

VOLUME I

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FALL MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

Members Present:

Bruce Dale, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eric Taylor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
Sheena Marrs, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
Billy Adams, North Slope Region, Barrow
Coral Chernoff, Sun'ag Tribe of Kodiak
Jennifer Hooper, Association of Village Presidents
Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior
Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilofs

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

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

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(Anchorage, Alaska - 9/13/2018)

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(On record)

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning. It's just after 9:00. Could I ask everyone to please take a seat. Grab a cup of coffee and we'll get underway.

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Thank you.

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(Pause)

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning. It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 fall meeting of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. I'm Eric Taylor. I'm the current Chairman of the AMBCC for this session and I have strategically positioned myself between my two colleagues who have chaired this before, Gayla Hoseth and Bruce Dale. So if I make a mistake, they have promised to kick me under the table on the shin.

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So at this point I'd like to take a moment of silence. So could I ask everyone to please stand.

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(Moment of silence)

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CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. At this point on the agenda I would like to ask for a seating of alternates of Council members. I believe we have four. For the Association of Village Council Presidents we have Jennifer Hooper. Chugach Regional Resources Commission Sheena Marrs. Thank you. For the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak Coral Chernoff. Thank you. And for the North Slope Borough Billy Adams. Billy, can I get you to come to the table, please. Thank you. We're not going to allow you to sit back there.

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At this point I'd like to have a roll call to establish a quorum.

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MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Association of Village Council Presidents.

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MS. HOOPER: Here.

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Bristol Bay Native
2 Association.
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4 MS. HOSETH: Here.
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6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Chugach Regional
7 Resources Commission.
8
9 MS. MARRS: Here.
10
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Ahtna Intertribal
12 Resource Commission.
13
14 MS. STICKWAN: Here.
15
16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Kawerak.
17
18 MR. FAGERSTROM: Here.
19
20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Aleutian-Pribilof
21 Islands Association.
22
23 MR. DEVINE: Here.
24
25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sun'aq Tribe of
26 Kodiak.
27
28 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.
29
30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Maniilaq
31 Association.
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33 MR. HARRIS: Here.
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35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: North Slope Borough.
36
37 MR. ADAMS: Here.
38
39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Tanana Chiefs
40 Conference.
41
42 MR. MAYO: Here.
43
44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: U.S. Fish and
45 Wildlife Service.
46
47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Here.
48
49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Alaska Department of
50

1 Fish and Game.

2

3 MR. DALE: Here.

4

5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman, we
6 have a quorum.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.
9 Next I'd like Council members to please introduce
10 themselves and I'll start with Coral.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff. I'm a
13 Council member from Kodiak, Alaska.

14

15 MS. HOOPER: Good morning. I'm
16 Jennifer Hooper, alternate for the WCC out of the AVCP
17 region.

18

19 MR. DEVINE: Good morning. Peter
20 Devine from Sand Point representing Aleutian-Pribilof
21 region.

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan, AITRC.

24

25 MR. MAYO: Randy Mayo representing
26 Tanana Chiefs, an enrolled tribal member of Stevens
27 Village up in the Yukon Flats.

28

29 MR. FAGERSTROM: Jack Fagerstrom,
30 Golovin, representing Kawerak.

31

32 MR. HARRIS: Cyrus Harris, Kotzebue,
33 representing Maniilaq, Association.

34

35 MR. ADAMS: Uvlaalluataq. Billy Adams,
36 North Slope Borough.

37

38 MS. MARRS: Sheena Marrs, deputy
39 director for Chugach Regional Resources Commission,
40 acting alternate for CRRC.

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Patty Schwalenberg,
43 executive director of Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
44 management Council.

45

46 MR. DALE: Bruce Dale, Director of
47 Division of Wildlife Conservation for the Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm
2 Eric Taylor. I'm the migratory bird Chief for the
3 Division of Migratory Birds with the U.S. Fish and
4 Wildlife Service.
5

6 Let's see. Donna Dewhurst. She is the
7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife biologist and
8 staff to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
9 Council.
10

11 I'm really pleased to see this. I
12 believe this is the largest attendance at an Alaska
13 Migratory Bird Co-management Council that I have had
14 the pleasure of attending. At this point, because of
15 that, I would really like to take the opportunity to
16 have members of the public introduce themselves as well
17 as staff. Anyway, we'll start with Crystal. Can I ask
18 you to introduce yourself, please.
19

20 MS. LEONETTI: Sure. Hi. Crystal
21 Leonetti, Alaska Native Affairs Specialist, U.S. Fish
22 and Wildlife Service.
23

24 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Karen Pletnikoff,
25 Aleutian-Pribilof Islands Association.
26

27 COMM. COTTEN: Sam Cotten, Commissioner
28 of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Good morning. Greg
31 Siekaniec, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service.
33

34 MR. DEMARBAN: Alex DeMarban. I'm a
35 reporter for the Daily News.
36

37 MS. MADEIRAS: Andrea Madeiras, Public
38 Affairs Specialist with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
39

40 MS. HOWARD: Good morning. Amy Howard,
41 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
42

43 MS. CRARY: Anna Crary. I'm an
44 attorney with Landye, Bennett & Blumstein and I work
45 with the (indiscernible).
46

47 MR. MIKE: Donald Mike, U.S. Fish and
48 Wildlife Service.
49

50

1 MS. BOARIO: Sara Boario, U.S. Fish and
2 Wildlife Service.

3
4 MS. STELLRECHT: Neesha Stellrecht,
5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6
7 MS. MARTIN: Kate Martin, U.S. Fish and
8 Wildlife Service.

9
10 MR. FROST: Chuck Frost, U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service.

12
13 MS. MURPHY: Karen Murphy, U.S. Fish
14 and Wildlife Service.

15
16 MR. OSNAS: Erik Osnas, U.S. Fish and
17 Wildlife Service.

18
19 MR. FISCHER: Julian Fischer, Migratory
20 Bird Program for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

21
22 MS. DAMBERG: Carol Damberg, U.S. Fish
23 and Wildlife Service.

24
25 MR. ADAMS: Brian Adams, freelance
26 photographer.

27
28 MR. HERZ: Nat Herz with Alaska Public
29 Media.

30
31 MR. WILSON: I'm Shawn Wilson with
32 Channel 2 News.

33
34 MS. HULQUIST: I'm Kali Hulquist,
35 Division of Sport Fish information officer for
36 Southcentral ADF&G.

37
38 MS. MCPHERRON: Rachel McPherron,
39 Channel 11 news.

40
41 MS. MAXWELL: Lauren Maxwell, Channel
42 11 news.

43
44 MR. RAMOTH, JR.: Ralph Ramoth,
45 Selawik, a rep for Maniilaq.

46
47 MR. SANDERS: Good morning. Todd
48 Sanders with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
49 Migratory Bird Program Headquarters.

50

1 MR. UNGOTT: Hi, I'm Eddie Ungott. I'm
2 from Native Village of Gambell IRA Council. I'm here
3 with Kawerak.

4
5 MS. ADERMAN: I am Helen Chythlook
6 Aderman and I work for the Bristol Bay Native
7 Association. I'm an alternate for Migratory Bird
8 Council. Our ancestors or older people used to call
9 Fish and Wildlife (in Yup'ik).

10
11 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. My name is
12 Jill Klein. I work at the Alaska Department of Fish
13 and Game in the Commissioner's Office.

14
15 MR. SFORMO: I'm Todd Sformo, North
16 Slope Borough.

17
18 MS. SIMS-KAYOTUK: Carla Sims-Kayotuk,
19 North Slope Borough.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, refuge
22 subsistence specialist for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon
23 Flats Refuges.

24
25 MR. SCHAMBER: Jason Schamber. I'm
26 with the Waterfowl Program, Alaska Department of Fish
27 and Game.

28
29 MR. DANIELS: Bryan Daniels, Yukon
30 Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

31
32 MR. KALER: Robb Kaler, Migratory Bird
33 Management, seabird specialist.

34
35 MS. PARRISH: Julia Parrish. I'm the
36 executive director of Citizen's Group, Coastal
37 Observation and Seabird Survey Team.

38
39 MS. MONTOYA: Karen Montoya, Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game.

41
42 MR. DYASUK: Jon Dyasuk, Fish and
43 Wildlife Service program director.

44
45 MR. TULIK: Christopher Tulik, Fish and
46 Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

47
48 MR. WATSON: Good morning. Ray Watson,
49 Chairman for Association of Village Council Presidents
50

1 in Bethel.

2

3 MR. WIGGLESWORTH: Good morning. My
4 name is David Wigglesworth. I'm a deputy within the
5 Fisheries and Ecological Services Program within Fish
6 and Wildlife Service.

7

8 MR. LACY: Will Lacy, Migratory Bird
9 Management, budget analyst.

10

11 MS. SWEENEY: Uvlaalluataq. I'm
12 Brittany Sweeney. I work for Fish and Wildlife Service
13 in Kotzebue.

14

15 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. My name
16 is Susan Georgette. I'm the Refuge Manager for Selawik
17 National Wildlife Refuge in Kotzebue.

18

19 MR. AHMASUK: Good morning, everybody.
20 My name is Brandon Ahmasuk. I am the Subsistence
21 Resources Program Director for Kawerak in Nome.

22

23 MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves. I work for
24 the Division of Subsistence of Fish and Game in
25 Anchorage.

26

27 MR. FALL: Jim Fall with Division of
28 Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

29

30 MS. KEATING: Good morning. Jackie
31 Keating, Division of Subsistence, Fish and Game.

32

33 DR. OTIS: Hi, I'm Dave Otis from
34 Colorado State University.

35

36 MR. DOHERTY: Good morning. Paul
37 Doherty from Colorado State University.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank
40 you. I did receive a kick to the shin because I made a
41 mistake and forgot to allow my distinguished colleague
42 to my left to introduce herself.

43

44 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Eric. Good
45 morning, everybody. I'm happy to see everybody here.
46 My name is Gayla Hoseth and I'm the Native Caucus co-
47 chair and I'm representing Bristol Bay Native
48 Association.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.
4 Next on the agenda I would like to do review and
5 adoption of the agenda. We'll have a very special
6 event first off this morning with a formal apology from
7 the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, from
8 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and from the Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game.

10

11 We'll follow that with a 15-minute
12 break to allow everyone in the audience as well as
13 Council members to chat and have a break. We'll then
14 ask for an invitation for public comments. Agenda Item
15 10 is adoption of Council action items from our 2017
16 meeting. We'll then have what's one of my favorite
17 parts, the regional representative reports. So all the
18 Council members from around the table will provide
19 updates from their regional meetings as well as their
20 observations.

21

22 We'll then go into old business and ask
23 for Council committee reports. Old business continued
24 we'll move on to the Harvest Assessment Program. There
25 will then be a presentation on the AMBCC Harvest
26 Assessment Program. We'll have an update on Steller's
27 Eider and Spectacled Eider projects by the Fish and
28 Wildlife Service. We'll then have a discussion of the
29 fall/winter subsistence harvest season.

30

31 Under new business Todd Sanders will
32 lead a discussion on the recent Department of Interior
33 solicitor's opinion on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
34 Julian Fischer from the Service will provide an update
35 on migratory bird population status and trends. Jason
36 Schamber will lead a discussion on State of Alaska
37 report on the fall/winter harvest season.

38

39 Robb Kaler and Julia Parrish will talk
40 about I think a topic of interest to many people in
41 this room. Recent seabird die-offs that have been
42 occurring along the entire coast of Alaska.

43

44 Donna Dewhurst and Liliana Naves will
45 talk about an update to the AMBCC website. Donna and I
46 will provide a financial report to the Council. We'll
47 move on to other business. Talk about potential new
48 proposals. We'll then have invitation for public
49 comments. We'll move on to Council and Staff comments.

50

1 I will transfer the gavel to the incoming Chair, who
2 will then identify the date and place of the next
3 meeting. Upon that time we will adjourn.
4

5 So at this point I would take a motion
6 to accept the agenda as it's proposed.
7

8 MR. DALE: I move to adopt the agenda.
9

10 MS. HOSETH: Second.
11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Is there any
13 discussion at this point, edits to the agenda or any
14 other changes proposed.
15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman.
17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Patty.
19

20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: One of the
21 presentations under Lili's part of the agenda Rick
22 Lanctot's won't be here until 1:30, so we'll have to
23 kind of fit him in when he gets here if that's okay.
24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That's fine. Any
26 other recommended changes or edits to the agenda.
27

28 (No comments)
29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Hearing
31 no other changes to the agenda, all those in favor say
32 aye.
33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35

36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: A nay.
37

38 (No opposing votes)
39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Motion passes. At
41 this time I will ask -- we will have a video that we
42 will watch and then I will ask Greg Siekaniec, the
43 Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
44 and Sam Cotten, the Commissioner of the Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game, to provide some comments.
46

47 So, let's see, we'll have a video next,
48 is that right?
49
50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Uh-huh
2 (affirmative).

3
4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank
5 you.

6
7 (Video started - 9:23 a.m.)

8
9 (Video ended - 9:27 a.m.)

10
11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: At this point I'd
12 like Greg Siekaniec to come forward. Greg is the
13 Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
14 Service.

15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

17
18 REPORTER: Press those buttons, those
19 are marked, to turn it on.

20
21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Got it. We know who
22 runs this meeting.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Chairman
27 Taylor. I'd like to thank the Council members for the
28 time on your agenda and I'd also like to thank everyone
29 for actually attending today. This is a very important
30 event. I also want to thank the Native Caucus members
31 for educating us. That video certainly set the stage
32 for today's event. Educating us about our shared
33 history. It's because of you and your elders that we
34 are publicly acknowledging this history and that we be
35 given the opportunity to heal from past mistakes.

36
37 So today is a special day and I'd like
38 to honor the late Raymond Stoney for his courage. He
39 told his personal story and he told his father's story.
40 In addition, I'd like to thank the Northwest Arctic
41 Region Migratory Bird Advisory Council for upholding
42 Mr. Stoney's request. In particular to Cyrus Harris
43 and Ralph Ramoth, Jr. for representing your region here
44 today.

45
46 Also we appreciate the North Slope
47 Borough School District for the production of The Duck-
48 In video, a teaching tool that has become very
49 important to us and we regularly use it at our employee
50

1 training on the Alaska Native relations as Crystal can
2 attest.

3
4 I'm encouraged by this moment of
5 solidarity between the Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game and us as the Fish and Wildlife Service and I'm
7 honored today to be joined by Commissioner Sam Cotten.
8 So at this time I'd like to actually invite Sam if you
9 have some words you'd like to share.

10
11 COMM. COTTEN: Thanks, Greg. Nice to
12 be here and connect with old friends I haven't seen for
13 a while. I lead the Department of Fish and Game. I
14 think some of our staff has already introduced
15 themselves, but I'd like to introduce a couple of them
16 anyway.

17
18 Karen Montoya has recently joined us as
19 our new director of communications. Jill Klein, who
20 works in the Commissioner's Office and has a pretty
21 broad portfolio, but this is part of it. And from the
22 Division of Subsistence we have Jim Fall and Liliana
23 Naves and Jackie Keating. Our Director of Subsistence,
24 Hazel Nelson, really would have liked to have been here
25 but she had a family emergency and wasn't able to make
26 it, so she sends her regrets.

27
28 The reason we're here today is to
29 acknowledge the past and any insensitivities by the
30 actions of the State of Alaska. We recognize that the
31 regulations were wrong, that they prohibited hunting of
32 migratory birds when you needed it most during the
33 springtime. We got it wrong. We regret that. We
34 caused harm. We're happy that that's been resolved.

35
36 Like the Director Greg, we are
37 encouraged by this moment of cooperation with U.S. Fish
38 and Wildlife Service and with the Alaska Migratory Bird
39 Co-management Council. We want to recognize the
40 success of the Council in your recent work, especially
41 with the signing of the Emperor Goose Management Plan
42 in August of '16 and the handicraft salvage
43 regulations.

44
45 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
46 is committed to supporting the AMBCC process because it
47 advances conservation of migratory bird resources and
48 supports customary and traditional uses of birds, which
49 in turn supports sustainable communities and effective
50

1 cross cultural communications.

2

3 It's good to be here.

4

5 Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Sam.

8

9 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sam. Those
10 were good words and certainly words I value as well and
11 appreciate you making that statement. So we will be
12 reading a formal apology today and when we complete the
13 formal apology we plan on signing 11 copies of the
14 apology letter. We will distribute them to the Alaska
15 Migratory Bird Co-management Council members as well as
16 the Native Caucus representatives. We will actually
17 sign those and then deliver them to you at your seats.

18

19 Personally, I'd actually like to ask
20 those Fish and Wildlife Service employees that perhaps
21 are not standing already to stand while we conduct this
22 and show your support and solidarity for this what I
23 see as a very solemn moment with both the Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game and the Co-management
25 Council.

26

27 COMM. COTTEN: I'd like to get our
28 folks to stand as well. Thank you.

29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: It looks like we're
31 going to stand for this.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: All right. Sam, if you
36 want to take the podium and read the first part of the
37 apology and I'll join you for the last.

38

39 COMM. COTTEN: The Alaska Department of
40 Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
41 together want to reconcile the past and acknowledge
42 that those regulations harmed hunters and their
43 families. We seek to continue rebuilding relationships
44 with Alaska s Indigenous peoples who were affected by
45 the unintended consequences of past harvest
46 regulations.

47

48 Over the years, thanks to Alaska Native
49 leaders and hunters, we learned of the spiritual

50

1 connection, the intricate and vast knowledge, and the
2 profound stewardship that indigenous peoples have with
3 migratory birds. We have been humbled by your generous
4 volunteerism and years of dedication to the AMBCC so
5 that together we can support healthy bird populations,
6 traditional ways of life, and sustainable harvest
7 opportunities for generations to come.

8
9 We are sincerely grateful for your
10 patience and for your willingness to work together. We
11 recognize your tenacity, your brave vision, and your
12 resilience in the face of the insensitivity of the past
13 harvest regulations.

14
15 MR. SIEKANIEC: On behalf of the U.S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game, please accept our sincere apology for
18 any harm that past harvest regulations has caused to
19 you and your families. Our predecessors regulations
20 were shortsighted in that they caused long term and
21 unnecessary pain.

22
23 We ask for your forgiveness as we
24 continue our journey for healing together. Learning
25 from past mistakes, we look forward to continuing to
26 work together with Alaska Native peoples for the
27 conservation of the bird resources that are dear to all
28 of us and to support traditional subsistence cultures
29 and ways of life.

30
31 Again, thank you very much for this
32 opportunity to speak with you and to issue this apology
33 from the very sincere bottom of your hearts.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 We will now sign these and we will
38 deliver them around the table.

39
40 (Applause)

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you again. At
45 this point I believe that several Alaska Migratory Bird
46 Co-management Council members would like to provide
47 comments. I'm also going to welcome comments from the
48 audience. Please stand if you would like to go to the
49 microphone. Please come forward and turn your

50

1 microphone on.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 Cyrus.

6

7 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 I'd like to get our regional rep from Selawik to help
9 me out on this one here. This came from the Northwest
10 Arctic Region.

11

12 The Northwest Arctic Region Migratory
13 Bird Advisory Council would like to honor the late
14 Raymond Stoney for his role in getting us to this
15 milestone moment.

16

17 MR. RAMOTH, JR.: Raymond worked for
18 many years to right the wrongs in the relationships
19 between agencies, game wardens and Alaska Native
20 hunters. He was involved in management of many
21 species, not just migratory birds. Part of what
22 inspired Raymond to do this work was his early
23 experiences of seeing enforcement's actions that took
24 place against local spring bird hunters near his home
25 of Kiana, Alaska.

26

27 MR. HARRIS: When our Northwest Arctic
28 Region Migratory Bird Advisory Council began to meet in
29 2015, Raymond shared some of his history in working on
30 bird issues. He was involved in the effort to amend
31 the Migratory Bird Treat Act to allow for Alaska Native
32 traditional harvest.

33

34 He spoke of seeing a room full of guns
35 that had been confiscated from the Alaska Native
36 hunters when their hunting was illegal. Although these
37 actions happened decades ago, Raymond was not content
38 to let this matter rest. He talked with the Council
39 about what he had seen and also his strong conviction
40 that agencies should apologize for the hardships they
41 had caused.

42

43 MR. RAMOTH, JR.: Raymond's words and
44 leadership spread through the action of other local
45 advocates and committee members. Others carried his
46 message forward and made the case for the apology that
47 has happened today. Although Raymond passed away in
48 2017, we wouldn't let this day pass without
49 acknowledging his important role in getting to this

50

1 point.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6

7

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Cyrus and
8 Ralph. Additional comments.

9

10

Raymond. Could you go to the podium.

11

That would be fine.

12

13

MR. WATSON: I wanted to say thanks to
14 both departments for the acknowledgment of what has
15 happened throughout the centuries to our ancestors. I
16 tried to empathize what our ancestors, my father and
17 grandfather went through. The closest thing I could
18 come to with the film was suppose if all stores closed
19 the poultry section for six months. Think about that.
20 That's what that feeling would mean. You'd really
21 crave that food, those of us who have that as part of
22 our daily/weekly diet. So it brings home really that
23 suffering that they endured at that time.

24

25

I want to acknowledge two important
26 people from our region, Myron Naneng and Tim Andrew,
27 who were very instrumental in the WCC and still remain
28 today very vocal. Sometimes I watch these challenges
29 with both agencies and they work diligently to protect
30 and to preserve our subsistence rights, our ancestral
31 ways of harvesting and living. It's important to
32 remember that the food from the land, from the air is
33 really an important staple for our culture, as is our
34 language.

35

36

That being said, this is a moment in
37 time where we move forth. Those of us that are living
38 today we go on to teach those who are younger that we
39 need to continue to advocate for the Native people. We
40 need to advocate for the sustainability of our
41 resources and we need to work with the different
42 agencies to make sure that we have a continued food
43 resource.

44

45

Thank you.

46

47

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Other

48

comments.

49

50

1 MR. BROWER: Good morning. Can I say
2 something? This is Charlie Brower.

3
4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Charlie.

5
6 MR. BROWER: Can you hear me?

7
8 MS. LEONETTI: Charlie, we can hear
9 you. Go ahead and speak.

10
11 MR. BROWER: Okay. Good morning,
12 everyone. Thank you for taking the opportunity for
13 allowing Native ways in the implementation and apology
14 of migratory birds. I just want to remember in the
15 past as the founder of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
16 Council Jonathan Solomon, Charlie Johnson, Jonathan
17 Seaman. Those were some of the people that we worked
18 with at the early stage of the implementation of the
19 Migratory Bird Treaty.

20
21 We went through all the hardship in
22 attending the meetings with all the states. Of course
23 there was Ryan Anderson (ph) and Tim Andrew, Myron
24 Naneng, myself, Kevin O'Hara. We'd gone through some
25 hoops in trying to make it possible for our people
26 throughout Alaska that subsist on migratory birds to be
27 eligible to hunt in the springtime when they all arrive
28 for food.

29
30 I just want to take this time to.....

31
32 (Operator interruption)

33
34 MR. BROWER:was there from the
35 very start. Dotty was there. She's always been there.
36 So I just want to thank you for all Native say this.

37
38 Quyanaqpak. Good morning.

39
40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Charlie,
41 for taking the effort to call in. We appreciate your
42 comments.

43
44 Other Council members.

45
46 MR. ADAMS: Good morning. Thank you,
47 Mr. Chairman. My name is Billy Adams and I'm
48 representing the North Slope Borough. I'm a decedent
49 from the Adams family. My grandparents from my
50

1 father's side and my father was born in Noatak, Alaska.
2 We see that generation has gone to better places. I
3 want to thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
4 Siekaniec and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 Commissioner Sam Cotten for signing the apology letter
6 for many of the Alaska Natives who have gone before us.

7
8 I'd like to acknowledge some of the
9 family members, especially Kayokukook (ph) who was a
10 Native leader long before I was probably born. He
11 spearheaded the Duck-In in Barrow, Alaska many decades
12 ago. I'm sure they're looking down on us and they're
13 probably very thankful for the apology. I think many
14 of the Alaska Natives around Alaska are very thankful
15 for this day.

16
17 We see many of our elders who have
18 really suffered many days are in better places. Again
19 I thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. You know, we have
21 a wonderful God that is very grateful for all of us and
22 he works wonders and we're very grateful for that.
23 Again I'm humbled to be here and I'm very thankful for
24 these bodies.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Billy.
29 Other comments.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Members of the
34 public. Randy. Thank you.

35
36 MR. MAYO: Yeah, I just wanted to
37 accept this acknowledgment on behalf of the Tanana
38 Chiefs region, but also wanted to acknowledge the past
39 leaders from our region and all across the state that
40 all of their hard work and effort paid off to reach one
41 of the momentous milestones here in this apology
42 letter. One name was mentioned on the telephone from
43 one of our leaders in the past that really went out
44 there and fought for this effort in the earlier days
45 and also others from our region. This will be taken
46 back to the main office and I want to say thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy.

49
50

1 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thanks. For lack of
2 anything else, thank you. I come from Golovin, a
3 village of 154 people, and for us to put food in the
4 freezer is like money in the bank. You've got a pile
5 of wood outside your house it's money in the bank. A
6 lot of the villages are seasonal work, the majority of
7 them, and for us to put more money in the bank, thank
8 you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Jack.

11
12 MR. FAGERSTROM: You're welcome.

13
14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other comments.

15
16 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 I'm Karen Pletnikoff. I wanted to thank the U.S. Fish
18 and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska for this
19 important step. While it doesn't clear the convictions
20 of people who shouldn't have been enforced on on
21 something that was not right, it certainly does improve
22 our working relationships which become more and more
23 important as we struggle to appropriately manage our
24 important resources in these changing times.

25
26 So thank you so much for the outreach.
27 And for us, Unangan Unangas, in our region where the
28 Federal government is responsible for managing so much
29 of our traditional lands, our close working
30 relationship is something that we need to continue to
31 work on and this is a wonderful step in that direction.
32 I look forward to when we can finish the work that was
33 started here by authorizing the spring and summer
34 subsistence hunt into the fall and winter subsistence
35 hunt.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Karen.
40 Other comments, Council members. Gayla.

41
42 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. I wanted to
43 say thank you to Greg and Sam for coming here and
44 giving this formal apology and I really need to keep
45 emotion out. Just a second. When Cyrus first brought
46 this issue to our Council, we didn't take it lightly.
47 Sorry for the tears. We're sitting up here and it's --
48 our people are strong.

49
50

1 Alaska Natives throughout the state of
2 Alaska are the keeper of the birds. We are the
3 stewards of our lands. We've been here for thousands
4 and thousands of years and we have people come into our
5 areas and tell us our ways are wrong or we have to do
6 things their way. People being criminalized, people's
7 guns confiscated.

8
9 The part that really gets to me and the
10 emotion that's coming out right now is in the -- and
11 I'm really sorry I'm crying. But for people to hide
12 and pluck birds to feed their families, imagine you're
13 trying to feed your family. That feeling that people
14 have throughout the state of Alaska.

15
16 Alaska Natives have a lot of historical
17 trauma that has happened to our Native people. This
18 moment right here isn't going to fix what was done in
19 the past years, but it could actually bring healing and
20 healing is what needs to happen for Natives throughout
21 the state on all issues, not just migratory birds.

22
23 For our fish and game, for our
24 management, for us trying to get our traditional ways
25 of life recognized into law is very hard for Alaska
26 Natives in the state of Alaska. The people sitting
27 around this table here with AMBCC, my friends that we
28 work with, and that we sit and we advocate for our
29 people at home.

30
31 We advocate to make sure that their
32 voices are heard. Cyrus bringing Raymond's concern
33 here and his voice has been heard. And thank you,
34 Greg, for hearing us when we brought this issue to you
35 and bringing it to this level of a formal apology
36 because that speaks volumes that we got to this moment.

37
38
39 And for more people to get involved
40 with having our voices be heard on all issues for
41 everything that has to do on our lands and where we
42 come from in Alaska and for people to also respect our
43 lands when they do come out to our areas and even the
44 lands here in Anchorage.

45
46 I'm sorry for the tears and I guess
47 it's just a part of healing and through the tears we
48 could actually have healing through this. So everybody
49 knows that I cry easy, but it's really hard to do this
50

1 sometimes, but it needs to be done. I just wanted to
2 thank everybody and thank everybody for being here.

3

4 (Applause)

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.

7 Well spoken. Other members of the Council.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Members of the public
12 you're invited to come up.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Seeing none.

17

18 Oh.

19

20 MS. ADERMAN: Good morning. My family
21 history is in Tuyuryaq. That means Togiak. My late
22 parents were older. My late dad was Tom Chythlook born
23 in 1900. My late mom in 1914. They taught our family
24 the best of both worlds. Back then we had no
25 electricity. I had five older brothers and two younger
26 sisters. He taught them to hunt.

27

28 I've been working for BBNA since 2000,
29 so I've been working with our people in the village of
30 Togiak and Nushagak area communities. The people that
31 were hardest hit by the agencies coming in were the
32 people in the coastal villages, one of which is Togiak.

33

34

35 I remember when Frank Logusik, Sr. was
36 the chairman he said these Fish and Wildlife people
37 just come to their boats and take away their guns and
38 stuff without telling them when they were going to go
39 hunt. So I think for these main coastal communities
40 that were affected you guys need to go to the village
41 councils and apologize to them in person. I think that
42 they would start healing.

43

44

45 But we were taught through our
46 ancestors we are stewards and protectors and keepers of
47 our land and the water out there, so a lot of our
48 people know about what's out there. We thank you for
49 finally stepping in and realize that we do have tribal
50 steward capacities, skills and knowledge that have been
passed on to us from our ancestors and we're going to

1 make sure that continues to happen.

2

3 A lot of the villages in our areas they
4 recognize the BBNA National Resource Department as
5 being the protectors of our traditional way of life. I
6 would like to commend Gayla for all the hard work that
7 you're doing for the Council. It's good to work
8 together is what my late dad teach me. If you work
9 together as one, you will go a long ways.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Can I ask
12 that you please introduce yourself before you provide
13 comments.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. TULIK: My name is Christopher
18 Tulik. I'm a lead refuge information for the Yukon
19 Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Bethel. I'd like to
20 say thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak.
21 I'll make this brief.

22

23 I'm very happy about the apology and we
24 acknowledge that apology on behalf of all of the refuge
25 information technicians throughout the state and the
26 RIT program itself. I am very happy about this apology
27 because we are the ones who are primarily in contact
28 with our villages within each of our regions. The
29 people in the villages will accept the apology, but it
30 is not going to happen overnight.

31

32 Based on my experience with the people
33 in the villages it's going to take some time. In some
34 regions it will probably be faster than the other
35 regions, but it will take some time. In saying that,
36 it will make our job much easier to deal with the
37 people in the villages.

38

39 Thank you, Greg and Sam.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you,
44 Christopher. Other comments from the public.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Seeing none. I think
49 we all -- it's appropriate for a round of applause for

50

1 all of us here including the Alaska Department of Fish
2 and Game, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Native
3 Caucus and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
4 Council. Please join me with a round of applause.

5

6 (Applause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. We will
9 now take a 15-minute break. I encourage all of you to
10 take an opportunity to meet Greg and Sam as well as
11 provide comments in private. We'll reconvene in 15
12 minutes. Thank you.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Can I ask Alaska
19 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council members to come to
20 the table and we will get underway here in just a
21 minute or two.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. We will
28 reconvene the meeting. At this point the next item on
29 the agenda is invitation for public comments. I ask if
30 you do come forward please identify yourself and the
31 agency or organization that you're with and please turn
32 the microphone on and off.

33

34 Do I have any comments from the public
35 at this point?

36

37 MR. UNGOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 This is Eddie Ungott from the Native Village of
39 Gambell. I did have a comment that I would like to
40 bring forward to the Council here and it's about the
41 Emperor Goose.

42

43 We waited 30 years for the season to
44 open and somewhere along the line there's a climate
45 change going on. The birds are arriving earlier and
46 departing later. Is there a way you can get the season
47 to coincide with the migratory birds?

48

49 One of the things that hit me was

50

1 somebody opened it up for sport hunting. That's kind
2 of outrageous on our part. We waited faithfully for 30
3 years for the Emperor Goose season to open and yet,
4 when it opened 30 years later, there's a section
5 stating that 1,000 birds are going to be open for sport
6 hunting. That is outrageous.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Eddie. We
9 appreciate your comments. We'll be able to address
10 some of your concerns. We will have a discussion of
11 the potential fall/winter subsistence season. We will
12 also have a discussion of migratory bird status and
13 trends in terms of how the populations are doing
14 relative to the harvest, in this case Emperor Geese,
15 both the harvest during the spring and summer as well
16 as the fall.

17
18 And then we'll also have -- you know,
19 we can ask Julian Fischer from my shop with the
20 Waterfowl Program to talk about observations that our
21 program as well as the Fish and Game program on climate
22 change and earlier arrival, earlier nesting, changes in
23 migration like you've observed with Emperor Geese. I
24 mean I think it's very clear that those changes are
25 occurring.

26
27 They have impacted hunting in terms of
28 the arrival of birds, the location of birds. Sometimes
29 birds are onshore, sometimes they're offshore. So it's
30 very clear that climate change has affected both
31 chronology when birds arrive and how they migrate.

32
33 Jason Schamber will also talk about the
34 fall hunt and provide estimates for how many birds were
35 taken during the fall season, the thousand birds that
36 were allocated, so we'll provide an update on that and
37 give an idea of what potential impact that had on the
38 population.

39
40 So I think we'll be able to address
41 your concerns and I encourage you to ask questions when
42 those speakers come to address the Council. You'll
43 have an opportunity to ask specific questions. So,
44 thank you. All very good points.

45
46 Other members of the public that you
47 would like to address the Council at this point.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Seeing none. We'll
2 move on to the next agenda item. That is agenda item
3 number 10, adoption of Council action items from the
4 September 21st/22nd, 2017 meeting. I believe that's
5 Patty.

6
7 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
8 Before we start I just wanted to let everyone know that
9 Priscilla Evans is on the line from the Chugach
10 Regional Resources Commission. Priscilla, can you
11 introduce yourself, please.

12
13 MS. EVANS: Hi, everyone. My name is
14 Priscilla Evans. I'm second chief of the Nanwalek IRA
15 Council. I'm new to this and I wish I could have been
16 up there today, but nice to hear everybody.

17
18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thanks, Priscilla.
19 Okay. So the action items taken at the Council fall
20 meeting we had a year ago are under Tab 1. So if
21 people can take a minute to look at those and I'm
22 asking for a motion to approve those action items.

23
24 MR. DEVINE: I make a motion to approve
25 or to adopt the fall meeting action items from the
26 September 21/22, 2018 -- or I guess that would be 2017.

27
28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, 2017.

29
30 MR. DALE: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Call for the
33 question.

34
35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Anybody? Somebody's
36 got to call for the question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Anybody opposed?

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. The notes from
43 the 2017 AMBCC meeting from September 21st to the 22nd
44 are hereby adopted.

45
46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.
47 Chairman. My written staff report to the Council is
48 also included under Tab 1. In the interest of time,
49 I'm not going to go through that with you today, but

50

1 there were two points I wanted to mention.

2

3 The two proposals that were submitted
4 from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge during
5 the open proposal period last December were acted upon
6 by the Executive Committee. We attended the regional
7 management bodies of each of the regions prior to this
8 meeting, almost all of them, those that had a meeting,
9 and they were all in support of the proposals.

10

11 So the Native Caucus cast a vote in
12 favor of those proposals as did the State of Alaska and
13 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We then forwarded
14 those proposals to Todd Sanders and I believe they went
15 to the rest of the flyways.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty. At
20 this time we'll ask for the regional representatives to
21 provide their regional reports in terms of meetings.
22 I'm fully aware and apologize for Fish and Wildlife
23 Service funding coming so late this year. I know that
24 was a significant challenge to all of you. So if you
25 were unable to hold meetings, I don't think any apology
26 is necessary. Again, we're aware of the challenge that
27 posed in terms of the challenge that posed in terms of
28 funding coming so late to your region.

29

30 We would very much like to hear your
31 observations. Things that Eddie brought up in terms of
32 any changes you've seen in numbers of birds,
33 distribution of birds, how they're behaving, their
34 migration, arrival times, departure times. Any
35 observations on harvest in terms of did harvest meet
36 expectations of rural residents, the condition of
37 birds.

38

39 We're also interested in any mortality
40 events that you may have seen in your area. We'll have
41 a presentation on the seabird die-off. I know both the
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and
43 Wildlife Service find this very valuable to hear
44 observations from your regions. While we do surveys,
45 there's no substitution for observations from the
46 field, which is what you're providing.

47

48 I think I'll start with Coral if that's
49 okay in terms of the Kodiak Region. Coral, go ahead.

50

1 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff, Kodiak.
2 Thank you. So in our region we had a meeting recently
3 and we talked about bird die-offs. We haven't seen
4 much like compared to the past in the last couple years
5 with the Murre die-off and then some Auklets that we
6 have around there. We haven't really seen anything.
7 When they did bird surveys, Fish and Wildlife Service
8 Robin Corcoran did a bunch of bird surveys this past
9 year and we seem to have a lot of very healthy
10 populations.

11
12 We did talk about our last meeting.
13 We've seen a lot of juvenile eagles on the beaches. I
14 personally found five of them this spring. Robin
15 Corcoran had reported that she received so many calls
16 and they took so many birds in to send off that they
17 just couldn't take anymore. Then someone else at our
18 meeting had personally seen three and neither one of us
19 had reported our birds at all, so that's eight in
20 addition to -- you know, they were already overwhelmed.
21 They don't know what's happening. They all seemed to
22 be juveniles.

23
24 We did get a report. Someone from
25 Juneau sent us a report a couple years ago. He was
26 down and did a study. It looked like our eagle
27 population was kind of maxed out, so they're wondering
28 if that kind of might be an issue.

29
30 We are discussing and working again on
31 our subsistence hunt for the spring. Egg hunt and bird
32 harvest. We have an issue where if -- we're on the
33 road system so you have to be 500 feet off the road in
34 order to do any harvesting, which causes a lot of
35 hardship for people in our areas that do not have boats
36 or kayaks or access to get 500 feet offshore. So we've
37 been working on changing that regulation for six or
38 eight years now. We're going to go at it again. So
39 we're still working hard on that so that our people can
40 spring hunt and egg gather.

41
42 This isn't an issue of birds, but it
43 might become an issue just of note. We all know the
44 salmon did not show up in many areas of the state this
45 year. Our own subsistence river right in town was
46 closed for subsistence most of the year for red salmon,
47 so that was difficult for many people.

48
49 So we're kind of looking at that and

50

1 these things are connected. We're all worried and
2 watching and waiting to see what happens.

3

4 That's all I have.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Coral. I
9 know you've mentioned populations of eagles. Several
10 meetings that I've attended that topic seems to come up
11 at every meeting in terms of high numbers of eagles and
12 potential impacts on subsistence resources, primarily
13 sea ducks.

14

15 I know at the next meeting that Kodiak
16 has I'm going to recommend our raptor biologist who's
17 in charge of eagle surveys and has that information
18 available, Jordan Muir, to attend that meeting and
19 present updates so that people can ask him as a
20 population change are you seeing birds in places that
21 you haven't seen, what are the potential impacts you're
22 seeing on resources. I know that's a consistent topic.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 Jennifer.

27

28 MS. HOOPER: So for the Yukon-Kuskokwim
29 Delta I went through -- we were able to have a WCC
30 meeting in February and then just a couple of weeks ago
31 had our fall meeting. So I went through my materials
32 and looked for items of interest for this body.

33

34 In February we were able to have the
35 large sort of workshop package that Eric, Dave and Lili
36 had put together. I'm just going to read some comments
37 that I had captured throughout the WCC meeting. Kind
38 of probably jumping around a little bit.

39

40 Regarding survey projects, population
41 survey projects, there was some concern over all of the
42 budget cuts happening, how that is going to affect
43 those projects. With the harvest surveys, there was
44 questions about increasing the number of villages
45 surveyed to increase the accuracy of the data
46 collected.

47

48 We've heard over a few meetings now
49 concerns over ptarmigan. People mentioning that they

50

1 are disappearing. They're not seen in the same areas
2 and in the same numbers that people are used to seeing
3 them.

4
5 Within our region the Refuge was
6 interested in looking at utilizing helicopters as a
7 tool for working on their banding projects. Initially,
8 the WCC formerly at a meeting prior said no, but then
9 later on this spring I contacted each member and they
10 reconsidered that and ultimately determined that, yes,
11 they would allow the Refuge and they would support the
12 use of helicopters for this spring with the caveat that
13 they would come back afterwards to report on how things
14 went and share with the WCC.

15
16 There was a question on the 30-day
17 closure within our region whether there is the
18 allowance, I guess, to have separate date ranges within
19 one region. The issue was because our region is so
20 large you have interior, coastal, and 30 days for one
21 part of the region may not fit that same time period
22 for another part of the region. Bryan with the Refuge
23 reported that he had checked with Donna here in the
24 Anchorage office and with the current regs they would
25 be able to have two separate 30-day closures if that
26 was requested or warranted.

27
28 We heard from Neesha the issue of lead
29 shot is still a large concern in our region. Stores in
30 the villages still carrying lead shot on their shelves.

31
32 Then a couple weeks ago we also met.
33 We received the update on the proposal that the Refuge
34 had submitted. They did officially change the date to
35 reflect the date that the WCC had I guess requested.
36 There was some followup and some followup questions on
37 the Tundra Swan issue and whether bag limits had been --
38 if that had been looked into to see what potentially
39 could happen with increasing bag limits.

40
41 We did have a call come in from Hooper
42 Bay this summer. Someone reported that they had come
43 across not just seabirds but several marine mammal
44 species and I think even a beaver that had washed up on
45 the shore. Regarding the birds, they identified them
46 as being seagulls, Eiders and Puffins. A few of them,
47 I'm not sure which species, were still alive but were
48 acting, in their words, very sick and they were not
49 afraid of people.

50

1 With the WCC, Bryan Daniels with the
2 Refuge and I are going to be working this winter on
3 putting together sort of a complete history for our
4 region, kind of an all migratory bird from the Hooper
5 Bay Agreement we have recorded prior to that and then
6 sort of building a historical timeline so we have it on
7 paper for our region to be able to share with whomever.
8

9 We discussed -- we heard presentations
10 on the different projects related to banding and then a
11 general discussion on how to increase the return by
12 hunters and people who come across birds with bands.
13 Returning and reporting those bands.
14

15 Ptarmigan came up again. We reviewed
16 Lili's survey data and one of the members commented on
17 within the survey the numbers of ptarmigan seemed to be
18 high because people have reported that they don't see
19 them as often. Someone also shared that Pintail ducks
20 seem to be less. I don't recall which area.
21

22 Our chief reported -- he's from the
23 Yukon Delta and he reported Snow Geese had moved away
24 from the Yukon coast in early spring. That they move
25 when the snow is gone and so people were not able to
26 target those.
27

28 We had a presentation from an ANSEP
29 student who is from one of our communities come in and
30 share his experiences with the Refuge and the projects
31 he's worked on. That was very well received and AVCP's
32 PR shop is going to be working on a write-up on that
33 and that will come out through our Facebook page and I
34 think potentially one of our newsletters. It was
35 really neat to see that younger component.
36

37 Roland announced that he is not going
38 to be seeking another term on AVCP's executive board
39 this fall and within our region our executive board is
40 the WCC. So because of that he will no longer be on
41 the WCC. By our next meeting, probably early March, we
42 should be identifying who the new WCC chair will be.
43

44 The WCC also passed a reaffirming
45 resolution regarding lead shot and going to be working
46 with Neesha on getting information out. Just reminding
47 people of all the issues related to that. Then also
48 looking at a longer -- potentially longer term support
49 to the Refuge on the use of helicopters
50

1 That's it. Sorry it's so long.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Jennifer.
5 Excellent report. Lots of good things there. I had a
6 hard time keeping up with you taking notes. I'm really
7 pleased to hear about the close relationship between
8 the WCC and the Refuge and Fish and Wildlife Service.
9 It sounds like things are going well. I'm really happy
10 to hear about your efforts to work with Bryan to
11 document the historical importance that WCC and the
12 Refuge working together.

12

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Ray, of course, mentioned Myron
Naneng's name and all of us around the table have
worked long hours in a very productive fashion and I
attended many meetings both here and as far away as
Oregon with Myron and he was always a staunch advocate
for migratory birds and subsistence use and it's great
to see that's going to be documented in the future.

Thank you. Peter.

MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Sorry to say we have not had a fall meeting in forever.
We're still trying to get the -- waiting to hear from
tribes for more people for our regional management
body.

The birds, the geese, like everyone is
saying were way early this year. I'm now sitting here
in our spring meeting and I had my mom call me. Hey,
excitement in town here. It's like, what? Apparently
a bunch of geese showed up so the kids in the village
went hunting. Well, it was open, but my mom, she's the
dispatch for the police department and, oh, we've got
people out hunting. It's illegal. They're not
supposed to be doing it. It's like, Mom, I've been
doing this for 16 years, working so we can get this
season. Leave them be. She said, no, it's not,
they're not legal. It's like, well, that's the only
time they let us hunt. So I really look forward to
getting this fall and winter hunt so my mom would be
more at ease.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Peter, when you said
the birds were way early, you're talking about this
fall or when did you mean? Sorry.

MR. DEVINE: No, that was in -- well,

1 we only got our spring and summer hunt. They showed up
2 while I was here during our spring meeting. They were
3 hunting at home and usually they don't show up until
4 the later part of April, like the second and third
5 week, but they were already gone through on the first
6 week. There was not much participation in our region
7 for the Emperors because of the mild winter that we
8 had. Instead of having like two, three weeks of
9 freezing cold weather we only had like four or five
10 days where it got cold and then it warmed right back up
11 again.

12
13 I've been out there fishing codfish in
14 45-degree weather. Don't even have to chop ice
15 anymore. It's nice, but it's sure putting a damper on
16 our hunting activities with all the change. I mean the
17 rivers aren't freezing so they have more food source.
18 They're not just gone to the regular eel beds that they
19 usually do. When the eel beds do close, they're on the
20 reefs. You can tell. These mild winters are really
21 hurting.

22
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank
24 you. Gloria.

25
26 MS. STICKWAN: We had a fall meeting
27 September 5th. We had elections and Nicolas Jackson is
28 our new chair. We heard a report from Patty
29 Schwalenberg and we're talking about having a culture
30 camp mid August 2019. We have a committee to work on
31 that.

32
33 I just wanted to say the sockeye salmon
34 was low this year as it was statewide. They said it
35 was because of warm water that the fish feed on and
36 it's having an effect on the sockeye. This is a
37 statewide problem. I'm wondering if U.S. Fish and
38 Wildlife Service should take more of an action on this
39 or look into it more deeply because it's not only
40 affecting salmon, it's affecting the marine animals and
41 the birds.

42
43 There's something going on out there.
44 People need to take this seriously because it's
45 affecting our lives statewide. I mean sockeye is
46 important to us as well as birds and marine animals.
47 I've heard stories yesterday how it's affecting
48 everyone statewide in this room they were talking about
49 it. The algal blooms are destroying the birds, I
50

1 guess. I don't know.

2

3 It's just our way of life is going to
4 be diminished because of this as we are not able to
5 practice our way of life. We're going to not be able
6 to teach it to our younger people and that's going to
7 have an effect on future generations as well. So, I
8 don't know. I'm just thinking you need to take that
9 more seriously and do more work on that.

10

11 We got an agreement in July. Not only
12 is the salmon down but the moose and caribou because of
13 the winter storm and the winter we had last winter. It
14 took a lot of the moose calves. Deep snow, cold
15 weather and caribou.

16

17 Next year the fish is supposed to be a
18 low run again. Sockeye is what they're telling us, but
19 the moose is staying stable but low and caribou staying
20 stable, but it's not as high as it was in the past.

21

22 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gloria.
23 You raised critical issues I think all of us are aware
24 of in terms of changes and depletions of salmon
25 resources and the impacts to subsistence as well as
26 others. I can let Bruce talk to this later today, but
27 I can assure you both the Fish and Wildlife Service and
28 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are looking at
29 that issue very closely.

30

31 Again, if climate change is affecting
32 these resources, it's something very difficult for
33 anyone to try and get their hand on and try to change
34 current migration or resource and supplies.
35 Nonetheless, it's important to hear from you. Your
36 right, in terms of changes of salmon it also affects
37 changes in marine mammals and changes in resources that
38 go up and use those streams, like migratory birds as
39 well as other animals.

40

41 I'm really happy to hear that you're
42 going to have the cultural camp. I know Joeneal always
43 ran that in the past and was very successful. If
44 there's anything that both the Fish and Wildlife
45 Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game can
46 participate on in terms of providing a speaker or
47 attendance, we certainly would be interested in helping
48 out.

49

50

1 So, thanks.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: I'll let them know.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Randy.
6 What's new in the Interior?

7

8 MR. MAYO: Well, it was cold up there.
9 It was below freezing earlier this week and a hard
10 frost. This time of the year that happens. Our
11 creation stories can start being told only at this time
12 of the year. The count is four days of ceremony.
13 Winter song and dance can start after that event. In
14 the creation story and these events, it points out our
15 relationship to the land and the animals and some of
16 the ceremonies that go along with it. So it's a pretty
17 important time of year for us, for me.

18

19 Along with it's how we're sitting here
20 around the table. That's part of the reason. Our
21 cultural and spiritual right to harvest some of our
22 resources and teach our future generations protocol,
23 the proper way to do it. Nowadays we've got a lot of
24 paper regulations to deal with and try to make the best
25 of it.

26

27 We didn't have a spring meeting due to
28 the funding in our region, but we had one in early
29 August. Patty came up to Fairbanks and gave a good
30 report. Liliana was with us on speakerphone. At that
31 meeting Patty brought forth some proposals and our
32 management body supported those proposals as they were
33 written. Also the regional body accepted the harvest
34 survey numbers for the Interior Region at that meeting.
35 Got reports.

36

37 Well, because we didn't have the
38 spring meeting it was like a year before we got
39 together again. The region is pretty large. Some areas
40 are better bird habitat than other areas, so I can't
41 speak for everybody on conditions in the different
42 regions in the Interior. We all agreed that last
43 winter was more of a normal winter for us. There was
44 quite a bit of snow.

45

46 It actually kind of got cold a little
47 bit and the snow stuck around quite a while in the
48 springtime. I was glad to see that. It was more how
49 it was not too long ago. The birds did come in and
50

1 some of the reports and observations were people got
2 sufficient birds springtime, but also earlier this fall
3 around early August a lot of geese used to start
4 gathering up and flying around. I didn't notice that.

5
6
7 This year there was a lot of cranes,
8 but there was still some geese around up on the Yukon.
9 They'll be heading out pretty soon. When the black
10 ducks come out to the river, then you know they're
11 going to head out. The lakes start freezing up.

12
13 Also at our regional meeting our former
14 GCC president, Mr. Steve Ginnis, attended our meeting.
15 He currently is the executive director for Fairbanks
16 Native Association, but he also came there to --
17 besides his job title as a tribal leader and chief, to
18 speak on behalf of a lot of tribal members live around
19 Fairbanks still get out and participate in the
20 springtime in the spring hunt, so he attended our
21 meeting.

22
23 I encouraged him to come over because
24 we still have to have that discussion on behalf of
25 tribal members that live in and around the Fairbanks
26 area. So that was part of our meeting there. We look
27 forward to having a spring meeting and keep working on
28 these issues here.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy.
33 Jack, what's new in Golovin?

34
35 MR. FAGERSTROM: More swans. I keep
36 bringing that up every year. Apologize for it. We
37 held our meeting a couple weeks ago. Regional
38 observations, like everybody is saying, everything is
39 approximately a month early. There was a bird die-off
40 and we'll get to that a little bit later in my report.

41
42 Everything is a month early like I
43 said. There are more terns, there are more white
44 geese. Stebbins and St. Michael are the primary
45 harvesters of white geese and also Shaktoolik and
46 Koyuk. I saw a video from one of my friends from
47 Koyuk. They were out spring hunting and he grabbed his
48 phone and he did a 360 and it was like the Outdoor
49 Channel. There were birds everywhere. He's right.

50

1 Said we've got enough birds. You've got too many white
2 geese. I want to catch other kind of goose. There's
3 no more room. Basically got himself white geese.

4
5 More terns. People have noticed over
6 the last five years or so the numbers really went down.
7 Observable numbers. This year traveling to white
8 mountain, which is 18 miles away, probably saw 30 or 40
9 and that's the first time we've seen those kind of
10 numbers in a while.

11
12 Murre eggs, as far as the gathering
13 goes, there were very few. Maybe probably the best way
14 for me to describe the hardship of a village is the
15 people in Shaktoolik would go to Cape Denby, which is,
16 what, eight miles away to go get their Murre eggs.
17 They went there and there was nothing, so they had to
18 go to the bluff, which is all the way almost to Nome to
19 get their eggs. That's certainly a hardship, but there
20 are other communities that the lack of eggs and
21 harvesting is -- there are some communities that
22 harvest unique species, like Mr. Ungott and Diomedé
23 people. There are other villages that harvest a lot of
24 eggs. They've seen declines in that.

25
26 The crane right now are flying over my
27 village coming from Russia and going to wherever they
28 go. There's a lot. We've seen more Cackling Geese.
29 Certainly a lot more white geese. Ptarmigan, they're
30 about the same pretty much all over in our region
31 except where they're not found.

32
33 Then going back to the bird die-off.
34 There was an article in the Nome Nugget stating that
35 there was a lack of a cold water pool that kept the cod
36 and the pollock out of our area. Since there was no
37 more of that the cold water pool was gone, so the
38 barrier for the cod and the pollock is not there no
39 more, so they came in and started basically -- if you
40 read the article, it's by -- Charlie Lean is quoted in
41 there saying that, oh, this is what's causing the bird
42 die-off, the cod and the pollock are eating everything
43 up. They did a trawl survey near Diomedé and where
44 formerly there were cod, snails, juvenile crabs, there
45 was basically nothing.

46
47 Am I forgetting anything, Brandon?

48 Excuse me.

49
50

1 Mr. Ungott from Gambell, if the time is
2 right and you would like to -- and I thank you for
3 allowing us to do this, if you'd like to give a
4 personal report of firsthand experience. At this time
5 Eddie will come up and share.

6
7 Before you start did I leave out
8 anything important, Brandon? Do you want to add
9 anything?

10
11 MR. UNGOTT: Just the migration of the
12 Emperor Goose you didn't mention that. I'll tell it.
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Eddie Ungott from Gambell again.

14
15 We just had our fall meeting and we
16 seen a large die-off of the Murres, Kittiwakes and
17 Shearwaters happening this year. This is the most
18 we've ever seen it. A little stretch of beach half a
19 mile long contains about 2,500 birds. Most were
20 Murres. It happened all the way around the island, the
21 die-off. People were experiencing watching birds die
22 right in front of them. Something is going on.
23 There's not just starvation going on. There's
24 contaminants at the bottom of the ocean that's causing
25 it I presume.

26
27 The other thing is it's been happening
28 for like five years now and we've been trying to tell
29 people. Well, this is the first time I've got
30 appointed to the council, co-management council, and I
31 have a lot of information that I could bring forth on
32 birds.

33
34 The other thing is that there's more
35 and more Emperor Geese that are flying towards Siberia.
36 This year there was an eight-day run. We estimated the
37 population at a quarter of a million birds. I don't
38 know who does the census on the population on geese,
39 but I don't believe the 40,000 mark that's there. That
40 was just one day we seen that happen, the 40,000 birds
41 flew by in one day. But this happened for eight
42 straight days, the migration towards Siberia.

43
44 The other thing is they're starting to
45 breed over there where there's no pressure from hunters
46 or anybody. They're starting to breed. The fall
47 migration happens. There's a lot of young that are
48 associated with the migration. This year it looked
49 like there was only -- the brood hatch was about 30
50

1 percent, but still that brings up the population again.
2 That needs to be considered too if there's going to be
3 a limit on the hunting of those.

4
5 New species of little birds are
6 arriving from Asia or wherever they are. The
7 birdwatchers are frequenting the island now and it's
8 booked for the next 20 years because new birds are
9 arriving and they're seeing like three birds per day or
10 something like that. That's not common.

11
12 I have to emphasize the bird die-off
13 has been happening for quite a while now and this year
14 it's the worst. The egg laying, we used to collect
15 eggs the third week of June. There was hardly any
16 birds at the cliffs meaning there's hardly going to be
17 any eggs, which was true. The Murre population at the
18 cliffs was one-eighth the size of what we usually see.
19 I think it's the die-off that's happening and lessening
20 the Murres as we speak.

21
22 Not just the Murres. Auklets. There's
23 something going on with the Auklets too. We usually
24 harvest the young ones for the elders. And their dens
25 -- when they went to the dens this year, like 80
26 percent of the young ones in there were already dead,
27 meaning that they weren't being fed in the den.
28 They're starving there or something's going on. Some
29 sort of mortality event happening again I presume.

30
31 That's about it.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Go ahead, Jack.

36
37 MR. FAGERSTROM: There was also some
38 concern about the Spectacled Eiders and where they
39 winter. There was some study done and they were
40 finding some amounts of dead clams where the Spectacled
41 Eiders spend the winter.

42
43 Then with the cod issue people were
44 worried that they were going to start preying on the
45 crab. It's a totally different species that hasn't
46 been there before. I heard one person describe them as
47 basically vacuuming the bottom of the ocean.

48
49 So just something to think about. Once
50

1 we start getting dead clams out there and all the
2 acidification comes around, that's going to be a whole
3 new ball game and I kind of don't want to go there.

4

5 Thanks.

6

7 MR. UNGOTT: Mr. Chair. One quick
8 comment on the eggs that I mentioned. It was an
9 abnormal time for them to start laying their eggs. It
10 was very late. Like mid July they were starting to lay
11 eggs. That's abnormal. I don't know what's going on,
12 but I was told to mention that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Eddie, can you say
15 what species it was.

16

17 MR. UNGOTT: Very late egg laying.
18 Like it usually happens like I said June 19 or
19 somewhere around there. This happened one month later.
20 That's abnormal for them to start laying eggs in July,
21 July 12th.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: And these were -- are
24 these Murres that you're.....

25

26 MR. UNGOTT: Murres. They're Murres.
27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

30

31 MR. FAGERSTROM: Good. Brandon, do you
32 have anything?

33

34 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
35 name is Brandon Ahmasuk. I'm the Subsistence Resources
36 Program Director for Kawerak in Nome. My apologies for
37 not having a report like I did usually in the past to
38 hand to Jack. This year, Jack and Eddie and even Donna
39 can attest to, I was very busy. I was in and out of
40 the meeting, back and forth, answering phone calls,
41 answering emails.

42

43 So actually when I come down here it's
44 kind of a vacation because all I have to worry about is
45 birds. When I go back home, I have to worry about
46 birds, seals, fish, walrus, moose, caribou, bears.
47 Very, very busy.

48

49 So anyway. One of the things that I

50

1 recall from our meeting on the seabird die-off was the
2 COASST (Coastal Observation And Seabird Survey Team)
3 program. For our area it's not very well known.
4 Getting more information out is always welcome. I
5 guess just informational or a heads-up, you know, it's
6 something that this body should be more involved with
7 to help get information out.

8
9 Along with that our region came up with
10 flyers specifically for the seabird die-off. What was
11 really surprising, alarming to me was, I think it was
12 two years ago now, an individual from either Deering or
13 Buckland remembered having a conversation with somebody
14 from Shishmaref about the seabird die-off and wondering
15 who to call.

16
17 By all means I'll try to get them
18 pointed in the right direction who to contact.
19 Fortunately the individual from Shishmaref was able to
20 print off the flyer and hand it to this person and I
21 think they called the Service. But then I think it was
22 this spring I got a call from a man from Togiak, I
23 think, but it was from the AVCP region. The same story
24 but a different area.

25
26 He had a conversation with somebody
27 from St. Michael or Stebbins about the seabird die-off
28 flyer and that individual, same thing, he got him the
29 information and he called my office and immediately he
30 wanted to send me the birds. I said that's fine, but
31 to try to cut the middle man out, because I'm just
32 going to send them to the Service anyway, you need to
33 call this number.

34
35 So maybe a more collaborative effort on
36 a flyer from the Service which also includes COASST,
37 but also the regional reps or the regional
38 organizations like myself or AVCP, BBNA, Maniilaq,
39 North Slope Borough. That way if somebody does come
40 across dead birds or they're noticing sick birds, they
41 can call. A lot of times they're more comfortable
42 calling their regional rep as opposed to the Service
43 because a lot of times -- even myself.

44
45 So we have our meetings in our region,
46 but when the individual sees my name, oh, I know him.
47 There's just that comfort level of calling somebody
48 they know. So anyway, I guess what I was trying to say
49 is an all-in-one flyer to help individuals get
50

1 information out or back.

2

3 That was pretty much my comments. The
4 big scare in our region again is not just this year,
5 it's been going on four, five, six years now, the
6 seabird die-off. It sounds like it's more widespread
7 as opposed to just Murres now. So it's Murres,
8 Kittiwakes, Shearwaters, Auklets, Puffins. It's not
9 just one species anymore.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 Those are my comments.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Brandon.

16 Any other comments.

17

18 MR. DALE: I have a follow-up for Jack.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Absolutely.

21

22 MR. DALE: Thank you. You said that
23 ptarmigan are still abundant in their normal places?

24

25 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yes.

26

27 MR. DALE: That's interesting.

28

29 MR. FAGERSTROM: When I was a kid
30 growing up, we'd count on them coming in November.
31 They would come from a westerly direction. Now they
32 come in like February. When I was picking berries for
33 my sister for her granddaughter and I ran into a family
34 of ptarmigan. That cost me half of my bucket of
35 berries. But they're still there.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. DALE: Because Jennifer reported
40 low numbers and we've already heard Bristol Bay and
41 Alaska Peninsula pretty darn low numbers. So it's good
42 to hear that they haven't declined up there.

43

44 MR. FAGERSTROM: They're a good bird.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thanks,
47 Eddie, Brandon and Jack. For all the communities that
48 have experienced the seabird die-off not only this year
49 but in years previous, you've got a really great

50

1 opportunity. We've got Robb Kaler, who is a seabird
2 biologist in the Migratory Bird Program, and Julia
3 Parrish, who is the executive director of the COASST
4 program at University of Washington here today and will
5 give a presentation later during this meeting.

6
7 So you've got two really great experts
8 and it's a great opportunity for people that are
9 conducting surveys and collecting specimens and having
10 them looked at by our National Wildlife Health Center
11 in Madison with the USGS. It's a great opportunity to
12 exchange information to find out how we can work more
13 closely together.

14
15 Brandon's idea about making sure that
16 we have an outreach flyer for all communities is a
17 really good one. We've tried and I think we've had some
18 success working closely with Gay Sheffield at
19 University of Alaska Fairbanks Marine Program, Julia,
20 as well as Rob.

21
22 Certainly I think we can increase our
23 efforts on that and with your help design a better way
24 to make sure that information -- because I do get calls
25 from rural residents, is it safe to eat these birds,
26 what's going on, is it acidification in the ocean
27 environments, is it starvation, is it contaminants,
28 exactly what's going on.

29
30 Clearly this resource is really
31 important not only in terms of harvest but also egg
32 gathering. So I think this is a great opportunity at
33 this meeting to actually put our heads together and
34 figure out how we can be more effective in the future.

35
36 Thanks. That's a really great report
37 to hear.

38
39 Cyrus, Northwest Alaska. What's going
40 on?

41
42 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 We had our meeting on August 23rd with the Northwest
44 Arctic Region. Very interesting reports that we were
45 able to hear. As far as the bird die-off according to
46 our reports and our observations, we didn't see a
47 tremendous amount. Our village folks really didn't see
48 any at all.

49
50

1 My observations, I probably see no more
2 than about a half a dozen throughout the stretch of
3 coast, roughly about 20 miles from Sisualik toward
4 Sealing Point. I'm not out there as frequent as I
5 should, but the most I saw in our area was roughly
6 about six when they were already decomposed. They
7 floated from somewhere and got washed up on the shore.
8

9 It's interesting to hear Jack mention
10 more terns. Some of the reports that we got from our
11 folks there seems to be less Terns, but we're seeing
12 more of the Black-headed Gulls. I believe they're
13 either Sabines or -- I can't remember how to say it.
14

15 MR. FAGERSTROM: Bonaparte.
16

17 MR. HARRIS: Bonaparte, yeah.
18

19 MR. FAGERSTROM: Bona-something.
20

21 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, they're new to us,
22 you know. So this is the report we're getting back
23 from some of our region. We're also getting reports of
24 more eagles. Eagles where they never were before
25 starting to show up more. Just like anywhere else
26 we're experiencing the early spring thaw. I know I had
27 a ton to say.
28

29 Within our meeting we also had David
30 Safine teleconferenced in. He was able to share
31 population status and trends of migratory birds. We
32 had Patty attend and she was able to run the two
33 proposals to us and some other issues such as
34 handicraft, harvest survey and website information with
35 our group. We also had Selawik National Wildlife
36 Refuge folks, Brittany Sweeney, my partners who I work
37 very closely with with this Migratory Bird Program.
38

39 Let's see. By talking to David, it was
40 interesting to hear him because he does some work on
41 the population. So it was interesting for him to have
42 mentioned there were less pintails and then me speaking
43 about seeing more pintails. The area that we thought
44 about was the areas that he's counting in. They
45 probably just moved to another area, but see we don't
46 know, but it's good to hear that he was seeing less but
47 I was seeing more, so I can give him an idea of
48 whereabouts we're seeing more within our area.
49

50

1 Of course we have one of our village
2 representatives over here, Ralph Ramoth out of Selawik.
3 Is there anything I'm skipping out on here that you can
4 think of?

5
6 MR. RAMOTH, JR.: I don't have any.

7
8 MR. HARRIS: Anything you want to add.
9 Brittany? If you could state your name.

10
11 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, Cyrus. Good
12 morning. We also had an interesting discussion about
13 Black Scoter ducks I remember because Dave reported to
14 us some of the information about the Scoter surveys.
15 We and the village members felt that the Scoters are
16 moving. So the survey had seen lower numbers.

17
18 So we thought it would be interesting
19 in our next meeting to get a close look at the map of
20 what the survey areas that they cover in Northwest and
21 then there was a whole discussion about the value of
22 surveying the same places over and over versus going
23 where the birds are. So we wanted to talk more about
24 the black ducks at a future meeting. Eric, if you
25 could have somebody come up.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Brittany. That
30 pretty much covers my report, Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Cyrus.
33 I'll mention I'm going to put Robb on the spot when he
34 comes up and talks about the seabird die-off, but your
35 observation of increased Sabine's and Bonaparte's
36 Gulls, Black-headed Gulls is something I'm sure Robb's
37 shop -- and the tern question in terms of some regions
38 reporting more terns or less terns I think is another
39 good question to ask Robb. He's probably going to run
40 back to the office real quick and do some homework.
41 I'm putting him on the spot. He is a seabird biologist
42 in our program, so I'm sure he's very interested in
43 those observations.

44
45 Brittany, as well as Cyrus, we will get
46 together with you in terms of the Scoter survey, what
47 data/information that we have and how we conduct our
48 surveys and then work with you in terms of making sure
49 we can address your questions and if there's areas that
50

1 we're missing that you would like us to observe, we'll
2 see how we can address that question. Anyway, we'll
3 make that happen.

4
5 Thank you. Billy.

6
7 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Hang on just a
10 second. I've got a question here.

11
12 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 I just wanted to recognize Cyrus. He was recognized
14 with the National Indian Health Board. He received a
15 local impact award for his traditional foods program
16 and I just wanted Cyrus to have an opportunity to say
17 how important our traditional foods are and getting
18 this award and that our foods are safe to eat and just
19 briefly a little bit about that.

20
21 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Gayla. You got
22 me on the spot here. I didn't receive the award yet,
23 but I'll be traveling to Oklahoma to pick it up here
24 next week. What really brought this out was a sigluaq
25 process that we have back home. That sigluaq process
26 is to bring traditional foods into an up-to-code
27 building to process and serve in a Federally-regulated
28 building.

29
30 So our elders at the senior center
31 before all this took place were in a setting of long-
32 term care at a Federally-regulated building where they
33 were restricted from having their own traditional
34 foods. That became a concern to many of our folks,
35 especially me working for the Traditional Foods
36 Program.

37
38 So a process took place over the years
39 and I could go on and on and on and take half of this
40 day of migratory bird meeting away, but just to run it
41 short I do happen to work for the Hunter Support
42 Program for Maniilaq Association and this Hunter
43 Support Program does work towards keeping traditional
44 foods on the elders' table that they were raised with
45 all for the health benefit of it.

46
47 Thank you, Gayla.

48
49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

50

1 MS. HOSETH: Just to follow up. Thank
2 you, Cyrus. I guess I just wanted to reemphasize how
3 important it is for Alaska Natives throughout the state
4 to be able to eat our foods and to harvest our foods
5 and how we have these regulations that keep us from
6 doing our traditional ways of life. I'm just thankful
7 that Cyrus has that program and I hope that we could
8 have those same programs within our regions and his
9 program could be used as a model.

10

11 So I just wanted to thank him for that.

12

13 (Applause)

14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, Billy.

16 North Slope Borough.

17

18 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Members of the audience, AMBCC. Who else am I missing?
20 My name is Billy Adams and I'm filling in for Mike
21 Pederson. He's very busy being a deputy director and
22 Taqulik Hepa, our director, could not be here because
23 she went to an International Whaling Commission meeting
24 in Brazil. We do have our whaling quota and I thank
25 our leaders back at home that are traveling home now.
26 I'm very fortunate to be a whaler myself.

27

28 I think most of the audience and Greg
29 is probably wondering why a polar bear man or a whaler
30 is sitting in for the birds. But, you know, birds are
31 very important for our culture as being whalers because
32 we use Eider ducks, geese, ptarmigan at the end of the
33 whaling season called Nalukataq. It's the climax, the
34 celebration of representing a whale that has been
35 landed and we have used those Eider ducks for many,
36 many thousands of years in that practice.

37

38 That's the way of life we live. We use
39 many birds to make determinations about weather and
40 conditions and arrival of whales such as Snow Buntings
41 in April and May. When they arrive to Barrow they're
42 kind of like a barometer. They sing their songs and
43 we're happy to hear them and we know that the whales
44 have arrived in April to Barrow.

45

46 When we see Eider ducks flying, coming
47 from the south in late April and we have an east wind
48 and they normally fly in the south wind, west wind, and
49 the lead is open. So when there's a lot of ducks that
50

1 are unusually flying from an east wind, that tells us
2 that the wind is going to shift and the ice is going to
3 come in.

4
5 So we use birds in many ways. That
6 gives us time to move out of a bad situation that can
7 arrive. So a lot of the birds that we use, you know,
8 tradition has told us to use them wisely and we thank
9 our elders for teaching those kind of things.

10
11 The Fish and Wildlife Service and the
12 North Slope Borough holds a bird fair at the North
13 Slope and Michael and Taqulik and Todd Sformo -- I
14 almost forgot his real last name because I call him
15 Todd McConaughey.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. ADAMS: But he's a large part of
20 the AMBCC. Him and Carla should be sitting up here,
21 but I'm here because I was asked to sit here this
22 morning from you. Again, I live on the ice most of the
23 time, you know, hunting in the ocean year round. I
24 started to take my camera because I see Eider ducks
25 wintering now through the whole winter year round out
26 in the open lead as I'm hunting seals and polar bears.

27
28
29 The new things that I see are the Long-
30 tailed ducks also. They've been hanging around all
31 winter for the past few years, maybe three or four
32 years. Sometimes I see a gull and they don't usually
33 come until May, April. Those are the kind of odd
34 things that I saw over the past few years, the number
35 of birds overwintering in Barrow. Normally I see
36 Guillemots. They usually winter and, you know, I see
37 them here and there.

38
39 I listened to the other speakers talk
40 about die-offs. When Guillemots are -- you know, they
41 nest in June on the island and they depend on young
42 Arctic cod. When the cod are not around, there's a few
43 birds that die off. There's a guy that did bird
44 research. He lived on Cooper Island for 40 years doing
45 research, over 40 years on Guillemots only.

46
47 You know, he did a lot of things for
48 the Guillemots over the past years and he saw that when
49 there's no young cod that the birds were catching

50

1 sculpins and sculpins are very thorny and they can't
2 digest them very well. There was some research that
3 was done on there. We're very thankful for that. We
4 call him the Bird Man. I don't know how much longer he
5 can stay on that island by himself, you know. It's
6 like Gilligan's Island.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. ADAMS: He's done a worthwhile
11 research for the people on the North Slope about a
12 bird. We see a lot of Shearwater, Fulmars this time of
13 the year. When we see those many birds offshore, we
14 know where the whales are. We use birds to find other
15 things.

16

17 I seen quite a bit more Phalaropes
18 hanging around this past summer. Like everybody else
19 this past winter we had a lot of snow all the way from
20 St. Lawrence Island to maybe Canada. You know, all
21 over the Circumpolar there was just a lot more snow
22 this past winter. The geese nested a little later than
23 they would have. Probably the first week of June that
24 they laid their eggs.

25

26 The egg gatherers were kind of
27 disappointed because they had planned to gather eggs
28 that week and they had other plans to go somewhere else
29 the next week. So they waited a little while longer
30 than they wanted to, but egg gathering up there is very
31 important for them people to go out and enjoy the
32 outdoors with their parents.

33

34 A lot of things evolve around our
35 children and I'm very thankful the North Slope Borough
36 and the Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and
37 Game go out to the school children and do things
38 together that are worthwhile learning. Even children
39 that are not Native they get to be part of those kind
40 of events.

41

42 I think I left out a lot of things that
43 Todd should be giving a report instead of me. I'm
44 mostly an ocean guy. When I do venture out into the
45 tundra, other people will go up to me and say are you
46 lost. You don't belong here.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

1 MR. ADAMS: So I'm happy to be here.
2 When I'm hunting I use the birds. They're very
3 important to me because they tell me where to go and
4 when to go and when to leave. We use a lot of things
5 that help us in many, many ways. Not just for
6 consumption. We use them in ways that benefit us for
7 our own safety.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Billy.
12 I'm sure I could speak for all of us that we're glad we
13 convinced you to come to the table. You gave a
14 delightful report.

15
16 The person you're referring to on
17 Gilligan's Island is -- the guy's name is George Divoky
18 and I actually went to school with George I would say
19 an Ice Age ago it seems like.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So, you're right.
24 The big question is how many more years can George
25 endure working on Guillemots out there, but I'm glad he
26 has provided good information to the North Slope
27 Borough residents.

28
29 Your observations of seeing Eiders and
30 Long-tailed Ducks overwinter is a curious and almost
31 scary one. When Julian Fischer gives his report, he'll
32 talk about how Brant are now overwintering in Peter's
33 area along the Aleutian Islands, particularly Cold Bay,
34 when several decades ago just a very few Brant would
35 overwinter in that area and now we've got 30,000 birds
36 or so that are now staying there instead of migrating
37 down to California and Mexico where they used to go.

38
39 Billy, it's my understanding you have
40 to leave at 1:00 today and Carla Sims-Kayotuk from
41 Kaktovik will sit in in your place. I do want to take
42 this opportunity to thank you for sitting in for
43 Taqulik and Mike. You've done a great job and I really
44 appreciate the effort despite you feeling like you're
45 in the wrong environment of being on the tundra instead
46 of on the ice.

47
48 We appreciate your observations.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. ADAMS: I forgot to mention that
4 about the Snow Geese. Some years back there was some
5 concern about the population of the Snow Geese that
6 were down. Now they're everywhere. When that kind of
7 event happens, they go and take over nesting areas for
8 other birds and they really tear up the tundra.
9 Sometimes that's not good for other reasons. I hope a
10 lot of you are starting to harvest more Snow Geese.

11
12 We hear the concerns from the other
13 places about winter hunts. I talked earlier yesterday
14 about when we struggle to harvest other animals. They
15 have to have an opportunity to put something on the
16 table for the family and they deserve that right to
17 harvest birds when something is not there. With the
18 changing climate that we're experiencing, we started to
19 feel it in the '90s. We saw a lot of polar bears that
20 were coming onto shore and they still are, but they're
21 very healthy.

22
23 These days our way of hunting has
24 changed and the timing has changed a lot. The animals
25 have adapted and most of us are feeling the hunters are
26 changing their times of hunt and when to gather their
27 foods. I think it's important for many people to know
28 about how our culture, our traditions, our heritage
29 that need to go on and try to make them survive.

30
31 I hear a lot of things about the same
32 situations that other places are having -- like the
33 Canadians, the Greenlanders, our Russian Natives, they
34 share the common thing that we're experiencing.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Yeah, the
39 Snow Goose, again Julian Fischer from our program will
40 give a report on our survey results of monitoring Snow
41 Geese on the North Slope. Indeed, that issue was
42 brought up several years ago. Robert Suydam and Brian
43 Person from the North Slope Borough Department of
44 Wildlife Management came down and met with the Fish and
45 Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game
46 and USGS on that very issue.

47
48 All of us were concerned with that
49 population increasing and you're absolutely spot on.
50

1 There's ample evidence of a population that has caused
2 significant damage to the tundra and impacting other
3 birds, particularly shorebirds and land birds because
4 they actually grub-up the tundra as opposed to grazing
5 it like Canada Geese do or White-fronted Geese. They
6 actually pull the plant out by the roots and expose the
7 soil.

8
9 It's an issue that all of us should be
10 keeping our finger on the pulse.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 If I left out anything, Todd has a whole lot too. I
16 will ask to be excused at 1:00 o'clock. I talked about
17 elders and my father's side of the family. My father
18 would have been 103 years old last February. He had
19 many brothers and sisters and the last living was my
20 aunt who was 87.

21
22 She moved up here many, many years ago
23 and raised a family here. She had passed on and we
24 will be having her service here today. Somehow I made
25 it here to Anchorage while my brothers and sisters
26 can't be here. In a way I'm thankful that I'm here,
27 but I'll be back as soon as the service is done and pay
28 my respects.

29
30 I come from a family of 12 kids and I'm
31 the baby of all the many brothers and sisters that
32 picked on me and got me this big. I'm bigger than
33 everybody now. Now they can't pick on me.

34
35 Thank you for your time and I'll see
36 you guys maybe later this afternoon or tomorrow
37 morning.

38
39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Billy.
40 Todd, we're all really curious what your last name
41 really means.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So during lunchtime
46 perhaps you can explain that. All right. Let's move
47 on to Priscilla. Priscilla is going to give a report
48 from the Chugach Regional Resources Commission.

49
50

1 MS. EVANS: Is the lady there that's
2 there for me?
3

4 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Priscilla asked me
5 to give the report on her behalf. In the Chugach
6 Region we were able to get our grant agreement signed
7 early on so we did have a spring meeting along with
8 AVCP. Also our fall meeting is scheduled for September
9 19th. There is concerns at least in Nanwalek about a
10 swan hunt, so we're working on that with her and Jason
11 Schamber to see if that's going to go into the fall or
12 the spring/summer for swans.
13

14 The concerns that we've heard in the
15 Chugach Region, not too many about numbers of birds but
16 the migratory patterns or the timing is changing and
17 they also continue to express concern that they're one
18 of the regions that are not being surveyed for the
19 harvest survey program. We tried to explain why the
20 program is the way it is and sometimes it just doesn't
21 feel good to be left out, so we continuously work on
22 that issue and trying to get some services to the
23 regions that aren't being surveyed.
24

25 We're also working on a food security,
26 food sovereignty project, so this past spring we did
27 some work with all the villages to identify the
28 subsistence resources that are most important to them.
29 There are a lot of birds on that list. We ended up
30 developing a poster of all the animals, birds, fish
31 that are harvested and used by the people in the
32 Chugach Region and then we have a key on the side with
33 all the Native names that are associated with those
34 birds and animals. That was a big project for us that
35 we've been working on this year.
36

37 That's really about all I have to
38 report, Mr. Chairman.
39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.
41 Bruce.
42

43 MR. DALE: When will that poster be
44 done?
45

46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We did finish it.
47 It's been published. I can bring some copies tomorrow
48 if you're interested.
49
50

1 MR. DALE: Yes, very much so.

2
3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Great. All right.
4 Gayla.

5
6 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 For BBNA, we did not have our fall regional meeting,
8 but we plan on having our meeting sometime here soon.
9 I really didn't think that we needed to call a meeting
10 since we voted on the proposals and make it more
11 informational since we do have a high cost of travel
12 within our region. It costs a lot to bring people,
13 especially from the Chignik region and Lake Iliamna
14 villages.

15
16 So it will be an informational one
17 where I can bring back the happenings that happened
18 here at this meeting and we can see if there's any
19 proposals that we want to submit for BBNA. Plus I'm
20 just as busy as Brandon when I go back. We just don't
21 work on bird issues. We work on many other issue.

22
23 There were a lot of birds that were
24 harvested this spring. When we're out picking berries I
25 notice a lot of birds are starting to migrate south.
26 This year for Bristol Bay it was a very cold and wet
27 summer. It was very, very cold. We were lucky if we
28 even hit 70 degrees I think this summer.

29
30 I'll make it short because I know that
31 people want to go to lunch. You know, we live in a
32 dual management area just like everybody else here
33 sitting around the table and then having State and
34 Federal regulations. It makes it really hard for the
35 hunter to go out there and say which land are we on,
36 what rules do we need to follow.

37
38 BBNA Frank Woods submitted that
39 fall/winter harvest survey proposal -- I mean
40 fall/winter harvest season dates, excuse me, for
41 consideration of this Council. So it's something that
42 we definitely want to work on and then that way -- I
43 was talking with my sister and my nephew wants to go
44 hunting. I'm like, well, we have different rules that
45 we have to follow right now. So living in dual
46 management it makes it really hard. So to get a
47 subsistence fall and winter hunt would be really great
48 for the people throughout Alaska.

49
50

1 That's pretty much all I have, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3
4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank
5 you, Gayla. I've just been handed a reminder. Since
6 the media were here and obviously they were very
7 active, all Council members, if possible, please sign
8 and give their media releases to me before going to
9 lunch if you've got a copy of that. That way we can
10 move forward with working with the media outlets and
11 make sure if your picture is going to appear in the
12 Anchorage Daily News or elsewhere you're okay with it.
13 So please sign your releases and get them to me before
14 we head out to lunch.

15
16 With that, the time is about 12:15.
17 1:30 to come back to reconvene from lunch. That gives
18 us an hour and 15 minutes. We'll reconvene at 1:30.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good afternoon. It's
27 1:40. If I could get all AMBCC Council members to the
28 table, please, we will get underway.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 (Pause)

33
34 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

37
38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The poster we were
39 talking about during our regional report I brought
40 copies, one for each of the Council members, so they're
41 back on the table over to my left and the poster is
42 hanging on the wall if anyone is interested in getting
43 one, you can see me.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.
48 Who are we missing? Mr. Devine and Jack. The time is
49 1:41. We will reconvene the fall meeting of the AMBCC.

50

1 We're going to pick up at agenda Item No. 12, old
2 business, and ask for AMBCC Council committee reports.
3 The first one being the Handicraft Committee with the
4 chair Todd Sformo.

5
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'm sorry, Mr.
7 Chairman. We had agreed that Rick Lanctot will give
8 his presentation at 1:30.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

11
12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I apologize.

13
14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.
15 Todd, just hang loose. I would like to recognize Carla
16 Sims from the North Slope Borough sitting in for Billy
17 Adams.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 Rick.

22
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So just to make sure
24 everybody knows where we're at, we're still in old
25 business, but we are on the second page. The
26 presentation is shorebird ecology and conservation in
27 the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The presentation
28 is by Rick Lanctot, a shorebird biologist with the
29 Migratory Bird Program in Fish and Wildlife Service.

30
31 MR. LANCTOT: Thank you for giving me
32 an opportunity to talk to you today about shorebird
33 ecology and conservation. I'm originally from
34 Minnesota. I moved up to Alaska in 1989. I've been
35 working on shorebirds almost ever since. So they're
36 near and dear to my heart and it's very fun to talk to
37 you all about them. I'll kind of show you some of the
38 stuff that we've been finding out over the past 25 to
39 30 years.

40
41 My co-authors there are Dan Ruthrauff,
42 who is from the U.S. Geological Survey, Chris Harwood,
43 who is a biologist at the Kanuti National Wildlife
44 Refuge, and I think almost everybody here probably
45 knows Lili, who is working with the Alaska Department
46 of Fish and Game.

47
48 Next slide. I always like to start out
49 by saying what are shorebirds. I know that all of us
50

1 probably have a different idea of what we mean when we
2 say the word shorebird. I actually had in one of my
3 performance plans my goal was to make everybody in
4 Alaska know the word shorebird as much as they know the
5 word Mallard. I think that's a long task ahead of me,
6 but I'm going to try to do some of that today.

7
8 So usually these are some of the
9 species that you see here that we think of in the
10 western science world as shorebirds. They're the
11 Sandpipers, the Plovers, the Oystercatchers that are
12 out there. They're very common on the tundra and
13 wetland areas where they breed and they use a lot of
14 the coastlines and other habitats during migration.
15 I'll show you a little bit more about both of those
16 things in a minute. Many of them migrate long
17 distances. I'll also show you more examples of that.

18
19 Next. Alaska is very, very important
20 to shorebirds. About one third of all the species in
21 the world occur in Alaska. There's 215 species in the
22 world, 73 are known to be in Alaska, 37 regularly breed
23 here and 9 breed here occasionally. Roughly 30 million
24 shorebirds are thought to occur in Alaska, about
25 3/10ths of the whole world's population. So we have
26 very high densities of breeding shorebirds and we also
27 have some species that are only found in Alaska and
28 some subspecies as well.

29
30 Next. So the reason our area is really
31 important to shorebirds, one of the reasons at least,
32 is that we have these arctic breeding areas that are
33 very unique. They have amazing amounts of food in
34 terms of invertebrates that the birds can eat. It's
35 thought that they have lower predator numbers generally
36 than lower areas and similarly less parasites and
37 diseases.

38
39 We are in the process of revising the
40 Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan and one of the new
41 figures that we created was this map that shows all the
42 places in the state where we conducted shorebird
43 surveys. Some of the areas our numbers have polygons
44 associated with them. Some of them the areas are so
45 small that there isn't very much polygon to even see.

46
47 You'll notice there's some big voids in
48 there, central part of Alaska, and particular we don't
49 know very much about it at all. If you look at all of
50

1 what we know right now, there's two areas that really
2 stand out. That's the Arctic Coastal Plain and the
3 Yukon Delta. Those two areas alone each of them have
4 roughly six million shorebirds breeding there. So
5 there's a lot of birds in those areas both in terms of
6 breeding and in migration sites.

7
8 Next slide. So beyond breeding there's
9 many stopover sites that are also important. These are
10 areas where the birds stop to either put on food, kind
11 of like a gas station where you would fuel up, get
12 ready to do the next part of your migration, or maybe
13 you're resting after doing a long migration to that
14 site. So the lower picture there is Bar-tailed Godwits
15 that are fattening up before they do a long migration
16 over the Pacific Ocean. You can see just how rotund
17 they are there. There's fat little piggies.

18
19 The other side is Western Sandpipers
20 that are stopping in the Copper River Delta on their
21 way north in the springtime. Like the last slide where
22 I was showing breeding areas, this shows a slide of all
23 the important migration sites in Alaska. You can see
24 they're mostly coastal sites. I don't think the fact
25 that there's less or no sites in the Interior is a
26 misrepresentation from lack of data. It's more that
27 there's just not really good habitat there for large
28 aggregations of birds to go to.

29
30 Of all those squares, the sites that
31 are red are the most important. These are sites that
32 have over 500,000 birds or they have multiple species
33 where more than one percent of their population occurs
34 at that site at a given time. Like I said, this is
35 either spring or fall migration sites. If you're
36 looking around the room you can kind of -- or looking
37 around that map you can kind of see your part of the
38 world and maybe understand what sites we think are
39 really important for shorebirds.

40
41 Next. So one thing that's really
42 important to understand is the fact that shorebirds and
43 many birds, almost all the migratory birds, spend very
44 little bit of time in Alaska. In general, this
45 Whimbrel species spends about 13 percent of its time
46 actually breeding and the rest of the time either
47 migrating north or south or wintering in another part
48 of the world.

49
50

1 That's really important when you start
2 thinking about how you manage and conserve species
3 because what you do in Alaska has a more minimal effect
4 than what would be happening if you were to do work on
5 the wintering grounds for example. So it's the whole
6 thing. It's the whole enchilada as they say. You
7 can't ignore either the migration sites or the
8 wintering sites or the breeding sites when you try to
9 manage these species.

10

11 Shorebirds are the world's
12 globetrotters. From Alaska they use five major
13 migration pathways. These are general pathways. You'll
14 see in a minute that it's not quite as clean as what
15 this map is portraying. There's three pathways through
16 the Americas. One where birds simply go to the central
17 Pacific and winter in the middle there somewhere on
18 some of the remote islands and atolls. Then the East
19 Asian-Australasian Flyway where birds go all the way to
20 New Zealand and Australia or China.

21

22 Next. So here's just one example, and
23 I'm going to show you a few different ones, and this is
24 all from recent work that was determined using these
25 small satellite tags, which is shown on the top of this
26 bird here. These are called PTT tags. They use
27 satellites to get locations and transmit their data.
28 We used a couple other tags as well, but these tags are
29 solar-powered so they can generate lots of information
30 and recharge the battery that's on there.

31

32 In this species you can see that the
33 birds pretty much go through the middle of North
34 America and through the middle of South America. In
35 this case it does both the north and southbound
36 migration through the same pathway. You can see like
37 through the Midwestern part of the United States they
38 have a very narrow corridor that they go up and down.
39 They're doing that every year. What happens in that
40 particular part of the world is probably really
41 important because they're stopping in that part of the
42 world to refuel before they migrate either to South
43 America or right after they come from South America.

44

45 The next slide is another example.
46 This is ongoing work. This is data from birds that
47 were tagged this past summer at three sites in Alaska.
48 You can see all the birds moved to central Canada.
49 They stopped there for a number of weeks, then they

50

1 moved even farther east, more into northeastern Canada.
2 Stopped there for a while. Now some of them have made
3 it where they've actually migrated over the Atlantic
4 Ocean and are refueling in northern South America.
5

6 Next slide. What you don't see yet is
7 the completion of their cycle, which we suspect is
8 going to be they'll continue flying south down to
9 Argentina where they'll spend about six months and then
10 they should fly north through the middle of North
11 America. So they have more of an elliptical migration,
12 which is different than the last bird I just showed
13 you.
14

15 Next. Here's a bird, the Whimbrel,
16 which a fair number of them were marked in the Kanuti
17 National Wildlife Refuge in the Interior of Alaska.
18 They use the Pacific Flyway and actually fly over the
19 Gulf of Mexico, both north and south, as well as parts
20 of the Pacific Ocean. They winter all the way from
21 Mexico down to Chile and a sizeable number of birds
22 actually winter in Chile every year. So you can see
23 again a different type of migration pattern.
24

25 Finally, next slide, is a picture
26 that's become near and dear to many different people.
27 This heart-shaped migration pattern that this Bar-
28 tailed Godwit shows. Some of you probably have seen
29 this before, but it's work that Bob Gill and his group
30 at the U.S. Geological Survey did when satellite
31 transmitters finally got small enough to start putting
32 on some of the shorebirds.
33

34 They track these birds and show that
35 they migrate nonstop from Alaska to New Zealand, which
36 is about a 7,000 mile trip. They do that in about
37 eight to nine days. It basically would be the same as
38 a human being trying to run about 25 marathons back to
39 back. Realize they're not drinking or eating during
40 that whole trip. It's all based on all that fat that
41 they're accumulating while they're staging.
42

43 When I go to classrooms, I like to also
44 point out -- I ask the kids, the third-graders, the
45 fourth-graders, how far do you think that bird
46 migrates. It's whole life, they live about 25 years,
47 is that the same as like migrating -- what do you
48 think, across the United States or maybe around the
49 world or what do you think. What it comes out to if
50

1 you do the math is that a bird that lives 25 to 26
2 years will actually migrate to the moon and back again.

3
4 So it's pretty astounding that these
5 birds can do this to start with, but they can only do
6 this because of key resources being in the right place
7 at the right time. We'll see why that's become a
8 problem here next.

9
10 The fact is that shorebirds are not
11 doing very well if you look at that top graph. The
12 bottom line is the shorebird line. The next line up is
13 some of the land bird species and then the ones above
14 are waterfowl and other water bird species. So
15 shorebirds through time have not been doing very well.
16 The bottom graph is something that came out of the New
17 York Times just a month or so ago where they showed
18 that 19 species were declining. These are long-
19 distance migrants.

20
21 So we know they're declining in many
22 cases. The next slide indicates why are some of the
23 main reasons we suspect they're declining. I'll go
24 through a few of these, not all of them, but the key to
25 remember is that these things are occurring throughout
26 their life cycle. Not just on the breeding grounds or
27 the migration or the wintering grounds, but throughout
28 the whole area. So they're in a way getting nicked
29 and dined to death literally throughout their cycle.

30
31 The next slide will show a little bit
32 of why habitat loss has become so important. If you
33 recall that heart-shaped migration of the Bar-tailed
34 Godwit, one of the stopover sites they go to and spend
35 about a month is the Yellow Sea, which is in the area
36 near China and South Korea and North Korea. If you
37 look at this picture, the one on the left from 1983,
38 you can see all the mud flats that are around the
39 yellow area there. Those are intertidal areas that the
40 birds are feeding on. Now look at the slide to the
41 right in 2004. Virtually all that area has been
42 changed into industrial landscape.

43
44 The way they do that -- the next slide
45 -- is that they build these giant sea walls and they
46 build that wall like it's shown there, then they pump
47 the water out of that intertidal area and then they
48 backfill that area. So now you've basically acquired
49 new land and it's cheaper for them to do that than to
50

1 try to build into the mountains that are inland from
2 there. So they're getting land to feed the industrial
3 complex that China has been doing over the last 20
4 years.

5
6 That's been very devastating to the
7 shorebirds and many other water bird species as well as
8 the local people that use that area for their
9 fisheries, for clamming and other type of bivalve
10 fishing. What I thought was really amazing was a paper
11 that came out in science in 2014 that showed that if
12 you add up all the distance of that seawall, it's
13 actually greater now than the distance of the original
14 Great Wall of China that was meant to keep the
15 Mongolian people out.

16
17 So it's not a small thing by any
18 stretch. It's occurring over a huge area. This is one
19 example of how birds from both Russia and Alaska that
20 breed in the Arctic are being negatively influenced
21 along that migration pathway. But this is just one
22 example. There's habitat loss occurring in many other
23 parts of North and South America as well.

24
25 Next slide. Climate change. You guys
26 have heard that over and over I'm sure, but it
27 influences shorebirds in a couple of ways that you
28 might not expect. One, of course, is the loss of
29 habitat along the coast due to coastal erosion and
30 flooding. This is particularly important along the
31 Yukon Delta for example.

32
33 Also, if you think about those birds
34 that were migrating to the Central Pacific and
35 wintering on the Atolls in the middle of the Pacific
36 Ocean, a lot of those Atolls are projected to disappear
37 with sea level rise. So the birds are going to have to
38 adapt and go somewhere else or do something different.

39
40 Of course changes in the tundra are
41 important. The melting permafrost and the changes
42 there are leading to a change in the type of water
43 that's on the landscape and it's becoming drier there
44 as well as releasing methyl mercury, which has been
45 shown to be increasing in certain shorebird species in
46 parts of the Arctic.

47
48 The snow is changing. Most of you that
49 are in northern Alaska know it was a very heavy snow
50

1 year and a very late snow melt and that affects the
2 birds in the sense that it's changing the lemmings
3 because now lemmings have cover that they didn't have
4 before. The lemmings eat the vegetation. That
5 influences how the birds are nesting and it also
6 influences when the invertebrates emerge. The snow
7 melt has a big effect on that. So if the bugs or the
8 invertebrates are hatching out of sync when all the
9 baby shorebirds are around, the shorebirds grow less
10 and potentially don't survive as well.

11
12 Another thing that you guys might
13 appreciate because I know many of you have to be aware
14 of storms coming in when you go hunting and trying to
15 plan your activities accordingly, a lot of the
16 shorebirds -- if you look at how they migrate to get to
17 different parts of the world, they take advantage of
18 the winds so they don't have to flap the whole way
19 there or migrate against the wind. If the wind
20 patterns are changing due to increasing storms and
21 frequencies of those storms, that's going to affect how
22 well they can migrate these long distances.

23
24 Next slide. Predators are also
25 changing on the landscape. They banned DDT in the early
26 1970s and that has resulted in a lot of Peregrine
27 Falcons increasing throughout the landscape. Not just
28 Peregrines but those type of birds that were negatively
29 affected by DDT. Those birds are, of course, eating
30 some of the nests that are up in the Arctic, but
31 they're having a major impact on migration sites.

32
33 Whenever a Peregrine Falcon flies over
34 a major stopover site, the whole flock of shorebirds
35 flies up and flies around for 10 or 15 minutes. They
36 finally settle back down, they start eating and another
37 falcon flies over and they fly up again. So people
38 have shown that the weight gain is slowing down. The
39 birds aren't being able to refuel as fast. It would be
40 kind of like somebody shutting off your gas pump at the
41 gas station periodically while you're trying to fill
42 your car up. It's like, come on, why isn't this
43 working. I think the birds are going to be negatively
44 influenced by that.

45
46 We've also seen that predators in the
47 Arctic are changing. We have more ravens because
48 nesting areas that weren't available in the past are
49 now increasing on the North Slope. We also see denning
50

1 areas. When I was in Prudhoe Bay this past summer,
2 there were a number of red fox dens that were inside of
3 some of the structures there, the oil facility
4 structures, as well as the food that's available for
5 those animals to survive over winter. In the past they
6 weren't able to survive as well and now they are
7 surviving better. People think the red fox are being
8 able to expand into the Arctic easier because they have
9 this extra food available.

10

11 So hunting was another thing listed. I
12 know Lili is going to talk in just a minute or so about
13 the harvest that's occurring in Alaska on shorebirds,
14 but it's occurring in many other parts of the world as
15 well. The figure to the left showing a map shows
16 information about where hunting is currently occurring.
17 That's all the blue areas. The orange areas are where
18 information is available but not currently available to
19 this particular author. They know hunting and harvest
20 is taking place, but they didn't have good data
21 available to include here.

22

23 Alaska is printed orange because I
24 guess Lili hadn't shared all her data by the time this
25 thing was written. But it's occurring throughout Asia
26 and Russia and, of course, Micronesia and Thailand and
27 Burma and all the various countries down there. There's
28 a lot of hunting going on. This is the kind of hunting
29 that was occurring in the late 1800s, early 1900s in
30 the United States. This is commercial hunting so
31 people can sell their food to make a living.

32

33 The bottom picture shows a stand in
34 Thailand where people had a basketful of shorebirds
35 available for you to purchase to take home and eat. So
36 there's local people trying to make a living by
37 harvesting birds in mass quantities down there. We
38 passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in it's form back
39 in 1918 to limit commercial harvest in the United
40 States. We are striving to try to get some kind of
41 regulation in place to try to limit the harvest of
42 birds along that flyway as well.

43

44 Next slide. This kind of hunting is
45 also occurring in the Caribbean and northern South
46 America. Some of the countries I've circled down
47 there. Guyana, Surinam, French Guyana and some of the
48 other little teeny islands, Barbados and Martinique and
49 St. Lucia. There's hunting going on there. Some of it

50

1 is regulated sport hunting. Some of it is illegal
2 harvest by people that are either trying to subsist or
3 in some cases selling the birds like in the last case.
4
5

6 So there is stuff happening in South
7 America, but there's a big push right now to try to get
8 a handle on how much that's going on. The U.S. Fish
9 and Wildlife Service is working with the government of
10 France as well as those national governments there to
11 try to understand the level of take. Some of the sport
12 hunting areas have actually cooperated quite
13 extensively to try to recognize that certain species
14 are being hunted too heavily and regulating the number
15 of birds that their hunters can take.
16

17 I bring these things up because I want
18 you to realize that although we know problems occur
19 throughout the flyway it's important that we're making
20 strides to change some of those things outside of
21 Alaska and it's a work in progress, but at least we're
22 making some initiative there.
23

24 Next slide. So the way we're trying to
25 make those changes is mostly through active
26 coordination at both the local, regional and flyway
27 level. There's a variety of ways we can do that. I
28 know the AMBCC feeds into the Pacific Flyway Council
29 and that's a way to try to manage migratory birds that
30 fly along the Pacific Coast.
31

32 There's also the Central Mississippi
33 and Atlantic Flyway Councils. There's the Western
34 Hemisphere Shorebird Group which tries to do management
35 across the entire Western Hemisphere. Then the East
36 Asian-Australasian Flyway partnership does cooperative
37 meetings to try to raise the issues that I brought up
38 here earlier. I think this is being successful to some
39 degree.
40

41 You can see I'm in the background right
42 there. This is a meeting in Myanmar where we were
43 talking about the harvest of shorebirds in Myanmar.
44 Some of the people there described activities they were
45 doing. The lower right slide shows some of those
46 activities where they were working with folks that were
47 commercially hunting shorebirds in Myanmar and the
48 folks were doing it as a way to make a living.
49
50

1 We were able -- or not me per se, but
2 the task force that was involved was able to work with
3 those people and provide an alternative way for them to
4 make a living. They weren't into shooting shorebirds
5 for the sake of shooting shorebirds. They were doing
6 it as a way to survive in a very poor part of the
7 world. So if you can provide something as simple as
8 providing watermelon seeds to the people so that they
9 can grow watermelons and sell those in the market, that
10 was a way to reduce the amount of shorebirds that were
11 being harvested.

12
13 The picture in the middle with the
14 young woman there, this is some of the outreach
15 education efforts that were going on to try to get
16 young people involved and recognize the importance of
17 stopover sites in South America. So there are a lot of
18 activities occurring throughout the various parts of
19 the world where shorebirds go. We have a long ways to
20 go and I hope some of the stuff that I've presented
21 gives you an idea of just kind of the role you might
22 fit in in terms of managing shorebirds in Alaska along
23 with all the other stuff going on throughout the
24 flyway.

25
26 Next. So these were the authors. Lili
27 made a handout of the presentation that I think most of
28 you have. You can go to the next one and I'll finish
29 with that. If anybody has any questions, I'd be glad
30 to try to answer them or maybe I've took too much time.

31
32 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you for the
33 presentation. You mentioned two main groups. What
34 about that group in Cordova? That's a pretty big
35 population. Why is that not on your list?

36
37 MR. LANCTOT: When you say groups --
38 oh, you mean the Copper River Delta Migratory Bird
39 Initiative?

40
41 MR. DEVINE: No. The Shorebird
42 Festival they have in Cordova.

43
44 MR. LANCTOT: Yeah, there's actually, I
45 think, six or seven festivals around the state of
46 Alaska. Cordova has one, Kachemak Bay and Homer has
47 another. Barrow does. I think even Bethel has one.
48 They all serve a way of trying to educate people about
49 shorebirds.

50

1 You're right, they also serve a very
2 important role in trying to reach out to the general
3 public about the importance of stopover sites. So,
4 yeah, I could have included that as well. There's many
5 more things than what I've listed, but that's a good
6 point.

7
8 MR. DEVINE: One more point. With the
9 increase with these hurricanes down in the eastern
10 United States, do these birds head into that stuff or
11 is that part of their decline? I mean since storms are
12 more frequent, I mean is it throwing them off pattern
13 and sending them elsewhere?

14
15 MR. LANCTOT: Well, we don't have a
16 good handle on that. We suspect that's the case where
17 some of these big storms could be problematic for the
18 birds. Ironically, there were some Whimbrels that were
19 banded in the Yukon in Canada. They were satellite
20 tracked.

21
22 They flew all the way down through that
23 part of the world, through the Caribbean, right through
24 the middle of a hurricane. So they were tracking them
25 on a daily basis. They knew they were flying through
26 this hurricane. They popped out the bottom, landed in
27 Barbados and they were shot by hunters.

28
29 It got on national news. NBC had a
30 thing about it. That added profile was enough to allow
31 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to refocus some of
32 their money to do work in that part of the world and
33 start managing those swamps with the local people
34 there.

35
36 Those were actually kind of run like a
37 Ducks Unlimited process where they created swamps that
38 were habitat for birds to land in and then they had
39 sport hunters that were harvesting those birds. They
40 were kind of doing it on their own. They didn't have a
41 big picture of what species were increasing or
42 decreasing. Anyway, it began the dialogue as it were.
43 But I think you're right on. We don't know how big of
44 an effect those storms are having.

45
46 Last year I had quite a few of my birds
47 that I've studied for a number of years tagged and they
48 were flying into Texas when Hurricane Harvey was there.
49 We were all curious to see how they would respond.

50

1 They all just stayed there. They just sat through 40
2 inches of rain or whatever they had there and they
3 didn't migrate through it. They just waited it out and
4 then as soon as things got better they fed more and
5 then after another week they all migrated south and
6 they did fine.

7
8 So I don't know if that's normal.
9 Maybe it isn't, maybe it is. So it's kind of anecdotal
10 at this point.

11
12 MS. ADERMAN: I have a question. I
13 have a comment. I work at BBNA. I think it was three
14 or four years ago we had this -- you know, we started
15 this warm weather. So maybe about November -- between
16 November, December and January we had these strange
17 incidents where birds would just drop down from the
18 sky, you know. I know they had some in Port Heiden,
19 some in Iliamna area and some close to Dillingham. Now
20 what in tarnation would cause that to happen?

21
22 MR. LANCTOT: I think those particular
23 birds are probably seabirds if you're talking
24 wintertime, right? Where these birds didn't have
25 sufficient food because of the warm water that was in
26 the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Strait. So in some
27 cases the birds would be flying around and get caught
28 in a big storm and get blown way off course and they
29 were too weak to correct it and go back to where they
30 were supposed to be. So they were seeing birds in
31 Fairbanks and way off where they normally would be.
32 That would be one option.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. LANCTOT: All right. Thank you.
37 Appreciate that.

38
39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Rick.
40 It's my understanding Rick's presentation is going to
41 be followed by Liliana.

42
43 MS. NAVES: As you know at this point
44 I'm originally from Brazil -- just a moment. There is
45 south Brazil we see those birds in the wintertime some
46 birds that breed here in Alaska such as the American
47 Golden Plover and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. When I
48 first started working with birds in '93 more or less I
49 heard that in south Brazil there's this guy from Alaska
50

1 that -- I didn't know who it was, but it ended being
2 Rick Lanctot. So 15 or 20 years later I came to meet
3 who was this guy that was talking to me there.

4
5 Coming from the breed -- the wintering
6 areas when I had the opportunity to come to Alaska and
7 see the breeding grounds and what those birds were
8 doing during summer was pretty neat. It was very
9 moving because in a way how much in my dreams I never
10 imagined I would see the breeding grounds of those
11 birds. And, yeah, I'm here.

12
13 So this conversation about shorebird
14 conservation was going on since at this point maybe 10
15 or 20 years. There has been recurrent calls for
16 consolidated data for harvest of birds in Alaska
17 because people are looking what's going on all over the
18 place in the world. We know there is some harvest in
19 Alaska, but the data was not easily accessible and not
20 on kind of Alaska scale level the whole state.

21
22 So those voices, those concerns have
23 been voiced along the years and those calls have, for
24 instance, been voiced in the Alaska Shorebird Plan in
25 the 2008 version and maybe in the previous version
26 early. So this has been going on since some time. At
27 some point it was just fair to bring this topic to the
28 AMBCC and kind of hear your voices and get everyone
29 involved.

30
31 For this project I worked with Jackie
32 Keating from the Division of Subsistence and with Dan
33 Ruthrauff and Lee Tibbitts from the U.S. Geological
34 Service.

35
36 Next, please. This thing started
37 gaining traction in 2014 with the call for proposals of
38 the National Wildlife and Fish Foundation, the NFWF.
39 Their call for proposals specifically asked for a
40 survey to quantify shorebird harvest in the Y-K Delta.

41
42
43 Because of challenges in quantifying
44 shorebird harvest and the different roadblocks in
45 there, instead of proposing more harvest data
46 collection I proposed that I study to consolidate the
47 harvest data already available and to conduct local
48 interviews to document local and traditional knowledge
49 to learn better how people name these birds and what
50

1 people in the subsistence communities know about these
2 birds.

3
4 So from the data that already existed
5 we knew that the shorebirds was a small proportion of
6 the total subsistence harvest, so less than 1 percent
7 of the total bird harvest, but it included species of
8 conservation concern.

9
10 Next, please. I'll take just a little
11 time here to try to set up my system here because I'll
12 try to play pieces of the interviews. For the part of
13 the study that dealt with harvest data I used data from
14 a 15-year (sic) period. It started in 1990 through
15 2015 and used data from different sources.

16
17 One of these was the database of the
18 Community Subsistence Information System. That's an
19 online database that compiles data generated by the
20 Division of Subsistence of the Alaska Department of
21 Fish and Game since the early '80s. I also used the
22 database of the AMBCC of our Harvest Assessment Program
23 and I used data from other studies conducted by Native
24 organizations and universities and other kind of
25 research outlets that had data in a form that was
26 similar enough with the other databases so we could
27 analyze all this together.

28
29 Subsistence harvest surveys in Alaska
30 they had lumped shorebirds in categories and they do
31 that because of different things. For instance, there
32 are different study objectives. There's challenges in
33 the species identification by the hunters. There is a
34 poor understanding on the part of the researchers on
35 how subsistence users lump, split and name shorebirds.
36 Also there is a need for conciseness in subsistence
37 harvest surveys because the surveys many times I'm
38 asking about dozens or hundreds of different species.
39 So we cannot specifically ask about all individual
40 species in the surveys.

41
42 So the categories that we're able to
43 use are the ones named there on the bottom of the
44 graphs. So the Native names there are in Central
45 Yup'ik, but one category was for Godwits, Black
46 Oystercatcher, small shorebirds, Whimbrel and Curlew
47 lumped together, and the Golden Plovers and also there
48 was a category for shorebirds unidentified.

49
50

1 So on the left side we have harvest
2 estimates for birds -- sorry, on the left side and on
3 the right side those are harvest estimates for
4 shorebird eggs. So the Alaska-wide harvest of
5 shorebirds is about 2,800 birds per year. Godwits
6 account for about 1,200 of those birds every year.
7

8 So there on the graphs on the left side
9 of the regions are on the horizontal axis and the
10 colors of the bars are the species categories. So
11 Godwits are the orange part of the bar there on the
12 left side. Most of the harvest of Godwits occurs on
13 the south coast of the Y-K Delta.
14

15 Then moving to the egg harvest. So the
16 Alaska-wide shorebird egg harvest is estimated at about
17 4,700 eggs per year. Mostly shorebirds and I did find
18 shorebirds Black Oystercatcher and Golden Plovers.
19

20 So now looking at participation of the
21 regions in the harvest. For the harvest of birds, the
22 Y-K Delta south coast represent 43 percent of the
23 Alaska-wide harvest of shorebirds. We're talking about
24 shorebird egg harvest. It's more distributed among
25 regions. So the Y-K Delta north coast and inland is
26 38 percent of the total. Bering Strait/Norton Sound at
27 32 percent and the south coast of the Y-K Delta 14
28 percent.
29

30 Next, please. This graph showed the
31 seasonal distribution of the harvest. This time there
32 on the graph on the horizontal axis is the categories
33 of birds and the colors of the bars are the seasons of
34 the year. There's a proportion of the data for which
35 there is no season of harvest, so that is the unknown
36 season there. So for the part of the data that there
37 is a season of harvest documented, 15 percent happens
38 in the spring, 44 percent in summer and 41 percent in
39 fall/winter.
40

41 Next, please. So now we start talking
42 about the second component of this study that dealt
43 with local and traditional knowledge. This part of the
44 study, although this was an Alaska-wide study, we
45 focused on the Y-K Delta and the Central Yup'ik culture
46 because this area is particularly important for
47 shorebirds. Also we knew that a good part of the
48 harvest was coming from that area.
49

50

1 So we developed a draft of interview
2 protocol, how I was going to ask questions to people,
3 and we worked with the shorebird
4 biologist/anthropologist with experience in working
5 with harvest data and LTK research. Also we worked
6 with Native leaders as ad hoc consultants to review the
7 interview methods and to do pilot interviews.
8

9 So the participation of interviews was
10 voluntary at the community and the individual level.
11 We worked with the tribal councils to obtain community
12 consent to conduct the interviews. We conducted
13 interviews in Hooper Bay, Toksook Bay, Quinhagak,
14 Platinum and Bethel. We also conducted opportunistic
15 interviews of people from the Bristol Bay area cause
16 they shared the Central Yup'ik culture and language.
17

18 Then we asked the tribal councils and
19 community leaders to indicate people that were
20 particularly knowledgeable about birds as potential
21 correspondents. We conducted 72 interviews, included a
22 total of 80 people. We tried to include men and women,
23 older and younger generations and active hunters.
24

25 We started the interviews by briefly
26 explaining which kinds of birds we were interested in
27 and some basic demographic questions such as
28 respondent's age, their place of birth and places they
29 had lived along their life because of the different
30 dialects.
31

32 We used three different activities to
33 collect the data ethnotaxonomy. Ethnotaxonomy means
34 how people lump and split the species or how they
35 categorize the species and the names that they use for
36 the species. So this is ethnotaxonomy.
37

38 In the first activity we just asked
39 people to list the Natives that first come to their
40 mind. So that was our first snapshot. Then you
41 proceeded to progressively provide more information to
42 help people remember names and birds because it's hard
43 to get people in a cold call. So we progressively
44 provided more information to them.
45

46 After that first list of the names that
47 first come to their minds, we showed pictures of
48 shorebirds. You ask them to name birds and we also
49 played the vocalizations because some birds are
50

1 identified by vocalizations.

2

3 (Playing birds sounds)

4

5 MS. ADERMAN: The only one I know is
6 the Teqirayuli, Arctic Tern.

7

8 MS. NAVES: Next, please. For time
9 constraints, I will not talk about the data analysis
10 that got involved to tease out the ethnotaxonomy data,
11 but I can answer questions and the results are in the
12 report.

13

14 Next, please. So these are the main
15 results of the ethnotaxonomy part. In the next slides
16 those bubbles there are records for interviews that
17 exemplify some of the results that you got. So when
18 there's a bubble first to play the snippet from the
19 interview and then you move on. So this is a record
20 for an interview.

21

22 (Playing audiotape)

23

24 MS. NAVES: So we found that shorebirds
25 are mostly known by specialists and a large proportion
26 of people are not very familiar with shorebirds. The
27 people that knew about shorebirds they are much more
28 familiar with the Yup'ik names and they often didn't
29 know the English names or they didn't use the English
30 names.

31

32 So altogether we identified 24 Yup'ik
33 shorebird ethnotaxonomy categories. This is the
34 diagram down there on the bottom. So at least 13
35 categories included more than one species and one
36 category included more than one genus. So people are
37 lumping species.

38

39 At least 8 categories had onomatopoeic
40 names. Onomatopoeic means that they imitate sounds.
41 Some categories were primarily identified by the sound.
42 So if you show a picture to the people, they'll not be
43 able to name the bird, but if you play the
44 vocalization, they'll know right away. So, for
45 instance, that was the case with the Wilson's Snipe
46 (Kukukuaq).

47

48 And we identified 7 most salient
49 categories that a larger proportion of people know and
50

1 those are the ones highlighted in yellow there in the
2 diagram. So those bubbles in the diagram when they
3 overlap each other, this means that those categories
4 are somewhat permeable. Sometimes people lump those
5 birds here, sometimes they lump them there.

6
7 So, for instance, Tuliig, the Golden
8 Plovers; Iisuraaraq, the small Sandpipers; Imaqcaar are
9 the Phalaropes; Ciilmak, Turnstones and specifically
10 the Black Turnstone; Tevatevaaq, Godwits, all species
11 together; and Kukukuaq, Wilson's Snipe.

12
13 Pardon my poor Yup'ik here. It was a
14 steep learning curve for me. Chris Tulik helped me
15 lots along the way. We also worked with a Yup'ik
16 translator, Rebecca Nayamin. She is originally from
17 Chevak and she does a wonderful job with both general
18 Central Yup'ik and Cup'ik. Those are two main dialects
19 from the Central Yup'ik language.

20
21 So, for instance, she helped
22 translating one interview that was mostly done in
23 Yup'ik. She also wrote down pronunciations for the
24 names, which is in the report, and she translated the
25 summary of the study into Yup'ik and she was a
26 wonderful person to work with. It was really a
27 blessing to find her along with this journey. So she
28 was our main consultant for everything there.

29
30 Next, please. So our record for this --
31 here is about the shorebird harvest and uses and our
32 record for this one.

33
34 (Playing audiotape)

35
36 MS. NAVES: So we learned that
37 shorebirds and their eggs are harvested in relatively
38 small numbers and they're not primary food sources.
39 The current shorebird harvest may be reduced as
40 compared to the past. People referred a lot to the
41 time of their grandparents and to their grandparents
42 all on the interviews. The grandparents were a main
43 theme in those interviews.

44
45 Egg harvesting is an activity enjoyed
46 by families and children and Tuliigag eggs, the Golden
47 Plover's eggs, are especially appreciated. Birds and
48 eggs are used only for food. The shorebirds are boiled
49 or roasted. The eggs are boiled or eaten raw in the
50

1 field as a snack.

2

3 In the past, shorebirds were harvested
4 with bow and arrow, slingshot and other creative means.
5 For instance a rope stretched along the shore of a
6 lake. When a shorebird flock comes over, we'll whip it
7 strongly, the rope, and then you catch birds. It
8 doesn't hurt. In fact, interviews about indigenous
9 knowledge about Loons on St. Lawrence Island. I didn't
10 go this year, but I have -- not this study, but I had
11 heard that before. And Lee had said that she heard the
12 same thing from people in the north side of South
13 America, that they also do this there. So it's kind of
14 how people on very different corners of the world I
15 found similar solutions to the problems.

16

17 Older generations participated in past
18 harvest because shorebirds were abundant and easy to
19 capture. Nowadays adult harvesters harvest shorebirds
20 using shotgun and for an occasional meal especially
21 fall when the birds are fat. Children harvest
22 shorebirds with BB guns as part of learning hunting
23 skills.

24

25 Shorebirds, especially in the past,
26 were harvested in times of food shortage as emergency
27 meals and the cultural and emotional value of resources
28 that traditionally alleviated hunger it still is very
29 present, especially among the older generations. The
30 ability to rely on this primary food resource is part
31 of a complex food security systems in remote
32 communities.

33

34 Next, please.

35

36 (Playing audiotape)

37

38 MS. NAVES: So those speak about the
39 cultural importance of these birds. The shorebirds and
40 other birds are a joyful part of the landscape. In the
41 spring, arriving birds, breeding displays and sounds
42 mark the end of a long winter. Some respondents
43 related with birds as aware and sapient beings showing
44 a close connection with nature.

45

46 Being a bird biologist, it's
47 interesting to hear people that relate to birds in a
48 personal way, talking about shorebird populations and
49 what populations are doing. Something that really
50

1 comes through when talking with the Native people and
2 some people really have this personal connection with
3 the birds. Kind of talking to birds, of hearing back
4 what the birds say. So this really strikes me as a
5 bird biologist.

6
7 We found some cultural items related to
8 shorebirds including stories, songs, beliefs, place
9 names and wooden mask. Right in the middle there this
10 is an old mask collected in an expedition in the early
11 1900's. A very old style of Yup'ik masks. I'm happy
12 to share the story later because there is a mishap
13 happening with the story of this mask because it is
14 known as the Guillemot mask, but it's clearly not a
15 Guillemot. So during this study I tried to dig a
16 little bit more what's behind this mask. Interesting
17 things to learn about masks.

18
19 Older generations associate shorebirds
20 with a time when people were in closer contact with
21 nature and with their traditions and they're concerned
22 about loss of culture and language and changes in
23 harvest practices. Hunting small birds remains part of
24 becoming a subsistence hunter in Alaska. Despite
25 influence of Western culture, harvesting, sharing and
26 consuming wild foods are linked to tradition, identity,
27 social structure, recreation and self-worthiness.

28
29 Here I will invite you guys for a sing-
30 along. For most of you there I put this -- this is a
31 Yup'ik song that talks about the shorebirds and it was
32 Chris Tulik that pointed me towards this gem. This is
33 recorded by Joe Paul in the '60s. It was a well-worth
34 trip to the KYUK radio station in Bethel.

35

36 (Playing song)

37

38 So this talks about shorebird
39 conservation and during the interviews people are
40 talking about it.

41

42 (Playing audiotape)

43

44 MS. NAVES: So many respondents
45 reported that numbers of shorebirds are much reduced.
46 Some hunters no longer harvest shorebirds because
47 they're now scarce. Reduced numbers of shorebirds and
48 songbirds are of concern, but some respondents were not
49 concerned because shorebirds are not main subsistence
50

1 resources.

2

3 The respondents were often unsure why
4 shorebird numbers are reduced. Some potential causes
5 mentioned were ATV traffic, bird harvest by children,
6 egg harvest, pollution, oil spills, increased human
7 activity and noise. But people tended to focus on
8 local causes and while shorebirds are operating in a
9 very large geographic scale. So focus on the
10 environment around their communities respondents often
11 assumed that shorebirds from their area moved elsewhere
12 and that their abundance remains high in other places.

13

14 Next. So from this study we learned
15 things about harvest monitoring that applies to our
16 harvest survey in Alaska but also to other efforts to
17 better understand harvest in other parts of the world.
18 So, for instance, with dozens of similar species, local
19 ethnotaxonomy defer from Western taxonomy because of
20 their overlap in distribution ranges of these species
21 it's really hard to get data at the species level. So
22 we'll also lump categories in harvest surveys. And as
23 far as we're relying on people to identify the birds,
24 that's going to be the case unless you come with some
25 sort of part survey, genetics or something else.

26

27 There are some problems with the
28 English words that are used in surveys, but for Native
29 users they have a different meaning. For instance
30 Snipe the English word is used by some people, not
31 widely, but to refer to all shorebirds in general. So
32 if you put a Wilson Snipe on a survey, that's confusing
33 to people.

34

35 Another word that's confusing is the
36 English word Curlew because we have the Bristle-thighed
37 Curlew, but the subsistence users when they say Curlew
38 they tend to use it for all shorebirds with a long
39 bill. So Godwit, Yellow Legs and such. So the Curlew
40 word is another one to be avoided in harvest surveys.

41

42 In our surveys currently there are
43 groups of shorebirds that are not represented there.
44 For instance, the Yellow Legs, Dowagers, the
45 Semipalmated Plover and the Wilson's Snipe. For
46 instance, the Wilson's Snipe is not on the AMBCC
47 survey. Because shorebirds are not commonly harvested
48 and they're harvested in relatively low numbers, so the
49 confidence intervals around the estimates is really

50

1 wide and there's no fix to that. It's just how it is.

2

3 In the current surveys it's uncertain
4 on whether our survey properly represent harvest by
5 children because we're not specifically asking about
6 that and the kids may kill the birds away from home and
7 they may never bring the birds home. So from the
8 interviews it seemed that the harvest by children can
9 be an important part of the harvest, but we're unsure
10 whether our survey is capturing that.

11

12 Despite those challenges, in Alaska we
13 are the only place in the world where shorebird harvest
14 data has been consistently collected over a long period
15 of years. So when looking at data along the East Asia-
16 Australasia Flyway for instance, anywhere there they
17 have a fraction of the information that you have for
18 Alaska.

19

20 Next, please.

21

22 (Playing audiotape)

23

24 MS. NAVES: So what these things mean
25 for harvest management. So for harvest management the
26 fact that people lump a lot of species together is a
27 main issue because the harvest regulations pertain to
28 individual species that I think most people in this
29 room will not be able to tell them apart without
30 quickly refreshing from the bird ID guide.

31

32 In the spring and summer subsistence
33 harvest we have 18 individual shorebird species open to
34 harvest. For the fall the sport harvest only the
35 Wilson's Snipe is legally authorized. The estimated
36 harvest for that comes from the HIP survey and it's
37 about 800 birds per year.

38

39 In both the spring and summer and the
40 fall hunt there is the potential for misidentification
41 of species, but we know that this is likely to happen
42 in a subsistence harvest because now we learned much
43 better about that. This is also a likely thing to
44 happen in the fall sport hunt, but there's no
45 information to which extent that happens.

46

47 So 40 percent of the subsistence
48 harvest of shorebirds mostly the Godwits happens in
49 fall following traditional practice of seasonally

50

1 available resources. This again bumps into the issue
2 of the fall harvest.

3
4 The fourth bullet there I've covered.
5 Then effective shorebird harvest management must employ
6 outreach and education to increase awareness about
7 species diversity and identification, ecology and
8 conservation concerns and thus engage harvesters in
9 conservation efforts.

10
11 Potential threats to shorebirds related
12 to subsistence harvest in Alaska as well as reduced
13 shorebird availability as subsistence resources due to
14 threats in other parts of the world. Both these impacts
15 of the situation needed to be addressed in conservation
16 policy and actions.

17
18 We're almost there. So this talks
19 about opportunities in shorebird conservation and how
20 to engage subsistence users in conservation efforts.

21
22 (Playing audiotape)

23
24 MS. NAVES: Shorebirds represent
25 connections with the environment and it's traditional
26 way of life, which are key for the well-being of the
27 subsistence communities. There's a strong interest in
28 learning and recognizing Yup'ik names and to create
29 opportunities for younger generations to interact with
30 elders.

31
32 Native people are eager to learn about
33 shorebird migration and ecology. The increased
34 interaction of indigenous stakeholders with biologists,
35 managers and conservationists can facilitate sharing
36 indigenous knowledge and principles for interaction
37 with Native. For instance, the connectedness among
38 ecosystem elements including people's understanding of
39 birds and other animals as sentient beings.

40
41 Finally, shorebirds can connect
42 indigenous people from Alaska with other indigenous and
43 non-indigenous cultures along the migratory pathways.
44 For instance, during the interviews I showed pictures
45 of the kuaka. Kuaka is the native name that Maori
46 people from New Zealand use for Godwits. That pretty
47 spiked people's interest on how people down there on
48 the other side of the flyway has traditionally
49 interacted with those birds.

50

1 For the Maori people the kuaka related
2 them to their ancestral land because they didn't know
3 where those birds are coming from. They just know that
4 they come from the north. When they go back in fall,
5 they think that this bird take the souls of their
6 deceased people to their homeland. So those are ways
7 that people can connect through different pathways.

8
9 Next one. Recommendations. This is
10 the last record.

11
12 (Playing audiotape)

13
14 MS. NAVES: I put those there together
15 with the recommendations because I think that how
16 people see Native people see everything together it's a
17 key perspective, a key word view, that I think that us
18 biologists can use a little bit more. In our academic
19 training we are used to break things in parts because
20 sometimes we cannot manage -- when everything is
21 connected it's too complicated to understand and to get
22 a handle on.

23
24 Through college we're trained to kind
25 of break things in parts. So there's the social
26 sciences, there is the biology and within biology
27 there's all those different branches. But I think that
28 seeing everything together, the social components, the
29 cultural, the historic, everything, this is part of the
30 picture.

31
32 So as recommendations after 80-plus
33 hours of recording interviews I think that there is
34 need for increased awareness about shorebird ecology
35 and conservation among subsistence users. It's needed
36 to support transmission of traditional knowledge and
37 languages and interactions between elders and youth.

38
39 Support the local efforts that benefit
40 shorebirds in their environments. For instance they
41 blocked the trail out of Hooper Bay, that's the
42 (indiscernible) there to protect the tundra. And the
43 ATV traffic was an issue in interviews in all villages.
44 This is something that people are concerned, how ATV
45 traffic is being problematic nowadays.

46
47 To include traditional knowledge and
48 facilitate participation of indigenous stakeholders in
49 research, management and conservation. Support local
50

1 economic activities based on sustainable uses of
2 shorebirds such as ecotourism birding. So on St.
3 Lawrence Island Gambell has strong economic activities
4 related to birding.

5
6 In the Y-K Delta, now I'm trying to
7 remember which video, I forgot, there is a local guy
8 that works as a bird guide too and the guy is really
9 well known in the birding world. Those are budding
10 activities. And to collaboratively develop
11 conservation approach that are inclusive of traditional
12 uses and the culture importance of shorebirds.

13
14 Next one. I think that's all.

15
16 Is there another one, Jason? That's
17 it.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Lili. Do
22 we have time for some questions? Council members or
23 audience.

24
25 MR. MAYO: Randy Mayo here. I thought
26 that was pretty interesting, especially getting into
27 traditional knowledge from some of the Native people
28 that was presented up there. It kind of made me
29 remember some things I grew up with in our traditional
30 ways from our area concerning these birds.

31
32 I mentioned earlier that at this time
33 of the year where I'm from the creation stories that
34 happened in the fall time can start being told now all
35 winter long. You don't talk about it at any other
36 time. There's songs, winter songs and only for that
37 season.

38
39 I just came from out of the woods.
40 Took my son out. He's the last one at home. Took him
41 out of school. Through teaching some of our young
42 Native people our traditional ways out on the land and
43 our connection with the different animals and birds it
44 really cleared his mind up with this Western world.

45
46 We were out for a long time teaching
47 him about our traditional names for different things
48 and what they mean, especially these birds, like some
49 of the shorebirds. If you know what they're saying,
50

1 you can speak to them in our language and they'll
2 answer you back. Prophecy for that bird we call that
3 little Snipe.
4

5 These aren't fairytales because these
6 other birds can help you too if you know what they're
7 saying in our language when you're out on the land
8 hunting. It goes back to our creation story that is
9 probably over 100,000 years old. We came to be as
10 human beings. One elder out on the land wasn't having
11 what we call much luck and asked this bird in our
12 language, referred to that bird as his grandfather.
13

14 So this to me is not a fairytale. I
15 think sometimes as a Native adult we grow up and get
16 confused with the Western world. When I tell some of
17 the kids and young people some of these things they
18 pick it right up and they know what I'm talking about
19 over adults because our mind is not right anymore.
20

21 So I just wanted to mention this kind
22 of thing, you know. I thank you for your work because
23 you're learning too.
24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy.
26 Other questions for Lili, comments.
27

28 (No comments)
29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Lili, I want to thank
31 you. It was a delightful presentation. It had a nice
32 combination of scientific data, bird calls and bird
33 songs and loved the interviews with people that you
34 talked to in the various regions. Very well done.
35

36 Thank you.
37

38 MS. NAVES: One last point that I think
39 you'll like to make is that when you see these things
40 in China, the new Great Wall there and kind of this
41 really seems a far away part of the world, but thinking
42 of how we're connected with everything. That's not a
43 problem of theirs, it's not that they are messing up
44 with their environments because we are all related to
45 that.
46

47 For instance made in China, made in
48 China. So lots of the things that you use here come
49 from that part of the world. They're not doing that
50

1 because they're mean or because they don't like the
2 environment, it's because there's all this complicated
3 economy. It's important for us to understand how you
4 fit in this. It's not the problem of the East Asia-
5 Australasia. We are all connected in this.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Again, thank you,
14 Rick and Lili for great presentations on shorebird
15 conservation, shorebird harvest and some positive steps
16 that we all can consider in the future.

17

18 Jason Schamber is going to sit in for
19 Bruce Dale, who is attending a meeting right now that
20 he had to step away with. That brings us to Council
21 committee reports. Todd, I'm going to refer back to
22 you as the chair of the Handicrafts.

23

24 MR. SFORMO: Thank you. Todd Sformo,
25 North Slope Borough. As probably most people recall,
26 the Handicraft Committee was mainly designed to help
27 initiate change and regulation, allowing for Native
28 artists to sell handicraft, work of art that
29 incorporate nonedible migratory bird parts. That was
30 actually passed in August of 2017. The rules and
31 regulations are also in the back of this booklet.

32

33 So since then we've been just mainly --
34 we haven't really had too many committee meetings.
35 Just to mainly see how things were going. So I only
36 have two things to report. One is that every once in a
37 while Patty will receive a draft of a bill by Dan
38 Sullivan or one by Don Young or the markup memos by Rob
39 Bishop. So these are other independent bills that are
40 in Congress right now, so we've made some comments and
41 edits to those.

42

43 They just come every once in a while,
44 so we haven't really had even a committee to look at
45 that. Coral actually has made comment that she'd like
46 to see more of them. As soon as those things come up
47 again we'll make sure we have a Handicraft Committee
48 call at least by teleconference.

49

50

1 The second thing we did was to invite
2 Saunders McNeill. So she's the director of the
3 Community and Native Arts Program as well as the Silver
4 Hand Program. If you recall, that's one of two ways in
5 which Native artists can sell these types of works of
6 art. If they have a Silver Hand insignia or if there's
7 a Fish and Wildlife form that has to be filled out.

8
9 We just asked her to come and present
10 her observations since it's been a little over a year
11 now since this has passed. Basically she had two
12 things. One is at least in terms of the Silver Hand
13 Program there have been no sales that she knows of of
14 works of art that have incorporated nonedible migratory
15 bird parts, but she has received lots of calls. It's
16 mainly from three groups; artists, shopkeepers and
17 consumers. Mainly those calls are questions kind of
18 urgency wondering whether this is okay or this isn't
19 okay, can you do this or that.

20
21 The unfortunate thing is they haven't
22 really kept a tally of the calls or characterized them
23 since this has passed, but she's going to start to do
24 that in the future just to see how we can categorize
25 that.

26
27 So her summary then of what's going on
28 is that people know about this change, but there's a
29 lack of clarity what can and can't be done. There's a
30 possible solution that she may initiate. That would be
31 to create a group as well as a brochure that they've
32 done before for the use of ivory in works of art.

33
34 So they got together a group of artists
35 and everybody from their group, law enforcement, to get
36 together to find out or to really understand what is
37 allowable and then they made a brochure with lots of
38 pictures in order to see what has to be done or to
39 allow this to be sold.

40
41 That may be a possibility that they're
42 going to initiate that. If they do, I just asked her
43 to call Patty to make sure that AMBCC knows and maybe
44 there may even be come people within AMBCC that would
45 like to be part of that group.

46
47 She also left a number of books in the
48 back called Alaska Native Artist Resource Workbook and
49 there's probably more than enough for everybody. It
50

1 just has a list of things, use of wildlife material,
2 forms, how to market things. So there's enough books
3 back there if anybody would like to take them. You can
4 always hand them out to an artist that he or she may
5 want to see.

6
7 So that's the report. If anybody else
8 has comments from Saunders' visit, please speak up.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Todd.
11 Council members, any questions for Todd on his report
12 of the Handicrafts Committee.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Todd, I have one.
17 Given the information that you've gathered that there's
18 some questions from shopkeepers, consumers and artists
19 and that there's an interest in a brochure, do you
20 anticipate the committee being engaged in that effort
21 or what might the committee take on next, I guess?

22
23 MR. SFORMO: I think we can discuss
24 that at the next Handicraft meeting. I'd like to be
25 involved in a program that she's developing, if she
26 does develop it. There may be others too. So in that
27 sense personally I'd like to do it. Whether the
28 Handicraft Committee wants to be involved, we'll just
29 ask them next time, I believe.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It seems like given
32 that multi-year effort and the amount of information
33 and knowledge that committee has attained over the
34 years, it would really be a benefit, I think, both to
35 this group as well as the shopkeepers, artists and
36 others to make sure that information that you and
37 others have gets transferred to that brochure.

38
39 Any other comments, questions. Coral.

40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I've been
42 working a little bit on this also. I sit on the
43 Handicraft Committee. This is the first time and I
44 don't know if we need to do anything here. I was just
45 looking at the certificate and I don't know if you've
46 looked at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
47 certificate for the sale of Alaska Native handicrafts.
48 I guess looking over it we never really sat down and
49 talked about what would be on this certificate. I

50

1 don't know if it would be appropriate to ask for us to
2 ask them to perhaps add something to their certificate,
3 but I would just like to suggest.

4
5 So looking on here it says that you
6 clearly print your name, the person doing the article,
7 of handicraft and then part two says I am eligible to
8 offer for sale and sell Native handicrafts including
9 migratory bird parts because I'm a member of a
10 Federally-recognized tribe, I possess a certificate of
11 degree. So it asks the seller to declare that, yes,
12 I'm eligible to sell handicraft.

13
14 I would also like to see a little line
15 on there stating that the inedible parts have been
16 obtained through legal subsistence means and perhaps
17 adding the hunter because anyone can use feathers, they
18 can be given to someone in the Interior who is not
19 eligible for the subsistence hunt and I would just like
20 to see the hunter perhaps added to that certificate
21 because it's kind of two things. You have to have
22 obtained them through the subsistence hunt and then you
23 have to be eligible to make handicraft.

24
25 So I'd like to see that as an addition
26 and I don't know how we can ask for that. I don't know
27 what means we do that or if I just make my comment.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Coral, I would say
32 you just did ask for it. I think we'll take that and I
33 will talk to Todd and other committee members. Looking
34 at the committee members from the Fish and Wildlife
35 Service, Rory Stark may not be here right now because I
36 know he had a conflict -- no, there he is. Rory was on
37 the committee and I know my predecessor Pete Probasco
38 served on the committee. But I would suggest the
39 committee talk it over and make that recommendation to
40 the Service and we will get back with you.

41
42 Any other questions for Todd or
43 comments.

44
45 Thank you, Coral.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thanks,

50

1 Todd. I think I am up next for the Harvest Survey.
2 Mike Pederson is the chair of the Harvest Committee,
3 but was unable to attend. I think I more or less
4 volunteered or was volunteered to serve in this
5 particular meeting. It was yesterday from 10:00 a.m.
6 to 12:30 the AMBCC Harvest Committee met. I want to
7 thank Lili for putting together a pretty aggressive
8 agenda of 12 items. We managed to get through much of
9 it, but not all of it.

10

11 In terms of attendees, Gayla, myself,
12 Chuck, Vince, Jim, Lili and Jason were all there.
13 Billy Adams kindly sat in as an alternate for the North
14 Slope Borough for Mike Pederson and Taqulik Hepa.
15 Cyrus was unable to attend, but we did have a quorum
16 with seven in attendance and one person being absent.

17

18 The first thing that was on the agenda
19 was something that we can talk about at the end of this
20 meeting and that is representation on the committee.
21 Both Lili and Jim had made the recommendation, I think
22 it's a good one, that the five regions that we survey
23 every year for subsistence harvest of migratory birds
24 actually be represented on the committee and that was a
25 bit of an oversight.

26

27 When we get to the end of this meeting
28 when we ask for committee assignments, I will ask those
29 five regions, the North Slope Borough, the Interior,
30 the Yukon Delta, Bristol Bay and Bering Strait all to
31 make sure that we have representatives on the
32 Subsistence Harvest Committee.

33

34 The next on the agenda I have Dave Otis
35 and Paul Doherty kindly gave us a presentation from
36 Colorado State University on the current revision of
37 the AMBCC harvest survey and you will see that
38 presentation here in just a bit.

39

40 That developed into motion number one
41 from the committee, the motion being the Colorado State
42 University report and the recommendations and those
43 were approved by the committee.

44

45 The second motion that was put forward
46 by the committee was to encourage increased
47 collaboration and support by partners including the
48 Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fish and Game
49 and rural regional organizations, tribal councils and

50

1 local surveyors. The main concern was this survey is
2 absolutely and fundamentally dependent upon
3 collaboration and support by that full suite of
4 partners that I maintain. Unless we have that support
5 the quality of the information and the accuracy of the
6 estimates will suffer.

7
8 We had some discussion about this
9 statement and it was felt it was strong enough that an
10 actual paragraph be put together for the AMBCC Council
11 to consider at this meeting. So I'm going to pass this
12 out and give the Council members just a few minutes to
13 take a look at it and see if there's an agreement or
14 any suggestion edits.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I'll just take a
19 moment here and read this for the members of the public
20 and others. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
21 Council (AMBCC) recognizes that harvest data must
22 accurately represent the importance of the subsistence
23 harvest of migratory birds in communities across
24 Alaska. The AMBCC harvest survey is unique because it
25 is the product of the collaboration between the Alaska
26 Native Caucus, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
27 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

28
29 The success of the survey depends on
30 partnerships within wildlife refuges, Alaska Native
31 regional organizations, tribal councils, local
32 surveyors and the AMBCC representatives to collect the
33 most accurate data possible. Failure to survey the
34 selected communities or failure to follow procedures
35 for random selection of households will result in a
36 less accurate representation of bird and egg harvest on
37 the statewide and regional levels.

38
39 The resolution or the motion is,
40 therefore, the AMBCC encourages all regional and local
41 partners in the Harvest Survey Program to renew their
42 commitment to meeting survey sampling goals and to
43 observing the survey deadlines set by the AMBCC.

44
45 I'll give the Council members an
46 opportunity to take a look at it and if you have any
47 suggested edits or comments, I'd like to hear them.

48
49 Peter.

50

1 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 was just wondering when the Aleutian/Pribilofs are
3 going to be surveyed again because you guys want more
4 accurate and more surveys, but the Aleutian/Pribilof
5 region hasn't been surveyed since 2005. That's 13
6 years ago. I mean you've got 13 years of information
7 that ain't there. So when are we getting back on the
8 cycle?
9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Lili, would you like
11 to provide a comment to Peter's question.
12

13 MR. FALL: Jim Fall with Division of
14 Subsistence, Department of Fish and Game. I think in
15 part, Peter, the presentation that we'll hear from Dave
16 Otis of Colorado State will give some background on
17 this too. As you'll recall, when the survey was
18 redesigned a number of years ago we had to narrow down
19 the geographic coverage. We also wanted to standardize
20 the regions that are covered.
21

22 So five regions were covered that
23 represent about 90 percent of the overall statewide
24 harvest of migratory birds. That's what we committed
25 to with the funding that's available. We would
26 certainly like to augment, to supplement those
27 estimates with estimates for other regions, but we're
28 going to be dependent upon finding other funding
29 sources to do that.
30

31 So right now our design is not flexible
32 enough to add other communities or substitute other
33 regions. That's not the design that we've committed
34 to. But if we can find other funding sources to
35 supplement that, let's go for it, but that's what we
36 have to do.
37

38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Jim.
39

40 MR. DEVINE: So what I gather is we
41 don't fit into the five-year plan, so by the time this
42 cycle is done it's going to be 18 years before any
43 information comes from my region.
44

45 MR. FALL: Pete, there is information
46 from other surveys. We did Sand Point and King Cove
47 comprehensive surveys and there's been surveys done in
48 most Aleutian Island places. Since the AMBCC survey
49 that gives us some information about migratory birds.
50

1 But you are right that the plan for the AMBCC survey
2 right now does not include the Aleutian/Pribilof
3 Island, lower Alaska Peninsula area. If we can look
4 for funding for that, we should try to do it.
5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Jim. Are
7 there any comments or concerns or edits on the proposed
8 statement that the Harvest Survey Committee put forward
9 to the Council for consideration.
10

11 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yes.
12

13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Jack.
14

15 MR. FAGERSTROM: I hereby renew my
16 commitment to -- I was supposed to do a survey, but I
17 didn't. The reason why that was, we held a meeting and
18 I was the person hired to do the survey. The council
19 looked at it and said why aren't these communities
20 being surveyed. They harvest unique species of birds
21 that probably no one else in the state harvests.
22

23 I speak of one of the villages on St.
24 Lawrence Island. We have Stebbins, our farthest south
25 village. They harvest a lot of white geese. They're
26 not going to be surveyed. Koyuk is probably our
27 easternmost village on the north part of our region and
28 they get a lot of eggs, geese, ducks, and they're not
29 getting surveyed.
30

31 Like Peter was saying, they're not
32 getting counted. Is it because of a funding thing?
33 They say the formula is this long, but it works out.
34 My question was how can you count something that hasn't
35 been counted or judge something that hasn't been
36 counted? Especially in these times where we're seeing
37 a huge bird die-off. We have changes in our ocean
38 temperature. Erosion on our beaches. There's plants
39 along the beach that are no longer there. I'd really
40 like to see those communities surveyed just for their
41 sake.
42

43 I'm going to have to apologize to Lili.
44 I'll do it right here. I just didn't feel comfortable
45 doing that survey. If we're going to survey somebody,
46 I would like our whole region. Not someplace being
47 ignored. These are unique birds they harvest. You
48 heard Mr. Ungott telling you very plainly firsthand
49 report of the different birds they harvest, the
50

1 opportunities they have.

2

3 Our opportunity cycles are changing.
4 We have limited windows of opportunity not only for
5 birding, eggging, but also berries and fishing and
6 hunting. The changing environment is throwing
7 everything out of whack. Everything is a whole month
8 early. Doing that forces people to make decisions. Am
9 I going to go travel around. There's people who have
10 hunted all their lives in conditions they're used to
11 and you've got something that's a month off, people are
12 dying out there.

13

14 I got a little off the subject.
15 Forgive me. Thanks.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Jack. I
18 think the committee wasn't -- the intent certainly
19 wasn't to single anyone out. Challenges come up in
20 terms of surveys. You bring up a really good point.
21 If the AMBCC is going to conduct a harvest survey of
22 migratory birds and harvest of eggs and you're in
23 charge of a committee, I am sure people want to know
24 why wasn't my village or community surveyed or will it
25 be.

26

27 The points you made that certain
28 regions harvest certain species or certain eggs and
29 others do not and they fear that if they're not going
30 to be counted or represented, perhaps they won't be
31 viewed as important in the future. Those are all valid
32 concerns and I think it speaks to a process that's
33 still evolving.

34

35 We set up -- and you will hear more
36 from Dave and Paul later this afternoon. We've been at
37 this for I guess almost five years now in terms of
38 revising this survey and we've got two years under our
39 belt. So it's really incumbent upon us being the AMBCC
40 to make sure that surveyors in the communities and the
41 households understand the survey design.

42

43 Much like Peter mentioned earlier, the
44 concern that his community and region is not being
45 surveyed, but in your case you've got individual
46 communities, it's really important for us to explain
47 the survey design and how surveys are selected and the
48 likelihood that a survey that wasn't selected in the
49 first one or two or several years may be selected in

50

1 the future.

2

3 Perhaps what I'll do is go back to the
4 Harvest Committee and talk to Mike as well as Dave and
5 Paul and we can think about an outreach product, a
6 short term or a short page, something that's easy to
7 hand out and for you to explain how this survey is
8 designed so that people feel comfortable with it and
9 that's the main thing that we're after. Comfort level
10 I think is really critical if you're going to have
11 dependence in the data.

12

13 MR. FAGERSTROM: Just like everything
14 else it's a learning process. If you look back at the
15 Emperor Goose thing, it might take 25 more years, but
16 we'll get there eventually.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Your point is well
19 taken and I appreciate you bringing it up to the
20 Council. Any other comments on the proposed paragraph
21 that the Harvest Survey Committee has put forward.
22 Yes.

23

24 MS. ADERMAN: Do you know a few years
25 ago.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Can you come to the
28 microphone please.

29

30 MS. ADERMAN: Helen Aderman, Bristol
31 Bay. I work with marine mammals and I know a few years
32 ago there was a big concern about seals up north, seals
33 down our area. They had some major die-offs. Now
34 where did you guys get the funding to do an unusual
35 mortality event project? Why can't you guys come up
36 with funding to do an unusual mortality event, you
37 know, the die-offs of the birds and include the budget
38 to do the surveys.

39

40 That's just an idea that came up. So I
41 don't know where Fish and Wildlife got the funding to
42 do the marine mammals unusual mortality events. With
43 the die-offs that are happening in the St. Lawrence
44 Island area that's a very, very remote place. They
45 need to know why that's going on, you know. They don't
46 have everyday airlines like we do. If there's no more
47 food left, you know, a whole village could starve. You
48 guys need to work something out that's related to
49 migratory birds. That's just an idea.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Helen,
5 you'll have the opportunity to bring that question and
6 ask for some ideas from Robb Kaler and Julia Parrish
7 who will be giving a presentation on seabird die-off.
8 I can't comment. I really don't know where the marine
9 mammals management office came up with their funding to
10 do marine mammal unusual event surveys. I know we, the
11 Migratory Bird Division, is working closely with the
12 COASST program from University of Washington as well as
13 with other entities like University of Alaska Fairbanks
14 Marine Program, Gay Sheffield out of Nome.

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Indeed, you're right. There's an
opportunity for improvement. I don't think this
problem of seabird die-off is going to go away any time
in the near future. Unfortunately we're into a multi-
year event now and all indication is that it may
continue into the future. So you raise a really good
point and something that I think all of us need to talk
about between the Department of Fish and Game, the Fish
and Wildlife Service in rural regions to see what can
be done.

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Thank you.

All right. Any other comments on the
paragraph. What I would like to do is call for a
motion to accept this paragraph and move it forward if
appropriate.

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Jennifer.

MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I guess kind of echoing what several of the comments
have been. I too also reported that at the WCC they
have -- at least since I've been involved in the last
almost two years now -- and before I had a good
understanding of why this survey is conducted the way
it is. There are concerns about accuracy of the data
and how communities are selected.

43

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I guess sort of looking at the purpose
for the paragraph and stressing the importance of the
survey, I mean I guess I kind of look at it as a
reminding request, if that makes any sense, to the
AMBCC and the regional bodies. In order to get as
accurate and useful information as possible, the

1 regions need to do everything that they can to
2 participate in the survey.
3

4 Since the first AMBCC meeting I came to
5 there have been questions about kind of all of this. I
6 think unless there's another purpose for the paragraph
7 I would -- and whether the Harvest Survey Committee
8 discussed it including some reference to understanding
9 the concerns and the requests from the regions to
10 include more communities to get more accurate data, the
11 bottom line is funding, but we're not seeing this as a
12 complete block limiting the survey forever. That there
13 will be efforts to try and identify new partners, other
14 sources of funding.
15

16 I think I'm kind of rambling. But kind
17 of incorporating the same concerns that I've heard
18 since I've been involved with RWCC and the AMBCC here,
19 the questions on the way the survey has morphed and
20 turned into what it is now and the concern over the
21 true accuracy of the data. If that makes any sense.
22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: No, your comments are
24 all -- they all make sense. As I stated, Dave and Paul
25 are far better equipped than I am, but I'll take a stab
26 at this and then let the experts, when they give their
27 presentation, probably correct any mistakes that I
28 might make.
29

30 It was a long process and I can tell
31 you I think we spent almost a year designing the
32 objectives of the survey. What did we want the survey
33 to do. We asked the State of Alaska, we asked the
34 Alaska Native Caucus and we asked the Fish and Wildlife
35 Service how will this information be used and what do
36 we want it to tell us. It was a very healthy
37 discussion and I think we did settle on some very
38 reasonable and relevant objectives.
39

40 Next came a discussion of budget and
41 that fell upon my agency to say what's the level of
42 funding and the level of funding included support to
43 the Department of Fish and Game to conduct the survey
44 and analyze the data.
45

46 Then the next part fell upon Dave and
47 Paul and Colorado State University. Given the
48 objectives and given the funding level that we have,
49 how can we design a survey that meets those needs. So
50

1 it's a balancing act of funding, logistics and
2 objectives.
3

4 I feel, and I think I can speak safely
5 for the rest of the committee that worked on this that
6 we did a reasonable job and I certainly complement
7 Colorado State's effort because they have worked really
8 hard. And I want to complement Lili who put in
9 significant numbers of hours in addition to her regular
10 job to see this through.
11

12 I think either you or Jack said growing
13 pains and I think that's still kind of where we're at
14 where people are learning how this design is set forth.
15 I'm trying to give assurance to people that if their
16 community was not sampled that the information is still
17 relevant for the region. One of the objectives is to
18 get a statewide harvest estimate to get the total
19 numbers of birds and then also to get estimates for
20 regions.
21

22 Perhaps what we haven't done well
23 enough is an outreach in education effort for the
24 people that are actually in the field so that they can
25 have an easy-to-read document that explains the
26 objectives and the design and how the information will
27 be used to kind of address some of the concerns that
28 you have brought forward.
29

30 I've heard from two regions now and my
31 guess is that the other regions may be having similar
32 questions and they're just not bringing them forward.
33 I'll bring that back to Mike Pederson, who is the chair
34 of the Harvest Committee. I'll talk to Paul and Dave
35 and Liliana and Jim and we'll put our heads together
36 and see if we can address your questions as well as
37 Jack's.
38

39 Christopher.

40
41 MR. TULIK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
42 would like to share with you the challenges we face in
43 the Yukon. Oh, by the way, my name is Christopher
44 Tulik for the Yukon Delta Refuge. I coordinate the
45 bird harvest survey for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. I
46 would like to share with you some challenges that we
47 face out in our region.
48

49 The major factor is the weather itself.
50

1 By the time we are up and doing the bird harvest
2 surveys in the communities, the weather changes and
3 it's really hard for us to go out to some of the
4 villages. Then there are also other challenges that we
5 face with the communities themselves. I mean we will
6 find somebody there, but then the weather will come in
7 and it's a major problem. Not only the weather, but
8 the people that we find out there to do the survey are
9 not actually doing their job.

10

11 Despite our best efforts that we try to
12 get to all of the villages out there, the weather is a
13 major factor. I would say that we've done about 99
14 percent of the selected villages. Not only that, but
15 to work with the contacts we have out there in the
16 villages, you know, their tribal administration are
17 experiencing turnovers, so we have to work with
18 different people, talk with them, make them understand
19 what this is all about. For those of us out there in
20 the villages doing the actual survey are doing the best
21 we can.

22

23 I think I'm saying that we're not going
24 to be doing 100 percent. I mean the best accurate
25 representation of the bird harvest surveys.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Christopher.
30 I appreciate you bringing that forward. I heard that
31 weather presents a challenge in terms of getting to the
32 communities or villages that you're trying to survey.
33 That some people, despite best efforts, don't have the
34 time or something comes up that prevents them from
35 conducting the survey. Finally, the turnover where you
36 go to the effort to work and train an individual to
37 conduct a survey and how to collect the information and
38 then the person either moves to a different community
39 or perhaps decides not to do it. So those are all
40 three things that certainly are challenges.

41

42 Again, I think it would be a great
43 opportunity for you to pose questions to Paul and Dave
44 in their presentation as they talk about regions and
45 the Yukon Delta. Perhaps give them some ideas. Meet
46 with them in person as well as meet with Liliana and
47 Jim while you're here to talk these over and see if
48 some improvements can be made in the future.

49

50

1 So, thank you. Other comments relative
2 to this paragraph.

3
4 Peter.

5
6 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
7 only problem I have with this is -- okay, it says down
8 here in the bottom on the third paragraph that tribal
9 councils, local surveyors and AMBCC representatives to
10 collect the most accurate data possible. That's
11 putting us in the hot seat to help collect the data. A
12 bunch of us wear a lot of other hats. Like Billy said,
13 he barely goes on the tundra, he's out on the ice, so
14 he wouldn't be able to participate. I don't know. If
15 we could just talk to Mike and have him strike that,
16 I'd be fine with it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I'm sorry. So you
19 would like to strike AMBCC representatives or.....

20
21 MR. DEVINE: Yes, yes. I mean that's
22 putting us on kind of like the hot seat. Well, if you
23 guys don't help, then this won't get done. I mean
24 you're asking us to accept this without even taking it
25 back to our tribal reps or other tribes without them
26 seeing it. This is us telling them, okay, this is what
27 you're going to do. I mean we already set up to do the
28 surveys and stuff. We're in agreement to do that.
29 This is a little much, I think.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I'll take
32 a stab and if I'm interpreting this wrong, I'm going to
33 ask Jim to perhaps come to the microphone. When I saw
34 the term AMBCC representatives, I thought of the three
35 partners of the AMBCC; the Alaska Native Caucus, the
36 Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife
37 Service. Indeed those entities are identified in that
38 previous sentence.

39
40 In my case, for example, National
41 Wildlife Refuge personnel are involved with the survey.
42 Not only Christopher and John Dyasuk as Refuge
43 Information Technicians, but Vince Mathews and others
44 in terms of the Refuge Program. If, indeed, for some
45 reason the Refuge feels like another priority steps in
46 the place of this survey or budgets are tight or times
47 are tight, I would expect Lili to come to me or Jim to
48 come to me and say, hey, we need the Fish and Wildlife
49 Service to step up and make sure this survey is

50

1 conducted. The same would hold for Jason and the
2 Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 If, for whatever reason, Lili is
5 dependent upon an area biologist or subsistence
6 coordinator and that person may or may not have time or
7 feel like it's a priority, again it's the Fish and
8 Game's role to step up. I guess my point is I don't
9 want you to feel like it's only you in the hot seat.
10 It's the State and Federal agency as well.

11
12 Jim, if I'm misinterpreting that,
13 please let me know.

14
15 Gayla.

16
17 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
18 said it in the Harvest Survey Committee meeting
19 yesterday. I think that the takeaway from this is just
20 for the partners to help get the word out of how
21 important it is that we get these surveys conducted. I
22 think that us as partners to help maybe do some -- send
23 out some information that it's really important for us
24 to participate in the surveys is how I took the meeting
25 and what we were doing with having more encouraging
26 regional and local partners to assist in any way we can
27 to help get the word out to our people how important it
28 is to participate in the surveys.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Gayla. As
31 the stand-in chair of the committee, that's the way I
32 interpret it. For example, when I asked Jim right
33 before I knew I was going to present the committee's
34 findings what he expected this -- how this paragraph
35 would be used.

36
37 Jim stated first it would be in the
38 meeting notes, but then I also asked him would you feel
39 comfortable with me distributing this to National
40 Wildlife Refuge Managers that I know are involved and
41 people like Vince to make sure that they have it in
42 hand to communicate directly with a Refuge Manager or a
43 Refuge biologist and Jim said, yes, by all means.

44
45 It's a communication to try, like Gayla
46 said, to increase the understanding that this survey is
47 only going to be -- it's only going to provide the
48 information that it was designed to do if we get the
49 collaboration and support of everyone. I mean it's
50

1 kind of an emphasis and a push to make sure people help
2 out to try to get this done.

3

4 Billy.

5

6 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 I've done some bird surveys before. When you're doing
8 a survey sometimes there's some individuals in the
9 community that is not fully cooperative, then they ask
10 me to go talk to them. It just works out that way
11 sometimes.

12

13 You communicate with them and convince
14 them to do a survey because the person that's doing the
15 survey is a really good hunter but doesn't like to
16 communicate with other people. When that kind of thing
17 happens, you find somebody else to go talk to that
18 person and do the survey. I think those kind of things
19 work.

20

21 I've also done a survey through the
22 telephone when the weather was bad to get it done.
23 Those kind of surveys, you know, they're comfortable on
24 the phone too when they're speaking. I share the same
25 concern as Mr. Tulik over there. In Alaska the weather
26 is always a concern. We're feeling a lot of fog, snow,
27 wind. That kind of thing is upon us, but it's really
28 comfortable here in Anchorage. It seems like it's
29 always sunny here.

30

31 You know, we're fortunate to be in the
32 sun. We haven't seen the sun for a long time. We had
33 snow in July, August for a long time in Barrow and
34 rain. You know, it's fall time. It's foggy and planes
35 are cancelled. Alaska Airlines has been cancelled a
36 few times already. I know when people live in
37 Anchorage they don't like to go to those villages and
38 do the surveys. It's tough because they get stuck.
39 Especially in Barter Island you get stuck for two
40 weeks.

41

42 But those are the same kind of things
43 that we all experience. I like to do surveys. Get to
44 talk with elders in their language. Train new
45 surveyors and interns how to conduct the surveys.
46 Something that I like to do and enjoy and see what's
47 out there. I might be a different kind of hunter, but
48 I like to do surveys myself too.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Billy. I
2 want to circle back to Peter. Hang on Peter. I've got
3 your hand up. So I gave you an explanation on the
4 AMBCC's representatives and then I failed to ask you if
5 that helped and whether you still want it struck from
6 the paragraph or not. So I'll let you get back to
7 that. Sorry. Go ahead.

8
9 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Just reflecting back on last year. I was involved with
11 the comprehensive survey. The people were pretty
12 comfortable with me being an AMBCC rep, you know, and
13 talking with them about Emperor Goose and me telling
14 them that there are no consequences, just report it.
15 So I have no problem with us helping with surveys. I
16 was involved with the comprehensive survey in Sand
17 Point last year and we gathered a lot of information.

18
19 There was a few people who were
20 reluctant to do the survey, but Fish and Wildlife got
21 their information anyway because when they asked, well,
22 did you receive anything from anybody and this one
23 guy's name kept popping up. Like every other household
24 his name would pop up. I have no problem with keeping
25 this there. This is pretty good work and organization
26 and people are pretty comfortable with us.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So if I
31 understand you correctly, then the term AMBCC
32 representatives can remain in the paragraph?

33
34 MR. DEVINE: (Nods affirmatively).

35
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Great.
37 Thank you. Other comments, edits.

38
39 Randy.

40
41 MR. MAYO: Yeah. Kind of going back to
42 -- Peter brought up the involvement of the AMBCC. We
43 had that discussion at our Fairbanks meeting too. Just
44 listening here I can see the participating partner is
45 the Native Caucus because we are called upon to approve
46 those results. Up in our region we had some discussion
47 and Lili and Patty offered a lot of technical help and
48 explained the process to get to those estimates. So
49 our regional board approved those estimates for the
50

1 Interior.

2

3 Like I mentioned earlier, our region is
4 pretty large. A lot of communities and pretty spread
5 out so we don't know from one end to the other how well
6 people did, you know. I don't know any other way it
7 could be done. Our region it would take 400 years to
8 get all the communities to approve what's on the paper.
9 So I just wanted to mention that. I mean if every
10 tribe was supposed to approve something, you know.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy.

13

14 Any other questions from the Council on
15 the paragraph.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: If not, I would
20 entertain a motion to accept the paragraph in terms of
21 providing, as Gayla mentioned, support to all partners
22 to do their very level best to provide the Department
23 of Fish and Game and Lili in particular support to
24 ensure that the survey is conducted and make sure it
25 meets the objectives that we lined out.

26

27 Do I have a motion to that effect from
28 anyone.

29

30 MR. HARRIS: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Cyrus. Do
33 I have a second.

34

35 MR. ADAMS: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Billy.

38

39 Any discussion.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I'll call
44 for question. All in favor.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any opposed.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. The
2 motion carries. So my distinguished colleague to my
3 far right reminded me, the grinning one here, that we
4 are supposed to be out of here by 4:30 and Colorado
5 State is here only today. With that, I'm going to ask
6 Dave Otis to come forward and give a presentation on
7 the survey.

8

9

(Pause)

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DR. OTIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I'll try to speak as fast as I can. So this project
began almost five years ago as Eric referred to. This
is the last time we're going to be presenting something
at the AMBCC. Our time is up. So it's worthwhile
maybe reflecting a little bit on sort of how we got
here.

When we took on this job there were
basically two tasks that we were asked to perform. The
first was to evaluate the performance of the current
AMBCC harvest design, which began back in 2004. That
task actually required taking a step back because if
you think about that phrase evaluating the performance,
it begs the question, well, what are the criteria that
you're going to measure to see if it's performing well
against those criteria and those criteria were not well
articulated.

As I said, we had to step back and, as
Eric alluded to, spent a significant amount of time,
probably a year or year and a half, working through
that exercise of what is it that the partners want out
of the survey. What informational needs, what
objectives are there, and can we reach consensus on
that.

So that's where this Technical Working
Group came in that helped us through this process. It
was compromised of I think 12 to 15 people. About an
equal number from each of the three partners. We
worked through which was oftentimes a messy and
frustrating process, but we finally got there and
arrived at objectives and priorities that everyone
agreed on.

That took us up to 2016 at which time
we could go on to our second task which was to say,
okay, now we know what you want out of the survey. Is

1 the survey meeting those as currently designed. Is the
2 survey meeting those needs, and the conclusion was it
3 wasn't. So that's what led us to redesigning the
4 survey to more accurately or more specifically address
5 the objectives that the TWG had come up with.

6
7 So a few details about what those
8 objectives are. The primary survey priorities as you
9 can see there was the critical things in bold there.
10 First of all, sort of repetitive over the previous
11 discussion, we decided upon fixing the same five
12 regions
13 to be sampled every year, which represented about 90
14 percent of the harvest.

15
16 We agreed that the amount of sampling
17 effort in each of the regions would be driven by the
18 harvest of what turned out to be 15 commonly harvested
19 species, which I'll show you in a second. That's the
20 sort of the metric that drove again the allocation of
21 effort to the various regions.

22
23 Statewide estimates were, as I said, of
24 the highest priority with regional estimates a
25 secondary priority. Also a secondary priority was then
26 statewide estimates of each of the commonly harvested
27 species. Those CV numbers up there are statistical
28 criteria that basically are kind of indices of the
29 reliability or how much uncertainty we have in the
30 estimates, the quality of the estimates if you want to
31 interpret that way. I'll give you some examples of
32 that once we get to some real numbers.

33
34 So there are the 15 commonly harvested
35 species. Again, it's important to point out that that
36 doesn't change anything about what Lili reports in her
37 annual report. We're still getting estimates of all
38 the species that are on the list. That hasn't changed
39 at all. So this subset of them only has to do with how
40 much effort is given to the regions. It doesn't mean
41 that those are the only 15 species we're going to get
42 estimates for. You still get estimates for everything
43 that you've always had.

44
45 Those are the five regions. The North
46 Slope, Interior, Bering Strait, Bristol Bay and Y-K
47 Delta. We've been talking just a few minutes ago about
48 reaching targets and sampling targets. This is just a
49 little -- it gives you an idea about how the regions
50

1 have done over the first two years of the survey. So
2 you can see those numbers are pretty high.

3
4 We certainly acknowledge the fact,
5 again based on the comments of everybody else, even
6 though being from the Lower 48 it's kind of hard to
7 imagine just how difficult this survey is to do, but we
8 certainly have gotten a better idea of just how
9 complicated and logistically complicated and expensive
10 it is. I've worked on a lot of harvest surveys and
11 this is by far the most difficult or perhaps it's the
12 most difficult challenges of any one I've ever seen.
13 So it's pretty remarkable that you guys get done what
14 you get done.

15
16 Okay. Then we're just going to jump
17 right in to just sort of a report on how we're doing.
18 These are the harvest estimates as you can see from the
19 first two years. You'll notice a couple of things.
20 Probably the first thing you'll notice is that if you
21 look at those numbers down at the bottom the estimate
22 of total harvest of those 15 commonly harvested species
23 was about half of what it was in 2016. That was driven
24 primarily by the huge difference between 2016 and 2017
25 in the North Slope and Interior.

26
27 As far as the statistical criteria go,
28 this coefficient of variation thing that's in that
29 other column, kind of getting down to the bottom line
30 first, the statewide CV as was on that other slide was
31 25 percent. We got 30 percent, so we almost hit it
32 last year. The smaller CV the better. This year we
33 got it down to 19 percent, which is really quite good,
34 I think, for a harvest survey of this nature.

35
36 So just to give you a feel for what
37 that CV thing is. The point estimate so to speak is
38 140,000 birds and sort of a rough calculation says,
39 okay, well, if that CV is about 20 percent, I'm going
40 to take that times two. That makes 40 percent. I'm
41 going to go sort of plus or minus that much on either
42 side. So forget about the arithmetic. Basically what
43 that says is for this estimate it says it's 140,000
44 birds, but it's probably somewhere between about 90,000
45 and 190,000. That gives you some feel for the
46 uncertainty around that estimate and the quality of the
47 estimate if you will.

48
49 That seems like kind of a big range,
50

1 but again for a harvest survey like this it's really
2 pretty good. So in sort of the management business, I
3 guess, and people who use these harvest survey
4 estimates a lot, some CV of around 20 or 25 percent is
5 sort of considered as good. Once you get up to
6 something that might be around like 1 or something like
7 that where you say, well, it's 100,000 but it could be
8 somewhere between zero and 200,000. Maybe that's a
9 little less informative than the estimate you're
10 getting.

11
12 As far as the regions go, we wanted
13 statistical criteria that were a little less precise
14 than at the statewide level. We didn't get there the
15 first year. Two of the regions sort of met the target.
16 This year four out of five did and we almost got there
17 with the Bering Strait on the average. We had 40
18 percent and we were shooting for 50 percent.

19
20 So even at the regional level I would
21 say those estimates are pretty good and I think
22 informative enough to be able to -- depending on what
23 your decision criteria are -- to be helpful in making
24 any decisions and especially looking at trends over
25 time, which I'll talk about more in a minute.

26
27 And just FYI, people are obviously
28 maybe very interested in the species specific estimates
29 and there they are on a statewide scale. You can
30 peruse those at your leisure so to speak. The
31 uncertainty in those estimates I think for a lot of
32 them aren't too bad at all. They're pretty good.
33 They're better than we thought they would be actually.
34 Again, depending what you want to use them for I think
35 there's a lot of information even on species specific
36 basis at the statewide level or scale.

37
38 Okay. So what we've done in the past
39 two years -- and this is sort of standard practice in
40 the survey business. So after the first year -- you
41 may or may not remember. After the first year of the
42 survey in 2016, then in 2017 we took those data and
43 they helped inform us about how we did in terms of our
44 sample allocation. Do we need to move some effort
45 around among the regions to get a better estimate next
46 year. Do we do more villages, do we do fewer villages,
47 do we do more households, do we do fewer households.
48 All constrained by a budget. The budget we worked with
49 was \$120,000.

50

1 So given that constraint, what's the
2 smartest way to distribute sampling effort among the
3 five regions. So we made that adjustment last year.
4 In 2017, for example, we put a lot more effort into
5 Interior and a little bit more on the North Slope
6 because of that huge estimate we got in those two
7 regions the previous year. So we jiggered them around
8 that time.

9
10 Now we're doing it again for 2018 based
11 on the 2017 data. Here's how that allocation came out.
12 So this is what the numbers told us to do basically
13 this year given the results from last year. The
14 primary difference is if you look at -- well, first
15 look at the household survey per community, which might
16 be of most interest to you. Those numbers are almost
17 exactly the same as they were last year with the
18 exception of Bristol Bay. Bristol Bay was 10 last
19 year. This year it's 20. The rest of the regions are
20 almost identical.

21
22 As far as communities in the region go,
23 the biggest change is the shift in sampling effort to
24 the Y-K Delta. Bristol Bay, Bering Strait and the
25 North Slope we recommend one fewer communities and
26 Interior we recommended four fewer communities and
27 those seven communities all shifted. All that weight
28 basically was shifted to the Y-K Delta.

29
30 One of the reasons is that -- well, the
31 big reason is, first of all, Y-K Delta has the most
32 communities and the most households. It's also a
33 little bit less expensive than most regions and we
34 didn't get such variable results in the North Slope and
35 Interior this year as we did last year and that also
36 played a role in that shift in effort. So you can see
37 again the predicted cost based on Lili's calculations
38 that actually didn't change from the year before and
39 that budget of about \$120,000.

40
41 Okay. Last but not least, we also want
42 to make some recommendations for thinking about a
43 little bit further down the line. As I said before we
44 sort of made these adjustments to the sampling effort
45 the first couple of years. Those can shift around a
46 little bit every year as they have. Our recommendation
47 is that -- again, you have to take kind of the long-
48 term view I think of the survey because I think there's
49 going to be real value in this survey especially given
50

1 the times we're in with transitions of all kinds.

2

3 You have to think about this sort of 10
4 years out. I mean that's when it's really, in my mind
5 anyway, really going to start to give you some
6 interesting hopefully and insightful information about
7 all kinds of things. Whether the harvest is going up
8 and down, are there trends in species, harvest, et
9 cetera, et cetera. So I think that's -- again, take a
10 bit longer term view.

11

12 So next year we'll go through this
13 little exercise of reallocating effort to the regions
14 one more time based upon all three years of data to
15 kind of smooth things out a little bit and kind of get
16 an average of what we think is kind of an average year
17 based on three years and then just call it good. Just
18 fix it for at least five years.

19

20 Fix the sample allocations to the
21 region so that every year after next year it doesn't
22 change for a while. So you know that there's going to
23 be X number of communities in this region and here's
24 the number of households are going to be surveyed.
25 That facilitates planning, it facilitates estimation of
26 effort and it seems to us a reasonable thing to do.

27

28 The second point there is actually
29 relevant to the discussion a few minutes ago about
30 household selections and village -- not household
31 selections so much as village selections. How is that
32 done, why is it done that way, et cetera.

33

34 So the first point is that -- well, two
35 points, I guess. If you go back to those objectives
36 that were developed by the TWG and approved by
37 everyone, the first priority is an estimate of
38 statewide harvest. I should have said earlier -- I
39 used the term statewide and five regions synonymously,
40 but I recognize that that's not accurate. When it says
41 statewide, I'm talking about the five-region area.

42

43 But the emphasis on the state. That
44 was the top priority. So what that does is it puts a
45 lot less effort on local estimates. At the village
46 level, even at any sort of subregions, sub areas within
47 regions, that's not where the emphasis is. The
48 emphasis is on a larger scale. Primarily the
49 statewide, secondarily region wide, and that's about as

50

1 deep as it goes.

2

3 The second point is it's really pretty
4 critical that the villages be randomly selected.
5 That's because it's sort of the fundamental criteria
6 for being able to ensure the fact that you can say
7 these estimates at the statewide and the regional level
8 were not biased by any sort of other selection criteria
9 or whether or not we thought they had higher harvest or
10 lower harvest. Everybody had the same chance to be
11 sampled. Every village had the same chance to be
12 sampled.

13

14

15 Now the way we do that now does not
16 ensure that any given community, say over a period of
17 five years, will be sampled in those five years. We
18 understand and are hearing from you that that's a
19 problem I think. So what we're going to do next year,
20 facilitated by the fact that we know how many
21 communities there's going to be and how many households
22 will be in each region.

22

23

24 We're going to look at some other
25 alternatives. Not getting rid of randomness, but
26 trying to do this in a little bit smarter way so that
27 we can perhaps -- and I think we can do this -- come up
28 with a way to both have randomness and to assure that,
29 say, over a period of five years the distribution of
30 selection so to speak will be spread evenly across all
31 the communities within the region.

31

32

33 So you're not going to have a single
34 community either be sampled or not sampled a lot of
35 times within that five years. The idea is to spread it
36 out over time and everybody gets sampled on the average
37 the same number of times as everybody else does during
38 those five years. Again, you have to take a little bit
39 of the long-term view.

39

40

41 I think with respect to that last point
42 in the interest of time I'm going to skip that and have
43 a little bit of time for questions.

43

44

45 But I do want to say first, on behalf
46 of myself and Paul and Luke, that we appreciate -- it's
47 been a really wonderful experience for us to work with
48 you guys, with the cooperation you've given us, all the
49 three partners, and it's been sort of a privilege for
50 us to get at least a bit of a little glimpse into the

50

1 traditional and cultural ways of the subsistence
2 harvest up here and appreciate the importance of this
3 bird resource to your way of life.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Dave. We
8 have a few minutes for questions. Again, I want to
9 emphasize this is the last time we'll see these two
10 guys. Jack, Peter, if you have questions, please step
11 up.

12
13 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you. I
14 represent 17 villages with varied harvests. Some
15 communities harvest unique species of birds. And the
16 white geese are increasing. In the past, they were
17 only found in like Stebbins and St. Michael. They
18 would stage there, but now they're moving north.
19 They're a lot in Koyuk now.

20
21 I look at harvest of Snow Goose in
22 2017, 5,602. I think you could have doubled that had
23 you surveyed the other two communities. Realize that
24 it's a big region. Different bird species are
25 targeted. We look at Mr. Ungott and his harvest
26 practices. You know, you mentioned changing times and
27 these are changing times. You see birds moving,
28 different populations, but Snow Geese is exploding.

29
30 The survey is important. It shows your
31 use. For the island not to be surveyed is kind of an
32 oversight. It's kind of like rolling the dice four
33 times and their number never comes up. Like Stebbins
34 and Koyuk. People utilize different species. Some
35 will target them. I brought up in our regional meeting
36 our Koyuk rep said his wife cut him off from hunting
37 spring geese because he loaded up their freezer with
38 Snow Geese.

39
40 Selection would be key. Everybody
41 equal. We've got a real high cost of living out there.
42 All this is money in the bank to us.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Peter.

47
48 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Thank you, guys. It was a good presentation. Just by
50

1 looking at the numbers I could see this is working.
2 Thank you. We've been saying it for years that these
3 numbers were overinflated. Just looking at one year's
4 results between 2016 and 2017, 150,000-bird difference.
5 Now we're getting down to the more realistic average of
6 what we are harvesting.

7

8 Thank you for helping fix it.

9

10 DR. OTIS: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Eddie.

13

14 MR. UNGOTT: I have a quick comment for
15 you. Somewhere along the line if you're going to be
16 doing that estimate for your harvest we have to be
17 included, at least one of the two villages. The 2017
18 data alone, that 15,000 birds, the island caught it
19 all. I don't think we were even surveyed. It has to be
20 included. One of the two villages has to be included.

21

22 DR. OTIS: I'm sorry. I'm not sure
23 what -- what region are you in and what two.....

24

25 MR. UNGOTT: I'm with Kawerak, Norton
26 Sound Region.

27

28 DR. OTIS: Okay.

29

30 MR. UNGOTT: I saw in the 2017 birds
31 there's a total harvest of 15,000 birds. That's the
32 island's figure right there. Right there.

33

34 DR. OTIS: Oh, yeah.

35

36 MR. UNGOTT: I don't think St. Lawrence
37 Island was included in that survey. I have to tell you
38 we alone caught 15,000 birds.

39

40 DR. OTIS: Well, I assume it was
41 eligible to be surveyed. So, again, it's back to sort
42 of the whole random chance issue. Some years it's
43 going to be surveyed and that's what we'll try to fix
44 more next year. Some years it will be surveyed and
45 some years it won't be surveyed. So every village in a
46 sense could say that, is we didn't get surveyed this
47 year, but somebody else did.

48

49 Again, you kind of have to think about

50

1 it in the long term, sort of on the average. What was
2 the average harvest among the villages in your region.
3 The only way you can get that over time is to continue
4 to select villages randomly.

5

6 MR. DOHERTY: Hey, David. It's in the
7 report that we've seen these as well.

8

9 DR. OTIS: Yeah, right. Yeah, Paul's
10 pointing out the fact that, yes, that says it's 15,000,
11 but back to this sort of uncertainty issue that I tried
12 to explain a little bit anyway, it could be anywhere
13 between -- I can't do the arithmetic in my head, but it
14 could be as low as 10,000 probably and as high as
15 20,000.

16

17 I don't know if that helps you any, but
18 there are some bounds around it. You don't necessarily
19 put too much stock in the estimate itself, but just
20 think about somewhere between 10 and 20,000, for
21 example. So that might help a little bit. There's no
22 -- obviously that's not exactly the number of -- we're
23 not saying that's exactly the number of birds that were
24 harvested in that region. It's somewhere between this
25 and this.

26

27 I understand your frustration is that
28 you can't be sampled every year and when you're left
29 out you feel kind of left out.

30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other questions or
32 comments for Dave or Paul. Gloria.

33

34 MS. STICKWAN: So you'll meet with --
35 somebody will talk with the villages and get -- or you
36 already know the villages that were surveyed and get
37 the villages -- like these two villages he said weren't
38 surveyed, so you'll get them next year? How are you
39 going to get those villages? I mean is it Fish and
40 Wildlife that will do that?

41

42 DR. OTIS: It's Lili and her shop that
43 does that, that makes the selection. There won't be
44 any guarantee that this year -- back to your question.
45 No, they haven't been selected yet, but this year we're
46 going to select them the same as we have in the past.
47 So there's not a guarantee that any given village at
48 this point is going to be randomly selected.

49

50

1 We hope to -- and I can promise to do
2 the best we can, which I think we can make it better,
3 is that next year again we'll come up with a scheme
4 that does even things out, but again it's going to be
5 over a period of time. So in five years you might --
6 every five years you might get sampled twice, but
7 everybody sort of gets sampled the same number of times
8 over a period of years. Not any village is going to
9 get sampled every year, but you're going to get sampled
10 periodically I guess is maybe the best way to put it.

11

12 MR. ADAMS: It's like jury duty.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Coral.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff. Thank
19 you. Can you explain to us how this random selection
20 process works. Is it like do you throw names in a hat?
21 Do you do -- does a computer randomly select? How does
22 that work exactly?

23

24 DR. OTIS: No, it's not -- if it's just
25 a real sort of unconstrained sample, random sample,
26 that's how you do it almost. Sort of equivalent to,
27 yeah, putting everybody's name in a hat and drawing
28 them out, but that's not the way we have done it.

29

30 Paul, can you use your magic laser
31 there and show them -- so what we tried to do in each
32 of the regions, it's called systematic, but what we did
33 is we sort of connected the dots geographically among
34 all the villages and sort of made this snake trail,
35 connected all the dots, connected the villages
36 together. We started at the coast and we worked to the
37 Interior.

38

39 Let's say in the case of Bristol Bay
40 from some random starting point, then we selected a
41 village every -- however many villages we needed. So
42 we did ensure that the sampling was spread over fairly
43 equitably over the region geographically. Not all the
44 villages by random chance could appear on the coast.
45 That won't happen. Similarly, not all the villages
46 that were selected would be on the interior of say
47 Bristol Bay. They were spread out evenly over the
48 entire region. We did that in every region. So that's
49 better than just selecting them out of a hat because

50

1 you could get some really bad results if you just did
2 that.

3
4 MS. CHERNOFF: So they weren't exactly
5 random. You sat with a team, looked at a map and
6 selected.

7
8 DR. OTIS: No, there was still a random
9 starting point.

10
11 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, so the starting
12 point was random selection.

13
14 DR. OTIS: The starting point was
15 random, which means actually that.....

16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Was chosen.

18
19 DR. OTIS: And then, okay, we started
20 at a random point and we said, okay -- and we numbered
21 all the villages from say 1 to 50, however many
22 villages there were in there. So from a random
23 starting point, okay, we'd say, okay, well, the
24 starting point is 3, village number 3, and then we're
25 going to take 3, 13, 23, 33, 43, 53, however that works
26 out and that's the way it gets spread out over the
27 region. I've got a slide of that somewhere. I know
28 it's kind of confusing. The point is it did get spread
29 over, but it's still random.

30
31 MS. CHERNOFF: So they were selected by
32 a team of.....

33
34 DR. OTIS: Lili just picks a number out
35 of a hat and does it.

36
37 MS. CHERNOFF: Oh, maybe she could
38 explain.

39
40 MS. NAVES: I'll try to help. So,
41 Coral, we went on each region and started numbering
42 each village starting with one. So we started from the
43 south coastal side for each region and started 1, 2, 3,
44 4 and went like that all over the region. So for each
45 year we put all village numbers in a hat and this can
46 be a physical hat or it can just do that on an Excel
47 spreadsheet and there's a form that you put and it
48 generates a random number. Then through that we
49 selected the first number.

50

1 So we random select only one number and
2 that is your start village and there's a string they're
3 going to follow. So depending on how many villages
4 there are in a village and how many villages we have to
5 survey in that region -- so we know we have to survey
6 let's say every fourth village along that string. So
7 starting from that first one that you random selected,
8 you pick every fourth village along the string of
9 villages. So that helps spread the sampling effort all
10 across the region so no other villages are bunched here
11 or bunched there.

12
13 So the improvement that you can further
14 do to that is to balance because if you just do one
15 every year, it may be that over a period of five or ten
16 years we get some villages that are surveyed more often
17 than others. So this improvement that we're going to
18 work on it distributes over the years how many times
19 you survey each village.

20
21 So let's say that over a period of 10
22 years we have a village that's surveyed only once and
23 another one that's surveyed eight times. So we want
24 that each village random selected will be surveyed
25 about two or three times over 10 years let's say. So
26 that addressed the issue that was raised at Bering
27 Strait meeting that they look at an exercise of this
28 random selection and detected a village was not being
29 surveyed in a five-year period.

30
31 So in response to that we want to fix
32 this so all the villages are surveyed about the same
33 time of years. We are going to do that starting next
34 year because then we'll have a fixed number to work
35 with every year. We have that five year period that
36 we're not going to change anything in the survey
37 design. We'll do the random selection for the five
38 years and then you do the system to distribute across
39 the years and then we're going to have a better system.

40
41
42 So it's really valid the point that you
43 raised and it prompted us to do another exercise to
44 look at how many years it was getting -- each village
45 was getting over a period of time. The guys have a fix
46 for it, so that's good.

47
48 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Lili.
2 Coral, does that help?

3
4 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.
5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank
7 you. Randy. I'm going to remind folks that we're
8 about 15 minutes over than what we're supposed to be.
9 So if you could keep your questions and answers to a
10 brief, then we'll try to get out of here in a little
11 bit so Patty doesn't get in too much trouble.

12
13 Go ahead, Randy.
14

15 MR. MAYO: We had this long discussion
16 the last couple of years up in our region, but then a
17 thought came to my mind that ultimately you're going to
18 get all these numbers throughout these years, all these
19 estimates. I guess other user groups probably look at
20 those numbers, right? It's used for a conservation
21 tool and whatnot.
22

23 I was just thinking that before we got
24 into the discussion and how the formula was explained
25 to us that for our region, you know, some of the guys
26 said, well, those numbers are pretty low, we know
27 they're way higher than that, but then we got back to,
28 well, this is -- you know, these are estimates.
29

30 I'm just speaking kind of like
31 politically other user groups might look at those
32 number every subsistence community was harvested and
33 everybody put what they really got down and to other
34 user groups it might look like well the harvest has
35 gone through the roof in Alaska. So I'm just talking,
36 you know, the political part, you know.
37

38 Like even around Fairbanks it's growing
39 and over time other non-subsistence communities that
40 were in the included area but are now in the excluded
41 area when I first got involved they were -- and that
42 was at Fort Greeley, Delta Junction area, some
43 individual was petitioning to try to get that area back
44 in the included area and where the person was coming
45 from was a matter of fairness and allocation and take,
46 you know. So I just wanted to make mention of that.
47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That's a good point,
49 Randy. One of the advantages of bringing in Colorado
50

1 State and the expertise of Dave and Paul was to design
2 a defensible survey so that when these estimates come
3 out, you know, no matter if you're concerned with the
4 estimate or you think it's low or you think it's high,
5 we can defend it with the design that these guys in the
6 university has come up with and has worked very closely
7 with Lili.

8
9 So that's one of the main advantages of
10 doing this five-year effort is to have an estimate that
11 we can have confidence in. I think after five years
12 we'll have even a better idea where we're at.

13
14 Other questions for Dave or Paul at
15 this point.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. I want to add
20 I've worked with these two guys for the past five years
21 as well as with Lili and I can assure you -- I've been
22 to most meetings, if not all of them, and speaking from
23 the funding agency I'm extremely pleased with their
24 efforts and I'm extremely pleased with the
25 collaboration and support of the Technical Working
26 Group that worked with Colorado State from all three
27 partnerships, from the Department of Fish and Game, the
28 Service and especially the Native Caucus.

29
30 As I said, we worked on getting the
31 objectives on what we want this survey to do. In the
32 case of the Native Caucus, one of the primary
33 objectives was to demonstrate the importance of the
34 subsistence harvest in terms of traditional and
35 cultural values. I think Colorado State heard that and
36 as well as the objectives of the Department of Fish and
37 Game and the Service and patiently worked their way not
38 only through the objectives process but then through
39 the design and the funding limitation.

40
41 So I would like to take this
42 opportunity from the Service as well as from the AMBCC
43 to give these guys a round of applause for their
44 effort.

45
46 (Applause)

47
48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Dave and
49 Paul, and thank you all for sticking with it. I know I
50

1 didn't call a break today, so I know I probably pushed
2 some biological issues here, but thanks for hanging in
3 there. We'll start again tomorrow morning at
4 9:00 o'clock.

5
6 We're adjourned.

7
8 (Off record)

9
10 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

11
12
13
14
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C E R T I F I C A T E

2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6
7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and
8 for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer
9 Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02
12 through _____ contain a full, true and correct
13 Transcript of the ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by
15 Computer Matrix Court Reporters in Anchorage, Alaska;

16
17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st
27 day of October 2018.

28
29
30
31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires:9/16/2022