we will talk with Lili about that.

14

15 The last one is related to this
16 document that I have here. For the last several years
17 Mr. Dan Rosenberg from Fish and Game has been attending
18 our Fish and Game Management Committee meetings and he
19 has done several presentations to our Fish and Game
20 Management Committee about a proposed project that he's
21 interested in.

22

23 This proposed project is to implant
24 satellite transmitters in up to 20 Stellers Eiders.
25 The first reactions in the first discussions were very
26 -- we heard a lot of concern from the members. It was
27 mainly about, wow, this is such a hot topic in our
28 community. We don't know if we want to have the added
29 pressure with the intense research effort that would be
30 going on with implementing these and how the pressure
31 could be put on our hunters. But after many
32 discussions that we've had over the last couple years
33 we talked about the potential risks and the benefits to
34 both the Eiders and to our subsistence hunters.

35

36 So in the end and after having many
37 discussions that the hunters felt like there was much
38 needed information that could actually help our
39 subsistence hunters in understanding what is going on
40 with the Stellers Eiders. There are two main things.
41 One is we need to know more about what the migration
42 is. There's a lot of data and information that is not
43 known. We feel that with this information we'll learn
44 more about the migration patterns of the Stellers
45 Eiders. The other one was there could be the
46 possibility that we'll learn if these Eiders are
47 nesting in both Barrow and in the Russian coast and
48 we've seen presentations about that in the past.

49

50 I also want to mention that because

1 this data was lacking and when they were considering
2 Stellers Eiders as threatened, at that time this
3 information was not available and I think that's why
4 the committee members felt it was important for us to
5 support this project so that we have the right
6 information to help us make good decisions. We need to
7 find out exactly what are the answers to those
8 questions that we don't know instead of just making
9 assumptions of what we know.

10

11 Just overall, our Fish and Game
12 Management Committee takes their responsibility very
13 serious and we feel it's important to bring these
14 issues to researchers, to the hunters and to the
15 managers and to start the dialogue and that's exactly
16 what happened in this case. I think that's why over
17 time that we said, okay, we would like to provide a
18 letter of support to Dan to move forward with this
19 research project.

20

21 What I was hoping today is to make a
22 recommendation or an action for AMBCC to provide a
23 similar letter of support for his project. That's my
24 report.

25

26 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have questions
27 for Taqulik. Enoch.

28

29 MR. SHIEDT: On your satellite
30 transmitters you're going to put in the Stellers, are
31 they implanted or are they going to be around the neck
32 or what?

33

34 MS. HEPA: My understanding in hearing
35 the presentations that they will be implanted and it
36 won't be all 20 the first year. It's going to be over
37 time. In the initial year, the goal is to put five
38 transmitters on Stellers Eiders.

39

40 MR. SHIEDT: Follow up. I'll support
41 this. Reason why is that we put transmitters on fish.
42 The antenna is sticking out from the body that we had
43 no issues or complaints. They were real healthy when
44 they were caught and they were implanted. The antenna
45 was sticking out from the body. They healed good and
46 they were real fat and there was nothing wrong with the
47 muscle. I mean the meat was okay and I will gladly
48 support.

49

50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any other comments,

1 questions from Council. Molly.

2

3 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I guess since Taqulik
4 is seeking support from AMBCC, I'd like to make a
5 motion to have AMBCC write a similar letter to Dan in
6 support of this research.

7

8 MR. HICKS: I'll second it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Would it be to Dan?

11

12 MS. CHYTHLOOK: It was for Dale -- I
13 mean Dan Rosenberg. Sorry.

14

15 CHAIRMAN RABE: My name appeared at the
16 bottom for some reason. In the form of a resolution.

17

18 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN RABE: As Chair, I just want
21 to be clear. You have distributed a document that
22 refers to a Council resolution and it does have a
23 signature spot at the bottom for the Chair. What I'm
24 hearing as a motion is to construct just a letter of
25 recommendation about the project. I want to be clear
26 what we're actually acting on.

27

28 MS. HEPA: And I do apologize for that
29 because we did talk about it over the last several
30 weeks, but I didn't come prepared. What I was going to
31 ask for and I appreciate Molly's motion is a letter of
32 support. What you see here says resolution and I
33 apologize for the confusion, but a letter of support
34 coming from the AMBCC for Daniel Rosenberg's project.

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We have a
37 motion. Do we have a second.

38

39 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

40

41 CHAIRMAN RABE: Enoch seconded it. And
42 we have discussion.

43

44 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have some questions.
47 Rick.

48

49 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you. Rick Rowland
50 from Sun'aq. My question was about -- I don't know if

1 it's connected to the resolution to support that or not
2 or just in your report. You mentioned you had four
3 concerns about things that you didn't want to mention
4 about? You came up with four concerns?

5
6 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair. I do apologize.
7 The four concerns were in regards to our harvest survey
8 that was completed in 2009. I'll bring those up.
9 They're just things that popped out. Like the number
10 of eggs for Point Hope and Point Lay. It's not related
11 to this. It was for the overall harvest survey for
12 migratory birds on the North Slope. I'll bring those
13 up to Lil, but if you want to hear them I could bring
14 them up after the motion.

15
16 CHAIRMAN RABE: We do have a motion and
17 a discussion going on. I actually have a question
18 relative to the procedure of this. Now the motion is
19 really not pertaining specifically to this resolution
20 document that's here. I question who is it that's
21 going to write this letter and is it more than just a
22 simple statement of the Council supporting the project
23 carte blanc or is the intent to take content from the
24 resolution as specifically the body of the letter?

25
26 Maybe a follow up, a suggestion or
27 question to the group, is do we want to take an action
28 on just having them request a letter or do we want to
29 actually develop the letter and pass it? I only ask
30 that because I suspect that knowing the rest of the
31 process this is not necessarily going to be easily
32 supported by all voting members.

33
34 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 think that what's contained in this handout is enough
36 information to come up with -- for the Executive
37 Director to come up with a letter of support. I think
38 he can pick and choose what he wants to put in there,
39 but the overall message in the letter is that the AMBCC
40 took action to provide a letter of support. There's
41 enough information in here.

42
43 This does outline the letter that was
44 sent from the North Slope.

45
46 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Doug.

47
48 MR. ALCORN: Thank you. This is Doug
49 Alcorn. I'm wondering if we could have Dan Rosenberg
50 come to the microphone. I have a question for Dan.

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: If Taqulik wants him to
2 come, I would certainly entertain it because we're
3 still in her regional report.

4
5 MS. HEPA: I think that would be
6 appropriate.

7
8 CHAIRMAN RABE: Dan, would you come to
9 the microphone.

10
11 MR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg, Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game.

13
14 MR. ALCORN: Thanks, Dan. This is Doug
15 again. The question I have, Dan, is as I understand
16 the way these projects are proposed and then
17 implemented, there's a role I think the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service has. When you have a project that
19 you're proposing, there's a dialogue between you, as
20 any project proponent, and the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service. In this case, I think a permit would be
22 required for handling the migratory birds. A migratory
23 bird permit would be required for the project. I don't
24 know if there's any other permits required or anything
25 like that, but could you explain sort of where we are
26 in that dialogue between yourself and the agency.

27
28 MR. ROSENBERG: Sure. There are
29 obviously several permits involved. The Fish and
30 Wildlife Service pertinent permits are the migratory
31 bird permit and the endangered species permit, Section
32 10. We have applied for the Section 10 permit because
33 that's the big step, big hurdle so to speak. So we are
34 in negotiations with Fish and Wildlife Service over
35 that. I'm not completely aware of what step it's at
36 within the Service, but the intent is to go out for an
37 external review. My understanding is that that they
38 will try and incorporate biological, social, economic,
39 political considerations into this review and roll that
40 up into a cost benefit analysis to see if this project
41 will threaten the continued existence of the species.

42
43 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

44
45 MR. ALCORN: Thanks, Dan. So there's
46 no permit issued yet, so you really don't know where
47 you stand with that permit and then there would be a
48 subsequent permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service's
49 Migratory Bird Program under the MBTA, then I presume
50 the State probably has to issue a permit for the

1 project as well.

2

3

MR. ROSENBERG: There are land use projects from the Ipiavik Inuit Corporation. So there are a lot of permits involved, but the Endangered Species permit, if that one goes through, I think all of the others will likely go through as well, so this is the one that ultimately will determine the fate of the project. I see this letter of support that Taqulik has proposed as something that would go into the Fish and Wildlife Service analysis, the Section 10 analysis, as to whether they're going to issue a permit or not.

13

14

CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

15

16

MR. ALCORN: Thanks, Dan. I mean you can all obviously see the situation I'm in right now. I'm representing an agency that's comprised of many different divisions with many multiple responsibilities under various laws. I manage the program that's responsible for AMBCC and I manage the program that's responsible for the migratory bird permit. I do not manage the program that's responsible for the Section 10 Endangered Species Act. Without knowing what the resolution of that is I'm in no position to take a position and support this, nor reject it. So what I'm going to do is abstain. So I'm going to call for a roll call vote and I will go on the record as abstaining and then the AMBCC, with the other voting members, can vote their persuasion.

31

32

CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have any other discussion on the motion.

34

35

MS. HEPA: Just in closing, over the last several years that we've had in-depth discussions, Mr. Rosenberg has been very diligent in attending and providing us all the information that we've requested for. Because we know and recognize that we need more information to help with the situation that we're encountered with, especially over the last couple years, that this information will be really valuable and may help alleviate some of the concerns that we have both from the wildlife managers and from our subsistence hunters. Again, I just encourage you all to help support the recommendation to provide a letter of support from the AMBCC.

48

49

CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. Enoch and then Peter.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: I'll say just for your
2 information for our region we did a lot of satellite
3 tagging. We did sheep, seals, caribou and fish
4 satellite tagging and the information we get out of it,
5 where they go and where they feed, how deep they go to
6 feed and stuff like that, there's lots of valuable
7 information on these satellite and we had no problem of
8 any of them dying except for one sheep from mortality.
9 It got into an area where it couldn't get in and out,
10 it couldn't feed itself and it died, not because of the
11 satellite problem that was put into it. The reason why
12 I want to support this is because there was a lot of
13 information, a lot of data, even on the belugas, how
14 far they go, how deep they go, the sheep, the caribou,
15 the fish, everything.

16
17 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. Peter.

18
19 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
20 would not support this because -- well, let me back up
21 a little bit. In '05, while I'm glad to hear that
22 they're going through the process the right way now by
23 getting permission to go onto your land and do this, in
24 '05 they came in Sand Point. We were trying to get a
25 new boat harbor. They came in, put the satellites in
26 the birds, then asked the corporation to put an antenna
27 up, which was not the proper process. After talking to
28 the skipper who was helping them catch these birds, the
29 mortality was like 50 to 70 percent. He said almost
30 all the birds died that they put transmitters in. So we
31 never gave them permission to go on our land, put a
32 antenna, so they went to Unalaska. Well, there's some
33 data there, but where does it go? I mean who is it
34 helping? We don't get nothing back saying what their
35 study found, where these bird are gone or anything. So
36 that would be my reason for not supporting it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN RABE: Dan, do you have any
39 information to add to that comment?

40
41 MR. ROSENBERG: I'm not completely sure
42 which project Peter is referring to, but I believe it's
43 a Fish and Wildlife Service project. I know there was
44 one -- I know there have been several that they've had
45 on the peninsula, in Unalaska and also Cold Bay. I'm
46 not sure about Sand Point. I believe that was -- so
47 what process they went through I can't speak for one
48 way or the other, but I think what we're doing is
49 trying to prevent that type of situation that you're
50 referring to by having good communication right from

1 the start and throughout the whole process.

2

3 I believe they were using external VHF
4 transmitters and I know in Dutch Harbor/Cold Bay they
5 were putting those on around a sewage effluent outfall
6 that I think was creating -- causing infections at the
7 site of the attachment of the transmitter that led to
8 mortality, but, again, I'm not sure of everything that
9 you're referring to.

10

11 The project that we're doing in Barrow
12 does use internal satellite transmitters and there
13 could very well be some mortality and we went through
14 that very clearly with the North Slope Borough. So
15 we're not in any way, shape or form making claims that
16 no birds will be harmed at all in this process. To be
17 sure, just so Enoch is aware, there is an external
18 antenna on these things.

19

20 I would add that the birds that we are
21 transmitting affect -- the information that will come
22 from this project affects more than just the North
23 Slope Borough. These birds will migrate past Kotzebue,
24 down the coast of western Alaska, past the Y-K Delta,
25 Bristol Bay and they will probably winter on the Alaska
26 Peninsula, so they will affect quite a few regions in
27 terms of providing information.

28

29 As you recall, part of one of the
30 concerns on the North Slope was of course that the
31 subsistence hunting season was threatened to be shut
32 down because of a possible incidental take of Stellers
33 Eiders. I imagine that that could happen in any of the
34 regions and we're trying to provide better information
35 to base those decisions on. The Fish and Wildlife
36 Service operates under the belief that these birds
37 solely inhabit the North Slope in the summer. It's the
38 same birds that come back every year and we believe
39 that there really is not good information to support
40 that this is a closed population, that there is an
41 interchange with Russia and Alaska.

42

43 Some of these same birds that are on
44 the North Slope one year are very likely in Russia
45 another year. We don't know that, but this is just
46 good information that will lead to, we think, better
47 management because if there are a finite number of
48 birds on the North Slope, that's one thing, but if the
49 North Slope draws from a much larger population of
50 birds, that also could be viewed quite differently in

1 terms of how valuable any one individual bird is in
2 terms of say shutting down the subsistence season.

3

4 CHAIRMAN RABE: Taqulik.

5

6 MS. HEPA: And then just to add to
7 that, Peter, I think one part that eased the Fish and
8 Game Committee members minds was that after the initial
9 five that there would be an annual review to see if it
10 was successful or not. At that annual review, then we
11 could take another look to see if we think that we
12 should continue to support a way forward. If there are
13 some major issues that come to our attention, then we
14 would say, okay, enough is enough. So it's up to 20,
15 but not all 20 at one time with the annual review after
16 each year.

17

18 I wasn't quite sure, but I did hear
19 that the Service has put satellite transmitters in
20 Stellers Eiders. Again I'm not familiar with that and
21 I think the appropriate steps would be for researchers
22 to come address the management councils from the
23 different regions.

24

25 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick.

26

27 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland from Sun'aq.
28 Thank you for giving us that information, Dan. This
29 reminds me of some information I heard that would be
30 considered hearsay, but I had a chat with a helicopter
31 pilot that was doing a polar bear tagging surveys up in
32 the North Slope. There was a high mortality rate
33 related to that tagging process because they tagged the
34 polar bear, get drugged up and swim under the ice and
35 never come up. So out of 500 they lost 75 percent. So
36 it was a direct hearsay explanation. I wasn't there.
37 I didn't see it. I don't know.

38

39 But to say that just because you don't
40 have the information means that the hunt is going to be
41 closed down means to me that you need to come up with
42 some other way of finding information instead of just
43 the GPS tracker. I know that mortality of the animals
44 is very important, but it's also important to find
45 alternative ways to survey these migratory birds or
46 whatnot.

47

48 MR. ROSENBERG: Thank you. We are
49 always looking for alternative ways and we're open to
50 all suggestions. The reason we're using this

1 technology is because we can track these birds over
2 remote and vast areas and we don't have present any
3 other technology that will do that for us. So we can
4 track them anywhere in the world literally that they
5 may go at any point in time throughout the course of
6 the year. So it provides us with information that we
7 just currently don't have an alternative way to get.
8 So it's really a question of how important you think
9 that information is versus the cost, of course. We
10 recognize and appreciate your concerns about the cost
11 and they concern us as well.

12
13 While I'm here, just so you know, we
14 did put satellite transmitters in Stellers Eiders in
15 Kodiak in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and those were birds from
16 Kodiak that we tracked to breeding areas in Russia.
17 The Fish and Wildlife Service did put satellite
18 transmitters in Barrow in 2001 and 2002 in 14 birds.
19 Quite frankly, survival and mortality of those birds is
20 better when you do it in the summer than when you do it
21 in the winter and this is one reason why we want to do
22 it in Barrow during the breeding season because we
23 think it will reduce -- we know really that it should
24 and will reduce mortality.

25
26 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick.

27
28 MR. ROWLAND: So what is the percentage
29 of mortality? You plug 10 birds, how many die off?

30
31 MR. ROSENBERG: Well, again, everything
32 is situational and everything depends on the location
33 you do it, the year, the weather, so on and so forth,
34 the condition the birds are in and we try to select
35 birds that are in good shape. In Barrow, when those 14
36 birds were done in June of 2001, none of those birds
37 died until months later. Now when they're dying months
38 later, no one is around, so it's hard to know what the
39 cause was, but there's no doubt a transmitter effect.

40
41 If you look at normal survival rates
42 for Stellers Eiders that might be around 90 percent and
43 you look at the birds that have transmitted, which is,
44 granted a small sample size, it might be around 60 or
45 70 percent throughout the course of a year. So no
46 doubt you're losing a couple more birds. Out of 10
47 birds where normally one might die, one or two might
48 die, in this case you might lose two, three or four.
49 But it's hard to know. Every year is different and
50 every bird is different.

1 Now if you do it in the winter, you
2 have problems right away. The mortality is higher
3 immediately after you do the surgery and release the
4 birds because the body condition is not as good, but in
5 the summer that problem doesn't seem to be there.
6 Birds weigh much more in the summer and that's why we
7 want to do it in the summer.

8

9 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

10

11 MS. CHYTHLOOK: If you look at your
12 regulation book on Page 17, the very top reads protect
13 our threatened Steller Eiders and then underlined is
14 don't shoot them. This is the reason why I'm going to
15 be supporting this. The Steller Eiders were the
16 traditional foods until something affected them. I
17 think one of the reasons why our current survey is
18 being upset is because of the uncertainty of not only
19 the Yellow Bill but the Eiders.

20

21 So in order to make improvements in our
22 regulation, in order to eventually see that we'll be
23 able to hopefully hunt Steller Eiders, we need some
24 research and I think this is one good step to start the
25 research on these. We know that there's different
26 obstacles that happens with all research, but I think
27 the punctuation for this would be that at least
28 something is going to happen in hopes to turn this
29 around so that we will be able to hunt the Steller
30 Eiders eventually.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN RABE: Are there any other
35 comments or are we ready for the question. Rick.

36

37 MR. ROWLAND: Yes, this is for Dan,
38 too. I know that technology information is important
39 and management and habitat and migration is all
40 important and, of course, there has to be like a
41 sacrifice that needs to be done to find this
42 information. Say, for example, we plug 10 birds and
43 four of them croak off, are we going to be able to get
44 a harvest eventually? I mean is that where it's
45 leading to or is it going to be more suggestions of we
46 need to survey some more but the recidivism rate or the
47 mortality rate is too high and we can't hunt them
48 anymore or we can't hunt them at all, so where is it
49 going? Is it going to lead to a hunt?

50

1 MR. ROSENBERG: I can't answer that. I
2 have no idea where it's going to lead. It's going to
3 lead, we hope, to better information for the management
4 of the North Slope population of Stellers Eiders. Now
5 there are over 100,000 Stellers Eiders that winter in
6 Alaska. Most of them on the Alaska Peninsula and maybe
7 five or six thousand in Kodiak. The list population
8 refers specifically to Alaska breeding birds. So,
9 theoretically, 500, 1,000 Alaska breeding birds
10 intermingle with that larger wintering population in
11 Kodiak and the Alaska Peninsula and that's what keeps
12 them essentially closed to hunting.

13
14 What we hope that this will do is sort
15 of clarify just really what is the Alaska breeding
16 population. Is it a closed population of a few hundred
17 birds or is it really, as I suggested earlier, possibly
18 an open population that has movement back and forth
19 between the larger Pacific population of Stellers
20 Eiders that mostly breed in Russia.

21
22 But how that information -- whatever
23 information we get we don't know what the information
24 is going to be. We may find out that it's a closed
25 population or an open population. More than likely,
26 like most science, it will be an integral process and
27 we will have built on our knowledge but we still won't
28 have any real definitive conclusions when we're done
29 with it.

30
31 I don't know where it's going to lead
32 yet. It's going to be more information to try and make
33 better judgments about things.

34
35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Taqulik.

36
37 MS. HEPA: Just to help put things into
38 perspective of actual similar situation, with the
39 bowhead whale, at one point there was discussion about
40 are there one or two stocks of bowhead whales. On the
41 Chukotka side, the Chukotka natives were observing
42 bowhead whales that were summering in their area. It
43 did raise concern at the International Whaling
44 Commission meeting, which fits the quota, are there one
45 or two stocks of bowhead whales.

46
47 Working with the Whaling Commission and
48 the people from Chukotka, we said we need to help find
49 the answer. They agreed that it was okay for a short
50 period of time to put satellite transmitters on bowhead

1 whales and to collect samples from both harvested
2 whales in Alaska and Chukotka to help answer the
3 question.

4
5 The hunters at first were very
6 reluctant again. Just talking with them that with a
7 few number of whales and these satellite transmitters
8 it's going to help the management question because the
9 management question could have an impact on our
10 management quota, right. So we did approve it. We've
11 collected information and it proved that there's one
12 stock of bowhead whales, so our quota was not
13 jeopardized. We still have our quota and we manage it
14 as one stock.

15
16 So this is going to do the same thing.
17 Is it one group of birds or is it two groups of birds
18 because some go to Chukotka and some nest in Barrow.
19 With TEK, the elders say they've never been abundant in
20 Barrow, so it could just be a small group of birds. It
21 depends, you know. Sometimes do they go to Russia?
22 Sometimes do they come to Barrow? And it's a small
23 group of birds. So this is going to help answer that
24 question.

25
26 Like I said, the hunters did not like
27 the researchers putting these in, so we worked together
28 with them. The hunters applied them. They used the
29 hunters to put the tags on and that's the kind of
30 relationship we are building with Dan.

31
32 MR. ROSENBERG: I just wanted to add
33 the original objectives of this project, what we're
34 discussing now, is ancillary to the original objectives
35 of this project. I mean it's important and we hope to
36 get that information, but this project started out to
37 address the juxtaposition of Stellers Eiders. How
38 Stellers Eiders use the area that is proposed for oil
39 and gas lease 193 in the Chukchi Sea. So there's a
40 large area, as you know. Shell Oil is set to do
41 exploratory drilling in the Chukchi Sea in what is
42 known as oil and gas lease 193. It's a big area that
43 extends from essentially off the coast of Barrow down
44 beyond Point Hope and further south, I believe.

45
46 We proposed this project to see how
47 Eiders could be affected by this oil and gas lease and
48 drilling activity and all the other transport activity
49 and so on and so forth that goes with that. So that
50 was the original objective for the project, but there

1 are other benefits that we think can be derived from it
2 and so what we're talking about now is just one of the
3 other ancillary benefits to this project.

4
5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Are we ready for the
6 question.

7
8 MS. HEPA: Question.

9
10 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a call of the
11 question and we had a request for a roll call vote, so
12 I'm going to ask Fred to go through the roll call on a
13 vote.

14
15 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I need a
16 point of clarification on that. Is that voting members
17 or is that the entire Council?

18
19 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug, what was your
20 intention when you asked for that?

21
22 MR. ALCORN: I intended it to be the
23 three voting entities, but hearing that there is also
24 opposition having been expressed, out of respect for
25 all the regions I would request a roll call vote of all
26 the representatives at the table.

27
28 CHAIRMAN RABE: If we do that, then my
29 question is what is the protocol for the group? Is it
30 a majority vote on each individual vote? Doug.

31
32 MR. ALCORN: There are still just three
33 voting entities, so it would be at the pleasure of the
34 regional representatives, I guess, to suggest that we
35 have a roll call. I'll retract my suggestion to have a
36 roll call vote of all the members. I'll just ask for a
37 roll call vote of the three voting entities and I'll
38 let the decision on whether or not to express any.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN RABE: Got it. Molly, I'm
41 going to defer to you at this point. Do you want to go
42 through a roll call vote of the regional
43 representatives here to base your vote? Ultimately the
44 roll call vote will be of the three voting entities,
45 but we can precede that if you choose by having the
46 members vote and then you take that into your
47 consideration.

48
49 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Well, I think because
50 there was some opposition that I think it would be good

1 to have a roll call for all the regional reps at this
2 time.

3
4 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Then I would ask
5 Fred if he would go through the regional reps and take
6 that vote and then that would be advisory to Molly.

7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Just the regions?

9
10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Just the regions.

11
12 MS. HEPA: Before the vote, I just want
13 to say if you're not comfortable with this, I will
14 respect your opinion and, again, it's just a letter of
15 support and hear the concerns you have. They were
16 similar concerns that were brought up with our Fish and
17 Game Management Committee.

18
19 MR. ARMSTRONG: On the motion to write
20 a letter of support or direct the Executive Director to
21 write a letter of support for the State's project, I
22 ask each of the region voting members to vote yea or
23 nay. BBNA.

24
25 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

26
27 MR. ARMSTRONG: CRNA.

28
29 MR. HICKS: I vote yes.

30
31 MR. ARMSTRONG: Kawerak.

32
33 MR. TRIGG: Yes.

34
35 MR. ARMSTRONG: APIA.

36
37 MR. DEVINE: Yes.

38
39 MR. ARMSTRONG: Sun'aq Tribe.

40
41 MR. ROWLAND: I vote yes.

42
43 MR. ARMSTRONG: Maniilaq Association.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

46
47 MR. ARMSTRONG: North Slope Borough.

48
49 MS. HEPA: Yes.

50

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: TCC.
2
3 MR. MAYO: Yes.
4
5 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's your advisory
6 vote. Members present voted yes, Molly. Now to the
7 roll call vote of the voting members. Alaska Natives.
8
9 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.
10
11 MR. ARMSTRONG: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service.
13
14 MR. ALCORN: Will abstain.
15
16 MR. ARMSTRONG: State of Alaska.
17
18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Yes.
19
20 MR. ARMSTRONG: The vote is adopted by
21 a vote of 2 and one abstention.
22
23 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Thank you. That
24 concludes your regional report for the North Slope,
25 does it not?
26
27 MS. HEPA: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
28 and members of the Commission.
29
30 CHAIRMAN RABE: And by my clock it's 11
31 minutes after 12 and I've been notified that the soup
32 that's been prepared is ready, so I'm going to have us
33 step down from the Council meeting. Is one hour
34 adequate? Maybe I should ask Cara if she wants to
35 provide a little more information on the invitation if
36 anybody didn't hear it from yesterday, but then I'll
37 ask whether one hour is going to be enough.
38
39 CARA: (Indiscernible - away from
40 microphone)
41
42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you very much.
43 So given that information, members of the Council, is
44 there anybody here that needs more than an hour for
45 lunch at this point. Otherwise we will reconvene at
46 1:15. Hearing from nobody, we're standing down until
47 1:15.
48
49 (Off record)
50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN RABE: So we're back on the
4 record for the afternoon session. Cara, before you
5 step out, I'd like to personally thank you on behalf of
6 everybody else who participated. It was a really great
7 meal, so thank you very much.

8

9 (Applause)

10

11 CARA: You're welcome. I was happy
12 everyone enjoyed it. I love duck soup. Also, just to
13 remind everyone, there is a sign-in sheet over here if
14 you haven't signed in.

15

16 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you for the
17 reminder. We'll do that. Anything else?

18

19 CARA: Not that I know of.

20

21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thanks again for the
22 lunch. Wonderful. When we left off we were halfway
23 through the regional reports and it looks like Peter is
24 not back yet, so we'll skip over Peter and go to
25 Joeneal and Copper River. If you have a report, we'll
26 continue with that and come back.

27

28 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 The Copper River Council held their meeting on August
30 26th and one of the top agenda items was our migratory
31 bird camp that we have held going on four years now.
32 The camp was held August 1st through 7th and of that 29
33 youths and elders attended. Of that 14 were at the
34 camp full time. It was very good except for the
35 weather. It rained and rained and rained constantly.

36

37 All the activities that we had planned
38 for, such as berry picking, steam bath, taking kids out
39 on hikes, other outdoor educational stuff such as gun
40 safety, target practice, stuff like that were kind of
41 put on hold. Our intent was basically just to try to
42 keep spirits up, keep dry, so most of our daily
43 activities just were staying in side tents trying to
44 keep dry or getting into the vans. CRNA provided three
45 vans for us. Just sightseeing, going up and down the
46 road and trying to look at caribou, moose, naming ducks
47 and stuff like that. Just sightseeing basically.

48

49 We were successful in getting a moose
50 permit and we were also successful in obtaining or

1 getting a young bull moose. The kids really enjoyed
2 that. I mean they really surprised me where they could
3 actually go out there and just skin it and pack it out
4 to the transport vehicle where we could take it back to
5 camp, hang it, cut it up and all that. That took up a
6 lot of time and kept them busy rather than getting wet
7 all over. So that turned out good on that end.

8
9 I did mention a little bit over a year
10 ago I had sent a letter to AMBCC taking a position on
11 the military -- I forget how it's called. It's J-pack,
12 something like that. Anyhow, the military is proposing
13 to increase their operational area. In other words,
14 the MOA. They currently have an MOA within the Paxson
15 area or Unit 13 in that area and they want to expand
16 that operations area to include all of Unit 13 to
17 Glennallen and to also include Unit 11 for live fire
18 exercise.

19
20 Anyhow, when we were in camp, every
21 morning we had these big jet aircraft fly over very low
22 and that just like -- I mean the deafening sound of it
23 just makes you just two feet in the air. The following
24 morning they had four fighter aircrafts flying at low
25 speed also over and then the next thing you know, boom,
26 boom, boom. You could hear those -- you know, I mean
27 where they're allowed to drop their bombs. It has to
28 be bombs because I mean it's a deafening roar.

29
30 Anyhow, they flew over the area and it
31 really got me to thinking as to just exactly what
32 effect it has on the migrating caribou and migrating
33 birds and stuff like that. If they were to expand the
34 area and get approval for it, just what additional
35 effects it would have on it. I don't know how the
36 AMBCC can make a stand on it to support our concern
37 there, but I think it's something that really seriously
38 needs to be looked at as to whether or not it's a good
39 idea or not.

40
41 We received additional funding from the
42 Ahtna Heritage Foundation and the Ahtna Land Committee.
43 They donated 2,000 bucks to help us in this endeavor on
44 the camp process and that really helped us, especially
45 in terms of gas and transportation.

46
47 Next year we plan to have the camp at
48 the big Mat-Su River on the Denali Highway. You're all
49 welcome to attend. I mean it's open for everybody. I
50 mean I think you'll really enjoy it. That is dependant

1 on the weather. You're welcome to stick your nose in
2 there and see what's going on. I think you'll get a
3 kick out of it.

4

5 MS. HEPA: What date is it?

6

7 MR. HICKS: I think it will be
8 somewhere around August 10th. We do have a community
9 harvest hunt area in there and the Fish and Game
10 through Juneau, because of the community hunt harvest
11 time they want the hunting camp to coincide with that.
12 So it will be somewhere probably around August 10th if
13 we get the community harvest hunt again.

14

15 MS. HEPA: Did you call it migratory
16 bird camp?

17

18 MR. HICKS: Migratory bird hunting
19 camp.

20

21 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Joe, would you be able
22 to send a little notice to the Council?

23

24 MR. HICKS: Sure. That's no problem.
25 Let's see. There was a question that arose during the
26 particular camp and the question was what areas are we
27 allowed to hunt in for migratory birds. Is the Denali
28 Highway eligible for us to hunt in and I did check into
29 that further and, yes, it is just for clarification. I
30 did contact Donna on that and the answer was, yes, that
31 we were allowed to hunt migratory birds on there.

32

33 The reason why I bring that up is
34 because there has been an increase in law enforcement
35 presence in that whole particular area and people are
36 getting kind of -- what's the word here. When they see
37 law enforcement and back down, you know. And then the
38 reason are we legal to hunt in this particular area,
39 stuff like that. The education of having legal or
40 being legal to hunt in that area or anywhere is getting
41 more and more familiar. In other words, make sure you
42 have your Duck Stamp, make sure you have your license,
43 make sure your 12 gauge if that's what you use is legal
44 and stuff like that, you know, like the shells.

45

46 Anyhow, the camp was a huge success and
47 it's expected to continue. Again, funding is the only
48 I guess issue at this time that we really need to take
49 a look at. Although we do put aside so much it's never
50 enough. In the past it's only been like 15 people

1 attending the camp and now it's grown to 29. Can you
2 imagine the food cost and stuff like that.

3

4 Continuing on, the committee reflected
5 on the 2010 harvest survey and they felt it was not
6 accurate. You might recall that past meetings I had
7 voice opposition to some of the data or some of the
8 information that was on it saying that we harvested sea
9 gull eggs, we harvested owls and stuff like that. Now
10 the survey has taken that particular stuff off, but
11 included it elsewhere such as the taking of grouse
12 eggs. It was never on it before but it is on it now.
13 I don't know how that happened or what, but I will talk
14 with Lili in that regard and try to get an idea as to
15 why these changes have occurred on it.

16

17 The committee also reflected on the
18 suspension of the harvest survey for the Upper Copper
19 River region. It was slated, as you know, last year
20 that the survey was to take place, but for some reason
21 or another it was diverted to some other region. I
22 think the Bristol Bay area or something like that.
23 There reasoning is that there is a lack of survey data
24 information for the Copper River area. There is
25 basically none that you can use to make decisions with.
26 The committee has asked that I voice my opinion in that
27 regard to you that surveys are needed for our area.

28

29 As you know, the Copper River area is
30 increasing in regards to not just hunting opportunities
31 during the general caribou inseason hunt, but it also
32 increases in regards to the number of people that you
33 see there because of the highway and the ability for
34 people to get various places throughout the area.

35

36 The committee also requested that I ask
37 for an increase in our budget. I know it's been pretty
38 much the same, stable at 19,000. If it's possible,
39 they would like to see an increase in that. I did
40 reflect on that in a prior meeting also.

41

42 The last thing that they wanted to
43 voice also is that it has become very noticeable in
44 regards to climate change in our area. When I say
45 that, it's noticeable in regards to rivers or the
46 channel changing, the creeks diminishing, ponds pretty
47 much disappearing, lakes subsiding. In other words,
48 the level of it going down. When I say changes in
49 that, it used to be where you used to see migratory
50 birds, ducks basically, that's no longer there. It has

1 been expressed that there's something going on. Again,
2 I really can't say anything in black and white and
3 without any kind of data or information that this is
4 really happening, but people are seeing it and it's
5 being voiced in that regards.

6

7 With that, that's my report.

8

9 Thank you

10

11 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. Any
12 questions on the report.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Backing up,
17 we'll give Peter an opportunity now to give the
18 Aleutian report.

19

20 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
21 did not have a fall meeting in our regional management
22 body. We tried twice to get a quorum together but due
23 to fishing activity, which lasted longer than usual, we
24 couldn't get a quorum. In our spring meeting, the
25 regional management body had concerns about the Emperor
26 Goose. We're seeing quite a few in our region, like
27 10,000 in Izembek, another 30,000 in Nelson Lagoon.
28 They're pretty much wintering there because of the eel
29 grass beds. I think this is happening because we're
30 not getting as deep of a freeze as we usually get, so a
31 lot of these lagoons are staying open. Before they
32 used to freeze pretty hard, so they'd go elsewhere to
33 find food, like disperse throughout the Peninsula. Now
34 they're localizing in Izembek and Nelson Lagoon. But
35 we are seeing an increase in Sand Point and then
36 further down the chain. The numbers are improving. I
37 mean it's like we have half of the estimate population
38 in our region and we've heard from Kodiak and Bristol
39 Bay that they've seen an increase in these birds.

40

41 During the meeting last week I
42 solicited new partners for Belkofski, King Cove, Nelson
43 Lagoon. Try to get more participation. It's kind of
44 surprising, some of these people were new to their
45 councils and didn't know what AMBCC was about. once I
46 explained to them how important it was for us to get
47 participation so we could get proposals and start
48 having these hunts. I think next meeting would be more
49 successful.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any questions? Molly.

4

5 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I just have a comment.
6 During our regional meeting both Doug and Fred were at
7 our meeting and what was really informational was when
8 Doug gave us this, it's in your packet, this
9 information and it's an overall explanation of how
10 AMBCC works. After he gave the report to our council I
11 requested Fred to send this regulatory cycle so that we
12 can disperse it to our members. This, I think, is a
13 really -- both Frank and I have tried to explain AMBCC
14 and how it works, but through Fred's PowerPoint
15 presentation it was better than both of our attempts
16 because they could see the works through the PowerPoint
17 presentation. So I recommend Fred to attend some of
18 your meetings to do the same thing.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay, thanks. I think
23 we're now ready for you, Enoch, if you've got a report.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. We did not have a
26 meeting. I e-mailed all my villages. They said we
27 should have one this fall. The harvesters had a real
28 good year and I hear a lot from the local young boys.
29 Well, I'm known all over in the villages and I do a lot
30 of calls. A lot of eggs and a lot of White-Fronts.
31 They never seen so much White-Front Geese between
32 Kivalina and Noatak from both villages. I mean numbers
33 were high. The birds were high and they were healthy.

34

35

36 A lot of the campers, like I stated
37 earlier, requested packets of birds of concern, so I'll
38 need more copies than what you guys sent me this
39 summer, Fred. I had to try to make copies. The reason
40 they asked, the State troopers were stopping at their
41 camps to see what's going on, what kind of shells
42 they've got and stuff like that. I talked to the State
43 trooper and told him that some of those lead shots they
44 hunt are for seals, not for birds. He saw the box
45 laying there and he figured just because he seen it
46 they're hunting birds with it. No, there's a different
47 reason why. We know and the Selawik Wildlife Refuge
48 before had classes on steel shots and they give them
49 away. That was a couple years ago and that was real
50 great in all the villages.

1 The main thing, even though I never had
2 a meeting, when I went to Selawik, Kiana, Noatak,
3 Kivalina, Buckland and Deering and Ambler, I asked the
4 same question about the Duck Stamp issue, what's going
5 on. They want to be in compliance, but some of these
6 people can't afford it. When there's gas at \$15 a
7 gallon, what little money they have they'd rather save
8 it for gas than try to get a Duck Stamp. And they
9 never harvest birds no more than what they need for
10 food anyhow because they could last only so long, the
11 birds, and that's what they were saying. There's a lot
12 of birds where I come from, my region.

13
14 I get a lot of calls from Noorvik,
15 Kiana and Selawik for these summer campers that are
16 local commuters are flying low and scaring a lot of
17 these birds that are nesting. They want to know if
18 there's a way I could stop them, but I can't really do
19 anything even if I go FAA. All they got to do is keep
20 their flight plans and they're going to go here,
21 they're going to go there and they've got enough gas to
22 come back and that's all they could do. They don't
23 like it and I'm going to try to get hold of local
24 commuters to stop that because bothering just when
25 they're nesting is what I'm hearing from the people.
26 They have concern. They want to preserve them.

27
28 On the surveys what I asked them and
29 what I emailed them how they would like to do the
30 surveys because I was planning to do it. They want
31 house-to-house surveys then stats because we do have a
32 problem with stats. I'll give you an example. On
33 caribou and moose, when they say there was so many and
34 later on in the caribou we started taking photos versus
35 their stats. Numbers were accurate and the State
36 completely different numbers. When we did it on the
37 moose at Squirrel River, the State said there was over
38 3,000 moose, we argued there were less moose than that
39 under stats and we hired two planes to survey that
40 river. I'm using that for an example. Their numbers
41 were not even 300 moose. That's why they don't want to
42 go stats. Stats might increase a lot more or might
43 decrease.

44
45 So if we do actual house-to-house
46 survey, the survey will tell us that this is what they
47 see and if they never see any birds, they will tell us.
48 That will be on the questionnaire I put together, how
49 do you think birds, do you see any birds in decline, do
50 you have concerns. That will help a lot if we have

1 house-to-house survey versus stats.

2

3 They have a real concern of birds in
4 decline. Yellow-Billed Loons for Slope. They want to
5 help them rebuild them because they still have feelings
6 inside to preserve for the future. People from my
7 region still, when they talk about it, they always say
8 due to the starvation we need to preserve for the
9 future. My grandpa died from starvation. That's what
10 I heard. That's why they're really into that. Like I
11 said, they never seen so many birds this summer and
12 healthy in numbers.

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any questions for
15 Enoch. Doug.

16

17 MR. ALCORN: Enoch, you mentioned -- is
18 your committee recommending house-to-house census in
19 your region for survey as opposed to a subset or sub-
20 sampling?

21

22 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. They'd rather see
23 it because what they're telling me is we've been doing
24 it house-to-house survey for a number -- I did quite a
25 few years and they say if you change your stat the way
26 you do it and you say, okay, we're doing it house-to-
27 house survey, this is how we do it, and all of a sudden
28 you switch to stats, what they're saying after you say
29 stats, you have to maybe wait another 10 years to be an
30 effective status ratio is what they're saying. But
31 when they do it house-to-house survey, I get 97 to 100
32 percent, you know, survey.

33

34 If you go under stats -- and that was
35 always kind of forced by the Federal to go stats and I
36 refused it because you're going to do only maybe a
37 third of the village. But my villages are mostly
38 Natives and the outside of them, because I've got a few
39 villages, are just teachers that are not there
40 springtime and they're teaching springtime, so they
41 hardly ever harvest any birds. That's their beef about
42 it. I get this from all my villages is what I'm
43 hearing.

44

45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you for the
46 report. Randy.

47

48 MR. MAYO: Yeah, in our region we
49 haven't had our -- in the TCC region, we haven't had
50 our regional meeting yet, but I know there's a lot of

1 concern in talking to tribal members from different
2 waterfowl hunting areas in the region concerning Duck
3 Stamps and enforcement. We've always had issues with
4 subsistence survey reports and people are really
5 unclear as to how that information can come out in
6 regulation by the State and Federal agencies. In our
7 area, we've been working on it. If tribes have natural
8 resource programs, they'd be the survey takers. So
9 people have concerns about that, whether it's waterfowl
10 or other subsistence resource foods.

11
12 One proposal that will probably be put
13 before the body deals with coming from -- how do you
14 say it, a tribal member that lives in an excluded area
15 that wants to go home and participate in the spring
16 hunt, so that will probably be forthcoming from our
17 region. When I get back up to Fairbanks, I'll contact
18 the individual now that I'm learning more of the
19 process and sit down and work with him.

20
21 Our area covers 43 communities, so
22 we're very spread out and we need to do a lot of
23 catching up to get the hunters informed as to the
24 process as how they can participate and create
25 proposals that can be brought to this body. Also, I
26 mentioned I was a little unclear as to the real mandate
27 of this body and it was clarified to me yesterday
28 through the discussions, but I also had contact and
29 phone conversations with non-Native users of the
30 migratory birds too and got their viewpoint on how they
31 ended up in excluded areas when before they were
32 historically users of the migratory birds. I'm sure
33 that will come up more and more as up in the Interior
34 you've got the city of Fairbanks and got roads and
35 other communities, Delta Junction and road connected.
36 I'm sure this will come up more and more in our region.

37
38 That's just about it from our area.

39
40 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Randy. Any
41 questions.

42
43 MR. ALCORN: Maybe a helpful
44 suggestion, Randy, and that is we have a committee, I
45 think it's an invitation committee that was established
46 a number of years ago to deal with the issue I think
47 that you were describing about an individual that lives
48 in Fairbanks that wants to go back to his village and
49 hunt in that village. We envisioned the process and it
50 might help when you have that discussion if you want

1 some historic background we can show you some of the
2 work that that committee has done in the past and we
3 can bring you up to speed on that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. With that I
6 think we have concluded the regional reports and the
7 first nine items on the agenda, so we're now moving
8 into old business and the first agenda item we have is
9 for an SRC report for the flyway and the SRC
10 representatives. Patty is the board member, but she's
11 not here, so Mike has offered to give a little
12 perspective on what has happened in this last cycle.

13

14 So if you would, Mike.

15

16 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Fred, Patty and I and Dale, we survived the 105 heat
18 wave in DC the last week of July. At the Pacific
19 Flyway meeting we represented the AMBCC. My
20 organization requires when we travel to submit a trip
21 report and my trip report is in your packet. I sent it
22 knowing that I wasn't going to participate in the
23 September meeting due to another commitment that I had
24 along with Molly.

25

26 One of the reasons I went was because
27 of the SRC's request to develop a more scientifically
28 defensible survey on Yellow-Billed Loons due to our
29 regulation that we've had for the last several years.
30 Taqulik provided an update on that issue this morning.

31

32 At the Pacific Flyway and SRC meeting,
33 we represented all the subsistence migratory bird
34 proposed regulations for 2012. There was some
35 questions to me on the Yellow-Billed Loon survey as
36 well as to Fred regarding the constant agenda items
37 with the Kodiak region and the AVCP region. Dale
38 helped answer some of those questions regarding the
39 process we use. At the SRC meeting, things went pretty
40 smoothly I think. It helped them understand both at
41 the Pacific Flyway and SRC when you're there in the
42 room and when questions are being asked and you're able
43 to answer them, things get to flow real smooth.

44

45 I think this year it was a quiet year,
46 although I know that non-game technical folks and the
47 study committee folks with Eric Taylor and Dan
48 Rosenberg also there, they had some other issues
49 dealing with cacklers and other various birds with the
50 western states, so it was a good, positive meeting and

1 I thank the AMBCC for allowing me to represent all of
2 us at these Pacific Flyway and SRC meetings.

3

4 Most of you may know that at the June
5 meeting the alternate and the primary member could not
6 attend, so I offered to attend mostly because at that
7 time we're not dealing with salmon fishing in our
8 region. It's a little quiet for us at least in our
9 region during the time that these meetings occur. I
10 just want to thank you guys for your confidence in me
11 in representing you guys at these two meetings. I
12 think in previous years I've noticed that things are
13 starting to flow a little smoother as far as when
14 questions come up regarding our subsistence here in
15 Alaska.

16

17 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any questions.

18 Taqulik.

19

20 MS. HEPA: No questions. I just want
21 to thank Mike, Patty and others for the great job they
22 do in representing the AMBCC. I did notice the Federal
23 government doesn't provide coffee and things like that,
24 so they do like a cup to provide funding. But the
25 other thing I noticed on one of the agendas is
26 housekeeping. I guess we have the option of having
27 housekeeping for our rooms at a lower cost. I'm
28 kidding.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MS. HEPA: If you look on the agenda,
33 it says introduction and housekeeping. I had to bring
34 that up.

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Any other questions or
37 comments. We ought to be a little leery of the
38 comments maybe. Thank you, Mike, appreciate it. Okay.
39 Randy, would you turn your mic off just so we don't get
40 extra interference. We're on to item (b), the Council
41 committee's review of the committees and the mission
42 statements. Fred, are you going to take us through
43 that again?

44

45 Taqulik.

46

47 MS. HEPA: I just want to say I was
48 going to say before I thought of the housekeeping thing
49 that Michael did keep at least myself abreast on a
50 daily basis of how the meetings were going and I truly

1 appreciate that. That time of the year I have an
2 annual family vacation time, so I'm not able to attend
3 and appreciate his willingness to attend and do such a
4 great job in presenting our point of views.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN RABE: Fred, do you want to
9 walk through the committees.

10

11 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 It's behind tab 7, the list of committees and members.
13 Several years ago there was a request to list the
14 committees. Actually a review of the committees
15 started and then there was a request to flesh through
16 our minutes and action items and identify what was the
17 purpose and intent of those committees. At the time we
18 did this we had Austin Ahmasuk on board and I tasked
19 him with going through all the numerous meeting
20 transcripts and flesh out the mission statements or the
21 intent of the committees and I'll go through them
22 rather quickly since I did that before too.

23

24 The first one was the Technical
25 Committee. That was one of the first committees that
26 was created by the Council. It's actually required by
27 the bylaws. The task or assignment was to review
28 subsistence harvest proposals, provide technical
29 information and summaries to the management bodies and
30 to provide most current status trends information.

31

32 A subcommittee of that is the Emperor
33 Goose Management Committee and they work with the
34 Flyway Council and the Service on any revisions
35 necessary to the Emperor Goose Management Plan. This
36 was really good a few years ago when the Council was
37 involved in some revisions to the plan that was
38 submitted to the Pacific Flyway Council. They
39 subsequently adopted.

40

41 Exclusion Committee is to review
42 proposals for exclusion and forward any recommendations
43 to the Council. Those are basically the opposite of
44 inclusion. if there's a petition for exclusion, then
45 the Council would have at least parameters to review
46 that proposal.

47

48 The reverse of that is an invitation to
49 what you alluded to a while ago, Randy, and that is the
50 review invitation and possession permits processed for

1 residents of excluded areas. There is a clause in the
2 letter of submittal that states that villages do have a
3 say in how this process can occur.

4
5 The Harvest Survey/Harvest Limitations
6 Committee is to develop and maintain annual harvest
7 survey methodology, review and recommend statewide
8 survey reports annually. This is the standing
9 committee that the Council has created and has been by
10 far the most accurate committee and meets and looks at
11 the methodology and their lead in changing that as well
12 as looking at the annual harvest survey reports.

13
14 On the next page we have the standard
15 operating procedures, the Ad Hoc Committee, and they're
16 basically to review operational guidelines and
17 basically to look how the Council operates and make any
18 changes or recommendations as necessary.

19
20 Long-term Goals and Objectives. These
21 two are basically administrative committees that the
22 Council wanted. The long-term goals and objectives is
23 to develop and recommend long-term goals and objectives
24 to the Council.

25
26 The Flyway Service Regulations
27 Committees. Again, it's a standing committee required
28 by the bylaws. What that does is represent the Council
29 at the Pacific Flyway and the SRC committee meetings.
30 We've done that every year by sending two members to
31 attend these meetings and provide consulting services
32 or answer any questions relative to traditional
33 knowledge regarding the proposals.

34
35 Law enforcement is to review any
36 enforcement-related issues and make recommendations to
37 the Council.

38
39 The last one is the Budget Ad Hoc
40 Committee. Work with AMBCC Staff on ideas for
41 increasing the budget for the Council.

42
43 Those are the current committees we
44 have, Mr. Chair, since the last meeting that we've had.

45
46 Any questions.

47
48 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'll just point out to
49 members that in the agenda towards the end we do have
50 an opportunity to go back and look at membership.

1 Primarily the reason for going through it as a separate
2 discussion here was to provide those statements of
3 clarification about what the functions are, so the
4 language that was added in terms of the purpose of each
5 of those committees or subcommittees.

6

7 Molly.

8

9 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 We did during the Native caucus appoint new members and
11 excluded some of them. When that agenda item comes up,
12 we'll read through the updated committee list.

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: We've got that as
15 agenda item 13, which we'll probably get to tomorrow I
16 would guess. Okay. On to item (c), which is the 2012
17 budget forecast. Are you taking that, Fred, or is that
18 Doug.

19

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Behind tab 4 is a draft proposed budget for FY12.
22 Basically we are required to provide a budget based on
23 what I feel are the expenditures that we'll incur
24 throughout the fiscal year. This proposed draft budget
25 represents that.

26

27 Going through it, the items we have
28 listed there, we have funding for three full-time
29 employees with full benefits at 368,518. The next item
30 on that is a performance awards annually we could
31 provide based on supervisors conclusion. We could
32 award some financial benefits to employees that they've
33 merited that, so I've set aside a few dollars for that.

34

35 In the travel, it's pretty lean, \$8,100
36 and basically it's my travels, which is a large part of
37 that. The required Pacific Flyway, SRC and a couple of
38 regional meetings. That's the extent of that. Very
39 small.

40

41 The grants, as we've said several times
42 before, remains the same from last year, 213,600. If
43 you look at your line item, each of them reflects the
44 amount you had last year.

45

46 Some of the expenses that we also incur
47 are the regulation handbooks that we send out every
48 spring just after the final rule is published and the
49 publication of those and the mailout runs about \$25,000
50 annually. Donna, what's that total number you get

1 published, 34?

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Somewhere, 34-35,000.

4

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: 34-35,000 books and we
6 send them out to all included areas of the state as
7 well as to State and Federal offices around the state.

8

9 I did budget again for the youth and
10 elders at 2,200 based on us sharing a booth with marine
11 mammals, which we've done fairly well in. The cost is
12 pretty expensive to have a booth. 3,700, I think, per
13 table. So I kind of split the cost of that with marine
14 mammals and they've been more than happy.

15

16 Court reporter expenses. Generally we
17 provide for two meetings where we have our court
18 reporter record and they send the transcripts to us. I
19 put aside some meeting room expenses. Whenever we
20 don't get into a Federal building where we typically
21 don't have to pay, we have to set aside money to cover
22 those costs.

23

24 Very low money for office supplies.
25 The proposed and final rule publication doesn't come
26 free. The Federal Register generally charges us about
27 \$5,500 per publication, so I have to reflect that in
28 our budget.

29

30 The last item is the contracts that we
31 have surveys for this year. We did fund the State of
32 Alaska through end of fiscal year '12 to complete the
33 current surveys that are in progress as well as analyze
34 and produce reports for the Council on those.

35

36 We have an ongoing survey on St.
37 Lawrence Island relative to Yellow-Billed Loons and we
38 have contracts with a couple of the villages there.
39 That's reflected there. Typically that amount is
40 shared with Endangered Species, so I've been a little
41 bit generous in that respect, but it will probably go
42 down by about 7 to 10 grand.

43

44 Then I budget out 25,000 for the
45 harvest survey review. Basically that's to fund the
46 contractor and travel amounts. That pretty much is the
47 budget that I operate under annually. It's a flat
48 budget, no increases. There's an important aspect to
49 this entire thing is that I haven't reduced this by the
50 required 1.503 percent that we're supposed to do right

1 now. There hasn't been any reductions because we don't
2 know what Congress is going to require us to reduce by.
3 This is just a very draft form, but gives you an idea
4 of what I have to oversee every year. Any questions.

5

6 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly and then Rick.

7

8 MS. CHYTHLOOK: The harvest survey
9 review, is that the survey review of the current one or
10 the one that's coming on? So it's a new, it's not the
11 ongoing?

12

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: No, it's not the
14 ongoing. It's basically to fund a contractor to
15 oversee the review of the Harvest Survey Program.

16

17 MS. CHYTHLOOK: So the 125,000 is
18 coming from the total funding?

19

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: Budget for AMBCC, yes.

21

22 MS. CHYTHLOOK: What was the survey
23 cost for the assess survey? Do you have it here
24 somewhere?

25

26 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes, I do. I have a
27 separate item on expenditures for -- and I will go into
28 that next.

29

30 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I'll wait.
31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick.

34

35 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you. Rick from
36 Sun'ag. A couple things. One is I'm wondering -- I'm
37 looking at that 988,860 for FY12. Over time has there
38 been increases? Like, for example, over the last 10
39 years has that increased annually or has it always been
40 that amount?

41

42 MR. ARMSTRONG: We've never seen any
43 significant increases. Like I mentioned, it's been a
44 flat budget annually. We started out with just a
45 little over a million. It went down a little bit.
46 It's been pretty constant around 960-980,000 annually.

47

48 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug, did you want to
49 add something.

50

1 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 This is Doug. What we did, Rick, is we have received
3 in the past years what we call our uncontrollable cost
4 increases. They're associated with Staff only and it's
5 based on the amount of payroll that we made in the
6 prior year.

7
8 When the Congress has given us
9 increases in our programs, for the migratory bird
10 program, for example, in Washington, D.C., we have a
11 baseline budget and increases have been held to either
12 specific earmarks for projects or uncontrollable cost,
13 which is just the increased cost of salary and benefits
14 to Staff already on board. The Congress, as you know,
15 is the entity that establishes or approves any
16 increases to Federal employees. When the Congress
17 approves that and -- the President usually proposes it
18 and then Congress typically approves that or amends it
19 with some approval and they have in the past allowed
20 those uncontrollable increases, the only increases
21 we've achieved over the years.

22
23 What President Obama did last year for
24 fiscal '11 and fiscal '12, put a two-year moratorium on
25 increases for salaries for Federal employees, so there
26 will be no uncontrollable increases this year, nor did
27 we get any in fiscal '11.

28
29 CHAIRMAN RABE: Go ahead, Rick.

30
31 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Thank you. And my
32 second question is in thinking about the reduction, is
33 it possible we have a discussion about drafting a
34 letter to be sent to the Congress stating that
35 migratory birds is a huge food source for rural
36 Alaskans and to remove funding from that could possibly
37 remove information that's related to the management of
38 those migratory birds, which in turn could harm the
39 population in some way.

40
41 So if there's a possibility, could we
42 draft a letter requesting that there is no reduction?

43
44 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

45
46 MR. ALCORN: I appreciate that offer
47 and I appreciate the suggestion. Any Federal activity,
48 any activity that's funded with Federal dollars, which
49 the AMBCC falls under that activity, is prohibited
50 under what's called the Hatch Act from using those

1 resources to lobby the Congress to increase its
2 funding. So, therefore, that prevents Federal agencies
3 from lobbying using resources that they've been
4 appropriated to lobby for future increases. So the
5 short answer is we're prohibited by law from doing just
6 that. That does not prohibit private corporations or
7 tribes for encouraging those kinds of increases, but
8 we, as an entity, cannot do that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Enoch.

11

12 MR. SHIEDT: You answered my question,
13 but I'm going to ask it anyhow. Then we, as the
14 Council, can solicit money from Congress on our own, is
15 that what you're saying? You can't do it, but you say
16 individuals could. We need an increase. Like you say,
17 our birds are out there and we need to keep track of
18 them because they're important resources.

19

20 MR. ALCORN: Again, I appreciate the
21 suggestion and the need to do something about this.
22 The AMBCC receives Federal money through those grants
23 to conduct our business. We can't violate that law
24 that says you can't use Federal monies to do business
25 to lobby the Congress. So what I was saying to Rick
26 was there's no prohibition from Manillaq sending a
27 letter to that effect. There's no law against that.
28 What you can't do is be using AMBCC salary time or
29 dollar resources to cover your costs to do so.

30

31 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

32

33 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I guess I'm puzzled
34 about this 125,000. We've been crying about our
35 budgets. Where did this fall out of, the 125,000, for
36 harvest survey review?

37

38 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

39

40 MR. ALCORN: I think it's probably more
41 appropriate that I answer that. This is a proposal
42 that Fred has given me in response to mandates that we
43 have to do business with a limited amount of money.
44 One of the things that we'll talk about later and I
45 know it's going to be a contentious discussion, but
46 it's inevitable.

47

48 We sent out letters last summer saying
49 that we were going to forego implementation of the
50 harvest survey. There's a reason for that. It's to,

1 number one, try to increase the accuracy and precision
2 of the information overall. A second reason is to save
3 money, save resources.

4
5 As I understand it, last year's cost of
6 the survey was over \$500,000. My budgets are known to
7 our senior management in the Fish and Wildlife Service
8 when we talk about our annual budget requests. In
9 giving the charge that I've been given and given the
10 resources that I've been given, I have to realize a way
11 to pay for the work I have to do.

12
13 So in not conducting the survey in
14 fiscal '12, which is the fiscal year that we are in,
15 we're going to realize not a full material savings of
16 500,000 because, as you can see, there are costs
17 associated with a revision and there are still costs
18 associated with analyzing and wrapping up the survey
19 that we have committed to for the 2011 season and
20 analyzing that data and printing and distributing the
21 report and so on and so forth. There are costs
22 associated with that.

23
24 There are still needs for outreach and
25 training I think in the out years in the eventuality
26 that we have something that we've agreed to that we can
27 deploy, some type of a survey. That's going to come at
28 a cost for outreach and training as well. Those
29 resources that we don't expend for the survey are being
30 used for other purposes of the AMBCC and migratory bird
31 program.

32
33 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

34
35 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Another question I have, the three full-time employees,
37 368,518 divide by 3 is over 122,000 and then it looks
38 like 100,000 or is that 1,000?

39
40 MS. HEPA: 1,000.

41
42 MS. CHYTHLOOK: 1,000 is set aside for
43 increases or some merits or something regarding
44 performance. How long does that sit there and is that
45 used up by fiscal year end?

46
47 MR. ARMSTRONG: The personnel cost you
48 see there are the actual hourly wage that my employees
49 incur plus the Federal benefits that we receive. I
50 think they're generated at 34, 35 percent.

1 MR. ALCORN: It's actually not that
2 high, but it's different for every employee. In
3 general, the general overhead rate, general fringe
4 benefits package for a Staff position or for any
5 Federal employee in what's called the Federal Employee
6 Retirement System, which is the new retirement system,
7 that was established from 1984 and beyond. The rule of
8 thumb is 28 to 35 percent and it depends on the
9 individuals rate of savings that they are contributing
10 because a portion of their savings, 5 percent of their
11 salary, they can save and the Federal government
12 matches. I have no control over what they choose to
13 save and yet I have to fund the savings portion of it,
14 so it inflates the rate.

15
16 So, as a rule of thumb, you can say
17 about a third, 30 percent to a third, of that amount
18 goes for the fringe benefit package for those
19 employees. It goes to retirement, health benefits,
20 insurances, other associated costs of having an
21 employee on Staff.

22
23 Also, while I've got the mic, what's
24 not in this are two significant changes that are in
25 effect this year and the coming fiscal year. The one
26 significant change is that Federal employees are
27 entitled under the Alaska and Hawaii Locality Pay Act
28 that was enacted by the Congress two years ago. It's a
29 three-year phase-in schedule that transitions Federal
30 employees from receiving a cost of living allowance,
31 which was non-taxable 23 percent on top of a baseline
32 salary, to locality pay, which is taxable, but it also
33 accrues to a person's retirement. It is considered
34 part of their base pay and that inflates the amount
35 that the agency then has to match if they're saving as
36 a percent of their base pay.

37
38 It's a long, convoluted formula, but
39 what's happening is it's phasing in over three years.
40 In calendar year '12, which is just two months from
41 now, we will phase into 100 percent locality pay,
42 three-thirds. This calendar year we are in two-thirds
43 of locality pay. All of that increases as that phase-
44 in increases over the three years. It increases the
45 cost of having employee on Staff.

46
47 So what is projected here is a
48 reflection, I believe -- Fred, you can correct me if
49 I'm wrong -- is a reflection of that new three-thirds
50 Locality Pay Act being implemented starting January 1st

1 of 2012.

2

3

4 Also what's not on here is an increase
5 in my space costs that will not accrue in this
6 particular fiscal year, but October 1st of this coming
7 calendar year, which will be the beginning of Federal
8 fiscal '13, my space rental costs are going to go up by
9 91 percent, which is an increase of about 330,000 for
10 my program that I'm going to have to manage with
11 presumably no increases and possibly decreases in my
12 budget.

12

13

14 So there are material decreases coming
15 all across the Fish and Wildlife Service's budget
16 potentially.

16

17

CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

18

19

20 MS. CHYTHLOOK: So this 125,000 is
21 initial start-up for this harvest review taken out of
22 that 500,000 of the survey. So what's going to happen
23 to the rest of the money, the 375,000?

23

24

CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

25

26

27 MR. ALCORN: Well, you see 193,000 of
28 it is still represented in grants and contracts to the
29 State of Alaska. The State of Alaska Subsistence
30 Division has helped manage that and do the analysis and
31 training and all those sorts of things. So there's
32 \$193,000 of that 500 total that is still being used.
33 So there's 193 and then 125, so that's \$318,000 that is
34 anticipated. There will be costs associated with having
35 this planning process also. There are going to be
36 costs associated with increased salary cost, which are
37 the costs up here reflected in Fred's estimate.

37

38

39 What I have to manage with is a
40 declining budget, so it's not like there's an actual
41 170,000 or 80,000 just left on the table. That money
42 is used to manage my entire program. The AMBCC is what
43 I refer to as a zero base program. Basically costs for
44 the fiscal year are met. As times get leaner and
45 leaner and leaner over the 10 years that we've only
46 gotten uncontrollables, we've held costs flat as
47 budgets declined.

47

48

49 This year, for example, 1.5 percent for
50 sure reduction and likely more significant than that.
51 We, because of the way we managed budget funds at the

1 end of last fiscal year, are going to be able to make
2 the grants to the regions whole. That is unless we get
3 something in the order of 10 percent or greater
4 reduction in budget. If that's the case, then I'll
5 have to reassess that commitment. At this point, it
6 looks like we'll be able to make that whole.

7

8 My whole point is, Molly, is that as
9 costs go up all around in my program, the AMBCC budget
10 I've tried to hold steady. Part of my presentation at
11 the June meeting was to show how costs are going up and
12 how resources, how funds are going down and those lines
13 are intersecting. There is reduction in the wind is
14 the only way I can put it. Everybody is going to feel
15 some reduction in the future. So that money is just
16 not languishing and sitting on the table.

17

18 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 The last comment I have, I know the 193,000 plus is
20 budgeted for 2012, but once that goes away it's going
21 to be really interesting to see how much savings we're
22 going to have once this harvest survey process gets
23 into place unless your -- I'm sure that whoever is
24 hired to coordinate this harvest survey isn't going to
25 be cheap because the three employees are getting paid
26 over 122,000. Unless this new employee is going to be
27 paid from another pocket of funds, even though they do
28 get paid from another pocket of funds, it's just going
29 to be part of the program, so we can't hide his or her
30 employment cost to the harvest review cost, so it's
31 going to be interesting to see how much savings this
32 harvest survey review is really going to be. Okay,
33 thanks.

34

35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Taqulik.

36

37 MS. HEPA: Maybe I could talk to Fred
38 and Doug later, but it looks like for the Yellow-Billed
39 Loon survey that it's not going to be included for next
40 year, so we won't be doing a survey or we should have
41 that discussion. Right now I know we're keeping
42 detailed notes on how much it's costing the North Slope
43 Borough to do the survey, including travel and people's
44 time and whatnot.

45

46 MR. ARMSTRONG: We could have that
47 discussion. I did try to get a financial agreement,
48 but I guess between Mike and Donna and Lili they came
49 up with a way that would avoid OMB requirements. I'm
50 not sure what they came up with.

1 MS. HEPA: We can talk about it on the
2 side.

3
4 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Do you want to
5 continue on with the other parts of that element.
6 You've got 2011 expenditures and 2012 grants.

7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Moving on. Right
9 beyond the proposed budget are the expenditures that
10 were incurred in the AMBCC program. I'll start out
11 with the first page which shows a total allocation of
12 \$334,734. Again, you'll see the majority of our
13 salaries were paid out of that account. We do have a
14 small contract that basically is our mailout contract
15 that was 5,500. That might have been the final with
16 the additional expenditures related to that. Equipment
17 basically is a computer that we had to purchase for a
18 new employee. Printing is generally small printing
19 when we're either on business or some special printing
20 that needs to be done with in the office. A very small
21 amount is spent on supplies, travel. Our utilities are
22 basically what Doug was alluding to with space cost,
23 which every program has to incur costs for the place
24 where we work. Vehicle is basically rental and
25 utilities. That's one portion of the budget that I
26 receive.

27
28 If you turn the page, there is another
29 pot of money that we also receive and that totals
30 355,748 and the bulk of that we use basically for our
31 survey contracts and the grant agreements that we have.

32
33
34 And then you see the printing there of
35 the 25,000, that's basically the printing of our
36 regulatory handbooks. That's the gist of the amount of
37 money that was expended during fiscal year '11. A
38 cumulative total was spent of 690,482. That's still
39 misleading because this is current year. When we have
40 prior year savings, we use that to offset current year
41 expenses. So the current year for that particular year
42 was only a little below \$700,000. So whatever savings
43 we have I try to put it toward current year so that
44 would offset and try to help out when we can.

45
46 Questions.

47
48 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick.

49
50 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Sun'aq Tribal,

1 Kodiak. Because this meeting started after October
2 1st, which is the new year, would this meeting be
3 budgeted in last years because it's called the fall or
4 is it going to be budgeted in the 2012 budget?

5
6 MR. ARMSTRONG: You'll have to incur
7 costs with your 2012 budget or your grant agreement.
8 We put a stipulation early on in the grant agreements
9 that you can incur costs up to 90 days prior to signing
10 of the current year grant. Our grants are a little
11 slow in getting out this year because we're
12 transitioning from an archaic 22-year-old financial
13 system into a more modern accounting system. So we're
14 not going to be able to get our grants out probably
15 until January this year, so that's the grant you'll
16 charge your travel and per diem to.

17
18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick.

19
20 MR. ROWLAND: Just a follow up on
21 that. So is that -- I guess I would call it a skip.
22 Is that skip reflected in this fiscal year 2011?

23
24 MR. ARMSTRONG: No. We haven't gotten
25 the close-out figures for this. Every grant close-out
26 is in the process of being closed out, so we don't know
27 yet. Everybody has until December 31st to close out
28 their grants.

29
30 CHAIRMAN RABE: Taqulik.

31
32 MS. HEPA: So the travel that we have
33 now for this meeting I will charge it to the 2012 once
34 the grant comes to our department.

35
36 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

37
38 MS. HEPA: And that's the same for
39 everybody else?

40
41 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

42
43 MS. HEPA: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty, welcome. We're
46 glad you were able to make it to the meeting. We'll
47 put that you are present to be part of the record. So
48 welcome. Fred, continue on with the financials if you
49 would. You had another report on the grants for 2012.

50

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: At this point I'll ask
2 Donna to come up and give a brief report on the grants.

3
4 MS. DEWHURST: This is Donna Dewhurst.
5 I'm not sure I have anything really to add. On your
6 table you can see we've had four organizations
7 basically close out. The close out, just as a
8 reminder, includes the two financial forms plus the
9 final report. We've had a couple of organizations --
10 because different entities usually do the two, we've
11 had the financial folks send us the forms and then
12 we're missing the final written report. We can't close
13 the books until we have the whole package.

14
15 So we encourage everybody else to get
16 their FY11 package closed out because we can't initiate
17 your new grant until we've closed out the old,
18 especially when we're transitioning systems. We've got
19 to get all the books cleared on last year. This has
20 just been encouragement for those that haven't. Those
21 that have are the ones on the FY11 that have red down
22 it shows that they've closed out and what money they've
23 turned back. Those that don't have red there we need
24 you to close out as soon as possible and get everything
25 to me and I'll forward it on.

26
27 Next year is a big unknown or I should
28 say this year. I've been told there will be multiple
29 year agreements. They're going to be a lot tougher on
30 the grant stipulations. There's going to be some
31 changes and I'll try to keep you guys informed as much
32 as I know. And some of the forms may change. I don't
33 know yet. They're in the midst of this changeover, so
34 they're not shedding a lot of details at this point.

35
36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Comments or questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Thank you,
41 Donna. Thank you, Fred. We're now continuing on with
42 items that were amended into the agenda. Item (d),
43 which you would have written in by hand, was the
44 harvest report update and for that, Liliana, I will ask
45 that you come up to the microphone.

46
47 MS. NAVES: Lili Naves, Fish and Game.
48 So as far as survey activities I will start with the
49 online report. It was completed and it was mailed to
50 the partners. There are some copies on the handout

1 tables. A different thing on this report besides the
2 regular harvests made tables, it also included a
3 description of the harvest patterns for the regions and
4 subregions from '04 to '09. A PDF is available at the
5 AMBCC website and also the Fish and Game website. If
6 you have trouble getting those, you can contact me
7 directly and I can mail additional copies.

8

9 So this is kind of old business. I
10 finished this a couple weeks ago. The new available
11 report is the 2010 report. This is the first draft.
12 So this meeting is the first time that this report is
13 made available. You got it in your packet. So this
14 report has limited distribution until it's adopted.
15 Adoption usually happens at the spring meeting of the
16 AMBCC. Native partners and agencies will have between
17 now and the spring meeting that usually happens in
18 April to revise the report. You can contact me
19 directly if you have questions or comments or anything
20 that need to be addressed. I've tried to mention as
21 much as I can to the report at this time, but there's
22 always loose ends, and I tried to get the harvest
23 estimates and all the rest what I can do at this point
24 is a plus. It comes later.

25

26 One thing that we're going to find here
27 are lists of local and Native names for all the regions
28 and subregions. This is part of the revised survey
29 material. So 2010 was the first year that the survey
30 was done with the first revision of the survey. So
31 this list of Native names have been around since a year
32 also and you see that there is a column for comments
33 and corrections. So they are not permanent state of
34 draft, so any contribution to that is welcome.

35

36 So for 2010 the regions that were
37 surveyed were the Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet, Kodiak,
38 Y-K Delta, Interior Alaska and St. Lawrence, Diomed
39 Islands, subregion of the Bering Strait, Norton Sound.
40 The revision of the report is very important. All the
41 issues and questions are addressed before we come to
42 the April meeting, to the next spring meeting, so at
43 that point they were ready to adopt the report and they
44 will have addressed any issues or concerns people may
45 have. So please make sure to include this on your next
46 regional bird Council meeting on the agenda of your
47 meeting.

48

49 If you want me to come and make a
50 presentation to your Council, I would plan on doing

1 that. I try to do my best to accommodate these things.
2 If I cannot attend in person, to listen by
3 teleconference. Please remember to give me a couple
4 weeks notice in advance because I need to fit that in
5 my schedule.

6
7 I have attended the Bristol Bay Council
8 meetings, but those are the only ones I have attended.
9 Sometimes I don't know that those meetings are going
10 on. At least for the regions that were surveyed in
11 2010, please let me know when you are having your
12 meeting so I can help you in the revision process.

13
14 This was for 2010. The other year in
15 the works is 2011. So this year the survey has been
16 done in Bristol Bay and in Y-K Delta and in the St.
17 Lawrence Diomede subregion of the Bering Strait/Norton
18 Sound. So funding for the survey is done for the
19 Bristol Bay area to a direct contract between Bristol
20 Bay and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

21
22 For the Y-K Delta Refuge it's a direct
23 transfer between Fish and Wildlife Service and the
24 Refuge. For the St. Lawrence subregion this year it's
25 being done under the Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife
26 Service Cooperative Agreement.

27
28 So I will give a little bit more of the
29 St. Lawrence/Diomede survey. Because of priorities
30 related to the Yellow-Billed Loon we are doing a
31 dedicated survey although a dedicated survey for rarely
32 taken species should be a species specific and a region
33 specific survey. The timeframe available was not
34 enough to design and launch a Loon specific survey
35 mostly because of the requirement under the Paperwork
36 Reduction Act. Simply said, the OMB process. So what
37 we are doing there is that we are implementing the
38 standard survey methods but we worked with Fish and
39 Wildlife Service and we were planning to extend their
40 survey method four additional years.

41
42 The first layer is that we're
43 attempting a true census survey, 100 percent sampling,
44 and backing up this with a harvest certification
45 information, so we can account for those hopefully few
46 households that decline to participate or cannot be
47 contacted after multiple attempts.

48
49 The second layer is that in each
50 village an anthropologist from the Division of

1 Subsistence and a biologist from the Fish and Wildlife
2 Service Migratory Birds are working together with the
3 two local surveyors so that the collection teams have
4 expertise in conducting harvest surveys and biology and
5 identification of Loons and also local expertise.

6
7 The third layer is the data collection
8 staff have specific instructions on how to take field
9 notes that could provide contacts to help understanding
10 the harvest numbers.

11
12 The fourth layer is that we developed
13 identification Loon guide specific for that area that
14 covers the four species that occur in there in breeding
15 and known breeding plumages as well as their relative
16 abundance.

17
18 So the data collection staff is using
19 this Loon identification guide and all households in
20 the two villages being surveyed also got one of those.
21 So there's copies of this also in the handout table.

22
23 So this survey in the St. Lawrence
24 Island this year has been a project of very close
25 collaboration between Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife
26 Service and the two tribal councils of the two
27 villages.

28
29 Data collection for spring and summer
30 was completed with lots of success and the data
31 collection to cover fall season is scheduled to happen
32 in November/December.

33
34 Usually at this time I would give an
35 update on the other year. At this time we start
36 reaching a time of preparing for data collection for
37 the next year, but as you know so far you don't have --
38 unless things change we're not having a data collection
39 2012, so those activities of preparation of cost
40 estimates, development of partnerships and so far those
41 things are not happening.

42
43 If you have questions, I'll be glad to
44 address them.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Lili.

1 Apparently you covered all the topics very well. The
2 next item that we also added in the revision of the
3 agenda is item (e). I titled it a full hunting season
4 update. Doug, I think we're probably pointing to you.
5 It was the discussion of continuation of where we stand
6 with regards to the request that we've been discussing
7 in the past about having a fall season.

8

9 MR. ALCORN: I can do that, Mr. Chair.
10 I thought Peter was going to be here to maybe kick this
11 off, but I guess I'll start with what I think he was
12 referring to, which was a response that the Service
13 gave to the AMBCC in a letter dated April 22nd, 2011
14 and it was signed by the assistant director Paul
15 Schmidt. The request that went to the Service to
16 consider the AMBCC's role in establishing regulations
17 for fall and winter harvest was kind of categorized
18 along two trains of thought. The first question -- and
19 all of this was a result of the white paper that came
20 out of the ad hoc meeting that we had in Anchorage I
21 think in September of 2009 if I'm not mistaken, so it's
22 taken a couple years for us to develop the white paper
23 and then for the Service to develop its response.

24

25 What the categories of the questions
26 were -- the first category was can the Fish and
27 Wildlife Service -- excuse me, can the AMBCC make
28 recommendations for fall and winter harvest directly to
29 the SRC. Would that be an acceptable or appropriate
30 way to do business. Then the second line of questions
31 were sort of second position of if that's true, great.
32 If it's not an appropriate way to do business for the
33 AMBCC, are there other ways that the AMBCC could
34 influence the regulation setting in the fall and winter
35 seasons.

36

37 So the response that came back from Mr.
38 Schmidt was the first question, can regulatory
39 proposals for the fall and winter subsistence harvest
40 come from the AMBCC to the SRC. The response goes into
41 quite a bit of detail about reading the intent of the
42 letter of transmittal, the intent of the protocol
43 amendment, the intent of the bylaw documents and the
44 intent of the procedural regulations and subsequent
45 final rules that were published in the Federal
46 Register.

47

48 There are many references to the
49 AMBCC's role as establishing recommendations for spring
50 and summer seasons. What's sort of a key point in the

1 responses that it was the protocol amendment and the
2 intent of the language in the letter of transmittal was
3 to address what was regarded to as a problem. The
4 problem being that there was no legal season for the
5 spring and summer. After March 10th or before
6 September 1st under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act all
7 harvest of migratory birds was prohibited by law. That
8 was the problem that was being addressed by the
9 amendment to the treaty protocol.

10

11 So given that and given the language
12 that was pulled out in a number of different examples,
13 the Service's response is that our interpretation of
14 all of that background information suggests that the
15 role of the AMBCC is to make recommendations for the
16 spring and summer seasons and that's the expectation of
17 the Fish and Wildlife Service for the AMBCC. That
18 would then cast the second line of questioning into the
19 light and how to respond to those.

20

21 One of the follow-up questions was if
22 the answer to the first question is no, if the
23 Service's impression of the way the treaty was amended
24 doesn't allow for the AMBCC to make recommendations for
25 fall and winter, if the answer to that question is no,
26 what is the process for changing the regulations or law
27 to broaden the scope and authority of the AMBCC roles
28 and responsibilities to include recommending
29 regulations for the fall and winter seasons. The
30 answer is a one-paragraph answer that says negotiations
31 really are needing to be conducted by high levels with
32 indigenous inhabitants of Alaska, Canada's First
33 Nations, Flyway Councils in the countries that are
34 signatory to the treaty protocol. That's fundamentally
35 the answer if there's a change needing to be made in
36 that protocol amendment.

37

38 Then that takes us to a third question.
39 That question is, given current processes, what options
40 does the AMBCC have to engage policy-makers (U.S. Fish
41 and Wildlife Service, its Service Regulations
42 Committee, Flyway Councils and/or the U.S. Congress)
43 for the fall and winter regulatory process to meet the
44 needs of subsistence users. In other words, what can
45 we do then if the treaty protocol is as you say it is.

46

47 The answer to that is that there is a
48 system that the Service recognizes, it's recognized
49 since the '50s, and that's the established system of
50 the Flyway Councils. The Pacific Flyway Council and

1 the other three councils across the lower continental
2 U.S. work in concert to make recommendations to the
3 Fish and Wildlife Service's SRC Committee for what was
4 formerly regarded as the open season, the time of year
5 from September 1st through March 10th, that harvest of
6 migratory birds was allowed.

7
8 The existing process is that the Flyway
9 Councils hear recommendations and those recommendations
10 come from State representatives on that Flyway Council
11 and those recommendations then are considered by a
12 technical committee, recommendations are then made to
13 the SRC in either an early or late season meeting that
14 occurs every year in Washington, D.C. and then those
15 recommendations then go to the SRC for consideration
16 and regulation.

17
18 So the answer that came back from Paul
19 Schmidt was that that process is already in place and
20 that Dale, by the way, is a representative on the AMBCC
21 representing the State of Alaska, and Alaska is
22 represented on the Pacific Flyway Council, so there's
23 an entree to engaging in that dialogue and in making
24 recommendations for fall and winter seasons through
25 that process that already exists.

26
27 In a nutshell, also in that final kind
28 of wrap-up suite of paragraphs, there's a statement
29 that says -- let's see if it's here. It says the
30 Service is confident in the two management systems in
31 place to address regulatory needs. The AMBCC, by our
32 earliest interpretation, has the authority and
33 responsibility to recommend regulations covering the
34 spring and summer season and the Flyway Councils cover
35 the fall and winter months. These cooperative
36 management systems are long-standing beginning in the
37 1950s with the formation of the Flyway Councils in the
38 past decade for the AMBCC. The Service would not
39 support a management system that could potentially
40 introduce additional competition and conflict.

41
42 What that potential competition would
43 be if the AMBCC were making recommendations for fall
44 and winter harvest in Alaska and the Pacific Flyway
45 Council was also making recommendations for harvest in
46 Alaska and those were contrary to what was being made
47 by the AMBCC, the Fish and Wildlife Service does not
48 want to be in the position of having to weigh those
49 two. The Fish and Wildlife Service wants to be
50 consulted by one entity and that is the Pacific Flyway

1 Council for fall and winter regulations.

2

3 So that's the position that the Service
4 took in their response in that letter dated April 22 of
5 last year or this year of 2011. I think what Peter --
6 and we reported this out in the June meeting. I think
7 what Peter was suggesting in yesterday's discussion was
8 knowing now what the answer is from the Fish and
9 Wildlife Service, is there something else that we can
10 discuss as an entity. Do we want to talk about
11 continuing on in this vein, in this approach, do we
12 want to talk about an alternate strategy or something
13 to that effect.

14

15 I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Doug. We
18 are at a disadvantage in terms of not having Peter here
19 because he did request that this be added to the
20 agenda. Are there other thoughts, contributions to
21 this discussion.

22

23 Rick.

24

25 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, thank you. Rick
26 Rowland from Sun'aq. Near the end of your comments
27 there you said that the Fish and Wildlife is going to
28 rely on the Pacific Flyway Council rather than the
29 AMBCC on this topic?

30

31 MR. ALCORN: For recommendations for
32 the fall and winter seasons. The AMBCC makes
33 recommendations currently for spring and summer. That
34 was the way the protocol was interpreted early on and
35 that's the language that's in the procedural
36 regulations and the bylaws.

37

38 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. And then you also were
39 mentioning treaties. What treaties are you referring
40 to?

41

42 MR. ALCORN: Eric or Fred might be able
43 to help me. I don't know exactly what its named, but
44 there was the Migratory Bird Treaty signed in 1916
45 between Canada and the United States. That treaty said
46 that both of the high-contracting parties, I think is
47 the phrase, those negotiating parties, the two
48 governments, would not establish regulations that would
49 allow the harvest of birds between the dates March 10th
50 through August 31st. So there was basically a closed

1 season. No harvest could be authorized by either
2 government from March 11th all the way through the end
3 of August 31st.

4
5 That treaty had to be ratified by the
6 Congress and enacted by the U.S. Congress before it
7 became law. So it was enacted in 1918, two years
8 later, and that became the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
9 and that's the law that we have. The treaty protocol
10 is the language that says how the governments will
11 implement that act and that protocol was amended in
12 1996 and then submitted through Secretary of State
13 Warren Christopher in 1997 to the Senate, which was
14 then ratified then in 1997. That protocol amendment
15 basically renegotiated the closed season and said for
16 Alaska only we will recognize a spring and summer
17 season as well to allow subsistence hunters in Alaska
18 to hunt during the spring and summer. That is what
19 happened in 1997 when it was ratified by the Congress.

20
21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick.

22
23 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. This is getting
24 pretty complicated. I was under the impression the
25 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council was created
26 as an advisory group because of the ANILCA, is that
27 correct?

28
29 MR. ALCORN: No, it has nothing to do
30 with ANILCA. As a matter of fact, as I understand it,
31 ANILCA expressly excludes migratory birds from
32 deliberations by the negotiating parties under ANILCA.

33
34
35 MR. ROWLAND: Since it does, then what
36 about the Russian-U.S. treaty where it's speaking of
37 Alaska Native indigenous uses.

38
39 MR. ALCORN: There are four treaties
40 that we have with other countries that we have to --
41 that our regulations need to comply with according to
42 the senate's ratification and according to precedent in
43 law. Those four treaties are the treaty with -- and
44 they all had to be amended. The treaty with Canada,
45 Mexico, Japan and Russia. When all of those treaties
46 were re-negotiated to recognize the allowance of the
47 spring and summer hunt, those were recognized, then
48 ratified and early on when the AMBCC was just forming
49 there were a number of legal questions that were being
50 asked.

1 One legal question that was posed to
2 the Department of Interior Solicitor's Office was in
3 the event that regulations are established what
4 treaties dictate the allowance of harvest. In short,
5 the answer was the most restrictive treaty basically
6 rules. Fred might be able to correct me.

7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's the most
9 restrictive language in each treaty. In order to
10 comply with all the treaties, there was a selection of
11 the most restrictive language in each of the treaties
12 that we had to comply with. The Japanese treaty spoke
13 -- I think was superseded by MBTA altogether because it
14 took care of the Canadian northern peoples and
15 indigenous people of Alaska. That treaty was subsumed
16 by the amendments the requirements of the Japanese
17 treaty where it spoke to Aleut, Eskimo and Indians
18 being eligible. It was subsumed or it was completely
19 just overridden those requirements.

20
21 MR. ROWLAND: In 1997.

22
23 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. When Congress
24 ratified it. Those were the types of questions that
25 Council asked already a legal opinion on. I think it's
26 Tab 14 of your black books is a copy of the opinion
27 that spoke to those that would help understand some of
28 the legal things we had to sort through when we were
29 forming this Council.

30
31 CHAIRMAN RABE: Joeneal.

32
33 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
34 just wanted to say that Peter had asked to be excused
35 for 30 minutes to an hour because he had a meeting to
36 attend by teleconference.

37
38 CHAIRMAN RABE: I didn't hear that.

39
40 MR. HICKS: It was voiced during our
41 caucus.

42
43 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. It didn't get
44 reported out.

45
46 MR. HICKS: So maybe we can get back to
47 this later when he returns.

48
49 CHAIRMAN RABE: Are we done with any
50 immediate questions? Patty.

1 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman. Chugach Regional Resources Commission sent a
3 letter Jerome Ford after we received the letter from
4 Paul Schmidt in response to Paul Schmidt's letter. I
5 shared the letter with the AMBCC regional management
6 bodies as well as with Fred and I hand delivered it to
7 him when we went to the SRC meeting in Washington, D.C.
8 He assured me he would look at it and definitely
9 respond quicker than the 15 months it took Paul Schmidt
10 to respond to the letter.

11
12 In the meantime, we have been talking
13 with Dan Rosenberg and with you, Dale, about how we can
14 resolve this issue. I haven't talked to Peter, so
15 maybe we can wait until he comes back, but I can also
16 bring the copies of those letters tomorrow to share
17 with the rest of the group if you so desire.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Patty.
22 Okay. I guess without Peter being here maybe that's as
23 much as we can or need to cover at this point in time.
24 Also looking at the clock it's right on 3:00 o'clock,
25 so we've been going at it for about an hour and 45
26 minutes. I'm going to suggest we take a 10-minute
27 break at this point and we're also going to be ending
28 the meeting at 4:30, so that will be a reasonable late
29 afternoon segment to cover. So everybody be back at
30 about 10 after I'd appreciate that. We'll continue on
31 then. Please stand down.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRMAN RABE: 3:19 and we're back on
38 record. We will make an attempt to try and end at
39 4:30. We have a quorum of people, although we're still
40 missing Randy and Peter coming into this session.

41
42 We have one additional item that was
43 listed under old business and that is any additional
44 discussion on the Duck Stamp and I'm going to ask
45 Joeneal if you'd like to start off that continuation
46 discussion from yesterday.

47
48 We'll see what we can do to wrap that
49 up then.

50

1 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 reason why it's on the agenda is that yesterday when I
3 stepped out to get a cup of coffee I was approached by
4 a person who had asked me or who put in my ear I heard
5 that there was some good news that the Duck Stamp or
6 the waiver of the Duck Stamp might be forthcoming in
7 the near future. That took me by surprise sort of
8 because I'd never heard of that. I guess there is some
9 talk at the higher levels that this might be a
10 possibility at some future date. So that was why I
11 voiced a question or had asked anyway to see if that
12 was true or not.

13
14 That's where the discussion came from.

15
16 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty.

17
18 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you. I
19 got a call from Myron Naneng about two weeks ago and he
20 told me that he did speak with the Assistant Secretary
21 of Indian Affairs and they have talked with their
22 solicitors to re-look at that issue, so we may be
23 getting another opinion on that. It's gone a lot
24 farther than we have in the past. It's moving forward
25 anyway.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Patty. Anyhow,
30 the discussion went on to other issues such as law
31 enforcement, et cetera. I forget his name.

32
33 MR. ALCORN: Stan Pruszenski.

34
35 MR. HICKS: Yeah, Stan came to the
36 microphone and discussed with us some of the activities
37 that he's been doing and what is expected of us as
38 harvesters of migratory birds.

39
40 CHAIRMAN RABE: Is there anything more
41 that members wanted to add to that discussion at this
42 point in time? I do recall that there were some
43 comments that I made that did suggest that, you know,
44 there's limits in terms of what we can do to actually
45 accomplish that, but the fact that the message has been
46 heard in other corners and by people that have more
47 authority to make these changes, that's very useful and
48 we probably need to focus our attention in either
49 giving them more information or continuing to express
50 the importance of this issue so that it doesn't fall

1 off the radar now that it seems to be gaining some
2 momentum. Enoch.

3

4 MR. SHIEDT: I mentioned earlier that's
5 the main question I get from my villages. I named a
6 few earlier. They want to know because they want to
7 hunt birds legally and that Duck Stamp issue for the
8 last few years. The ones I always mention due to the
9 camp, the people that go camping, they leave around the
10 end of March, April. They can't get a Duck Stamp and
11 they feel like they were being harassed by our State
12 troopers because they could land at the beach, like I
13 said earlier, and I want to put it in the record. They
14 would land on the beach and they were questioning them.

15

16

17 I had to talk to the State trooper
18 because when I get a call and he starts questioning
19 them about the lead shot. Like I mentioned, the lead
20 shot was being used for the seals. Being in camp, you
21 just put the shells down and you're done with it and
22 you have another set for migratory bird steel shot.
23 They respect that and they're trying to comply. Yet
24 the translation is happening between the law
25 enforcement and our enforcement here. They're looking
26 at it different in our home town.

27

28 What I'm scared of is my people, once
29 they get cited and they're in the Federal system,
30 they're caught in the system forever and they can't do
31 anything if they ever get -- you know, in their system
32 they can't really fly peacefully. The people at the
33 airport, you know, it will be a red flag to them and
34 that's what they're scared of.

35

36 That machine or that boat they buy is
37 not only used for migratory bird, it's being used for
38 other issues like hunting caribou and it's their
39 transportation and if it's being taken away being cited
40 just for migratory bird, that's what my people are
41 scared of.

42

43 These are the things I'm hearing and I
44 want to put it out. We need to try to solve this
45 migratory bird issue and it's been going on -- how long
46 I've been here, 15 years? I don't think it will get
47 solved, but I would like to see it before ever I leave.
48 It's getting old. That's the main thing I want to take
49 back and I want to take it back with an answer. I
50 talked to my wife last night and she -- our house got a

1 call to see if I can get an answer.

2

3 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. Molly, do
4 you have a comment.

5

6 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, this might be a
7 good time to maybe have Dan pass out that flyer that
8 explains and maybe he can quickly go through the three
9 agencies that issue Duck Stamps. This was really
10 helpful for me because I had a hard time trying to
11 explain the processes, the steps.

12

13 When I gave that request to have Dan
14 fix something like this, it took him a while too
15 because he had a hard time putting the agencies and
16 whoever issues these Duck Stamps in order. It's just
17 our information. It will help us explain who issues
18 Duck Stamps and whatnot. Even though the Native
19 partners are against Duck Stamps, we might as well,
20 since our hunters are trying to comply, I think it's a
21 good idea for us to be able to understand the agencies
22 that issue these stamps.

23

24 Thanks.

25

26 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Thank you for
27 that comment and we'll take just a minute then and have
28 Dan go through that. You do have a handout of the
29 document she's talking about?

30

31 MR. ROSENBERG: Correct.

32

33 CHAIRMAN RABE: If you can quickly step
34 through it, that would be fine.

35

36 MR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg for the
37 record, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This came
38 about, what I'm passing out, because over a year ago
39 Molly asked me if we could try to clear up some of the
40 confusion around Duck Stamps. Obviously a lot of
41 people are confused and it's pretty obvious why when
42 you start to delve into it.

43

44 This was an effort working with Molly
45 and the Bristol Bay Native Association to try to
46 clarify some of the who, what, where and whys of Duck
47 Stamps. There's three documents here. They're all
48 pretty redundant really, but we created a mailout that
49 went to everybody with a mailing address in the Bristol
50 Bay Native Association boundaries. I think we mailed

1 out over 6,700 fliers right about the time of the
2 opening of the spring/summer season, so I think it was
3 late March or early April that we finally got that out.

4
5 Then we created a poster that was 11x17
6 to go up around town wherever anybody could distribute
7 it and then finally the other document that's there is
8 we created a fact sheet essentially that went to every
9 vendor in the state that distributed State Duck Stamps
10 that had similar information. The vendor one doesn't
11 tell you where the buy State Stamps because it's at the
12 vendor already when you're going there to buy one.

13
14 So we tried to just clarify it for
15 people as simply as we could the difference between the
16 State Stamp, the Federal Stamp and the hunting license.
17 Who needed one, where you could get one, the terms of
18 one and how long they were good for, when they expired,
19 the cost, exemptions and that sort of thing. At first
20 we thought we could sort of do it very simply and
21 graphically and it turned out to be a little bit more
22 difficult than that.

23
24 That's what's there. We have this
25 information if anybody would like it. I'd be happy to
26 send it to everybody. There's opportunities to
27 distribute it further than just the Bristol Bay Native
28 Association. If people want to do that, we can talk
29 about that. We're open to any ideas on how to improve
30 it also.

31
32 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you for that,
33 Dan. Rick.

34
35 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you for that, Dan.
36 One quick question. State Duck Stamp, Federal Duck
37 Stamp, State hunting license. Isn't there a
38 requirement now that you have to enroll or register in
39 some information program that's required by the State
40 for sport hunting and does that effect the subsistence
41 hunters as well?

42
43 MR. ROSENBERG: Well, the first part of
44 your question is yes. There's what's called a harvest
45 information program and it's a Federal program that's
46 essentially administered through the State Duck Stamp
47 process. So when you go and buy a State Duck Stamp,
48 you're supposed to fill out a form, a card there, with
49 your name, address and a couple questions about what
50 you hunt and that is the HIP registration. So whenever

1 you're buying -- theoretically in the process of buying
2 your State Duck Stamp, you're registering for HIP.

3
4 Not to complicate things further, but
5 if you are a summer subsistence hunter and you're
6 buying a State Duck Stamp for the spring/summer season,
7 quite frankly, I'm not sure exactly how HIP addresses
8 that because now -- the HIP was designed for the fall
9 harvest, so now presumably you're submitting data for
10 the spring/summer harvest that's going into the fall
11 analysis. Anyway, I haven't explored that fully to
12 give you a good answer on that and I didn't mean to
13 belabor this point and complicate it.

14
15 When you buy your State Duck Stamp, you
16 are registering for the HIP program. So it's one-stop
17 shopping in that regard. You can also buy it online
18 and you can register online also.

19
20 CHAIRMAN RABE: Joeneal.

21
22 MR. HICKS: Just a statement I would
23 like to make. There was a question at one of our
24 meetings about a year or so ago. Donna Dewhurst, you
25 were there at that meeting and the question arose as to
26 whether Federal Duck Stamps had an exception. The
27 answer that we received then was that no. Regardless
28 of your age everyone had to have a Federal Duck Stamp.
29 Now I'm reading this one here it says those under 16
30 are not required to have one. So what is what here?

31
32 CHAIRMAN RABE: That is correct. If
33 you're under 16, you're not required to have either a
34 State or a Federal Duck Stamp. Enoch.

35
36 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. We get a State
37 hunting license for different things. Is there a way
38 you could combine together to eliminate the cost
39 because some of these people worry about the Duck Stamp
40 and they want to be in compliance under their food
41 stamp to be State in the Duck Stamp and the State
42 license combine their Duck Stamp and eliminate it
43 because they're in food stamp and on limited income and
44 they could get it at a reduced cost and just throw it
45 in there. That way my people won't be criminals
46 hunting birds living in camp.

47
48 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'll try and handle
49 that. Certainly it could be done in theory and the
50 process -- any of the licensing requirements of the

1 State of Alaska are determined by the State
2 legislature. They're the ones that have created the
3 fee structure, the reduced license fees and the Duck
4 Stamp requirement for the State. So that's the source
5 that we need to go back to. They need to have somebody
6 explain to them what it is that they're requesting as a
7 change and you need to get somebody to introduce a bill
8 into the State legislature to make the necessary
9 changes to State law. Other than that we, as a
10 department, are just following the instructions that
11 the legislature has passed previously with regards to
12 licensing.

13

14 MR. SHIEDT: Follow up. It was my
15 fault. I failed to say that when the people buy a Duck
16 Stamp they thought they were covering both the State
17 and the Federal due to some of the language the way the
18 Natives talk and they understand. I should have
19 mentioned that. That they when they think they buy one
20 Duck Stamp they're covered by both.

21

22 This came up in Kiana. And old man
23 said to me why should we have to buy Duck Stamp for the
24 State and the Federal for one duck. We're hunting one
25 duck and we need one for the State and one for the
26 Federal. They should be together when you get one.
27 You tell me what's the difference between the State and
28 the Federal Duck Stamp. It just come to me. When I
29 was in Kiana hunting caribou, an old man went to me and
30 he had a beef. Boy, he was real aggressive. He was
31 mad about -- he was scared because he saw our enforcers
32 for Park Service flew over him when he was hunting and
33 he was glad he couldn't land because the son -- his
34 favorite grandson and he thought he was going to get
35 cited.

36

37 CHAIRMAN RABE: And again I'll go back
38 to the point that the requirement of a State Duck Stamp
39 is the discretion of the State and I don't know that
40 there's an avenue to combine the two stamps into one
41 fee. I do know that -- because in the past you had to
42 go to different locations to get each of the stamps
43 that some businesses have made an arrangement to get
44 some of the Federal Stamps and have them at the same
45 location to help overcome that problem.

46

47 But to merge the two, they are separate
48 programs, one Federal, one State, and I'm not aware of
49 other circumstances where we have merged licensing
50 requirements. I don't know whether it would be

1 feasible, but I think it would be certainly difficult.
2 Short of that, any desire to modify the State or to
3 eliminate it would have to go back to the State
4 legislature.

5
6 Enough on that then?

7
8 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN RABE: All right. I think
11 that gets us to the end of the old business. We may
12 not have enough time, but the first item under new
13 business is the population status and trends
14 presentation that Eric does on an annual basis. So
15 we're going to get started on that and we'll watch the
16 clock. When we get to 4:30 we'll quit. If we have to,
17 we'll finish it up tomorrow. He's been preparing
18 things.

19
20 I'll step out of the way here. We'll
21 turn over the floor to Eric and go through this
22 material.

23
24 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
25 Eric Taylor. I'm with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
26 with the Division of Migratory Bird Management in the
27 Waterfowl Management branch. I'm going to talk about
28 abundance and trends in waterfowl.

29
30 This is a report that I had done about
31 four or five times for the Council and this is
32 typically my last slide. Instead I decided to make it
33 my second because I think the only way this
34 presentation will improve is that indeed if I hear
35 questions, comments and don't hesitate at criticisms, I
36 grew up on a farm in rural Missouri and I've got pretty
37 thick skin, so if you don't hear something or if
38 something is confusing, don't hesitate to ask a
39 question. Chances are others have got the same
40 question.

41
42 Finally, as I said, needed improvement.
43 So this presentation is unfortunately, as I went
44 through it, a bit biased toward the North Slope Region
45 and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region because that's
46 probably where most of our data and certainly some of
47 the most important areas for migratory bird production
48 exists. I think some of you may feel slighted and I'll
49 make this offer. When you have your regional meetings,
50 if you would like myself or someone else from the

1 Waterfowl Management branch to come and make a
2 presentation that's geared toward your region, geared
3 toward the resources that are of concern to your
4 subsistence hunters, please -- I'll ask Randy to start
5 distributing these. This is my business card. Please
6 feel free to take one and contact me.

7
8 As Doug said, our budget situation
9 isn't looking terrific for FY12, but my supervisor,
10 Russ Oates, is very committed to this process and
11 certainly would try to get me to your meeting. So the
12 objective today that I'd like to cover, and it's a bit
13 longer presentation, so I'll try to go through
14 efficiently, but it's geared to address distribution,
15 abundance and population trends.

16
17 I've included some density analyses
18 because someone last year made a request to show the
19 information we have related to bird densities. Also
20 there was a request to include the survey area as well
21 as the survey design. So when we get an estimate for
22 an index for Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese, how
23 do we do it and when do we do it. So consequently this
24 is a bit longer and I'll try to go through it as fast
25 as I can and still make sense.

26
27 I want to acknowledge the professionals
28 that are in my shop. The pilot biologist, we have five
29 of them. Ed Mallek, Karen Bollinger, Bill Larned, Paul
30 Anderson and Heather Wilson. These are the individuals
31 that fly the surveys, collect the data. Two
32 quantitative ecologists, Bob Stehn and Bob Platte in
33 our shop. We have a suite of observers, people with
34 decades of experience in sitting in the right seat of
35 an aircraft, Dennis Marks, Debbie Groves, Chris Dau,
36 Lynn Denlinger, Jack Hodges and Bruce Conant. So
37 they're collecting the data along with the field
38 biologist or the pilot biologist. We have two
39 supervisors, one in Anchorage, Julian Fischer and then
40 Ed Mallek.

41
42 The first species I'll talk about,
43 Pacific Black Brant, as you're aware, about 8 percent
44 of the population of Black Brant nest on the Yukon-
45 Kuskokwim Delta. The other 20 percent nest on the
46 Arctic Coastal Plain or the North Slope of Alaska and
47 there's a small number that also nest in Russia. The
48 birds go to Izembek and Cold Bay, out where Peter
49 lives, and spend critical time periods both in the
50 spring and fall feeding on eel grass before the fall

1 they migrate down to Mexico. Also the birds winter in
2 Baja mainly in Mexico but there's a portion of the
3 population that winters in Washington, Oregon and
4 California.

5
6 This is a slide you'll see -- it's not
7 the best, but yellow illustrates population objectives
8 and that is at 150,000. The black line is the three-
9 year average. So the Pacific Flyway uses three years
10 and any one year can be an anomaly, so we use a three-
11 -year average to estimate what the population is. The
12 three-year average based on 2011 is around 142,000
13 birds, so slightly below the population objective.
14 Over the past 10 years the population has shown an
15 increase. Likely, the prediction will be over the
16 population objective soon.

17
18 So the current three-year average
19 around 143,000. The objective for the flyway and the
20 Yukon-Kuskokwim Goose Management Plan is 150,000. The
21 growth rate for that 30-year time period is relatively
22 stable. However, you saw in the last 10 years there's
23 an increase. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose
24 Management Plan that's still in place and there's no
25 taking of Brant eggs or Brant during the nesting, brood
26 rearing or flightless period.

27
28 We are finishing up an analyses by Bob
29 Stehn who is in our Waterfowl Management branch looking
30 at the decline in the five historic colonies in the Y-K
31 Delta. Typically in the past there were five colonies
32 on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta that are responsible for
33 about 80 percent of the Brant. Those colonies, several
34 of which are in pretty significant decline and we've
35 just completed an analysis on why that is occurring or
36 possible factors why it's occurring. More importantly
37 where birds are going. The population is relatively
38 stable or slightly increasing, so despite having this
39 decline in colonies the production has to be occurring
40 someplace else and that's what we're looking at.

41
42 The other thing I recorded that's still
43 occurring is that we're seeing significant numbers of
44 birds overwinter. Instead of making that migration
45 down to Mexico we have a significantly higher number of
46 birds, upwards of 15 to 20 percent on average, that are
47 now wintering at Izembek.

48
49 Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese on
50 the Y-K Delta that entire green area is for White-

1 Fronted Geese. That's the first population and then
2 I'm going to get to Taqulik's birds. But this
3 population of Y-K Delta, about 95 percent nest on the
4 Y-K Delta and then they winter -- as you go down,
5 you'll see that. I'm a color-blind male, so whatever
6 color that is, reddish or orange, that's the wintering
7 area of the Central Valley, California. So, again,
8 about 95 percent of this population.

9
10 This is the Yukon Delta Coastal Zone
11 Breeding Waterfowl Survey, so those lines that extend
12 east to west are the transects that we fly with, what
13 has been in the past, a Cessna 206 and then you'll see
14 our new aircraft here at the end of the presentation.
15 Those are the actual transect lines that we do. This
16 is probably one of the most important waterfowl surveys
17 in North America. It estimates Pacific Greater White-
18 Fronted Geese as well as Cackling Geese and provides an
19 index to Brant as well.

20 That's the actual flight lines and you
21 can possibly see them coming out of Bethel, the first
22 day being June 4th and it ends on June 11th. So it
23 takes about a week time period to do that entire
24 survey.

25
26 Pacific Greater White-Fronted Geese,
27 like Midcontinent Greater White-Fronted Geese, are
28 enjoying a significant increase, 6 percent per year.
29 The population objective, as you can see, is 300,000.
30 Right now we're sitting at over -- just about 600,000
31 birds, so twice the population objective. The
32 population is still increasing. So, overall, the
33 population objectives 300,000, we're about twice that
34 at almost 600,000. The population has increased on an
35 average of 6 percent per year to about 30,000 birds per
36 year and subsistence harvest is clearly not restricted.

37
38 So Taqulik has reported that they are
39 enjoying large numbers of Midcontinent Greater White-
40 Fronted Geese. These are birds that nest in the Central
41 Arctic, in the green area, in Canada as well as the
42 North Slope and they extend down to Northwest and the
43 Interior of Alaska as well. So this is the
44 Midcontinent population of White-Fronted Geese.

45
46 We survey these birds by what's called
47 the Arctic Coastal Plain Aerial Survey. So each one of
48 those lines is an aerial survey. You'll see the
49 density of those lines and those transects vary by
50 habitat. In some areas, like Teshekpuk Lake, we're

1 trying to get increased or more well-defined
2 information for the Bureau of Land Management. Other
3 areas, as you move south, the transects are wider apart
4 and then you see intermediate density of transects
5 toward Wainwright and Barrow.

6
7 So this is the Arctic Coastal Plain
8 Survey that's conducted in June every year. In this
9 case we get the population estimate for Midcontinents.
10 As Taqulik reported, this population is doing very
11 well. The information and observations that are
12 reported by the residents of Barrow indeed match our
13 information. The populations increase on an average of
14 about 7 percent for the past 15 years.

15
16 The overall population -- I'll go back
17 here, that population of Midcontinents goes all the way
18 to Canada. Right now the overall population for
19 Midcontinents is sitting around 500,000 plus, so it's
20 also above population objectives. So population index
21 in the Arctic Coastal Plain is around 154,000. The
22 population is increasing at 7 percent. That's
23 equivalent to about an average of 11,000. Adding
24 11,000 birds per year. Subsistence harvest is not
25 restricted.

26
27 Emperor Geese situation is not quite as
28 bright but still we're seeing a slight increase of
29 Emperors. Emperors nest on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
30 with lower numbers on Seward Peninsula, St. Lawrence
31 Island and Russia. They stage -- about 80 percent of
32 the birds stage between Cinder River and Nelson Lagoon.
33 They're on the Alaska Peninsula. The wintering area is
34 along the Aleutian Islands and Kodiak.

35
36 So we do a screen survey around the
37 latter part of April, the 25th to the 30th of April
38 starting off here near Jack Smith Bay and then coming
39 to King Salmon and then along the northern coast of the
40 Alaska Peninsula and making the corner around Cold Bay
41 and then coming on the south part of the Alaska
42 Peninsula in order to estimate Emperor Geese. This is
43 the time that we have selected and the Pacific Flyway
44 selected the birds are the greatest concentrations as
45 well as we get the best numbers that way in terms of
46 trying to get an estimate.

47
48 In this case, the population objective
49 is 150,000. Right now the population three-year
50 average is around 77,000. The population objective

1 that everyone is interested in is when that 80,000
2 benchmark where we can resume harvest. As I said, the
3 population is slightly increasing. We're still not
4 there yet. As I said before, the reason the population
5 is limited in our best estimates is, again, continued
6 subsistence harvest. If you look in Liliana's 2009 and
7 2010 reports that she just distributed earlier this
8 morning you'll see we're still harvesting somewhere
9 around 2,000, 2,500, possibly higher, and that's just
10 for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

11
12 Again, if we could curb the subsistence
13 harvest I think that would help to go a long way and
14 try to get the population over the edge. Again, that
15 species is closed to harvest. We're seeing a slight
16 population increase.

17
18 I also mentioned lower productivity
19 relative to nesting on the Y-K Delta. Fox control may
20 be -- may is the big word there -- may provide some
21 benefit in terms of increasing production, but the
22 other two factors I'd probably say the subsistence
23 harvest during the spring is probably one of the most
24 important factors.

25
26 MR. ROWLAND: Do you have a graph for
27 that? You showed the survey you did, or a map. You
28 showed where they're at out there, but you didn't show
29 their migration area.

30
31 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. They nest primarily
32 on the Y-K Delta, Rick, and then they come along the
33 coast here and then they winter all along the Alaska
34 Peninsula, out in the Aleutians and then around Kodiak.

35
36 MR. ROWLAND: I know that, but you
37 didn't show their migration area.

38
39 MR. TAYLOR: In terms of their -- you
40 mean in terms of their route going back and forth?

41
42 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah.

43
44 MR. TAYLOR: It's probably pretty safe
45 to say that they're migrating along the coast here.
46 There could be a few brave individuals that come across
47 here, but primarily along the coast.

48
49 MS. HEPA: But they winter in Alaska.

50

1 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct. That
2 could be a big difference with this population too
3 because you can imagine, would you rather winter in
4 Baja Mexico with Brant or winter out here in the
5 Aleutian. There's no doubt there's a higher level of
6 mortality during the winter associated with Emperors.

7
8 MR. ROWLAND: Do you mind if we ask
9 questions during your presentation?

10
11 MR. TAYLOR: No, go ahead. I'll just
12 try to keep pushing ahead.

13
14 MR. ROWLAND: A couple of them are --
15 Rick, from Sun'aq. the migration paths are important.
16 I know there are some that stay out there, but there
17 are some that migrate too. I'm familiar with Bosky de
18 la Patchy (ph). There's quite a geese population down
19 there and we haven't seen any info on that and I know
20 the San Luis Valley in Colorado has some major
21 populations for a gathering up there. I'm interested
22 to know more about those because we're not shown that
23 info here.

24
25 MR. TAYLOR: To answer your question,
26 Emperors only -- they stay in Alaska. There are no
27 migrants of Emperors outside of Alaska, not that we're
28 aware of. I think there's been one odd bird killed in
29 Washington, I think. But for this species they winter
30 almost exclusively or exclusively in Alaska. Other
31 birds, you're correct, Bosky de la Patchy (ph) is an
32 important White-Front area as well as Canada as well.
33 Other species do winter -- Cacklers, which I'll talk
34 about here, Oregon, Washington, nearly the entire
35 population goes there.

36
37 MR. ROWLAND: And this gets to my
38 question. At one time were those populations
39 considered in the survey data and then removed or have
40 they never been combined with the survey population?
41 I'm not talking about just the Emperor Geese
42 specifically. I'm talking about the ones that fly to
43 Bosky and those places down there and closer to the
44 east side of the Rockies, are those combined or
45 separated?

46
47 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah, I think what you're
48 getting at is where and when do we survey various
49 species or populations. For example, do we count birds
50 on refuges in the Lower 48 or in other parts of their

1 range. We do to some degree. Usually the specific
2 refuge may be interested in the carrying capacity for
3 that refuge, has it increased or decreased if they do a
4 specific management action. If they grow corn versus
5 soy beans, is there a higher number of birds there or
6 lower numbers of birds.

7

8 Relative to our job, we try to estimate
9 populations when it's their easiest, when they're most
10 concentrated and when the environmental conditions for
11 our aircraft and our pilots are the best that we can
12 count the birds. In this case, for Emperors, the
13 spring staging survey, when birds stage along the
14 Alaska Peninsula, is the best time for us to estimate
15 the population. Does that answer your question?

16

17 MR. ROWLAND: Not really.

18

19 MR. TAYLOR: See me after and I'll try
20 to do a better job. For Cackling Canada Geese the
21 entire population nest on the Y-K Delta. Cacklers are
22 the smallest subspecies of Canada Geese. They used to
23 winter in California in the Central Valley. They have
24 since moved northward and are now in northwest Oregon
25 and southwest Washington and unfortunately are causing
26 significant concerns with farmers in northwest Oregon,
27 particularly people that are growing turf grass for
28 golf courses or homes as well as winter wheat and peas.
29 The birds have migrated to this area and despite
30 management actions by both the Service and USDA trying
31 to get the birds to use refuges, there's not enough
32 refuge lands to support them, so they're using private
33 lands.

34

35 So this group has heard from the Oregon
36 Farm Bureau that has expressed an interest in lowering
37 the population objective, increasing harvest levels in
38 order to decrease this population to release some
39 pressure of farmers in depredation of crops.

40

41 This population is sitting right around
42 230,000. The population objective is 250,000. The
43 population of Cackling Canada Geese have shown an
44 increase over the past 10 years, but over this time
45 period from about here to here it's been relatively
46 stable. Go ahead, Taqulik.

47

48 MS. HEPA: There was a big dip in the
49 last survey?

50

1 MR. TAYLOR: This one right here?

2

3 MS. HEPA: Yeah.

4

5 MR. TAYLOR: 2011. That was the
6 million dollar question. I fielded lots of questions
7 on that one right away. We didn't expect that. We
8 noticed that the previous three years we were over
9 population objective, which means that there was
10 significant interest on the part of Oregon Farm Bureau
11 to increase harvest, liberalize harvest, both
12 subsistence harvest as well as sport harvest, then lo
13 and behold the very next year we do our survey I get
14 the opportunity to report to my regional director and
15 the Flyway we measured 180,000 birds there, a drop of
16 around 97,000 from the previous year. Consequently it
17 was a severe enough drop to lower the three-year
18 average below the population objective. You can
19 imagine I was not Mr. Popular that day.

20

21 I immediately convened the pilot and
22 the observer and our statistician. We had not one but
23 at least three meetings kind of moving up the floor in
24 Fish and Wildlife Service as you get up higher, you get
25 higher up in leadership. So I had to report at several
26 levels. We could not come up with a good explanation.
27 The observer on this aircraft has over 15 years
28 experience, the pilot has 25 years experience. It
29 wasn't the observer. It wasn't the pilot. Conditions
30 were right, wetlands were right. For whatever reason
31 we just didn't record the birds there. My prediction
32 is you're going to see this next year. It will be
33 above population objective. That's me looking in the
34 crystal ball. It's a good question. We spent many
35 hours looking at it.

36

37 That brings up a good point, Taqulik.
38 That is why we use a three-year average because this
39 can happen. If we do record anything close to that
40 line, chances are it will be above the population
41 objective. So that is the real reason that any one
42 particular year you can have a low count. But we
43 looked at this very carefully and could not come up
44 with an explanation.

45

46 MR. ROWLAND: I have one more question.
47 That high fluctuation of populations there, I mean no
48 real explanation of it, but is it possible that us in
49 America are being the people who are suffering and
50 everybody else in the world is eating the heck out of

1 geese everywhere?

2

3 MR. TAYLOR: No. In this case, the
4 dip, it's pretty difficult to say that any one year if
5 more birds were shot by subsistence hunters in one
6 year, you still would not see a dip like that. Even if
7 you had an increase in sport harvest. It's never going
8 to increase the extent of dropping 97,000 birds. You
9 can have certainly mortality whether it's sport harvest
10 or subsistence harvest. It has an influence on a
11 population level, but not to that extent in one year.

12

13 MR. ALCORN: This is Doug. So there's
14 no winter mortality in Willamette Valley for Cacklers
15 that was reported.....

16

17 MR. TAYLOR: No.

18

19 MR. ALCORN:that might indicate
20 why fewer came back to the breeding areas.

21

22 MR. TAYLOR: No. Our guess is that for
23 whatever reason the birds were not on the transects
24 that we do typically and they just weren't there. They
25 could have shown up the next week. There could have
26 possibly been a phenology that is timing of our survey.
27 We timed the survey. We have Bob Stehn who is our
28 statistician analyst compares the temperature, snow
29 melt conditions every year. He's got a very
30 sophisticated climate program that uses decades worth
31 of information to predict when peak nest initiation
32 will occur on the Y-K Delta and that's when we do our
33 survey. So we try to time our survey right every year
34 to try to remove that variable.

35

36 MS. HEPA: You might consider too on
37 their way to this area there could have been a good
38 staging area where they spent more time feeding. Like
39 I said, the birds are staying longer and congregating
40 in the Barrow area and that's very unusual, so they're
41 staying longer because there's more to eat.

42

43 MR. TAYLOR: This fall is a good
44 example again where we've got birds staying in areas
45 that typically they would have been gone by now. We've
46 had a very mild fall in Southcentral.

47

48 So, again, the population objectives
49 250,000. Right now the three-year average is around
50 230. We're seeing a slight increase. The Y-K Delta

1 plan, because in the past this population has not
2 reached its objective, there's been no taking of eggs
3 or Cacklers during nesting, brood rearing or flightless
4 periods. As I mentioned, the significant pressure
5 point for this species has been the subject of
6 significant conversations and meetings including a
7 congressional delegation from Oregon in terms of
8 looking at this problem. The depredation issue is an
9 issue that's not going to go away that's going to have
10 to be addressed.

11
12 We looked at parts of this process in
13 terms of looking at the depredation issue was the Fish
14 and Wildlife Service was asked by the Flyway to double
15 check the way we estimate Cacklers and, indeed, we have
16 redesigned the survey or the way we estimate the
17 population. Again, we did that with a peer review that
18 was reviewed by several agencies, several universities.
19 A very long process. We're pretty confident in the
20 estimate, but right now the Flyway as well as the
21 states of Oregon and Washington and my agency has
22 funded a service to design and implement a banding and
23 marking program.

24
25 We're collaring up to 2,000 Cackling
26 Canada Geese on the Y-K Delta over the next three
27 years. Right now, as we speak, we've got people in
28 Oregon that are reading those collars so that we can
29 get an independent estimate of the population. So this
30 is a big enough problem that we're trying to make sure
31 that our estimates of the population are accurate.

32
33 Spectacled Eiders listed as threatened
34 in 1993 closed to subsistence and sport hunting. The
35 reason being the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta population
36 declined to 96 percent from an estimated 50,000 pairs
37 in 1971 to less than 2,000 pairs in 1992. Spectacled
38 Eiders nest in primarily two areas on the
39 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and then on the Arctic Coastal
40 Plain. There's also birds that nest on the Chukotka
41 Peninsula as well.

42
43 The primary wintering area and the
44 reason that the AMBCC wrote the letter to the Pacific
45 Fisheries Board was that this area is identified as
46 critical habitat for wintering Spectacled Eiders.
47 Again, we use the Yukon Delta Coastal Zone Breeding
48 Waterfowl Survey to estimate the numbers of Spectacled
49 Eiders nesting on the Y-K Delta. We also use the
50 survey that you saw before, the Arctic Coastal Plain

1 Aerial Survey to estimate Spectacled Eiders on the
2 Arctic Coastal Plain that are nesting.

3
4 Interesting enough, the two different
5 populations, the one on the Y-K Delta has shown a
6 significant increase over time period. This is this
7 line here. With an estimated index of around 6,400
8 birds. The population on the North Slope has been
9 relatively steady to possibly a slight decline. Again,
10 right around 6,000 birds.

11
12 The reason we're lost at the reasons
13 why the two are showing significantly different trends,
14 but nonetheless the Y-K Delta population is continually
15 increasing.

16
17 I was asked to present some of this
18 information that we do typically oftentimes when a
19 conservation agency is trying to identify really
20 important areas for a species or an oil company is
21 interested in where the highest concentrations of
22 nesting birds are. This is what's called a density
23 polygon analyses, so what we do -- let me go back here.

24
25
26 We use this information, so these are
27 aerial transects that we fly from west to east and then
28 back. We use or aerial observations then to generate
29 these density polygrams. The darkest area indicates
30 the highest densities of birds and as you go to dark
31 gray, lighter gray and then indicates lower densities.
32 So you can see the area up around Barrow and the area
33 to the northeast of Teshekpuk Lake, those are very
34 important areas for nesting Spectacled Eiders.

35
36 As I said, the important wintering area
37 is south of St. Lawrence Island identified here and I
38 think you've seen these pictures before. These are the
39 polygons, the open water polygons of the sea. That was
40 probably one of the most famous pictures of a sea duck
41 concentration in North America. Go ahead.

42
43 MR. ROWLAND: Stupid question. Did you
44 count every little dot?

45
46 MR. TAYLOR: I knew someone would ask
47 me that and I went to three people and right now I
48 don't have an estimate. In fact I can't find a
49 volunteer in our shop to sit there and actually count
50 those. Suffice to say there are thousands. This

1 picture actually was widely distributed. It was
2 unknown until the early 1990s where these birds
3 actually wintered.

4
5 The reason this was discovered we had a
6 bird with a satellite transmitter in it and the
7 researcher at USGS called our pilot and said, hey, I
8 don't know what this bird is doing, but according to
9 the satellite this bird is out south of St. Lawrence
10 Island. Do you have time to run out. Our pilot, Bill
11 Larned, and an observer said, sure, I've got the time.
12 He came out and discovered this and the report was
13 quite exciting that, indeed, this is the area that
14 Spectacled Eiders winter at. This is, again, a shot
15 from two years ago. We do this survey every three
16 years with a twin engine aircraft.

17
18 MS. HEPA: On ice?

19
20 MR. TAYLOR: On ice, yeah. You can see
21 birds around here and then up here.

22
23 MS. HEPA: The middle, is that open
24 water?

25
26 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah, this is all open
27 water, so the birds body heat and their movement keeps
28 actually these open areas open.

29
30 MR. ROWLAND: Has anyone ever contacted
31 that Google Earth?

32
33 MR. TAYLOR: Contacted Google Earth
34 for?

35
36 MR. ROWLAND: For these types of
37 information.

38
39 MR. TAYLOR: No. We know where these
40 birds are at now and so every three years we contract a
41 twin engine aircraft and then do the survey out here,
42 so we've got a pretty good idea where they're at.

43
44 Stellers Eider, the other threatened
45 sea duck in Alaska. The North American breeding
46 population, as Dan mentioned, was listed as threatened
47 in 1997 and closed. Sparsely distributed across the
48 coastal plain in the highest density at least to our
49 knowledge is near Barrow. The population estimate, the
50 best we can come up with, somewhere around five to six

1 hundred birds overall for the Alaska breeding
2 population. Very low population. The population trend,
3 to our best information is unknown.

4
5 Stellers nest -- this shows the entire
6 Arctic Coastal Plain. That, I think, is probably being
7 quite generous. There are a few individuals, but again
8 very, very sparsely distributed, mostly around Barrow.
9 They historically have nested on the Y-K Delta. They
10 winter along the Alaska Peninsula and also around
11 Kodiak and Russia.

12
13 We use again the Arctic Coastal Plain
14 Survey, same figure, that you have seen before, to
15 estimate the numbers of Stellers Eiders in the Arctic
16 Coastal Plain. I should mention that there are more
17 sophisticated and highly more defined surveys around
18 the Barrow area to get better estimates of that
19 population that we're pretty sure is the highest
20 concentration of Stellers that are still in Alaska.

21
22 When I said there was no real trend
23 here, that's an indication that's very difficult to put
24 a trend line across there in terms of estimating what
25 this population is doing. Overall, again, this is the
26 aerial index, so that's why the number is somewhere
27 around 50 to 100. That's an index. When you expand
28 that index out to our estimate of the population, our
29 best estimate is somewhere between five and six hundred
30 birds.

31
32 I was also requested last year to talk
33 about two other species that I typically have not done
34 before, King Eiders and Common Eiders, because they're
35 of such importance to subsistence hunters near Barrow
36 and in other areas in the Arctic.

37
38 King Eiders have a whole Arctic
39 distribution essentially in terms of their nesting
40 along the coast of the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea.
41 However, the largest segment of the population is in
42 high arctic Canada. Birds from Alaska and elsewhere
43 winter along the Southcentral coast, the coastal
44 habitats, St. Lawrence Island, out in the Alaska
45 Peninsula and then the Aleutian Islands. Again, you
46 can see why some of our surveys are most important.
47 This is the Arctic Coastal Plain Survey that extends
48 from Point Lay all the way over to Kaktovik that we do
49 in June.

50

1 King Eiders, at least for the Arctic
2 Coastal Plain where we measured them, are experiencing
3 an increase based on from about 1992 through 2011. The
4 population index around 15,000 birds, but the majority
5 of King Eiders, just to be very clear, nest in Canada
6 and the birds that migrate past Barrow are primarily
7 Canadian birds.

8

9 MR. ROWLAND: You said this is an
10 aerial index, not a population?

11

12 MR. TAYLOR: Not a population estimate.
13 So an aerial index, we know that we don't see all of
14 the birds. We also know that some birds migrate in and
15 out of an area, but most importantly we don't sample
16 the entire area, so this is considered an index and not
17 a population estimate.

18

19 MS. HEPA: A good point too is that
20 this is just a fraction of the birds. A lot of them go
21 into Canada, so this is just a fraction of what
22 actually is on the ground on the North Slope during the
23 survey period.

24

25 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

26

27 MS. HEPA: So we see a lot more birds
28 that we know are going to continue on and it's hundreds
29 of thousands.

30

31 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

32

33 MR. ROWLAND: So in the last one, the
34 Stellers, you said there was five to six hundred. Was
35 that the total population or the aerial index?

36

37 MR. TAYLOR: That's a population
38 estimate. That is correct.

39

40 MR. ROWLAND: That's the total
41 population estimate.

42

43 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct.

44

45 MS. CHYTHLOOK: But that's just for
46 Barrow area?

47

48 MR. TAYLOR: That's for the Alaska
49 breeding population. That's for all of Alaska.

50

1 MR. ROWLAND: But not their migratory
2 path.

3
4 MR. TAYLOR: Not the entire world's
5 population. As Dan mentioned, there's 100,000 plus
6 Stellers Eiders in the world population. For the
7 population that's considered threatened, the breeding
8 population in Alaska, our best estimate is five to six
9 hundred birds.

10
11 MR. ROWLAND: That's the switch I was
12 asking about a while ago, is we're only saying there's
13 five to six hundred here in Alaska and we have to
14 suffer, but there's other countries that have them and
15 they're blasting them. So it jumps around. It jumps
16 around from aerial to 500 it's drastic, but other
17 countries, so it should be consistently explained. I
18 think that would be helpful for me in understanding it.

19
20 MR. TAYLOR: I'll give it a try. The
21 population that's listed was considered to be
22 threatened because in North America that's the only
23 area that they nest. So if someone from Boston or
24 Jefferson City, Missouri wants to see a Stellers Eider
25 in North America in United States, they would go to
26 Barrow or they would go during the breeding season or
27 possibly the Arctic Coastal Plain, but the chances of
28 seeing one is not very high.

29
30 But you're absolutely right in terms of
31 the world population. If someone is sitting in Russia,
32 our breeding population is not threatened, but for
33 United States and the Endangered Species Act, the
34 population in Alaska is considered threatened. As Dan
35 mentioned, there are questions in terms of -- it's
36 interchanged between the birds that nest in Barrow with
37 possibly birds that nest in Russia. That's what the
38 information is lacking on.

39
40 Again, this is a density polygon
41 estimate. Again, the darkest, the black area, is the
42 highest nesting or the highest breeding concentrations
43 of King Eiders you can see. This is Teshekpuk Lake.
44 To the east of Teshekpuk Lake the area between the
45 Colville River Delta and Nuiqsut and Teshekpuk is
46 pretty much the hot area for nesting King Eiders on the
47 Arctic Coastal Plain.

48
49 Common Eiders are another species
50 that's extremely important to subsistence hunters in

1 Barrow. Again a whole arctic distribution. In terms
2 of Alaska, they nest along the entire coast of Alaska,
3 including the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea and then there
4 are additional birds in Canada and also elsewhere in
5 the Canadian arctic. They winter from Alaska primarily
6 along the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands.

7
8 Same figure you saw before on the left.
9 We use the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Coastal Zone Breeding
10 Waterfowl Survey to estimate Common Eiders that are
11 nesting on the Y-K Delta and then we have a specific
12 survey called the North Slope Common Eider Survey that
13 we fly an aircraft all along from Point Lay east all
14 the way out to Kaktovik looking at numbers of Common
15 Eiders that nest along Barren Islands.

16
17 In terms of the two populations, Rick,
18 for your clarification and others, this is an index, so
19 it's not a total population estimate because we're sure
20 we're not sampling every area. We're also not sampling
21 young, for example, when production occurs. We're not
22 getting the total estimate of the population.

23
24 In terms of this figure, the Y-K Delta
25 is illustrated by the white bars and again from 1988 to
26 2010 and the orange-ish bars are the Barrier Island
27 Survey along the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea coast. We
28 see a general increase. Just like Spectacled Eiders on
29 the Y-K Delta, we're seeing a general slight increase
30 of Common Eiders on the Y-K Delta. We don't have a
31 real trend. Possibly a slight decline of Common Eiders
32 along the Barrier Islands in the Beaufort.

33
34 So the surveys in Alaska, again, we
35 only look at the breeding population of Common Eiders
36 and, as Taqulik mentioned, for King Eiders the same
37 thing. The most significant population is coming from
38 Canada as they migrate past Barrow. Most Common Eiders
39 are nesting in the Canadian Arctic.

40
41 As I said, the North Slope Coastal
42 Barrier Island Survey is showing an annual decline of
43 about 1.4 percent, but on the Y-K Delta Common Eiders
44 are increasing at about 4 percent per year.

45
46 MS. HEPA: That could be polar bears
47 spending more time on the Barrier Islands because they
48 do, at least on Cooper Island the last couple years
49 that they've been going after the Guillemott nests.

50

1 MR. TAYLOR: I think storm surges have
2 become more frequent and more severe and coastal
3 erosion has been greater in some areas along the
4 Beaufort Sea, so all three factors could be coming into
5 play.

6
7 I think the last species I'll talk
8 about are Yellow-Billed Loons. Distributions from the
9 Canning River, west of Point Lay and then St. Lawrence
10 Island and Seward Peninsula. The population abundance
11 and trend, three to four thousand birds in Alaska and
12 we believe the population is increasing. It's been
13 closed to subsistence harvest since 2003.

14
15 The Service, in March of 2009, came out
16 with warranted but precluded listing under the
17 Endangered Species Act. This is one species again that
18 we freely admit the population estimates, particularly
19 outside of Alaska, it's the best we can get at this
20 present time. Certainly the largest numbers of birds
21 are in Canada and Russia and there's virtually no
22 population estimates in those regions.

23
24 Worldwide, we estimate around 20-32,000
25 Yellow-Billed Loons. In terms of the Arctic Coastal
26 Plain population, the aerial index, right around 1,500
27 birds for an index. Rick, we can convert an index to a
28 population estimate if you kind of know two things;
29 one, what's the proportion of the area that you're
30 sampling. In this case, we think it's about 50 percent
31 of the breeding area. When we do a survey for Yellow-
32 Billed Loons, we're estimating we're probably surveying
33 about 50 percent of the breeding grounds.

34
35 Second factor is you have to look in
36 the detection rate. So pilot biologist flies over and
37 the observer flies over. Do we detect every bird?
38 Absolutely not. Somebody reaches for their M&M's, a
39 cloud comes up, you're going to miss a bird. In this
40 case, based on our looking at this with both ground
41 counts and aerial counts, we're estimating -- and
42 Yellow-Billed Loons are fairly large birds -- 80
43 percent of the birds were probably detected. We're
44 missing about 20 percent.

45
46 Taking those two factors into mind,
47 population estimate somewhere around 3,200, 3,500 birds
48 on the Arctic Coastal Plain.

49
50 MR. ROWLAND: Thanks, Eric.

1 MS. HEPA: How come they were
2 considered to be listed then? What were the factor?
3 Why were they proposed to be listed?

4
5 MR. TAYLOR: I think they were listed
6 because of the restricted population. Again, Alaska,
7 3,500 birds overall for the United States population is
8 not necessarily a very large number compared to other
9 species. I think primarily, Taqulik, the factors, one,
10 is a limited distribution. I think no doubt came into
11 play the year that the listing came about was the
12 reported harvest at St. Lawrence Island and that factor
13 came into play when the Fish and Wildlife Service was
14 in the process of listing it and I think there was
15 significant concern about subsistence harvest at that
16 time.

17
18 MS. HEPA: Thank you. As you guys move
19 forward with that, I think it's real important for you
20 to come and talk to the people about what they've
21 observed. You know, just talking with people in
22 general about this issue, we haven't seen any change in
23 the numbers of birds. These birds are very
24 territorial. As you said, they're big birds and so
25 they cover a large area. So it would be good to hear
26 from the local people on what's normal and what's not
27 in regards to the numbers. You should really respect
28 what the people have to say and I'd be glad to help you
29 get in touch with the right people.

30
31 MR. TAYLOR: And that's exactly the
32 reason the Fish and Wildlife Service has looked at the
33 subsistence harvest design and it's the exact reason
34 why we have followed up with our work on St. Lawrence
35 Island. We have since, based on talking to and
36 interviewing for the past several years, local
37 residents of St. Lawrence Island, as well as bird
38 guides, as well as local fishermen, we're pretty
39 convinced that the estimated harvest that was reported
40 for that year did not occur. I think the estimate was
41 well over 1,000. Based on our knowledge of the biology
42 of the bird and then talking to subsistence harvest, we
43 probably are pretty convinced that it was an inflated
44 estimate.

45
46 You're absolutely right.

47
48 MS. HEPA: And also to keep in mind
49 too, if I may, Mr. Chair, that these birds eat marine
50 fish and in watching other bird researchers, in

1 particular the Black Guillemott, it all depends on the
2 temperature of the ocean and if the food, the fish that
3 these birds need is available or not. That really has
4 a big play on the success of the reproduction of the
5 birds. This could certainly be a case for the Yellow-
6 Billed Loons as well. It would be good to talk with
7 the person who's been looking at the feeding habits and
8 how did it affect the Black Guillemott colony.

9

10 MR. TAYLOR: We are looking at that in
11 terms of the forage. They also forage on freshwater
12 wetlands as well and they also select their freshwater
13 wetlands to nest based on fishery resources, at least
14 that's our feeling. USGS Joel Schmutz is looking at
15 the characteristics of wetlands of Yellow-Billed Loons,
16 the depth of the water, the size of the area,
17 vegetation and then also fish as well. Again, there
18 are a lot of factors that come into play with the
19 population. Forage fish for this species is no doubt
20 very important.

21

22 The last thing is that all of you have
23 seen our survey aircraft that we have used for the past
24 20 years. I mentioned this last time in June. We have
25 used Cessna 206's and the Turbine Beaver aircraft. We
26 have moved to an aircraft that is distinct in Alaska.
27 There's only one other aircraft like this and Brice
28 Construction owns it out of Fairbanks, but we are the
29 only other one to own this aircraft in Alaska. It's
30 very distinct. It's made by Quest out of Sand Point,
31 Idaho. It's called a Quest Kodiak. We have four
32 aircraft and those are our tail numbers. All have the
33 same paint on all four aircraft and we will start using
34 these aircraft full time in 2012. If you see this, you
35 can rest assured it's us, especially one on amphibs.

36

37 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland from Sun'ag.
38 One question I had, not about the planes, but backing
39 up to the biomasses. For example, we have all that
40 deer population that was planted in Kodiak and
41 sometimes it gets overpopulated and then we have the
42 sea otter problem being overpopulated. There's not
43 enough food for them and they started dying off. I'm
44 not a biologist, but I saw those birds in that
45 saltwater hole there south of Prib's up there, if
46 there's too much and there's not enough food, then
47 there's a possibility of them dying off and then the
48 other possibility of increasing the predator, which
49 would continue to keep the population down. Are you
50 guys looking at those kind of things too when you're

1 doing your factoring?

2

3 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah, Jim Lovvorn out of
4 University of Wyoming, now with Southern Illinois
5 University, has been looking at wintering habitat and
6 invertebrate densities in those areas to see if they've
7 changed and see if Spectacled Eiders possibly had an
8 influence. So, yeah, there is someone looking at that.

9

10 So to end the presentation, because all
11 of us, as I put this thing together, all of us are
12 concerned about resources and waterfowl resource not
13 only for us but for future generations. This is my
14 daughter Madeline. Tom Rothe, who most of you know,
15 took us out to his cabin on the Susitna Flats earlier
16 last year and we had a successful hunt. Madeline
17 really enjoyed it. This is her new dog, who did a
18 great job in retrieving all the birds. So I thought it
19 was a neat way to end the presentation because I think
20 it's certainly your children and ours are the key to
21 conservation. I think it's pretty important we're all
22 here.

23

24 Again, I'll be happy to address any
25 questions. If you think of something tomorrow or
26 tonight over coffee, grab me tomorrow and I'll be glad.
27 Most importantly, if you'd like me to attend a regional
28 meeting, please send me an email and we'll make it
29 happen.

30

31 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Eric.

32

33 MR. ROWLAND: I have just one question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN RABE: We'll limit it to one
36 question and then we're going to break because we've
37 got to get out of here. We can have more questioning
38 tomorrow.

39

40 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Sun'aq. Now if
41 you come and visit, does that come out of our budget or
42 your budget?

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. TAYLOR: It comes out of our
47 budget.

48

49 CHAIRMAN RABE: They'll discuss that
50 tomorrow. Thank you everybody and thank you, Eric, for

1 the presentation. It was great, as usual. We'll
2 reconvene tomorrow at 9:00 o'clock. Remember, we are
3 not in this room, but we are on the third floor. You
4 need to take everything. They're going to be setting
5 up the room for another event tomorrow, so be sure to
6 take all of your materials.

7

(Off record)

8

9

10

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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